

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

11587 PRIVATE

**B. O. STEVENSON**

N.Z. MEDICAL CORPS

24TH JULY, 1918 Age 36



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte B. O. Stevenson is located in Last Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 95 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 116)*

Bertram Onslow Stevenson was born on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1882 at Dunedin, New Zealand, the son of William & Sarah Jane Stevenson. He was a 33 year old, single, Chemist & Dentist from Hokitika, Westland, New Zealand when he enlisted on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 11587 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr James Cullen D. Stevenson of Main Road, North-east Valley, Dunedin, New Zealand. On his Attestation Papers Bertram Stevenson stated that he had previously been rejected as unfit for Military training due to a stigmatism of eyes – this had now been corrected.

Bertram Onslow Stevenson was posted to 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Company with the rank of Private. He was promoted to Sergeant on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1916. On 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 Sgt. Stevenson was transferred to C Company of 12<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements.

Sgt. Bertram Onslow Stevenson embarked with 12<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Canterbury Infantry Battalion, C Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (51) *Ulimaroa* on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1916. He disembarked at Suez on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Sgt. Stevenson embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. He disembarked at Southampton, England on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Sgt. Bertram Onslow Stevenson was posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Battalion, Canterbury Regiment at Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & his rank reverted back to Private. Pte Stevenson was temporarily attached to No. 9 Dental Section for duty at Sling on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Pte Stevenson was admitted to Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with bronchitis. He was discharged on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. Pte Stevenson was taken on strength with New Zealand Medical Corps on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

Pte Bertram Onslow Stevenson was written up for drunkenness at Codford on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was punished with a fine of 10/-.

Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson was admitted to Brockenhurst from 8<sup>th</sup> November until 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916.

Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 with Bronchitis (slight). He was discharged for duty on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Stevenson was appointed Lance Corporal on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1917 “whilst employed in his present capacity of Laboratory Assistant at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital”, Codford, Wiltshire. Lance Cpl. Stevenson was reported as being “still on duty at 3/ N.Z.G.H.” on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Stevenson was granted the rank of Temporary Corporal on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1918.

Temporary Corporal Bertram Onslow Stevenson was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1918 with Tonsillitis. He was discharged for duty on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1918. During his time in the hospital he relinquished his temporary appointment & reverted back to the rank of Private.

Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson died on 24th July, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Meningitis.

A death for Bertram O. Stevenson, aged 37, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.

Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson, 11587, was last attached to New Zealand Medical Corps. He had served in the

Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Stevenson's brother – Mr J. C. Stevenson of Newsagent, Clyde St, Balclutha (July, 1921 & November, 1921).

The CWGC lists Private Bertram Onslow Stevenson, 11587, attached to the New Zealand Medical Corps. No family details are listed.

(24 pages of Pte Bertram Onslow Stevenson'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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**Pte Bertram Onslow Stevenson**

## Newspaper Reports

### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### REPORTED DIED OF SICKNESS

##### MEDICAL CORPS

July 24

Stevenson, B. O. (J. C. Stevenson, N.E. Valley, brother)

*(North Otago Times, Volume CVI, Issue 14187, 31 July 1918)*

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

Photos of Private B. O. Stevenson's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



*(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*

