

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

30449 PRIVATE

**P. T. O'NEILL**

N.Z. MACHINE GUN CORPS

21ST MAY, 1918 Age 30



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte P. T. O'Neill is located in Third Row (Left Hand Side)  
Grave Plot # 68 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 111)*

Patrick Thomas O'Neill was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1888 at Wellington, New Zealand, the son of James & Jane O'Neill (nee Falsey).

Patrick Thomas O'Neill stated he was a 26 year old, single, Driver from Wellington, New Zealand when he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1915 with the New Zealand A.S.C. Supply. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane O'Neill of 151 Taranaki Street, Wellington, New Zealand. Patrick stated on his Attestation Papers that his date of birth was 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1890.

Pte Patrick Thomas O'Neill was discharged on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 due to being "Inefficient – not likely to become an efficient soldier."

Patrick Thomas O'Neill re-enlisted on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1916. He was a 27 year old, single, Driver from Wellington, New Zealand when he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1915 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 30449 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane O'Neill of 151 Taranaki Street, Wellington, New Zealand.

Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill embarked with 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, New Zealand Mounted Rifles from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (73) *Opawa* on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1917. He disembarked at South Africa on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & proceeded to Camp at Simon's Town.

Pte O'Neill was transferred to R.M.S. *Walmer Castle* from Cape Town, South Africa on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & admitted to Ship's Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> March & discharged on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 with Pedicule Pubis – very mild.

Pte O'Neill disembarked at Devonport, England on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & was marched in to N.Z.M.R. at Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on the same day.

Pte O'Neill was marched in to Tidworth from Sling on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. He forfeited 3 days' pay for being Absent without leave at Tidworth on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. Pte O'Neill was also written up for Insolence to N.C.O. on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 & awarded 5 days Confined to Barracks.

Pte O'Neill was transferred from Machine Gun Rifles to Machine Gun Corps at Grantham on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. He forfeited 2 days' pay for being absent without leave on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. He forfeited 3 days' pay & awarded 168 hours detention on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 for being absent without leave. On 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 Pte O'Neill was forfeited 1 days' pay for being absent without leave. He forfeited 4 days' pay & awarded 96 hours detention on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 for being absent without leave.

Pte O'Neill was admitted to Military Hospital at Grantham on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1917. He was transferred to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital (Ven Sect) at Codford, Wiltshire on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 & discharged on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1917.

Pte O'Neill was taken on strength at Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

Pte O'Neill was declared by a Court of Enquiry to be illegally absent & still absent from 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital (Ven Sect) on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1918.

Pte O'Neill forfeited 40 days' pay & 31 days' pay & awarded 90 days detention on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1918. The awarded forfeitures of pay were in addition to any hospital stoppages. He had been Absent without Leave from 8.30 a.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 to 9.45 p.m. on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1918. Pte O'Neill had been arrested at Edinburgh.

Pte O'Neill was sent to Detention Barracks at Stafford on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1918.

Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital (Ven Sect) on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. He was discharged to Convalescent Section on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1918.

Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill died on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of an Air Embolism.

A death for Patrick T. O'Neill, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1918.

Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte O'Neill's mother – Mrs Jane O'Neill, Wellington (both despatched November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill, 30449, as the son of Mrs Jane O'Neill of 151 Taranaki Street, Wellington, and the late Mr O'Neill.

(53 pages of Pte Patrick Thomas O'Neill'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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**Pte T. P. O'Neill**

## Newspaper Reports

### WELLINGTON DISTRICT

#### DIED

#### MACHINE GUN CORPS

O'Neill, P. T. (J. O'Neill, Taranaki St., Wellington m. May 21)

(*Dominion*, Volume 11, Issue 212, 27 May 1918)

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Private Patrick Thomas O'Neill has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photos of Private P. T. O'Neill's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)





*(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*