

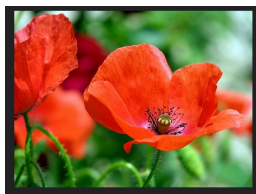
**In the First World War,** 28 New Zealand soldiers in northern France and southern Belgium were court-martialled and condemned to death, almost all for desertion in various forms. Some of the men were frequently in trouble; some were suffering from 'shell shock' (combat fatigue); some were not fully recovered from Gallipoli or injuries; and some were victims of indifference or dislike by their superior officers. Few were fairly represented at their courts martial.

Of these 28 men, 23 were later imprisoned or sent back to the front lines of their units. But five soldiers were shot. All of them were Privates.

**The Pardon for Soldiers of the Great War Act** became law in 14 Sept 2000, pardoning these five men executed during the First World War for either mutiny or desertion. In 2005 Prime Minister Hon. Helen Clark honoured their memory, and issued the medals, certificates and medallions which they earned serving in the war.

The members of the Quarantine Island/ Kamau Taurua Community feel that remembering these five soldiers in this way at Quarantine Island /Kamau Taurua fits in with our ideals of peace, social justice and restoration. As far as we know, it is the first such memorial to them in New Zealand.

It is set near the edge of the roughly-levelled 'parade ground', still discernible, made by the soldiers quarantined with disease on this Island 1915-18. As well as the post representing those to which the condemned men were bound, eight paving slabs represent the commanding officers and men in each firing squad, who were also victims, forced to shoot their own men.



**Lest we forget these men, also.**

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**Frank Hughes,** aged 28, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canterbury Infantry Regiment, shot at Hallencourt, France, 25 August 1916.

**John Sweeney,** aged 37, 1st Battalion Otago Infantry Regiment, shot at Méaulte, France, 2 October 1916.

**John (Jack) Braithwaite,** aged 35, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Otago Infantry Regiment, shot for mutiny by a British squad at Rouen, France, 29 October 1916.

**John King,** aged 32, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Canterbury Infantry Regiment, shot at Steenwerck, France, 19 August 1917. (*Born Frank Needs in Victoria, Aus, in 1885, he enlisted in NZ as John King.*)

**Victor Spencer,** aged 21 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Otago Infantry Regiment, shot at Mud Huts Field Punishment Camp, Dickebusche, Belgium, 24 February 1918.

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**World Peace Prayer** R. Salas

Lead me from death to life  
From falsehood to truth  
Lead me from despair to hope  
From fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love  
From war to peace  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
Our world, our universe.

**The Programme** (with approximate times):

**12.50pm** – Arrive at Back Beach jetty, Port Chalmers

**1pm** – Depart Back Beach. (Pick up from Portobello side by prior arrangement)

**1.10-1.30pm** Brief welcome at the Gateway or in the historic Married Quarters building

Walk up to the memorial site, at the edge of the 'parade grounds'

**1.45-2.15pm** Dedication

**2.30 – 3.30.** Afternoon tea and further conversation in the Lodge

**3.30 – 4.20** Visit chapel, Married Quarters building

**4.20 -4.30** to jetty, ready for departure.

Photo credits: Island Macrocarpas by Graeme Furness; Poppies Creative Commons

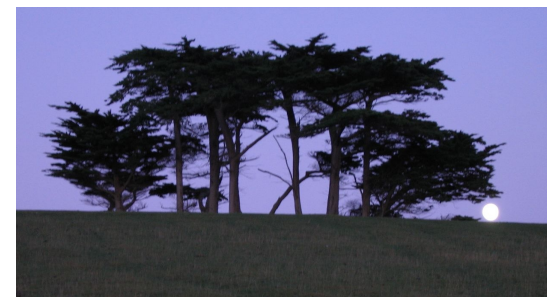
# Shot at Dawn

## Soldiers' Memorial

**Dedication**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

In honour of the five  
New Zealand Soldiers  
wrongfully executed in  
France and Belgium 1916-1918



**Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community**  
*(formerly St Martin Island Community)*