

18/12/1974

## WAIMATE

### OBITUARIES

#### Mr J. Finlayson

Staff Reporter      Waimate

A Waimate man with the unusual distinction of having shot down a German aeroplane with a Lewis machine gun, during the First World War, Mr John Finlayson, died this week, aged 85.

The feat was recalled yesterday by Mr W. White, of Waimate, who had New Zealand Army service with Mr Finlayson during the war.

According to Mr White, the incident occurred in 1918 in France when "we were pushing the Huns back." A German plane spotting for the enemy artillery came into view, and "Johnny dropped him." The pilot was killed.

It was the only such shooting down on a plane from the ground that Mr White knew of during the campaign. Mr Finlayson, who was in charge of a Lewis gun in France, had the rank of sergeant.

A farmer at Ikawai before he retired in Waimate many years ago, Mr Finlayson's father before him was well known as a farmer at Ikawai and as a boatman on the Waitaki River.

Mr Finlayson is survived by a brother who lives in Christchurch.