

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

33301 RIFLEMAN

J. CHARLESTON

N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE

15TH MARCH, 1918 Age 39



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman J. Charleston is located in Third Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 64 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 107)

John Charleston was born on 1st April, 1882, in Liverpool, England, the son of John Charles & Clare Charleston. He was a 34 year old, married, Labourer from Wellington, New Zealand when he enlisted on 19th September, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 33301 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Mary Charleston of Wellington, New Zealand. John Charleston had married Mary Agness Sykes on 6th February, 1906 at the Wellington Registrar. They had 4 children – Clarence William (born 16/6/1904), Annie Phyllis (born 22/5/1906), Arthur Ernest (born 25/2/1908) & Kenneth Harold (born 17/2/1912).

Private John Charleston was hospitalised at Trentham, New Zealand on 24th October, 1916 for 6 days with a growth on his tongue. He was again hospitalised on 30th November, 1916 for 4 days at Featherston, New Zealand with appendicitis.

Pte John Charleston embarked with New Zealand Rifle Brigade, Reinforcements J Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (75) *Waitemata* on 19th January, 1917, destination England. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th March, 1917.

Rifleman John Charleston was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917. He was taken on strength & posted to B Company, 5th Reserve Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade & given the rank of Rifleman on 29th March, 1917. He was forfeited 7 days pay on 22nd May, 1917 for being Absent without leave from 18th May, 1917 until 21st May, 1917. On 26th May, 1917 Rifleman John Charleston left Sling Army Camp for France.

Rifleman John Charleston was admitted to Hospital in Boulogne, France on 28th May, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was transferred back to England on 25th June, 1917 & admitted to 2nd NZ General Hospital at Walton. He was transferred to a Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch on 4th July, 1917.

Rifleman Charleston was then transferred to 3rd NZ General Hospital at Codford on 26th November, 1917 & discharged on 28th November, 1917. He was readmitted to the same hospital at Codford on 7th December, 1917 & discharged on 14th December, 1917.

Rifleman John Charleston was admitted to 3rd New Zealand General Hospital on 18th January, 1918 with bronchitis. He was placed on Seriously ill list on 24th February, 1918.

Rifleman John Charleston died on 15th March, 1918 at the No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Syphilitic meningitis.

A death for John Charleston, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman John Charleston was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 18th March, 1918.

Rifleman John Charleston left in his Will, everything to his daughter – Phyllis Charleston c/- Sister Ambrose Upper Hutt, New Zealand – as noted in his Service Record File.

Rifleman John Charleston, 33301 was last attached to 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He had served in the Western European War Front in 1917 & 1918.

Rifleman John Charleston 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 wife – Mrs Mary Charleston to be held in trust for their daughter – Phyllis Charleston (July, 1921 & November, 1921)

(17 pages of Rifleman John Charleston'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 Seriously Ill

Charleston, J., 33301, Wellington

(Evening Post, Volume XCV, Issue 64, 15th March, 1918)

LAST NIGHT'S LIST

A casualty list issued last night reported 1 man died of sickness and 4 men wounded, as follow:-

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

Died of Sickness

Charleston, J., 33301, R. B. (Mrs M. Charleston, 109 Aro-st., Wgtn, w.), 15th March

(Evening Post, Volume XCV, Issue 69, 21st March, 1918)

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

Photo of Rifleman J. Charleston's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)