

# **NORMAN TOMPSETT**

**1894 - 1917**

**2nd Battalion, Otago Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force**



**Surname/Christian name:** Tompsett, Norman

**Rank/Service No:** Second Lieutenant 12/2495.

**Regiment/Unit:** 2nd Battalion Otago Regiment NZEF



**Regiment Badge**

**Date of Death:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917, Ypres, Belgium

**Age:** 23

**Type of Casualty:** Killed in Action

**Theatre of War:** Western Front

**Born/Year/Location:** Born on the 6th November, 1894 at Moor Farm, Marden.

**Enlisted/Attestation:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 1915

**Son of/Address:** Son of Benjamin and Mercy Tompsett (Taylor) of Marden, Kent, (later Castlemaine Farm, Horsmonden)

**Prior Occupation:** Architect

**Buried/Commemorated/Memorial:** TYNE COT MEMORIAL

## Family Information:

**Grandparents:** The Tompsett family were prolific farmers in the Weald of Kent.

Norman's grandfather, Benjamin, farmed 433 acres in 1881 at Moor Farm and other nearby farms including Jarmans Farm, employing 20 men and 14 boys.

He married Ann Maria Maitland at St Peter & St Paul's, Yalding, on the 31st January, 1836. They had 14 children, the youngest, also named Benjamin, was Norman's father.

**Parents:** Benjamin Tompsett married Mercy Taylor in 1885, a farmer's daughter from Frant, Sussex, and took over the running of Moor Farm, Marden.

They had 8 children, the first seven at Moor Farm and the youngest at Castlemaine Farm, Horsmonden, which the Tompsetts acquired in 1896.

**Norman's Siblings:** Benjamin Henry b.1886, Herbert Gordon b.1888, John b. 1890, Mercy b.1892, (**Norman Tompsett b.1894**), Thomas b.1897, Frances Mabel b.1899, died in infancy, Kathleen Joy b.1906, Leonard b. 1912. died in infancy

**Personal:** Norman, after completing his schooling as a day pupil at Heath House Boys Boarding School in Horsmonden, Kent chose Architecture as a career and moved to Eastbourne to serve his articles with P.B. Stonham, Architect. At this time, he was staying at Emily Alice Water's apartments at 10, Victoria Place Eastbourne.

After his initial training period was complete, in 1914, he went to New Zealand, where he took his final examination in Architecture.

He lived in Te Kuiti, Waitomo District on New Zealand's North Island, with Llewellyn Wooderson and his family. The Wooderson's were farmers, who had sold Manor House Farm, Westgate, Sussex, England in 1910 and emigrated to New Zealand. The Tompsetts would have known the Wooderson's through the neighbouring farming community.

## Relevant Military Record/Service details:

On the 16th February, 1915, Norman took his military medical examination in Hamilton and enlisted into the NZ Expeditionary Force, as Private 12/2495, Otago Infantry Regiment, New Zealand 2nd Contingent, at Trentham, Upper Hutt, about 30 miles N.E. of Wellington on the North Island. He underwent 3 months training at the army camp there. (\* Attestation and Medical record images 1 & 2 on page ).

Following his training, Norman embarked with the New Zealand 5th Reinforcements on the transport ship "Maunganui" and sailed to Egypt. After another 3 months of training at Lemnos, which included night fighting, the 5th Reinforcements were sent to the Gallipoli Peninsular, landing at Gaba Tepe, (Anzac Cove) on the 8th August, 1915.

The Australian and New Zealand Infantry had suffered huge losses in their efforts to clear the Ottoman Turks from the heights which surrounded the beach at Anzac Cove, for little gains and the 5th reinforcements were to suffer the same fate.

This included soldiers from the Australian Infantry, and the four provincial New Zealand Regiments, the Canterbury, Wellington, Auckland and **Otago** battalions.

**Quote from Otago Regt. History. (See footnote 1) - "Into the welter of the 8th August, the 5th reinforcements had been plunged. Not many of them survived. The Regiment was but a shattered remnant now."**

On the 29th August 1915, Norman was admitted to the Hospital Ship "Ionian" by barge from Anzac Cove, along with many others, suffering with enteric fever. He was taken to St George's Hospital in Malta where he spent 23 days before being discharged to All Saints Convalescence Camp, Malta.

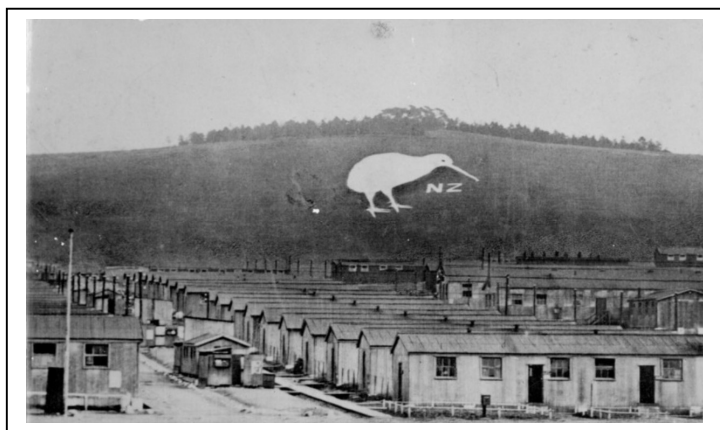
He embarked from Malta on the Hospital Ship "Brasile" to England where he was admitted to the 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester on the 10th October, 1915.

In the April of 1916, The New Zealanders who had fought at Gallipoli, had been ordered to Western Europe, which included Norman's Otago Regiment, disembarking at Marseilles from the "Llandoverly Castle" a passenger liner which had been converted to a troop transport ship.

On the 11th January 1916, Norman was transferred to the N.Z. Convalescent Hospital, Hornchurch, Essex, then to the **New Zealand Sling Camp**, Salisbury, Wiltshire, on the 14th June 1916.

Sling Camp was an extension of Bulford Camp, where recovering sick and wounded NZ soldiers were sent to regain their fitness before being sent back to their units. Reinforcements from New Zealand were also camped at Sling and were formed into a reserve battalion. **(See footnote 2)**

#### SLING CAMP SALISBURY PLAIN WILTSHIRE



"Bulford Kiwi overlooking Sling Camp and construction of the Kiwi"

On the 5th Sept. 1916, now fully fit, Norman left Sling Camp and embarked for France to the depot at Etaples and from there was posted to the NZ Infantry Brigade, 8th Company in the field and fought in the Somme campaign, France.

On the 8th March 1917, he was admitted to the no. 7 General Hospital at St. Omer with mumps and rejoined his battalion in the field on the 29th March.

In early April of 1917, he was singled out by his Commanding Officer, who recommended him for officer training after displaying leadership qualities in the heat of battle, and on April 19th he embarked for England

During his training period back in England, Norman became engaged to Miss Constance Eardley, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Robert Eardley, the headmaster of Heath House Boys School. Norman's old school in Horsmonden.

His training and examinations complete, Norman was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

**His promotion was listed in the N.Z. Gazette as follows: -**  
**OTAGO REGIMENT.**  
**The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants. -**  
**To date from 2nd June, 1917. -**  
**12/2495 Private N. Tompsett**

After gaining his commission Norman returned to Sling Camp to await orders, and on the 28th June, he was posted to his old regiment, the 2nd Bn. Otago Infantry, who were fighting in Belgium.

**Norman was killed in action whilst leading his Company on a frontal assault against a strongly fortified German position at Passchendaele, on the 12th October, 1917**

### Military Records Norman Tompsett

His address on his enlistment papers was c/o L. Wooderson, 'Tumatauenga', Te Kuiti, Waitomo District, New Zealand. When Norman enlisted, he gave his address as c/o L. Wooderson. Llewellyn Wooderson was well known to Norman and his family and a man he could trust.

Before embarking with the NZEF, he left all of his personal possessions with Mr. Wooderson.

4/203 Form No. 2

**NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**  
**ATTESTATION OF**

No. 12/2495 Name: Tompsett, N. Regiment or Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

*Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.*

1. What is your name? ... 1. Norman Tompsett
2. Where were you born? ... 2. England
3. Are you a British subject? ... 3. Yes
4. What is the date of your birth? ... 4. 6 November 1894
5. What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Architect
6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom? ... 6. No
7. What was the address at which you last resided? ... 7. c/o L. Wooderson Taumataywaenga
8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent? ... 8. Yes Te Kuiti
9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer? ... 9. P. B. Stonham Eastbourne England
10. Are you married? ... 10. No
11. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where? ... 11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps? ... 12. No
13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge? ... 13. No
14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service? ... 14. Yes
15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where? ... 15. No
16. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? ... 16. No
17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 17. Yes
18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war, and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and disband it? ... 18. Yes

NOTE.—Your discharge will not be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I, Norman Tompsett, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Signature of Recruit: N. Tompsett  
Signature of Witness: L. Wooderson Capt. Easton

*Oath to be taken by Recruit on attestation.*

I, Norman Tompsett, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God.

*Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.*

The above questions were read to the above-named Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Wellington, N.Z., on this 16 day of February 1915.

Signature of Attesting Officer, (Capt) J. S. Murphy

Attestation (Image 1 \*)

[Form No. 4.]

**NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**  
**MEDICAL HISTORY**

Surname: Tompsett Christian Name: Norman

Examined: { On 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Feb 1915 At Hamilton Approved by H. Garland Medical Officer

Birthplace: { Town \_\_\_\_\_ Country New England Examined for re-engagement: \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1915

Declared age: 20 \*Considered: \_\_\_\_\_

Trade or occupation: architect Medical Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Height: 5 ft. 10 1/2 in. \*If unfit, state disability.

Weight: 144 lb. Re-vaccinated on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1915

Chest measurement: { Minimum 33 in. Maximum expansion 36 1/2 in. Arm: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical development: \_\_\_\_\_

Small-pox marks: { Right \_\_\_\_\_ Left \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccination marks: { Arm \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

When vaccinated: \_\_\_\_\_ Result: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease: \_\_\_\_\_

Enlisted on 15 day of February 1915, at Wellington

Corps: <u>2nd Bn. O.I.R.</u>	Regimental No. <u>1372495</u>	Date: <u>17/2/15</u>
Joined on enlistment: <u>Posted</u>		<u>5.10.15</u>

Transferred to: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED FOR DISCHARGE BY A MEDICAL BOARD.**

Station.	Date.	Disease.	Result.

N.B.—This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in the Regulations for Army Medical Services on the man becoming non-effective, the date and cause being stated at the foot of next page.

Medical History Sheet (Image 2\*)



## Other Military Documents

From careful analysis of details shown in all of the following and other documents, it has been possible to track the movements of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Tompsett and his battalion.

STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES OF No. 12/2495 NAME: <i>Tompsett Norman</i>				
Regiment or Corps.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc.	Rank.	Dates.	Signature of Officer Certifying Correctness of Entries.
<i>a. Coy 5<sup>th</sup></i>		<i>Private</i>	<i>13/2/15</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

Statement of Services above

New Zealand	Embarked on Active Service, N.Z.	Disembarked as Active Service in N.Z.	Samoa	Egypt (1914-16)	E.R.F. (from 1916/17)	England	Embarked from England	Holland	Mediterranean, etc.	Balkans	France and Belgium	Mesopotamia	Germany	Service ranks as	Days.
	<i>15-2-15</i>	<i>13-6-15</i>		<i>24-7-15</i>										<i>Private</i>	<i>118</i>
								<i>5-8-15</i>						<i>Private</i>	<i>53</i>
				<i>19-15 (killed)</i>										<i>Private</i>	<i>28</i>
						<i>10-10-15</i>								<i>Private</i>	<i>39</i>
						<i>5-9-16</i>								<i>Private</i>	<i>330</i>
						<i>21-4-17</i>					<i>6-9-16</i>			<i>Private</i>	<i>229</i>
						<i>25-6-17</i>								<i>Private</i>	<i>64</i>
											<i>29-6-17</i>			<i>Private</i>	<i>107</i>
											<i>12-10-17</i>			<i>Private</i>	<i>107</i>

113,000/370-1845  
2 9112

Places and Days towards Service shown above

B.R. 12/2495

Any further information on this subject should be addressed to the Director, Post Office, Wellington.

and the above number quoted.

COPY FOR FILE: *12/1*

Base Records Branch, *Tompsett*

New Zealand Military Forces,

Wellington, 27th March

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Mr. B. Tompsett,  
Castlemaine,  
Horseoden,  
KENT, ENGLAND.

Dear Sir,

**RE 12/2495 NORMAN TOMPSETT, 2/LIEUT.**

I have to inform you that the official Army Form relative to the above-named deceased soldier has been received from the Front, and the following particulars are extracted therefrom for your information:-

**13 Tompsett**  
**Castlemaine**  
**Horseoden**  
**Kent England**

1st unit, Dardanelles, 8/8/15.  
Died H. J. Inian Dardanelles, (enteritis) 29/8/15.  
Admitted St Georges Hospital, Malta, 1/9/15.  
Admitted to All Saints Convalescent Camp, Malta, 24/9/15.  
Admitted on H. S. Base for England, Malta, 2/10/15.  
Admitted 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, 18/10/15.  
Admitted strength of Base, Hornchurch, 11/1/16.  
Admitted strength of Camp, Slings, 14/6/16.  
Admitted for France, Slings, 2/9/16.  
Admitted strength Depot, Staples, 5/9/16.  
Admitted Battalion and posted to 8th Company, in the field, 5/9/16.  
Admitted to Hospital (sick) 8/3/17.  
Admitted H. S. Field Ambulance, in the field, 8/3/17.  
Admitted No 7 General Hospital, St Omer, 8/3/17. (mumps)  
Admitted Battalion, in the field, 29/3/17.  
Admitted to England for training for Commission, in the field for training as an Officer, 19/4/17.  
Admitted Division for England, via Boulogne, 15/4/17.  
Completed course of training in Officers Commanding Unit, 2/Lieut. (to date) 2/4/17. supernumerary to establish-  
ment to Ottago Infantry Regiment, Slings, 2/4/17.  
Admitted for France, Slings, 25/6/17.  
Admitted to H. S. Expeditionary Force List in accordance with  
regulations, on completion of course at H. S. Infantry Reserve  
Admitted in to Camp, Staples, 29/6/17.  
Admitted out to Division, Staples, 9/8/17.  
Admitted Battalion and posted to 10th Company, in the field, 10/8/17.  
Admitted IN ACTION. IN THE FIELD, 12/10/17.

28 MAR 1918  
Yours faithfully,  
L. W. T.

B. A. MARRIS,  
Chief Clerk.

Casualty forms and Active Service Report sent to Norman's Father

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form—Active Service.** Regimental Number 12/2795

Regiment or Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> BN CTAGO REGT Surname Tompsett Christian Name Norman

Rank 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Age on Enlistment \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months.

Enlisted (at) 19-2-15 Terms of Service (Duration War Service reckons from 19-2-15)

Date of promotion to present rank 26-6-17 Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_ or Corps Trade and \_\_\_\_\_

Date 16 FEB 1918 Signature of Officer RECEIVED

Date	From whom received	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
	Emarked			
	Disembarked			
15.5.15	% A.I.B.	Joined Unit	Dordnelles	5-8-15 AF 8213
1-9-15	% S. Ionian	Admitted to H.S. Ionian	00	29-8-15 Entertis AB 2644
1-9-15	00	Admitted to St George's Hosp	Malta	1-9-15 Norm Roll AB 25
25-9-15	% St George's Hosp	Discharged to All Saints Con Camp	00	28-9-15 Dysentery AB 5554
2-10-15	% S. Brasile	Emarked on H.S. Brasile	00	2-10-15 Norm Roll B.379
		for England		
	War office	Admitted 2 <sup>nd</sup> Western Gen Hosp	Manchester	10-10-15 List No. H.2310
11-1-16	% NZ Base	Attached Strength of Base	Horchurch	11-1-16 P. 0 No 1
14-6-16	% 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tg Bn	Attached Strength of Camp	Slings	14-6-16 P. 0 No 18
3-9-16	% NZ Nos Grp	Left for France	00	3-9-16 Norm Roll
5-9-16	% NZ 1st G.B.O	Attached Strength of Depot	Etables	5-9-16 Norm Roll 43403

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or entered into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Squads, Strength, etc.

(M101) W202/M10 100m 6/16 123 G.S. Form B 103A. E. 354. (P.T.O.)

4.10.16	% 2 <sup>nd</sup> BN O.R	Joined Bn posted to 5 <sup>th</sup>	In the field	5.10.16	8213 (P. 26)
10.3.17	00	Sent to Hospital (Sick)	00	8.3.17	8213
10.3.17	% NZ F Amb	Admitted NZ field Amb	00	8.3.17	AB 5029
8.3.17	% No 7 Gen Hosp	Admitted No 7 Gen Hosp	S'omer	8.3.17	Mumps W3034 (P. 110)
31.3.17	% 2 <sup>nd</sup> BN O.R	Rejoined Battalion	In the field	29.3.17	8213 (P. 26)
21.4.17	00	Transferred for training for Commission	00	19.4.17	8213
13.4.17	RMS NZEF	Selected for training as an officer	00	19/6/17	19/6/17 4557 (P. 17/166)
19.4.17	HQ NZ Division	Left Division for England via Boulogne	00	19.4.17	Telegram 19/16/17 5156 (P. 17/166)
18.6.17	% NZEF	Having completed course of training in O.C.U. is promoted 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Subnumerary to Estabmt	00	2.6.17	NZEF orders List No 4 4/10556 (P. 26)
12.6.17	% NZEF	Posted to O.I.B. Slings	00	2.6.17	P. 141
28.6.17	00	Left for France	00	28.6.17	Norm Roll
15.6.17	% NZEF	Will be placed in NZEF List in accordance with marks gained on completion of course of N.Z. Infantry Reserve Group	00	15.6.17	NZEF orders List No 4 4/10556 (P. 26)
29.6.17	% NZ 1st G.B.O	Marched into camp	Etables	29.6.17	D/R 125 4/10574
9.8.17	00	Marched out to Div	00	9.8.17	O/D 166 4/1229

Casualty forms and Active Service Reports shown above

**FIELD SERVICE.**

**REPORT of Death of an Officer to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36 or from other official documentary sources.**

2nd Battalion,  
CTAGO REGIMENT.

REGIMENT or CORPS } N.Z. Expeditionary Force Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company } 10th Company.

Rank 2nd Lieutenant

Name TOMPSETT Norman

By whom reported G.H.Q. 2nd Army.

DIED { Date of Death 12th October 1917.

{ Place or Hospital In the Field, BELGIUM.

{ Cause of Death KILLED IN ACTION

{ Place of Burial \_\_\_\_\_

State whether he leaves a will or not. No Pay-book received to date

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

All information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased Officer of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base. J. Bonington Major  
D.A.A.G. (N.Z.)  
G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon, B.E.F.

Station and Date Rouen, FRANCE. November 14th. 1917.

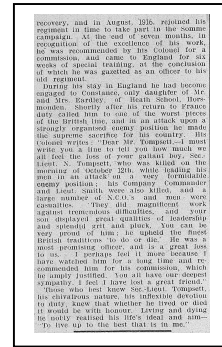
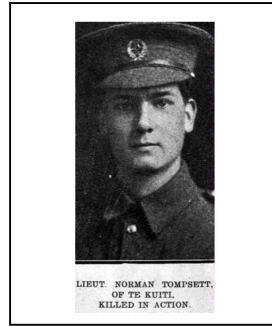
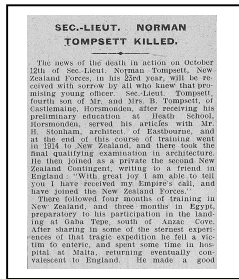
Caw / FME.

Army Printing and Stationery Services, 868/970, 10,000, 9716

Field Service, Death Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Tompsett



## NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: October 1917



"The news of the death in action, on October 12th, of Second Lieutenant Norman Tompsett, in his 23rd year, will be received with sorrow by all who knew that promising young officer.

Second Lieutenant Tompsett, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Tompsett, of Castlemaine, Horsmonden, after receiving his preliminary education at Heath School, Horsmonden, served his articles with Mr. H. Stonham, architect, of Eastbourne, and at the end of this course of training, went, in 1914, to New Zealand, and there took the final qualifying examination in architecture.

He then joined as a Private, the Second New Zealand Contingent, writing to a friend in England: "With great joy I am able to tell you that I have received my Empire's call and have joined the New Zealand Forces." There followed four months of training in New Zealand, and three months in Egypt, preparatory to his participation in the landing at Gaba Tepe, south of Anzac Cove.

After sharing in some of the sternest experiences of that tragic expedition he fell victim to enteric, and spent some time in Hospital at Malta, returning eventually convalescent to England He made a good recovery, and in August 1916, he rejoined his unit, the 2nd Battalion Otago Regiment, in time to take part in the Somme campaign.

At the end of seven months, in recognition of the excellence of his work, he was recommended by his Colonel for a commission and came to England for six weeks of special training, at the conclusion of which he was gazetted as an officer to his old Regiment.

During his stay in England, he had become engaged to Constance, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eardley, of Heath School, Horsmonden.

Shortly after his return to France, duty called him to one of the worst pieces of the British line and in an attack upon a strongly organised enemy position he made the supreme sacrifice for his country.

His Colonel writes to his Father: "Dear Mr. Tompsett, - I must write you a line to tell you how much we all feel the loss of your gallant boy, Second Lieutenant Norman Tompsett, who was killed on the morning of October 12th while leading his men in an attack on a very formidable enemy position.

His Company Commander and Lieut. Smith were also killed, and a large number of NCO's and men were casualties. They did magnificent work against tremendous difficulties, and your son displayed great qualities of leadership and splendid grit and pluck. You can be very proud of him: he upheld the finest British traditions, "to do or die". He was a most promising officer, and a great loss to us.

I perhaps feel it more because I have watched him for a long time, and recommended him for his commission, which he amply justified.

You all have our deepest sympathy: I feel I have lost a great friend. - Yours sincerely, Geoffrey S. Smith, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding, 2nd Battalion, Otago Regiment."

Those who best knew Second Lieutenant Tompsett, his chivalrous nature, his inflexible devotion to duty, knew that, whether he lived or died it would be with honour. Living and dying he nobly realised his life ideal and aim, - "To live up to the best that is in me."

Letters below: Left, to MOD New Zealand from Mr Llewellyn Wooderson and on right reply from MOD

D Series  
Sub-No. 2  
6348

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
25 JUN 1918  
Com  
1/11 draft reply  
J.L.W. 11/7/18

C/o Ed Allen Esq.  
Cambridge  
Waikato  
June 23rd 1918

The Right Honorable  
Minister of Defence

Dear Sir,  
A Soldier leaving with one of the early reinforcements (Lieut. N. Tompsett) killed in France left in my charge all his personal effects. His people live in England and his father has asked me to forward same. I have carried out his wishes so far as to send the two boxes in charge of the New Zealand Express. They are holding same in Auckland as they have written me it is impossible to forward to England till after the war. As the boxes contain besides clothing many little personal belongings which will no doubt be greatly cherished by the bereaved father and mother. Is it possible you can use your influence in making this shipment an exception to the general rule. I have the honor to remain yours faithfully  
Llewellyn Wooderson

D.2/5378/349.

11 JULY 1918.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23rd ultimo, regarding the despatch to England of the personal effects (two boxes) of the late Lieutenant N. Tompsett.

It is noted that the effects in question have been placed in charge of the New Zealand Express Company, and you are no doubt aware that the shipping facilities at present available are very severely taxed, making it extremely difficult to obtain space for other than strictly essential cargo. No doubt therefore the Company was in all probability correct in stating that the boxes could not be forwarded at present.

In order to assist in the matter, the New Zealand Express Company has been communicated with by the Defence Department, and the Company is endeavouring to make arrangements to forward on these personal effects at an early date. Regarding this the Company will communicate with you direct.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) J. ALLEN  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Mr. L. Wooderson,  
c/o E. Allen, Esq.,  
CAMBRIDGE, WAIKATO.

JR/ED.  
11/7/18

**This is a transcription of Wooderson's letter ...**

To Ministry of Defence ... From, c/o Ed. Allen, Cambridge, Waikato, June 23rd 1918  
**Edward Allen, Chairman of the Cambridge Cooperative Dairy Company**

"Dear Sir,  
A Soldier leaving with one of the early reinforcements (Lieut. N. Tompsett) killed in France, left in my charge all his personal effects.  
His people live in England and his father has asked me to forward same.  
I have carried out his wishes so far as to send the two boxes in charge of the New Zealand Express.  
They are holding same in Auckland as they have written me it is impossible to forward to England till after the war.  
As the boxes contain, besides clothing, many little personal belongings which will no doubt be greatly cherished by the bereaved father and mother. Is it possible you can use your influence in making this shipment an exception to the general rule.

I have the honour to remain yours faithfully."

Llewellyn Wooderson




## Forms for medals and payments

Surname: <i>Tompsett</i> Christian name: <i>Norman</i>		Rank or discharge: <i>at 19/10/17</i> Highest rank held: <i>2nd Lieut.</i> Reg. No. <i>12/2495</i>	[B R.—240.]
Address: <i>Worrell</i>		Highest Rank Held Theatre of War: <i>2/17</i>	
Casualty or reason for discharge: <i>Killed in Action</i>		Country resident in: <i>England</i>	
Legal next-of-kin, relationship, and address: <i>Mr. B. Tompsett (Father) Castlemaine, Horsham, Kent, England</i>			
Nominated next-of-kin, relationship, and address: <i>Mr. B. Tompsett (Father) Castlemaine, Horsham, Kent, England</i>			
Decorations: Medals for Gallantry.		Authority:	Service Medals.
<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <b>FILE.</b>  <b>21 MAY 1920</b> </div>		<i>1914-15 Star</i> <i>British War Medal</i> <i>Victory Medal</i>	
		Date Medal issued:	Service Chevrons.
Certificates of Service issued.		No.	Date.
Mention in Despatches.		No.	Date.

Above, form for Medals to be sent to Norman's Father

Public Trust, No. 221. **A.**  
 ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
 "THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE,  
 WELLINGTON, N.Z."

PLEASE QUOTE THIS  
**S.W. 1496:**  
 REFERENCE IN REPLY.



The Officer in Charge,  
 War Expenses Office,  
 Defence Department,  
WELLINGTON.

PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,  
 WELLINGTON, N.Z. 18th June, 1920:

12/2495 - NORMAN TOMPSETT - deceased:

The Public Trustee has completed his administration of this soldier's estate.

Please account for any undrawn field-pay and for the Active Service Gratuity to the beneficiary under the will—viz.,

Mr. Benjamin Tompsett,  
 Castlemaine,  
 Kent,  
 England

Medals should be handed to the same beneficiary, who is the father of deceased.

*W.G. Baird*  
 Controller,  
~~Soldiers' Estates Division.~~  
 Wills, Trusts & Agencies Division.  
*CA*

50 pads/6/19-2151

*29 120*  
*270*  
*64 10.00*  
*no action re gratuity*  
*Shank 25/6/20*

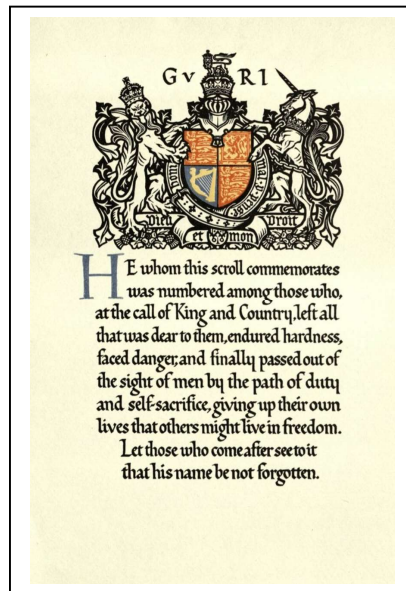
Above, request for all payments and medals to be sent to Norman's Father

**TOMPSETT** Norman of Wellington **New Zealand** lieutenant 2nd battalion Otago Infantry regiment New Zealand Expeditionary Force died 12 October 1917 in France Administration (with Will) **London** 10 July to Benjamin Tompsett farmer. Effects £322 10s.

Probate



## War Medals, Memorial Plaque and Scroll



## Star, British War and Victory Medals, Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque (Death Penny)

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### Horsmonden War Memorial.



1922

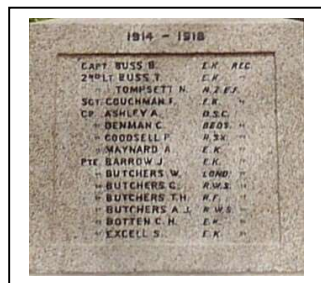


Photo of respective part of WM



Present Day

### Oak Memorial Plaque in Horsmonden's Memorial building.



2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Tompsett shown left block, row 1, no. 5



## St Margaret's Church Memorial Scroll

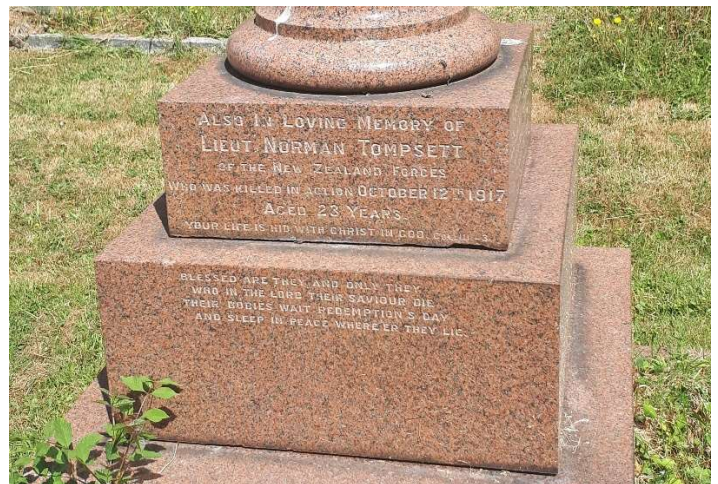


.....

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Tompsett is also commemorated at Matfield Church, Kent**



## Matfield Cemetery



## Gravestone Inscription

**BLESSED ARE THEY AND ONLY THEY  
WHO IN THE LORD THEIR SAVIOUR DIE  
THEIR BODIES WAIT REDEMPTION'S DAY  
AND SLEEP IN PEACE WHERE'ER THEY LAY**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Tompsett is commemorated at the Tyne Cot Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission Entry**

CWGC CERTIFICATE


In Memory Of  
Second Lieutenant

**NORMAN TOMPSETT**

Service Number: 12/2495

2nd Bn., Otago Regiment, N.Z.E.F. who died on 12 October 1917 Age 23  
Son of Benjamin Tompsett, of "Castlemaine," Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea, England.

Remembered with Honour  
**TYNE COT MEMORIAL**  
N.Z. Apse, Panel 3.



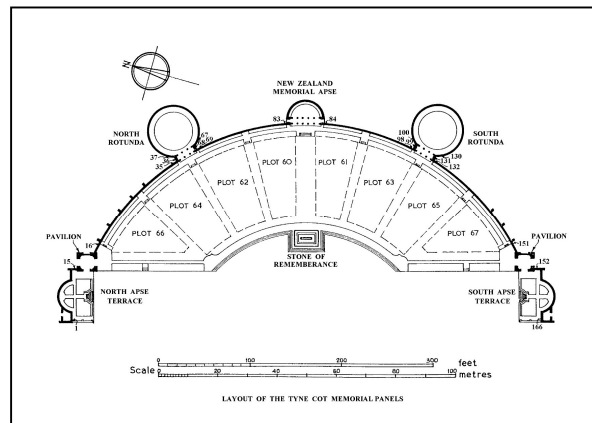
|||||  
COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

TOMPSETT, 2nd Lt. Norman, 12/2495. 2nd  
Bn. Otago Regt. 12th Oct., 1917. Age 23.  
Son of Benjamin Tompsett, of "Castlemaine,"  
Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea, England. 3.

CWGC Unit text

# TYNE COT MEMORIAL



## Cemetery Plan

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Tompsett N.Z. Apse, Panel 3

.....

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Norman Tompsett



1894 – 1917

.....

## Footnotes and Additional Information:

**Footnote 1:** An official account of the Otago Regiment during WW1 can be found by following this link:

<https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH1-Otag.html>



**Footnote 2: SLING CAMP** - Additional notes on the Bulford Kiwi which was cut into the chalk of Salisbury Plain by members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force above the Bulford Ranges in Wiltshire

New Zealanders had originally arrived at Sling Camp on Beacon Hill in 1914 to train for combat in the Great War. Soldiers from here were sent to serve in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign in 1915. More thousands of NZ troops arrived in 1916 and trained here on the hillside for combat on the Western Front.



At the base of the hill was the YMCA, which included a cinema for recreation hours.

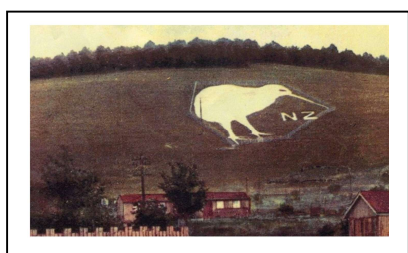
It was not, however, a popular billet. Private Stewart Callaghan wrote to his sister in 1917 "This is a rotten place".

When the war ended many of the troops returned here to await repatriation. However, there were no troop ships immediately available, and frustration soon set in amongst those desperate to get home. There was overcrowding in the camp, influenza deaths, mundane military routines and great dissatisfaction.

In March 1919 a canteen and the Officers Mess were looted, and a few hundred soldiers rioted. The commanding officers promptly decided to keep the men occupied with the project of cutting out a giant emblem of their homeland into the chalk of the hill. The design was executed by Sergeant-Major Percy Blenkarne, a drawing instructor in the Education Staff, from a sketch of a stuffed kiwi specimen in the British Museum. The troops finally got to close the gates of Sling Camp and head home in November 1919.

For a while the Kiwi was maintained by the Kiwi Shoe Polish Company. During WWII it was camouflaged with leaf mould to avoid German aircraft using it as a navigation marker in raids over Britain. Local Scouts removed the mould in 1948 and fresh chalk was added. The New Zealand government declined to maintain it in the 1950s and again in the 1980s, much to the contempt of the New Zealand army veterans.

In 2017 it was designated as a Scheduled Monument, and in 2018, 100 tons of chalk were ferried by Chinook helicopter to resurface the site. The British Army and Defence Infrastructure Organisation now maintain the Kiwi with some support from community groups and the New Zealand High Commission.



The Kiwi 1919



The Kiwi today

Today the Bulford Kiwi plays an important part in Remembrance occasions and has hundreds of visitors.

**Footnote 3:** We believe there are descendants of Norman's sister Kate living today. Kate, born at Castlemaine Horsmonden married Reginald Henry Coaks. In June 1926 Kate was living in Hollington Park, St Leonards, E Sx. There are three known nieces of Norman: - Pauline Coaks, b 1930, Evelyn Coaks b 1934 and Rosalind Coaks b 1947.

**Research and Compilation:**

**L Burgess and J Freeman**

**HORSMONDEN HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP**