

## ***Frederick John SLOW***

*Frederick John was born on the 4th of July 1887 in Fairlie, South Canterbury, New Zealand.*

*He was the eldest son of Frederick Aldophus SLOW and Mary Philedelphia BELL nee WILLIAMS.*

*Frederick Aldophus was born in St Pancreas, London on July 7th 1833 to Henry SLOW and Honoria ALLPORT. The SLOW's had left Wilton on the Salisbury Plains for London around 1800.*

*Frederick and his brother John Alfred came to live in New Zealand in 1853 settling in the Wairau Valley where John remained until his death.*

*Frederick married his first wife, Jane WHITE, in 1861. She was a widow and 17 years older than Fred. It is not known if she had any children. She died at the Porirua Lunatic Asylum in 1872.*

*Frederick Aldophus Slow married Mary Philedelphia BELL 25 August 1886 in Fairlie. Mary was born in Tavistock, Devon in 1858.*

*She had previously married Alexander BELL and they had three sons Arthur, Cameron and Francis the youngest 9 years older than Frederick John.*

*Fred had three younger siblings, a sister Maud and brothers Ernest and Ballance.*



*From left to right: Back row Maud and Fred, front row Ernest and Ballance.*

*All three brothers went overseas and served for New Zealand and the British Empire during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Ernest went to Gallipoli and returned in 1915 deemed medically unfit due to gun shot wounds to his thigh. Ballance served in France but luckily returned and became my grandfather.*

*At the time of Fred's enlistment he said he was a horse driver/breaker for McEwan and Collier at Puketiritiri in the Hawkes Bay.*

*He was 27 years old and was 5'8" with brown eyes and fair hair and a florid complexion. He is described as having a small mole on his centre back..*

*He was listed as being Presbyterian. His brothers Ballance and Ernest said they were Church of England.*

# NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ATTESTATION OF  
No. 39/1200 Name Frederick John Closs Regiment or Unit

Questions to be put to the recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name?
2. Where were you born?
3. Are you a British subject?
4. What is the date of your birth?
5. What is your trade or calling?
6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, when and to whom?
7. What was the address at which you last resided?
8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent?
9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer?
10. Are you married?
11. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the civil power? If so, when and where?
12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps?
13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge.
14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service?
15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where?
16. Have you ever been reported as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds?
17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?
18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and to disband it?

Frederick John Closs  
Aggle, Canterbury  
Yrs  
4/7/87  
22  
None  
No  
7. J. Closs, Feketurere  
Yrs  
McKewen & Collier  
Feketurere  
No  
No  
No  
Yrs  
Aggle, Canterbury  
Yrs  
Yrs  
No  
Yrs  
Yrs

Note: Your discharge shall be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

F. J. Closs do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fight and engage and stand

Signature of Recruit F. J. Closs  
Signature of Witness Adrian Closs

Oath to be taken by recruit on attestation

I do solemnly promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces according to the Statute called the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey the orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, and I shall be lawfully discharged, to help the King.

Certification of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.

The above questions were read to the above named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that he has answered each question truthfully and as he replied to, and the said recruit has voluntarily signed the declaration, and signed the oath before me at

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Signature of Attesting Officer

If any question is required in this page, the Attestation, the Attesting Officer should be requested to make it and return the question.



## Description of

Slow Frederick John

on Enlistment

Age 27 years 5 months  
 (If age is changed according to the information given in the Regulations  
 in Army Medal of Service)

Height 5' 8 inches

Weight 11 St. 10 lb

Chest Measurement 35 3/4 inches

Maximum 38 3/4 inches

Complexion

Flourish

Colour of eyes

Brown

Colour of hair

Fair

Religious persuasion

Presbyterian

Disqualifying marks, and marks indicating physical or  
 possible risk of previous disease

Small Mole Centre Back

## Medical Examination

Right eye 6.6  
 Left eye 6.6  
 Hearing, Right ear Normal  
 Left ear Normal  
 Vision normal  
 Are the bones of the face  
 Are the incisors of all four teeth in good position? yes  
 Are the teeth well formed? yes  
 Is the throat normal? yes  
 Are the lungs normal? yes  
 Is there any condition of the teeth? one missing

Is he free from cough? yes  
 Is he free from vomit? yes  
 Is he free from various veins? yes  
 Is he free from hemorrhoids? yes  
 Is he free from involution or congenital skin disease? yes  
 Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? No  
 Is his mind, body and mental health such that he is  
 physically fit to enter into the service of the  
 Government of his country? yes  
 Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause  
 rejection? No

## Remarks

## Certificate of Medical Examination

I have examined the above named man, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations  
 Army Medical Services

I certify him fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force

1 Dec 1914

J. M. Leahy Medical Officer



*FJ SLOW 2/1200 bombardier New Zealand Field Artillery 2nd Brigade, with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Batteries.*



*Fred's dog tag "NZFA FJ SLOW BOM NZFA 2/1200 P" metal tag probably worn at the time of his death and subsequently returned to his mother with his other personal effects.*



*He enlisted on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1914 and trained at Trentham, Wellington for the standard 15 weeks training.*

*He left NZ on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 1915*

Initially he was a gunner in the No 4 battery, promoted to Bombardier on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1915 whilst at sea.

New Zealanders had further training in New Zealand camps in England and then training at the New Zealand depot at Etaples in France before being sent to war.

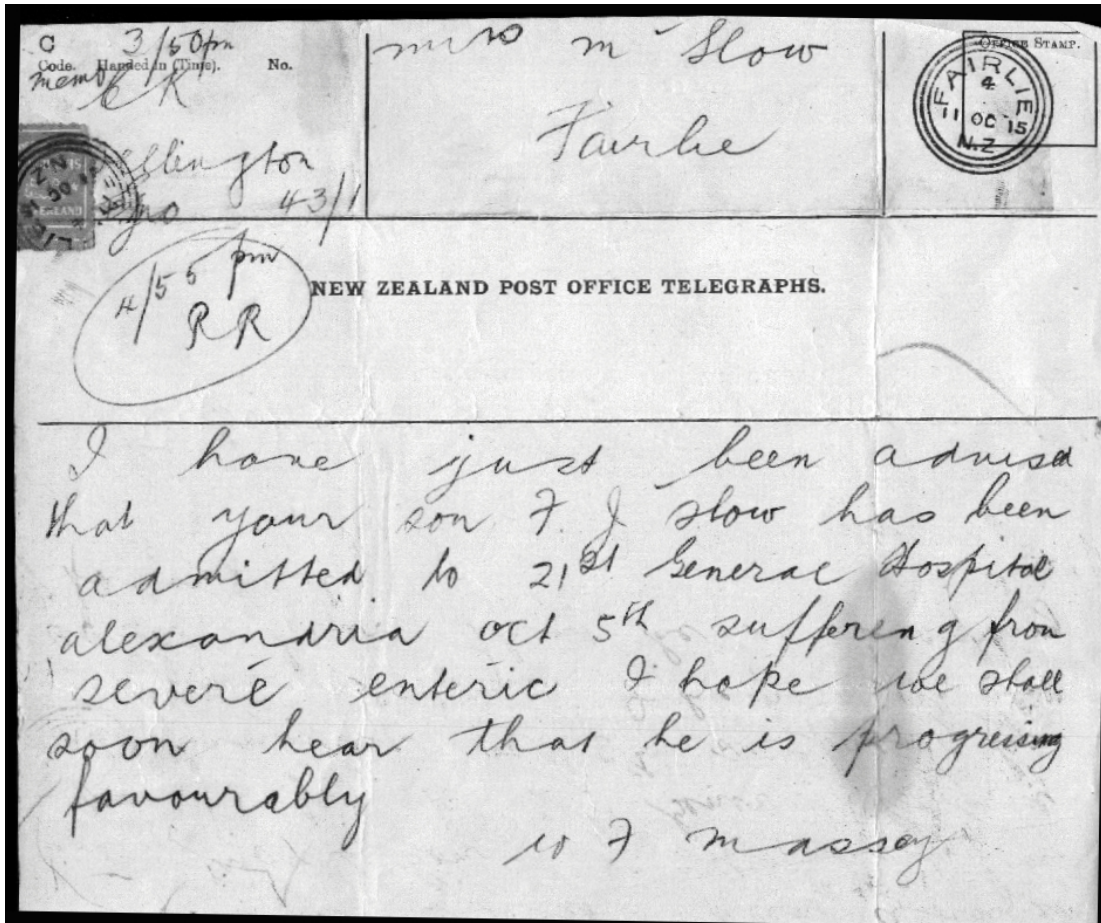
He embarked for the Dardanelles on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1915.

He was shipped out again on NZHS Maheno from Anzac on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1915 and was admitted to the 21<sup>st</sup> General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt with enteric fever on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

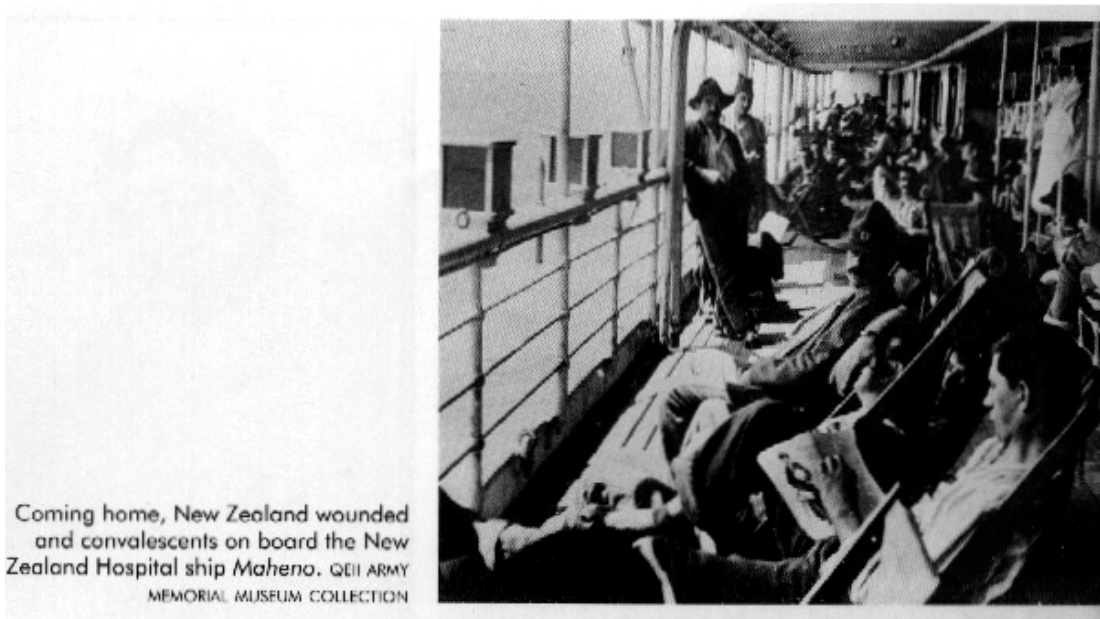
On the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1915 two telegraphs were received by his mother informing her of this.

C Code.    Handed in (Time).    No. 2/11 5 15 pm 71 of Sanday Wellington agent 1257	Mrs Mary Slow Hairie	OFFICE STAMP. 30 11
NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		
Regret to inform you that cable received this day reports your son 2/1200 Frederick John Slow admitted 21 <sup>st</sup> General Hospital Alexandria Oct 5 <sup>th</sup> enteric severe please accept my sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery J Allen Minister of Defence		

Telegraph was sent on behalf of J Allen, Minister of Defence.



*The Maheno was one of two New Zealand Hospital ships. She arrived at Gallipoli beaches in August 1915 to assist in the evacuation of the wounded. Inboard were 10 New Zealand Nursing sisters.*



*John DUDER was the First officer on the Maheno. He wrote*



*“We have 50 wounded abroad now the wounds are really shocking, two poor fellows aged 21 and 36 passed away half an hour after they came abroad, one was shot with shrapnel in the neck and the piece had travelled down his body and lodged in his groin, the other poor fellow had his leg blown off at the knee and I never wish to see a Sadder sight. He fought hard but we all knew he must die, our priest tried to comfort him and his last words were for his girl.”*

*Sister C Anderson, NZ Army Hospital, Cairo in August 1915 wrote*

*“We are right in the thick of things now, wounded and sick are coming in faster than we can take them. As every few patients go out a fresh batch is put in and another surgical ward downstairs has had to be used for gastro-enteritis and dysentery cases. The men say it is just like heaven to be here and one feels that one cannot do enough for them. Some are absolute wrecks. The men who left here a week ago are coming back now wounded”*

*The late August 1915 offensive was a failure and the battle reached a stalemate. The ANZAC's evacuated Gallipoli in December 1915 and returned to Egypt.*

*After Fred's recovery he was admitted to the convalescent depot in Luxor in Egypt on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November and discharged for duty at Zeitoun on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Zeitoun was where the New Zealanders camped just outside Cairo. The Australians camped under the shadows of the pyramids at Mena.*

*On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1916 he left Alexandria for France aboard HMT Eboe. He was then in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battery.*

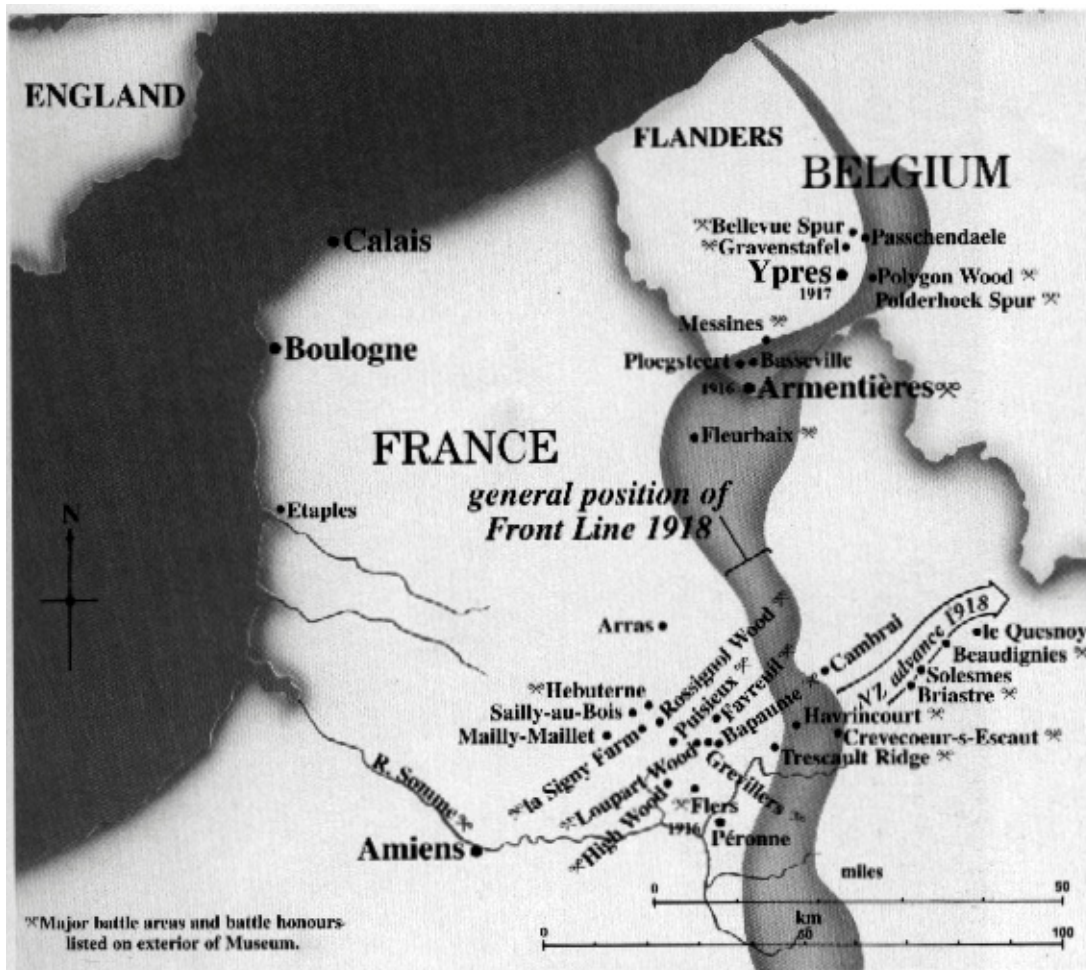
*At Rouen on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April Fred failed to turn up for 6am parade arriving eventually at 11.30am. The reason was recorded as drunkenness.*

*For this he received a 91 day punishment at the Field Punishment Centre Number 1. This was located at Havre.*

*He was also reduced to the ranks from Bombardier to Gunner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.*

*On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July he rejoined his Battery after receiving 15 days off for good behaviour. He rejoined at Port de Nieppe.*

*The battle of the Somme had started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1916.*



*On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1916 the New Zealand Division battalions, from their positions north east of Delville Wood captured and took German positions west and north west of Flers and were able to consolidate a position on the crest of a ridge.*

*At the same time a tank effort in High Wood to the New Zealanders left was a failure due to the terrain for the new tanks. Tanks had only been used in the war from September 11<sup>th</sup>.*

*In October the fighting centred around Transloy, Ancre Heights, Thiepval, Le Sars for the Allies.*

*The rains came that month and the cold and the mud and the surface ended up freezing.*

*“To call it mud would be misleading. It was not like any mud I’ve ever seen. It was a kind of stagnant river, too thick to flow, yet too wet to stand and it had a kind of glisten or shine on it like reddish cheese and it looked as solid as cheese but it was not solid at all and you left not tracks on it, they all closed over. And you went in over your boots at every step and sometimes up to your calves”*


*Less than 3 months later Fred died at the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps division main dressing station near the village of Becordel-Becourt..*

*I believe he was wounded around Le Transloy as that was where the New Zealanders were fighting at that time.*

*His injuries were given as shell wounds to his left arm and right leg.*


*He was wounded on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1916, dying on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. His war records stated he died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October when in fact the NZ Field Artillery diaries showed he died 2 days later. (Diaries sighted at NZ Archives, Wellington Ref WA 52/1 War Diaries NZFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Oct 1916)*

*In the Artillery diary he and Gunner MORTENSEN Reg No 2/1370 were listed as the only casualties for that day.*


 <b>CWGC</b> COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION	
<b>Casualty Details</b>	
Name:	SLOW, FREDERICK JOHN
Initials:	F J
Nationality:	New Zealand
Rank:	Gunner
Regiment:	N.Z. Field Artillery
Unit Text:	5th Bty.
Age:	28
Date of Death:	21/10/1916
Service No:	2/1200
Additional information:	Son of Mrs. F. A. Slow, of Fairlie, New Zealand
Casualty Type:	Commonwealth War Dead
Grave/Memorial Reference:	II. E. 12.
Cemetery:	DARTMOOR CEMETERY, BECORDEL-BECOURT

*On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1916 a telegraph was sent to his mother informing her that Fred had died of wounds on October 21<sup>st</sup> 1916. Sadly Fred's half brother Cameron Bell had died also in September 1916.*

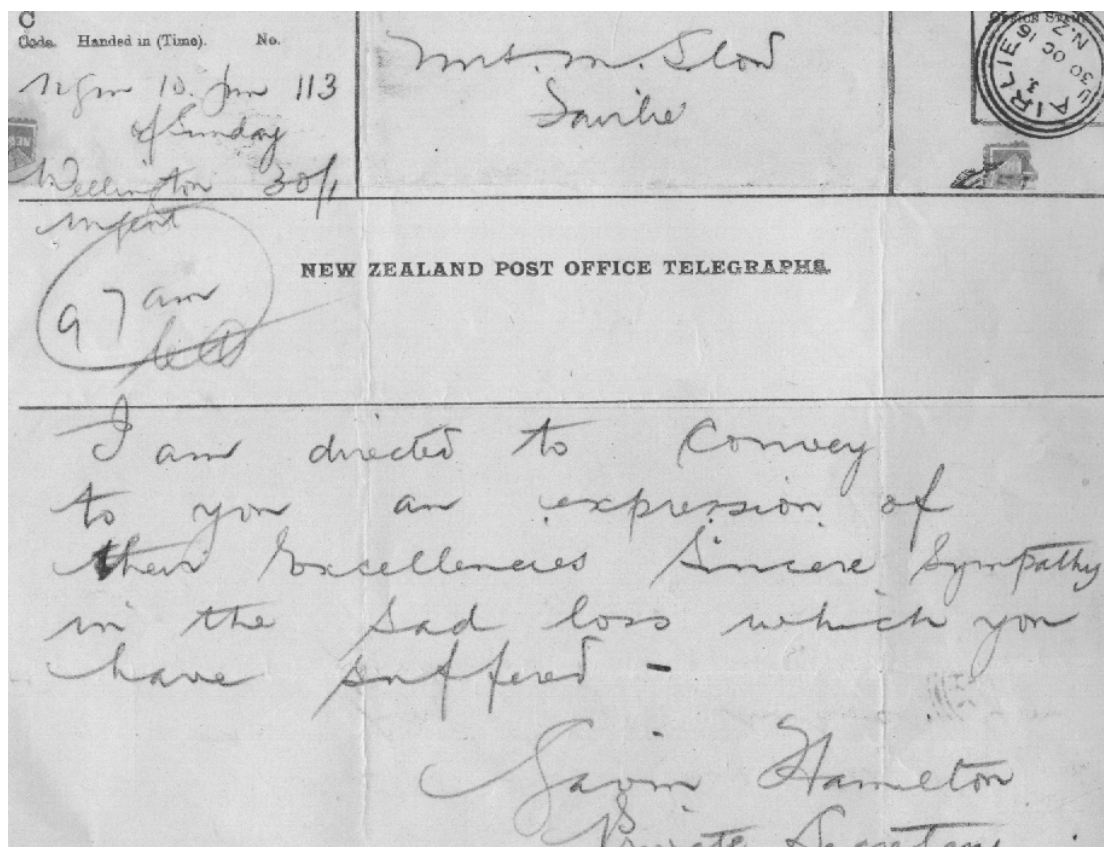


C Code Handed in (Time). No. 9 25 pm 107 of Sunday Wellington 4 3 am 10/11	Mrs M. Slon Fairlie	
NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS		
<p>           Regret to advise you Cable            received this day reports that your son            2/1200 F. J. Slon died of wounds October 21<sup>st</sup>.            Please accept my sincerest sympathy in            the loss which you and New Zealand have            suffered -  <div style="text-align: right;">J. Allen Minister of Defence</div> </p>		


Further telegraphs were received on that day conveying their sympathy.

C Code Handed in (Time). No. 10 pm 114 of Sunday Wellington 2 7/11	Mrs M. Slon Fairlie	
NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS		
<p>           The Governor is commanded by            the King to assure you            of the true sympathy of His            Majesty and the Queen in your            sorrow.         </p>		





Fred was buried at the Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordal 1 ½ miles south east Albert.



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## Cemetery Details

<b>Cemetery:</b>	DARTMOOR CEMETERY, BECORDEL-BECOURT
<b>Country:</b>	France
<b>Locality:</b>	Somme
<b>Location Information:</b>	Becordel-Becourt is a village about 2.5 kilometres south-east of Albert. From the D938 (Albert-Peronne) take the road C2 (Becourt-Becordel). The Cemetery is immediately north of the village on the road to Becourt opposite the Communal Cemetery.
<b>Historical Information:</b>	Dartmoor Cemetery was begun (as Becordel-Becourt Military Cemetery) in August 1915 and was used by the battalions holding that part of the line; its name was changed in May 1916 at the request of the 8th and 9th Battalions of the Devonshire Regiment. In September 1916, the XV Corps Main Dressing Station was established in the neighbourhood, but throughout 1917, the cemetery was scarcely used. It passed into German hands on 26 March 1918, but was retaken on 24 August by the 12th Division. There are five burials of August 1918, in Plot II, Row E. In adjoining graves in Plot I, Row A, are buried a father and son, who served in the same artillery battery, and were killed in action on the same day. Dartmoor Cemetery contains 768 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

**No. of Identified Casualties:** 762

**This figure includes Foreign and Non-World War graves in CWGC care**





*The above is a photograph of the cemetery .*

*A photograph of the wooden cross erected for Fred was sent by the Minister of Defence.*




THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
begs to forward a  
**PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GRAVE**  
of the late:

Name: Slow  
Rank and initials: Gnr F. J.  
Regiment: N. Z. F. A.  
Position of grave: Dartmoor Cemetery  
Near Bexford.

All communications respecting this photograph should quote the soldier's regimental number, and be addressed—  
"The Officer in Charge,  
Base Records,  
Wellington."

Owing to the circumstances in which the photographic work is being carried on, it is regretted that in some cases only rough photographs can be obtained.




*Later a photograph was sent of the headstone at the cemetery obviously erected after the war. He is buried in Plot 2 Row E Grave 12*

THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
begs to forward a  
**PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GRAVE**  
of the late

Reg. No. 2/1200 Rank: Gunner  
Name: F. J. Slow  
Unit: Field Artillery  
Cemetery: Dartmoor  
Plot No. Plot 2, Row E. Grave 12.

All communications respecting this photograph should quote the soldier's regimental number, and be addressed—  
Under-Secretary,  
Internal Affairs Department  
(War Graves Division),  
Wellington.



*Fred's personal possessions were returned to his mother, including his ID tag.*

A beaten silver plated cigarette case belonging to Fred was probably one of these items. However this has gone missing sometime in recent times..

His final pay was calculated and along with the money in his possession at the time of his death which was 8 shillings and 7 pence. The final amount paid to his mother was 163. 0. 7 pounds.

The attached document is shown in halves.

NEW ZEALAND EXP

**Statement of Account.** No. 2/1200, Private (Rank.)

Date: 27/2/18 From 16/1/18

DEBITS.								Amount.		
								£	s.	d.
To Allotments paid—										
<u>Dougal McPhee</u>										
<u>563</u> days @ <u>3/-</u> per diem from <u>17/4/15</u> to <u>30/10/16</u>								<u>84</u>	<u>9</u>	
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____										
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____										
Pay in field ... ..								<u>72</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>
Other debits ... ..										
_____										
_____										
_____										
_____										
Balance due to soldier's <u>estate</u> ... ..								<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL ... ..								<u>£ 163</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>

Examined: lwt.



## EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

[E.F. Pay Form 38.]

*How*

(Surname.)

*Fredericks John*

(Full Christian Name.)

*1/1/15*

to

*21/10/16*

inclusive.

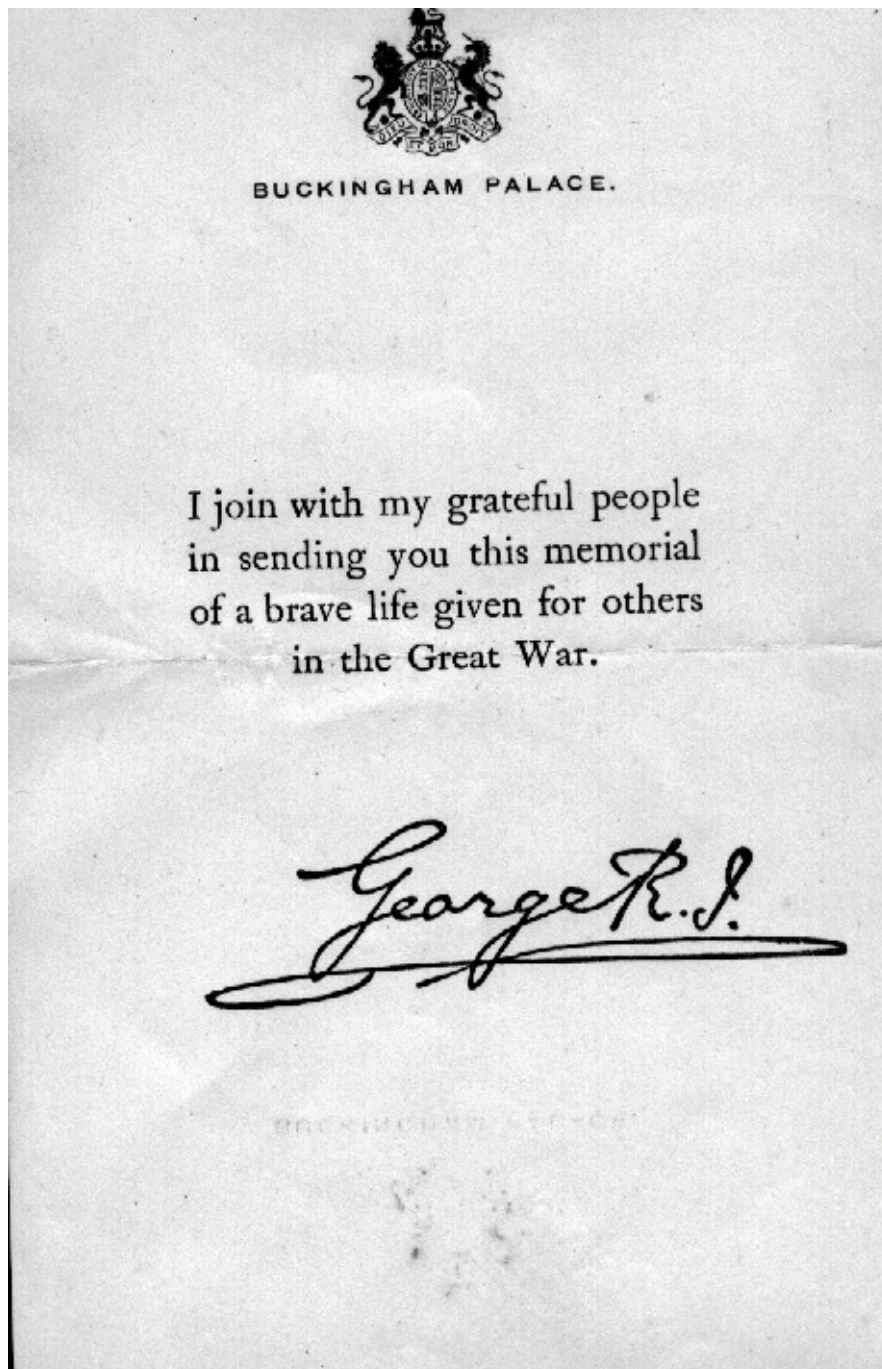
	CREDITS.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.
By Regimental Pay—				
<i>645</i> days @ <i>5/-</i> per diem from <i>16/1/15</i> to <i>21/10/16</i>		<i>161</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>-</i>
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
Field allowance—				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
Grooming-allowance—				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
Lodging-allowance—				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
Separation allowance—				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
Children's allowance—				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
_____ days @ _____ per diem from _____ to _____				
Other credits <i>cash found in effects</i>			<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Amount of Allowance paid subsequent to casualty charged to War Expenses</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>-</i>
Balance due by soldier	... ..			
TOTAL	... ..	£ <i>163</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>7</i>

Certified correct:

*A. Gamison**53/18*



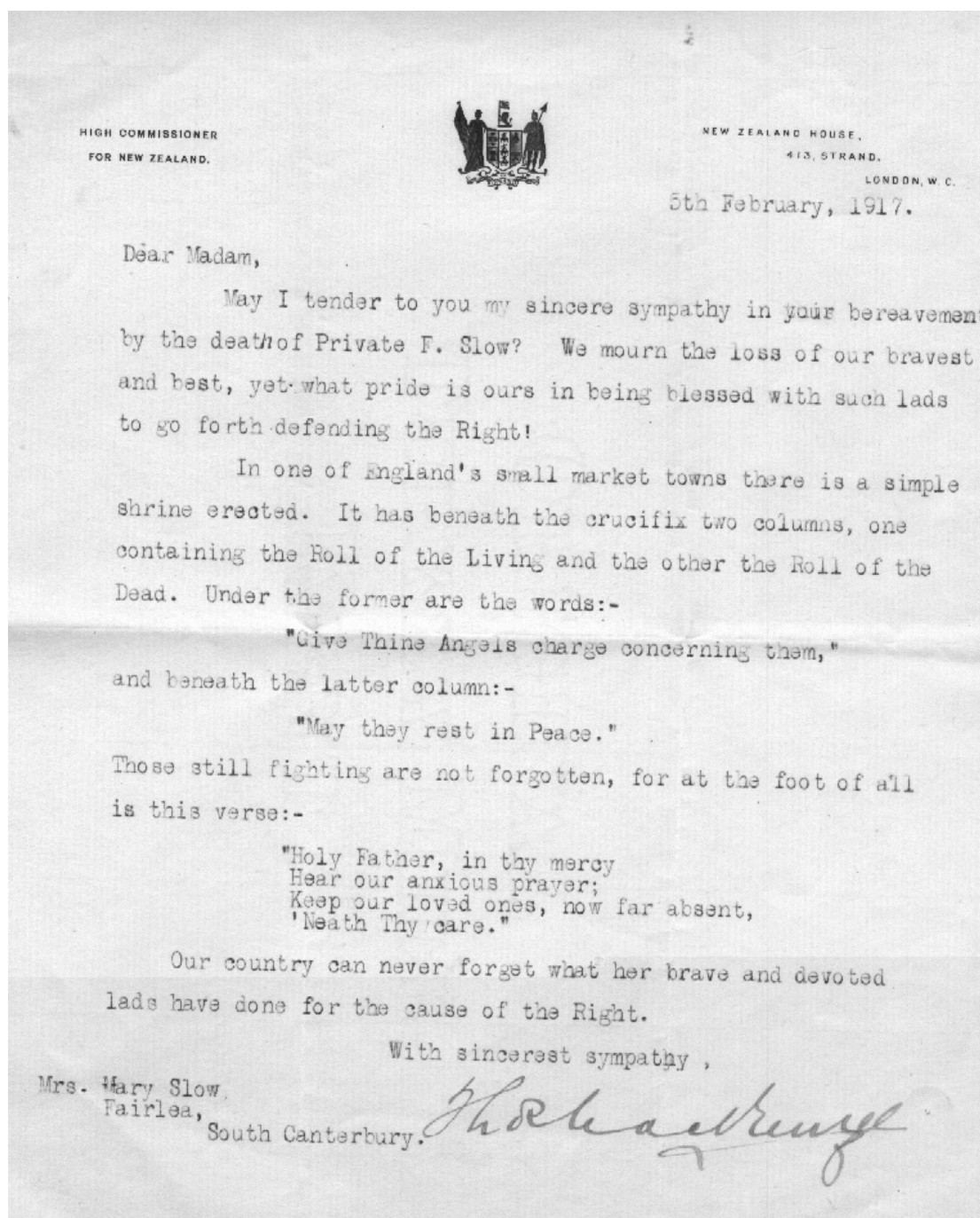
*A note was sent on Buckingham Palace letterhead signed by George RJ, which accompanied the metal plaque inscribed with FJ SLOW. These plaques were sent to next of kin of all soldiers of the British Empire that were killed.*





*The plaque is heavy and sized 12cm in circumference.*

*On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1917 a letter was addressed to his mother and sent by the NZ High Commission from New Zealand House in the United Kingdom.*





*A poster was also received by his mother as a memorial of all soldiers who lost their lives during the war.*



*In a letter written to his mother on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1915 from Trentham he told her that she was to be his beneficiary upon his death.*

*His will also stated that "I leave 3 shillings a day behind so I will have something to go on when I return" Sadly he didn't. Fred is also on the war memorial at the entrance to Fairlie School. Fred is also on the war memorial in Taradale in Hawkes Bay.*



EXTRACT FROM LETTER DATED January 24th, 1915

Trentham

Dear Mother,

I have made a Will out in favor of you so if I do fall at the front you shall get the money I leave behind and if I return which I hope I shall I want it myself I leave 3/- a day behind so I will have something to go on when I return.

I remain,

Yours truly

(sd) Fred Slow

28 JAN 25 1915  
R. S. Miller



30th. May 1916

Mrs. Mary Blow,  
Fairlie,  
SOUTH CAR. BRUNY.

Dear Madam,

RE 2/1200 QUINCE FREDERICK JOHN FLOW.

I have to inform you that the Official Army Form in connection with the above-named soldier has now come to hand and the following particulars are extracted therefrom for your information:-

Embarked for Dardanelles		29. 8. 15
Admitted M.Z. H.S. "Maheno"	Ansao	2. 10. 15
Admitted 21st Gen. Hospital	Alexandria	5. 10. 15
" Convalescent Depot	Luxor	28. 11. 15
Discharged to duty	Zeitoun	1. 12. 15
Embarked for France per D.M.T.		
"Ebo"	Alexandria	7. 4. 16
Reduced from 1st. to 2nd. rank	Havre	3. 5. 16
DIED OF WOUNDS - shell wounds		
Arm, left, and right leg	In the Field	21. 10. 16
	France	

Yours faithfully,

CHIEF CLERK.

AN.







E.F. 2/1200

Any further communication on this subject  
should be addressed to—  
"Director, Base Records,  
Faulkerson Street,  
Wellington,"  
and the above numbers quoted.

Base Records Branch,

New Zealand Military Forces,

Wellington, 13th August, 1917

Mrs Mary Slow.  
Fairlie.  
SOUTH CANTERBURY.

Dear Madam,

Re 2/1200 F.J.Slow.

I have to inform you that the above-named soldier was buried in  
Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.E. of Albert, France.

This information was received through the medium of the Graves  
Registration Commission, which undertakes the recording and marking  
of the graves of all soldiers dying abroad.

Yours faithfully,

*G. M. Matheson*  
for Chief Clerk.

*Fred was one of 18, 166 New Zealanders to die at the First World War. He was one of the 12,483 New Zealanders to die in France, 4227 have no known grave. The photo below is the Fairlie War Memorial in the middle of the town with both Fred and Cameron remembered. Fred is on the war memorial at the entrance to Fairlie School and also on the Taradale memorial, Hawkes Bay where he was living when he enlisted..*





**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*John DUDER, Sister ANDERSON and the Maheno from  
Scars on the Heart                      Chris PUGSLEY*

*Mud  
The Battles of the Somme              Martin Marix EVANS*

**ORIGINAL ITEMS**

*Documents, tag and plaque      Held by Victoria SLOW, great niece  
Military Records                  Held by NZDF Personnel Archive  
   (full copy held by Victoria SLOW)*

*When I started this project all I knew was that Fred was Ballance, my grandfathers, brother and he died in WW1. Obtaining his military records, reading up about what went on the places he fought has made Fred a real person. Fred who died having no children. I hope that I have taken over that role by writing this and remembering him.*

*It is unbelievable that with all the other documents his mother had kept about Fred's military history that the service medals were still not in the family's possession. I am told that someone saw Fred's medals for sale some years ago. If anyone knows who has them or where they were advertised for sale I would love to hear from them. Please contact me on by email: [victoriajane50@hotmail.com](mailto:victoriajane50@hotmail.com)*

*Any feedback would be appreciated. There are a lot of things I don't know about what Fred was involved in, what the artillery piece he would have been using and his role as a bombardier.*

***This document has been prepared by Victoria SLOW, his great niece.***