

World War One Memorial Plaque

Upper Hutt District Military Roll of Honour

A new updated Upper Hutt District Military Roll of Honour plaque is planned by the Upper Hutt Returned Services Association. The key requirement will be that the serviceman listed an Upper Hutt address on their attestation form. If this rationale is followed the names of eight World War One Service personnel on the existing plaque will be removed.

The eight names are [1] Donald Charles COTTLE [2] Peter Leonard Cuthbert COMESKEY [3] Arthur David JONES [4] Roderick Leslie JONES [5] Harold George LAY [6] Job Henry MABEY [7] Daniel Cornelius O'LEARY [8] David Howard WILKIE.

During World War One the local "*Hutt Valley Independent*" newspaper recorded all of the above servicemen in the local newspapers as one of our "*Our Boys*".

It is a shame that the provenance of the original memorial will be lost. Do you think the names created by our early Upper Hutt community should remain?

UPPER HUTT DISTRICT MILITARY ROLL OF HONOUR					
1914-1918					
WIR	BOYLE C.	NZF	JONES A.	WIR	MABEY J.
AIR	COTTLE D.C.	NZRB	JONES R.		O'LEARY D.
WIR	COMESKEY J.	WIR	KEYS G.E.	NZE	PEARSE P.G.H.
WIR	COMESKEY L.	ENG BN	LAY H.G.	NZRB	SMITH O.
NZI	GOLDER L.B.	LROS	MARTIN H.	WIR	WILKIE D.H.
WMR	GEANGE W.	CIR	MOULDER H.		
1939-1945					
SGT	ATKINSON E.	PTE	ELLIS N.	PO	LECKIE T.
SPR	BAILLIE W.	L/BDR	FENN R.	SUB LT	MAFFEY L.
PO	BANKS-MARTIN R.A.	TPR	GALVIN I.	SGT	MAFFEY H.
F/LT	BENNETT E.	SGT	GOOD N.	SGT	MILLIGAN E.
WO	BRADDOCK R.	F/SGT	HARTLEY J.	PTE	PALMER A.
PTE	CHANEL B.	PTE	HOOPER H.	F/SGT	SPENCER K.
SGT	COMESKEY L.	SGT PILOT	HUNT G.	MJR	THOMAS C.
TPR	DOUGLAS T.	CPL	LANSDOWNE E.	LT	UNSWORTH C.A.

On the existing Upper Hutt District Military Roll of Honour plaque, 1 World War Two Service man's name was placed in the 1914-1918 section in error so this will be removed and placed in the correct World War Two section. Remaining are the 16 World War One service personnel. All are listed below.

WIR - C BOYLE

Claude Boyle Private 13/3113 Wellington Regiment NZEF 2nd Battalion killed in action 15 September 1916 in France. Claude was born 25 December 1895 in Napier to parents Della and James Boyle. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1902 to 1911 when he left to become a Post Office cadet. Claude recorded his occupation as Motor driver, address Post Office Upper Hutt, when he enlisted on 16 November 1915 at Trentham. His next of kin was father James Boyle, Post Office Upper Hutt. Claude departed for overseas duty on 29 February 1916 and 7 months later he was hit by a shell. He was 20 years old when he died on 15 September 1916 and was buried Bulls Road cemetery Flers in France. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were post to his father James in Upper Hutt.

AIR - D C COTTLE

Donald Charles Cottle Private 18624 Auckland Regiment NZEF 1st Battalion Killed in action 03 October 1918 in France. Donald was born 29 January 1898 in Lower Hutt to parents Elizabeth and James Viller Cottle. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1905 to 1908 residing with his parents who farmed at Silverstream. Donald's father died and his mother married David Judd who Donald worked for at Lower Hutt which was the address he gave when he enlisted on 03 April 1916 at Trentham. Donald was given a farewell at the Oddfellows Hall by local Upper Hutt residence before he departed for overseas service on 26 July 1916. Donald was aged 20 years when he was killed in action on 03 October 1918 and buried at Masnieres British cemetery Marcoing Nord in France. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to his mother Mrs Elizabeth Judd in Wellington.

WIR - J COMESKEY

James Comeskey Corporal 10/3221 Wellington Regiment NZEF 1st Battalion
Accidentally killed 29 July 1918 in France. James Gerald always known as Jim
was born on 28 March 1895 in Auckland to parents Sarah Jane and James
Comeskey. James was a clerk working for Wellington City Council when he
enlisted on 23 August 1915 at Trentham. Donald gave his next of kin as
mother Sarah Comeskey and address Upper Hutt. He departed for overseas
service on 13 November 1915 and suffered with seasickness during part of the
voyage. He survived his June 1917 wounds only to later be accidentally killed
on 29 July 1918 and buried at Gommecourt Wood New cemetery
Foncquevillers Pas de Calais in France at the age of 23. His medals,
memorial scroll & plaque were sent to his widowed mother Sarah Comeskey
who was now living with her daughter in Auckland.

*“Corporal Comeskey was in charge of a party, salvaging rifles. He was
transferring rifles from one pile to another. He threw one butt foremost on the
pile, exploding the cartridge in the chamber, shooting himself through the
head. Owing to the conditions of the rifles it was impossible to open the bolts
to ascertain whether the rifles were loaded or not”.*

WIR - L COMESKEY

Peter Leonard Cuthbert Comeskey Private 10/2894 Wellington Regiment NZEF 1st Battalion Killed in action 16 September 1916 in France. Peter always known as Leo was born 10 November 1892 in Auckland to parents Sarah Jane and James Comeskey. He served with the Territorials in Upper Hutt and had registered in Upper Hutt district for compulsory Military Training. Leo was a linesman employed by the P & T Department and they transferred him from Upper Hutt to Post Office Martinborough in 1915 which is the address he recorded on his attestation form. Leo enlisted at Trentham on 14 June 1915 and recorded his next of kin as mother Sarah Comeskey address Upper Hutt. He left for overseas service on 09 October 1915 and was doing postal duty while on the troopship. Leo was aged 23 when he was killed outright by a shrapnel shell. His brother James recovered his body 24 hours later. Leo's name is recorded on the Caterpillar Valley (NZ) memorial in Somme France. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to his mother Mrs S J Comeskey in Auckland.

NZI - L B GOLDER

Linus Bernard Golder Private 79138 New Zealand Infantry NZEF 40th Reinforcements Died 04 September 1918 of influenza at sea on the vessel Tahiti HMNZT 107. Linus was born 01 February 1898 at Upper Hutt to parents Janet and John Golder. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1904 to 1911 followed by St Patrick's College. His occupation was Clerk address Upper Hutt when he enlisted 01 May 1918 at Wellington. He was 20 years old when he embarked for overseas service on 10 July 1918 on the vessel Tahiti. While on the voyage from New Zealand to United Kingdom Linus died on 04 September 1918 of influenza and was buried at Sea. On the same day it was reported that Thomas James Stanley of Upper Hutt also died of Influenza and was buried at Sea. Linus's medals, memorial scroll & plaque were sent to his widowed mother Mrs Jane Golder Upper Hutt.

Linus's oldest brother Alexander William GOLDER Rifleman 51519 enlisted 28 February 1917 served overseas with New Zealand Rifle Brigade return to New Zealand and was discharged 27 May 1919.

WMR - W GEANGE

John Wallace Geange Trooper 11/53 Wellington Mounted Rifles NZEF Died 31 March 1917 New Zealand after discharge from wounds received while on active service. John Wallace known as Wallie was the eldest son born 26 February 1891 Upper Hutt to parents Christina and John George Geange. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1897 to 1906 and was a member of the Territorials. He was a farmer working for his father address Trentham when he enlisted on 13 August 1914 at Palmerston North. Wallace embarked for overseas service on 16 October 1914 and served at Gallipoli. Around July 1915 he received 7 bullet wounds at the Dardanelles. All wounds speedily healed except one that nearly severed his spine causing paralysis so he was confined to an invalid carriage. Wallie's cheeriness and determination endeared him to all who came in contact with him and inspiring everyone. In 1916 during Anzac service at Westminster Abbey King George V stopped to shake his hand. Later one afternoon Wallie was a guest of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. He returned home and was discharge on 12 December 1916 as no longer physically fit for active service. He was the first local boy to come back from the firing line [quote "Comes back with Honour"]. Wallie age 26 years died on 31 March 1917 in Rotorua Hospital after some two years of convalescing. His body was bought home to Upper Hutt where he was accorded a military funeral then buried at St John's Churchyard in Trentham. John had received his medals but a memorial scroll & plaque were sent to his father John Geange Main Road Upper Hutt.

NZF - A JONES

Arthur David Jones Rifleman 44288 New Zealand Rifle Brigade NZEF 3rd Battalion Killed in action 29 March 1918 in France. Arthur was born 09 April 1892 in Upper Hutt the fifth son to Emma Jane and William Jones. He attended Maungaroa & Upper Hutt School from 1898 to 1907. Arthur's occupation was baker address Wairoa when he enlisted on 06 January 1917 in Gisborne. His next of kin was father William Jones Brown Street Upper Hutt and later wife Mrs E C Jones who he married 2 months after enlisting. He embarked for overseas service 26 April 1917 on the vessel Pakeha. Arthur was age 25 when he was killed in action on 29 March 1918 and buried Euston Road cemetery Colin Camps Somme in France. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were sent to his wife now Mrs Newman in Christchurch.

NZRG - R JONES

Roderick Leslie Jones Rifleman 33381 New Zealand Rifle Brigade NZEF Killed in action 04 November 1918 in France. Roderick known as Rod was born 20 April 1898 Upper Hutt to parents Emma Jane and William Jones. He attended Maungaroa and Upper Hutt School from 1904 to 1912. His occupation was Labourer address Masterton and next of kin Mrs W Jones Upper Hutt when Roderick enlisted on 18 September 1916 in Trentham. He embarked for overseas duty on 19 January 1917 on vessel Waitemata HMNZT 75. Roderick was killed in action on 04 November 1918 and buried Cross Roads cemetery Fontaine au-Bois Nord in France. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to his father William Jones of Brentwood Upper Hutt.

WIR - G E KEYS

George Ernest Keys Private 41822 Wellington Infantry Regiment NZEF 3rd Battalion Killed in action 04 October 1917 in Ypre Belgium. George known as Gundie was born 05 June 1892 in Upper Hutt to parents Jessie and Alfred Keys. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1898 to 1906. His occupation was carpenter address Upper Hutt when George enlisted 03 January 1917 at Petone. His next of kin was father Alfred known as Fred Keys of Wilson Street Upper Hutt. George embarked for overseas duty on 14 March 1917 Wellington on the vessel Ruapehu HMNZT 79. He was killed in action on 04 October 1917 at Ypres Belgium and was buried Tyne Cot cemetery Zonnebeka West Vlaanderen Belgium. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to father Alfred Keys in Upper Hutt.

ENG BN - H G LAY

Harold George Lay Private 20541 New Zealand Entrenching Battalion NZEF Killed in action 16 April 1918 in Somme France. Harold was born 19 June 1891 in Sydney Australia to parents Lucy and George Laban Lay. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1902 to 1903. He gave his occupation as Grocer, address Fielding when he enlisted on 29 April 1916 at Trentham. His next of kin was father George Lay Storekeeper of Upper Hutt. Harold embarked for overseas service on 23 September 1916 on vessel Pakeha HMNZT 65. He was first reported as missing believed prisoner of war then later declared killed in action on 16 April 1918 in Somme France. Harold was buried Meteren military cemetery France. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were post to his father George Lay in Upper Hutt.

LROS - H MARTIN

James Horace Martin Sapper 4/1973 & 4/268 New Zealand Engineers Light Railway Operating Section Killed in action 25 April 1918 in Somme France. James known as Horace and nicknamed Dodger was born 16 June 1888 in Upper Hutt to parents Louisa and James Martin. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1894 to 1903. His occupation was Railway fireman/engineer address Upper Hutt when he first enlisted [4/268] in 1914 and embarked for overseas duty on 15 August 1914 in Samoa and served as a sapper with the Samoa Railway Engineers. His next of kin was recorded as father J Martin Railway Guard of Upper Hutt. Dodger returned and re-enlisted [4/1973] on 22 April 1915 at Trentham and embarked again for overseas service on 04 March 1916. Later in 1916 Dodger was reported as having his leg amputated as a consequent of injuries to his knee received in action. He was hit in three places by pieces of a pine-apple bomb, one cut through his knee to the bone and second went through his leg just above the knee and the third hit his shin. When taken to the dressing station he met up with Dr Kemp another local Upper Hutt man. When he was discharged he spent leave visiting relatives in Scotland. When he returned to service he was reported as driving a loco in Belgium and another local Roy Delany was firing the loco for him. Dodger was aged 29 years when he was killed in action on 25 April 1918 in Somme France. He was buried Poperinghe New Military cemetery Poperinge West-Vlaamderen Belgium. Dodger's medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to his father James Martin in Upper Hutt.

CIR - H MOULDER

Henry Moulder Private 37840 Canterbury Infantry Regiment NZEF 2nd Battalion Killed in action 07 July 1917 in Ypres Belgium. Henry was born 18 September 1896 in Sydney New South Wales Australia to parents Harriet and Henry Moulder. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1904 to 1910. Henry's occupation was labourer address Seddon Street Upper Hutt when he enlisted on 17 October 1916 at Petone. His next of kin was recorded mother Mrs H Moulder Seddon Street Upper Hutt. Henry embarked 13 February 1917 for overseas duty on vessel Mokoia HMNZT 77. He was 20 years old when he was killed in action on 07 July 1917 in Ypre Belgium and was buried Motor Car Corner cemetery Comines-Warneton Hainaut Belgium. Henry's medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to his parents Harriet and Henry Moulder of Seddon Street Upper Hutt.

WIR - J MABEY

Job Henry Mabey Private 41855 Wellington Infantry Regiment NZEF Died after discharge 27 April 1923 Upper Hutt New Zealand. Job known as Jobie was born 25 October 1880 Upper Hutt to parents Mary and Robert Thomas Mabey. He attended Upper Hutt School between 1890 and 1895. Job was a self-employed contractor, address Upper Hutt when he enlisted on 03 January 1917 at Wellington. His next of kin was father R T Mabey Upper Hutt. Job embarked for overseas duty on 14 March 1917 on vessel Ruapehu HMNZT 79. While serving overseas he became sick and was transferred to the hospital on 14 December 1917 and 40 days later Job re-joined his unit on 23 January 1918. He returned from overseas duty 30 May 1919 and was discharged from service on 27 June 1919. He later received his medals. Job was age 43 years and a member of the Trentham racecourse staff when he died on Friday 27 April 1923 at his father's residence Main Road Upper Hutt. He was buried at St John's Churchyard in Trentham. The cause of death recorded on Job's death registration will tell us if he died of disease or wounds received while on active service.

D O'LEARY

Daniel Cornelius O'Leary Sergeant 1154 Australian Imperial Force 13th Battalion Killed in action 10 July 1917 at France. Daniel Cornelius O'Leary was born 1887 in New Plymouth New Zealand to parents Catherine Agnes and Florence O'Leary. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1898 to 1902. His father was the proprietor of the Provincial Hotel. Daniel served his time at the Petone Railway workshop in Petone while residing with his parents in Upper Hutt. After completing his indenture he joined the New South Wales Railways. Immediately on the outbreak of war Daniel enlisted on 09 November 1914 in the 13th Battalion of the 4th Australian Light Horse. He embarked for overseas service on 22 December 1914 on vessel Ulysses HMAT A38. He served some time in Egypt and then went to France. He recorded his next of kin as father F O'Leary Upper Hutt. Daniel was aged 30 years when he was killed in action 10 July 1917 in France and was buried Strand Military cemetery Comines Warneton Hainaut Belgium.

During World War One around 7,000 New Zealander's, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. Some Australians who enlisted in the New Zealand Expedition Force have their names recorded on local Australian War Memorials. By recording Daniel's Australian service on our local Memorial we are also honouring the spirit of ANZAC.

NZRB - O SMITH

George Cotton Smith Private 8/2474 Otago Infantry Battalion NZEF 1st Battalion killed in action 3 December 1917 in Belgium. George Cotton Smith known as Bully was born 11 April 1893 in Wellington to parents Margaret and Ormond Edmund (Tommie) Smith. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1899 to 1906. Before 1914 George was a Telephone exchange clerk residing in Martin Street Upper Hutt. He enlisted on 01 May 1915 in Trentham and he was living with his parents in Williams Street Upper Hutt. George embarked 13 June 1915 for overseas duty on vessel Maunganui. He served at Gallipoli and the Western Front. Around September 1915 he was reported as sick in hospital. George age 24 years was killed in action on 03 December 1917 at Ypres in France and was buried Buttes New British cemetery (NZ) memorial Polygon Wood West-Vlaanderen Belgium. His medals, memorial scroll & plaque were posted to his father O G Smith of Benzie Avenue Upper Hutt.

The memorial plaque records O Smith but it should be G C Smith. George's father was O Smith. The initials on the memorial plaque should be corrected

WIR - D H WILKIE

David Howard Wilkie Private 10/3429 Wellington Regiment NZEF 2nd Battalion Killed in action 04 October 1917 in France. David known as Stump was born 07 September 1890 in Upper Hutt to parents Emma and Edward Irving Wilkie. He attended Upper Hutt School from 1896 to 1905. David enlisted 23 August 1915 in Trentham and embarked for overseas service on 13 November 1915 in Wellington. He was a Storeman address Wellington and his next of kin was mother Mrs Emma Wilkie Elizabeth street Wellington. In 1916 David was reported as wounded and again in 1917 but this was later changed to killed in action on 04 October 1917 in Ypres France. He was aged 28 years when he was buried at Tyne Cot memorial West Vlaanderen Belgium. David's parents Emma and Edward are buried at St John's Churchyard in Trentham. David's name and service details are recorded on his parent's headstone. David's brother Royce, also served during the War and died from the effects of War on 29 January 1925. His name is also recorded on the parent's headstone.

Sarah COMESKEY (mother)

Sarah Comeskey's husband James died in the Benge & Pratt explosion in 1914, 2 years later in 1916 she lost her son Leo, and 2 years later in 1918 she lost her son Jim. James senior is recorded on the Benge & Pratt plaque and Leo & Jim are recorded on the WWI Plaque situated on the Memorial Wall outside the Upper Hutt City Council Chambers.

Emma Jane & William JONES (parents)

Emma Jane and William Jones of Brentwood Upper Hutt lost their 2 youngest sons during World War One. Arthur died 29 March 1918 and 8 months later Roderick 04 November 1918. just 1 week before the war ended on 11th November 1918.

NZE - P G H PEARSE (WW2)

Percival George Henry Pearse Lance Corporal 40590 New Zealand Engineers 2nd NZEF. Died of wounds 02 December 1944 and was buried Coriano Ridge War cemetery in Italy. Please note that Percival served during World War Two but was placed on the World War One plaque in error. His name should be removed and added to the World War Two plaque.

IMPORTANT NOTE

After the display the Returned Service Association made a decision to only leave 4 names off the new plaque and they are [1] Donald Charles COTTLE [2] Arthur David JONES [3] Job Henry MABEY [4] Daniel Cornelius O'LEARY. The RSA added 17 new names to the World War One section making a total of 29 names.