

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

47553 PRIVATE

D. FREITAS

N.Z. CANTERBURY REGT.

21ST FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 35



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private D. Freitas is located in Last Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 77 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 136)

David Freitas was born on 16th August, 1884 at Hokitika, New Zealand, the son of Francisco & Mary Ann Freitas. (His father had been born in Portugal & his mother had been born in Ireland). He was a 32 year old, single, Saw Mill Hand from Hokitika, New Zealand when he enlisted on 13th February, 1917 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 47553 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Ann Freitas of Three Mile, Hokitika, New Zealand.

Private David Freitas embarked with 26th Reinforcements, Canterbury Infantry Regiment, C Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (85) *Willochra* on 9th June, 1917, destination England. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th August, 1917.

Private David Freitas was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 16th August, 1917.

Private David Freitas departed for France from Sling Army Camp on 26th October, 1917. He was marched in to Camp at Etaples on 29th October, 1917.

Private Freitas joined 1st Battalion Canterbury Regiment & was posted to 3rd Coy.

Private Freitas was sick to Hospital on 25th January, 1918 & admitted to No. 2 NZ Field Ambulance on 26th January, 1918. He was transferred on 1st February, 1918 & on 3rd February admitted to Hospital at Wimereux, France with bronchitis. Pte Freitas was transported back to England on 20th February, 1918. On 23rd February, 1918, Pte Freitas was transferred to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire. He was discharged on 26th March, 1918 to Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire.

Pte Freitas was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 10th October, 1918 & discharged on 12th November, 1918. He was readmitted to same Hospital at Codford on 21st November, 1918 & discharged on 15th December, 1918.

Pte Freitas was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford again on 10th February, 1919 with pneumonia. He was placed on Seriously Ill list on 18th February, 1919, then on the Dangerously Ill list on 20th February, 1919.

Pte David Freitas died on 21st February, 1919 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for David Freitas, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Pte David Freitas was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 25th February, 1919.

Pte David Freitas left in his Will, dated 10th April, 1918, in favour of his mother, Mary Ann Freitas – as noted in his Service Record File.

Pte David Freitas, 47553 was last attached to Canterbury Infantry Regiment. He had served in the Western European War Front in 1917 & 1918.

Pte David Freitas was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Freitas' father – Mr Francis Freitas of Three Mile, Hokitika (June, 1921 & February, 1922)

(12 pages of Pte David Freitas'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

NEW ZEALAND ARMY

To-Day's Casualty List

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

Died of Sickness

Freitas, D., 47553, C.I.R. (Mrs M. A. Freitas, Hokitika, m), 21st February

(Evening Post, Volume XCVII, Issue 46, 25th February, 1919)

PERSONAL PARS

Private D. Freitas, of Arahura, died on Friday last at Codford Hospital, England from pneumonia. He was in the 26ths and leaves besides his parents, six brothers and five sisters, all residing on the West Coast.

(Grey River Argus, 27th February, 1919)

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

Photo of Private D. Freitas' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)