

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

26885 PRIVATE

**O. A. MINCHER**

N.Z. AUCKLAND REGT.

15TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 30



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private O. A. Mincher is located in Last Row  
Grave Plot # 87 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)  
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 126)*

Oswald Alan Arblaster Mincher was born on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1888 at Northcote, New Zealand, the son of James & Elizabeth Mincher (nee Arblaster). He was a 27 year old, single, Carpenter from Northcote, New Zealand when he enlisted on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 26885 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr James Mincher of Northcote, New Zealand.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher was admitted to Hospital whilst at Trentham Camp, New Zealand on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 suffering from influenza. He was discharged on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1916. He was re-admitted with influenza on 23<sup>rd</sup> June & discharged on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher was admitted to Hospital whilst at Featherston Camp, New Zealand on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 suffering from influenza. He was discharged on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher embarked with 17<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Auckland Infantry Battalion, A Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (64) *Devon* on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1916, destination England. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916.

Private Mincher was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916. He left for France from Sling Army Camp on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Pte Mincher was marched into Camp at Etaples, France on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1916 & joined his Unit in the Field on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1917, Pte Mincher was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand Field Ambulance with appendicitis then transferred to No. 44 Cas. Clg. Station before being transferred to Ambulance Train on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. Pte Mincher was admitted to Hospital at Wimereux, France on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 & admitted to No. 1 Convalescent Hospital at Boulogne on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Pte Mincher was attached to Base Depot at Etaples on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1917. He was on Leave to UK from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1917 & returned to his Battalion, in France, from Leave on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 Pte Mincher was punished for “felling a tree without permission” – 7 Days F.P.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1918, Pte Mincher was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance with Appendicitis (acute) & placed on Dangerously Ill list on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1918. He was removed from Dangerously Ill list on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1918. He was admitted to Hospital at Wimereux, France on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 & embarked for England on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 where he was admitted to No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital at Walton with acute appendicitis. He was operated on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. On 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 Pte Mincher was transferred to New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch. He was discharged on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1918 having spent 106 days there. He went on Leave to report to Codford, Wiltshire on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1918.

Pte Mincher was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 with pneumonia & pleurisy. He was reported Seriously Ill with pneumonia on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918 & Still Seriously Ill – progressing fairly on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. Pte Mincher was placed on

Dangerously Ill list on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1918 & then returned to Seriously Ill list on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Pte Mincher was reported Still Seriously Ill on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1918, then Still Seriously Ill – improving on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1918 & again on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1918. Pte Mincher was removed from Seriously Ill list to Dangerously Ill list on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1918.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher died at 2.30 a.m. on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Oswald A. Mincher, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at 2.30 p.m.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher according to his Will, stated his beneficiaries as Thomas Cyril Mincher (born 1897, a younger brother) & Miriam Beryl Mincher (born 1893, a younger sister) – as noted in his Service Record File.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher, 26885 was last attached to Auckland Infantry Regiment. He had served in the Western European War Front in 1916-17-18.

Private Oswald Alan Mincher was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. Pte Mincher's medals were sent to the Executor named in his Will – Mr D. H. McInnes of Waipu, Auckland. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were sent to Pte Mincher's father – Mr James Mincher of Northcote, Auckland (June, 1921 & February, 1922)

(41 pages of Private Oswald Alan Mincher'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

Mincher, O. A., 26885, Northcote

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVI, Issue 66, 14 September, 1918)

## SICK AND WOUNDED

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

Still Seriously Ill

Mincher, O. A., 26885, Northcote

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVI, Issue 102, 26 October, 1918)

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## FRIDAY'S HOSPITAL REPORT

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

Still Seriously Ill – Improving

Mincher, O. A., 26885, Northcote

(*Dominion*, Volume 12, Issue 40, 11 November, 1918)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

NEW ZEALAND ARMY

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

DIED OF SICKNESS

Mincher, O. A., 26885, A. I. R. (J. Mincher, Auckland, f), 15<sup>th</sup> November

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVI, Issue 125, 22 November, 1918)

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

Photo of Private O. A. Mincher's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*