



Codford War Graves

World War I

29844 PRIVATE A. J. NICOLSON

N.Z. OTAGO REGT.

14TH JULY, 1918 Age 23

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Nicolson is located in Last Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 98 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 114)

Archibald John Nicolson was born on 20th January, 1895 at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, the son of Donald & Isabella McDonald Nicolson. He was a 21 year old, single, Locomotive Fireman on N.Z. Railways from Bluff, New Zealand when he enlisted on 30th June, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 29844 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs D. Nicolson of Devereux Road, Winton, New Zealand.

Private Archibald John Nicolson had been admitted to Hospital while at Trentham for 3 days from 11th October – 13th October, 1916 with Influenza.

He embarked with 18th Reinforcements, Otago Infantry Battalion, D Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (66) *Willochra* on 16th October, 1916. He disembarked at England on 29th December, 1916 (some forms state Devonport, others Plymouth).

Archibald was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916.

Pte Nicolson embarked for France on 1st February, 1917 & was attached on strength at Etaples on 5th February, 1917.

Pte Nicolson was admitted to No. 24 General Hospital at Etaples on 9th February, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 4th March, 1917.

He re-joined his Battalion in the field on 14th March, 1917. He was detached to 2nd Brigade as a Carrier on 5th June, 1917 & re-joined his Battalion on 10th June, 1917. Pte Nicolson was once again detached to 2nd Brigade as a Carrier on 12th June, 1917 & re-joined his Battalion on 18th June, 1917.

Pte Nicolson was sent sick to Hospital in the field on 10th August, 1917 & admitted the same day to No. 3 New Zealand Field Ambulance. He was then admitted to No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd August, 1917 with Pleurisy & admitted to No. 6 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th August, 1917.

He embarked from England on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 28th August, 1917 & admitted to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire. Pte Nicolson was then transferred to New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch, Essex on 10th October, 1917.

Private Archibald John Nicolson was attached to NZ Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 5th December, 1917. and was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital, Codford on 7th July, 1918 with Pneumonia.

He died on 14th July, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia. A death for Archibald J. Nicholson, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

He was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford.

Private Archibald John Nicolson left in his Will, dated 27th March, 1918, (as noted in his Service Record File) that his mother - Isabel Nicolson to be appointed Executrix & his estate both real & personal to be left to his mother also.

Private Archibald John Nicolson, 29844, was last attached to 1st Battalion, Otago Regiment.

Private Archibald John Nicolson was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Western European, 1917. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Nicolson's mother – Mrs Isabel Nicolson of Devereux Road, Winton (September, 1921 & January, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Archibald John Nicolson, 29844, as the son of Donald & Isabella McDonald Nicolson, of Devereux Rd, Winton, Southland, New Zealand.

(20 pages of Pte Archibald John Nicolson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand website).

Information obtained from the Archives New Zealand, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission & PapersPast, National Library of New Zealand.

Newspaper Reports

**HOSPITAL AND PROGRESS REPORT
DANGEROUSLY ILL**

A. J. Nicolson (Winton)

(*Oamaru Mail*, Volume XLVI, Issue 13503, 12 July, 1918)

**OTAGO DISTRICT
DIED OF SICKNESS**

Otago Infantry Regiment

Nicolson, A. J. (D. Nicolson, Winton, m. July 14)

(*Dominion*, Volume 11, Issue 258, 19 July, 1918)

Private Archibald John Nicolson has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.



Photo of Private A. J. Nicolson's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery
(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)