

= Fred Waite ( politician ) =

Fred Waite , CMG , DSO , OBE , VD ( 21 August 1885 ? 29 August 1952 ) was a New Zealand farmer , historian , politician , and soldier who served in both the First and Second World Wars .

Born in Dunedin , Waite was a farmer at the outbreak of the First World War . He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force ( NZEF ) and served in the Gallipoli Campaign , during which he received the Distinguished Service Order . He was evacuated from Gallipoli due to sickness and repatriated to New Zealand , where he saw out the war as an instructor in NZEF training camps . He wrote a history of New Zealand 's military efforts during the Gallipoli Campaign that was published in 1919 . He returned to his farm and soon became involved in politics , joining the Reform Party . In 1925 he was elected Member of Parliament for the Clutha electorate , serving two terms . He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1934 . During the Second World War , Waite was overseas commissioner for the National Patriotic Fund Board and was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his services in this role . Two years later he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George . He died in 1952 at the age of 67 .

= = Early life = =

Waite was born in Dunedin on 21 August 1885 , one of eight children of George Waite , a storekeeper , and his wife . After leaving Mornington School , he worked for the regional newspaper , the Otago Daily Times , and for the Otago Witness . He was a typesetter when he married Ada Taylor in 1912 but the following year took up farming near Balclutha . He was interested in the military and was a member of an engineers unit in the Volunteer Force , which was later re @-@ organised into the Territorial Force ( TF ) .

= = First World War = =

Following the outbreak of the First World War , Waite volunteered for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force ( NZEF ) that was being raised for service overseas . He also undertook to send dispatches from the front for his previous employer , the Otago Witness , but this work proved short @-@ lived when he became a censor as part of his military duties . He was posted as a lieutenant in the New Zealand Engineers and sailed with the main body of the NZEF to the Middle East in October 1914 .

Promoted to captain , Waite participated in the Gallipoli Campaign . In early May 1915 , he restored order amongst personnel of the Otago Infantry Battalion following a failed attack on Turkish positions . He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order , the citation reading : " For gallantry and devotion to duty in connection with the operations at the Dardanelles ( Mediterranean Expeditionary Force ) . On the night of 2 @-@ 3 May 1915 during the operations in the neighbourhood of Gape Tepe for gallantry and resource in rallying his men , and leading them forward at critical moments " .

Later in the campaign Waite served as the adjutant of the New Zealand Engineers and was twice mentioned in dispatches . Evacuated to England with dysentery , he was repatriated to New Zealand in 1916 . His service with the NZEF ceased and he returned to the TF in his pre @-@ war rank of major . He took up an appointment as Chief Engineer Instructor of the NZEF training camps .

Shortly before the end of the war , Waite wrote a brief account of New Zealand 's contributions to the Gallipoli Campaign . Authorities invited him to prepare a more substantial work and this resulted in the The New Zealanders at Gallipoli , the first volume in a series of the Official History of New Zealand 's Effort in the Great War , published in 1919 . Two years later it was republished as a revised edition . Waite also worked on the production of the three other volumes in the series , which were published around the same time .

= = Interwar period = =

After the war , Waite returned to his Balclutha property which he converted to dairy farming . He remained a member of the TF for several years and was a major in the Otago Mounted Rifles Regiment before being promoted to lieutenant colonel and becoming its commander from 1927 to 1930 . For his prolonged service with the TF , he eventually received the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers ' Decoration . In 1935 he was awarded the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal . Already involved in the dairying industry , he began to participate in the governance of the sector and set up the Co @-@ Operative Dairy Company of Otago . He later joined the New Zealand Farmer 's Union and was president of its Otago Branch .

As well as his work in the dairying sector , Waite soon became involved in local politics and joined the Reform Party . He first stood for election to the House of Representatives in 1925 , when he defeated the incumbent in the Clutha electorate , John Edie of the Liberal Party , with ease . He was one of 13 new members in a House of 80 representatives . In the 1928 election , he was challenged by Joseph Stephens , who was an independent candidate describing himself as Liberal @-@ Labour . Waite had a 523 @-@ vote margin , which represented 6 @.@ 5 % of the valid votes . In the 1931 election , Waite was defeated by Peter McSkimming , who stood as an Independent , but had links to the United Party .

Prime Minister George Forbes had not made appointments to the Legislative Council since 1930 , with the exception of James Parr in 1931 , and membership dwindled during the years of the Great Depression . By 1934 , the membership had reduced to 19 , the lowest since 1860 , with two members about to retire . In 1934 , 14 new members were appointed by Forbes , including Waite . All appointments became effective on 22 June 1934 , and Waite , at age 49 , was the second youngest of the intake ; only Vincent Ward was younger . Waite was reappointed twice , and served until the abolition of the Upper House in 1950 .

When the National Party was formed in 1936 from the merger of Reform and the United Party , publicity was one of the major considerations . The party 's provisional council established a sub @-@ committee consisting of Henry Livingstone , Frederick Doidge , and Waite . This committee reported back in February 1937 , recommending the establishment of a Dominion publicity committee , and a trustee company for the purpose of publishing a party newsletter . Party Publications Ltd was thus created , and Waite was the first editor of The National News . Initially , all financial members were to receive this monthly newsletter , aimed at being a counterpart to Labour 's Standard . While The National News performed an important function during the party 's formative years , the venture was expensive and following the 1938 election , it was changed to a quarterly schedule , before being discontinued in September 1939 just after the outbreak of the war .

The seven @-@ member Dominion publicity committee , of which Waite was a member , engaged three advertising companies to jointly prepare for the 1938 election . Two of those companies , John Illott and Charles Haines , remained joint agents for the National Party until 1973 .

= = Second World War = =

When the Second World War began , Waite was still a lieutenant colonel in the TF . He was appointed overseas commissioner for the National Patriotic Fund Board . Based in Egypt , he worked to provide the soldiers of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force with special supplies and treats . His services in this capacity were recognised in 1944 with his appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire . He finished the war a colonel , working in Europe on the repatriation of New Zealand personnel recently released from prisoner @-@ of @-@ war camps in Germany . In 1946 , he travelled to Japan to inspect the infrastructure set up for J @-@ Force , New Zealand 's contribution to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force , following which he retired from the military . In the 1946 King 's Birthday Honours , he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George .

= = Later life = =

In his retirement , Waite wrote papers on archeology and history including one on Egyptian pottery . While in Cairo during the Second World War , he collected several historical antiquities on behalf of the Otago Museum . In 1951 Waite was granted the right to retain the title of " Honourable " , having served more than 10 years as a member of the Legislative Council . In his later years , his health was poor and he died in Balclutha in 1952 at the age of 67 . He was survived by his wife and a daughter .