

On page 381 in The New Zealand Genealogist number 302, there is an article explaining how "A small group of Levin people have taken up an Anzac Day Challenge, to find out about the men, behind the names on the district's war memorials." Other communities are now following the success of this initiative, and I am offering to co-ordinate and prepare copy honouring those who's names are on the GORDONTON CENOTAPH.

Now is the time to start before all those who can remember the men, have passed on.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN HEROES

Private	A. W. LAW
-	A.J. LAW
Corporal	J. RIDDELL
Private	A. M. THOMSON
Sergeant	H. C. WALSH
	M/Medal
Private	G. H. WALSH
-	J. McKINNON
-	L. HOWIE
-	J. KNOTT
-	J. HICKEY
-	C. HALL
-	C. SIMMONS

Private	W. J. SCOTT	-	W. J. THOMPSON
-	H. VICKERS	-	A. M. THOMPSON
Sergeant Major	C.E. SIMMONS	-	J. R. O'HEARN
Private	D. W. BOSWELL	-	W. C. O'HEARN
-	G. F. WOODWARD	Sergeant	H. C. WALSH
			M./Medal
		Private	G. H. WALSH
		-	R. GUTHRIE

AND

Pilot Officer	S. M. BAILEY
Flight Sergeant	H. A. LISTER
Private	S. H. CLELAND
-	N. T. O'HEARN

Private	-
-	-

Western Face:-

Lieutenant	I. A. McGREGOR
	R.A.F.
Corporal	C. G. RIDGWAY
Private	T. McSWEENEY
-	W. BOSWELL
-	H. RUSSELL
-	G. C. RUSSELL
-	G. F. WOODWARD
-	W. McCARR
-	G. F. LUNN
-	W. AYLWARD
-	J. McKINNON
-	R. E. EGALE
-	R. F. BRECKON
-	G. MUNCE
-	F. PEACH
-	A. L. SMITH
-	J. KNOTT

WHO DIED IN FREEDOMS CAUSE

1939 - 1945.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Eastern Face:-

Private	R. A. WILLIAMSON
-	E. J. WILLIAMS
Sergeant	J. B. SAINSBURY
Private	F. VICKERS
-	H. VICKERS
-	J. SCOTT
-	W. J. SCOTT
-	C. E. SMITH
-	C. HALL
-	F. CATLEY
-	J. HICKEY
-	H. PITMAN
-	C. J. SHEARD
-	H. THORPE
Lieutenant	A. B. FORDYCE
Sergeant	E. AYLWARD
Private	J. FIESST
-	I. BOOTH
Sergeant Major	C. E. SIMMONS
Private	W. PEACH
-	AMO PENE
-	PARITAWA TEWAI

Northern Face:-

Private	J. LAW
-	A. J. LAW
-	W. J. LAW
-	A. W. LAW
Corporal	J. RIDDELL
-	W. RIDDELL
	M/ Medal
Private	James RIDDELL
-	L. HOWIE
-	C. DALBETH
-	W. DALBETH
-	H. O. PURDIE
Private	C. McDONALD
-	T. R. THOMSON



If you know of these people and can arrange for me to have a loan of a photo of them, possibly in uniform, and some biographical notes about them, and where they lived at Hukanui/Gordonton, I will scan the photos, and compile a file to honour them.

Copies then can be made for the Gordonton School and Waikato District Council Library, and interested parties. If there is sufficient interest we may even produce a booklet.

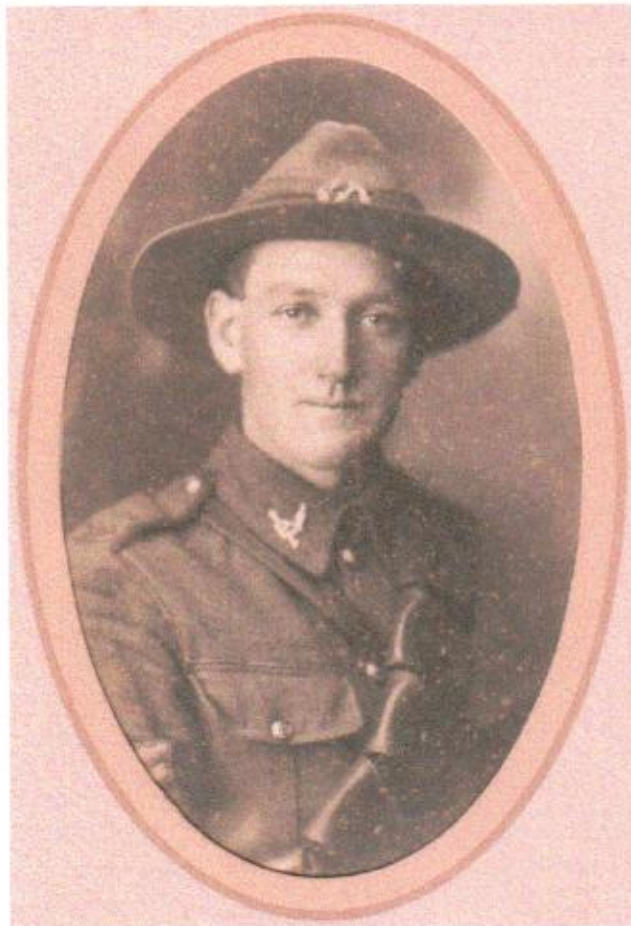
Please contact:-
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herringbone@hnpl.net

William (Bill) RIDDELL in 1923



In "Peeps into the Past" Bill Riddell, son of James RIDDELL of Woodlands Farm, Whitikahu Road, gives an account of the Riddell boys war service.



John (Jack) RIDDELL.

The First World War started on August 4th 1914 and John the second son, enlisted with the main body, and sailed with them to Egypt. The mounted Rifle Brigade landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on May 8th 1915.

2/6/15
Dear Willie
Just a line to let you know that we are having a fairly good time, certainly much better than ever expected. I have been sending a letter every week, but the last one was returned by the censor & as it was much the same I am afraid they have all been stopped. However I suppose you would get those printed cards alright. Writing material is very scarce, but you can see by this. I mentioned food in other letters, but it is remarkably good. Bacon, tinned meat, sometimes a little fresh meat, potatoes & onions. Rather surprising though that we have not had any butter, or milk & very little bread, since landing, & we do not miss them either. You might post a few Waikeato or Auckland papers as reading material much sought after. S. Long
J. Riddell

John Riddell's cigarette packet letter, to his brother.

John was wounded on August 5th (8th?), afterwards dying of wounds on board a hospital ship and was buried at sea en route to Alexandria. An entry in his diary written shortly before the end is rather pathetic but illustrative of the hopeless task that those who landed on Gallipoli were up against.

The entry on July 6th reads:- "Nothing fresh, weather just as hot, flies just as thick, biscuits just as hard, Turks still in the same trench as when we arrived two months ago."

July 12th reads:- "Went on outpost 1.2.3. yesterday, quiet as usual there. Had a cup of tea with milk in it, the second in two months, also a (?) of fresh water to wash in, the first for two months."

July 27th reads:- *"Still awaiting attack by the Turks, rather weary waiting, and standing to arms, at all hours of the night and day, cannot sleep in the daytime, because of heat and flies. Dysentery very bad with The Mounted Rifle Brigade."*

The last entry, August 1st, reads:- *"Still in the same place. For nearly three months, the Machine Gun Section has been within 300 yards of Turk position."*

An extract from the Rev., T. E. Riddle's book "The Light of other Days" might also be worth quoting. He was at Mudros, when the evacuation from Gallipoli took place. Mudros being an Island in the Aegean Sea, that was used as an advanced base. He says "Conditions over there (that is at the peninsula) had been the worst possible. A few months before, a young Church of England padre had landed at Hellas to start a Y.M.C.A. He was new to the job, and anyway a secretary is often 'nobody's child'. He went up to an A.S.C. major on the beach and said, *"I've come to start a Y.M.C.A. Could you tell me some place, not under shell fire, where I can put up a tent. The major looked at him and said in the language of those days, "Look here, sonny, there's a lot of men looking for that place. You find it and the boys will turn up alright." The peninsula campaign was finally abandoned, all troops were drawn off, around Christmas 1915."*

William (Bill) RIDDELL

William, (myself, the third son,) entered camp with the 11th Reinforcement in December 1915. Left New Zealand on April 1st 1916. Landed in Suez, and entrained to Tel-El-Kebir. The New Zealand infantry division had left for France before our arrival in Egypt. The particular Company I was in had been trained in New Zealand, as mounted rifles. But with the withdrawal from Gallipoli, and the mounted brigade not being engaged in any major offensive, reinforcements were not needed, to the same extent as formerly. Our company, with the exception of a very few, were transferred to the infantry. We also were the first company, to be allotted regimental numbers without a bar.

A few details of previous reinforcements had numbers, but with our company the numbers started off with our Colonel taking 10,000 and 10,082 fell to my lot. This new system allowed, if nothing else, one to determine by his number as to



Corporal, W. RIDDELL M.M. # 10,082

when a soldier left New Zealand, although it did not give any indication of the district he came from, as the bar system did. (Jacks number was 13/439) 12/. originally designated Auckland Infantry and 13/ meant Auckland mounted Rifles and so on. This idea was alright, but it did not work overseas as once a man was a casualty, and left his unit and if on recovery reinforcements were not required, then he was sent to reinforce another unit. Consequently there soon was a mix up of the numbers in all the units.

After about a month in Egypt, we left with a staff and detail, to set up a headquarters at Sling camp at Bulford England. We arrived early June, and had a very pleasant few weeks, in and around Salisbury. Left for France early July, was for a short period in the army base camp at Elaples, and joined the 16th Waikato's on the trenches, at Armentieres, in July 1916. I transferred to the No. 2 machine gun company in August 1916, and was in that unit till I left France.

Spent the next seventeen months in the interesting, if somewhat dangerous, occupation of a front line soldier. About September and October

1917 was lucky, and also financial enough, to obtain Paris and English leave. English leave was a very welcome break, in our spell in the Ypres Sector. The conditions in this sector were not the best, and finally were too much for me, and I was evacuated to England on December 30th 1917. Was re-graded A about May 18th, but was soon re-graded down again. Finally graded unfit, and was on embarkation leave, in London, on Peace Day November 11th 1918. Left England on December 3rd and reached Auckland, and home, on January 9th, 1919.



James (Jim) RIDDELL

Jim, the eldest son, left New Zealand with the 25th (45th?) Reinforcement, (Regt No. 45557). Owing to a raider being about the ocean somewhere, they were taken off in Australia for a while, somewhere near Sydney. Arrived in England, had four days leave there before going to France. Arrived on the Ypres Sector in Belgium early October, and was wounded by an aeroplane bomb before being attached to any front line unit. Fatigue and stretcher bearer parties were in demand, and it was with them he was serving when he was wounded. The Germans had mastery of the air at this time, and their heavy bombers came over in their dozens and our planes were hopeless to do anything.

I was in England when I heard he was wounded, and was able to locate him in the Tooting Military Hospital (London), before I returned to France. In January he was transferred to Walton-on-Thames, and by that time I was also in Hospital there, but in another building about a mile away. We were able to see quite a bit of one another. We used to meet half-way, my feet limited my actions quite a bit, and Jim had been wounded in the throat mostly. His arm was affected and also his voice, only being able to talk in a hoarse whisper. We were lucky enough to spend one day, in London together, while we were there.

Jim left London late January or early February, for New Zealand, without any more leave. After several months, his voice came back to normal, and almost complete recovery, for his arm. But he carried shrapnel, from the wound, in his throat for the rest of his life, it having been in too close proximity to the jugular vein to remove, but fortunately without any more complications.

Thomas (Tom) RIDDELL.

Thomas, the fourth son, was due to go to Camp but was unfortunate, or was it lucky enough, to cut his leg very badly when a plough struck a stump, and prevented him from going to Camp at the appointed time.

(Extracted from, PEEPS INTO THE PAST, By Bill RIDDELL)

Just an example of what can, relatively easily, be put together. I grabbed the first photo out of the Attwood Album and extracted the clipping from "Peeps into the Past" and Bill's Daughter Clarice HOBAN supplied the cigarette packet letter, and the army photos of John and Bill. James' daughter Merle supplied his photo.

A period photo, the location of their residence (what road) in the greater Gordonton area they left from. Unit served in, and area/s of service, plus any other short items held, could be collected and compiled for copies to be made available to the school, the District and the Council Office Archives.

Alan R Sharp.



SOLDIER HEROES

HANDSOME MEMORIAL OBELISK.

UNVEILED AT GORDONTON.

Despite the unpropitious weather which prevailed yesterday there was a large gathering at Gordonton to take part in the unveiling of a memorial obelisk to perpetuate the memory of the brave lads who have gone to the front from that district. People came from all over the district, and Hamilton was well represented. A number of returned soldiers were in attendance to do honour to their comrades. The school children, too, were in full force. Mr Morgan, chairman of the Soldiers' Memorial Committee, presided, and among the representative people on the platform were: Messrs Whittaker, secretary to the committee, R. F. Bolard, and J. A. Young, M.P., Captain Bellamy, O.C. No. 4 Group, Archdeacon Cowie, C.F., Rev. R. Mackie, C.F., and Mr P. Maddock (secretary Waikato Returned Soldiers' Association.) Apologies for unavoidable absence were read from the Minister for Defence, Messrs G. Welch and A. E. Manning, Privates H. Purdy and J. Booth (Auckland).

Trooper Fenton sounded the Reveille, after which the Hamilton Municipal Band, under Bandmaster Donovan, played the National Anthem.

THE SPEECHES.

The chairman said that the idea, when a Roll of Honour was first mooted, was to have a small roll in the public hall, but the response to the appeal had been so liberal that it was decided to erect the present handsome memorial. Practically every family in the district had contributed. He hoped the people, and especially the children, would always look upon the memorial as sacred.

Mr J. McGregor referred to Britain's fine history, and stated that their ancestors had laid a foundation upon which succeeding generations had built, until to-day their Empire was the greatest and noblest the world had ever seen. This had been brought about by pluck, grit and determination. The proud heritage which they had received must be passed on to those who followed. The men who had left the district to play their part in the great war were heroes every one.

Rev. R. Mackie was proud to be present, as representing the Presbyterian section of the community, to sympathise with them, and do honour to the soldiers who had left the district. Often people's memories were short, and the settlers of the district had done well to erect a monument to stimulate the memory of those who would come after. The men had sacrificed much, and those who remained behind should do their utmost to be worthy of the sacrifice made.

Archdeacon Cowie esteemed it a privilege to be present at such a function. The Germans had gone to war with the desire for world domination and glory. They knew that Britain was unprepared, and thought she would never dream of going to war. That idea was utterly wrong. Britain could for honour more than wealth, and went to war for an ideal. Everyone should make it his business to see that the soldier was treated as he really is—the saviour of his country.

Mr J. A. Young, M.P., congratulated the district upon the handsome obelisk erected to the memory of the lads fighting for them all on the other side of the world, fighting that the freedom of the world should be assured. Every community should recognise the

Upon one side of the obelisk are the names of the men who have made the supreme sacrifice, with the inscription, "In memory of our fallen heroes." The names of the heroic dead are:—Sergeant-Major G. B. Simmons, Sergeant H. C. Welch, Privates A. W. Law, J. W. Law, J. Riddell, C. J. Welch, J. Hickey, C. Hall, C. Simmons, W. J. Scott and H. Vickers. "For humanity," is the tribute at the base.

Upon other sides of the obelisk are the inscription, "Erected by the people of Gordonton, in honour of our heroes who participated in the great war, 1914-19—." The names of the men who have gone to the front from the district follow—viz.: J. Law, A. J. Law, W. J. Law, A. W. Law, J. Riddell, W. Riddell, Jas. Riddell, L. Howie, G. Dalbeth, W. Dalbeth, H. O. Purdie, C. McDonald, T. R. Thomson, W. J. Thomson, A. M. Thomson, J. R. O'Hearn, W. C. O'Hearn, C. H. Welch, H. C. Welch, R. Guthrie, R. A. Williamson, E. J. Williams, J. B. Sainsbury, F. Vickers, J. Scott, W. J. Scott, C. E. Smith, C. Hall, F. Catley, J. Hickey, H. Pitman, C. J. Sheard, H. Thorpe, A. B. Fordyce, E. Aylward, J. Feisst, J. Booth, C. Simmons, W. Peach, Amo Pene, Paritawa Teywal. Other men have left the district, and their names will be added as soon as possible.

A wreath of laurel leaves—emblem of honour and victory—enriched the crown of the monument.

In laying the foundation stone a parchment was inserted containing the names of the subscribers and committee, with a request that if at any time it became necessary to remove the monument, it should be re-erected in a prominent place where it would be well cared for.

Yesterday will long be remembered as a red-letter day in the history of Gordonton. The significance of the function cannot be over-estimated. It is only right that the brave deeds of our soldiers should be fittingly commemorated, and Gordonton has established a lead in this direction which might well be followed by other districts.

The big red lamp of Chemist Keat, Shone out along the rain soaked street: While all within glowed warm and bright;

In contrast to the gale swept night, The customers were frequent, too, Keat still a steady trade could do, For wise was he and made that sure, By "pushing" Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. (9)

"Perfection"—the famous blend that is "All the name implies!" Entirely free from that "bite" and crudeness so pronounced in immature and unskillfully blended whiskies. It possesses a pleasing smoothness that makes instant appeal to the discriminating palate, whilst its unvarying excellence makes it a revelation to even the connoisseur. Bottled only by the proprietors, D. and J. McCallum, at their distilleries, Edinburgh, Scotland. Wholesale distributors for Auckland Province, Cooke and Co., Albert street, Auckland. (3)

COUGH IF YOU WANT TO.

But remember it is very annoying to those around you, and it is anything but polite when you can get so ready an aid as Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. A single dose will relieve an ordinary cough. Very often three doses will check an ordinary cold. Sold every-

lads fighting for them all on the other side of the world, fighting that the freedom of the world should be assured. Every community should recognise the duty it owed to the men who were acting as a wall between the people's freedom and the degradation and ruin which would follow German invasion. Those who remained behind should draw inspiration from the deeds of the soldiers and play their part faithfully. They should also recognise the duty they owed to the lads when they returned. To the children he would say, "keep the monument sacred."

THE OBELISK UNVEILED.

Mr R. F. Bollard, M.P., said he was there with a feeling of regret and pride—regret at the need for assembling for such a purpose, and pride that the people of the district recognised their duty to the brave lads who had gone to take their part in the great struggle. He was proud, too, to see such a fitting memorial erected. He reminded those present that but for the boys who were fighting they would not be there living in peace, and they must pay honour to the boys for the great work done in the cause of humanity. They must do their duty. There were great problems to be solved after the war was over, and they must see that the boys were treated well when they came back. Mr Bollard referred especially to the soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice, and extended his sincere sympathy to the parents, especially the mothers. He knew many of them personally, and regretted their loss. One had gained the Military Medal. He hoped that soon the war would be over, and the men would be home again.

Mr Bollard then unveiled the monument. Trooper Penton sounded the "Last Post" and the Municipal Band played "The Garland of Flowers," while Mrs Richard Martin, sen., conducted by Archdeacon Cowie, placed a beautiful wreath at the foot of the column. Mrs Martin, who is 78 years of age, is the oldest resident of the district, having arrived 45 years ago, when the country was almost all standing bush and swamp.

The scene was very impressive, and many were moved to tears as they thought of the noble sacrifice made by the gallant lads who had not hesitated to lay down their lives in the war of Right against Might.

CLOSING SCENES.

Mr Whittaker, on behalf of the committee, warmly thanked all who had assisted in connection with the function, including the Band, the Farmers' Auctioneering Company, Messrs Ewes, Dalboth, Sharp, Ballard and Riddell, the committee, and last, but decidedly not least, the ladies. Mr Whittaker himself worked hard to ensure the success of the gathering, and he and his assistants are to be heartily complimented upon the result achieved.

Afternoon tea was served in the hall by the ladies, and was much enjoyed. The Band then rendered a number of well-played selections, and an impressive and successful function closed about 4 p.m.

THE OBELISK.

The obelisk, which is placed on the roadside in front of the Public Hall, is a handsome column of grey granite, on a three-decked foundation, with railing of iron and concrete posts. It is a splendid piece of work, of which the people of Gordonton should be proud,

an aid as Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. A single dose will relieve an ordinary cough. Very often three doses will check an ordinary cold. Sold everywhere.



Y.M.C.A. Messages of Moment

"May I not express the very high value I have attached to the work accomplished by the Y.M.C.A."

—President Wilson.

There—right in the firing line—you will find the Y.M.C.A. with hot invigorating coffee for the weary soldiers—with cigarettes and cheer for all and each.—Your gift helps to provide help for those to whom we owe so much.

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CAPT. D. A. EWEN,
Hon. National Y.M.C.A.
Treasurer, Baker's Buildings,
Wellington.



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