

Thomas Vincent

1899 - 1970



Tom was born at Springbrook, South Canterbury, 28 November 1899, fourth child and second son of Matilda and Thomas Vincent.

He grew up on the thirteen and a half acre property on Middle Road, Springbrook and records show his name on the Springbrook school roll in 1905.

Tom's childhood was not happy due to his strict and over bearing father. He used to say his father was forever giving him a hiding because as his father stated "If he was not just coming out of mischief, he was just looking to go into mischief."

This caused young Tom to be rebellious so at the age of 16, in order to get away from his father, he enlisted with the army for overseas service. The date was 26.10.1916, and at that time he was living in Christchurch and gave his occupation as labourer.

He was accepted and embarked on what he thought was going to be an exciting expedition. Tom spent time at Sling Camp in England with many other New Zealanders and was in the 23rd Reinforcement. He was in the front line of the trenches for a short time in France then became ill and finally was transferred to Walton on Thames Hospital in England.

At his young age the fighting was not what he thought it would be and left him with some nasty memories. He returned from the UK on the ship "Hororata" departing on the 28.07.1919 and was discharged from the Army on 24.10.1919.

On return from service abroad at age 21 he found work wherever he could. Because of leaving school at a young age he had no qualifications so did labouring jobs both in Australia and New Zealand, mainly at freezing works.

In 1929 he married Una Alice Mary Galletly and set up home in Pareora where they reared their family of four children - Beaudry, Darwin, Verna and Cordell (Dell).

While in Pareora Tom started up a small business: Hairdressing and Tobacconist. As the business grew he shifted to premises across the road and added a Billiard Room at the back and a petrol pump at the front. Unfortunately this business burned down. The family rented a house in Timaru for a short time then Tom took Darwin, aged six, to Blenheim to look for work. They stayed at a Boarding House in George Street. Tom found employment, hairdressing for Tom Hood and at the Picton Freezing Works. He managed to rent a home at Grovetown two miles north of Blenheim. It was an old school house, vacant because the teacher Kathleen Hilliard owned her own home in Blenheim and travelled daily to the school by car. The family were then shifted from Timaru to Grovetown in 1938 where they lived for the next six years. Tom doing whatever work he could find.

He could turn his hand to almost anything; hairdressing, slaughtering animals for neighbours, dowsing for water and loved cutting firewood and would get the boys on the cross cut saw to help him.

Tom was very proud of his children and encouraged the boys in boxing, cycling, pig hunting and many other activities.

Tom's book keeping skills were excellent and he was secretary for various clubs including the Power Boat and Gun Club.

Tom joined the Air Force as a Barber at the Woodbourne Air Base for a time during WW2 and from the copy of the enlistment form it probably would have been in 1943. The plaque on his grave at Blenheim is noted as having served in the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 forces.

In 1945 the lease was due to end on the Grovetown house so he purchased a quarter acre section on the corner of Lakings Road and Barry Street in Springlands, Blenheim. Because the war had ended, the army camp at the Delta in Wairau Valley had closed and the buildings were being sold for removal. Tom purchased the medical block and had it re-located on the Springlands section. It was quite primitive, and money was short. Tom was challenged to make it into a home for his family and this is where his ingenuity was put to use many times.

In 1952 Tom suffered his first heart attack really setting him back. He lost a lot of his fighting spirit. Because he had been a chain smoker for many years he developed chronic asthma. In 1958 Tom and Una shifted to Hospital Road to a drier area in the hope of relieving the asthma. Tom took on the job as Caretaker at the AMP Show grounds in the early 1960s. Tom lived at Hospital Road till his death in 1970.

Summing up Tom. As a person he had a strong determination, was very hard working, well read, was knowledgeable on many things, had beautiful handwriting and was a colourful character with an even more colourful vocabulary.

Tom was very proud of his family and made quite a mark on the world.

Samuel and Thomas crashed on their motor bikes when a dog came out and hit Thomas's front wheel, north of Galletly's gate. Tom was seriously injured and needed surgery. Sam went to a spiritual medium for help and what she said came true. Tom would have seven operations, they put like a bike tube down his throat, but he would survive. And he did!

Thomas's last heart attack the doctor said ,“go home and take it easy”, but he got back on his racing bike!

Thomas Vincent 1853-1935 m 1892 Matilda Deans 1874-1945

1 William (Will) James 1894-1973	m 1918	Maud Eliza Jane Packman
2 Matilda (Tilly) 1896-1979	m 1917	Rodger Bee
3 Mary (Minnie) Eliza 1897-1965	m 1958	John Byers Nichol
4 Thomas (Tom) 1899-1970	m 1929	Una Alice Mary Galletly
5 Samuel Craig (Sam) 1903-1952	m 1931	Annie Jane Curtis
6 Robert (Bob) Thompson 1910-1998	m 1937	Margaret (Peg) Edith Bennetts
7 Albert Kitchener 1916-1966	m 1940	Rosalind (Rose) Gweneth Giles

Thomas (Tom) Vincent



Tom on THE Humber bike



Tom's shop



Sam Vincent Tom Una Rhoda Galletly



Verna's wedding



Verna 8 Darwin 9 Beaudry 11



Darwin Cordell Beaudry Verna



Thomas Vincent



PVT. THOMAS VINCENT.

2ND SOUTH CANTERBURY REGIMENT.

23RD REINFORCEMENT. 1914-1918 WAR.

- 26-10-1916 ENLISTED, CHRISTCHURCH (AGE 16)
- 3-2-17 TRENTHAM CAMP
- 2-11-17 DEPARTED WELLINGTON FOR UK
- 10-6-17 ARRIVED DEVENPORT U.K.
- 11-6-17 ENTERED SHING CAMP. U.K.
- 6-7-17 DEPARTED U.K. FOR FRANCE.
- 25-7-17 JOINED 2ND BATTN. (FIELD)
- 13-8-17 ADMITTED GEN HOSPITAL (INJURED ANKLE)
- 28-8-17 DISCHARGED TO BASE DEPOT.
- 22-9-17 POSTED TO UNIT (FIELD)
- 19-2-18 ON LEAVE U.K.
- 8-3-18 RETURNED FROM LEAVE. (FIELD)
- 7-8-18 EVACUATED TO NOIR HOSPITAL (DYSENTRY)
- 20-8-18 TRANSFERRED TO NO 2 HOSPITAL (WATTON, U.K.)
- 7-2-19 DISCHARGED TO STAFF.
- 28-7-19 EMBARKED PLYMOUTH (SHIP 'HORORATA')
- 21-10-19 OFFICIAL DISCHARGE.

Unit <i>6 Coy</i>	Rank <i>Pte</i>	Surname <i>Vincent</i>	Advice despatched to soldier: <i>1/12/19</i>
Last New Zealand address: <i>C/O Mrs A. E. Button, Pratt St. Redcliffe.</i>			Authority to Headquarters: <i>14/2/20</i> <i>44037</i>
Occupation: <i>Labourer</i>		Religion: <i>C of E</i>	
Last employer: <i>C. F. M. Coy. Paraora</i>		<i>27.11.19</i>	
Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand): <i>M. Matilda Vincent, (Mother) Paraora. Sub. General. Via Timaru.</i>			

Service	Country or Troopship.	Date from	Date to	Total.		Initials of Officer making Entry	Home Service.	
				Years.	Days.		Years.	Days.
Service	<i>11/11/17.</i>	<i>18/11/17</i>						
	<i>N.Z.</i>	<i>5/1/17.</i>	<i>2.4.17</i>					
	<i>Foreign</i>	<i>2.4.17</i>	<i>23.9.19</i>					
	<i>Det. Paraora</i>	<i>20.9.19</i>						
	<i>N.Z.</i>	<i>23.9.19</i>	<i>21.10.19</i>					
CABLE.								

No. *44037* Rank *Pte.*
 Name: *THOMAS VINCENT*
 Address: *Paraora. via Timaru*

Periods of Service. Theatres of Operation.

In New Zealand: *5* years *165* days. *Australia*
 Overseas: *2* years *175* days. *Egypt*
 Total service: *2* years *340* days. *Egyptian S.F.*
 Date commenced duty: *5.1.17* *Bahran*
 Date finally discharged: *21.10.19* *Western European* *1917-1918*
Asiatic

Decorations:
 The foregoing particulars are correct.
 Signature: *[Signature]*
 E.E.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.
 (1,000 pads/8/20—12058)

Killed in action
 Died of wound
 Missing
 Prisoner
 Injuries in or by the Service
 Discharge
 Pension

20 DEC 1921
 Signature: *[Signature]*
 E.E.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.
 (1,000 pads/8/20—12058)
 Final: *10.10.19*
 A.P. 103 RECEIVED
 W.R. 125 RECEIVED
 23.9.19