



OUR ANZAC HEROES – DALE FAMILY

By Dale Hartle, 28/11/2020

This file has a list of all the members of the Dale family who served in World War I or World War II, including details of their service, awards, photographs, and families

The following sources of information were used in the compilation of this document. Where practicable, the website link or newspaper edition was captured.

- Trove digital newspapers Australia website <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- New Zealand digital Newspapers PapersPast <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>
- National Archives of Australia website <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records>
- Honouring Veterans website <https://honouringveterans.org/>
- Australian Virtual War Memorial website <https://vwma.org.au/>
- Auckland War Memorial Museum <https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/search>
- Commonwealth Graves website <https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead>
- New Zealand National Archives <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/FullSeries.do>
- Family trees on Ancestry and from family members
- Cemetery records and headstone photos from Australia and New Zealand
- New Zealand Births Deaths and Marriages <https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>
- NZ History website, NZ War Casualties website
- Council cemetery databases and headstone photos
- Various online articles and obituaries, and books, google images
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBULkD_FEnw
The Battle of Passchendaele (100th Anniversary of The Great War Documentary) | Timeline
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If you discover any inaccuracies or would like to provide updates or new information, please contact Dale Hartle on email mjhartle@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 45 34 24 in Levin, New Zealand.

Permission to publish this information has not been sought as most information is publicly available and has been summarised or compiled into a readable format to honour our ANZACs and tell their story.

UPDATE LOG:

30/11/2020

Added photos of William Dowler 1907-1960 and Wallace Dowler 1921-1998, Wallace Bridgman

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World War I

Alfred Robert Daniel Box 1884-1955



Alfred Robert Daniel Box (1884-1955) in WW1 army uniform son of Eliza Mary Sinclair/Box nee Dale. He was a twin but his twin died as a baby. After the war he moved to Port Chalmers where his brother Harry lived. He married in 1935 to Mona Campbell when he was 51.

Alfred was the youngest son of Eliza Mary Dale and William Box. He was a twin – sister Rosey Sarah Jane Box, born on 6 December 1884 in Tapanui who sadly only lived 17 days.

Enlisting on 5 September 1917, his Army service number was #58337 and he listed his mother Mrs Eliza Sinclair of Tapanui as his next of kin. Alfred's occupation was listed as Ploughman/Civilian, and he embarked on 8 February 1918 bound for Liverpool on the "*Ulimaroa*" arriving on 29 March. He was a Private with the 34th Recruitments, Wellington Infantry Regiment, B Company of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Alfred was marched into Sling on 20 April and then left for France six weeks later on 2 June 1918 bound for Etaples.

He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the Otago Regiment in August 1918 as a Private. However the war was coming to a

close at that stage, and it is not clear from his military service exactly where he was stationed or what he did. On 14 September Alfred was admitted to hospital with diarrhoea and on 29 September he returned to Etaples, and on 19 October he rejoined his Battalion.

But early in 1919 Alfred suffered from pneumonia and was hospitalised until 16 February 1919, and then remained in various UK hospitals as a "mental case". On 9 June 1919 he embarked for New Zealand on the "*Marama*" from Southampton, arriving in New Zealand on 17 July.

His record shows he was finally discharged as "no longer fit for military service" on 4 March 1920. He had served 2 years 142 days. Alfred then spent some time at Napsbury Hospital¹, a mental health facility near London Colney in Hertfordshire, where servicemen were treated.

His military service is available on Archway: [BOX, Alfred Robert Daniel - WW1 58337 - Army.](#)

The plight of many returning servicemen in 1919 was highlighted by what subsequently happened to Alfred, as the following parliamentary records show. It appears his was not the only case where severely traumatised soldiers were kept in confinement (somewhat misguidedly) when they arrived home for their own good and that of the public. You can read the full parliamentary debate online.

Parliamentary Petition²

There's a record of a Parliamentary Petition by Mr Potter, the member for Roskill on behalf of Alfred Box, "praying for redress on account of his being unlawfully detained in a mental hospital." When Alfred had arrived back in Port Chalmers on the "*Marama*" on 21 July 1919 he was immediately sent under escort to Seacliff. There was no medical examination and no order from a Magistrate for his committal to or detention in the lunatic asylum. The petition stated that there was no justification

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napsbury_Hospital

² Parliamentary Debates, Volume 205, 30 September 1924 – 6 November 1924, 21st Parliament: 3rd session. page 153, 3 October 1924.

for this action and that the soldiers should not be treated like this. He was at Seacliff for three months and then sent to Karitane, but when he asked to be set free he was sent back to Seacliff. Finally he was “set at liberty at the request of his brother”.

This brief episode contributed to Alfred’s future employment prospects at the wharves because “it was known that he had been in a lunatic asylum”. Enquiries found that Alfred was sent to Seacliff “only to be placed under observation” but that he should have been sent to Karitane, “not to the lunatic asylum” and that he was not committed “as a mental patient”.

“The records show that Box was sent from France to Netley Hospital, England, in March, 1919, suffering from melancholia, and upon his arrival in New Zealand he was dealt with by the A.D.M.S. at port of disembarkation in accordance with regulations then in force for dealing with such Cases.”

However, there were no gazetted regulations on dealing with returned soldiers, “merely departmental regulations issued by the Director-General of Medical Services in dealing with the reception and disposal of sick and wounded sounders returning to New Zealand.” It would appear that the Director-General of Medical Services, ignoring the law, had directed that returned soldiers even supposed to be temporarily mentally afflicted, should be sent to Seacliff, thereby illegally detaining them. The report ends by saying that “The petitioner was only one of a number of men who had been treated in a similar way, and the Returned Soldiers' Associations from Auckland to Dunedin were taking the matter up.”

The debate continued in Parliament where the The Hon. Sir R. H. RHODES (Minister of Defence) said “The cases were temporary cases, and the petitioner and others similarly situated did not go into the Seacliff Mental Hospital; they went into what was known as Clifton House. The late Superintendent at Seacliff had informed him that this place was beautifully situated in the grounds with charming surroundings. The men received every consideration, and the Superintendent and other officers saw to it that the best treatment was extended to them. The ordinary attendants were not called on to look after them. Senior nurses and other nurses, who were most sympathetic in character, attended to them while they were in need of care. When they became fit enough they were sent to Dr. Truby King's own private house, “Karitane,” where they lived in comfort. At times it was found advisable to send them back to Clifton House and then again to “Karitane.” When in Clifton House, in addition to the attention given them by the medical officers and staff, the Superintendent's wife and daughter, and other ladies, used to go down to this house and entertain them; no men could have received more sympathetic treatment. He did not say that the men did not deserve this treatment, because they did in view of the sacrifices they had made in the service of the country.”

Later in the debate, it states that “In the case of the petitioner, it was admitted by the parents and his family that he was weak-minded and had been committed in England to a mental asylum, and had been placed in a padded cell on the boat coming out to New Zealand.”

The Hon. Sir Maui Pomare (Minister of Health) also admitted: “Anybody who had the interests of the soldiers at heart would admit that it was in the interests of these men that they were not committed to a lunatic asylum, but were treated for nervous breakdown, and discharged without their names appearing as lunatics.”

So it appears that two Ministers of the Crown had stood up in Parliament and justified their actions in setting the law aside for the purpose of dealing with these particular cases.

Finally the debate ended with Mr. POTTER (Roskill): “When the man came out he was detained in a room on board the ship owing to his nervous state. His brother made application to the institution to

be allowed to take him out, stating that he would stay with him night and day. The patient left the place of detention still a little deficient mentally. Should another war come along he hoped the Government would take similar steps to remove any stigma or stain that might adhere to any one in such an unfortunate position through shell-shock. Motion agreed to.”

After the war he moved to Port Chalmers where his brother “Harry” lived. He was married in 1935 to Mona Margaret Campbell when he was 51 years, and they had two children: Alfred Graham, and Lola Margaret.

Alfred died aged 70 years on 30 July 1955 and was buried at Port Chalmers Cemetery, Block 1, Plot 8.

Alfred’s wife Mona Box died on 6 April 1999 aged 85 years, and was buried at Port Chalmers Cemetery, Block HS, Plot 79.



Edward Thomas Dale 1886-1917

Edward was the second son of William Charles Dale and Sarah Jane Ottrey. His service number was #2058 and he was listed on 21 May 1916 when he enlisted as being resident in Hughenden, Queensland. His father was listed as William Charles Dale of Tapanui, Otago. He was aged 29 and single on enlistment, an engine driver/Civilian and held the rank of Private. His religion was listed as Church of England.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P06344.001

Edward joined the Australian Imperial Force, 41st Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements³ and embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on 7 September 1916 aboard the “*Clan Macgillivray*” bound for Europe. He disembarked at Plymouth on 2 November 1916 and was marched into Sling. From there after training, he proceeded overseas to France on 20 December 1916.

The photo shown has the following description:

Description

Studio portrait of #2058 Private (Pte) Edward Thomas Dale, 41st Battalion. Originally from Tapanui, New Zealand, Dale was an engine driver at Hughenden, Qld, before he enlisted in May 1916. Pte Dale embarked on HMAT “*Clan McGillivray*” with the 3rd Reinforcements on 7 September 1916 and by late December 1916 was with his unit in France. Pte Dale was killed in action at Passchendaele on 10 October 1917.

(source: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1218662>)

Edward is reported as being “killed in action” on 10 October 1917 – this would have been during the 3rd battle for Ypres, at Passchendaele. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. See listing on NZ War Graves Project website.⁴

There is no known grave for Edward but he is remembered on a memorial at Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Leper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. A military note says “Place of burial, ¾ of a mile W.N.W. of Zonnebeke Village (Map reading D.20d.9.9), Certified by Div. Burials Officer, 3rd Aust. Div. Fanquembegues. Etaples 13.11.17.”

He is remembered online on the ww1qld website and on www.awm.gov.au P06344.001



The 41st Battalion was raised at Bells' Paddock Camp in Brisbane's suburbs. It comprised recruits drawn from Queensland and the northern rivers of NSW. It was to be the first battalion of the 11th Brigade drawn from the 'smaller States'. Its colour patch tells the story; the elliptical shape denoted the 3rd Division, the light blue lower half the third brigade of the division and the black upper half the first battalion of that brigade.

Compared to some AIF battalions, the 41st's experience of the battles in Belgium during 1917 was relatively straightforward. It had a supporting role at Messines on 7 June, captured its objectives at Broodseinde on 4 October with little difficulty, and was spared the carnage of Passchendaele on 12 October.

This video on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RtiSMjv-Y8) shows the AIF in action in 1917⁵.

Cinematographer: George Hubert Wilkins, made in October 1917. This silent film deals with the AIF operations during the Third Battle of Ypres in the 'Ypres Salient' east of the town in September and October 1917 This film deals with the participation of the Australian troops in the Third Battle of Ypres during the autumn of 1917. The scenes include Australians preparing for the attack; being reviewed by Sir Douglas Haig before going into action; shells

³ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51481>

⁴ <https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties/edward-thomas-dale>

⁵ 'Fighting in Flanders' (The Ruins of Ypres, 1917) [AWM F00056]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RtiSMjv-Y8>

falling amongst the ruins of Ypres and then shows the battlefields over which Australians fought and incidents connected with the fighting.

The 41st participated in its last major action of the war between 29 September and 2 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended, and was disbanded in May 1919.

You can read the extensive story of the Third Battle of Ypres on the [ANZAC Portal](#) website.

No Enquiry.

A.I.F. 41.

DALE, C.T. 2058.

K. October 10th, 1917.

Place of burial, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile W.N.W. of Zonnebeke Village (Map reading D.20d.9.9)

SA.

Cert. by Div. Burials Officer,
3rd Aust. Div. Fauquembergues.

Etaples
13.11.17.

Edward Thomas Dale is remembered on his family headstone.



William Dale 1890-1961



William Dale was William Dale and Sarah Jane Ottrey's 4th child and 3rd son. He was born on 22 February 1890 in Tapanui and enlisted in the Army, Service number #61238, citing his mother Mrs Sarah Dale of Tapanui as his next of kin. His occupation was Shearer/Civilian. He enlisted for the duration of the war.

William embarked on 16 November 1917 from Wellington to Liverpool on the "*RMS Tahiti*" as a Private, arriving on 7 January 1918. He had joined the Auckland Infantry Regiment – A Company. As Transport no. 97 the "Tahiti" carried the 31st Reinforcements to the United Kingdom in November 1917. He was marched into Sling and then left for France on 20 March 1918 and arrived at Etaples where he joined the 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment on 1 April 1918.

From his army service record, it appears William did not see active service on the front line.

William left for New Zealand after the war on the "*Chupra*" from London on 8 June 1919 and was discharged from service on 25 August 1919.

His Army service files are available on Archway: [DALE, William - WW1 61238 - Army](#)



William married Florence Evelyn Sheddan in 1926 and they had 4 children: Annette, David William, Kevin Charles and Maureen.

William died on 22 April 1961 in Dunedin aged 71 years and is buried at Andersons Bay Cemetery, Block 235, Plot 68 with his wife Florence Evelyn Dale (nee Sheddan) who died aged 88 years on 29 January 1984.

Charles Alexander Sinclair 1890-1918



Charles was the eldest son of Eliza Mary Dale and her second husband Charles Sinclair. He was born on 11 December 1892 in Tapanui (according to his Army service records which he wrote and signed), although there is a Births Deaths & Marriages entry stating the birth year of 1893 on registration (but that was always one quarter of a year out!).

Charles' Army service number was #39336 and he was in the 1st Battalion of the Otago Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force having enlisted on 18 October 1916 for the duration of the war. He listed his mother Mrs Eliza Sinclair of Tapanui as his next of kin and he was 25 years of age. His occupation was listed as Labourer/Civilian. He was actually serving at the time by compulsory military training with the 14th Regiment out of Balclutha. See [SINCLAIR, Charles – WW1 39336 – Army](#).

Charles embarked on the "*Ulimaroa*" as a Private on 21 January 1917 bound for Plymouth, arriving on 27 March 1917. He was with the 21st Reinforcements, Otago Infantry Battalion, D Company of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. When he arrived, he was marched into Sling and then out to Codford in early May. Finally he was sent to France on 27 May 1917 on active service.

A note on his Army file explains how his right foot was accidentally injured one evening.

"I was sitting by a fire on the night of 20 December 1917. A billy of water was boiling in the fire and one of my mates in moving to take it off the fire accidentally knocked an oil drum in which the billy was suspended. The water went on to my right foot thereby scalding it. C Sinclair 22/12/17".

Charles was admitted to hospital for treatment with the 2nd NZ Field Ambulance, and then returned to his unit.

Later in 1918, on 15 September, Charles was cited as "Joined in a mutiny, combining with others not to work on the NZ Division laundry, when it was his duty to do so". He was found guilty and sentenced to 6 months hard labour. He had spent 31 days in confinement awaiting trial, but the sentence was suspended on 29 October.

Unfortunately, Charles contracted influenza on 7 December 1918, while in Etaples. He was listed as "seriously ill" then "dangerously ill" and was admitted to the No 56 General Hospital.

Charles succumbed to the illness on Friday 13 December 1918 at the age of 27 years.

The cause of death for Charles was officially listed as "Died of Disease – bronco pneumonia". He was listed as being with the No 1 NZ Division (Employment Company) at the time. Therefore he was a victim of the 1918 Influenza epidemic.

He was buried at [Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France](#) in Plot 47, Row D, grave number 12. (XLVII.D.12) The grave is marked by a Cross. There are 11,516 casualties buried in this cemetery.

His inscription reads: "39336 Private. C.E. Sinclair, NZ Otago Regiment. 13th December 1918"

Because he declined to make a will before he left New Zealand, his mother Eliza Mary Sinclair had to make various statutory declarations so his estate could be finalised.

(source: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/498204/sinclair,-charles-alexander/> and <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/498204>)



View of Etaples Cemetery.

(source: <https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-cemeteries-and-memorials/56500/etaples-military-cemetery/>)



Headstone - Charles Alexander Sinclair



(source: <https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/sites/default/files/casualties/France/FRGA/FRGA4268.jpg>)

Map showing location of Etaples Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais.

His Army service files are available on Archway: [SINCLAIR, Charles - WW1 39336 - Army.](#)

His mother received his medals: Victory Medal and British War Medal.

John Laird Llewellyn Clougher 1891-1949



John "Jack" Laird Llewellyn Clougher was born on 15 December 1891 in Mayo, Ireland.

John Laird Llewellyn Clougher had a long and distinguished service with the New Zealand Army, starting as a Cadet at Nelson College from 1907-1909. Following that he joined the Wakatu Mounted Rifles - Territorials between November 1909 and August 4th, 1914, before he enlisted for active duty.

John served in World War I, service number 7/181 with the 10th (Nelson) Mounted Rifles. He listed his mother Mrs Constance Maud Clougher of Korere, Nelson as his next of kin. When he enlisted he was a single man, a farmer and was 22 years 8 months of age. He left New Zealand on 16 August 1914 bound for the Middle East⁶. He was in Alexandria, Egypt at the beginning of December 1914 but his service file says he was wounded in the Dardanelles on 20 May 1915 and admitted to hospital. After leave, he returned to active service on 11 January

1916. He also suffered from Influenza in October 1914 and acute tonsillitis in February 1915 which required hospitalisation.

On 16 August 1914 he was listed as a Trooper, and on 28 June 1915 he was wounded, and the local newspapers reported the incident on 3 July 1915:

July.

Trooper John Laird Clougher, who was wounded at the Dardanelles, is the eldest son of the late Rev. J. Clougher and Mrs Clougher, who came to New Zealand on her husband's death and took up "Glanbydan," Korere, Nelson. Mr Clougher, who was managing for his mother, volunteered as soon as he knew that war was declared. He is a splendid rider, and is well known in Nelson.

He was wounded slightly again on 28 August 1915. Again the local newspapers reported the incident on 2 September 1915:

⁶ Read a Diary Transcription of the voyage from 16 October 1914-2 December 1914 online by the radio operator: <http://ww100.nelsonmuseum.co.nz/diaries?diaryId=6>

Trooper J. L. Clougher, of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, who has been wounded a second time, is a son of Mrs. Clougher, of Rainy River, who is well known in connection with missionary work. Trooper Clougher left New Zealand with the Main Expeditionary Force.

On this occasion he was admitted to the Clearing Hospital, Endsleigh, and embarked for England on the H.S. "Intalia" on 8 September, and then to the base Depot at Hornchurch.

He wrote to his mother from the Floriana Military Hospital in Malta on 13 August. Read this transcript which was published in the Nelson Evening Mail on 6 November 1916:

MORE TERRIBLE THAN IN FRANCE

THE FIGHTING AT GALLIPOLI - MAORIS IN ACTION. The following extracts are taken from a letter written by Trooper J. L. Clougher to his mother Mrs C. M. Clougher. Trooper Clougher left with the main body of New Zealanders, and has been wounded three times. He writes from the Floriana Military Hospital, Malta, under dated August 13th: "I have struck a good patch, and am very well off here — well waited on and with a Harley Street specialist as a doctor. The nurse tells me he never uses a knife under £100 fee! It's a beautiful place, the only drawback being want of news from outside. We buried 60 coming over in the boat from the Peninsula. and they reckon our casualties were 20,000 killed and wounded. I am going under the X-rays tomorrow to see what damage is done to my leg. I had a narrow chance of losing it, as my pants were riddled with bullets, which did not touch me. It was a matter of inches. My poor, dear sergeant, the finest chap in our regiment, a corporal, and two others who were by me, were killed, and I was left. The corporal was only wounded in the same place as myself — only worse hit — his leg smashed. Sergeant Abraham was shot through the stomach in about three places, and I held his hand while he died in dreadful agony; but never complained. We took the gun that shot us, and bayoneted, everything in the trench, never firing a shot. We had empty rifles, as it has been proved that if you rush the Turk with a bayonet he will either surrender or run; but if you stop to shoot he will shoot back; so it was all bayonet work, and blood ran like water.

he Maoris went at it like fiends, yelling like mad 'Komati! Komati! | Dead Turks were lying two and three deep in some of the trenches where our artillery had got on to them.

The English Tommies say it's more terrible here than it is in France. They made a big landing on our left and got about 40,000 men ashore to take the Turks on their right flank. It was one of the decisive battles of the war, as now we can do without Achi Baba. It's too awful to describe; the ground littered with dead and dying. Two Ghurkas found me and carried me in after I had been lying out for 24 hours without food or water; but I am one of the lucky ones."

August 31st - "Just a short letter to tell you I've been operated on, and had a bullet taken cut of my ankle, and the doctor has sent me home to England for a spell, as my ankle won't go down. There are a lot of wounded men, and if it take some time for them to get well they are sent on to

England. I should have a good time if the enemy does not torpedo the hospital boat. there are some beautiful old churches here, where St Paul used to preach to the people."

John returned to active service on 11 January 1916 and was appointed temporary Sergeant on 31 January. He then spent most of his time with the 12th Battery of the NZ Field Artillery, part of the 3rd Brigade as a Gunner, in France.

When the war was over, John Clougher returned to New Zealand on the "Willochra" on 18 March 1918 and was on leave until 9 December 1918 when he was discharged "on termination of period of engagement". A note on his file says that he was suffering from "shell shock". This is not surprising considering he spent most of his active service in a Battery unit. His last known rank was Lance Corporal.

Disease: Shell-shock.

This man was a 'man 2 1/2' man.
 He was 'bused' here & has
 suffered from 'shell-shock' since.
 This happened in France on Sept 25
 1915.
 He is now in the hospital.
 His work is normal.

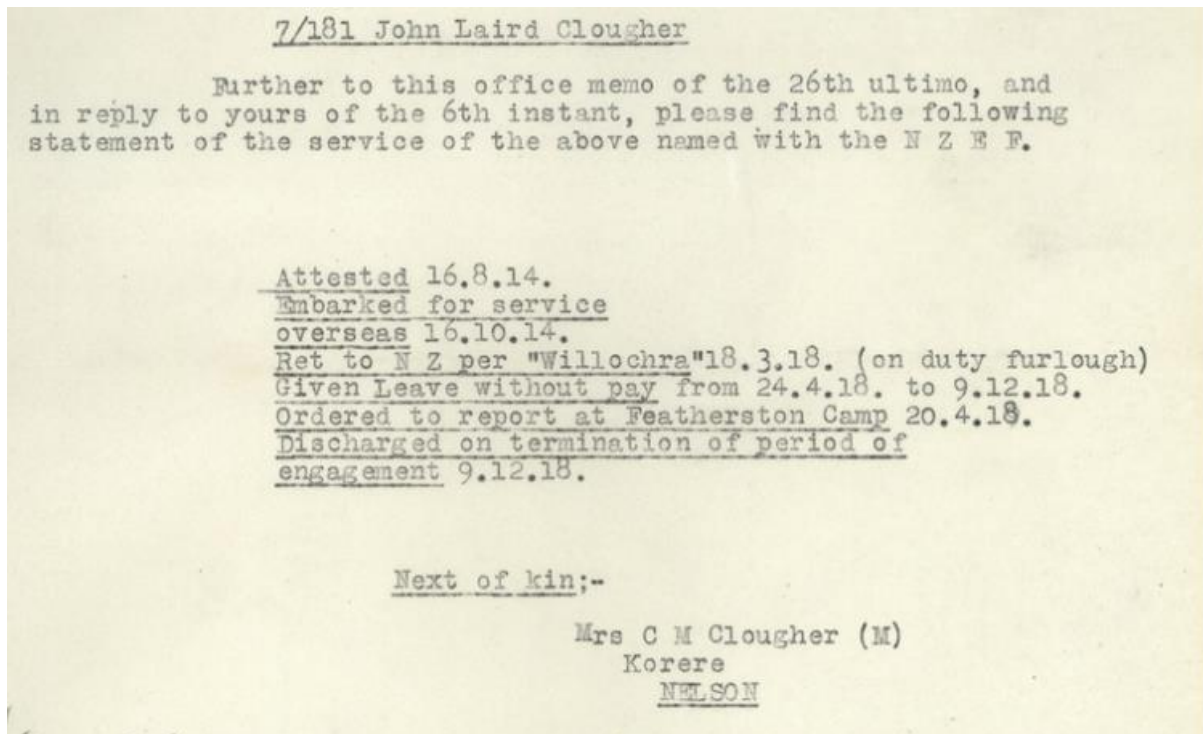
	C.M.R. Posted Tpr.	16.8.14.
	Wounded	28.6.15.
	Wounded Slightly 2nd Occasion	28.8.15.
34) 7/181 J.L.Clougher	admitted Clearing Hospital, EASTLEIGH.	Progressing favourably.
		(27.9.15)
57) Embarked	for England. H.S. "Intalia" Sept.8th..	28.9.15.
Roll. Base Depot	HORNCHURCH. Ret to Active Service.	11.1.16.
ails C.M.R.	Appointed T/Sgt.	31.1.16. P.2.O., No.1. 11.3.16.
79. London.	Reports with UNIT., No casualty reported since arrival in FRANCE.	6.2.16.
F.A. Trans	12th Battery N.Z.F.A. 3rd Brigade. (Gnr)	25.3.16 D.O. Part 2. No 7.4/4.16.
n Battery 2nd Bge	F.A. Relinq., Temp Appointment Sgt. (Gnr)	10/3/16. P.2.O. No 3. 6/4/16.
Div Art 3rd Brigade	12th Battery Appointed A/Bomb.	29.10.16. p.2.30. Rowen. 29/11/16. BS
	(Returned to N.Z. on DUTY & FURLOUGH . L/Cpl.	1.2.18. B.R. 36
		27110

His Army record on Archway is: [CLOUGHER, John Laird - WW1 7/181 - Army \[Original Paper Personnel File\]](#)

He had active service of 4 years 69 days from 4 August 1914 until 9 December 1918, and he had also served with the Territorials for 4 years 9 months from November 1909 to August 4th 1914.

John married Mary Dale, daughter of William Charles Dale and Sarah Jane Ottrey in 1920. They had 3 children: John Laird Jnr, b. 29 August 1921 in Hamilton, Constance Mary, b. 24 February 1923 and Arthur Tom b. 25 May 1925.

John Laird Llewellyn [Jack] Clougher died in Green Lane Hospital Auckland 18 May 1949 aged 49 years. At the time he resided in Whakatane and is buried at Hillcrest Cemetery next to his daughter Constance Mary who had died 17 days before - Plot 15, Block F, Hillcrest Cemetery, 80 Ohope Rd, Whakatane along with wife Mary, died 25 April 1971 aged 83, buried Hillcrest, F32.



Record from Nelson Museum⁷ website:

(1891-1949)
Occupation: Farmer
Rank: Bomadiar
Service Number: 7/181
Force: NZEF

Family

John Laird Llewellyn (Jack) b.15 December 1891, son of Rev. Joseph Laird Clougher and Constance Maude (nee Richardson) on 17 March 1884.

Other known children were:

Arthur born 22 August 1868; died 29 December 1931

Marie Louise [known as Wesa] born 18 June 1890

Ethel ?

⁷ <http://ww100.nelsonmuseum.co.nz/character?profileId=9> John Laird Llewellyn Clougher

There would seem to be another daughter known as Tot or Totty.

On the death of Rev. Joseph in 1904 Constance took the family to New Zealand where they settled on a farm in Rainey River, Korere.

Jack was educated at Nelson College and was in the Nelson College Rifle Cadets 1907–1909. On leaving school he was active in Wakatu Mounted Rifles, territorials 10th (Nelson) Mounted Rifles 1909–1914 and Tapawera Mounted Rifles.

He lived and worked as a self employed farmer managing “Glanbrydan” at Korere for his Mother.

1914

Jack enlisted at Korere and attested on 8 August at Nelson.

Based on military records and letters home:

16 October: Embarked as part of Canterbury Mounted Rifles with the Main Body from Lyttleton for Wellington on H M S Minotaur. They were on their way to Hobart.

1 November: Left Albany joined by Australian ships and on the way to Suez.

11 November: Listening in on radio heard the battle going on between ship Sydney and German ship Emden at the Cocos Islands.

25 November: Dropped anchor in Aden, went across to S S Arawa for spares; saw German prisoners peeling spuds while officers playing cards.

Egypt

1 December: Arrived Suez travelling up the Canal, on to Port Said and then Alexandria.

1915 Zeitoun Camp

6 February: Reports the Turks have started to shell positions and Nelson Infantry have been engaged.

They are out in the desert, the reinforcements and Australians have arrived to join them, food improved. 40,000 men drilling together infantry, cavalry and artillery.

12 May: Left horses in Egypt, sailing for ANZAC Cove 2,000 men on board, Canterbury and Wellington Regts.

They heard 18% Otago Regt killed and they know they will see some awful sights.

13 August: Gunshot wound to the ankle, embarked Dardanelles by hospital ship Dundee Castle to Malta; admitted to Floriana hospital where ankle was operated on. On the way 60 buried at sea; over 20,000 killed or wounded.

8 September: Embarked for England on H S *Istalia* for Endsleigh Palace Hospital, London for further treatment on his ankle.

1916 France

January: He returned to active service. In March transferred to 12th Battery N.Z.F.A as gunner.

29 September: Had been partially buried with sand bags when a shell exploded close to their gun pit, suffering some shaking and shell shock.

1 December: Winter is on them and its difficult keeping warm.

1917

17 June: Somewhere in Belgium.

Apologises for not writing as they had to prepare large quantities of ammunition, digging dug outs and gunpits for the taking of...censored...

1918

Jack returned to NZ and from 24 April he was employed at Featherson Camp until his discharge on 9 December 1918.

Post-War

1920: Living on farm at Korere, Jack married Mary Dale on 20 October in Hamilton. Mary was born 1 March 1888 and died 25 April 1971.

John Laird Llewellyn Clougher died 18 May 1949 and is buried at Hillcrest Cemetery, Whakatane next to his daughter Constance Mary who had died 17 days before.

Read the full life story on the Nelson Museum website.⁸



⁸ <http://ww100.nelsonmuseum.co.nz/media/content/bios/Clougher%20John%20Laird%20Llewellyn.pdf>

Adam Winder 1891-1966

Adam Winder was born in 1891 and married Marguerite Annie Tryphena Dowler, daughter of Eliza Annie Bridgman and George Montgomery Dowler, in 1925.

He enlisted in the Army on 14 January 1916 for the duration of the war, service number #13149. He embarked for Suez, Egypt on 6 May 1916, arriving on 21 June, on the HMNZT 52 or 53, as a Rifleman with the 3rd Reinforcements, 3rd Battalion, G Company⁹ of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. His occupation was a Covermaker in Invercargill. He then went on to Southampton arriving on 7 August and was marched into Sling, before leaving for France on 10 October 1916. He was then marched into Etaples. On 8 June 1917 Adam was wounded in action twice while fighting in France.

He served for 1086 days and was discharged on 23 April 1919. He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

They had six children: David Stewart, Graham John, Margaret Joan, Keith William, Jeanette Martin and June Elizabeth.



Adam Winder died on 2 February 1966 in Dunedin and is Buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill with his wife Margaret and their youngest daughter June who died aged 2 years.

His Army service files are available on Archway [WINDER, ADAM – WW1 13149 - Army.](#)

Pearce George Gordon Bridgman 1892-1980

Pearce George Gordon Bridgman was the 6th child of Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman. He was born on 21 May 1892 in Mabel Bush, Southland.

He enlisted in the Army as a single man aged 25 years 10 months, on 27 March 1917. His rank was Private, and later Rifleman with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force with his service number 54131, and occupation Sawyer/Civilian. He named his mother Mrs Lydia Bridgman of Mabel School, Southland as his next of kin.

Pearce embarked on the “*Ruahine*” on 15 August 1917, arriving in Glasgow on 2 October 1917 where he was marched into Brocton. He left for France on 23 October 1917 and marched into camp at Etaples where he was posted to A company, NZ Rifle Brigade. This was right in the middle of the Third Battle for Ypres and the Battle for Passchendaele.

Pearce received bullet wounds to his chest, arm and right buttock on 9 December 1917 and was admitted to the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station in the field as dangerously ill. When he was stabilised,

⁹ <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH1-Fran-t1-body1-d17-d7.html>

he was sent to a military hospital in Fulham, England on 31 December 1917 on the “*St Denis*”, and then to a convalescence hospital in Hornchurch where he spent time recuperating during 1918. Pearce was repatriated home to New Zealand on the SS “*Somerset*” from Liverpool on 2 July 1919.

His Army service files are available on Archway [BRIDGMAN, Pearce George - WW1 53131 - Army](#)

Pearce married Jenny Christina Meech in late 1919. Jenny, who was born in 1874, already had 4 children by a previous marriage to John Augustus Meech and was granted a divorce on 3 September 1919 on the grounds of cruelty (Edith Edna Meech, b.1900, John Alfred Walter Meech, b. 1908, Marjory Victoria Christina Meech, b. 1910, and Myrtle Joyce Bridgman, b. 1917); and Gordon Bridgman to Pearce Bridgman, b. 1913 (Illeg.). Pearce later adopted Gordon and Myrtle in 1937.

Pearce received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He died aged 88 years in Auckland on 19 October 1980 and is buried in Waikumete Cemetery, Presbyterian Division D, Row 25, Plot 36. His occupation was listed as Saw Doctor.

His wife Jenny Christina Bridgman died on 20 August 1953 aged 72 years, and is buried in Waikumete Cemetery with her husband.

No headstone.

John Alexander Chandler 1892-1972

John Alexander Chandler was the son of Henry Chandler of Tapanui. He enlisted with the Army on 15 February 1916, service number #24873 and was a farm hand. He was born on 10 April 1892 in Tapanui. His enlistment medical form states: “Chandler except for a very slight varicocele is a perfect specimen, hardy and used to all kinds of hard work and exposure.”

He embarked on the HMNZT58 troop ship “*Waihora*” as a trooper with the 14th Reinforcements, NZ Mounted Rifles, NZ Expeditionary Force¹⁰ (see photo below).

See [CHANDLER, John Alexander – WW1 24873 - Army](#)

John departed for overseas on 10 July 1916 serving in the Middle East, mainly in Egypt and Palestine. In October 1917 he was hospitalised with malaria. You can read about the exploits of the Mounted Rifles on the NZ History¹¹ webpage, and on Wikipedia¹².

¹⁰ By Author C G Nicol photographer unknown - The Story of Two Campaigns: Official War History of the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment, 1914-1919, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29508400>

¹¹ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/auckland-mounted-rifles/1914>

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland_Mounted_Rifles_Regiment



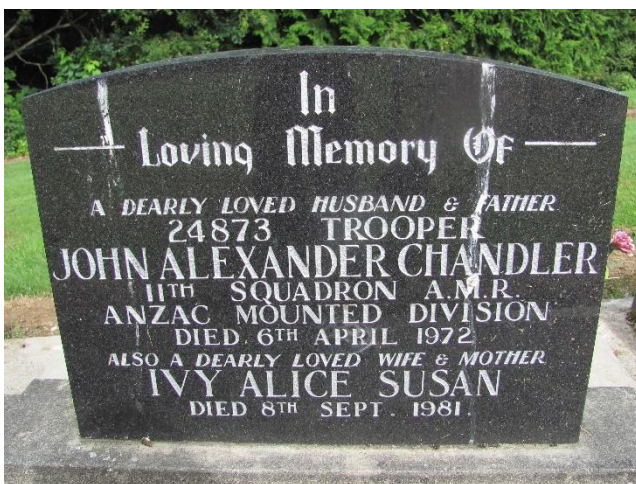
Figure 1 - A typical four-man section of the Auckland Mounted Rifles

He returned to New Zealand on 30 June 1919 on the “*Ulimaroa*”.

John was discharged on 9 September 1919 having spent a total of 3 years 207 days service, with 3 years 34 days overseas.

He married Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair, daughter of Eliza Mary Dale and William Stephen Box in 1922,

and they had two children Eliza Mary and Phyllis.



He died on 6 April 1972, and his wife Ivy died on 8 September 1981. They are buried together in Tapanui.

His headstone reads that he was a Trooper for the 11th Squadron Auckland Mounted Rifles, ANZAC Mounted Division. John received the New Zealand Service Medal in 1944 as he also served in the Territorials before and after the war. He also received the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Alvan Ezekiel Shannon 1893-1988

Alvan Ezekiel Shannon was brother of Roy Clement Shannon and husband of Constance Lavinia Batchelor, daughter of Mary Constance Dale and John William Batchelor.

He was listed as single, a Farmer at Waituna West when he enlisted on 7 March 1916, service number #17734. He was 22 years of age.

He left Wellington on the “*Waitemata*” on 27 July 1916 arriving in Devonport on 3 October and was marched into Sling. On 20 October 1916 he left for France with his unit as a Rifleman with the NZ Rifle Brigade, and was marched into Etaples and sent into the field.

On 23 June 1917 he was wounded and spent time in hospital, but rejoined his unit on 25 August.

On 20 October 1917 he was wounded again, this time seriously, and was invalided to Bingham, England for treatment. He was declared unfit for service on 11 January 1918 and returned to New Zealand on the “*Maunganui*” from Liverpool on 2 February 1918. He was medically discharged on 6 May 1918 as being no longer fit for military service. His wounds consisted of a fracture of the left humerus after a bullet pierced his upper arm.

His records are available on Archway: [SHANNON, Alvan Ezekiel - WW1 17734 - Army.](#)



He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Alvan died on 16 May 1985 aged 91 years in Palmerston North and was buried in Feilding with his wife Constance Lavinia Batchelar and his daughter Barbara, Block 4, row 213, plot 5.



Edward Sidney Sinclair 1894-1975

Edward was the 2nd child of Eliza Mary Dale and Charles Sinclair. He was born on 26 February 1894 in Tapanui.

His Army service number was #78981 and he was listed as a Farmer/Civilian when he enlisted at the age of 24 years, with the Army for the duration of the war on 24 October 1917, citing his next of kin as his mother Mrs E.M. Sinclair of Tapanui. His medical records state that he claimed to have had epileptic fits and there is a doctor’s certificate certifying this. However he was declared fit to serve.

Edward left for Plymouth on 10 July 1918 on the “*RMS Tahiti*” with the 40th Reinforcements, B Company, New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He arrived at Plymouth on 9 September

1918 and was marched into Larkhill on 11 September. Later he moved to Brocton where he stayed for some time. By then the war was coming to an end.

Edward returned to New Zealand on the “*Hororata*” from Plymouth on 20 September 1919, and was discharged from service on 21 October. He received the British War Medal.

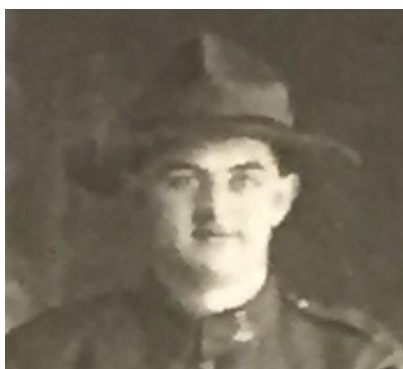
He married Lillias Margaret Mitchell in 1922 and they had two children: Charles Edward, Lyla May, Joyce, and Beryl.



Edward died on 29 December 1975 in Dunedin aged 81 years. He was cremated and is buried in Andersons Bay Cemetery, Dunedin, Block 15A, plot 19.

His records are available on Archway: [SINCLAIR, Edward Sidney - WW1 78981 - Army](#)

His wife Lillias died suddenly on 19 October 1934 in Tapanui aged 31 years.



Wallace Barclay Bridgman 1894-1970

Wallace Barclay Bridgman was the 7th child of Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman.

He was born on 15 September 1894 in Mabel Bush, and married a Grace Garfield Brown in 1923.

Wallace enlisted in the Army with a service number #25/590 and his occupation at the time was Farmer/Civilian.

Wallace embarked on the “Ulimaroa” as a Rifleman bound for Suez, Egypt on 5 February 1916. He disembarked in Suez on 13 March and re-embarked in Alexandria on 7 April for France, arriving on 12 March 1916. He was with the 3rd Battalion, D Company, New Zealand Rifle Brigade, New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His Army service files are available on Archway [BRIDGMAN, Wallace - WW1 25/590 - Army](#)

Wallace had a distinguished service career for his country, being wounded twice and a prisoner of war.

n (4)	6477	24.6.18 Edn	Following pris of war reported found
43 66 (3)	6427	17.6.18 Edn	Comm received from soldier states he is Pris of War in Germany, Location not stated
(1)	6219	20.5.18 Edn	Rept missing 12/19 th April 1918 Maybe Pris of War in Germany
(2)	6270	28.5.18 Edn	P.R. Miss w R Miss bel pris April 16 th 1918. Conf Enquiry
by the ...			Discharged no longer phys fit for War Services on acc. of

On 12 September 1916, Wallace was accidentally wounded in the back when a bomb exploded in the field, and following treatment with the No 1 Field Ambulance, he rejoined his unit in France on 1 October 1916.

He was later wounded in the field and received medical treatment.

Prisoner of War

Sometime between 12 and 19 April 1918, Wallace Bridgman was taken prisoner, and on 20 May he was reported as being missing, possibly a prisoner of war. On 28 May it was confirmed and on 17

June "communication received from soldier states he is in Germany, location not stated". On 24 June he was "reported sound". On 23 October he was located.

Local newspapers at the time initially reported him on 25 May as being "Missing: M. Bridgman (Mr J Bridgman, Mabel Bush, father)".

On 1 June the Southland Times reported:

Previously reported Missing, now reported Missing and Believed to be Prisoners of War. The men belonging to the Entrenching Battalion issued on May 23 as "Missing" is now amended to read: "Reported missing, and believed to be prisoners of war." The names of the men from the Otago Military District are: BRIDGMAN, W. (J. Bridgman, Mabel Bush, father).

On 7 June, the "*Southland Times*" ran a short article: Rifleman W.B. Bridgman. Rifleman Wallace Barclay Bridgman, who enlisted in June 1915, as a member of the 9th Reinforcements, is now reported "missing, believed to be a prisoner of war." He was born at Mabel Bush and educated at the local school, after leaving which he was engaged in sawmilling and on his father's farm. He is the youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Bridgman, and was well known in the Mabel district. Rifleman Bridgman, who is 23 years old, had been previously twice wounded."

On 21 June, the North Otago Times confirmed: Previously reported missing, believed prisoner of war; now officially reported prisoner of war in Germany: Entrenching Battalion¹³, Bridgman, Wallace (J. Bridgman, Mabel Bush, Invercargill, father).

On 22 October 1918 Wallace was located and admitted to hospital in BergKaseme.

Wallace returned to New Zealand departing from Liverpool on the "*Somerset*" on 2 July 1919.

¹³ The New Zealand entrenching battalions dug trenches and other earthworks. The New Zealand Entrenching Group, with three battalions, was formed in February 1918 from men of the disbanded 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade. It was itself disbanded in October 1918. Entrenching battalions provided labouring parties to assist units such as tunnellers, pioneers, railways, engineers and signals.



Figure 2 - Wallace Bridgman, taken while serving in WW1 - grandson of Charles and Eliza Dale - Wallace is the man standing.

He was discharged from active service on 26 March 1920 with the rank of Corporal. In total Wallace had served 4 years and 167 days.

Wallace died in Auckland on 6 September 1970, and was buried in Christchurch, Ruru Law, Block 38, Plot 143, aged 74 years. He was listed as a retired war pensioner. He had seven children: John Thomas, Margaret, June Mary, William Roger, Grace Garfield (twin), Wallace Barclay (twin) and Dorothy Mackintosh.

His wife Grace died earlier on 9 October 1965 aged 71 years, and is buried with her husband.

Roy Clement Shannon DCM, 1895-1987

Roy Clement Shannon enlisted in the Army, service number #13822 in World War I.

At the time he listed on 6 March 1916, his next of kin as his father Ezekiel Shannon of Waituna West, via Feilding, and his occupation was Farmer.

He later married Rita Frances Batchelar, daughter of Mary Constance Dale and John William Batchelar in 1924.

Roy embarked on 26 June 1916 as a rifleman with the 8th Reinforcements 2nd Battalion, F Company, of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

Roy was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) as awarded in his service record on 31 May 1918 and noted in the London Gazette 03/09/1918.

Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct:	Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal for acts of gallantry in the field (15/5/18) 13822 Awarded D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when the enemy attacked a position held by his battalion. He was one of a Lewis gun team and did splendid work until his gun was put out of action by shell fire. Though wounded in the hand he immediately attached himself to a post guarding a gap up which fully 100 of enemy were pushing and ran across the open from his trench and bombed the gap at close range. He killed the officer leading and two men and wounded five. The rest ran. His fine display of gallantry and entire disregard of danger inspired all.	
Medals and Decorations	Name of Medal. D.C.M. 13822 under Clasp. 15.9.18	Date of Grant. 31.5.18

Transcript of “Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct” – Citation:

Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal for Act of Gallantry in the field 15/5/18. Awarded DCM for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when the enemy attacked a position held by his battalion. He was one of a Lewis gun team and did splendid work until his gun was put out of action by shell fire. Though wounded in the hand he immediately attached himself to a post guarding a gap up which fully 100 of enemy were pushing and ran across the open from his trench and bombed the gap at close range. He killed the officer leading and two men and wounded five. The rest ran. His fine display of gallantry and entire disregard of danger inspired all.

The “Feilding Star” on 20 May 1918 reported: **WAR HONOUR FOR WAITUNA.** Congratulations are due to the Waituna West district, which has done well in providing men for the front. Private Roy Shannon, youngest son of Mr E Shannon, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his gallant part in the recent fighting in France. He greatly inspired all.

A note on the Auckland Museum Cenotaph project says “Quite unassuming Gentleman who won the DCM and then the family gave it to the Museum in Waiouru. Was a Manawatu Rugby rep. and a farmer all his life.”

Roy died on 9 November 1987 aged 93 years and is buried in Feilding, Block 4, Row 210, Plot 10 with his wife Rita Frances Batchelor.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

This decoration was instituted by Queen Victoria on December 4th, 1854, during the Crimean War, as a means of recognition of acts of gallantry in action performed by Warrant-officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The decoration was recommended by the Commander-in-Chief and the D.C.M. was the second highest award for gallantry in action, after the Victoria Cross, for all ranks below commissioned officers. Recipients may add the letters DCM to their name.



Acting upon the fear during the First World War that the overwhelming demand for medals would devalue the prestige of those already issued, the Military Medal was instituted as an alternative to the D.C.M. from March 1916. Although the D.C.M. remained available, the lesser Military Medal was usually awarded from this date and the D.C.M. was reserved for exceptional acts of bravery. Bars bearing the date of subsequent acts of gallantry may be awarded.

The silver coloured award has a diameter of 36 mm, and the obverse shows the head of the reigning monarch. The reverse shows the legend 'For Distinguished Conduct in the Field' with the rank, initials, surname and unit of the recipient engraved on it. In some cases, the date of the action for which the DCM was awarded is engraved too.

In 1993 the Distinguished Conduct Medal was replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. Conferment of the award was announced in the London Gazette accompanied by a citation.

The crimson ribbon is 1.25 inches wide with a vertical dark blue central stripe (0,375 inches).

World War II

William Henry Dowler 1907-1960



William Henry Dowler was the 4th son of Eliza Annie Bridgman and George Montgomery Dowler. Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman were his grandparents.

William was listed as residing at 312 Lincoln Road, Christchurch when he enlisted in the Army in 1941, service number #43326, stating Mrs E.A. Dowler of Lady Barkly, Winton RD as his next of kin.

His occupation was an Electrical linesman/civilian, but in the Army he was assigned as a Driver with the 2nd NZ Division¹⁴, of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force which saw service in Greece, Crete, the Western Desert and Italy.

William married Daphne Florence Widdowson, b. 1925 and they had two children: Joan Catherine Dowler and Gordon Kenneth Dowler.

William died on 23 October 1960 and is buried in Timaru.

No further information is available at this stage.



Percy William Keeler 1907-1980

Percy was the husband of Georgina Agnes Dowler, Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman's granddaughter.

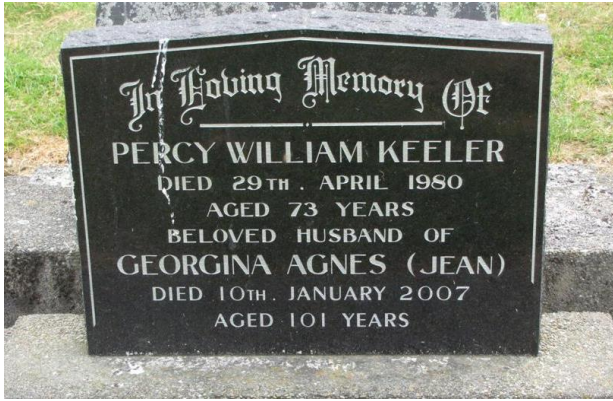
Percy enlisted in the Army, service number #17463 in 1942, and his next of kin was his wife Mrs G (Georgina) Keeler, of East Road, Invercargill. He was a Lorry Driver, and on embarkation was appointed a Temporary Sergeant with the 35th (Mixed) Battalion¹⁵, of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and later Staff Sergeant with the Infantry Brigade which saw service in the Pacific.

Percy and Georgina had two children: David William Keeler and Graeme George Keeler.

Percy died on 29 April 1980 aged 74 years as a retired Poultry Farmer, and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery in Invercargill, Block/Plot General 40/696, along with his wife Georgina Agnes Keeler (nee Dowler), who died aged 101 years.

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_New_Zealand_Division

¹⁵ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Battalion_\(New_Zealand\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Battalion_(New_Zealand))

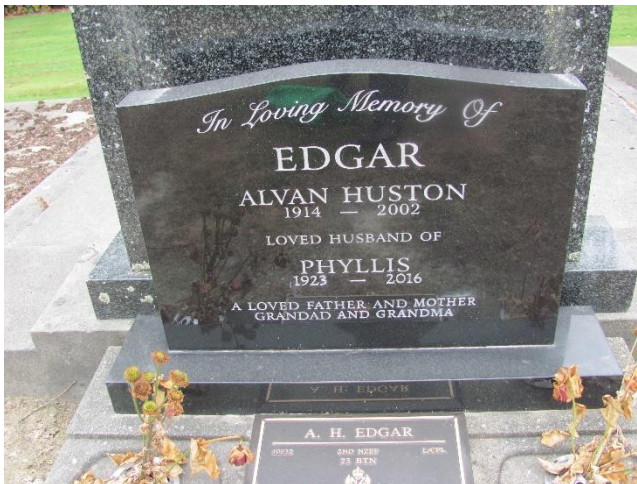


Their inscription reads: In loving memory of Percy William Keeler Died 29th April 1980 Aged 73 years Beloved husband of Georgina Agnes (Jean) Died 10th January 2007 Aged 101 years.

His military service files are not yet available on Archway.

Alvan Huston Edgar 1914-2002

Alvan Huston Edgar served in the Army in World War II. He was born in 1914 which makes him 25 years of age at the beginning of the war. His service number was #10932. When he enlisted he noted his next of kin as his father Mr Thomas Edgar of Tapanui. He was a labourer, and he signed up in Gore, serving as a Private with the 23rd (Canterbury and Otago) Battalion¹⁶ ¹⁷, of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Second Echelon.



Alvan married Phyllis Chandler, daughter of Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair and John Alexander Chandler.

They had twin boys David and James, and another son Graeme.

His military service files are not yet available on Archway.

Alvan died in 2002 at the age of 88 years, and Phyllis died in 2016 aged 93 years. They are buried together in Tapanui.

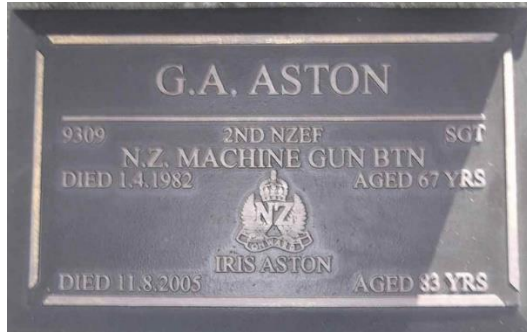
¹⁶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/23rd_Battalion_\(New_Zealand\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/23rd_Battalion_(New_Zealand))

¹⁷ <http://www.22battalion.org.nz/publications/histories/23battalion.pdf>

Gordon Alexander Aston 1915-1982

Gordon Alexander Aston married Iris Bridgman, daughter of Ernest John Bridgman and Jessie Weir, and granddaughter of Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman, on 18 March 1949.

When he enlisted in the Army in World War II, service number #9309, he was living in Gore Street, Bluff, also the location of his mother Mrs A M Aston. He was single at the time and was a Truck Driver.



On embarkation he was posted as a Private to 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion¹⁸, Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, 1st Echelon. They saw service in Greece, the Western Desert, Tunisia, and Italy.

They had two children: Donna Elizabeth and Cheryle Anne.

Gordon died aged 67 years on 1 April 1982 and is buried in Andersons Bay Cemetery, Block 4A, plot 58, together with his wife Iris, who died on 11 August 2005 aged 83 years.

No further information is known and his records are not yet available on Archway.

Leslie John Small 1917-1975

Leslie John Small was the son of Jessie Bridgman and Charles Small, and grandson of Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman. He was born in 1916-7.

When he enlisted with the Army in 1943 he was living at 11 Townley Street Gisborne. He cited his wife Mrs O. M. Small of the same address as his next of kin.

His occupation was Printer and he joined the Infantry Brigade as a Private with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Leslie had married Olga Maud Thomas in 1938.

Details of Leslie Small's service is available on Archway but his records are currently restricted to family requests.



Leslie Small died on 21 January 1975 in Gisborne aged 58 years, and is buried at Taruheru Cemetery, Block RSAAS, plot 70.

His inscription reads

2nd NZEF, 543225 Pte L J SMALL, NZ Infantry, died 21 January 1975 aged 58 years. OLGA M SMALL, died 3.4.1998 aged 78 yrs.

His wife Olga Small died on 3 April 1998 aged 78 years and is buried with her husband.

¹⁸ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_Machine-Gun_Battalion_\(New_Zealand\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_Machine-Gun_Battalion_(New_Zealand))

Stanley Bridgman 1921-1945

Stanley Bridgman was the 7th child of Ernest John Bridgman and Jessie Weir. His grandparents were Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman.

Stanley enlisted in the Army with the service number 32381 listing his address before enlistment as 29 Corson Avenue, Beckham, Christchurch, and his next of kin as his father Ernest Bridgman of 323 Ythan Street, Invercargill. His occupation at the time of enlistment was Tobacco worker.

Private Bridgman was in the Anti-Tank Reinforcements of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and his last known rank was Private with the New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion.

Stanley was married to Margaret Sylvia Gibson on 11 Mar 1944 in Invercargill, and they had two children, Noela 1944 and Christine 1945 (born after Stanley died).



His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand. Also see NZ War Graves Project listing.¹⁹

Private Stanley Bridgman died aged 24 years on 16 March 1945. He was with the NZ Machine Gun Battalion of the 2nd NZEF.

He is buried in the Eastern Cemetery,

Invercargill, Soldiers Avenue 2/25.



Wallace Watson Dowler 1921-1998

Wallace Watson Dowler was the youngest son and child of Eliza Annie Bridgman and George Montgomery Dowler. Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman were his grandparents.

His service number was 010956 and he enlisted in the Army stating he resided at Lady Barkly, Winton with his mother Mrs E.A. Dowler as his next of kin. His occupation was Labourer and he enlisted in Invercargill.

He was assigned as a Private to the Infantry Brigade, Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

He married a Sylvia Yvonne Harris and they had two children: Robert Wallace Dowler and Henry William Sydney Dowler. However they were divorced in 1979.

¹⁹ <https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties/stanley-bridgman>

He died on 31 October 1998 and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, Soldiers Avenue - 3 / 153. His inscription reads "Wallace W Dowler 010956 2nd NZEF Pte NZ Infantry Died 31.10.1998 aged 77 yrs". He was listed as a Farmer.



No further information is known and his records are not yet available on Archway.

Leslie Bridgman 1924-1976

Leslie was the 9th child of Ernest John Bridgman and Jessie Weir. His grandparents were Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman. He was born on 12 January 1924 and married Betty Alberta Kane who was born on 12 January 1923 in Canada.

Leslie Bridgman served in World War II with the Air Force, service number #426131. His Military Service shows he was trained in Canada at the RCAF, 3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Course 1: Class 61A. Graduation Date: 18/10/1943. He was promoted to RCAF, 7 Bombing and Gunnery School Manitoba. This information comes from the "Database of New Zealand Airmen who took part in Advanced Air Training in Canada during WW2".

His embarkation details shows he was on the RMS "[Mauretania](#)" which carried Canadian troops to the European theatre of war.



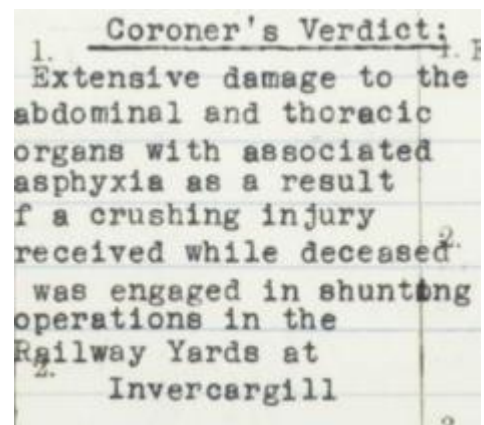
After the war, Leslie came back to New Zealand with his wife whom he had married on 31 July 1943 in Winnipeg. They had two children: Graeme Douglas and Barry John. Leslie Bridgman died on 24 January 1976 aged 56 years, a Company Director, and is buried in the Alexandra Cemetery, Alexandra, Block F, plot 56, along with his wife Betty Alberta Bridgman who died on 30 December 2001 aged 78 years.

No further information is available at this stage.

Ernest James Bridgman 1927-1951

Ernest James Bridgman was the 10th child of Ernest John Bridgman and Jessie Weir. His grandparents were Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman.

Ernest enlisted in the RNZAF with a service number #452403. He had a rank of AC2.





Ernest died aged 23 years on 14 May 1951.

He was involved in an accident and was crushed during shunting operations in the railway yards at Invercargill.

He was buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, Soldiers Avenue 2/110. No issue.

No further information is available at this stage.

George Frederick Dale 1907-1987



George Frederick Dale was the 5th child and 3rd son of Frank Dale and Flora Ann McLean (pictured with his brother Gordon Henry (Claude) Dale).

He was born in 1907 and married Elizabeth Saville and went on to have 4 children after the war.

When he enlisted for the Army in 1940, he was living in Mangapehi, near Te Kuiti and he recorded his father, Mr Frank Dale of Waimiha as his next of kin.

His occupation was Bushman/Civilian but in the Army, he was a driver, service number #21703. He was assigned to Headquarters, 2nd NZ Divisional Ammunition Company, NZ Army Service Corps of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Second Echelon.

It appears George enlisted at the same time as his brother Gordon (Claude).

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

George and Betty had 4 children: Flora Jean, William George Frank, Elizabeth Ann and Gordon Saville.

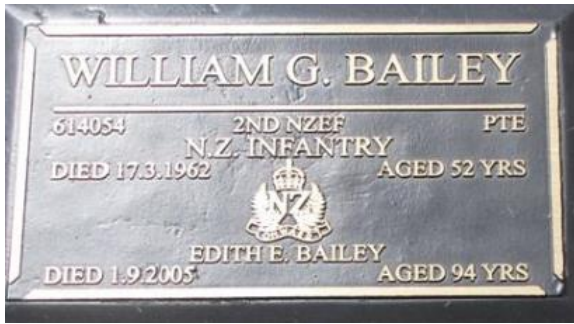
George Dale died on 20 August 1987 and was cremated, with his ashes being interred at Pyes Pa, Tauranga.

His wife Elizabeth (Betty) lived another 32 years, and died on 16 August 2019 aged 95. She was the last of her generation to pass away and was also cremated.

No further information is available.



William George Bailey 1910-1962



William George Bailey was born on 24 November 1910 and married Edith Euphemia Bridgman on 19 March 1938. Edith was the eldest daughter of Ernest John Bridgman, son of Lydia Annie Dale and John Thomas Bridgman.

He enlisted in the Army #614054 as a Private with the Infantry Brigade of the Second NZ Expeditionary Force. His occupation was butcher.

William and Edith had four children: Lynette, Earle, Alistair and Clare.

William died on 17 January 1962 and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery Invercargill, along with Edith, who died on 1 September 2005.

His records are not yet accessible on Archway so no further information is available.

Charles Robert Watson 1911-1983



Charles Robert Watson was born in 1911 and married Eliza Mary Chandler, daughter of Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair and John Alexander Chandler, daughter of Eliza Mary Dale and her second husband Charles Cairns Sinclair.

They had two children: Eliza Mary and Phyllis.

He died in Dunedin aged 72 years on 5 May 1983 and is buried at Andersons Bay Cemetery Block 3A Plot 51, with his wife Eliza Mary who died on 6 September 2013 aged 91 years. His occupation was retired Coach Builder.

Charles served in World War II service number #251104. He enlisted in 1942 and was single at the time. He was assigned to the NZ Artillery as a gunner with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His records are not yet accessible on Archway so no further information is available.

William Eric Henderson 1912-1986

William Eric Henderson was the son of Florence Jane Bridgman and Walter Henderson. His grandparents were Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman.

William enlisted in the Army, service number #80694 and he was listed as being single and living at 35 Normanby Street, Dunedin with his parents. He was single and on enlistment his occupation was noted as Joiner/Military. When he embarked, he was a Trooper to the Army Tank Brigade in the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

William died on 22 August 1986 in Dunedin and was cremated with his ashes being scattered in the Soldiers Ground, Andersons Bay Cemetery, Dunedin.

No further information is available.

Gordon Henry (Claude) Dale 1913-1989



Gordon (Claude) was the youngest child and youngest son of Frank Dale and Flora Ann McLean (pictured with his brother George.)

He was born in 1913 and married Emily Grace (Pixie) Tiddy. They had 3 children: twins Donald Bruce and Colin James, and Clare Elizabeth

Claude was recorded as living in Ohakune Junction when he enlisted with the Army, service number #23597, and his occupation was Bushman/Civilian.

When Claude embarked for the war, he was listed as a Sapper with the 11th (NZ) Forestry Company²⁰, NZ Engineers, in the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Second Echelon.

It appears Gordon enlisted at the same time as his brother George.

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.



Claude and Pixie farmed for a while before settling in Matamata where they bought a house at 16 Fitzgerald Ave. They remained living there for the rest of their lives. Claude worked as a skilled linesman for Post and Telegraph. He belonged to the local RSA, loved gardening and enjoyed playing indoor bowls.

Claude died in 1989 and was buried at Matamata Cemetery, Block 28, plot 44.

His wife Emily Grace Dale died on 2 September 2014 aged 89 years, and is buried at Matamata Cemetery, Block 28, plot 44.



²⁰ <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2Engr-c1-1.html>

John William Holmes 1913-1990



John William Holmes and wife Florence Winnifred Lambourne, with son Keith Douglas Holmes, born 9 September 1941

John William Holmes was the grandson of Eliza Mary Dale and William Stephen Box. His mother was Elsie Lillie Ann Box born in Tapanui in 1882 and his father was Ernest Holmes, born in 1876 in Plymouth, England.

He lived in Korokoro, Wellington, when he enlisted in the Army in 1942, service number #73205. His next of kin was Mrs F.E. Holmes of Korokoro, Wellington. He was married and a packer/storeman.

When he embarked with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force he was listed as a gunner with the Anti-Aircraft Regiment²¹ of the NZ Artillery.

He worked as a boat repairman, also at universal studios packing movie film canisters. He also worked on wharves loading ships at the war, he became a signaller in the artillery, and served in Fiji.

The family lived in Lower Hutt for many years with their two children: Keith Douglas and Lois Jean.

John died on 16 October 1990 and was cremated. His wife Florence died on 21 June 1996 and was also cremated.

Bertie Box 1914-2002

Bertie Box was the 7th child of Henry William Stephen Box and Martha Ann Redditt. He was born in 1914 in Port Chalmers, and died on 15 March 2002, aged 87 years. He was cremated and is buried in Port Chalmers Cemetery, Block REG. Plot 374 with his wife Sophia who died in 1995.

They had one son Leslie Stephen Box (1948-).

Bertie's service number was #274252 and he joined the Army at Port Chalmers in 1943 as a single man. His occupation was Watersider and he was assigned as a Gunner in the NZ Artillery of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His records are not yet accessible on Archway so no further information is available.

Arthur John Bridgman 1916-1997

Arthur John Bridgman was the eldest son of Herbert Alfred Bridgman and Alice Mary Cockroft, and grandson of Lydia Anne Dale and John Thomas Bridgman. He was born on 1 December 1916.

Arthur enlisted with the Army, service number #15743 in 1941, when his occupation was Pastry cook/Civilian and he lived in Invercargill. He listed his address as 92 Thames Street, Invercargill, the same as his next of kin, his mother Mrs A.M. Bridgman.

²¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Division_\(New_Zealand\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Division_(New_Zealand))

It would appear from the records that Arthur embarked with Infantry Reinforcements as a Sergeant with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and was captured on 15 July 1942, spending time as a Prisoner of War in Salonike 8B in Greece. The NZHistory website states that between 20 June and 31 August 1942, [1,819 New Zealand soldiers were captured](#) when they were overrun at El Mreir and Ruweisat Ridge in Egypt when there was a desperate struggle to hold the Axis forces thrusting towards Cairo at the time.

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

Arthur died on 18 March 1991 and was cremated in Invercargill. His wife lone McCARTER died in 2011.

No further information is available.

Ian William Brayshaw 1916-1983

Ian William Brawshaw married Sylvia Dale Warden, daughter of Ruth Gladys Bridgman and Charles Andrew Warden in 1939.

His service number was #8830 and when he enlisted on 5 January 1940 he was a labourer, and married, citing his wife Mrs S D Brayshaw c/- W A Ott, 151 Gala St, Invercargill as his next of kin.

He was posted as a Corporal to the 20 Infantry Battalion²², 2nd NZEF: 1st Echelon. He saw service in the Middle East and Italy.

They had three children: Denise, Gaynor and Christopher.

His Army service files should be available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

Burial details are unknown.

Frederick John Bridgman 1919-1985

Frederick John Bridgman was born in 1919 and was the 6th child of Ernest John Bridgman and Jessie Roderique (Weir).

His service number was 422750 and when he enlisted he was recorded as being working for the NZR as a Porter in Cromwell. His next of kin was listed as Mr E J Bridgman of 323 Ythan Street, Invercargill, and he was single. He enlisted in Balclutha and joined as a Private in the Infantry Brigade of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

²² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20th_Battalion_\(New_Zealand\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20th_Battalion_(New_Zealand))

Frederick married Jean Isabella Smith, b. 1923 and they had two children: Julie Jane and Paul Brewer.



Frederick died on 7 February 1985 aged 65 years, and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill in Soldiers Avenue 2/700. The inscription reads: F J Bridgman 422750 2nd NZEF Pte, NZ Infantry, died 7.2.1985.

His wife Jean died on 24 September 2004 aged 81 years and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill with her mother.

Her inscription reads:



“In remembrance Jane Isabella Smith
Born in Scotland 15th January 1903
Died 26th August 1984
Jean Isabella Bridgman
Born Nairn Scotland
Died 24th Sept 2004 aged 81 years
Beloved mother & grandmother”

Frank Herbert Muir CBE, 1920-1998



Frank Herbert Muir was born on 5 February 1920 in his grandmother's pub, the Derby Arms (now closed) in Ramsgate, Kent, and was Charles James Muir and Margaret Harding's son. His grandparents were Rose Dale and James Muir. He had one older brother Charles born in 1918.

Frank Muir joined the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of the Second World War when he was just 19 years of age. His service number was 931110 and he had a rank of Leading Aircraftman by 1943. Frank spent several years in the photographic technical school taking slow-motion film of parachute jumps on a project intended to decrease the frequency of parachutes failing (sometimes called a 'Roman Candle'). His work provided the manufacturers with the information they needed to improve both the equipment and the training, which was very effective in reducing the number of failures as well as the fatality and

injury rate. He was also assigned to take pictures of the agents of the [Special Operations Executive](#) (SOE) for identity documents at the training centre at RAF Ringway.

He is pictured above at the No 1 Parachute Training School, Ringway, Manchester c. 1945.

Muir, as a photographic technician, was posted to Iceland, which was then a Danish possession under British occupation, and while there, he did some work for the forces radio station. Also while stationed in Iceland – as he described in his memoirs *A Kentish Lad* – Muir suffered a medical condition which required the surgical removal of one testicle.

You can read his full story on [Wikipedia](#)²³.

King of Comedy

After the war, Frank Herbert Muir was an eminent and popular English comedy writer, radio and television personality, and raconteur. He was famous for his six-foot-six-inch frame (known as “Lofty” during the war), mellifluous voice, bright pink bow ties and bushy RAF moustache which features in most photographs of him.

From 1977 on, he also wrote children's books based on his family dog, What-a-Mess. In 1997 he published his autobiography “*A Kentish Lad*”. He was popularly known as the “king of comedy” and had a distinguished career with the BBC. It’s a great read and is available from most New Zealand public libraries.

A list of Frank’s accumulated radio and television works in book form, as well as his ‘original’ books have been reproduced on the [FrankMuirBlog](#) website²⁴.

He was awarded the CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in the 1980 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to broadcasting.

View this [YouTube Video](#)²⁵ where Frank is singing the Cadbury’s Fruit and Nut Chocolate advertisement from 1976.

Frank married Edith (Polly) McIrvine on 16 July 1949 at the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Cheyne row, Chelsea. They had two children: Peter James (Jamie) Muir b. 1952 and Sally Muir b. 1954.

Frank died on 2 January 1998 at the age of 77 years of complications from a stroke, in Thorpe, Surrey, England. He was cremated and is buried at Crawley, Crawley Borough, West Sussex in England. His wife Polly died in 2004.

In November 1998, ten months after his death, he and Denis Norden were joint recipients of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Writer of the Year Award²⁶.

William Harry Wright 1920-1987

William Harry Wright was the son of Martha Rose Constance Bridgman and Harry Wilfred Wright. He was born in 1920.

William enlisted in 1942 in the NZ Army, service number #408884 as a Private in Invercargill. His occupation was Labourer/civilian. William was assigned to the 34th (Mixed) Battalion of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and later with the 27th (Machine Gun) Battalion. He listed his mother Mrs M Wright of Makarewa as his next of kin.

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Muir

²⁴ <https://frankmuirblog.blogspot.com/2009/10/collected-works-of-frank-muir.html>

²⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOW3EDawJh4>

²⁶ “[The UK Comedy Guide](#)”. Chortle. Retrieved 12 June 2012.

He died on 23 September 1987 aged 67 years and is buried at the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, Soldiers avenue 2/507A.

His wife Ethel Ivy Hansen also served and died on 8 March 2014 aged 91 years. She is buried with her husband.

They had one son William Harry Wright.

Their inscription reads:



“William H Wright, 2nd NZEF, 408884 Pte, NZ Infantry

Died 23.9.1987 Aged 67 yrs

Ethel I Wright 1939-45

4180 W.A.L. R.N.Z.A.F.

Died 8 3 2014 Aged 91 yrs”

Herbert Raymond Bridgman 1921-1995

Herbert Raymond Bridgman was the son of Herbert Alfred Bridgman and Alice Mary Cockroft. His grandparents were Lydia Ann Dale and John Thomas Bridgman.

Herbert joined the Army, service number #151956 and his address prior to enlistment was 92 Thames Street, Invercargill. He listed his mother Mrs A.M. Bridgman of the same address as his next of kin.

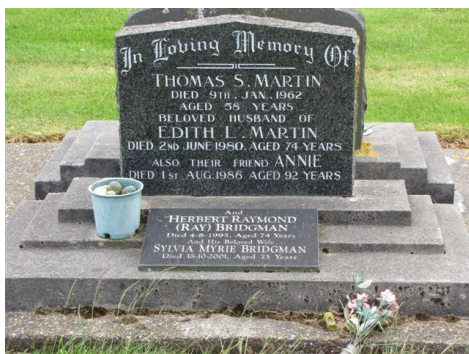
Herbert’s occupation was recorded as Linotype operator/Civilian on enlistment.

He embarked with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force as a Lance Bombardier in the NZ Artillery.

Herbert survived the war and returned to Invercargill where he married Sylvia Marie Martin and together they had two children: Janice Maree and Susan Rae.

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

Herbert passed away on 4 August 1995 aged 74 years, and was buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, Plot General – 37/61. His occupation at the time of his death was Auctioneer. His wife Sylvia Myrie Bridgman died aged 73 years on 18 October 2001 and is buried with her husband.



Their inscription reads:

“Herbert Raymond (Ray) Bridgman Died 4.8.1995 aged 74 years and his beloved wife Sylvie Marie Bridgman Died 18.10.2001 aged 73 years.”

John Laird Clougher 1921-1971

John Laird Clougher was born on 29 August 1921. His father was John Laird Llewellyn Clougher 7/181 who served in World War I. He was William Charles Dale and Sarah Jane Ottrey's grandson.

John enlisted in 1942 as a single man, service number #63084 citing his next of kin as Mrs M Clougher of Ohope, Whakatane.

John Clougher's name appears in a newspaper article entitled "More Recruiting – Thirty-One Men pass fit – Further Whakatane Response. The following men passed fit at the Medical Board held on Saturday: John Laird Clougher."²⁷

His occupation on enlistment was a Shop assistant of Gore, Southland. He served in the North African campaign with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force as a private, and his last known rank was a Corporal.

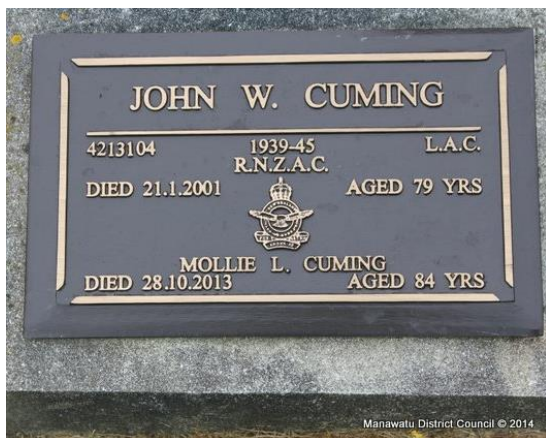
John was engaged to Elva May Clarke, eldest daughter of Mr F. A. S. Clarke of Whakatane as announced on 19 June 1946 in the *Bay of Plenty Beacon*²⁸.

However he ended up marrying Margaret Ann Hunt on 27 December 1954 in Goulburn, New South Wales and they had four children: Simone Anita Mary, Gerard Sebastian, Justin John and Matthew Flinders.

John died on 15 December 2012 at the age of 91 years. Burial details are unknown but believed to be in Hobart, Tasmania.

John Walter Cuming 1922-2001

John Walter Cuming married Mollie Lorraine Shannon in 1951. Mollie was the daughter of Constance Lavinia Batchelar, and granddaughter of Mary Constance Dale and John William Batchelar.



John was born in 1922 and served with the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a Leading Aircraftman during World War II, service number #4213104. His previous occupation was farmhand.

John and Mollie had 3 children that we know of: Derek John, Lyndsay Richard, Peter Gavin (plus possibly Bevin).

John died on 21 January 2001 aged 79, and is buried in Feilding: Plot 94, Row 200, RSA Block, Feilding Cemetery.

His wife Mollie died on 28 October 2013 aged 84 years, and is buried with her husband.

²⁷ Bay of Plenty Beacon, Volume 2, Issue 189, 22 July 1940.

²⁸ ENGAGEMENT. BAY OF PLENTY BEACON, VOLUME 9, ISSUE 88, 19 JUNE 1946

John Charles Warden 1923-1984

John Charles Warden, service number #442660, enlisted in the Army in 1944, and was single, living at Grove Bush. He registered his mother Mrs R G Warden, section 4, Glencoe RD, Invercargill as his next of kin. His occupation was Farmer's Labourer/Civilian and he enlisted in Invercargill. When he entered the Army, his rank was Private, and he was posted to the 28th (Machine Gun) Battalion of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His Army service files are available on Archway but are currently restricted. Only the direct family can request copies from Archives New Zealand.

John survived the war and married Matilda Alice Callanan in 1953 and together they had 3 children.



John died on 18 September 1984. His occupation was Mixed Farmer, and he was 61 years old. He is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, plot General 41/19.

His inscription reads: "In loving memory of John Charles Warden Died 18th Sept 1984 Aged 61 years Beloved husband of Matilda Alice".

When his wife died on 12 November 2003 she was cremated.

No further information is available.

