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News from



The Okains Bay Museum

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Armistice Day, 11th November 2018 - commemorating 100 years since the end of WW1
There will be an afternoon tea at the Okains Bay Museum to continue the day's memorial with the unveiling of the new military exhibition to remember fallen soldiers.

In our militaria collection we have some items from the **Chrystall** family who fought in WW1. Four brothers served in WW1; **Harvey** in the Royal Navy Division, **Gordon** in the Royal Engineers, **Dr William Purvis** a volunteer in the Malay Peninsula and **John Inglis Chrystall** who was the only New Zealander to serve in the Hussar Regiment.

In 1906, **John Inglis Chrystall** took the Diploma course at Canterbury Agricultural College, however, in 1912 aged 25, he enlisted in the ranks of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars. After 2 years' service in India, John received a commission and was posted to the 18th Hussars. He had a distinguished career, spent mainly in the Middle East. He received the Military Cross and on one occasion, he was in an aircraft directing action on the ground below when his pilot was shot in the back. With the pilot bleeding badly and a fear that he would collapse, John refused to leave by parachute. The aircraft was able to land, and both men survived. When he retired at the end of WW2, **John was Major-General of the 13th Hussars and in command of the entire Cairo area.** He died in 1950 in Quebec, when returning to the UK after visiting his daughter in New Zealand.

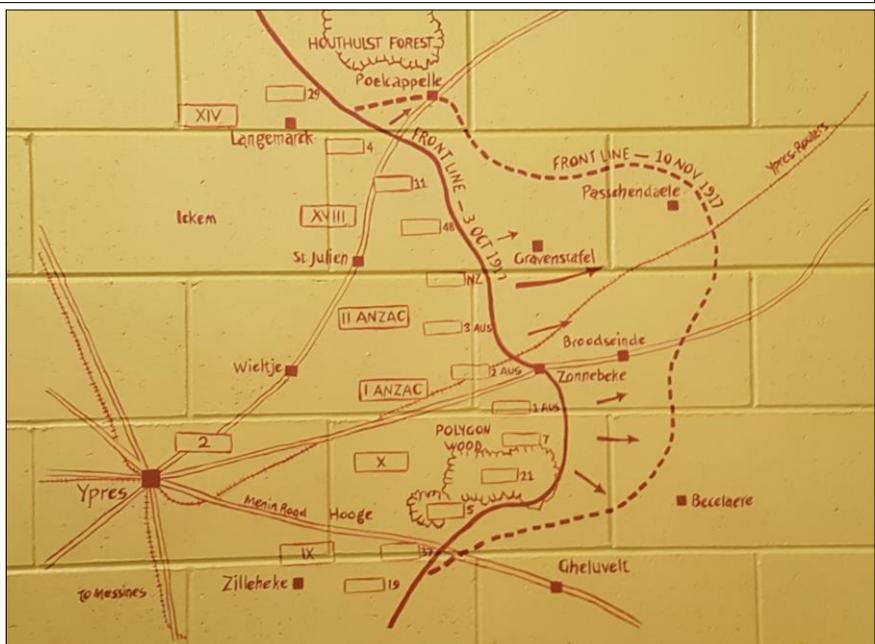
Map showing the front line at Passchendaele before and afterwards where a number of Okains Bay men died on 10th October 1918, notably **Herbert Harris** and **Spence McKay**. The memorial plaque also known as 'dead man's penny' and gold brooch given to Spence's mother are held at the museum.



JOHN INGLIS CHRYSTALL
(As Major-General, Cairo, 1941)

Military Cross of John Inglis Chrystall awarded for services in Mesopotamia which we have in our collection - one of the centre pieces of the **revamped military exhibition at the museum.**

We also have the miniatures of his medals and the service medals for his brother, Gordon Chrystall, who was in the Royal Engineers.



Donations & subscriptions to: Account: 02 0832 0047258 00, BNZ Akaroa, Okains Bay Museum Trust.