

Godfrey John Hammond

Godfrey John Hammond was born on 30 June 1889 and brought up on his parents' farm in Appleby, Nelson. He attended Appleby School and after leaving (and although recommended for Nelson College) worked with his father on their 75 acre arable and pastoral farm – (intersected by what is now Cotteral's Road).

For some years he played senior rugby football for the Waimea club and represented Nelson and the South Island in rugby football.

As a young man he was a member of the Stoke Rifles, afterwards continuing as a Sergeant in the Territorials.

In October 1913, Godfrey moved from Appleby with his parents Alexander Godfrey and Emma Jane Hammond and his younger sister, Daisy Mabel Hammond to a smaller pastoral farmlet of 11 ½ acres (4.6 hectares) at 390 Lower Queen Street, Richmond, near Richmond Park and Godfrey (briefly) joined the Police Force.

Godfrey served in the 1914-1918 war as a member of the Canterbury Infantry battalion with the Main Body and was wounded on 8 May 1915 at Gallipoli and 4 ½ months afterwards was invalided home.

Godfrey commenced duty on the 15 August 1914 and sailed from Wellington on 16 October 1914 in the H. M. N. Z. T No 11 For the Middle East. Regimental No. 6/247

He was promoted from the rank of Private to Sergeant on 25 August 1914 and Platoon Sergeant on 22 December 1914 and when in Somalia during the Battle of the Suez Canal with the Turks (Feb 1915) he was appointed Garrison Provost Sergeant to take charge of and escort all (about 400) Turkish prisoners to Cairo. Later when he was invalided home after a serious bullet wound to his right knee at Gallipoli, he had the rank of Quarter Master Sergeant. He returned to Wellington on 31 October 1915 in the S. S. Willochra having left Egypt on 25 September 1915 and was finally discharged from duty on 18 February 1916.

His war service totalled 1 year and 188 days (over 6 mths) 173 or 174 (5.6 mths) in N.Z. and 1 year 14 or 15 days overseas.

Soon after his discharge from the army Godfrey married his fiancée, Edith Maud McIntosh Cameron on 19 April 1916 in St. James' Church, Lower Hutt, Wellington. (in his letters Godfrey refers to his fiancée as Edie and his sister as Daisy)

In recognition of his war service Godfrey was allocated a 155 acre returned soldier settlement farm in Owhango near Taumarunui, in the King Country, North Island. There Godfrey and his wife established their home and brought up their two children - a daughter, Jean Godfrey Hammond (b. 26 February 1917) and a son, Ian Godfrey Hammond (b. 18 June 1919) and there Godfrey lived and farmed until before his death in the Taumarunui Hospital at the age of 48 years on 13 November 1937.

Godfrey was accorded a military funeral with an Anglican Church service in Taumarunui and he was buried in the R.S.A. section of the Manui Cemetery. His son and widow continued to farm the Owhango property with sheep and dairy cows. It was sold in about 1980 when his son, because of ill health, could no longer run it. The property is today subdivided into a number of lifestyle blocks and a road extending through it is named Hammond Place.

Godfrey's son, Ian, gave his father's war medals – the 1914 -18 Star, the British War medal awarded on 6 May 1921 and the Victory medal awarded on 26 April 1932 – to the Waiouru Army Museum.

Sources: Known family history
Obituary contributed to the Nelson Evening Mail

On 23 November 1937 by his sister (Daisy – mother of the author)
Godfrey's Service Schedules.

This Biography was written by Helen Harkness - neice of the subject.