

THE TWENTY THREE

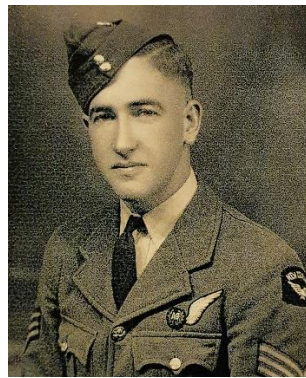
CATCHING UP WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OF...

ALFRED CHURCHILL LOCKYER

CHARLES AGNEW

GEORGE GOODALL BELL

SIDNEY WILLIAM CAINS



Richard and I flew from Nelson in the South Island to Auckland at the top of the North Island. Picking up a hire car, we drove to visit Sid's family members who live close to the Northland town of Pakaraka where Sid was born and raised before he left to join the war in Europe. Over the last couple of years I have been in contact with Trish Edwards who is Sid's great niece. Trish invited us to stay at her farm in Okaihau. There we met her husband K.J., their 4 adult sons, cousin Margaret and 2 of Trish's nephews. Big family!



That evening, we were delighted to meet with Trish's father, Sidney James Tubbs (Jim) who is now a very active 85 years young. Jim, who now lives in Kerikeri is Sid's nephew.



Jim was named by his mother Hilda after the two brothers she lost during World War II – Sidney and James Cains.

Sid was a Wireless Operator and Air Gunner with the RAF and James (pictured here) was assigned to the Army. James lost his life at El Alamein. Sid died when his Halifax crashed shortly after take-off. He died on the 14th February 1943.

Richard and Gertrude Cains, known as Dick and Gertie were Sid's parents. They are buried at Kerikeri Public Cemetery. This was our first stop on the evening we arrived. Pictured below are Trish and her dad Jim in front of Dick and Gertie's grave. Jim was raising a toast to his grandparents of whom he has interesting but fond memories.



Waking the next morning to bright sunshine, Jim returned to the Edwards family farm and we set off down a road of remembrance. Our first visit was to Kaikohe where both Sid and his brother James are remembered on the area's War Memorial. Once located at the RSA building, now closed, the memorial was moved some four years ago to the front of the Town Hall building. We popped a couple of flowers by the memorial and said thanks for their sacrifice. Trish and her family visit every ANZAC day.



Leaving Kaikohe we drove to Pakaraka. I was so happy to be here, standing in front of the sign after having done so much research about this place and knowing that this is where Sid was born and raised. As the bird flies... I had travelled over 19,500 kms to be in front of this meaningful sign!



In Pakaraka we visited the Community Hall that Gertie would have frequented with the Women's Institution, serving teas and helping. Gertie was a very religious woman and our next visit was to Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Pakaraka.



It was here that Gertie and Dick would have brought their sons Sid and James for Sunday morning service. Jim, pictured in front of the church has relatives on his mother's side buried here.



Gertie was fond of planting trees, both on her farm and elsewhere! When she lost her sons, she planted oak trees for each of them. Trish stands in front of one of those trees.



Our final trip down memory lane with the family took us to Dick and Gertie's farm just outside of Pakaraka. The farm was owned by the Cains family and is where their children were born and raised.



Now owned by Sue and Tim Moorhouse and completely different to when the original home was here, part of the main house still remains. Thank you Sue and Tim for allowing us to roam your property and meet Jasmin, your friendly donkey



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO TRISH, K.J. AND JIM FOR WELCOMING US INTO YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR HOME. THANK YOU FOR SHARING ALL YOUR MEMORIES OF YOUR BELOVED SIDNEY JAMES CAINS.