



# Dr John Roden Leonard Plimmer and the Road to Crete

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Dr Aine McCoy

Wellington Medical Historical Society

4th February 2026

# Arrival of Dr John Plimmer

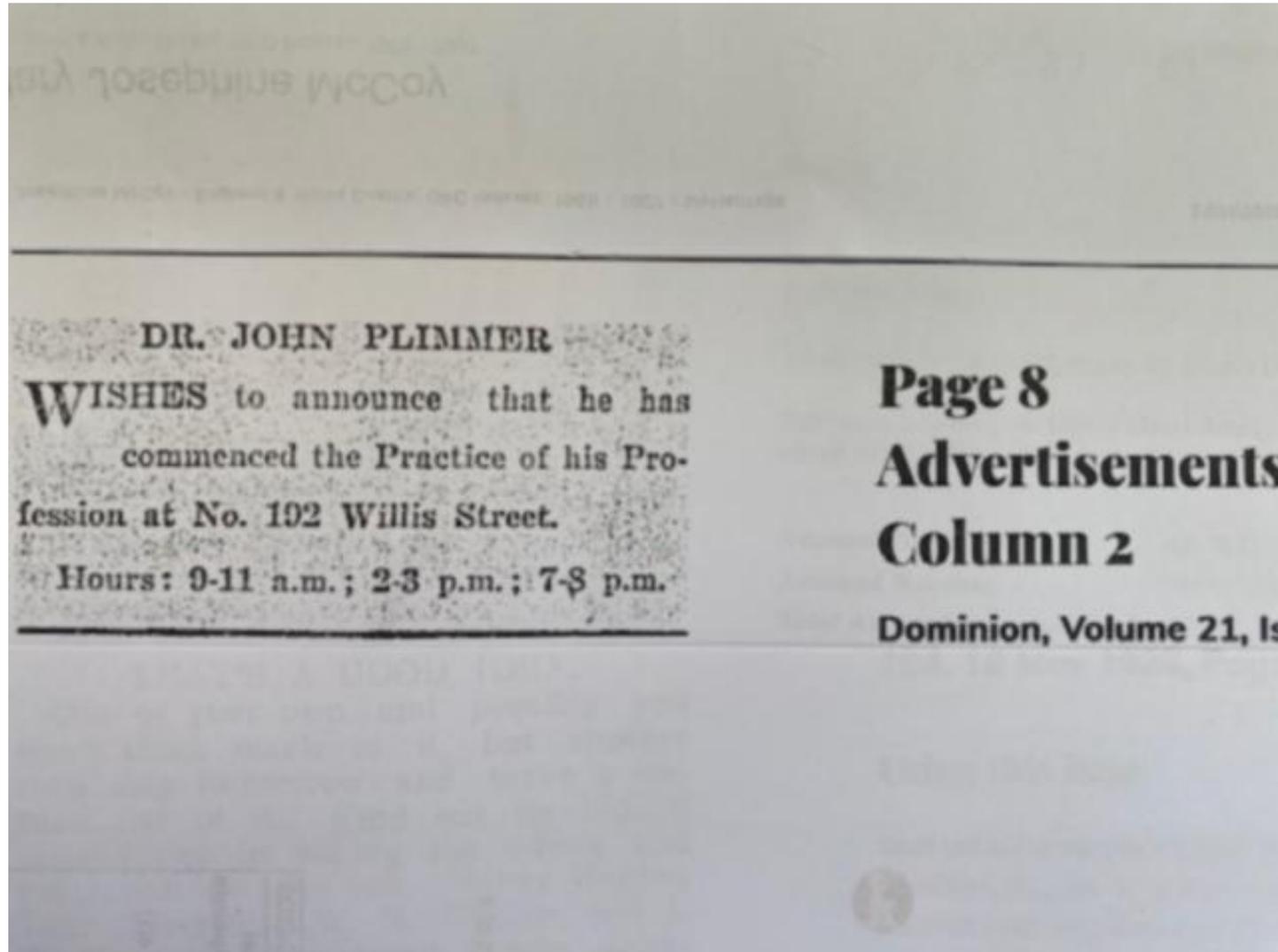
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## PERSONAL ITEMS

Dr. John Plimmer, son of Mrs. R. Plimmer, of Khandallah, who has been attached to the staff of St. Mary Abbott's Hospital, Kensington, London, returned to New Zealand by the Marama yesterday for the purpose of practising in this country. Mrs. Plimmer was a Miss Burt, of Dunedin.

# Professional Advertisement



JOHN PLIMMER  
M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

*192 Willis Street,  
Wellington, C.2.*

3rd. February, 1937.

THE MEDICAL REGISTER FOR 1931, COLONIAL LIST

Name.	Address.	Date of Registration.	Qualifications.
Pinhey, Eustace Townley	Union Infirmary, 2A, Bow road, London, E.3	1915, May 10	M.B., Ch.M. 1914, U. Sydney
Pinnock, Dudley Denham (see also U.K. List)	55, Queen Anne street, London, W.1	1913, June 14	M.B., B.S. 1908, U. Melb.
Piper, Cyril Thomas	c/o Bank of Adelaide, 11, Lindenhall street, London, E.C.3	1927, April 22	M.B., B.S. 1924, U. Adelaide; M.R.C.P. Lond., 1927
Piper, Keith Allender	Peel street, Tamworth, N.S.W.	1924, Dec. 15	M.B., Ch.M. 1921, U. Sydney
Piplani, Jagan Nath	The Eye Hospital, Jullundur City, India	1924, Oct. 21	M.B., B.S. 1919, U. Punjab
Pippy, Olive	Oak Park Hospital, Oak park, Ill., U.S.A.	1919, June 2	L.M.S. Nfd. M. Bd., 1919
Pitt, Clive Nelson	85, Cadogan place, London, S.W.1	1915, Feb. 12	M.B., Ch.M. 1911, U. Sydney
Pitkar, Rowland Jordan Gore Armstrong	17, Bolton street, Newcastle, N.S. Wales	1922, April 28	M.B., Ch.M. 1919, U. Sydney
Playoust, Roger Andrew	c/o Playoust File, 62, Basinghall street, London, E.C.2	1925, Nov. 21	M.B., Ch.M. 1924, U. Sydney
Plimmer, John Leonard Roden	c/o A. & T. Burt, Ltd., Eldon street house, London, E.C.2	1924, June 26	M.B., Ch.B. 1923, U. N. Zealand; F.R.C.S. Edin., 1926
Plouffe, Adrien Francis	Choqueux, Oise, France	1926, Aug. 19	M.D. Laval U., 1912
PLOURDE, Wilfrid Adelard	Lebrat, Sask., Canada	1922, July 10	M.D. Laval U., 1905
Plummer, Rex Gamet	13b, Kensington road, Adelaide, S. Australia	1910, Feb. 12	M.B., B.S. 1906, U. Adelaide
Poste, Hugh Raymond Guy	255, Macquarie street, Sydney, N.S. Wales	1908, July 20	M.B., Ch.M. 1907, U. Sydney
Pockley, Eric Oswaldiston	227, Macquarie street, Sydney, N.S. Wales	1902, Sept. 4	M.B. 1906, Ch.M. 1904, U. Sydney
Pockley, Francis Guy Antill	Macquarie street, Sydney, N.S. Wales	1913, Feb. 24	M.B. 1916, Ch.M. 1912, U. Sydney
Podnos, Arthur	85, Brunswick avenue, Toronto	1921, Nov. 21	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1920; M.B. U. Toronto, 1920
Poirier, Paul Henri	Victoria-ville, P.Q., Canada	1926, Dec. 11	L.C.P. & S., P.Q., 1926; M.D. Laval U., 1926
Pollock, John Melanchton	Moose Creek, Ont., Canada	1927, Feb. 3	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1914
Pomeroy, James Kris	Gainsborough, Sask., Canada	1926, July 23	M.C.P. & S. Sask., 1923
Pomroy, Harry Roy	185, North terrace, Adelaide	1923, June 26	M.B., B.S. 1915, U. Adelaide; F.R.C.S. Eng., 1925
Ponnampalam, John Henry	St. Thomas's Dispensary, Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.	1924, Oct. 13	L.M.S. Singapore M. Coll., 1920
Ponnampalam, Lizzie Henry	General Hospital, Seremban, F.M.S.	1920, June 9	L.M.S. Singapore M. Coll., 1915
Ponford, Frank William Augustus	329, Glenferrie road, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia	1915, May 28	M.B., B.S. 1908, U. Melb.
Porritt, Basil Ainslie	c/o High Commr. for N.Z., 415, Strand, London, W.C.2	1928, April 26	M.B., Ch.B. 1926, U. N. Zealand
Portell, John	Malayan Medical Service	1919, Feb. 10	M.D. U. Malta, 1916
Post, Arthur Raymond	66, Ross street, St. Thomas, Ont., Canada	1924, April 22	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1923; M.D. U. West. Ont., 1923
Postwala, Rustam Mancherji	c/o T. Cook & Son, Berkeley street, London, W.1	1915, Jan. 18	M.B., B.S. 1914, U. Bombay
Potter, Carlyle Thornton	6, Howley place, London, W.2	1926, Nov. 24	L.C.P. & S., P.Q., 1923; M.D., C.M. 1923, McGill U.
Powell, William Gayner	520, Ouellette avenue, Windsor, Ont., Canada	1921, Jan. 24	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1920; M.B. U. Toronto, 1920
Prabhakar, Narayan	1, Otryum Backroad, Bombay	1909, April 13	L.M.S. U. Bombay 1909
Prabhu, Muleswar	c/o St. Xavier's Hospital, Bombay	1920, Oct. 27	M.B., B.S. 1915, U. Bombay; M.R.C.P. Edin., 1920
Pradhan, Krishnarao Narayan	Singpur, C.P., India	1920, Oct. 18	L.M.B. U. Bombay, 1908
Prasad, Madhav	(L.M.S. in 1914) Luck. Ben- galy, U. P., India	1921, Aug. 10	M.B., B.S. 1916, U. Allahabad
Prattin, Frank Clayton	Queen Alexandra Street, E.C. 2, London, Ont., Canada	1918, Dec. 2	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1914; M.B. U. Toronto, 1912

THE MEDICAL REGISTER FOR 1931, COLONIAL LIST

Name.	Address.	Date of Registration.	Qualifications.
Prendergast, D'Arcy Jerome	124, Bloor street West, Toronto, Canada	1925, Mar. 27	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1922; M.B. U. Toronto, 1922
Preston, Henry Frederick	Box 533, Napanee, Ont., Canada	1920, Aug. 4	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1920; M.B. 1915, M.D., C.M. 1920, Q.U. Ont.
Prety, Henry Curth	General Hospital, Montreal	1930, Aug. 13	M.C.P. & S. Alta., 1930
Prevost, Jean Marc Elphege	34, Hutchison street, Montreal	1920, Jan. 30	M.D. Laval U., 1919
Price, Harold Warnica	140, 6th Avenue West, Calgary, Alta., Canada	1929, May 16	M.C.P. & S. Alta., 1928
Price, Rebecca	78, Grosvenor street, Toronto	1922, Jan. 13	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1921; M.B. U. Toronto, 1921
Primiani, Chandiram Hassomal	Garden road, Karachi, India	1922, Mar. 14	M.B., B.S. 1914, U. Bombay
Pritchard, John Raney	200, MacLaren street, Ottawa	1926, Mar. 15	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1923; M.B. U. Toronto, 1923
Pritchard, Joseph Edward	Ninette, Man., Canada	1919, April 5	M.C.P. & S. Man., 1917; M.D. U. Man., 1917
Proffit, Thomas David	103, West 138th street, New York City, N.Y., U.S.A.	1918, June 11	L.M.S. N. Scotia P.M. Bd., 1918
Puckle, Hugh Noel Murray	12, Collins street, Melbourne, Australia	1915, April 20	M.B., B.S. 1914, U. Melb.; F.R.C.S. Edin., 1920
Pullins, William Annesley	Curling, Newfoundland	1922, July 20	L.M.S. N. Scotia P.M. Bd., 1922; M.D., C.M. 1922, Dalhousie U.
Purchas, Arthur John Maurice	Lovell street, Young, N.S. Wales	1923, June 6	M.B., Ch.M. 1922, U. Sydney
Purcin, Frank Kidd	Griswold, Manitoba, Canada	1917, June 16	M.C.P. & S. Man., 1917; M.D. U. Man., 1916
Puri, Nehchal Das	Indian Medical Service	1913, Mar. 27	M.B. U. Punjab, 1912
Puri, Trilek Chand	Indian Medical Service	1926, July 29	M.B., B.S. 1924, U. Punjab
Puri, Ved Vias	c/o T. Cook & Son, Berkeley street, London, W.1	1927, Jan. 3	M.B., B.S. 1926, U. Punjab
Purnell, Kenneth Claud, M.C.	Byrie street, Geelong, Victoria, Australia	1919, April 9	M.B., B.S. 1916, U. Melb.
Purser, Joseph Alexander	Perth Hospital, Perth, W. Australia	1930, Nov. 14	M.B., B.S. 1928, U. Melb.
Purvis, George Stuart	Westminster Trust building, New Westminster, B.C.	1930, Feb. 25	M.C.P. & S. Ont. 1919; M.D., C.M. 1916, Q.U. Ont.
Purvis, Leonard Charles	Westboro, Ont., Canada	1919, June 24	M.C.P. & S. Ont., 1918; M.D., C.M. 1918, Q.U. Ont.
Pye, Aubrey David Dick	Kurrajong, N.S. Wales	1929, May 13	M.B., Ch.M. 1925, U. Sydney

# Current 192 Willis St

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# Three generations of John Plimmers

Willis St Obstetric Hospital Evening Post  
Reference 1/2-090567-F Alexander Turnbull Library



# White Tie Event Government House



# Entertaining at 192 Willis St

## BEFORE THE BALL

At their home, 192 Willis Street, Dr. and Mrs. John Plimmer entertained a number of their friends at a very enjoyable sherry party prior to the 2nd Field Ambulance Ball last night.

Mrs. Plimmer wore a charming frock of off-white satin and a band of blue in her hair. There were bowls of gold and yellow chrysanthemums in all the rooms, and lovely blazing fires.

Among those present were Colonel and Mrs. Bowerbank, Dr. and Mrs. David Whyte, Major and Mrs. Blinman-Bull, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cohen, Dr. and Mrs. Bolt, Captain and Mrs. Alan Tennent, Dr. and Mrs. Hughes Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Leicester, Mr. McCall, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stout, Lieutenant Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Grenfell Morgan, Mrs. H. Gilmer, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Levy, Mr. and Mrs. R. Buckleton, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Kemp, Mr. Stanley P. Wheeler, Dr. and Mrs. Rennie, Dr. Brown.

# Dr John Leonard Roden Plimmer





Leah Saywell  
Plimmer nee Burt



John and Leah at Trentham Races  
23 January 1939



the jar, & so can be collected. If however he wants a cobra he goes another way about it. The cobra is peculiar in that he must almost stand up to bite. He gets himself into this sort of position  & he springs forward from the angle. If he is lying flat he cannot strike. So the attendant holds his neck down with his stick & grabs the cobra by the tail. It is then quite harmless - his head can be grabbed & he is made to bite into a jar as before. It sounds simple doesn't it - I wouldn't do it for a week's pay. At the Hoffmann Institute they also make the serum which is a very deadly

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Selwyn House,  
College Street,  
Wanganui  
New Zealand

On arrival send  
to  
Mr John Penman,  
Wellington College,  
Days Bay,  
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29 Cambridge Street



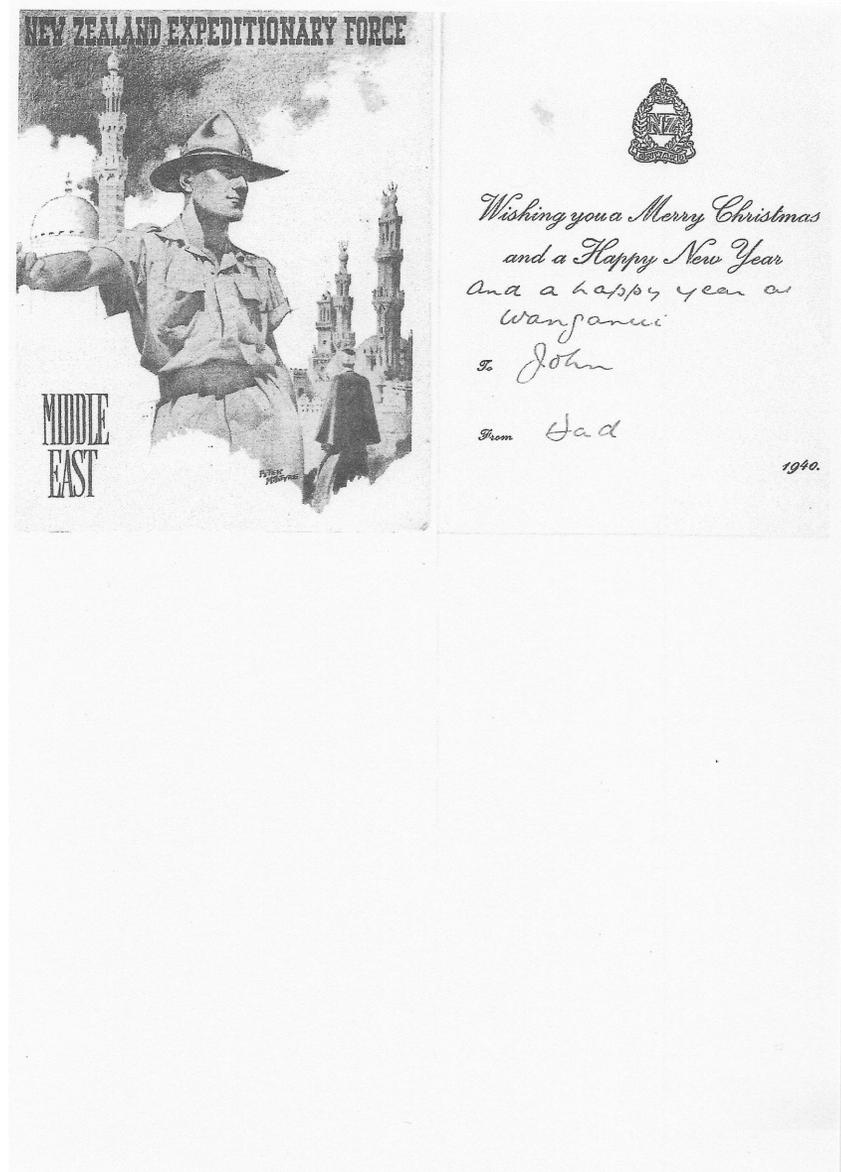


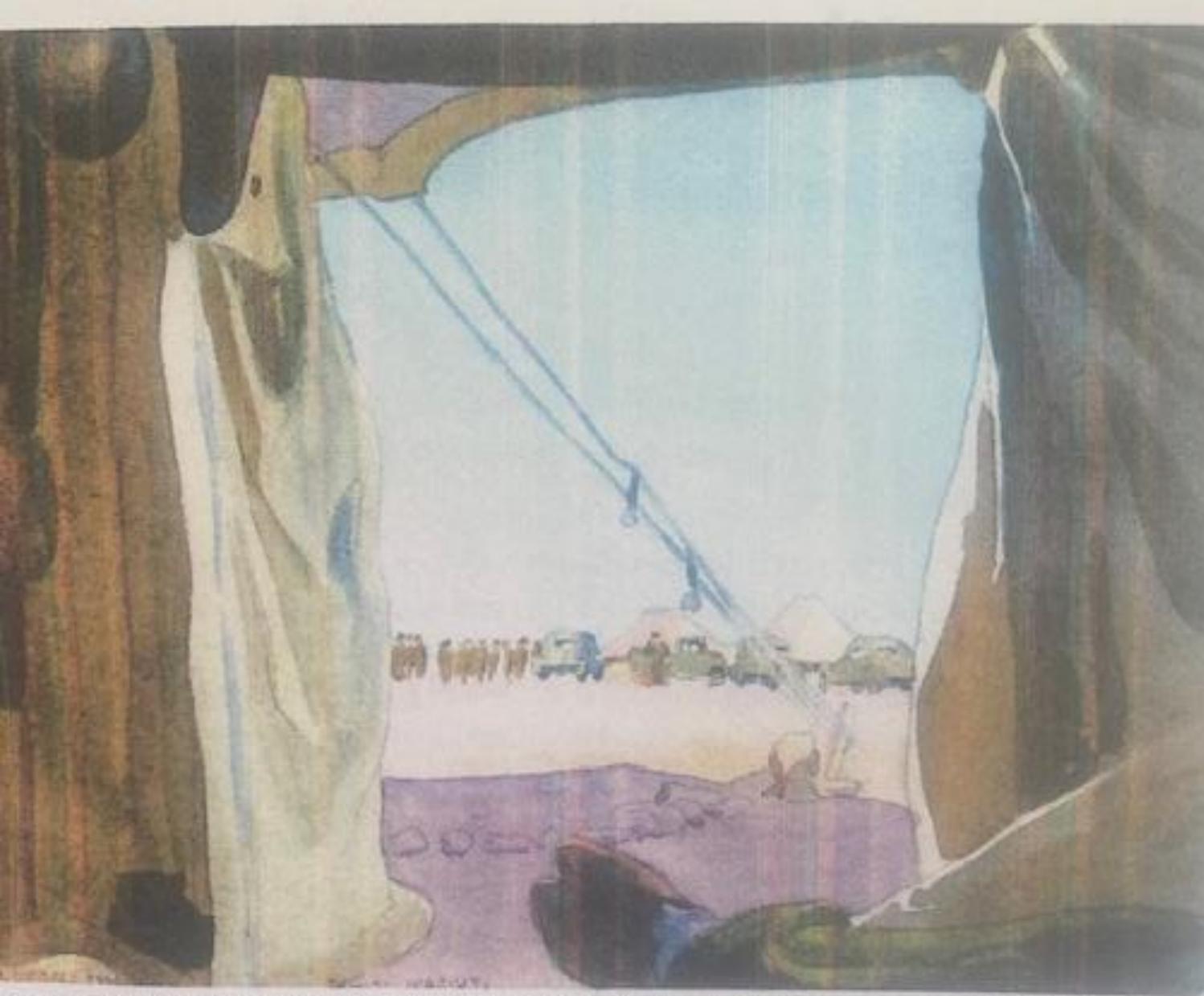
John at the Pyramids



John, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right

Christmas  
Card sent to  
son John 1940





# 6th Field Hospital at Ikingi Mariut

Ikingi Mariut, near Alexandria, Egypt, 1941, by Austen Deans. (Deans family collection) The artist was with 20th Battalion  
the section under Colonel Klippenberger. This was also the site of 6 Field Ambulance where in January 1941 Major  
set up a small hospital for Australian troops.





7 British General Hospital near Canea, Crete, May 1941. The building on the hill was used as an MDS by 5 Field Ambulance



## WAR CASUALTIES: FURTHER LIST OF MISSING

author is Mrs H. E. Davis, Wel-  
lington.

(P.A.)

WELLINGTON, May 23.

The following additional N.Z.E.F.  
casualties were announced to-day:—

### KILLED IN ACTION

**Flimmer, Major John Leonard Edwin.**

His wife is Mrs L. S. Flimmer, Wel-  
lington.

**Funnell, Captain Geoffrey Kiven.** His  
wife is Mrs M. S. Funnell, Danvers.

**Stodholme, Lieutenant Michael Paul.**  
His father is Mr P. Stodholme,  
Palmer.

In yesterday's list, Captain Wilfred  
George Sean McDonagh was stated to  
be killed in action. He was accidentally  
killed.

## WAR CASUALTIES: FURTHER LIST OF MISSING

author is Mrs Harold Williams, Victoria St.,  
23 May 1941, Page 4

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## NO ORGANISED BREACHES OF RULES OF WAR

(Rec. 11 a.m.) LONDON, May 9.

Brigadier L. M. Inglis, commander of the brigade in Crete, giving evidence in defence of his former enemy, General Student, at the War Crimes Tribunal at Luneberg, denied that the Germans used prisoners as screens for their attack against Crete. He also stated that the plane which dropped a bomb on the hospital was obviously trying to hit a number of troops on the beach. The behaviour of the German troops on Crete indicated that there were no organised breaches of the usages of war.

Student's counsel, after Brigadier Inglis's evidence, decided not to call any more of his 17 witnesses.

In his evidence Brigadier Inglis said one German officer entered the hospital and sprayed a ward with his tommy gun, and, it is believed, murdered Colonel Plimmer, commanding the field ambulance. However, it was the act of an individual who had lost his head. New Zealand troops who escaped after the capture reported good treatment from the German paratroops, although there were breaches when young garrison troops took over the care of the prisoners.

Replying to a question whether the German staff had not sufficient intelligence to know that the tented area was a hospital, Brigadier Inglis said: "I don't think we could say that. To answer in the affirmative would be unfair to the defence."

# Unveiling Ceremony at the Galatas Well Crete 1977

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# Memorial at Chania Museum





Lt. Col. J. L. R. PLUMMER, Commanding Officer of New Zealand 6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, was one of the first soldiers who were killed in duty during the Battle of Crete.



He was shot by the enemy close to a well in the area of Galatas, the first day of the occupation of the island by the Germans. That well had been dug by the soldiers of his unit, before the beginning of the hostilities, in order to supply them with water.

Thirty-Six years later, his comrades in arms, paid tribute to his memory, by placing a memorial plaque on the well. This plaque was dedicated to the Cretan people who allowed the soldiers to dig that well.

The two photographs on the right describe moments of the ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial plaque, 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1977.

# Three generations of John's family at the well at Galatea

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Son John with his grandchildren at Suda Bay Military Cemetery

# Three generations of John's family at his grave at Suda Bay

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1939-45 Star	Africa Star	War Medal 1939-45	New Zealand War Service Medal
			
Issued 22.05.1950	Issued 22.05.1950	Issued 22.05.1950	Issued 22.05.1950

His mother and his wife was issued with:



Lieutenant Colonel John LR Plimmer  
MB Ch B 1923 New Zealand FRCS Edin 1926

