Codford War Graves



World War I

6/2382 PRIVATE

T. W. KEARSE

N.Z. CANTERBURY REGT.

25TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 23



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private T. W. Kearse is located in Third Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 58 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 101)

Thomas Walker Kearse was born on 15th December, 1893 at Westport, New Zealand, the son of Thomas Fowler Kearse & Rosanna Kearse (nee Walker). Thomas's birth was registered in 1893.

Thomas Walker Kearse was a 22 year old, (Attestation Papers show date of birth as Dec 15th, 1891) single, Labourer from Kaikohe, New Zealand when he enlisted on 24th January, 1915 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 6/2382 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. W. Kearse c/- Mrs J. Darly, 25 Owen St, Newtown, Wellington, New Zealand.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse embarked with 4th Reinforcements, Canterbury Infantry Battalion from Wellington, New Zealand on 17th April, 1915. Three troop ships left Wellington that day carrying a total of 2,254 men - on HMNZT (21) *Willochra*, HMNZT (22) *Knight Templar* and HMNZT (23) *Waitomo*.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse joined his Battalion in the Dardanelles on 16th August, 1915. He was admitted to St. David's Hospital in Malta on 31st August, 1915 with Enteritis. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship on 18th September, 1915 & admitted to 2nd War Hospital at Birmingham on 25th September, 1915 with Debility.

On 17th January, 1916 Private Kearse was attached to New Zealand Base Depot at Hornchurch, Essex. On 9th February, 1916 Pte Kearse was admitted to Depot Hospital & discharged to duty on 13th February, 1916.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse rejoined his Unit at Ismailia, Egypt on 1st March, 1916 & embarked for France on 6th April, 1916.

Pte Kearse forfeited 28 days pay on 19th August, 1916 for absenting himself without leave from 9 p.m. on 19th until 7 p.m. on 21st August, 1916.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse was wounded in action in France on 20th September, 1916 with a gun shot wound to his hand & wrist (slight). He was admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen on 28th September, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship on 29th September, 1916. Pte Kearse was admitted to 3rd S. General Hospital at Oxford on 30th September, 1916.

Pte Kearse was attached to Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 1st November, 1916 & on 17th November, 1916 was admitted to Venereal section of Hospital. He was discharged on 28th November, 1916 but again admitted to Hospital – No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital (Venereal Section) on 5th December, 1916. He was discharged on 16th December, 1916.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse proceeded to Res. Group at Sling Camp on 5th January, 1917. He was appointed Cook on 11th February, 1917 with 1st Canterbury Coy.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse married Catherine Louise Goodwin (Kitty) on 21st March, 1917 at Southwark Registry Office, London.

Pte Kearse was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire on 19th June, 1917 & transferred to New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch on 28th June, 1917.

Pte Kearse forfeited 2 days pay while at Codford on 28th July, 1917 for being absent without leave from 6 p.m. on 27th July until 8 p.m. on 28th July, 1917.

Pte Kearse was marched in to Sling Army Camp on 4th September, 1917 & appointed Cook on 7th September, 1917 with 4th Reserve Battalion, Canterbury Regiment.

Pte Kearse was admitted to Hospital at Codford (No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital) on 19th October, 1917 with Pleurisy & so relinquished his appointment as Cook.

Pte Kearse was reported as seriously ill with Pneumonia on 21st October & then dangerously ill on 24th October, 1917.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse died on 25th October, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Kearse, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 27th October, 1917.

Private Thomas Walker Kearse was entitled to 1914-15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Egypt, Balkans & Western European. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Mrs Asselin – Pte Kearse's widow now remarried & living at 25 Homer St, Newtown, Sydney, NSW, Australia (July, 1921 & March, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Thomas Walker Kearse, 6/2382 of Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F. as the husband of Mrs C. L. Asselin (formerly Kearse) of 25 Holmwood St, Newtown, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

(25 pages of Pte Thomas Walker Kearse'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.

00000000



Private T. W. Kearse

Newspaper Reports

HOSPITAL REPORT

Wellington, Oct 26

Reported seriously ill: T. Kearse

(Marlborough Express, Volume LI, Issue 255, 27 October, 1917)

KEARSE – ON the 25th October, 1917, in Codford Hospital, died of pneumonia. Private Tom Kearse, 4th Reinforcements, beloved son of T. F. Kearse, 25 Owen-street.

(Evening Post, Volume XCIV, Issue 103, 29 October, 1917)

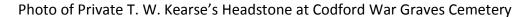
DIED OF SICKNESS

Canterbury Infantry Regiment

Kearse, T. W. (T. W. Kearse, c/o 25 Owen Street, Newtown, f. October 25)

(Dominion, Volume 11, Issue 31, 31 October, 1917)

Private T. W. Kearse has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.





(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)