

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

51681 PRIVATE

W. E. BOURKE

N.Z. AUCKLAND REGT.

25TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 36



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private W. E. Bourke is located in Third Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 57 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 100)

Walter Edward Bourke was born 6th May, 1885 at Whangarei, New Zealand, the son of Patrick & Elizabeth / Eliza Bourke. (Both his parents had been born Limerick, Ireland). He was a 37 year old, single, Chamber Hand, Freezing works from Otahuhu, New Zealand when he enlisted on 22nd January, 1917 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 51681 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Eliza Bourke of Mt Eden, Auckland, New Zealand – as his father was deceased.

Private Walter Edward Bourke was originally posted to 27th Reinforcements – “E” Company on 27th March, 1917. He was transferred to “A” Company on 28th April, 1917. Pte Bourke embarked with O.C. 4th Reserves of Auckland – Wellington Regiment from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (87) *Tahiti* on 12th June, 1917, destination Devonport, England. He disembarked at Devonport on 16th August, 1917.

Pte Bourke was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 16th August, 1917.

Pte Bourke was admitted to 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 25th September, 1917 with nephritis. He was reported “Dangerously ill” on 1st October, 1917.

Private Walter Edward Bourke died on 25th October, 1917 at the 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Nephritis.

A death for Walter Bourke, aged 38, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Pte Bourke was buried at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Codford on 27th October, 1917.

Private Walter Edward Bourke, 51681 was last attached to Auckland Infantry Regiment, 4th Reserve Battalion.

Private Walter Edward Bourke 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 Ben Bourke as Walter’s mother had died. (August, 1921 & April, 1922)

(12 pages of Pte Walter Edward Bourke’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

STILL DANGEROUSLY ILL

Bourke, W., 51681, Auckland

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCIV, Issue 94, 18th October, 1917)

NEW ZEALAND CASUALTIES

DIED OF SICKNESS

Bourke, W., 51681, A.I.R. (Mrs E. Bourke, Mt Eden, m) 25th October

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCIV, Issue 104, 30th October, 1917)

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

Photo of Private W. E. Bourke's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)