



Will and Bob Orr were the sons of Matilda and John who made their home in Maheno. It is fitting therefore, that their memorial oaks stand in this place- a living tribute to two local boys who gave their lives for King and Country during the Great War

John William Orr was born in Maheno on April 4th 1886. He was employed as a Ploughman in Makikihi when he signed up for military service. His records show that he was 5 foot 9 inches in height weighing 12 stone 7 pounds with brown hair and eyes. He had a tattoo on his right wrist.

Will served with the Auckland Infantry Regiment Waikato Company when he was killed at Passchendaele on October the 4th 1917. He has no known grave but his name is recorded on the Tyne Cot Memorial near the ground where he fell in Belgium.

Robert Charles Orr was Will's younger brother. He was born on April the 4th 1889 exactly 3 years after Will. He was working as a labourer in Waimate when he enlisted. He was 5 foot 6 inches tall and weighed 10 stone 10 pounds with brown eyes and black hair.

Bob is recorded as being slightly deaf. He was also part of the Auckland Infantry Regiment and was killed in action on Wednesday Feb 21st 1917 in France, just months before Will's death. Bob rests in Pont Du Hem Military Cemetery in France.

Their names, their service and their stories endure- not only on memorials far away, but here in Maheno, where these oaks will grow strong and tall in their memory. May their courage and devotion never be forgotten.