

GREAT WAR STORIES

Captain Keppoch Macdonald Maben

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

CAROL BELL

Keppoch Macdonald Maben was educated at Timaru Main and Timaru Boys High schools and was a school teacher at Waimataitai School, the son of Mrs F.M. Maben of Park Lane, Timaru.

He enlisted with the NZ Rifle Brigade as a Second Lieutenant, his previous experience stated as a non-commissioned officer in the school cadets, a senior sergeant of his company. He embarked at Wellington with 6th reinforcements 4th Battalion, H Company on 29 July 1916 and was killed in action at Bapaume, France aged 22 on 26

August 1918, and buried at Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

The Timaru Herald of 14 September 1918 reported: "Captain Keppoch McD Maben, killed in action, was the youngest son of Mrs F.M. Maben, Park Lane. He was educated at Timaru Main School, winning the Dux medal in 1909.

In the same year he gained first place for South Canterbury in the Navy League Essay competition. In 1910 he entered the Timaru High School, and had an excellent scholastic career.

He was a good student and gained a creditable pass in the

Matriculation Examination of 1912. During his last year at school he continued his studies in preparation for work at the university where he intended to take a course in law.

He took a keen interest in all the institutions connected with the school and was held in high esteem by his school fellows.

For three years he acted as school sports secretary, and did his work with great thoroughness.

He was also a breezy contributor to the school magazine. He was a keen footballer and played in the first fifteen for two years.

Captain Maben was an ardent debater and was successful in win-

ning the Hall-Jones debating prize, the senior debating prize of the school. He was chosen a prefect and held that position for two years. An enthusiastic cadet, he was soon appointed a non-commissioned officer and in his last year at school he was senior sergeant of his company.

While at school he passed the examination for first appointment to commissions, and was attached to one of the Timaru cadet companies.

On leaving school he took up the teaching profession and at the time of his enlistment he was a pupil teacher at the Waimataitai School where his sterling qualities



made him popular with his fellow teachers and pupils alike.

On his 20th birthday Captain Maben joined the 15th Reinforcements with the rank of Second-Lieutenant in the NZ Rifle Brigade. In France he was

promoted to Lieutenant, and shortly afterward gained his Captaincy.

Altogether he saw three years of continuous active service. General regret has been felt and widespread sympathy is extended to



Captain Keppoch Macdonald Maben's headstone (above).

Left: Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais.

the relatives of so young and promising a soldier."

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