

Sapper Norman William Chappell 1894-1956

Norman William Chappell was born in Waipa in 1894 to William Moreton Chappell and Margaret née Burns.

He had 4 siblings born over a 15 year stretch; Moreton Leslie Chappell (1892-1961), Arthur Rayner Chappell (1896-1952), Ethel Margaret Whisker-Mounsey (1901-2000), and Gordon Charles Chappell (1907-1990).

Prior to enlistment Norman worked as a telegraph clerk. He left in May 1916 for Suez, Egypt on the HMNZ Transport no. 52, 'S.S. Mokoia', with the NZEF 12th Reinforcements, Wellington Infantry Battalion, J Company, , service number 10314. He was almost immediately wounded in battle. However he served until 1919, and upon discharge he married Margaret May (Peg) Perris, at St Judes on the Hill, Golders Green, in Hendon, London.

He farmed in Alexandra East, Waikato with his brother Arthur until 1928, when he moved to Auckland. Although his family mostly remained in Pirongia, where his grandfather Captain John Burns and family had been early settlers, he spent most of his post-war life in Mt Albert where he worked again in the Post & Telegraph Department for the NZ Post Office; he was in Mount Wellington in the late 1930s. He died in 1956 and was interred in Waikumete Cemetery, Glen Eden. I was unable to find what happened to his wife but I suspect she returned to England and died in the 1960s.