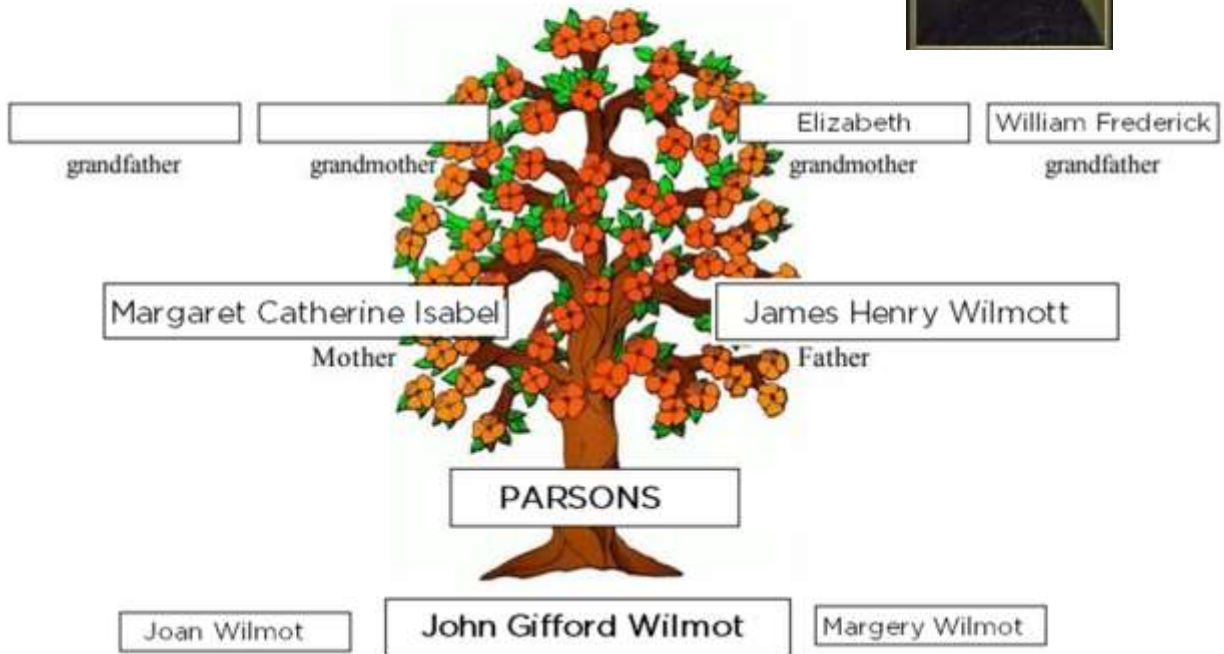


John Gifford Wilmot
"Jack"
Parsons



"He died for his country"

Family Tree



Portrait of Elizabeth Parsons (1846-1924), singer of Wellington, painted ca 1911 by her son J H W Parsons.
<https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22798386>

The obituary in the Grammar chronicle reads:

PRIVATE JOHN GIFFORD WILMOTT PARSONS, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. W. Parsons, of Victoria Road, was born at Devonport, and attended Devonport Public School before entering the Grammar School in 1910. He was a boy of much literary ability, and won the second prize for languages in IIB., and the first prizes in IV.C. and V.B. He also had well-developed artistic feeling, wrote a beautiful hand, and won both the junior and senior writing prizes at the School; he sketched well, and his skill in modelling had made his friends think of allowing him to devote his future to the sculptor's art. He was a keen swimmer, and figured prominently on more than one occasion at the Calliope Dock. ~~He had a month's training in Eng-~~



Colonial Sugar Refining Company
- Chelsea Sugar -

10. What is your trade or calling?	10. <i>clerk</i>
11. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom?	11. <i>no</i>
12. What was the address at which you last resided?	12. <i>54 Victoria St. Devonport</i>
13. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent?	13. <i>yes</i>
14. What is the name and address of your present or last employer?	14. <i>Colonial Sugar Co. Birkenhead</i>

Total numbers of staff from the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (including Australian staff) who enlisted in the Army from 1915 to 1918:

March 1915 – 152

September 1916 – 587

September 1917 – 691

March 1918 – 716

[Source: <https://discover.stqry.com/v/chelsea-sugar-factory-birkenhead-wharf>]

Call to arms...

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, VOLUME LIII,
ISSUE 16273, 5 JULY 1916

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN YESTERDAY'S ENLISTMENTS.

—
ONLY TWELVE VOLUNTEER.

—
SEVEN MEN ACCEPTED.

—
RECRUITING was not brisk at the city station yesterday. Twelve men enrolled, and of these seven were accepted, four were deferred and one was rejected as unfit for active service. Two recruits who were deferred at the first examination were accepted for service yesterday.

The names, addresses, and occupations of the men accepted, and the areas in which they reside are:—

NO. 1. CITY, GROUP.

W. Adams, carpenter, Remuera.
R. H. Buscomb, law clerk, Y.M.C.A.
S. Exley, draper, Park Avenue.
F. A. Henderson, architect, Mount Eden.
W. R. C. Jamieson, groom, Green Lane.
J. G. W. Parsons, clerk, Devonport.





NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ATTESTATION FOR GENERAL SERVICE.

38741
E/22

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO THE RECRUIT.

1. What is your name? ... 1. John S W Parsons
2. Where were you born? ... 2. Wellington
3. Are you a British subject? ... 3. Yes
4. What is the date of your birth? ... 4. 1896 30/6/1896
5. What are the names of your parents? ... 5. Father: J. H. W. Parsons
Mother: M. K. J. Parsons
6. Where were your parents born? ... 6. Father: Both in New Zealand.
Mother: - - -
7. If your parents are of alien origin, when and where were they naturalized? ... 7. Father: (when) - (where) -
Mother: (when) - (where) -
8. How long have you been resident in New Zealand? ... 8. 20 years
9. How long have your parents been resident in New Zealand? ... 9. Father: 45 yrs
Mother: 45 yrs.
10. What is your trade or calling? ... 10. Clerk
11. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom? ... 11. No
13. What was the address at which you last resided? ... 13. 86 Victoria Rd Devonport
13. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent? ... 13. Yes
14. What is the name and address of your present or last employer? ... 14. Colonial Sugar Co
15. Are you single, married, widower, divorced, or legally separated from your wife? ... 15. Single
16. If married, a widower, divorced, or legally separated from your wife, how many children under sixteen years of age have you? ... 16. -
17. If single, how many persons are absolutely dependent on you? ... 17. -
18. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where? ... 18. No
19. Do you now belong to any Military or Naval Force? If so, to what corps? ... 19. Coast Defence Devonport
20. Have you ever served in any Military or Naval Force? If so, state which and cause of discharge. ... 20. No
21. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous services? ... 21. Yes
22. Have you ever been medically examined for service with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force? If so, when and where? ... 22. Yes
23. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where? ... 23. No
24. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? ... 24. No
25. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated and inoculated? ... 25. Yes
26. Are you willing to serve in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand for the duration of the present war with Germany and six months thereafter, if your service is so long required? ... 26. Yes
27. For which Reinforcement draft do you volunteer? ... 27. Next of Kin Father.
Gang of Henry Willmott Parsons
86 Victoria Rd Devonport

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.

I, John S W Parsons, 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. S. W. Parsons
Signature of Witness: J. Williams

Oath to be taken by Recruit on attestation.

I, John Sydney Wilms Parsons, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces against His Majesty's enemies, and that I will loyally observe and obey all orders of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God.

Certificate of Attesting Officer.

The above questions were read to the above-named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands these questions, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered. The said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath of allegiance before me, at Auckland, N.Z., on this 5th day of Oct, 1916.

Signature of Attesting Officer: F. W. Strong Capt RMC

Note 1.—If any alteration is required on this page of the attestation, the Attesting Officer should be requested to make it and initial the alteration.

NOTE 2.—The recruit expresses his preference to enlist for (branch of service.) Inf

For King and Country...

MEN FOR THE FRONT

TWENTY-SECOND DRAFT.

THE AUCKLAND QUOTA.

TROOPS GO SOUTH TO-DAY.

NAMES OF CITY RECRUITS.

The Auckland military district's quota for the twenty-second reinforcements and the prospective non-commissioned officers for the twenty-fourth draft will be despatched to the training camps to-day.

The city section will parade at the Drill Hall for roll-call at 9.30 a.m., and a portion will leave by the mid-day Main Trunk train. Most of the men will go south by a special train, which is due to leave at 2.50 p.m. These men will parade at about one o'clock, and after being formed up in readiness for the march to the railway station, will be addressed by the Mayor, Mr. J. H. Gunson, and Colonel G. W. S. Patterson, officer commanding Auckland military district. The recruits,

headed by a band, will leave the Drill Hall for the railway station at about two o'clock. The station platform will be closed to the public from 1.30 p.m. until the troops have marched into the carriages, and have arranged their baggage. A further draft will be despatched by the evening train. The mid-day train will carry 133 recruits from the district, the special train 479, and the evening train 97, a total of 709. The Trumpet Band from Featherston will take part in to-day's parade.

The Defence authorities wish it to be clearly understood that recruits who have not attested under the new system will not be sent to camp. As a number of unattested recruits have been called up, arrangements have been made to have them sworn in at the Drill Hall this morning. Any person can, if he so desires, enrol this morning, be medically examined, and, if found to be fit, be despatched to camp to-day.

The names, occupations, and addresses of those called up in No. 1, City, group, are :—

NO. 1, CITY, GROUP.

J. G. W. Parsons, clerk, Devonport.



Army Form B. 103.

7th Coy Regimental Number *38741*

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps *2nd BATTN. WELL. I.C.*
 Rank *Private* Surname *Parsons* Christian Name *John Clifford Wilmet*
 Religion _____ Age on Enlistment _____ years _____ months.
 Enlisted (a) *5.10.16* Terms of Service (a) *Duration of War* Service reckons from (a) *11.10.16*
 Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____
 Extended { _____ } Re-engaged { _____ } Qualification (b) _____
 or Corps Trade and Rate *11 DEC 1917*
 Signature of Officer. _____

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 38, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 26, or other official documents
Date	From whom received				
		<i>HMNZIS 77.</i>	Embarked ... <i>N.Z.</i>	<i>12.2.17</i>	<i>E. Ball</i>
			Disembarked... <i>Plymouth</i>	<i>2.5.17</i>	<i>do</i>
<i>3.5.17</i>	<i>Ofc 4 of W Bn</i>	<i>Embarked in</i>	<i>Sling</i>	<i>2.5.17</i>	<i>Ph. 2.120</i>
<i>6.6.17</i>	<i>Ofc Reco Group</i>	<i>left for France</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>6.6.17</i>	<i>N. Ball</i>
<i>9.6.17</i>	<i>Ofc 15 I G B D</i>	<i>Moved into camp</i>	<i>Etaples</i>	<i>8.6.17</i>	<i>49842</i>
<i>30.6.17</i>	<i>Ofc 2 Bn W S R</i>	<i>Joined Battalion</i>	<i>In the field</i>	<i>26.6.17</i>	<i>B. 213 29/263</i>
<i>21.9.17</i>	<i>do do</i>	<i>Rollled in Action</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>20.7.17</i>	<i>B. 213 XC481</i>
			<i>France Belgium</i>		
		<i>J. Parsons</i>		<i>Rank 11.12.17</i>	
		Major			
		<i>D.A.A.G. (N.Z.)</i>			
		<i>G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon, D.F.C.</i>			

(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) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, etc.
 [M1.01] W6130/M788 1000ms 2/10s 253 G & S Form B.1034. E.304. [P.T.O.]



Men of the Auckland Battalion performing the 'Piccadilly' or regular march past officers at Sling Camp, England. Credits Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. Ref: 1/2-014050-G.



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY

NZ troops at the Etaples camp. Conditions were so bad that in September 1917 Kiwis led a mutiny that resulted in reforms.

Ypres offensive



New Zealand troops training for Messines (ATL, PA-f-093-05-4)

New Zealand 2nd Well. Inf.

Clifford
PARSONS, John Clifford Wilmot,
38641, 7 Coy.

K. July 20th/17. Det D.7 B.

I saw Parsons killed by a shell about July 20th near Messines, he was down in a crater having a wash, I was at the top of the crater when a shell dropped right into it and killed him at once. It happened about mid-day. His body was taken back to Prowse Point and buried in the military cemetery there. He was in 7 Coy. 1 Ptn. He was in the rifle section.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Young chap, about 20, 5'4 or 5'5, medium complexion, clean-shaven, he spoke very good French.

Informant: Pte. Thomas Bailey Wilson, 33492,
N.Z. 2nd Well. Inf. 7 Coy. 1 Ptn,
Tooting Military Hospital, London.

Home Address: 18 Jessie Street, Wellington.

17th Feb. 1918.

a 7 B. 103. - Killed in action 20 July 1917 in the Field France or Belgium

*J. H. W. Parsons (7)
86 Teatsua Rd.
Aurora port Auckland*



*In the burial was advised
that the body was taken to Prowse Point
and buried in the military cemetery there.
He was in 7 Coy. 1 Ptn.*

Maanie

28th 6. 18

S. Z. Wellington Pa.

Parsons, J.N.W. 38741

K. 20-7-17

*a78103
killed in action
20 July 17 - K
Field Hospital*

The only Parsons I knew was in the Wellington West Coast Company. He was a young chap - about 19 and rather short and thin. He was killed outright by a shell, hit in several places, about 300 yards behind our line in front of Ploegstreet, on or about 20th July. He was washing himself in a flooded shell crater at the time. It was a risky thing to do as there was a good deal of shelling going on. I saw his hit and I saw his body carried away by S/P G. Hart, West Coast Co. Hart is still with the Bn, and could probably give details of Parsons' burial. Mason was afterwards wounded and went to Hospital somewhere. Parsons would be buried at Ploegstreet, I expect. It was in the morning that he was killed.

Reference: Cpl. Contessa 11/1421
Wellington W. Coast Co.
N. Z. I.D.

NO ACTION NECESSARY

Parsons, J. N. W. Wellington, July, 1917

At Ploegstreet (Red Lodge) when we were in the support line about 9 a.m. He went to wash in a crater; a shell came over and killed him instantly. I saw him killed and afterwards put on a stretcher. Geo. Hart was one of the stretcher bearers. He was buried in a small cemetery about 2 miles behind the line. He belonged to Devonport, Auckland.

Reference: Pte. J. W. McCormack 38732 No. 7 Coy.
N. Z. I.D.

Staples 23rd, Jan., 1918

*a78100 - killed in the front 20 July 17
in the field hospital in the front*

NO ACTION NECESSARY

Staples
21-1-18

*Parsons J.N.W. 38741
Killed 20 July 17*

Parsons belonged to the West Coast Co. We had just shifted into the supports at Ploegstreet. The day after he got in he was down washing at the mine crater when a shell came and burst near him. He got the full force of it and was wounded all over. We heard the shell burst and saw him drop face down in the water. Peter Melachlan (new P/O) was the first man to run up to him, turned him over and saw he was dead. The Platoon QM Cpl. Contessa, took over his things. The body was removed by two stretcher bearers, Geo. Hart and Tiny Cottell and was probably taken to Prowse Point or Charing Cross Cemetery which were near.

Reference: Private W. S. Eastie 5/447
West Coast Co.
N. Z. I.D.

Staples
22-1-18

*a78103
killed in action 20 July 17
in the field hospital in the front*

FILE
1- APR 1918
NO ACTION NECESSARY

Roll of Honour...

WANGANUI HERALD, VOLUME LI, ISSUE 15289, 2 AUGUST 1917

WELLINGTON, August 2.

KILLED IN ACTION.

The following reported killed in action:—

Sergeant G. Syme.
Private V. B. Adams.
Private D. S. Clark.
Private J. MacMillan.
Private J. G. W. Parsons.

EVENING POST, VOLUME XCIV, ISSUE 28, 2 AUGUST 1917

Pte. John Gifford Wilmot Parsons, who was killed in action on 20th July, left New Zealand with the 22nd Reinforcements. He was the eldest son of Mr. Henry Parsons, of Auckland, and formerly of Wellington, and was a grandson of Mrs. W. F. Parsons, of Lower Hutt, well known in musical circles. The deceased soldier was only 21 years of age.

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, VOLUME LIV, ISSUE 16612, 8 AUGUST 1917

PARSONS.—On July 20, 1917, killed in action, John Gifford Wilmot Parsons, Twenty-second New Zealand Reinforcements, only son of J. H. W. and Margaret Parsons, Victoria Road, Devonport; aged 21 years.

"He died for his country"



PLAQUE AND SCROLL.

Enrolled 1910/0

Soldier's name: *Parsons John P. W.* Reg. No. *38741*

Roll No. *510257*

Scroll despatched (Date): *22 JUN 1921*

Plaque: *21 FEB 1922*

Recipient and address: *Mr J. H. W. Parsons*
45 Glen Rd.
Stanley Bay Aired

17,000/3/21-37341

[B.R.—59.]

Surname (3): *Parsons.* Christian Name (4): *John Gifford Wilmot.*

Regimental No. (1): *38741.* Rank (2): *Lt* **DECEASED** Unit: Reinforcement or Draft: Occupation: (5)

NEXT-OF-KIN: *Medals to*

Name: (6) *J. H. W. Parsons (4.)*
 Relationship: (7) *45 Glen Rd.*
 Address: (8) *Stanley Bay, Auckland*

18 NOV 1922
 18 SEP 1922
 BRITISH WAR MEDAL
 VICTORY MEDAL



In memory of...

OBSERVER, VOLUME XXXVII, ISSUE 49, 11 AUGUST 1917

Deep regret was felt at "the Shore" when it was known that Private John Gifford Wilmot Parsons.

N.Z. Infantry, had been killed in action. "Jack" was the only son of Mr Henry Parsons, of the Survey Dept., Auckland and Mrs Parsons, of Devonport. "Jack" seems to have been a schoolboy hardly longer than yesterday, a talented artistic and lovable youth of a singularly modest and retiring disposition and devoted to his parents. Like all the Parsons he was musical—he had music in his breast and was a gifted exponent. He was in great request in musical circles before he left N.Z. and helped to organise the many concerts on the troopship which took his reinforcement away. "Jack" had also a gift for modelling and many exquisite examples of his art are a valued family possession. His father is a fine singer and has exceptional ability as a painter. He belongs to the very well known "singing Parsons," of Wellington, a family well known and deeply respected for many years in the Capital City. Mrs W. F. Parsons, the grandmother of "Jack" resides at Lower Hutt.



In Memory of

Private

John Gifford Wilmot Parsons

38741, 2nd Bn., Wellington Regiment, N.Z.E.F. who died on 20 July 1917 Age 21

Son of James Henry Wilmot Parsons and Margaret Parsons, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Remembered with Honour

Mud Corner Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission