



CORPORAL A. **WEBB**, FIFTH MOUNTED REGIMENT,
Ex-constable, and only member of the New Zealand police with
the Expeditionary Force.

FACING THE TURKS.
THE BIG CHARGE
CHEVIOT MAN'S EXPERIENCES.

Mr and Mrs Flaherty, of Cheviot, have received a letter from their son, Trooper J. Flaherty, of the Otago Mounted Battalion. Writing from the Valetta [Valletta] Hospital, he says: —

“I have been at the Dardanelles in the firing line for fifteen weeks, and have seen some terrible sights. I am in the hospital now with a strained back. We were in the trench, when a lyddite shell struck the bank and knocked it in on top of us. I suppose you have seen in the papers that we had a big charge on August 6, in face of a terrific fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire and shrapnel shells, at night. We had about 400yds to go to reach the first trench, and all the New Zealanders and Australians were in the front rank, with Kitchener's army as reinforcements. It was all done with the bayonet, and a large number of our poor fellows went under. You don't seem to notice as they drop beside you. You are fighting for your life, and once a start is made you must get to the place you are making for at all costs. We lost our colonel, captain and lieutenant, and had only one officer left in the morning. Our colonel was a game fellow, and led the Otago boys. It was hard luck, after getting through the terrific fire at night, to be sniped in the morning at daylight. We were all sorry to lose a man like him, but that is one of the misfortunes of war. There cannot be many of the main body fellows left now. I have had some marvellous escapes, and never expected to get through the fire the night of the charge. The Canterbury boys were on the right of us, and B. Sustins came over to see me before we went out. We were the first lot to face the music. I tried to find out if he came through all, but could not find anybody who knew him. They got cut up pretty badly, like we did. **Ted Webb**, from Temuka, is in here; you would see him in that photo. **His brother** was killed, and most of the other fellows in the same photo. To tell you the truth, it is hard to say who is dead and who is alive, as we are all scattered about. I have seen quite enough of the real thing to do me for a lifetime. You can't beat the New Zealanders and Australians for fighting. The Turks could never take a trench of ours. They have taken them from us, but could only hold them for a few hours, when we would be back into them again. The Turks have all German officers, and I can tell you those Turks can fight. Some fellows run away with the idea that they can't, but you only want to ask one of the main body fellows who have been up against them for weeks; they will tell you they can. I walk about a little in the daytime, so I am not so bad.”

NEW ZEALAND POLICE AND THE WAR.

ROLL OF HONOR UNVEILED.

It was quite an impressive ceremony that was performed at the Central Police Station yesterday afternoon, when some 40 members of the Force, as well as the wives of several of those members, attended to witness the unveiling of a roll of honor which had been placed on the wall almost facing the main entrance doors to commemorate the part which the New Zealand police had taken in the Great War of 1914-18. The roll, which was the work of Mr R. Wardrop, of this City, is 4ft square and of striking design, the central figure of which is Britannia. On either side of the figure are the names of the men who had served, 47 in all, eight of them from Otago. The names are as follow, those of the men who had been killed in action being marked with an asterisk: — **A. E. E. Webb**, M. Ryan. J. Edwards*, H. N. Hawken, C. Dalbeth, H. S. Mainsworth, E. F. O'Brien, T. F. Smith, J. Edgar*, D. M. Moriarty*, H. E. Curtis*, G. Eckford*, J. W. Crighton, J. Hollick, J. Pearson*, D. S. Caven*, D. Sterrit, D.C.M., J. Fraser, E. Stevens, F. Gribben, W. J. A. Bell*, W. D. Thom, O. I. Tocher, W. E. Hendry*, E. W. Straffon, J. Thompson, R. Thompson, J. A. M'Niece*, E. S. Favell*, J. C. Jamison, C. C. Dunford, C. Chestnut. R. Henry, J. J. Sparks. P. Coe, E. C. Jarrold, W. E. Cottrell, P. Butler*, P. J. Mullan, W. C. Brown, J. Dow, T. W. F. Newman, S. H. Green*, D. Bryne, T. Cannon. T. E. Holmes, J. F. Clayton.

The Otago men were **A. A. E. Webb**, G. Eckford, D. S. Caven, D. Sterrit, C. C. Dunford, P. Butler, P. J. Mullan, and W. C. Brown.

Superintendent M'Grath, in an eloquent address, said they had met for the purpose of unveiling a memorial tablet erected in honor of their gallant comrades who had fought for freedom in the Great War. No monument was necessary in order to keep their memory green in the minds of those now living. In future years the tablet he was about to unveil would serve to remind those who came after that in the day of danger the Police Force did its duty, and the names on that roll would long be remembered with pride. There were 47 names, and of that number 13 had made the supreme sacrifice in defence of civilisation. For men who died thus there should be "no sadness of farewell," because for them death was surely an entrance to a higher, grander, and happier life. They could all understand the sorrow of the parents and relatives of the young men who fell in battle, and they sincerely sympathised with them; but even their grief would be made lighter by the memory that their dear ones died nobly in a great cause. It was a glorious death to die for liberty, and the man who was not willing to risk his life for the liberty of his country was not only a coward, but a slave in his heart. Thank God, they had no such men in the Police Force. He was proud to be able to say that every fit man in the service would have gone to the front as willingly as the men they were honoring that day; but, as everyone knew, the Government would not let them go. Early in the war the Minister in charge of the department stated that the police could not be spared from the Dominion, where they were always at war fighting the enemies of society in order that law-abiding citizens might live in peace. The police were accustomed to danger and discipline, so that when the war broke out they were ready and willing to take the field as soldiers, and thousands of policemen from all over the Empire served in the British Army during the war. It should also be remembered that the men who were kept back did valuable work in connection with military matters. He congratulated the Otago men on being the first division to raise a monument to the members of the Force who were killed in the war, and he trusted that their good example would be followed by other districts. He regretted very much that the Commissioner of Police (Mr

O'Donovan) was not with them that day. He knew that it would have given Mr O'Donovan much pleasure to come down to unveil the memorial, but, finding it impossible to come, he had requested the speaker to represent him at the function.

The Superintendent then drew aside the flag and disclosed the roll of honor, and also portraits of Constables Butler, Eckford, and Caven, the three Otago men who had given their lives.

Senior Sergeant Murray said that it might not be generally known that the police who resigned for the purpose of joining the Expeditionary Force had no assurance that they would be reinstated if they desired to return to the service. That the restriction was in the best interests of the community is apparent, as fully 75 per cent, of those who were eligible for active service would have volunteered and seriously depleted the ranks at a time when they could least be spared. Several of those who have returned had rejoined the service, but had done so as new members without consideration for their past services, and in many instances had contributed to the superannuation fund on a higher percentage than they did on first joining. He thought all members of the Force should be reinstated to their former positions on the seniority list. They would no doubt be willing to make arrangements so that their contribution to the superannuation fund could be readjusted; failing that, it would be a gracious act on the part of the Government to pay their contributions to the fund from the time of resignation up to date of their rejoining. The Senior Sergeant went on to speak of the late Constable Patrick Butler — the only one of the three who had made the supreme sacrifice whom he knew — paying a high tribute to that officer's kindly disposition and sterling qualities.

Sergeant Thomson said he was personally acquainted with all three of the fallen men. He proceeded to eulogise them, and concluded by expressing the hope that peace would rest with their ashes and eternal bliss with their brave spirits. Constable M'Culloch said he had been requested by the members of the force to ask Superintendent M'Grath, as representative of the department, to take charge of the tablet on behalf of the subscribers.

Superintendent M'Grath said he would have much pleasure in complying with Constable M'Culloch's request. With regard to the question of superannuation mentioned by Senior Sergeant Murray, the Government had the matter in hand, and he had no doubt that it would be satisfactorily adjusted.

Press. 6 October 1938 (PP) [09/04/2023]

OBITUARY

MRS HELEN JANE WEBB

The funeral took place yesterday at Temuka of one of South Canterbury's oldest identities, Mrs Helen Jane Webb, who died at her home at Princes street, Temuka, on Monday, at the age of 78. Mrs Webb's parents, Mr and Mrs Waddel, were engaged in farming at Selwyn, and Mrs Webb, could remember the great flood of 1868 when both South Canterbury and Mid-Canterbury were inundated.

At the age of eight Mrs Webb saw stock being carried out to sea by the flood waters of the Waimakariri. It was after the flood that the family went to live at Milford. Mrs Webb was a regular exhibitor at the Temuka Horticultural Show about 30 years ago. She was the oldest pupil at the Milford School and cut the cake at the jubilee celebrations some years ago.

Mrs Webb is survived by her husband, Mr Andrew Webb, and seven adult sons and daughters. Five of her sons served in the Great War, one being killed in action. Her three daughters are Mesdames Hawke (Lowcliffe) Tregonning (Christchurch), and McNab (Matamata). There are 40 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Timaru Herald. 17 January 1939 (PP) [09/04/2023]

OBITUARY

MR ANDREW WEBB

The death occurred at the Timaru Hospital on Saturday night of Mr Andrew Webb, one of the oldest settlers in the Temuka district. Mr Webb came to New Zealand in the sailing ship, *St. Lawrence*, landing in a surf boat at Timaru. He was a native of County Wicklow, Ireland, and after his arrival he gained recognition as an expert blade shearer, his services being much in demand. In 1879 he married Miss Helen Waddel at Temuka. For 17 years he was a member of the Temuka Volunteer Rifle Company, which was at that time under the command of Major Young, of Winchester. At one time in the early days of Temuka Mr Webb was employed on the Green Hayes estate and later occupied the position of head gardener to Mr James Guild at "Trevenna," a position which he held for some years. His wife died three months ago. He leaves five sons and three daughters.