

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

31294 PRIVATE

**J. B. KELLAND**

N.Z. WELLINGTON REGT.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 21



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private J. B. Kelland is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 37 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 35)*

John Bodley Kelland was born 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1895 at Otakeho, New Zealand, the son of George Thomas Bodley & Mary Kelland (nee Hayes). He was a 21 year old, single, Carrier from Taumarunui, New Zealand when he enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 31294 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Bowers (George Thomas Bodley Kelland had died in 1902 & Mary Kelland had remarried in 1908 to Albert Bowers) of Taumarunui, New Zealand.

While training still in New Zealand with the 19<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, B Company of Wellington Infantry Battalion, Private John Bodley Kelland was given 3 days Confined to Barracks on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 for being absent from Church Parade. He was again Confined to Barracks plus forfeited 2 days pay for overstaying leave from 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916 to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Private John Bodley Kelland embarked with 19<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Wellington Infantry Battalion, B Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (69) *Tahiti* on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1916, destination England. Pte Kelland was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 until 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 with Measles. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Kelland was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Kelland was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 with pneumonia. He was reported seriously ill on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Private John Bodley Kelland died on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for John B. Kelland, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private John Bodley Kelland was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Private John Bodley Kelland, 31294 was last attached to 19<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Wellington Regiment.

Private John Bodley Kelland 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 – It is unclear who received Pte Kelland's Medals as 2 names appear on different forms – Mrs Gladys H. McKay (sister) of Post Office Taumarunui apparently received his medals & Mr Walter Kelland (brother) of West Taupo was recorded as receiving the Scroll & Plaque however T. Kelland signed as having received the Memorial Scroll & Plaque (June, 1921 & February, 1922)

(23 pages of Pte John Bodley Kelland'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.*

oooOOOooo



*Pte J. B. Kelland*

## Newspaper Reports

### SICK AND WOUNDED

#### SERIOUSLY ILL

Kelland, J. B., 31294, Taumarunui

*(Evening Post, Volume XCIII, Issue 38, 13 February, 1917)*

---

### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### DIED OF DISEASE

#### WELLINGTON INFANTRY BATTALION

Kelland, J. B., 31294 (Mrs M. Bowers, Taumarunui, m. Feb 11)

*(Dominion, Volume 10, Issue 38, 3004, 15 February, 1917)*

---

Private J. B. Kelland has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Private Private J. B. Kelland's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*