

Joseph Lionel Graham was born 25 April, 1877 at Lyttelton, New Zealand, the 7th of 9 children of Samuel Edward and Mary Ann Graham. Lionel attended schools at Opihi and Hazelburn before leaving in 1892 for work.

In the 1900 Electoral Roll of Geraldine, Canterbury, he is listed as living at Kakahu School and employed as a labourer.

Lionel signed on to the South African Army in Capetown on 17 June 1901. Served as a trooper with the Prince of Wales Light Horse and Service Number 34542. It is noted that he listed his nationality as South African. Not known how he arrived in South Africa but I have a copy of correspondence seeking 10 pounds as compensation to recruits for overseas passage. He was discharged at Capetown 13 January 1902 with the rank of Lance Corporal and was awarded Queens South Africa Medal 1901, Queens South Africa Medal 1902.

He sailed for Montevideo and Buenos Aires on the Turakina, 11 October 1903. While in Argentina he attended the wedding of his youngest brother Herbert Lewis Graham to Nellie Constance Thomson on 14 February, 1907 at Christ Church, Barracas al Norte, Buenos Aires. Elder brother Charles Graham who was working in Argentina, was also a witness to this wedding.

Lionel left Argentina 9 June 1909 to return home after visiting England and Scotland arriving back at Lyttelton, New Zealand at the end of November. A report in Timaru Herald on 10 December 1909 gives a good account of life in Argentina.

LIFE ON A SHEEP RUN.

Mr Lionel Graham, who has returned to Timaru after spending four of five years in charge of an Argentine sheep station 400 mile from Buenos Aires, naturally has some interesting things to say about that vast country. First and foremost is the fact that it is so large that one person can really see but very little of it, unless he has a mania for travelling, and keeps on the move for years. Most of his time was spent on Gibson Bros. sheep ranches, of one of which he was in charge. This had never been under the plough, but by surface sowing, and the spread of seed by stock, the native pasture had been smothered by English ryegrass and clover, and this was the condition of most of the older occupied runs. There are native shrubs too, and these are a last resort for the stock in time of drought. A great drought, one of the worst within living memory, afflicted Argentina last summer and into the winter, the worst, because whereas droughts are not uncommon, they are usually regional or patchy, whereas in this case the whole country was affected. There was a great loss of stock, and prices slumped tremendously, because many people must either sell or kill for the mere skins. These droughts make Argentina no country for a small man. The sheep most favoured are the Lincoln and the Rambouillet merino. It is found necessary to continually

import fresh blood to keep up the quality of the wool, and the size of the carcase. Sheep are afflicted with many diseases. Scab is prevalent, and lung worm is a scourge among lambs and as cattle do better, this stock is most in favour. Nevertheless the stock of sheep is immense, getting on for 70 millions, as much of the interior is too dry for cattle. The station work is done very much as in New Zealand. Fences are the same, wire fences and droppers [German wire mostly]. The shearing season is the same as in New Zealand, and many machines are now in use. The native shearer is not so quick as the New Zealander, but he is more careful. Mr Graham says he found these people very good to get on with. The haulage is done by horses or mules, the sheep country being too poor for oxen; and one of the novelties of the country is the vehicle, a wagon with wheels 10 feet in diameter. Within a long radius of the port, a good deal of the land is now devoted to wheat, his brother has 1200 acres this year, and an enormous total is grown. The cattle country is chiefly in the north, where there is more moisture, and a very good stamp of cattle is now common. The rich stock-breeders think little of giving thousands for a good bull, Shorthorn or Hereford, the former the most favoured. The annual agricultural show at Buenos Aires is a big thing, but it is chiefly a bull show, as many as 800 bulls have been shown at once. Reverting to sheep for a moment, Mr Graham says that Argentina will never be able to compete with New Zealand in fat lambs, the climate is against her. They cannot grow turnips, the heat of summer being too great, and an experiment with pumpkins as an alternative, made by Mr Gibson, proved a failure. As a country, Argentina may be likened to Canterbury, enormously magnified. There is the western snowcapped range, the Andes, a broad belt of lower ranges, a belt of shingly plain at the foot of these, more or less well watered by streams from the mountains which at last sink into the ground, and then, eastward of this the pampas, an enormous area of deep soil like river silt, where, as a saying goes, one can't be a shepherd because there isn't a stone to throw at a dog. An idea of the breadth of the country may be gained from Mr Graham's statement that he accompanied his boss, Mr Gibson, on a trip to the Mendoza country, at the foot of the frontal ranges, and it took 28 hours of railing, on the straightest long railroad in the world, to get there. This trip was a revelation to him. Compared with the pampa country, Mendoza is a garden of Eden, all through irrigation. Vines, vines, vines, hundreds of acres of them, the best yielding 100 gallons an acre, and fruit orchards are fast becoming as extensive. Unfortunately there is no water available for the irrigation of the pampas. As a matter of fact, it would only be needed in seasons of drought. At other times drainage would be of more service. Take it all in all, Mr Graham thinks, there's no place like New Zealand.

In the 1914 Electoral Roll of Wallace, Southland, Lionel was listed as living in

Lionel had his name drawn in the first ballot for Southland under the military Services Act and had medical examination on 15 December 1915 at the age

of 38 years and 8 months. His height was given as 5 feet 8 inches, weight 166 lbs with blue eyes and fair hair. His religion as Church of England.

He enlisted on 10 January 1916 with D company, 12th Reinforcements, Otago Infantry Battalion, Service Number 11174 and rank of Private, at Trentham Military Camp.

6 February 1916 Promoted to Lance Corporal.

1 May 1916 Embarked on HMNZT 51 Ulimaroa from Wellington.

9 June 1916 Disembarked at Suez, Egypt.

26 July 1916 Embarked at Alexandria, Egypt, on HT Ivernia.

7 August 1916 Disembarked at Southampton, England.

8 August 1916 Joins 3rd Reserve Battalion at Sling Camp, Salisbury, England.

8 August 1916 Reverted to ranks.

20 August 1916 Left for France.

21 August 1916 Joins New Zealand Base Depot at Etaples, North France.

1 September 1916 Posted to 14th Company in the field.

15 September 1916 Wounded in action.

15 September 1916 Died of Wounds.

Buried Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

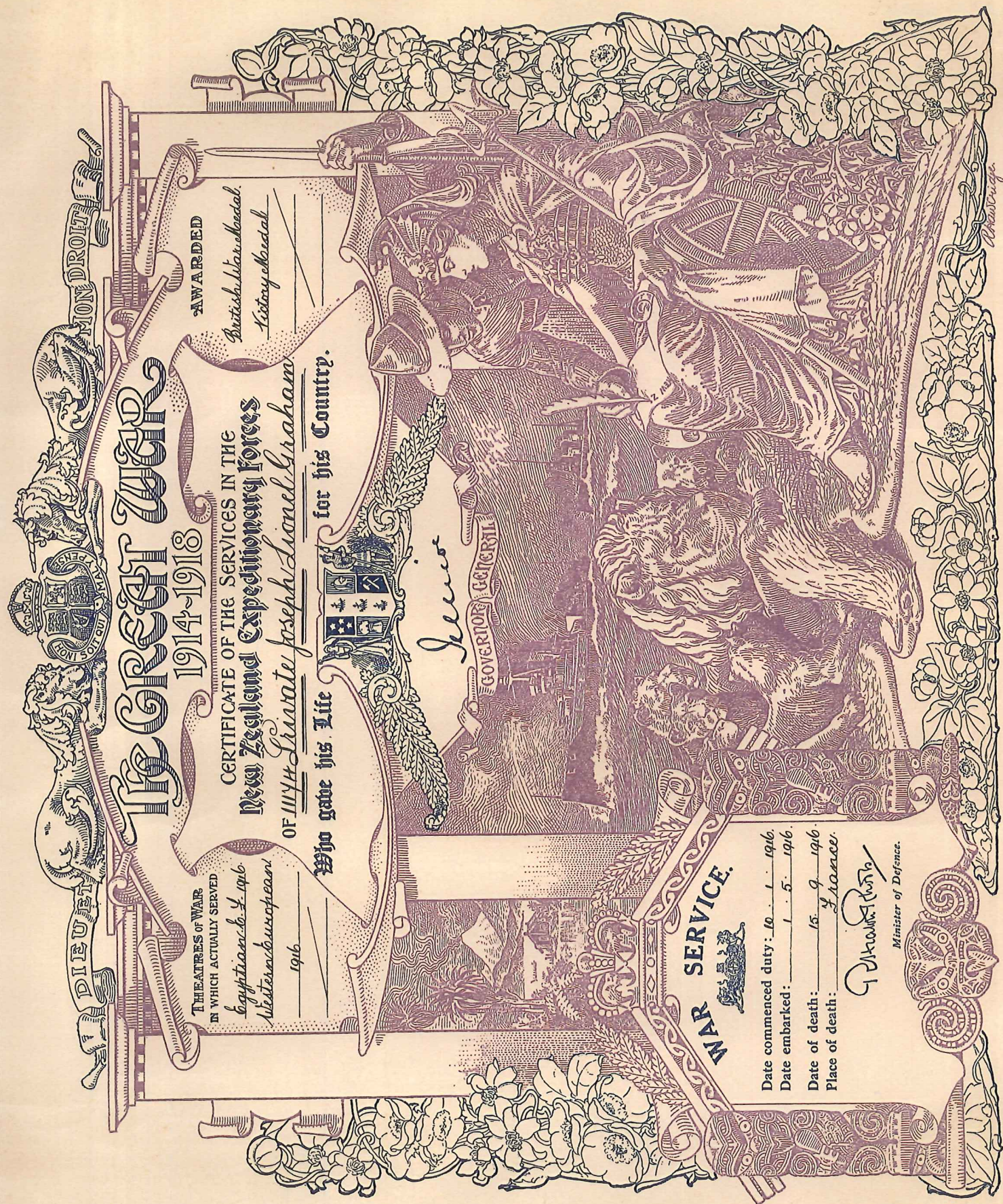
Awarded British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Sources: archway.archives and paperspast



Lance Corporal Joseph Lionel Graham

Taken in Capetown 1901



THE GREAT WAR

1914-1918

THEATRES OF WAR
IN WHICH ACTUALLY SERVED

*Egyptian 6.4.1916.
Western European*

CERTIFICATE OF THE SERVICES IN THE
New Zealand Expeditionary Forces

OF *Major-General* **Lionel Graham**

Who gave his Life for his Country.

AWARDED

*British War Medal.
Victory Medal*



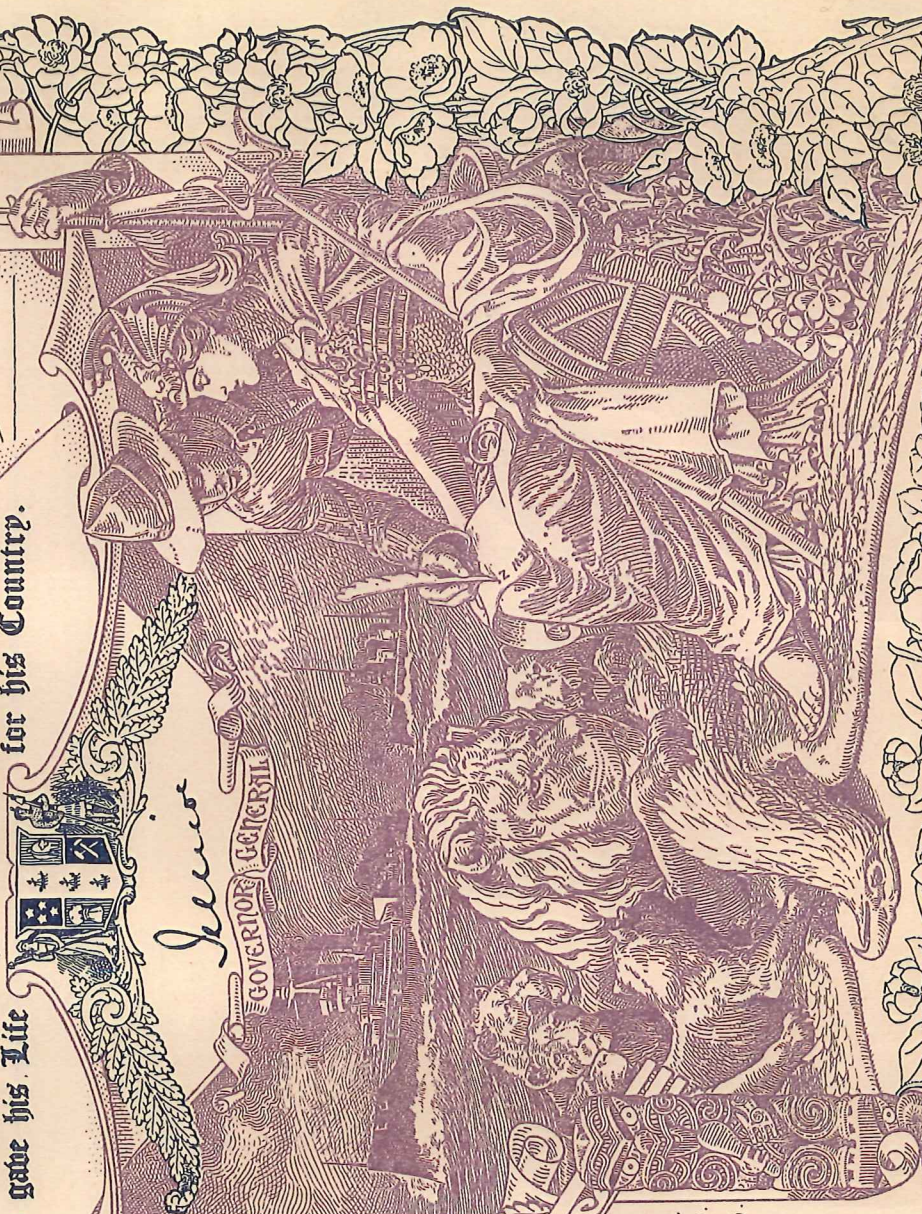
General

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

WAR SERVICE.

Date commenced duty: *10.1.1916.*
Date embarked: *1.5.1916.*
Date of death: *15.9.1916.*
Place of death: *France.*

G. D. Gordon
Minister of Defence.



Chas. D. Wright