

WILLIAM JOHN RAE

Service No: 27367

Rank: Private

Regiment: N.Z.E.F. Canterbury Infantry Regiment,

17th Reinforcements, J Coy.

Unit: 1st Battalion

Date of Death: 7th August 1917

Age: 27

Casualty Type: Killed in Action.

Grave: St. Quentin Caberet Military Cemetery, Belgium.

William was born in Geraldine, South Canterbury, 31st August 1890 son of Mr James and Mrs E. Rae, of Peel Forest, South Canterbury.

He attended the Scotsburn School, where he was enrolled on the 8th February 1898.

He was one of 7 children.

When he enlisted his occupation was a shepherd working at Godley Peaks Station, Lake Tekapo in the Mackenzie Country. He was well known in the local community.

He enlisted on the 1st April 1916. He was 25 years old.

He embarked at Wellington, on the 25th September 1916, aboard the NZTS 64 "Devon" sailing for Devonport in the U.K during which time he suffered a bout of measles. He arrived on the 21st November of the same year, and went to Sling Camp and from there he left for France on the 20th December 1916. He was attached to strength NZEF & GBD Etaples, posted to 1st Battalion CIR, 1st Coy in the field on 11th January 1917.

On 19th March 1917 he was admitted to hospital in St Omer with mumps. He re joined to his unit on the 19th May 1917.

He was 27 when he was killed in action on the 7th August 1917 at Messines Belgium

He is buried in the St Quentin Caberet Military Cemetery, Belgium. He is remembered on that memorial, also Fairlie War Memorial and the Memorial Wall in Timaru.

William's brother, Donald Alfred, of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, died of wounds August 28th 1915 aboard HMHS Maheno at sea off Gallipoli, and is buried in Turkey, at Lone Pine.

PVT JOHN RAE
COMMENT ON HIS DEATH
25.06.1917

SILVERSTREAM NOTES

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

THE OTHER SIDE.

Quite recently much sincere regret was felt for his widowed mother especially and his many friends, when the sad information came forward that Private J. Rae had made the supreme sacrifice "somewhere in France." Though not strictly a local soldier, Johnnie was well known and had many admiring friends, being possessed of many admirable qualities. His sad yet noble end is the more pathetic, since he makes the second son so lost in the great cause, and the bereaved mother was also but recently bereft of her husband.