

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

34797 PRIVATE

**F. H. BROWNING**

N.Z. OTAGO REGT.

31ST MARCH, 1917 Age 33



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private F. H. Browning is located in Front Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 20 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 73)*

Frederick Henry Browning was born on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1884 at Dunedin, New Zealand, the son of John & Elizabeth Browning. He was a 32 year old, single, Blacksmith from Queenstown, New Zealand when he enlisted on 22nd August, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 34797 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Browning of Pukerau, Southland, New Zealand.

Pte Frederick Henry Browning was admitted to Hospital at Feathersten Camp on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1916 with Bronchitis. He was discharged on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. A Medical Board Proceeding was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 for the “purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of Private Browning, Frederick Henry.” The Board found that Pte Browning had bronchitis & was now fit for “General Service.”

Private Frederick Henry Browning embarked with 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Otago Infantry Battalion, D Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (72) *Athenic* on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, destination Plymouth, England. Pte Browning was awarded 7 days Detention on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 whilst on board the Transport *Athenic*. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Browning was admitted to Military Hospital at Devonport on 3rd March, 1917 with “asthma – slight”. He was discharged to Base Depot at Codford on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. On 24th March, 1917, Pte Browning was admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand General Hospital with Asthma. He was reported seriously ill with Pneumonia on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Private Frederick Henry Browning died on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1917 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Frederick H. Browning, aged 33, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Pte Frederick Henry Browning was buried at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Codford.

Pte Frederick Henry Browning, 34797 was last attached to New Zealand Infantry.

Pte Frederick Henry Browning 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 his brother – Frank Browning of Waikaka, Southland (May, 1921 & January, 1922)

(20 pages of Pte Frederick Henry Browning’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

### TO-DAY'S CASUALTY LIST

#### DIED OF SICKNESS

#### OTAGO INFANTRY BATTALION

Browning, F.H., 34797 (Mrs J. Browning, Pukerau, m); 31<sup>st</sup> March

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCIII, Issue 82, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 & *Dominion*, Volume 10. Issue 3047, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 1917)

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Private F. H. Browning has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Private F. H. Browning's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*