MASTERPIECE TO MASSACRE

THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION
AT PASSCHENDALE
OCTOBER 1917

Dead Reckoning
Passchendaele 1917
Conference
DAVE GALLAHER

AUCKLAND

wing forward
29
6ft
13st
I believe that if the weather had only held over another two or three weeks we would have Fritz well on the run in Flanders ... Now I fear that it must be a wash-out for the year – tough luck, but we take things as they are and keep plugging away.

Lt C.F. Sharland
I am of the opinion that the operations of the 49th and 66th Divisions, carried out today under great difficulties of assembly, will afford the II Anzac Corps a sufficiently good jumping off line for operations on October 12th, on which date I hope that the II Anzac Corps will capture Passchendaele.

[Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig]
Through some blunder our artillery barrage opened up about two hundred yards short of the specified range and thus opened right in the midst of us. It was a truly awful time – our men getting cut to pieces in dozens by our own guns. Immediate disorganization followed.

[Leonard Hart, 1 Otago Battalion]
Attack a failure on account of wire encountered. Casualties extremely heavy. Hun machine guns and snipers play havoc. Absolute hell. ... Brigade practically wiped out.

[Ernest Langford, 2 Otago Battalion]
Piko nei te Matenga
‘In short it [the First World War] shaped not just Europe but the world in the twentieth century. It was emphatically not a war without meaning or purpose.’

Professor Hew Strachan
From Masterpiece to Massacre: the New Zealand Division at Passchendaele, October 1917.

Harper, Glyn

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