

## Arrowtown World War One Enlistments

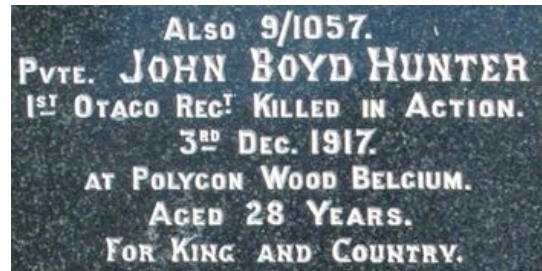
Eighteen First World War men are remembered on the Arrowtown War Memorial. Several are also remembered in the local cemetery and Anglican Church. This is a brief look at some of the men behind the names, their families and their community.

Across the road facing the Arrowtown War Memorial, is the Arrowtown Cemetery. Stories relating to some of the names on the memorial can be found here.



The Hunter family grave headstone records the death of a son, Private John Hunter. Having first served in Gallipoli, Hunter was killed in action on the Western Front. He is buried in Belgium at the Buttes New British Cemetery, where only one quarter of the graves are identified, including John Hunter's.

Left and below: The Hunter family gravestone at Arrowtown cemetery



The Arrowtown Cemetery McKibbin family grave marker records the inscription:

*'Fortibus Honorem Habete' Arrowtown Patriotic Committee. Presented to the next-of-kin of 63389 Tpr. W. McKibbin, 33rd reinforcements NZ Expeditionary Force, d. of sickness Egypt, 6 Oct 1918. On behalf of the residents of Arrowtown and surrounding district, we desire to pay a tribute to the memory of Trooper William McKIBBIN, who nobly took his part in the Great War, without thought of personal gain, he fought, suffered and made the extreme sacrifice for New Zealand and the Empire. We honour his memory and esteem it a privilege to belong to the same district as one who nobly did his duty.*

A visit down the road to the Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown provides the following obituary from the *Lake Wakatip Mail*.



**KILLED IN ACTION  
OCTOBER 1918**

*Another well-known district lad, Trooper W. McKibbin, Crown Terrace, has made the supreme sacrifice, and his parents and sisters will have the sympathy of the people of Wakatipu in their irreparable loss. Trooper McKibbin, who was only 24 years of age, was born and educated at Crown Terrace, where he was engaged in farming on his father's property when he went to camp. He left New Zealand with the mounted section of the 34th Reinforcements, and was serving his country in Palestine when he died of enteric on 5th October. Deceased soldier was a fine manly fellow who was held in respect by all who knew him. A most impressive memorial service was held in St. Paul's Arrowtown, on Sunday morning, when the Vicar of Wakatipu, Rev. R. Geo. Coats, made very sympathetic reference to the sad event.*

above: The McKibbin family grave marker at Arrowtown

Another obituary from the same newspaper relates to the headstone erected by a grieving mother to remember her son, James Jopp, buried in France.

*On Saturday last Mr A. Jopp of Arrowtown received the distressing news that his brother, Lance-Corporal James Alexander Jopp, M.M., had been killed in action in France on 29th August. Although Lance-Corp. Jopp left New Zealand with the 17th Reinforcements and had been in the firing line for a considerable time, he had escaped mishap of any kind right up till the time he was killed. He enlisted from Taranaki, where he had been proprietor of a mail carrying and livery stable business, and went forward with the 9th Hawkes Bay Company. Lance-Corp Jopp who was between 33 and 34 years of age, was a native of Arrowtown, where he received his primary schooling. He finished his education, however, at the Southland Boys' High School. He was the youngest son of Mrs and the late Mr J. L. Jopp of Arrowtown.*

*Like all the male members of the worthy house of Jopp, deceased soldier was a keen footballer and a fine all round sport in the truest sense of the word. He was generous,*



*broad-minded, and a man of honour, and as such was highly respected and immensely popular wherever he went. He was also possessed of determination and a calm, strong courage, so that it was not surprising to his friends and acquaintances that he was recommended a few months ago for the coveted honour of a Military Medal.*

*Deceased was unmarried. Much sympathy will be felt in this district for the members of the Jopp family in their bereavement. Deceased's widowed mother lives at Gore with her youngest daughter, Miss Marguerite Jopp. His other sister is Mrs R. Martin (Otama). Mr A. Jopp (Arrowtown), W. and R. Jopp (Riversdale) and Jack Jopp, Pleasant Point (Canterbury), are brothers.*

*Left: The grave marker erected in memory of Cpl James Jopp who is buried overseas.*

More information relating to Lance-Corporal James Jopp and the Military Medal he was awarded can be found on the Auckland War Memorial Museum Cenotaph Database.

As well as Military Medal recipients the Arrowtown Cenotaph records names of two groups of brothers, the Edwards and the Jenkins. Joseph Jenkins, who is also featured on the cenotaph, was cousin to Thomas and James Jenkins.

**Lake Wakatip Mail Obituary:**

*News was received in Arrowtown on Saturday of the death, in action, of Private James Jenkins, son of the late Wm. Jenkins and brother of Mr John S. Jenkins of Arrowtown. Deceased soldier was born and educated at Arrowtown, where he worked for a time in his father's store. Some years ago he left the district and established a business of his own elsewhere, but subsequently he relinquished this to enter the N.Z. Railway Service. He enlisted from Dunedin, where his mother resides. A brother, Tom Jenkins, made the supreme sacrifice in November of last year. Deceased was about 36 years of age.*

Private Charles Thomas Edwards served in the Australian Infantry and died in August 1918, a few months after his brother Herbert James Edward – whose



name is incorrectly recorded on the memorial as Herbert 'George' Edward – died serving in the NZEF.

The *Lake Wakatip Mail* reports;

*Mrs Jas. Edwards of Arrowtown has been notified that her son Private Herbert Edwards was killed in action in France on 26th March, says the 'Press'. Deceased soldier was born at Nelson 39 years ago, and was educated at the Arrowtown Public School. After leaving school he was employed for some years at the Bullendale mine, Skippers. When he enlisted he was married and settled in the Auckland district. A young man of sterling character, he was esteemed by all who knew him. His widow ((who resides at Operahi), mother and other members of the family will have the deepest sympathy of residents of this district in their bereavement.*



above: The grave marker of D.D. O'Fee in Chanak Consular Cemetery, Turkey.  
(photograph courtesy of Robert E. Pike)

Members of St Paul's Church, Arrowtown would also remember those who gave their lives. Trooper William McKibbin and Daniel David O'Fee are both remembered in the church.

For O'Fee, a brass shield records:

*To the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of ... Trooper Daniel David O'Fee  
(Choir Member)...*

*Members of St Paul's Church Arrowtown who gave their lives for us in the Great War  
1914 - 1918. "Greater Love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his  
friends. John XV:13"*

Peter Gray McAllister – whose name is also incorrectly recorded on the memorial  
as Peter 'George' McAllister – was killed in action.

*Lake Wakatip Mail* Obituary:

***KILLED IN ACTION ON OCTOBER 4***

*P. Gray McAllister, second son of Mr J. McAllister Lower Shotover, was educated at the  
Shotover School. Prior to leaving for Carterton, where he enlisted for the 6th  
reinforcements, he was in employment at Thurlby Domain. He was 36 years of age and  
served in the South African war. One brother, H. McAllister, returned some time ago  
from the Front and another, William has just returned to camp after spending his final  
leave in the District. Young McAllister was a splendid type of fellow, and was held in  
much respect by all who knew him. His father and brothers will have the sympathy of the  
people of the district in their time of sorrow.*

When news was heard of the death of Pte John Smith, a popular Arrowtown  
driver of the Arrow-Cromwell coach, 'flags were flown on the public buildings in  
Arrow'.

For those who care to look, the flag remembering those who served is still flown  
from the Arrowtown War Memorial.

*Thanks to World War 1 Researcher, Robert E Pike based in England and also to  
the Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown.*

Sue Baker Wilson  
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