

MS 2004/16

**Norton, Henry Thomas
'Harry'**

Papers

Inventory created

by

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The Collection

The Henry Thomas Norton papers contain a wide variety of material. These include letters, cards, postcards, envelopes, flowers and medals. All material is photocopies.

Most of the letters were written by Henry Thomas Norton between 1915 and 1916 whilst he was serving with the 2nd Otago Battalion during World War I. They include letters written whilst training at Trentham Military Camp, travelling to Egypt, in Egypt and in France. Folder 1 contains a few letters written by or to Norton between 1900 and 1907.

Letters written by Henry Thomas Norton are signed as 'Harry' and most envelopes are addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton.

Most of the letters are from Harry to his wife Florence, son Leonard and daughters Jean and Kathleen. There are some letters from Florence to her husband Harry and from Leonard and Jean to their father.

Material was photocopied from a volume of photocopied material loaned to us for copying. Most of the letters have been numbered [by the donor?] and are in chronological order. Great care has been taken to ensure that letters are complete and that the pages are in the correct order. However, sometimes this was not possible as page numbers were missing, the writing was not readable, there was no date or parts of the letters were missing. Letters were pinned together and have been divided into 7 folders for convenience.

Note there are also some letters written by Charles H. Matthews to his sister Florence, whilst he was serving in the South African War. Charles Matthews was Henry Thomas Norton's brother-in-law. (See Folder 1)

Note some items have been photocopied onto the same sheet of paper.

Biographical Information

Quarter Master Sergeant Henry Thomas Norton, 8/3816, was born in 1880. He served with the 2nd Otago Battalion in France during World War I. He Trained at Trentham Military Camp and Tauherenikau Camp in 1915, before travelling by HMNZ Transport ship No 39 to Egypt. He disembarked at Suez on 14th February 1916 and joined his Battalion on the 7th of March 1916. He embarked for France on the 9th April 1916 and on the 5th August was appointed Lance Corporal (unpaid).

From the letters he appears to have been a sniper. The letters are well written and give a good description of what Norton was thinking and feeling but I suspect that he was not telling his wife everything. He was killed by a shell on 15th September 1916 during the Battle of Flers, France.

Folder 1 – Letters 1900-1907

- 1 Letter from Harry Norton to his Mother, father and sister, 21 March 1900, London
- 2 Christmas card from Harry Norton to Florence Matthews, 1900
- 3 Letter from Charles Matthews to his sister Florence, September 1901, [Triglind Hospital]
- 4 Letter from Charles H. Matthews to his sister Florence, 15 Feb 1902, The Veldt, SA (Holograph and typescript)
- 5 Letter from James Aitkin to Harry Norton, 2 July 1907

Folder 2 – Letters 1915 (New Zealand)

Trentham Camp

- 6 'Notification of acceptance of service with expeditionary force', 1 June 1915
- 7 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife [Florence], 19 April 1915
- 8 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife [Florence], 14 June 1915, Trentham
- 9 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife {Florence}, 15 June 1915, Trentham
- 10 Envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton
- 11 Letter from Harold [Norton] to Lottie and Len [Daughter Jean and son Leonard], 16 June 1915, At sea
- 12 Envelope addressed to Mrs F.M. Norton
- 13 Letter from Harold Norton to his wife Florence, 16 June 1915, Trentham
- 14 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 17 June 1915, Trentham
- 15 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 21 June 1915, Trentham
- 16 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 22 June 1915, Trentham
- 17 Letter from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, 22 June 1915, Trentham
- 18 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 23 June [1915], Trentham
- 19 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 24 June 1915, Trentham
- 20 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 24 June 1915, Trentham
- 21 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 9 July 1915, Trentham
- 22 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 14 July 1915, Trentham
- 23 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 16 July 1915, Trentham
- 24 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 18 August 1915, Trentham
- 25 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 26 August 1915, Wellington

- 26 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 1 September 1915, Trentham
- 27 Envelope addressed to Mrs HT Norton
- 28 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 12 October 1915, Trentham
- 29 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 14 October 1915, Trentham
- 30 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 18 October 1915, Trentham
- 31 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 25 October 1915, Trentham
- 32 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 27 October 1915, Trentham

Tauherenikau Camp

- 33 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, nd, Tauherenikau [Camp]
- 34 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 1 November 1915, Tauherenikau [Camp]
- 35 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 9 December 1915, Tauherenikau [Camp]
- 36 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 11 December 1915, Tauherenikau [Camp]
- 37 Card admitting next of kin to departure of 9th Reinforcement

Folder 3 – Letters January–March 1916 (At sea and Egypt)

At Sea

- 38 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 9 January 1916, At sea
- 39 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 6 February 1916, At Sea (HMNZ Transport No 39)
- 40 ‘The Warrimoo Memoirs of the naughty ninth. A chronicle of events and sayings on board HMNZ Troopship 39’. (Printed (Photocopy), paged 1-4, 2 leaves)
- 41 Censored card from Harry Norton to ‘Cuddly’, 8 February 1916, Suez
- 42 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 8 February 1916, Suez
- 43 Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 8 February 1916, At sea, HMNZT No 39
- 44 Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 8 February 1916, At sea, HMNZT No 39
- 45 Letter from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, nd, At sea

Egypt

- 46 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife [Florence], 11 February 1916, Suez
- 47 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife [Florence], 25 February 1916, Helmhah Camp, Cairo
- 48 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, nd, Cairo
- 49 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 5 March 1916, Helmeih Camp
- 50 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 17 March 1916
- 51 Letter from Harry Norton, Postmarked 20 March 1916
- 52 ‘The Warrimoo Memoirs of the naughty ninth. A chronicle of events and sayings on board HMNZ Troopship 39’. Dated 26 March 1916. (Printed (Photocopy), paged 1-4, 2 leaves)

- 53 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 26 March 1916
- 54 Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 27 March 1916
- 55 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 27 March 1916
- 56 Counterfoils for 4 postal orders
- 57 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 3 April 1916, Egypt
- 58 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 6 April 1916, Egypt
- 59 (1) Envelope addressed to Mrs HT Norton,
(2) Sample of plant
(3) Certificate of Posting

Folder 4 – April-June 1916 (France)

- 60 Letter from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, 21 April 1916
- 61 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 26 April 1916
- 62 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 4 May 1916, Somewhere
- 63 Picture postcard from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, 5 May 1916, Somewhere
- 64 Picture postcard from [Harry Norton] to his son Leonard, 5 May 1916, Somewhere
- 65 Picture postcard from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 5 May 1916, Somewhere
- 66 Postcard from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 5 May 1916, Somewhere
- 67 Card from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 6 May 1916
- 68 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 7 May 1916, France
- 69 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 9 May 1916, France
- 70 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 10 May 1916
- 71 Pages from CEMS Magazine, New Zealand Supplement, January 1916, 4 pages including 30 and 31
- 72 Letter to Mrs Norton from Harry's friend, 11 May 1916
- 73 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 18 May 1916, Somewhere
- 74 Note from Harry Norton re enclosed forget-me-nots and other leaves, 20 May 1916, Somewhere
- 75 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 24 May 1916, Somewhere – Includes news of birth of daughter Kathleen Mary
- 76 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 25 May 1916, Somewhere
- 77 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 26 May 1916, France
- 78 Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 29 May 1916, France

- 79 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 29 May 1916, France
- 80 (1) Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 29 May 1916, France
(2) Letter from Harry Norton to his daughter Jean, 29 May 1916, France
(3) Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 29 May 1916, France
(4) Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 12 May 1916
- 81 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 9 June 1916, France
- 82 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 11 June 1916, France
- 83 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 15 June 1916, France
- 84 Letter from Harry Norton to his daughter Jean, 15 June 1916, France
- 85 Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 15 June 1916, France
- 86 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 18 June 1916, France
- 87 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 25 June 1916, France

Folder 5 – Letters July-August 1916 (France)

- 88 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 2 July 1916, France
- 89 Card from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 2 July 1916
- 90 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 14 July 1916, France
- 91 Note from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 15 July 1916, including forget-me-not seeds
- 92 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 15 July 1916, France
- 93 Postcard from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 19 July 1916, France
- 94 Postcard from Harry Norton, nd, 'Happy returns'
- 95 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 19 July 1916, France
- 96 Card 'Orpheon. La Lyre des Flandres' Back for Forget-me-not
- 97 Postcard from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 20 July 1916
- 98 Postcard from Harry Norton to his daughter Jean, 20 July 1916, France
- 99 Postcard from Harry Norton to his son Leonard, 29 July 1916
- 100 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 1 August 1916, France
- 101 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 2 August 1916
- 102 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 5 August 1916, France
- 103 Flowers from France, 1916
- 104 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 12 August 1916
- 105 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 13 August 1916, France
- 106 Card from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 14 August 1916
- 107 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 23 August 1916
- 108 Card and envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton, postmarked 12 May 1917 and marked Returned Letter

- 109 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 23 August 1916
- 110 Envelope addressed to Master Len Norton, postmarked 16 and 18 May 1917
- 111 Letter from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, 15 August 1916, France
- 112 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 18 August 1916
- 113 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 23 August 1916
- 114 Letter from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 30 August 1916, France
- 115 Card from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 26 August 1916
- 116 Postcard from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 30 August 1916, France

Folder 6 – Letters September-December 1916 (France)

- 117 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 6 September 1916
- 118 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 6 September 1916
- 119 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 6 September 1916
- 120 Postcard from Harry Norton to his wife Florence, 11 September 1916, France
- 121 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 12 September 1916
- 122 Postcard addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton
- 123 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 12 September 1916
- 124 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, nd
- 125 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father, nd
- 126 Letter from Harry Norton to his son Leonard and daughter Jean, 12 September 1916
- 127 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 20 September 1916
[Last page missing]
- 128 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 20 September 1916
- 129 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 21 September 1916
- 130 Letter from W. McLean, Chaplain, 2nd Otago Battalion, to Mrs [Florence] Norton, 24 September 1916
- 131 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 29 September 1916
- 132 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 29 September 1916
- 133 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 29 September 1916
- 134 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 11 October 1916
- 135 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 11 October 1916
- 136 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 11 October 1916

- 137 Letter from Florence Norton to her husband Harry, 18 October 1916
- 138 Letter from Leonard Norton to his father Harry, 19 October 1916
- 139 Letter from Jean Norton to her father Harry, 19 October 1916
- 140 Envelope addressed to Mrs George Norton, postmarked 12 May 1917
- 141 Telegram from J. Allen, Minister of Defence, to Mrs Florence Norton reporting death of Harry Norton in action, postmarked 24 October 1916
- 142 Letter from W. McLean, Chaplain, 2nd Otago Battalion, to Mrs Florence Norton, 1 November 1916
- 143 Letter from J. Matthews to his niece Mrs Florence Norton, 8 December 1916

Folder 7 – Miscellaneous items including official letters

- 144 (1) Photograph of Harry Norton in uniform
(2) Cigarettes
- 145 (1) Photograph of Harry Norton's grave
(2) Certificate of Competency for Jean Norton, February 1936
- 146 (1) Photograph of 2 medals
(2) 2 cards addressed to Mrs F. Norton
- 147 (1) Envelope addressed to Mrs Norton
(2) French cigarette wrapper
- 148 Certified copy of Birth Certificate for Henry Thomas Norton, born 26 August 1880
- 149 Letter from Chief Clerk for Director of Base Records, to Mrs F.M. Norton, 24 January 1917, gives brief Harry Norton's service record
- 150 Letter from High Commissioner for New Zealand, London, to Mrs Florence Mary Norton, 5 February 1917, re sympathy for death of Harry Norton
- 151 Letter from NZEF War Accounts and Record Office, Wellington, to Mrs Florence Mary Norton, 20 November 1920, re moving Harry Norton's grave to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery [2 Copies]
- 152 Letter from Imperial War Graves Commission, London, to Mrs [Florence] Norton, 28 January 1921, re moving Harry Norton's grave to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery
- 153 Letter from [Florence Norton] to Sir James Allen, High Commissioner for the Dominion of New Zealand, London, 1 February 1921, re epitaph for Harry Norton's grave stone
- 154 Letter from Sir James Allen, High Commissioner for the Dominion of New Zealand, London, to Mrs [Florence] Norton, 2 February 1921, re photograph of Harry Norton's grave
- 155 Letter from Imperial War Graves Commission, London, to Mrs Florence M. Norton, 23 March 1921, re inscriptions on gravestones of New Zealanders

- 156 (1) Letter from the Minister of Defence, Wellington, to [Mrs Florence Norton], 13 October 1922, re illuminated certificate of service for Harry Norton
(2) Plant leaves
- 157 (1) Letter from Chief Clerk, New Zealand Government Offices, London, to Miss [Jean] Norton, 7 November 1938, re particulars regarding her father Harry Norton's grave
(2) Envelope from Returned Services Association, Wellington, addressed to Mrs Allen Hicks, Los Angeles
(3) Certificate of Competency for Jeanne Lottie Norton [See 145(2)]
(4) Receipt for sum paid to Wellington Returned Services Association by Mrs Hicks, 27 October 1944. Note added says was attached to letter dated 4 December 1944.
- 158 Page from 'Active Service Testament 1914-15', includes Lord Robert's message
- 159 Letter from [Leonard Norton], nd
- 160 (1) Registered Letter envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton, postmarked 18 May 1916
(2) Envelope addressed to H.T. Norton [2 June 1915?]
(3) Notice regarding Registered Letters headed 'Registration'
(4) Memorial notice for H.T. Norton
(5) Death notice for Jean Norton
- 161 (1) Buttons or identity tags[?]
(2) Label or envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton
- 162 Letter from Harry Norton to his daughter Kathleen, 29 July 1916
- 163 (1) Christmas greetings from Jean Norton to her father Harry, nd
(2) Notes re bits of stone from Egypt (mentions Sphinx, tombs, sacred beetles and beads)
- 164 Press cutting of obituary for George Norton, father of Harry Norton, from Dominion, 16 November 1931
- 165 Photograph of [George Norton, Harry Norton's father in workshop at boatyard]

- 166 (1) Envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton, postmarked 14 May 1917, marked 'Returned Letter' and 'Dead Letter Office'
(2) Forget-me-not flowers
(3) Envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton
- 167 Photograph of Harry Norton's grave [See also 147(1)]
- 168 Letter from H.T. Norton to his wife Florence, nd, counter signed by J. Fitzpatrick
- 169 (1) Postcard from Harry Norton to his daughter Kathleen, 29 July 1916
(2) Postcard from Harry Norton to Kathleen Mary Norton, 20 July 1916
(3) Postcard from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, 1916
- 170 (1) Photograph of 2 women taken by The Zak Studios, Wellington
(2) Photograph of 2 men in uniform by The Zak Studios, Wellington
- 171 (1) Envelope addressed to Mrs H.T. Norton from Trentham Military Camp
(2) Photograph of young girl
(3) Photograph of young boy [May be Leonard Norton?]
- 172 Letter from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, 11 August 1916, Somewhere
- 173 Part of letter from [Harry Norton], nd, mentions just receiving letters 4, 5 and 6.
- 174 Letter from [Harry Norton] to his wife Florence, nd
- 175 Photograph of Harry Norton and his brother-in-law Albert Daniels taken before 1900
- 176 Photograph of carved figures
- 177 (1) Postcard showing troops posing in trenches
(2) Postcard showing French soldier
(3) Photograph of medal
(4) Photograph of flute or baton
- 178 (1) Photograph of badges and buttons
(2) Postcard showing Albany, W.A.
(3) Photograph of World War I service certificate
(4) Photograph of Maori carving
- 179 4 Photographs of medals