

Remembering the sacrifices of those with SC connections who served their country 100 years ago.

Published in the Timaru Herald 10 November 2017

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Sergeant William John GLIDDON, No.8/1994

William John Gliddon was born on 14 February 1891 at Timaru, the youngest son of James and Rachel (née Agnew) Gliddon, of Harper Street. He was educated at the Timaru South School and the Pleasant Point School after the family moved in 1901.

By 1911 William had moved to Dunedin where he worked as a grocer's assistant in Dunedin and was at the time of enlistment employed by Messrs Scoular and Company as their travelling representative for Canterbury and Westland. In 1915 William, already serving with the Otago Territorials, volunteered for service and left Dunedin on 13 February, as one of the Otago quota of the fifth reinforcements, heading for Trentham. Corporal W. J. Gliddon was promoted to lance-sergeant in June 1915 at Trentham. He left for Suez with the Otago Infantry Battalion on 13 June 1915, and for France in April 1916, after being promoted to sergeant.

Sergeant William John Gliddon was reported missing, believed to be killed on 14 July 1916. Just over a week later it was reported that he had been killed in action on 14 July. Mr James Gliddon received official word of his son's death and advice that he was buried in the Cite Bon Jean Cemetery.

"He was a very popular young fellow and was a most successful commercial traveller," reported the *Otago Daily Times* of 29 July 1916. And in the *Dunedin Evening Star* of 9 August 1916 - "He was a most successful 'commercial,' and his demise is lamented by a large circle of friends."

Probate in the estate of William J. Gliddon was granted in the Dunedin Court on 20 November 1916. William had drawn up his will as he was about to leave New Zealand with the Expeditionary Force. He directed that all his estate real and personal be held by his trustee for his mother and, if she should die before, his four brothers and only sister. His medals (1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal), plaque and scroll were all sent to his father in Timaru.

Sergeant W. Gliddon was remembered at the 5 July 1915 meeting of the Timaru South School Committee, when a Roll of Honour board was unveiled, to remind boys and girls "of the brave young men who had belonged to the school, and of their self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of honour and freedom." A casualty of the Somme campaign, he is also remembered on the Timaru War Memorial Wall and the Pleasant Point School Memorial.

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