

SECOND LIEUTENANT J MAKIN (10/2497)



(NZEf – Wellington Regiment)

According to Forces War Records Joseph Makin was the son of Leonard F and Priscilla Makin of **Bradfield, Bury St Edmunds**. The 1901 England Census Record shows the Makin family living in **Cornhill, Bury St Edmunds** with the father Leonard (then aged 40) listed as a 'Grocer Farmer' and 'Employer'. Joseph Makin (then aged 12) had an older brother and sister, 2 younger sisters and one younger brother. The register shows that Joseph and his younger siblings were born in Romford Essex. In the England and Wales Death Index 1916-2005, his father Leonard is recorded in the 1938 January to March register as dying in the district of **Bury St Edmunds** aged 77.

By the end of 1915, New Zealand (NZ) was able to field a complete division of their own and in April 1916 it left for France as part of I Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Later, the NZ Division formed part of the II ANZAC and then, in November 1917, the Division was allocated to the British corps. At the time of his death, Second Lieutenant Makin was serving with the 1st Battalion of the Wellington Regiment; the Division was engaged with the Battle of the Canal du Nord (last major German defensive position opposing the British First Army) from 27th September to 1st October 1918. With Allies attacking under total darkness at 0520hrs on 27th September (with the NZ Division advancing by moonlight on the Hindenburg Line on 29th September) the enemy was taken by surprise resulting in the capture of Canal du Nord and the opening of the road to Cambrai. The 5 day battle resulted in twelve Victoria Crosses being awarded to British and Commonwealth recipients and the NZ Division alone suffered over 500 casualties. NZ had one of the highest casualty/death rates per capita of any country involved in the Great War.



Artillery crossing the Canal du Nord

Second Lieutenant Makin died on 30th September 1918 at the age of 30. Forces War Records indicate that he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is laid to rest in grave plot VIII. H. 16 in Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery, Cambrai, France.



Remembered With Honour



Wg Cdr A Tucker RAF (Ret'd)