

John Edward Cozens

John Cozens, known as Ted to the family, was born 10 September 1888, at Dovedale, the son of Daniel Cozens and Winifred Win. Daniel Cozens was a Flemish seaman who had jumped ship in Wellington and made his way south eventually ending up in Dovedale, in the mid 1870's, where he worked for the Win family. He married Winifred in March 1880 and purchased 530 acres of bush at what became known as Cozen's Valley. He died accidentally in 1900 and Winifred later marries Jessie Parkinson.¹ Daniel and Winifred had six children: [John] Edward, Wilfred, Olive, Noble, Mac and Roy.²

The letters of Daniel and Winifred and Win family records are held in the Nelson Provincial Museum.

Ted enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, on 17 August 1914. He stated that he was a farmer working at Murchison for Kennear Davis. He had prior military experience in the Territorial Force with The Motueka Mounted Rifles.³ However he served as a private, army serial no. 6/760, with the 12th (Nelson) Company, Canterbury Infantry Battalion not as a mounted trooper, and embarked 16 October 1914 with the 'Main Body'.⁴

He served in Egyptian 1914-1916, the Balkan 1915, and the Western European 1916-1917 theatres of war.

He embarked for the Dardenelles in April 1914 and was at the opening of the Gallipoli campaign. He suffered from exposure in June 1915 and was hospitalized in late August and convalesced during September. He rejoined his unit in October but was wounded shortly after, in November, by shrapnel to his left leg. He was hospitalized in Alexandria on 21 November 1915.⁵

Fit again he rejoined his unit at Ismailia, Egypt on 18 January and embarked for France from Port Said. At Rouen he was hospitalized, in May 1916. By September 1916 he had rejoined his unit but next year he was again hospitalized, in July 1917, this time for rheumatism.⁶ The medical board considered his case in December 1917 and recommended he be discharged to New Zealand for six months owing to myalgia, from his exposure at Gallipoli, for convalescence.⁷

From 18 May 1918 until 9 December 1918 he had was excused from military duties.⁸ He embarked for home aboard the 'Arawa' and arrived in New Zealand 7 March 1918. His final discharge was on 11 December 1918.⁹

He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, and the British war and Victory medals.

Back in Nelson, Ted does not reappear, in the records housed at the Nelson Provincial Museum, until 1947 when his name is entered in the Post Office directory as living at Wakefield.¹⁰

He died at Wakefield on 26 February 1950.¹¹

Endnotes

- 1 Win, p.64.
- 2 Win, p.64.
- 3 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. Attestation form.
- 4 Cozens, John Edward. Cenotaph Database record.
- 5 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. Casualty form.

- 6 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. Casualty form.
- 7 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. Medical Board.
- 8 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. Medical Board.
- 9 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. History sheet.
- 10 Post Office Directory, 1947.
- 11 Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record. History sheet.

Sources

Cozens, Daniel and Winifred. 1877-1916. Letters. Nelson Provincial Museum: NPM994.119.28 and NPM994.119.29

Cozens, John Edward. Military Personnel record, Archives New Zealand. URL: <http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=21898433> , accessed 19.6.2014.

Cozens, John Edward. Cenotaph Database record, Auckland War Memorial Museum. URL: http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/Cenotaph/41220.detail?Ordinal=5&c_surname_search=cozens&c_warconflict_search=%22world+war+i,+1914-1918%22 , accessed 19.6.2014.

Family of John Win & Catherine. Win Family Collection. Nelson Provincial Museum: NPM994.193.6, AG148.

Wises New Zealand Post Office Directory 1947. Duedin, H.Wise & Co (N.Z.) Ltd.

New Zealand's roll of honour. New Zealand Herald. 26.11.1915, p.9.

Win, Rodger D. 1996. Who ploughed so well: a history of the Win family of Nelson, 1842-1992. Nelson, Rodger D Win.

This researched Biography was compiled by Anna Wilkinson, Nelson Provincial Museum, in 2014