

# My Soldiers Story

Philip Manu Blake



CORP. P. M. BLAKE,  
Wellington Inf. Batt.,  
Missing, believed killed



By Pierce Hannan

# Philip's Manu Blakes' Contents

Service Number 10/808

Age 22

Rank Corporal

Memorial name Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial

Regiment Wellington Regiment N.Z.E.F

1. Name, serial number, rank etc
2. Personal background
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5. Enlistment in the army.
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# Education

Philip Manu Blake's education started on Karamu Road in Hastings at the local primary. His parents valued catholic education so he then went on to attend Sacred Heart College in 1907. At Sacred Heart he excelled inside the classroom and out of it and he was described a sterling athlete. In 1908 the main trunk line opened from Hawkes Bay to Wellington so he then went to St Patricks , Silverstream so now two colleges claim Philip as a old boy.



3.



# Personal Background

John Thomas and Eliza Blake who were in the transport business had a son in 1893 who was Philip Manu Blake. He was born in Hawkes Bay. They lived on Karamu Road in Hastings. Philip wasn't the only sibling in his family though, he had four brothers ; Bill, Maurice, Jack and Roley. All very talented sportsman. Jack was an All Black from 1925-1926 and Philip was a Maori All Black in 1913. They were strong Catholics and valued Catholic education.

Karamu Road 1900  
( Hawkes Bay )

2.



## Enlistment in the army

When the great war broke out Philip joined the Wellington Infantry Battalion which was a part of the NZEF. They left on 16 October 1914 aboard the troop ship Arawa which was carrying 1259 men, 59 officers and 215 horses. They arrived in Egypt on the 3rd December after a voyage of just under two months. The men then completed their military training there. Philip and his battalion eventually got deployed in Gallipoli on the 25 April 1915.

5.



THE "ARAWA" AT WELLINGTON. NZ TROOPS EMBARKING 1914

## Work After Leaving College

When Philip left school he found employment in Hawkes Bay, and rugby in particular continued to play a huge part in his life. He played 1st 5 for Celtic in the early years of the club and was captain of the Hawkes Bay team. He was selected to tour Australia in 1913 for the Maori team playing 1st 5. He was also described as one of the most outstanding players of the tour.

4.



1913 NZ Maori touring team to Australia, with Philip Blake highlighted.

## The circumstances of Philips Death

When Philip arrived in Gallipoli with his battalion their aim was to take the Sari Bair Range, overlooking the Dardanelles, and to capture the straight and to drive back the Turkish defenders. The battle lasted five days with NZ gaining the summit. They held it for two days under the heat and the constant fire. Philip lost his life in the trenches at Chunuk Bair.



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## Date and Place of death

Date of death Philip died on the 8th August 1915.

Place of death Philip died in the trenches at Gallipoli.



6.

# Bibliography

Sacred Heart College April 2014 Confortare

<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/record/C1269>

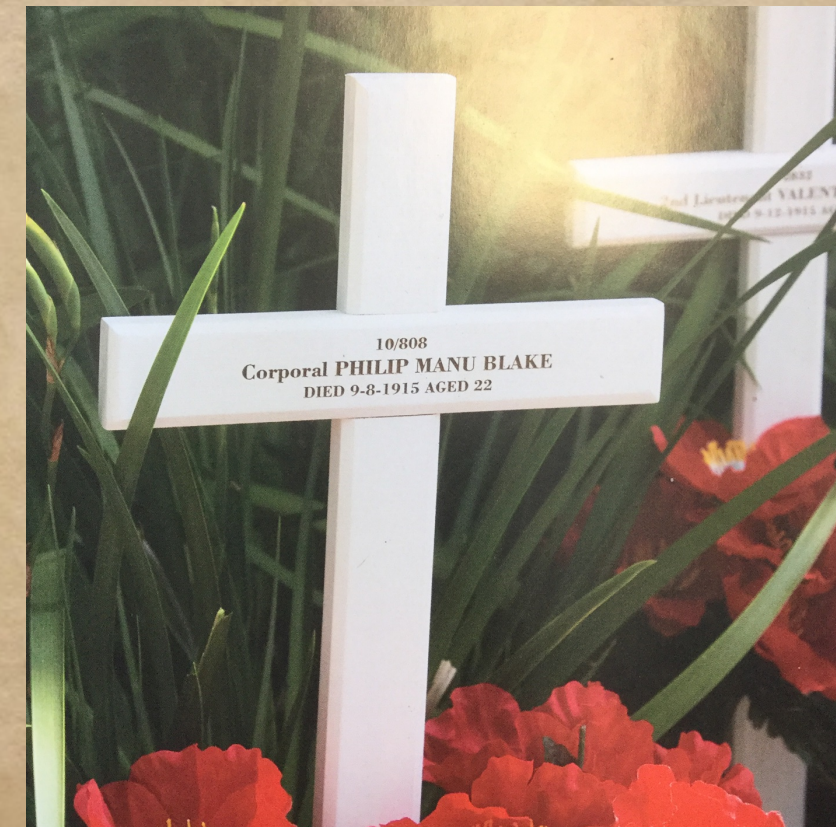
<http://www.digitalnz.org/records/46501>

<http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties/philip-manu-blake>

9.

# Relevant information

Sacred Heart College acknowledges old boys who fought in world war 1 every year on ANZAC day. We have crosses with the soldiers name imprinted on them to remember the old boys that fought for our country. We also have a roll of honour located at the chapel.



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