



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Herbert V Fairlie's Medal

Note the Clasp attachment at the top, in recognition for being brought under notice of Secretary of State for War by General Sir Edmund Allenby GCMG; KCB; Commanding in Chief Egyptian Force, for distinguished service in connection with Military operations under his command

#### HERBERT V. FAIRLIE'S Record

Dec 1914—Wgtn Mtd Rifles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinf. - Trooper  
 Apr 1916—NZ Mtd Signal Troop - L Corporal  
 July 1916 – - Corporal  
 Sep 1916— - Sergeant  
 May 1917— - T Sergt-Major  
 Sep 1918—NZ Rarotongan Coy - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut -



**Herbert V FAIRLIE with his brother Godfrey A FAIRLIE**

This Photo was taken in Egypt and was probably the last time they saw each other as Godfrey FAIRLIE was later Killed in Action in France\*

### Feb 1919 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt H V Fairlie returns home

Amongst the passengers this morning by the Arahura, en route for Tokomaru Bay, was 2nd-Lieut. H. V. Fairlie, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Fairlie, of Tokomaru Bay. Lieut. Fairlie left New Zealand with the 3rd Mounted Reinforcements, and while in Egypt was transferred to the signalling section of N.Z. Engineers. As sergeant in this division he was mentioned in despatches by Sir General Allenby. He took part in the operations on Gallipoli and Egypt, and returned to New Zealand per s.s. Malta with the Rarotongans, to which company he is now attached.

\*Pte Godfrey A Fairlie was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Contingent of the NZ Maori Pioneer Battalion. Godfrey's unit arrived at Suez 26 Oct 1915 then was posted at Moascar in Jan 1916.

The family story told is - **Herbert Fairlie** had heard that his brother's unit was coming to Egypt and so tried to find him at the time of their arrival.

There being so many soldiers, people and activity going on, Herbert found it impossible to find Godfrey, so as a last resort he whistled the "Fairlie Family Whistle" as loud as he could (the Fairlie whistle was used by the family back in Tokomaru Bay meaning "Where are you") and out of the crowds of the people came Godfrey.

Little did they know that would be the last time they would see each other as Godfrey's unit left for France 9<sup>th</sup> Apr 1916 and later **T Sergt. Godfrey A FAIRLIE** was killed in Action in the Field in France on 5 Apr 1918. He was aged 20 years.

Liverpool

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India. &c.:

GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

TO OUR TRUSTY AND WELL-BELOVED

Herbert Vincent Fairlie, Gentleman, Greeting:

We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage, and good conduct, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be an Officer in the Land Forces of the Dominion of New Zealand, from the ~~twenty-first~~ day of ~~September~~, one thousand nine hundred and ~~eighteen~~

<sup>2<sup>d</sup></sup> You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge your duty as such in the rank of <sup>2<sup>d</sup></sup> Lieutenant, or in such higher rank as We may from time to time hereafter be pleased to promote or appoint you to, of which a notification will be made in the *New Zealand Gazette*; and you are at all times to exercise and well discipline in arms both the inferior Officers and men serving under you, and use your best endeavours to keep them in good order and discipline: And We do hereby command them to obey you as their superior Officer, and you are to observe and follow such orders and directions as from time to time you shall receive from Us or any your superior Officer, according to the rules and discipline of war, and of Our Forces of the Dominion of New Zealand, in pursuance of the trust hereby reposed in you.

In testimony whereof We have caused this Our Commission to be sealed with the Seal of Our Dominion of New Zealand.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin 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 Empire, Member of the Royal Victorian Order, 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, this ~~twenty-first~~ day of ~~September~~, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ~~nineteen~~:

Rank and Name:

By His Excellency's Command.

<sup>2<sup>d</sup></sup> Lieutenant Herbert Vincent Fairlie. J. Allen.  
Land Forces, New Zealand.



**Reference:- Official History of the New Zealand Engineers During the Great War 1914-1919.**

**Signal Troop — Chapter XV. — Signal Troop, N.Z.E. — Served with N.Z. Mounted Rifle Brigade, 1914-19**

## **GALLIPOLI EVACUATION**

**1st December 1915. Rumours** of evacuation began to be noised about and were received with feelings of dismay. It was realized that the position, on account of the wintry conditions and shortage of troops, had developed into a stalemate, but retirement had never been thought of by anyone in the ranks. However, orders in great detail came along, and it began to be realized that remarkable organization was going on to effect the evacuation with as little loss as possible. The most optimistic person could not see the movement being completed without great loss of life, and the pessimists predicted a terrible disaster. All sorts of schemes were adopted to deceive the enemy—the linesmen became more active, laying new lines daily and reeling them up at night. **The daily percentage of departures reduced the Troop on the last day to the O.C. and three men, Sergeant A. G. Wainscott, Sappers H. V. Fairlie and J. Bourke.** All but necessary gear was discarded in preparation for a quick getaway. Earlier parties took with them as much technical equipment as could be carried, the O.C. with his usual foresight considering that instruments would be more difficult to replace than blankets and clothing, and acting accordingly. The wisdom of this was demonstrated later. The last day, as it wore slowly on, seemed a lifetime, and as the zero hour drew near everyone was keyed up to a pitch of nervous excitement. Gradually as the time for evacuation approached the last reports began to come in over the wires: "Hammond's Hope post withdrawn," "C.M.R. now withdrawing," "Bluff post evacuated," "W.M.R. retiring." It was noticeable that each office as it closed exchanged the signallers good-bye call (Gb). As soon as the last regiment passed Brigade Headquarters the Brigadier-sent off his last Gallipoli message, "All regiments withdrawn N.Z.M.R., Brigade Headquarters now moving." The Signal Office was then closed, wires cut in every direction, and the last of the Troop, and incidentally the last of the Brigade, set out for the beach and safety at the regulation pace. **To this day these men still wonder at the success of the evacuation and bless the good angel that must have been hovering over them.**

## **THE BATTLE OF AYUN KARA**

**On the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1917 – The battle of Ayun Kara** took place. This action will ever be remembered by all who took part. The gallant advance of the Auckland and Wellington men, and the great defence by the Auckland Regiment against the Turkish counter-attack in the afternoon were an inspiration to all. The Signallers at Brigade Headquarters did everything possible to give all the assistance they could to the much tried regiments. Visual signalling was utilized until the counter-attack came, when a telephone line was run to the A.M.R. This line was connected to the battery R.H.A. so that the Auckland CO. could indicate where he wanted artillery support. The line was often severed by the enemy shells, but the sappers, realizing its value, strove hard to maintain the connection, although they were working in a shell and bullet swept area.

**On 16th November** W.M.R. entered the town of Jaffa and two days later the whole Brigade moved there. The regiments bivouacked in and around the German village of Sarona and Brigade Headquarters were established in the abandoned German Consulate. The Jaffa post-office had been completely denuded of all telegraph and telephone instruments, but the various lines were in good order, and were used for connecting up the Brigade units. The troop was billeted in a large empty house, some of the men even enjoying the luxury of beds. They were able to make various additions to the army rations and, the famous Jaffa oranges being also available in unlimited quantities, all ranks soon recovered from the strain of the three weeks' fighting and marching.

**On the 24th** the Brigade made a demonstration across the river Auja, capturing enemy posts at Sheikh Muannis and Khurbet Hadrah. These posts were held that night by the Brigade in conjunction with the 161st Brigade (54th Division). The posts were all connected up by 'phone to outpost and Brigade Headquarters, and signal lamps were also aligned in case of attack. A heavy enemy attack developed at 3 a.m. on the 25th and most of our lines were soon destroyed. The whole action was in plain view from advanced headquarters just south of the Auja, so it was considered unnecessary to repair the lines.

An outpost line was then established along the south bank of the Auja and held till **4th December**, when the Brigade took over the line Yehudiyeh to a point some three miles north of Ludd. **The next six days** constituted a period of misery, discomfort and unceasing hard work under the worst possible conditions. The rain was incessant, and the whole area from front line posts to the horse lines near the Jaffa-Ramleh road was a veritable quagmire. All the lines were in an indescribable tangle. There had been frequent changes of units and readjustments of the defence area, and each succeeding command had made alterations to the communication system. The lines were bared in many places and the insulation was perished; it was impossible to read signals from Divisional Headquarters. The regimental posts were at once attended to, communication being established from front to rear and from flank to flank. The Brigades in the adjacent sectors were then connected to our Brigade Headquarters, and flank posts connected to the nearest posts in the next sector. **For the first two days** Anzac Headquarters could only be communicated with through the neighbouring Brigades. There was a shortage of regimental Signalers and the Troop had to assist in maintaining the signal stations at some of the forward posts. The shelling was heavy during the whole period and the lines suffered considerably. All ranks were thankful when relief came and the Brigade was able to go back, to Richon Le Zion.

This ended the Brigade's share of the fighting in this sector. Although **Lieut. Patrick, who was awarded the Military Cross**, was the only recipient of any decoration for gallantry, there were other members of the Troop who would certainly have received recognition for their deeds, had it been possible to award decorations for consistent gallantry throughout a campaign, as well as for isolated acts often no more gallant but more theatrical. Names readily called to mind in this connection are those of **Sergeant H. V. Fairlie, Corporals S. O. Dillon and H. H. Wilson**.

**Sergeant Fairlie was conspicuous throughout the campaign for fine work of a high standard. His efforts were especially gallant at Khuweilfeh, when he went out and repaired an important line, a job which the linesmen of another Brigade had jibbed at as being too dangerous.**

Corporal Dillon and his section were responsible during the attack on Beersheba for a smart piece of work which had important results. At one stage of the advance on Tel el Saba visual communication with the Auckland regiment became impossible owing to the flat nature of the ground and the proximity of Regimental and Brigade Headquarters to the enemy. There were two alternative routes for a telephone line, along a dry watercourse or across the absolutely flat intervening ground, a distance of some four to five hundred yards. The watercourse was crowded with led horses and a line through it would have been at once destroyed, so "over the top" was the order. Corporal Dillon and a comrade set off at a gallop, and laid the line by the method practiced at Serapeum, incidentally drawing a heavy burst of enemy fire, but escaping without casualties.