

Southland Times. 10 April 1916 (Papers Past) [17/11/2019]

A BRAVE YOUNG SOUTHLANDER

TRIBUTE TO TROOPER PARKER.

Among those who laid down their lives in Gallipoli was Trooper Arthur Parker, aged 24 years, son of Mr Thomas E. Parker, farmer, of Dipton, who left New Zealand with the Main Expeditionary Force. How nobly this young Southlander acquitted himself is eloquently stated in a letter Captain Guthrie. N.Z. M.C., sent to his father. Writing from Stirling, Scotland, under date February 2, the doctor says: -

Stirling, Scotland,
February 2, 1916.

Dear Mr Parker, — It was with the deepest regret that I heard, when up in London recently, that Trooper Parker had been killed in Gallipoli. When I tell you that I have been invalided for some time, you will forgive me in writing to you so long after you heard of your son's death. I am prompted to write because of my admiration for Parker, his courage, and devotion to duty.

Probably you know that he served as one of the stretcher-bearers. Latterly he took on the duties of my right hand assistant. I was struck with the quickness with which he picked up his work, and the never-tiring manner in which he performed it. I had the utmost confidence in him, and when I was wounded and temporarily unable to carry on my work myself, I instructed him to go forward and take charge of the stretcher-bearers. Late in the day I got into touch with him again, and found that he was working heroically. He had put up a regimental aid post, and, with the assistance of some stretcher-bearers, had collected and attended to over thirty wounded men. No man on Gallipoli has done nobler work than Parker and his friend White did on August 21. If your son's deeds do not receive any official recognition, rest assured that all who served with him in the C.M.R. remember him as their noblest and truest comrade.

It was from Captain Blair, adjutant to the regiment, that I heard of Parker's end. It came as nobly and gallantly as he had worked. He crawled out front the trench under heavy fire to the assistance of a wounded man and was shot. Personally I deeply regret his loss. But the recollection of his noble character will always be to me one of my most cherished memories.

Please accept my sincerest sympathy in your loss, and believe me,

Yours very truly,

R. NEIL GUTHRIE, Capt. N.Z.M.C.
(Medical Officer Cant. Mt. Rifles).