

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

76955 PRIVATE

C. McENTEER

N.Z. REINFORCEMENT

13TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 20



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private C. McEnteer is located in Last Row
Grave Plot # 92 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 121)*

Claude McEnteer was born on 5th December, 1897 (his birth was registered in 1898) at Thames, New Zealand, the son of James Patrick & Elizabeth Jane McEnteer (nee Dalton). (His parents had both been born at Thames, New Zealand). He was a 20 year old, single, Wireman from Waihi, New Zealand when he enlisted on 10th January, 1918 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 76955 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. McEnteer of Grey St, Waihi, New Zealand. Claude McEnteer was serving with 6th Hanraki Regt. at the time of enlisting.

Private Claude McEnteer embarked with New Zealand Expeditionary Force, 40th Reinforcements, E Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (107) *Tahiti* on 10th July, 1918, destination England. He disembarked at London on 9th September, 1918.

Pte McEnteer was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 11th September, 1918.

Private Claude McEnteer died on 13th September, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Acute Bronchitis, just 4 days after disembarking in England.

A death for Claude McEnteer, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Claude McEnteer was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 16th September, 1918.

Private Claude McEnteer left in his Will, dated 5th June, 1918, all his property to his mother, Mrs E. McEnteer – as noted in his Service Record File.

Private Claude McEnteer, 76955 was last attached to New Zealand Infantry.

Private Claude McEnteer 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 McEnteer's mother – Mrs E. McEnteer of Grey St, Waihi (September, 1921 & November, 1921)

(20 pages of Private Claude McEnteer'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

EPIDEMIC AMONG TROOPS

THE UNFORTUNATE FORTIETHS

INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA

WHOLE CONVOY AFFECTED

WELLINGTON, this day.

Sir James Allen stated to-day that he deeply regretted the deaths caused by the epidemic of influenza among the 40th Reinforcements. The list showed that 65 men died at sea and nine died later on. There was also a considerable number of men still ill. He had cabled for fuller information. All that was known at present was that when the ship called at a distant port a message, reporting "health good" was received here and that was the last port of call so far as was known, till the ship reached the United Kingdom. He was not aware that the vessel had touched any other port in continuance of her voyage, but it was quite certain that the epidemic could not have had its origin from any conditions prevailing at the time of her departure from New Zealand, nor when the ship reported "health good."

The outbreak came from causes subsequent to that time. The deaths were due to an epidemic of influenza with pneumonia and acute bronchitis. The epidemic was not confined to the New Zealand transport. The whole convoy was affected.

Fortunately there were two medical officers and ten nurses on the transport so that one could anticipate that every care and attention was given to the patients. He very greatly regretted those casualties and expressed his deep sympathy with the next of kin.

A reporter who inquired as to the precautions taken before a transport is used for reinforcements was assured that every care was observed to see that the ship was thoroughly clean. Surg General R. S. F. Henderson, Director-General of Medical Services stated that he personally inspected the vessels and noted any structural alterations or refitting required in the interests of the troops. There was a thorough cleaning of the ship, so that new troops might incur no danger of infection.

The full list of deaths with the names of next of kin is as follows

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

MCENTEER CLAUDE E Coy Sept 13 –

Mrs E. McEnteer, Waihi (m)

(*Auckland Star*, Volume XLIX, Issue 223, 18 September, 1918)

The Death Roll

Following are the names of additional soldiers beyond the thirty Wellington district names already published, who died:-

McEnteer, C., Waihi

(Poverty Bay Herald, Volume XLV, Issue 14713, 19 September, 1918)

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

Photo of Private C. McEnteer's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)