

## Tony Redmond

..... enlisted with 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Naval and Military Expedition Forces in August 1914 and when war broke out, he then enlisted with the 1st AIF on 6 March 1915 joining the 18th Battalion A Company. George Duffin and George Gagan were also in the 18th Battalion but in C Company. Ted Bellamy (West's # 34) was also in the 18th Battalion, 1st Reinforcements.

Lance Corporal James "Tony" Redmond arrived in Gallipoli on 16 August 1915. He arrived just in time for the August offensive and the battle for Hill 60 where the 18th Battalion had many casualties. He was admitted to the hospital ship 'Maheno' on 7 September 1915 with Otitis Media as a result of shell concussion and deafness. he spent over six months in England recuperating.

In a letter to his Glebe Club Secretary, Clifton Upton (brother of Rupert Upton West's #137) in June 1916 from Abbey Wood England, Tony Redmond conveyed the following; " I have had a bonser time since I landed in England. I have played against most of the leading League and Rugby Union Clubs, including Hull, Cambridge University, Manchester, Leeds, and military teams.

Last week we had a gate of 350 pounds to be handed over to charity. We have also played the New Zealanders. You see, I am making up for the Club matches I missed at home. I had a bad time at Gallipoli. You read what a rough time my Battalion, the 18th, had. Coo-ee to all old pals."



Tony Redmond was expecting to return to France to join the battle once again but soon after his letter to Clifton Upton he was notified that he was returning to Australia and upon arriving, he was discharged as medically unfit in September 1916. He appears to have recovered from his war injuries and upon arrival in Australia in 1916, wired the Glebe Rugby League Club to advise of his availability to play in the final series.

**Tony Redmond, the Glebe footballer who has been in France, and later in England, where he played with Anzacs in the matches of which we heard a good deal, is expected to reach Sydney this morning. He wired from Melbourne to the effect that he was available for the final if the club selectors wanted him to play.**

Arrow 12 August 1916

However, Glebe did not take up Tony's offer and in 1917 he joined Wests. Tony played all fourteen competition games for Wests in First Grade in 1917. He also played in two City Cup matches including a close semi-final loss to Souths.

The 1918 season was similar to the previous year for Tony Redmond. He once again did not miss a competition match but this year he went one better with Wests as the team took out the City Cup with a decisive 18-8 win over Newtown.

Tony missed four rounds early in the 1919 season due to a serious attack of influenza. The Spanish flu of 1919 had a devastating effect worldwide and killed many people including those that were otherwise fit and healthy. It is possible that this was the reason that Tony was absent from the 1919 West's team photo.

**A. Redmond is improving from the effects of influenza. He had a very serious attack, and will not be able to play again before the second round starts.**

Referee 28 May 1919

He returned in round six of the 1919 competition and missed no further games. He was once again part of Wests successful City Cup team, this time defeating his former Club, Glebe, 14-10 in the final.

Tony's last season at Wests was in 1920. He was approaching thirty years of age and survived a war. He played five First Grade games with Wests that season but once again made an appearance in the City Cup Final. Unfortunately, Wests went down to North Sydney 7-14 in the Cup Final.

In 1921 there was an exodus of Wests players to the newly admitted St George team. The residential rules applicable required players to play with the district club that controlled the area in which they resided. Tony Redmond was one of these players.

Age had not wearied him and he played all but one of the competition matches in First grade as well as all of the City Cup games that St George contested.

However, in 1922 and 1923, Tony returned to play with the Glebe Club where he started. True to form, Tony played First Grade in every game that Glebe contested in 1922. In 1923, Tony only played five competition games in First Grade but was there for the City Cup series including Glebe's loss to Balmain in the final.

At the start of the 1924 season, it was reported that Tony Redmond was going to make a return to Wests. He played in the First Grade team during the trials and was listed as a reserve in the early matches. He finally played a First Grade game in round four against Newtown but that was the last game for Tony Redmond in the top grade.

Tony was a musician and played the piano. In October 1924 it was reported that he was part of the entertainment at a "smoko" to raise funds for his former Club, St George.

## SUCCESSFUL SMOKO.

St. George District Rugby League Football Club held a successful function on Saturday night last, in the Oddfellows' Hall, Arncliffe. A fine array of talent gave a budget of typical "Smoko" songs and sayings, which were interspersed with a little 'light' refreshment. The artists were Messrs. O. Pier, O. King, E. Lapham, P. O. Smith, T. Peters, Young, Rogers, R. Fusedale, P. Gabbe, T. Burns, Harry, with "Tony" Redmond manipulating the "ivories" in his usual characteristic style. A feature was the enter-

St George Call 24 October 1924

Tony Redmond enlisted again in the Army Citizens Military Forces in June 1941 for service in World War two. it is noted that he brought his birth date forward to 2 September 1895 to make him five years younger than he was.

He was posted to the General Details Depot at Moore Park where new enlistments received basic training before being posted to their permanent unit.

For a man that saw action in New Guinea and Gallipoli, the training facility at Moore park may have seemed tame, as Tony had to front his superiors for a few indiscretions that occurred during his time there. Tony was discharged from service in November 1941.

James Patrick "Tony" died at North Ryde, NSW in June 1963. His funeral service was held at the Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, North Ryde, NSW.