

Lawrence Galpin Hyde.

Lawrence Hyde was born on 24 February 1893 in Wanganui, the son of James Hyde and Elizabeth Hyde, nee Roe. ¹The family moved south and James farmed at Spring Grove, in the Brightwater area.

Lawrence had two sisters, Ethel Jane and Winifred Maude, and one brother, Herbert Cresswell, according to the Spring Grove School admission register. He attended Spring Grove School from 4 August 1898 and his prior school was Wakefield. He later left for Pigeon Valley School. ²

Lawrence attended Nelson College for Boys from 1907 for three years and sat the Civil Service Entrance examination. ³ He worked as a civil servant for the New Zealand government in 1914. ⁴

He resided at Wakefield when he enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, in February 1915. ⁵ The family's religion was Church of England. He was a sapper with the Field Engineers of the Canterbury Battalion, 4th Reinforcement and embarked overseas on 17 April 1915. ⁶

He served in the Balkan 1915, Egyptian 1916 and Western European 1916-1918 theatres of war. During the Gallipoli campaign he became ill with gastro enteritis and was hospitalized in June 1915. He had had a gastro illness as a boy of 4 years old. He was hospitalized at various places later in 1915 and early in 1916. He recovered and returned to duty and embarked at Alexandria for Southampton, England in July 1916. After a stay at Sling camp he was moved on to France and joined the New Zealand Division by 27 September 1916. ⁷

During 1917 he was punished three times in April, May and July 1917, for parading with dirty buttons, for leaving camp while under medical treatment and for being late to parade respectively. ⁸

He was granted leave in England in January 1918. On 1 November, back in the field, he was wounded in action and received shrapnel wounds to his leg and shoulder. The shoulder healed well ⁹ but the legs went on to trouble him. ¹⁰ He was discharged no longer physically fit due to wounds received in action and embarked for home 10 March 1919. His final discharge was 25 May 1919. ¹¹

After the war Lawrence was entered in the postal directory of 1928 and 1930 as a farmer at Brightwater. ¹² He was recorded in the Wakefield Post Office records as marrying on 8 September 1924 and his wife was Mrs D. M. Hyde. ¹³

During the Second World War Lawrence enlisted on 17 April 1941. By then the family had two children and was living at Brightwater. He worked as a clerk for Rutherford Brothers. ¹⁴ He served as a sergeant in Home defense in the Port Guard unit. He had a recurrence of gastro illness in October 1942 and was struck off strength 8 February 1945. ¹⁵ He was finally discharged 1 September 1948. ¹⁶

He received the 1914-1915 Star, the British War and the Victory medals for his World War 1 service.

After World War 2 he farmed at Brightwater in the Postal Directory ¹⁷. He died on 3 August 1979 ¹⁸.

The Nelson Provincial Museum is fortunate to have a photograph album attributed to Lawrence Hyde (Reference NPM2011.91.5). This records images from the First World War years in Egypt, at Gallipoli, at Pont de Koubbeh hospital in Cairo, embarking from Alexandria for France, aboard ship, some places in France. Also featured are images of New Zealand scenes, at Wellington, Napier and French Pass and many railway and train images. There are family images as well.

Endnotes

- 1 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Attestation Form.
- 2 Spring Grove school Admission Register Index. Nelson branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Nelson Provincial Museum.
- 3 McKay and Allen, p.220.
- 4 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Attestation Form.
- 5 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. History sheet.
- 6 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Cenotaph record.
- 7 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Casualty Form.
- 8 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Conduct Sheet.
- 9 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Proceedings of Medical Board 1.4.1919.
- 10 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Proceedings of Medical Board 7.12.1944.
- 11 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. History sheet; Casualty Form.
- 12 Postal Directories 1928 and 1930.
- 13 Wakefield Post Office marriage records.
- 14 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Attestation Form
- 15 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Base records Home Defense.
- 16 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Record of Promotions...
- 17 Postal Directories 1947.
- 18 Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record. Notification of death.

Sources

Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Military Personnel record, Archives New Zealand, URL: <http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=24060174&digital=yes> , accessed 16.6.2014.

Hyde, Lawrence Galpin. Cenotaph Database record, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Url: http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/Cenotaph/SearchResults.aspx?Page=1&c_surname_search=hyde&c_firstname_search=lawrence+galpin , accessed 16.6.2014.

McKay, J G and Allan, H F, comp. 1956. The Nelson College Old Boys' Register 1856-1956. Nelson, R W Stiles & Co. Ltd.

Index of marriages and applications to marry, 1870-1955. Held at the Wakefield Post Office. Compiled by Betty Bint. Nelson Provincial Museum.

Wises's New Zealand Postal Directory 1928. Dunedin, H.Wise & Co. (N.Z.) Ltd.

Wises's New Zealand Postal Directory 1930. Dunedin, H.Wise & Co. (N.Z.) Ltd.

Wises's New Zealand Postal Directory 1947. Dunedin, H.Wise & Co. (N.Z.) Ltd.

This Biography was compiled by Anna Wilkinson in 2014.