

## JOHNSTONE, Godfrey Gleeson



### TUG-OF-WAR TEAM ("LECTURES")

Back Row - Students A. Campbell, N.J. Lipscomb, F. P. Mahony, O. Bennett, W. Groeneveld.

Middle Row - Students J. Morrow, I.E. Wessels, S. Campbell (Captain), G. Johnstone, T.F Rutherford.

Front Row - Students A.S. Goodchild, J. Neylan. (Student Watt absent.)

University Archives Ref. AI-45636 HAC Journal (Vol.11, No.7) July 1914 p.107



G.G. Johnstone

University Archives Ref. AI-46381 HAC Journal (Vol.14, No.2) February 1917 p.19



### COLLEGE 1<sup>ST</sup> RUGBY XV

Back Row - Students M.R. Wood, A. Milne, T.M. Ngata, J.A. Gruggen, R.W. Evans, J. Barry.

Sitting - Students R.T. Hall, J.M. Smith, H.C. Toole, **G.G. Johnstone (Captain)**, R. Wilson, P.N. Hinaki, J.E. Byrne. In Front - V. Bruce, J.M. Lord

University Archives Ref. AI-46373 HAC Journal (Vol.13, No.11- November 1916 p.155

Godfrey Gleeson Johnstone was born in New Zealand in 1895, the youngest of Robert and Anastasia's seven children. Godfrey's siblings were Mary b.1883, William Sanders b.1884, Louie b.1886, Melville b.1888, Allan Murray b.1890, and Robert Brydon b.1891.

Godfrey was 18 years old when he commenced the Full Diploma Course at HAC in 1914. His family were living at Motuotaria, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, and his father was a grazier.

Godfrey played in the Rugby Lectures Team as a scrum-half, was a member of the Lectures Tug-Of-War Team, and gained his First Year Certificate in Agriculture, coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the class in 1914.

The Journal reported frequently of Godfrey's good Rugby play and try scoring. He was part of the Football Committee in 1915 and 1916. He competed in the College Swimming Carnival in 1915, and at the 1916 Athletics carnival, was 1<sup>st</sup> in the heat the 120 yard hurdles semi-final, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Egg & Spoon Race.

Godfrey was Captain of the First XV Rugby team in 1916, and the Journal wrote that he had, 'piloted his team well throughout the season; a brilliant half, gets the ball away quickly to the backs. As a tackler and handler he is sure, is a fair kick, and very good generally in defence. In play his cross-kicking was effective on many occasions. Was at all times a keen and hard-working footballer' (Nov 1916 p.154).

Godfrey received Rugby Colours in 1914, 1915 and 1916. He also won a Rugby Honour Cap, and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Third Year Class Double Furrow Ploughing Match in 1916.

Godfrey left the College at the end of 1916 with the College Ambulance Certificate, a Burdekin Medal, Full Diploma, and the prize for the best essay on the Senior Students' Annual Excursion (a visit to the western districts of NSW in 1916). The Principal's reference stated that Godfrey's time at the College '...has been characterised by thoroughness and earnest attention to his duties. He has an admirable disposition and is trustworthy, active, capable and above all things very practical...He leaves with the best wishes and high esteem of his fellow students, the members of the staff and myself' (12/019637 Student Card).

Godfrey wrote to the College, 8 April 1917, saying 'next week I go down to train with the Royal Flying Corps' (August 1917 p.113). He wrote again from the '...School of Military Aeronautics, Reading [that he was] in the same tent with five Richmond aviators, Francis, Gregory, Tiddie, Burgess and Cleary' (September 1917 p.128).

Godfrey, a Second Lieutenant with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, was Killed In Action in France on 30 January 1918. He was 23 years old and is buried in the Merville Communal Cemetery, Merville, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

At least three of Godfrey's brothers also served in World War One. Melville, a Captain, served with the 27<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Royal Flying Corps and died on 16 July 1917, aged 28  
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/20636/johnstone,-melville/>

Allan Murray Johnstone was a law clerk when he enlisted as a corporal with the New Zealand No.2 Field Ambulance. He was a farmer when he returned to New Zealand after WWI, and died on 10 July 1943, aged 53.

Robert Bryden Johnstone was initially in the Royal Field Artillery but also trained for the Royal Flying Corps. He qualified at the Military School, Stamford on 30 September 1918 as a Lieutenant on a B.E. 2e Biplane. He survived the war, returning to New Zealand to his sheep farm. He never married and died there in 1983 aged 92

<https://mccollierheritage.wordpress.com/2017/04/25/anzac-day-2017-additional-family-military-personnel/>