

A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

AN EARLY OFFICIAL RECORD CARD

Size: 8in x 5in / 205mm x 130mm

Description: A buff coloured card issued by the New Zealand Department of Education. It is a "Record of Intermediate Course (as Junior Free Pupil or otherwise)." This Secondary Education Form C5 became an Intermediate Certificate, "(on completion of Intermediate Course)." There were written instruction and spaces for manuscript details.

Discussion: The card is in the name of John D Shearer, DOB 21 August 1906. He was one of the 1922 originals who came here after a third form year at Auckland Grammar School and his card followed him. It had been signed by J. W. Tibbs, the Headmaster of Auckland Grammar School. (There is a biography of Tibbs in *Te Ara*).

In attendance, conduct, diligence and progress, John Shearer was given the highest score; "Thoroughly satisfactory." He was admitted to Auckland Grammar School under clause 3C of Junior Free Place in February 1921 and placed in 3E.

RECORD OF INTERMEDIATE COURSE
(as Junior Free Pupil or otherwise).

(Form to be retained by the Principal as long as the Pupil remains at the School, or until the completion of the Intermediate Course, and to be used, when required, for purposes of transfer.)

SECONDARY EDUCATION, (Form C5.)

Name in full: Shearer, John D.
(Surname first)

Date of Birth: Aug 21 '06

(1) Secondary School or District High School or Technical School attended by Pupil.
(Each new School on a new Line.)

(2) TO BE FILLED UP IN CASE OF JUNIOR FREE PUPIL.

(3) Clause under which entry.

(4) Estimate of Tenure (if any).

(5) 1 = THOROUGHLY SATISFACTORY.
2 = FAIR.
3 = UNSATISFACTORY.

(6) Date of Leaving.

(7) To be used in cases of Transfer only.

Signature of Principal (For units of work see back.)

(a) Auck Grammar 3C Feb '21 1 1 1 1 16/12/21 J. W. Tibbs

(b) Hunt Albert James 3C Apr 2 '22 1 1 1 1

(c)

(d)

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Intermediate Certificate (on Completion of Intermediate Course).

The pupil named herein has satisfactorily completed 2 years (not less than two years, in a Secondary School, or its equivalent, and has done the units of work shown on the back hereof.

J. W. Tibbs, Principal.

Date: Aug 22, 1922 School at which pupil completed his course: Auck Grammar

37 DEC 1922
CERTIFICATE APPROVED

UNITS COMPLETED IN EACH YEAR. (C-5)

A unit = one hour a week for a year. Units and tenths may be set down—e.g., 5.5. Vague fractions must not be used.
Subjects in which weakness is shown should be indicated by a red circle drawn round the figure.
A new column should be used each year, and after each transfer within the year.

Year:	1921	1922	19	19	19	Total No. of Units.
Subjects (grouped as in Regulations for Free Places in Secondary Schools).	Com- pletd.	Com- pletd.	Com- pletd.	Com- pletd.	Com- pletd.	
Form in which placed ...	3E	1E				
GROUP I—English ...	4.5	5				
GROUP II— Arithmetic ...	2	2				
Mathematics ...	4	4				
GROUP III—Languages— Latin ...	5	4				
French ...	4	3				
GROUP IV—Science— namely, Phys. Measurements	2	3				
GROUP V—Other Subjects— namely, Drawing	1	2				
Geography	1	1				
Unit reviews	1.5	1.5				
Total Number of Units	25	25				
Initials of Principal	J. W. Tibbs					

(The Secretary of Education, George Hogben, introduced Free Places in 1903 for those who passed Proficiency, an examination at the end of Standard 6 – later Form 2, then Year 8. The Junior Free Place was for two years of free secondary education.)

Shearer left Auckland Grammar School on 16 December 1921, and was enrolled here on 14 February 1922.

It was, for everyone, a difficult first year. In his first Headmaster's report Frank Gamble said: "The low average attendance of 258 is accounted for by the unusual circumstances of the year. Influenza and the severe epidemic of fever not only seriously deranged the school work by a closure of five weeks but gave us several more weeks of very low attendance during which it was unsafe to press new work too quickly." (*School List* December 1922, p29.)

An outbreak of typhoid fever would be inconceivable in Auckland today. Influenza was an even more frightening disease, coming as it did just four years after the deadly global pandemic of 'Spanish flu' in 1918. During the fever outbreak four patients at the Mental Hospital (now Unitec) died. All schools were closed. There is a wonderfully splenetic account in *The Auckland Star* (22 November p5, column 8) by a Mr Forbes Eadie whose son was diagnosed with typhoid.

Illness was not the only thing to dog the first year. An unnamed writer in *The Albertian* 1922 p11, reported:

"A bare grey building, a mere shell and incomplete at that – in a setting of clay, gorse, rubble, timber and broken bricks – such it was that welcomed us at the beginning of the year."

Before Shearer had got here Tibbs had entered some numbers on the back of his Certificate, these concerned Units completed in each Year, with this instruction:

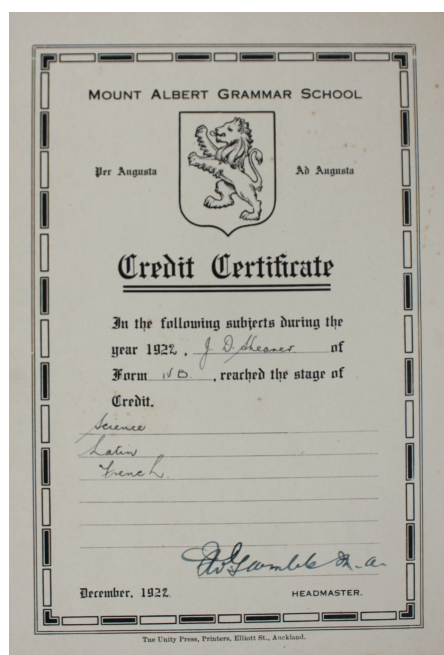
"A Unit is one hours work for a year, Units and tenths may be set – e.g. 5.5, 8.2, vulgar fractions may not be used."

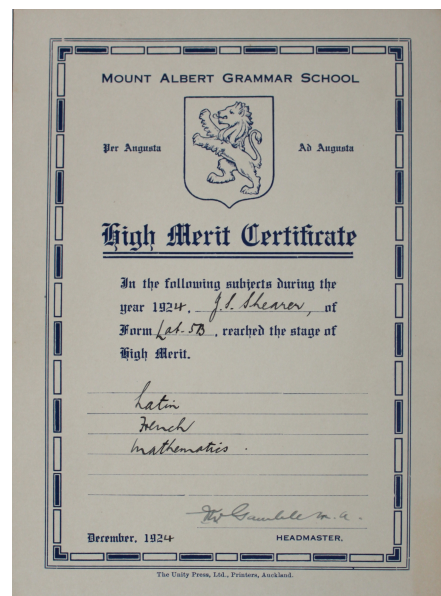
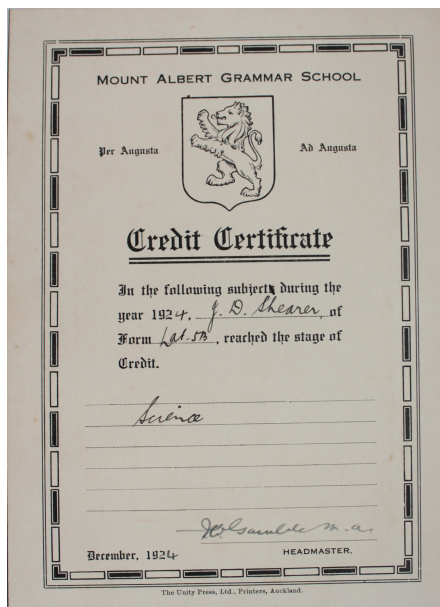
The first number that Tibbs wrote is for English, 4½. So much for bureaucratic instructions. Shearer's other subjects were: Arithmetic, Mathematics, Latin, French, Physical Measurement, Drawing, Geography and History and Civics, making 25 units.

Here, he was in 4B and did the same subjects. At the end of the year the card was signed by F.W. Gamble. This is the only document we have signed by both Tibbs and Gamble.

There are some additional documents for John Shearer.

Two certificates were presented in December 1922 when he was in 4B, they were a Credit Certificate for Science, Latin and French and a High Merit Certificate in Mathematics. In 1924 when he was in Latin 5B he was awarded a Credit in Science and a High Merit Certificate in Latin, French and Mathematics.





The final certificate we have for Shearer is the results of his Matriculation Examination. The examinations were controlled by the University of New Zealand which was a federal University from 1874-1961. It controlled Otago University (established 1869) and the University Colleges of Auckland, Victoria, Canterbury, Massey Agricultural and Canterbury Agricultural (later Lincoln).

Name and Address of Candidate	Examination Centre	Examination Number	English	Mathematics	Arithmetic	Special Mathematics	Latin	French	History	Geography	Physical Science	Natural Science	Home Science	Music	Drawing	Economics and Civics	Result
John Deakin Shearer, Allendale Rd., Mt. Albert, AUCKLAND.	AUCKLAND.	707	X 57	X 53			X 31	X 40			X 47				X 43		cb.

Candidates will receive this as the official notice of their results. No further notification of the result of the examination nor publication of marks will be made. A certificate of pass will be issued only on receipt of the statutory fee of 5/- In the columns showing the result the letter M denotes—qualified for Matriculation only; S for Solicitors' General Knowledge; P for Physical or Dental Preliminary; E for Engineering Preliminary; A for Accountants' Preliminary. The term COMP means that the candidate has completed his pass. Where the result is indicated by the letters P.T. the candidate concerned has gained a partial pass. He need not sit again in any subject in which he has gained at least 40 marks.

E. T. NORRIS, Registrar.

John Shearer passed the Examination in 1924 and his marks were English 57%, Mathematics 53%, Latin 31%, French 40%, Physical Science 47%, Drawing 43%. Each subject over 40% counted and did not need to be sat again in the event of a candidate not passing. As well as Matriculation the examination could serve as a pass, depending on subjects and marks, for Solicitors' General Knowledge, Medical, Dental, Engineering and Accountants' Preliminary Examinations.

All of these items are the gift of Barbara Craig on 13 August 2008. Without her generosity and foresight we would not have this link to the foundation of our School.

Brian Murphy