

Grangeegorman Military Cemetery, County Dublin, Republic of Ireland

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LANCE-CPL.

P. FREITAS

N.Z. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

10TH OCTOBER, 1918

Peter FREITAS

Peter Freitas was born as Leonce Brault in Guildford, NSW, Australia. A birth was registered in NSW in 1885 for Leonce E. Brault with parents Ferdinand Felix & Sophia A. Brault.

Leonce Brault married Delia C. Hayes in 1905 in the district of Lismore, NSW, Australia.

A birth & death were registered in the district of Lismore, NSW in 1907 for William A. Brault, son of Leonce & Delia Brault & in 1908 for Michael N. Brault in the same district.

A birth was registered in 1911 in Queensland for Mary Christina Brault, daughter of Leonce & Delia Brault.

From the Queensland Police Gazette 1914:

Warrants Issued for:-

Brault, Leonce

Leonce Brault used the name of Peter Freitas & stated he was born on 1st December, 1887 in New South Wales when he enlisted with the Auckland Infantry Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Forces on 11th August, 1914. He was a Driver, employed by J. Griffin, of Whangarei & his last New Zealand address as listed as Whangarei. His service number was 12/191 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Delia Christina Freitas (nee Hayes). He listed his children as Michael Herbert, born 15th October, 1908, in Lismore, NSW & Mary Christina, born 9th March, 1911, in Brisbane, Queensland. "Peter Freitas" was 5ft 10 in with black hair, brown eyes & a dark complexion.

Private Peter Freitas, 12/191, was part of the Main Body Draft attached to H.Q., Auckland Infantry Battalion. His last New Zealand address was listed as Auckland & his next of kin was listed as Mrs T. C. Freitas, Seedsburg, via Landsborough, N.C. Line, Queensland. He served in New Zealand from 11th August, 1914 until 15th October, 1914. Private Freitas was listed as serving "Foreign" from 16th October, 1914.

Private Peter Freitas was at Sea from 13th October, 1914 until 3rd December, 1914. He disembarked in Egypt on 4th December, 1914.

Private Peter Freitas was transferred to A.S.C. attached to Field Ambulance as Driver on 28th February, 1915. His Service number was changed from 12/191 to 14/191A

He was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal on 25th March, 1915.

Acting Lance Corporal Peter Freitas embarked for Dardanelles on 12th April, 1915.

Acting Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was marched out from Zeitoun & joined No. 1 Field Ambulance at Moascar as Driver on 27th January, 1916.

Private Peter Freitas was appointed Lance Corporal on 25th March, 1916 with N.Z. A.S.C. (New Zealand Army Service Corps) while posted at Ismailia.

Lance Corporal Peter Freitas embarked from Egypt on 9th April, 1916 on *Minnewaska* for France. He joined his Unit – No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance at Morbecque, France on 19th April, 1916.

Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was appointed Acting Corporal (Statement of Services Form & Casualty Form – Active Service both state appointed Acting Corporal, however a Statement of Service form states appointed Acting Cook) on 16th July, 1916.

Ferdinand Felix Brault, father of "Peter Freitas"/ Leonce Brault, died on 25th September, 1916 in Tipperary Hotel Taravao, Tahiti, French Polynesia.

Acting Corporal Peter Freitas was with his Unit – A.S.C. No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1917.

Acting Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was on leave to UK from 6th March, 1918. The next line in his service record file reads "Did not proceed on leave" 6th March, 1918.

Acting Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was written up while attached to A.S.C. at Hazebrouk for failing to report to Reinforcements Camp on 6th March, 1918 prior to going on leave to UK. He was reduced to the ranks (made Private) & to be superseded on the Leave Roster from 11th March, 1918.

Acting Corporal Peter Freitas was appointed Lance Corporal on 25th May, 1918 attached to No. 1 Field Ambulance.

Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was on leave to England from 21st September, 1918.

Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was classified as "Killed in action" then revised to Killed (torpedoed) by enemy action while soldier was en route from Ireland to England on 10th October, 1918. Lance Corporal Peter Freitas drowned on 10th October, 1918 as a result of enemy action on the R.M.S. *Leinster* which was torpedoed by German submarine *UB-123* while at sea off the coast of Ireland on 10th October, 1918. His body was located & taken to King George V Hospital, Dublin, Ireland for identification.



R.M.S. Leinster

RMS Leinster was a vessel operated by the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, served as the Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire)- Holyhead mail boat.

Just before 10 a.m. on 10th October, 1918 as the Leinster was sailing east of the Kish Bank in a heavy swell, passengers saw a torpedo approach from the port side and pass in front of the bow. A second torpedo followed shortly afterwards, and it struck the ship forward on the port side in the vicinity of the mail room. Captain Birch ordered the ship to make a U-turn in an attempt to return to Kingstown as the ship began to settle slowly by the bow; however, the ship sank rapidly after a third torpedo struck the Leinster, causing a huge explosion.

Despite the heavy seas, the crew managed to launch several lifeboats and some passengers clung to life-rafts. The survivors were rescued by HMS Lively, HMS Mallard and HMS Seal. The first member of the Women's Royal Naval Service to die on active duty, Josephine Carr, was among those killed. Captain Birch was also among those lost in the sinking. Wounded in the initial attack, he was drowned when his lifeboat became swamped in heavy seas and capsized while trying to transfer survivors to HMS Lively. Several of the military personnel who died are buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery.

Survivors were brought to Kingstown harbour. The ship's log states that she carried 77 crew and 694 passengers on her final voyage under the command of Captain William Birch. The ship had previously been attacked in the Irish Sea but the torpedoes missed their target. Those on board included more than one hundred British civilians, 22 postal sorters (working in the mail room) and almost 500 military personnel from the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force. Also aboard were nurses from Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

(Extract of information on RMS *Leinster* from Wikipedia)

The anchor of R.M.S. *Leinster* is part of a memorial to those who lost their lives following the sinking of the R.M.S. *Leinster* on 10th October, 1918. It is located at Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, adjacent to the National Maritime Museum.



R.M.S. *Leinster* Memorial

*In memory of the
501 passengers, crew and
postal workers
who lost their lives
following the sinking
of the RMS *Leinster*
on 10 October 1918*

Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was buried on 13th October, 1918 in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland – Plot number N.Z. RC. 1 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lance Corporal Peter Freitas was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. He had served in the Balkans in 1915, the Egyptian area in 1914, 1915 & 1916 & the Western European in 1916, 1917 & 1918. His medals were sent to his wife – Mrs D. C. Freitas at Warwick House, 8 Bartley St, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Peter Freitas – service number 14/191A, of New Zealand Army Service Corps. He was the husband of Delia Christina Freitas, of Warwick House, 8 Bartley St., Sydney, New South Wales. Born at Guildford, Sydney.

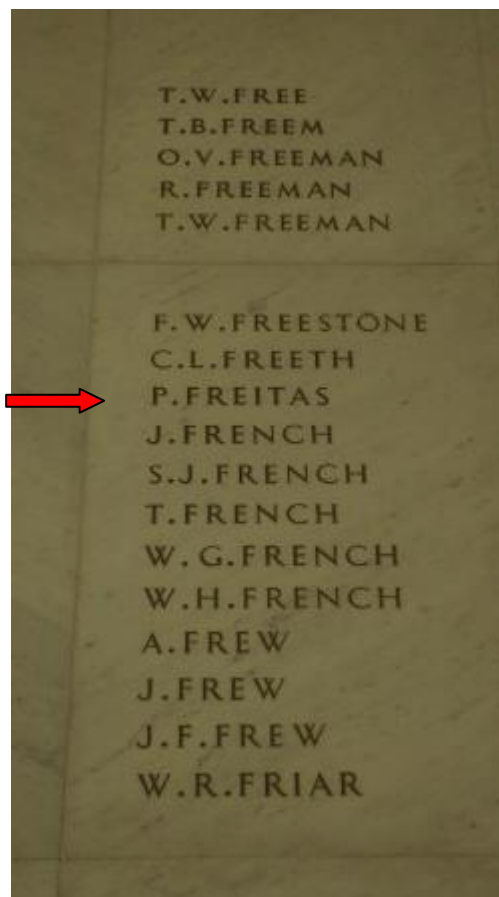
P. Freitas is remembered on the Whangarei and District War Memorial located in Laurie Hall Park, New Zealand.



Whangarei and District War Memorial (Photos from New Zealand History)



P. Freitas is remembered on a panel in the World War 1 Hall of Memories in Auckland War Memorial Museum, New Zealand.



P. Freitas is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

(21 pages of Lance Corporal Peter Freitas' Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & Archives New Zealand



Lance Corporal Peter Freitas (of Wellington) Died on s.s. Leinster

(Photo from Free Lance, Volume XVIII, Issue 956, 7 November, 1918)

Newspaper Notices

NEW ZEALAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR

FREITAS – Died as a result of being torpedoed on the s.s. Leinster on 10th October, 1918, Peter Freitas (Main Body), beloved husband of Delia Freitas, and father of M. and C. Freitas.

(Evening Post, New Zealand, Volume XCVI, Issue 92 – 15 October, 1918)

On Active Service

FREITAS – In loving memory of L.-corporal P. Freitas (Brault), 1st Field Ambulance, New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, died October 10, 1918, as a result of the torpedoing of the Leinster off the Irish Coast. Interred in Dublin, Ireland. Rest in peace. Inserted by his widow and children, Guilford –road, Guildford.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 10 October, 1919)

On Active Service

FREITAS – In loving memory of L.-corporal P. Freitas, New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, died October 10, 1918, as a result of the torpedoing of the Leinster off the Irish Coast. Interred in Grangejarman Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland. Rest in peace. Inserted by his widow and children, 8 Bartley-street, city.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW, Australia – 11 October, 1920)

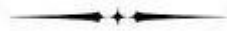
Delia Christina Freitas, aged 85, was buried on 30th January, 1968 in Rookwood Catholic Cemetery, Sydney, NSW, Australia – Section Grave Mortuary 2, Area 14, Grave 2645.

According to Sydney, Australia Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions – P. Freitas is named on a headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Catholic Mortuary 2 & 3, Section 14, Row 29 Plot 2645 with the inscription

“L.Cpl. N.Z.E.F. My husb, Interred in Dublin, Eire.”



Delia Christine Freitas' Headstone in Rookwood Catholic Cemetery with her son Michael Freitas



Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland

Grangegorman Military Cemetery was opened in 1876 and was used for the burial of British service personnel and their near relatives. It contains war graves from both world wars. Some of the graves were re-located to this site at a later date (nine from King George V Hospital grounds, two from Trinity College grounds, three from Portobello (Barracks) Cemetery, two from Drogheda (Little Calvary) Cemetery and one from Oranmore Old Graveyard).

The "Leinster" graves are in several trenches in the different denominational plots.

A Screen Wall Memorial of a simple design standing nearly two metres high and fifteen metres long has been built of Irish limestone to commemorate the names of those war casualties whose graves lie elsewhere in Ireland and can no longer be maintained. Arranged before this memorial are the headstones of the war dead buried in Cork Military Cemetery but now commemorated here.

There are now 613 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 2 of which are unidentified, and 12 of the 1939-1945 war, 1 of which is unidentified, commemorated here.

There are 7 Australian War Graves from World War 1 & 1 New Zealand War Grave.

4 Australian Soldiers & a New Zealand Soldier who were drowned on the *Leinster* were buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery - Private Joseph Thomas Barnes, 6784, 48th Battalion, A.I.F.; Private Edwin Johnson Carter, 2880, 29th Battalion, A.I.F.; Private Joseph Gratton, 2872, 4th Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F.; Private Michael Ernest Smith, 4530, 19th Battalion, A.I.F. & Lance Corporal Peter Freitas, 14/191A, New Zealand Army Corps (born in Australia).

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Grangegorman Military Cemetery



Grangegorman Military Cemetery



Lance-Cpl. P. Freitas' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone on right

Photo of Lance-Cpl. P. Freitas' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland.



(Photo courtesy of Richard J. Edgar)