

L/C Frank Albert Bryant
1st NZEF 3/2648
Regiment N.Z.M.C. "H.S. Maheno"

Frank Albert Bryant volunteered for reinforcements and was posted to Awapuni, 28th October 1916 until 19th November 1917, with N.Z.M.C. (New Zealand Medical Corps) and assigned to the HS Maheno. He had three embarkations on the 4th, 5th and 8th Charters.

He married Rachel Irene Blakeley (Rene) on 8th December 1915 in Petone.

He was at sea 19th January until 6th May 1917, 30th May to 15th September 1917 and 4th July to 1st November 1918.

On the HS Maheno he assisted with the wounded from the battlefields of France and Gallipoli and for the post war flu epidemic in New Zealand. He was discharged on 11th February 1919 and awarded in 1921 the British War Medal, and in 1922 the Victory Medal 1914-1919.

Frank was born in Upper Holloway near London 4th of five children to George and Caroline Bryant (nee Cole). At age 21, with his parents, he had immigrated to New Zealand, arriving on "TSS Rimutaka" at Wellington 31st July 1908. He had served an apprenticeship in London and was employed as a carpenter, joiner, and millwright. He was employed at the Railways Workshops in Petone and Wellington, and later for the Health Department at Seaview

Frank Bryant joined the Methodist Church at 58 Laings Road, Lower Hutt, and later the Wesley/Methodist Church in Nelson Street, Petone, where he served as Choirmaster for 25 years.

He was the second tenor of the talented "Melodie Four", regularly featured on 2YA in Wellington. The NZ Radio Guide and Call Book at the time described the "Melodie Four" as "exceptionally high quality and probably the best known male quartet in New Zealand". After these radio broadcasts Frank often walked home to Petone if the last train had departed. He recorded on vinyl LP's.

After the war Frank built his family home in Petone where they raised their two sons. Both went overseas in WWII and returned: Kenneth Arthur Bryant (34376) b.1916 and Alan Frank Bryant (446006) b.1922.

Karori Crematorium 20/05/1965, Record Number 25400, age 76 years

Medals

The British War Medal

The Victory Medal 1914-1919