

Michael John O’Rielly

Service No: 28910

Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: Otago NZEF

Unit: 2nd Battalion, “J” Company

Date of Death: 11th August 1917

Age 21

Casualty Type: Killed in action

Grave: Prowse Point Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Michael was born on the 29th October 1895, to parents Michael and Mary Ann O’Rielly of Rocky Gully Road, Albury, South Canterbury. He attended school in Albury, starting on the 5th February 1901. His older brother Edmond also attended the school.

Both Michael and brother Edmond were members of the Albury Football team.

At the time of his enlistment, Michael’s occupation was that of farmer.

He departed New Zealand on the 11th October 1916, aboard the HMNZT 67, “Tofua”, leaving from Wellington bound for Plymouth U.K.

He saw service on the Western Front, Europe, and was reported killed in action at YPRES, Belgium on the 11th August 1917. He was 21 years old.

He is buried in Prowse Point Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Michael’s brother Edmond also lost his life 2 years earlier, serving in Turkey.

Michael is remembered on the Fairlie War Memorial, the Albury War Memorial, the Memorial Wall in Timaru and on the Roll of Honour in the Albury Hotel.

