

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

60184 PRIVATE

**G. W. O'CONNOR**

N.Z. AUCKLAND REGT.

9TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 24



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. W. O'Connor is located in Last Row (Left Hand Side)  
Grave Plot # 86 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 127)*

Graham Wakefield O'Connor was born on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1893 at Christchurch, New Zealand, the son of Charles & Ellen Nina O'Connor (nee Wakefield). (His father had been born in Sydney, Australia & his mother had been born in Christchurch, New Zealand). He was a 23 year old, single, Engineer from Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand when he enlisted on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 60184 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. N. O'Connor of Omahu Road, Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand. At the time of his enlisting, Graham O'Connor was serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Auckland) Regiment.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor was written up for being AWOL (absent without leave) from 9.30 a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 to 9.45 a.m. on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1917. He was punished with 2 days forfeiture of pay & 3 days CB (confined to barracks).

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor embarked with 30<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Auckland Infantry Regiment, A Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (93) *Coronthic* on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He disembarked at Liverpool, England on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. He left for France on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 & was marched in to Camp at Etaples on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1918. Pte O'Connor joined his Battalion & posted to 16<sup>th</sup> Company on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor was wounded on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 with a bullet wound to left arm. He was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> N.Z. Field Ambulance then transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Can. General Hospital at Doullens. He was admitted to General Hospital at Rouen on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1918.

Pte O'Connor was transferred to England from Rouen, France on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. He was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1918. He was transferred to New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1918.

Pte O'Connor was discharged on leave from Hornchurch on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918 to report to New Zealand Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1918 with Influenza. He was reported dangerously ill with Purulent Bronchitis on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1918.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor died at 11.30 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Purulent Bronchitis.

A death for Graham W. O'Connor, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor left in his Will, dated 18th October, 1918, all his real & personal estate to his mother – Mrs Ellen Nina O'Connor – as noted in his Service Record File.

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Western European - 1918. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte O'Connor's mother – Mrs E. N. O'Connor or Remeura (September, 1921 & January, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor as the only son of Charles and Ellen Nina O'Connor, of 28 Omahu Rd, Remuera, Auckland. Born at Christchurch.

G. W. O'Connor is listed on the Remuera Primary School Memorial. (Right panel, left Column, 13<sup>th</sup> name from bottom)



Remuera Primary School Memorial (Photos from NZ History – John Halpin)



G. W. O'Connor is also remembered on the Auckland Grammar School First World War Memorial.



**Auckland Grammar School War Memorial** (Photos by John Halpin)



A plaque for Pte Graham Wakefield O'Connor is located inside St. Mark's Anglican Church, Remuera.



**St. Mark's Remuera** (Photos by J. Halpin)



(20 pages of Pte Graham Wakefield O'Connor'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

### **LAST NIGHT'S CASUALTY LIST**

#### **AUCKLAND DISTRICT**

##### DIED OF SICKNESS

O'Connor, G. W., 60184, A.I.R. (Mrs E. N. O'Connor, Remuera, m) 9<sup>th</sup> November.

*(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 120, 16 November, 1918)*

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### **THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED**

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor, who died of purulent bronchitis on November 9<sup>th</sup>, at the New Zealand General Hospital, Codford, England, was the only son of Mr and Mrs C. O'Connor, of Auckland, formerly of Christchurch. He was born in Christchurch, and educated at the Richmond School and the Auckland Grammar School. He was apprenticed to the engineering profession with A. and T. Burt, Ltd., Auckland, and on completing his apprenticeship and passing his third marine engineers' examination, proceeded to camp, and left with the 30<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. He was wounded in France on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and was for some months in hospital at Brockenhurst, Hornchurch, and Codford. He was the only great-grandson of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, founder of New Zealand and South Australia.

*(Press, Volume LIV, Issue 16377, 23 November, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

O'CONNOR – In loving memory of Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor, who died at the New Zealand General Hospital, Codford on November 9, 1918.

Called to higher service.

-Inserted by his loving parents and sisters.

*(New Zealand Herald, Volume LVI, Issue 17313, 10 November, 1919)*

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[A World War 1 memorialising postcard album, containing annotated photographs of convalescent hospitals, for Pte Graham Wakefield O'Connor was auctioned by Cordy's at Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.](#)

Private Graham Wakefield O'Connor has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Private G. W. O'Connor's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*