

## **Corporal Donald Eric Caithness MacKay®**

**Regimental number: 23/1310**

**1st Battalion, 3rd New Zealand (Rifles) Brigade**

**born: 1 January 1890 – died: 9 June 1916**

Corporal Donald Eric Caithness MacKay (aka Eric and Mac)<sup>1</sup> was one of about 18,000 New Zealanders who died in or because of the First World War.<sup>2</sup> As one friend wrote, “Those who knew him well need not be told that he died as he lived, cheerfully and courageously, prepared to face the task before him and see it through, admitting no thought of defeat or withdrawal. Good old Mac! He was ever the same bright, cheery, open-hearted good comrade, whose laugh was a tonic to banish dull care, a staunch friend and a true one. His going leaves us with a sense of irreparable loss.”<sup>3</sup>

Donald Eric Caithness MacKay was born on 1 January 1890<sup>4</sup> in Woodstock, Westland District, a small community situated on the left bank of the Hokitika River about 6 km southeast of the borough of Hokitika in the West Coast region of New Zealand’s South Island. He was the fourth child to be born to William Donald MacKay (1858–1945)<sup>5</sup> and Ida Octavia Kildahl (1857–1943).<sup>6</sup> Both William and Ida were working as teachers in the Westland district<sup>7</sup> when they married at St. Paul’s Church, Ross, on 3 March 1881.<sup>8</sup> The couple had seven children of which only four survived to adulthood: Torquil Vavasour (1881–1951),<sup>9</sup> Beresford Eliot (1882–1889),<sup>10</sup> Catherine Kildahl (1885–1890),<sup>11</sup> Donald Eric Caithness (1890–1916), John (1892–1969),<sup>12</sup> Helen Beatrice (1894–1982),<sup>13</sup> and Phyllis Mary (1896–1897).<sup>14</sup>

Eric’s parents came to New Zealand from Australia. William Donald MacKay was born in Skye, Scotland, and immigrated to Victoria, Australia, with his parents in 1862. He was brought up and educated in Melbourne and moved to New Zealand in 1878. He was appointed headmaster at the Woodstock Public School, which could accommodate 150 students, in 1886. Ida Octavia Kildahl was the daughter of Catherine-Anne Parke and John Kildahl, a solicitor in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.<sup>15</sup> She also taught at the Woodstock Public School for many years.<sup>16</sup>

Eric was an excellent student. In 1903, at the age of 13, he came second in country-wide exams for the Queen’s Scholarships, which awarded him funds to attend Hokitika District High School for three years.<sup>17</sup> The next year, he was awarded the Rector’s special prize for general excellence and conduct.<sup>18</sup> In his final year (1906) he was first in his class.<sup>19</sup> At the end of that year, he sat Civil Service Exams and came fourth in the country. He accepted a position in the Treasury Department in Wellington commencing in March 1907.<sup>20</sup> At a going-away social, a note was read from H. G. Wake, rector of his high school, in which he stated that Eric was “one of the best pupils he had ever had.”<sup>21</sup>

Awarded a Senior Queen’s Scholarship of £40 a year for three more years of study,<sup>22</sup> in 1907 Eric enrolled in the law course at Victoria University College, Wellington, (now Victoria University of Wellington). At college, he was noted as a “good all round athlete” particularly in cricket and football. Besides sports, he took a leading part in capping carnivals as singer, actor, and author and he contributed to the college’s magazine, *The Spike*.<sup>23</sup> Eric also spent 18 months in the college’s Officers’ Training Corps. In 1910, he wrote an amusing article about the OTC’s camp at Trentham, entitled “The Professor at the Mess Table.”<sup>24</sup> During the years at college, he may also have been working. In the 1911 Electoral Rolls, he listed his occupation as civil servant.<sup>25</sup> In December 1912, he completed his course of study and was awarded an LL.B. in April 1913.<sup>26</sup> After leaving college, he spent several months in Australia, visiting with his cousin Hugh Minchin<sup>27</sup> in Cremorne. While in

Australia, he became engaged to Frances Kildahl Darke, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Harry Darke, Colonial Bank, Camperdown, Victoria.<sup>28</sup> The couple never married; perhaps time ran out.

Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914. On the other side of the world in New Zealand, it was 5 August. The Governor, Arthur William de Brito Savile Foljambe, Earl of Liverpool, announced the news at 3 p.m. from the steps of Parliament in Wellington to a crowd of over 12,000, stating that New Zealand was prepared to make any sacrifice to maintain her heritage and birthright.<sup>29</sup> A New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) was quickly assembled under the command of General Alexander Godley.<sup>30</sup> Based on the Territorial Force, created by the 1909 Defence Act, the NZEF was a voluntary force created for the duration of the war. Conscription was introduced in 1916.<sup>31</sup>

On 16 October 1914, 10 troopships carrying 8,454 soldiers left Wellington, New Zealand, sailing to Albany, Australia, to join the ships carrying the Australian Imperial Force. The convoy left Albany on 1 November, arriving in Egypt on 3 December. The original plan that these soldiers would travel from Egypt to England for training was changed when the Ottoman Empire entered the war on the Central Powers' side in early November. It was decided to train the men in Egypt, where the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was already in action defending the Suez Canal. A New Zealand Base Depot was established at Zeitoun near Cairo.<sup>32</sup> Lord Kitchener assigned Lieutenant General William Riddell Birdwood to command the New Zealand and Australian armies. In early 1915, Birdwood and his staff coined the acronym ANZAC to describe the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.<sup>33</sup> The unsuccessful Gallipoli campaign (25 April 1915–31 December 1915) that followed took the lives of 2,779 New Zealanders.<sup>34</sup> With such losses, sustaining the NZEF required a steady stream of men. Over the next four years, 42 drafts or reinforcements, each about 2,000 men strong, were sent from New Zealand.<sup>35</sup>

Just beginning his law career, Eric did not immediately enlist. For a time, he might have been working in the Public Trustee's Office in Wellington.<sup>36</sup> By November 1914, however, he was a partner with A.D.D. Crawford, a solicitor in Hokitika.<sup>37</sup> For some reason the partnership did not last. By May 1915, he was employed by the law firm Syme & Weir, in Eltham, a small inland community on the North Island about 786 km from Hokitika. In Eltham, he was active in collecting and donating money to the Patriotic Fund.<sup>38</sup>

The NZEF was recruiting men for the 8th draft (the 8th Reinforcements) when on 7 July 1915, Eric enlisted. On 14 July, he signed the attestation form at Palmerston North about 182 km from Eltham and was posted as a Sergeant, "E" Company. Although part of that larger draft, he was in the 2nd Reinforcements, 1st Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade.<sup>39</sup> The New Zealand Rifle Brigade was created in April 1915 as a second New Zealand infantry brigade to complement the brigade then serving in Gallipoli. On 1 May 1915, this new regiment was officially named the Trentham Regiment (Earl of Liverpool's Own), with the Earl of Liverpool as its honorary colonel. The name was changed again on 7 October 1915 to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade (Earl of Liverpool's Own). On the organization of a New Zealand Division within the 1st Anzac Corps in Egypt in February 1916, the name changed again. As a regiment, it remained the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, but at the Division level it became the 3rd New Zealand (Rifles) Brigade.<sup>40</sup>

Originally the brigade was composed of two battalions. The 1st and 2nd battalions left for Egypt on 10 October 1915. Mobilization of the 3rd and 4th battalions commenced in September 1915. Each



Corporal Donald Eric Caitness MacKay  
*Auckland Weekly News*, 1916  
 Auckland War Memorial Museum  
<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>: accessed 15 May 2019

soldier was assigned a regimental number, the first two digits of which identified the battalion (for example, 23/ indicated the 1st Battalion, 26/ the 4th).<sup>41</sup> Sergeant Donald Eric Caithness MacKay's regimental number was 23/1310.

In August 1915, the 8th Reinforcements were camped at the Show Grounds at Palmerston North. Eric helped to organize a Camp Fire Concert at the Opera House with the proceeds (£40) going to the Patriot Fund. The concert was a success; a segment entitled "The 8th's Awkward Squad," in which the soldiers sang verses set to music, was particularly well received. A newspaper reporter noted that the poet was "one Sergeant MacKay, a legal luminary from the Cow Country, who engineered the musical side of the concert so successfully and established himself as one of the most popular men in camp – at least the ladies say so."<sup>42</sup>

By September, Eric moved to Trentham Camp with the 8th Reinforcements for additional training. Prime Minister William Ferguson Massey inspected the draft and judged that the men of the 8th Reinforcements "taken as a body were fully equal to the earlier drafts" and "would be as worthy of fighting the Empire's battles as any force that had left the Dominion."<sup>43</sup>

On 13 November, the 8th Reinforcements left Wellington for Egypt on two ships, HMNZ no. 35 (*Willochra*) and HMNZ no. 36 (*Tofua*). Eric and "E" Company were on board the *Tofua*. Quartermaster-Sergeant George Alexander Robbie<sup>44</sup> described the 25-day voyage to Egypt in his letters published in the *Patea Mail*. The *Tofua* encountered inclement weather crossing the Tasman Sea. Many of the men were seasick and the vessel was damaged. Repairs were needed when it docked in Hobart, Tasmania, on 20 November. While in Hobart, the men paraded through the town. According to Private James Stafford Tap O'Neill,<sup>45</sup> "the local people expressed their admiration of the fine stamp of the New Zealand boys because they were taller and bigger in built than the Tassy boys."<sup>46</sup> As the journey continued, the weather improved. Eric and the other men participated in sports such as boxing and tug-of-war on Wednesdays and Saturdays and enjoyed a concert on deck every night. On 23 November, a committee with Eric as secretary met to plan the production of a troopship newspaper. On 4 December, the first edition of the *Albatross* was printed. D.E.C. McKay was listed as assistant editor.<sup>47</sup> By Tuesday 14 December, the ship had reached Aden and proceeded through Hell's Gate into the Red Sea. Robbie described the landscape as desolate. On Saturday 18 December, the *Tofua* dropped anchor at Suez; the men disembarked the following day for the 113-km train trip to Zeitoun.

Eric's and the other New Zealanders' introduction to Egypt was chaotic and probably stressful. People swarmed the ship when it docked hoping for alms. Three Egyptian policemen whipped a local man who had retrieved two empty jam cases that the New Zealanders had thrown overboard.

During the train trip, a wildly yelling crowd fought and jostled with each other trying to sell their wares to the troops. Arriving at Zeitoun at 10:30 p.m., they marched to the camp at the Aerodrome, Heliopolis, arriving in the intensely cold early hours of 20 December to huts without doors, windows or floors.<sup>48</sup>

When Eric arrived at the New Zealand Rifle Brigade's base camp at the Aerodrome, only headquarters personnel were there. As part of the BEF, the 2nd Battalion had departed for Alexandria on 22 November and returned to Moascar Camp, Ismailia, 18 January 1916. The 1st Battalion had departed for Matruh on 19 December, where it played an active role in the Senussi Campaign. During action on 25 December 1915 and 23 January 1916, 7 battalion members died and 50 were injured.<sup>49</sup>

In the interim, Eric and the other 404 men of the 2nd Reinforcements were temporarily organized as a battalion and commenced intensive training for the remainder of December, January and February.<sup>50</sup> On 6 February, this temporary battalion moved to Moascar Camp, Ismailia, where the 2nd Battalion was already camped. When the 1st Battalion arrived on 29 February, the process of integrating the new recruits began. On 8 March, Eric was posted as a private to "D" Company, 1st Battalion, relinquishing his appointment as sergeant. At the beginning of March, the New Zealand Division was assigned to the defence of the Suez Canal. The New Zealand Rifle Brigade set up camp at Ferry Post just east of the canal. When the 3rd Battalion arrived on 13 March 1916 and the 4th Battalion on 15 March, the brigade was complete with all four of its battalions. For the next few weeks, Eric and the men continued to train with company, battalion and brigade parades, route marches, night operations, trench-construction and specialist training. Eric and the other men probably enjoyed the bathing parades to Lake Timsah and the Suez Canal.<sup>51</sup>

During the months of training, the men did have time off. Most likely, Eric visited the historical and religious sites in and around Cairo. He was probably as impressed as Quartermaster-Sergeant Robbie was by the fertility of the land along the Nile River, which could produce three crops per year, and the beautiful buildings of Cairo. Like Robbie, he would have drunk an Egyptian coffee at the Tewfik Palace Hotel, visited the pyramids, the tombs of the Mamelukes, the Mosque and Madrassa of Sultan Hassan and the zoo. Robbie mentioned meeting Eric at the zoo. He would also have seen the wounded soldiers from Gallipoli being cared for in tents on the grounds of the Palace Hotel (which had been converted into a hospital). He too was most likely shocked by the poverty of Cairo's general population.<sup>52</sup>

On 20 March, the New Zealand Rifle Brigade returned to Moascar Camp. Eric was promoted to corporal on 28 March. He must have enjoyed seeing H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who inspected the brigade on 29 March. He would have been aware of the rumours that the brigade was being deployed to Europe. On 5 April, Eric with the 1st Battalion left Moascar Camp for Alexandria, where they boarded HMS *Arcadian*, which departed on 7 April 1916, arriving in Marseilles, France, on 13 April 1916.<sup>53</sup>

From there, the brigade travelled 850 km by train to Steenbecque, France. During the journey, Eric and the other men enjoyed the scenery and appreciated the smiles and cries of the cheering children along the route. By 15 May, the brigade had moved to Armentières, France.<sup>54</sup> On 22 May 1916 the New Zealand Rifle Brigade commenced its first tour of duty in the trenches, taking over part of the front-line sector due east of Armentières. Each battalion was assigned a section. The location was problematic, given that the enemy line was on higher ground overlooking the BEF trenches. Owing to the repeated bombardments and reconstruction, the trenches were an intricate maze of tumbled timber and clay. In the bank of earth forming the rear part of the trenches were



"ARMENTIÈRES SECTOR 1916 MAP" *NEW ZEALAND HISTORY*  
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/armenieres-sector-1916-map>: accessed 14 May 2019)

injuries to his left side and chest.<sup>57</sup> He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS), Bailleul, France, about 14 km from Armentières. He was one of 99 patients admitted that day.<sup>58</sup> He died two days later at 5:30 p.m. on 9 June 1916.<sup>59</sup> His parents were informed of his death on Monday, 19 June.<sup>60</sup> The casualty count for the New Zealand Rifle Brigade during June was high, with 23 men killed and 91 wounded.<sup>61</sup>

Corporal Donald Eric Caithness MacKay was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Grave/Memorial Reference II. D. 165.<sup>62</sup> Bailleul, close to the Belgian border, was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built, and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields. When Eric's friend Lieutenant T.E.Y. Seddon<sup>63</sup> visited his grave in the fall of 1916, he noticed that Eric's name had been spelled incorrectly. He informed the chaplain and had it corrected.<sup>64</sup>

Although Eric's parents and siblings must have grieved his death immensely, the social conventions of the day demanded that the bereaved accept their losses quietly and stoically. Eric's will was probated on 28 July 1916. John Lindsay Weir of Syme & Weir was the executor. Eric left bequests to his cousin Hugh Minchin, his brother Torquil, and £50 to Frances Kildahl Darke. The rest of his estate of over £300 went to his mother, Ida Octavia.<sup>65</sup>

Corporal Donald Eric Caithness MacKay was awarded posthumously the 1914–1915 Star (for service in a theatre of war between 1914 and 1915), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918). The medals were sent to his parents, who had retired from teaching and were living in Hokitika in 1924. They also received a parchment scroll and a memorial plaque.

In 1914, New Zealand had a population of a little more than a million people.<sup>66</sup> As a result, almost every family was affected to some degree by the war. The MacKay family's experience was probably

dugouts where the men not on duty could sleep. Each could hold four men.<sup>55</sup> In May, a dugout was struck by a high explosive shell during a concentrated enemy bombardment, killing three men of the 3rd Battalion and injuring two. By the end of May, 5 men had been killed and 55 wounded.<sup>56</sup>

At the beginning of June, the New Zealand Rifle Brigade was relieved and moved to billets in Armentières. However, it still supplied men for work parties in the trenches. On a cloudy cold 7 June, Eric was in charge of a fatigue party taking material up to the front line when he was hit by machine gun fire, sustaining

not unique. Their world continued without Eric. His older brother Torquil, who was married with two children, worked as a draughtsman in New Plymouth, Taranaki. He was listed on the Reserve Rolls in 1917<sup>67</sup> but most likely was not called up. His younger brother John (aka Jack) survived the war. A lance corporal in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, BEF, he recovered from a bullet wound to his right wrist from the battlefield of France but then succumbed to rheumatic fever in Salonika, Greece. Medically discharged on 29 July 1916,<sup>68</sup> he returned to New Zealand. He married Alice Dora Maude Dorrington at St. Peter's Church, Wellington, on 28 December 1916. His sister Helen Beatrice was in the wedding party.<sup>69</sup> Helen Beatrice obtained her teaching certificate, taught for a number of years<sup>70</sup> and married Kenneth Sholto Caldwell<sup>71</sup> in 1919. Frances Kildahl Darke, Eric's fiancée, married Claude Towers Frost in 1924.<sup>72</sup>

New Zealand has over 500 memorials honouring its WW I dead. Donald Eric Caithness MacKay's sacrifice was remembered on a number of them: the Woodstock School's War Memorial,<sup>73</sup> the Hokitika War Memorial,<sup>74</sup> and the Eltham War Memorial Gates.<sup>75</sup> Eric was also remembered by his alma mater. In October 1916, an obituary was published in *The Spike, or Victoria University College Review*. Another obituary appeared in Victoria University College's commemorative issue, *War Memorial Number, 1920*.<sup>76</sup> His life has been remembered as well on the New Zealand Law Society's website<sup>77</sup> and the Auckland War Museum Online Cenotaph.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "MacKay, Donald Eric Caithness – WW1 23/1310 – Army," *Archives New Zealand* ([http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE10529457](http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE10529457): accessed 26 January 2019), Archive reference: AABK 18805 W5544/41, Record no.: 0070582

Note: All information about Donald Eric Caithness came from this file unless otherwise indicated. Some of the file was missing, so there was no information regarding his health on enlistment. He seemed to prefer the name Eric. He was called "Mac" at Victoria University College by his friends. He signed the attestation form as "D. Eric MacKay." Also, the memorial at the Woodstock School listed him as Eric MacKay. "Woodstock School War Memorial," *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/woodstock-school-war-memorial>: accessed 27 January 2019)

<sup>2</sup> "First World War—Overview," *New Zealand History* (Ministry for Culture and Heritage) (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/first-world-war-overview/introduction>: accessed 1 February 2019)

<sup>3</sup> G.H.N., "Eric Mackay," *The Spike: or, Victoria University College Review*, October 1916, *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* ([http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-VUW1916\\_30Spik-t1-body-d5-d2.html](http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-VUW1916_30Spik-t1-body-d5-d2.html): accessed 18 February 2019), p. 37

<sup>4</sup> "New Zealand Birth Index," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 October 2018), entry for Donald Eric Caithness MacKay, Registration number: 1890/3148, Registration year: 1890, Country: New Zealand

<sup>5</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 31 January 2019), entry for William Donald Mackay, Death registration number: 1945/21962 Note: Age at death was used to calculate approximate date of birth.

<sup>6</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 31 January 2018), entry for Ida Octavia Mackay, Death registration number: 1943/30368 Note: Age at death was used to calculate approximate date of birth. She most likely was the daughter of John Kildahl and Catherine-Anne Parke recorded in "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 20 March 2019), entry for Kildahl, Birth Place: Byong [sic] Victoria, Registration Place: Victoria, Australia, Registration Number: 15048; "New Zealand, Archives New Zealand Probate Records 1843–1998," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en>: accessed 17 March 2019), entry for Ida Octavia MacKay, Event Date: 1943, Residence Place: Hokitika, New Zealand, Agency: AAOM, Series Number: 6030, Item Code: R23132790. Note: This document recorded her place of birth as Buninyong, Victoria, Australia.

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<sup>7</sup> "New Zealand, Teacher and Civil Service Examinations and Licenses, 1880–1920," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca>: accessed 31 January 2019), entry for William Donald MacKay, Residence Year: about 1880, Residence Place: Westland, Publication Date: 16 July 1880, Publication Place: Wellington, New Zealand; "New Zealand, Teacher and Civil Service Examinations and Licenses, 1880–1920," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca>: accessed 31 January 2019), entry for Miss Ida Octavia Kildahl, Residence Year: about 1880, Residence Place: Westland, Publication Date: 16 July 1880, Publication Place: Wellington, New Zealand

<sup>8</sup> "New Zealand, Civil Records Indexes, 1800–1966," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q24V-2VDT>: accessed 25 January 2019), entry for William Donald McKay, Event Type: Marriage, Event Date: 1881, Event Place: New Zealand, Spouse's Name: Ida Octavia Kildahl, Registration Number: 1881/445; "Marriage, MACKAY—KILDAHL" *West Coast Times*, 17 March 1881, *Papers Past*, (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 18 January 2019), p. 2

"Family Notices, Mackay—Kildahl," *Ballarat Courier*, 4 April 1881, *TROVE* (National Library of Australia) (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?q=Kildahl&exactPhrase=&anyWords=&notWords=&requestHandler=&dateFrom=1881-04-01&dateTo=1881-04-30&sortBy>: accessed 30 January 2018), p. 2

<sup>9</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 31 January 2019), entry for Forquil [sic] Vavasour Mackay, Birth registration number: 1881/7856; entry for Torquil Vavasom [sic], Marriage registration number: 1909/8035. (He married Tabitha Mary Kelly); entry for Torquil Vavasour Mackay, Death registration number: 1951/21983

<sup>10</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Beresford Eliot McKay[sic], Birth registration number: 1882/39; entry for Beresford Eliot McKay [sic], Death registration number: 1889/2761

<sup>11</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Catherine Kildahl McKay [sic], Birth registration number: 1885/12282; entry for Catherine Kildahl Mackay, Death registration number: 1890/3932

<sup>12</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 1 February 2019), entry for John Mackay, Birth registration number: 1892/13270; entry for John Mackay, Marriage registration number: 1916/1721 (He married Alice Dora Maude Dorrington); "New Zealand, Cemetery Records 1800–2007," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca>: accessed 1 February 2019), entry for John MacKay, Death Place: Tauranga, New Zealand, Burial Place: Thames Valley, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, Cemetery: Totara. Note: He is buried in Plot 22, where Alice Dora Maude MacKay is also buried. Date of his death: 13 January 1969

<sup>13</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed February 2019), entry for Helen Beatrice Mackay, Birth Registration number: 1896/17340. Note: Her death registration records her birth date as 14 October 1894); entry for Helen Beatrice Caldwell, Death registration number: 1982/30880

<sup>14</sup> "Births, Deaths & Marriages Online," *New Zealand Government* (<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>: accessed 1 February 2019), entry for Phyllis Mary Mackay, Birth Registration number: 1896/17350; entry for Phyllis Mary Mackay, Death registration number: 1897/5997

<sup>15</sup> "Woodstock," *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand* (Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company Limited 1906) *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc05Cycl-t1-body1-d3-d25-d3.html>: accessed 28 January 2019), p. 524. Note: This community and the school may no longer exist. The school's War Memorial is located in Hokikita.

<sup>16</sup> "New Zealand Civil Service Examinations, 1880–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 31 January 2019), entry for Mrs. Ida Octavia McKay, Residence Year: about 1907, Residence Place: Westland, Publication Date: 10 July 1907, Publication Place: Wellington, New Zealand

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- <sup>17</sup>“The Queen’s Scholarships,” *West Coast Times*, 21 January 1904, *Papers Past*, (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2019), p. 3; “Queen’s Scholarships Act 1903,” *New Zealand Legal Information Institute* ([http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\\_act/qs19033ev1903n29324](http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act/qs19033ev1903n29324): accessed 1 February 2019)
- <sup>18</sup>“Victoria School Concert and Prize Distribution,” *West Coast Times*, 28 December 1904, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2019), p. 3
- <sup>19</sup>“Victoria School Concert and Prize Distribution,” *West Coast Times*, 21 December 1906, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2019), p. 4
- <sup>20</sup>“Untitled,” *West Coast Times*, 6 February 1907, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2019), p. 2; New Zealand Civil Service Examinations 1906–1907,” *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.co.uk>: accessed 7 February 2019), entry for Donald Eric Mackay, Year: 1906–07, Examination centre: Hokitika, Notes: Passed with Credit 4th, Country: New Zealand
- <sup>21</sup>“The Parliamentary Drafting Department,” *West Coast Times*, 9 February 1907, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2019), p. 2
- <sup>22</sup>“Topics of the Day,” *West Coast Times*, 14 September 1907, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2019), p. 2
- <sup>23</sup>“The Fallen,” *The Spike: or Victoria College Review War Memorial Number*, 1920, *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection*, ([https://viewer.waireto.victoria.ac.nz/client/viewer/IE762379/rep/REP762710/FL762711/t1/t1-body-d5?dps\\_dvs=1549581547219~776](https://viewer.waireto.victoria.ac.nz/client/viewer/IE762379/rep/REP762710/FL762711/t1/t1-body-d5?dps_dvs=1549581547219~776): accessed 7 February 2019), p. 31
- <sup>24</sup>D.E.C. Mackay, “The Professor at the Mess Table,” *The Spike: or Victoria College Review*, June 1910, *The New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* ([http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-VUW1910\\_17Spik-t1-body-d7.html](http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-VUW1910_17Spik-t1-body-d7.html): accessed 18 February 2019), p. 20
- <sup>25</sup>“New Zealand Electoral Rolls,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 October 2018), entry for Donald Eric Caithness Mackay, Electoral year: 1911, Number: 5322, Occupation/status: Civil servant, Residence: Mount Street, Electorate: Wellington North
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- <sup>44</sup> “Robbie, George Alexander – WW1 24/1306 – Army,” *Archives New Zealand* ([http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE24382995](http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE24382995): accessed 27 February 2019), Archive reference: AABK 18805 W5550/78, Record no.: 0098297. Note: G. A. Robbie was killed in action 22 July 1917.
- <sup>45</sup> “O’Neill, James Stafford – WW1 11/1945 – Army,” *Archives New Zealand* ([http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE14750085](http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE14750085): accessed 28 February 2019), Archive reference: AABK18805 W5549/101, Record no: 0088587 Note: J. S. O’Neill survived the war but died in 1937 from complications caused by malaria, which he contracted during the war.
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- <sup>47</sup> *Albatross*, vol. 1, no. 1, December 4, 1915, *Auckland War Memorial Museum* (<http://media.api.aucklandmuseum.com/id/media/p/475ecfa711140ce3735bd4d95feaffc95116a31c?rendering=original.pdf>: accessed 22 February 2019). Note: Donald Eric Caithness’s last name is spelled as McKay rather than MacKay.
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February 1916; and AWM4 35/22/6 March. Note: Most information about the battalion's activities from 1 October 1915 to March 1916 comes from this source.

<sup>50</sup> W.S. Austin, op. cit., p. 55

<sup>51</sup> W. S. Austin, op. cit., pp. 59–63

<sup>52</sup> G. A. Robbie, "New Zealanders in Egypt," *Patea Mail*, 10 March 1916, p. 2; "New Zealanders in Egypt," *Patea Mail*, 20 March 1916, p. 2; "A New Zealander in Egypt," *Patea Mail*, 28 April 1916, p. 2; "A New Zealander in Egypt," *Patea Mail*, 1 May 1916, p. 2; *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) ([https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers?snippet=true&query=Robbies+diary&start\\_date=01-11-1915&end\\_date=31-12-1916](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers?snippet=true&query=Robbies+diary&start_date=01-11-1915&end_date=31-12-1916): accessed 17 March 2019)

<sup>53</sup> W.S. Austin, op. cit., pp. 63–69

<sup>54</sup> W.S. Austin, op. cit., p. 76

<sup>55</sup> W. S. Austin, op. cit., pp. 87–90

<sup>56</sup> W. S. Austin, op. cit., p. 94

<sup>57</sup> "Personal Items," *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 8 August 1916, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 4 March 2019), p. 4

<sup>58</sup> "No.1 Canadian Casualty Clear Station War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data2.archives.ca/e/e061/e001509285.jpg>: accessed 17 October 2018) entry for 7 June 1916

<sup>59</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 06 March 2019), entry for MacKay, D.

<sup>60</sup> "Roll of Honour," *Greymouth Evening Star*, 20 June 1916, *Papers Past* (National Library of New Zealand) (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 06 March 2019), p. 6

<sup>61</sup> W. S. Austin, op. cit., p. 104

<sup>62</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead>: accessed 4 March 2019), entry for Donald Eric Caithness MacKay

<sup>63</sup> "Seddon, Thomas Edward Youd – WW1 10/3730 – Army," *Archives New Zealand* (<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=7815611&digital=yes>: accessed 12 March 2019), Archive reference: AABK18805 W5553/16, Record no: 0105659 Note: T.E.Y. Seddon survived the war.

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<sup>66</sup> "First World War—Overview," *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/first-world-war-overview/introduction>: accessed 1 February 2018)

<sup>67</sup> "New Zealand Army WW1 Reserve Rolls, 1916–1917," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 16 March 2019), entry for Torquil Vavasour MacKay, Year: 1917

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<sup>74</sup> "Hokitika War Memorial," *New Zealand History* (Ministry for Heritage and Culture) (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/hokitika-war-memorial>: accessed 12 March 2019)

<sup>75</sup> "Eltham First World War Memorial Gates," *New Zealand History* (Ministry for Heritage and Culture) (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/eltham-first-world-war-memorial-gates>: accessed 12 March 2018)

<sup>76</sup> G.H.N., "Eric Mackay," *The Spike: or, Victoria University College Review*, October 1916, *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* ([http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-VUW1916\\_30Spik-t1-body-d5-d2.html](http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-VUW1916_30Spik-t1-body-d5-d2.html): accessed 18 February 2019), p. 37; "The Fallen," *The Spike: or Victoria College Review War Memorial Number*, 1920, *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection*, ([https://viewer.waireto.victoria.ac.nz/client/viewer/IE762379/rep/REP762710/FL762711/t1/t1-body-d5?dps\\_dvs=1549581547219~776](https://viewer.waireto.victoria.ac.nz/client/viewer/IE762379/rep/REP762710/FL762711/t1/t1-body-d5?dps_dvs=1549581547219~776): accessed 7 February 2019), p. 31

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<sup>78</sup> "Online Cenotaph," *Auckland War Memorial Museum* (<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/search?n=MacKay%2c+Donald+Eric&w=World+War+I%2c+1914-1918>: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Donald Eric Caithness MacKay