

# Richmond in 1918: Article in 'The Star' from Papers Past

### LATE WAR NEWS.

#### DEATH OF LENIN.

**BOLSHEVIK LEADER.**

United Service.  
LONDON, September 1.  
M. Lenin is dead.

### POLICE PAY.

#### DISSATISFACTION IN NEW ZEALAND.

**NO INCREASE DURING WAR.**

The increase of thirteen shillings a week granted to the London police by Mr Lloyd George probably represents a very substantial percentage above the average rate of pay for London constables a few years back was thirty shillings a week and in the case of 40s at the end of the war.

### CASUALTIES.

#### TO-DAY'S LIST.

[PER PRESS ASSOCIATION.]  
WILLIAMS, September 2.  
The following names were listed today:  
AUCKLAND MILITARY DISTRICT.  
KILLED IN ACTION.  
TOWNSEND, August 24, ROMAN, 18th Brigade, August 24.  
DIED OF WOUNDS.  
MILLER, August 24.

### RICHMOND'S EXPANSION.

#### A STURDY SUBURB.

**IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AND IN HAND.**

In a thrilling race a party of four workers were steadily improving the town.

### INQUEST.

#### GIRL KNOCKED DOWN BY G.C.

An inquest was held by Mr H. W. Brown, Coroner, at the Hospital last night concerning the death of a girl.

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## New Zealand Government

Public Notice

Latest additions to Newspapers (August 2019).

- Ashburton Guardian (1922-1950)
- Industrial Union (1913)
- Wairarapa Daily Times (1920-Mar 1938)

What's new?

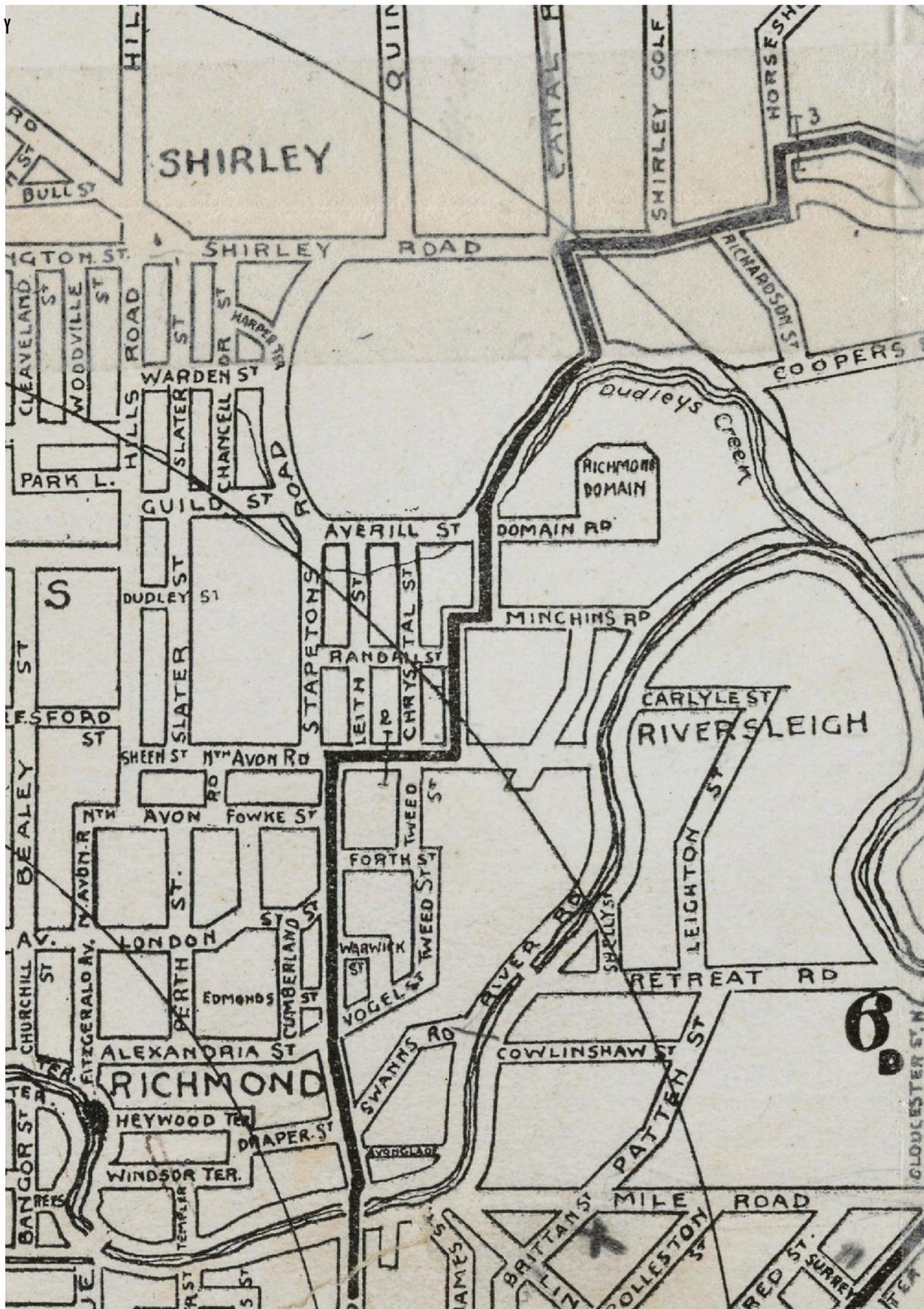
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THE CAPTURE OF PERONNE.

TO PUNA MĀTURANGA O AOTEAROA

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From: **Map of Christchurch and suburbs, 1922.**

Scale [ca. 1:15,840]

CCLMaps 141654

Available to view at: (<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Maps/141654.asp>)

# Introduction

Papers Past (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>) is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in our history. The website is a service of the National Library of New Zealand and houses scanned copies of many historical New Zealand publications. Items include newspapers, magazines & journals, letters & diaries and parliamentary papers. All items are searchable and it can be quite addictive following the hot topics of days gone by.

Amongst the many newspapers available are several Christchurch ones covering the following periods:

*Globe* 1874–1882

*Lyttelton Times* 1851–1920

*Press* 1861–1945

*Star* 1868–1920

*Sun* 1914–1920

The 2 September 1918 issue of *The Star* included on page 6 an article about Richmond. The article has been transcribed here on pages 3 & 4. The article gives a vivid impression of Richmond at the time, especially the area beyond North Avon Road, which had only become part of Christchurch City in 1914; before then it had been part of Waimairi Council which itself had only been formed in 1909, comprising the combined areas of the Riccarton and Avon Road Boards.

I have added some notes where appropriate, to provide background or correct errors. There is no by-line, so we do not know who the “*Star*” reporter was. The writing seems a bit flowery these days, and some of the wording is, not surprisingly, somewhat dated. Still, it’s good to know we live in a ‘sturdy’ suburb.

The map on p1 is an excerpt from a 1922 map, the nearest date I could find to the article. The map shows the tram route to New Brighton through Richmond (the dark line) and invites closer inspection. It can be fun to pick out changes compared with today. More information about street names is available in the document “*Richmond Street Names*”, also available on the Richmond History group web page (<https://www.aveburyhouse.co.nz/richmond-history-group>).

Feel free to explore the riches of Papers Past. The details of this article are:

PERMANENT LINK TO THIS ITEM: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TS19180902.2.47>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS: *Star, Star, Issue 12412, 2 September 1918*

WORD COUNT: 977

**David Hollander**

**September 2019**

*The Star, 2 September 1918*

## **RICHMOND'S EXPANSION.**

### **A STURDY SUBURB.**

#### IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AND IN HAND.

In a drizzling rain a party of four workmen were stolidly shovelling the ploughed-up top surface of a grassy roadway into a dray in a way-back portion of Richmond. A "Star" reporter who had been making a half-skating progress down a greasy pathway watched the loaded dray turn round, and proceed to empty its load of spoil on an adjacent property, what time [sic] another dray took its place. So the process went on. He was led to make an inquiry as to what this activity in that quiet little road betokened. And the foreman in charge, who was doing his bit with the shovel, told him. It was the progressive arm of Greater Christchurch that was at work. The locality was Domain Road, North Richmond, not long since taken under the wing of the city<sup>1</sup>, and since Christmas last that working party had been steadily making an impression on the "country" thereabout in the matter of channelling and road-grading, those first essentials in clothing erstwhile rural lands with the garb which a civic regime impels. Stapletons Road, Medway Street. Domain Road and North Parade have each received attention and the transformation process still goes on.

That is the sort of evidence that bespeaks a municipal guardianship. Other evidence of the growth of Richmond, though, is overwhelming to the stranger wandering along its highways. On every hand substantial dwellings are to be seen, and they are the pride of the Richmond burgess, who points to them as an indication that, this place has left the backwoods stage behind and is on the high road to falling rapidly into line in other respects with older established parts of the city.

"This was all one big farm not so very long ago," said a workman to the reporter, "and Mr Gardener [sic],<sup>2</sup> the owner, gave to the people of Richmond their domain<sup>3</sup>. It was a case of getting bogged in the roads then in wet weather, but we are gradually getting nearer civilisation."

The reporter had a look at the domain, and it must be confessed that here the city, to which it has recently been handed over, had much to do. It is only a few acres in extent, but the ground is in a very rough state. "They generally bring a mower and cut the grass once a year," he was informed. To whom the "they" referred, he was not enlightened, but doubtless "they" will do more than that. The pavilion is in a very dilapidated condition, and the vandal has been allowed to give full fling to his mischievous bent.

Richmond is a pleasing suburb, and in this spring time, with its countless trim gardens, fruit trees bursting into blossom wherever the eye alights, and the many patches of pasture land dotted here and there with the old-time gorse hedges abloom, affords to those passing through, whether by motor, tram, bicycle or on foot, a charming variety of scene. The district was originally known as Bingsland, so called after Mr Bing, an enterprising settler who a half century ago foresaw the trend of the city and cut up his property for closer settlement. An agitation some thirty-five years ago by Mr G. Swann, M.P., and others caused the name to be altered to Richmond, a change not officially countenanced by the Government, as to this day

the local police station retains the name of Bingsland. The difficulty lies in the fact that in Nelson Province there is another district, long-established, called Richmond, and a duplication of names is not favoured. Formerly in the Avon Road District Richmond was merged into the city and as a ward had one representative on the city council. In 1903<sup>4</sup> it amalgamated with the city and became a part of Greater Christchurch. Its main approach is by the trams, which run through the district up Stanmore Road. Stanmore Road, by the way, is one of the narrowest streets in the Dominion utilised for a tram service. In parts it has been widened by gifts and purchases of land, but there is much yet to be done in this direction to make it a tolerably safe avenue for traffic. In some parts of the district the corners of roadways are stated to be traps for the unwary, a danger which is increased by insufficient cognisance being taken of tall trees and overgrown hedges. Swann's Road is remarked upon as a special case in point.

Eight years ago Richmond was considerably, extended by the Church property being brought into the market, and purchased by a syndicate, who roaded North Richmond, making a new settlement. Sufficient indication of the progress made is presented by the facts that in this northern portion there are now three churches and a school<sup>5</sup>, and so rapid has been the growth of the residential area that a present problem for the Education Board is the permanent enlargement of the school at Shirley.

There is a sum of money on the Parliamentary Estimates for a post office for Richmond, a site for which has been procured at the corner of Stanmore and North Avon Roads<sup>6</sup>. Mrs Hadfield's residence on Stanmore Road<sup>7</sup> was purchased some time ago for a Government Boys' Home, and this has been established about six months. The Richmond main school<sup>8</sup> has a roll of 653 scholars, and the progress made under the successive headmasters, Messrs C. Howard, W. Brock and J. W. MacGregor, has brought it to the forefront among primary educational institutions in the Canterbury district.

Notable among other institutions in the district is the Working Men's Club<sup>9</sup>, which is conducted on the best lines, and possesses a very creditable library of over 3000 volumes. Richmond has its many trading businesses and other features consistent with a go-ahead suburb, detailed reference to which cannot be adequately made in a hasty summary.

#### **Notes**

1. *Domain Road was renamed Poulton Ave in 1935. North Richmond became part of Christchurch City in 1914.*
2. *A spelling mistake: Henry Dent Gardiner (1828–1909) purchased part of Rural Section 182 from E. C. Minchin around 1889. Previously he had owned Purau Station and before that had owned land near Papanui where his name is commemorated in Gardiner's Rd.*
3. *Now Richmond Park. Five acres of "land for recreation purposes at Bingsland" was purchased - from Mr E. C. Minchin for £700 by Selwyn County, on recommendation of the Avon Road Board in 1882.*
4. *The date is incorrect. Richmond, (the area south of North Avon Road) joined the City in 1890. This was the first expansion of the city beyond the four avenues (then called the town belts). In 1903, after years of discussion, argument and negotiation, the boroughs of Linwood, St. Albans & Sydenham amalgamated with the city. This was celebrated at the time as the formation of 'Greater Christchurch'.*

5. *The churches were: St. Stephens (Anglican), Hills Rd near Warden St., Shirley Methodist Church, corner North Parade & New Brighton Rd and the Richmond Mission, North Avon Rd. Shirley School opened at 10 Shirley Road (between Slater & Chancellor streets) in 1916.*
6. *A Post Office was never built on this site, which remained a vacant lot for many years before being sold in 1960s. In 1918 the nearest Post Office was in Linwood at the corner of Stanmore Road & Worcester St.*
7. *A document about the Hadfield family and their house in Stanmore road is available at the Richmond History Group webpage (<https://aveburyhouse.co.nz/richmond-history-group>).*
8. *More information about Richmond school is also available at the Richmond History Group webpage.*
9. *The centennial history of the RWMC is available at the Richmond History Group webpage.*

### **Sources**

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*CCC/ARC?300/3*

*Old ANZ Ref: CH 357/3*

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