

# Frederick Joseph Wheeler

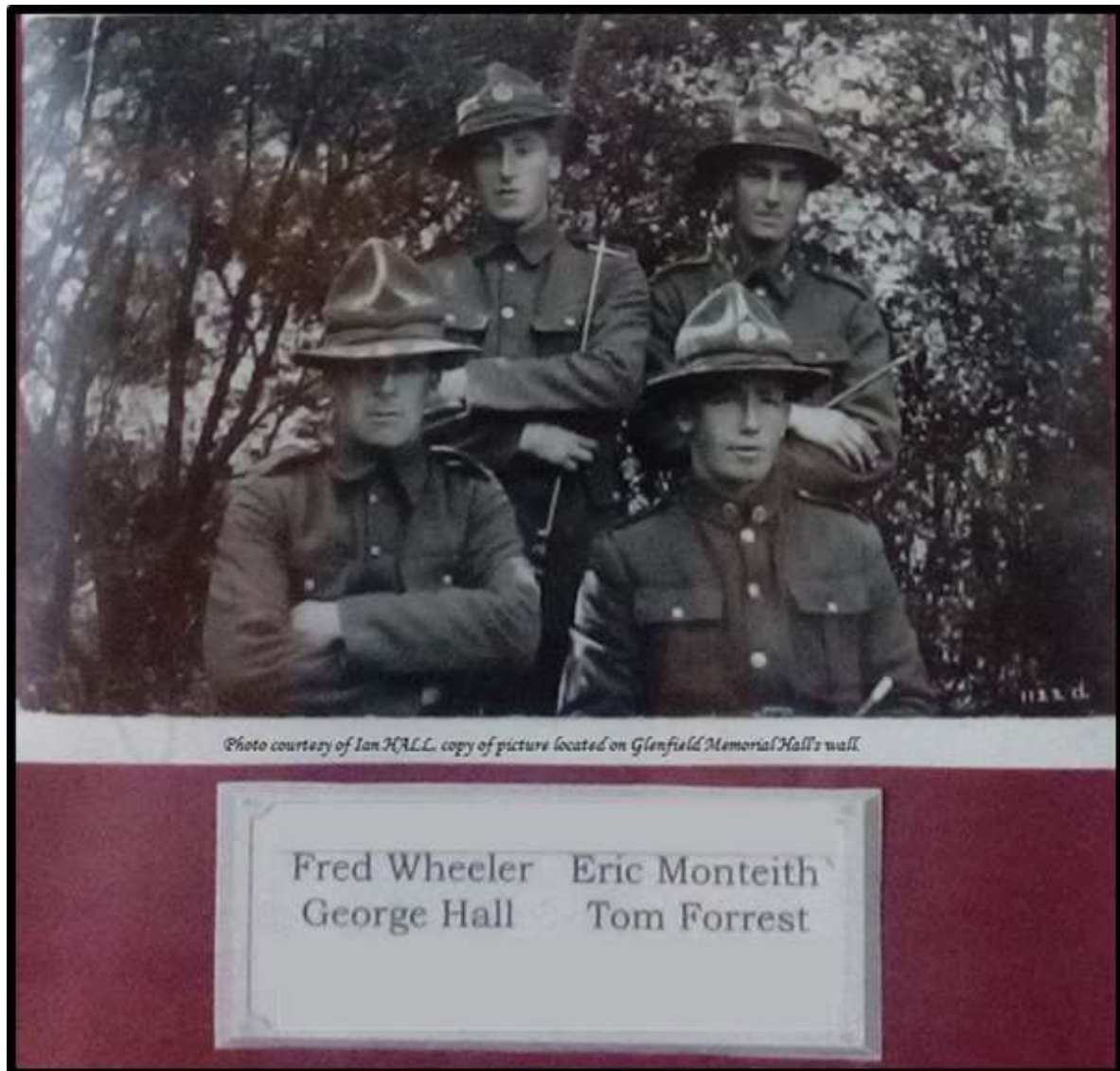


"He died for his country"



**Frederick Joseph Wheeler** born 4<sup>th</sup> August 1894, was one of 6 children to Helen and Frederick of Glenfield. Local fruit growers, Fred worked the farm with his father as an orchardist.

Together with his mates Eric Monteith, George Hall and Tom Forrest, Fred nipped across to the Drill Hall in Rutland Street Auckland in July of 1915 and was accepted medically fit as a recruit for the reinforcement drafts of the NZ Expeditionary Force.



At 5'7" and 11 stone (70kg), he was of fair complexion, with brown eyes and dark brown hair. It is noted he had a lower rubber plate and otherwise "good" teeth. He presented with a scar on his right side, having suffered from a Hernia "6 weeks ago". He was however deemed fit for service.

Fred was an active member of the Waitemata Cricket Club, and also played in the Waitemata hockey team. He was educated at the Glenfield public school and was a member of the "Coast Defence, Auckland". It is said he was always keenly interested in military matters.

He left NZ with the 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements.

We have to be very grateful for the journalists of the time... the Auckland Star printed the following:

### **AUCKLANDERS IN THE TRENCHES.**

Auckland Star, Volume XLVII, Issue 185, 4 August 1916



Private F. J. Wheeler, of Glenfield, writing from France on May 5, says:—  
“We have been in the trenches, but our battalion has now been relieved for a short spell. I must say our neighbour, Fritz, makes himself very disagreeable. During the time we were there, we had a little bit of everything, i.e., rifle and machine-gun fire, artillery fire, and gas attack. The artillery fire is the worst of all, by far. Tom Forrest and I are still ‘on deck,’ and quite well. George Hall has a slight rash on the arm. I went through the trenches to Eric Monteith’s company, but did not see him. He was at a sniping school, it seems.” I saw Jim Edmunds, also Alec. Forbes, who asked to be remembered to you. We are at present quartered in what has been a lovely French town. It is one of the towns that suffered so much at the Germans’ hands earlier in the war, and, in fact, is still within range of their guns. The town is, of course, half deserted. It is only after seeing these places that one can realise what a terrible thing war is. Just fancy Auckland in such a state. We all hope to be home by Christmas.” The writer has since met his death. He died of wounds received in action on July 5. Also George Hall mentioned above, died of wounds on July 4.

At some time between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July Frederick was admitted to hospital in the field, suffering a gunshot wound of left leg – fractured.

At 3.40am on 5<sup>th</sup> July, Pte F.J. Wheeler died of his wounds.

Is this sounding familiar? Remember Fred’s mate George Hall who died 4<sup>th</sup> July of a fractured femur?

They played together as kids, joined up together, fought alongside each other and died within a day of each other.

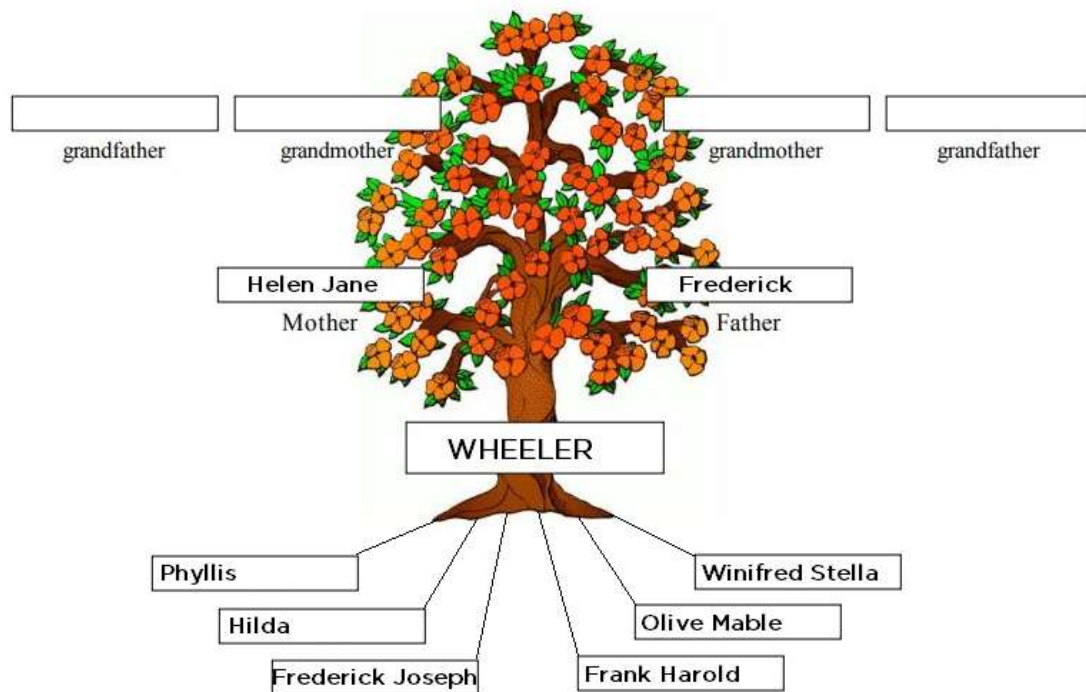
Both are buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, in Nord, France.





*Wheeler residence Manuka Road, Glenfield*

## Family Tree



# Call to arms...

New Zealand Herald, Volume LII, Issue 15975,

21 July 1915

## NEW ZEALAND FORCES.

### REINFORCEMENT DRAFTS.

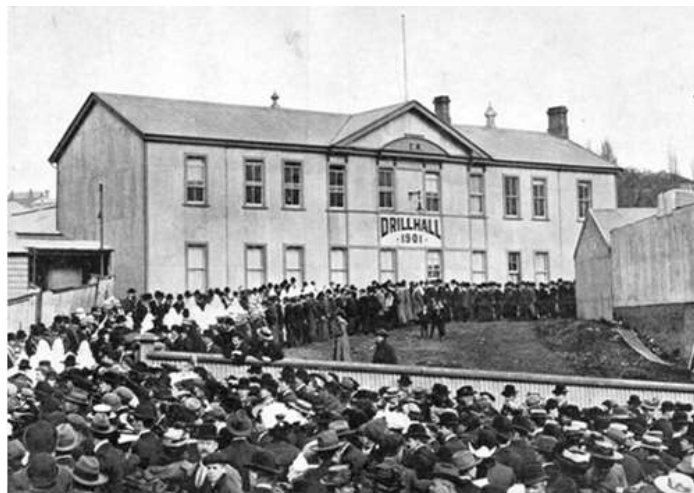
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#### 46 MEN ACCEPTED.

A medical examination of recruits for the reinforcement drafts of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force was held at the Drill Hall, Rutland Street, yesterday. A larger number of men than usual attended. Fifty-eight men presented themselves, and the following 46 were passed as medically fit :—

Albert B. Taylor, Western Springs Road.  
Alexander Taylor, Papakura.  
Richard Herbert Webb, 75, Newton Road.  
Joseph Frederick Wheeler, Glenfield.  
John William Young, Sale Street.

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## NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

## ATTESTATION OF

No 12/3504 Name: WHEELER FREDRICK JOSEPH Regiment or Unit:

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name? Joseph Fredrick Wheeler
2. Where were you born? Auckland
3. Are you a British subject? yes
4. What is the date of your birth? 4 Aug 1894
5. Who is your next-of-kin? Father) Fredrick Wheeler Glenfield Auckland
6. What is your trade or calling? Fruit Grower
7. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom? no
8. What was the address at which you last resided? ag in 5
9. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent? yes
10. What is the name and address of your present or last employer? Father
11. Are you married? no
12. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where? no
13. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps? Coast Defence Inf Auckland
14. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge? 18 months G. Art. Auckland
15. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service? yes
16. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where? yes
17. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? no
18. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? yes
19. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war, and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and disband it? yes

NOTE.—Your discharge will not be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

J F Wheeler do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit: J F WheelerSignature of Witness: J S Reid S.S.D

Oath to be taken by Recruit on attestation.

Wheeler Fredrick Joseph do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the General and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God.

Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.

The above questions were read to the above-named Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and that the Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at

AucklandN.Z., on this 25th day ofSignature of Attesting Officer [Signature]

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, the Attesting Officer should be requested to make it and sign the alterations.



## Description of

Wheeler J

on Enlistment.

Apparent age 21 years 0 months.  
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Weight: 114 lb.

Chest measurement: { Minimum, 35 inches  
Maximum, 39 inches

Complexion:

Colour of eyes:

Colour of hair:

Religious profession:

Fair  
Light Brown  
Light Brown  
CofE

Abdominal  
Scar of Hernia  
right side

## Medical Examination.

Sight: Right eye, NORMAL  
Left eye, NORMAL  
Hearing: Right ear, NORMAL  
Left ear, NORMAL  
Colour-vision, NORMAL  
Are his limbs well formed? YES  
Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? YES  
Is his chest well formed? YES  
Is his heart normal? YES  
Are his lungs normal? YES  
What is the condition of his teeth? Upper Plate  
Lower good.

Is he free from hernia? YES  
Is he free from varicocele? YES  
Is he free from varicose veins? YES  
Is he free from haemorrhoids? YES  
Is he free from inveterate or contagious skin-disease? YES  
Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? Yes  
Is he in good bodily and mental health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties? YES  
Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause rejection? NO

## Remarks.

Illness Hernia 6 weeks ago  
no. fits.

Fit

## Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.

Deputy fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

May 20 1916

J. H. H. Printer, Auckland - 1925

P. A. Lindsay Capt Medical Officer.





92451. - W6190/1535 - 2,000,000 - J. J. K. & Co., Ltd. - Forms B. 103/1. Army Form B. 103.

### Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1st Battn. A. I. R. 3rd Coy.

Regimental No. 1213504 Rank Private Name Wheeler Frederick Joseph

Enlisted (a) 24/5/15 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 24/5/15

Date of promotion } Date of appointment } Numerical position on }  
to present rank } to lance rank } roll of N.C.Os. }

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.		Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received					
		Disembarked		Suez	10/7/15	
		Attached to Transport		Ismaïlia	1/1/16	Nominal Roll
1/1/16	1/1/16	joined unit		Ismaïlia	1/1/16	N. F. B. 213
1/4/16	1/4/16	Embarked for France		Port elud	1/4/16	Embarkation Roll
		N. F. B. on H. H. J. Transvaal				
8/7/16	8/7/16	Wounded in Action			3/4/16	R. 13
4/7/16	4/7/16	Admitted to Casualty Clearing Station		In the Field	4/7/16	gun shot wound left leg. Fractured
		Died of Wounds		In the Field	5/7/16	Death Report 2354
		Station		France	3.40 a.m. 1/13/16	called 5/7/16
4/7/16	4/7/16	Buried in Bailleul		Bailleul		Report by 1/1/16
		Registration Cemetery		France		Clearing Station 4/7/16
		Committee				

O. C. New Zealand Records Section.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.  
(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

MAILED ON 15 SEP 1916

Town or Place:	Hospital.	Periods there situated.	
		From.	To.
BAC-LU-SUD-LA.	No. 43 C.C.S.	4. 3.18.	28. 3.18.
	No. 46 C.C.S.	26. 3.18.	1. 9.18.
BAILLEUL.	No. 2 C.C.S.	Aug, 1914.	2. 9.17.





On the right of Rue du collège is the church of St. Amand and the college. This photo was taken from the top of the church of St. Vaast.

*18 October 1914 – September 1917*

“No 2 Casualty Clearing Station (or No 2 Clearing Hospital as it was called when it first got there) arrived at Bailleul on the 18th October 1914 and opened in a seminary about a mile from the railway station *Taken from the Official History*” – GWF



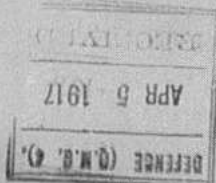
Wounded soldiers at Bailleul

18 3504

COPY FOR FILE

Wheeler, F. J.  
12/3504

27th November

Mr. F. Wheeler,  
Glenfield,  
AUCKLAND.

Dear Sir,

RE - 12/3504 PRIVATE F. J. WHEELER.

This is to inform you that the Official Army Form in connection with the above deceased soldier has been received from the front and the following particulars are extracted therefrom for your information:-

Disembarked at	Suez	20/12/15
Attached to transport at	Maadi	
Joined unit at	Ismailia	1/ 1/16
Embarked for France on H.M.T.		
"Franconia" at	Port Said	6/ 4/16
Wounded in action between		3 & 4/7/16
Admitted No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station	In the field	4/ 7/16
Died of wounds	"	5/ 7/16
	France.	3.40a.m.

Deceased was interred in Bailleul Cemetery, France, this information being received through the medium of the Graves Registration Committee. The burial was reported by the Officer Commanding No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station.

Yours faithfully,



V.S./G.P.

Bunny

Entered in Law card  
11.12.16CHIEF CLERK  
for MAJOR  
DIRECTOR BASE RECORDS.

COPY FOR FILE



EXTRACT OF PROBATE.

12/3504 - F. J. Wheeler - Deceased.

ESTATE	-	Frederick Joseph Wheeler.
GRANTED TO	-	Frederick Wheeler of Glenfield, Auckland, and Percival Hills of Wainoni, Auckland.
GRANTED BY	-	Mr. Justice Hosking.
PLACE OF GRANT	-	Auckland.
DATE OF GRANT	-	19th. October. 1916.

EXTRACT OF WILL.

DEVISES AND BEQUESTS - Sole beneficiary, Helen Jane Wheeler, Mother.

*T. v. a. Know*  
*28/2/20*

# In memory of...

PERSONALIA New Zealand Times, Volume XLI, Issue 9404, 18 July 1916

Private Frederick J. Wheeler, of Glenfield (Auckland), who died on the 5th inst. from wounds received in action, was the youngest son of Mr Frederick Wheeler, of Glenfield. He left in the Third Auckland Infantry in the 8th Reinforcements, and was about twenty-two years of age.

ROLL OF HONOUR. Auckland Star, Volume XLVII, Issue 173, 21 July 1916

## PRIVATE F. J. WHEELER.

Private Frederick Joseph Wheeler, reported to have died of wounds, was 22 years of age, and son of Mr F. Wheeler, of Glenfield, Auckland. He was an active member of the Waitemata Cricket Club, and also played in the Waitemata hockey team. He was educated at Glenfield public school, and before joining the Expeditionary Force was engaged in the fruitgrowing industry at Glenfield.



"He died for his country"



# We will remember...

SOME OF OUR DEFENDERS. THE COLONIST, VOLUME LVII, ISSUE 14149, 28 JULY 1916

Private F. J. Wheeler, who is reported to have died of wounds on July 5th, was a son of Mr. F. Wheeler, of Glenfield. He was always keenly interested in military matters, and was an active member of the Waitemata cricket and hockey clubs. Private Wheeler followed the occupation of orchardist with his father until offering his services to the Empire. He left New Zealand with the Eighth Reinforcements.



In Memory of

Private

## Frederick Joseph Wheeler

12/3504, 1st Bn., Auckland Regiment, N.Z.E.F. who died on 05 July 1916 Age 22

Son of Frederick and Helen J Wheeler, of Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand.

Remembered with Honour

Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission