

Name: Peter Kenard Tennent



Service No: 36646

Armed Force: NZ Army

Enlistment At/Date: 9 July 1940

Training: In Cadets for 3yrs before leaving school.

Entered camp 4 October 1940 – 18 December 1940, Trentham, Wellington.

Embarkations: From Wellington to Sydney, Australia, 19 December 1940, aboard 'Dominion Monarch'. Up Suez Canal to Port Taufiq, disembarked 28 January 1941, then to Maadi Camp, near Cairo, Egypt.

Rank/s: Private Signelman, Corporal

Service: 2 NZ Div Signals

CIVILIAN LIFE

Address before Enlistment: Greymouth, West Coast, NZ
Next of Kin on Embarkation: Oswald K Tennent
Relationship Status: Father
Occupation: Bank Clerk
Single/Married: Single

MILITARY DECORATIONS

Medals and Awards: 1939-45 Star (Middle East), Africa Star (Middle East), Defence Medal (Middle East), War Medal 1939-45 (Middle East), NZ War Service Medal (Middle East). For Army Service.

OTHER DETAILS

Date of Birth & Place: 14 June 1918, Wellington, NZ
Date of Death & Place: 8 June 1978, Otaio, South Canterbury, NZ
Cause of Death: Heart attack
Burial/Cremation: Cremated. Ashes at farm, Otaio, South Canterbury, NZ
Age: 59 yrs, 11 months
Memorial: Plaque of remembrance at St Mary's Anglican Church, Esk Valley, South Canterbury, NZ

Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

MILITARY SERVICE BIOGRAPHY:

Peter was called up for Military Service 3/10/1940.

He was sent to Trentham, Wellington, 4/10/1940.

From Wellington onto Sydney, Australia, on 19 Dec. 1940, aboard 'Dominion Monarch'.

His Unit was 2nd Division Signals. He was with mostly Australian troops when they sailed in a convoy, with British Naval ships as escorts, on the 'Queen Mary'.

Went up the Suez Canal to Port Taufiq, disembarked 28/1/1941, then to Maadi Camp near Cairo, Egypt.

Trained in the desert, practised using gas masks & carrying everything on their backs, & walking long distances. Some were sent to Greece but Peter's Division remained in the desert.

4 September 1942 Peter was wounded when a shell exploded after landing in amongst him & other troops, at Ruyesat (Ruweisat) Ridge, El Alamein.

Reported wounded & next of kin notified 19/9/1942 by telegram. By 17/9/1942 is on seriously ill list. Condition improved once shrapnel removed.

Peter's Division moved on & he remained in hospital. He was finally discharged from hospital 20 January 1943.

As Peter was unable to return to his former duty on the frontline, Peter spent the next six months recuperating & doing office jobs. Behind the scenes communications.

Returned to NZ, leaving Cairo 12 August 1944.

Discharged from NZ Army 19 December 1944.

On returning home, Peter went back to Wellington & worked in a bank for a year.

Next he did a short course at Lincoln College/University before dairy farming, at Otaio, in partnership with Thomas C Foster. By this time he had married Menzies R Foster (known as Julie) 3 November 1946, at St Barnabas, Fendalton, Christchurch.

In about 1957 Peter & Julie ceased dairying & turned to sheep & beef farming.

His life from this point revolved around family, grandchildren, & living the simpler life on the farm.

He rarely talked about his time at war – a time he didn't want to remember or relive.

He experienced heart episodes from about 1949, until 1969 when he suffered a fatal heart attack, at home, in Otaio.

An astute & respected businessman, a devoted family man, & a gentleman.

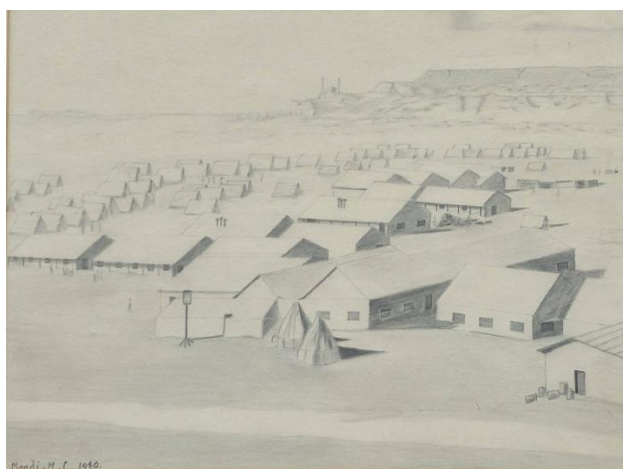
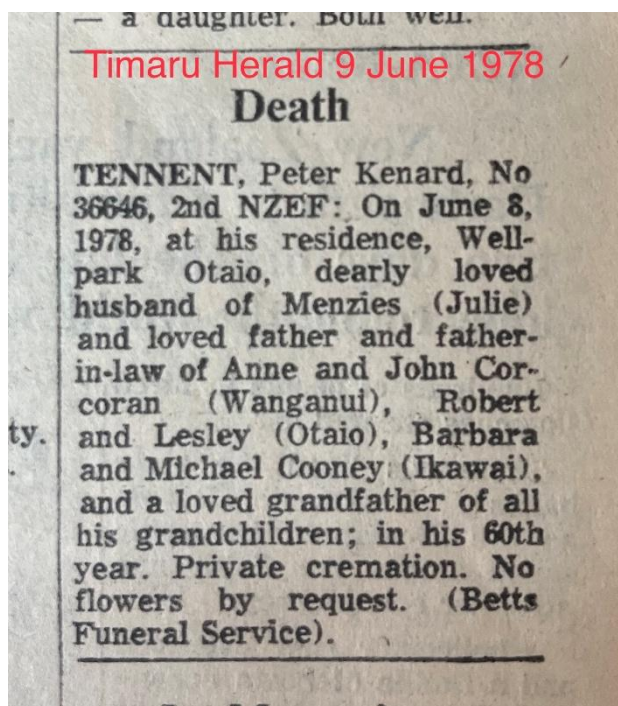
WAR SERVICE IMAGES



Peter Tennent recuperating after being wounded
4 Sept. 1942



Peter Tennent & Menzies Foster



Maadi Camp, Egypt. 1940

Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

USEFUL WEB LINKS FOR REFERENCE:

1. [Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph](#)
 - o A comprehensive database of New Zealand service personnel.
2. [New Zealand War Graves Project](#)
 - o Contains images and information about New Zealand war graves and memorials around the world.
3. [New Zealand History - NZ Wars and Conflicts](#)
 - o Provides detailed accounts and images of New Zealand's involvement in various wars, including WW1 and WW2.
4. [Archives New Zealand - War History](#)
 - o Access to war-related records and images held by Archives New Zealand.
5. [Te Papa Tongarewa - Collections Online](#)

Features war-related collections, including personal stories and photographs of New Zealand soldiers

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- Your Name here
- South Canterbury Genealogy Society
- Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph
- New Zealand War Graves Project

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Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

