

# Honouring a fallen soldier

EMMA BAILEY

One hundred years on from his death, the Averis family is gathering to remember Frank George who died in World War I.

His great-niece Carole Smith is organising the centenary of Averis' death on August 9, 2015. The family will meet at the RSA this Saturday and on Sunday visit the cenotaph at 10am.

Smith estimates about 20 family members will attend.

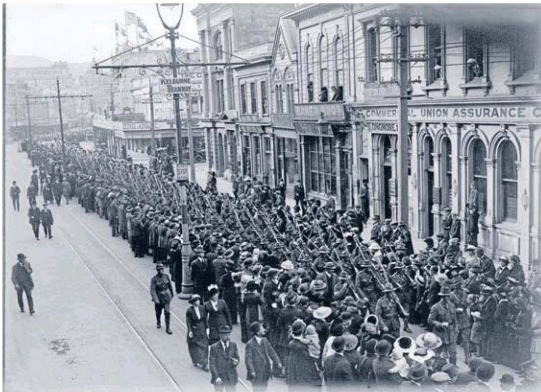
According to the South Canterbury Roll of Honour, Averis was the youngest son of Daniel and Emma Averis of Kingsdown near Timaru. He was born on April 30, 1893, at Kingsdown. He started at the local school on May 2, 1898 and left in August 1903.

When he left school he went to Timaru to learn the motor trade. Averis was a keen cyclist and when he worked in Timaru he used to bike from home (Kingsdown) to work and back each day. This was good training for his road racing later on.

After he had finished his apprenticeship, he went to Waimate and worked at Saddlers Garage. He then went on to work in Fairlie and Queenstown, where he worked for the Mt Cook Motor Company.

It is while in Queenstown that Averis enlisted for military service on February 11, 1915. He is described as being 5ft 11 inches, aged 21 years and 10 months.

The medical officer Alec Stewart described him as, "a very exceptional well developed young man with no blemish I can dis-



Young men depart for foreign shores during World War I.

**"A very exceptional well developed young man with no blemish I can discover. He is of real good character and in my opinion is in every way fitter to carry out any military duties anywhere."**

Alec Stewart describing Frank Averis

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He never had a final leave, so the family farewell was at the Timaru Railway Station when the troop train made its stop.

On February 12, 1915, he marched into Trentham Camp and joined the Otago Infantry Battalion. His rank was Private. He

left New Zealand with the 4th Reinforcements on April 17, 1915 and arrived in Suez on May 25, 1915. After a time there the troops went on to the Dardanelles, arriving on June 8, 1915. He joined his unit and reported to 10 Company.

On August 9, 1915, Frank was reported missing, believed to have been killed.

To attend this event email: [carolesmith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:carolesmith@xtra.co.nz).



Frank George Averis was a keen cyclist before WW I. He is being remembered this weekend.