



**Clan Chisholm Society NZ**  
 Newsletter #36 June 2005  
 Anzac Tribute Edition

Editor's Note:

The AGM of the society this year coincided with Anzac weekend. From this followed the idea that the Newsletter should reflect this theme. Audrey produced a well researched article, part II of the speech with which she addressed the AGM. This article spans the time from 1745 to the present, and it is reprinted in the newsletter in an abridged form. ( Part I, the settlement of Christchurch, will be published in the next newsletter).

I have written an article which goes into some greater detail on three "ordinary" WWII servicemen from one family. Audrey has been doing further research into the fascinating story of Archie Chisholm's grandson, Donald Kennedy. She mentions him briefly in her speech, but a fuller account will no

doubt appear in a future newsletter.

Subscriptions are now due; The secretary will have sent out reminder notices by now. Some people who attended the AGM might not have had the opportunity to formally join the society, likewise some readers who may be receiving complimentary copies of the Newsletter.

Subscriptions are \$15.00 for an individual, or \$30.00 for a family, and can be sent direct to: Barry Chisholm

Secretary, Clan Chisholm Society, 17 Phoenix Street,  
 Palmerston North

A feature of the AGM was the presentation of a special certificate to **Jessie Small**. Jessie is to be further congratulated by becoming our newest electronic subscriber. While I don't think she operates her own computer, she will receive her newsletter and other Clan Chisholm information via her daughter's email address, where it can be transformed into full colour print. Jessie is pictured here, receiving her certificate from Audrey.



Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter:

Audrey Barney, John Ross, Fay & Michael Chisholm, NZDF(Personnel,Trentham), Royal NZ Artillery Old Comrades' Association website, Veterans' Association of NZ website, NZETC(Electronic Text Centre VUW), Delta Web International, Royal NZ Navy Website

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## CLAN CHISHOLM Society of New Zealand - Presidents Report

The occasion of the AGM, held on 23 April 2005 at the Manchester Unity Lodge Hall, in Upper Riccarton in Christchurch, proved very enjoyable, with the agreeableness of the venue, the congenialness of the company, the liveliness of Audrey Barney's talk as clan historian, and, in the afternoon, a visit to Rhonda and Matthew O'Donoghue's home to view their beautiful stained glass window featuring the Chisholm and O'Donoghue crests. In the evening, quite a few of us went out to dinner, at the Riccarton Buffet and Bar. Everything was admirably well-organised by Rhonda Hansen and Lorna Ryder.

As we had hoped for, there was a particularly good attendance of South Island people, and especially of Christchurch people, including Jessie Small and her brother Dan Chisholm, and, for the morning's socialising and other events, whole families.

In the AGM itself, the existing officers and committee were re-elected. All the same, Audrey very much needs someone to come in as Assistant Historian, who has good computer skills, to relieve her of some of the workload. And maybe in a year or three, this person, or someone else, could start taking over from Audrey as clan historian and genealogist. The development of an international conflated Chisholm Genealogy Database, masterminded by Jimmy Fitz-Gerald in the United States, requires some liaison with him. Fortunately, Audrey's own database has been successfully incorporated into this larger one.

In my own report I paid tribute to the past contributions by Fay and Douglas Chisholm, for launching the Clan Chisholm Society of New Zealand and keeping it going over the past eleven years, with Douglas's role more recently taken over by Michael, Fay's husband. Fay remains our Clan Council delegate; and Fay and Michael have gallantly taken on the roles of coordinators for the Clan's artefacts database. (see next page)

Helen Chisholm Black helped to launch the "Chisholm Chronicles" project, aimed at producing an international book covering interesting Chisholm stories, but she has since had to resign as project editor because of other commitments. So far, no keen person has yet come forward to take on this key role. Still, we invite you to write up interesting, lively stories about people from your own families, if possible with accompanying photos, and send them in to me, as local editor.

The major local event of the past year has been the launch of Audrey's latest book, Chisholm Cameos: Joseph Wilson Chisholm's Yorkshire Ancestors and New Zealand Descendants. This took place in the context of a function at the Kingsgate Hotel in Wellington on Saturday 23 November, organised by Anne O'Regan, Jan Peleton and Fay White, and these people also put out several useful newsletters, and an admirable small paperback publication, Celebration of the Arrival in Wellington: Joseph Wilson Chisholm: 150 Years Ago: November 15, 1854.

With this extended family, which includes Audrey and myself, so well researched and written up, attention at the AGM passed on to another major Chisholm family, that of William and Marion Chisholm, who came out from the disease-ridden tenements of Glasgow to Dunedin in 1875, on the ship Invercargill. Sadly, one of their children died of whooping cough during the voyage; but Thomas Runcie Chisholm, Jessie Small's father, was born in Dunedin the following year. A brief account of this family, contributed by Jessie herself, can be found in the Chisholm Pioneers in Colonial New Zealand book, pages 57-62. At the AGM, a congratulatory certificate, prepared by Robert Chisholm, was presented to Jessie, in acknowledgement of her contributions to Chisholm family history.

Next year's AGM will be back in the North Island, in Palmerston North.

Best Chisholm greetings to everyone. John C. Ross



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### New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Doug Chisholm, Calgary, Canada; Roland Chisholm, Christchurch; Bruce Chisholm, Christchurch

Shirley Chisholm, Christchurch; Robbie Chisholm, Christchurch.

With sadness we record the recent passing of Paul Frederick Chisholm (Calgary, Canada)

## Fellow Clansfolk, your help is required!

Fay and Michael Chisholm, the newly appointed Clan Council artefact co-ordinators, request the help of all Clan Chisholm members to promote and spread the word that Clan Chisholm is setting up a register of artefacts that are held both in public and private collections.

Along with the reprint of the McKenzie book, the compilation of the Chisholm Chronicles and now the Artefact register, we as members can foster and preserve the stories and traditions and now knowledge of artefact items from our past. The following plan of action is the main structure of how we would like to compile this Artefact register. A supplementary form will be emailed or posted for you to fill in if you have an item of interest which could be registered.

Please contact us for further information at [mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz), write to us at 7 Stevenson Lane, Gisborne, New Zealand or Phone 06-8677995  
Fay and Michael



### ARTEFACT REGISTER PROJECT PLAN OF ACTION

To document items of interest to those of Chisholm descent, these items can be in public museums or in private collections. (NOTE:- No family photos, certificates, family histories or personal papers belonging to families. These should be held in branch Archives)

#### Items held in private collections:

A full description of what the item is, address where it is kept and by whom it is owned.

This information will not be publicly available.

#### Website

Only the co-ordinators' name, email, and postal address, will be available.

REASON:- For security of the owner of such valuable items the disclosure of the whereabouts WILL NOT BE LISTED ON A WEBSITE.

#### Collation of information

To collate information about artefacts the following details will be required for the register:-

- (a) Name of - Museum or person (if private collection).who has the artefact.
- (b) What address including phone number and email it is located at.
- (c) Full description of artefact including the history of the item.
- (d) Photo of artefact if possible for register only.

Once submissions are received in writing on the official form, they will be collated into a register by category i.e.:- Swords, Pipes, furniture and so on. Once this list is compiled in the register, it will be held by the Clan Council Secretary. The Co-ordinator will also hold a special file on disc only.

#### Co-coordinators responsibility

What information can the co-coordinator release to someone requesting information about an item in a private collection?, simple answer :NONE.

The following steps are to be taken:

The owner of the item shall be contacted by the co-coordinator and be given the details of the requester. The owner will then decide if they wish to make the initial contact with the Requester, through the co coordinator. This way the privacy of all owners of artefacts will be maintained.

## Clan Talk, 2005 . Audrey Barney, Clan Chisholm NZ Historian

(abridged, full text available on request to the editor)

Part I of the Audrey's address dealt with the settlement of Christchurch. This will be published in the next newsletter. Part II of the address commences:

This coming Monday(25 April), is a very special day for New Zealanders - Anzac Day, and here on the other side of the world from the country where Chisholms were considered over the centuries, "fierce with the fierce", our Chisholm men - and women - have taken up arms, over the last 150 years when war came .....

Audrey gives an account of some of the military activities of the Clan since the time of Culloden. She goes into some detail about Jessie Small's gr gr gr grandfather with the Cameronian Scottish Rifles during the Napoleonic Wars, and mentions also the gr gr gr grandfather of Michael Chisholm (Gisborne) who was also engaged in the Napoleonic Wars.

But let's move on to when the Chisholms were in New Zealand.

The Chisholms weren't the earliest of NZ settlers - not even to the Scottish settlement of Dunedin, and it was really into the 1860s by the time there were many of our Chisholm ancestors leaving the Old Country. During these first twenty years after the Treaty of Waitangi, there had been misunderstanding, unrest and disquiet with the Maori population over land sales. The English government brought in regiments of English soldiers, Auckland brought in what was known as The Fencibles to help guard the new town, and most towns built up and strengthened Voluntary corps to protect them. The first Chisholms we know of who were involved as Volunteers were the three Chisholm cousins from Glenurquhart - Duncan, Duncan Edward and William - all carpenters in Milton who had arrived together on the Storm Cloud in 1860. Their names are on the Roll of the Otago Militia for 1865.

Soon after, in 1867 and again in 1868, James Chisholm, John and Jean's son and later Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, is named in the NZ Gazette as being a Gunner in the Dunedin Artillery, who had won the Colonial Prize for Firing, as well as getting a Medal for being the Champion Belt. But his elder brother, Alexander, seems to have been even more involved. He was appointed a sergeant in the West Taieri Rifle Volunteers in 1867 and by 1871 he was promoted to being a Lieutenant and instructor for the recruits in Musketry.

My Chisholm family in Wanganui and Wellington were also involved in Volunteer Units later in the 1870s, with Arthur, the eldest son, winning prizes in the Wanganui Rifle Volunteers and in one printed report boasting he had been quite a marksman when young. Walter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> brother, my grandfather, was a bugler in the Wellington Naval Brigade Volunteers when they rushed north to fight at Parihaka in 1881 and Frederick, son three, too young for Parihaka, nevertheless gave service in the Wellington City Rifles and is recorded as attending eleven parades during that tense period at the beginning of the 1880s.

After this for the next thirty plus years there was no fighting and so peace in our land.

The Boer War seems to have passed the Chisholms by, but with the commencement of hostilities in 1914, with the beginning of World War I, the response of the Chisholms was varied. Reg and Will Chisholm, two sons of Hugh Marshall Chisholm who were both farming in the Dannevirke area, dashed into the Dannevirke Recruiting Office on its first day of opening and enrolled in the Wellington Mounted Rifles and were amongst the first New Zealanders out of the country, six weeks later.

Two other early volunteer recruits were Cecil Ashburn Chisholm, Duncan of Nelson's grandson and Noel Chisholm, Joseph's grandson, both who joined the Ambulance Corps in 1914. I haven't yet found Cecil's army history but Noel Chisholm left New Zealand in July 1915 on the hospital ship the Maheno. By September 1915, the Maheno had done four trips into Anzac Cove, evacuating 1300 men from the Gallipoli peninsula to Mudros, a small island where there was a hospital, just south of the Dardenelles. In November 1915 the Maheno left the Gallipoli area with a ship full of wounded and sick men - 600 in all, bound for New Zealand. Noel Chisholm, who had injured a knee, was discharged when they reached New Zealand. Interestingly to date, I have found three other Chisholms who were involved on the Maheno during World War I. In 1918, there was the Rev. John Chisholm from Milton, who sailed on two trips, acting as a chaplain, while Dr. Stanley Foster, who had married Flo Chisholm, Joseph's daughter, at the beginning of the war, also did two voyages as a medical officer. Lastly there was Jim Chisholm, who was repatriated as a patient in late 1918. So four very different roles.

In all I have traced 34 Chisholms who served overseas in the Army in World War I. As well there were 38 Chisholm men with children, and 25 single men under 46, a total of 63 Chisholms who were listed as Reserves but were eligible for conscription if needed. Ten of these Reservists eventually enrolled and went overseas.

Many of the men who volunteered thought hard and long about their decision to enlist, and Jim Chisholm, while recuperating at St. Dunstons Institute for the Blind in London, looked back on, and expressed in verse, the consequences of his tussle with his conscience on whether or not he volunteered to go and fight :-

### THE TUI'S SERMON

1. Upon a pleasant Sunday morn  
Within the virgin bush  
Far from the people's looks of scorn  
And far from any "push"  
I sat me down beside a tree  
To hear the Tui's voice,  
I felt that I, now like him, free,  
Must shortly make my choice.

2. Shall I that now am like him, free,  
And so have always been,  
Shall I let others fight for me?  
And for my King and Queen?  
And shall my mother in disgrace,  
Hang down her silvery head  
And shall a father hide his face  
Whose son was under bred?



3. I hear again the tui's voice,  
His song is not in vain,  
I know that I have made my choice,  
I feel a man again.  
I fight because I feel I must  
For Right I've ever stood  
I fight because the Cause is just  
Because the Cause is good.

4. No more upon this Sunday morn  
I'll see the virgin bush  
No more may people look with scorn  
For I've been in "the Push"  
I care not for the wounds I got  
Nor how I lost my sight  
Yet now resigned to my new lot  
My heart can still be light.

5. I thank thee pretty parson bird  
Thy sermon made me man,  
Though I was only with the "3<sup>rd</sup>"  
At least I "also ran".

So, after making his decision in November 1915, Jim Chisholm, at 38, joined up, handed over his precious horde of kauri gum to the government, left his potato crops and his hens in care of a friend and went to war.

As to be expected, there were casualties. The first Chisholm to be killed was that good keen man Reg Chisholm, who volunteered the first day the Recruiting Office was open, and who died on Gallipoli in Shrapnel Gully, on a ferocious night of fighting when 26 Anzacs were killed. His name is on the Lone Pine Memorial on the hill above the gully. His brother, Will, who departed for overseas on the same day, never saw active service, being invalided back to New Zealand with severe conjunctivitis after a few weeks in the Egyptian sun.

The war at Gallipoli could be said to be the beginning of the end for the 2<sup>nd</sup> death of a New Zealand Chisholm. John Samson Chisholm, from the Chisholm family at Kaurihorere, near Whangarei, was

working in a timber mill in West Australia when war broke out. The trigger for him to enlist seems to have been the Gallipoli campaign, for within a week of its starting, he enlisted in the Australian Army and found himself on the Gallipoli Peninsula less than 6 weeks later. He only lasted 3 weeks before being wounded and evacuated to Mudros, before being sent to England "sick, in shock and with dysentery" for hospital treatment. Two months later he was returned to his unit in Gallipoli, where fortunately he only had two weeks before being brought out to Egypt. There was little R and R here, before the Anzacs in Egypt were packed up and sent by ship to Marseilles and then by train to North France. The battles on the Somme had just begun and this campaign was to kill 10,000 Australians and 1600 New Zealanders. John Chisholm was one of them, killed after about 4 weeks in France on the 31 August 1916. His body was never found.

It is likely that it was just to the north of the Somme, a year later, at the time of the Battles of Passchendaele that Rifleman James Chisholm, a grandson of John and Jean Chisholm, a single man in his 40s, was taken prisoner. James was one of those single men under 46, conscripted in the First Reserve in 1916, who went on to join up and serve overseas. He sailed for France, in June 1917, and with the Battle of Passchendaele taking place, his company would have been straight into the front line. At what stage he was taken a prisoner of war on the Belgium/German border I do not know, but as a prisoner of war, he evidently became ill, was hospitalised and died in July 1918. During the whole of the war, Germany controlled this area, and evidently allied servicemen who died in the local Leuze hospital were buried in a corner of the nearby community cemetery. So it was here that James Chisholm's was burial site is found.

But there were many other casualties -- the wounded and the gassed like my Uncle Eric Chisholm, but here I will mention just two, whose lives were very much altered by the wounds they sustained.

Firstly, Jim Chisholm who, from his poem I read, pondered hard before making the decision to go to war. Like John Chisholm who was killed on the Somme, Jim Chisholm also was in Egypt before sailing for Marseilles and going north by train in July 1916. Two months later, on the first day of a push north, Jim was badly wounded on the face and hands, resulting in his permanent blindness. After weeks in a field hospital in France, he was moved to a military hospital in London, to deal with his wounds, before being sent on to St. Dunstons for rehabilitation for his blindness. This convalescence took 18 months before he boarded the hospital ship, Marama and traveled to Auckland with 500 other wounded and under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Chisholm.

Secondly, Bill Chisholm, a son of William and Isabel Chisholm of Pleasant Point, also suffered severe shrapnel wounds on the face and eyes, probably at Passchendaele, in 1917 and this resulted in the loss of his left eye. However, he was sent home almost immediately and arrived back in NZ in Sept 1917, nine months after first leaving, as being "no longer fit for overseas service".

Before leaving World War I would just like to say that the Chisholms who served in World War I were mainly ordinary foot soldiers - the non commissioned ones.

The exceptions were:-

Captain James Hastings Chisholm from Hunterville, who was a member of the Auckland Mounted Rifles, whose service, too was short, as he was wounded and returned home within five months of leaving New Zealand, in early 1916. Lieutenant Dudley Sedman Chisholm, of the Nelson Chisholms, also was wounded, was mentioned twice in dispatches and promoted to be a staff captain, before being returned to New Zealand and discharged. And Lieutenant John Sinclair Chisholm MC (Jack), from the Pleasant Point Chisholms, had had 16 years experience with the Canterbury Volunteers and was a commissioned officer there before signing up with the NZEF at the end of 1916. As far as I have discovered to date he is the only Chisholm who received a medal, being awarded the Military Cross at the end of hostilities for his work in France. These commissioned men were in their thirties and mainly older than the volunteers that went before them. James and Dudley married just before leaving for overseas, while Jack Sinclair Chisholm (Jean Pitt's grandfather) had seven children at the time he enlisted in World War I. All three men had given extensive service in different reserve corps before enlisting, which may be the main reason they served as commissioned officers.

It was just another twenty years on, and Chisholms were joining up again. World War II had begun. Once more the army has provided public lists for those who wish to check enlistment details. Over the six years, 30 Chisholms enrolled in the army, with only four men volunteering in the first six months. Perhaps there were many like Jim Chisholm, who had debated on joining up in World War I, who felt the futility of another war. In his poem, April 1941: Another field, written just before the New Zealand Army went into Crete, he said it all in verse:-

1. In Flanders fields the poppies blew,  
Long years ago, for me and you  
We saw them blowing there  
And now once more the poppies stain  
The resting place of further slain  
How can this thing be fair?

3. In London town and Liverpool  
The graveyards all are far too full,  
Of women great with child.  
Not soldier boys, not sailor men,  
But folks of three score years and ten  
And babies undefiled.

2. We fought to make small nations free  
We fought to save democracy  
We won the victor's crown  
We did not sing the victor's song  
The League of Nations turned to wrong  
And sadly let us down

4. Blame not the Gaul, blame not the Goth,  
But blame the love of ease and sloth  
That left us unprepared.  
Had we but kept our quiver full,  
A ready bow, and heads quite cool,  
The Hun had never dared.

5. In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Above the lads who faced the foe.  
They bear an honoured name.  
In London town and Liverpool  
Civilian graves are far too full  
They testify our shame.

Perhaps, though, the choices were wider with a new service, the Air Force, our own Navy, and women joining the ranks to go overseas, mainly as nurses or office workers.

Mavis Chisholm from the Wairarapa was amongst the first nurses to enlist, being one of 18 Army Nursing Sisters who sailed with the First Echelon for the Middle East in January 1940. At 38 years of age, she left a senior position at Wellington Hospital to become in the Middle East the Matron of the 3 NZ General Hospital, where one of Allan Chisholm of Featherston's grandsons (Allan Bruce) spent time as a patient after being wounded near Tobruk. Later in the war, Mavis took control of the nursing services for the whole of the Middle East. In recognition of her services she was awarded the RRC - the Royal Red Cross. Catherine Roma Sybil Chisholm, Albert of Waipukurau's daughter, is the only other known Chisholm to join the ranks of nurses overseas.

Unfortunately it has been impossible to check, in total, which Chisholms joined the Navy and the Air Force, as, unlike the army, no service lists are readily available, but I have managed to find some information. I do know about John Thompson Chisholm (Jack), brother to Bruce above, and also a grandson of Allan and Christina Chisholm of Featherston, who joined the Navy on a 12 year Commission in 1934 and was on the HMS Achilles when it took part in the Battle of the River Plate in December 1939, so was possibly the first Chisholm to come under fire during World War II. (see page 10)

The only other known Chisholms in the Navy were the brothers, Ken and Don Chisholm, great grandsons of Joseph. I am told they were so keen to get away, though not of age, that night after night, they left a note on their parents' bed, pleading with them to sign the forms to let them enlist. Finally round the end of 1943 their parents agreed and the boys joined the Navy on the same day - But their paths never crossed -- Don found himself as an Able Seaman on the HMS Ceylon operating out of Sri Lanka, while young Ken was sent to England for further training and

was on his way to Japan when peace was reached.

There are two books available, as far as I know, with specialized lists of Kiwi airmen in World War 2. One deals with the casualties, those who didn't come back, and at the other end of the spectrum the second deals with those who got honours and medals.

The casualties as recorded day by day in a 2vol. book, called "For Your Tomorrow". Unfortunately they contain two Chisholm names, both pilots, and I think the only "Flying Chisholms" who lost their lives in World War II. Bob Chisholm was shot down in 1941, and Allan Chisholm met his death in 1944.

Bob Chisholm, our President, John's uncle, had been involved in flying with Aero Clubs pre war and had got his wings in 1938. This automatically put him on the government's Civil Reserve of pilots, which, unbeknown to him, meant a quick call up as a Volunteer for the Royal Air Force in England. He left New Zealand in March 1940 and after English training on bombers was on to Operational Flights over France and Germany by June that year. After further training on Wellington bombers and promotion to Flying Officer, he met his death over Holland. On the outward leg of his 19<sup>th</sup> mission, a bombing raid on Osnabruck, he was shot down by an enemy night fighter, over Zeeland in the southern Netherlands. He had 489 flying hours experience. Details on Allan Chisholm of Featherston follow on page 11.

Two other Chisholms are mentioned in the book "For Your Tomorrow", Dick and Adam Chisholm. Strangely, they were both in the same Stirling bomber when it crashed. Dick, one of Archie Chisholm's grandsons, was the Wireless Operator while Adam, a great grandson of John and Jean Chisholm, was the rear gunner. They were in a Commonwealth Squadron, working on supply drops over France in 1944, probably for the Resistance, and on this night were attacked by a German fighter before they reached the drop, and the starboard wing caught fire. The New Zealand pilot and two of the crew were killed, but the two Chisholms and the Canadian navigator, parachuted successfully out, only to be caught by the Germans and ended up in a Prisoner of war camp. Family stories relate how the two men couldn't convince the Germans that they weren't brothers.

As I said earlier on, World War II was different, in that there were many more opportunities for men to play a role other than joining the Army, as had mainly been the case in World War I. As well, World War II was much more widespread geographically than World War I. It truly was a world war, and the diverse roles some of the Chisholms played in the non-European theatres of war show these two points.

An Alan Chisholm again, and again John Ross's uncle, was early away from New Zealand in late 1940 in an attachment seconded to the Royal Air Force, called Radar Mechanics. He spent much of his war years in Iraq and Egypt and later in Italy, operating mobile radar stations.

James Samuel Chisholm, Robert and Isabella's grandson, left New Zealand prewar for the Colonial Service in North Borneo. He was back in England when war broke out, and was quickly sent back to his post. He was of course, taken prisoner of war by the advancing Japanese and spent four years in appalling conditions in Japanese camps. Postwar he went back to North Borneo before retiring firstly to England and then back to Ngongataha, where he died in 1980.

Archie Chisholm's eldest grandson, Donald Kennedy DSO, was also with the Colonial Service prewar having had years teaching and later as the District officer in the Ellice Islands before being appointed as the District Officer for the Northern and Western Solomons, early in 1941, just before the Japanese entered the war. But he was able to spend this short time before the Japanese took over the Solomons, getting to know the people and the area. This was to be invaluable. His skills with building and maintaining radios - a new invention in the 1930s- was already legendary. He eventually set up his Coast watching base well behind the Japanese lines in the New Georgia area at Segi, where he successfully waged his own private war against marauding Japs, while at the same time keeping the Allies informed of Japanese shipping movements, repairing Coast Watchers' radios slipped in to his base in the dead of night by canoe, and as well sending out rescued allied airman. Kennedy's exploits in this area have been written up in at least three books on Coast Watchers in the Solomons, and his daring work earned him a DSO from the British government as well as an American decoration. His career continued in the Islands post war but eventually he, too, retired to New Zealand to live, dying in 1976 in Dargaville.

Brian Chisholm, one of Joseph's grandsons and one of our members, was also a coast watcher. Brian enlisted when he turned 21 in 1943, with his service in Signals, and part of his overseas service was



in Tonga, sitting on top of a hill on a small island called E'ua watching for the Japs, who thankfully by this time, didn't come.

Horace Lee Chisholm, another grandson of Joseph's and a newspaperman, undertook other non-army service in our part of the world. Although, like Bob Chisholm, he had learnt to fly in prewar New Zealand, probably because of his journalism experience, he became part of an Australian Intelligence Unit, before taking over the job of a Newspaper editor in Papua New Guinea, turning out a daily paper called Guinea Gold, which was distributed to all the American and Australian troops in the South West Pacific.

Yet another of Joseph Chisholm's grandsons, Vivian Hemery, was also caught up in the Pacific War in intelligence. What he brought to this service was a good working and oral knowledge of Japanese, which he had acquired through his work in the wool industry, pre war in Australia. Vivian was seconded to the US Army and was actually in the Philippines translating for General McArthur during the peace negotiations.

The second book on the RNZAF lists honours and awards received, and once again a Chisholm is mentioned giving service in World War II in the Pacific. Group Captain Frederick Russell Chisholm received the OBE for his services to the health of airmen. He served from 1939 till 1946 and the citation talks of his untiring energy in visiting forward areas, examining closely aspects of the working and living conditions of airmen, introducing changes of major benefit to the health, comfort and welfare of all ranks. It was felt it was largely due to Dr. Chisholm's medical knowledge and ability that the RNZAF suffered such a low sickness rate throughout the Pacific campaign.

World War II was called "The war to end all wars," but 60 years on, we're still not free of war and trying to help with the problems that arise for the folk caught up in them. Local wars have replaced world wars and New Zealand is usually involved. The last war, where I have heard of a Chisholm serving, was in Vietnam, where Dave Chisholm (Haggis) of Waimauku (gr grandson of Allan & Christina Chisholm of Featherston) served with the Engineers, and in fact is an official guest at this year's 90<sup>th</sup> Anzac commemoration service at Gallipoli. (see page 14)

But along with these local wars there is much more effort nowadays in securing peace, and giving aid to those affected by war. New Zealand has played its part with our defence forces helping in rebuilding such infrastructure as communications, roads and schools in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Another Chisholm is mentioned in the book on Air Force Honours, - Gregory John Chisholm, a great great grandson of Archie's, who was given a commendation in 1994 for the work he and his team did for the United Nations Special Commission on communication monitoring systems throughout Iraq. A long technical citation, ends with saying, "[His team] is truly one of the best in the world and have proven themselves by deed, action and results".

Invariably humanitarian aid agencies work alongside peace corps, and it has been good to hear that an NZ born Chisholm, Megan Chisholm of Canberra, niece of Dave mentioned above and granddaughter of Bruce (see page 12), has in the last few years, been involved in emergency relief in wartorn countries for a big organization, Care Australia. She has served in the Solomons and Baghdad before moving on at the end of 2004 to organize the Care Australia effort for Tsunami Relief in Indonesia. Hopefully the balance is changing from Chisholms serving in wars to Chisholms serving in peace.

#### Welcome to the world

Isla Joyce Ross, born 11 April 2005, in Dunedin, a second granddaughter for Society president John Ross.

#### Notice

2006 Inverness International Gathering to be held the week of July 22 -29, 2006 in conjunction with The City of Inverness Highland Games. All members should give early consideration to attending this most worth while event.

# Sailor, Soldier, Airman

## Sailor, Soldier, Airman

Allan & Christina Chisholm (page 166 of Audrey's Pioneer Chisholm's Book) lived their days out in the southern Wairarapa. Three of their grandsons represented different branches of the armed forces during WWII. These were three young men from rural NZ whose lives were turned asunder, men whose stories were similar to countless families throughout the country. Ordinary men in extraordinary times, this is a brief tribute to the three Wairarapa Chisholm Boys. Bruce and Jack grew up with their widowed mother in Greytown, their cousin Allan on the family farm in Featherston.



### John Thompson (Jack) Chisholm (PO ) 1280

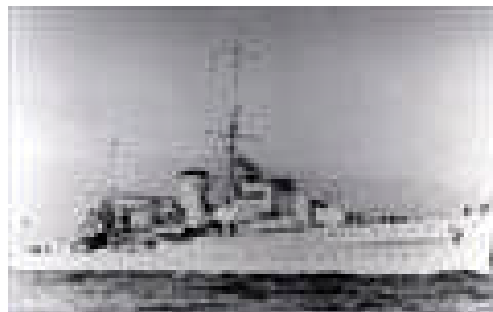
In late 1934 the family left Greytown and came up to Auckland. Jack had had plenty of experience of farming as a lad, and decided this was not for him. He decided to see the world, so joined the NZ Division of the Royal Navy at age 16, Boy second class.



After a year at Philomel he was promoted to Boy first class on the Dunedin, where he rose to Ordinary Seaman and was transferred to the Leander in 1937 and here he finally achieved the status of Able Seaman at age 19. With war clouds darkening over Europe, on 29 August 1939 HMS Achilles was ordered to take position in the West Indies. On the same day Able Seaman Jack Chisholm was assigned to the Achilles, this would be home for the next two years. Hardly out of NZ waters, on Sept 2 Achilles received new orders, to cover Allied shipping along the west coast of South America, and in October she joined Commodore Harry Harwood's South American Squadron—HMS Exeter, Ajax, and Cumberland. The Battle of the River Plate makes interesting reading, how Harwood plotted the fateful rendezvous, and just why did Commander Langsdorff order Graf Spee into Montevideo. With far superior range and firepower, Graf Spee knocked Exeter, the strongest of the 3 British ships, out of the battle, and would have been more than capable of dealing with Ajax and Achilles. Intrigue and mystery followed, and Graf Spee never came out of Montevideo to face Jack Chisholm and the Achilles, Langsdorff instead scuttled the pocket battleship and committed suicide.

Of all the ships involved in the Battle, Achilles was the least damaged, with the lowest casualty list, 4 killed. She returned to NZ waters for trade protection patrols. Jack left the ship in August 1941, and served on naval ships and units in the African and European operational theatres, while the Achilles joined the SW Pacific Anzac Squadron in the war against Japan. Here she was bombed and badly damaged, but survived and was re-fitted and re-joined the Pacific War.

Jack Chisholm made the rank of Petty Officer after the war ended, and left the Navy after 12 years duty in 1946. His Medal list shows that indeed he did get to see the world, if under somewhat harrowing circumstances. He became a 5 star sailor (39-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Pacific Star, Africa Star, Italy Star with the France-Germany Clasp, and the Clasp to the Africa Star). Jack died in 1999, and is survived by his sister Cath, living now at



Powley in Blockhouse Bay, and by his nieces and nephews. For those intense moments of action on December 13 1939, very early in the war, Achilles became etched in the NZ historical psyche as our most revered naval ship.



## Allan Robert John Chisholm (Flt. Sgt) NZ421018

Allan was educated at Featherston District High School, where he was keen sportsman, actively interested in football, cricket, boxing and running. After leaving school he worked on the family farm at Kaiwairi, and on 27 November 1940, 5 months after turning 21, he volunteered for pilot training. It was not until 8 February 1942 before he was enlisted.



He went through the range of NZAF establishments: Levin, Rotorua, Harewood, finally to Woodbourne, where on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1943 he was awarded the flying badge. His service records show high levels of achievements in all the courses

of instruction, and promotions came fast. He was made Sergeant in February, then on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1943 he embarked for the UK.

After a short refresher course at Swindon in Wiltshire, he was posted to the 17<sup>th</sup> Advanced Flying Unit at Wrexham in Wales and further promoted to Flight Sergeant, and on 10 August 1943 was posted to the 57 Operational Training Unit at Eshott, Northumberland. Here he carried out exercises on Spitfire and Dominie aircraft. On 31 October he was posted to the No 1 Tactical Exercise Unit at Tealing, Dundee. It seems he moved northwards on each of his postings, and was now getting closer to the place where his grandfather had left 73 years earlier.

It was now November 1943 and plans for the invasion of occupied France were well underway.

For the earlier Spitfire squadrons, notably those involved in the 1940 defence of Britain, it had been a matter of learning on the job. Tactics and the development of the machinery evolved from actual battle experience, consequently with high losses. The forthcoming role for the RAF Fighter Command was to be totally different from the previous few years. It was to be no longer a defensive role, close to home base, or a bomber escort role. This would at last be an offensive task, in support of ground forces, away from home.

Therefore the preparation of pilot, aircraft, and tactics was to be of prime importance, and the tactical exercise units of the RAF pushed both man and machine to the limit. The Mark 1 version of the Spitfire had been produced in 1938; by 1944 the Mark 9 model was in action. This iconic aircraft had undergone rapid and major redevelopments to keep pace and then ahead of its chief counterpart, the ME 109.



It was the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> May 1944, and D Day was less than a month away. Straight after breakfast, Allan took off from Tealing and headed North West towards Montrose. From this location and height he might have been able to look northeast, over the Grampian mountains and into the Highlands beyond the Moray Firth, past Inverness to the Beaulieu Inlet, then inland towards the tiny village of Breakachy just above Strathglass, birthplace of his grandfather, his namesake. But not today, too much cloud cover, and no time for sightseeing. At about 11am, engaged in air combat exercises above 5000 feet, his Spitfire suddenly spun out of the clouds, out of control, and crashed into the ground at Farnell, 5 miles WSW of Montrose.

Flt Sgt Allan Chisholm was buried with full Service Honours in the Balgay Cemetery, Dundee, a long way from his grieving family in Featherston. He is survived in New Zealand by many nieces and nephews, the families of his younger brother Robert (Bonnie) and of his two sisters Dorothy (Fenwick) and Eileen Rose (Playle).

## A.B Chisholm (Gunner) 20694 .2nd NZEF. (1916-1965)

Just 5 days before Christmas, 20 December 1939, Bruce Chisholm made the decision that changed his life forever. He walked into the Army recruitment office in Auckland. Within 3 weeks he was training in the Wai-kato, and would soon be ready to sail for Egypt with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Echelon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NZEF. However, not before a quick trip back to Rosebank Road on 18<sup>th</sup> March to marry his sweetheart Pat, the youngest of the Jones girls.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1940 he boarded the Aquitania, and so began a 3 year so-journ. The first two and a half years of this time could generally be described as an interlinking series of disasters and retreats. His pre-war skills were in driving, but not until October 1942 could he put the quad truck towing his twenty five pounder into a decent forward gear.

Not long into the voyage, the destination was changed. The 1<sup>st</sup> echelon were safely encamped in Egypt, but with the abrupt end to the phoney war, and the entry of Italy into the conflict, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Echelon would now avoid the threat of Italian bombers operating out of Abyssinia and head straight to the UK. By the time the Aquitania sailed up the Clyde into Glasgow, it was all over on the continent. France was humiliated, and



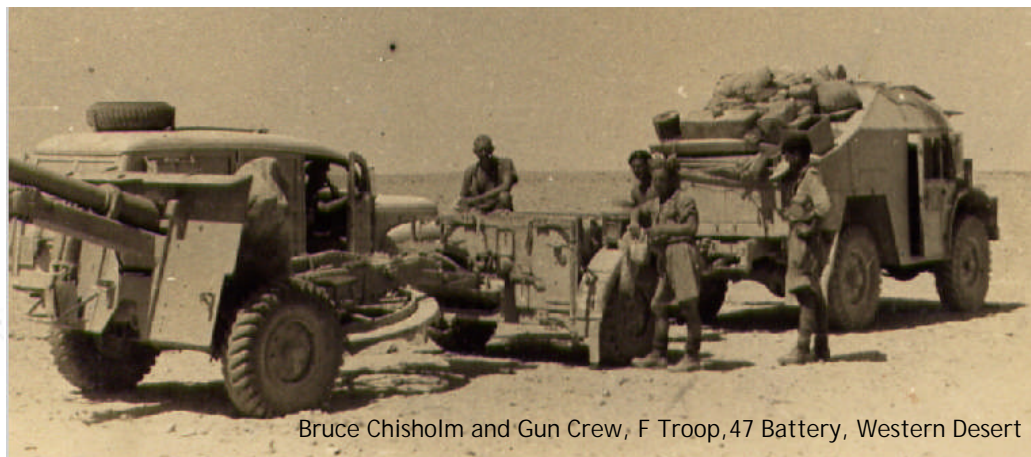
the British had made the miraculous evacuation at Dunkirk but were at risk of invasion. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Echelon would now prepare as a mobile reserve to assist in the defence. The Battle of Britain, now legend, was fought and won in the air, and the NZ ground forces, at the ready in Sussex and Kent, were fortunately not required.

They were re-deployed to Egypt, and Bruce Chisholm eventually arrived at Helwan, near Maadi in February 1941. The New Zealand Division would help prevent Egypt and Suez from becoming part of Mussolini's latter day Roman Empire, but before any serious military engagement could take place in this arena, help was now needed on the other side of the Mediterranean. The attempts to defend first Greece, then Crete, between April and May of 1941, from full scale Nazi invasion are well documented. Valiant and heroic, but ultimately retreat, defeat, disaster. Bruce's official records have just two entries relevant to this time: March 1941 embarked Lustre Force. June 1941 safe in Egypt, nothing to describe the horror in between.

This was the first campaign of the NZEF, and in less than 2 months they were back where they started, in Egypt, having lost 1000 men, 2500 wounded, and 4000 taken prisoner. 75% of this casualty list was from Crete. Bruce was in action near Mt Olympus, and his unit managed to get out of Greece before it was overrun. The evacuation scramble on the beaches at night turned out to be a bit of a lottery. Bruce picked a winning ticket, a boat to Egypt. Those dropped off at Crete were not so fortunate. Rather than treating the affair as an unmitigated disaster, some sense of worth could be retrospectively applied. The ill fated campaign of the NZ and other allied forces had unwittingly sowed the seeds for ultimate victory. Hitler had invaded these territories partly to help out his partner in crime, Signor Mussolini, and he did so against the advice of his general Staff (nothing unusual). This sideshow however, delayed the Eastern Offensive (Barbarossa) by two months, and the general staff knew it was imperative to defeat Russia, via Blitzkrieg, before her eternal ally, General Winter, could rescue her. As events turned out, the "lost" two months were decisive, Leningrad and Moscow were not breached before Christmas, winter set in, the Soviet Union gained the time to re-group.

The NZ Division meanwhile re-grouped in Africa, merged into the 8<sup>th</sup> Army, and crossed the Libyan Border later in November 1941, making up the central group of Operation Crusader. Part of the objective was to relieve the besieged port of Tobruk, the main goal to drive the Italian-German axis forces westwards away from their threatening positions in Cyrenaica. And threatening positions they were! Rommel had his eyes not only on Suez, but well beyond, to Basra in the Gulf. The Crusader battles lasted well over a month, and fortunes ebbed and flowed. Battles and tactics changed rapidly; confusion played a prominent part on both sides. Some serious miscalculations occurred, and British Intelligence had it that the enemy were in disarray and in retreat at the end of November. What Rommel was really doing, however, was encircling the NZ Division, with the expressed intention of annihilating it. The Kiwis, led by Bernard Freyberg, helped form a corridor into Tobruk, and were holding areas South East of the city on the Sidi Rezegh escarpment. A retreat and withdrawal was made once Freyberg recognised the trap and realised help was not coming. During these battles Gunner Chisholm was reported missing in action. This was during the attack by 15 Panzer regiment at Belhammed, 6am, Nov 1, 1941, the darkest hour, ever, for the NZ Artillery. He turned up inside Tobruk as a battle casualty, and on 5 December 1941 he prepared for yet another evacuation. The troop carrier Chakdina had just steamed into Tobruk the night before, bringing Bernard Fergusson with the Black

Watch Regiment to reinforce the garrison. For the outward trip back to Alexandria, the Chakdina was loaded with the battle casualties, and a large number of Prisoners. Amongst the POW's was General Ravenstein, the first German General to be captured in the war, and he was captured by members the NZ Div. A hasty move was made to designate the troop carrier as a hospital ship, and a large cross of light bulbs was formed on the upper deck. "lit up like a ~~~~~Christmas tree" was Gunner Chisholm's comment. He was also up on the top deck with the walking wounded. It had been a miserable period, retreat and defeat in Greece, Crete, now the Division got badly mauled at Sidi Rezegh and Sidi Azeiz. But it was to get very much worse, and very soon at that. At 5pm they steamed out of Tobruk, within 4 hours the well illuminated Chakdina had been easily spotted, and the unmistakable sound of enemy aircraft could be heard. It wasn't long after when a massive explosion rocked the ship, and in the space of 3 short minutes the Chakdina was making its way to a watery grave at the bottom of a cold and dark Mediterranean Sea, taking most of those on board with her, including nearly 100 Kiwis. Gunner Chisholm had been thrown clear, and he found a mattress to cling to. After a wet and cold and miserable few hours, rescuers from HMS Farndale and Thorgrin pulled him aboard. The rescuers themselves were still under aerial attack. Conventional Allied intelligence attributes the sinking of the Chakdina to the aerial attack; however a search of German sources shows 5 U-boats to have been active around Tobruk, and they attribute the Chakdina sinking to a torpedo strike by U 81. Bruce was treated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen Hospital in Alexandria, and rejoined the regiment at Maadi and Helwan, and following this there was a more pleasant occupation of Syria, with some R&R in Palestine. The Crusader offensive had cost NZ dearly, it would be the worst of the entire war: 879 dead, 1699 wounded, 2042 captured, representing a casualty rate of 23%. For a time it seemed a success, but this was not sustained. By May of 1942 all gains had been ceded, the Egyptian frontier had been breached, and the Alexandria & Cairo were under threat. The NZ Division was re-called back into action in June 1942, and joined the final defensive line at El Alamein. Under the new leadership of Montgomery, the line held firm. At last in late October 1942 the 8<sup>th</sup> Army went on the offensive and broke out of El Alamein. It became a significant defining moment in the Second World War; for the first time since hostilities commenced, the German Army was in full retreat. Retreat, but not defeat. It was to be another six months of battles raging westwards across Egypt, Libya and Tunisia before Victory in Africa, May 1943, was achieved. Suez was safe, and the underbelly of Europe was exposed. For Gunner Chisholm and many of the originals it was time for a well deserved furlough back to



Bruce Chisholm and Gun Crew, F Troop, 47 Battery, Western Desert

New Zealand. Bruce had served 3 years and 73 days overseas. 68 of these days were in Hospitals, being admitted on 3 separate occasions. He had watched the Battle of Britain and waited for the invasion. He had been thrust into the unfortunate attempt to defend Greece. He survived the hell at Belhamed. His ship had been torpedoed, and he had been one of the few survivors. He had been taken POW, and escaped. He had endured many a desert battle and seen many a comrade fall. Don't even mention the heat, the sand, the flies, the desert sores, the jaundice. On 27<sup>th</sup> November 1943, he was discharged, being no longer medically fit for service. Superficial battle scars showed on his body, the deeper wounds were invisible. Bruce returned to the market gardens of Avondale, and commenced a new life. Talk and thoughts of the war were mostly reserved for his comrades, the rats of the desert war.

Sidi Rezegh, Belhammed, Bardia, Sollum, Halfaya (Hellfire) Pass, Minqar Qaim, Ruweisat, Benghazi, Tebaga, Takrouna, quaint names in distant lands, these names which once harboured haunting memories for many thousands of New Zealanders, are now but fading from the collective memory. Larger names live a little longer; Tobruk and El Alamein remain to remind us of the 2nd NZ Division, part of the 8th Army in Africa, 1941-1943.

Bruce Chisholm is survived by his wife Pat, now resident in NSW, six sons, 1 daughter, and many grandchildren, & great grandchildren.

## Gallipoli, 25 April 2005

35 Ex NZ Service Personnel were balloted to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings by the ANZAC Brigade. Included were veterans from WW2, 28 Maori Battalion, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Borneo, and Vietnam. Among them was Dave Chisholm (2nd son of Bruce, featured on page 12) who served as a Sapper in Vietnam. The group attended the Turkish and British ceremonies on 24<sup>th</sup> April, and then on the 25<sup>th</sup> they attended the Dawn service at Anzac Cove, followed by the Australian Service at Lone Pine, and the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair.



Spr Dave Chisholm at the NZ memorial, Chunuk Bair (left) and below, greeting the present commander of the Australian Forces, near Anzac Cove



## Clan Chisholm Society (NZ) Archive Project.

Do you have a family member who served NZ in times of war? Have you recorded this service for future generations to reflect on? How easy it is to forget, as time marches on. If you would like to write up a service history of your relative a copy can be lodged with Clan Chisholm Archives. This would be then available for future reference, and could be used for newsletter articles or other publications. Service records are freely available from the NZDF Personnel Archives, Trentham Military Camp, Pvt Bag 905, Lower Hutt (04 527 5280) [www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records). Please contact the editor if you would like to contribute something, or would like more information on how to proceed.

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