

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

28186 PRIVATE

**G. McDONALD**

N.Z. WELLINGTON REGT.

5TH MARCH, 1917 Age 25



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. McDonald is located in Front Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 22 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 71)*

Gordon McDonald was born on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1893 at Woodville, New Zealand, the son of John & Ellen McDonald. He was a 23 year old, single, Farmer from Pongaroa, New Zealand when he enlisted on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 28186 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. McDonald c/- Mrs J. Mackie, 10 Bay View Road, Napier, New Zealand.

Private Gordon McDonald was admitted to Wairarapa Hospital while at Trentham Camp on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 with Influenza & released the same day.

Private Gordon McDonald embarked with 18<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements Wellington Infantry Battalion, B Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (66) *Willochra* on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Private Gordon McDonald was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Private Gordon McDonald was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 with Cardiac. He was reported dangerously ill with Tubercular Meningitis on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & still dangerously ill on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917.

Private Gordon McDonald died on 5th March, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Tubercular Meningitis.

A death for Gordon McDonald, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Gordon McDonald was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford.

Private Gordon McDonald 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 McDonald's father – Mr John McDonald (July, 1921 & November, 1921).

The CWGC lists Private Gordon McDonald, 28186, as the son of John & Ellen McDonald of Te-Ore, Pongaroa, Wellington.

(19 pages of Pte Gordon McDonald'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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G. McDonald is remembered on the Pongaroa War Memorial.



Pongaroa War Memorial (Photos from NZ History – Glennis Austin)

## Newspaper Reports

### PERSONAL ITEMS

Private G. McDonald, son of Mr J. McDonald, of Pongaroa, has died from sickness, while on active service.

(*Wairarapa Daily Times*, Volume LXX, Issue 146192, 9 March, 1917)

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### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### Wellington

Died of Sickness – Private G. McDonald.

(*Taranaki Daily News*, 13 March, 1917)

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

Photo of Private G. McDonald's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*