

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

13132 RIFLEMAN

**T. TELFORD**

N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE

2ND FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 44



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman T. Telford is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 40 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 32)*

Thomas Telford's birth was registered in 1874 in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia, the son of James & Mary Telford (nee Rodgers). His date of birth on his New Zealand Attestation Papers was stated to be 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1873.

Thomas Telford stated he was a 42 year old, single, Bushman from Wanganui, New Zealand when he enlisted on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 13132 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr W. Telford of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked with 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, G. Company of New Zealand Rifle Brigade from Wellington, New Zealand on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 on HMNZT (53) *Navua*. Three ships had embarked that day carrying a total of 2,557 men. He disembarked at Suez on 22nd June, 1916.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked on the *Ivernia* for Overseas from Alexandria, Egypt on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. He disembarked at Southampton, England on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. On 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 Rifleman Telford left Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire, England for France. He was marched in at Etaples, France on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1916 & posted to B Company of 3/3 New Zealand Rifle Brigade in the Field on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. Rifleman Telford was wounded in action the next day – 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. Rifleman Telford was admitted to 3rd Northern Field Ambulance on 23<sup>rd</sup> September with Gunshot & shrapnel wounds to left leg & then transferred the same day to 13<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked for England from Rouen, France on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 on *Panama*.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Southern General Hospital, England on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. He was transferred to the Hospital at Hornchurch on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Rifleman Telford was on Leave from 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 until 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1917.

Rifleman Telford was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on with 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1917 with Pneumonia – seriously ill.

Rifleman Thomas Telford died on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Telford, aged 43, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Western Europe 1916. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Rifleman Telford's brother – Mr William Telford (October, 1921 & February, 1922).

The CWGC lists Rifleman Thomas Telford, 13132, as the son of James & Mary Telford of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

(19 pages of Rifleman Thomas Telford'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

### **DOMINION HEROES**

#### **DIED OF DISEASE**

Telford, Thomas, Rifle Brigade, Feb. 2 – W. Telford, Victoria (brother)

*(Auckland Star, Volume XLVIII , Issue 33, 7 February, 1917)*

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### **DEATHS – On Active Service**

Telford – On 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb., at 3<sup>rd</sup> Southern General Hospital, England, from effects of wounds and pneumonia, Thomas, beloved brother of Mrs P. Pigott, Mrs B. Pigott, William and Eileen. R.I.P.

*(The Bacchus Marsh Express, Victoria, Australia – Saturday 10 February, 1917)*

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

Photos of Rifleman T. Telford's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.





*(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*