

Gustave Wood Squire WW1.Number 29596.

10-3-1895- 13-8-1976.

Gustave was a sheep farmer at his fathers property at Fairview,when he enlisted on the 28th June,1916.A farewell was held in the Fairview School.

From the Timaru Herald.14th September,1916.

#### RECRUITS FAREWELLS AT FAIRVIEW.

A large and representative gathering of residents and friends in Fairview and sourounding districts,assembled in the school room for the purpose of saying goodbye to Private G.W.Squire,who was down on final leave before his departure to the Front.

Mr.Bennett made a speech suitable to the occassion,when he referred to the fine spirit which the young men of the district were displaying in going forward at the call of King and Country.He then asked Private Squire to accept a wristlet watch as a small token of asteem.In doing so he referred to the good qualities possessed by the guest,and behalf of the gathering,wished him a pleasant trip and a safe return.Mr.Bennett then called on Miss Johnson to fasten the watch on Private Squire,s wrist,which she did amidst applause.

Private Squire,in a few appropriate words,thanked all friends for their gift to him which,he said,would always remind him of his friends at Fairview.

A very pleasant evening was spent in dancing, and songs were contributed by Miss Robertson and Messers Firkin and Jackson.Miss N.Brosnan and Mr.H.Dpree supplying the music,while Mr H.Brosnan was M.C.The singing of Auld Lang Syne,and the National Anthem,with cheers for the departing guest,brought the evening to a close.

Gustave was in the 19th Reinforcements of the Specialist Machine Company. He was 21 years old. There were 79 soldiers in his company.

After training at Featherston, they left Wellington on board the Maunganui, on the 15th of November, 1916. They called at the Cape of Good Hope, and landed at Devonport England on the 30th of January, 1917.

They marched into Sling camp. Three weeks later they marched out to Grantham. They left for France on the 28th May, 1917. During the time at war, he was in the military hospital in Grantham and Lewisham, with influenza, mumps and trench foot. Over his period at war he was hospitalised for 51 days.

Gustave wrote a diary, but unfortunately the family home burnt to the ground and it was lost.

On leave, he visited his father's relations in Devon.

His brother William Lilienthal Squire, (Number 47369) aged 29 years, also enlisted. He was a sheep farmer. William was a Private in the Canterbury Infantry Regiment. He left New Zealand on board the Willochra on the 9th of June, 1917. He served overseas for 2 years and 50 days. After the war was over he returned on the Chupra on the 28th July 1919. Gustave and William arrived home safely. They met only once in England.

Gustave arrived home on the Tofua. This extract is from the Timaru Herald 30th May, 1919.

Soldiers returned.

Arrivals by Tofua.

The South Canterbury men from the troopship Tofua reached Timaru by special train last evening. The original time of arrival of the train was 4.20. This was altered to 6.30 but it was 7.40 before the train pulled into the station, the delay having been caused by stoppages to land men at stations that were not on the scheduled list. However there was a very large and enthusiastic number of people on the station platform to

welcome the men, which they did right royally. The train's arrival was greeted with loud cheers, which was followed by the usual rush of overjoyed relatives and friends to unearth their prospective soldier heroes. After the first welcomes, the men were taken to cars waiting outside the station, and when further cheers had been given for them at the call of the mayor (Mr. W. Raymond) they were motored home, the Mayor having first welcomed them back on behalf of the citizens of Timaru. The Mayor was assisted in his welcoming by members of the Timaru Soldiers Reception Committee, and the ladies of the Patriotic Society, the latter distributing liberal supplies of fruit and cigarettes to the soldiers who were to continue the journey to Christchurch.

All ranks were very cheerful, and looked in pink condition, and were evidently pleased at their return home.

Also from the Timaru Herald, on the 25th July, 1919.

Fairview.

A welcome home social will be tendered to Privates

A.R. Thomson, T.W. Thomson, A. Johnson, G.W. Squire and W.L. Squire in the Fairview School on FRIDAY, July 25, at 8pm. Admission: Gents 2s 6d, Ladies 2s. Refreshments Provided.

On returning home, Gustave purchased 706 acres at "Inwardleigh" Cannington, Cave. He met and married Mary May Pretoria Abbott from Fairview on the 7th of September, 1921. Three years later they had their only child, Gustave Hedley Squire, who also worked at "Inwardleigh."

Gustave and May celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971.

World War 2.

During WW2, Gustave and Hedley (son) were in the Home Guard.

Gustave was in the Mackenzie Battalion. In a letter, dated 8th August

1942, from Army Headquarters in Wellington, appointments to commissions it states;

Sergeant Squire, Gustave Wood to be O.C. Signals Platoon H.Q.s. Company in the rank of Lieutenant.

The soldiers trained at "Inwardleigh" with the machine guns. Shooting from a water tank to a Cabbage tree a half a mile away. The cabbage tree still remains with holes where the bullets went in. The C.O offered Gustave a shot, and his first shots hit a gate a half a mile away.

War Memorial.

Following the end of WW2, on the 2nd of September, 1947, a public meeting was held in the Cave Hall to discuss a suitable war memorial. Present were G.W. Squire, D Cameron, O Jones, G. Rich, C Leslie D. Burnett, N. Crawford and H Campbell.

A series of meetings followed with different suggestions coming forward as to the form the memorial would take. An approximate cost of 200 pound for the suggested wall was finally decided on. The unveiling took place on ANZAC day 1950 on the Cave hill. Donations were collected from around the district.

In his later years, Gustave had no movement in his knees. He said it was living in the trenches up to his knees in mud and water.

Gustave served for 2 years 364 days.

He farmed all his life and passed away aged 81 years, never talking about the horror of war.

From the Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War.1939-1945.

Training began under canvas at Cave in South Canterbury, on the 8th of December. This gave Lieutenant-Colonel Inglis, who had joined the battalion only two or three days earlier, the opportunity to see how it would fare under active service conditions and to get the weights of his officers. In the opinion of one subaltern, "he succeeded in no mean manner"!

The battalion was introduced to the Inglis design of gun emplacement, which had been devised in the First World War. Positions were occupied at night and next morning the CO personally checked every gun, causing some anxious moments among platoon and section commanders. The battalion was taken out on exercises, which including long carries, action from trucks, occupation of positions, and direct fire orders. At the end of a strenuous day everybody was of one mind: this sort of thing was preferred to Burnhams bluegums, boulders and bulldozers. Field firing was 'great fun, the boys really enjoyed it', and the guns were made to boil for the first time. The farmer whose land the shooting was done (Gustave Wood Squire) had served as a machine gunner in the First World War. The CO offered him a shot, and his first shots hit a gate half a mile away.