

WWI Primary Source

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Shepherd, Blenheim, NZ

Private William Thomas Dundon

Service Number: 6/1276

Canterbury Infantry Battalion

Served: Egypt, Gallipoli

Killed in action, Gallipoli, 5 June 1915

Buried in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Anzac, Turkey



Look for further information:

Papers Past (natlib.govt.nz) | Online Cenotaph - Auckland War Memorial Museum (aucklandmuseum.com)
Archives New Zealand (archives.govt.nz)

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HISTORY-SHEET. PMG P14-1-21

[E.F. Form No. 3A.]

Unit. C. I. B.	Rank Corporal Pote	Surname. Dundon	Christian Name. William Thomas	No. 6/1276.
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Occupation: Shepherd Religion: 1310 Roman R.C. Last New Zealand address: Shades Hotel, Ch. Ch.
 Last employer: J. O'Connell, J. & Co. Ltd. 12/11/90

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand):
Mr. J. Dundon (father)
Blenheim Ward 91 4 20
Marlborough. (deceased)
any War Gratuity or Has Medal to go to Mr. Jeremiah Dundon (father) Ward.

Country or Troopship.	Date from	Date to	Total.		Initials of Officer making Entry.	Home Service.	
			Years.	Days.		Years.	Days.
<u>J. I.</u>	<u>20/10/14</u>	<u>14-12-14</u>		<u>06</u>			
<u>Foreign (at sea)</u>	<u>15-12-14</u>	<u>28-1-15</u>		<u>45</u>			
<u>Egypt.</u>	<u>29-1-15</u>						
Service ...						Foreign Service:	
						Total Service:	

MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE.

[B.R. - 220.]

Surname: Christian names: Dundon Rank on discharge: Highest rank held: Reg. No.
 Address: 3/OGT/1923 M. Highest rank held in theatre of war:
 Rank shown on discharge-certificate:
 Casualty or reason for discharge:
 Legatee and address: W. J. Dundon, St Ward, Marlborough. (since dead)
 Country resident in: Ch
 Nominated next-of-kin, relationship, and address:
 Legal next-of-kin, relationship, and address: W. J. Dundon, P. Bignell, St. Erville, Wanganui. Auth. P.O. 54,353/1.9.20

Decorations: Medals for Gallantry.	Authority.	Service Medals.	Date Medal issued.	Service Chevrons.	Wound Stripes.
	<u>Australasian:</u>	<u>1914-1915 8/10</u>			
	<u>Egyptian: 1915</u>	<u>British War Medal ..</u>		<u>Red.</u>	
	<u>Egyptian F.P.:</u>	<u>Victory Medal ..</u>		<u>Blue.</u>	
Certificates of Service issued.	<u>Balkan: No. 1915</u>	MENTION IN DESPATCHES.			
	<u>Western European:</u>	<u>London Gazette.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	
	<u>Asiatic:</u>				

U. 7. 15. 15 used in action November June 1915
 Missing ... 8-20/10
 Prisoner ...
 Injuries in or by the Service ...

Discharge ... Intended address: G324
 Pension ... issued R. 12/17
 Medals Auth go Mr P Dundon 94 Bignell St Wanganui 14/9/21

ISSUE AUTHORISED
 Gallipoli Lapel badge
 Gallipoli Medallion
 Date 18/7/67 auth

* Strike out words not required.

DIARY AND LETTERS

W. T. DUNDON,

LANCE CORPORAL

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

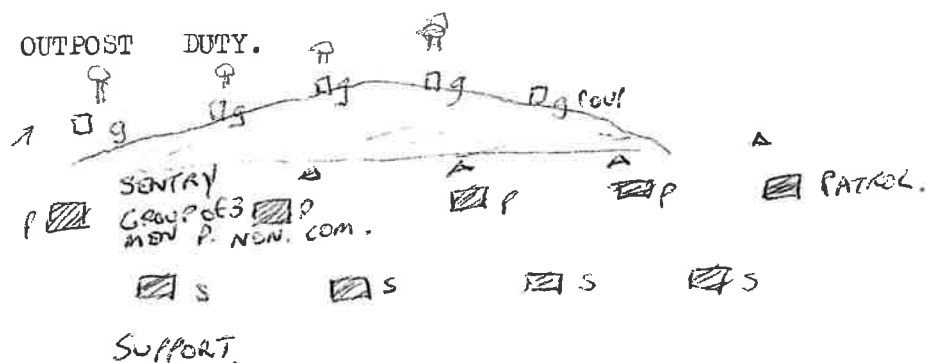
2nd. REINFORCEMENT,

NUMBER 8 PLATOON,

13th. REGIMENT NORTH CANTERBURY

AND WESTLAND.

6



7

group consists usually of 3 men & non com. in certain dangerous posts 6 men. Each sentry must know exactly the ground he has to watch. He must know nature of country, in front Roads, Rivers etc.

visiting patrol of 2 men. called the reconnoiting patrol visits the sentries at certain intervals under instructions from the O.C.

A patrol also keeps the sentry groups in touch with one another.

sentry must not move without the authority of his superior officer.

When the sentry gives warning of enemies attack, the pickets groups & reserves are all brought up into the line of sentries to assume a defensive position the officer ~~are~~ of the picket & O.C. are to be warned.

8

A connecting file connects the group with the picket. & from the picket with support.

An officer in charge of an outpost must know what resistance he can offer to the enemy.

Outpost should be within rifle range fire of the enemy. Guns so as to keep them out of range of the Main Body.

Rec Patrol goes out in front of sentries who must know when to expect them & in what direction they will come.

Sentries are pushed fd. at night & drawn in during the day.

52 26/5/15. Only those who were on watch at the time
of the explosions were killed. Prob. about 100 or
less. Triumph made off at full speed & destroyers raced
up & down between Gallipoli & Imbros on the look out
for the submarine. She was seen quite close to the
Triumph.

53 (blank)

54 & the nearest fired several shots, whether hit or not
it is imp. to say, but today, the dest^s., gunboats &
trawlers were ceaselessly "working" up & down, dragging
grappling hooks in the off chance of catching it
It was supp. that it might have dived & now resting on the bottom.
Things are quiet. An armistice was arranged on Monday. on
our front to bury the dead. It lasted from 7 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
& was scrup. observed by each side. The parties met half way bet.
the trenches & gathered up corpses which had lain there for a
month in some cases.

27/5/15. At 6.15 a.m. this morning a wireless message ann.
that another of our fleet had been sent down by a torpedo.
55 The "Majestic" suffered this time. The loss of life is said
to be heavy. an eye witness says she sank in 12 mins.
after the explosion. There is no feeling of depression
over these disasters, only a greater determination to turn
the weapon of destruction against the enemy with greater energy
than ever, if that is possible. A heavy Bombmt. goes on
from C. Helles directed against Chenak & Kilia Bahr. probably
I wrote from the outpost trenches near our Artillery
position above the sea The opposing batteries as is their
custom after sunset every evening are exchanging salvos &
the shells whistle over our heads with inconspicuous proximity.
I saw a man blown to pieces with a shell yesterday. He was
carrying a Mail Bag & the letters were scattered everywhere

56

As showing how one lives from day to day, in an atmosphere of danger, a kerosene tin full of water in our dug-out was hit by a shell, a piece of shrapnel, we lost the water an Australian just a few feet below was killed amongst his mates. My mate in this dug-out is Robert B. Frazer. We have dieted ourselves very well here, plenty of vegetables, Maconochies R. & we actually attempted a "duff" one day, it was quite a success & two packets of Blanc mange, on another occasion scored two tins of pineapple; so that the dark days of Acha Baba were forgotten.

57

1/6/15/ Just had breakfast & getting ready to go up to firing line. The particular place allotted to us is Quinn's Post where the Opp trenches are only 10 yds. apart. The enemy sapped & blew up this portion three nights ago & attacked & took our trenches but were driven out after inflicting heavy losses by means of bombs. Their losses were about 1500.

The weather is very hot now.

Gen Sir Ian Hamilton visited the position yesterday in company with Gen. Birdwood.

part 1

2/6/15. We are now in the front line of trenches at Quinn's Point where the position is weakest. Bomb throwing & mining went on all night & we lost several men; Arnold Sharpe, Farrel, & E bird were badly wounded but with the exception of Bird they will recover. It is pretty "hot stuff" indeed & not quite relished by the men in dug-outs.

58

3/6/15. Arnold Sharpe died in the Beach Hospital yesterday. He was my particular friend of earlier days in camp. We joined- enlisted at Rangiora together & the friendship formed, continued right through till the time

58

Turks may fire their mines under us is suff. to cause onemuch anxiety. At time of writing I have money in my Pay Book to the value of £11-0-0. made up in ~~40~~ 9(~~ten~~)Nine British Postal Notes of £1 (one) each & the balance in gold & silver.

59

4/6/15. After a 24 hours spell we are back in the firing line again. Tonight a trench of the enemy is to be rushed by 100 Canterburty men, 25 from each company. The distance to traverse is about 20 yards but that piece of ground will be "hot". As I am myself forming one of the assault party. I consider it appropriate to note that it is one of these affairs, which always carries with it a fair element of risk. It will at least be very exciting because our men will bomb the trenches heavilly & each attacker or perhaps every other will carry a bomb himself.

60

From Cape Helles comes the sound of terrific bomb^{ment} by Naval & field guns. It may be that the culminating attack is being made on Acha Baba. accomp. by heavy fire. In the last few days fifty transports including the Mauretania, Aquitania have unloaded at Cape Hellas.

61

part 2

(loose page from note book).

2/6/15. I have been spared by the merciful dispensation of providence to pen these letters. In the intervening war I have seen friends & commrades die doing their duty to the extremity. The fighting has been severe all along & especially at Acha Baba where we Stapp^d for 14 days. In that time we went through one memorabl~~e~~ action in advance on the great fortifications of Acha Baba. Many Blenheim boys were killed & wounded that day. We later came here to Kapa Tepe & were located on the beach doing heavy work. Now the Infantry Brigade have relieved The Aust. Light Horse & the N.Z. Mounted. The Nelson Company is at Quinn's Point commonly

61

part
2

up the occupants. It is horrible warfare such as no one can realise who has not seen it. I have letters & papers from you dated up to the end of March. I have the photo of ~~your~~ Philip's little son.

W.