

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 25 March 1912 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

THE OHURA SETTLEMENT.
DESCRIBED BY A WAIMATE LAD.

Mr Harry Sinclair, of the staff of the Union Bank, formerly of Waimate, then transferred to Christchurch, then to Ohura, and now back to Timaru, states that life at Ohura was a rare experience, but he was not sorry to get a “shift” back to Canterbury. The Ohura branch of the Bank was only recently opened, but the staff consists of three persons, there being a good deal of business in paying out in connection with the opening up of the country. The Bank’s officials have to ride to work on horses, and always wear riding pants while at work. Mr Sinclair mentioned, as showing the primitive stage at which the settlement now is, that there is not even a cobbler in the place, and boots have to be sent long distances to be mended. Mr Sinclair sang at a public concert recently, when the whole community was represented, the audience numbering 35 persons.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 19 May 1915 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

Among recent enlisters for the front are Mr Lees Sinclair, of the North Dunedin Telegraph Office (a Waimate boy), and Mr Arthur Bird, machinist of the Advertiser staff. Private letters from Egypt state that Albert Eathorne, of Waimate, has been transferred to the Artillery. Harry Sinclair formerly of the Union Bank staff, is also with the Artillery.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 27 July 1915 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

Mr Lees Sinclair, of North Dunedin Post Office staff (an old Waimate boy) has been posted to the Field Engineers, and leaves on August 18th, with the Eighth Reinforcements. Harry Sinclair, his younger brother, is already at the Dardanelles with the Artillery.

Otago Daily Times. 20 September 1915 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

GUNNER SINCLAIR

Private information has been received that Gunner Harry W. Sinclair was recently sent to London suffering from dysentery, but is now convalescent. Gunner Sinclair is a son of Mr James Sinclair, 279 Leith street, and before leaving was a member of B Battery, and was employed on the staff of the Union Bank. He left with the Main Body. Another brother, James Lees Sinclair, left with the Signal Corps (telegraphist), Sixth Reinforcements.

Otago Daily Times. 8 December 1915 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

WOUNDED NEW ZEALANDERS
PRESENTED TO TWO QUEENS.

The special correspondent of the London Evening News wrote as follows on October 22: —
“Trooper J. E. Chinnery-Brown (Auckland) and Bombardier H. W. Sinclair (Dunedin) had the honour of being presented to their Majesties Queens Mary and Alexandra yesterday afternoon at the Empire Theatre, where there was a performance in aid of the Red Cross Fund.

“Chinnery-Brown is in the 3rd Auckland Mounted Rifles, while Sinclair, who is a member of the Dunedin branch of the Union Bank of Australia, was, previous to the war, in the B (Dunedin) Battery. He went to Gallipoli with the Third New Zealand Battery, and was at Cape Helles until about August 18. when the battery went on to Anzac. A day or two later Chinnery-Brown and Sinclair met on board the hospital ship, homeward bound, both suffering from dysentery, and they have kept together until now. Yesterday was their first day out on furlough from the Fulham Hospital, and they celebrated the occasion by going to the Empire matinee. They were standing on the ground floor by the stalls, talking to a nurse, when another nurse came up and asked them if they would like to obtain a better view of the Royal party, who occupied two boxes on the dress circle floor. This lady happened to be Lady Arthur Paget, who was organising the entertainment. Lady Paget piloted them to the dress circle, and told them that when the Royal party departed she would try to present them to their Majesties. Consequently, when the time came for Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra to leave, Lady Arthur Paget was as good as her word, and the two New Zealanders were duly presented. Both soldiers shook hands with the two Queens, who immediately put them at their ease, and asked questions about their experiences in Gallipoli. Queen Mary told them she had heard of the terrible hardships which the soldiers out there had suffered, and she was glad to see that they had recovered from their illness.

Bombardier Sinclair is a son of Mr Jas. Sinclair, 279 Leith street, Dunedin.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 9 December 1915 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

OLD WAIMATE BOY.

PRESENTED TO QUEENS MARY AND ALEXANDRA.

The special correspondent of the London Evening News wrote as follows on October 12: —

“Trooper J. E. Chinnery-Brown, Auckland; and Bombardier H. W. Sinclair, Dunedin, had the honour of being presented to their Majesties Queens Mary and Alexandra yesterday afternoon in the Empire Theatre, where there was a performance in aid of the Red Cross Fund.

“Chinnery-Brown is in the 3rd Auckland Mounted Rifles, while Sinclair, who is a member of the Dunedin branch of the Union Bank of Australia, was, previous to the war, in the B (Dunedin) Battery. He went to Gallipoli with the Third New Zealand Battery, and was at Cape Helles until August 18, when the battery went on to Anzac. A day or two later, Chinnery-Brown and Sinclair met on board the hospital ship, homeward bound, both suffering from dysentery, and they have kept together until now. Yesterday was their first day out on furlough from the Fulham Hospital, and they celebrated the occasion by going to the Empire matinee. They were standing on the ground floor by the stalls, talking to a nurse, when another nurse came up and asked them if they would like to obtain a better view of the Royal party, who occupied two boxes on the dress circle floor. This lady happened to be Lady Arthur Paget, who was organising the entertainment. Lady Paget piloted them to the dress circle, and told them that when the Royal party departed she would try to present them to their Majesties. Consequently, when the time came for Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra 'to leave, Lady Arthur Paget was as good as her word, and the two New Zealanders were duly presented. Both soldiers shook hands with the two Queens, who immediately put them at their ease, and asked questions about their experiences in Gallipoli. Queen Mary told them she had heard of the terrible hardships which the soldiers out there had suffered, and she was glad to see that they had recovered from their illnesses.”

Bombardier Sinclair is a son of Mr Jas. Sinclair, 279 Leith Street, Dunedin, and late of Waimate.

Evening Star. 15 June 1917 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

DEATH OF SAPPER JAS. LEES SINCLAIR.

The many friends of Mr and Mrs James Sinclair, 279 Leith street, will regret to learn that news has been received by private cable that their second son, Sapper Jas. Lees Sinclair, has died of wounds. Sapper Sinclair left New Zealand with the 6th Reinforcements as a special telegraphist in the Divisional Signal Section. He served in the Gallipoli campaign, being present at the famous evacuation. From Gallipoli he was sent to France, where he was in the thick of the fight more or less constantly for 14 months, when he met his death. No official particulars are yet to hand, but it may be gathered from letters received that Sapper Sinclair had been attached to the New Zealand Engineers for the last few months, and was engaged as despatch rider, a position which cost him many perilous and trying experiences. He was 28 years of age and served about 12 years in the Post and Telegraph Department. "Lees" was extremely popular among his many friends. Mr and Mrs Sinclair have two other sons serving at the front. Their third son, Harry, left with the main body, was wounded at Gallipoli. and is now attached to the permanent staff of the New Zealand Records Office, London. Their youngest son, Jack, left last August with the artillery, and is now in France. Much sympathy will be felt for Mr and Mrs Sinclair, who have so bravely parted with their three unmarried sons.

Evening Star. 19 June 1917 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

Sapper J. Lees Sinclair, whose death from wounds has just been recorded, though not identified with military circles prior to his enlisting has proved himself a soldier of grit and determination. Shortly after his arrival in France he was entrusted with work requiring courage and endurance. When writing home on one occasion he casually mentioned having been chosen, with another, to carry telephonic communication into the front trenches and to maintain it, and he expressed himself as being proud of the honor. Sapper Sinclair carried on with a determination to see the war through to the end. Just prior to his death he was promoted to corporal, and had he lived would doubtless have risen to higher rank. Much sympathy will be felt for his parents, who have two other sons serving at the front.

Otago Daily Times. 23 May 1919 (Papers Past) [29/06/2022]

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, March 27.

.....

The names of the following members of the N.Z.E.F. have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for services rendered in connection, with the war: —

..... Chaplains' Department: Ven. Archdeacon J. A. Jacob, N.Z.F.A.: S.S.M. H. W. Sinclair 2/202.

[S.-Sgt.-Maj.]