



**SUMNER,  
CHRISTCHURCH**

**SOUTH AFRICAN WAR  
(ANGLO – BOER WAR)  
1899 – 1902  
ROLL OF HONOUR**

*(Sumner is a coastal seaside suburb of Christchurch, New Zealand and was surveyed and named in 1849 in honour of John Bird Sumner, the then newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and president of the Canterbury Association. Originally a separate borough, it was amalgamated with the city of Christchurch)  
Reference: Wikipedia)*

*(N.B. It should be H.R. Rule not H.A. Rule)*



	NAME	FORCE No.	RANK	UNIT	WHERE WOUNDED / KILLED / DIED	WHERE BURIED / COMMEMORATED	DATE	AGE
1	<b>RULE, Harry Robert</b> <i>(from Ashley)</i> <i>(born 8/11/1870)</i>	683	Sergeant	3 <sup>rd</sup> Contingent, New Zealand Mounted Rifles <i>(Rough Riders)</i>	Enlisted with the 5 <sup>th</sup> Company; died of enteric fever in Woodstock, Cape Town, Cape Colony South Africa.	Maitland Cemetery, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. <i>(also on Ragiora SAW Memorial)</i>	29/03/1901	30
2	<b>WIGGINS, Clement Edward</b> <i>(from Taranaki)</i> <i>(born 13/8/1872)</i>	777	Trooper	3 <sup>rd</sup> Contingent New Zealand Mounted Infantry <i>(Rough Riders)</i>	Enlisted with the 5 <sup>th</sup> Company in New Plymouth in February 1900; died of enteric fever in Germiston, Transvaal, South Africa.	Primrose Cemetery, Germiston, Gauteng, South Africa. <i>(also on Akaroa &amp; Taranaki SAW Memorials at St Mary's Church &amp; Marsland Hill; &amp; a no longer existent special memorial in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth)</i>	11/07/1900	27

#### ENTERIC / TYPHOID FEVER

Before World War I, enteric fever, or typhoid fever, was the scourge of armies, and in the Anglo-Boer War killed more soldiers than enemy action. It is caused by a bacteria entering the body via contaminated food or water. Early symptoms include high fever, headaches and lassitude. Follicles along the intestinal walls later become inflamed, often leading to perforation and haemorrhaging. Other complications include gall bladder, pneumonia or heart failure. At the time of the Boer War, there were no antibiotic remedies for the disease.

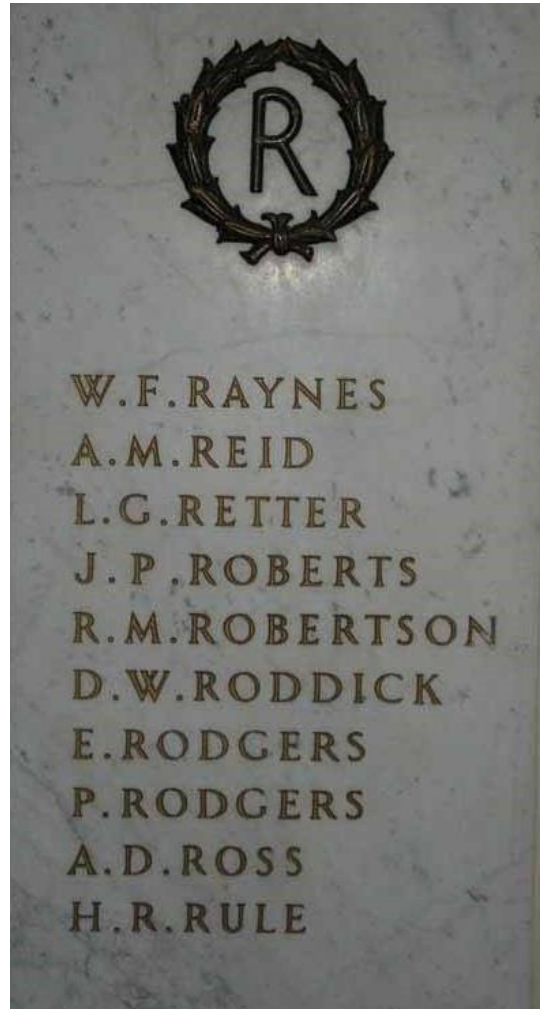
#### REFERENCES:

*In Memoriam ROH of Imperial Forces ABW 1899-1902 by Steve Watt (2000)*  
*Angloboerwar.com (Unit information)*  
[www.eggssa.org](http://www.eggssa.org) *(Gravestones in South Africa)*  
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/search/media/south%20Africa%20war%20memorial>  
<https://www.sooty.nz/southafricaROH.html>  
<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>  
<https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties>  
<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/photos/id/34862/>

*Compiled by  
K.M. Jordan  
April 2021*

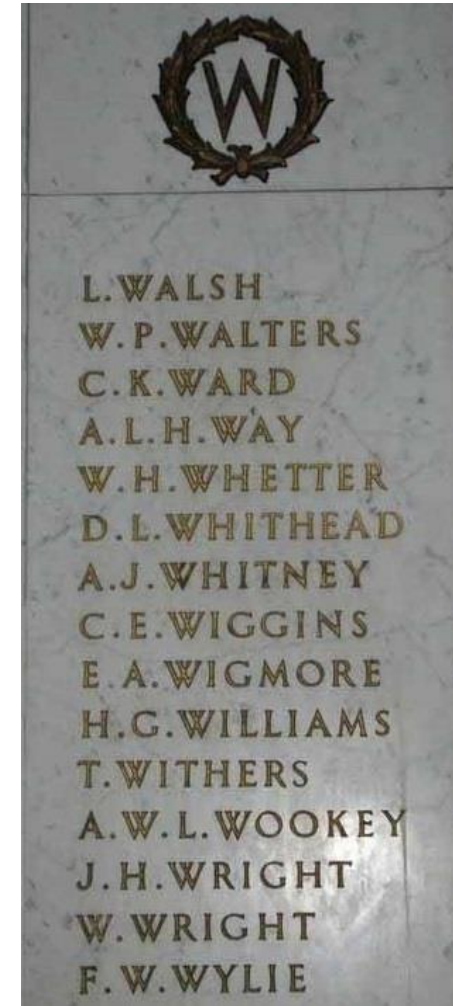


**AUCKLAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN WAR**  
**MEMORIAL**  
**1899 – 1902**



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**RULE, Harry Robert**



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**MEMORIAL**  
**1899 – 1902**

**WIGGINS, Clement Edward**



**MAITLAND CEMETERY,**  
Cape Town,  
South Africa

**RULE, Harry Robert**



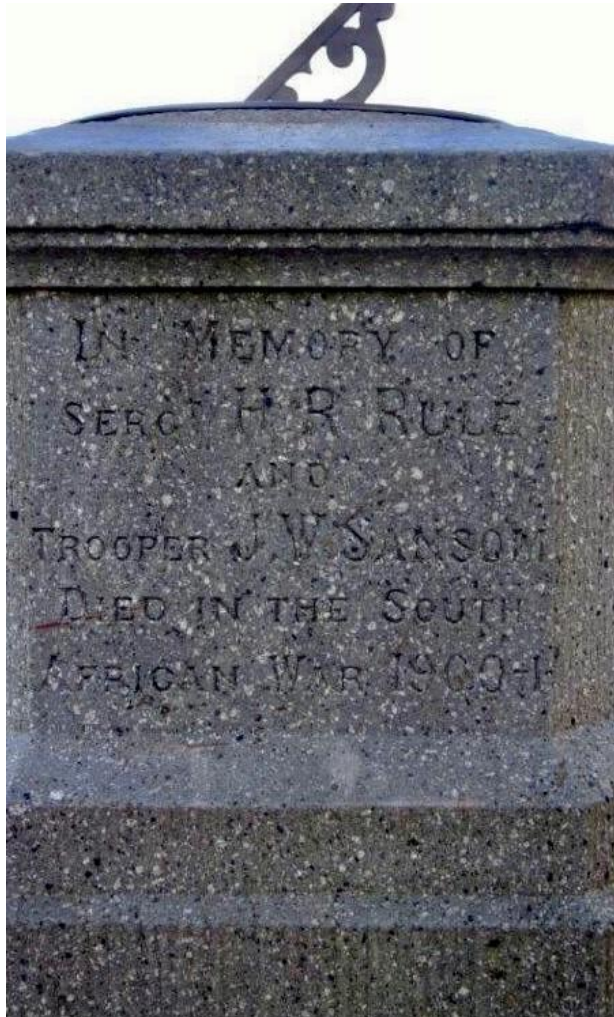
**ANGLO BOER WAR MEMORIAL,**  
Maitland Cemetery,  
Cape Town, South Africa.

**RULE, Harry Robert**



**ANGLO BOER WAR MEMORIAL,**  
Maitland Cemetery,  
Cape Town, South Africa.

**RULE, Harry Robert**



**SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL,  
Victoria Park, Rangiora.**

*(There used to be a light on top but some years ago  
it was replaced with a sundial.)*

**RULE, Harry Robert**  
*(& W. Sansom)*



**VICTORIA PARK, RANGIORA**

Rangiora is the largest town and seat of the Waimakariri District, in Canterbury, New Zealand. It is 29 kilometres north of Christchurch, and is considered a satellite town of the city. With an estimated population of 19,250 (as of June 2020), Rangiora is the 30th largest urban area in New Zealand, and the fifth-largest in the Canterbury region (behind Christchurch, Timaru, Ashburton and Rolleston).



**BRITISH ANGLO BOER WAR MEMORIAL**

Primrose Cemetery, Germiston,  
Gauteng, South Africa.

**WIGGINS**, Clement Edward



**BRITISH ANGLO BOER WAR MEMORIAL**

Primrose Cemetery, Germiston,  
Gauteng, South Africa.

**WIGGINS**, Clement Edward



**AKAROA**  
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR  
ROLL OF HONOUR

**WIGGINS, Clement Edward**



**OFFICIAL OPENING**  
**AKAROA SOUTH AFRICAN WAR & WWI MEMORIAL**  
**1923**



**MARSLAND HILL SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL, NEW PLYMOUTH**

This memorial fountain (now not operational) to the Taranaki men who fell in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) was unveiled by Lord Islington, Governor of New Zealand, on the 26th of January 1911. It was made by New Plymouth monumental mason, William Francis Short. He was also responsible for the drinking fountain in Pukekura Park and the New Zealand Wars memorial scroll at St Mary's Cathedral.



In 1979 the central column was moved from its original location on Marsland Hill to the newly-established Devon Mall pedestrian precinct. The mall was removed in 1997 and the memorial was re-instated to its original site on Marsland Hill.

**Reference:**

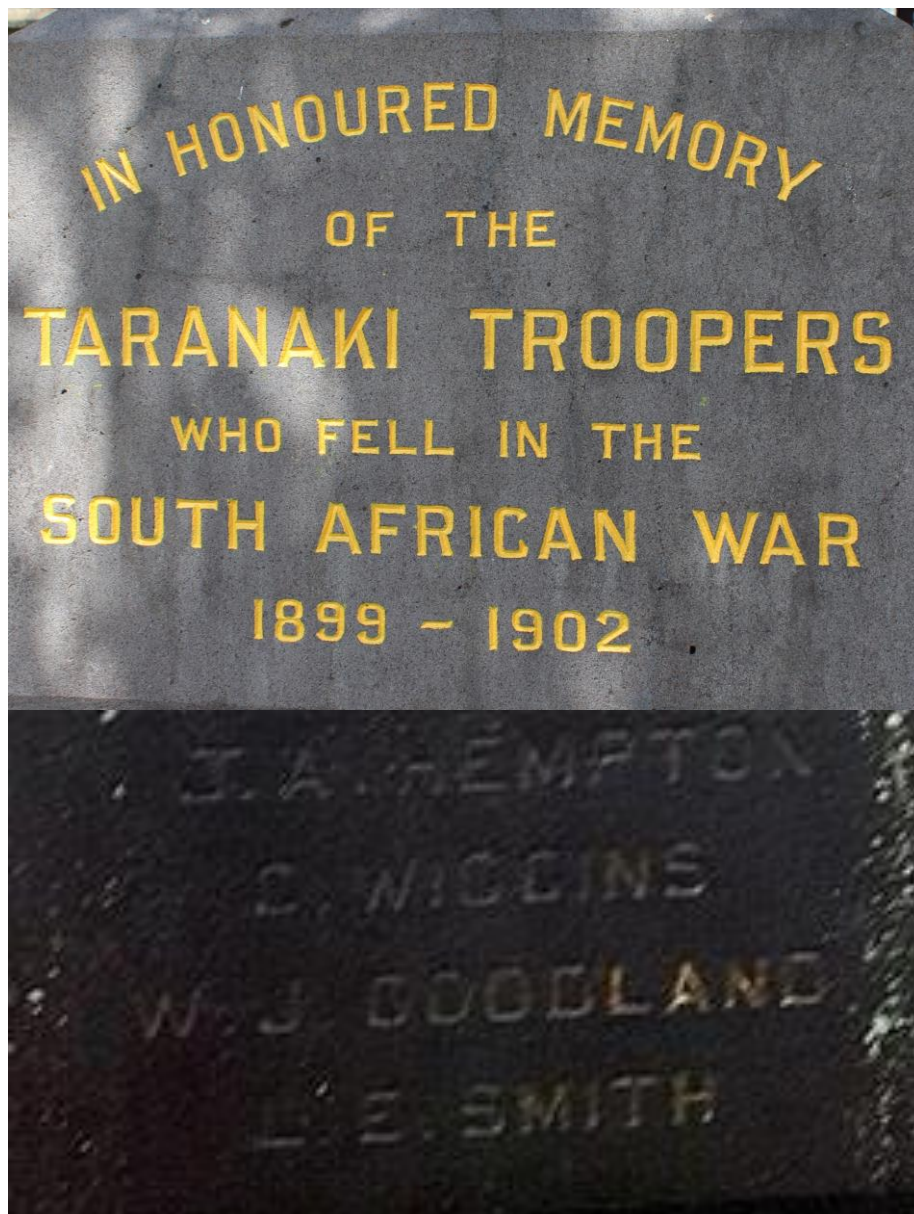
[http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/south\\_african\\_war\\_memorials/topics/show/1257-south-african-war-memorial-marsland-hill](http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/south_african_war_memorials/topics/show/1257-south-african-war-memorial-marsland-hill)

**WIGGINS, Clement Edward**





**TARANAKI SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL**  
St. Mary's Churchyard



**WIGGINS, Clement Edward**



THE MONUMENT ERECTED AT NEW PLYMOUTH TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE E. C. WIGGINS, OF THE THIRD SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENT, WHO DIED OF ENTERIC FEVER IN SOUTH AFRICA, JUNE 24, 1900.

Mr. Wiggins was for some years connected with the Bank of New South Wales in Taranaki, and the monument was subscribed for by his brother officers in the various branches of the bank in New Zealand. W. A. Collis, Photo.

Individual Memorial to **Clement Edward Wiggins** in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

*(By the early 1960s it appears to have been destroyed.)*



Individual Memorial to **Clement Edward Wiggins** in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

*(The monument was subscribed for by his fellow officers in the various branches of the N.S.W. Bank in New Zealand.)*

## HOW MONUMENT HILL (PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH) ACQUIRED ITS NAME

by Ron Lambert,  
Senior Researcher Puke Ariki

The name Monument Hill for the prominent spur immediately to the south of Boatshed Bridge in Pukekura Park is derived from a granite obelisk erected, probably in late 1903, to 777 Trooper Clement Edward Wiggins who, as a member of the 3rd New Zealand Mounted Rifles (the 3rd Contingent), served in South Africa during the Boer War.

Wiggins was a clerk for the Bank of New South Wales at both Eltham and New Plymouth. He had worked in Christchurch before being transferred to Taranaki in 1898.

Wiggins joined No. 5 Company of the 3rd Contingent in New Plymouth in February 1900. The Contingent arrived in South Africa on 26 March 1900. Wiggins' war was short. He died, aged 27, from enteric (typhoid) fever at Germiston in South Africa on 13 July 1900. Enteric fever proved to be a deadlier foe than the Boer forces. Of the 3rd Contingent's total of 26 deaths, 20 were from the fever.

In September 1900, the Star and Tukapa Rugby Clubs of New Plymouth proposed a memorial to the three of their former players who had, at that stage, died in the war - **Wiggins, Thomas Hempton** of Okato, and **Charles Enderby** of Inglewood. Controversy soon erupted in the correspondence columns of the *Taranaki Herald* as to the siting of the proposed memorial. Ideas ranged from St Mary's Church to Te Henui Cemetery and the Recreation Grounds (as Pukekura Park was known then). One letter counselled that a monument to the three young men would be premature because Taranaki should wait until the end of the conflict, when a memorial to all local casualties could be made.

While it appears that the trio's rugby mates were suitably discouraged, Wiggins' banking colleagues in Taranaki and Canterbury were made of sterner stuff, and they persisted. In May 1903, the Bank of New South Wales Manager at New Plymouth, N. K. MacDiarmid, received consent from the Recreation Grounds Board to erect a memorial, to Wiggins alone, "*on the tongue of land near the long island and the path leading to Mr King's*

In August 1903, the *Taranaki Herald* was finally able to report that "*the many friends of the late C. E. Wiggins, who volunteered for service in South Africa with the Third Contingent, and died at Germiston, will be pleased to learn that the stone to be erected to his memory, by the officers of the Bank of New South Wales in New Zealand, has just been imported by Mr W. F. Brooking, to whom the work has been entrusted, and its erection will be proceeded with at once. The memorial is an obelisk of polished grey granite, and it is, by permission of the Board, to be placed in the Recreation Grounds*" (*Taranaki Herald* 26/8/1903).

What became of the young bank clerk's memorial remains a bit of a mystery. The only real clue is a caption to the postcard photograph of the obelisk by Muir and Moodie (reproduced here) when it was published in the *Taranaki Herald* of 8 March 1962:

*"... Later the memorial became overgrown and in bad repair and was rolled down the hill and finally removed."*

It does, however, seem a little strange that such a substantial object was not transferred to somewhere like the Te Henui Cemetery. Maybe the fervour of Wiggins' banking and rugby colleagues had waned somewhat, and cash to complete such a transfer was not forthcoming.

Thus it is that only the name, Monument Hill, and the flattened spur near the Boatshed Bridge where the obelisk once stood, now survive. However, Clement Wiggins' name is recorded on two South African War memorials in New Plymouth, at St. Mary's Pro-cathedral and the fountain on Marsland Hill.

### **Reference:**

<http://kete.pukekura.org.nz/site/documents/show/44-how-monument-hill-got-its-name>