

Timaru Herald. 7 September 1915 (page 7) [13/05/2015]

Mr John McGregor, J.P., Fairlie, yesterday received word from the Minister of Defence, and the Prime Minister, that his youngest son Private Philip Donald McGregor, 6-1656, died at the New Zealand General Hospital, Cairo, on 29th August, from gunshot wounds in neck and malignant endocarditis complicating typhoid. Mr Allen, Mr Massey and the Governor's secretary added expressions of sympathy. Private McGregor was 21 years 01 age, a bright intelligent lad. He left with the Third Reinforcements. Mr McGregor has another son at the Dardanelles.

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OBITUARY.

A PIONEER

By the death of Mr John McGregor, in his 80th year, the now small number of early Mackenzie pioneers was further lessened. Mr McGregor, a native of Banffshire, came to New Zealand in 1868. Immediately on landing at Lyttelton he was engaged by Mr Harry Ford to bring down from Christchurch the first sheep for the Grampians run, in the Mackenzie. He drove down about 3000. It was no easy task in those days, the rivers large and small 'being bridgeless. He remained in the Mackenzie Country, and successively or simultaneously looked after the Grampians, Gray's Hills and Whalesback runs, until in 1874 he bought the Glenmore run, on the west side of Lake Tekapo, which he held for sixteen years. He then bought a large freehold near Burke's Pass, and lived there many years, finally removing to a property close to Fairlie, where he has since lived. The funeral took place in Timaru yesterday.

Mr McGregor took much interest in local public affairs. He was a member of the Mt. Cook Road Board, and was largely, or rather mainly, instrumental in getting the County of Mackenzie established in its stead, with considerable financial advantage to the district at the time. He was elected the first chairman of the Council, and held the position for ten or eleven years. He filled other public positions, and as a Justice of the Peace often officiated in the Magistrate's Court. He was a man of genial nature, popular with all who knew him. Mr McGregor married in 1878 and his wife survives him. They had a numerous family, of whom five sons and three daughters are living. The family have a good war record. Two sons went with the Third Reinforcements and both were

wounded at the landing at Suvla Bay. One of them was sent to Cairo for treatment, and died there from his wounds. The other was sent to England, recovered, was sent to the front in France, and was badly wounded on the Somme; was treated in England, recovered, and returned to the front. A third went with the 14th, was severely wounded in France, and was returned to New Zealand and discharged. Another brother went with a later Reinforcement, and the fifth enlisted twice and was twice turned down.