



## Codford War Graves

### World War I

## 23/2204 PRIVATE A. HOLMES

**N.Z. MAORI BATTALION  
28TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 33**

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman A. G. Glastonbury is located in Third Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 59 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall) (CWGC Reference - Grave # 102 )

Arthur Holmes was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1884 at Auckland, New Zealand. He was a 32 year old, single, Labourer from Waiharara, Auckland, New Zealand when he enlisted on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 23/2204 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs E. Dixon, c/- Mrs Stewart of 24 Nelson Street, Auckland, New Zealand.

Rifleman Arthur Holmes embarked with 5th Reinforcements, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, E Company of New Zealand Rifle Brigade from Wellington, New Zealand on 1st April, 1916. Two ships embarked that day with a total of 2,222 men – Maunganui (HMNZT 49) & Tahiti (HMNZT 50). He disembarked at Suez on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1916.

He embarked from Alexandria, Egypt for France on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. He was attached to N.Z. G. B. D. at Etaples on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Arthur was admitted to No. 24 General Hospital at Etaples on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & attached back to N.Z. G. B. D. on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July Rifleman Holmes proceeded to join N.Z. D \_\_\_\_ & was posted to N.Z. Pioneer Battalion In the Field on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

On 21<sup>st</sup> July Rifleman Holmes was evacuated sick to hospital & admitted to Field Ambulance. He was discharged to duty on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & re-joined his Unit in the field the same day.

Rifleman Holmes was evacuated sick to Hospital on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & discharged to his Unit on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1916 he was attached to Headquarters Command, N.Z. Division Train. He rejoined his Unit over 10 months later – on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1917.

Private Holmes was evacuated sick to Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 & discharged to his Unit on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He was evacuated sick to Hospital again on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 & discharged to duty on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Arthur proceeded on leave to UK on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1917. He was admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand General Hospital at Walton, England on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. He came “under surveillance for V.D.” on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. He was transferred to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

He was transferred from the “seriously ill” list to “dangerously ill” list.

Private Arthur Holmes died on 28th December, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Purulent Bronchitis.

A death for Arthur Holmes, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.  
He was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1917. and was last attached to New Zealand Pioneer Battalion.

He was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had fought in Western European theatre of War from 1916 - 1917. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Mr William Marshall-Muir (half brother) of Maxwelltown, Wanganui. (both sent March, 1923).

(20 pages of Private Holmes' 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

#### **DIED OF SICKNESS**

The following reported died of sickness:-

Rifleman A. Holmes

(Wanganui Chronicle, Volume LX , Issue 17179, 5 January, 1918)

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

Photo of Private A. Holmes' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)

(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

