

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

38792 PRIVATE

**C. E. S. ELTON**

N.Z. WELLINGTON REGT.

15TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 25



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private C. E. S. Elton is located in Last Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 91 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 122)*

Charles Edward Stuart Elton was born 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1893 at Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Arthur Ernest & Elizabeth Anne Elton (nee Thacker). (His father had been born in Wellington, New Zealand & his mother had been born in England). He was a 23 year old, single, Labourer (self employed) from Kilbirnie, Wellington, New Zealand when he enlisted on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 38792 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Arthur Elton of 207 Coutts St, Kilbirnie, Wellington, New Zealand.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton married Ethel Alice McKay at Trentham Camp, New Zealand on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He was written up for overstaying his Leave on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 & was given 5 days Confined to Barracks & fined 4 days pay.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton embarked with 22<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements, E Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (77) *Mokoia* on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1917, destination Plymouth, England. He disembarked at Plymouth on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1917.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1917.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton proceeded for France on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 & was marched in to Etaples on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton joined 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Wellington Regiment on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 Pte Elton was sent to Hospital – sick for 2 days & rejoined his Unit on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Pte Elton was sent to Hospital – sick on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917 & admitted to No. 2 NZ Field Ambulance on same day with Myalgia. He was transferred to No.2 Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 with peritonitis. He was transported back to England on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & admitted to No. 2 London General Hospital at Chelsea where he was reported to be dangerously ill with Pleurisy. Pte Elton was still dangerously ill on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 but improved. He was removed from dangerously ill list on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & was reported to be progressing favourably.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 Pte Elton was admitted to No. 1 NZ General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire then transferred to NZ Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Pte Elton was attached to NZ Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1918.

Pte Elton was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 with Jaundice. He was placed on Dangerously Ill List on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1918 & still listed as dangerously ill on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. Later in August, Pte Elton was reported as still dangerously ill but showing signs of improvement. Pte Elton was reported as seriously ill on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton died on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Hydatids disease of Liver.

A death for Charles E. S. Elton, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton left in his Will that his wife – Mrs Ethel Alice Elton to be the sole beneficiary & the Public Trustee was appointed as the sole Executor – as noted in his Service Record File.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton, 38792 was last attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Wellington Regiment, 9<sup>th</sup> Company. He had served in the Western European War Front – 1917.

Several letters, dated in 1918, are contained in Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton's Service Record files relating to Pte Elton's allotment / allowance. Enquiries were made by the Police into the situation on behalf of the Defence Dept. Apparently Pte Elton had allotted his deferred pay to his father, whom he was living with before he embarked for overseas as well as his newly married wife. Pte Elton's widow had requested to War Expenses Dept that she wanted to receive a contribution of her late husband's allotment & separation allowance. Pte Elton's wife had moved out of her In-laws house as she was being abused by her mother-in-law. Pte Elton's father strongly objected to his daughter-in-law receiving any money as the existing arrangements had been agreed upon previously by Pte Elton & his wife. The File does not include an outcome for this matter.

Pte Elton's widow – Ethel Alice Elton remarried in 1920. She married John Herbert Kinniburgh – who in the Police reports above described Kinniburgh as a married man that Mrs Elton had been living with after the death of her husband – to “keep house” for him.

Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent, it appears, to Pte Elton's father – Mr A. E. Elton of 207 Coutts St, Kilbirnie, Wellington (October, 1921 & February, 1922) rather than his widow.

(32 pages of Pte Charles Edward Stuart Elton'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.*

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## Newspaper Reports

### SICK AND WOUNDED

#### WELLINGTON DISTRICT

#### STILL DANGEROUSLY ILL

Elton, C. E. S., 38792, Kilbirnie

*(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 47, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1918)*

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### SICK AND WOUNDED

#### WELLINGTON DISTRICT

Still seriously Ill; Progressing Favourably

Elton, C. E. S., 38792, Kilbirnie

*(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 66, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1918)*

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### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### NEW ZEALAND ARMY

#### LAST NIGHT'S CASUALTY LIST

#### WELLINGTON DISTRICT

#### DIED OF SICKNESS

Elton, C. E. S., 38792, W. I. R. (A. E. Elton, 207, Coutts-road, Kilbirnie, f), 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.

*(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 71, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1918)*

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### NEW ZEALAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR

ELTON – On the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1918, at New Zealand General Hospital, Codford, after a long illness, Charles, dearly beloved eldest son of Elizabeth and Arthur Elton, of Kilbirnie, aged 25 years and 4 months. Deeply mourned.

*(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 71, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1918)*

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## NEW ZEALAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR

### IN MEMORIUM

ELTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, 38792 Private Charles Elton, of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements, who died in New Zealand General Hospital, Codford, England, on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1918, aged 25 years and 4 months.

A dear one is missing and with us no more,  
A voice so much loved we hear not again,  
But we think of you now the same as of yore,  
And we know you are free from trouble and pain.

Inserted by his parents, sister and brother.

*(Evening Post, Volume XCVIII, Issue 64, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1919)*

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Private C. E. S. Elton has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Private C. E. S. Elton's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*