

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

26982 PRIVATE

E. J. BOLAND

N.Z. CANTERBURY REGT.

4TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 31



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private E. J. Boland is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 38 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 34)

Edward James Boland was born on 14th August, 1885 at Darfield, New Zealand, the son of Francis & Annie Boland (nee White). He was a 31 year old, married, Farm Hand from Racecourse Hill, New Zealand when he enlisted on 22nd April, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 26982 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ellen Boland of Racecourse Hill, New Zealand. Edward James Boland had married Ellen Sher on 23rd April, 1906 at Dunedin. Edward & Ellen had the following children – Raymond Cuthbert (born 3rd August, 1906), Colleen Patricia (born 1910, died 1910- aged 9 months), Edward Frances (born 28th May, 1911) & Eugene Aloysius (born 16th January, 1914).

Pte Edward James Boland was originally posted to C Company of 17th Battalion on 1st June, 1916. He was transferred to Signalling Company on 16th June, 1916 & embarked with 18th Reinforcements Specialist Signalling Section from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (66) *Willochra* on 16th October, 1916, destination Devonport, England. He disembarked at Devonport on 29th December, 1916.

Pte Boland was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916. He was posted to 2nd Canterbury Company on 1st January, 1917.

Pte Boland was admitted to 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 30th January, 1917 with broncho pneumonia. He was reported as “dangerously ill” on 3rd February, 1917.

Pte Edward James Boland died on 4th February, 1917 at the 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for Edward J. Boland, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England. (Age should be 31)

Pte Edward James Boland was buried at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Codford on 8th February, 1917.

Pte Edward James Boland, 26982 was last attached to 2nd Canterbury Company, New Zealand Infantry.

Pte Edward James Boland 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 Boland’s wife – Mrs Nellie Boland of Darfield, Canterbury. (May, 1921 & February, 1922)

(16 pages of Pte Edward James Boland’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

ROLL OF HONOUR

New Zealand Casualties

DIED OF DISEASE

New Zealand Engineers

Boland, E. J., 26982 (Mrs E. Boland, Racecourse Hill, w); 4th Feb.

(Evening Post, Volume XCIII , Issue 34, 8th February, 1917)

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

Army Form B 2090A. which is a report of the Death of a Soldier - states that Edward James Boland – 26982 was with the New Zealand Engineers & his rank was Sapper. His Headstone however records him as a Private with N.Z. Canterbury Regiment.

Photo of Private Edward James Boland's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)