

## **P848: Papers relating to Ian Macdonald's War Service**

### **RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT**

Reference number: GB1741/P848

Alternative reference number:

Title: Papers relating to Ian Macdonald's War Service

Dates of creation: 1917-1918

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 3 folders

Format: Paper

### **RECORDS' CONTEXT**

Name of creators: Ian Macdonald, Sinclair Macdonald

Administrative history: Ian Macdonald (1896-1968) was the eldest son of Sinclair Macdonald, architect, of Thurso, and Minnie his wife. (He was christened John George but was known as Ian.)

On 11 September Sinclair and Ian Macdonald enlisted in the Caithness Territorial Force. Ian was enrolled as a Lance Corporal in the 10<sup>th</sup> (Lovat Scouts) Division of the Cameron Highlanders and, after training at Beaulieu, served three years, two of them overseas in Egypt, Gallipoli and Salonica.

In August 1917 he began officer training. On 27 November 1917 he was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division of the Seaforth Highlanders.

He was posted to France and on 11 April was reported missing. It took a month for his family to learn that he was alive and a prisoner: the confusion arose because two officers with the same name were reported missing on the same day, and there was also uncertainty as to whether he had been listed in the regiment as Ian or John.

After he was located his father arranged through the Red Cross and other

organisations to send food parcels and even books. Nevertheless, like many other prisoners of war, his health suffered and he was forced to take a year off before completing his studies, graduating in Civil engineering from Edinburgh University in 1922.

[Extracted from biographical note supplied by Stroma Riungu – see P848/55 for more details]

Custodial history:

Deposited by Stroma Riungu

## **RECORDS' CONTENT**

Description:

World War One

Appraisal:

Accruals:

## **RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE**

Access:

Open

Closed until:

Access conditions:

Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying:

Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids:

Available in Archive searchroom

## **ALLIED MATERIALS**

Related material:

P/SM – Sinclair Macdonald architects, Thurso

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue:

8 February 2016

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
P848/1	Exercise book, army lecture notes taken by 257 Ian Macdonald, "B" Coy, 13 <sup>th</sup> O.C.B. [Officer Cadet Battalion], Newmarket [1 volume]	Aug 1917-Sep 1917

P848/2	Loose leaf file, army lecture notes taken by 257 Ian Macdonald, "B" Coy, 13 <sup>th</sup> O.C.B. [Officer Cadet Battalion] ("It is a mistaken idea that starvation, or financial stress etc. will end this war; BOSCHE KILLING is the only thing which will enable us to achieve the ends for which we have been fighting") [1 file]	Aug 1917-Sep 1917
P848/3	Letter with envelope, Spencer Ewart, Headquarters, Scottish Command to Lt. Sinclair Macdonald, Caithness Volunteer Battalion, Thurso, expressing his hope that "your son may be gazetted to the Seaforth Highlanders" [2 items]	22 Nov 1917
P848/4	Discharge certificate of a soldier of the Territorial Force: No.225,451, Lce-Cpl Ian Macdonald, 10 <sup>th</sup> (L.S.) Cameron Highlanders, enlisted in Caithness on 11 Sep 1914, discharged in consequence of being appointed to Commission Authority [1 card]	27 Nov 1917
P848/5	Bundle of telegram forms to Sinclair Macdonald re Ian Macdonald, various correspondents [1 bundle]	20 Apr 1918-21 May 1918
P848/6	Letter with envelope, Captain George A. Sutherland, France, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, describing the circumstances that led to Ian Macdonald being taken prisoner ("we lost many officers lately the other officer mentioned as being with your son being killed") [2 items]	20 Apr 1918
P848/7	Letter with envelope, Lt Col J Scott to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, to say that Ian Macdonald has been reported missing ("things were much mixed & dangerous at the time and I can only hope your son is alive as a prisoner of war") [2 items]	21 Apr 1918
P848/8	Letter with envelope, Robert Galloway, London, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing ("I think there is one feature of hope that he may be a prisoner") [2 items]	22 Apr 1918
P848/9	Letter from "Jack" [Mactavish], Inverness, to "my dear uncle Sinclair", expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing, suggesting organisations to write to for information, and giving news of Duncan, now a prisoner for over a year ("his new camp, Colberg, is a great improvement") and Alastair ("has finished his training") [2 items]	22 Apr 1918
P848/10	Letter from Charles Swanson, Edinburgh, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, thanking him for his sympathy in	22 Apr 1918

	regard to "Colin" ("I am glad to say that his wound is not a dangerous one but he has lost the power of his right leg, the nerve tissues have been injured. In a way it is a relief to know that one is out of this fearful fighting") [1 item]	
P848/11	Letter with envelope, Alfred Macaulay, Golspie, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing [2 items]	23 Apr 1918
P848/12	Letter with envelope, Bernard MacKenzie, Edinburgh, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing ("wonderful things do happen sometimes and although such a long time has elapsed since Willie has been missing, I cannot get myself to give up hope that he is still alive") [2 items]	23 Apr 1918
P848/13	Letter with envelope, J. Ross McMillan, architect, Aberdeen, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing [2 items]	23 Apr 1918
P848/14	Letter with envelope, Alexander Mackenzie, Halkirk, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing and hoping "you get similar news as they did at Castlegreen about Dave, your own son's dear chum" [2 items]	23 Apr 1918
P848/15	Letter with envelope, John Henderson, Dunvegan Hotel, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing [2 items]	23 Apr 1918
P848/16	Letter with envelope, R Galloway, London, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, to say that two officers named Macdonald have been reported as prisoners of war; some confusion as to whether either of them is Ian Macdonald [1 bundle: letter, envelope and telegrams]	25 Apr 1918
P848/17	Letter from Cox & Co. to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, stating that Ian "was reported in the Casualty Lists as "MISSING" on the 11 <sup>th</sup> April 1918" [1 sheet]	25 Apr 1918
P848/18	Letter from Cox & Co. to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, to say that in the recent list of prisoners the name of Macdonald appears twice, in both cases without initials; it is therefore impossible to confirm whether either one is Ian, although it is "more than probable" [1 sheet]	26 Apr 1918
P848/19	Letter from A. Oppenheim, Territorial Force, Cromarty, to Captain Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso,	29 Apr 1918

	confirming that Ian was “gazetted as Ian George and is shown in the Army List as I.G. Macdonald” [1 sheet]	
P848/20	Letter with envelope, R Galloway, London, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, to say that he has contacted the Central Prisoners of War Committee urging them to clarify if Ian Macdonald is one of the prisoners mentioned in P848/18 [2 items]	29 Apr 1918
P848/21	Letter with envelope, Captain A.B. Taylor, C Company, 1/5 <sup>th</sup> Seaforths, B.E.F. on active service, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, describing the circumstances before Ian’s disappearance, suggesting that he lost his way in the dark over unfamiliar ground (“for it was only a series of ‘Posts’ we were holding at that time, there being no line of trenches”) and was taken prisoner (“we had to retire over that ground the following morning so if anything had happened to Ian he would certainly have been seen”).  He adds that he expects to be back in the line shortly: “I see the Boche is still making a little headway – at a price; but our turn is coming before the summer is over”. [5 sheets, 1 envelope]	30 Apr 1918
P848/22	Letter from the Central Prisoners of War Committee stating that they have Ian down as missing as of 11 April but no further information as yet [1 sheet]	30 Apr 1918
P848/23	Letter with envelope, Captain George A. Sutherland, France, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, giving more information as to the events leading up to Ian’s disappearance (“The Bosche attacked us at dawn and later on we withdrew. It was possible for your son to walk into an enemy post but to do so would require to pass through our front line posts so that I think he may have been captured when our line had to be withdrawn”) [2 sheets, 1 envelope]	3 May 1918
P848/24	Letter from “Willie” [William Alister Macdonald, brother of Sinclair Macdonald] to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing and other news [2 sheets, 1 envelope]	4 May 1918
P848/25	Receipt from Red Cross and letter of acknowledgement from Central Prisoners of War Committee to Sinclair Macdonald for 5s. payment of telegrams [2 items]	7 May 1918
P848/26	Letter with envelope, Lt. David Park, 1/5 <sup>th</sup> Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F. France, to Sinclair Macdonald, to	8 May 1918

	say that Ian's kit has been dispatched to Cox & Co., shipping agents [2 items]	
P848/27	<p>Letter with envelope, Robert Galloway, London, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, to say that he has visited the Central Prisoners of War Committee but they still have no definite news of Ian. [Also refers to "this last Government sensation. I mean the Maurice letter". Major-General Maurice published a letter in the press on 8 May accusing the Lloyd George government of withholding troops from the Western Front and lying to Parliament about it.]</p> <p>Includes printed sheet, Missing Officers and Men, setting out the steps taken by the War Office to ascertain whether men posted as missing are in fact prisoners of war.</p> <p>[3 sheets, 1 envelope]</p>	11 May 1918
P848/28	Letter from the Central Prisoners of War Committee finally confirming that 2/L Ian George Macdonald, 5 Seaforths, is a prisoner [1 sheet]	14 May 1918
P848/29	Letter from "Jack" [Mactavish], Inverness, to "my dear uncle Sinclair", expressing pleasure at the news that Ian is safe and mentioning arrangements for sending his kit and food parcels [2 sheets]	[14 May 1918]
P848/30	Letter from Robert Galloway, London, to Sinclair Macdonald, re Ian's account with Cox & Co., and enclosing P848/28 [1 sheet]	15 May 1918
P848/31	Letter from Cox's Shipping Agency Ltd to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, referring him to the War Office for details of Ian's account with them [1 sheet]	17 May 1918
P848/32	Letter from Mrs M. Dunbar, Talka House, Laurencekirk, to Sinclair Macdonald, asking how he discovered Ian was a prisoner, as her son was in the Seaforths and is reported missing and she is anxious for news [Mrs Dunbar had already lost a son at Gallipoli in 1915] [1 sheet]	18 May 1918
P848/33	Letter from A.B. Taylor, C Company, 1/5 <sup>th</sup> Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., to Sinclair Macdonald, thanking him for news that Ian is now a prisoner of war. ("I came out of the trenches a week ago and am at a bombing course at present... There seems to be a sort of "uncanny quiet" all along the line, probably [the Germans are] preparing for another drive but I do not think it will help him very much") [2 sheets]	19 May 1918

P848/34	Change of address card for 2/Lt. Ian G. Macdonald, Seaforths, to Mainz Hessen, Bl. II, Stube 83 [1 postcard]	22 May 1918
P848/35	Letter from Cox & Co. re Ian's account with the firm and cash and credit facilities available to him as a prisoner of war [1 sheet]	22 May 1918
P848/36	Letter from R.L. Harmsworth, Moray Lodge, to Sinclair Macdonald, Campden Hill, expressing sympathy at the news that Ian is reported missing [in 1915 R.L. Harmsworth had offered his house, Moray Lodge, and grounds as an annexe to the Special Hospital for Officers in Palace Green, which was proving inadequate] [1 sheet]	24 May 1918
P848/37	Letter from the War Office to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, regarding the effects of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant I.G. Macdonald, 1/5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders [1 sheet]	28 May 1918
P848/38	Letter from Army and Navy Co-operative Society Limited to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, re food parcels for Ian Macdonald, with printed price list [2 sheets]	29 May 1918
P848/39	Letter from the Central Prisoner of War Committee to Sinclair Macdonald re payment for food parcels for 2 <sup>nd</sup> /Lt. Ian G. Macdonald [1 sheet]	30 May 1918
P848/40	Printed acknowledgement of receipt of letter from the Army and Navy Co-operative Society Limited to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso [1 card]	1 Jun 1918
P848/41	Effects Form 126c from the War Office to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, regarding the effects of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant I.G. Macdonald, 1/5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders [1 sheet]	5 Jun 1918
P848/42	Receipt for 5s. from the Central Prisoners of War Committee to Sinclair Macdonald [1 sheet]	6 Jun 1918
P848/43	Letter from Cox's Shipping Agency Limited to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, returning Ian's effects [3 items]	10 Jun 1918
P848/44	Letter from Cox & Co. to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, to say that a postcard has been received from Ian, giving his address as Block 2, Room 82, Mainz, Germany [1 sheet]	11 Jun 1918
P848/45	Letter from the Central Prisoner of War Committee to Sinclair Macdonald re payment for food parcels for	11 Jun 1918

	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Ian G. Macdonald [1 sheet]	
P848/46	Receipt by the Central Prisoner of War Committee to Sinclair Macdonald of package of clothing to be shipped to Ian Macdonald in prisoner of war camp, Mainz [1 item]	16 Jun 1918
P848/47	Letter from William Taylor, London, to Sinclair Macdonald, saying that his nephew, Lt. A. Taylor, has asked him to send on Ian's personal belongings and enclosing a list of them [1 sheet]	24 Jun 1918
P848/48	Letter from John Grant, bookseller, Edinburgh, to Sinclair Macdonald, Thurso, re books for Ian [1 sheet]	10 Jul 1918
P848/49	Instructions for communication with prisoners of war interned abroad [2 sheets]	1917
P848/50	Blank order form from the Central Prisoner of War Committee for sending parcels to prisoners of war, with price list of parcels on reverse [1 sheet]	1918
P848/51	War Office memorandum and addendum re Pay of Missing Officers [2 items]	1918
P848/52	Memorandum of the officers' parcel scheme, contents of standard parcels, items prohibited, and list of shops authorised to pack and despatch parcels to prisoners of war [5 sheets]	1918
P848/53	Black and white photocopy of photograph of Ian G. Macdonald with two other officers, Lovat Scouts [1 sheet]	1914
P848/54	Black and white photocopy of photograph of Ian George Macdonald, Seaforth Highlanders [1 sheet]	1918
P848/55	Biographical notes by Stroma Riungu on Ian Macdonald's war service 1917-1918, typescript transcripts of letters and telegrams to Sinclair Macdonald relating to Ian's war service, and photocopies of selected documents from the collection [1 folder]	2016