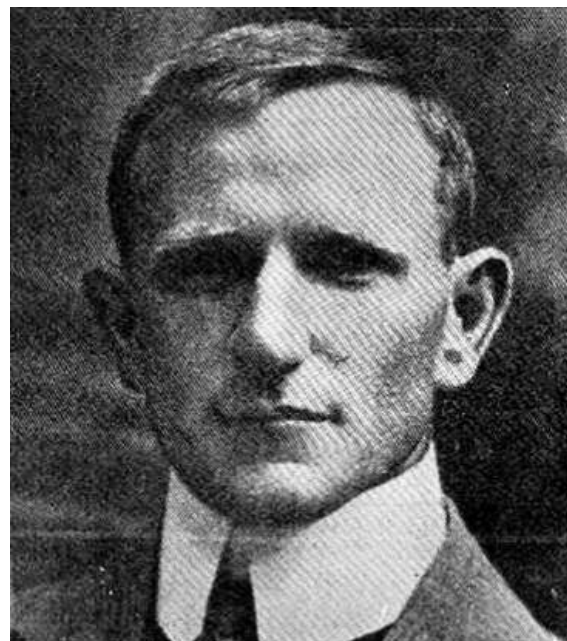


# James Hawthorne Gray 1883-1915

Campbell Street School 1910-1915

## James Hawthorne Gray

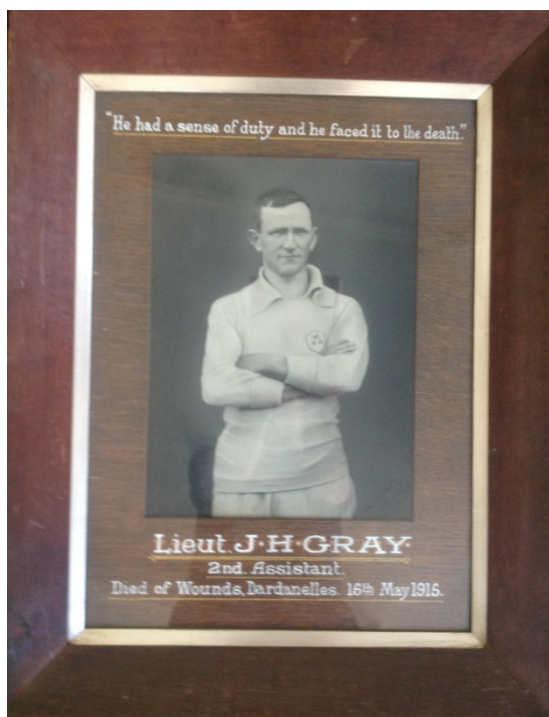
Ex-pupil and a respected teacher of Central Normal School (formerly known as Campbell St School). His death was considered a great loss to the school. (from the 80 year Jubilee booklet)



LIEUTENANT J. H. GRAY,  
Wellington Infantry Battalion.  
Died of Wounds.

Lest We Forget...

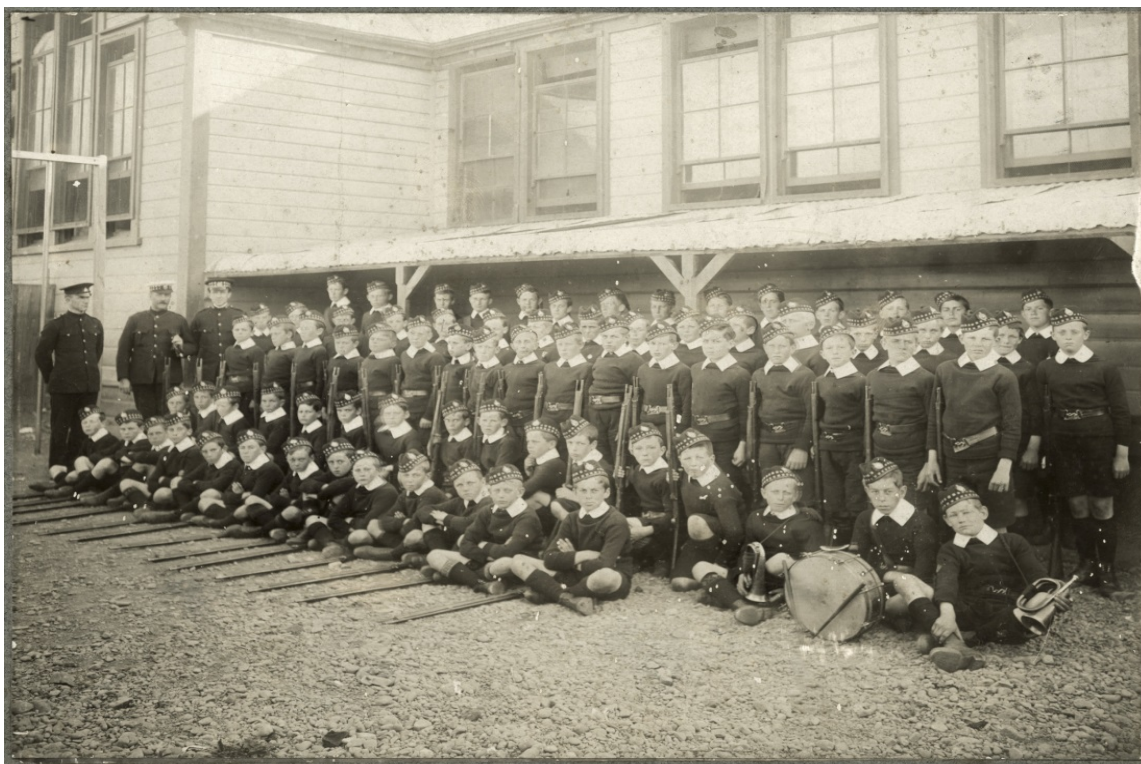
One hundred years ago our school like many others was represented in World War I by our old boys and staff. We promised to remember those who fell. Over the years inevitably our dedication to this has fallen away. So when I found this large framed photo in our school archives I wanted to know who he was. The size of the photo alone told me he was important to our history.



James Hawthorne Gray (Dolly) was born in 1883 in Otane, Hawkes Bay. Although, according to the 80<sup>th</sup> School Jubilee booklet he was an ex-pupil of our school I have been unable yet to confirm this. He certainly was teaching here by 1910 when our school was in the Campbell St location. He was a very active member of staff and was a technical teacher for the classes which were temporarily situated at Campbell St too. He was very well respected and was affectionately nicknamed "Dolly" after the song "Goodbye Dolly Gray" which was popular at the time. During these years before the war James was prominent in many sports and organisations around Palmerston North.

Aside from teaching he:

- represented Manawatu in rugby & hockey
- was a member of the Referees Association and refereed many prominent games
- was a junior steward at The Manawatu Lodge
- Was a member of the Palmerston North Operatic Society where he was appointed property manager
- Officer of Junior Cadets (for 12 years)



Junior Cadets Palmerston North 1911. Officers Gray, Warden and Holland feature from left they are all teachers from Campbell St so it is likely that most of the boys are our pupils too.



1911 Manawatu Rugby Football Union Schools Competition won by Campbell St School. Teachers: Mr Holland, Mr Aitken, Mr Gray and Mr Warden

In 1914 James voluntarily enlisted as a private even though he had served for 12 years as a Junior cadets Officer. He was sent to Awapuni racecourse for basic training and was part of the Wellington Infantry Battalion. He quickly proved himself as valuable to the army as he was to Campbell St School and the community so he moved up the ranks quickly. Just prior to his death he was made second lieutenant.





The Wellington Contingent at Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North.

James was sent to Egypt then on to the Dardenelles (Gallipoli) where he was wounded, probably at the Daisy Patch. He was evacuated on to the hospital ship the HMHS Southland where he died of his wounds.

When news made it back to school that James had died there was reportedly “not a dry eye” amongst the children or the staff of Campbell St school. They were all dismissed early.



Manawatu Standard, 17 May 1915

**Added to the Roll of Honour – Death of Lieut. J. G. Gray  
A Sterling Personality**

Quite a gloom has been cast over Palmerston by the news that Lieut. J. H. Gray, who was on the Campbell St School teaching staff before leaving for the front, had died of wounds received in the Dardanelles.

James Hawthorne Gray, or “Dolly Gray”, as he was more familiarly known, joined the teaching staff in 1910 as second assistant. He was soon a firm favourite with scholars and fellow teachers alike, and from the very beginning identified himself with the welfare of the school. A fine all-round athlete, his activities did not end with sport at the school, but

extended into the senior football (rugby) and hockey arena. He was a member of the Referees’ Association of which he was the capable and energetic secretary and a fair and impartial referee. In his teaching capacity he was manager and organiser of the associated school games in Palmerston North.

A valued member of the Palmerston north Operatic Society, in which he filled the duties of property manager, *his genial manner, kindly nature and willing service endeared him to all he came in contact.*

It was a pathetic moment when the scholars met their teachers this morning. Every scholar knew that their beloved master had nobly given his life for his country and that his death had left a void which would be hard to fill. He “played the game” as straightly and nobly as he did in the more familiar fields of sport.

**“Lieut. Gray was not only a man amongst children, he took his place amongst adults and was to any community an example”**