

Auckland Star. 26 December 1905 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

LOCKED IN THE ICE.

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF A YOUNG NEW ZEALANDER.

(From Out Special Correspondent)

LONDON, November 18.

Young Bertram Williams, son of the Rev. H. J. Williams, of Nelson, has a taste for the sea, and lately he has been having a full share of adventure. The story of his latest cruise surpasses in interest and excitement many a tale of wild adventure that one used to read with thrills in boyhood's days. This New Zealand lad was a fore-castle hand in the barque *Stork*, which got back to London last month after a voyage lasting 15½ months, during the greater part of which she was locked in the ice in the wilds of Hudson's Bay. The story of her adventurous cruise was told in your London letter after her arrival, but it was not until I met young Williams this week that I knew there had been a New Zealander among her crew. He tells me he is not looking for any more adventures just at present; Hudson's Bay provided more than sufficient. The most exciting day in the whole cruise was when the ship was entering the Bay, when every moment they expected her to be crushed in the ice. Had she gone ashore there they must all have perished. However they got through safely, and sailed up the Bay to Chalton Island, where the vessel was beached for the winter. It was the most desolate-looking place he had ever seen in his life — a vast wilderness of snow and ice. The cold was intense, the temperature sinking sometimes to 40 degrees below zero. The crew of the *Stork* were in very different case from the members of a properly-equipped Polar expedition. They had no steam pipes for heating the vessel, no electric light, no stores or supplies of tobacco, no specially-made rugs or sleeping bags, no library, and no musical instruments save a humble mouthorgan! Nevertheless they managed to get through the long hard winter tolerably well, although it was a rough experience. A half-breed and his wife were living on the island, and from them and various bands of Esquimaux they received much kindness and assistance. They spent much of their time in shooting rabbits for food, about 2000 being shot in the course of the winter, and some Norwegians amongst the crew manufactured "ski" — the long snow shoes of Norway—and taught their mates how to use them. The New Zealander chummed up with a Red Indian, who took him out trapping and taught him how to set traps for the beavers. During the winter they received one mail from home, the letters coming up by Indian packet from the nearest point of civilisation. Mr Williams tells me that the stories told in the London papers of the crew having seen 400 polar bears were highly imaginative, the sailors having invented them to amuse themselves at the

reporters' expense. They saw only two white bears during their stay in Hudson's Bay. On their way out of the Bay, after the ice had liberated the vessel, they met the exploring ship *Discovery*, of Antarctic fame, and on sending a boat across were given a liberal supply of stores, while the crew of the *Discovery* generously gave them a fresh lot of clay pipes to replace their old ones, which were pretty well unsmokeable by that time. For tobacco, they had used the kind smoked by the Indians, and it has to be a very rank tobacco that a sailor will not smoke, especially if there is nothing else. The New Zealand lad looks none the worse for his strenuous experience, and though he would hardly care about going through it again, he found it very interesting and exciting. He has now joined the barque *Lntterworth*, and will sail for Nelson, New Zealand, at the end of this month.

Nelson Evening Mail. 8 January 1906 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

ICE-BOUND IN HUDSON'S BAY.

EXPERIENCES OF A NELSON RESIDENT'S SON.

Further particulars are now available concerning the voyage of the barque *Stork* to Hudson's Bay, It may be remembered that a week or two ago an article in connection with the voyage appeared in these columns, special interest being lent to the *Stork's* journey by the fact that a son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, of Nelson, was a member of the crew, writing on November 17, the London correspondent of the *Duncdin "Star"* says: —

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Star. 30 April 1907 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

ASSAULTING A CAPTAIN

SEAMAN SENT TO GAOL.

United Press Association. —By Electric Telegraph —Copyright.
(Received April 30, 8.30 a.m.)

LONDON, April 29.

Bertram V. Williams, a seaman on the ship Port Jackson, which recently arrived from Sydney, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for assaulting the captain because he gave him a bad discharge. It is stated that Williams is the son of a New Zealand clergyman.

Wanganui Herald. 30 April 1907 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

An Unruly Seaman.

LONDON, April 29.

Bertram V. Williams, a seaman on the ship Port Jackson, which recently arrived from Sydney, has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for assaulting the captain because he gave him a bad discharge. It is stated that Williams is a son of a New Zealand clergyman.

Press. 1 May 1907 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

United Press Association—By Electric
Telegraph—Copyright.

CLERGYMAN'S SON IN TROUBLE.

LONDON, April 29.

Bertram V. Williams, a seaman on the ship Port Jackson, which recently arrived from Sydney, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for assaulting the captain, because he gave him a bad discharge. It is stated that Williams is the son of a New Zealand clergyman.

Evening Star. 13 June 1907 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

At the Thames Police Court last Saturday Bertram V. Williams, who is said to be the son of a clergyman in New Zealand, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, with hard labor, for assaulting Captain Ward, master of the Port Jackson, which recently returned from Australia with 100 Warspite boys. Williams was shipped at Sydney as an able seaman, but his conduct from the first was unsatisfactory, and after many trials the captain logged him. When the crew was paid off at the West India Dock last Thursday week Williams, whose discharge was naturally not a good one, threatened Captain Ward, and meeting him at Leman street station later dealt him a violent blow in the face, the effects of which were plainly visible when the captain went into the witness box on Monday.

Nelson Evening Mail. 5 March 1913 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

Mr B. V. Williams, a son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, formerly of Nelson, is at present on a holiday visit to this city. Some nine years ago Mr Williams left Nelson in a sailing ship to serve his time at sea, and during that period he has had a good deal of varied sea experience in all parts of the world. At one time his ship was frozen up in Hudson's Bay for the winter, and he was in the Lutterworth wreck in Cook Strait a few years later. Mr Williams has recently been in the Shire Line, having been one of the officers of the steamer Perthshire.

Marlborough Express. 28 August 1915 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

The Rev. W. J. Williams, of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Sumner, has received word that his son, Private B. V. Williams, was wounded at the Dardanelles. Private Williams is 28 years of age, and is one of three sons that the Rev. Mr Williams has at the front. When war broke out, Private Williams went with the New Zealand Force to Samoa. After spending some time doing garrison duty there he returned and enlisted with the Fifth Reinforcements, and left with that body for the front.

Press. 21 June 1917 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

Private B. V. Williams, reported killed in action on June 8th. was one of the four sons of the Rev. W. J. Williams, of Sumner, who enlisted for the war. He was born in Christchurch, and received his education in Timaru, Auckland and Nelson, being for a time a pupil at the Nelson College. He followed the sea for some years, and had a most adventurous 'career. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted and went with the first New Zealand Contingent to Samoa. He returned at the end of a year and joined the 5th Reinforcements, with which he went to Egypt and Gallipoli. At Gallipoli he was severely wounded in his right foot, and was sent to England. On his recovery he went again to Egypt, from where he proceeded to France and met his death. He was killed within four days of his 30th birthday.

The Colonist. 21 June 1917 & 18 July 1917 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

Among the casualties reported recently the name of Private B. V. Williams is mentioned. He was killed in action in the great offensive at Messines on June 8th. Private B. V. Williams was the sixth son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, formerly of Nelson, and brother of Mr N. R. Williams, secretary of the Nelson Education Board. He saw service at Samoa, joined the Fifth Reinforcements, was wounded at Gallipoli, again wounded in Flanders, and met his death in action.

Nelson Evening Mail. 21 June 1917 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

Private B. V. Williams, who was killed in action in the great offensive at Messines on June 8th. was the sixth son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, formerly of Nelson, and brother of Mr N. R. Williams, secretary of the Nelson Education Board. He saw service at Samoa, joined the Reinforcements, was wounded at Gallipoli, again wounded in Flanders, and has now made the supreme sacrifice.

Star. 30 June 1917 (Papers Past) [04 May 2017]

SUMNER RIPPLES. THE SOLDIERS.

Feeling reference was made in St Paul's Methodist Church to the loss sustained by the Rev W. J. Williams in the death of his son, Private B. V. Williams. A letter of sympathy, signed by representatives of the various church societies, was forwarded to the afflicted parents.

Press. 11 July 1917 (page 11) [24/11/2015]

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Captain (temporary major) Owen W. Williams, whose name appears in the list of those who have been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at the battle of Messines, is the fourth son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, of Sumner. He is a Master of Arts of the New Zealand University, and before enlisting was for five years one of the masters at the Wellington .Boys' College. He received his commission as lieutenant while he was a master at the Nelson Boys' College, and his captain's commission while in charge of the Wellington Boys' College Cadets. He left New Zealand for Egypt with the Third Rifle Brigade in January, 1916. While in Egypt he met three of his brothers who had preceded him in enlisting. From Egypt he went to England, where for a time he was on the Staff at Sling Camp. He has been in France for several months. In the engagement at Messines, in connexion with which he received the Military Cross, he received a gun-shot wound in the head, which is reported as not serious. In the same engagement one of his brothers, Private B. V. Williams, was killed. Captain Williams is married, and his wife and children are at present residing in Christchurch.

Sun. 11 July 1917 (page 4) [24/11/2015]

PERSONALS.

Captain (temporary Major) Owen W. Williams, who has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the battle of Messines, is the fourth son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, of Sumner. Captain Williams, who is a Master of Arts of the New Zealand University, was formerly a teacher at the Nelson Boys' College and the Wellington Boys' College, being at the latter institution for five years. He left for Egypt in January, 1916, with the 3rd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as a captain. In Egypt he met his three brothers, who had enlisted before him. From Egypt he went to England, where he was on the staff at Sling Camp for a time. He had been on active service for several months before he was wounded at Messines in the engagement in which he won the Military Cross. He received a gunshot wound in the head, which is reported as not serious. One of his brothers, Private B. V. Williams, was killed in the same engagement. The wife and children of Captain Williams reside in Christchurch.

Otago Daily Times. 13 July 1917 (page 5) [24/11/2015]

MILITARY CROSS WINNERS.

Captain (temporary major) Owen W. Williams, whose name appears in the list of those who have been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at the battle of Messines, is the fourth son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, of Sumner. He is a Master of Arts of the New Zealand University, and before enlisting was for five years one of the masters at the Wellington .Boys' College. He received his commission as lieutenant while he was a master at the Nelson Boys' College, and his captain's commission while in charge of the Wellington Boys' College Cadets. He left New Zealand for Egypt with the Third Rifle Brigade in January, 1916. While in Egypt he met three of his brothers who had preceded him in enlisting. From Egypt he went to England, where for a time he was on the Staff at Sling Camp. He has been in France for several months. In the engagement at Messines, in connexion with which he received the Military Cross, he received a gun-shot wound in the head, which is reported as not serious. In the same engagement one of his brothers, Private B. V. Williams, was killed. Captain Williams is married, and his wife and children are at present residing in Christchurch.