

## OBITUARY

### SERGEANT JOHN WALKER

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#### BOER WAR RECALLED. DEATH OF A CONTINGENTER.

Mr. John Walker, whose death was announced on Thursday, was well known in the Opotiki district (writes our correspondent). He went to South Africa with the Fourth Contingent, and remained there until the close of the war. While in active service, he distinguished himself on several occasions, and he was a member of the picked contingent sent Home from South Africa after the war to attend the Coronation of King Edward VII. During the South African war Mr. Walker was made a sergeant on the field, his promotion to this rank having been made at the same engagement as that in which Sergeant Wylie was shot. On the occasion on which Wylie was killed a Boer farmhouse was being surrounded at dawn. Walker and Wylie were ahead of the rest of the men, and Wylie took up a position on one side of the house, while Walker went round to the other side. As Walker sprang on to the step, he heard a shot from the other side of the house. This was the shot

that killed Wylie. Simultaneously with the firing of the shot four Boers rushed through an open door and attacked Walker. He killed three of his opponents, and the fourth threw down his arms and surrendered just as the captain of the Scouts, with the rest of the men, jumped the fence that surrounded the house.

Mr. Walker was a member of the celebrated body of Scouts which was formed from the tried men, who had seen so much service in South Africa, and he was attached to the Seventh Contingent of New Zealanders, under Captain Seddon.

He was with the Scouts, which were ambushed by the Boers at Kaffirspruit, when the main body of the Seventh Contingent, and Lieut. Osborne, in command of the Scouts, and several others, lost their lives. After his return from the war, Mr. Walker settled at Tanaetua, on one of the Opouriao Estate sections, and remained there, farming his section until the time of his death. He leaves a widow and four infant children. He was a general favourite at Opotiki and Opouriao, and was distinguished for his physical strength and fearlessness.