

Influenza Epidemic Research – Upper Hutt

Upper Hutt Epidemic Committee - Research

Newspaper articles regarding Influenza in Upper Hutt

Evening Post newspaper 16 November 1918

Railway services reduced no late trains for the suburbs - Owing to the number of men off duty with influenza, the Railway Department is compelled to reduce train services, and, commencing to-day, there will be no late trains in the suburban areas until further notice. The last train for Johnsonville and Paekakariki will leave Wellington at 6.24 pm daily and for Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt at 6.14 pm daily. The advertisement covers full particulars of trains suspended. The epidemic has spread very rapidly among the Railway staff during the past twenty-four hours, hence the shortness of the notice re suspension of services.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 16 November 1918 page 6)

Evening Post newspaper 22 November 1918

Upper Hutt and Heretaunga - The Heretaunga and Upper Hutt organisations have, decided to work together in hospital matters. The emergency hospital established at Upper Hutt Schoolhouse under the charge of Mrs Pettit will be used by the whole of Upper Hutt Valley, while a convalescent hospital will be provided at Heretaunga. Two pneumonic cases were admitted at Upper Hutt Hospital yesterday, one of them being a case, where a patient had ventured out too soon. Reports of, a bad state of things at Stoke Valley reached Heretaunga yesterday, and although not in their district, Heretaunga workers at once set off to render aid and bring the sufferers into touch with food and medical supplies and medical aid. The two organisations in the Upper Valley are reported to be working well and doing a great deal of good.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 22 November 1918 page 8)

Dominion newspaper 25 November 1918

Upper Hutt - The organising committee, with Mr F W Connell as chairman on duty at the courthouse, has attended to the wants of the district in a wholehearted manner. Every home needing assistance has been visited on notice being received. Dr Munro, the local medical practitioner, has been laid up since the epidemic struck the locality, and his place has been filled by Major Pettit, NZMC, who has worked untiringly, night and day, with excellent results. The public school has been turned into a hospital, under the charge of a qualified matron, Mrs Pettit, wife of Major Pettit, and splendid work is being done there by a small band of willing workers.

(Reference Papers past website Dominion newspaper 25 November 1918 page 6)

New Zealand Times newspaper 25 November 1918

Upper Hutt - Very few homes in this district have escaped the scourge. Dr Munro the local Doctor has been stricken and by the kind permission of Colonel Henderson, Major Pettit, NZMC has been attending with much success to a large number of patients. A committee was formed with Mr F W Connell as chairman and the various members are working hard to assist all those who are in distress. The school which had seven large well-ventilated rooms has been turned into a hospital for serious cases and under a certificated nurse, Mrs Pettit assisted by a few energetic workers, a very great amount of good is being done.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 25 November 1918 page5)

Evening Post newspaper 26 November 1918

Heretaunga and Upper Hutt - The influenza cases in the Heretaunga and Upper Hutt districts are reported to be clearing up well, the complete organisation having resulted in a practically clean sheet so far as new cases are concerned. There are still several serious cases in the emergency hospital at Upper Hutt, where good work is being done by Mrs Pettit and her staff.

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 26 November 1918 page 8)

Free Lance newspaper 28 November 1918

At the Upper Hutt an emergency hospital has been equipped in the school house in the charge of Mrs Pettit but fortunately most of the cases there have so far been of a mild nature.
(Reference Papers past website Free Lance newspaper 28 November 1918 page 16)

Dominion newspaper 05 December 1918

Epidemic at Upper Hutt - Work of the Relief Committee

Just about the time the armistice was announced the epidemic put in an appearance at Upper Hutt. The first death occurred on armistice night, the victim being a railway shunter. During the next few days Dr Munro had a very busy time and on Saturday 16 November, he had to lay up. Being without medical aid for the district, the Hon. C H Izard, MLC, telegraphed to Surgeon-General Henderson, asking that Major Pettit, NZMC (on sick leave without pay), might practise for a few days until Dr Munro recovered. On Sunday 17 November the constable in charge Mr J M Cummings, convened a meeting of residents at the Courthouse, by desire of Major Pettit. A committee was set up with the head teacher of the local State school Mr F W Connell as chairman, and Mr A J McCurdy as secretary. The State school was insured against fire in the State Fire Office, and before midday on Monday 18 November 18 was ready for its first patient, who was brought in by the military ambulance. Mrs Pettit a certified nurse (wife of Major Pettit), was placed in charge of the emergency hospital, and was assisted by lady residents of the town district. Patients came in with rush at the outset, but slackened off as, the week ended - fourteen being admitted from the Hutt County and ten from the Upper Hutt town district. Of these two from the county and one from the town district have died, being almost "in extremis" when brought in by the ambulance. Of the remaining patients eleven have been returned to their homes convalescent, and ten are still under treatment, only one of them causing concern to the doctor and staff. There have been twelve deaths recorded in the district (including the three at the Upper Hutt emergency hospital), five in the county, and seven in the township. By arrangement with Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Potter, and the principal medical officer at Trentham Camp, the subcommittee managing the hospital (Major Pettit, NZMC and Messrs Connell and McCurdy) much valuable and appreciated assistance has been obtained - orderlies to attend male patients, military ambulance to remove patients, and much needed stores and equipment. The hospital not only serves the town district of Upper Hutt, but also the Mangaroa Riding of the Hutt County and it is officially recognised by the Public Health Department. To obviate establishing a hospital at Heretaunga a suggestion made by Colonel Gibson (Chief of Staff) was accepted by the Upper Hutt Hospital Committee, that Upper Hutt should receive Heretaunga (Hutt County) patients, and the Heretaunga Committee receive convalescent patients, and accommodate them at the Golf house.

Major Pettit has done wonderfully good work, and his persistent and untiring efforts, ably seconded by Mrs Pettit, both inside and outside the emergency hospital, have practically stamped out the scourge. Dr Munro, the local medic, has so far recovered from the influenza and over-strain, as to resume practice last Sunday and Major Pettit has been directed to report for duty at Trentham Camp. Major Pettit still keeps an eye on the Upper Hutt hospital. Mrs Pettit has been relieved by Sister Stubbs, a former Wellington Hospital nurse.

(Reference Papers past website Dominion newspaper 05 December 1918 page 8)

New Zealand Times newspaper 05 December 1918

Just about the time the armistice was announced the epidemic put in an appearance at Upper Hutt probably brought to the township by soldiers having Sleeping-out passes from Trentham Camp. The first death occurred on armistice night the victim being a railway shunter J Brown
(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 05 December 1918)

New Zealand Times newspaper 05 December 1918

Fighting the Epidemic - Work at Upper Hutt (From a Correspondent)

Just about the time the armistice was announced the epidemic put in an appearance at upper Hutt – probably brought to the township by soldiers having 'sleeping-out' passes from Trentham. The first death occurred on armistice night, the victim being a railway shunter J. Brown. During the next few days the local medico, Dr Monro. had a very busy time, and on

Saturday, 16th ult., had to lay up. Being without medical aid for the district, the Hon. C. H. Izard, M.L.C., telegraphed to Surgeon-General Henderson asking that -Major Pettit, N.Z.M.C. (on sick leave without pay) might practice for a few days until Dr Monro recovered. On Sunday, November 17th, the constable in charge, J. M. Cummings, convened a meeting of residents at the courthouse by desire of Major Pettit. A committee was set up, with the head teacher of the local State school, Mr F. W. Connell, as chairman, and Mr A. J. McCurdy, representative of Upper Hutt Town District and of the Hutt County on the Wellington Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, as secretary. The State school was insured against fire in the State Fire Office, and before midday on Monday, November 18th, was ready for its first patient, who was brought in by the military ambulance. The wife of Major Pettit a certificated nurse was placed in charge of the emergency hospital, and was assisted by lady residents of the town district. Patients came in with a rush at the outset, but slackened off as the week ended - 14 being admitted from the Hutt County and 10 from the Upper Hutt Town District. Of those, two from the county and one from the town district have died, being almost in extremis when brought in by the ambulance. Of the remaining patients, eleven have been returned to their homes convalescent, and ten are still under treatment, only one of them causing concern to the doctor and staff. There have been twelve deaths recorded in the district (including the three at the Upper Hutt Emergency Hospital, five in the county, and seven in the township, and of these three were soldiers, four soldiers wives, one a soldier's child, and two had soldier lodgers - only two were unassociated with soldiers or camp. By arrangement with Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Potter, and the principal medical officer at Trentham Camp, the subcommittee managing the hospital (Major Pettit, N.Z.M.C. and Messrs Connell and McCurdy) much valuable, and appreciated assistance has been obtained. Orderlies to attend male patients, military ambulance to remove patients, and much needed stores and equipment. The hospital not only serves the town district of Upper Hutt, but also the Mangaroa riding of the Hutt County and it is officially recognised by the Public Health Department. To obviate establishing a hospital at Heretaunga. a suggestion made by Colonel Gibbon (chief of the staff) was accepted by the Upper Hutt Hospital Committee "that Upper Hutt should receive Heretaunga (Hutt County) patients, and the Heretaunga committee receive convalescent patients and accommodate the mat the golf house. The arrangement was endorsed by Heretaunga representatives, and eight patients were, received from that locality, but so far nothing further has been heard from Heretaunga relative to reception of convalescent, from Upper Hutt hospital. Major Pettit has done wonderfully good work, and his persistent and untiring efforts, ably seconded by Mrs Pettit both inside and outside the emergency hospital, have practically stamped out the scourge. Dr Monro has so far recovered from the flu and over-strain as to resume practice last Sunday, and Major Pettit has been directed to report for duty at Trentham Camp. Major Pettit still keeps an eye on the Upper Hutt hospital, and Mrs Pettit has been relieved by Sister Stubbs, a former Wellington hospital nurse.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 05 December 1918)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 01 February 1919

The Flu – Epidemic Committee Disbands – The final meeting of the Upper Hutt Epidemic Committee was (convened by the three executive members) was held at the court-house at 3 pm last Sunday. Those present were T A Ballantine, F W Connell, J M Cummings, W Greig, S B Gurden, G H Guthrie and A J McCurdy. G A Campbell was absent at Kaitoke and T Devine away for a holiday.

The interim balance sheet which when checked as to some duplication for motor charges is to be sent to the Wellington Hospital Board – shows the unpaid accounts to total £142 3s 6d. Adjustment of motor charges and sale of used equipment will bring the amount below £140.

The hospital was open for 27 days. The average daily numbers of inmates – patients, orderlies and nursing was 21.76. The cost of tuckering then was a little less than an average of thirteen pence halfpenny per head per day. Medicine (including materials for poulticing and replacing thermometers broken in hospital or on visitation duty averaged less than fourteen pence halfpenny per day per patient.

Treasurer Connell presented the balance sheet of the Hospital Comforts Fund which showed he had expended £2 2s 4d on cigarettes for the military orderlies and held on to the balance of the money donated. He asked what he was to do with the unexpended money £24 11s 8d.

Secretary McCurdy suggested it might form the nucleus of Testimonial Fund for Major and Mrs Pettitt if the donors consented to the transfer.

The meeting instructed the Executive to publish an acknowledgment of the help rendered during the epidemic and then passed a resolution vesting all powers in the executive – GA Campbell, FW Connell and AJ McCurdy acting jointly and directed it to convene a public meeting to arrange for a suitable recognition of Dr and Mrs Pettitt's services as soon as the Wellington Hospital Board had approved the accounts.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 01 February 1919)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 08 February 1919

THE FLU - (Continued from 11th January)

We left off our account of the work at the Emergency Hospital, in order to place on record how Gerald Tolhurst represented himself to be chairman of Heretaunga Epidemic Committee and undertook to provide accommodation at the golf house for all convalescents, from Upper Hutt Hospital in return for the reception, and treatment of Heretaunga patients at Upper Hutt and how the "paur Tolhufst body" dodged carrying out his promise. At the final meeting of the Upper Hutt Epidemic Committee the opinion was unanimously expressed that the action of the Heretaunga chairman was contemptible in the extreme.

We left the women nursing staff - aided by two soldier orderlies - with ten serious cases on their hands (three from the Heretaunga district) battling on twelve-hours shifts. On 22 November Craig and Potts from Upper Hutt, and Ted Cottle from Heretaunga, were brought in - all bad cases - also the boy of Flanagan's from Maymorn. As Craig and Potts were delirious and violent, more orderlies were asked for by Major Pettitt and Corporal V Wyatt 87723 and Corporal A S McFarlane 91176 - both of the 54th NCO's., volunteered from Trentham Camp, and took up duty that night on twelve-hour shifts with the refractory patients. Next day the Flanagan girl and Jean Lindsay were brought in from Maymorn and Mrs Palmer and Archie Scrimshaw from Heretaunga - that day Charlie Potts died. On Sunday 24 November, Mrs A E Conner and Mrs Albert Goodman were brought in from Heretaunga and Frank Bengé from Te Marua. Next day Fred Lewis was brought in from Whiteman's valley and John Stuart from Mangaroa. Corporal R M Cleave being ordered to parade for demobilisation and Lance-corporal Barnfather 39936, a returned soldier of A Company of the 45th Reinforcements, volunteered for duty in his place and commenced work, right-away. Total 23 patients, one death. On Tuesday 26 November, Mrs Alec Palmer died patients remaining 20, Petersen having been sent back to his lodgings when convalesce at because Gerry Tolhurst had not kept his word. Mrs Cobb and Mrs Mitchel were sent back to their lodgings and H Flanagan and his boy to his cottage on 27 November because Heretaunga had failed to provide for them. Flanagan and his boy were alone in the cottage - his wife and girl were in the hospital and the twin babes were with Mrs Phil Davis and Mrs Boyle, senior, Mrs Ballantine having developed the flu and Mrs Kemp left the district. It would have been tough on Flanagan if a neighbour - Mrs Shaw - hadn't looked after him until a sister-in-law could get a passage from Marlborough. On the same day 27 November Al Clausen was sent to his brother's, on the main road and Frank Bengé was sent, to his home at Te Marua. Each of these patients should have had seven to ten days in a convalescent home on special diet, before discharge. As it was they were dieted and treated as convalescents for two or three days before being sent away from Upper Hutt Emergency Hospital and extra work and expense resulted through having to provide four different diets for patients, convalescents and staff.

As the violence of the epidemic abated offers of help came from Misses Clifford, Cottle and Salisbury and Mrs Shaw, Mrs Wildermoth having returned from Stratford was again available. Corporal M H Gallavan 86239 was ordered to parade for discharge on 26 November and Corporal R T Jefferys 13/2207 a returned soldier, and Corporal Baskin volunteered from camp and reported at the hospital on 27 November.

Having assistants now available, Secretary McCurdy suggested to Major Pettitt that the hours of duty reduced from 12 on and 12 off to 8 on and 16 off. This he agreed to and the arrangement commenced right away - Mrs Wildermoth taking the duty of any who desired a day, or spell, off, until she got the flu herself a fortnight later. Matron Pettitt still worked long hours at the hospital and visited a number of critical cases outside. Major Pettitt confided to the secretary his anxiety lest she break down under the strain, as she had scarcely - like himself - recovered from an attack of the epidemic. McCurdy got hold of Colonel Gibbon on

the phone and placed the matter before him and the. colonel at once obtained an Army Nurse – Sister Herbert - who took charge from 8 pm .until 8 am and for whom Miss Balcomb-Brown provided accommodation and motored her to and fro as required. Sister Herbert being ordered away on Saturday, 30 November for duty elsewhere McCurdy rang up Colonel Gibbon again and a Sister Goring was motored out from town but on her arrival Major Pettitt ordered her to lay up as she had got the flu and she wetback to town at once. Colonel Gibbon was once more for help by' Secretary McCurdy and the colonel peured the services of Sister Stubbs, who arrived on Sunday, night, 01 December and was accommodated by Mrs Mason during her stay free of charge. [To be continued]

(Reference Papers Past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 08 February 1919

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 15 February 1919

THE FLU (Continued)

On St Andrew's Day 30 November, Miss McCurdy was permitted to get up, and as it was not possible to send her to her home across to river, and also too dangerous to let her go on horseback, Major Pettitt was of opinion an effort should be made to test the bona-fides of Gerald Tolhurst's pledge to accommodate convalescents. He rang up Tolhurst's house but could get no satisfaction from the person who answered the phone, and the major's request that Gerald Tolhurst should ring up him or the secretary was ignored. On reaving from the major of his unsuccessful effort, Secretary McCurdy rang up the Heretaunga Golf-house and was inform that no arrangement had been made to accommodate convalescents from Upper Hutt hospital there and knew nothing of how or where they were to be accommodate. If there had been any doubt of the Heretaunga chairman's treachery, the enquiries on 30 November proved it beyond dispute. On Sunday 01 December Miss McCurdy resumed duty at 10 am assisting with preparation of meals and helping the matron in her work, and until the hospital closed down, when she tallied all equipment, sorted folded and stacked bedding beds, stretchers, linen, etc., in readiness for return, to owners, and made sure, that everything - including the rooms and corridor were thoroughly disinfected, she herself spraying with formalin on Monday, 16 December before locking up the building, supplementary to the sprayings with Lysol and with formalin done by the orderlies on the previous Saturday, when the patients were all sent away. As a results of overtaxing herself on the Monday she had to lay up, for the next two days, after which she was in attendance whenever goods were handed out to the various applicants.

As the epidemic seemed to have almost spent its virulence at the end of November Major Pettitt placed Sister Stubbs in charge on Monday, 02 December and Mrs Pettitt was thus relieved from duty - but every day she turned up to make certain all was going well, to have a chat with the patients and the staff and to give a hand with the work – it is doubtful if a more sociable and harmonious staff could be obtained anywhere. From 02 December until the hospital closed on Saturday 14 December the staff's, hours were 6 am to 3 pm, Miss Boyd and Mrs Wildbermoth from 10 am to 6 or 8 pm., Miss McCurdy, from 2 pm to 10 pm, Misses Clifford and Pelling, and from 10 pm to 6 am, Mrs Swanson and Mrs Shaw (on alternate nights) - in charge - and Miss O'Malley. On Mrs Wildermoth being laid up with flu on Friday 07 December, Miss Cottle volunteered, and took her place on morning duty.

Demobilisation caused further changes in orderlies - Corporal Vowell 88837 volunteered from Trentham and commenced duty on 28 November and Corporal S Goodall 86883 volunteered and commenced duty on 28 November. On 04 December Corporals Goodall and Jefferys were parade for their discharges and next day Corporals Wyatt and Baskin received similar, instructions. The following is the list volunteer military orderlies and their terms of hospital duty.

| Name | Started | Finished |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gallavan | 19 November | 26 November |
| Cleaves | 19 November | 25 November |
| Wyatt | 22 November | 05 December |
| McFarlane | 22 November | 15 December |
| Barnfather | 25 November | 15 December |
| Baskin | 27 November | 05 December |
| Jefferys | 27 November | 04 December |
| Vowell | 28 November | 15 December |

Goodall

29 November

04 December

From 25 November until 03 December there were no admissions. On 03 December Patrick Parker was brought in from the Akatarawa, next day Charlie Till was sent in from Upper Hutt and on 05 December J Anderson was brought in from Akatarawa and Mrs Wilson from Heretaunga. Meanwhile Major Pettitt handed over charge to Dr Munro on 04 December and a few days later went north to take charge of the epidemic hospital at Motuihi, where Mrs Pettitt joined him within a week.

Convalescents were sent away whenever safe to do so, but each of them should have had a week of more special treatment, in a convalescent home. On 03 December J Stuart was sent to his Mangaroa residence, on the 09th Miss Edwards was returned to Mrs Col. Gibbon and Archie Scrimshaw to Williamson's and on the 10th Mrs Connor to her home at Trentham – Stuart was a county case and the other three were from Heretaunga area. On Sunday, 08 December it was decided to close the hospital on the following Saturday and Secretary notified Dr Munro the same evening, and proceeded to arrange for reception of patients by their relatives, friends or employers as Gerald Tolhurst had made no attempt to carry out his promise to provide for convalescents, persistently ignored and evaded meeting the Upper Hutt Committee, and hadn't even the common decency to acknowledge or reply to its civil inquiries. All arrangements being completed and nothing having been heard from Heretaunga, Secretary McCurdy ascertained from Dr Munro on Wednesday night 11 December that all patients could, be removed next day if weather fine. It wasn't, but Friday and Saturday were. Accordingly, on Friday Miss Lindsay was home to May Morn, Fred Lewis to his father at Upper Hutt and Charlie Till to his sister at Upper Hutt. On Saturday, Mrs. Wilson was sent to her lodgings near the camp, Mrs Goodman and Ted Cottle to their homes - all three Heretaunga district - J Anderson was returned to George Weeks at Akatarawa, and Mrs Flanagan and Jack Craig rejoined their families at Upper Hutt. McCurdy had arranged for Patrick Parker to be taken to his people at Lower Hutt but some person took him away in a car to Wellington and no-one connected with hospital was made aware, of his destination – nor has the secretary or committee been, notified of it.

The hospital being thus clear of patients, Sister Stubbs and her staff had a general "wash-up", sprayed all bedding and linen and disinfected the various rooms, the corridor, and everything else they thought should be treated. So ended, the use of the school, as an emergency hospital.

Next weak -The Women Workers Outside - How the women kept the pot a boiling.

(Reference Papers Past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 15 February 1919)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 22 February 1919

THE FLU

Managing A Hospital – How the Women Helped

So far the only particulars of the Work of the Major and Mrs Pettitt and their volunteer nurse attendants and soldier-orderlies has been recorded, but nursing and medical attendants and patients, require unflinching supplies of suitable foods and medicines to ensure success, and it is to put on record the important service rendered by half-a-dozen of the Upper Hutt women, that this detailed account of the non-medical work is published

It will be recollected that the school hospital received its first patients shortly after noon on Monday 16 November yet when A J McCurdy (who then held no office on the committee) called at 6 pm to ask if he could do anything more, he found the matron and his daughter had nothing to eat since morning and that a pound of tea, six pounds of sugar, a pound of butter and two 2 lb. loaves had been supplied by order of the assistant police constable to feed, five patients, the matron and her three women helpers. Seeing that the matron and his daughter looked fagged - what with men and women patients needing "inhalation" treatment and persistent poulticing [sic] and unrelaxed attention, and having two un-weaned hungry babies to pacify as best they could - he asked his daughter to make a pot of tea for the matron and herself while he looked after the crying twins. But when the tea was made it was found there was no milk so he handed over the babies he had quieted and made off for John Lanner's with the biggest, jug he could lay his hands on, and John Larmer filled it with the best milk of his farm refused to take payment for it and told McCurdy he could get more if he needed it. When the matron came from the sick-rooms and found the frugal tea ready she realised she had overtaxed herself and would have fallen if Miss McCurdy hadn't caught her and helped

her to a chair. Hec Benge and Bernie Judd "blew in" and were given a Flanagan twin each to keep, them out of mischief, and their Pacificist efforts with the bairns proved almost as exhilarating to the two tired women as their belated cups o' tea. Hearing of the shortage of milk the "boys" went off, Bernie returning with a gallon or more in a big enamelled billie while Hec bought a couple of quarts in bottles. So much for the first-day's provisioning. The second day was as bad, except that eight full-sized mutton cutlets off the leg, and a quantity of old potatoes were sent to Mrs Phil Davis by the assistant constable with, a request, she should cook them for the evening meal. But when senior-constable Cumming got to the school with the viands he found-Mrs Huggins had already sent down a dainty tea for her daughter (Miss McInnes) and Miss McCurdy and the eight lukewarm mutton cutlets stuck together with congealed fat, and the dish of cooled mash potatoes went a-begging. One of the cutlets was warmed up by Miss Lindsay next day for the children removed to Mac's cottage and the other seven went off and were fed to stray animals.

It was through this and other suchlike happenings that caused Constable Cummings to convene a special meeting on the second day to have defined work allotted to members of the committee so as to avoid friction – and it was at this meeting that Major Pettitt, F W Connell and A J McCurdy were placed in sole charge of the hospital, and the same evening F W Connell asked McCurdy to take over the providing and other detail and supply work of the hospital and on his undertaking to do so, remarked "then I'll leave the supplies for the hospital entirely to you – that's off my mind now" and so "Old Mac" - who had organised a Farmers Union of over 25,000 members, and also [with A Leigh Hunt and Sir J O Wilson] formed the Farmers Co-operative Distributing Co and outlined the Dominion Cooperative Farmers Institute, let about the organisation of the working of Upper Hutt Epidemic Hospital and in all interior arrangements first obtained the approval of Major Pettitt and the matron - for work performed outside he studied the convenience of the helpers.

LAUNDRY

"What about the washing - we have to change some of the patient's bedding every few hours, and we'll soon be run-out of blankets at this rate and we are short of towels?" - so said the matron on Wednesday afternoon. The Trentham Laundry couldn't do the work, and every person who took in washing or went out washing by the day was fully occupied looking after sick relatives, and the pile of soiled equipment, grew bigger and bigger. At last when it appeared impossible to get anything done, Tom Define quietly remarked to McCurdy "My old woman says she'll do the washing for the hospital, if you're stuck" and her offer was gratefully accepted. Old Woman indeed - she'd lose any three of the younger ones as a toiler. With six of her household just getting over the flu, eight or nine persons in the house to cook for, and charging nothing for the soap, soda, &c, or her services, this dame of 69 years of age had her fires going at daylight and had her hospital washing finished before breakfast-time, and if weather permitted everything dried and folded before 9 am. Only on one occasion, when there was a double dose of fouled bedding, did she ask for help, and Mrs W Cuneen volunteered and helped her. To Mrs T Devine the people owe their best thanks.

PHYSIC

The task of keeping up the supplied of medicine required unflinching attention - requirements being entered on a blackboard and checked with an orderly before 8 a. and about 8 p. the blackboard day entries and medicine on hand were checked with the matron so as to make sure there would be no shortages when the chemist's shop was closed. Mention of the chemist's shop reminds us that if Harold Rodier Gibbs had thought more of making money than he did of the welfare of the people of Upper Hutt he would have opened one of the chemist shops in Wellington which had been closed owing to illness of the owners, and simply coined money - opening his Upper Hutt shop from 4 pm. But he placed the matter before the Epidemic Committee to decide whether he would be doing best service to the country by putting in half a day in town and the rest here or by remaining here. The committee thought it unwise to lose his services for any part of the day, and on the suggestion of Secretary McCurdy expressed its appreciation of H R Gibbs' public-spirited conduct. It is also pleasant to record that although no arrangement was entered into re prices of medicine and equipment the charges he made in his bill to the committee were so low that that there must be little or no profit for him in the transactions. Well don, Harold.

TUCKERING

An Army moves on its belly" is an old-time saying, and the present war has proved that in the end Victory marches with the army whose soldiers can rely upon being kept supplied with a pinnyful of tucker. So also, does the cook help the doctor in a war on sickness of any sort. The first, thing McCurdy did when the providing, &c was entrusted to him, was to arrange with the doctor and matron that anything needed should be entered on the blackboard at once and if urgent phoned to him at the courthouse or Record Hall. A Perfection Kerosene Cooking stove had been lent by Mrs W Greig, and he borrowed another from Mrs J Harrison so that in addition keeping pace with the continuous demand for hot, water for poulticing, fomentations, water-bottles sterilising, hot lemon drinks, washing-up, &c there would be burners to spare to cook bacon, eggs and porridge for breakfast, and as one or more of the orderlies was always anxious to "show-off" as cook, the staff and patients breakfasts were cooked on tin premises and all McCurdy had to do was to keep the larder full and see there was enough fuel and kerosene on hand. The 6 and 11 Morning Teas, the Afternoon Tea, and the Bedtime Teas for patients and staff were similarly provided for - biscuits had to be bought as appeals to the public for gifts of cakes were only responded by two or three people. The evening meal for the staff often as many as nine was prepared by Mrs Huggins from 19 November to 13 December, twenty-five successive nights, and Miss Morpeth drove down to the school with it every night so everything got there "pie on". If "Mum", had heard what the "boys" and the nurses said of the tastiness of the lay out, she would have felt that her efforts were appreciated by the staff. Milk was freely supplied to Mrs Huggins by Mrs Harrison, and meat, vegetables and groceries were supplied on order. When one case to mind that Mrs Huggins had her houseful of boarders to look after, and that her daughter Miss McInnes was laid up with the flu' from 21 November when she went home from the hospital "played out", until 29 November, it can be easily understood why Old Mac classes Mrs Higgins as one of his best helpers.

Breakfasts, "teas" and evening meals, arranged for, left only the midday meals to fix patients light, medium or full diets according to condition and full meals for nurses and ordlies. For the first few days the dinners were prepared by Mesdames W and A Keys, Morrison and Read, and invalid extra fare by Mesdame G Benge, "Son" Mabey, Harrison and J. Whiteman but the transport officer, Tom Devine, was not equal to the running about and suggested he have a car to do the running about in. As the car hire would cost more than the food-bills, Mac at once made other arrangements and from Monday, 25 November, to Friday, 13 December, Mrs Willie Keys supplied the hospital with beef-tea, barley-broth and prepared the invalid's midday meal, and for the same period Mrs Read of Station street prepared the one pm dinner for the staff materials supplied in the same way as to Mrs Huggins, except that all the milk was supplied to them free by E J Beavis. It must not be forgotten that the fuel and dozens of little things used in cooking these meals were supplied by three women helpers.

THE DESPATCH RIDERS

When Tom Devine sought the use of a car to take the meals to the hospital, the secretary was relieved of anxiety on that score by Gilbert Kirker and Geoffrey Pearse turning up at the courthouse with their bikes and volunteering to run all messages. These boys were invaluable as messengers, transporters of materials and crookery to the cook-helpers, carrying meals physic, etc., to the hospital and. taking the washing to and fro at all hours. Always willing, cheerful, and keen to help-giving up their holiday to assist in fighting the flu', those boys put up an excellent record.

MAC'S THANKS

The highest compliment a man can pay to one of the opposite sex is to say she is womanly.
To the womanly and manly boys who helped so much

(Reference Papers Past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 22 February 1919)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 01 & 08 & 15 February 1919

Notice – The hospital at the Upper Hutt State-school is now closed.

Ring Phone 11 "D" for further information

Agnus J McCurdy - Secretary

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 01 & 08 & 15 February 1919)

Trentham Military Camp

Military Service Personnel effect by the Influenza epidemic

Evening Post newspaper 07 November 1918

In the Camps – Two Deaths Reported

The outbreaks of influenza in the military camps at Trentham and Featherston show no abatement but in both places the trouble is well in hand. In Trentham the visitation is comparatively light. The existing hospital provision is ample to meet the case in both camps. At Featherston where the trouble is more widespread however no precautions are being neglected to provide for a possible increase in the number affected. To this end several halls and institutes have been taken over and beds and other equipment placed in them in readiness for any contingency. Owing to its smaller sick list Trentham has a good margin of accommodation in reserve. The sick parade figures of both camps for yesterday were as follows

| <i>Details</i> | <i>Trentham</i> | <i>Featherston</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sick parade | 120 | 413 |
| Sent to hospital | 31 | 69 |
| Influenza cases | 4 | 69 |
| Detained for observation | 59 | 137 (all Influenza) |
| Total in hospital | 225 | 464 |
| Influenza cases | 148 | 398 |

There were seven more serious cases reported from Featherston making ten in all. One soldier died in that camp yesterday of influenza = Gunner J E F Buckland and one today Lance Corporal G E Wood

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 07 November 1918)

Evening Post newspaper 07 November 1918

Soldiers Deaths

The death of Lance Corporal Woods NZMC from influenza took place at Featherston Camp today. Private C R Cowley died of typhoid and Gunner J E F Buckland of Influenza at the same camp yesterday.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 07 November 1918)

Upper Hutt Service Personnel who died at sea

The Colonist newspaper 20 September 1918

Complete Death Roll - Following are the names of the men' (and the addresses of their next of kin) of the 40th Reinforcements who died from influenza and were buried at sea while on the voyage from New Zealand to England - Wellington District.

A Company = T. J. Stanley, Upper Hutt

B Company = L B Golder Upper Hutt

[Total of 30 names listed from Wellington district]

(Reference Papers past website The Colonist newspaper 20 September 1918 page 3)

Trentham Military Camp sick parade & admissions to Military Cottage Hospital

(Newspapers - New Zealand Times - Dominion – Evening Post)

| <i>November</i> | <i>06th</i> | <i>07th</i> | <i>08th</i> | <i>09th</i> | <i>12th</i> | <i>13th</i> | <i>15th</i> | <i>16th</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| paraded sick | 103 | 120 | 222 | 207 | 163 | 163 | 42 | 37 |
| admitted to hospital | 25 | 31 | 56 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 15 | 20 |
| influenza cases | 46 | 59 | 103 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 15 | - |
| detained for observation | 4 | - | 8 | - | 4 | 4 | 5 | - |
| remaining in hospital | 172 | 225 | 319 | 448 | 1108 | 1108 | 1290 | 1534 |
| influenza cases | 91 | 148 | 245 | 448 | 980 | 980 | - | - |
| Serious | - | - | - | - | 18 | 18 | - | 80 |
| Deaths | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | - | - |

| November | 18 th | 19 th | 20 th | 21 st | 22 nd | 23 rd | 25 th | 25 th |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| paraded sick | 28 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| admitted to hospital | 12 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| influenza cases | 58 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| detained for observation | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| remaining in hospital | 1592 | 1564 | 1562 | 1493 | 1493 | 1378 | 1173 | 1173 |
| influenza cases | 1389 | 1382 | 1386 | - | - | - | - | 39 |
| Serious | 100 | - | 110 | 75 | 75 | 46 | 39 | 5 |
| Deaths | 6 | - | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | - |

| November | 26 th | 26 th | 27 th | 28 th | 29 th | 29 th | 30 th | 30 th |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| paraded sick | 0 | 6 | - | 3 | - | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| admitted to hospital | 0 | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| influenza cases | - | - | 349 | - | - | - | - | - |
| detained for observation | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| remaining in hospital | 401 | 553 | 401 | 276 | 239 | 180 | 180 | 142 |
| influenza cases | | 496 | 24 | - | 180 | | 122 | - |
| Serious | 24 | 27 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 13 |
| Deaths | 1 | 5 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

| December | 02 nd | 03 rd | 05 th | 09 th | 10 th | 11 th | 13 th | 18 th |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| paraded sick | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - |
| admitted to hospital | - | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - |
| influenza cases | - | | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| detained for observation | - | | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| remaining in hospital | ? | 90 | 37 | 67 | 62 | 53 | 49 | 35 |
| influenza cases | 7 | - | | 41 | 2 | 38 | 0 | 22 |
| Serious | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | - |
| Deaths | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 0 | - | - |

The newspaper reports on Trentham Camp deaths total 39 service personnel. Other publications record that it was over 70 deaths. The publication "*Black November*" by Dr Geoffrey Rice recorded 77 deaths at Trentham Military Camp.

Registrar Generals compiled figures for months October November and to 6th December showing deaths registration for influenza for Wellington at 383.

New Zealand Parliamentary debates Fifth Session Nineteenth Parliament

(New Plymouth Puke Ariki Archives volume 183 date 24 October to 10 December 1918)

The ship S.S. *Niagara* brought the Influenza epidemic to New Zealand. She sailed on the 10 July 1918 with New Zealand soldiers aboard as well as the Prime Minister Mr Massey and Minister of Finance Sir J G Ward. The Parliamentary debates give additional information about the Influenza epidemic.

06 Nov 1919 – Influenza Epidemic Dr A K Newman – Sir J Allen (1918)

Request to stop service personnel going into camp

07 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic Mr Reed & Mr Russell (240-241)

I would like to say that there has not been a single death recorded at Auckland from Influenza. [Influenza in Auckland had been reported as rampant]. A requested Palmerston School could not be done without the Minister of Educations authority. [Teacher and children had influenza]

07 Nov 1918 – Epidemic on a transport – Dr Thacker (260-261)

Report on conditions on the transport ship for the New Zealand Soldiers

08 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic in Camps – Mr Anstey – Sir J Allen (299)

- Outbreak of influenza at Trentham & Featherston Camp. No deaths at Trentham. Featherston Camp 1500 men in hospital, 20 serious cases, 3 died last night with a total 6 deaths. The unprecedented storm had blown down many tents in Featherston few days ago. The medical staff were also suffering with Influenza and farming locals in same district have influenza.
- 13 Nov 1918 – Ministerial Statement Influenza Epidemic S S Niagara – Sir J G Ward (346-353)
Confirmed Influenza arrived in New Zealand from the passengers of the Niagara. Prime Minister Mr Massey and Finance Minister Sir J G Ward were passengers on the ship after returning from important public duties overseas. They went under same quarantine and health check as other passengers before being permitted to land. [Some rumours placed blame on the Ministers]. They mention 120 cases of Influenza at Narrow Neck Auckland before the Niagara arrived in port. On 03 November ship s.s. Kakapo left Auckland for Nelson with influenza aboard. Debate about coastal shipping spreading Influenza and restrictions should have been placed on railway travel from Auckland. Doctor and health staff shortage.
- 13 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic in Auckland – Mr Holland death A H Hindmarch MP (354-358)
Alfred Humphrey Hindermarsh (1860-1918) died (Influenza) sympathy sent to family. [A large amount of information for a biography]
- 26 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic RMS Niagara – Mr Brown (388)
Question re newspaper article about crew of Niagara refusing to take ship to sea (miss-quote)
- 26 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic Disinfection of Steamer Passengers – Mr Witty (389-390)
Problems with inhalation chamber for passengers between Lyttleton and Wellington. Epidemic was just as serious in the South Island as North Island.
- 26 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic Costs of Medicines – Mr Statham – (390)
Cost of medicines, funerals and other items associated with the Influenza epidemic.
- 26 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic Sanitary Conditions of Towns – Mr Luke (390-394)
Epidemic victims are dying in their home resulting in unhealthy sanitary conditions. Minister requests that inspectors should be appointed to correct the problem. [examples 392]
Problems regarding Service Personnel arriving from overseas where to safely place them.
- 26 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic Pay of Railway Servants – Mr McComes (394)
Railway servant come into contact daily with passengers and corpses on funeral trains.
- 26 Nov 1918 - Influenza Epidemic Compensation to owners of closed businesses (395)
Some businesses requested to close during epidemic results no income request assistance
- 26 Nov 1918 - Influenza Epidemic Doctors for Christchurch – Mr Ell & Mr Anderson (395)
Work load pressure placed on doctors due to shortage of doctors
- 27 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic Motuihi Island Quarantine Station – Mr Poole (455-456)
Are the German Prisoners going to be taken off the island to make room to quarantine returning service personnel arriving on the Makura. Ship was clear of influenza so would leave German prisoners on the Island.
- 27 Nov 1918 – Influenza Epidemic Reduction of hours of labour – Mr Witty (456)
For health reasons Factories and shops were closed at 3 o'clock resulting on hardship
- 27 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic Orphans – Dr A K Newman – (457)
Fathers had died of influenza how do widows get pension for the family (Charitable Aid)
- 27 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic Visiting Police Officers – Mr Brown - (459)
Resting that Police Officer call on women who lost their husbands in private clothes not uniforms
- 28 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic Supply of Oranges – Dr Newman (506-507)
Request for supply of oranges from Australia to assist with the health of the epidemic
- 28 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic Railway Restriction on Maoris – Mr Uru (507)
Requested that Government lift restrictions (permits), for Maoris traveling on trains during the epidemic. Pakeha could travel and spread the epidemic (discrimination). [examples 507]
- 28 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic – Sanitation local inspection of dwellings – Mr Ell (507-508)
- 28 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic – Financial assistance to sufferers – Mr Luke (508)
- 28 Nov 1918 – Influenza epidemic – Grants to local authorities – Dr Thacker (508-509)
Asked for Government grants for local authorities to assist during epidemic
- 02 Dec 1918 –Influenza epidemic cases of distress – Mr Witty (603)
- 02 Dec 1918 –Influenza epidemic Compensation for shopkeepers – Mr Witty (604)
- 02 Dec 1918 –Influenza epidemic Reopening of Hairdressing saloons Hotels – Mr Witty (605)
- 02 Dec 1918 –Influenza epidemic deaths amongst Railway servants – Mr Smith (606)

- 02 Dec 1918 –Influenza epidemic Mortality statistics – Mr Holland (606)
Statistics published in Press request to show other districts Influenza statistics
- 03 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic Relief for Public servants – Mr Earnshaw - (656)
- 04 Dec 1918-Influenza epidemic Results of Australia's precautions – Mr Parr (730)
- 04 Dec 1918-Influenza epidemic Provision for homeless children – Mr Luke (732)
Wellington had 100 destitute children which rested in the Hospital boards (charitable aid)
- 04 Dec 1918-Influenza epidemic Attendance at Native Schools (734)
- 05 Dec 1918-Influenza epidemic Christchurch Citizens relief committee – Mr Eil (819)
- 05 Dec 1918-Influenza epidemic Provisions for Orphans – Mr Sidey (819-820)
Pension for widow and children not pension for children with both parents dead
- 05 Dec 1918-Influenza epidemic Railway Restrictions on Maoris – Mr Ngata (820)
Minister returning from his duties could not travel by train request to lift restricts
- 05 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic deaths amongst soldiers - Mr Harris (821)
Many disabled soldiers returning from overseas duty that had been gassed were very susceptible to influenza. Some died of influenza so do their widows get a war pension.
- 05 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic Recognition for Voluntary workers – Mr Malcolm (822)
Suggestion a certificate or medallion
- 06 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic –Compulsory closing of factories & adjustment of wages (860)
- 07 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic –Pay of Railway employees – Mr Witty (905)
- 07 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic – Funerals of soldier victims – Mr Jennings (910-911)
If men died at camp the government paid for the funeral. If they died at home they may be considered.
- 07 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic – Dependants of victims – Mr Holland (914)
Request that victims of the epidemic be treated the same as soldiers.
- 07 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic – Catlin's District – Mr Holland (915)
High cost of transport on train to hospital for victims and their families
- 09 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic Pay of Railway employees – Mr Wright (949)
- 09 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic Shipping Facilities – Mr Poole (956-957)
Epidemic in the Pacific that require supplies, doctors and medical assistance
- 09 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic Women in Defence Department – Sir Ward (1020)
- 09 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic Commission addendum (1103)
Question of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the epidemic
- 09 Dec 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1105)
Passengers left behind by the s.s. Niagara
- December 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1107)
Dependents of soldiers who died from influenza [same pensions as if died on active service]
- December 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1111)
Pay of Railway Employees – decided on special case on the payment so wages
- December 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1113)
Assistance to widows and children – under consideration
- December 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1119)
Orphans – invite volunteer organizations to visit homes where parents have been lost then to assist in locating homes for the children
- December 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1125)
Assistance to widows and orphans – under consideration to assist
Certificates to voluntary helpers – proposal to issue a certificate of appreciation
- December 1918 – Influenza epidemic addendum (1126)
Home for orphans – receiving consideration shortly to be announced

Government Department Records

New Zealand Gazette Wellington Thursday 24 April 1919

Commonwealth of Australia proclamation an infected Place

[L.S.] Liverpool, Governor General

A Proclamation

Whereas by section one hundred and fifteen of the Public Health Act 1908 (hereinafter termed the said Act) it is provided that the Governor General may by Proclamation notify that any

place in or beyond New Zealand is infected with the dangerous infectious disease and thereupon and so long as such Proclamation remains in force such place said be deemed to be an infected place for the purpose of Part II of the said Act.

Ander whereas influenza which was been declared to be as dangerous infectious disease within the meaning of the said Act is prevalent in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Now therefore in pursuance and exercise of the power and authority so conferred upon me by section one hundred and fifteen of the said Act, I Arthur William de Brito Savile, Earl of Liverpool the Governor General of the Dominion of New Zealand do hereby proclaim and notify that every port and place in the Commonwealth of Australia is infected with the dangerous infectious disease of influenza and that every such port and place is accordingly to be deemed to be infected place for the purpose of Part III of the said Act.

Given under the hand of His Excellency the Right Honourable Arthur William de Brito Savile, Earl of Liverpool, Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Knight of Grace of the Order Of Saint John of Jerusalem, Governor General and Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's Dominion of New Zealand and its Dependencies and issued under the Seal of the said Dominion at the Government Buildings at Wellington this seventeenth day of April in the year of our lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen

G W Russell - Minister of Public Health

God Save The King

(Reference New Plymouth Puke Arika Library Archives New Zealand Gazette Volume 1 Wellington Thursday 24 April 1919 page 1165)

1918 New Zealand Statistics Deaths in New Zealand Epidemic Diseases Influenza

1917 deaths 38 – 1916 deaths 73 – 1915 deaths 110 – 1914 deaths 63 – 1913 deaths 56

1918 deaths from influenza in New Zealand Males 3,529 + Females 1,987 = Total 5,516

Males deaths total 3,529

Under 3 months 7 – under 6 months 11 – under 12 months 16 – total 34

Under 2 years 32 – under 3 years 26 – under 4 years 14 – under 5 years 12 - total 118

Under 10 years 26 – under 15 years 32 – under 20 years 162 - under 25 years 296

Under 30 years 548 – under 35 years 678 – under 40 years 605 – under 45 years 391

Under 50 years 253 – under 55 years 142 – under 60 years 73 – under 65 years 57

Under 70 years 46 – under 75 years 49 – under 80 years 33 – under 85 years 11

Under 90 years 7 – under 95 years 1 – under 95 years 1 – (5yrs+Tot 3,411) total all ages 3,529

1917 deaths 38 – 1916 deaths 73 – 1915 deaths 110 – 1914 deaths 63 – 1913 deaths 56

Females deaths total 1,987

Under 1 month 4 – under 3 months 2 – under 6 months 7 – under 12 months 17 – total 30

Under 2 years 30 – under 3 years 32 – under 4 years 19 – under 5 years 18 - total 119

Under 10 years 25 – under 15 years 35 – under 20 years 95 - under 25 years 194

Under 30 years 343 – under 35 years 333 – under 40 years 222 – under 45 years 152

Under 50 years 113 – under 55 years 119 – under 60 years 62 – under 65 years 48

Under 70 years 36 – under 75 years 36 – under 80 years 32 – under 85 years 17

Under 90 years 8 – under 95 years 0 – under 95 years 2 – (5yrs+Tot 1,868) total all ages 1,987

Wellington district only deaths influenza Males

Under 1 year 10 – under 5 years 30 – over 5 years 969 – all ages 1,009

Wellington district only deaths influenza Females

Under 1 year 12 – under 5 years 17 – over 5 years 377 – all ages 406

General information

In 1918 there were 476 male deaths with occupations recorded as Defence - cause is not listed.

In 1918 fathers that died of influenza were 1,450 and they left 4,799 orphaned children

Wellington hospital recorded cases for Influenza

Deaths 61 - Unrelieved 1 - Relieved 7 - Recovered 322 = Total of 391

(Reference New Plymouth Puke Arika Archives Statistic of the Dominion of New Zealand for the year 1918 Volume I Blue Book Population and Vital Statistics Law and Crime J W Butcher Acting Government Statistician 1919 Government Printer)

1916 population from Statistics NZ

Town District of Upper Hutt 1,399

Lower Hutt Borough 4,893

Hutt County 6,397

(Reference New Plymouth Puke Ariki Library Archives Statistic of the Dominion of New Zealand 1916 Volume1)

1918 Statistics of Upper Hutt from Statistics NZ

Births 52 - Illegitimate births 2

Deaths 24 – Stillbirths 2

(Reference New Plymouth Puke Ariki Library Archives Statistic of the Dominion of New Zealand 1918 Volume1)

In the 1919 New Zealand Gazette volume 1 under the section Retirements of Government employees it lists [1] name [2] position [3] place [4] date left service [5] reason left service.

Note - numerous people are listed as deceased in November 1918 when the influenza epidemic was most prevalent.

(Reference New Plymouth Puke Ariki Library Archives New Zealand Gazette 1919 volume 1)

Government correspondence regarding Influenza Epidemic

Vaccination registers are held at Archives New Zealand Wellington. The district registers provide = full Christian names, sex, surname and initials of parents, date of birth, registration, vaccination date, to whom given (father, mother or agent) some remarks such as deceased. Unfortunately many of the vaccination registers are missing. (example below)

- Napier vaccination register 1917-1921 = reference AAOW W3244 box 255
- Other references to Vaccination registers = reference ABPQ W4287

Government House correspondence (Minister of Public Health)

From Downing Street 14 December 1918 - No. 229
To Governor General His Excellency The Right Honourable The Earl of Liverpool
P.C., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., M.V.O.

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's telegram of the 9th of December regarding the influenza epidemic in New Zealand

2. I regret greatly the large number s of deaths due to the disease, and I have learned with relief that the epidemic is abating.

3. I trust that the measures taken to combat the outbreak in Samoa will lead to the speedy eradication of the disease in the Islands.

I have the honour to be My Lord
Yours Lordship's most obedient humble Servant
Milner

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACHK 8604 G1 238 1919/399 14 December 1918 Influenza Epidemic in New Zealand and Samoa 1918-1918)

Government House correspondence (Minister of Public Health)

From Downing Street 08 January 1919 - No. 4
To Governor General His Excellency The Right Honourable The Earl of Liverpool
P.C., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., M.V.O.

My Lord

With reference to my telegram of the 27th of December, I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your Ministers that the Local Government Board state that the present pandemic of influenza, which is comparable in severity with that of 1890-1892 appears to have originated in Spain or Italy in the Spring of this year and thence, following ordinary lines of communication to have invaded neighbouring countries.

2. The Board state that the disease was widely prevalent in England in July, but that the morality then was fortunately low. It was also very prevalent in the Army of France and to some extent in this country during the Spring and Summer, and the Board understand that troops arriving from New Zealand during the summer suffered severely from Measles which was complicated by influenza infection. The Board's Medical Department have also received printed

reports from Public Health Department in New Zealand showing that in military camps in that country epidemics of respiratory diseases had occurred, some of them of a very severe type. In the autumn of this year, it became evident that still more severe influenza was prevalent throughout many countries, including South Africa, India, United States of America, Canada and the European continent, and information to this effect was published in various papers.

3. In spite of a good deal of research on the subject of epidemic influenza both in this country and elsewhere there are not at present, the Board state any completely effective means of controlling the spread of the disease but that amongst measures advocated as likely to minimize its incidence and severity are careful hygiene of nose and throat, fresh air, free ventilation, avoidance of overcrowding and particularly for those in attendance on the sick – the use of face masks and prophylactic vaccination.

4. The Board add that they are considering the suggestion of your Government that the arrangements for communicating information as to certain diseases may be extended to other diseases.

5. As I informed you by telegram, it is proposed to ask Mr Massey on his arrival to discuss this question with the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board.

I have the honour to be My Lord
Yours Lordship's most obedient humble Servant
Walter _ _ _

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACHK 8604 G1 239 1919/559 08 January 1919 Influenza Epidemic 1919)

Government House correspondence (Minister of Public Health)

From Downing Street 03 November 1919 - No. 808
To Governor General His Excellency The Right Honourable The Earl of Liverpool
P.C., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., M.V.O.

My Lord

With reference to my despatch Dominions No 280, of the 17th April, I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your Ministers that His Majesty's Government consider that it would be of considerable assistance towards combating infectious diseases in the various parts of the British Empire, if arrangements could be made for a notification of any sudden outbreak of severe epidemic disease to be telegraphed by the Administration when the outbreak occurs to the Administrations of neighbouring British possessions or Protectorates with which land or sea communication exist as well as to the United Kingdom.

2. If your Ministers see no objection, His Majesty's Government would be glad if they would issue the necessary instructions.

3. A similar despatch is being sent to the other self-governing Dominions, and a circular despatch to the same effect is being sent to the Colonies not possessing responsible Government and to the Protectorates. Further the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of State for India are being asked to take similar action with regard to Egypt and India.

I have the honour to be My Lord
Yours Lordship's most obedient humble Servant
Milner

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACHK 8604 G1 252 1920/9 03 November 1919 Influenza Epidemic 1919-1920)

Government Audit Department records

Archives New Zealand Wellington = ADAU 16028 A5 350 35/90 Influenza Epidemic 1918-1919
Audit Department Registered file

- 05 November 1918 = note from Doctor stating Dorothy NASH is suffering from acute influenza and is unable to work
- 06 November 1918 = letter report acknowledging note re Miss Nash
- 08 November 1918 = memorandum Public Services Commission to Permanent heads during influenza decided for sick leave of absence on full pay to temporary employees of less than

- 12 days service is not to be limited to 6 days but extended to 10 to 12 days – Heads to advise Dr Platts-Mills who will make one visit to patient to determine nature of illness
- 08 November 1918 = memorandum circular Department of Internal Affairs to Under-secretary and Heads of Departments – establish an Inhalation Room in the Government building on ground floor opposite main entrance – officers to remain in room 10 minutes
 - 11 November 1918 = Public Trust Commissioner – report 32 officers reported sick with influenza from staff of 87 in the War Expenses Audit Branch (2 copies)
 - 11 November 1918 = Auditor General report numerous Influenza absentees – several officer engaged on special work are effected – Mr McMahon, Mr Talbot, Miss O'Meara, Miss Garth, Miss Gow, Miss Anyon, Mrs Hardin
 - 11 November 1918 = (with above) list of names Mrs Hardin, Miss Hyde, Miss Nash, Miss Noble, Miss O'Meara, Miss Attenborrow, Miss Bailey, Miss Dupre, Miss Garth, Miss Gow, Miss Hillen, Miss Hyndman, Miss Lock, Miss Wood, Mrs Montgomery, Miss Sutherland, Miss Alexander, Miss Anyon, Miss Leach, Mrs McKinstry, Mrs Patterson, Mrs Potts, Mrs O'Connor, Miss Hurley, Mr Carman, Mr Talbot, Mr Thomas, Mr McMahon, Miss McGregor, Miss Brocklebank, Miss Rutherford, Miss Welby, Mrs Hamlin, Miss Ward, Miss Kimpton, Miss Hobbs
 - 09 November 1918 = Dr note for Douglas Hopkirk
 - 11 November 1918 = Public Service to Permanent Heads instructions not to send Dr notes to department Regulation 55a is temporarily waived
 - 11 November 1918 = War Expense Audit Branch covering Dr Platts-Mills (female doctor) visiting sick staff
 - 29 November 1918 = Treasury – Pre audit claims for Influenza Epidemic approved
 - 05 December 1918 = Public Service circular No 198/27 Influenza sick leave for staff
 - 06 December 1918 = Public Service to Permanent Heads Influenza sick leave for staff during months October, November, December 1918 shall be granted (2 copies)
 - 27 January 1919 = Public Health re Auckland Hospital Board Influenza expenses report
 - 27 January 1919 = Public Health re Wellington Influenza expenses report (2 pages)
 - 14 February 1919 = Public Service to Permanent Heads – Influenza compassion allowances – widows of Public Servants up to one years pay - each dealt with on its merits
 - 19 February 1919 = Public Service re Mrs Olive HARIN of War Expenses Branch died leaving 1 daughter the husband being with the Expeditionary Forces (Olive Emma HARDIN nee LITCHFIELD married 1906 NZ John Kay HARDIN)
 - 18 March 1919 = telegraph Public Health request Audit General department vouchers
 - 19 March 1919 = telegraph Town Clerk Wanganui
 - 27 March 1919 = Public Service to Permanent Heads view of recurrence of Influenza to give 2 weeks instructions in nursing to women requesting list (women staff only)
 - 31 March 1919 - List Miss Bassett, Miss Burton, Miss Chapman, Miss Gallagher, Miss Greaney, Mrs Gossett, Miss Murray, Miss Perrin, Miss Percy, Miss Rapley, Miss Solvauder, Miss Hould
 - 01 April 1919 = Public Service instructions in nursing at Wellington Hospital 2 only to attend from list Miss Bassett, Miss Burton, Miss Chapman, Miss Gallagher, Miss Greaney, Mrs Gossett, Miss Murray, Miss Perrin, Miss Percy, Miss Rapley, Miss Solvador, Miss Hould
 - Defence Audit = Nursing list Miss Bailey, Miss Bell, Miss Browne, Miss Cairns, Miss Campbell, Miss Davis, Miss Dickson, Miss Garth, Miss Hillen, Miss Knight, Miss Martini, Miss Maxwell, Miss Price, Miss O Smith, Miss Sutherland, Miss Sen Thorpe, Miss junior Thorpe, Miss Ward, Miss Welby, Miss Wood, Miss Wright
 - 01 April 1919 = Treasury arrange for officer to attend with Influenza vouchers
 - 02 April 1919 = Treasury re Influenza accounts audit
 - 03 April 1919 Treasury same as above
 - 15 April 1919 = Public Service to Permanent Heads re Influenza sick leave
 - 08 May 1919 = Public Service training in nursing to report at Wellington Hospital Miss Perrin, Miss Wood, Miss Ward
 - 02 May 1919 = Public Service to Audit Department submit names of girls for training in nursing at Wellington hospital
 - 06 May 1919 = Public Service as above

- 05 May 1919 –list of member of female staff who desire to attend lectures on Elementary sick nursing Miss Balenui, Miss Bassett, Miss Beck, Miss Chapman, Miss Cooney, Miss Charlton, Miss Cresswell, Miss Doyle, Miss Fuller, Miss Haywards, Miss Wiltshire, Miss Greaney, Miss Hould, Miss Maclachland, Miss Muldoon, Miss Rigby, Miss Short, Miss White, Miss Casey, Miss S Perrin to Miss Lindsay
- 03 May 1919 = Public Service to Permanent Heads suggestion for female staff to attend sick nursing course
- 07 May 1919 = Public Service list of lady members of staff – Miss Balemi, Miss Bassett, Miss Beck, Miss Chapman, Miss Cooney, Miss Charlton, Miss Cresswell, Miss Doyle, Miss Fuller, Miss Hayward, Miss Wiltshire, Miss Greaney, Miss Hould, Miss Maclaghan, Miss Muldoon, Miss Rigby, Miss Short, Miss White, Miss Casey, Miss Perrin, Miss Cairne, Miss Dennis, Miss O Smith, Miss Thorpe junior, Miss F Attenborrow, Miss E Kimpton, Miss B Lock, Miss M Joyce, Mrs A J Barlow, Miss N Noble, Miss M Parsons, Miss E McKinstry, Miss L Hyde, Miss M Callaghan, Mrs A Potts, Miss F Wright, Miss A M Knight, Miss P M Browne, Miss D Smith, Miss I Martin, Miss J Alexander, Miss A Robertson, Miss R Fouhy, Miss O'Meara, Miss S Heath, Miss D Peatonby, Miss P Adams
- 07 May 1919 = Public Service letter with above list
- 26 April 1919 = Miss E Rapley 68 Ellis Street Wellington to report to Wellington Hospital for 2 weeks training
- 22 April 1919 = Public Service re instruction in Nursing
- 28 April 1919 = list Miss Bailey, Miss Bell, Miss Browne, Miss Cairns, Miss Campbell, Miss Davis, Miss Dickson, Miss Garth, Miss Hillen, Miss Joyce, Miss Knight, Miss Martini, Miss Maxwell, Miss O Smith, Miss Sutherland, Miss Thorpe senior, Miss Thorpe junior, Miss Ward, Miss Welby, Miss Wood, Miss Wright
- Nursing = 26 May to 07 June Miss Welby & Miss Garth, 09 June to 21 June Miss Price & Miss Cairns, 23 June to 05 July Miss Maxwell & Miss O Smith, 07 July to 19 July Miss Dickson & Miss Wright, 21 July to 02 August Miss Hillen & Miss Browne, 04 August to 16 August Miss Bailey & Miss Knight, 18 August to 30 August Miss Davis & Miss Bell, 01 September to 13 September Miss Thorpe junior & Miss Martini, 15 September to 27 September Miss Thorpe senior
- 20 May 1919 Public Service to Permanent Heads advise Mrs Potter of Women's National Reserve re final arrangement for Lectures (with above list)
- 22 May 1919 = Public Service ladies to report at Wellington Hospital Miss Gallagher, Miss Garth & Miss Dickson
- 23 May 1919 = note class held Monday afternoon 4.30 pm at Women's National Reserve Room over Little John's Lambton Quay Monday 26th May
- 04 June 1919 = Public Service ladies to report for at Wellington Hospital Miss Maxwell, Miss Price & Miss Cairns
- 27 June 1919 = Public Service to Permanent Heads Instructions for nursing lectures
- 03 July 1919 = Department of Health to Minister of Finance (Epidemic Vote) Epidemic Widows and Widowers
 - Widows and widowers and their children to be under administration of Minister of Public Health. Orphan children to be under Minister of Education
 - Maoris – widows and widowers and their children to be under administration of Minister of Native Affairs. Funds to be provided from epidemic vote
 - Question of orphan children to be considered by Ministers of Native Affairs and Education and Minister of Health
 - Hospital Boards to elect outside members of Committees which are approved
 - Proposals re assistance to widows and widowers up to 25/- a week in necessitous cases approved. Each case to be considered on its merits. All moneys required to be provided by the State
 - Quarterly reports from the Boards to be submitted

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ADAU 16028 A5 350 35/90 Influenza Epidemic 1918-1919 Audit Department Registered file)

Government Health Department

LETTER = write and request to view records
Team Leader Records - Health Department - Wellington
Commission of inquiry Influenza Epidemic
R19816633
R19816645
R16195786

Government Statistics Department

LETTER = write and request to view only records
Team Leader Records – Statistics Department - Wellington
ADTO 18998 Stats1 17/ 13/15/64 Stat Deaths during influenza epidemic
