

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

**32346 RIFLEMAN**

**F. C. KEYS**

**N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE**

**15TH APRIL, 1917 Age 35**



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman F. C. Keys is located in Front Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 18 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 75)*

Frederick Charles Keys was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1882 at Dunedin, New Zealand, the son of Benjamin Hunt Keys & Annie Jane Keys (nee Hill). He was a 34 year old, single, Farm Hand from Christchurch, New Zealand when he enlisted on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 32346 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Benjamin H. Keys of North-east Valley, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys embarked with 10<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, G Company of New Zealand Rifle Brigade from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (68) *Maunganui* on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Rifleman Keys was written up on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 as he was in a crowd in which some members were gambling. He was forfeited 2 days pay.

Rifleman Keys was marched out to 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Codford, Wiltshire on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 9th April, 1917 with Pryexia.

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys died on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pleurisy.

A death for Frederick C. Keys, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Rifleman Keys' father – Mr B. H. Keys (June, 1921 & January, 1922).

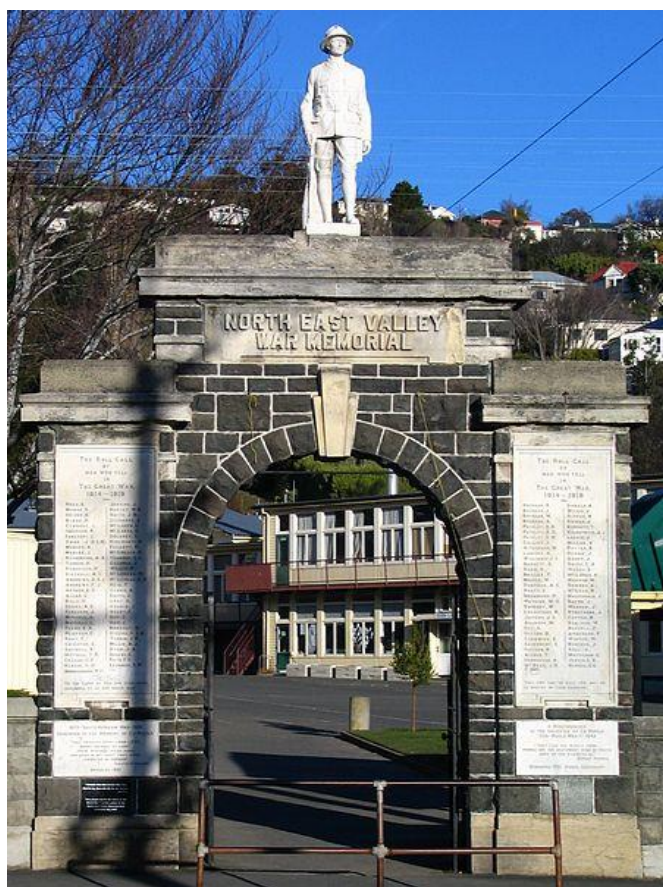
The CWGC lists Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys, 32346, as the son of Benjamin Hunt Keys and Annie Jane Keys, of 94 Marine Parade, Napier.

(16 pages of Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys'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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F. C. Keys is remembered on the North East Valley School War Memorial Archway (left side of Archway, right column, second name from bottom of main list of names).



North East Valley School War Memorial Archway (Photo by Benchill)

## Newspaper Reports

### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### DIED OF SICKNESS

Keys, Fredk C. (Canterbury Infantry April 14 (Dunedin)

(*Timaru Herald*, Volume CVI, Issue 16248, 19 April, 1917)

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### PERSONAL

Private Frederick Charles Keys (died of sickness) was the second son of Mr Benjamin H. Keys, of North-East Valley, Dunedin, who was formerly officer in charge of the Telegraph Department at Dunedin. Private Keys, who was a single man, was engaged in a seafaring occupation before he enlisted. He went away with the Nineteenth Reinforcements, and at the time of his death (which occurred at the Third Codford Hospital, from pleurisy) was 36 years of age.

(*Colonist*, Volume LVIII, Issue 14396, 25 April, 1917)

Rifleman Frederick Charles Keys has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photos of Rifleman F. C. Keys' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*



