

The Final Victims of the Great War

A Comparative Analysis of Soldier Suicides of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and Their Male Siblings
 Nejma Muhumed (muhum062@umn.edu) and Marek Neuville (neuvi024@umn.edu) | DFRACS, Spring 2025 | Faculty Mentor: Evan Roberts



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

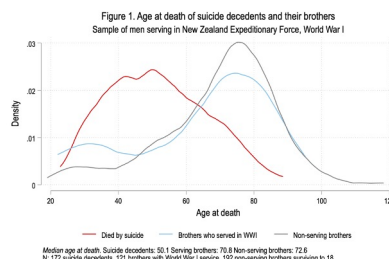
BACKGROUND

- World War I was a highly traumatic war for everyone involved. Many soldiers would later suffer poor mental health, taking their own lives.
- Using a sample of World War I soldiers who committed suicide, we searched for their brothers who served in the same war. Comparing their life histories, we were able to determine any significant differences.

RESEARCH MATERIAL

- The following sources were used to compile information on each subject's life history, with a particular focus on military history.
- BDM Data: Accessed through New Zealand's online births, deaths, and marriages records.
- Service Records: Accessed through Archives New Zealand's digitized database. Records provide information on wartime experience.
- Ancestry.com: Collection of records from many sources, not restricted by nation.
- Newspapers: Digitized newspapers accessed through Papers Past of New Zealand. These records provide information on post-war experiences, including deaths.
- Probates: Accessed through Archives New Zealand's digitized database. These include the last will and testament of the deceased.

KEY FINDINGS



WAR EXPERIENCES Houchen Family

- Migrating from England to New Zealand, Henry Houchen served in the South African War and the Mercantile Marine of World War I. He took his life in 1923, having suffered insomnia for some time.
- Reverend Clement Houchen was an army chaplain for over ten years, serving in the Egyptian, and Western European campaigns. Noted for bravery at the Somme, he was later hospitalized for 24 weeks and blinded at the battle of Passchendaele.



Clement Houchen

WAR EXPERIENCES Scambray Family

The Scambray family was a large family of six brothers who would migrate from Australia to New Zealand. It appears their father was absent from the family after migration.

- Francis Lawrence Scambray, born 1881, served in N.Z. in 1916, and then served outside of N.Z. from 1916-1919. Francis was married during the war but did not have any children. Less than a decade after service he committed suicide on November 16th, 1925.
- John Stanley Scambray served in the N.Z.E.F. from March 1916 to June 1918. He was sick multiple times and was eventually discharged, no longer fit for service. John was arrested for theft of
- Norman William Scambray enlisted in August 1915 and began foreign service. He faced disciplinary issues such as theft and disobeying orders during service. Norman died in military prison of disease in January 1918.



Norman William Scambray

WAR EXPERIENCES Carter Family

War had a strong impact on the Carters, with all four brothers serving. Only one brother died naturally in old age

- Lawrence Dalby Carter served in Egypt and the Balkans, and was discharged in 1916 with severe wounds. In 1957 he took his life.
- Maurice Dalby Carter served in Egypt, the Balkans, and Europe for three years. In 1917 he was killed in action in Belgium.
- Charles Dalby Carter served in Egypt, the Balkans, and European for almost five years. Following the war, he was a patient of Sunnyside Mental Hospital and took his life in 1920.
- Francis Dalby Carter served in the Egyptian and Western European campaigns for almost four years. Noted for gallantry, he was father and grandfather of many, dying in 1959. He was the only male sibling to die of natural causes.

BURSON—Killed in action, on December 3rd, in France, Albert Edward (son of) Burton, 29th Regiment, 1916, son of Emma Burton, 50 Hastings street, Sydney, and the late Albert Burton; aged 41 years.

CARTER—On December 3rd, killed in action, Maurice Dalby Carter, Sergeant, Main Body, youngest son of H. D. and A. A. Carter; in his 24th year.

WALSH—On December 3rd, killed in action in France, Pat Walsh, 11th Battalion, youngest son of C. and the late J. Walsh, of 9 Mason's road, Kapapua; aged 29 years. (Brother of Mrs L. Tomes and Mrs J. C. Doon, of Kapapua).

Maurice Carter, Honor Roll Press, Volume LIII, Issue 16088, 19 December 1917, Page 1