

My Soldier's Story

Leonard J. Ryan

**Auckland Regiment
52051**



WW1

**By Xavier
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Early Life

Leonard Ryan was born in 1900. He was born into the new century . There is no proof of what primary school he went to , but we know he went to Sacred Heart College.

He had 2 sibilings and parents.



THE COLLEGE, FROM THE CRICKET FIELD.



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Early Life

Leonard lived in Papakura .
He lived on Great South
Road with his Mum Isabel
and his Dad Joseph . He
attended Sacred in 1915 .
He left school in 1916 and
enrolled in 1917 .

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Enlistment

He Enrolled in the
Auckland Infantry
Regiment in January 1917.
He was under age when
he enlisted , as were most
of the naive young boys



This is the Auckland
Enlistment Office . The
same office where Leonard
enlisted into the Auckland
Infantry Regiment.

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Training

Leonard trained in Wellington . He was there for 4 months . In his diary , it quotes his best friends were Porter and Fraser .

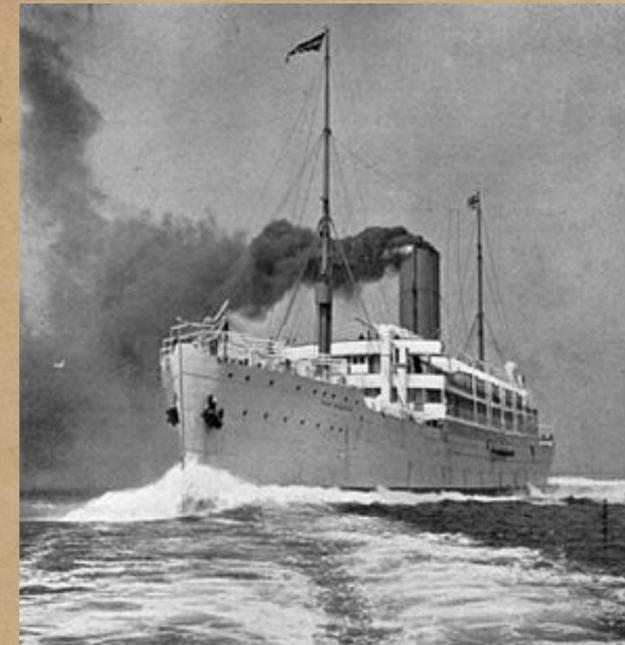
When they were in Wellington they learnt Bayonet skills and accuracy with their rifles. For days on end , would also be spent digging trenches

Wellington Training Camp 1917



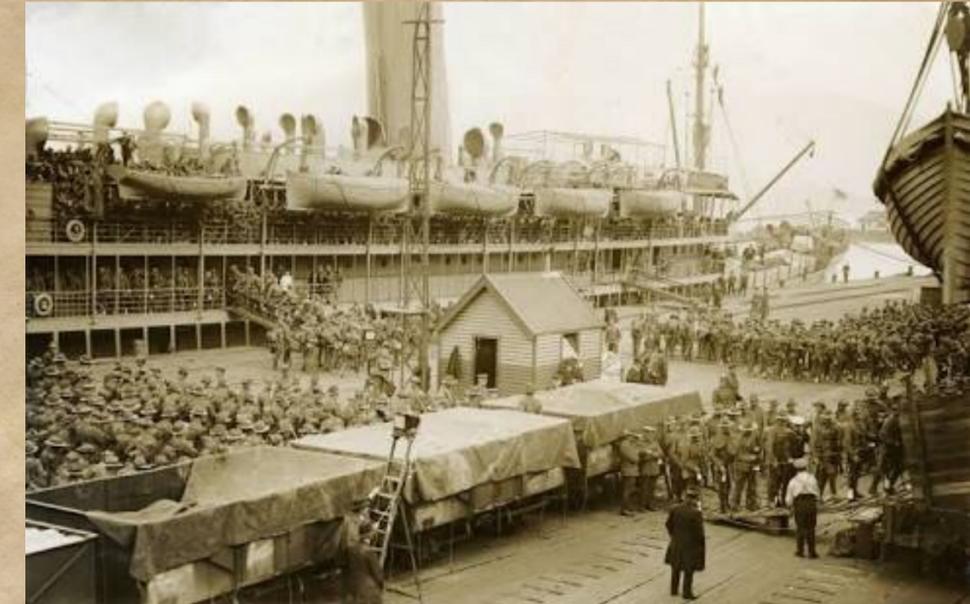
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RMS Tahiti



To EGYPT

RMS Tahiti leaving in 1917



Leonard left New Zealand on 14 April 1917 . Three months after enlisting into the Auckland Infantry Regiment . He and the others from that regiment left on RMS Tahiti . It started at Sydney then went across the Tasman Sea , to Auckland then went straight to Egypt.

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The dead of the retreat



1917



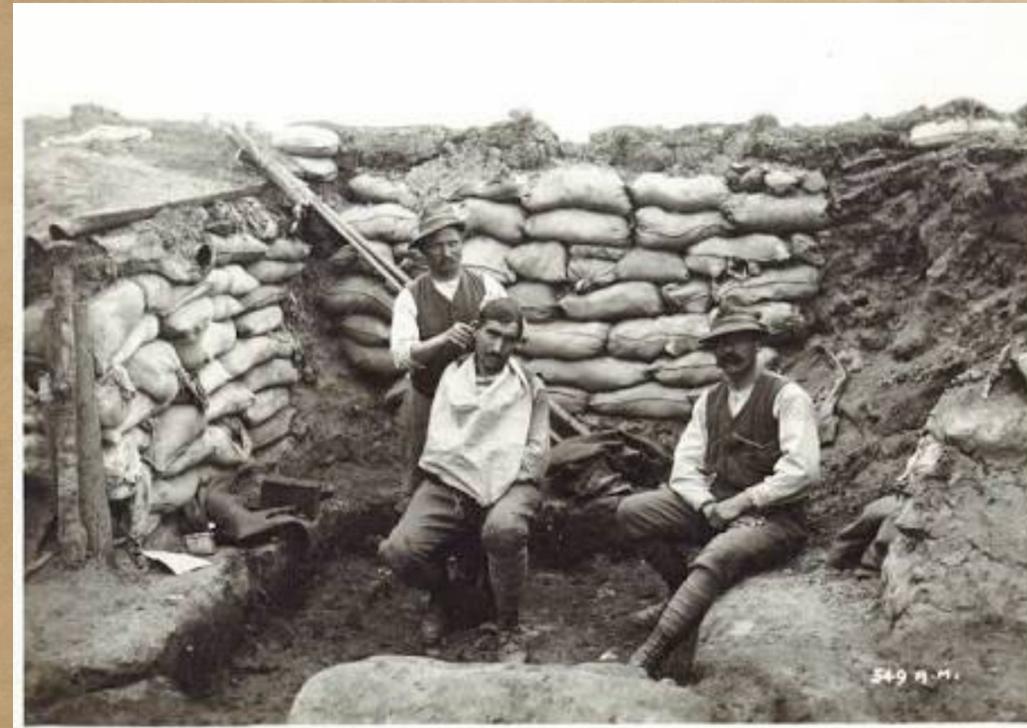
**Sir Ian
Hamilton**

When Leonard landed in Egypt , he trained there for 3 weeks . Then he was shipped to France . Him and his expeditionary forces we transferred to La Cateau . He battled there for a year in the front line and nothing was happening until the Germans went on full attack and made all the allies retreat .

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Life in the Trenches

Life in The muddy trenches was as bad as you would expect . They would sleep on duckboards and during 1917 the weather turned for the worse . So that affected Leonards mental and physical health . The men were served rations at Breakfast and sometimes dinner . Some days in the front line , they would starve .

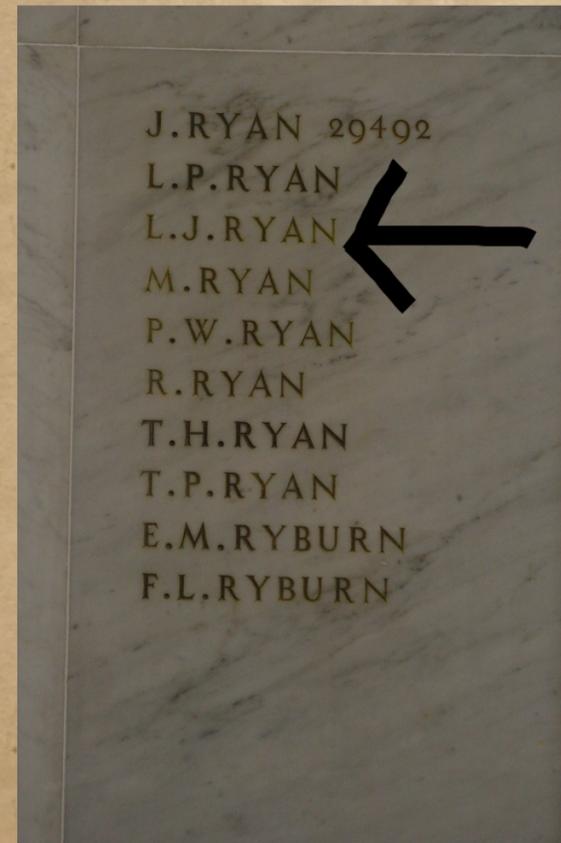


The men occasionally would receive parcels from home . These would usually contain cigarettes and ham (which was usually spoiled or off) but they ate what they could .

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Death

While this retreat was happening Leonard unfortunately died on 1 October 1918 . He died of wounds and is now buried in the Somme in the Bagneux Cemetery



This is Leonard's name on the Rememberance wall in Papakura



This is Leonards Tombstone in Bagneux . R.I.P

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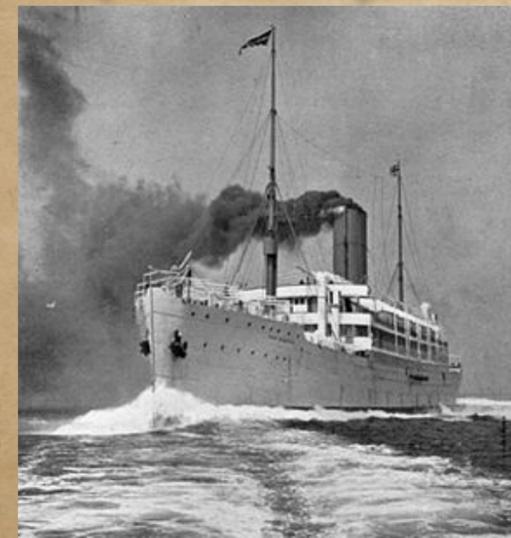
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