

## Private CHARLES (JOHN) FREDERICK HAYCOCK # 63738

Of the NZ Machine Gun Battalion



**15 May 1897 - Charles Frederick HAYCOCK** was born Hastings.

Charles was commonly known as 'John' and is the son of Thomas and Emma Haycock of Elsthorpe. Thomas & Emma Haycock originated from Essex, England, arriving in Napier on the ship "Clarence" in 1874. They eventually settle in Elsthorpe where his father was the Postmaster and his mother had a boarding house.

The extended family of Emma Haycock (nee' Berry) also came with Thomas & Emma Haycock to NZ. Emma's parents, George and Eliza Berry originated from Kidlington, Oxfordshire and settled in Otane (Kaikora as it was originally known). Unfortunately George Berry was drowned in the Tukituki River when trying to cross it on horseback from the Patangata side in 1884 while the river was in float and was swept away – his occupation being a 'Carter', also described as a Gardner & Contractor. He was found 3 days later and was buried in the old Kaikora North Cemetery, Otane

Eliza Berry later married in 1890 William Megson who was a Veteran of the Indian Mutiny and NZ Maori Wars

Charles Haycock attended the Elsthorpe School and like his mother was musical often playing the

music for the many dances and concerts held in the community of Elsthorpe.

22 Feb 1917 – Final Leave

Private Harry Sinclair, who is home on final leave, and Mr. C. F. Haycock and Mr. W. Boyle, who go into camp on Thursday, were farewelled at a social and dance on Friday last. Mrs. Vaughan presided at the piano, extras being played by Misses Pearson and Watson and Mr. C. F. Haycock. Misses Douglas and Pearson contributed songs. Mr. M. Ryan, in a few well-chosen words, wished the boys "God-speed" and a safe return.

**16<sup>th</sup> July 1917** – Charles F Haycock enlisted at Waipukurau at the age of 20yrs. He was 5ft 9 in tall & weighed 147lb. He was working as a Labourer for Mr W Watson of Elsthorpe and his religion was Church of England.

**3 Aug 1917** – Charles was posted with the C Coy 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment

**21 Nov 1917** – Charles embarked on the ship 'Maunganui' from Wellington and disembarked at Liverpool on the 8 Jan 1918 – being posted to 4 Canterbury Res Battalion at Sling

**In Mar 1918** – he was sent to the Tidworth Hospital suffering from influenza then transferred to the Hornchurch Hospital to convalesce

**Nov 1918** – Left for France

**Dec 1918 to Feb 1919** – Charles was again suffering from Influenza & Pharyngitis and sent to hospital, after which he convalesced at Codford



In July 1916 Codford was chosen as the depot for housing wounded New Zealand troops during their convalescence and the hutted military hospital in the Punch Bowl was entirely taken over for NZ casualties, although there were Australians at Codford as well.

29 April 1918 – Hastings Standard

It is satisfactory to know that the parcels sent to "our boys" at the various fronts are in most cases reaching their destination, and are highly appreciated by the recipients. Mrs. R. S. McAulay and others, have received recently, quite a number of letters gratefully acknowledging receipt of parcels and British Postal Notes for 10/- . Cakes are perhaps appreciated most of all as they are a scarce commodity at the front. The following have written:—Major A. S. Wilder, Sergt. J. E. Coulson, Lance Corporal J. Bone, Riflemen S. Linton and Gordon H. McAulay, Bomb. A. K. Greves, Privates W. Simmers, A. Simmers, J. Cosgrove, Ashby, W. Gilmour, W. Ernest Gilmour, C. H. Baker, C. F. Haycock and J. McKeezie. In addition to these, we regret to say that Mrs. McAulay received two cards from Major F. D. Holdsworth, Director N.Z. Army Postal Services, dated February 18th and 20th, 1918, stating that Privates Findlay McLean, and R. W. Ingram, had been reported dead, and that their parcels had been sent to the O.C. their units for distribution amongst their comrades. Gunner W. Maudsley (Military Medal), was also reported killed some time ago. These soldiers enlisted from this district where they were engaged in sheep-farming occupations, and were highly esteemed by all who knew them.



24 Apr 1919

Private C. F. Haycock, Elsthorpe, is expected to arrive in New Zealand about August 2nd, as advised by Base Records Office.

23 June 1919 Charles Frederick Haycock embarked on the Ship 'S.S. GEISSEN' at Plymouth to return home to NZ.

10 Sep 1919

A welcome home social and dance, was given to Privates W. Gilmour, J. Slater, J. Coulson, C. F. Haycock and J. Batterham, in the Hall, on Monday, September 1st. There was a very large attendance of the residents and other visitors. At an interval during the evening, Mr. M. Ryan, welcomed the guests, and thanked them for their services to the Empire, and expressed the joy of the residents upon their return. They were accorded musical honours, and hearty cheers. Private Gilmour, on behalf of the other soldiers and himself, replied, thanking the residents for the kind welcome home, and for the parcels, etc., that had been sent to the front, and which were much appreciated. Miss Hobin, Waipawa, played the dance music and Mr. Fitzroy gave a song.

1928 – Charles Frederick HAYCOCK married Nora DAWES (nee TOVEY)

They had 4 daughters, Gwendoline, Roberta, Elizabeth and Anne

The Haycock Family first lived in Waipukurau where Charles had a Grocery Store, and then they shifted to Palmerston North before shifting to Dargaville where Charles took up the position of Manager of the Whangarei Dairy Factory

1 Oct 1985 - Charles Frederick HAYCOCK died aged 88 years old and was cremated – his Memorial is in the Whangarei Cemetery

