

John Edward James ANDERSON Number 32932

Enlisted 27 July 1916

Aged 31 years

Occupation: Blacksmith

Marital Status: Married with one child

Next of Kin: Mrs. L. Anderson (wife) Reefton, New Zealand

Religion: Presbyterian

Military Service: Armed Forces as a Rifleman

Embarked 15 November 1916 on the "Maunganui"

10th Reinforcements, 4th Battalion, H. Company

New Zealand Rifle Brigade

Arrived at Plymouth 30 January 1917

Theatres of Operation: 1914-1918 Western Front, Ypres, France

Military Award: British War Medal and Victory Medal

Death: 27 March 1967

John was born in Sandietown on the 22nd September 1885. He was educated at Waitemataitai and St. Andrew's Schools. He was the last of four Anderson brothers to enlist or be called up, possibly because he was married and had a child. He was the son of a Timaru wheelwright, John James Anderson and his wife Julia nee BISHOP.

When John enlisted in July 1916 he was working as a blacksmith for the Consolidated Company, Reefton and had married Lilian Eva Rose Rangitora THOMPSON, "Turi" the year before on the 1st January. Their first child James Andrew was born in January 1916. When John sailed away on the "Maunganui" in 15 November 1916 he was probably unaware that Turi was pregnant with their second child, Annie Alberta "Nancy" who born in July 1917.

John arrived at Devonport in England in January 1917 and went to Sling Camp in Wiltshire and by March 1917, he was fighting in France. In Ypres on the 12th October 1917, he suffered a machine gun wound to his left forearm and left foot, was initially ambulated out and his arm was operated on at the 3rd Australian Station Hospital and he was then sent to the City of London General Hospital where he had further surgery to his arm in January 1918. The injury left him with ulna nerve damage and as he was considered unfit for service for six months he was shipped back to New Zealand, leaving Liverpool on the 2nd February 1918 on the "Maunganui" the same ship that had taken him to England. He convalesced at Hanmer Springs.

Turi travelled from Reefton to meet John in Christchurch – quite some journey as can be seen from an application form John made for reimbursement of the fare:

I, John Edward James Anderson of Reefton, do solemnly and sincerely declare that my wife travelled to Christchurch, (to meet me on my return from England) on Tuesday the fifth day of March 1918, viz. By train to Otira, coach to Arthur's Pass and train to Christchurch, and that the total cost for the return journey was £2.18.0.

In Civilian life John became a policeman and he and Turi had two more children, Leslie John born in 1919 and Joyce Mabel "Joy" in 1926

John died in Nelson on the 27 March 1967.



John Edward James ANDERSON, in civilian life