



# From *auditor* to soldier

Stories of the men who served



FROM AUDITOR TO SOLDIER

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This commemorative book would not have been possible without the generous contributions of many people:

- Diane Barnes, who provided us with information about her grandfather, Charles Jeremiah Marsh Gair.
- Kathleen Clayton, who provided us with information about her grandfather's brother, Albert Andrew Cairns.
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# Introduction

## The Roll of Honour board

There is a plaque hanging on the walls in the Office of the Auditor-General in Wellington. The “Roll of Honour” board lists the names of 32 Audit Department staff who served in World War 1 (WW1) in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Five of the names are preceded by an asterisk – it marks those who died on active service.

In December 1916, a report in the *Evening Post* said that, on the afternoon of 22 December 1916, Audit Department staff from around New Zealand gathered at the Head Office in Wellington for the unveiling of the board.

The board is described as being of “handsome polished cedar-wood”, with the names of those who had enlisted. Addressing staff, the then Auditor-General, Colonel Robert Joseph Collins, said that 22 members of the Audit Department were in training for the war effort. Space remained on the board for others “who doubtless would eventually take their places in the arena in the interests of liberty and civilisation”.

Mr Collins went on to say that the board would:

*... stand as a record of the self-sacrifice of these men who were fighting for us at the front; the very least we could do was to show that we honour them for their good work. While sympathising with the bereaved parents and deploring the loss of two popular officers [Clarence Thompson and John Saxon], there is consolation in knowing that their lives were not given in vain.*

This book describes some of what happened to those 32 Audit Department staff during WW1. Where we could find it, information is also provided on their lives before they were sent to war and what happened to the 27 who returned.



The details we present for each soldier have been drawn from service records, newspaper reports, and published histories of the brigades that Audit Department staff served in.

# The Audit Department

At the outbreak of WW1, the Audit Department was located in the Government Buildings in Lambton Quay, Wellington and had a staff of 61, headed by the Auditor-General. The next most senior person was the Chief Clerk, who was also the Deputy Auditor-General.

Published lists of staff employed at the Audit Department shows staff ranked in order of seniority. The Chief Clerk was graded as “Class I”. There was a “Clerk in Charge Control Assets”, Class II. There were 14 Audit Inspectors, based at offices around New Zealand. Audit Inspectors ranged from Class II to Class V.

Most of the remaining staff were appointed as Examiners, ranging from Class V to class VII. Two staff were classified as Book Keepers. There were subdivisions within each class.

On average, Audit Inspectors were paid £426 a year. Examiners were, on average, paid £261 a year.

To be appointed to the Audit Department, or to any other civil service position, applicants had to first pass the Junior Civil Service Examination. This was not an easy examination and in some years only a quarter of those who sat the examination passed.

The names of the successful candidates were published in newspapers, ranked from the person who obtained the highest pass mark to the person who obtained the lowest pass mark.

A pass did not automatically mean appointment to a civil service position, because there were few vacancies. Once appointed to a civil service position, further advancement depended on passing the Senior Civil Service Examination.

If appointed to the Audit Department, staff were expected to have “experience in ledger keeping”. In 1914, only one staff member is listed as having an accounting qualification.

The Audit Department was adopting new technology. In 1914, the Public Service Commissioner surveyed the extent to which departments were adopting “modern methods” and found that the Audit Department was one of the few that had used any mechanical aids before 1913; two adding machines and one “computing machine”.

## Turning auditors into soldiers

Despite the clerical nature of their work, Audit Department staff would have had some exposure to the skills required of soldiers. The Defence Act of 1909 had set up a system of compulsory military training.

Boys between the ages of 12 and 14 had to undergo 52 hours of physical training each year as “Junior Cadets”. From the age of 14 to 18, young men were required to serve in the Cadet Corps. Those aged between 18 and 25 had to serve in the Territorial Force, completing 12 half-day parades and 7 days in camp each year.

After the age of 25, they were placed on the reserve list, until age 30. There was provision for discharge at age 30, but men could still be called up for military service until the age of 55.

After enlisting, men were sent to military camps. They were trained at either the Trentham Military Camp (north of Wellington) or the Featherston Military Camp (in the Wairarapa).

Poor living conditions at Trentham led to an outbreak of respiratory illness in mid-1915 that killed 27 soldiers. The Trentham Camp was closed for a time and had to be rebuilt. It could accommodate up to 7000 soldiers.

The training camp at Featherston had to be expanded and became the main camp for training soldiers. It could accommodate almost 10,000 soldiers. About two-thirds of the men sent overseas were trained there. During four months, soldiers learned to march, dig trenches, and fire rifles, machine guns, and artillery.

Most men trained as infantry but others trained as stretcher bearers, signallers, engineers, gunners, cooks, and clerks. After training, the soldiers were marched over the Rimutaka Hill road to Trentham Camp, before leaving on ships for Europe. Featherston people would travel to the summit of the hill road and offer tea and food to the soldiers when they reached the summit.

When the New Zealand troops arrived overseas, they were put through more advanced training, initially carried out in Egypt and in the United Kingdom from April 1916. This training concentrated on improving the ability of soldiers to fight together as an effective unit.



*New Zealand forces hoisting the Union Jack at the courthouse, Apia, 1914, Apia, by Thomas Andrew. Te Papa (C.001549)*





1907



1909



Undated photo from the the Office's collection







1916 or 1917



1919 Audit Department's hockey team



1921 annual picnic



Colonel Collins' farewell, 1921

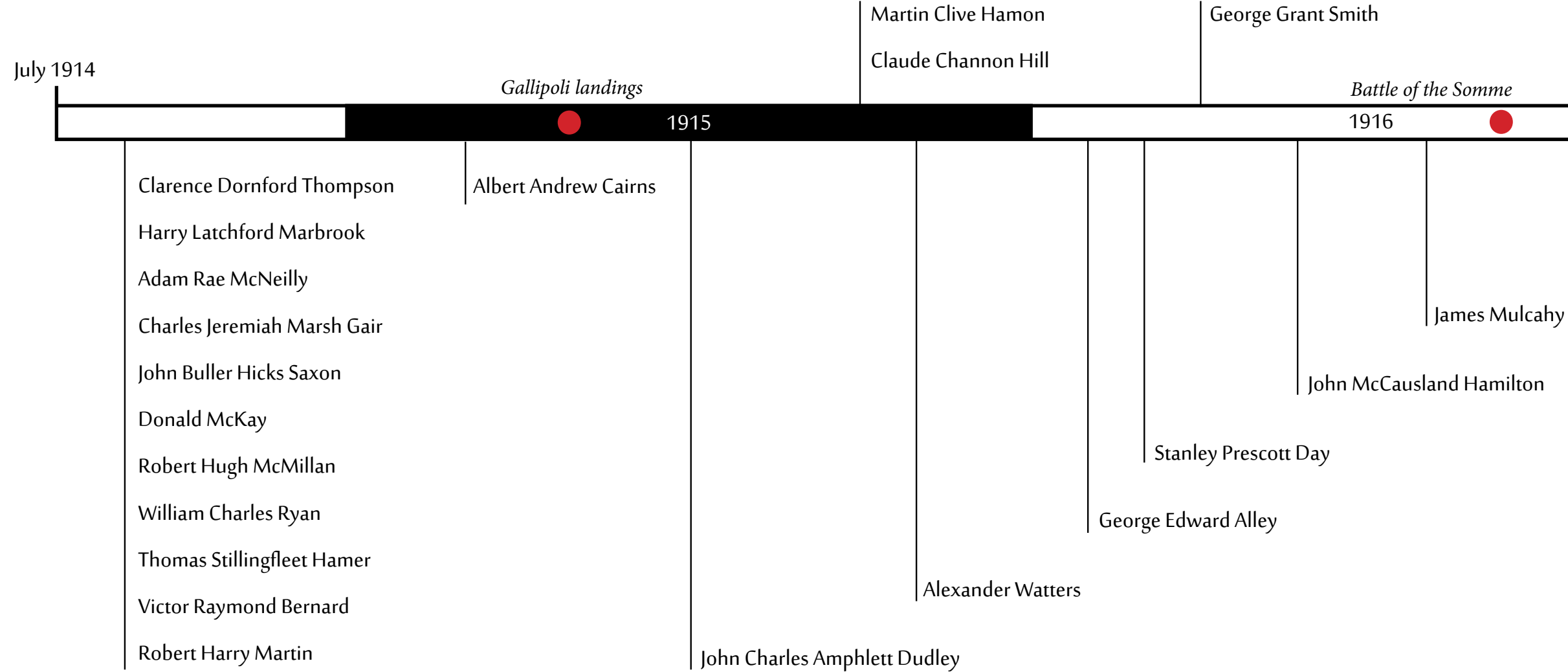


# Time line

WW1 broke out at the end of July, 1914. By August 1914, 11 of the Audit Department's 61 staff had enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Ten sailed for Samoa on 15 August 1914 as part of the Samoan Advance Party.

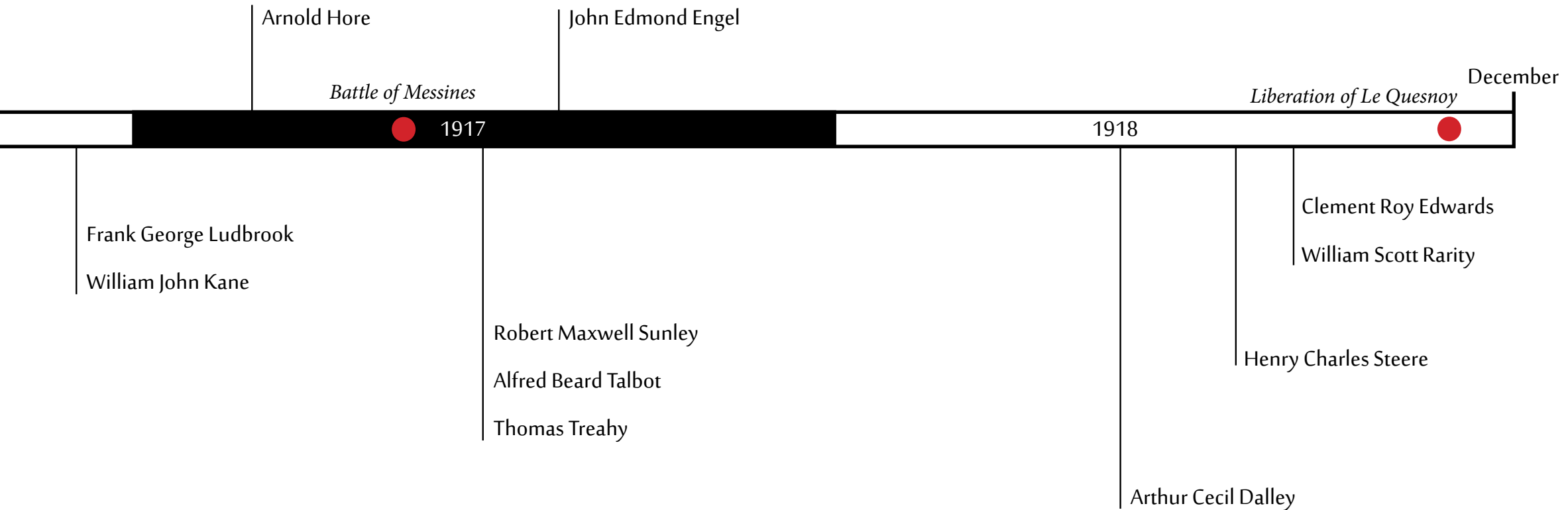
The time line below shows the month during which the Audit Department's staff enlisted. There were varying periods between their enlistment date and when they were sent abroad, and one did not serve overseas.

Some returned to New Zealand before being posted overseas a second time. One of them, Victor Bernard, returned twice, and was sent overseas a third time only to be killed a week before the war ended.



During the war, one in every 10 New Zealanders enlisted to fight, so the war had a profound effect on the nation. The losses were high – 5% of New Zealand’s military-age men were killed, which was the highest casualty rate among British Empire countries.

The loss of more than 18,100 men and women severely affected many communities and families, and so too did the return of men and women who were maimed or suffered from shell-shock.



# Clarence Dornford Thompson



1909

Nelson man Clarence Dornford Thompson joined the Audit Department in April 1907. At the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

In August 1914, aged 24, Clarence joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (Medical Corps). He went to Samoa that month as part of the Samoan Advance Party, which was sent by the New Zealand Government to force Germany out of Samoa.

The 1385-strong Samoan Advance Party sailed from Wellington on 15 August 1914 on two passenger ships (the *Moeraki* and *Monowai*).

The Samoan Advance Party landed at Apia on 29 August 1914 and met with no resistance. The German defences comprised 20 troops and special constables.

In July 1915, Clarence was sent to Egypt. He served at the New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Port Said, a 500-bed convalescent hospital that was set up under canvas.

The hospital had been in place for about three months when orders were received for the Medical Corps to proceed to “a certain destination near the sea and with a mild, equitable climate”.

The destination was the Greek port city of Salonica (Thessaloniki). The hospital was loaded on to a train for Alexandria, Egypt's second city, and then on to the ship *Marquette*. The *Marquette* was a troop carrier, transporting 500 soldiers and ammunition. With the crew included, there were more than 700 people aboard. The ship sailed from Alexandria on 19 October 1915.

On the morning of 29 October, when the *Marquette* had almost reached Salonica, some New Zealand nurses were walking on the upper deck of the ship. One of the nurses saw a green line flashing through the water and said to her friend: “I wonder if that is a torpedo?”

It was – a German submarine had attacked the *Marquette*. The torpedo hit the ship, which sank in little more than 10 minutes, killing 167 people. Among the dead were 10 New Zealand nurses and 22 other staff from the Medical Corps, including Clarence, whose body was never recovered. His name is recorded on a memorial in the Mikra British Cemetery near Salonica, which commemorates more than 500 people who died in the Mediterranean and whose bodies were never recovered.

The British hospital ship the *Grantully Castle* left Alexandria for Salonica on the same day as the *Marquette*. There would have been ample room on the *Grantully Castle* for the Medical Corps. Many of the survivors of the *Marquette* were treated on the *Grantully Castle*, which had already arrived at Salonica.

After the sinking of the *Marquette*, all hospital units travelling by sea were required to use a hospital ship (under the Geneva Convention laws of war, hospital ships are protected from attack).





# Harry Latchford Marbrook



1909

As a boy, Harry Latchford Marbrook attended Hastings District School. He must have been clever – he was a school prize winner in 1900, and in 1902 the Hawke's Bay Education Board awarded him a scholarship of £10 9/-.

Harry passed the Junior Civil Service Examination in January 1904, and joined the Audit Department in October 1904, aged 16. By 1914, he had advanced to the position of Audit Examiner, Class VI. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

In August 1914, aged 26, Harry joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and was sent to Samoa on 15 August 1914 as part of the Samoan Advance Party.

In April 1915, Harry returned to New Zealand and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force because he was classed as medically unfit.

In February 1916, when his health had recovered, Harry rejoined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal, and in May 1916 he was sent overseas with the First Battalion, Wellington Regiment.

He spent several months in the United Kingdom and was then posted to France. In June 1917, he was treated at a casualty station in France for an injury suffered in training. After two weeks of treatment, he rejoined the First Battalion, "in the field".

On 13 October 1917, Harry was admitted to a hospital in France, suffering from a gunshot wound to his left arm. In October 1917, the Wellington Regiment was fighting at Passchendaele, and Harry would have been involved in this fighting.

The date of the injury is not stated, but he was probably wounded on 12 October 1917 (it normally took at least a day for wounded soldiers to be admitted to hospital). On 12 October, the New Zealanders suffered 2700 casualties, the highest number of New Zealand casualties on a single day of fighting.

After Harry's wound was treated, he was discharged from hospital on 10 November 1917.

In January 1918, Harry was sent for training in the use of gas warfare and how to guard against gas attacks.

In March 1918, Harry was promoted to Lance Sergeant. In April, he was promoted to Sergeant. He clearly showed leadership qualities and was sent to the officer training school at Trinity College, Cambridge, England. Harry was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in February 1919 and was based at Sling, north of London.

In July 1919, Harry returned to New Zealand. The following month, he was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Harry rejoined the Audit Department and took up the position of Audit Inspector, Class V, at Wanganui.

One of the entities he audited was the Patea Rabbit Board. In 1925, he gave evidence in Court against the secretary of the Patea Rabbit Board. His audit had found that the secretary was retaining rate money for his own use. The secretary was found guilty.

Harry rose to the position of Audit Inspector, Auckland. He retired from the Audit Department in 1947.

Harry died on 15 June 1963.





# Adam Rae McNeilly

Adam Rae McNeilly was from Lawrence, Otago. Adam was an excellent student. In his last year at Lawrence District High School, he was dux and won awards in English, Arithmetic, and Composition.

In 1909, Adam won Junior Honours in the Trinity School of Music examinations. In the same year, he passed the Junior Civil Service Examination and was offered a cadetship with the Inspection of Machinery Department.

In April 1909, instead of becoming an inspector of machinery, Adam joined the Audit Department. By the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII, and had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

Adam joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (Medical Corps) when he was 21. In August 1914, he was sent to Samoa as part of the Samoan Advance Party. In April 1915, after returning from Samoa, he resigned from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and resumed work for the Audit Department.

In September 1915, he was medically assessed for military service and was declared “unfit – defective vision”. Despite this, Adam was allowed to rejoin the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in February 1917.

In July 1917, he was promoted to Corporal and, in February 1918, to Sergeant. In March 1918, he was posted overseas but was hospitalised in Suez with measles. In May 1918, after recovering, he was sent to Britain.

In September 1918, Adam went to France with the 2nd Battalion, Wellington Infantry Regiment. His military file records that he was “marched into field”, which meant that he took part in the fighting on the Western Front towards the end of WW1 that successfully forced the Germans to retreat to Germany.

The 2nd Battalion took part in several battles, including the battle to free the town of Le Quesnoy. Le Quesnoy is a medieval town that had been occupied by

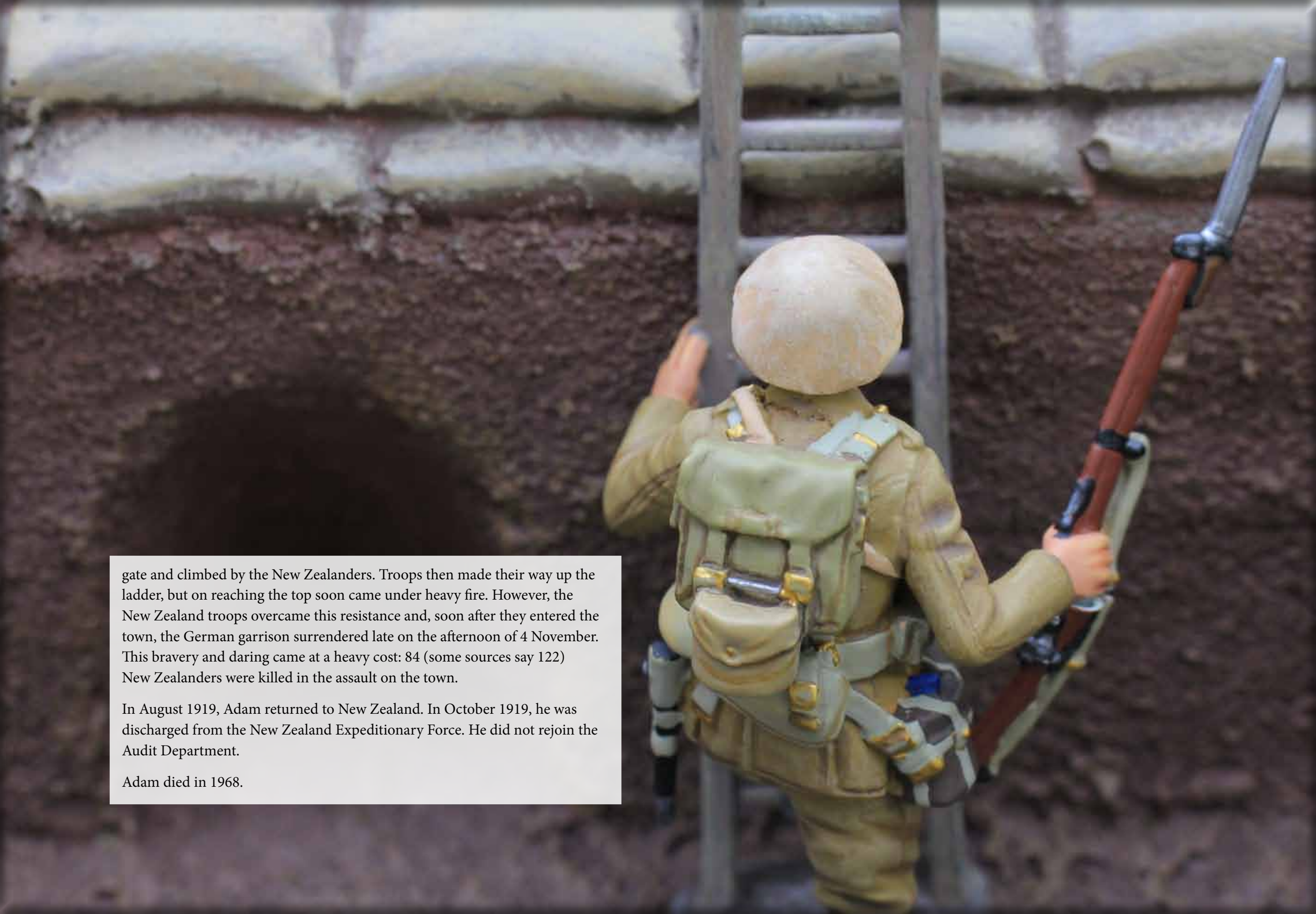
about 1000 German troops since the start of the war. The town was protected by a 12-metre-high ancient, thick, rampart made of earth faced with brick and topped with undergrowth and trees. A 100-metre-wide moat lay between the ramparts and an outer mound of earth. Thousands of French people remained in the town. German troops held strategic positions around Le Quesnoy. The town, which was next to a rail junction, was seen to be of strategic importance and had to be recaptured. It was the job of New Zealand troops to capture the town. The New Zealanders decided not to use artillery to attack the town to force the German troops out, as this would mean the death of French people and destruction of the town.

The New Zealand battle plan called for Le Quesnoy to be encircled, which first required German positions outside the town to be attacked. After heavy fighting, these positions were overrun. By noon, the New Zealanders had secured the outer mound and surrounded the town. The next stage of the plan was daring.

The New Zealanders had to find a way over the wide moat and then over the ancient ramparts.

The New Zealand plan was to build cork floats to cross the moat and to then prop long ladders against the ramparts and climb over. When this plan was first discussed, one of the officers recalls scoffing at the idea and asking for a copy of *Ivanhoe* so he could study this ancient method of assault.

The ladders were built, although all but one ladder was later destroyed by shelling from German artillery within the town. No way could be found to get over the ramparts until a brickwork sluice gate was discovered which crossed the moat on the western side of the town. Under cover from machine guns and after firing drums of burning oil onto the ramparts – which spread fire and smoke and caused the defenders to retreat – the remaining ladder was propped up on the brick sluice



gate and climbed by the New Zealanders. Troops then made their way up the ladder, but on reaching the top soon came under heavy fire. However, the New Zealand troops overcame this resistance and, soon after they entered the town, the German garrison surrendered late on the afternoon of 4 November. This bravery and daring came at a heavy cost: 84 (some sources say 122) New Zealanders were killed in the assault on the town.

In August 1919, Adam returned to New Zealand. In October 1919, he was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He did not rejoin the Audit Department.

Adam died in 1968.

# Charles Jeremiah Marsh Gair



1919



1922

Charles Jeremiah Marsh Gair was born in Cromwell, Central Otago, in December 1892. He joined the Audit Department in January 1910. By the outbreak of WW1, Charles had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII.

In August 1914, Charles, aged 21, joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was appointed to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade with the rank of Sergeant and deployed to Samoa from August 1914 to April 1915, as part of the Samoan Advance Party.

On his return to New Zealand, Charles spent several months at the Trentham Military Camp, where he gave evidence to a Commission of Inquiry into the cramped, cold, and unhygienic conditions at the camp.

In October 1915, Charles was posted overseas again, first to Egypt and then to France. He served with the 1st Battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade on the Western Front.

In September 1916, Charles took part in the Battle of the Somme. On 15 September 1916, all the Allied forces were to advance in a co-ordinated attack. The New Zealand Division, comprising the Otago and Auckland Battalions and the Rifle Brigade, was to attack on a 1000-yard front. The Division suffered heavy casualties but captured several trenches and, led by the Rifle Brigade, captured the final objective for the first day – the village of Flers and high ground to the north.

In describing the military action that took place on 15 September, W S Austin's *Official History of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade* refers to Charles as follows:

*Company-Sergt.-Major G. H. Boles early in the afternoon found himself in command of his company, now without an officer, and both in Grove Alley as well as later in the line of posts north-east of Flers, displayed remarkable powers of leadership and organization. Here also Sergeants A. R. Blackmore, R. T. Caldwell and C. Gair proved their ability in grappling with unusual situations, and their independent work was of the utmost value during the establishment and final consolidation of the line covering Flers.*

On 8 December 1916, Charles was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for:

*... conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He has performed consistent good work throughout, and has at all times set a splendid example.*


In February 1917, Charles transferred to the Officer Training Corps. In June 1917, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

In September 1917, Charles was "seconded for duty in New Zealand". He returned to New Zealand and was based at Featherston Military Camp, then the largest training camp in New Zealand. He was an Army physical training instructor.

Charles stayed in New Zealand. On 20 April 1918, he was married, at St James' Church in Wellington, to Emma Lorna Greenwood of Otago.

In January 1919, Charles was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. As well as the DCM, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.





Charles resumed work with the Audit Department. He was appointed to a senior position – Audit Inspector, Wellington, Class V. He still found time to be a Wellington rugby representative in 1919, 1921, and 1922. In 1919, his Wellington team won the Ranfurly Shield from Canterbury.

Charles' name appears as the auditor in several Court cases that were reported in the newspapers. In February 1922, a report covered the case of a manager at the State firewood depot in Wellington who was accused of stealing money. The report said that:

*Charles Gair, audit inspector, said on January 18, while auditing the books of the City Council, he discovered a voucher for firewood supplied by the Government firewood depot. The voucher had been receipted but no official receipt was attached.*

The report went on to describe how Charles carried out investigations at the firewood depot and found that the cheque paid by the City Council had not been entered in the cash book. Other examples were found of cheques not being entered. The manager pleaded guilty.

In September 1926, another newspaper reported a case of theft by the Town Clerk of Brunner. The report said that:

*The principal witness was Charles Gair, who travels the West Coast as Government audit inspector, and he told how the town clerk had been accepting money in payment of rates, but failed to bank the amounts.*

The Town Clerk pleaded guilty.

Charles later held the position of Audit Inspector, Napier, Audit Inspector for Western Samoa (for four and a half years), and Audit Inspector, Christchurch.

A former staff member recalls:

*A couple of years ago, I worked on a history of auditing in Samoa. In 1933, the auditor of the Post Office Savings Bank in Samoa was Charles Gair. He was investigating a case of possible theft and wrote, on a confidential basis, to the Auditor-General in Wellington asking for some information. Instead of getting back to Gair, the Auditor-General got in touch with the Post Office's head office in Wellington. The local post master approached Gair in the street in Apia and told him there was no basis to his concerns. Gair was furious and wrote two angry letters to the Auditor-General, telling him off. I remember wondering who on earth this Gair chap was to write to the Auditor-General in such terms. I now know that he served with distinction on the Western Front and telling off the Auditor-General would not have troubled him in the least.*

In May 1951, Charles, then the Deputy Controller and Auditor-General and Supervisor, Local Body Audits, retired from the Audit Department. He taught his grandchildren chess and stamp collecting, and had a great love of cricket. He was also a skilled gardener.

Charles died on 8 December 1964.

# John Charles Amphlett Dudley



John Charles Amphlett Dudley was from Wellington. He joined the Audit Department in February 1894. At the outbreak of WW1, he had attained a senior position in the Department – Audit Inspector, Class IV, Nelson. He was 34 years old when he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in June 1915.

After joining, John became concerned about ensuring that his mother and sister would be adequately provided for in the event of his death.

An approach must have been made to the Prime Minister about these concerns because the Prime Minister wrote to the Minister of Defence on 7 November 1915 about John's situation:

*Mr John Dudley, Audit Department, who has volunteered for active service, was in Hokitika last week saying farewell to his personal friends. He has a mother and a sister, and to provide for them in the event of his death he has insured his life for a substantial sum of money, and his premium is 56 pounds per year. Dudley is now a corporal in the Eighth Artillery at Trentham. He is a man with a good education, fine appearance and address and full of enthusiasm and he seems to have all the qualifications for an officer. Could he not be allowed to sit for the examination so that he might obtain a commission? His pay would then enable him to pay his life premium and provide for his mother and sister.*

In 1914, John was paid £360 a year. His insurance premium would represent about two months' salary.

The Minister of Defence replied to the Prime Minister in December 1915, pointing out that John had been appointed to the position of Sergeant Major in the 10th Reinforcements Artillery. The Minister of Defence addressed the issue of sitting the examinations to become an officer and said:

*I have to inform you that non-commissioned officers are provided with every facility for advancing themselves to commissioned rank though at present the supply of officers for the artillery is ample.*

The Minister went to say that "I think you will agree that Sergeant Major Dudley's friends may already congratulate him on his enterprise and efficiency in obtaining such rapid promotion."

John did succeed in becoming a commissioned officer and was appointed to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, by notice in the *New Zealand Gazette* of 9 March 1916.

John was sent to Egypt on 22 February 1916, as part of the New Zealand Field Artillery Brigade, and then on to France in April 1916. He was attached to the Brigade Headquarters at the town of Étaples on the coast of northern France. He was then with the 2nd Brigade, 5th Battery, from early September 1916 to February 1917. The 2nd Brigade was involved in the Battle of the Somme in September 1916. It is likely that John would have been in action at the Somme.

He was transferred back to the New Zealand Division's base at Étaples, the principal transit camp for the British Expeditionary Force heading to the Western Front. Étaples was later identified by the British virologist John Oxford as one of the possible sites for the origins of the 1918 influenza pandemic that eventually killed millions of people around the world. There was a major outbreak at Étaples in 1915/16 of a new type of respiratory infection.



Étaples was said to have the ideal conditions for the outbreak of a new type of influenza, with thousands of troops, pigs, and fowl all kept in close quarters.

John caught this new type of influenza and was hospitalised in January 1917. He was discharged to a convalescent home in February 1917. After recovering from his illness, he returned to the Brigade headquarters and was posted back to his unit in May 1917. His recovery was not complete. In July 1917, John was sent to a rest home for officers in the United Kingdom and was granted leave in September and November 1917 and again in January 1918. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in September 1917. After a further period at Brigade headquarters, he was posted back to his unit in July 1918.

John served briefly with the Allied occupation forces in Germany at the end of the war. On 16 February 1919, he became seriously ill and was admitted to hospital in Cologne, Germany. John died of pneumonia on 22 February 1919.

John was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.





# Martin Clive Hamon

Martin Clive Hamon was from Auckland and joined the Audit Department in April 1911. By the outbreak of WW1, Martin had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination and had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII, in Wellington.

Martin was 24 years old when he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in September 1915.

He was posted to the Medical Corps and left New Zealand in January 1916 on the hospital ship *Maheno*. The military file for Martin contains no details on his role in the Medical Corps, but given his professional background, he may have carried out accounting and administrative duties.

While on board the *Maheno*, Martin became ill and was put ashore at Suez and admitted to hospital. When Martin recovered from his illness, in March 1916, he was posted to the New Zealand General Hospital at Cairo. In June 1916, he was posted to the New Zealand First General Hospital Brockenhurst, in England. This hospital was the base for the New Zealand Medical Corps during WW1. Martin was based there for the rest of his war service.

In September 1918 he was sent on a "Course of Instruction" at Hornchurch Convalescent Hospital in England. While at Hornchurch, Martin became ill with influenza and was admitted as a patient to Hornchurch Hospital on 2 November

1918. A Medical Board report listed his medical condition as suffering from influenza, as well as a lung infection and blood clotting of his left leg. He was declared unfit for further war service for a period of six months, and embarked for New Zealand in January 1919. He was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in March 1919.

Martin was awarded the British War Medal. He rejoined the Audit Department and by 1921 had attained the position of Assistant in Audit Inspector's Office, Class VI, Christchurch. He had also passed the Accountants Professional Examination.

At the outbreak of WW2, Martin held the position of Audit Inspector, Nelson. He applied, at the age of 48, to join the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in February 1941. He was medically assessed as being fit for Home Defence and fit for garrison duty in the tropics. He served in New Zealand for the Home Guard during WW2 and was discharged in August 1948.

He was awarded the War Medal (1939-1945) and the New Zealand War Service Medal.

Martin continued to serve as an Audit Inspector, Nelson and retired in 1955.

He died on 10 November 1960.





# George Grant Smith



1909

George Grant Smith was from Waipukurau in the Hawkes Bay, and he joined the Audit Department in February 1903.

At the outbreak of WW1, George held the position of Audit Examiner, Class VI. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination. He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in March 1916, aged 30, with the rank of Corporal. In April 1916, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.



1921

George was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in January 1917 and posted to the United Kingdom, where he was based at several training camps, including Folkestone. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Otago Regiment, and sent to France in February 1917.

In mid-1917, the Allied forces intended to launch a major drive against the German forces, with one objective being to drive north to the coast and destroy the German U-boat facilities.

One important preliminary step was to remove

German forces from a strategic ridge and from the town of Messines. The New Zealand Division was among those selected for the assault on Messines Ridge and the village.

The Ridge and the village of Messines were captured, but there were heavy casualties. By the time the New Zealand Division was relieved on 9 June, it had suffered 3700 casualties, including 700 dead.

George was wounded in action on 7 or 8 June 1917 at this Battle of Messines. He received a severe gunshot wound to the shoulder and was initially treated at a hospital in France before being transferred to the New Zealand First General Hospital Brockenhurst, in the United Kingdom.

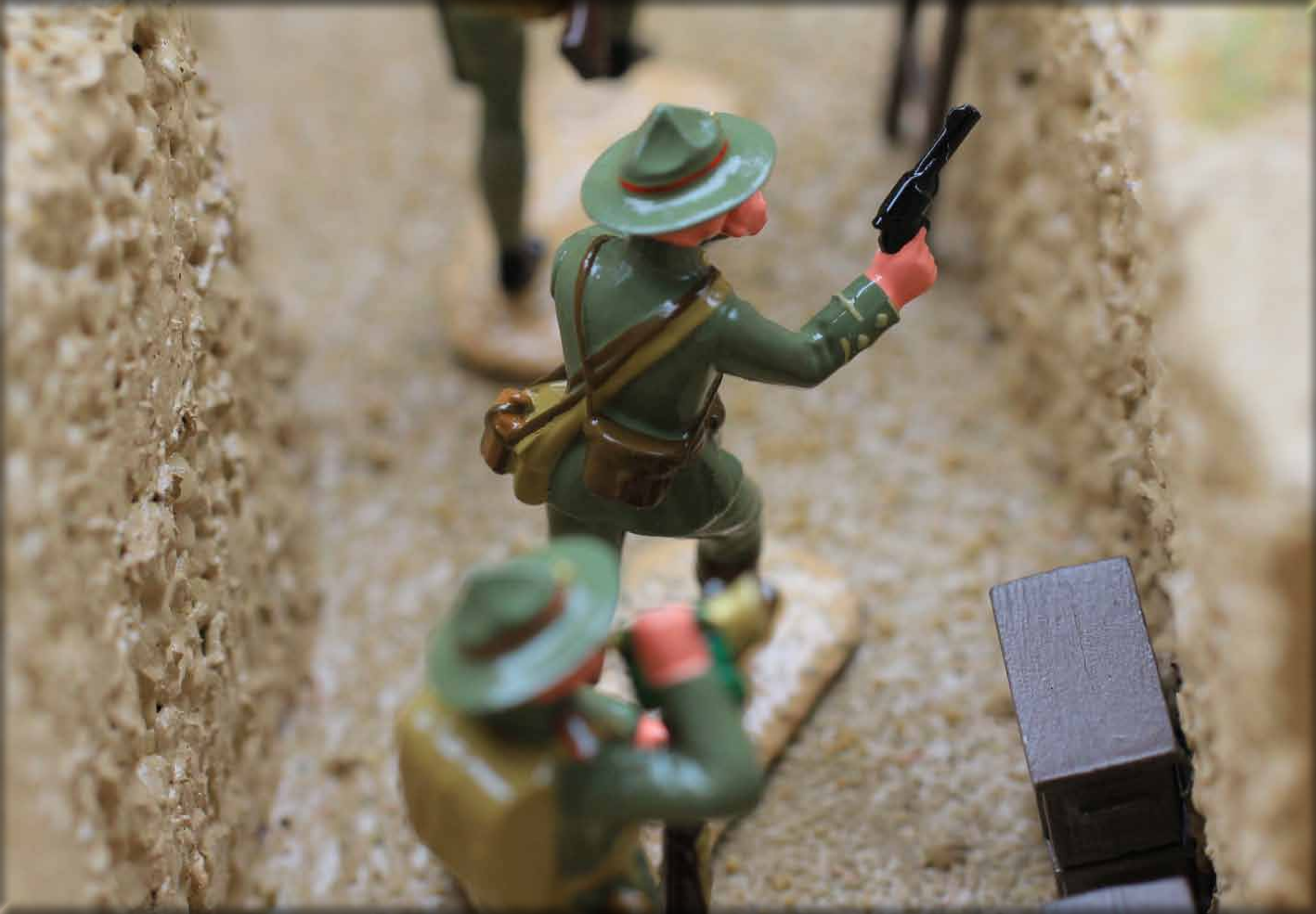
In July 1917, George was examined by the Medical Board and classified as “B”, which meant “able to be made fit by medical treatment.” He was transferred to a convalescent home for officers in Brighton. After recovering from his injuries, George rejoined the Otago Regiment in France on 27 October 1917. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in July 1918.

George returned to the United Kingdom in October 1918 and was sent for “physical and bayonet training” training at Gosport.

George left the United Kingdom for New Zealand in December 1918 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in February 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

George rejoined the Audit Department as a Section Clerk, Class V, based in Wellington (where he was located for the rest of his career). In the 1930s, he held the position of Audit Examiner, Wellington. He had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class II, by the time he retired in 1945.

George died on 15 November 1967.



# Frank George Ludbrook

Frank George Ludbrook was originally from London and joined the Audit Department in July 1915, as an Audit Examiner, Class VII. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

Frank was 25 years old when he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in November 1916. He was posted overseas in April 1917 with the Divisional Signallers Corps. Signallers usually worked close to the front line, mainly in helping to target the enemy. Where possible, telephone lines were laid, but often reliance was on morse code messages through the use of a heliograph (mirror system) during the day. At night, signalling lamps were used. This was dangerous work, because using heliographs or lamps tended to attract enemy fire.

Other dangers faced by signallers are described in the *Official History of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade*:

*In performing the duties in connection with the establishment and maintenance of communications, so vital an element in the successful conduct of operations, only the signaller knows the trials and dangers that have to be faced. It is shell-fire that cuts his wire, and it is under shell-fire that he must go out and find and mend the break, and that without a moment's unnecessary delay.*

Soon after arriving in the United Kingdom, Frank was admitted to hospital in June 1917 with influenza. After a month in hospital, he was discharged and sent to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force training base at Sling (north of London). He was promoted to Sergeant in February 1918 and sent to France in March 1918. After three months in France, Frank fell ill and was admitted to hospital. He spent six weeks in hospital before rejoining the Signallers Corps.

In February 1919, Frank was transferred to an administrative position in London, with the "Area Employment Corps". The Employment Corps was responsible for work such as maintaining telegraph and telephone systems. He returned to New Zealand in November 1919 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in January 1920. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Frank rejoined the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VI, based in Christchurch. In 1930, Frank held the position of Audit Inspector, Auckland. In 1931, he was involved in a Court case where his audit work had identified fraud by an engineer at Waitemata County Council.

He later held the position of Audit Inspector, Wanganui. When Frank retired from the Audit Department in 1955, he held the position of Audit Inspector, Wellington.

Frank died in 1977.







# Arnold Hore

Arnold Hore was from Central Otago. He was appointed to the staff of the Audit Department in May 1902.

In the 1907 annual examinations of the New Zealand Institute of Accountants, Arnold was placed first.

In 1910, the Institute of Accountants ran an essay competition on the topic of “Goodwill, its nature, and treatment in the accounts.” Arnold’s essay was awarded third place.

At the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VI. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination and had qualified as an accountant. Arnold was the only qualified accountant working at the Audit Department.

He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in February 1917, aged 31. Arnold was promoted to the rank of Corporal in July 1917 and sent overseas in March 1918. He landed initially at Suez and was hospitalised for two weeks with a suspected case of measles. He went on to the United Kingdom, and soon after arriving there in May 1918 he was again hospitalised, this time with influenza.

Arnold recovered and was sent to France on 8 October 1918 with the 2nd Battalion, Wellington Regiment. A day after arriving in France, he again fell ill, and was admitted to a hospital at Rouen. He was then sent back to the United Kingdom and admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital on 16 October 1918.

After discharge from hospital, Arnold was transferred to the London office of the Army Pay Corps, in January 1919. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in August 1919 and discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in December 1919. He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Arnold did not rejoin the Audit Department. He stayed in Britain and worked for the New Zealand High Commission Office as its auditor.

Initially, life in Britain went very well for Arnold and his wife. In 1921, he was elected as a Fellow to the United Kingdom Institute of Costs and Works Accountants, the first New Zealander elected to such a position. In 1924, Arnold and his wife were guests at a garden party at Buckingham Palace held by King George V and Queen Mary for people from the Dominions.

However, with the onset of the Great Depression in the late 1920s, life became difficult for Arnold. All New Zealand civil servants, at home and abroad, were given large salary cuts. He later said he found it difficult, living in London on a reduced salary, to maintain the lifestyle expected of him. He began to “withdraw” money from the New Zealand High Commission accounts as a salary advance, which he said he intended to pay back.

In 1932, he and another staff member were charged with theft. Arnold was sentenced to nine months in jail.

Arnold died at London in June 1948.



# John Edmond Engel



John Edmond Engel was from Wellington and joined the Audit Department in March 1915 as an Audit Examiner, Class VII. He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 25 July 1917, aged 22.

He had been conscripted and appealed against conscription on the grounds of the undue hardship that it would cause his mother. His mother was a widow, with limited income, and John was the eldest of six children.



1915

His appeal was dismissed on the grounds that undue hardship had not been fully established.

John was sent to the United Kingdom in April 1918. After two months in the United Kingdom, he was sent to France as part of the 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

In early October 1918, the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, including the 4th Battalion, had engaged the enemy around the town of Le Cateau in

northern France. John was wounded during this fighting, on 5 October 1918. He was admitted to hospital on 7 October, suffering from a gunshot wound to the body.



1919

He was evacuated to the United Kingdom, treated at Chelsea Hospital on 17 October 1918, and transferred to Hornchurch Convalescent Hospital on 18 November 1918.

A Medical Board was required to assess wounded soldiers and, for pension purposes, estimate the degree of disability. The degree of disablement for John was estimated at 20%.

John was discharged and returned to New Zealand in June 1919.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He did not rejoin the Audit Department.

John died on 1 July 1955.





# Arthur Cecil Dalley

Arthur Cecil Dalley was from Canterbury. He went to Rangiora High and was a prize winner at the school in 1914. Arthur joined the Audit Department in February 1918 as a Cadet. He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in May 1918, aged 20.

Arthur was sent to the United Kingdom in October 1918. He arrived after the war had ended and worked for some months at the New Zealand Expeditionary Force base at Codford in the United Kingdom.

He returned to New Zealand and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in June 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal. He did not rejoin the Audit Department.

Life did not go well for Arthur. In 1927, he appeared in court charged with obtaining goods and services by false pretences. He was sentenced to a period of reformatory detention of 12 months. A press report of 11 June 1928 describes what happened next:

*Having received disturbing news from his home, Arthur Cecil Dalley, an accountant, serving a sentence of 12 months reformatory detention, escaped from a prison camp near Trentham yesterday afternoon leaving a note to the effect that he would report back in the morning. Dalley was captured in the evening, on arriving at his house where a watch had been set up and will now have to serve another month.*

In 1931, he was in trouble again for passing valueless cheques and was sentenced to three months in prison. The press report of the case said that:

*The reason Dalley gave for the present offences were that he was out of work and was "hard up" and wanted the money to keep his wife and child.*

Arthur was before the courts again in 1936. He was charged with forging cheques and was sentenced to 18 months in prison on 17 December 1936.

In passing sentence, the Judge referred to the fact that Arthur had been suffering from a period of acute mental depression (he had attempted suicide on two occasions) and said that:

*A term of detention was necessary for the prisoner's own protection, apart from the fact he must be punished. If it appears to the Prison Board that the prisoner's mentality was such that it would be safe to release him, that could be done.*

Arthur died suddenly on 31 January 1937. He was serving his sentence at a prison in the central North Island. Because of the risk of suicide, a close watch was kept on him. On 30 January, he had been with a work party on the prison farm. He became ill, and described his symptoms as a "pain behind his eyes" and was returned to his cell. His condition became worse and a doctor was called, who said Arthur had suffered a severe epileptic fit.

Medicine was prescribed for the prison staff to administer to him when he became conscious. He did not regain consciousness and died the next morning of heart failure.







# John Buller Hicks Saxon

John Buller Hicks Saxon was from Nelson. He joined the Audit Department in March 1907. By the outbreak of WW1, John had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII.

John enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 8 August 1914, aged 24.

His first overseas posting was as part of the Samoan Advance Party. There was a requirement that all troops had to make out a will before being posted overseas. John left a detailed will, which he signed on 14 August 1914. In this will, he:

- left items of furniture, pictures, and photographs to his sisters;
- the sum of ten pounds was to be used to buy his fiancé, Nita Clarke, a brooch; and
- forgave one sister a debt of money that she owed him.

The rest of his estate was to be left to his mother. On his mother's death, one half of his estate was to be left to Nita Clarke and the other half to be shared between his sisters and brother. Many of the wills made by soldiers left estates to parents. John's will reflects a very thoughtful approach.

John kept a diary that covers several months of his time in Samoa. The diary records endless days of drill, the occasional cricket match, and not much else. On one occasion, he woke up with a very sore head because his rifle, stored next to his bed, had fallen on him during the night.

Several diary references reflect his desire to receive more mail. One entry is a note to "N", in which he describes how he misses her and his hopes that she still loves him. Other entries record how lonely he was.

On his return to New Zealand in March 1915, John sought and obtained a discharge from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. The discharge certificate describes his character as "Very Good." However, he was soon back with the New



Zealand Expeditionary Force and was in Egypt in July 1915, where the New Zealand troops underwent extensive training.

He was sent to the Dardanelles on 21 September 1915, landing at ANZAC Cove. John was with the 6th Howitzer Battery, 4th Brigade. The complete Battery, together with the guns, did not land at ANZAC Cove until 12 October. Three days later, they were in action.

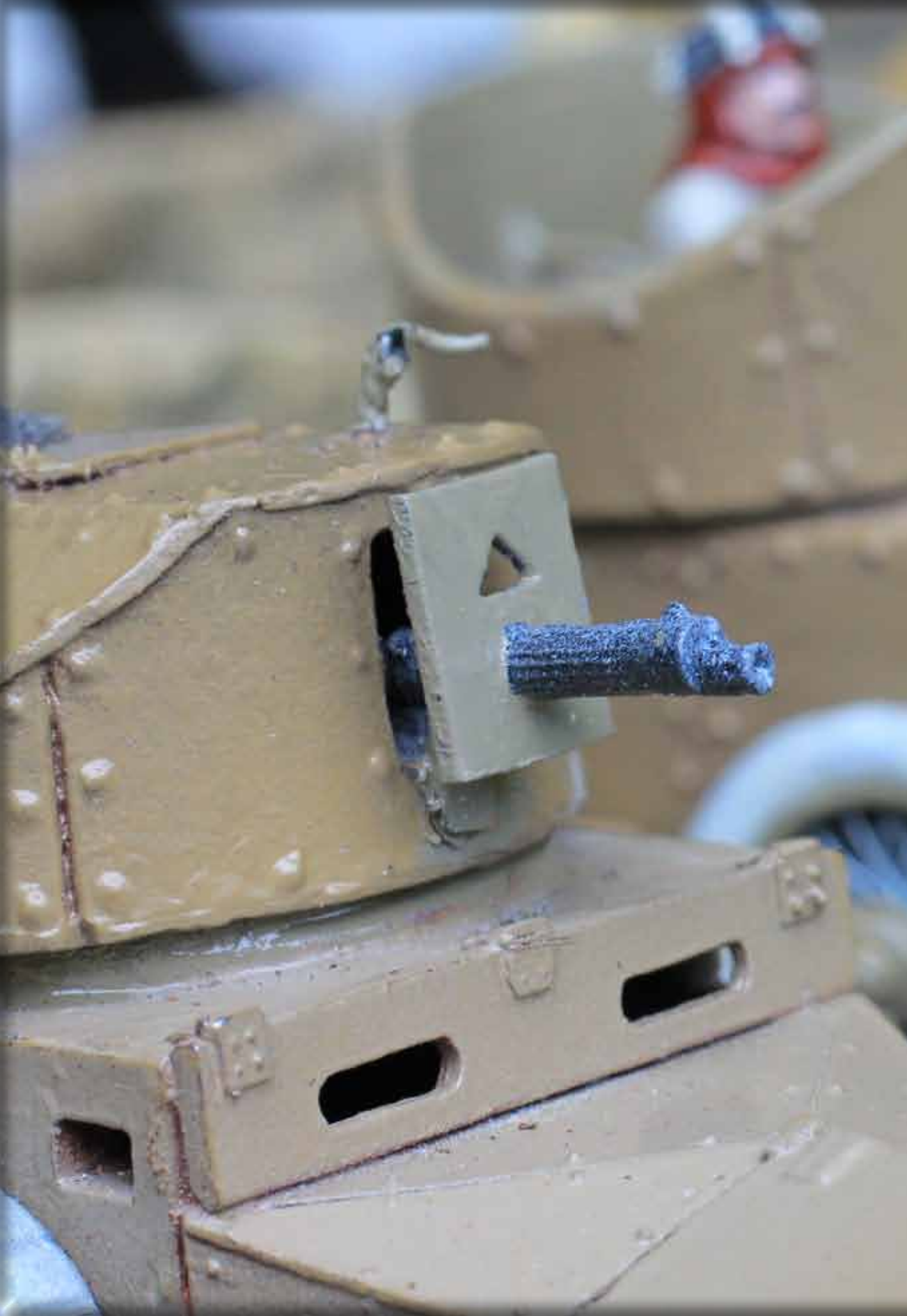
The New Zealand artillery batteries were evacuated from ANZAC Cove, beginning on the night of 11 December 1915. The New Zealanders were determined to leave none of their guns behind, even though it meant manhandling the

heavy guns across trenches and broken ground and down to the beach. All this had to be carried out in silence to avoid the enemy knowing they were retreating. John was probably involved with this work.

The evacuation was completed by 19 December. John arrived back in Egypt on 22 December 1915 and went to camp at Moascar.

In February 1916, he was appointed to the temporary rank of Battery Quartermaster Sergeant for the 6th Battery. He relinquished this rank and was sent to France with the 6th Battery. Having arrived in Marseilles, a 50-hour train journey to the north of France followed. The New Zealand Division was based at the town of Armentières.

There was some reorganisation of the artillery brigades and the 6th Howitzer Battery was attached to the 2nd Artillery Brigade.



The New Zealand Division was part of a major British offensive to break through the German trenches and bring the war to an early end – the Battle of the Somme. New Zealand's involvement began on 12 September 1916, when the artillery went into action. According to author J.R. Byrne:

*The bombardment opened on the morning of Tuesday, September 12th, all along the line from Thiepval to Ginchy, and continued steadily for three days. The 18-prs. [pounders] were employed chiefly in cutting wire, searching communication trenches etc., while the 4.5in. howitzer batteries which were not engaged on counter-battery work directed their fire on enemy trenches, observation posts, and machine-gun emplacements. Each battery was given its programme of shooting; but its activities did not end there. Observing officers were constantly on the look-out for suitable targets, and any sign of life or movement in the trenches or on the roads behind the enemy line was instantly the target for several batteries. The whole enemy system of trenches for a great depth was battered with high explosive and sprayed with shrapnel, and any belts of wire entanglements that could be observed at all were methodically wiped out; roads and communications were shelled by day, and even more vigorously by night, when they carried most traffic.*

Three days after the start of the bombardment, the infantry attacked the German trenches. As the attack advanced, the gun batteries were required to move their guns forward. They came under heavy enemy fire. John was killed on 17 September 1916, in fighting near the town of Flers.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

John's war records show that he was originally buried near the town of Montauban in France. A further document, dated June 1949, states that his body was exhumed "with all reverence" and buried "in an isolated grave", at the British war cemetery at Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France.

The bodies of many of those killed at the Somme were never recovered. The Somme battlefield was a nightmare of mud, huge craters, barbed wire (that in places was 40 metres wide), heavy artillery, and poisonous gas. More than half of the New Zealanders killed at the Somme have no known grave.



# Donald McKay



Donald McKay was from Timaru. He joined the Audit Department in March 1908, and by the outbreak of WW1 had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

Donald joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force when he was 22 years old. On 15 August 1914, Donald was sent with the Samoan Advance Party as part of the Wellington Regiment.

On his return from Samoa in 1915, he left the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and rejoined the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner.

In September 1917, Donald rejoined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was sent to the United Kingdom, in May 1918, with the New Zealand Field Artillery. From the United Kingdom, he was sent to Étaples in France with the 5th Artillery Battery, 2nd Brigade.



1915

On 4 October 1918, Donald was shot in the arm in fighting around the French town of Crèvecœur. He was treated at Abbeville Hospital in France and then transferred to Hornchurch Convalescent Hospital in the United Kingdom.

Donald was returned to New Zealand in April 1919. A medical assessment concluded that he was unfit for any further military service, and he was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Donald was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal. He returned to work for the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VI.

He later held the position of Audit Inspector, Nelson. At the time of his retirement from the Audit Department in 1948, he held the position of Audit Inspector, Christchurch.

Donald died at Timaru on 29 May 1956.





A close-up photograph of the front of a green metal tank turret. The turret is mounted on a track system, with the dark, weathered metal of the tracks visible on either side. The turret's surface is a dark green color, showing signs of wear and rust, particularly along the edges and around the mounting points. Two small, rectangular hatches are visible on the upper part of the turret, each with a small handle. A circular vent or sensor is located between the two hatches. The word "CAVALIER" is printed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the turret's front face.

**CAVALIER**

# Robert Hugh McMillan

Robert Hugh McMillan was from Evans Flat, Otago and joined the Audit Department in September 1910. By the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII.

Robert joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 10 August 1914, aged 21. On 15 August 1914, he was sent to Samoa with the Samoan Advance Party. In Samoa, he was hospitalised for three weeks with jaundice.

Robert resigned from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on his return to New Zealand in April 1915. However, he rejoined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in September 1915 and was sent to Alexandria in December 1915 with the Medical Corps, Field Ambulance.

He was based in Alexandria until February 1916, when he was sent to France. In France, Robert served with Number 1 Field Ambulance Service. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in December 1917, and promoted to Corporal in October 1918.

Robert was promoted to Sergeant on 28 November 1918 and, at about that time, was sent to the United Kingdom for training at a theological college. He returned to New Zealand in March 1919.

During his service with the Field Ambulance, Robert contracted a serious illness. His military file does not cover the nature of the illness, but it could have been tuberculosis, one of the more common diseases that afflicted those who served on the Western Front.

Robert was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 28 April 1920. The reason given on the discharge papers was “No longer fit for War Service on account of illness contracted on active service.” He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Robert died at Cashmere Military Sanatorium in Christchurch on 15 June 1920. It is not stated in his military records, but it is likely that, on return to New Zealand, he was admitted directly to the Sanatorium. It was one of several military hospitals that specialised in the care of returned soldiers suffering from tuberculosis.

We note that Robert died of his illness less than two months after he was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force for medical reasons. The Roll of Honour Board has asterisks beside the names of only those men who died “while on active service.”







# William Charles Ryan

William Charles Ryan was from Wellington and joined the Audit Department in February 1908. By the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

On 27 August 1914, aged 24, William joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force with the rank of Sergeant. On 16 October 1914, he was sent to Cairo and served in the Pay Section, New Zealand Expeditionary Force Headquarters. William was promoted to the rank of Honorary Lieutenant from February 1916.

In June 1916, he was sent to work in the London Pay Office of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant in October 1916, and in November 1916 went back to work at the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Headquarters in Egypt. In August 1917, he was sent to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Headquarters in London.

In September 1918, William became ill and was sent to Walton Hospital in Sussex. He was later assessed as unfit for general service. It appears that, at some stage in his overseas service and possibly after serving in Egypt, he contracted a serious illness.

William returned to New Zealand in December 1918 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 28 April 1920. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

He rejoined the Audit Department, as an Audit Examiner, Class VI, but left several years later.

William died on 28 May 1974.







# Alexander Watters



1909

Alexander Watters was from the West Coast. He joined the Audit Department in March 1907.

At the outbreak of WW1, Alexander had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination and attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII.

He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 19 October 1915, aged 26.

After an initial period of training, Alexander was sent to Egypt on 8 January 1916 with the 2nd

Battalion, Wellington Regiment, and then to France in 18 April 1916.

The Wellington Regiment was part of the New Zealand Division, which was sent to relieve other troops occupying trenches outside the French town of Armentières.

A book about the Regiment records that the New Zealanders undertook aggressive night-time raids on enemy trenches to gain information and reduce the morale of the enemy. They destroyed ammunition supplies and pumping equipment (that kept trenches dry), and captured documents and prisoners. The New Zealanders suffered heavy casualties in some of these raids.

On 2 July 1916, Alexander was shot in the chest and admitted to a hospital at Boulogne, France, on 5 July 1916. He may have been wounded as a result of taking part in one of the raids on enemy trenches. He was then sent to a military hospital in the United Kingdom. In August 1916, a medical assessment said "wounded chest progressing favorably".

Alexander recovered from his injuries and returned to service in December 1916.



Alexander was wounded in action again on 31 July 1917. In July 1917, the Wellington Regiment was engaged in fighting around the Belgian town of La Basse Ville. Alexander was probably injured in this fighting. He was admitted to a field hospital on 3 August 1917. He recovered from his injuries and was granted leave, which he took in the United Kingdom. He returned to service on 1 December 1917.

Alexander was killed in action at the Somme on 27 March 1918.

At dawn on 21 March 1918, Germany launched its largest offensive since the war began, unleashing a huge barrage of artillery fire on British positions on the Western Front, mainly around the Somme.

The Germans' intention was to achieve a major breakthrough and end the war before American troops could arrive in large numbers. The British Army suffered 38,000 casualties and many units began to retreat. It was feared that the whole of the Allied Western Front would collapse.

As part of the effort to halt the German advance, New Zealand and Australian Divisions were moved to the front to try and stop the German drive towards the city of Amiens. New Zealand troops were moved by train, then trucks, and then a forced march of 25 miles to the front. They arrived in a state of exhaustion.

The Wellington Infantry Regiment occupied a defensive position 1500 yards long between a sugar factory and the town of Hébuterne.





During the afternoon of 27 March, German troops launched counter-attacks to regain the position held by the 2nd Battalion, Wellington Regiment. The Germans were beaten back. But, in the last counter-attack of the day, at 7pm, the New Zealanders were forced back, suffering heavy casualties. Seventy-three soldiers were killed. Alexander may have been killed in this last attack of the day.

He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Alexander is buried at the Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps, France.

# George Edward Alley



1915

George Edward Alley was from Wellington and joined the Audit Department in August 1910. He passed the Senior Civil Service Examination in January 1913.

By the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VIII. He enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in January 1916.

Unlike most Audit Department staff who joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, George was a married man when he joined.



1919

George was posted to the Army Pay Corps and sent to the United Kingdom in July 1916. He was promoted to Corporal in the Pay Corps in July 1917. He was later transferred to Cairo, in September 1917. In March 1918, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant in the Pay Corps at Cairo.

The British Expeditionary Force, along with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, were fighting the Turkish army in Palestine. British

Commanders-in-Chief were required to make regular reports to the War Office on the progress of a campaign. Attached to these dispatches were lists of soldiers deemed worthy of mention, although the reasons for being mentioned are not explained. It was a rare honour.



1921

George's administrative work in Cairo must have been outstanding. George is Mentioned in Dispatches for his work during the period 16 March 1918 to 18 September 1918. A note on his military file mentions that George was even Mentioned in Dispatches, on 5 October 1918, by General Sir Edmund Allenby, the British Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

After his return to New Zealand, George was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in October 1919. As well as being Mentioned in Dispatches, he was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. He resumed working for the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VI.

One of the audits George was involved in was reported in the newspapers on 12 November 1927. George described how an audit of the Taranaki Hospital Board found that there were funds missing. The missing funds had been paid to Thomas Sinclair, a member of the Board and a prominent member of the local community. Twenty-four charges of theft were brought against Sinclair. He was found not guilty. The jury accepted his defence that it was "muddledment and confusion" that led to his failure to account.

In the 1930s, George was an Audit Inspector, New Plymouth, and he later held the position of Audit Inspector, Auckland.

George retired from the Audit Department in July 1951, by which time he held the position of Audit Inspector, Wellington.

George died on 4 June 1963.







# John McCausland Hamilton



1909



John McCausland Hamilton was from Bluff and he joined the Audit Department in November 1900. At the outbreak of WW1 he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class V.

John joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in June 1916, aged 32. He was sent first to the United Kingdom in October 1916 with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in December 1916 and sent to France in February 1917 with the 1st Battalion, Otago Infantry Regiment.

John was badly wounded on 7 June 1917 at the Battle of Messines. Messines Ridge is an area of higher ground in Belgium that overlooked British and ANZAC positions. The Ridge had been occupied by German forces, who had developed extensive fortifications.

The capture of the Ridge and the village of Messines was seen as essential in order to allow

Allied forces to advance further north. The New Zealand Division was to be part of the attack on the Ridge and the village. The attack was scheduled for 7 June 1917.

Before the attack, Allied forces had dug 21 tunnels underneath German lines and filled these with more than 455 tons of explosive. Shortly after 3am on 7 June, the mines underneath the German lines were detonated, killing thousands of German defenders. The shock wave from the explosions was said to have been felt 20 miles away. Allied forces then attacked the defending forces and the Ridge was taken in the afternoon.

In the course of this fighting, John suffered a gunshot wound to the left leg. Initially, he was treated at a field hospital on 8 June 1917, before being transferred to the New Zealand First General Hospital Brockenhurst in the United Kingdom. The medical report about his injury described it as a deep wound, down to the bone, which was fractured. The medical report recommended that he be discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force because he was “permanently unfit”.

John remained in hospital until September 1917, before returning to New Zealand in November 1917. He received further medical treatment at Invercargill Hospital.

John was again medically assessed in January 1918. The assessment concluded that he would continue to suffer from lameness to his left leg and that, in terms of future civil employment, he would be suitable for light work only.

He was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in January 1918. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

John returned to work for the Audit Department and by 1921 had attained the position of Audit Inspector, Class III, Auckland.

At the outbreak of WW2, John was working for the Audit Department as an Audit Inspector. He was scheduled to retire in 1940, but he stayed on because of the need for experienced audit staff during WW2.

In July 1940, John applied to join the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was medically assessed and classified as fit for Home Defence and was placed in the National Military Reserve, liable to be called up in the event of an emergency.

John retired from the Audit Department in 1946 and died on 20 May 1970.







# William John Kane



1924

William John Kane was from Otago and joined the Audit Department in March 1913. At the outbreak of WW1, he held the position of Clerk, Class VII. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

William joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in December 1916, aged 20. A note on his New Zealand Expeditionary Force assessment form described him as “quick and intelligent.” He was posted to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps.

William was sent overseas in July 1917, arriving in the United Kingdom in September 1917. He was based at the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Headquarters in London and then transferred, in March 1918, to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps in London. He was promoted to Corporal on 15 March 1918.

In August 1918, William was transferred to the New Zealand Infantry Reserve Brigade but, in September 1918, he was back with the London office of the Pay Corps. He stayed on in London after the end of the war and was promoted of the rank of Staff Sergeant in January 1919.

William returned to New Zealand in May 1920 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was awarded the British War Medal.

William resumed working for the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VI.

He proved to be a diligent auditor. During the next 20 years, his name appears in Court reports giving evidence against those found to have stolen money or committed fraud. William retired from the Audit Department in April 1953. At the time of his retirement, he held the position of Audit Inspector, Auckland.

William died in Australia on 1 August 1975.





# Robert Maxwell Sunley



1907



Robert and his daughter  
Barbara



Marjorie and Robert, 1948

Robert Maxwell Sunley from Wellington joined the Audit Department as a Cadet in September 1903. He passed the Senior Civil Service Examination with distinction in 1906. He also studied accountancy at Victoria University College and qualified to be a member of the New Zealand Society of Accountants in 1909. Robert attained the position of Book-Keeper, Class VI, in 1913.

Robert married Marjorie Monaghan in January 1916, when he was 30 years old. He was called up for military service in November 1916, a year after his younger brother, Harold, had enlisted. The Auditor-General appealed the conscription on the grounds of public interest and, at the appeal hearing in January 1917, told the Military Service Board that:

*Mr Sunley held an important position; he dealt with the issue of loans and other matters of public debt. For this work, special qualifications and knowledge of certain statutes are needed. Sunley was now dealing with the recent 10 million pound War Loan and which comprised 28,000 debentures, all of which he had to check.*

The Auditor-General said that 22 of his staff of 50 had volunteered for military service, and it had been difficult to find someone who could take over this work. A new person was being trained, but it would take 4-5 months before he

could replace Robert. The Auditor-General therefore sought an extension of several months to Robert's call-up date.

The Board's decision was that leave of absence be secured for Robert until 30 April. However, he did not enter camp until 13 June 1917. He was promoted to Corporal the next day and, in September 1917, to Sergeant. Three months later, at his own request, he reverted to his previous rank.

Robert embarked in April 1918 with the 36<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Battalion, Wellington Regiment, and, in mid-July 1918 was based at Sling Camp in England. While there, Robert became unwell. He was assessed by a Medical Board on 20 October 1918 and was diagnosed with goitre. The Medical Officer recommended discharge to New Zealand, and the Board recommended that Robert be discharged as "permanently unfit for general service".

Robert left Sling Camp in late November 1918, embarked for New Zealand in early January 1919, and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 21 March 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal in 1921.

Robert rejoined the Audit Department in March 1919 as Principal Book-Keeper, Class V, and by 1922 was the Officer in Charge of the Loans Audit Section, Class III.

Robert was involved in Audit Department sporting and social events before and after his military service. He played in a department rugby team, took part in swimming and athletic sports before WWI, and attended post-war Audit Department dances with his wife.

Robert was appointed Officer in Charge, Control Branch in 1932, and in May 1933 was appointed as the Department's representative on an inter-departmental committee on the decimal system. In 1936, he transferred to the Treasury as Acting Assistant Accountant, and was subsequently appointed for a four-year term as Finance Officer at the New Zealand High Commission in London.





Robert, Marjorie, their 19-year-old son, Hugh, and 12-year-old daughter, Barbara, sailed for the United Kingdom in April 1936.

In February 1939, Robert was appointed by the Treasury to the position of Assistant Accountant. He was to take up the position when his term in London ended. However, according to his family, the High Commission staff stayed put when war broke out.

Robert apparently continued working at the High Commission in London after his original four-year appointment. Robert represented the High Commissioner at a number of events, including the New Zealand Anti-Tank Battery dance and concert in early 1940 (his son, Hugh, enlisted at Aldershot in October 1939 and was a member of that unit). On more than one occasion, Robert was also briefly Acting High Commissioner in February 1946 when Bill Jordan was on leave.

An August 1945 press statement by the Prime Minister on the reappointment of Bill Jordan as High Commissioner in London said:

*The war years have been for Mr Jordan as for other members of the High Commissioner's staff ... a period of great stress and strain. As a result of the long periods of bombing, life was a nerve-wracking and a hazardous business.*

This would have been compounded for Robert by his son being reported missing in Crete in 1941, later a prisoner of war, and by the death in 1943 of his then 18-year-old daughter from osteomyelitis. She could not be treated with penicillin because it was in short supply – penicillin was generally being given to the troops.

Both Robert and Marjorie were involved in voluntary work during WWII, on committees and working parties formed to assist New Zealand forces overseas.

After Robert retired in 1948, he and Marjorie came to New Zealand to visit their families. They returned to live in London, where their son, daughter-in-law, Marion, and grandchildren also lived. Marion, now in her mid-eighties, remembers Robert as a “*kind and gentle father-in-law and grandfather to our children, Peter and Helen*”. Robert died in 1959, aged 74 years, and Marjorie died in 1981.

During his lifetime, Robert also served his church. He taught Sunday School as a young man, was a lay reader, and was a vestryman for more than 20 years. He was honorary auditor for several community organisations in Karori, where he lived before moving to London.



# Clement Roy Edwards



Clement Roy Edwards was from the Coromandel. He joined the Audit Department in February 1916 as a Cadet.

He joined the New Zealand Army Pay Corps of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in August 1918, aged 20. He was posted to London in November 1918, arriving in London after the war had ended. He continued with the New Zealand Army Pay Corps and returned to New Zealand in April 1920.



1919

Clement was awarded the Victory Medal.

After his discharge from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Clement rejoined the Audit Department, as an Audit Examiner, Class VI, Wellington.

There is a report in the *Evening Post* of 6 February 1936 about some of Clement's audit work. It led to a successful prosecution. While auditing paperwork at the stores section of the Railway

workshops at Woburn, Clement discovered a systematic theft of tin ignots worth £1,000. The storeman in charge of the workshop pleaded guilty to theft.

Clement was keen on dancing. A press report of 1930 describes the Audit Department dance held in August 1930 at the Miss Margaret O'Connor Dance Studio in Cuba Street Wellington, opposite the James Smith building. Mrs Edwards is described as wearing a cream, soft satin and lace dress. The Sunleys were at the same dance.

By the early 1940s, Clement had attained the position of Audit Inspector, Hamilton.

In January 1944, Clement and his wife were on holiday at a beach house in Milford, Auckland. On 7 January 1944, Clement unexpectedly collapsed and died of heart failure.





# William Scott Rarity



1915

William Scott Rarity was originally from Scotland and joined the Audit Department in March 1915 as a Cadet.

He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, aged 19, in August 1918. William was sent overseas on 8 November 1918, arriving in the United Kingdom after the war had ended. In the United Kingdom, he worked with the New Zealand Army Pay Corps, and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 1 August 1919.

William was discharged in May 1920 and was awarded the British War Medal.



On his return to New Zealand, he resumed working for the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VII.

In the 1940s, William served as an Audit Inspector, Samoa.

He was an Audit Examiner, Clerical One, in Wellington at the time of his retirement in 1955.

William died in Wellington on 21 August 1981.





# Thomas Stillingfleet Hamer



1909

Thomas (Tom) Stillingfleet Hamer was from Wellington and joined the Audit Department in November 1907. He had married Alice Spragg on 29 May 1907. At the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class V, based at Wellington.

Tom joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in August 1914, aged 31,\* and was sent to Samoa in August 1914 as part of the Samoan Advance Party.

On return to Wellington in April 1915, Tom resigned from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His discharge certificate described his character as “Very Good” and that he was leaving the New Zealand Expeditionary Force at his own request. He went back to work at the Audit Department.

While in Samoa, Tom had injured his leg, and this could be the reason why he did not re-enlist. He was later awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Tom was divorced in March 1920, and married his second wife, Dorothy Borwick, in 1924. Tom left the Audit Department in 1925. At the outbreak of WW2, he was working at the Native Land Court, Wellington. He enlisted in the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in June 1940, aged 53. His medical assessment found him fit for home defence duties.

During WW2, almost 119,000 men and women served in the Home Guard. The basic unit of the guard was the platoon – about 30-40 soldiers. Platoons were intended to provide defence of their own localities, although some were used to patrol key strategic locations.

Tom was discharged from the Home Guard in September 1949. He was awarded the War Medal (1939-45) and the New Zealand War Service Medal.

Tom died on 7 August 1961.





# Victor Raymond Bernard



1915

Victor Raymond Bernard was one of four boys in a family of 10 children. The family lived originally in Masterton, but moved to Wellington, where Victor attended Wellington College from 1905 to 1908.

He joined the Audit Department on leaving school in 1908, and studied accountancy at university. The family were very proud of him, as he of all the family got the opportunity to do more than just learn a trade.

At the outbreak of WW1, Victor had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII.

In August 1914, when Victor was 23 years old, he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was part of the Samoan Advance Party that embarked in August 1914, and returned to New Zealand in April 1915.

Victor evidently then returned to the Audit Department for a period, because he appears in a photo of a 1915 office football team. He was no doubt a useful member of the team, having been in the first XV in his last year at Wellington College.

In September 1915, Victor applied for the rank of Staff Sergeant in the New Zealand Army Pay Corps. In his letter of application, he said that, since his return from Samoa, he had been attached to the defence audit section and had gained a thorough knowledge of the pay system. Victor's letter of application also said that he had a thorough knowledge of Treasury Regulations, Imprest Systems, and "a fair knowledge of accountancy".

Victor was appointed to the Defence Audit Unit in November 1915, with the rank of Private, not the rank of Sergeant that he had sought.

In October 1916, Victor was posted to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps in Cairo. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant in November 1916.


The Army identified that Victor had the qualities sought in a leader. In May 1917, he was sent to Oxford, England, to be trained as an officer. He was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and attached to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

In September 1917, 440 officers and other ranks, including Victor, returned to New Zealand. Some returned to take up other duties and some were no longer fit for duty. Victor's military record notes that he was "seconded for duty in NZ".

Victor used his leave to visit his family. On returning from leave in February 1918, he reported for duty at Trentham Camp. A *New Zealand Gazette* Notice of June 1918 included Victor in a list of officers being recalled to active service. In June 1918, he left New Zealand to serve with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade in France.

The *Official History of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade* mentions an action involving Victor that took place on 5 October 1918, outside the town of Crèvecœur, France:

*On receipt of orders Lieut. Kenrick promptly commenced the forward movement, sending 2nd Lieut. C. W. Rule's platoon against the northern bridge, while 2nd Lieut. V. R. Bernard was instructed to force that to the south. It was at once evident that if the enemy had really commenced a withdrawal it was not his intention to retire to any great distance. Rule's men crossed with comparative ease. Bernard's platoon, however, was confronted with a machine-gun post established in the lock-keeper's house, but this was successfully dealt with, and the garrison of eighteen men with their two machine-guns was captured and sent to the rear. The initial stage thus successfully completed.*



A month later, on 4 November 1918, Victor was killed fighting in Le Quesnoy in France, a week before the war ended.

The assault on the ramparts at Le Quesnoy had been launched by the 3rd Brigade Group, A and B Companies. Victor was in A Company but it is not known if he was killed earlier in the day in the assault on German positions outside the town or was killed during the assault on the town.

The ladder assault is portrayed in a painting completed in 1920 by George Butler, a New Zealand war artist.

In July 1923, Le Quesnoy erected a memorial for the New Zealand soldiers, with the English wording on the memorial reading:

*In honor of the men of New Zealand through whose valour the town of  
Le Quesnoy was restored to France 4<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>er</sup> 1918*

The memorial is a large stone sculptured panel set into the ancient town walls, showing the New Zealanders scaling the wall, being watched over by a large winged figure symbolic of peace.

Victor is buried at Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-15 Star, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal.

Victor's nephew, Dr F Rayner Bernard of Tauranga, has told us about a letter the family received in 1919 from Joseph Firth, the long-serving Headmaster of Wellington College. This was a handwritten letter of condolence sent by Mr Firth to the families of each of the Wellington College old boys who died in the war.



# Robert Harry Martin



1915

Robert Harry Martin was from Dunedin. He joined the Audit Department in April 1911. At the outbreak of WW1, he was a Cadet, Class VII in Wellington.

Robert joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, aged 20, in August 1914. He was sent to Samoa that month as part of the Samoan Advance Party. In Samoa, Robert had two hospital admissions for illness. He returned to New Zealand in April 1915.

In May 1916, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and sent to Egypt, and then to Britain with the 2nd Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He was based at Sling (north of London) and appointed as Acting Quartermaster. In August 1916, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In June 1917, he was sent to France.

On 24 July 1917, Robert was wounded in France, in unusual circumstances. The medical report said that "He was wounded when on parade in rest camp." The wound was caused by an exploding shell. The injury was described as a large open wound and included a compound fracture to his shoulder.

He was initially treated by the Field Ambulance Service and then transferred to a hospital in France. He was later transferred to Hornchurch Convalescent Hospital in the United Kingdom. He was discharged from hospital in September 1917.

There was a medical review of Robert's health and he was declared unfit for further service. He returned to New Zealand in January 1918 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 20 March 1918.

Robert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. He resumed working for the Audit Department as an Assistant, Class VI, in the Audit Inspector's Invercargill office of the Department.

Robert later held positions of Audit Inspector, Gisborne, and Audit Inspector, Nelson. When Robert retired from the Audit Department in 1951, he had attained the position of Audit Inspector, Auckland.

Robert died in 1976 aged 81.





# Albert Andrew Cairns



Albert Andrew Cairns was from Petone. Born in 1885, he was the youngest of eight children – his family called him “Tot”. Albert joined the Audit Department in December 1903.

By the outbreak of WW1, Albert had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Grade VII. He was 28 years old when he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in February 1915. By then, local newspapers report that Albert had been a member, secretary, and often auditor of the Petone Junior Rugby Club, Petone Cricket Club, Petone Catholic Club, and Petone Athletics Club.



1909

Albert was sent to Egypt with the New Zealand Field Artillery, 4th Battery on 17 April 1915. From there, he was sent to Gallipoli. As part of the 4th Artillery Battery, Albert would have been involved in the August 1915 offensive on enemy positions.

New Zealand artillery batteries provided support for the 1st Brigade of Australians in their successful attack at Lone Pine.

The Allied forces were eventually forced to retreat from Gallipoli later in 1915. Albert was then sent to France and promoted to the rank of Corporal in December 1915. He served on the Western Front and was injured in a training exercise in France on 26 June 1916, when he twisted his knee. He was treated at a New Zealand Expeditionary Force hospital in France, where the injury was classed as “trivial.”

However, Albert continued to be in pain and was sent to the United Kingdom for treatment. He was treated at Meath Hospital in Dublin, where his injury was diagnosed as “synovitis” in the right knee

Synovitis is a painful inflammation in the joints. At that time, the main treatment for synovitis was prolonged rest. Albert was treated at several hospitals in the United Kingdom, including Hornchurch Convalescent Hospital and the New Zealand First General Hospital Brockenhurst. He was also granted a period of leave in May 1917.

After recovering from his injury, Albert was sent to the Artillery Reserve Depot at Aldershot, England, in September 1917. From there, he was posted to the New Zealand Field Artillery in France on 21 December 1917.

In August 1918, he was sent to an artillery school, rejoining his unit a month later. After a further period of leave, Albert was posted back to New Zealand in January 1919 and discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 28 March 1919.

Albert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal.

He rejoined the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VI, but left several years later.

Albert died in Wellington on 5 November 1944. He is buried in the soldiers’ section of Karori Cemetery.







# Claude Channon Hill



Claude Channon Hill joined the Audit Department in March 1915 as an Audit Examiner, Class VII.

He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in September 1915, aged 24.

Claude was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in November 1915, and was posted to Egypt in February 1916 with the New Zealand Field Ambulance Corps.

In August 1916, he was sent to France with the Field Ambulance Corps. Stretcher-bearing was one of the major tasks of Field Ambulance Corps personnel. Casualties had to be carried by stretcher for several miles, either in trenches or over ground that was deep in mud and impassable by motor or horse transport.

In November 1917, Claude was transferred to the 3rd Battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

In November 1917, the 3rd Battalion was in frontline trenches, near the town of Ypres, in Belgium. The area had been devastated by continuous fighting, and is described in the *Official History of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade*:

*The forward part of the sector, situated on a low plateau, was swept continuously by machine-gun fire. The whole surface of the country from the front line westward was literally disintegrated by shell-fire, and every hollow converted into a loathsome bog. Everything, everywhere, except parts of our own works and a few German "pill-boxes", was shattered, and from any viewpoint one could get a striking example, never to be forgotten, of "the abomination of desolation."*

In these terrible conditions, Claude demonstrated military leadership qualities. In February 1918, he was selected for officer training and sent to the Officer Cadet Unit at Trinity College, Cambridge.

After completing officer training in May 1918, he was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He was posted back to France, in July 1918, with the 2nd Battalion, Otago Regiment. Several months later, in September 1918, Claude became ill, or suffered an injury, as his military record notes that he was declared unfit for service and would need four months to recover.

He was sent back to New Zealand in December 1918. He was transferred to the "Reserve of Officers", with the rank of Lieutenant. Claude was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in March 1920. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Claude rejoined the Audit Department, as an Audit Examiner Class VI, but did not stay long and moved to Australia in 1922.

Claude died in Australia on 5 October 1953.





# Stanley Prescott Day



1915

Stanley Prescott Day was from Christchurch and joined the Audit Department in March 1911.

By the outbreak of WW1, Stanley had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII. He had passed the Senior Civil Service Examination.

Stanley joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in February 1916, aged 22. Initially, he was with the New Zealand Army Pay Corps and was posted to the United Kingdom in June 1916.

Stanley transferred to active service and was posted to France in June 1917, to serve with the 2nd Army Brigade, New Zealand Field Artillery. He was wounded on 16 September 1918, when he suffered injuries from being gassed, and was transported to a field hospital.

The 2nd Army Brigade was part of an attack by Allied Forces on the Hindenburg Line, which was the last and strongest line of Germany's defensive positions. The town of Havrincourt was one of the towns that formed the outer defences of the Hindenburg Line, and the New Zealanders were engaged in fierce fighting in and around this area.

The 2nd Brigade was withdrawn from the front on September 15 to move to a new area. The Brigade was on the move on 16 September and had just settled down in its new camp when it came under heavy enemy fire, which included gas shells. One man was killed and 20 others wounded or gassed. It was likely that Stanley was injured in this attack.

Stanley was treated at a New Zealand base hospital in France. After recovering, he was transferred to France and then to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps in London. He was promoted to the rank of Temporary Corporal on 8 November 1918.

Stanley continued to serve with the New Zealand Army Pay Corps after the end of the war and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 1919. He returned to New Zealand and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 30 April 1920.

Stanley received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He rejoined the Audit Department as a Section Clerk, Class V. He left the office in 1925.

Stanley died in 1975.







# James Mulcahy



1915

James Mulcahy was from Masterton and joined the Audit Department in September 1911. By the outbreak of WW1, he had attained the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII.

James applied to join the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in July 1916, aged 22.

When recruits applied to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force to become a soldier, they had to make a "Statement of Attestation", in which they answered questions about where they were born, where they work, and their state of health.

In answer to a question about whether he had ever been rejected for military service, James said he had been rejected because of poor eyesight. He was examined by a Medical Officer, who said that his eyesight had improved since a previous examination and he was now fit to join the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

James married in October 1916. His wife, Mary, worked in the Government Statistician's Office.

James was sent to the United Kingdom in November 1916 with the 2nd Battalion, Wellington Regiment. After several months of further training at Sling (north of London), he was sent to France in March 1917.



1919

James was wounded in action on 8 June 1917 at the Battle of Messines, when he was shot in his right leg. He was admitted to a field hospital initially and then transferred to Hornchurch Convalescent Hospital in England. He was discharged from hospital in September 1917, but declared unfit for further active service.

James was transferred to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps in London, where he attained the rank of Corporal in December 1917. James embarked for New Zealand in September 1918 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 23 December 1918.

James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He resumed his career with the Audit Department, as an Audit Examiner, Class VI.

A court case reported in the press on 20 March 1936 refers to a staff member of the Government Tourist Bureau, who faced of seven charges of stealing money. James, described as a Government Audit Inspector, said that, in examining the books of the Bureau, he had found discrepancies in the books controlled by the accused. The staff member confessed to stealing the money.

James retired from the Audit Department in 1952. At the time of his retirement, he held the position of Audit Inspector, Palmerston North.

James died on 28 December 1967.





# Alfred Beard Talbot



1915

Alfred Beard Talbot was from Wellington and joined the Audit Department in May 1915 as a Cadet.

He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in May 1917 at the age of 20 and was posted to Featherston Military Camp.

There are very few details about Alfred's service with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in June 1917 and then to the rank of Sergeant in October 1917.

Alfred remained at the Featherston Camp and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 31 October 1919.

Alfred rejoined the Audit Department as an Audit Examiner, Class VII, but left the Audit Department in the late 1920s.



He worked as a senior clerk with the Public Works Department in Wairoa. In June 1934, he was sent to prison for two years for theft. He had stolen a large amount of money from the Department. A year later, he was discharged from bankruptcy.

In 1940, he was imprisoned for three months for negligent driving.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Alfred worked as an accountant in Auckland.

Alfred retired to live in Nelson and died there in June 1971.





# Thomas Treahy

Thomas Treahy was from Oamaru and joined the Audit Department in September 1903. By the outbreak of WW1, he was a Book Keeper, Class VI.

Thomas joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in June 1917, aged 30. He was posted to the United Kingdom, with the 2nd Battalion, Canterbury Regiment. He embarked on 9 May 1918, travelling from Wellington to Liverpool on the ship *Maunganui*. On arrival, he was based at the Sling military camp (north of London).

In September 1918, he was posted to France. He fell ill and was hospitalised in the United Kingdom in December 1918. When he recovered from his illness, he was posted back to the Sling military camp.

Thomas left the United Kingdom for New Zealand in June 1919 and was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 23 September 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Thomas resumed his career with the Audit Department, as a Section Clerk, Class V.

In 1930, he held the position of Assistant Chief Examiner, Wellington, and was later promoted to Chief Examiner. By the time he retired on 5 March 1947, Thomas had reached the position of Deputy Controller and Auditor-General.

Thomas died at Wellington on 4 August 1969.





# Henry Charles Steere



1915

Henry Charles Steere was from Hawkes Bay. In January 1912, aged 13, he was awarded a scholarship by the Hawkes Bay Education Board that paid for the cost of his secondary school education.

Henry joined the Audit Department in July 1916 as an Audit Examiner. He passed the Senior Civil Service Examination in January 1918 and, by then, had reached the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII, based at Wellington.

Henry joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in July 1918, aged 20. After joining the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, he was posted to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps, arriving in the United Kingdom in January 1919.

In August 1919, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was transferred, briefly, to the Audit Department of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His work involved audits of the pay system, but during the war the New Zealand

Expeditionary Force's Audit Department had a much wider brief.

In a memorandum dated 19 March 1918, the Major in charge of the Audit Department in London outlined the types of audits that were carried out. He described how the cash receipts of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force are sent to the Government Audit Department in Wellington. However, the New Zealand Expeditionary Force felt it was necessary to conduct additional audit checks. Their first auditor was employed in late 1917. Six months later, the New Zealand Expeditionary Force audit team had grown to nine staff, based in London.



1936

The type of audit work carried out by the team included surprise visits to bases, hospitals, and munitions depots, to check stock levels and adherence to accounting procedures.

In December 1920, Henry was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force but stayed in London. He rejoined the Audit Department and was appointed to the position of Audit Examiner, Class VII, based at London. He worked in London for most of the 1920s.

At the start of WW2, Henry was still working for the Audit Department, based in Wellington.

On 23 February 1940, the Controller and Auditor-General wrote to the Army Secretary, Defence Department, advising that Cabinet had approved two senior Audit Department staff members being called up to join the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force to audit expenditure. This work would require them to be based overseas.

In agreement with the Chief of General Staff, one of the auditors was to be given the honorary rank of Major and the other person would be given the honorary rank of Lieutenant. The two staff were Henry (who became Major), and Eric Tindill (the "double All Black" who represented New Zealand in rugby and cricket, and who became Lieutenant). In his letter to the Army Secretary, the Auditor-General said that the two staff members would be subject to the disciplinary control of the Base Commander but for all other matters they would be responsible to the Auditor-General.

Henry was aged 41 at the time of his call up. He was a single man, but, before being sent overseas, he became engaged, on 1 April 1940, to Janet Little of Wellington. On 3 April 1940, he was posted to the New Zealand Army Pay Corps at Palmerston North, before being sent overseas in May 1940. He was posted first to the United Kingdom and then to Egypt, where he was in charge of the Audit Branch at New Zealand Expeditionary Force Headquarters.



Henry's work must have been outstanding. In March 1942, he was promoted to the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In June 1942, his work was further recognised when he was Mentioned in Despatches. In June 1944, he was posted to Rome. His work was again recognised when, in January 1945, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE). The citation for the award said that:

*Lt.Col. Steere's professional skill, industry and devotion to duty over a period of four and a half year's overseas with the Audit Branch, 2nd NZEF was of the highest order and he made a most valuable contribution to the efficient administration of 2nd NZEF.*

In May 1945, a published report from Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg to the Minister of Defence, described the administrative services provided to the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force during the war. In the course of praising the support services, General Freyberg said:

*Chief Auditor Lieutenant-Colonel H C Steere and his staff have helped us in all our financial and accounting problems.*

In September 1945, Henry relinquished his position of Chief Auditor and was posted back to New Zealand. The Army recognised that he was well overdue for leave in New Zealand. He had served overseas for five years, had been hospitalised twice, and had accumulated more than 90 days of leave. His replacement was flown out rather than being sent by sea, to lessen the time that Henry would have to remain at his post.

Back in New Zealand, Henry was granted a long period of leave. He married Janet Little in October 1945 at St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington. A newspaper article describing the wedding said that the bride wore a white silk dress and a beautiful full length veil of Brussels hand-embroidered net from Venice, a gift from her brother, Sergeant Gordon Little, who was serving overseas.

In the following year, a notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*, dated 14 April 1946, advised that Lieutenant-Colonel H C Steere, OBE, had been posted to the Retired List.

Henry was awarded several honours for his service during WW2. As well as the OBE, he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, the Defence Medal, the Oak Leaf Emblem (Mentioned in Despatches), and the New Zealand War Service Medal.

At the time he retired from the Audit Department in 1956, Henry was an Audit Examiner in Wellington.

Henry died at Wellington on 23 August 1980.



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*Albert Andrew Cairns' medals: the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.*



During World War One, 32 of the Audit Department's staff enlisted to serve their country.

These are their stories.

*Rifles crack and bullets flick,  
Sing and hum like hornet-swarms.  
Bones are smashed and buried quick.  
Yet, through stunning battle storms,  
All the while I watch the spark  
Lit to guide me; for I know  
Dreams will triumph, though the dark  
Scowls above me where I go.*

— 'A letter home', Siegfried Sassoon

