

**My Soldier's Story**

**Leonard J. Ryan**

**Auckland Regiment  
52051**

**WW1**



**By Xavier  
O'Meagher**



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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 siblings and parents.



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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 Heart in  
1915 . He left school in  
1916.

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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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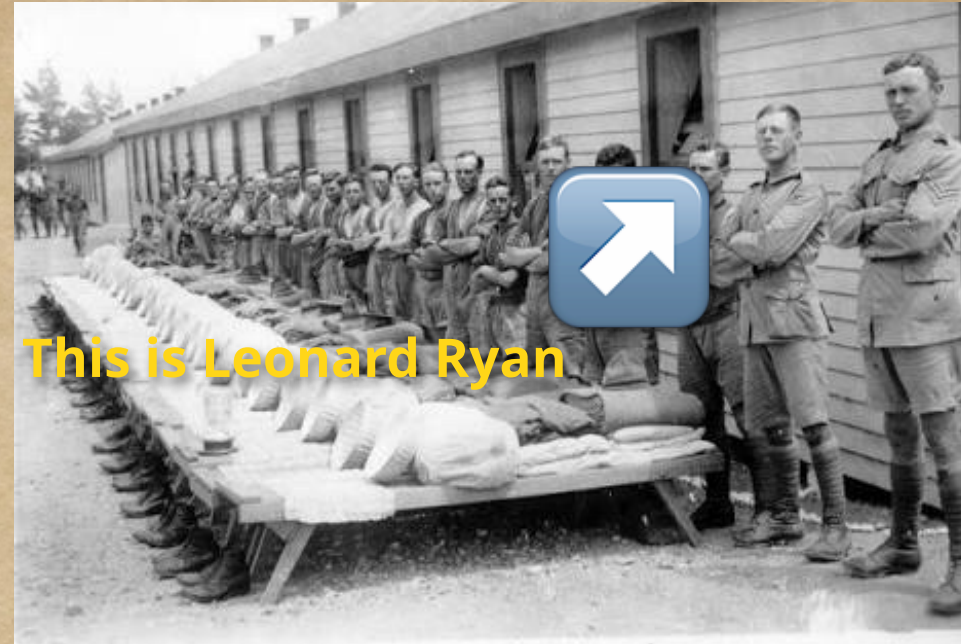


## Tra ning

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

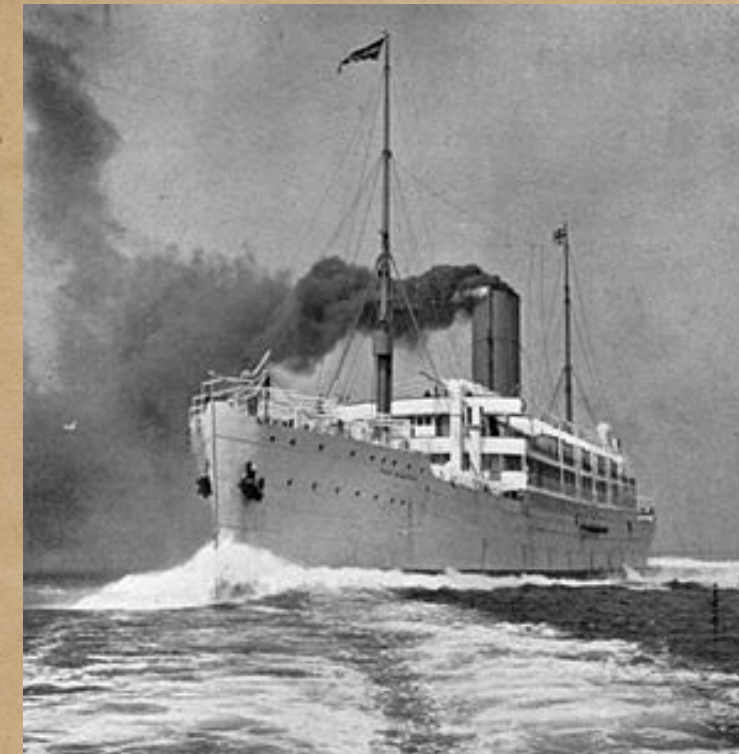
When they were in Wellington they learnt Bayonet skills and accuracy with their rifles. For days on end , would also be spent digging trenches

### 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**

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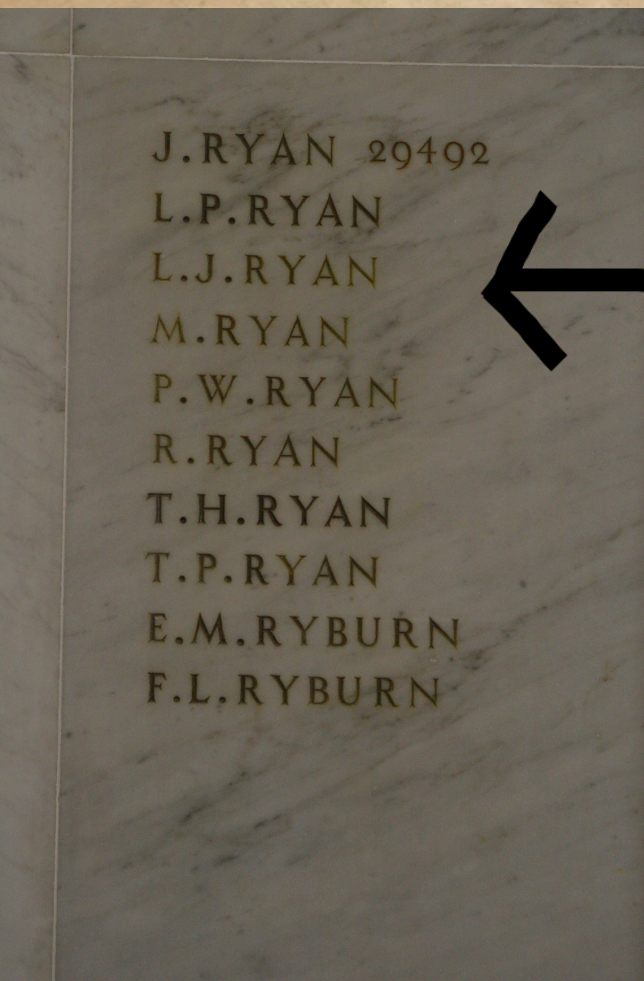
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When Leonard landed in Egypt , he trained there for 3 weeks . Then he was shipped to France . Him and his expeditionary forces were transferred to La Cateau . He battled there for a year in the front line and nothing was happening until the Germans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



## 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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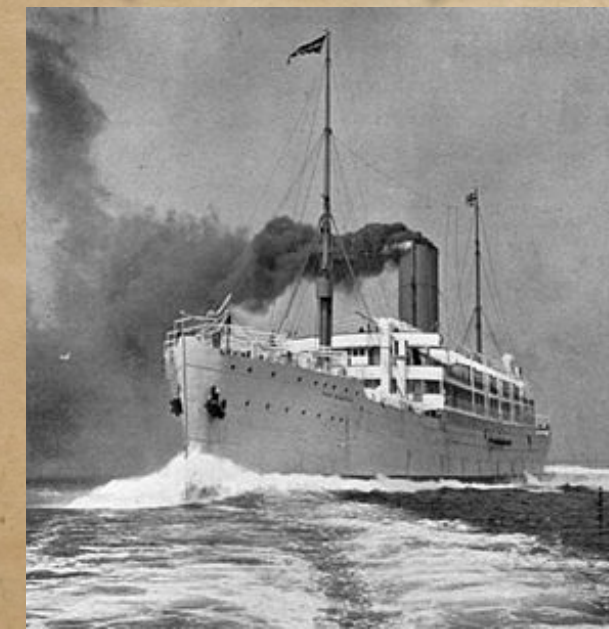
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This is Leonard Ryan

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