

WORLD WAR ONE  
TIMARU BHS OLD BOYS

With thanks to Ray, Fendalton Library

3961 CORPORAL CHARLES ZIESLER (CFW ON THE PLAQUE)

Charles was born in Timaru and went to school there. He declared on enlistment that his grandfather was of Russian descent. He had two brothers:

Charlton Conrad who also served in the army, 25/1632 NZ Rifle Brigade, G Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Charlton's wife was Mrs L Ziesler, Elizabeth St Timaru. He was posted as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and left for Egypt 1 April 1916.

The other brother, Erling, was president of the TBHS Old Boys Association, 1945-46.

When Charles enlisted, he was living at 68 Outram St Perth so joined the AIF. He gave his occupation as 'Clerk' and his wife Martha Mary was his next of kin. Height was given as 5ft11ins, weight 182lbs, a fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and religion Anglican.

Charles was posted to the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion,,9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements and on 14/1/16 was selected for an NCO class. He went first to Egypt and then on to England, arriving there on 16/6/1916 as part of the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

For the rest of that year h was a corporal in the Quarter Masters section of AIF, based at Codford, Wiltshire. His clerical background helped him to be efficient with stores. His age may have been a factor, too, as to why he was kept in England. He was employed as a sergeant on 24/1/17 at Tidworth School of Instruction, Candehar branch. Later he reverted to corporal's rank and was on instruction service from 14/4/18.

Unfortunately he was admitted with influenza to the New Zealand Hospital at Tidworth on 26/2/18 and died there. It seemed he had been caught up in the world flu epidemic. He was buried at Codford.

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7/103 CAPTAIN ROY SIMPSON PRIEST

Born 15/7/90 Roy enlisted from Woodbury, South Canterbury on 13/8/14. His next of kin was his father, William Priest of Timaru. He had been a sergeant in the Territorials. As he was a keen horseman, he joined the Canterbury Mounted Rifles. Height was measured as 5ft10ins, weight 160lbs, fair complexion, grey eyes, brown hair, single and an Anglican.

Reference follows from The Canterbury Mounted Rifles edited by CG Powles Chapter 1.

His enlistment date was August 13 so he would have gone to Addington Camp first, and then to the Plumpton Park Trotting Club's grounds at Sockburn, where there was less traffic and firmer soil for the horses. A large number of men had ridden in on their own horses which, if suitable, were taken over by the government and re-issued to them. 'The CMT horses from the very beginning were good and the envy of other units' P2 Equipment and rifles were brought in from the Territorial units and training followed until September 23 when the men rode out via Sumner to Lyttelton. There was a delay in Wellington which meant the men spent time at Trentham, leaving New Zealand on October 14.

There were two stops at Hobart and then Albany where they linked up with the Australians and their combining resulted in the acronym "ANZAC". With a naval escort they reached Suez on December 1 and the men disembarked at Alexandria and went by train to Zeitoun, 6 miles from Cairo. Four months training followed.

The usual day was 5am reveille, stables till 7am, wash, shave and breakfast, parade 8.30, drill to 11, dinner, parade to 4pm stables to 5.30. Leave at night. The men became used to hot winds, dust, mosquitoes and locusts. Early in April the Infantry left for Gallipoli and the Mounted arrived there on May 12. The horses were left in Egypt.

Roy Priest went to the Dardenelles 9/5/15, was wounded at Bauchop Hill and taken by hospital ship to Moustasas (Greek island), then returned to Gallipoli and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. From there he was taken to Egypt and selected for the School of Infantry on 2/2/1916. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October he was sent to hospital at Abbassia, Egypt with malaria. He recovered and was promoted to the rank of Captain in command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Camel Corps (Gazette No 98) for fighting in the Sinai Palestine area.

Captain Priest was killed in action on 19/4/1917 in the Battle of Amman.

NB Chapter I of The New Zealanders in Sinai Palestine by GC Powlers

'Let oil nor steam, nor wings of dream deprive us of our own  
The wide world for a kingdom, the saddle for a throne,' Ogilvie

Back from Gallipoli the men were reunited with their horses who ha been kept in condition and the three mounted units of Nelson, South Canterbury, Canterbury were joined into one regiment. The New Zealand Division (mostly infantry and associated units) left for France and there were some sad farewells but the mounted men saw the desert war in Palestine as an opportunity for them to fight with their horses. In Captain Priest's case his interest was to be the camel described as 'the ship of the desert'.

"In no unit of the army is there greater esprit de corps than in a mounted regiment. A man who chooses a mounted unit with all its added care for his horse, in addition to the care, of himself, is of necessity a man of steadfast purpose and of wide sympathies." P8 Powles.

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With thanks to New Brighton Public Library.

2073 PRIVATE DUGALD PHARLAN MacFARLANE

Dugald, born 18/2/1890 was the eldest son of Dugald MacFarlane (England) and Anna Maria MacFarlane (Ireland). His grandfather fought as a Lieutenant at Waterloo and later came out here on one of the first four ships.

His father was a farmer but Dugald loved engineering and after leaving school (Boarder TBHS) he worked for Andersons Ltd of Christchurch. Doing well there, he qualified in Electrical Engineering at Canterbury College and returned to be head of the electrical division at Andersons. He was known as "as true, high-minded, courteous gentleman". As a hobby he belonged to the New Brighton Surf Bathing and Life Saving Club.

Enlisting on 4/2/1918, he was described as "Short, grey eyes, brown hair and an Anglican". He became a rifleman in the third New Zealand Rifle Brigade, 1st Battalion, 37<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. They left Wellington on 9<sup>th</sup> May 24, arriving in England six weeks later. Eight weeks training followed at \*Sling Camp, near Bulford on the Salisbury Plain and they went to France on 21 September, Two weeks later Dugald was killed at \*Le Cateau, aged 28. He was buried at Anneux British cemetery Nord, France.

\* The Canterbury Regiment By D Ferguson P292 \* Le Cateau is near Bapaume and the river Sambre (Atlas)

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With thanks to Ron Chapman.

6/3461 WILLIAM WALLACE SIMMERS (Photo P274 'Onward' Volume 2)

When signing his attestation form on 15/8/1915 WW Simmers wrote that he was born on 26/10/1892, was single and lived at 443 Lincoln Rd, Christchurch. He had no trade or other employment.

\*After training at Plumpton Park, Sockburn he went by ship to Suez, arriving 20/12/1915 and on to England for further training at Sling Camp near Bulford on the Salisbury Plain. There he became a corporal on 20/3/1916. In the next month his Second Canterbury Battalion went to France. He was then attached to the Canterbury Light Trench Battery.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> June he was at Rouen, NW of Paris. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1916 he was made a sergeant and two months later was wounded in battle. After a spell in hospital he was discharged and sent back to duty. After the next series of fighting he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field. His service continued until 16/6/17 when he was killed in action.

\* The History of the Canterbury Regiment by D Ferguson Chapter 2

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REFERENCE: The History of the Canterbury Regiment by Captain D Ferguson

## APPENDIX H

6/408 Captain DP FRASER	Battalion 2	Died	20/9/16
24397 2/Lieut D O'CONNOR	2		2/5/18
18582 2/Lieut MB O'CONNOR	2		5/4/18
3/2874 Captain SL SERPELL	1	15/12/17	Medical Officer
14037 2/Lieut AE TALBOT	2		12/10/17
24/1962 Pte H COTTER	2		5/4/18
6/3718 Pte CD GRAY	2		21/9/16
6/3733 L/Cpl VE HAWKES	2		12/10/16
6/209 Lieut NS JOYCE	2		8/6/16
58555 Pte N MAZE	1		20/9/18
46654 Pte WR MENZIES	1		5/4/18
24/1808 Pte W SEYB	2		21/9/16
6/3461 Sgt WW SIMMERS	2		13/6/17
38815 Pte KW TENNETT	3		4/10/17
2/30061 Cpl WER HIND	2		6/10/17

## APPENDIX G- GALLIPOLI

6/435 N CRAWFORD	23/5/15
6/530 HJ RADCLIFFE	23/5/15

The History of The CANYERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES by COLONEL CG POWLES

7/920 Major RR BOWIE died of sickness Egypt 10/7/15  
 7/18 Sgt SJ BOWKER Gallipoli killed in action 21/8/15  
 7/24 L/Cpl RSL CALVERT " " 21/8/15  
 7/921 2/Lieut FBW GUINNESS died of wounds at sea 28/8/15  
 52095 Tpr AR MEE Palestine died of sickness 26/10/18  
 7/92 2/Lieut WB MENZIES killed in action Egypt 9/8/16

REFERENCE-"ONWARD" Portraits of the NZEF by Beattie and Pomeroy

## VOLUME 1

P53 7/18 BOWKER Stanley Joseph  
 P121 7/2380 DIVAN George  
 P129 8/35 DUNSFORD Norman Guthrie Chalmers  
 P252 6/408 FRASER Douglas Playfair  
 P252 11/254 FRASER Geoffrey Erie - Brothers  
 P178 7/921 GUINNESS Francis Benjamin Hart  
 P178 5/166 GUINNESS Arthur Graham  
 P195 7/62 HAY William Harold  
 P203 15902 HIGHT Leonard Henry Dixon

P217 10/1857 HUTTON Frank Rideal  
P231 6/2901 JOYCE Neville Stanley  
P243 21/15 KNUBLEY Miles Alfred  
P408 8/3412 STRACHAN John Buchanan  
P414 13047 TALBOT Arthur  
P410 38815 TENNENT Kenard William  
P435 14/2383 WAGSTAFF Arthur Albert

## VOLUME 2

P1020594 G ALEXANDER  
P21762 SH ASHWELL  
P145 8/381 E(M?) GABITES  
P219 43990 W KEEN  
P311 47176 O'CONNOR David  
P311 18582 O'CONNOR Michael Bernard Brothers  
P327 25/563 PENROSE Leonard Francis Edward  
P370 3/2874 SERPEL Samuel Llewlyn  
P374 6/3461 SIMMERS William Wallace  
P456 25/1632 ZEISLER Charlton Conrad (Brotherof Charles)

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With thanks to Graham, Ann and Donald MEE

## 5295 TROOPER ALEXANDER REGINALD MEE

Alexander was born at Pleasant Point (his mother's home district) on 2/10/1896 and later the family moved to Claremont where he won a Junior National Scholarship at the school 1910. This entitled him to attend Timaru BHS which he did.

At the time of enlistment his father was farming at Aylesbury in the Selwyn area with his son helping him. Alexander was keen to go overseas as he was a serving member of the First Mounted Rifles, a Territorial Unit. However, on medical grounds he was declined. Later, in Christchurch on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1917, a second enlistment was successful and he entered camp with the 28<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. There was a training time to October and he was promoted to sergeant in the Rifles Specialist Company, Machine Gun Section, New Zealand Mounted Rifles.

This unit of 810 troops embarked in the troopship Tofua on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, arriving at Suez on 21 December, 1917. Training followed at Moascar where, being a new arrival, he reverted to corporal and then to trooper. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 1918 he was posted to the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, firstly to Ten Squad and then to One Squad. He went into the field on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Sinai Palestine and served for the next 4 months until struck down by illness.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October he was sent sick to hospital and was admitted to Number 25 Casualty Clearing station. From there he was taken by train to Number 69 General Hospital at Belah, near Gaza. He died from malaria on 26<sup>th</sup> October and was buried next day at the military cemetery at Derral-Belah, grave Number 56. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



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Thanks to Ron Chapman and Allan Hunter

7/62 Tpr WILLIAM HAROLD HAY

Trooper Hay was born in Timaru in 1889, the only son of William and Agnes W Hay, Wai-iti Rd. He attended Timaru Boys High School and on leaving, worked on a farm. At the medical exam on 12 August 1914 he was described as being 25 years old, height 5ft 8ins, weight 108 lbs, chest measurements 33-36. The sole body mark was a scar on his little right finger.

A description of his training and travel with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles is taken from the history of this unit edited by GC Powles. (Chapter 1)

He was taken into camp first at Addington and then to the Plumpton Park Trotting Club course at Sockburn which had a firmer soil and less traffic. Equipment and rifles were drawn in from Territorial units. Most men rode in on their own horses and the balance was made up by the government. Drill and rifle exercises followed until September 23 when the men rode out via Sumner to Lyttelton. William's 8<sup>th</sup> Squadron was placed in the ship, Athenic. There was a delay in Wellington which meant the group was unloaded to Trentham, leaving New Zealand on October 14.

There were two stops, the first at Hobart and the second at Albany where they linked up with the Australian force and their combining resulted in the acronym "ANZAC" was coined. With a naval escort they reached Suez on December 1 and the men disembarked at Alexandria and went by train to Zeitoun, 6 miles from Cairo. Four months training followed.

The usual day was 5am reveille, stables till 7am. wash, shave and breakfast, parade 8.30, drill to 11am, stables to 12am, dinner, parade till 4pm, stables to 5.30. Leave at night. There were manoeuvres in the desert and by December the unit was very efficient. The men became used to hot winds, dust, mosquitoes and locusts. Early in April the Infantry left for Gallipoli and the Mounted arrived there on May 12. William Hay was wounded on Walkers Ridge on May 14 and died ten days later. He was buried at No2 Outpost, E61. Letters followed to Mrs Hay advising her that small burial points might be moved to a larger area with a Cross of Sacrifice and a headstone common to all, regardless of rank. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In 1965 the Dannevirke RSA arranged a visit by a New Zealand group with his sister placing a token of remembrance on the grave site.

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#### ADVICE ON SIGHTING AND PRINTING ARMY RECORDS (Ron Chapman)

- 1 Open Google or Firefox
- 2 Type in archway.archives.govt.nz
- 3 Click on Archway Archives New Zealand
- 4 Find SIMPLE SEARCH and type in full name of person whose records you want to see
- 5 Click on SEARCH
- 6 When page appears and it is your man, click on search
- 7 Click on digitised records
- 8 The next screen should show the numbers of all files available
- 9 Click on file one
- 10 When the image appears RIGHT click on the image and click on VIEW IMAGE
- 11 To magnify image click on Plus. This makes reading easier.
- 12 Click on Control plus P(Simultaneously)
- 13 At top of screen click on LEFT FACING ARROW to return to the page that lists the number of all the files
- 14 Click on file 2 and repeat the above moves, then do the same for all files one at a time