

## WILLIAM ARTHUR KEENAN

**SERVICE NUMBER:** 82088

**RANK:** Private

New Zealand Training Unit.

**DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH:** 25 September 1920,  
Timaru Hospital.

**AGE:** 22

**CASUALTY TYPE:** Died after a long illness

**GRAVE:** Waimate Cemetery, South Canterbury, No 418.

William was born at Waimate on 14 June 1898, the son of Sam and Catherine Jane (Kate) of Upper Hook, Makikihi.

“Before enlistment William was a musterer in the Mackenzie County and was very popular with his mates, a fine looking young fellow of 6 feet.” At enlistment he was working for Sherwin and Sherwin of Fairlie.

Becoming a member of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements, while at Trentham he had an accident and as a result had a leg amputated. He was in Timaru Hospital for 12 months where further amputations were necessary. While in hospital the Prince of Wales visited Timaru and William was taken by car to meet him.

Papers Past, “The Timaru Herald 28 September 1920”

“Keenan, at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Timaru at 3am on Saturday 25 September, Private William Arthur, second son of Mr S. K. Keenan of Makikihi after a long illness, aged 22. Deeply mourned. Military funeral at Waimate on Monday.”

William was buried at the Waimate cemetery with full military honours, beside his mother Kate who died in 1910.

His name is remembered at the Waimate War Memorial, the Roll of Honour at the Waimate School and the South Canterbury Memorial Wall.