

### EDWARD BENTLEY DAVISON

Known as 'Teddy', he was born on 11 July 1891, the second son of John Hawdon and Margaret Lee Davison (nee Oliver) of Culverden. He was baptised on 11 August 1891; his sponsors being James Bentley Davison (Australia) and Mary Oliver. He was educated at Christ's College, Christchurch from 1904 to 1909, and was in the gym eight in 1908 and the first fifteen in 1908-09. Teddy then went on to Lincoln College and in 1911 was in that College's first fifteen.

In 1912, his father had sub-divided St Leonards and Teddy farmed 'Lowry Peaks' and 'Palmside' in partnership with his older brother Frank, until the outbreak of World War I. He served in the Main Body and the following is from page 40 of a book 'Letters' in which letters from gunner Gordon Harper were made into a book:

1 May 1916. Tomorrow, one of our number, Teddy Davison, leaves us to go home to N Z for special duty after going through everything with us right from Addington. Since back here he has been my Sergeant for the last four months during that time Robin and I have done all we could to get him his commission which has now come through, but at the same time I lose him as he goes back to N Z to bring recruits. He will only have short leave so you may not see much of him but he can tell you everything about us and what we were doing when he left. He is only a boy but he has gone through enough to kill many a man and I am glad he is getting some reward. Davison is one of the ones who should have got the D.C.M. as he never knew what fear was.'

He was wounded at Gallipoli and invalided home. After convalescence he was commissioned and returned to active service with the 19th Reinforcements. Meanwhile, he had married Barbara Rebecca a'Beckett Thomas from Auckland, a very attractive lady and their first child Patricia Bentley was born in July 1917 (Teddy's address at the time shown as 27 Hawthorne Road).

After the War, he returned to the farm "Palmside" for a while and their eldest son Michael Bentley was born at Rotherham. In due course, he was allocated a return soldier's farm at Waihihi near Auckland, and he sold "Palmside". Their youngest son was born at Auckland - Anthony Bentley in 1926

Later he returned to North Canterbury to manage St. Leonards for his youngest sister Elinor, for a while.

Always keen on sport, especially rugby football, he was noted as a keen polo player, playing for the Amuri and Banks Peninsula teams.

In later years he worked with the Wildlife Division of the Internal Affairs Department, and was well known throughout the back country of both the North and South Islands as a deer culler and field officer.

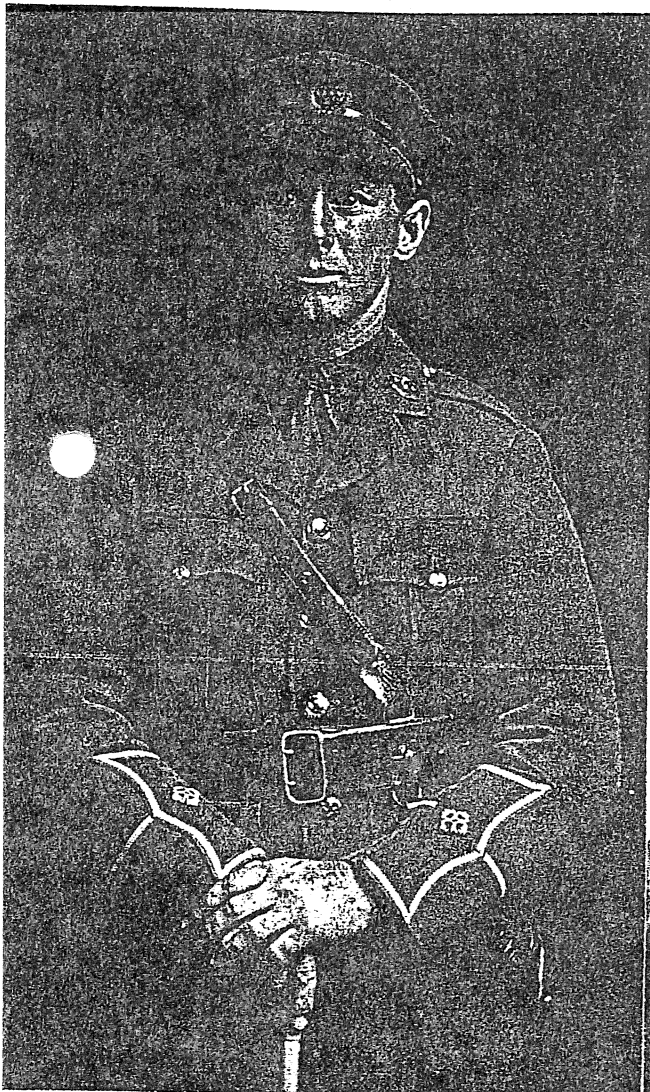
During World War II, he was instructing at the Bush and Mountain Warfare School in the Tararua before being posted to Waiouru Military Camp.

After the War, Teddy was for a time Administrator of Raoul Island, before rejoining the Wildlife Division of the Internal Affairs Department as the inspector for New Zealand.

After his retirement, he lived at Tai Tapu, becoming green keeper for the Tai Tapu Golf Club; and later lived in Christchurch enjoying golf and fly fishing.

He died at Rannadale War Veteran's Home on 25 January 1972.

(This has been compiled from family memories and memories recorded by his children Patricia and Michael).



Back: J.H. Davison ? ? ? ? ? Charles Thomas

Front: Mrs Thomas, Lionel Davison, Barbara, Teddy, Mrs M.L. Davison  
School boy: Charles Thomas

Edward Bentley  
Davison (Teddy)  
B 11/7/1891  
M Barbara Rebecca  
a Beckett (Thomas)  
D 1972

