

Otago Witness. 16 August 1916 (Papers Past) [26/07/2020]

Lance-corporal Geo. T. M'Cleery (reported wounded July 28) is the youngest son of H. M'Cleery, Dunedin, and brother of Aird M'Cleery, who went with the Main Body and was badly wounded at Gallipoli. He was born at Outram 27 years ago, and received his education at the local school under Mr John White, now of Musselburgh School, and at Dunedin High School. After leaving school he entered a grocery firm of the city, but not liking town life he went to work on Mr Jas. Wylie's farm at Outram. He then spent some time in South Canterbury, but was in the Kurow district when he enlisted. His parents received a telegram saying that their son had been severely wounded and had embarked for England.

Otago Daily Times. 21 June 1919 (Papers Past) [26/07/2020]

Mr H. M'Cleery, St. Andrew street, has received word that his son, Corporal G. T. M'Cleery, is coming home by the Prinzessin.

Evening Star. 29 July 1919 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

DEATH.

M'CLEERY. — On July 28 (suddenly), Corporal George M'Cleery (6th Reinforcements). Dearly loved second son of H. and M. M'Cleery, St. Andrew street, and dearly beloved husband of L. B. M'Cleery.

Evening Star. 29 July 1919 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS

As stated in our Stop Press column last night, a returned soldier died suddenly at Upper Junction yesterday afternoon. George Thomas M'Cleery, a Main Body man, who returned to the Dominion three weeks ago, was walking from the Normanby tram terminus with a companion to Port Chalmers, and when they were but 200 yds away from the tram M'Cleery collapsed and expired in a few seconds. Deceased and his companion had been to the Repatriation Office in the morning, and were on their way to Port to make inquiries. An inquest was held at the morgue, at 3.30 this afternoon.

Evening Star. 30 July 1919 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

SOLDIER'S SUDDEN DEATH

THE INQUEST.

An inquest, on the body of George Thomas M'Cleery, who died suddenly at Upper Junction on Monday afternoon, was held before Mr H. Y. Widdowson, S.M., sitting as coroner, at the morgue yesterday afternoon. Deceased was 31 years of age, and had returned to the Dominion only three weeks ago. Sergeant M'Kenzie represented the police.

Hugh M'Cleery, father of deceased, said his son's name was George Thomas Alley M'Cleery. Before going to the war with the 6th Reinforcements the deceased had been a mill hand. He enlisted in Dunedin. The deceased returned by the Prinzessin about three weeks ago, and obtained his discharge. He was a lance-corporal, and was away three years and 352 days. He seemed to be in good health when he returned. Witness had been told by deceased's wife that he had complained of a pain in the left side, and had complained of the same thing in England. He married in England. He had written saying he had been gassed, and had said he had been wounded in the right side. Witness was very much surprised to hear of his death. He never heard of heart trouble in the family. Deceased was born at Outram.

Dr Evans, in reply to the coroner, said he had not yet made a post-mortem. The Coroner said he would later adjourn the inquest.

Charles Hume, a returned soldier, said he met deceased for the first time on Monday morning. The two had been to the Repatriation Board, to get a job on the Westmoreland. Finding that they could not get a train to Port till evening, they arranged to go to Normanby by tram and walk over the hill. They left town at 1 o'clock. They had one drink at the hotel at Normanby. After leaving the tramcar and going about 200 yards up the hill deceased said: "Don't go so fast. I've got a pain in my chest. He seemed to be short of breath, he said his heart had never troubled him. He also said he had not been gassed. They took matters very steadily, and took several rests. Deceased seemed to get better, if anything. Just after passing the school near the Junction, deceased said: "Come into the side of the road. I feel bad." He fell down into the water channel. He groaned slightly, and his breath was labored for a few seconds, but he never spoke. A man came along in a vehicle, and witness got his assistance, to prop deceased up against a bank. Deceased became quite still. Somebody on foot came along and felt deceased's pulse, and tried his heart, and said: "You can do nothing. The man's dead." Witness had been to a house to see if he could get some spirits to revive deceased, but no one was in. Two men in an express wagon came along, and they brought the body down to Normanby, where the local constable took charge. Deceased was quite cheerful, and in good spirits on the way.

The inquest was adjourned till 3.45 this afternoon at the courthouse.

The Coroner, speaking to Mr Hume, said: “We wish, to thank you for your attention to this man at the time, afterwards, and all the way through.”

Evening Star. 31 July 1919 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

The funeral of Lance-corporal George Thomas M’Cleery, who died on Monday, took place to-day. The remains were interred at Anderson Bay Cemetery, Chaplain R. Fairmaid, assisted by Chaplains R. S. Watson and Hopper, conducted the service at the home and the graveside. Lance-corporal M’Cleery left with the 6th Reinforcements, and after serving three years and 352 days, returned to New Zealand three weeks ago.

Otago Daily Times. 31 July 1919 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

DEATH OF A SOLDIER

DUE TO SYNCOPE.

The adjourned inquest concerning the death of a returned soldier named George Thomas M’Cleery, who expired while walking from Normanby to Port Chalmers on Monday, was concluded yesterday afternoon before Mr. H. Y. Widdowson (coroner). Dr Evans deposed that about 4 p.m. on Monday he was called by the police to examine the body of deceased. A post-mortem examination showed that the body was well built and well nourished. The membranes of the brain were congested. There was no haemorrhage into the brain. There were adhesions on the left side of the chest wall, indicating old pleurisy. Both lungs were very congested, and the heart was enlarged, weighing 15½oz. Witness could find no evidence of disease of the bowels or the heart, but the heart muscle over both auricles was thinned. The stomach contained a considerable quantity of fluid and undigested food. All the internal abdominal organs were congested. There was a small scar on the left armpit and a horizontal scar across the back at the level of the right shoulder blade, presumably wounds sustained on active service. Witness was of opinion that the cause of death was syncope caused by exertion on an enlarged heart. The ascent of the hill would be the immediate cause of cardiac failure. A verdict was returned in accordance with the medical testimony.

Otago Daily Times. 1 August 1919 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

A military funeral was accorded the remains of Corporal George M'Cleery, who died suddenly on the Upper Junction road on Tuesday. The funeral, which left his parents' residence, No. 3 St. Andrew street, at 1.30 p.m. yesterday, was well attended, the remains being interred in the Anderson's Bay Cemetery. The firing party was provided by the Employment Company from the Central Battery. Captain M'Cormaek represented the Defence Department, and Private G. Bennett the Returned Soldiers' Association. Chaplain Fairmaid, assisted by Chaplains Watson and Hopper, officiated at the house and the grave, and Bugler Turnbull sounded the "Last Post."

Timaru Herald. 28 July 1920 (Papers Past) [25/07/2020]

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

McCLEERY. —In ever loving memory of our dear son, Corporal George McCleery, who died at Dunedin on July 28th, 1919.

We miss him most who loved him best.

—Inserted by his loving parents.

McCLEERY.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband, who died at Dunedin, on July 28th, 1919.

In a hero's grave he lies.

But the days are long without him.

—Inserted by his loving wife.

Timaru Herald. 28 July 1921 (Papers Past) [26/07/2020]

ROLL OF HONOUR

McCLEERY.—In ever loving memory
of our dear son, Corporal George
McCleery, who died July 28, 1919.

When his duty was done he fell.

Inserted by his loving parents.

McCLEERY.—In ever loving memory of
my dear husband, Corporal George
McCleery, who died July 28, 1919.

To memory ever dear.

Inserted by his loving wife.