

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

52446 PRIVATE

J. MAGEE

N.Z. AUCKLAND REGT.

2ND SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 40



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private J. Magee is located in Back Row
Grave Plot # 94 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 119)*

Joseph Magee was born in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of James & Mary Ann Magee. (Both his parents had been born in Ireland). Joseph did not know his date of birth as both his parents were deceased. His age, on his Attestation Papers though, was stated to be 39 years old. He was single & a Farmer from Awakine, via Waitara, New Zealand when he enlisted on 7th April, 1917 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 52446 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Theresa Dundas.

Private Joseph Magee embarked with 27th Reinforcements, E Company, Auckland Infantry Regiment from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (87) *Tahiti* on 12th June, 1917, destination England. Pte Magee was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 20th July, 1917 with diarrhoea & discharged on 22nd July, 1917. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th August, 1917.

Pte Magee was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 16th August, 1917. He left Sling Army Camp on 1st October, 1917 for France. Pte Magee was marched in to Camp at Etaples on 4th October, 1917.

Pte Magee joined 3rd Battalion, Auckland Regiment in the Field on 9th October, 1917 & was posted to 6th Company.

Pte Magee was evacuated sick on 1st February, 1918 & admitted to No. 15 Australian Field Ambulance with Bursitis of the left knee. Pte Magee had fallen on 28th January, 1918 & bruised his kneecap which later swelled. He was then transferred to No. 2 Australian C.G.S. then transferred again on 5th February, 1918 to No. 54 General Hospital at Boulogne.

On 4th March, 1918 Pte Magee was transferred to H/S Cambria, France & transported back to England where he was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst, Hampshire. On 14th March, 1918 Pte Magee was transferred to New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch.

Pte Magee was attached on strength to Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 7th May, 1918.

On 12/13th June, 1918 an Abridged Medical Board was held at New Zealand Command Depot on the status of Pte Joseph Magee. The disability stated was bronchitis which had originated in France in October, 1917. Pte Magee had contracted the bronchitis from exposure whilst on service. The Medical Board found that Pte Magee was still able for active service.

Pte Magee was classified unfit on 4th July, 1918 due to bronchitis.

Pte Magee was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 12th August, 1918 with haemorrhoids. He was placed on Seriously Ill list on 30th August, 1918. On 2nd September, 1918 Pte Magee was transferred from Seriously Ill list to Dangerously Ill list.

Private Joseph Magee died on 2nd September, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia. Early reports had stated the cause of death as Thrombosis Haemorrhoidal Veins Pneumonia but later amended to Pneumonia only.

A death for Joseph Magee, aged 42, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

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Private Joseph Magee was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 5th September, 1918.

Private Joseph Magee left in his Will, dated 22nd May, 1918, all his property to his sister Theresa Dundas of Hamilton, New Zealand & appointed his sister as Executor – as noted in his Service Record File.

Private Joseph Magee, 52446 was last attached to 3rd Battalion, Auckland Infantry Regiment. He had served in the Western European War Front in 1917, 1918.

Private Joseph Magee was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to his legal Next of Kin – Mr James Magee c/o Public Works Dept near Gisborne (both sent in November, 1922)

(30 pages of Private Joseph Magee'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

SICK AND WOUNDED

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

SERIOUSLY ILL

Magee, J., 52446, Hamilton

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVI, Issue 56, 3 September, 1918)

SICK AND WOUNDED

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

DANGEROUSLY ILL

Magee, J., 52446, Hamilton

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVI, Issue 59, 6 September, 1918)

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

DIED OF SICKNESS

Auckland Infantry Regiment

Magee, J., (T. Dundas, Hamilton, sis, Sept. 2)

(*Dominion*, Volume 11, Issue 300, 7 September, 1918)

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

Photo of Private J. Magee's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)