

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

65462 RIFLEMAN

**M. SEXTON**

N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE

18TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 30



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman M. Sexton is located in Last Row (Left Hand Side)  
Grave Plot # 78 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 135)*

Michael Sexton was born on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1889 at Westport, New Zealand, the son of William & Bridget Sexton (nee Doody). Both his parents were born in Ireland.

Michael Sexton was a 28 year old, single, Night Porter at Provincial Hotel in Dunedin, New Zealand when he enlisted on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1917 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 65462 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Bridget Sexton of Upper Palmerston Street, Westport, New Zealand.

Rifleman Michael Sexton embarked with 33<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements, Canterbury Infantry Regiment, C Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (99) *Athenic* on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1917. He disembarked at Glasgow, Scotland on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1918.

Rifleman Michael Sexton was marched in to Larkhill Army Camp, Wiltshire, England with Canterbury Coy., on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1918.

Rifleman Michael Sexton was admitted to V.D. Section of No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. He was discharged & attached to V.D. Convalescent section on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 & then discharged to Command Depot at Codford on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918.

Rifleman Michael Sexton was marched in the New Zealand Reserve Brigade at Brocton, Staffordshire on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1918. He was readmitted to V.D. Section of No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 & attached to V.D. Convalescent section on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1919. He was reported on the seriously ill list on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 & then transferred to dangerously ill list on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1919.

Rifleman Michael Sexton died on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Michael Sexton, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman Michael Sexton was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1919.

Rifleman Michael Sexton, 65462, was last attached to New Zealand Rifle Brigade (Reserve). He had served in the

Rifleman Michael Sexton 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 Mr C. Sexton of Greymouth (Bridget Sexton -mother deceased 1921) (March, 1921 & November, 1921).

The CWGC lists Rifleman Michael Sexton, 65462, of New Zealand Rifle Brigade as the son of William and Bridget Sexton, of Westport.

(20 pages of Rifleman Michael Sexton '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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Private James Sexton, 49552, older brother of Michael Sexton, was killed in action on Somme, France on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1918, aged 40 years. Pte J. Sexton is remembered on the Grevillers (New Zealand) Memorial, France as he has no known grave.

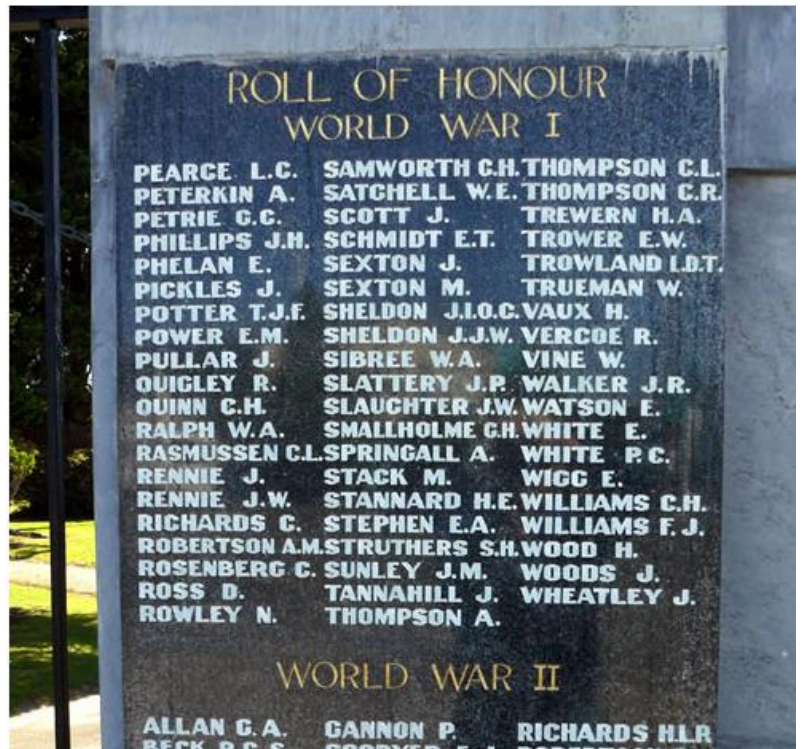


**Pte James Sexton**

Both Michael & James Sexton are remembered on the Westport War Memorial for World War 1.



**Westport War Memorial** *(Photos from NZ History – Simon Nathan)*



## Newspaper Reports

### **SICK AND WOUNDED**

#### **CANTERBURY DISTRICT**

Seriously Ill

Sexton, M. 65462, Westport

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVII, Issue 43, 21 February, 1919)

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#### **CANTERBURY DISTRICT**

### **DIED OF SICKNESS**

#### **New Zealand Rifle Brigade**

Sexton, M. (Mrs B. Sexton, Westport, m. Feb 18)

(*Dominion*, Volume 12, Issue 130, 26 February, 1919)

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Rifleman Michael Sexton has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Rifleman M. Sexton's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*