

Dougie McKay on his father William Jack McKay, and on his grandfather.



My Grandfather served in the First World War, and my father, William Jack McKay, in the Second. And he was a Prisoner of War.

I don't know when or where my father was taken prisoner but he was held in Stalag IVB.

I have his 'dog-tag' from his time as



a POW – pictured on right. – but all I know about his period as a prisoner is that he had his tonsils removed, or rather one and half tonsils. He told me that the Germans were very good to him and to the other prisoners; and he liked to hear the German soldiers singing.

Before being taken prisoner he had served somewhere in a campaign confronting the Italians. He was a driver and on one occasion he was driving a lorry with Italian prisoners in the back, probably in Italy; his lorry broke down, however, and he hitched a lift with the other lorry back to camp, leaving the prisoners with the abandoned truck. He got back to the camp and everyone was very surprised to see his abandoned lorry approach the camp driven by an Italian. The prisoners had repaired the truck and were following their captors rather than face being captured by the Germans. On another occasion he had picked up a rifle to use, his own might have jammed, and he had fired off a round. The rifle barrel however was full of sand and the gun misfired injuring him severely on the cheek.

I don't know anything about my grandfather's service in WW1, but I have a photograph of him from that time; he's second from the right in the back row.

William McKay's POW ID tag

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