

Robert Stanley Darvell



Born Chesham, Buckinghamshire 15th July 1885. Carpenter and builder. Married Nellie Darvell (also from Chesham) in New Zealand 1923. Two children born in New Zealand Janet and Robert. Family returned from New Zealand 1928/29. Died Chesham 1946.

2nd Battalion of the Wellington Infantry Regiment (17th Rauhine Company) in New Zealand Forces (ANZACS; New Zealand Division; 2nd Brigade) from 1st May 1916 until 28th April 1920. He served all his active fighting time on the Western Front in France and Belgium. He joined the Battalion in France on 7th December 1916. He was a skilled carpenter and he thus served as a battalion pioneer from much of his service.

He was seriously wounded (gunshot wound thigh) in the final action of the NZ Division liberating Le Quesnoy on 4th November 1918. Invalided back in the UK by 10th November after which he had a long convalescence before returning to New Zealand in 1919.

Major battles:

1917 3rd Ypres

- Messines. 7 - 14 Jun 1917.
- Broodseinde. 4 Oct 1917. (Gravenstafel)
- 1st Passchendaele. 12 Oct 1917.?

1918 – St Michael retreat, Somme 1918 and Advance to Victory

- Arras. 28 Mar 1918.
- Ancre. 5 Apr 1918.
- Albert. 21 - 23 Aug 1918.
- Second Bapaume. 31 Aug - 3 Sep 1918.
- Havrincourt. 12 Sep 1918.

- Canal Du Nord. 27 Sep - 1 Oct 1918. (Hindenberg Line)
- Cambrai. 8 - 9 Oct 1918.
- 2nd Battle of Le Cateau
- The Pursuit to the Selle. 9 - 12 Oct 1918.
- The Selle. 17 - 25 Oct 1918.
- The Sambre. 4 Nov 1918, including the Capture of Le Quesnoy.