

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1844 PRIVATE

N. CHAPPEL

4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

7TH MAY, 1917 Age 27

Norman CHAPPEL

Norman Chappel was born at Charters Towers, Queensland on 3rd June, 1889 to parents Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Chappel (nee Davis).

Norman Chappel attended Charters Towers State School & Grammar School then Technical College.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour - Norman Chappel worked for four years in Papua, New Guinea at his trade.

The 1913, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kennedy, subdivision of Charters Towers, Queensland listed Norman Chappel, Blacksmith of New Queen Road. Also listed at that address were his parents – Thomas Chappel, Contractor & Elizabeth Ann, Home Duties.

Norman Chappel was a 26 year old, single, Blacksmith & Mechanic from Queenton, Queensland when he enlisted on 31st January, 1916 with the 4th Pioneer Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1844 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Thomas Chappel, of New Queen Road, Charters Towers, Queensland.

Private Norman Chappel was posted to No. 11 Depot Battalion, "J" Company on 5th February, 1916. He was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 4th Pioneers on 1st April, 1916.

Private Norman Chappel embarked from Sydney on RMS *Mooltan* on 12th April, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 18th March, 1916.

Private Norman Chappel proceeded from Alexandria on *Ionian* on 6th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 15th June, 1916.

Private Norman Chappel was sent to Hospital from 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 22nd June, 1916. He was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 22nd June, 1916 then transferred to Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 6th July, 1916 for England.

Private Norman Chappel was admitted to Woodcote Park Convalescent Camp at Epsom, England on 3rd August, 1916. He was discharged & proceeded on furlough from 14th September, 1916.

Private Norman Chappel reported back from furlough to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 2nd October, 1916. He was medically classified as B1 A.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Norman Chappel was marched out to D Camp Bov (?) at No. 3 Command Depot on 13th October, 1916.

Private Norman Chappel was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 6th February, 1917 & marched in to Pioneer Training Camp at Larkhill, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Norman Chappel was marched out from No.4 Company to No. 6 Company (Home Service) at Larkhill on 22nd February, 1917.

Private Norman Chappel was sent sick to Military Hospital, Fovant on 3rd April, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford on 17th April, 1917 (Non venereal) & transferred to Military Hospital, Fovant on 25th April, 1917.

(Note: 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire had a section for Venereal disease cases. Pte Chappel's Service Record file makes a note that he was admitted to this Hospital but not due to VD).

Private Norman Chappel died at 6.55 am on 7th May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Norman Chappel, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Norman Chappel was buried on 9th May, 1917 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number II. B. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Chappel - *Coffin was Ash with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a military funeral and was the first Australian to be buried in the Fovant Parish Churchyard; his friend Private Robert Simpson has since been buried next to him. The Company provided has provided a permanent wreath and are erecting a stone cross.*

4th Pioneer Battalion

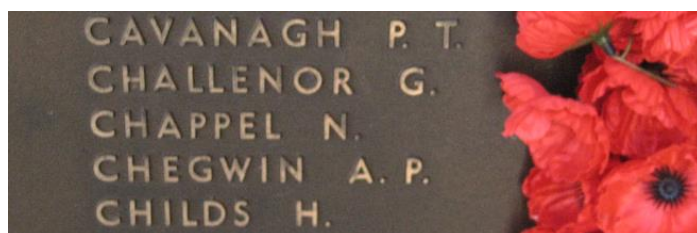
The 4th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 4th Division. Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Private Norman Chappel was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Chappel's father – Mr T. Chappel, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Norman Chappel – service number 1844, aged 27, of 4th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Chappel, of New Queen Rd., Queenton, Queensland. Born at Charters Towers.

Private N. Chappel is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



(Photos Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

N. Chappel is named on the Charters Towers and District Roll of Honour which was located at the RSL Club, 8 Prior Street, Charters Towers. (RSL Club closed in March 2013).



Charters Towers and District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

Charters Towers War Memorial, located at Gill Street, Charters Towers, Queensland does not have individual names.



Charters Towers War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

N. Chappel is remembered on the Charters Towers WW1 Wall of Remembrance, located in Charters Towers RSL Club, Prior & Hewett Streets, Charters Towers, Queensland.



Charters Towers WW1 Wall of Remembrance

(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Norman Chappel's name was engraved on the War Shrine located in the grounds of the Church of St. Paul, Charters Towers, Queensland.

Extract of a Newspaper article from *The Evening Telegraph*, Charters Towers – 20 March, 1917:

Unveiling of War Shrine

In the grounds of the Church of St. Paul, and outside in the street, a very large crowd assembled on Sunday afternoon to witness the unveiling of a War Shrine by the Right Rev. The Bishop of The Diocese of the North Queensland. About 1500 cadets, headed by the Kennedy District Band, marched from the park through the main street to the church grounds.

The ceremony opened with the singing of the hymn "Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself," with band accompaniment. The Creed and the Lord's Prayer were then recited, followed by a reading by the Rev. A. E. Saxon, after which followed the Russian National Anthem.

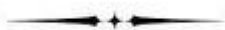
Right Rev. J. O. Feetham, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of North Queensland gave a most inspiring address, stating that the actual devotion of the men caused sacrifices seldom thought of, and that in Church after Church which he had visited all the available men had gone to fight the cause, the exceptions being men who were physically unfit or who were sole supports. At the conclusion of the address the Bishop unveiled the War Shrine on which is Jesus nailed to the Cross and the following words:- "All ye who pass by pray for our sailors and soldiers, especially for those from this parish." The following prayers are also inscribed.....

Under these prayers are the names of 91 men who are on active service, and over the names of the fallen is the prayer "Grant them oh Lord, eternal rest."

The names inscribed on the shrine areNorman Chappel.....

(47 pages of Private Norman Chappel's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Norman Chappel

(Photo from Queenton Presbyterian Church Group - courtesy of Greg Windsor)



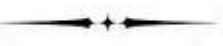
Private Norman Chappel

(Photo courtesy of Lyn Chappel)



**Photos & War Memorabilia for Private Norman Chappel
showing British War Medal, Victory Medal & Memorial Plaque (or Death Penny)**

(Photo courtesy of Lyn Chappel)



Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL

Mrs T. Chappel and Mr Norman Chappel are now in Sydney, where the latter, under medical advice, has entered a private hospital, with every hope of a cure.

(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 18 November, 1914)

SOCIAL and PERSONAL

Councillor Tom Chappel and Mrs Chappel returned from south this morning. Their son, Pte Norman Chappel, is ill in a hospital somewhere in France.

(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 11 September, 1916)

WAR ITEMS

His worship the Mayor has been advised that Pte Norman Chappel, son of Ald. T. Chappel and Mrs Chappel, New Queen Road, had died on May 5th in the Faurient Military Hospital from broncho pneumonia.

The flag was half-mastered at the Town Hall to-day in memory of Pte Chappel.

Much sympathy will be extended Ald. and Mrs T. Chappel in the death of their son Norman. It will be remembered that his health a couple of years ago gave them many weeks of serious anxiety, and now, after pulling through and being fit enough to pass a rigid medical inspection, it is indeed hard that illness should have cut short this promising life. He went, as he told members at the M.U.I.O.O.F. farewell, to do his bit. His "bit" meant his life.

(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 14 May, 1917)

LATEST WAR

AUSTRALIAN ROLL OF HONOUR

301st Casualty List

Pte N. Chappel (Charters Towers) died of illness

(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 21 May, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private N. Chappel does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Original Grave Marker sent to next-of-kin *(Photo courtesy of Lyn Chappel)*

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.
(Information from CWGC)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front *(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at rear *(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)



Photo of Private N. Chappel's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)