

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

23416 RIFLEMAN

W. McMULLAN

N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE

13TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 21



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman W. McMullan is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 35 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 37)

William McMullan was born on 10th May, 1896 at Okaihau, New Zealand, the son of James & Rose McMullan. He was a 19 year old, single, Bushman from Okaihau, New Zealand when he enlisted on 15th January, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 23416 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Rose McMullan of Mt. Eden, New Zealand. William McMullan was currently serving with Military force – 11th N. A. Mounted at the time he enlisted.

Private William McMullan was admitted to Hospital whilst at Trentham Camp, New Zealand on 26th February, 1916 with suspected Measles. He was discharged on 13th March, 1916.

Rifleman William McMullan embarked with 7th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion, E Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (55) *Tofua* on 29th May, 1916, destination England. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 26th July, 1916.

Rifleman McMullan was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 27th July, 1916. Rifleman McMullan was marched out of Sling Army Camp on 12th August, 1916 for France for active service.

Rifleman McMullan was marched into Base at Etaples, France on 13th August, 1916. He joined the Battalion & was posted to C Company on 28th September, 1916.

Rifleman McMullan was wounded in France – date unknown with a gunshot wound to the left thigh/ buttock & admitted to No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance on 16th November, 1916. From there he was transferred to 1st Australian C.C. Stn. & then again to No. 7 General Hospital on 23rd November, 1916.

On 2nd December, Rifleman McMullan embarked for England & was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire on 3rd December, 1916.

Rifleman McMullan was posted to New Zealand Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire, A Company, 1st Battalion, N.Z. Rifle Brigade after leaving Brockenhurst on 30th December, 1916.

Rifleman McMullan was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 25th January, 1917. He was reported Dangerously Ill on 27th January, 1917 with bronchitis & was still on Dangerously ill list on 7th February, 1917.

Rifleman William McMullan died on 13th February, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for William McMullan, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman William McMullan was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 17th February, 1917.

Rifleman William McMullan, 23416 was last attached to N. Z. Rifle Brigade. He had served in the Western European War Front in 1916-17.

Rifleman William McMullan was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Rifleman McMullan's father – Mr J. McMullan of 20 Arabi St, Mt. Albert, Auckland (July, 1921 & March, 1922)

(23 pages of Rifleman William McMullan'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

TO-DAY'S HOSPITAL LIST

WELLINGTON, February 8.

Reported severe cases:

McMullan, Rifleman

(Ashburton Guardian, Volume XXXVII, Issue 3978, 8 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED OF SICKNESS

Reported died of sickness:-

NEW ZEALAND RIFLE BRIGADE

McMullan, W., (Mrs McMullan, Arabi road, Auckland, m)

(Press, Volume LIII, Issue 15828, 17 February, 1917)

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

Photo of Rifleman W. McMullan's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)