

FAMILY

Herbert Arthur Johnston was born on 6 April 1893 in Takaka, son of William Henry Johnston a saddler of Takaka. He had three siblings including a brother Alfred Henry Johnston who was three years older.

1914

At the time of enlisting he was farming for A Winton in Upper Takaka. He had served in the Territorials previously and undergone training. He commenced duty on 15 August 1914 as part of the 12th (Nelson) Regiment of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion.

He left Nelson as part of the Main Body on 18 August



He departed from New Zealand on board HMNZT 11 on 15 October 1914 and disembarked at Alexandria on 2 December 1914 with his service in Egypt beginning 2 days later.

1915

He served in Egypt in 1914/15 then at Gallipoli in 1915. He left Alexandria for the Dardanelles on 12 April 1915 taking part in the landings of 25 April most probably at Gaba Tepe near Anzac Cove.



He was wounded on 8 May 1915 at the 'Daisy Patch'. He was transferred to Alexandria by the hospital ship 'Guilford Castle' on 11 May.



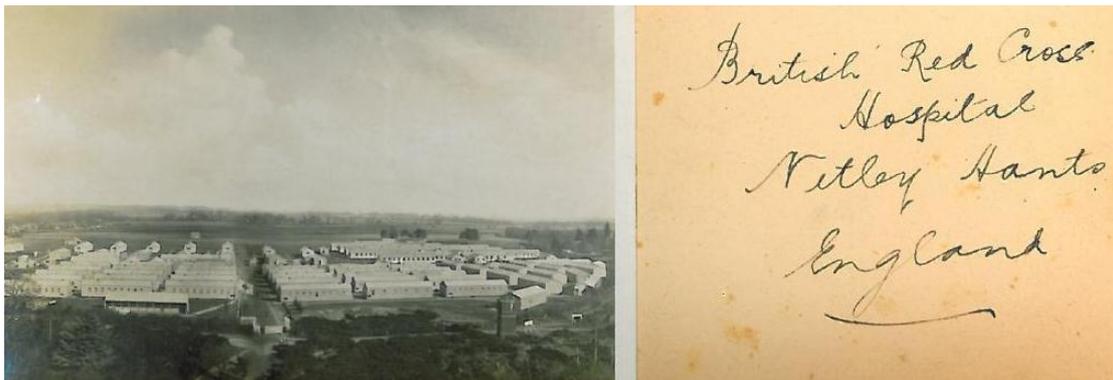
He spent much of the next 4 months in hospitals, first at 17th General Hospital, Alexandria,



then after transfer to England on the HS "Letitia" on 3 July 1915



On 1 August 1915 he was in Netley hospital in England with a bullet wound to the left thigh and though fractured, was reported as progressing favourably.



British Red Cross
Hospital
Netley Hants
England



AT

Netley'



He was treated at Netley Hospital then Walton and Epsom then a period of furlough,



King & Queen
at
Walton on Thames
Aug 1915

As was customary he was labelled with a luggage tag for each move and these tags are reproduced for display, starting with the evacuation from the Dardanelles on board the HS "Guilford Castle". The labels have the destination and on the back a description of the wound and its state.



We are fortunate to have a number of photographs of Herbert in hospital, one showing his heavily bandaged leg.

1916

He invalided to New Zealand on 16 December 1915 per the SS 'Rotorua' and struck off strength of NZEF. He finally departed UK on 3 February 1916 and was discharged on 5 March 1916. At this point he was described as being medically unfit for Active Service but fit for employment in civil life. His total service was 1 year 204 days of which 93 days were in NZ.

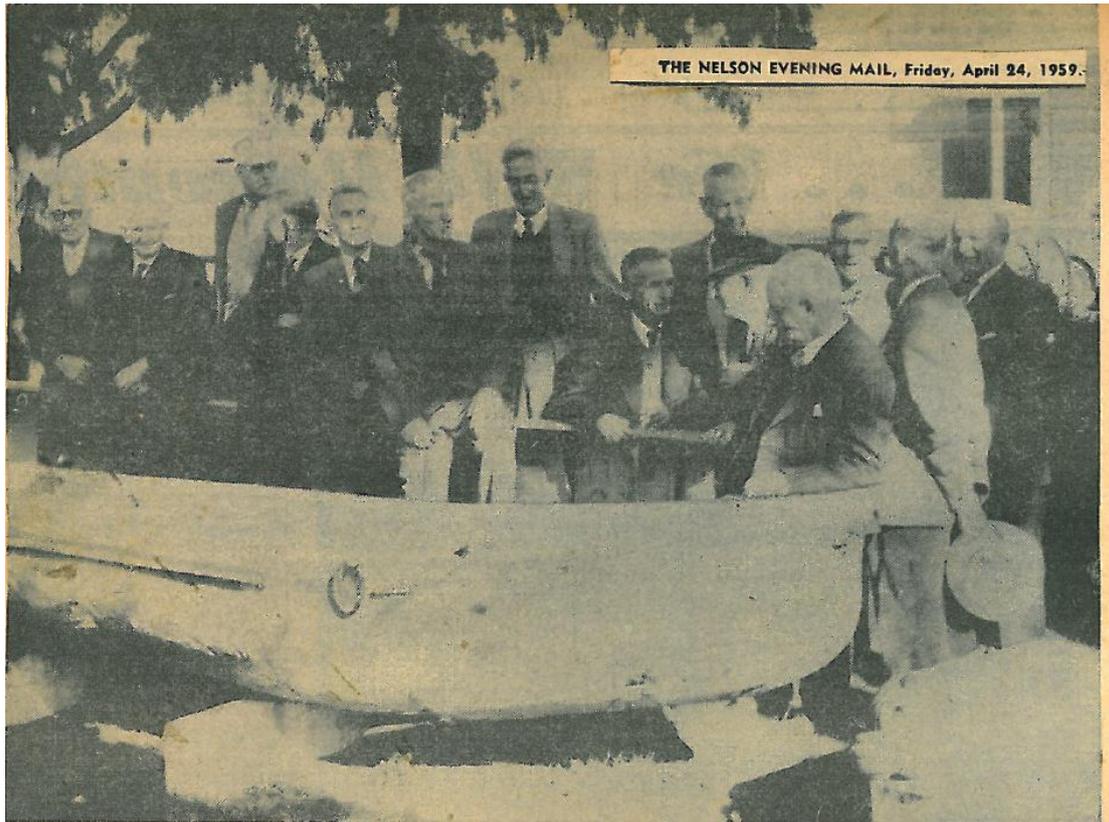
He received the standard issue of medals; the 1914-15 Star with a wound stripe on the ribbon, British War Medal with a red chevron and the Victory Medal with a Blue chevron indicating theatres of service.

His brother Alfred is reported to have sold his farm at Murchison in order join up with the 19th Reinforcements. He left his wife Ivy Isobel and 2 young children. He was killed on the Western Front on 5 April 1918.

POST-WAR

Herb married Annie Louisa Fouldes on 16 January 1918. On return to New Zealand he worked for the Post Office. We do know that he met with a number of other Gallipoli Veterans for this photo with the Turkish Pontoon that was sent back to Nelson to honour the Nelson Regiment's efforts at Suez Canal under Col Brereton. We do not know if Herbert took part in that but his photo album has a Weekly News image of William Ham and a small photo taken at his burial service.





("Mail" Photo)

THEY WERE THERE: This group of Nelson Gallipoli landing survivors are inspecting the pontoon captured during an attempt by the Turks to cross the Suez Canal near Serapeum on February 3, 1915. The pontoon was presented to the 12th (Nelson) Company of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion for their gallant conduct during the engagement. The pontoon was for many years in the Queen's Gardens. It now rests in the grounds of the Nelson R.S.A. Club, Rutherford street. Those in the group are (from left to right), H. E. Stratford, H. Rowntree, F. Oakes, H. V. Palmer, C. N. Newman, C. J. A'Court, G. C. Coleman, H. A. Johnston, H. J. Robertson, C. B. Brereton, F. J. Easter, J. C. Walsh, Wm. Beveridge, C. R. Duke.

He died on 19 July 1962 and NOK noted as Mrs Annie Louisa Johnston of 54 Quebec Road, Nelson.