OUR FAMILY

AT WAR

Lest We Forget

Private T. E. Booker 6/1782

15 February 1896 - 8 March 1917

Canterbury Regiment, 1st Battalion, NZEF

Thomas Eric Booker was born in Winchester, South Canterbury on 15 February 1896 to George and Margaret Booker. He was educated at Winchester School and upon leaving school worked as a farmer. He had seven siblings - Benjamin, Cecil, Ernie, Ethel, Laura (Crozier), Mafeking and Margaret. After his enlistment his parents moved to 120 Winters Road, Papanui, Christchurch.

He enlisted on 17 December 1914 and on 17 April 1915, as part of the 4th Reinforcement, he embarked for Egypt from Wellington, NZ with the transport convoy consisting of HMNZ Troopships Willochra, Knight Templar and Waitomo.

Arriving in Egypt the 4th New Zealand Reinforcement embarks for Anzac, arriving 7 June 1915. A veritable foe, the Ottomons hold the ridges through Cape Helles, Lone Pine, Quinn's Post and Russell's Top of the Nek. On 8 August Chanuk Bair is captured but is retaken by the Ottomons on 10 August. On 21 August 1915 (see Ernie's story) Hill 60 defensive starts.

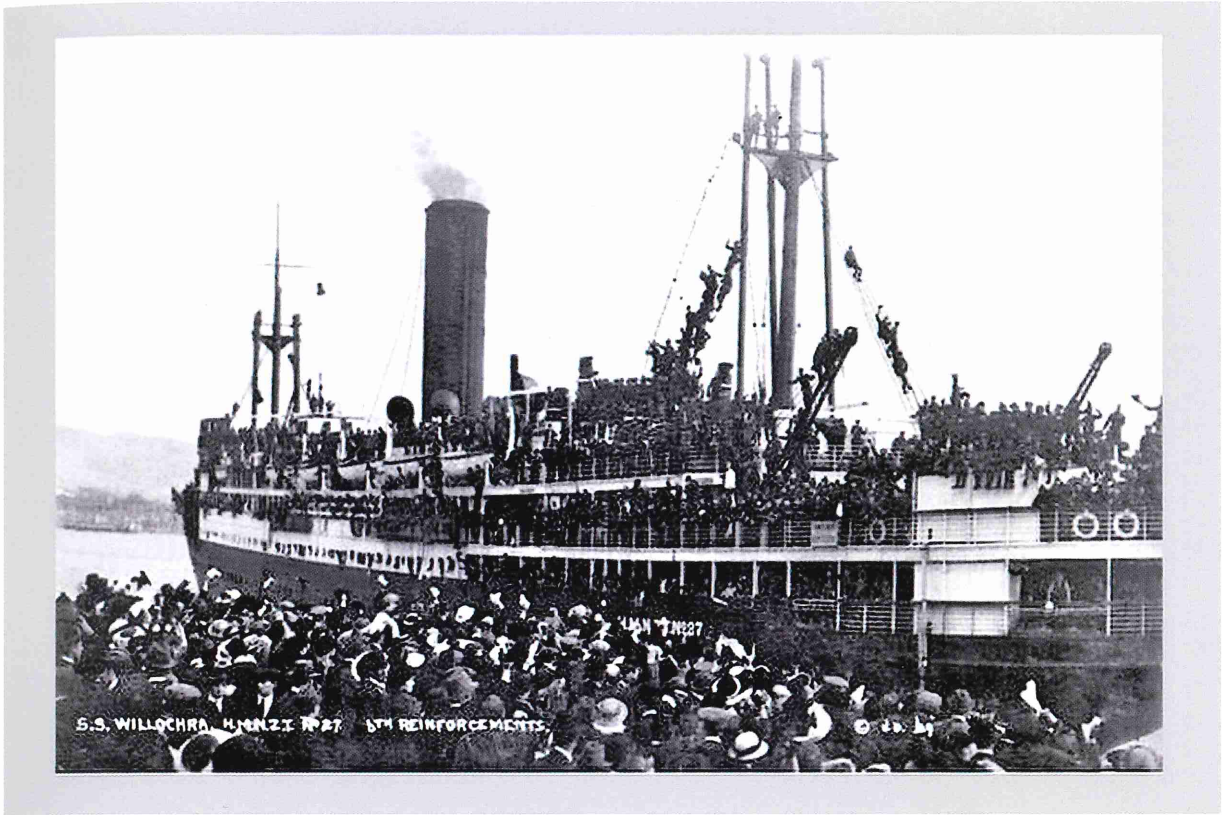
On the 14 September 1915 New Zealand Brigades are evacuated to rest camp at Scarpi, Lemnos, but in late November return to Anzac where they are hampered by a big snowstorm. On 8 December the order for evacuation is made and during the next three weeks Anzac is evacuated. Troops evacuated to Lemnos are then transferred to Egypt.

After a period of rest and reorganisation following the Gallipoli evacuation, the newly formed NZ Division left for France in early April 1916. Sent to the Flanders region to gain experience of new trench conditions, they spent the next three months guarding a "quiet" sector of the line at Armentieres before moving south to the Somme battlefields and their first large-scale action on the Western Front. During the next three months the New Zealanders took part in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, Battle of Morval and the Battle of Transloy Ridges.

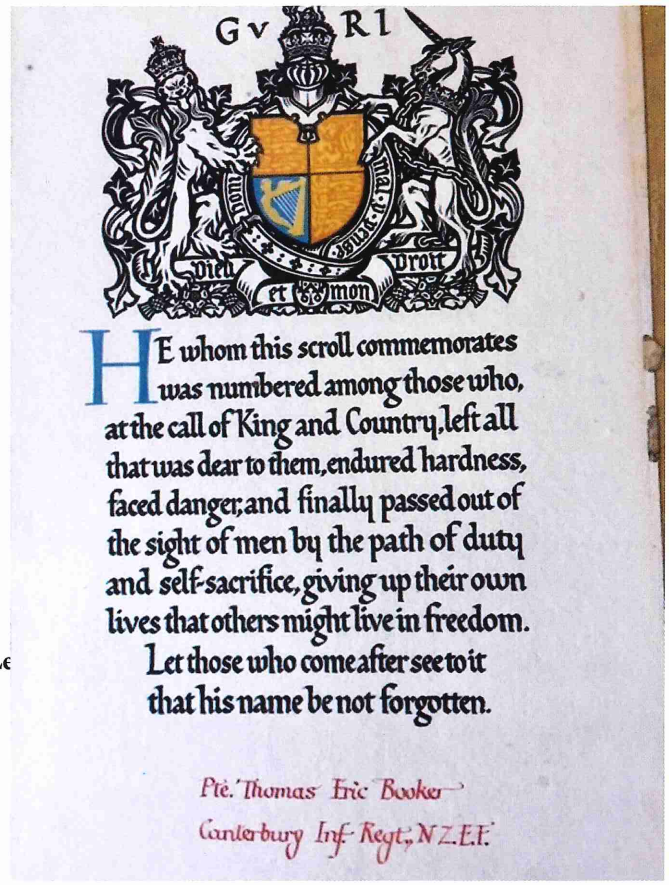
In October 1916 the New Zealand Infantry is pulled out of the line and returns to Flanders where the New Zealand Division joined the Battle of the Somme. (Note: Over half of New Zealand's Somme dead have no known grave - their names are immortalised on the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, near Longueval).

February 1917 saw the Germans pull back 40km from the Somme to the Hindenburg Line. The ANZAC Corp moved north from Armentieres into Belgium in preparation for the attack on Messines Ridge.

On 8 March 1917 Thomas Eric Booker is accidentally killed in the camp's mess tent by friendly fire. His parents were told he was having a cup of tea at the time of his death. Documents of the investigation into his death are on the following pages.


S.S. WILLOCHRA, H.M.N.Z.T. 27 6TH REINFORCEMENTS.

Scarpi, Le


Gv RI
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
DIEU ET MON DROIT
HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.
Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.
Pte. Thomas Eric Booker
Canterbury Inf. Regt., N.Z.E.F.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ATTESTATION OF

No. 1780 Name: Thomas Eric Booker Regiment or Unit: 2nd (South Canterbury) Regiment

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO THE RECRUIT BEFORE ENLISTMENT

1. What is your name?	1. Thomas Eric Booker
2. Where were you born	2. Manchester England
3. Are you a British subject?	3. Yes
4. What is the date of your birth?	4. 15 July 1890
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. Nurseryman
6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom?	6. A W Buxcons Ch Ch
7. What was the address at which you last resided?	7. Winchester
8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent?	8. Yes
9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer.	9. Buxcon Ch Ch
10. Are you married?	10. no
11. Have you been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where?	11. no
12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps?	12. Terr E Battr Ch Ch
13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If, so, state which and cause of discharge.	13. no
14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service?	14. Yes
15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where?	15. Yes Temuka
16. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds?	16. no
17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated?	17. Yes
18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European War and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and to disband it?	18. Yes.

Note.—Your discharge will not be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I, Thomas Eric Booker, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit: Thomas Eric Booker

Signature of Witness: Albert Godard

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas Eric Booker, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs, and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God!

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The above questions were read to the above-named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Wentham N.Z. on this 7 day of

Description of Thomas Eric Bowden **on Enlistment.**

Apparent age: 18 years 10 months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height: 5 feet 9 inches.

Weight: 146 lb.

Chest measurement: Minimum, 32 inches. Maximum, 35 inches.

Complexion: Fair

Colour of eyes: Grey

Colour of hair: Brown

Religious profession: Church of England

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

Sight: Right eye, good

" Left eye, good

Hearing: Right ear, good

" Left ear, good

Colour-vision: correct

Are his limbs well formed? yes

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? yes

Is his chest well formed? yes

Is his heart normal? yes

Are his lungs normal? yes

What is the condition of the teeth? good

Is he free from hernia? yes

Is he free from varicocele? yes

Is he free from varicose veins? yes

Is he free from haemorrhoids? yes

Is he free from inveterate or contagious skin-disease? yes

Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? yes

Is he in good bodily and mental health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties? yes

Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause rejection? No

REMARKS.

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Dec 17th 1914 — [illegible] Medical Officer.
Capt R.A.M.C.

WILLIS & ARMIT (GOV. PRINTERS), CHCH.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: REF.NO.9/446.

J. Hanaly Capt.,
D.A.A.G.(N.Z.)
G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon,
B. E. F.

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE.
of the death of 6/1782 Pte. Booker, T.E. of 1st C.I.B. (Chch.of Eng)

REINFORCEMENT CAMP.

14/919 Ord.Rm.Sgt.L.V.Arrow states:

I was in the men's cookhouse having my dinner about 4.45p.m. onwards. I was talking to Pte. Booker, who was seated on the table next me. I heard a crack, like a stone against against the wall, when Booker sprang up and exclaimed "What's that" he then spun round and collapsed upon the floor. I tried to raise him up, and with the assistance of Pte (Cook) Ward, L. 23639 laid him out upon the floor, with his head supported, opened up his shirt to ease his breathing; but after a few seconds his eyes glazed, and I was certain he was dead.

Sd. L. Arrow.

23639 Pte.(Cook) Ward, L. states:

I was outside when Sgt. Arrow called me. I went into the cookhouse and helped him to attend to Booker. I supported Booker's head. He only lasted a few seconds when life seemed extinct. I assisted in putting the body in an empty hutment. I saw the hole in the wall where the bullet came through.

Sd. L. Ward.

12/3810 Acting Camp Sgt. Major Scholes, A.A.states:

I was having dinner at the time, with Sgt. Arrow, I heard a crack on the wall,- saw Booker spring up, and exclaim "What's that",- he turned round and looked at the wall for about 2 seconds when he collapsed and died within 35 seconds" I saw a hole through the wall, newly made by a bullet.

Sd. A.A.Scholes.

Major McLean N.Z.M.C.states:

I saw the body of 6/1782 Pte. Booker T.E. at 9 p.m. on 7th inst. He had evidently been dead three or four hours. There was a puncture wound below his right scapular - probably a bullet wound. From the statements of the other witnesses I judge the bullet must have penetrated the heart.

Sd. H.J.McLean,Major,
N.Z.M.C.

.....

27/3/17.Capt.R.M.Gardner - Comdt.Rft.Camp states:

I examined the hole in the wall made by the bullet. Am of the opinion that the bullet ricochet off some hard substance at some distance. The hole made was kidney shaped. The bullet did not touch the barb wire at the back of the building. Owing to the

/LWL.

peculiar shape of the hole being caused by a damaged bullet, it is fair to reckon on an extremely erratic flight, and locality of discharge will be extremely difficult to locate. The cut through the wall indicates a direction of from 9 to 18° (true bearing), and an angle of descent of about 45°. There was no antiaircraft gun firing at or about the time (5 p.m.)

9/3/17. Sd. R.M.Gardner,Capt.

.....

(1)

"Q"Branch.

Sir, Attached please find evidence concerning the death of 6/1782 Pte. Booker T.E. of 1st C.I.B. Church of England attached to N.Z.Div. Reinforcements Camp.

9.15 p.m. 7/3/1917. Sd. R.M.Gardner
Capt. Comdt.

(2)

Commandant, Reinforcement Camp.

Is there no evidence to show from which direction the bullet came.

Sd. H.G.Reid, Lt-Col,
8/3/17 A.A. & Q.M.G.

(3)

A.A.& Q.M.G.

I have added a"statement" in accordance with Minute No 2

9/3/17 Rft.Camp. Sd. R.M.Gardner, Capt.,

.....

(4)

Headquarters,
New Zealand Division,
10th March, 1917.

To Headquarters, 2nd ANZAC.

Accidental death of 6/1782 Pte. T.E.Booker,1/Btn.Cant.Regt.

Forwarded with reference to my Casualty Report ZA.6/107 dated 8th inst.

From the evidence it would appear that the shot was fired from the direction of the Area occupied by the 36th Division.

Sd. A.H.Russell,
Major General,
Commdg.N.Z.Divn.

.....

(5)

Headquarters, 2nd Army "A"

Forwarded.

There would appear to be no evidence to show who fired the shot that killed Pte. T.E.Booker.

Sd. Alec Delavoye,
for Lieut.Gernl,
Hqrs.13/3/17. Commdg.2nd Anzac Corps.

.....

/LWL.

Headquarters,
36th Ulster Divn.
58/29/92A.

Second Army.

Reference your minute of 20/3/17, full enquiries have been made.

Lewis Gun practice was being carried out on Clandeboye range (T19.B.) on the 7th inst between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The distance of the flight from Clandeboye range at T.19b05.90. to the place where the man was killed would be 2,700 yards.

The axis of the range is on a true bearing of 85° while the place where the man was struck would be 187°.

The probabilities are, in my opinion, against a bullet from Clandeboye range having caused the accident.

Sd. O.S.Nugent,
Major-General,
Commdg.36th Division.

2nd April, 1917.

/LWL.

.....

Second Army No A.E.578.

DA[illegible]., 3rd Echelon.

Herewith papers reference death of 6/1782 Pte. Booker, T.E. 1st Canterbury Regt.

It appears to be "accidental" and no further action is proposed.

Sd.P.E.Longmore,Capt.
D.A.A.G.for GOC.2/Army.

A.H.Q.4/4/17



STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES OF No. 6/1782 NAME: Pte T. E. Booker

Regiment or Corps.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank.	Dates.	Signature of Officer certifying Correctness of Entries.
C Coy 1st Rifles		Private	6 Jan 15	Childs Major
2nd Coy 6 SB	Posted	"	8/6/15	[illegible]
do	Admitted to Hospital Frostbite	"	6/7/15	[illegible]
" " "	Rejoined unit from hospital	"	19/10/15	[illegible]
	Attached Rest-Camp Sailly Rouelx			

ARMY 7/17/F-6
ARMY 6/1782/F-6

P. O. Box 99,

20th October, 1952.

Dear Sir,

7/17 G.E. BOOKER : 6/1782 T.E. BOOKER.

In reply to your letter of the 10th October, I have to advise that the Father of the above-named deceased soldiers, Mr. G.E. Booker, applied in 1920 for the gratuity monies due on their account.

Payment, in both cases, was made to Mr. Booker as follows :-

G.E. Booker	£54/15/0d	6th March, 1920.
T.E. Booker	£54/15/0d.	4th March, 1920.

Yours faithfully,

(F. B. Dwyer),
ARMY SECRETARY.

The Secretary,
Christchurch Returned Services' Assn.,
P.O.Box 354,
CHRISTCHURCH.

21 OCT 1952
DESPATCHED

FILE.
20 OCT 1952
INITIALS

23 OCT 1952.

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form—Active Service.** Regimental Number 6/1792

Regiment or Corps 1st C. I. B. 2nd Coy.

Rank Pte Surname Bockes Christian Name Thomas Eric

Religion — Age on Enlistment — years — months.

Enlisted (a) 7/1/15 Terms of Service (b) Dur. of War Service reckons from (a) 7/1/15.

Date of promotion to present rank — Date of appointment to lance rank —

Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b) — or Corps Trade and Rate —

Signature of Officer i/c Records

Report: Date	Report: From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks. Extract from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents
		Embarked ... Disembarked ...			
12/6/15	O/C 6. I. B.	Joined Bn.	B'relles	8/6/15.	B213.
10/7/15	1st Aus Hy Hosp	Adm to Stat Hosp	Lemnos	6.7.15.	A36. C3526.
		Transferred to Base	-	7.7.15.	Gastritis
16.7.15	Malta.	Adm to Hosp (Int Sfa)	Malta.	16.7.15.	Dysentery B2172.
12.9.15	Rch Hosp Int Sfa.	Trans to Convr Hosp			Dysentery
		Chain Suffield	-	9.9.15	A36. C3776.
19.10.15	O/C Base Details.	Rejoined Unit	Mudros	19.10.15	B213.
2.1.16	From Bell	Reembarked at	Alex	30.12.15	B3165. Sick
6.2.16	O/C 1st Bn.	Emb for France or Francais	Marsa	6.2.16	From Bell
4.10.16	"	Att Rein Camp	Sailly	29.10.16	B213.
10.3.17	"	Accidentally Killed	Ville	8.3.17	-

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) Signaller, Shooting-Smith, &c.

ENTERED ON VERSO OF CIT 23

[P.T.O.]

(888). Wt. 15012/1186. 1,000,000. 1/16. P. P. Ltd. Forms/B.103.

FILE 30 JUL 1917

D.A.A.G. (N.Z.) Capt. G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon, B.E.F.

AB.

FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

Regiment or Corps: 1st Battalion. CANTERBURY REGIMENT New Zealand Division — Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company: 2nd Company

Regimental No. 6/1792 — Rank Private

Surname BOCKES — Christian Names Thomas Eric

Died: Date 8th March 1917 — Place In the field, FRANCE

Cause of Death.* "ACCIDENTALLY KILLED"

Nature and Date of Report APB, 213 10th March 1917

By whom made O/C., 1st Bn., Canterbury Regiment

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty

Burial: Place — Date —

By whom reported —

State whether he leaves a Will or not: (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) — (b) in Small Book (if at Base) Not issued — (c) as a separate document —

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Field Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station and Date: ROUEN, FRANCE March 29th., 1917

Signature of Officer in charge of Section, Adjutant-General's Office at the Base: J. Hardy Capt. D.A.A.G. (N.Z.) G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon, B.E.F.

GSK.

(Wt. 5712/M743 400,000 8/16 J F W (S.S.) Forms/B2090a/2

Reinforcement: 4th

HISTORY-SHEET.

[B.R.—7.

Unit.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.	No.
2nd cay. 1st Bn. Cant Rgt.	Pte.	Booker.	Thomas Eric	6/1782.

Occupation: nurseryman.

Last employer: Burston. Christchurch

Religion: Winchester, Eng. C of E. 15-2-96

Last New Zealand address: Winchester S. Canterbury.

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand): G. Booker (Father) ~~Winchester, S. Canterbury,~~ Winters Road - Papanui. Chch.

PT. Note - the person entitled to medals is Mrs. S. Booker, Winters Road, Papanui, Chch. 20 mar - 8/9/19

Country or Troopship.	Date from	Date to	Total. Years.	Total. Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.	Home Service. Years.	Home Service. Days.
NZ	6.1.15	17.4.15					
Foreign	17.4.15					Foreign Service:	
						Total Service:	

Cable. No.	Cable. Date	Where Soldier located.	Message and Remarks.
555	10.11.15	Alesa	Rejoined regiment from Malta.
Evidence concerning death.	of soldier	Summary of Evidence	Pte. Booker was in the men's cook house, sitting on a table talking to L/Cpl. Sergt. R. V. Dawson. A crack was heard like a shot close against the wall. Booker sprang up, exclaiming, "What's that" Then he threw round & collapsed upon the floor. He was raised & his chest opened. But after a few seconds his eyes glazed, & he died. On examination by the M.O. a gunshot wound was found below the right scapula. Capt. R.M. Saunders, i/c the Regt. to camp, examined the bullet in the wound made by the bullet was of the type that could not be fired from the rifle. The hole was kidney shaped. There were no anti aircraft firing at the time. From evidence it would appear that the shot was fired from the direction of the area occupied by the 36th Division.
	10.3.17.	90 C NZ Division.	
	13.3.17	90 C 2nd Anzac Corps.	No evidence to show who fired the shot.
	17.3.17	90 C NZ Division.	Bullet came from the west. It was travelling approximately on a bearing of 190 degrees. When it reached the Kitchen.
	2.4.17.	90 C 36th Division.	Lewis Gun practice was being carried out on Clandeboye Range, on 7th inst. Distance from the range to the place where the man was killed was 2,900 yds. The probability one against a bullet from Clandeboye Range having caused the accident.
	4.4.17	90 A.A.G. 2nd Army.	It appears to be accidental. No further action proposed

Killed ~~in action~~ accidentally ...	2057	Lin. 19-3-17	Accidentally Killed 8th march 1917
Died of wounds* sickness*	A 7B 103	(RW. 23.5.17)	accidentally Killed. In the Field France 8th March 1917.
Missing ...	9 RC.		Buried in Maple Leaf Cemetery Romarin 36 B. B.4. C.4.9. reptd. by Rev. C. Houcher C.F.
Prisoner ...			
Injuries in or by the Service ...			

Discharge ... Provisional: _____ (Date.) Final: _____ (Date.) Intended address: _____

Pension ... Medals auth. to - Mrs. G. Booker (F) Winters Rd. Papanui. Chch 8/9/21.

* Strike out words not required.

IN MEMORIAM.

BOOKER.—In fond and loving memory of our two sons, Private T. E. Booker, 4th Reinforcements, killed in France, 8th March 1917, in his 21st year. Also Trooper G. E. Booker, 8th South Canterbury Mounted Rifles, Main Body, killed on Gallipoli, August 21st, 1915, in his 22nd year.

—Inserted by their loving father, mother, brothers, and sisters.
Winters' Road, Papanui,
Late of Winchester.

PTE. T. E. BOOKER,
of Papanui,
Accidentally killed.

Lest We Forget

Trooper G. E. Booker 7/17

8 April 1894 - 21 August 1915

8th Canterbury Mounted Rifles, N.Z.E.F.

George Ernest (Ernie) Booker was born 8 April 1894, in Winchester, South Canterbury to George and Margaret Booker. He had seven brothers and sisters – including Thomas Eric.

Ernie enlisted on 13 August 1914 and was given one days leave and had to enter camp on 16 August 1914. Ernie was given the Non-Commissioned rank of Lance Corporal and was assigned to the Canterbury Mounted Rifles. His next-of-kin was his father George. He embarked for the Dardenelles (Gallipoli) on 16 October 1914 as part of the transport fleet of ten ships, consisting of the Tahiti and Athenic. On arrival at their destination Ernie's designation changed to Trooper.

George fought in the Gallipoli Campaign and was reported missing in action on 21 August 1915 during first day of the last big offensive of this Campaign - Hill 60. This was officially confirmed on 13 September 1915.

"Hill 60 was the last offensive action fought by the New Zealanders during the Gallipoli campaign. The 'abominable little hill', as it was dubbed by Brigadier-General Andrew Russell, saw bitter fighting between New Zealand mounted riflemen and Ottoman troops in late August 1915.

Following the failure of the Sari Bair offensive at Anzac, the British switched their attention northwards to Sulva, where they launched an attack on the Anafarta Ridge. New Zealand troops supported this operation with an assault on Hill 60, a small piece of Ottoman-held high ground between the two Allied-held areas.

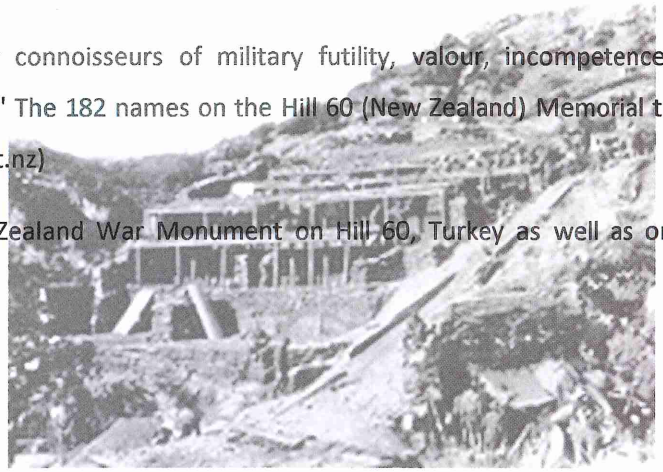
With his units severely depleted after Sari Bair, ANZAC commander Lieutenant-General William Birdwood cobbled together a composite force of New Zealand, Australian, British and Gurkha troops for the Hill 60 attack. New Zealand's contribution consisted of some 400 Canterbury and Otago mounted riflemen, who were fighting at Gallipoli without their horses.

The first attempt to take Hill 60 on 21 August failed. Allied planners underestimated the strength of Ottoman defences and the attack quickly broke down. Although New Zealand and British troops managed to capture part of the Ottoman trenches on the southern and north-western sides of the hill, nobody else got as far. The attack cost over 2000 casualties, including 200 New Zealanders. British attacks at Suvla also failed.

Six days later, the remnants of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade — around 300 men — took part in another attempt to clear Hill 60. After two days of bitter fighting, the hill remained firmly under Ottoman control. Once again, casualties were heavy. Hill 60 had effectively destroyed the New Zealand mounted rifles as a fighting force.

British historian Robert Rhodes James later wrote that 'For connoisseurs of military futility, valour, incompetence and determination, the attacks on Hill 60 are in a class of their own.' The 182 names on the Hill 60 (New Zealand) Memorial to the missing in Hill 60 Cemetery are testament to this." (nzhistory.govt.nz)

Ernie's name is one of 182 names immortalised on the New Zealand War Monument on Hill 60, Turkey as well as on the Winchester Memorial.



317

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ATTESTATION OF

No. _____ **Name** George Ernest Booker **Regiment or Unit** 5th Mtd Rifles

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your name?	1. George Ernest Booker
2. Where were you born?	2. Winchester
3. Are you a British subject?	3. ~~[illegible]~~ Yes
4. What is the date of your birth?	4. 8th April 1894
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. Farmer
6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom?	6. No
7. What was the address at which you last resided? ...	7. Winchester
8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent?	8. Yes
9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer?	9. George Booker Winchester
10. Are you married?	10. No
11. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where?	11. No
12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps?	12. 5th Mtd Rifles
13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge.	13. Cadets 3 yrs
14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service?	14. Yes
15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where?	15. Yes Temuka
16. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds?	16. No
17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated?	17. Yes
18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and to disband it?	18. Yes

NOTE.—Your discharge will not be granted before you return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I, George Ernest Booker, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit George Ernest Booker

Signature of Witness [illegible]

Oath to be taken by recruit on attestation.

I, George Ernest Booker, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God!

Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.

The above questions were read to the above-named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Timaru, N.Z. on this 18 day of August, 1914

Signature of Attesting Officer [illegible] Lieut.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, the Attesting Officer should be requested to make it and initial the alteration.

Description of George Ernest Barker on Enlistment.

Apparent age 20 years 4 months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height 5 feet 4½ inches.

Weight 126 lbs.

Chest-measurement { Minimum 33 inches. Maximum 35 inches.

Complexion Medium

Colour of eyes Grey

Colour of hair Brown

Religious profession C of E England

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Medical Examination

Sight: Right eye Correct

" Left eye —

Hearing: Right ear Correct

" Left ear —

Colour-vision Correct

Are his limbs well formed: Yes

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? Yes

Is his chest well formed? Yes.

Is his heart normal? Yes.

Are his lungs normal? Yes.

What is the condition of the teeth? Good

Is he free from hernia? Yes

Is he free from varicocele? Yes

Is he free from varicose veins? Yes

Is he free from hæmorrhoids? Yes

Is he free from inveterate or contagious skin disease? Yes

Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? Yes

Is he in good bodily and mental health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties? Yes

Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause rejection? No

Remarks.

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

August 7th, 1914

S S Byron, Medical Officer.
Capt NZMC

Reinforcement: 11.15. No B

HISTORY-SHEET.

PMCP 11-21

[E.F. Form No. 3A.

Unit.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.	No.
C.N.R.	Spr.	Booker	Geo.rge Ernest	7/14

Occupation: Farmer

Last employer: Geo Booker Winchester

Religion: Wesleyan Ang. 8:4:93

Last New Zealand address: Winchester

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand): Geo. Booker (Father) Winchester

P.T. States that Windrawn Pulopay - active Service Gratuity also medals to next-of-kin, viz:- Mr Geo. Booker, Winchester, Canterbury. Memo 1.8.19

	Country or Troopship.	Date from	Date to	Total. Years.	Total. Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.	Home Service. Years.	Home Service. Days.
...	N.Z.	13.8.14	16.10.14					
	Foreign	16.10.14	21.8.15				Foreign Service:	
							Total Service:	

	Cable. No.	Cable. Date.	Where Soldier located.	Message and Remarks.
...				

...				A.4.B.103. Pte. Missing now declared by B of E. held at Zeitoun 14/1/16 "Missing believed dead Dardanelles 21.8.15"

Killed in action ...			
Died of ~~wounds*~~ sickness*	972	alex 18.1.16.	Now declared Missing, believed dead Result of B. of E.
Missing ...	112	13.9.15	Missing 21st August 1915.
Prisoner ...			
Injuries in or by the Service ...			

Discharge ... Provisional: _____ (Date.) Final: _____ (Date.) Intended address: _____

Pension ... Medals auth to - Mr Geo Booker (F)

O.F.P.

	Served in N.Z. prior to enlistment	Discharged on Active Service, N.Z.	Discharged on Active Service in N.Z.	Samoa.
...				

This abridged timeline of activities of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment is derived from the unit diaries kept during the First World War. The timeline, in keeping with Ernie's military record, stops on 21 August 2015.

1914

August 1914

The Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment (CMR) is formed from the three Territorial Force mounted rifles regiments of the Canterbury Military District and starts training for service overseas as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF).

Lieutenant-Colonel John Findlay is appointed to command the new regiment, which is assembled at the Addington Show Grounds from 12 August and reaches full strength on 16 August.

The regiment's horses come from two sources. A man can enlist with his own horses. Those who do not are allocated a horse (known as a 'remount') from the stock that the army purchases at the start of the war. This leads to skulduggery as men attempt to acquire a suitable mount.

September 1914

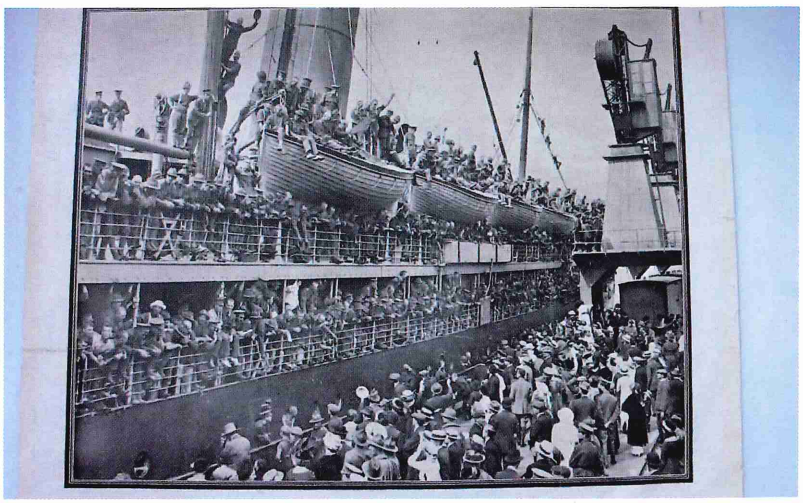
23rd – The CMR leaves camp. Most of the regiment ride to Lyttelton. Headquarters and the 1st (Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry) Squadron embark on HMNZT Tahiti, while 8th (South Canterbury) and 10th (Nelson) board HMNZT Athenic.
25th – On arrival in Wellington, the men of the CMR disembark as the departure of the convoy carrying the Main Body of the NZEF has been delayed. 8th (South Canterbury) enter camp at Trentham

October 1914

16th -22nd – The convoy carrying the Main Body of the NZEF leaves Wellington and arrived Hobart, Tasmania
.

November 1914
1st – 30th The combined AIF/NZEF main body convoy leaves Albany for the Indian Ocean - convoy goes via Ceylon, Aden and Suez, Egypt.
.
December 1914
3rd – After passing through the Suez Canal, the CMR disembarks at Alexandria and travels by train to Zeitoun Camp, which is located near Cairo, the capital of Egypt.

17th – The horses have acclimatised and mounted training begins.



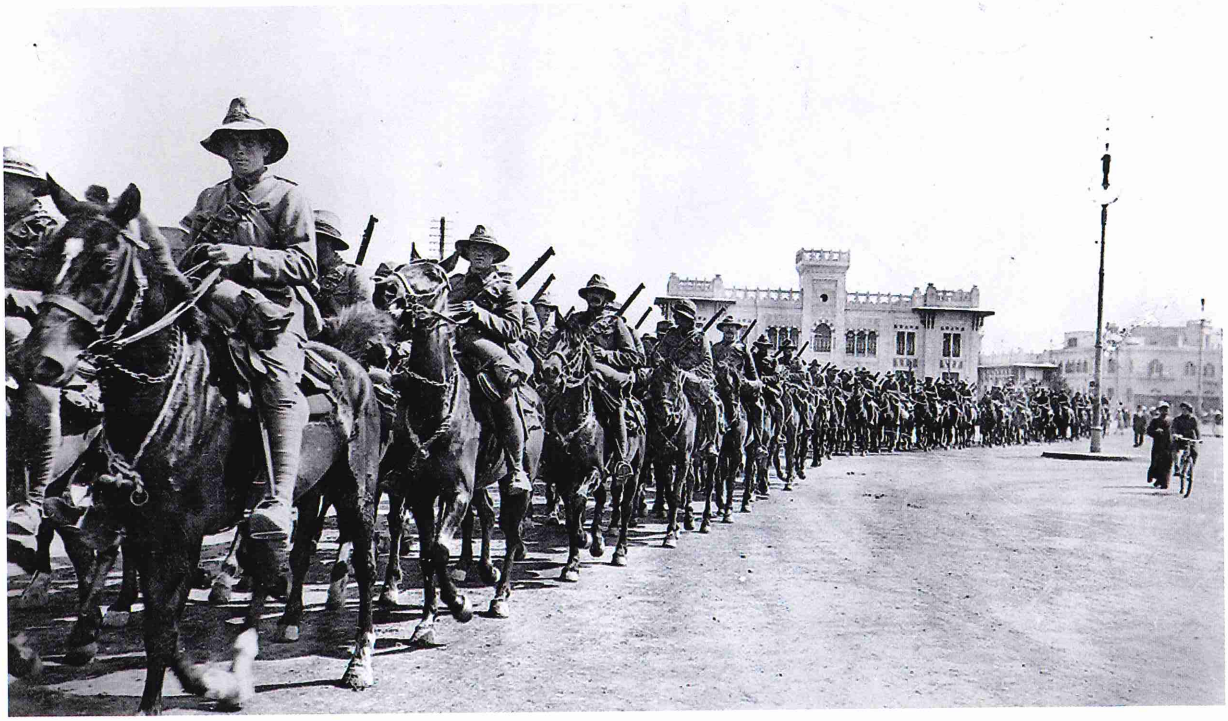
1915
January - April: Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment (CMR) continues training in Egypt. \
May: CMR and the rest of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade (NZMR) are thrown – as infantry – into the desperate struggle to seize the commanding heights of the Gallipoli Peninsula. In the next four months the regiment suffers more than half of all its casualties in the war.

January 1915
9th – 30th The CMR begins training as a regiment with Second Reinforcements (105 men/130 horse) joining

February 1915
1st – 26th The NZMR begins training as a brigade.

April 1915
2nd – Rioting by Anzac soldiers in Cairo's Wazzir brothel district is put down by mounted troops. All leave is stopped.
3rd – Orders are received for the Gallipoli invasion. The bulk of the NZMR (including the CMR) and the two Australian Light Horse brigades will remain in Egypt to continue training and to defend the Suez Canal against the Ottoman Turks. Training focuses on long-distance treks and inter-brigade maneouvres.

May 1915
5th – The NZMR receives orders to move to Gallipoli as infantry.
7th – On the night of 7/8 May, the CMR leaves Zeitoun Camp and travels by train to Alexandria. The regiment, along with the rest of the NZMR, has been selected to reinforce the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Anzacs are part of General Sir Ian Hamilton's Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF), which has been given the task of capturing the Gallipoli Peninsula and seizing control of the Dardanelle Straits from the Ottoman Empire. Because of the small size of the Anzac beachhead, and the rugged terrain, the regiments of the NZMR are ordered to leave most of their horses behind in Egypt. They will fight as standard infantry units at Gallipoli. Arrangements are made to take officers' horses and a few draught horses to meet transport requirements.
The strength of the CMR is 26 officers and 482 other ranks.
8th – The CMR is divided into two groups that embark on two transport ships:
HMT Grantully Castle – 25 officers, 452 other ranks
HMT Kingstonian – one officer, 30 other ranks and the horses
9th – HMT Grantully Castle leaves Alexandria at 6 p.m.
12th – HMT Grantully Castle arrives off Anzac Cove at 12.30 p.m. The men of the CMR are transferred onto destroyers,



Mounted Rifled parading through the streets of Cairo

12th – HMT Grantully Castle arrives off Anzac Cove at 12.30 p.m. The men of the CMR are transferred onto destroyers, taken closer inshore and landed by lighters at the jetty. Though they are exposed to Ottoman small-arms fire from the heights overlooking Anzac Cove during this process, only one man is wounded. On landing the strength of the regiment is 25 officers and 451 other ranks.
The CMR bivouacs in Reserve Gully.

13th – The NZMR is ordered to relieve the Royal Naval Brigade and take over No. 4 Section of the Anzac Cove defensive perimeter (a line which included positions on Russell's Top and Walker's Ridge). After dark the CMR relieves British troops on Walker's Ridge.
HMT Kingstonian,which is carrying the first-line transport, arrives off Anzac Cove but returns to Alexandria without disembarking any of the men or horses on board.

15th – The CMR suffers its first battle death when Trooper William Hay is killed.

19th – The CMR sends a troop to help the Auckland Mounted Rifles defend Walker's Ridge against a strong Ottoman attack.
24th – A truce is in effect at Anzac Cove between 7.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. This allows both sides to collect and bury their dead from the 'no-man's land' between the two front lines.

28th – The Otago Mounted Rifles relieves the CMR on Walker's Ridge. While most of the CMR moves into a reserve position,

30th – The 8th (South Canterbury), less one troop, and 10th (Nelson) squadrons are ordered to relieve the Wellington Mounted Rifles at No. 3 Post. The Wellingtons have been under constant attack since taking over the post, and Ottoman forces have come close to surrounding them.
The CMR force moves up to No. 3 Post at 8 p.m. The changeover is complete by midnight.

31st – Shortly after relieving the Wellington Mounted Rifles the CMR's commanding officer, Major George Hutton, decides that No. 3 Post is untenable and retires to Fishermen's Hut. The Ottoman Turks quickly reoccupy No. 3 Post (from now on known as 'Old No. 3 Post' by the Anzacs) and advance towards the gully between Fishermen's Hut and No. 1 Post. Alerted to this sudden threat, the Wellington Mounted Rifles' commander stands to his squadrons and extends them in a makeshift defensive line between Fishermen's Hut and No. 1 Post. Met with a hail of fire, the Ottoman forces break off their attack and fall back to Old No. 3 Post.

June 1915
4th – The CMR moves back into the front line on Walker's Ridge, taking over Posts 1 and 2.
9th – The Otago Mounted Rifles relieves the CMR at No. 2 Post.
11th – The CMR relieves the Otago Mounted Rifles at No. 2 Post.
The CMR is later relieved and goes into bivouac near the beach.

22nd – Major Overton leaves for Alexandria to buy fresh food. Because of the poor sanitary conditions and diet, a quarter of the regiment's 320 men are now unfit for service despite remaining on duty.
30th – The CMR receives three officers and 44 men from the Fourth Reinforcements.

July 1915
7th – The CMR moves into a front-line position at No. 2 Post on Russell Top, relieving the 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment.
18th – The CMR is relieved from the front line.

August 1915

5th – Battle of Chunuk Bair: The CMR takes part in the biggest offensive undertaken by the Allies at Gallipoli. This has three main components:

1. A large-scale British landing at Suvla Bay, 8 km north of Anzac Cove;
2. An attack by New Zealand, Australian and British forces from Anzac Cove aimed at linking up with the British at Suvla and capturing the strategic heights of the Sari Bair range;
3. Diversionary attacks by the Australian Division at Lone Pine and British forces at Cape Helles.

The NZMR is assigned to the Right Covering Force of the Allied attack on the Sari Bair range. This force is to clear the way for the Right Assaulting Column to capture the ridge at Chunuk Bair (part of the Sari Bair range) by taking six key features: Old No. 3 Post, Big Table Top, Destroyer Hill, Little Table Top, Bauchop's Hill and Walden Point.
The CMR – supported by a platoon of the Maori Contingent – is to capture Walden Point.
The CMR moves to No. 2 Post in preparation for its part in the offensive.

6th – After resting for the day, the CMR moves to a small depression in front of No. 2 Post at 9 p.m. and begins its advance at 9.30 p.m. They clear Walden Point with bayonets alone before advancing along the north side of Bauchop's Hill to their objective. The regiment suffers 40% casualties; Major Overton is killed and Lieutenant-Colonel Findlay badly wounded. Medical Officer Captain Guthrie receives a second wound, but again refuses to be evacuated.

7th – Battle of Chunuk Bair: The advance of the main assault columns is now badly behind schedule. The CMR remains on Bauchop's Hill, releasing men as stretcher-bearers for the wounded and burial parties for the dead.
Major Hutton takes command of the regiment.

8th to 10th – Battle of Chunuk Bair: The battle for the heights continues. Chunuk Bair is taken, then lost. The CMR remains in its defensive positions on Bauchop's Hill.

11th – The CMR sends a squadron to stiffen a line held by the South Wales Borderers Battalion and the Indian Brigade near Kabak Kuyu, inland from Suvla Bay.

12th – Since the 6th, the CMR has lost 24 men killed and 63 wounded.

15th – The CMR moves into the support trenches on Holly Hill, then during the evening takes over the front-line trenches from the South Wales Borderers. That night the CMR advances 200 m and incorporates an abandoned Ottoman trench into the Allied defences.

21st – The CMR, along with the Otago Mounted Rifles and 100 men from the Maori Contingent, approximately 500 from the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade and 700 from the Connaught Rangers, are assigned to attack the Ottoman trenches on HILL 60 in conjunction with an attack from Suvla Bay. The attack starts at 3.30 p.m. after an artillery bombardment. The attackers run across an open valley for approximately 800 m. Only the Canterbury and Otago Mounted Rifles reach the Turkish trenches, at the cost of approximately 60% casualties. A small group of men now hold 100 m of trenches with no support on the flanks and no line of communication across the exposed ground crossed by the initial charge. They consolidate and hold their newly won position until dusk, when Ottoman fire slackens.
Major Hutton is wounded during the charge. Major H.C. Hurst assumes command of the CMR.

GEORGE ERNEST BOOKER IS KILLED ON HILL 60

92451.—W6490/1535.—1,000,000—J. J. K. & Co., Ltd.—Forms B. 103/1.

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps: Canty Mtd Rifles 8th.

Regimental No. 7/17. Rank: Trooper. Name: Booker. George Ernest.

Enlisted (a) 13-8-14 Terms of Service (a) Period of war. Service reckons from (a) 13-8-14

Date of promotion to present rank: Date of appointment to lance rank: Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.:

Extended: Re-engaged: Qualification (b):

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		embarked for Dardanelles	Alexandria	9-5-15	
22-8-15	O/C CMR	Reported Missing	Dardanelles	21-8-15	B 213
14-1-16	O/C CMR	Missing believed dead	do	21-8-15	Finding of Board of Enquiry at Zeitoun 14-1-16 Pres. Capt E H Orr. Members Lieut T L Gibbs 2nd Lt T C Jebson

RECEIVED 15 APR 1916 DEFENCE BASE RECORDS

H. Fitz Herbert MAJOR
O. C. New Zealand Records Section

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D. Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) e.g., Storeman, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

[P.T.O.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

PERSONAL RECORD of (Surname) Registration No. 7/17.

Booker. Tpr. G.E. (Christian Name)

REGIMENT: C.M.R.

Missing 21/8/15. Cabled 9/9/15.

Prev. rptd Missing now, rptd Missing Believed Dead.

DIEU ET MON DROIT

The Great War
1914-1918

CERTIFICATE OF THE SERVICES IN THE
New Zealand Expeditionary Forces
OF 7/17 Trooper George Ernest Becker
Who gave his Life for his Country.

THEATRES of WAR
IN WHICH ACTUALLY SERVED
Egyptian 1914 15
Sulvan Gallipoli
1915

AWARDED
1914 15 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Senior

WAR SERVICE.

Date commenced duty: 13 8 1914
Date embarked: 16 12 1914
Date of death: 21 8 1915
Place of death: Gallipoli

Minister of Defence.

HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

Trooper George Ernest Booker
Canterbury Mtd. Rifles, N.Z.E.F.

BOOKER.—In loving memory of Trooper George Ernest Booker, Main Body, 8th South Canterbury Mounted Rifles, killed on Gallipoli, August 21st, 1915.

Inserted by his Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters (late of Winchester).

The final resting place of George Ernest Booker - Hill 60 New Zealand War Memorial.

Acknowledgements

Our Family at War came about from my love of history and the research I have done with genealogy and my belief in the importance of retaining family stories for future generations.

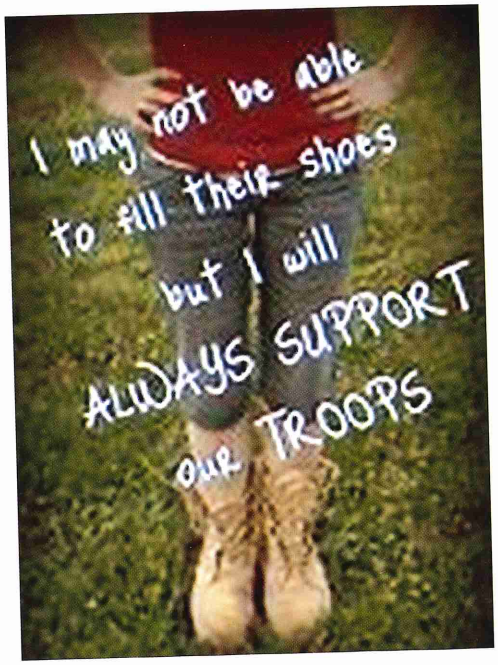
In researching information for this book I acknowledge the following:

Family members:

- Anthea and Rex Keenan
- Steven Franklin

Internet Research:

- Auckland War Museum - online cenotaph
- cwgc.com
- findagrave.com
- rafcommands.com
- nzwargraves.govt.nz
- nzhistory.govt.nz
- 75 Squadron - wordpress.com
- Papers Past



Wendy Toohey
June 2020