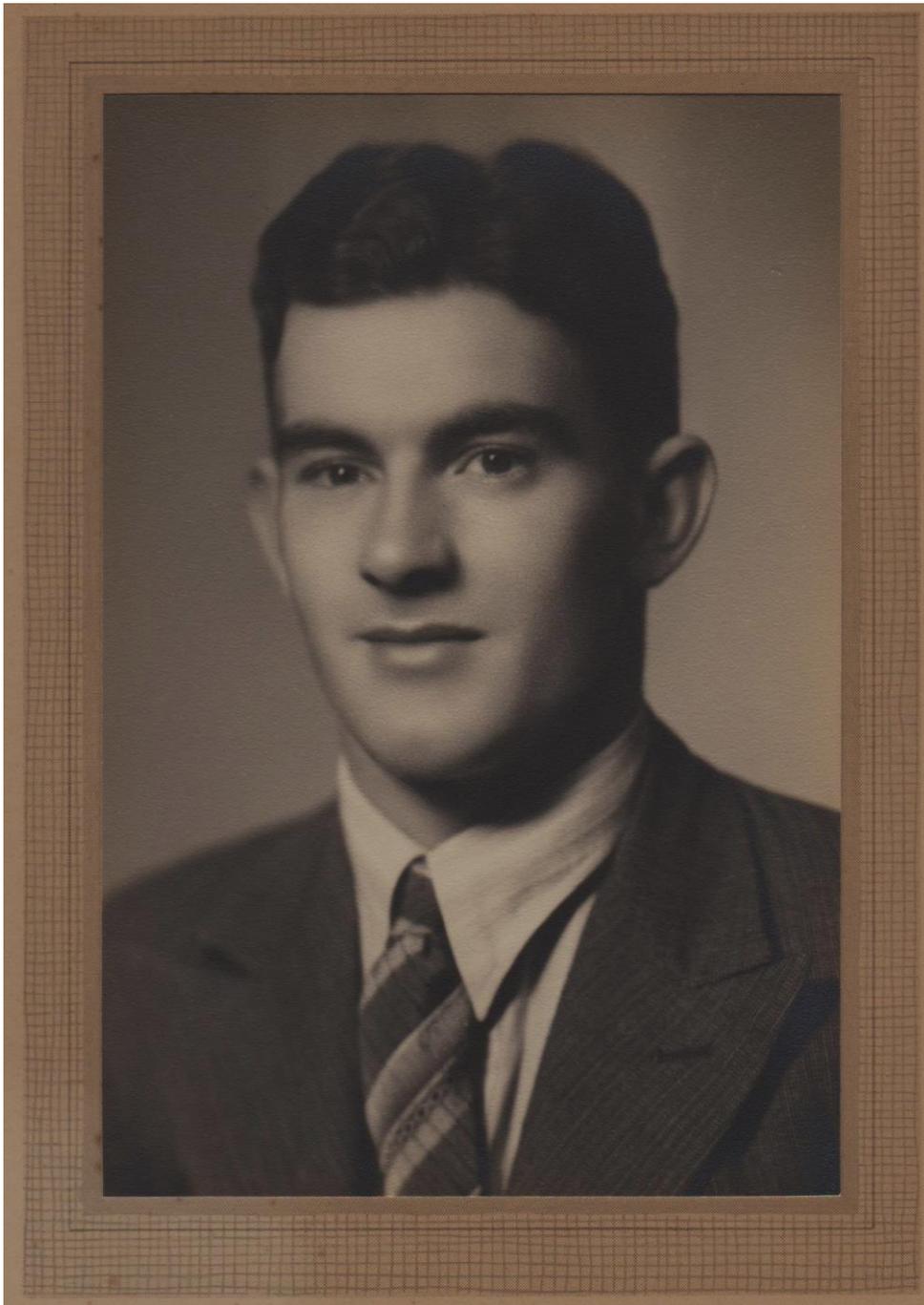


McCALLUM Robert Duncan William 1918-1995

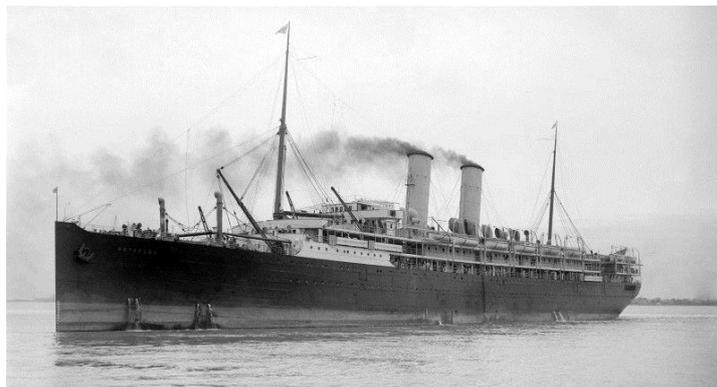


Robert Duncan William McCallum
Photographer Marie Dean, Wellington

Born 9 May 1918, Christchurch, New Zealand

Parents Robert James McCALLUM and Vera Lorina SEWELL

- Name Robert after father and great grandfather, Duncan after grandfather and William after uncle, William Thompson McCallum
- Baptism 9 June 1918 St David's Presbyterian Church. *"Enclosed please find the Certificate of your son's baptism as requested. I trust he will long be [?] and grow up a good Christian man; who will be a Comfort and Strength to you both as long as you may live. May you have much joy in him. With kind regards. Yours faithfully, Charles Murray St David's Manse, 234 Colombo St, Chch."*
- 1919 Lyttelton Electoral Roll, 36 Canterbury Street, Lyttelton. Father Robert James, a clerk with the N.Z. Express Company, mother Vera Lorina, married. Robert as a toddler 'escaped' out of the house and went down the hill towards the port.
- 1921 Travels by ship to England with parents and grandmother, Harriet Ann Pearson for her to arrange the sale of "Vera Cottage," Lowestoft, Suffolk. After paying off the mortgage of £175/9/2 and selling the property at 87 Cambridge Road, Lowestoft to C.F.Sewell for £550, Harriet had £375 to show for the trip.



"Little Robert. First prize as 'Golly Wog' R.M.S. Osterley, Indian Ocean 1921"

1922

Attends Lyttelton District High School (then went from infants to seniors).



Robert, first row, third from left. Teacher, Miss Dorothy Wales. "1/-"

1922-25

Lives in Palmerston North. Father, Robert James moves with the New Zealand Express Company from Lyttelton (*The Press*, 11 October 1922); sister Margaret Vera (Peggy) born at 15 Worcester Street, PN 20 May 1923; 22 July 1925, sale of household furniture at 42 Stanley Avenue, PN by Mr R. J. McCallum who is leaving the district (*Manawatu Standard*, 18 July 1925). According to Tony Abell, Vera had a shop in The Square at this time.

1926

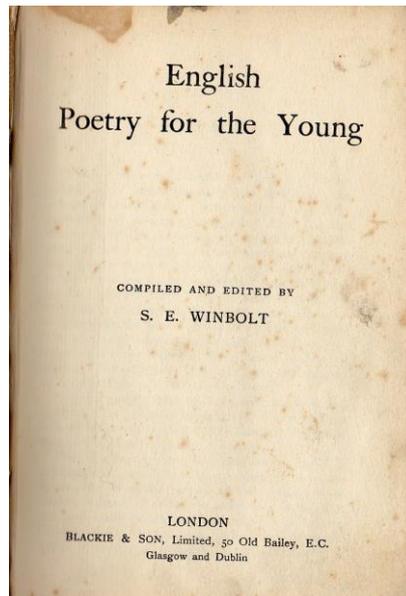
On 1 June 1926 Robert was admitted to Sydenham School, Christchurch, living with Mrs Pearson, his grandmother at 272 Colombo Street and staying until 5 July 1926. His previous school is listed as Clyde Quay, Wellington. He was sent to Christchurch because his sister, Peggy caught an infectious disease (scarlet fever?)

1928

Wellington North Electoral Roll, living with parents at 11 Ohiro Road, Brooklyn

1930 5 November

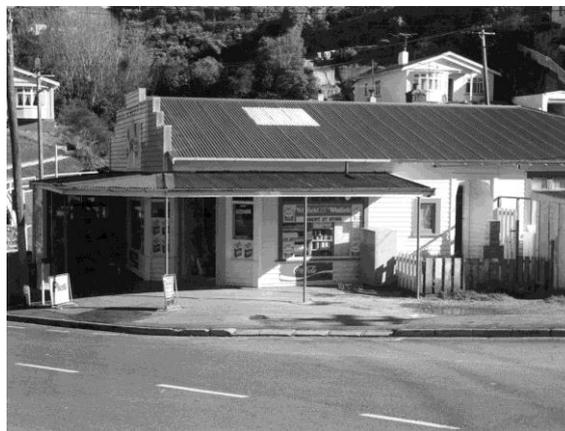
Certificate of Proficiency, Newtown School, Wellington



“Robert McCallum, Newtown School, STD vi Boys”

- 1931 24 November St. John Ambulance Association certificate, *“First Aid to the Injured.”*
- 1933 8 December Wellington College Senior Cadets, N.C.O. Examination Theoretical and Practical.
- 1933 Wises Still listed at 11 Ohiro Road,
- 1933 31 December Intermediate Certificate, Wellington College
- 1934 9 April Matriculation Examination, Physics, Wellington College
- 1938 Wises Listed at 9 Liardert Street, Vogelstown, SW1 with Vera McCallum at Short Street, Vogelstown, store

Robert leaves school and works as a grocer with his mother, Vera, in her shop in Short Street He learns the piano and is keen on jazz, especially Fats Waller.



Short Street Store, Vogelstown



Robert and family, mother, Vera, sister Margaret (Peggy) and father Robert James (Jim)



Robert's Twenty-first

1939 9 May

"Party for Their Son. Mrs and Mrs R.J. McCallum, of Vogeltown, gave a party at the Lyceum Club rooms on Tuesday in honour of the twenty-first birthday of their son, Mr. Robert McCallum. The rooms were thronged with guests who danced until a late hour." Items were performed and the list of guests identified, including Mr and Mrs Abell and Master Antony Abell, Christchurch. Evening Post, 12 May 1939

1940 4 December

New Zealand Gazette Extraordinary listing the result of the Ballot for those called up in the Wellington Military District. *"McCallum, R.D.W., 9 Liardet St."* Evening Post 4 December 1940

1941 17 January *"Engagements. McCallum – Sorensen*
Mr. and Mrs. W. Sorensen, of Carterton, announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Ava Beatrice, to Robert Duncan, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R.J. McCallum, of Vogeltown, Wellington."
Evening Post 17 January 1941 (According to Tony Abell, Ava would have stuck by Robert but her father, in the grocery trade in Carterton, Wairarapa was opposed to the match continuing. Ava ultimately married Quentin Desmond from Carterton where she lived, had three children and is buried)



Ava Sorensen and Robert McCallum

1941 5 February No 4 Armed Forces Appeal Board with Mr W.F. Stilwell S.M. presiding with Mr A. Parlane and Mr P. Coyle.
"Robert Duncan William McCallum, grocer, appealing on conscientious grounds, said he had always been taught that it was wrong to kill. He had been a Christian Scientist for a number of years and was now more than ever convinced that it was wrong to kill. He agreed with Mr. Bell that it was quite possible for a Christian Scientist to be a combatant but said that it was against his own views." *Evening Post* 6 February 1941

1941 14 February Army medical examination carried out in Wellington. Placed in Grade 1. Attestation form *"For Service In Time Of War, Within And Beyond New Zealand,"* filled in with the exception of questions 18-20, most notably question 19, *"Are you willing to serve within and beyond New Zealand in the New Zealand Military Forces for the duration of the war, and twelve months thereafter, or until lawfully discharged?"* Questions 18 and 19 are stamped *"CANCELLED."* New Zealand Army record of Robert McCallum.

1941 12 June Armed Forces Appeal Board hearing. In the case of Robert Duncan William McCallum, the appeal was dismissed subject to his

engaging in non-combatant work. "... McCallum, grocer, a Christian Scientist who said he was prepared to do any work under civil control at military rates of pay." *Evening Post* 12 June 1941

1941 29 August "To enable an examination to be made of the effect of the new regulations about conscientious objection to military service Mr. J.M. Luxford S.M. in the Magistrates Court today, adjourned for a week the hearing of a charge against Robert Duncan William McCallum of failing to report for military service." *Evening Post* 29 August 1941

1941 5 September "Robert Duncan William McCallum, who appeared before Mr. J.H. Luxford S.M., has had his case adjourned for a month, the Magistrate expressing his intention of sentencing the defendant to defaulter's detention, as provided for in the new regulations." *Evening Post* 5 September 1941

1941 4 October Further adjournment for a week with the Magistrate indicating he would give a reserved decision then.

1941 10 October "Military Service Cases. A sentence of one month's imprisonment was imposed by Mr J.H. Luxford, S.M., in the Magistrate's Court today upon Robert Duncan William McCallum on a charge of failing to report for military service." *Evening Post* 10 October 1941
The sentence was carried out in Mount Crawford Prison, Wellington.



Mount Crawford Prison Yard 1950

1941 8 November Entered Trentham Military Camp under arrest. New Zealand Army record for Robert McCallum

1941 At some point there was an incident (s?) at the Short Street store with perhaps a broken window or vandalism and white feathers being strewn about

HISTORY-SHEET.

WAR. No. 22455.

Unit: NZMC
 Name: ROBERT DUNCAN WILLIAM McCALLUM
 Service: 1914-1918
 Discharged: 1918
 Reason for discharge: Conscientious Objector

Next of kin: MR R. J. McCALLUM, Relationship: FATHER, Address: 9 LAURENCE ST WOODVILLE WELLINGTON

CASUALTIES.

ACTION AFTER RETURN TO NEW ZEALAND OR DISCHARGE ABROAD.

None of the above candidates required

Name of Award	Date	By	Address sent to
M.D. ENGLAND	1914		
1914-18 STAR			
ATLANTIC STAR			
AFRICA STAR			
1914-18 ARMY CLASP			
PACIFIC STAR			

New Zealand Military Forces history sheet for Robert Duncan William McCallum.

There was a prospect that Robert would join the N.Z. Medical Corps but as it still required the signing of the oath of allegiance, which on signing put him under military orders, he refused and was placed in the Trentham Guard House as a conscientious objector.

1941 13 November *“Twenty men, some of whom had been already fined or imprisoned as military defaulters, appeared in the Magistrate’s Court today on a charge of failing to comply with a military order and were committed by Mr J. L. Stout S.M. to defaulters’ detention. There were the first committals made from Wellington.”*

The twenty men were:

- Ronald James Frank ARMSTRONG
- Nathan Sydney BEATUS
- Roy Neal BIDLAKE
- Clarence Alfred BOARD
- John CAMERON
- Hugh Houston DEMPSEY
- Gordon Stuart DOIG
- Evan Morgan EVANS
- Raymond FIRMSTON
- Patrick James HOURIGAN
- Robert Duncan William McCALLUM
- Kenneth Aubrey Frank MASON
- Ronald Calverley MEGGET
- James OLDS
- Harry Edgar PALMER
- Bert POWELL
- Hiram Gartside SWEENEY
- Hugh William KELLY
- John William ROGERS
- John Thomas MAGURK

set up was at Hautu, adjacent to Hautu and Rangipo Prisons, near Turangi, south of Taupo.

“The areas selected [for defaulters’ camps] will provide ample variety of developmental work of the utmost national importance, including clearing, roading, draining, fencing and general farm operations, in preparation for future subdivision and resettlement. Each detention area will be a closed camp and the conditions of detention will provide that strict standards of discipline will be maintained at all times. There will be no pay, although a system of minor monetary rewards based on industry and good conduct marks will be introduced. Once committed to detention there will be no leave for defaulters, but certain social amenities will be provided within each camp.” From an interview with the Minister of National Service, Mr Semple. *Evening Post*, 20 October 1941

On their arrival by train the defaulters were escorted to covered lorries and, under police supervision, were taken to the police station where they were given lunch. Subsequently they were taken to premises in the town for fitting-out with grey uniforms before being dispatched to the camp. Huts similar to those used by the Public Works Department had been made in the Department’s yard at Rotorua and a dining room and central hall for recreation had been erected. A large amount of roading had been done on the estate while stores for the camp had been arriving in Rotorua for the past fortnight and placed in a warehouse. *Evening Post* 17 November 1941



Robert McCallum standing centre wearing jacket

1942 March A representative of the New Zealand Press Association was permitted to visit the camps in order to write an article on the life and conditions in the camps.

By then 230 men were accommodated at Strathmore and Hautu. *“They live under conditions that are neither Spartan nor soft, neither military nor of the civil prison kind. Food is plain and substantial.”* At Strathmore, described as the base camp a compound of 11 acres enclosed by a 10ft barbed wire non-climbable fence was in place. *“There is no shelter and winter conditions will not be attractive, for up the wide valley from Taupo to Rainbow Mountain southerly blasts have an unimpeded sweep.”*

The camp was described as being *“under bush-camp conditions”* with Public Works Department huts, partly timber, partly canvas, with inmates living two to a hut. For

hot water the inmates had to stoke up coppers for hot baths. Candles provided light in the huts with hurricane kerosene lanterns and gas lamps used elsewhere. Under construction were a messing and common room block, hospital and a diesel engine generating electricity for lighting (ex motor-vessel, the Maui Pomare)

It has been decided that the inmates will have individual huts and a party of them, including tradesmen (and Robert McCallum) is engaged in their construction. They will not be locked at night owing to fire risks and are lined with building paper. At £14 10s each they were estimated as cheaper than dormitories and preferred from a disciplinary viewpoint. They were also considered to give the inmates some privacy and allow the 'student type' who are in the majority, to study in the evenings.

Strathmore had some 11 acres of potatoes and other vegetables, a small herd of cows for camp use and sheep for camp meat supply. Hautu, seven miles from Tokaanu was still involved in developmental work for the 50 inmates, clearing scrub around the camp which "...occupies a pleasant sheltered site up a valley running into the bush clad hills." There was no association with the prisoners in the Hautu Prison farm down the valley. *The Press* 17 March 1942

1942 March The Government began creating further Defaulters Camps near Shannon and Foxton in the Manawatu with the inmates weeding flax and growing vegetables. Ultimately Robert spent time at one of these camps.



1943 Concert poster from Defaulters Camp. Robert is likely to have played the piano and has penciled in 1943.

1944 July Defaulters in Hautu found to have sent secret messages to their mother and received goods in a secret compartment of a package were given three months hard labour by the magistrate. *Evening Post* 12 July 1944

1944 20 October Robert's sister, Margaret Vera (Peggie) was married at St. Paul's Church, Tokaanu. The only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. McCallum of Turangi, formerly postmistress at Turangi, married Geoffery Lough Prichard, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs J Prichard, Bulls. The dresses of the bride and bridesmaid were described with the best man being Mr Jack Prichard, M.M. who had returned from the Middle East. A reception and dance was held at the Government Hotel at Tokaanu.

It is not known whether Robert was let out from Hautu to attend.



Golden Hind, made by Robert McCallum in the defaulter's camps

1945 20 August The first appeals since VJ Day (14/15 August 1945) of conscientious objectors seeking release from detention came before the No. 1 Revision Authority, Mr A. H. Johnstone, K. C. in Auckland. The Authority had been sitting for two months and had some 250 cases to deal with. *“Robert Duncan William McCallum, shop assistant of Wellington had appealed on religious and moral humanitarian grounds. He did not belong to any particular church but based his religious beliefs on his home training and his reading of the Bible. From as long as he could remember – he was born in 1918- he had been brought up to abhor war. His parents were imbued with the horror of it and he had been taught to shun violence and demonstrate brotherly love and good fellowship. He never allowed to own a gun or go shooting [this changed as Robert*

owned a .22 single shot rifle and went rabbit shooting]. *He had considered that non-combatant service condoned war. After a period in detention his convictions were still unchanged.*

The appellant admitted he had applied to join the Air Force for the thrill of flying. Mr C. L. Christensen, representing the National Service Department: what happened to convert you to a Pacifist in 18 months?

Appellant said the change of attitude came gradually and largely under his mother's influence.

Mrs Vera McCallum, mother of the appellant, said she had brought up son as a true Christian, to keep the Commandments, and to be definitely against war. She could not understand the Church taking up the attitude that men could be killed in war. She thought it was legalized murder. Had her son been killed by a Japanese air raid over New Zealand she would have regarded it as an act of God. Had Japanese soldiers landed, the situation, hopeless as it was, would just have to have been accepted. It was better to lose one's life than to destroy the soul by doing wrong." The decision was reserved. Auckland Star, 20 August 1945

1946 Wairarapa Electoral Roll, Ava Beatrice SORENSEN (the engagement was broken off at some stage due, it is understood, not from her but pressure from her parents, particularly her father who was a Carterton Borough councilor)

1946 Waimarino Electoral Roll, Turangi, Grocer (living with parents at Taylor's Fishing Lodge, Turangi, leased from a Mrs Cuthbertson.)



Taylor's Turangi Ltd, Tongariro Fishing Lodge c. 1946

1946 5 August Transfers Post Office savings deposit book from Wellington to Hamilton with £3/2/7

1947 5/6 June Pays "Deposit on Partnership business to be fixed up with James Gee, Furniture Manufacturer" ... "price £1500 (Main Street)" per the New Zealand Land Agency, 10 George Street, Palmerston North, Manager, Harry Hall. Also, an "Inventory of Stock and Fixtures, Tools and Machines etc" for James Gee, Furniture Manufacturer (known as Jimmy Gee).

A furniture business had been operating at 310 Main Street, opposite the Palmerston North Railway Station since at least 1927. Fizzesims and Cowling operated as furniture dealers, going into liquidation 17 October 1931, continuing as Cowling & Co and then 8 October 1943, James Gee opening as a cabinet maker (in partnership with R. Thackeray for most of 1945) before selling to Robert (*Manawatu Evening Standard* 8 October 1943 & 29 November 1945)

Operated as "McCallum's Furnishers, Retailers of Quality Household Furniture and Furnishings," 297-303 Main Street, Palmerston North. R.D. McCallum, Proprietor, phone 5508



1947 16 June Transfers Post Office savings deposit book from Hamilton to Palmerston North with £475/9/3

1948 3 July Marriage at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hastings to Bridella (Brightie) GRAY, accountant and Christian Scientist from Hastings but then living in Palmerston North.

1949 17 October Birth of son, Lawrence Robert

1950 14 December Birth of son, James Donald

1951 18 June Purchase of Four Square grocery shop at 50 Victoria Street on corner of Main Street, Palmerston North.

1951 15 December Birth of son, Malcolm Edward

1958 12 June Purchase of 95 Roy Street, Palmerston North for £2300

Died 10 June 1995, 186 Park Road, Katikati, Bay of Plenty

Funeral 186 Park Road, Katikati, Bay of Plenty

Buried Cremated, ashes spread on Tauranga Harbour with the flounders.