

# Head on clash killed horses

In this fortnightly column **Carol Bell** looks at events as they were portrayed in *The Timaru Herald* as the world was engulfed by the Great War.

## 20 November 1914

An unfortunate and rather unusual type of accident occurred on the sands at Caroline Bay yesterday morning, by which two horses were killed, and Trooper Turnbull of B Squadron, Rakaia, injured. It appears that the horses were being exercised, and two troopers, one of them Trooper Turnbull, of Rakaia, were racing in opposite directions along the sands. By some means the horses collided head on, and the troopers were thrown. Each horse had its neck broken, and both died very soon after the accident. Trooper Turnbull was taken to the Timaru hospital suffering from injuries to his head and several bruises. The other trooper was fortunately able to return to camp at the show grounds, suffering from only minor injuries.

## 27 November 1914

The officers of the Defence Department who were instructed to buy remounts for the reinforcements for the Expeditionary Force, who are to go from South Canterbury, had no difficulty in getting all they wanted. They have bought between 40 and 50. These horses are now on the show ground, and they are a fine looking lot.

Captain E A Holdgate and Lieutenant B H Guinness left Timaru yesterday, the former by the first and the latter by the second express, to join the reinforcements of the Expeditionary Force at Wellington. Both officers were given a hearty farewell by numerous friends who wished them the maximum number of opportunities for punishing the Germans and a safe return to New Zealand.

*Earnest Arthur Holdgate was part of the Priest and Holdgate hardware retail family and was known locally as a marksman, often winning local shooting competitions. He embarked with the Canterbury Infantry Battalion and arrived in Gallipoli on 8 June 1915, serving at Quinn's Post. Captain Holdgate was wounded in the arm/shoulder and he was treated at Malta, then in London. He rejoined his unit in Rouen, France, and was again wounded, this time to the knee, in September 1916. He returned to New Zealand on the hospital ship Marama in March 1917. He continued his military duties with the Territorial Army at Burnham where he was promoted to the rank of major.*

*Second Lieutenant Francis Benjamin Hart Guinness joined the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and embarked in April 1915 for Egypt. He served in the Gallipoli campaign and died of wounds at sea on the HMHS Gloucester Castle on 25 August 1915. He is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Timaru Herald of 4 September 1915 reported: The Mayor (Mr E R Guinness) received a telegram from the Hon J Allen, Minister of Defence, stating that cabled advice had come to hand of the death of Lieutenant H L Guinness on August 25th, from wounds received on August 22nd. The Minister expressed his deepest sympathy with the Mayor and Mayoress in the loss they had sustained and added that the death of their son was also a great loss to the Dominion.*

*The mayor, Edwin Roland Guinness of Guinness & Le Cren and his wife Florence Annie saw four sons off to the front. They were Francis Benjamin Hart Guinness (killed Gallipoli 25 August 1915); Arthur Grattan Guinness (killed Ypres, Belgium 12 October 1917); Edwin Rowland Guinness and John Charles Guinness.*

## 30 November 1914

Mr Herbert Collins, who has been accepted by the Defence authorities for service abroad, leaves today for Wellington. On Saturday evening a very large number of employees of the CFCA, where Mr Collins was employed as head of the Hardware Dept, assembled in the board room to wish him "Godspeed and a safe return". In making a presentation of a case of pipes and a purse of sovereigns, Mr J P Newman, general manager, voiced the deep regret of all at losing such a capable and popular employee.

*Lance Corporal Bert Collins had served in the Boer War. He joined the Canterbury Mounted Rifles in November 1914 when he was 40 years old and fought in Gallipoli, embarking on 14 February 1915. He was reported missing on 28 August 1915 and later reported killed in action. He is remembered on the Hill 60 (NZ) Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula.*

■ The SC Museum, SC branch of NZ Society of Genealogists, *Timaru Herald* and volunteers are working on a database of SC participation in World War I known as SCRoll. Information or memorabilia relating to this period for inclusion in the project would be welcomed. Contact Tony Rippin at the museum or Carol Bell on carolbel@ihug.co.nz.