

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

6/3133 DRIVER

W. PROTHEROE

N.Z. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

15TH JULY, 1917 Age 38



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Driver W. Protheroe is located in Front Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 16 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 77)

William Protheroe's birth was registered in 1878 to parents Alexander & Mary Eleanor Protheroe (nee Thompson). His date of birth on his Attestation Papers show 3rd January, 1879 & his place of birth was listed as Rangiora, New Zealand.

William Protheroe married Annie Elizabeth Marshall in 1906. Annie Elizabeth Protheroe died in 1912, aged 45 years.

William Protheroe stated he was a 36 year old, widower, Traveller from Ashburton, New Zealand when he enlisted on 14th June, 1915 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 6/3133 & his religion was Wesleyan. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. Protheroe of Elgin, Canterbury, New Zealand.

William Protheroe was admitted to Hospital while at Camp at Trentham for 8 days with Influenza from 5th July, 1915 to 15th July, 1915.

Private William Protheroe embarked with 7th Reinforcements, Canterbury Infantry Battalion from Wellington, New Zealand on 9th October, 1915. Three ships embarked on that day HMNZT (32) *Aparima*, HMNZT (33) *Navua* & HMNZT (34) *Warrimoo* carrying a total of 2,437 men. He disembarked at Suez on 18th November, 1915.

Private William Protheroe was transferred from Canterbury Infantry Battalion to New Zealand Army Service Corps at Zeitoun on 21st February, 1916.

Driver William Protheroe embarked from Egypt for France on 9th April, 1916. He was sent to Hospital – No.2 Field Ambulance on 25th May, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 28th April, 1916.

Driver William Protheroe was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station in France on 16th December, 1916 with a contusion of left ankle. It was noted in his file that "Soldier was on duty at time of accident and in no way to blame". He was admitted to No. 8 Staty Hospital at Wimereux on 19th December, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* on 28th December, 1916.

Driver William Protheroe was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst on 30th December, 1916 then transferred to Hornchurch, Essex on 26th January, 1917.

Driver William Protheroe was marched in to Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917.

Driver William Protheroe was admitted to N.Z. Convalescent Hospital – Venereal Ward on 22nd April, 1917 & transferred to Command Depot on 27th June, 1917.

Driver William Protheroe was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 30th June, 1917 with Rheumatism.

Driver William Protheroe died on 15th July, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Nephritis.

A death for William Protheroe, aged 39, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Driver William Protheroe was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 19th July, 1917.

Driver William Protheroe left in his Will, dated 8th October, 1915, the following bequests:

- John Cooper, Tobacconist of The Triangle, Ashburton appointed Executor
- Miss Annie Cameron the sum of £35
- Mrs Kathleen Campbell the sum of £12
- The rest of his insurance & personal property to be equally divided between his four sisters – Mrs William Lamb, Mrs John Cooper, Mrs Charles Morris & Miss Alice Protheroe.

Driver William Protheroe was entitled to 1914-15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Egyptian 1915-1916 & Western European 1916. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Protheroe's father – Mr A. Protheroe (June, 1921 & January, 1922).

The CWGC lists Driver William Protheroe, 6/3133, as the son of Alexander Protheroe of Elgin, Ashburton, Christchurch.

W. Protheroe is remembered on the Ashburton War Memorial



Ashburton War Memorial (Photo above from NZ History – Bruce Comfort; photo below G.A. Fortune)



(22 pages of Driver William Protheroe'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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Two of William Protheroe's brother also enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force – Pte Edwin Protheroe, 6/3132 & Rifleman Ernest James Protheroe, 49000. Both brothers survived the War however Ernest James Protheroe died in Wellington Hospital, New Zealand on 15th June, 1921 & is also remembered on the Ashburton War Memorial with his brother William.

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Newspaper Reports

CASUALTY LIST

Died of Sickness: Driver W. Protheroe

(*Thames Star*, Volume LVIII, Issue 18398, 20 July, 1917)

PERSONAL ITEMS

Driver W. Protheroe, whose death from sickness was reported in yesterday's casualty list, was well known in Hawera and the surrounding district. He was at one time farming at Kakaramea, and later represented a milking machine firm in this neighbourhood. He left New Zealand with one of the earlier reinforcement drafts.

(*Hawera & Normanby Star*, Volume LXXII, 21 July, 1917)

Driver William Protheroe has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Driver W. Protheroe's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)