

The NZ Pack Troop of the 1st ANZAC Wireless Squadron in Mesopotamia



<http://www.baldwin.co.uk/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/680x345/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/J/G/JG56714.jpg>

John O'Reilly

SCOPE

- **BACKGROUND - THE RAISING OF THE 1ST ANZAC WIRELESS SQUADRON**
- **MESOPOTAMIA**
- **AWARDS TO NZ PERSONNEL**
- **MEDAL GUIDE**
- **REUNIONS**
- **CONCLUSIONS**
- **QUESTIONS**

BACKGROUND:

RAISING THE 1ST ANZAC WIRELESS SQN

- REQUEST FROM THE VICEROY OF INDIA

Introduction

- 178 PERSONNEL

Scope

- 11 REINFORCEMENT GROUPS BETWEEN 1916 – 1918

Background

Mesopotamia

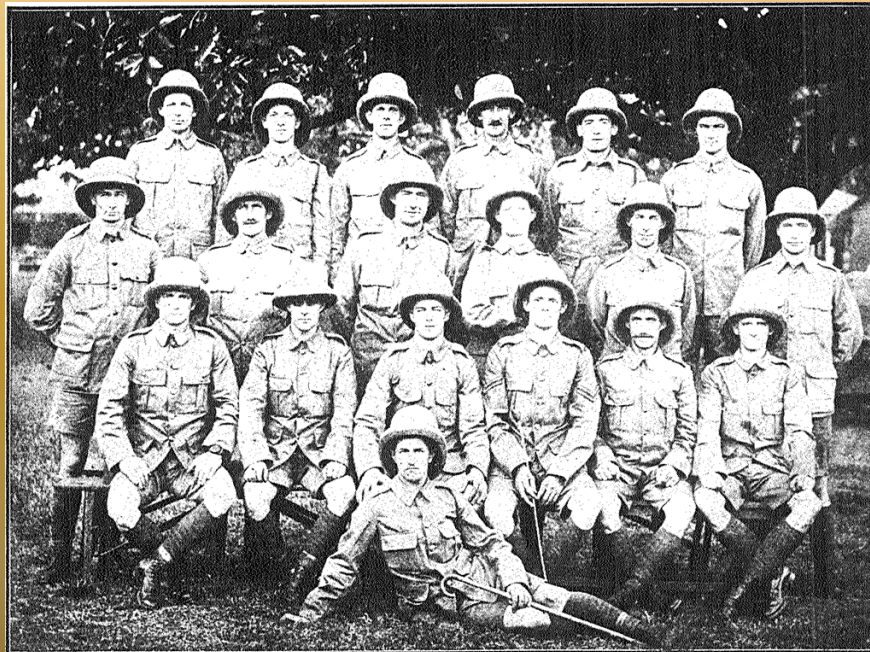
Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions



BACKGROUND:

MAIN BODY AND 11 WIRELESS ROTATION GROUPS BETWEEN 1916 – 1918

- **4 MARCH 1916 10TH REINFORCEMENTS (63 PERS) *TS WILLOCHRA***
- (1) 10 JULY 1916 14TH REINFORCEMENTS (9 PERS) *TS WAIHORA*
- (2) 13 JULY 1916 15TH REINFORCEMENTS (3 PERS) *TS MANUKA*
- (3) 10 AUGUST 2016 16TH REINFORCEMENTS (18 PERS) *TS MANUKA*
- (4) 5 OCTOBER 2016 17TH REINFORCEMENTS (12 PERS) *TS MANUKA*
- (5) 5 OCTOBER 2016 18TH REINFORCEMENTS (11 PERS) *TS MANUKA*
- (6) 14 DECEMBER 2016 20TH REINFORCEMENTS (11 PERS) *TS MOERAKI*
- (7) 14 DECEMBER 2016 20TH REINFORCEMENTS (10 PERS) *TS MOERAKI*
- (8) 8 FEBRUARY 1917 21ST REINFORCEMENTS (12 PERS) *TS MANUKA*
- (9) 31 MAY 1917 28TH REINFORCEMENTS (10 PERS) *TS WESTRALIA*
- (10) 2 MARCH 1918 35TH REINFORCEMENTS (13 PERS) *TS TOFUA*
- (11) 23 APRIL 1918 36TH REINFORCEMENTS (6 PERS) *TS WILLOCHRA*

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

• TRAVEL TO MESOPOTAMIA

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

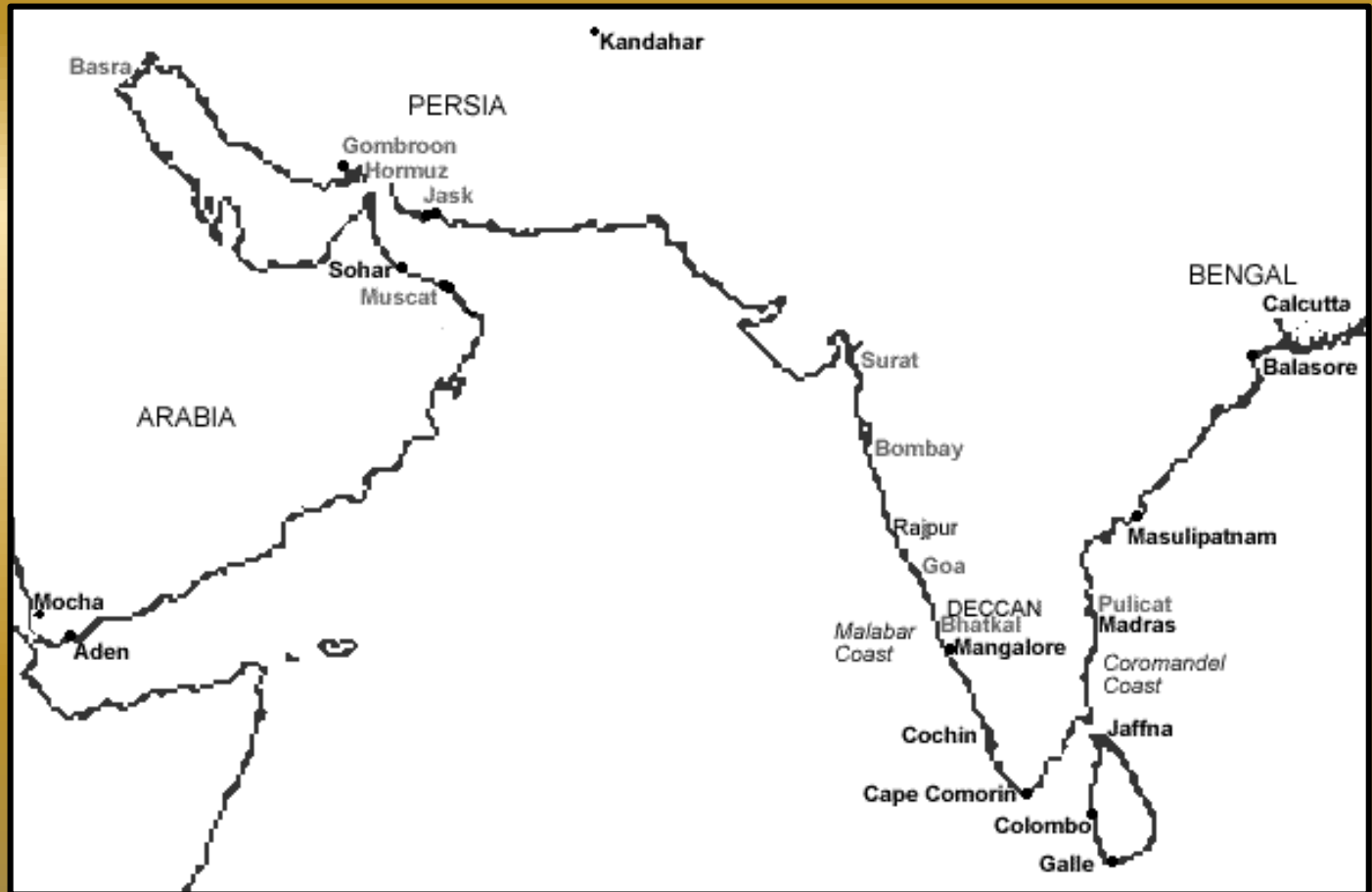
Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions



https://maritimeasia.ws/maritimelanka/images/maps/indianocean_600x391.gif

• MESOPOTAMIA



https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/thehockenblog/files/2016/04/S16-076f-P1993_024_022b-1024x735.jpg

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

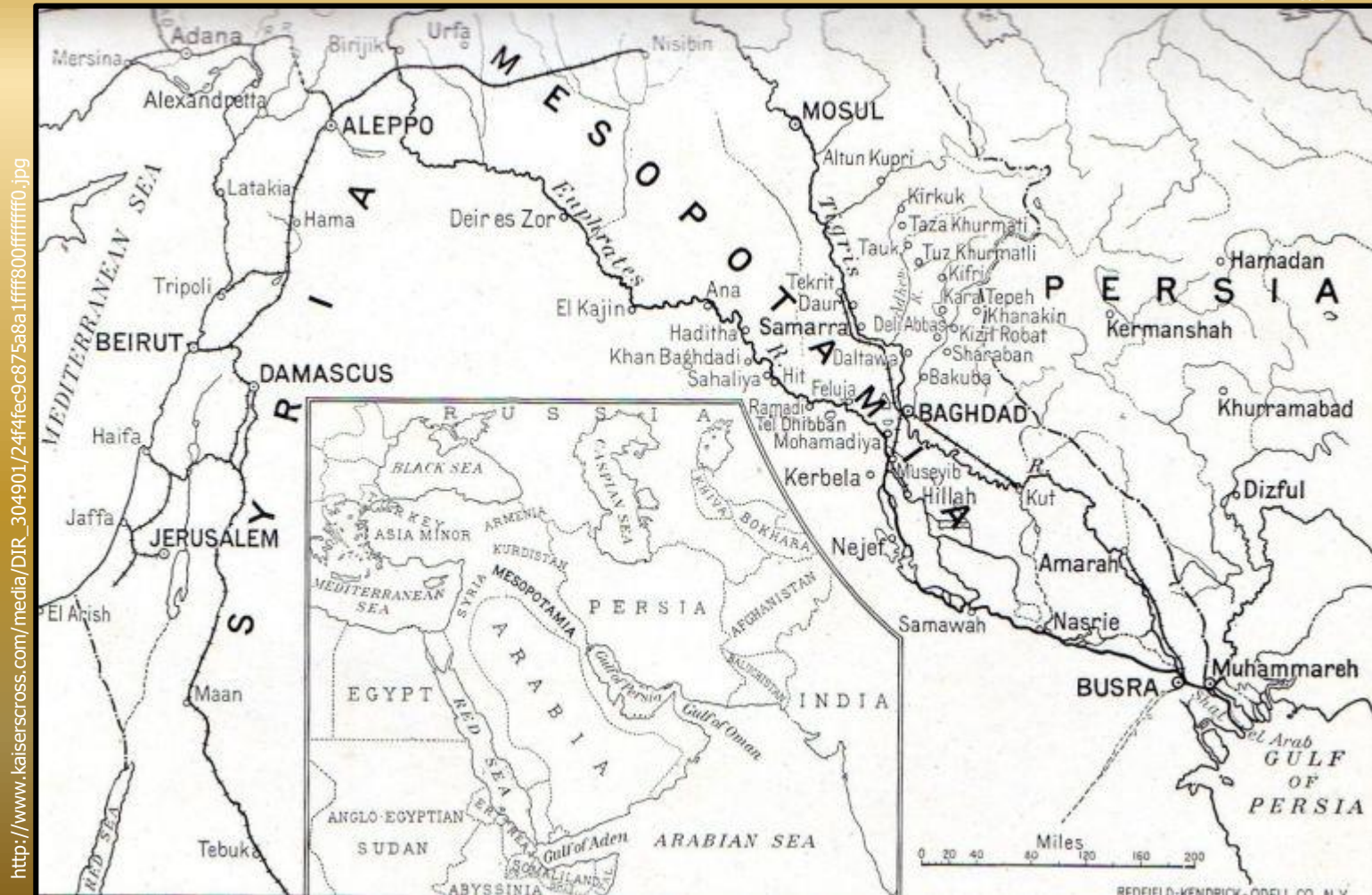
Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions



http://www.kaiserscross.com/media/DIR_304901/24f4fec9c875a8a1fff800fffff0.jpg

• MESOPOTAMIA

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

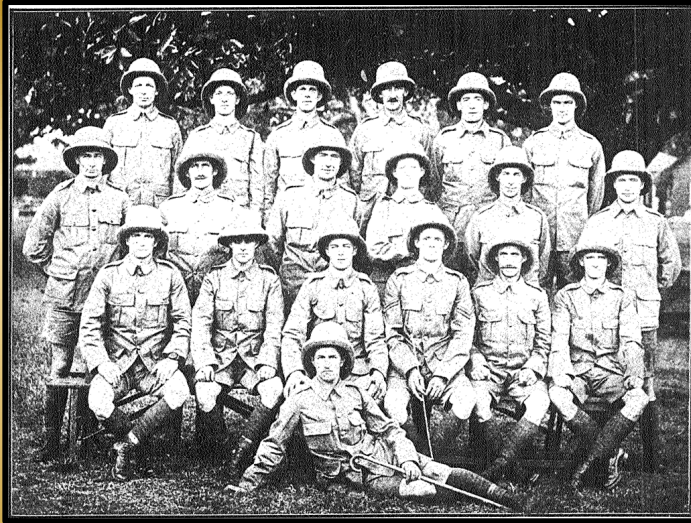
Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions



<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/imageserver/newspapers/P29pZD1PVzE5MTcwMTI0LjIuODIuMi4yNyZjb2xvcj0zMlZleHQ9Z2lmJmFyZWE9MQ==3> reinforcements



<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/imageserver/newspapers/P29pZD1PVzE5MTcwMTAzLjIuNjcuMy4xMSZjb2xvcj0zMlZleHQ9Z2lmJmFyZWE9MQ==>

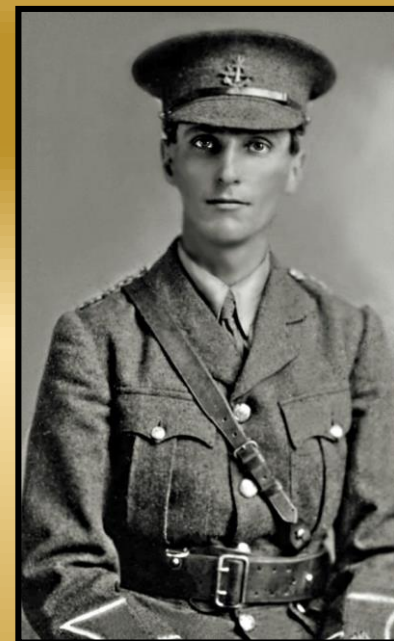


https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/thehockenblog/files/2016/04/S16-076f-P1993_024_022b-1024x735.jpg



<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/files/nzpt-badge-hero.jpg>

ROLL OF HONOUR



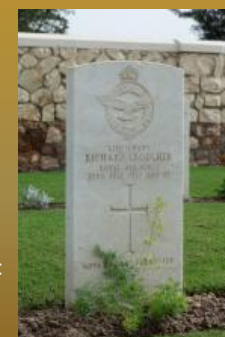
4/2174 2ND LIEUT WILLIAM ROBINSON
HENRY CLARKE

DIED OF DISEASE 8 JULY 1916 AGED 28

4/1966 SGT RICHARD CROUCHER

LATER 2ND LIEUTENANT, ROYAL AIR FORCE.

CROUCHER DIED AS A RESULT OF A SWIMMING ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED WHILE STATIONED AT RAMLEH, PALESTINE WITH 111 SQUADRON. HE HAD BEEN IN AND OUT OF HOSPITAL SINCE AT LEAST 29 OCTOBER 1918. ON 20 JULY 1919 HE SLIPPED WHILE DIVING AND RECEIVED SPINAL INJURIES. HE DIED SOME THREE DAYS LATER.



<https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/sites/default/files/styles/medium/public/c/casualties/Egypt/EGAH/EGAH7044.jpg?itok=aL-KfhzZ>

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

Auckland: Telegraph Office

The news of the sudden death of Mr. W.R.H. Clarke, Officer-in-Charge, New Zealand Wireless Troop, somewhere in Mesopotamia, came as a dreadful shock and cast a gloom over this office. The deceased was formerly O.-in-C., Wireless, Auckland, and upon its closing took up duty in the operating room. He proved one of the most popular officers of the Service, and we can scarcely yet realise that he will not take his place again amongst us. He was a sterling character, and fully realised his duty to the Department and his fellow officers. We extend our deepest and sincerest sympathy to his sorrowing wife and relatives. They can rest assured that our thoughts of Harry will always be most kindly and tender. *The Katipo*, 20 July 1916, p. 292

Wellington: Telegraph Office

The news of the death from jaundice of Lieutenant (Harry) Clarke, which took place in Mesopotamia, on July 8th, was received with something of a shock by his many friends here. We extend to his widow our most sincere sympathy in her irreparable loss. *The Katipo*, 20 July 1916, p. 296

Personal

The late Lieutenant W.R.H. Clarke, whose death from jaundice on the 8th inst. is reported from Basra, Mesopotamia, was a member of the service before he left with the reinforcements. He joined the Department as a telegraph message boy at Eltham, Taranaki, on February 17th, 1902, and after serving in different capacities in the Stratford, New Plymouth, and Auckland offices he was for four years stationed in Wellington as a telegraphist. Lieutenant Clarke had made a close study of radio-telegraphy, and was, at various periods, radio operator in the Wellington, Auckland and Owarua [Awarua] radio-telegraph offices. At the latter station he was acting officer in charge for five months. His knowledge of wireless telegraphs led to his appointment as second lieutenant in charge of the Wireless Troop, a separate unit which left these shores with the 10th Reinforcement draft. Three years ago he was married to Miss E. Vare, daughter of Mr Vare, of 89 Brougham Street, Wellington. Lieutenant Clarke was very popular with his officers in both civil and military life, and the news of his untimely death cast quite a gloom over the Wellington telegraph office, where he was well known. *The Katipo*, 20 July 1916, p. 304

Wireless Stations: Radio-Awanui

The sad news of the death of Lt. W.R.H. Clarke, O.C., N.Z. Wireless Troop, Mesopotamia, came as a painful shock to us all. The memory of poor Harry will ever awaken the tenderest and kindest of thoughts of his sorrowing friends in the North. To his wife and relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy. *The Katipo*, 21 August 1916, pp. 317-18



<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/files/nzpt-badges-hero.jpg>

ROLL OF HONOUR

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

- 37909 SPR WILLIAM CHARLES BRUCE
 - DIED OF DISEASE (CHOLERA) 8 JULY 1918 BASRA
 - AGED 38
-
- 4/2367 SPR HAROLD HERBERT BURKE
 - DIED OF DISEASE 16 JULY 1916 BASRA
 - AGED 36

<https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/sites/default/files/styles/medium/public/casualties/Egypt/EGAH/EGAH7044.jpg?itok=aL-KfhzZ>



ROLL OF HONOUR

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Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

- 4/2201 SPR LLEWELLYN JOHN McMILLAN

- DIED OF DISEASE (MEASLES) AT SEA 24 MAR 1916

- AGED 25

SAPPER L. J. McMILLAN. SAPPER LLEWELLYN JOHN McMILLAN, WHO DIED ON A TRANSPORT FROM FEVER FOLLOWING MEASLES ON MARCH 26 AND WAS BURIED AT SEA, WAS THE ONLY SON OF MR. D. N. McMILLAN, OF WAIPU. HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE NORTH RIVER SCHOOL, WAIPU, AND FOR THE GREATER PART OF HIS TIME SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL WAS EMPLOYED IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT, HAVING HAD EXPERIENCE IN ALL-PARTS OF THE AUCKLAND PROVINCE. AT THE TIME OF HIS ENLISTMENT HE WAS ENGAGED IN THE ERECTION OF A-NEW TELEGRAPH LINE BETWEEN PAPAROA AND TOKATOKA. SAPPER McMILLAN, WHO WAS OF GOOD PHYSIQUE, TOOK A KEEN INTEREST IN VARIOUS FORMS OF SPORT, PARTICULARLY HOCKEY, FOOTBALL, AND RUNNING. HE WAS AN EXCELLENT RUNNER AND HURDLER, AND EXCELLED AT WEIGHT AND HAMMER THROWING. HE WON SEVERAL EVENTS AT THE WAIPU CALEDONIAN SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GAMES IN JANUARY LAST. SAPPER McMILLAN DIED ON THE TRANSPORT WHICH WAS TAKING HIM TO THE FRONT. (AUCKLAND STAR, 18 APRIL 1916)

- 58323 SPR HARRY ARTHUR PARTRIDGE

- DIED OF DISEASE (SMALLPOX) AT BASRA 14 MAY 1918



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Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

• **NZ TROOP HONOURS & AWARDS**

- › 4/2208 SGT FREDERICK CHARLES ROBINSON
 - › - ITALIAN BRONZE MEDAL (LG 31 AUG 1917)
- › 4/1880 SGT ALFRED LOVERING MARSHALL
 - › - MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES (LG 27 AUG 1918)
- › 36206 LCPL WILLIAM HENRY VENN
 - › - MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES (LG 27 AUG 1918)
- › **1ST ANZAC WIRELESS SQN**
 - › 2 x DSO 2 x OBE 2 x MBE 3 x MC 4 x DCM 2 x MM
 - › 12 x MSM 27 x M.I.D.

- **MEDAL GUIDE:**

- ▶ **NZEF NAMING:**

- ▶ **REGT No. //RANK//NAME//N.Z.E.F.**

- ▶ **E.G. 4/2211 SPR. P.I. SMITH, N.Z.E.F.**

- ▶ **AIF NAMING:**

- ▶ **REGT No. //RANK//NAME//1 W'LESS SQDN//A.I.F.**

- ▶ **E.G. 20544 SGT. A.J. SAWYER 1 W'LESS SQDN. A.I.F.**

- ▶ **NZEF: 178 PERSONNEL SERVED WITH THE NZ TROOP**

- ▶ **NZ ENGR REGT No. 4/ PREFIX (4/2162 – 4/2215), 18400's, 36263-36272 & 35518-35528)**

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions



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- **REUNIONS**

- **FOUR NZ REUNIONS**

- **CHRISTCHURCH 1951**

- **AUCKLAND 1953**

- **ROTORUA 1956**

- **WELLINGTON 1959 (FINAL)**

- **SUPPORTED BY THE NZ POST OFFICE**

- **INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRALIA**

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

CONCLUSION

- FILLED A NICHE CAPABILITY GAP IN MESOPOTAMIA
- ONLY NZ FORMED BODY OF TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA THEATRE OF OPERATIONS
- UNDERTOOK INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION DUTIES IN ADDITION TO ITS COMMUNICATIONS ROLE
- CLIMATE AND DISEASE HAD A BIG IMPACT ON PERSONNEL
- DIFFERENT PAY SCALE TO THE REMAINDER OF THE NZEF
- FELT NEGLECTED BY NZ AUTHORITIES
- DIFFERENCE IN ANZAC HONOURS AND AWARDS
- WIRELESS TROOP PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AUDIO-RECORDINGS AND DIARIES IN NATIONAL COLLECTIONS
- VETERANS REMAINED A COHESIVE GROUP UNTIL THE LATE 1950's

Introduction

Scope

Background

Mesopotamia

Awards

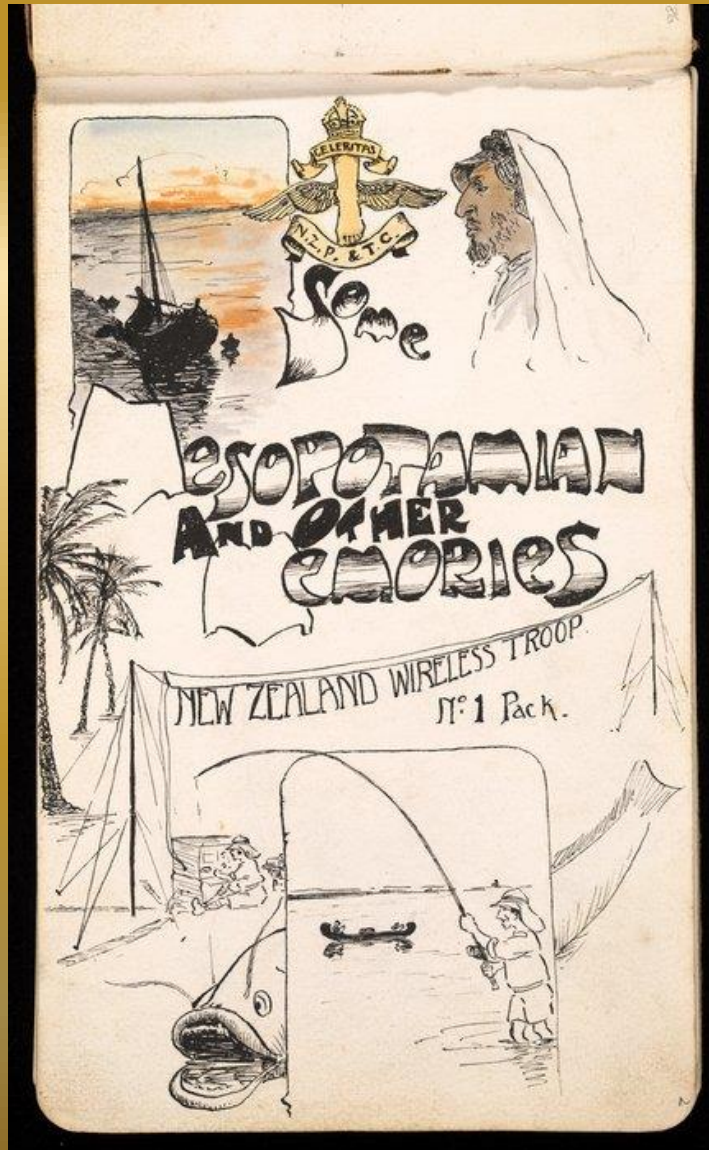
Medal Guide

Reunions

Conclusion

Questions

QUESTIONS



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