

RODOLPHUS RICHARDSON

Poverty Bay Herald, Volume XXVIII, Issue 9052, 22 January 1901, Page 3

Trooper Rodolphus Richardson, writing from Rhenoster Kop, December 3, states that he was one of those lucky enough not to get hit in the fighting on the 29th. It was a terrible day for the New Zealanders, 22 wounded and six killed, and the 29th of November will long be remembered by those who took part in the engagement. The New Zealanders were in the thickest of it, and it was, he says, terrible to see men throwing up their hands every minute and falling back groaning. Just as they were running into action, one of the Gisborne boys was the first to be hit. It was N. C. Wood. He was alongside the writer, and suddenly he dropped and let out a groan. Richardson thought it was all up with him, and picked him up and carried him out. The bullets fell pretty thick all around. Richardson continues: "I got him out all right, and then went back and laid down with the rest of the Gisborne boys. There were only five of the Gisborneites there—Poynter, Pickett, Gordon, Wood, and myself. The rest are sick at Pretoria. There were 180 killed and wounded that day. We, the Rough Riders, were the closest of the lot, 200 yards' range, and lying on the open ground, hardly a blade of grass to be seen; but the Boers had splendid cover, great boulders of rocks, and I guess if the New Zealanders were in their position the Boers would never have shifted us in a hurry. The 29th was the best stand they have made for a long time. The Boers retired in the night, and cleared out. We don't know what their losses are, but they must have been heavier than ours, for our 15-pounders and the big naval guns were playing on them all day. It was terrible to see the shells cutting trees down and smashing great rocks to pieces, and when they exploded we could hear the yells from the Boers. The next day we went to bury our dead, and had a look at the Boer position. Some of the rocks which the Boers had been lying behind were shattered to pieces, with blood everywhere. We were lying on our stomachs all day, and the heat was cruel. We held our position till 12 o'clock, then were relieved by the Queenslanders; then went for a cup of tea, and had to go out again, and never returned to the camp till the following evening. We were very tired

and hungry. I fired over 450 rounds on the day of the fight. My gun got that hot that you could not touch the barrel."

7 May 1902 - Rodolphus Richardson married

Agnes Emily Henderson

The social held last evening in honor of the marriage of Mr Rodolphus Richardson to Miss Agnes Emily Henderson was largely attended, and a pleasant evening was spent by the numerous company. During the evening a number of toasts were honored, including the health of the bride and bridegroom. The floor was in capital order for dancing, and the social terminated shortly before 1 a.m. with cheers for Mr and Mrs Richardson. The happy couple were the recipients of a large number of handsome presents, including a cheque from members of the Poverty Bay Club.

9 July 1902

The name of the young man who was injured on Mr H. Bayly's property by a bushfelling accident was Rodolphus Richardson, who is well known throughout the district. The name supplied us yesterday from Murewai was invented for the occasion by Dr Craig, the young man's mates being anxious, not to alarm his family, and having persuaded the doctor to suppress the real name

April 1918

Some few weeks ago reference was made in these columns to the bravery of Mr. R. Richardson, a Harbor Board employee, who rescued a lad from drowning at the harbor entrance after the boy had gone down three times. The rescuer had to run 200yds along the breakwater, swim the river, and dive for the lad, and but for his promptitude and pluck a fatality would have had to be recorded. One admirer of the brave act sent us a donation with which some token could be purchased for presentation to Mr. Richardson to mark his bravery, and another has sent us a further sum of a guinea. Other persons who desire to contribute are requested to do so promptly as the fund will be closed in a week.

29 April 1918

"I would like to draw the attention of the Board to a very commendable and courageous deed performed by one of the staff, namely R. Richardson," remarked the harbormaster in the course of his report to the Harbor Board today. "I have requested the works foreman to report to me on the matter, as he was an eye-witness. The following is his report, which speaks for itself: 'I have much pleasure in reporting an incident of some importance which occurred on April 2nd, when one of our workmen, R. Richardson, effected a very plucky rescue from drowning in the river entrance, after a strenuous effort. The facts are roughly: The boy had gone down for the last time before Richardson actually started off. However, he ran along the viaduct and down on to the rocks before taking to the water. This effort must have 'winded' him to some extent. After swimming across the river he started diving in search of the unfortunate boy, and after two or three attempts was successful. What I wish to point out is that Richardson, in swimming over to the groyne, which is a straight wall with nowhere to catch hold of, and an out-going current, had placed himself in a very dangerous position. The fact that a boat was hurried down to second him is nothing, and I can only say it was lucky for Richardson that the boat was at hand; also had it not been for his prompt action a fatality would have had to have been recorded.'"

Workmen in the Harbor Board's employ have subscribed £1 7s 6d to the Richardson presentation fund, the amount being made up as follows: T. McGinity, J. Monk, J. Kelso, J. Richards, W. Lightfoot, N. McKenzie, W. Powell, J. Mulligan, A. Robinson each 2s 6d, F. Scott 5s; total £1 7s 6d. It was decided to forward the report to the Town Clerk as agent for the Royal Humane Society for recognition. Mr. Witters said he was pleased the harbormaster had reported the matter, which he considered was the pluckiest and best rescue that had been effected in Gisborne. Richardson had acted on the spur of the moment, and the lad would have been drowned but for this clever and plucky rescue. He was proud of the fact that they had such a man in the Board's employ, and he thought that members of the Board should put their names on the subscription list at the Herald office. If the Board could not do it as a Board, they should do so as individuals. Mr. Tombleson said they should also forward Richardson a letter commending him upon his action. Mr. Preston suggested that as the idea was to present a watch the Board should take the initiative. The chairman agreed that the Board, considering the case so worthy, should decide to present the watch, suitably inscribed, from members of the Board. This was decided upon, the presentation to take place at next meeting.

24 June 1918

The gold watch and chain suitably engraved and contributed to by the members of the Harbor Board in recognition of Mr. R. Richardson's action in rescuing a child from drowning near the harbor entrance, was placed before the members at the meeting this morning. The secretary to the Board intimated that a letter of commendation had already been sent to the Board's employee. Mr. Richardson was then called into the board room, when the chairman read the letter sent by the Board promising to present him with a suitable memento. The speaker said the watch was inscribed with the words, "Presented to R. Richardson by the members of the Board, in recognition of his gallant deed in rescuing R. Pritchard from drowning on April 2, 1908." The chairman said it gave him great pleasure to make the presentation, because the lad Pritchard would unquestionably have lost his life but for the recipient's judgment and presence of mind. The recipient suitably responded, amidst applause.—Eulogistic remarks were made by Messrs. Witters and Quirk, and the recipient thanked the members for the kind remarks.

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HUMANE SOCIETY AWARDS

Mr Rodolphus Richardson of 21 Harris Street, Gisborne won the Silver Medal from the Royal Humane Society of New Zealand



The Silver Medal of the Royal Humane Society of
NZ

