

Oliver Roy Haase

Oliver Roy Haase was born in Waimea Rd., Nelson on 22 August 1897. He was the son of William Otto Haase, known as Otto, and Emma Haase, nee Hounsell.¹ They had married on 4 February 1874. The couple had owned several hotels in the Nelson region: The White Hart in 1892, The Plough Inn in 1893, The Belgrove in 1902 and the Telegraph Hotel in Takaka from 1902-09. Otto also owned a livery stable in Takaka. They were to remain there for the rest of their lives. They had a family of nine children: Florence Maud; William Otto; Alfred Arthur; James Herbert; Horace Ashton; Walter Henry; Owen Leonard [Sammy]; Frederick; Oliver Roy.²

Oliver Roy, known as Roy, was admitted to Central Takaka School on 8 November 1909^{3a} and left school after standard six. He worked in his father's livery stables. Later he worked briefly in Christchurch training race horses with his brother-in-law.^{3b}

Oliver Roy enlisted from Christchurch, in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on December 1914, with the 4th Reinforcements of the NZEF, army service number 7/964 and he embarked on 17 April 1915.⁴ However he was only 17 years old but lied about his age saying he was 20, and giving a birth date of 1895. He gave his religion as Church of England.

He served as a trooper with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and saw action during the Gallipoli, Palestine and Egypt campaigns as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.⁵

His brother Owen Leonard, known as Sammy, was fighting right next to private Ham, who was the first New Zealander to be killed in the war, when the 12th (Nelson) Company was in action at the Suez Canal in February 1915. His brother Sammy was later killed in action in France, at the Battle of the Somme, in September 1916 and his name is on the Caterpillar Valley memorial.⁶

Oliver Roy suffered a serious injury to his knee on 4 February 1916, when he displaced the knee cartilage after falling from his brother's horse. He was admitted to hospital several times in 1916. He was invalided to England in 1916, at his own request. The knee injury was to plague him for the remainder of the war.⁷

In May 1918 he was granted permission, by the army, to marry Miss Jessie Stevens of Clapham Rd., London when he was stationed at Sling camp, on the Salisbury Plains, in England. They married in Remington Parish on 18 May 1918.⁸ Later in 1918 a second brother, Frederick died of influenza at Featherston Camp on 14 November 1918.⁹

Oliver Roy was discharged on 12 June 1919. He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He served abroad for 4 years and 28 days.¹⁰

In 1919 Oliver Roy returned to Takaka but disagreed with his brothers about going into a coach business with them. He returned to England and sought employment there.¹¹ The Nelson Provincial Museum holds a testimonial letter written by John F Rose, a Takaka J.P, dated 17 January 1920 that recommends him as a hardworking reliable young man whom Mr Rose had known all his life.¹² He worked initially at Covent Gardens as a fruit salesman and auctioneer, then two years later for Garcia & Jacobs Ltd a subsidiary of L.E.P. Transport Ltd for a further two years. He worked directly for L.E.P. Transport as a wool and livestock manager from 1924 until 1939.¹³

During World War 2, Oliver Roy was superintendent of aircraft salvage operations in Slough and Faygate for the R.A.F. until 1942. After the war he was reemployed by L.E.P. Transport Ltd from 1946 to 1959 as publicity manager. Then he retired to Eastsheen, Richmond Park.¹⁴

Owen Roy kept his New Zealand connection alive and visited here in 1946 and in 1975. He attended ANZAC Services in London, was a member of the N.Z. Lodge no. 5175 and was Vice-President of Walton-on-Thames Royal British Legion in 1973.¹⁵

His wife Jessie died in 1965 and Oliver Roy died on 30 January 1983 in London, England.¹⁶

My thanks to Sally Gaffney and the Golden Bay Museum for the search of their family history resources.

The Nelson Provincial Museum is fortunate to hold the Haase Papers (Reference A4302).

Endnotes

- 1 Haase, Oliver, Papers.
- 2 Sally Gaffney, Golden Bay Family History Files
- 3a Sally Gaffney, Golden Bay Family History Files
- 3b Haase, Oliver, Papers. Review. 11.4.1973, p15.
- 4 Haase, Oliver Roy, Cenotaph Database Record
- 5 Haase, Oliver Roy, Military Personnel Record. History Sheet.
- 6 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Nelson Evening Mail, 18.10.1975, p10.
- 7 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Nelson Evening Mail, 18.10.1975, p10.
- 8 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Permit to Marry.
- 9 Haase, Frederick, Kete Tasman
- 10 Haase, Oliver Roy, Military Personnel Record. History Sheet
- 11 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Nelson Evening Mail, 18.10.1975, p10.
- 12 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Testimonial letter.
- 13 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Review. 11.4.1973, p15.
- 14 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Nelson Evening Mail, 18.10.1975, p10.
- 15 Haase, Oliver, Papers. Miscellaneous
- 16 Haase, Oliver Roy, Genes Reunited.

Sources

Haase, Oliver Roy. Cenotaph Database record, Auckland War Memorial Museum, <http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/Cenotaph/44872.detail> , accessed 12 February 2014.

Haase, Oliver Roy. Military Personnel record, Archives New Zealand, URL: www.archway.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=16789849 , accessed 12 February 2014.

Haase, Oliver Roy. Genes Reunited, URL: http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/boards/board/trying_to_find/thread/999772 , accessed 12 February 2014.

Haase Papers, Nelson Provincial Museum: UMS1104, A4302

Otto Haase's Telegraph Hotel, Takaka. The Nelson Provincial Museum Tyree Collection: 180775

Sally Gaffney, Family History File, Schools files, Golden Bay Museum, by email 12 February 2014.

Haase, Frederick. Kete Tasman, Url:

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This Biography was compiled by Anna Wilkinson in 2014