

Lance Corporal Alister (Alex) Ross. Army No. 62883.

34th Reinforcement N.Z. Expeditionary Force.



World War 1.

Alex Ross, as he was generally known, was born at Lauriston, near Rakaia in 1896. Later the family moved to *The Poplars* near Waikakahi in the Waimate District. He was educated at the nearby Ikawai School and later at Washdyke School. His Secondary education was completed at Timaru Boys' High School where he gained distinction in academic and sporting events.

Alex enlisted in the New Zealand Army on 2nd August 1917 and was appointed to the 34th Reinforcement NZ Expeditionary Force and commenced training in Burnham 20.08.17. Following Basic training he was posted to the N.Z. Machine Gun Corps, 34th Specialist Company. His active service commenced on 01.02.1918 in Western Europe, participating there from 08.02.1918. Alex was wounded and was admitted to the Rouen Field Hospital, France and later transferred to Brockenhurst in England. Alex was finally discharged from the Army on 28.04.1919 following his arrival back in New Zealand on the troopship *Ajana*. Duration 1 year 49 days.

After his return from World War One Alex moved on to the family farm at Seaforth, north of Timaru, where his father had settled in the early 1900's. Following his father's death he took over *Seaforth* and it still remained in the family at his death in 1966. He was also a member of the Home Guard during World War 2.

Alex was elected to the former Levels County Council in 1950 and served as a Councillor until 1959 during which time he was the representative on the Timaru Airport Committee.

Alex Ross was a member of the South Canterbury RSA and also a member of the Timaru High Schools' Board of Governors for six years until 1962. And he was also an elder of Chalmers Presbyterian Church in Timaru for a number of years.

Besides his public body work Alex was also interested in sports. He had associations with cricket and table tennis and was a keen supporter of the South Canterbury rugby team. In his early days at Washdyke he was prominent in miniature rifle shooting and an able tennis player.

Alex had a wide range of other interests which was reflected in his first class general knowledge - he was well read and well informed on many subjects. On 2nd of September 1925 Alex married Mary (May) Kelman and they had four sons and two daughters who were all raised at the family home of *Seaforth*. In his later years Alex spent his retirement on a small property at Washdyke.