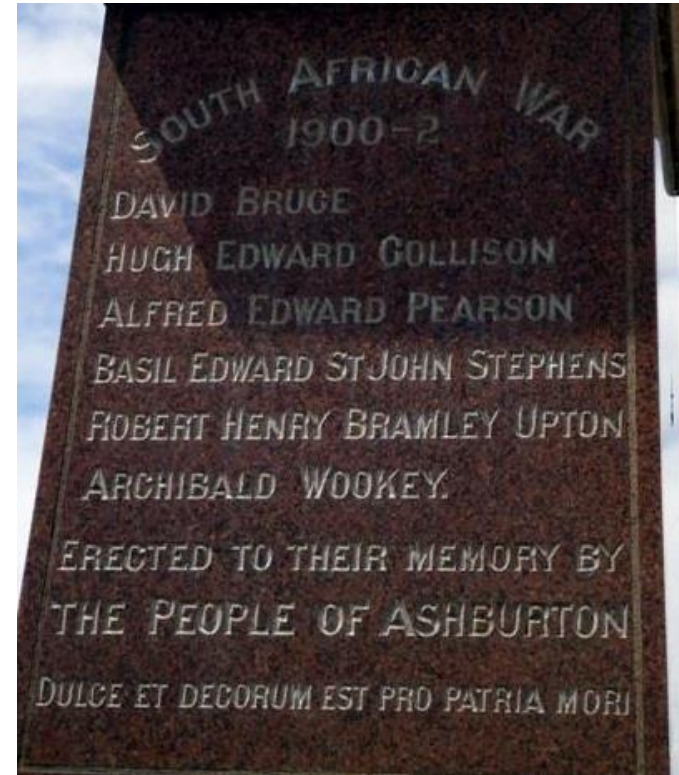




**ASHBURTON,
CANTERBURY,
NEW ZEALAND**

**SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
(ANGLO – BOER WAR)
1899 – 1902**

ROLL OF HONOUR



	NAME	FORCE No.	RANK	UNIT	WHERE WOUNDED / KILLED / DIED	WHERE BURIED / COMMEMORATED	DATE	AGE
1	BRUCE , David	4387	Private (Trooper)	7 th Contingent New Zealand Mounted Rifles	Killed in action at Langverwacht, near Vrede.; initially buried at Langverwacht; exhumed and reburied after the war.	Vrede Public Cemetery, Free State, South Africa. (also on Canterbury South African War Memorial, Christchurch, NZ)	24/02/1902	
2	COLLISON , Hugh Edward (born 1882)	9635	Private	10 th Contingent New Zealand Mounted Rifles	Accidentally killed (horse) at Fort Hay, Natal, South Africa.	Newcastle Cemetery, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. (also on Canterbury ABW Memorial, Christchurch, NZ.& on scroll in Rakaia Memorial Community Centre.)	16/06/1902	20

3	PEARSON , Alfred Edward (Ashburton H.S.)	6122	Trooper	8 ^h Contingent New Zealand Mounted Rifles	Died of injuries sustained 12/4/1902 in rail accident, Machavie, Potchefstroom, Western Transvaal.	Klerksdorp Cemetery, North West Province, South Africa. <i>(also on Canterbury ABW Memorial, Christchurch, NZ.)</i>	14/04/1902	22
4.	STEPHENS , Basil Edward St. John (Ashburton H.S.)	3665	Trooper	6 ^h Contingent New Zealand Mounted Rifles	Died of enteric fever in Newcastle, Natal, South Africa.	Newcastle Cemetery, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. <i>(also on Canterbury ABW Memorial, Christchurch, NZ.)</i>	19/02/1902	
5.	UPTON , Robert Henry Bramley (born 1874)	701	Lance Corporal	3 rd Contingent New Zealand Mounted Rifles (<i>Rough Riders</i>)	Died of enteric fever, Johannesburg Hospital, Transvaal, South Africa.	Braamfontein Cemetery, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. <i>(also on Canterbury ABW Memorial, Christchurch, NZ.)</i>	13/06/1900	26
6.	WOOKEY , Archibald William Lawton (born Hobart, Tasmania)	2659	Trooper	5 ^h Contingent New Zealand Mounted Rifles (<i>Imperial Bushmen</i>)	Killed in action (shot) while trying to escape from a Boer prisoner of war camp at Doornbult near Hopetown. He was buried by the Boers on a farm nearby.	Boshof Town Cemetery, Free State, South Africa. <i>(also on Canterbury ABW Memorial, Christchurch, NZ.)</i>	27/03/1901	21
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In Memoriam ROH of Imperial Forces ABW 1899-1902 by Steve Watt (2000)
 Angloboerwar.com (Unit information)
 www.eggssa.org (Gravestones in South Africa)
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/search/media/south%20Africa%20war%20memorial>
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<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-743398381/findingaid#nla-obj-743398898>
 Australian War Memorial collection (<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-743398381/findingaid>)

Compiled by
 K.M. Jordan
 February 2021

ENTERIC or TYPHOID FEVER

Before WWI, 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.



BRITISH ANGLO - BOER WAR MEMORIAL

Vrede Public Cemetery,
Free State, South Africa.

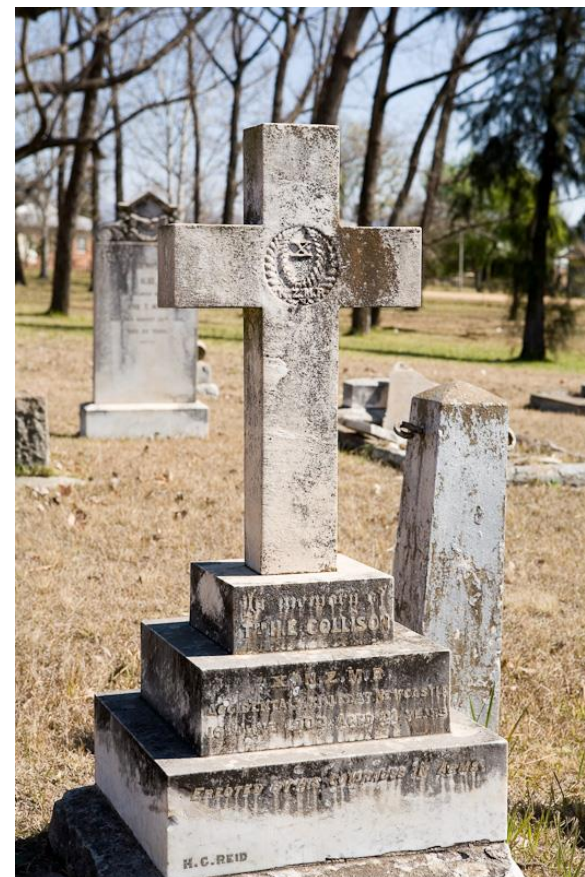
BRUCE, David



BRITISH ANGLO - BOER WAR MEMORIAL

Vrede Public Cemetery,
Free State, South Africa.

BRUCE, David



NEWCASTLE CEMETERY

Kwa Zulu Natal,
South Africa.

COLLISON, Hugh Edward

The Battle of LANGVERWACHT HILL (BOTHASBERG)

The South African War of 1899–1902, was the first overseas conflict to involve New Zealand troops. Fought between the British Empire and the South African Republic (Transvaal) and its Orange Free State ally, it was the culmination of long-standing tensions in southern Africa. New Zealand sent more than 6500 volunteers and 8000 horses to South Africa. In all, 71 members of the 10 'contingents' were killed in action or died of wounds; 26 were accidentally killed, and 133 died of disease (more than half from typhoid fever).

By early 1902, the Boers were conducting a guerrilla campaign against much larger British forces that were attempting to mop them up. At Langverwacht Hill, near the Orange River, a Boer force attacked a point on the line that was held by New Zealand's 7th Contingent. The New Zealand line consisted of small posts of 5 or 6 men in shallow trenches (sangars). A small group of Boers drove a herd of cattle against the wire entanglements connecting the British blockhouses, and used this distraction to overwhelm one of the New Zealand posts. They then advanced up the hill, overrunning a number of other New Zealand-held posts. After ferocious close-quarter fighting, the Boers opened a gap through which most of their force escaped. The New Zealand casualties were high: of about 90 men in the front line, 23 were killed and more than 40 wounded.

The 1 March 1902 issue of Christchurch's *Star* newspaper, under the heading 'The Gallant Seventh', acknowledged '*a feeling of general sadness*'. But it added that '*we can't make cakes without breaking eggs. After all, the same number might soon have filtered away, one by one, the victims of enteric [typhoid fever]. These have at least had a chance to leave a glorious name, and they have done it*'.

TROOPER ARCHIBALD WOOKEY was shot while trying to escape from a Boer prisoner of war camp at Doornbult and was reported buried by the Boers on a farm near Dornbult.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 May 1901 writes

"Mrs. J. Logan, of Chatswood has received a letter from Captain H. P. Tuckey written at Kimberley, expressing deep sympathy at the death of her son Trooper A. W. L. Wookey, 21 who was a native of Tasmania and a member of the 5th New Zealand Contingent. The deceased resided at Tinwald, Canterbury, when he enlisted. It appears that. on being taken prisoner the deceased was stripped of arms and valuables, and was sent away on foot with two Boers guarding him on March 27. When getting through a wire fence he drew his revolver, which had not been discovered, shot one Boer dead and severely wounded the other. The shots were heard by a party of mounted Boers, who rode up and finding what had happened killed young Wookey. Captain Tuckey in his letter states that the courage of the deceased was much admired."

Throughout the war Wookey kept a diary, which was supposedly purchased at Beira, Mozambique on 19 May 1900. Wookey, wrote of the cross-country travel, sometimes by train however, often on horseback. He describes how difficult the camp life was, and describes the weather conditions - very hot with torrential rain, he writes of the sickness and many of the shortages of food and water. Wookey's diary also includes mentions different people; who have been identified by Tim Hallam. On the 12 September Wookey mentions receiving letters from his brother Rupert and sister Olive. They are Rupert Henry Hobbs Wookey (1881-1945) and Olive Linda Grubb Wookey (1886-after 1940) who married James Lawson Smith (sometimes Lawson-Smith). Miss D Wookey of Latrobe, Tasmania is Wookey's other sister Daisy Winifred Grubb Wookey (1876-1956). Mrs T Overton of 374 Malvern Road, Prahran, Victoria and she is Caroline Charlotte Hole who married Tom Overton a real estate agent in Prahran, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Caroline being a cousin of Wookey's mother. AWMM

Archibald William Lawton Wookey was the elder son of William Lawton Wookey of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and his wife, Eliza Grubb (as a widow married secondly Joseph Logan).

His diary was sold at auction in February 2020, it was purchased by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
(see below)

NZ MEMORIAL, LANGVERWACHT (BOTHASBERG), FREE STATE

This memorial was erected in 1905 to honour the 23 members of the 7th Contingent who fell at the Battle of Langverwacht Hill on 23 / 24 February 1902. The memorial is near the site of the battle, in the Orange Free State. The background of the battle was the British attempt to use cordons of troops to sweep the Boer commandos towards blockhouses. On this occasion Boer commander Christiaan de Wet attempted to break through the line at night using a mob of cattle as an advance screen. The assault centred on the area held by the Otago and Canterbury companies of the 7th Contingent, some 90 men. In addition to the 23 killed, 41 were wounded – a loss which was one of the most severe suffered by a New Zealand unit in a single short action in any war. The action was also called the Battle of Bothasberg.

The memorial was refurbished in 2009.

7th CONTINGENT, NEW ZEALAND FORCES (*Mounted Rifles*)

Total strength: 667 (including 73 details)

When the 4th Contingent had completed 10 months' service, the government decided to raise another contingent to replace it. The 7th began training at Newtown Park in Wellington in February 1901 and departed on 6 April 1901. Due to the inadequate size of the transport ship the contingent was unable to take its own horses. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Porter, the 7th departed from Wellington aboard the SS *Gulf of Taranto*.

"On the night of the 23rd (February 1902) a most determined and partially successful attempt to break out to the north was made by De Wet, Steyn, and some 700 of their followers. The attack was delivered under cover of darkness at Langverwacht, 18 miles south of Vrede. De Wet adopted the plan of advancing under cover of a large mob of cattle, which were rapidly driven up by natives to the point where the rush through was to be attempted. As a whole, however, the Boer force was very severely punished by the New Zealanders of Lieutenant Colonel Garratt's column. The whole of the Boer cattle and vehicles were captured, and 31 of the enemy, together with over 160 horses, were killed at the point where the attempt to penetrate our line was made. Our own casualties were also severe, 2 officers and 18 men being killed, and 5 officers and 33 men wounded."

Lord Kitchener's despatch of 8th March 1902

The Langverwacht NZ Memorial is on the farm that was owned by 1995 Rugby World Cup winner **Ruben Kruger**. Ruben Kruger died on 27 January 2010 after battling brain cancer for 10 years.

BRITISH NZ BOER WAR MEMORIAL, Vrede, Free State.

After the Battle of Langverwacht, the dead were buried pretty much where they fell. It is recorded in "In Memoriam" by Watt that the bodies were exhumed and re-interred in Vrede Cemetery. In 1965 the South African War Graves Board erected memorial stones in the cemetery to all the British & Commonwealth soldiers who died in the nearby vicinity. This seems to indicate that the majority, if not all the graves, have been lost / destroyed by 1965.



**QUEEN VICTORIA
MEMORIAL,
CHRISTCHURCH**

ANGLO - BOER
WAR ROH
(1 panel)



**CANTERBURY ANGLO – BOER WAR MEMORIAL,
CHRISTCHURCH**

ROLL OF HONOUR (79 names)

(This panel is an appendage at the back of the Queen Victoria Memorial)

BRUCE , David	PEARSON , Alfred Edward	UPTON , Robert Henry Bramley
COLLISON , Hugh Edward	STEPHENS , Basil Edward St. John	WOOKEY , Archibald William Lawton



NEW ZEALAND WAR MEMORIAL

Battle of Langverwacht
Roll of Honour
23 names

BRUCE, David



NEW ZEALAND WAR MEMORIAL

Langverwacht Hill, Free State

BRUCE, David



NEW ZEALAND WAR MEMORIAL

Battle of Langverwacht
Rededication stone
2009

**RAIL ACCIDENT
Machavie, Potchefstroom,
Western Transvaal.
12 April 1902**

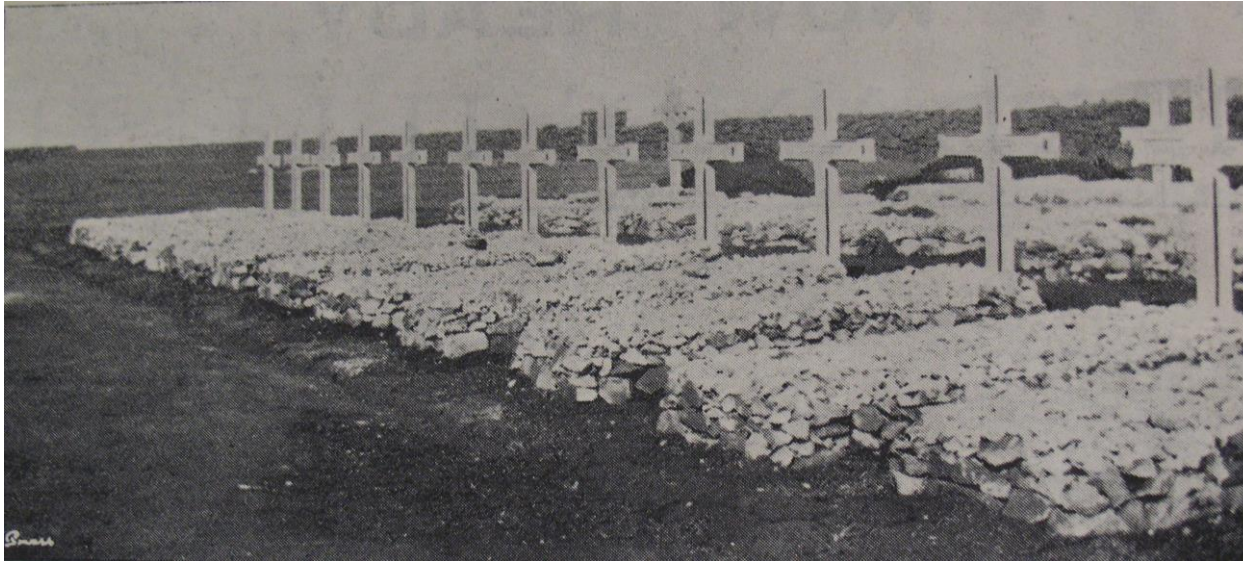
16 members of the 8th New Zealand Contingent were killed when their train collided with a goods train at Machavie (Machavierug), near Potchefstroom in Transvaal. The 8th Contingent had only been in South Africa for a few weeks when the accident occurred.

FATALITIES (* means died of injuries)

SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	#	HOME
BOURNE	Charles Spencer	6042	Christchurch, Canterbury
BROWN	Victor	6034	Sheffield, Canterbury
BRUCE	James	6035	Oamaru, North Otago
CANTY	Michael	6048	Longbush, Southland
FOSS #	William	6123	Waihi, Auckland
HARRIS	James Alfred	6126	Athol, Southland
JONES	John Henry	6063	Wendonside, Southland
LOWE	Francis David	6071	Styx, Canterbury
Mac DONALD	Archibald Hutchinson	6084	Oamaru, North Otago
MALONEY	John	6085	Little River, Canterbury
OSBORNE	Robert	6092	Middlemarch, Central Otago
PEARSON	Alfred Edward *	6122	Oamaru, North Otago
ROGERS	Percy	6104	Heriot, Dunedin
SIMPSON	George Catlin	6135	Patea, South Taranaki
WHETTER	William Henry *	6115	Waikouaiti, East Otago
WHITEHEAD	David Lunam *	6016	Dunedin, Otago

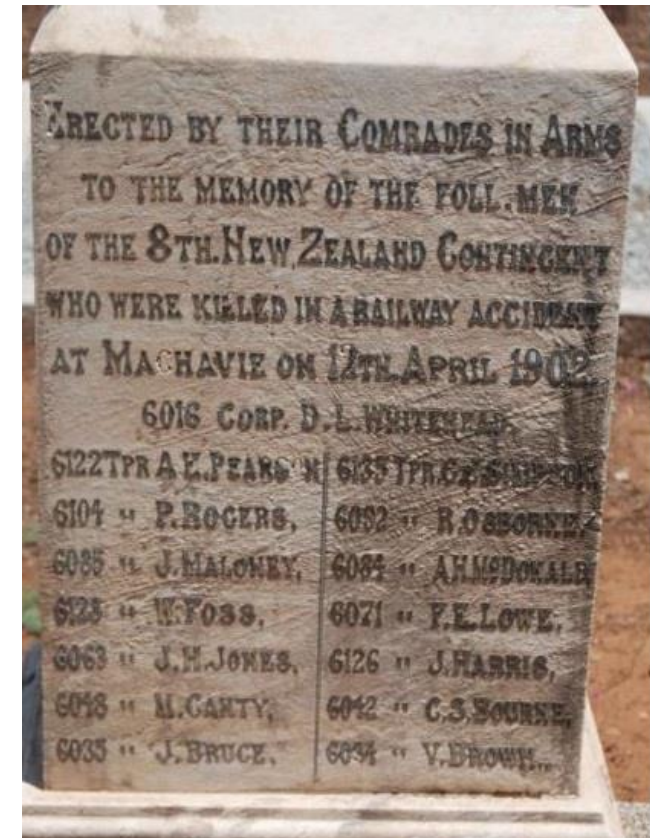


**BRITISH NZ BOER WAR MEMORIAL,
Vrede, Free State.**

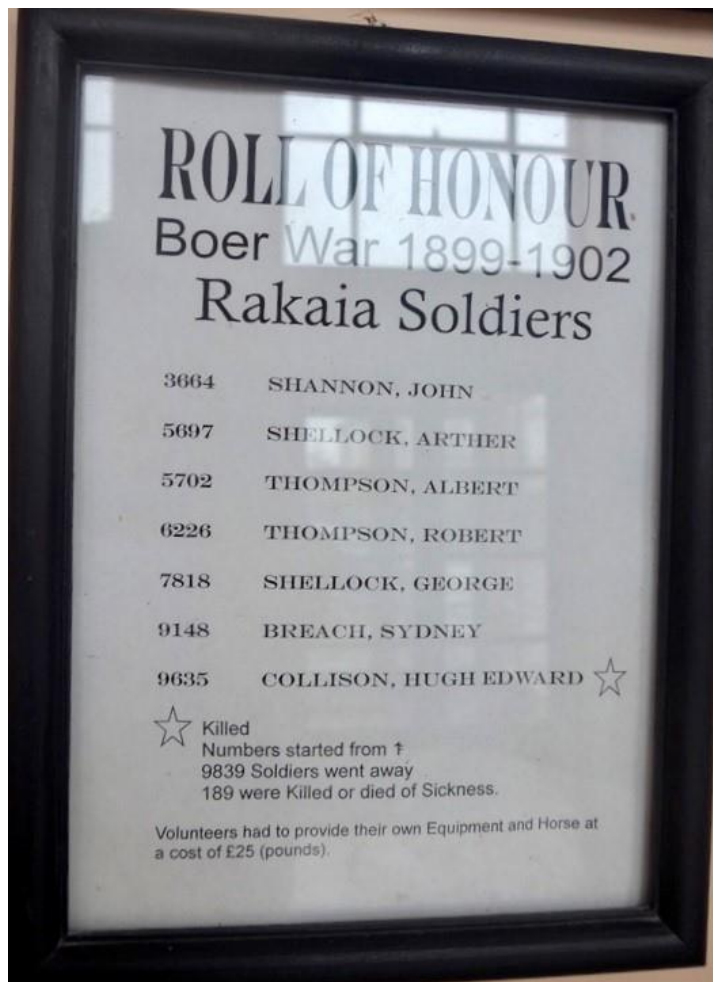


Contemporary photo of the graves of the 16 members of the 8th Contingent, New Zealand Forces who died in the rail accident, Machavie, Potchefstroom, Western Transvaal on the 12 April 1902.

KLERKSDORP OLD CEMETERY
North West Province,
South Africa.



MEMORIAL STONE
Klerksdorp Cemetery,
North West Province,
South Africa.
(only 15 names)



RAKAIA COMMUNITY CENTRE
South Canterbury, New Zealand.
Boer War Service Roll.

COLLISON, Hugh Edward



RAKAIA COMMUNITY CENTRE
South Canterbury, New Zealand.



LEFT ABOVE:
BRITISH ANGLO - BOER WAR MEMORIAL
 Newcastle Cemetery, Kwa Zulu Natal,

LEFT BELOW:
 Detail of the above.
STEPHENS, Basil Edward St. John

ABOVE:
 Grave stone: **STEPHENS**, Basil Edward St. John



UPTON, Robert Henry Bramley



BOSHOF TOWN CEMETERY
Free State, South Africa.

WOOKEY, Archibald William Lawton



BRAAMFONTEIN CEMETERY
Johannesburg,
Transvaal, South Africa.

Original grave of
Robert Henry Bramley UPTON



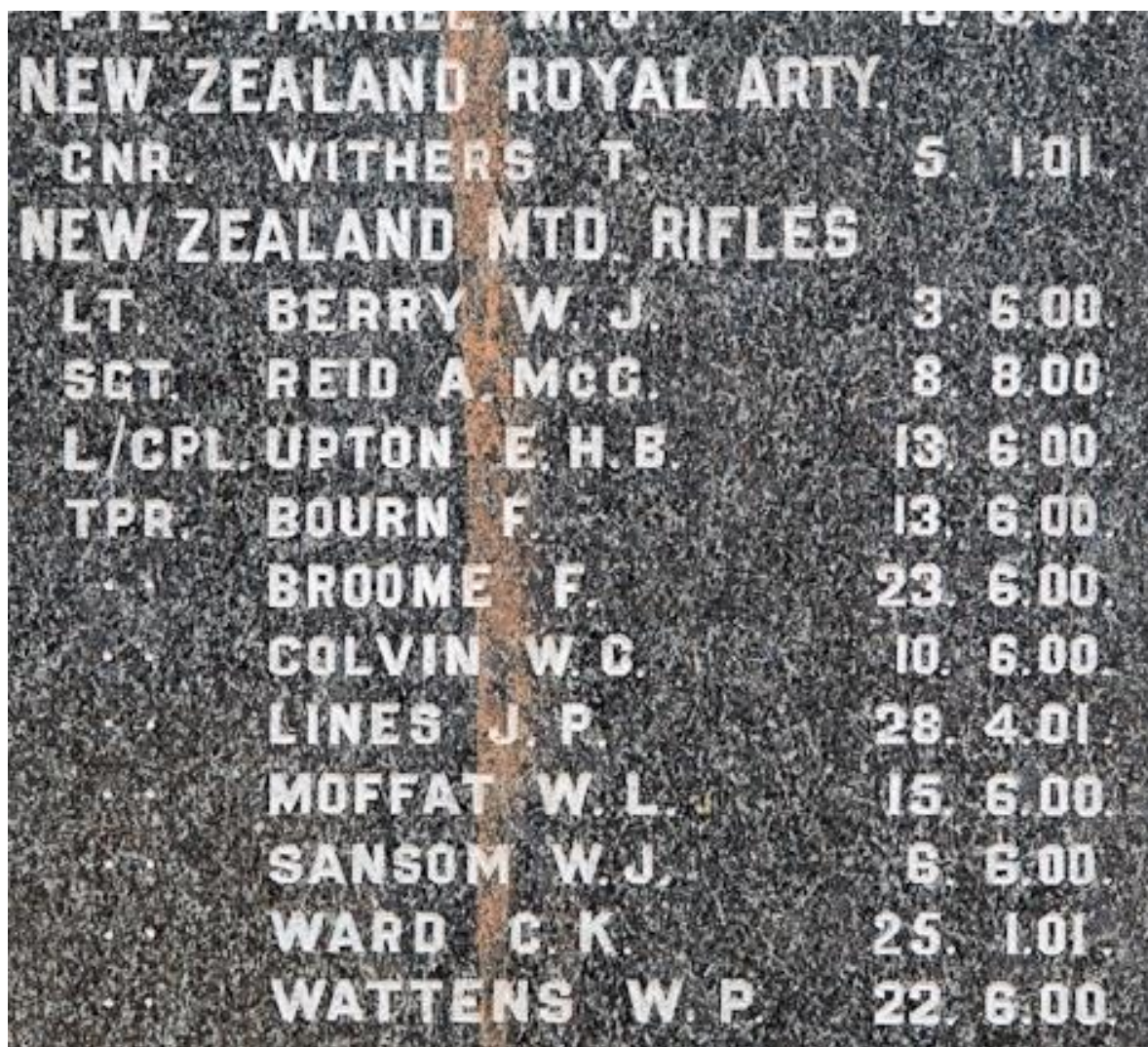
ASHBURTON CHURCH, CANTERBURY, N.Z.

In Memory of
ROBERT HENRY BRAMLEY UPTON

Corporal N.Z.M.R.
Born May 29th 1874.
Died at Johannesburg Hospital
June 13th 1900.

Erected by his Comrades in the Third Contingent Rough Riders

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."
1. Corinthians.



BRITISH ANGLO - BOER WAR MEMORIAL
 Braamfontein Cemetery, Johannesburg,
 Gauteng, South Africa.

UPTON, Robert Henry Bramley



BRITISH ANGLO - BOER WAR MEMORIAL
 Braamfontein Cemetery, Johannesburg,
 Gauteng, South Africa.

UPTON, Robert Henry Bramley

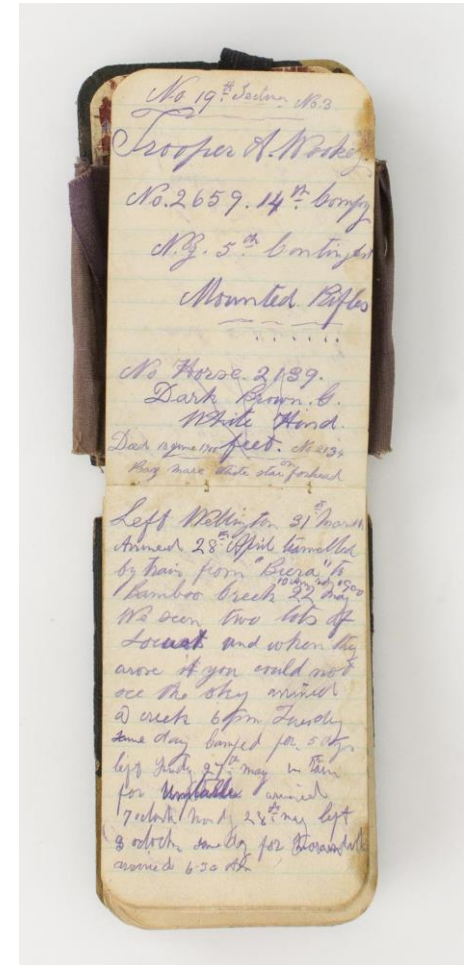
TROOPER ARCHIBALD WOOKEY'S DIARY

(as preserved in the Australian War Memorial Museum)



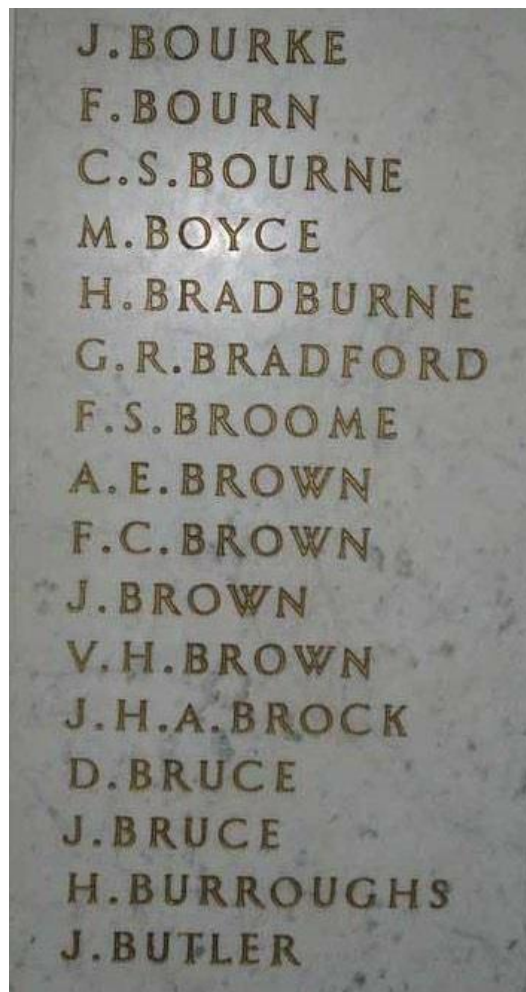
Folder 1 of 2 - Pocket diary maintained by Trooper Wookey, a Tasmanian who served with the 14th Company of the 5th New Zealand Contingent, between 1900 and 1901. Wookey purchased the diary at Beira, Mozambique on 19 May 1900. He recounts his departure from Wellington, New Zealand, on 31 March 1900 and arrival in South Africa. Thereafter, he makes regular entries on his daily activities, movements and observations on camp life, discussing matters such as food shortages, hostile weather, illness, and locusts. He also records mail received, entertainment, church services, and engagements with the Boers. The diary also features sketches by Wookey, a description of Wookey's horse, transcribed verse, and a list of names and addresses.

Folder 2 of 2 - Contains a leave note, two cigarette coupons, a Victoria Tramway Company ticket from Kimberley, and a souvenir notebook. The notebook was one gifted to members of the 5th New Zealand Contingent on their departure from New Zealand in March 1901. These items were probably originally inserted within the diary. The folder also includes a rough, handwritten transcription of the contents in Wookey's diary.



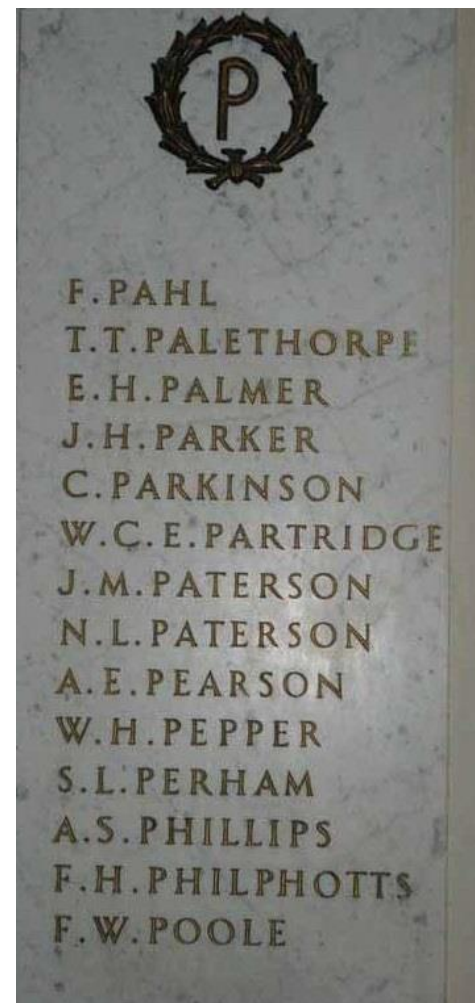


AUCKLAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
MEMORIAL
1899 – 1902



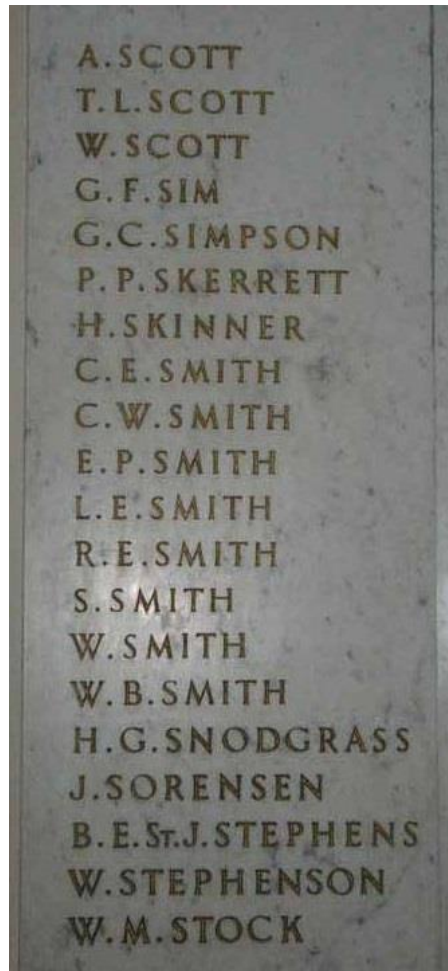
AUCKLAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
MEMORIAL
1899 – 1902

BRUCE, David



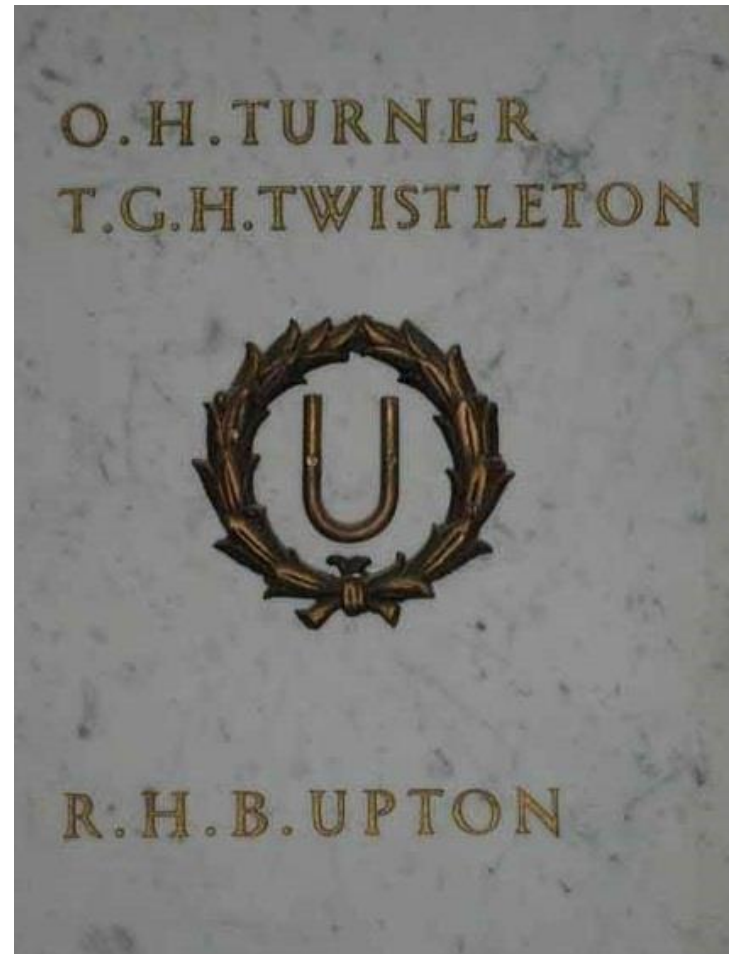
**AUCKLAND MEMORIAL
MUSEUM**
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
MEMORIAL
1899 – 1902

PEARSON, Alfred Edward



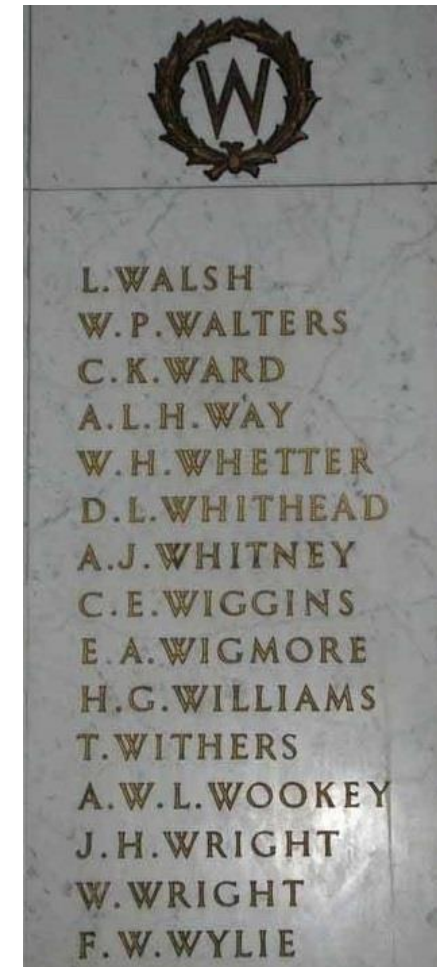
**AUCKLAND MEMORIAL
MUSEUM**
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
MEMORIAL
1899 – 1902

STEPHENS, Basil Edward St. John



AUCKLAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
MEMORIAL
1899 – 1902

UPTON, Robert Henry Bramley



AUCKLAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
MEMORIAL
1899 – 1902

WOOKEY, Archibald William
Lawton