



Photograph supplied by Mary Farrelly (Great Niece)

## **Private 17806 James William McDonnell**

**N.Z. Canterbury Regt.  
18th November, 1918 Age 27**



James William McDonnell was born on 10th February, 1890 at Porters Pass, New Zealand, the son of William & Eliza Amy McDonnell (nee Lyford).

Upon enlistment on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1916 he was recorded as being 25 years and 11 months, single and a packer at a flour mill from Linwood, Christchurch, New Zealand April, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father - William McDonnell of Linwood, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Private James William McDonnell embarked with 15th Reinforcements, Canterbury Infantry Battalion, C Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (59) Waitemata on 26th July, 1916, destination England. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd October, 1916.

On arrival James was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 3rd October, 1916. He left Sling Army Camp on 20th October, 1916 for France. He was attached on strength to N.Z. I. & G.B. Depot at Etaples, France on 21st October, 1916. On joining the Battalion he was posted to 1st Company, Canterbury Infantry Battalion at Rouen on 8th November, 1916. On 6th December, 1916 Private McDonnell was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance, in the Field then transferred to No. 1 Convalescence Depot at Boulogne and then transferred to No. 51 General Hospital at Etaples on 10th December, 1916.

He was discharged to N.Z. I. & G.B. Depot at Etaples on 13th March, 1917. He was marched out to Segregation at Etaples on 20th April, 1917 and marched in from Segregation on 16th May, 1917. James rejoined his Battalion in the Field on 2nd June, 1917. On 5th December, 1917, he was admitted to Hospital sick.

Private McDonnell was detached to School on 16th January, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 5th February, 1918. He was admitted to 2 New Zealand Field Ambulance on 3rd March, 1918 and transferred to 55 General Hospital at Boulogne on 6th March, 1918 with myalgia. He embarked for England on 13th March, 1918 and was admitted to the Military Hospital at Lewisham. He was transferred to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire on 17th March, 1918. He was then marched in to Codford, Wiltshire on 3rd April, 1918. On 1st May, 1918 he was marched in to Ewshot and then returned from "On Command at Ewshot" to Codford on 9th September, 1918. He was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 25th October, 1918 with influenza. He was placed on the Seriously Ill list then transferred to Dangerously Ill on 4th November, 1918.

A Newspaper Report in the Press, dated 7th November 1918 Reads as follows:-

#### **HOSPITAL REPORT**

CANTERBURY MILITARY DISTRICT

Seriously Ill – McDonnell, J. W., Linwood

Private James William McDonnell died on 18th November, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia. His death at age 27, was registered in the December quarter of 1918 in Warminster Registration District.

Private James William McDonnell was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 21st November, 1918.

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

He death was listed in the Press, Volume LIV, Issue 16383, 30 November, 1918 as follows:-

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

DIED OF SICKNESS

Canterbury Infantry Regiment

McDonnell, J. W. (W. McDonnell, Linwood, f. Nov. 18th)

Private James William McDonnell left a Will, dated 4th April, 1918, in favour of his widowed mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Amy McDonnell - as noted in his Service Record File.

Private James William McDonnell was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private McDonnell's mother addressed to Mrs. E. A. McDonnell of Linwood, Christchurch in June 1921 and November 1921 respectively.

25 pages of James William McDonnell's Service records are available for Online viewing at [Archives New Zealand Website](#)

Information obtained from the Archives New Zealand, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission & Papers Past, National Library of New Zealand.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

The Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private J. W. McDonnell is located in the Last Row: Grave/Plot 85 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall). The CWGC Reference – is Grave 128