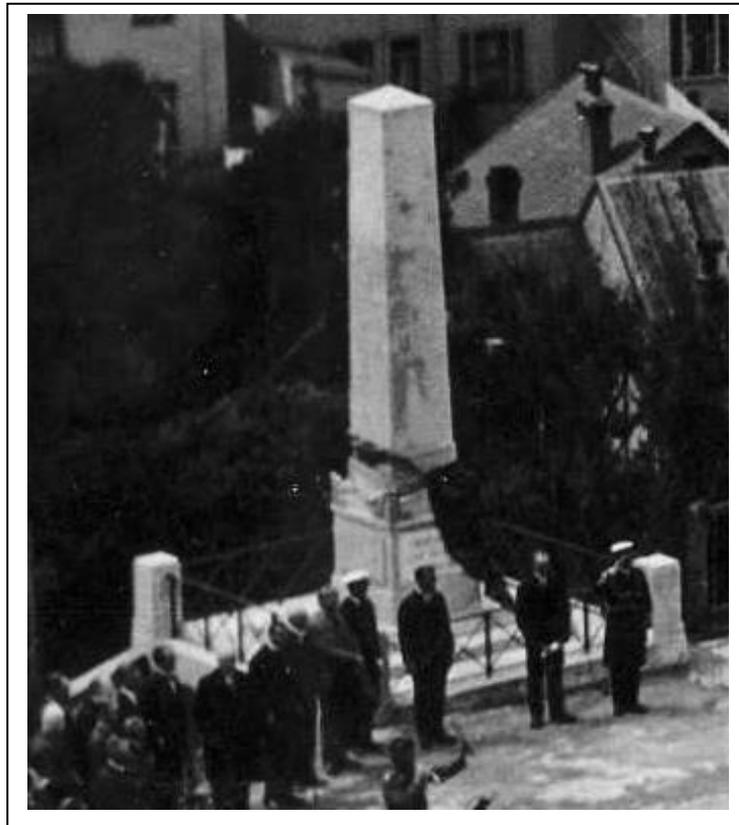


REPLACING THE LOST TERRACE
SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL
A SHORT HISTORY



BRETT MCKAY

28 SEPTEMBER 2017

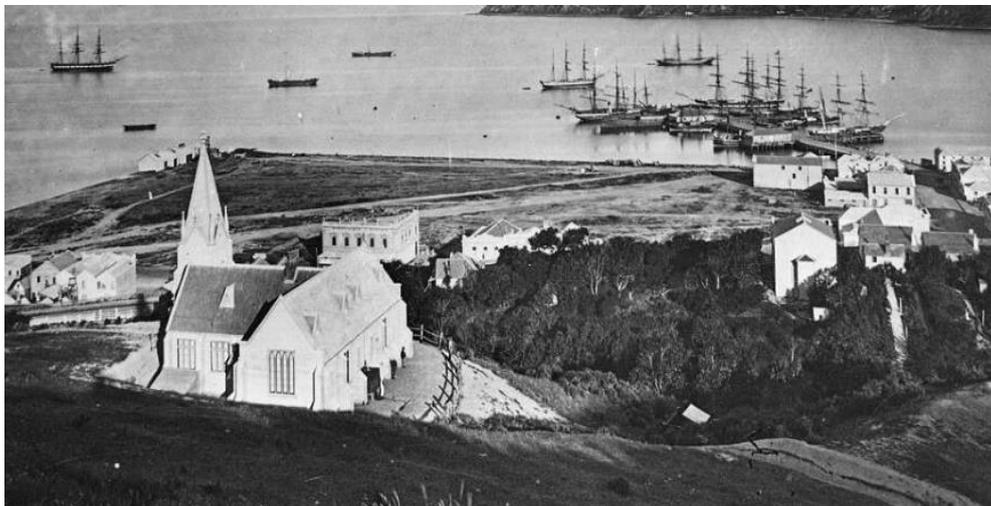
REPLACING THE LOST TERRACE SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL

INTRODUCTION

In 1971, as the construction of the Wellington urban motorway pushed through Shell Gully, the Clifton Terrace Model School, lost its war memorial which had stood in the playground for 47 years. Now, during this time of commemorating the centenary of the Great War, a campaign is underway to erect a new memorial that will again provide a focus for future generations of pupils to remember the sacrifice of the 118 old boys, 2 teachers and 1 former school committee member who died on active service in the Great War and those who fell in subsequent wars.

THE TERRACE SCHOOL

The predecessor to the existing Clifton Terrace Model School was the Terrace School which was established on the west side of Clifton Terrace in 1869. In its hey-day the school had annual rolls of over 600 pupils, and under the inspirational and longstanding headmastership of George MacMorran, developed an outstanding record of achievement. There were four Rhodes Scholars who passed through the school in their early years.



The original school on its imposing site ca 1877. This building was destroyed by fire in 1901 and replaced by a new building.

WORLD WAR ONE – 1914-1918

For a generation of pupils who attended the Terrace School, the outbreak of war in 1914 would be an event that would dramatically change their lives. It has been said that around 750 old boys served in the war. The vast majority were in the New Zealand army but others served in British or Australian

forces. Some were in the navy, the merchant marine or air services and one is even recorded as serving in the United States Navy.



The unlucky generation-Terrace School boys from 1895. The boy in the centre in the light coloured outfit is Dick Seddon son of the Prime Minister who was killed in France in August 1918.

Little is known about the participation of old girls from the Terrace School during the war years but it is believed that quite a number went on active service as nurses.

Ettie Rout is one old girl who deserves special mention. Ettie founded the Volunteer Sisterhood which cared for sick and injured soldiers overseas and while shunned by the Government at the time is now lauded for her work.



October 1915, the first Volunteer Sisterhood group heading overseas. Ettie Rout is in the centre without a hat.

At the end of the war headmaster, George MacMorran compiled lists of Terrace School casualties including those who died on active service. Through various documentary sources it has recently been confirmed that in all but three cases the names of the dead can definitely be linked to the Terrace School.

THE TERRACE SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL

To commemorate the service of all Terrace School old boys, an association of ex-pupils was formed after the war with the aim of raising £1,000 for the erection of a war memorial in the school grounds. It was initially suggested that the memorial should be erected in the style of the ancient Greeks but it eventually took the form of an Egyptian obelisk.

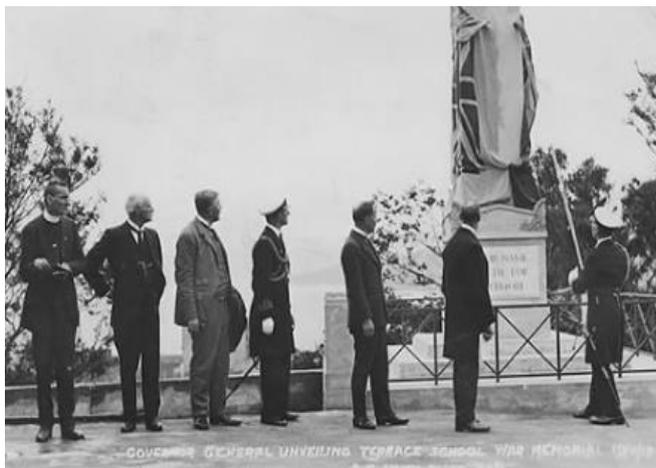
The obelisk, which was cast in concrete, sat on a platform some 4m square and rose to a height of 5.8m. Near its base was a white marble tablet including the following quotation in gilded letters:

Their name liveth for evermore

The memorial was erected in 1924 and at a ceremony on Wednesday 19 November it was unveiled by the Governor-General, Viscount Jellicoe.



The unveiling on the Terrace School playground now the site of the Clifton Terrace Model School



A close-up of the unveiling ceremony with the Governor-General on the right.

THE LOSS OF THE MEMORIAL

For 47 years the memorial remained on its site at the edge of the school playground but the construction of the Wellington urban motorway which commenced in the 1960s was to seal its fate. By the 1970s work was pushing towards Shell Gully below the school grounds and negotiations began regarding the taking of some school land on which the memorial stood to accommodate the motorway design. This developed into a three-way tussle between the Ministry of Works the Education Board and the School Committee and PTA. As part of the negotiations it was initially agreed the memorial would be dismantled and re-erected on a mutually acceptable site at the completion of the motorway work. Unfortunately, the parties could not see eye-to-eye and this led to the demise of the memorial. Late one Friday evening in November 1971, as it was supposedly being prepared for removal, the memorial crashed some 20 metres down the excavated battered slope below the playground into Shell Gully. The Ministry of Works later reported that the memorial was safe and had been stored for later re-erection but years later it was conceded that the memorial had been irreparably damaged making its re-erection impossible. It is not known what happened to the remains of the memorial.

Subsequent correspondence between the parties revealed that an offer of a suitable replacement plaque had been made to the school but for whatever reason this never eventuated.



Motorway construction in 1972 showing the bank (arrowed) where the War Memorial fell.



*Part of the War Memorial in Shell Gully (arrowed).
Evening Post 1 November 1971*

THE FUTURE

As 2018 will mark 47 years since the original memorial was lost it was thought fitting that before the current commemorations for the centenary of the Great War come to an end every effort should be made to erect a replacement memorial in the school grounds.

A project involving all pupils of the Clifton Terrace Model School is now underway to design a suitable new memorial which will be worthy of all past pupils who gave their lives in the Great War and in subsequent wars.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ARISING FROM RESEARCH INTO THE OLD BOYS FROM THE TERRACE SCHOOL WHO DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

SAMUEL FORSYTH VC 4/400



Arguably the most illustrious name on the Terrace School Roll of Honour is Sergeant Samuel Forsyth VC. Samuel was born in Newtown but moved to Thorndon as a youngster and lived at 26 Cottleville Terrace. He was one of only 16 New Zealand recipients of the Victoria Cross in the First World War and received his award posthumously for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in an attack to capture the village of Grevillers on 24 August 1918. It is believed that his Victoria Cross has never been to New Zealand. Samuel married in Scotland in 1917 and his widow received the award from the King in London the following year. Later the medal went to the United States and Australia before being purchased by Lord Ashcroft. It is now in the Ashcroft collection in the Imperial War Museum, London.

Samuel Forsyth's name is also recorded on the Roll of Honour at the Wadestown School. Surviving school records show Samuel at the Terrace School from 1902 to 1904 at ages 11-13 but it is possible that he attended the Wadestown School in his earlier years.

RICHARD JOHN SPOTSWOOD SEDDON 57384



Captain R J S Seddon was a son of Richard John Seddon 'King Dick', New Zealand's longest serving Prime Minister and one of the country's greatest political leaders. Captain Seddon was killed on 21 August 1918 near Bapaume only four days after arriving in France. One of the two wooden crosses that had marked Seddon's grave in France now hangs at the Seddon family mausoleum in the Bolton Street Cemetery in Wellington.

JAMES MACMORRAN 10/2371



James MacMorran was one of three sons of George and Margaret MacMorran of 17 Austin Street, Mt Victoria. George MacMorran was the popular and long-serving headmaster of the Terrace School from 1884 to 1919. James was killed in action on 30 August 1918 in the Battle of Bapaume.

ALLAN MCDOUGALL – Captain, Royal Fusilers UK



Allan McDougall was a student at the Terrace School, Wellington College and Victoria University. He secured first class honours in languages and literature and obtained his MA degree in 1907. In February 1909, he was selected as New Zealand's Rhodes Scholar for that year. Allan joined the Royal Fusiliers in the UK and was killed in action on 4 August 1916 in the Battle of the Somme, France.

IAN CALCUTT FINDLAY – Lieutenant, York and Lancaster Regiment UK



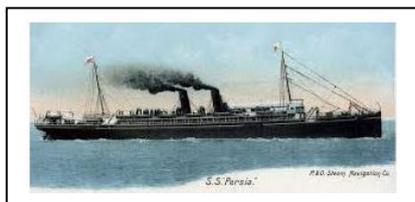
Lieutenant Ian Calcutt Findlay was the youngest son of Sir John Findlay a prominent Wellington lawyer. He was killed at age 18 in France on 10 August 1915. A brass commemorative plaque for him can be seen on Old St Paul's Cathedral in Mulgrave Street, Wellington. The plaque is situated on the right, close to the Altar.

KENNETH HENRY MILLWARD – Flight Sub-Lieutenant, Royal Naval Air Service



Kenneth Millward is only naval officer and pilot on the Terrace School list. After training he received his pilot's badge on 18 January 1917 and flew some 84 operations in Sopwith Triplanes. He was credited with two enemy aircraft out of control and one shared. Kenneth was shot down and killed while on patrol over Belgium on 7 July 1917.

STUART W BOYD – Mercantile Marine



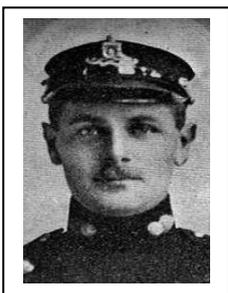
Stuart Boyd was Third Officer on the P&O passenger liner *SS Persia* who died when the ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German U -boat off the island of Crete on 30 December 1915. The ship sank quickly killing 343 of the 519 on board. The sinking was highly controversial at the time as the action took place under Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

JOHN MULCAHY 10/751 AND PATRICK MULCAHY 10/3655



John (portrait) and Patrick Mulcahy (Caterpillar Valley NZ Memorial) were sons of Patrick and Isabella Mulcahy of 150 Upland Road, Kelburn. John was killed on Chunuk Bair, Gallipoli on 8 August 1915 and Patrick in the Battle of the Somme, France, on 16 September 1916.

JOHN LANCELOT HARCOURT TURNER 24822



Captain Turner fought in France from 1914 as a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery and for a time was attached to a battery of the Indian Army Corps. In January 1915, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry displayed at Cuinchy in Flanders. He later transferred to the NZEF and was in command of the Fourth New Zealand Battery but was killed in the battle of the Somme on 14 July 1916. John's father Lieut-Colonel C Harcourt Turner was officer in charge of the Motuihe Island internment camp in Auckland which mainly held former officials from German Samoa.

ROY JAMES FITZGERALD 37/1475 – Gloucestershire Regiment UK



Lieutenant Roy Fitzgerald enlisted with the Gloucestershire Regiment and was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry in the battle of the Somme. While wounded and unconscious in the Messines engagement he was captured and became a prisoner of war in Germany. He escaped with another officer and together they travelled by night for seven days, covering nearly 200 kilometres to the Dutch border. On returning to England Roy and his fellow escapee had an audience with the King who invested him with the Military Cross. Later Roy was sent to the Italian front where he gained a bar to his Military Cross. Roy then joined the Royal Flying Corps and was attached to a reconnaissance squadron as an observer. As an escaped prisoner, he was not supposed to fly over the front lines but insisted on doing so. On 1 July 1918, on only his second flight, he was killed while spotting artillery fire. His plane had been attacked by seven Fokker biplanes and although damaged the wounded pilot managed to land behind allied lines. Roy was buried at Vignacourt British Cemetery near Amien, France.

SAMUEL ARNOLD ATKINSON 14714



Captain Atkinson of the Second Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade was a lawyer and son of Sir Harry Atkinson who served as Premier of New Zealand on four separate occasions in the late nineteenth century. He lived at 149 Upland Road. He was secretary of the State Schools Defence League and at one time a member of the Terrace School Committee. Samuel was killed in action at Messines on 5 June 1917.

ERIC GORDON MCKAY 10/1897
 JOHN GEORGE MCKAY CARSON 2/505
 JAMES HENRY CARSON 53956



Eric, John and James were three of eleven male cousins who were raised in Thorndon and six served in the NZEF. Only three survived the war although one, Norman McKay 44406, died of his wounds in Whanganui in 1926.

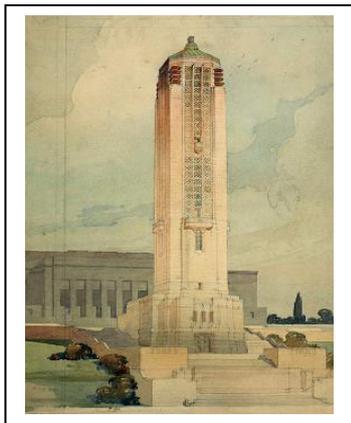
Eric (photo top left) enlisted in 1914 and fought in Gallipoli. He was one of the more than 700 members of the Wellington Battalion who were killed in attempting to capture Chunuk Bair on 8 August 1915. Eric's name is inscribed on the Chunuk Bair Memorial at Gallipoli.



John Carson (photo top right) was a Gunner in the NZ Field Artillery. He saw continuous service from 1914, first at Gallipoli and then in France from early 1916. He was wounded in the German Spring offensive on the Somme and died of his wounds on 17 May 1918. John is buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France.

James Carson (bottom) was also a Gunner in the NZFA. He had been in training at the Featherston Military Camp from April 1917 but was held back because of the serious illness of his wife. She died in June 1918. James subsequently died at camp on 12 November 1918, in the influenza epidemic, and was buried in the Featherston Cemetery.

THE CARILLON BELLS



Through a public subscription process in the mid-1920s all of the first 49 bells in the War Memorial Carillon were named and the names and inscriptions cast with the bells. Some 32 next-of-kin bells were named after the engagement or nearest town or place where the soldiers to whom they are dedicated fell.

The following 7 old-boys from the Terrace School are represented by a next-of-kin bell:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Allen Frederick Arthur 23774 | Bell 14: "High Wood" |
| Collins Hugh 2/2388 | Bell 8: "Longueval" |
| Doughty William Trenton 24353 | Bell 28: "La Bassee" |
| Holmes Walter Anderson 10/3296 | Bell 4: "Mametz" |
| Nias George William 30631 | Bell 11: "Bellevue" |
| Stuart Alfred Meliss 25/1113 | Bell 1: "Delville Wood" |
| Tanner Charles Cyril Pontin – Captain | Bell 23: "Baghdad" |

ONE TERRACE SCHOOL OLD GIRL REMEMBERED

ETTIE ROUT 1877 - 1936



While not on active military service Ettie Rout was a campaigner who established the Volunteer Sisterhood which, despite Government opposition, worked in Britain and France caring for sick and injured soldiers. The Volunteer Sisterhood received honours from the King "for gallant and distinguished services in the field" and Ettie was awarded the highest French civilian honour the *Reconnaissance Francaise Medal*.

PROPOSED NEW WAR
MEMORIAL FOR THE CLIFTON
TERRACE MODEL SCHOOL



THE PROPOSAL

The proposed new war memorial will be designed in collaboration with Athfield Architects Limited. It will be a triangular concrete column some 3 meters high and will be situated near the main entrance to the school (see drawings over).

On two sides, the column will include a total of 120 individual bronze artworks created by the pupils and teachers of the school (see examples below). These works will represent the 118 old boys and 2 teachers known to have died on active service in the Great War and others who died in subsequent wars.



A commemorative plaque will also be set into the memorial including the following text or with similar wording to be agreed by the school.

