

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

16761 PRIVATE

W. E. KING

N.Z. AUCKLAND REGT.

14TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 27



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private W. E. King is located in Last Row
Grave Plot # 84 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 129)*

Walter Edward King was born 25th January, 1891 at North Loburn, Canterbury, New Zealand, the son of John Henry & Johannah Augusta King (nee Schmidt). He was a 25 year old, single, Farm Hand from North Loburn, New Zealand when he enlisted on 4th April, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 16761 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Henry King of North Loburn, New Zealand. On his Attestation Papers, Walter King had previous Military experience & was still serving.

Walter Edward King was posted to C Company of 15th Reinforcements as Private while training in New Zealand. He was transferred to Camp Military Police on 2nd July, 1916 & promoted to L/ Cpl. He was again promoted to Corporal on 21st May, 1916. Cpl. Walter Edward King, attached to Camp Military Police Unit, was admitted to Palmerston North Hospital with influenza while stationed at Featherstone Camp, New Zealand on 14th July, 1916 & discharged on 27th July, 1916. On 31st August, 1916 Private King was again admitted to hospital with measles & was discharged on 12th September, 1916. On 23rd September, 1916 he was again admitted to hospital with influenza & discharged on 30th September, 1916.

On 17th January, 1917 Walter King was transferred to A Company of 23rd Reinforcements & his rank reverted back to that of Private.

Private Walter Edward King embarked with 23rd Reinforcements, Auckland Infantry Regiment, A Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (79) *Ruapehu* on 14th March, 1917, destination England. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 21st May, 1917.

Pte King was marched in to Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire on 21st May, 1917 as part of 23rd Reinforcements. He left Sling Army Camp on 21st June, 1917 for France.

Pte King was marched into Camp at Etaples, France on 23rd June, 1917.

Pte King was admitted to No. 24 General Hospital at Etaples on 28th June, 1917 with influenza - slight. He was discharged to Base Depots in France on 9th July, 1917.

Pte King joined 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment in the Field at Rouen, France on 5th August, 1917. He was detached to No. 1 NZLTMB on 3rd October, 1917 & then rejoined 1st Battalion on 6th October, 1917.

On 18th October, 1917, Pte King was evacuated sick with diarrhoea & admitted to No. 66 Divisional Rest. Stn. He was then admitted to No. 12 Can. Amb. on 22nd October, 1917 & transferred on 24th October, 1917. Pte King was admitted to No. 7 General Hospital at St. Omer on 29th October, 1917 with mumps – mild & discharged on 28th November, 1917 to Base Depot again.

Pte King was attached to Etaples on 29th November, 1917 & proceeded to N.Z. Division on the Field on 26th December, 1917. He rejoined 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment on 28th December, 1917.

Pte King was detached to School on 17th February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 27th February, 1918.

Pte King was evacuated sick again with diarrhoea on 18th March, 1918 & admitted to No. 1 N.Z. Amb. He was transferred on 22nd March, 1918 to No. 14 Aust. Amb. & admitted to No. 13 C.C.S. on 26th March, 1918 with suspected dysentery. Pte King was discharged to duty on 29th March, 1918.

Pte King was despatched to Reinforcements at Abeele on 4th April, 1918 & posted to 2nd N. Z. Cntg, Battalion on 5th April, 1918.

Pte King was again evacuated to Hospital at Boulogne on 30th April, 1918 & then transferred to St. Denis Hospital in France on 2nd May, 1918 with a septic finger, then admitted to No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital at Walton, England.

On 11th June, 1918 Pte King was admitted to New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch & discharged to Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 13th July, 1918.

Pte King was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 23rd September, 1918 with influenza. He was placed on seriously ill list on 6th October, 1918. He was reported to be still seriously ill on 21st October, 1918 & again on 4th November, 1918 & 18th November, 1918. On 2nd December Pte King was reported to be "still seriously ill – unsatisfactory" & transferred to dangerously ill list on 3rd December, 1918.

Private Walter Edward King died on 14th December, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Peritonitis Tubercular.

A death for Walter E. King, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Walter Edward King was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford.

Private Walter Edward King left in his Will, dated 13th December, 1918, everything to his father John Henry King - as noted in his Service Record File.

Private Walter Edward King, 16761 was last attached to 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment. He had served in the Western European War Front in 1917 & 1918.

Private Walter Edward King was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte King's father – Mr J. H. King of North Loburn.

(26 pages of Walter Edward King'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.

oooOOOooo



Pte Walter Edward King

Newspaper Reports

HOSPITAL REPORT

SICK AND WOUNDED

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

Still Seriously Ill

King, W. E., 16761, N. Loburn

(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 114, 9 November, 1918)

&

(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 138, 7 December, 1918)

HOSPITAL REPORT

SICK AND WOUNDED

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

Dangerously Ill

King, W. E., 16761, N. Loburn

(Evening Post, Volume XCVI, Issue 139, 9 December, 1918)

NEW ZEALAND ARMY

TO-DAY'S CASUALTY LIST

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

DIED OF SICKNESS

King, W. E., 16761, A.I.R. (J. H. King, North Loburn, F), 14th December

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCVI, Issue 148, 19 December, 1918)

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

UNVEILED AT NORTH LOBURN

At the invitation of the North Loburn Soldiers' Memorial Committee, a large gathering assembled at the North Loburn School yesterday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the memorial erected in memory of past pupils of the school who had fallen in the war.

The monument is a fine column mainly of Ruapuka (New Zealand) granite, standing 20 feet high and mounted on two concrete steps. The column shaft is nine feet long. The whole of the monument is beautifully polished and is a fine piece of workmanship. It cost about £140 and was erected by Mr G. W. Parsons. The work of erecting it was supervised by Mr H. Boyd, of Raugiora, who gave his services free. The following is suitably engraved on it :-

“Erected by the North Loburn School pupils and residents in memory of past pupils who gave their lives in defence of King and country in the Great War, 1914-1915.”

The names which follow are:- Captain Edwin B. Dalby, R.N., Lieutenant Alex. M. Martin, Corporal Charles N. Macintosh, Privates Charles D. Harris, William H. Feather, Edwin Fitzgibbon, Thos. M. Quinlan and Walter E. King.....

(*Press*, Volume LV, Issue 16477, 21 March, 1919)

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

Photo of Private W. E. King's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)