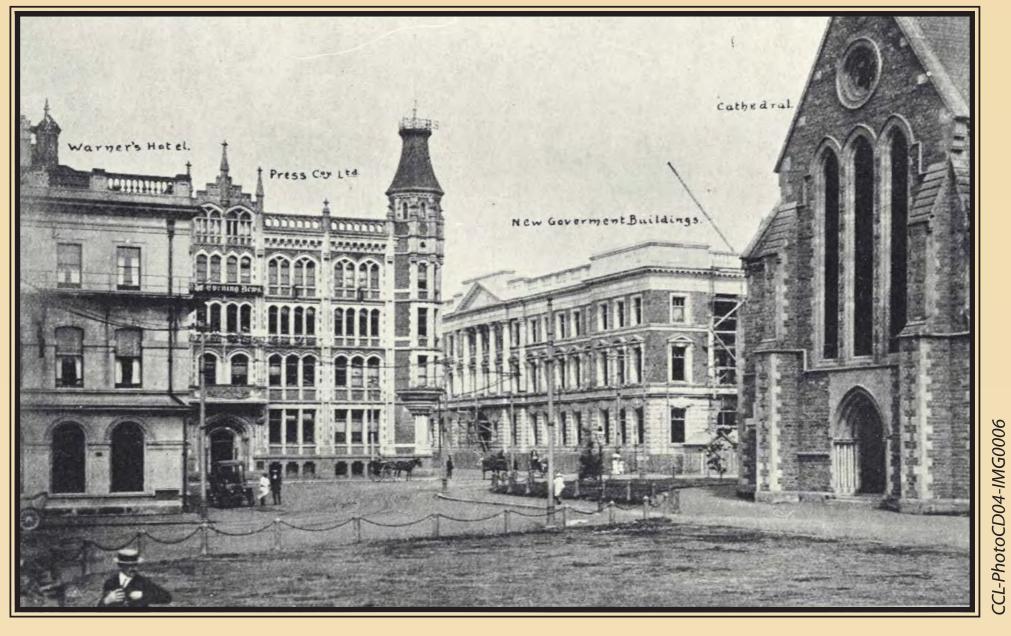
CANTERBURY IN 1914

In 1914 Canterbury had a population of only 184,472 people and 65% lived in towns. The wages were about average for the country with many salaries including food and accommodation. Christchurch was gradually moving from being mostly wooden to brick and stone buildings. Trams were used for transport around the city while Canterbury towns were served



A portion of the Eastern side of Cathedral Square [1913].

by rail branch lines which transported passengers and goods. Shops like Ballantynes were well-established and numerous musical organisations like choirs and orchestras were active in the city.

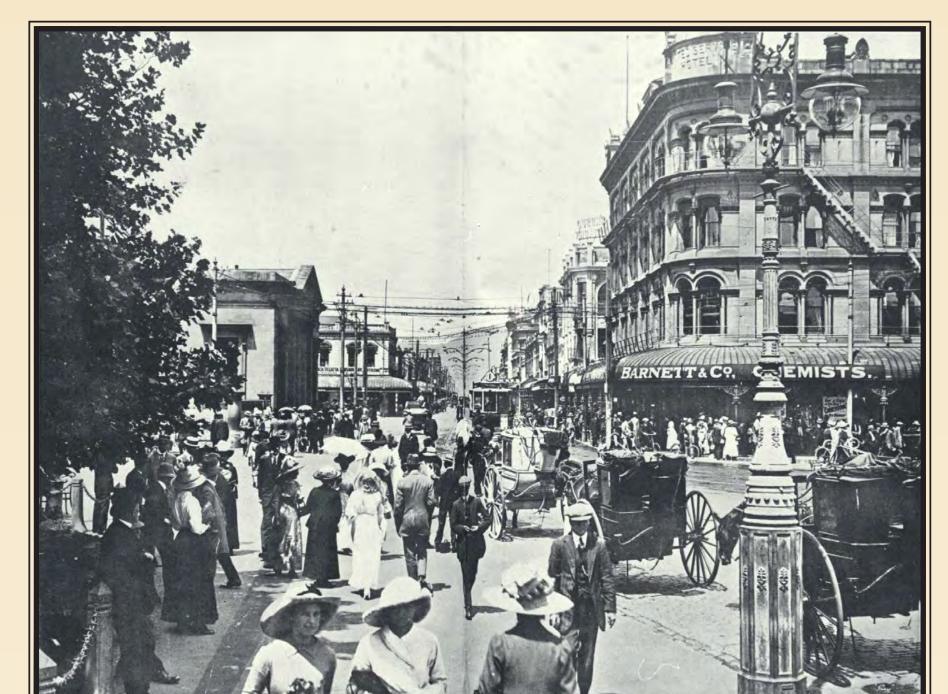


The south side of Gloucester Street, Christchurch [1910].

During this period Ngāi Tahu were working on Te Kerēme (the Ngāi Tahu Claim). The government established a Commission of Enquiry in 1914, but this was halted by war. Upon the declaration of war iwi including Ngāi Tahu offered assistance to the government, but the British Government's traditional refusal to use indigenous troops in European conflicts meant that their offer was

denied. Ongoing work from individuals from iwi throughout New Zealand finally overcame this reluctance and by 1915 about 30 Ngāi Tahu men from Canterbury had joined the newly formed Māori Contingent and had shipped out to Egypt.

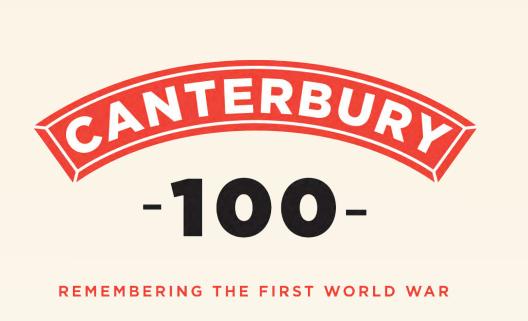
There were a number of major events in Canterbury that can give us a picture of what life was like at the outbreak of war. A new newspaper was launched in February 1914. The Sun was modelled on the London Daily Mail. It gave a bright display of news with lots of illustrations and was very popular. In March 1914 the Deans family



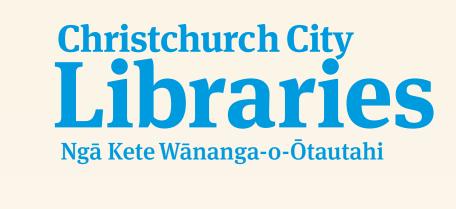
Busy Christchurch: a view in Cathedral Square looking towards the BNZ corner on a hot summer's day [1913].

gifted 16 acres of land to the city. This was the last area of bush in the Riccarton area and was given to the people of Christchurch on the condition that entry would always be free. A murder in Geraldine distracted the population from the increasing disturbance in Europe in May 1914. Harry Cripps, 27, was arrested and charged with the murder of Adam Stevenson, 70, a ploughman.

The labour movement in Christchurch in 1914 was one of the strongest in the country, both politically and in the workplace. Christchurch working-class political and industrial organisations were increasingly active, protesting the new industrial legislation, new methods of working that undervalued the skilled worker and compulsory military training. The outbreak of war resulted in an immediate rise in unemployment for workers, price rises and increases in the cost of living. There were demands for a planned wartime economy, ensuring adequate employment, food, clothing, and housing for workers and soldiers' dependents.









HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 1914, there was tension in the Balkans. The Austro-Hungarian Empire wished to assert authority over the much newer Romania, Bulgaria and especially Serbia. The heir to the throne of Austria, Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, was more progressive than his elderly uncle, Emperor Franz Joseph and wanted to build strategic alliances in the Balkans to protect Austrian interests. On 28 June 1914, Franz Ferdinand visited the Bosnian capital Sarajevo with his wife, Sophie.

Gavrilo Princip, a student revolutionary, supported Bosnian independence.

He and several other assassins waited for the royal couple, with weapons supplied by a Serbian secret society, the 'Black Hand'. Princip found himself with an opportunity and was able to shoot both the Archduke and his wife.

Princip was arrested



but both Franz Ferdinand and Sophie died shortly afterwards, prompting a diplomatic crisis with Serbia.

The murder of Franz-Ferdinand in Sarajevo prompted the Austro-Hungarian Empire to issue an ultimatum to Serbia on 23 July 1914. Serbia agreed to most of the terms but refused to allow Austrian troops to enter the country to hunt down those who had plotted the assassination. Austria declared war on 23 July 1914 and Russia mobilised her army in support of the Serbs on 30 July 1914. The long-standing European alliance system kicked in when Germany, in support of Austria, responded to Russian mobilisation by declaring war on Russia on 1 August 1914. Germany then declared war on Russia's ally, France on 3 August 1914 and demanded free passage though neutral Belgium to attack the French. When German troops entered Belgium, Britain and her Empire (including New Zealand) declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914. The First World War had begun, with Germany and Austria-Hungary pitted against Britain, France and Russia.









WARTIME OPPOSITION IN NEW ZEALAND

Newspaper reports suggest that most New Zealanders reacted enthusiastically to the outbreak of war, but many were opposed to it for political or religious

reasons. Some pacifist organisations such as the National Peace Council disbanded or suspended their activities during the war, possibly for fear of public hostility, but others suffered for their views. Some conscientious objectors like Archibald Baxter (father of the poet James K. Baxter) were jailed, forcibly taken to the front, beaten and starved. The Socialist Party opposed the war for political reasons while Māori had mixed reactions. Some were willing to fight while others refused to support a British government with which they held long-standing grievances.



Leaflet advertising a public meeting in the Choral Hall, Latimer Square, Wednesday 14 February.

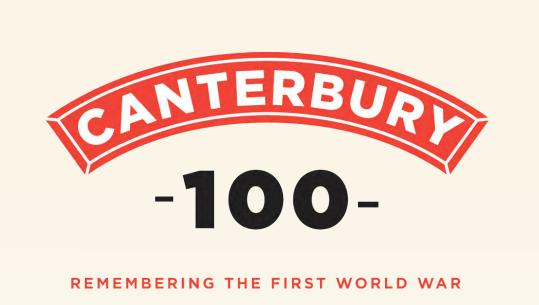
Mr. Fraser Speaks, 1916. When in December 1916, the second great Anti-Conscription Conference, representing 50,000 workers, was sitting, detectives appeared with orders to demand resenting 50,000 workers, was sitting, detectives appeared with orders to demand admittance—a demand which was, however, not complied with. Mr. Peter Fraser (now M.P. for Wellington Central) secretary of the Conference was (now M.P. for Wellington Central), secretary of the Conference, was arrested while Conference was sitting; and the arrests of Massac Raindle Armstrong and the Armstrong and the arrests of Massac Raindle Armstrong and the Armst Conference was sitting; and the arrests of Messrs. Brindle, Armstrong and a number of Conference was sitting; and the arrests of Messrs. Brindle, Armstrong and a number of others followed in rapid succession. Messrs. Semple and Cooke had been arrested a few days earlier.—From "Armageddon or Calvary," by H. E. Holland, M.P. (late leader of the Lahour Party) On Thursday morning, along with Mr. Brindle, Mr. Fraser was formally charged before two local J'sP., Messrs. W. Ellison and W. J. Hannah. THE CHARGE The charge against Mr. Fraser was that he did, on December 10th, publish words The charge against Mr. Fraser was that he did, on December 10th, publish words which were seditious in that they had a tendency to excite disaffection against the Government of New Zealand and to interfere with the recruiting of His Majesty's forces, and with the effective preparations of His Majesty, and to discourage the forces, and with the effective preparations of His Majesty, and to discourage the presecution of the present war to a victorious conclusion and to encourage and to encourage the presecution of the present war to a victorious conclusion and to encourage and to encourage the presecution of the present war to a victorious conclusion and to encourage the prosecution of the present war to a victorious conclusion, and to encourage opposition to the antenant and administration of the laws in force in New Zooland relating to prosecution of the present war to a victorious conclusion, and to encourage opposition to the enforcement and administration of the laws in force in New Zealand relating to to the enforcement and administration of the laws in force in New Zealand relating to the enforcement and administration of the laws in force in New Zealand relating to to the enforcement and administration of the laws in force in New Zealand relating to compulsory military service during the war, and to excite disloyalty in respect of the war, contrary to clause 1 of the Regulations made on December 4th, 1916, under the War Regulations Act. 1914. THE ALLEGED SEDITION The particular portions of Mr. Fraser's speech which were alleged to be seditious War Regulations Act, 1914. "For the past two years and a half we have been looking at the ruling classes of Europe spreading woe, want and murder over the Continent, and it is time that the Europe spreading woe, want and murder over the Continent, and it is time that He working classes of the different nations were rising up in protest against them. He (to wit, Lloyd George) wants to continue He'll, and to compel the young life of the Dominions into a sweltering Hell And so far only one country has said—only one Dominions into a sweltering Hell. And so far only one country has said—only one part of the world has said, 'We think this has gone far enough; we will submit to it no part of the world has said, we think this has gone far enough; we will submit to it no more. We find there is a general settling down, and a crystallising of public opinion in favour of peace or at least peace perceiptions. for no country knows what there is a general settling down, and a crystallising of public opinion. in favour of peace, or at least peace negotiations, for no country knows what they are fighting for There is nobody in this country who knows or in Britain Country who knows or in Britain fighting for. There is nobody in this country who knows, or in Britain, Germany, Russia, or France. But they have come forward and said 'We will send you whether Russia, or France. But they have come forward and said, 'We will send you, whether you want or not, to fight,' and you know not what, no more than the sheep which are branded in the Ngahauranga slaughterhouse. It rests with the people to say how branded in the lyganauranga staughternouse. It rests with the people to say how long they will stand it. We are told that we were fighting to secure a lasting peace; first it was to relieve Relairm and the majority of men who went honestly believed. first it was to relieve Belgium, and the majority of men who went honestly believed that they were going to fight for the rights of the smaller nations and liberty; afterwards before the incident of Greece came along before they realized that afterwards, before the incident of Greece came along, before they realised that militarism respected no nationality—if it was necessary to trample underfoot any militarism respected no nationality—if it was necessary to trample underfoot any nation, then any brand of militarism would do. They realise that today. The only nation it Afterwoods were told that we must fight for a lacting page. realise it. Afterwards we were told that we must fight for a lasting peace. The only realise it. Arterwards we were told that we must light for a lasting peace. The only peace that is going to last, for millions of men, is the peace they will get in the sleep of death. It with a suffil description of war I loud George said that this way. of death. In spite of his awful description of war, Lloyd George said that 'this war We do not know how long. The war against Napoleon went on for We do not believe this war will go on for long. We do not believe this war will go on for long, but we must face it, twenty years. We do not believe this war will go on for long, but we must face it, however long. Are the people going to stand that sort of thing? I do not believe they will. I believe they are gradually waking up and they will till they say: 'No longer will we be the dupes of crowned heads of Europe or their diplomats.' This is the fine tradition of the LABOUR PARTY Printed for the Anti-Conscription Campaign Committee (Canterbury) by the Co-operative Press, Christchurch. MAINTAIN IT! [P.T.O.] Leaflet advertising a public meeting

in the Choral Hall, Latimer Square, Wednesday 14 February.

In July 1916 the New Zealand Labour Party formed as an independent alternative to the Liberal Party. The party strongly opposed conscription and three of its founding members (Harry Holland, Peter Fraser and Robert Semple) were imprisoned for this opposition during the First World War. In 1918, all three entered Parliament by winning byelections.

As the war continued, price rises and the continual loss of loved ones contributed to a growing sense of war weariness in the country. Despite Government efforts at control, prices increased by more than a quarter during the course of the war. The National Peace Council,

which drew membership from both the growing labour movements as well as pacifists, pounced on the growing war fatigue to bolster their anticonscription efforts.

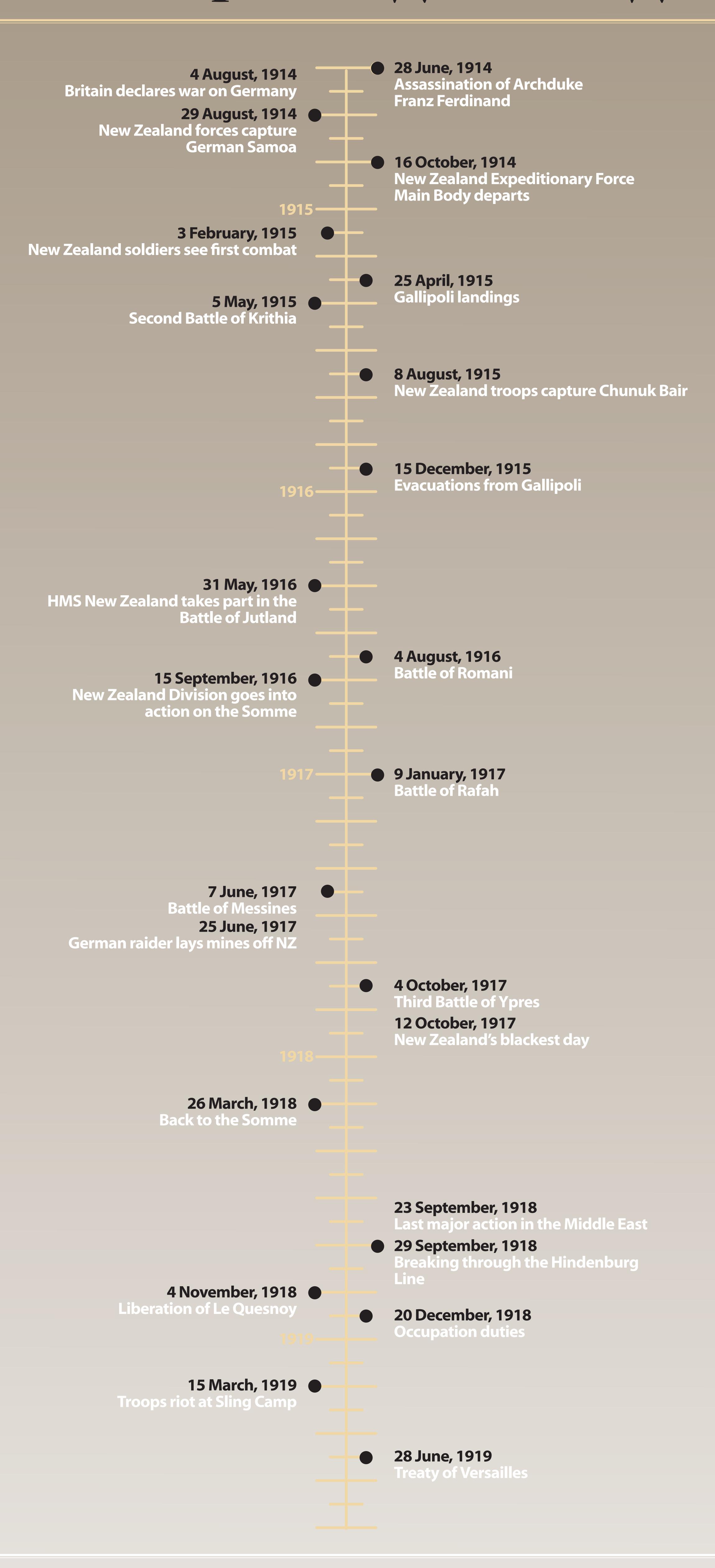








NEW ZEALAND and the First World War











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GALLIPOLI

On 25 April 1915 New Zealand troops engaged in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula in a failed attempt to relieve the stalemate on the Western front. For the first time the Māori Contingent was allowed to engage in active combat as reinforcements from their base on North Beach, subsequently known as "Māori Pa". Plagued by poor planning and lacking sufficient resources, the

campaign made little impact against a seriously underestimated Turkish enemy defending a rugged landscape. For eight months, soldiers from New Zealand, Australia, Britain and France battled in horrendous conditions in an inhospitable and impenetrable landscape.



A view of Beach V, one of the initial landing points for troops, Gallipoli Peninsula [1915].

In August 1915, Allied forces at Gallipoli

launched an offensive in an attempt to break the deadlock on the peninsula. The assault started on 6 August and aimed to seize the high points of the Sari Bair range, including Chunuk Bair, in order to remove the Turkish troops' advantage of higher ground. Chunuk Bair was held for a short period by the Wellington Battalion led by Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone. Overall,

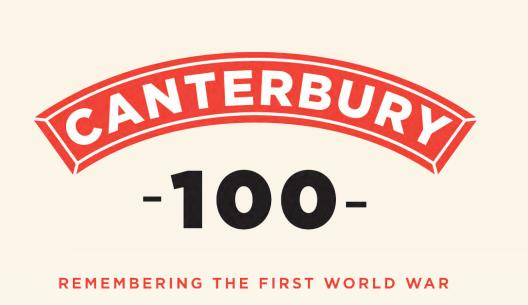


Graves of officers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on the Gallipoli Peninsula [1915].

however, the attacks were largely a failure and resulted in heavy casualties. Losses were so great that the Māori Contingent was separated and split amongst the infantry battalions.

With the failure of the August offensive and winter approaching, authorities in London began plans

to evacuate the Gallipoli peninsula. The withdrawal was to be undertaken at night to avoid alerting Turkish forces. Considerable planning went into the evacuations and on the nights of 19 and 20 December the New Zealanders left Suvla Bay and Anzac Cove. The last British troops evacuated during the nights of 8 and 9 January 1916. By that time, more than 120,000 men had died; 2,721 New Zealanders and 80,000 Turkish soldiers among them. After eight months of battle, Turkish forces still held the peninsula. Despite this and the heavy casualties, the campaign captured the national imaginations of both Australia and New Zealand and is still a focus for debates about national identity today.









THE WAR AND WOMEN

New Zealand women travelled to war from the start of hostilities with six going with the troops to German Samoa in 1914. With reluctant permission

from the government 50 nurses travelled to Egypt during the Gallipoli campaign to work in the hospitals in Alexandria, Cairo and Abbassieh. The success of this venture resulted in nurses being part of New Zealand military hospital staffs for the duration of the war including on hospital ships. As the war continued

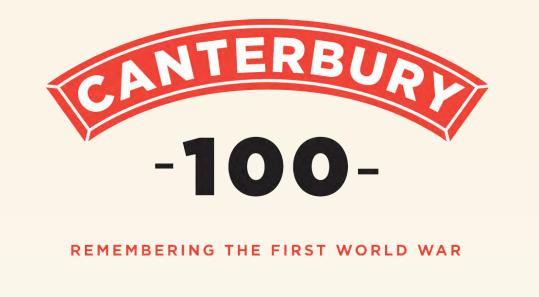


1918 Lady Liverpool, Akaroa Branch.

nursing staff were stationed closer to the front at casualty clearing stations.

For many women there were limited options for contributing to the war effort. The New Zealand government refused to allow the formation of a voluntary wartime service for women unlike their British counterparts who were able to join the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) or First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY). The Victoria League was an organisation that provided an avenue for women to support the war. Founded in 1910, it promoted "mutual understanding, help and intercourse between all citizens of the British Empire, and the cultivation of reciprocity of the Imperial sentiment". The Lady Liverpool League, Canterbury Patriotic Fund, Halswell Patriotic Committee and groups from Little River to Kaiapoi all offered support ranging from knitting socks to collecting old linen for bandages and fundraising.

In 1917 Ada Wells became Christchurch's first woman councillor. Born in England in 1863 she arrived in New Zealand aged 10 and married in 1884. She worked closely with Kate Sheppard as the chief strategist in the Women's Christian Temperance Union's campaign to enable women to vote in parliamentary elections. During the First World War she belonged to the National Peace Council which helped conscientious objectors. She served as a Christchurch City Councillor until 1919 and died in 1933.









TRENCH WARFARE

After a period of rapid movement and fighting, from September 1914 static lines of defences formed in France and Belgium. These consisted of trenches that were spontaneously dug as a defence against the artillery fire coming from the enemy wherever soldiers halted long enough to do so. Both sides did this and it resulted in the 'Western Front', complex lines of trench systems topped by barbed wire. These trenches stretched from the Belgian coast across France to the Swiss border. This trench warfare would become symbolic of the conflict.

Patrols into the "no-man's-land" between the trench lines involved dangerous exposure to enemy artillery. Raids were the only real form of engagement between the armies embedded in the trenches. These involved hand to hand combat and

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Cecil Malthus collection. Letter to Hazel, 11 June [1916]. Pages 1 - 3.

hand to hand combat and were both brutal and swift. Those which succeeded rarely resulted in more than 15 minutes in the enemy trench.

The hoped-for result was usually intelligence, prisoners and intimidation of

as we will have a good many fatigue parties when we move back, and I will not get another such bed in a hurry. Yesterday we had our first experience of the Minsowerfer or German sausages. They are fired high in the air out of a trench mortar, and you can see them plainly, tumbling over and over and wavering a bit, so that you can't tell where they will land. They are certainly "some" bombs, but too hard to range accurately.

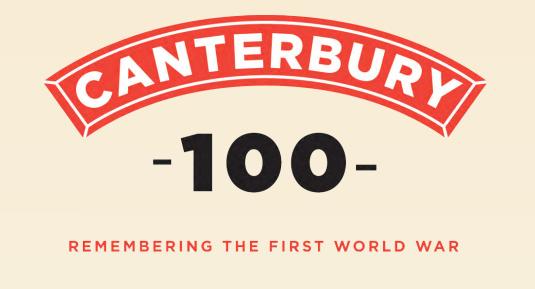
Cecil Malthus collection. Letter to Hazel, 11 June [1916]. Page 4.

the enemy. Poisonous gas attacks were also a feature of trench life for both sides, so soldiers carried with them increasingly sophisticated gasmasks while in the trenches.

Disease in the trenches was a major problem. Food waste, body waste and unburied corpses resulted in infestations of flies and lice along the western front.

Trench fever was a virus spread by the lice and trench foot was a problem starting with cold, wet feet that could result in amputation. Measures were taken to reduce

incidents of both these afflictions and troops would generally only spend up to five days in the trenches before being rotated out to large rest camps behind the lines.



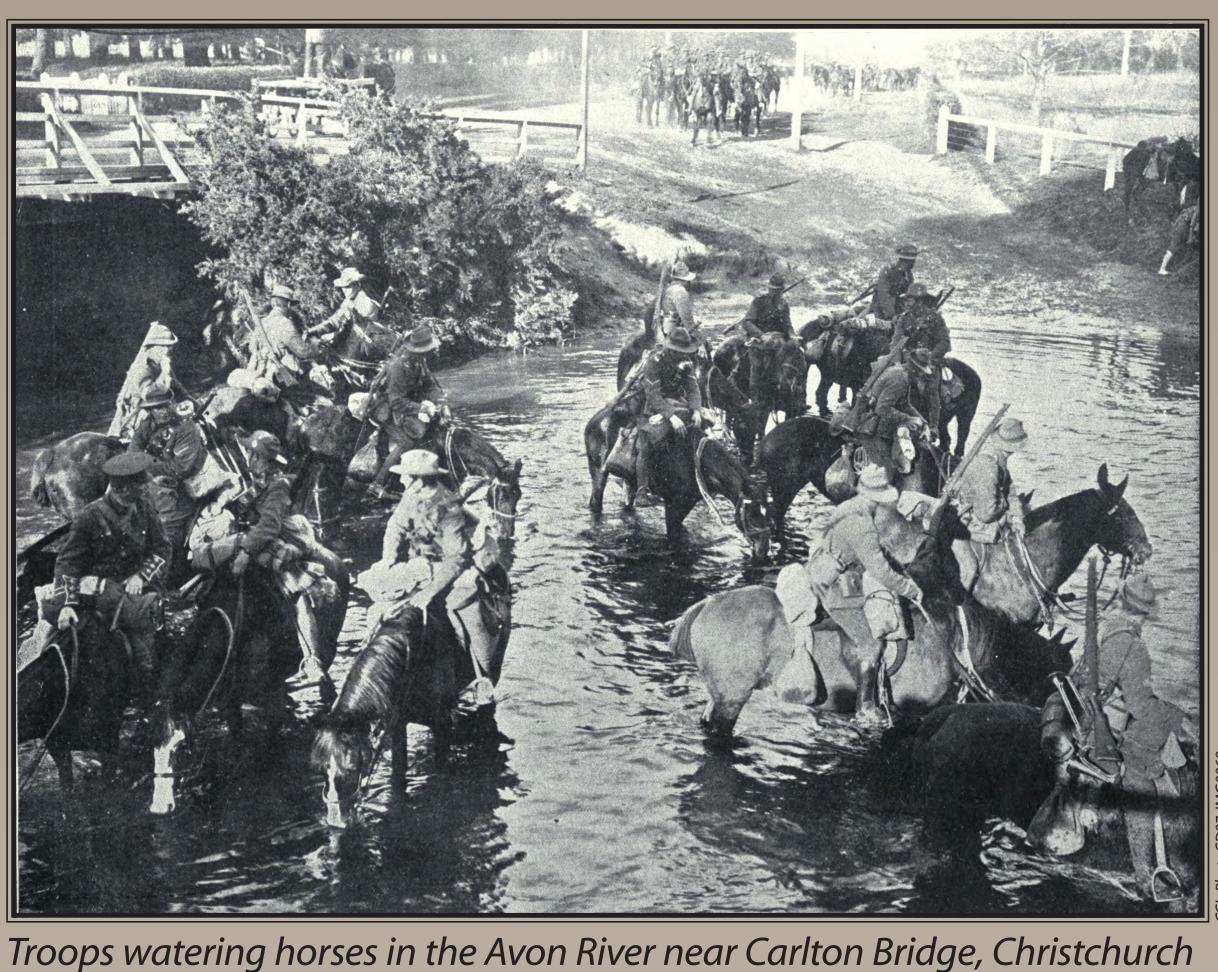






CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES

At the outbreak of war, the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) included one brigade of mounted troops. To establish this brigade, each of the four military districts supplied one mounted rifles regiment. On 12th August 1914 men started to report to the mobilisation camp at the Addington Showgrounds. Many had brought



Troops watering horses in the Avon River near Carlton Bridge, Christchurch [23 September, 1914].

their own horses and where suitable these animals were taken into service by the government and then re-issued for use to their former owners. Many more reported than were taken into the regiment and the medical test was a significant reason for large numbers to be turned away.

The regiment was equipped and trained at Addington and Sockburn until 23

The officers of the Canterbury Mounted Regiment, Addington, Christchurch [1914].

September 1914. In the early hours of the morning the Canterbury Mounted Rifles left the mobilisation camp for the last time and rode to Lyttelton. Their route took them across the Avon where they watered their horses, on over the Heathcote Bridge, Ferry Road and through Sumner to the transport ships. They were taken first

to Wellington and in October that year they sailed for Egypt via Australia and Sri Lanka.

The Canterbury Mounted Rifles formed part of the NZ Mounted Brigade and served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. On 23 June 1919 the last of the regiment left Egypt for good and returned to New Zealand. For a variety of reasons including quarantine rules only 4 of the more than 10,000 horses



Members of the B Squadron of the Canterbury Mounted Regiment crossing the Heathcote Bridge, Ferry Road, on their way to Lyttelton [23 September, 1914].

that were shipped out of the country for war use (some by the Canterbury Mounted Rifles) were brought back. 340 men of the regiment were killed during the First World War.









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