



Sapper Robert Irving

4/1940

Robert was born on 28th December 1880 in Glasgow Scotland the eldest son of George Rae Irving and Helen/Ellen Irving (nee Donaldson). His father who was a carpenter died in 1897 in Scotland. After 1901 Helen and her four children emigrated to New Zealand and settled at Otaio, South Canterbury where she was house keeper to her two brothers-in-law David and John Irving.

Robert was recorded in the 1901 census living at 35 Overnewton Square, Glasgow, Scotland

His younger brother David was admitted to Otaio School in 1904.

The 1911 Electoral roll shows Robert living at Otaio and working as an engineer for John Paterson

His mother and uncle David left Otaio after the war for Palmerston North where they are both buried. Uncle John stayed in South Canterbury and is buried in Timaru.

At the time of enlistment 17th November 1915 Robert was an engineer working for John Paterson of Otaio.

Robert was 5ft 7inches tall with grey eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion. Religion recorded as Presbyterian.

Disembarked Suez 10 April 1916. Embarked Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force, France 10th May 1916; marched into NZ base Depot, Etaples 20th May 1916. Detached to 2nd Anzac Entrenching Bn, 29th July 1916.

Wounded in action 28th March 1917 (gunshot wound, shoulder, hip, thigh, leg and arm: dangerously wounded) and admitted to No 3 NZ Field Ambulance: transferred same day to 1st North Midlands Casualty Clearing Station.

Died of wounds, 1st North Midlands Casualty Clearing Station 30th March 1917.

Robert was a first cousin once removed to Archie and Bill Morgan from Temuka who both gave their lives during the war.

Archie and Bill were the sons of William and Margaret Morgan (nee) Irving.