

## 01-19-1916 Southbeach New Zealand – M.J. Dillon – LEO Attempted Surf Rescue

### Police officer 27th to die on duty

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/528599/Police-officer-27th-to-die-on-duty>

11/07/2008



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A further 13 police officers have died on duty in a non-criminal act, the first in 1845 when a Sergeant Garvey died in a blizzard at Ranfurly, Central Otago on his way to inspect mine diggings near Naseby.

\* 1916: Constable A J Dillon drowned on the West Coast trying to save a woman from drowning.

### "Surf Bathing Accident".

*Grey River Argus. 19 January 1916. p. 3. Retrieved 2008-10-19.*

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/GRA19160119.2.10>

### **SURF BATHING ACCIDENT TWO BATHERS DROWNED ON SOUTH BEACH, CONSTABLE DILLON AND NURSE REGAN.**

The beautiful weather of the past few days has brought forth the surf bathers in large numbers, and each day the bathing area has been crowded. Yesterday there was a very large crowd on the beach, and many were in the surf. The water appeared to a casual observer to be very calm, but appearances were deceptive, for there was a very strong cross-current, which had worn out a deep gut at one place.

Shortly before four o'clock a party consisting of Nurse Began and Nurse Hymes, both of the Grey River Hospital Staff, and Constable M. J. Dillon and Mt H. Bowman, were bathing a considerable distance out, Nurse Began and Constable Dillon being well in advance of the others.

Nurse Began evidently got into difficulties and Constable Dillon went to her assistance, and she seized hold of him. Constable Dillon called out to Mr. Bowman that assistance was required. At this moment Nurse Hymes also got into difficulties, and Bowman went to her assistance, and after a desperate struggle succeeded in getting her ashore, both being very much exhausted.

A lad named Bevan, a son of Mr. Bevan, manager of the Bank of New Zealand, saw the plight that Constable Dillon and Nurse Began were in, and immediately gave the alarm. The reel on the beach was brought down, but the rope was too short. The

other reel is kept locked up in a shed, the door of which had to be, broken to reach it. Master Bevan then went out with the line and found Nurse Began floating in about three feet of water, and he immediately brought her ashore. There was no sign of Constable Dillon, who had evidently been carried out to sea. Artificial respiration was resorted to in the case of Nurse Began, and kept up for over two hours, but no sign of life was shown.

Constable Dillon was a splendid swimmer and well versed in life-saving work, and it is probable that Nurse Began, who was a tall and powerful, girl, caught him unexpectedly, and that he became exhausted with the struggle and was carried to sea.

Nurse Began, who was a probationer nurse in the Grey River Hospital, belongs to Christchurch, and had been in Greymouth only a short time.

The sad event cast quite a gloom over the town.

Constable Dillon, who had been in the Police Force about seven years, and for about two years in Greymouth was an Irishman by birth, and about thirty-two years of age. He was a splendid type of athlete, and proficient at all kinds of manly' exercises. He was exceedingly popular and his sudden demise will cause universal regret.

Since the above was in print we have been given an account of the accident which differs somewhat.

One lad Bevan was bathing near Nurse Began, and said that she was in difficulties. He shouted to those on the beach to come to her assistance, but no heed was taken by them. Constable Dillon, who was bathing near, however, quickly; went to her assistance, but she jumped on his back, clasping him tightly round, the throat. Master Bevan had some difficulty in getting ashore, and he then succeeded in making it apparent to those on the beach that assistance was wanted. Master Bevan's brother then went out and brought in the body of Nurse' Began as already described. If those on the beach had acted on the first alarm, our informant is convinced that neither Constable Dillon nor Nurse Began would have been drowned.

## **Life lines - A Genealogy Blog**

### **John Worrell Langridge's family**

<http://niddfamily.blogspot.com/2011/06/john-worrell-langridges-family.html>

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

**RODGERS—LANGRIDGE** *A very pretty wedding was celebrated at 8 o'clock yesterday morning at the Holy Trinity Church, the contracting parties being: Constable John Rogers, a native of County Mayo, Ireland, and a popular member of the local police force, and Miss Esther Mary Langridge, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Langridge, of Barrytown and formerly of Dillmanstown.*

*The marriage was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon York, assisted by the Ven. W. Venables, MA.*

*The bride, looking radiantly happy, and was given away by her father, and wore a white, glace silk dress, tastefully trimmed insertion, beads and lace, and with a square train. She wore the orthodox wreath and veil and a gold watch and chain, a present from the bridegroom in addition to which she carried a handsome bouquet which was the gift of her brother. The bridesmaid was Miss Emily Langridge, the bride's sister who wore a dress of cream shantung, daintily trimmed with lace insertion. She also wore a hat to match. **Constable M. J. Dillon acted as best man.** The bridegroom's gift to the bridesmaid was a gold ring, the bride's gift to the bridegroom being a pair of gold sleeve-links.*

*At the conclusion of the ceremony the party repaired to the Vicarage, where the wedding breakfast was set. The Ven. Archdeacon York, in proposing the health of the bride and bridegroom made a neat speech, during the course of which he gave the happy couple some words of advice. Mr. Rodgers suitably responded, and said that he hoped some of his male friends would soon be replying in a similar position to his own. **He then proposed the health of "The Bridegroom," to which Constable Dillon responded on her behalf.** The couple caught the Otira train and will spend the honeymoon at Christchurch and Hanmer. The bride's travelling dress, was a sage green costume, and she wore a hat to match. A large crowd assembled at the railway station and wished the young couple all happiness in their married life.*