

MANSSEN family in the New Zealand Armed Services (Weblink Manssen family in the NZ Armed services)

Two days after George MANSSEN and his family arrived in Nelson the Wairau tragedy occurred. This sent the town into turmoil. The men of Nelson built stockades and started to conduct military drill and parades. I do not know if George was involved as no records appear to have been kept. The early Nelson military had to go into local battle but when the Taranaki Wars broke out in 1863 some of the Nelson men volunteered. A National Archives list of the men who went to Taranaki from Nelson does not show the MANSSEN name.

Early Artillery Companies

The first record of enlistment was Charles MANSSEN (spelt MANSOON and MANSON) and Charles Henry MARTIN who both enlisted as privates in the Wakapuaka Artillery Company on 19 May 1866. National Archives Army records tell how many parades they attended through the year and the amount of their capitation grant. In the 1868 records both Charles MANSSEN and Charles MARTIN were Gunners. On 21 September 1871 it noted that Charles MANSSEN resigned from his duties because he was leaving the district. This was three years before he married Emma MARRIS. Charles MARTIN continued in the service of the Wakapuaka Artillery and later became a sergeant. The photo of C H MARTIN in uniform may have been the Wakapuaka Artillery Company and the occasion could be when he received his sergeant strips, but the details are hard to read to make out.

In March 1878 [sic] when Charles MANSSEN was married and living in Stoke, he enlisted in the Stoke Rifles. Charles MANSSEN (spelt Mansen) continued to parade until 1883. Some buttons from Charles's uniform have survived and are in Norman MANSSENS care. Norman had been told that Charles went to the Taranaki Wars with other Nelson volunteers and the buttons came off this uniform. Charles would have been 15 years old at the time, and as I did not find any MANSSEN on the early volunteer list, I think I can safely say that the buttons came from the Wakapuaka or Stoke Artillery Company.

World War I 1914-1918

Many MANSSEN descendants enlisted in the Great War and World War Two unaware of their German origin. It didn't matter to those who knew, as they were born in New Zealand and defend her they would. I have gathered the remaining family members recollections along with Defence Department records to tell their story.

The Great War was said to be "the war to end all wars" but history was to prove this wrong. When war broke out none of our German ancestors had to go into internment camps. Only Caroline (MANSSEN) PAGE and Charles Henry MARTIN were still living. Caroline could do no harm as a married mother and Charles H MARTIN had proven to be a most valuable settler and citizen of Nelson. I have been told that some of the Germans who arrived on the "St Pauli" and later moved to Australia were put into camps for the duration of the War.

Silver Bullet Cannonade

Mr father had told me of the Silver Bullet Cannonade which was a collection for the First World War. Everyone in New Zealand made donations. A Nelson newspaper article written in July 1916, lists many of its citizens' generous donations. The final total contribution to the Silver Bullet Cannonade in Nelson was £3,000.

Conrad Marris MANSSEN - 80368

Conrad enlisted on 11 December 1917 at Nelson. He was aged 34years 11 months, height 5 feet, 6 inches, weight 133 lbs, fair complexion, with brown hair and blue eyes. He was employed as a House Painter by Louison Bros of Nelson and lived at Wellington Terrace Nelson. Conrad MANSSEN left Nelson for Wellington with the Canterbury 41st draft about

22 May 1918 and was later transferred to the 42nd draft. He left Wellington on the ship 109 "Toyua" on 01 August 1918 and arrived in London 04 October 1918. The War ended the same month so Conrad never went into active duty. He left London on the 3rd July 1919 on the "S.S. Mamari" and disembarked in Auckland on 20 August 1919. He then returned to Nelson. His service to his country was a total of 1 year 123 days, made up of 101 days in New Zealand and one year 22 days overseas duty. Conrad was discharged on 19 September 1919 where his intended address was 75 Grove Street Nelson. Conrad was decorated with the "British War Medal" on 21 February 1924.

William Cuthbert MANSSEN - 17794

William enlisted on the 05 April 1916 at Featherston. He was 5 feet 6½ inches in height, fair complexion, fair hair and blue eyes. His occupation was Tailor employed by W Marriott of Nelson. He was a member of the Nelson Reserve Ambulance Corp and had been about 8 years in the Nelson Rifles and 12 months in the Wairarapa Rifles. William was married to Inez and gave details of the marriage and also of his son Cuthbert Maurice MANSSEN. His address was 78 Haven Road and later Franklyn Street Nelson. He was posted to the 15th Canterbury Company as a private and entered the Featherston camp for training. He left Devonport Auckland on 03 October 1916 for overseas duty. He then went into active service in France with the 2nd Canterbury Infantry Battalion, 12th Company Regiment. In France he was gassed and was sent back to England on 15 December 1917. Cuthbert left Liverpool England on the "Maunganui" on 02 February 1918 and arrived in New Zealand on 19 March 1918. He was suffering from bronchitis and asthma. His service was a total of 2 year 278 days made up of 1 year 41 days service in New Zealand and 1 year 237 days overseas duty. When Cuthbert was discharged on the 07 January 1919 it was stated that he was no longer physically fit for war service on account of illness (pulmonary tubercular) contracted while on active service. Cuthbert was decorated with the "British War Medal" on 07 June 1921 and the "Victory Medal" on 01 March 1922.

Frederick Henry MANSSEN – 90160

Frederick enlisted on 18 June 1918 in Nelson. He was aged 30 years, 5 feet 5 inches in height, weighed 140 lbs, fair complexion, brown hair and grey eyes. Frederick had varicose veins that made him unfit to march and he had scarlet fever when he was 13 years old. He was a carpenter employed by H Baigent of Nelson. Frederick was a volunteer of the "H" Battery of Nelson for 4 years. He was married to Ruby and had a son Ray Mills MANSSEN. His next of kin was recorded as Mrs R J MANSSEN, C/- Mrs M E COOK (married sister Mary Ethel) 78 Hataitai Road, Wellington. On the 24 September 1918 Frederick went into the "A" Company as a private but he was to spend only 7 days in service as the War ended and he was discharged. His address on discharge was C/- Mr J R Hamilton Dannevirke. Frederick was not decorated with any war service medals.

Francis Moss (Bob) MANSSEN – 18095

Francis enlisted on 05 April 1916 at Trentham. He was 27 years old, 5 feet 5¾ inches in height, weighted 9 stone 6 lbs, fair complexion, light fair hair, grey hazel eyes. Francis was married to Letitia and had 2 sons and later gave details of the birth of another son. Francis was employed by A Wanden in Blenheim as a painter. His last address was Eltham Road Blenheim and his next of kin address was (wife) Mrs Letitia MANSSEN, Canvas Camp, Featherston NZ. Francis had three years in the Volunteers and 7 years in Garrison Band. Francis was a Private then later a Lance Corporal in the 15th Canterbury Company. On 06 July 1916 at Featherston he was in the permanent Band Unit where he worked in the Quarter Masters Stores. On his records it stated that he had to forfeit one days pay for overstaying his leave while in Featherston. This was on 14 September 1916, 1 month before his 2nd son Eric was born. Francis was discharged as a Private on 15 December 1919 and his address on discharge was C/- Miss Shaw 24 Ridgeway Street Wanganui. No other details of

his service or medals are in his Army record files, but a letter was found concerning an Army enquiry. I believe it was because of the German surname MANSSEN. The letter reads:

I beg to report that I have made inquired concerning Francis Moss Manssen and his parents and I have ascertained that he Francis Moss Manssen was born at Stoke on 07 January 1889. He is a married man and his wife is at the West Coast. I have been unable to learn anything against his character. His father Charles Frederick Manssen was born in Nelson in 1849 and his mother was born in Sheffield England in 1853. Both parents are still residing in Nelson and are receiving the Old Age Pension. Mr Manssen's parents came from Germany (were Germans) arriving in Nelson in 1843. They have been dead for many years.
Gerald Wade Const. 1475 - (7/6/16)

Alfred Edgar PAGE – Private 46612

Alfred enlisted on the 04 December 1916 at Cheviot. He was aged 30 years, height 5 feet 6 inches, weighed 9 stone 10 lbs, fair complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes. He had artificial teeth and was almost totally blind in the left eye but the doctors considered him fit for duty. It noted on his questionnaire that his mother was born in Hamburg and had lived in New Zealand for about 70 years. Alfred was single and employed by John Barnes in Spotswood as a Diary framer. His next of kin was Mrs H L Page (mother) Spotswood, Cheviot. Alfred was posted to the Canterbury Company 25th regiment on 07 February 1917. Later I found the 25 crossed out and 26th in its place. He left New Zealand on 26 April 1917 with the Canterbury Company 4th Reserves Battalion. He was later posted to the 2nd Canterbury Enforce Regiment and began service in Francis on 06 September 1917 where he was gassed on 20 October 1917. He was taken back to an English Hospital to recover and while there he contacted scabies and measles. In England he was transferred around many hospitals. According to Army records Alfred left Plymouth for New Zealand on the "Briton" on the 23 December 1918 and arrived in New Zealand on 19 January 1919. Alfred' service to his country was made up of 175 day in New Zealand, overseas 1 year 279 days making a total of 2 years 89 days. It was noted that Alfred was no longer physically fit for ward due to mustard gas poisoning and his intended address upon leaving the Army was Spotswood Cheviot. He was discharged on the 18 March 1919 when he was decorated with the "British War Medal" on 06 July 1921 and the "Victory Medal" on 09 February 1922.

Roy Frederick LILEY – 73303

Roy enlisted on 19 November 1917 in Auckland at the age of 19 years. He was 5 feet 7¼ inches in height, weighed 142 lbs, auburn complexion, dark brown hair and hazel eyes. His next of kin was recorded as Mrs B Liley (mother) 5 Enfield Street Mt Eden Auckland. He was employed as a driver by M Bimrose in Manuwera Auckland. Roy had served in the 6th Hauraki Regiment of the Territorial. He had varicose veins and was records as unable to march far. Roy joined the "E" Company as a private on 22 November 1917 when he was in the Grooms and Orderlies unit. He was promoted to corporal on 26 April 1918 and after getting leave with permission he married Rise I G HALL at Masterton on 03 September 1918. His next of kin was changed to Mrs R I G Liley C/- G P O Featherston. Roy then reverted to the rank of private and worked in the Quarter Masters Stores. After the War ended leave with permission was given and Troy was discharged from the Army on 27 April 1919. Roy was to enlist again in the Second World War.

William George (Jack) FROST – 31486

William was the first descendant to be killed on active duty in World War I. He enlisted in the New Zealand Army in July 1915. After 2 months camp training he was posted to France. Just one day short of his 21st birthday on 07 June 1917 William was killed in action during the Battle of Maceans in France. William was a member of the 2nd Canterbury Infantry Battalion and held the rank of private. His body was buried in France but there is now a

memorial plaque on his parent's grave at Hira cemetery Nelson. He never married. May this book help to keep memory alive.

Lawrence Cyril FROST – 88288

Lawrence enlisted on 24 July 1918. He was 5 feet 7 inches in height, weighed 147 lbs, fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was single and was last employed by W T Frost as a farmer. His next of kin was recorded as Mrs A E Frost (mother) Wakapuaka. Lawrence joined the "A" 47th Company and left Nelson on 09 September 1918 for training in Featherston. The War ended not long after and Lawrence was discharged on 28 November 1918.

World War II – 1939 – 1945

Most of the men who enlisted in World War II belonged to the fourth generation of Manssens'. They were the great grandchildren of George and Johanna MANSSSEN. This was to be a long war. New Zealand called not only on its men-folk in this war but also on its women. Some women joined the armed forces while others joined the land army.

Norman Lewis BATT – Private NZ 547477

Norman enlisted in Palmerston North on 16 November 1942 at the age of 38 years, three months. He was 5 feet 9¾ inches in height, dark complexion, medium brown hair and hazel eyes. His next of kin was Mrs E M Batt (wife) of Grey Street Shannon. He was employed as a labourer by Mrs Hyde in Shannon. Norman entered Linton camp on the 04 February 1943. He trained as a signaller with the C.D. Signs Company.

Gordon Marris BATT – Private 544935

Gordon enlisted in Christchurch on 21 September 1942. He was 5 feet 9 inches in height, with fresh complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. His next of kin was noted as daughter, Moss Ethel Batt, St Joseph's Home Upper Hutt. Gordon was a widower with 6 children. Gordon had spent 18 months in the Home Guard. His occupation was General labourer and Truck driver employed by Vale & Company at 371 Tuam Street, Christchurch. Gordon entered Lancaster Park Camp in Christchurch on 02 October 1942. He had a total of 88 days service and was decorated with the "War Medal 1939-45" and "NZ War Service Medal".

Hector Percy BATT – Gunner 490018 – No details

Raymond Francis BATT – NZMF 30706

Raymond enlisted on the 28 September 1939 at the age of 21 years. He was 5 feet 7 inches in height and single. His occupation was noted as Labourer employed by Mt G Hassell in Waverley. His next of kin was father Mr E Batt, Stansell Street, Levin and later Mrs L Batt, 22 Gordon Crescent, Marton. In his Will his sister Ethel Muriel EVERETT of Christchurch was noted. Raymond entered camp on the 25 January 1940. He embarked on the ship "Mauritania" for England on 23 June 1940 and went to Egypt on 16 November 1942. He was captured and reported as a Prisoner of War on 13 December 1941. He was later reported as safe in a N.Z.E.F. base camp and was released from Bardia on 12 January 1942. He returned to New Zealand and was discharged from service on 10 February 1943. Raymond's service in New Zealand was 97 days plus 33 days, overseas duty 2 years 229 days and lieu of leave in NZ 34 days making a total service of 3 years 28 days. He was decorated with the "1939-45 Star", "Africa Star", "Defence Medal", "War Medal 1939-45" and "NZ War Service Medal".

Louis Alexander LESSELS – 74407

Louis enlisted on the 15 August 1941 at the age of 39 years, 11 months. He was 5 feet 6 inches in height, fresh complexion, grey hair and brown eyes. He was single and worked as a master painter in his own business before enlisting. His next of kin was recorded as sister Mrs Olive Gardner, Wakatu Nelson. He had been a school cadet in the Territorial for 18 months. Louis entered Trentham camp on 15 January 1942 and embarked for overseas duty in Fiji on 12 May 1942. Louis returned to NZ in August and spent time in the 11 Hospital Regiment, 15 Ind. Inf. Company and 23 Field Company. He was discharged from the services on 7 January 1944. He served in NZ for 118 days, overseas 95 days and back in NZ 1 year and 146 days giving a total of 1 year 359 days in the services.

William Ronald (Bill) LESSELS – NZMC 42922

Bill enlisted on 22 February 1941 at the age of 38 years. He was 5 feet 5½ inches in height, grey hair and blue eyes. He was single and listed his next of kin as sister Mrs Olive Gardner Wakatu Nelson and later as brother Louis Lessels. Bill was employed, as a Meter reader in Wellington and his last residence was 139 Hanson Street Wellington. He spent 7 years as a cadet in the Territorial. Bill had flat feet, which were noted on his records as unfit for marching, so he entered the Medical Corps. Bill entered camp on 16 April 1941. He embarked on 26 May 1941 and served in Tonga, Suva, Samoa and Fiji. He became ill in the Islands and was sent home but returned later when he regained his strength. He was discharged from service on 25 February 1944 and his home address was recorded as 55 Wilton Road Wadestown. Bill was in the service in NZ 41 days plus 225 days plus 37 days, overseas for 1 year 42 days plus 317 days giving a total service of 2 years 297 days.

Malcolm Bevan LESSELS – Gunner – NZA – 509167

Malcolm was one of the boys who never returned for he was killed in action in New Guinea. He enlisted on 04 July 1942 at the age of 32 years 5 months. He was 5 feet 5 inches in height, weighted 10 stone 4 lbs, fresh complexion, black hair and blue eyes. Malcolm was a painter/paperhanger employed by E T Savage in Nelson and had spent 3 years as a private in the Territorial. He was married to Jessie Eileen who lived at 132 Nile Street East and later 21 Milton Street Nelson. He entered camp on the 04 July 1942. Malcolm was recorded as a member of the 91st Comp Coy and the A.A. Bly Unit. On 03 December 1942 he embarked for overseas duty in the Pacific. Malcolm was killed on 01 October 1943 and buried at Barea in Vella Lavella. His widow was paid out £200 on the 31 March 1946 for the loss of her husband. I met an ex-serviceman who served with Malcolm during the War and he told me the story of how Malcolm met his death. Malcolm was not on duty that day but had decided to help unload supplies that were being delivered onto the beach. A Japanese plane came out of the sky and opened fire along the shoreline killing Malcolm and others. If he stayed in camp and not gone to help he may have survived the war. Malcolm was decorated with the "1939-45 Star", "Pacific Star", "Defence Medal", "War Medal 1939-45" and NZ War Service Medal.

James Bertie (Jim) LESSELS – Merchant Navy No. 3020 – RNZAF NZ 401344

Jim was working on a ship in the Pacific Ocean when news of the war broke out. The ship and its crew were ordered to report at the nearest port (which was Australia) for instructions from the NZ Government. So perhaps he was the first member of the family to be called up. He enlisted in the Royal New Zealand Air Force and went into training at Hobsonville Auckland where he was hopeful of going on to joining the Fleet Air Arm Services but failed the medical. He later joined the Merchant Navy where he spent the War period on ships around New Zealand and the Pacific. While in NZ Jim spent a day's leave with his brother Malcolm before he left for overseas duty in the Pacific. They spent the day's leave having a few drinks and talking unknown to them both that this would be the last time they would see each other as Malcolm was killed in action a year later.

Alec Neil LESSELS – 18452

Alec was married when he enlisted on 13 December 1941 at the age of 23 years. He was 5 feet 7 inches in height, fresh complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes. He was employed as a painter / paperhanger with the firm J. Lessels & Sons of 21 Milton Street Nelson. He was married to Annie Lessels who was recorded as living at 132 Nile Street, 72 Weka Street and 21 Milton Street Nelson over a period of time. Alec entered camp on the 22 April 1941 and left New Zealand shores on 27 June 1941 for England with the B 5th Infantry Company. He then went into active service in Egypt on either 39 July 1941 or 17 September 1941. He was reported missing on 13 December 1941 with Germany next to the entry. The Geneva Red Cross reported him as a Prisoner of War in Germany on the 26th January 1942. He was to wait a long time for the War to end. Towards the end of the war he was one of the unfortunate prisoners who endured the long march out of Germany. The P.O.W. records state, 07 March 1941 = At Campo PG 57 Posta Militare 3200, 10 February 1943 Transferred P.O.W. at Camp PG 107 P.M. 3200 Italy, 07 January 1944 Transferred Stalag XVIII a POW no 8883 and 26 May 1945 Safe in United Kingdom.

A telegram was sent on 31 May 1945 to 84 Toi Toi Street Nelson giving the news that Alec was safe in England. I think we can all imagine the Family's response to this news. When the War was over he stayed in England to convalesce with a bad leg resulting from that long walk. He arrived home in New Zealand on 02 September 1945 on the ship "Harvest Wing" and was recorded as a patient at Nelson Hospital from 25 September 1945 to 03 December 1945, Alec's wife Annie (Doll) LESSELS also served in the New Zealand Forces during the War. Alec was officially discharged from the Army on 05 March 1946. His length of service was New Zealand 66 days and 134 days, overseas 4 years 68 days giving a total of 4 years 318 days much of this spent as a Prisoner of War. Alec was decorated with 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, War Medal 1939-45 and NZ War Service Medal.

Bryan Manssen COOK – 40736Personal information

- Name = Bryan Manssen COOK
- Rank = Pilot Officer
- Service number = 40736
- Service = Royal New Zealand Air Force
- Unit = 18 Squadron
- Previous service = Cadets 1933-1936 (3 years)
- Birth details = 15 October 1919 Wellington New Zealand
- Marital status = Single
- Parent details = Mother Mary Ethel MANSSEN (born Nelson NZ) and Father Albert Ernest COOK (born Wellington) occupation retired Civil Servant
- Address = 78 Hataitai Road Wellington E2
- Education = University Entrance, slight knowledge of French – Wellington College 1933 to 1936 – Banks Commercial College Wellington 1937 to 1938 – Enting's (ACCT. School) Wellington 1939
- Examinations = NZ University Matriculation certificate December 1938 subjects English, Mathematics, Geography, French & chemistry credited Mathematics
- After leaving School education – Accountancy 1939 – Entings (ACCT. School) Wellington NZ Part time Tuition – Book Keeping I Mercantile Law Company Law
- Occupation = Clerk General duties – Government Social Security Department
- Employment history = December 1936 –WD & HO Wills NZ Ltd & February 1939 Willeston Street Wellington Clerical Duties left to improve position – February 1939 New

Zealand Government Social Security Department Clerical Duties – February 1940 entry to RAAF – Applied for Short Service Commission 1938 R.A.F.

- Religion = Church of England
- Sports = Cricket, Hockey, Rugby, Tennis & Swimming – Captain Huia Senior B Hockey team Wellington NZ – Secondary School Hockey Representative
- Physical description = height 5 feet 6 inches – chest 35 inches – hair light brown – eyes blue – complexion fair – marks, scars or wounds nil
- Total service = 3 years 106 days
- Killed in Action = 24 July 1942 buried Germany
- Medals = The 1939-45 Star, The Aircrew Europe Star, The Defence Medal, The War Medal 1939-45 & The NZ War Medal – issued to mother Mrs A E Cook, 78 Hataitai Road, Wellington on 30 May 1950

Service information

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Source</i>
12-03-1940	Enlistment completed attestation form RNZAF station Levin	Levin	NZDFA Attestation form
12-03-1940	Unit to which G & S Levin	Levin	NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
12-03-1940	Leading Aircraftsman A/O U/T group V		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
12-03-1940	GST Levin	Levin	NZDFA form 1580
12-03-1940	LAC Air Observer u/t		NZDFA form 1580
12-03-1940	Promoted to LAC Leading Aircraftsman		NZDFA A1972
13-03-1940	Ground Training School 78.5% to 08-04-1940		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
08-04-1940	To Ohakea from G & S Levin	Ohakea	NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
08-04-1940	Ground Training School 78.5% from 13-03-1940		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
08-04-1940	Air Gunner and Air		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
08-04-1940	Observers Course at Qualified		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
08-04-1940	From GTS Levin to Ohakea	Ohakea	NZDFA form 1580
08-04-1940	To 03-05-1940 Course report subject Armament (Theoretical) Not suitable for instructor remarks Retained for Air Observers Course Vincent Aircraft as Air Gunner passed 85.5% total flying time 7 hours 55 minutes remarks Competent and intelligent signed by Squadron Leader on 11-06-1940		NZDFA F292
12-04-1940	Rank L.A.C. No entry on Service conduct sheet at G.T.S. Levin	Levin	NZDFA F120
12-04-1940	G.T.S. Levin character Good Satisfactory proficiency recommended Observer school Ohakea	Levin	NZDFA F125
26-07-1940	A.O.S. Ohakea character Good Satisfactory proficiency recommended Royal Air Force	Ohakea	NZDFA F125
26-07-1940	Rank L.A.C. No entry on Service conduct sheet at A.O.S. Ohakea	Ohakea	NZDFA F120
26-07-1940	Leading Air Craftsman Character Good Trade classification A/O v/t Group V Satisfactory proficiency		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
26-07-1940	AOS Ohakea		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF

27-07-1940	Promoted Acting Sergeant		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
27-07-1940	Acting Sergeant		NZDFA form 1580
30-07-1940	<p>This is the last will and testament of me Bryan Manssen Cook of the City of Wellington in the Dominion of New Zealand formerly a civil servant but now serving in the Royal New Zealand Air Force.</p> <p>I revoke all wills and testamentary dispositions at any time heretofore made by me</p> <p>2. I appoint my father Albert Ernest Cook of the City of Wellington aforesaid retired Civil Servant to be the executor of this my Will.</p> <p>3. I give and bequeath the following specific legacies One of my Wairarapa Hockey Association Tournament cups unto John Peter Balham of 49 Matai Road Hataitai Wellington and my other Wairarapa Hockey Association Tournament cup to Ronald Walter Balham also of 49 Matai Road Hataitai Wellington.</p> <p>(b) Mr cricket medal from Hataitai School unto Marie Patricia Bishop of 99 Wilton Road Wadestown Wellington.</p> <p>4. I give and bequeath the following pecuniary legacies The sum of Twenty-five pounds (£25) to my sister, Gwendoline Eva Fraser of Dunedin.</p> <p>(b) The sum of Twenty-five pounds (£25) to my sister, Thelma Jean Dwyer of Masterton</p> <p>I The sum of Twenty-five pounds (£25) to my brother Noel Winstone Cook</p> <p>5. I give devise bequeath and appoint all the rest residue and remainder of the estate real and personal of whatsoever kind and wheresoever situate of which I shall be possessed to which I shall be entitled or over which I shall have any disposing power at my death and after payment thereof of all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses unto my mother Mary Ethel Cook and to my father the said Albert Ernest Cook in equal shares.</p> <p>6. I declare that the proceeds of all Life Insurance policies on my life be available for the payment of the foregoing pecuniary legacies.</p> <p>In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 30th day of July One Thousand nine hundred and forty (1940) Signed and acknowledged by the Testator the said BRYAN MANSSSEN COOK as and for his last will and Testament in the sight and presence of us both present at the same time who at his request in his sight and presence and in the sight and presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses – B.M. Cook L.C. Hemery Solicitor Wellington T E Ennis Solicitor Wellington</p>	Wellington	NZDFA copy of Will
14-09-1940	Confirmed Temporary Squadron Leader mustard A/O65 II		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
14-09-1940	Authorised to wear Air Observer's Badge		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
14-09-1940	Confirmed in the rank of Sergeant and mustered air observer Gp II authorised to wear A/observer badge		NZDFA form 1580
14-09-1940	Promoted to Sergeant		NZDFA A1972
30-09-1940	To NZ 1 Dep from Ohakea		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
30-09-1940	New Zealand to UK 1 Depot NE	UK	NZDFA form 1580
05-10-1940	To 13 O TW from NZ 1 Dep		NZDFA form

			280 RNZAF
05-10-1940	From 1 Depot NE to 13 OUT		NZDFA form 1580
31-12-1940	T/Sgt VG character Air Observer trade classification u/T A proficiency		NZDFA form 1580
06-01-1941	7 days privileged leave to 13-01-1941		NZDFA form 1580
14-01-1941	To 18 Squadron from 13 O TW		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
14-01-1941	From 13 OUT to 13 Squadron		NZDFA form 1580
14-01-1941	T/Sgt VG character Air Observer trade classification u/T A proficiency		NZDFA form 1580
25-02-1941	6 days privileged leave to 02-03-1941		NZDFA form 1580
07-04-1941	8 days privileged leave to 17-04-1941		NZDFA form 1580
24-06-1941	To 17 O.T.W/ from 18 Squadron		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
24-06-1941	From 18 Squadron to 17 OUT		NZDFA form 1580
24-06-1941	T/Sgt VG character Air Observer trade classification Sat A proficiency Recommended		NZDFA form 1580
28-06-1941	7 days privileged leave to 04-07-1941		NZDFA form 1580
22-08-1941	Completed annual Pistol Course		NZDFA form 1580
26-08-1941	5 days privileged leave to 30-08-1941		NZDFA form 1580
01-09-1941	Promoted to Flight Sergeant		NZDFA A1972
01-09-1941	Promoted Temp Flight Sergeant		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
01-09-1941	Promoted T/F/Sgt		NZDFA form 1580
15-10-1941	7 days privileged leave to 21-10-1941		NZDFA form 1580
04-11-1941	5 days privileged leave to 08-11-1941		NZDFA form 1580
31-12-1941	T/Sgt VG character Air Observer trade classification Supr A proficiency Recommended		NZDFA form 1580
08-01-1942	7 days privileged leave to 14-01-1942		NZDFA form 1580
01-04-1942	Promoted Temp Warrant Officer		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
01-04-1942	Promoted to T/W/O		NZDFA form 1580
01-04-1942	Promoted to Warrant Officer		NZDFA A1972
14-05-1942	5 days privileged leave to 18-05-1942		NZDFA form 1580
15-06-1942	Unit 18 Squadron Wattisham - Medical grade A3 B, Visual Right 6/6 Left 6/6 colour vision normal, hearing right 20 feet left 20 feet, assessed as fit (previous medical 23-07-1940 Ohakea NZ) remarks An excellent type Strongly recommended for a Commission signed Captain	England Wattisham	NZDFA F1020A
22-05-1942	To 18 Squadron from 17 O T U		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
22-05-1942	From 17 OUT Upwood to 18 Squadron		NZDFA form 1580
22-05-1942	W/O VG character Air Observer trade classification Supr A		NZDFA

	proficiency		form1580
25-06-1942	Certificate of discharge on appointment to a temporary commission		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
25-06-1942	Discharged to commission also missing		NZDFA form 1580
25-06-1942	W/O VG character Air Observer trade classification Supr A proficiency specially recommended		NZDFA form1580
26-06-1942	Promoted and appointed to Pilot Officer and posted to the 18 Squadron		NZDFA A1972
26-06-1942	Pilot Officer		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
14-07-1942	7 days privileged leave to 20-07-1942		NZDFA form1580
24-07-1942	Buried Sage War cemetery, Oldenburg Germany, plot 14, row C, grave No 2, North West Germany 27 miles west of Bremen	Germany	NZDFA letter
24-07-1942	Missing and death presumed		NZDFA A1972
24-07-1942	18 squadron missing		NZDFA form 280 RNZAF
24-07-1942	From 18 squadron to No 1 RAF Depot		NZDFA form 1580
02-03-1943	Letter to Miss MP Bishop, 22 Garden Road Wellington 02 March 1943 Dear Madam, Further to my letter of the 12 October 1942, I regret to advise you that Air Ministry has now officially presumed the death of Warrant Officer Bryan Manssen Cook as having occurred on the 24 th July 1942. Information received from the International Red Cross quoting official German confirms the death of Warrant Officer Cook and states that his grave is located in the cemetery at Russenfriedhof, Oechta, 35 miles south-west of Bremen Germany. The Minister of Defence desires me to convey to you on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government his deepest sympathy with you in your great loss. Yours faithfully Air Secretary. 02-03-1943	Wellington	NZDFA letter regarding death
13-04-1943	Notification of Death, Certified that according to the records of this department NZ/40736 Pilot Officer Bryan Manssen Cook, Royal New Zealand Air Force, was reported missing and is presumed for official purpose to have lost his life on the 24 th day of July 1942 as the result of air operations. Information received through the International Red Cross Committee states that this officer is buried in the Russian Municipal Cemetery, Vechta, near Bremen, German. Signed JWM Campbell Squadron Leader for Director of Personal Services. Dated at the Air Minister London this 13 th day of April 1943	Wellington	NZDFA letter death notification
24-03-1944	Letter to Mr A E Cook, 78 Hataitai Road, Wellington. Dear Sir Regarding Pilot Officer Bryan Manssen Cook. Under separate registered cover I have forwarded to you as next of kin the King's Commission appointing the above named to be an officer of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Wartime conditions have up till now precluded the issue of parchment commissions to officers of the R.N.Z.A.F. but it is felt that these will nevertheless be appreciated by next of kin. Upon receipt I should be pleased if you would sign the form a acknowledge appearing hereunto and return it to the Air Secretary, Air Department, Private Bay, Wellington C.1. A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Yours faithfully Air Secretary. Dated 23-03-1944	Wellington	NZDFA A-38 form
04-03-1946	Gratuity Assessment sheet No 40736, surname Cook, Christian name Bryan Manssen, R.A.F. from 11-8-40 to 24-	Wellington	NZDFA Gratuity

	10-42= 805 days, service overseas 805 days at 2/6 per day = 100.12.6 – Total service from enlistment 12-3-40 to 24-10-42 957 days less 805 overseas balance at 8b per day = 5.1.4. Total gratuity £105.13.10plus 94.6.2. = £200 paid to Albert Ernest Cook (father) 4 March 1946		Assessment sheet
23-09-1948	As instructed I proceeded to Goldenstedt to investigate the crash of an allied aircraft. The aircraft a Blenheim crashed on the Moor on the 24.7.42 aqt 01.50 hrs. The aircraft exploded on impact. I visited the place of crash and found remains of the aircraft, although nothing conclusive was found. The only clue was the makers of the aircraft; Rootes Securities Ltd., stamped on the aluminium of the fuselage and wings. Three bodies were recovered from the wreckage and buried in graves 141-142-143, of the Russian Cemetery Vachts. Exhumation was carried out by F/O Wilson of G.M.R.E.S. and concentrated in Sage Mil Cemetery. (see attached exhumation reports). Aircraft Blenheim, target not known, place of crash Goldenstedt, missing date 24.7.42, map ref. Place of crash L 53/W 46, cemetery disinterred Vechta grave 142, service number NZ/40736, Rank P/O name Cook, Inits. B.M. Crew Cat. OBS, cemetery P-XIV, R-C, G-2, (plus Blackadder & Thorne). Air Ministry schedule of Recommended identities Ref. C. 197905/2/BD.6.48 gives acceptance for the above casualties and recommended for the case to be closed. (signed) F/Lt. MacKenzie search Officer.	Germany	NZDFA Investigation report
17-06-1949	Post presumption memorandum No 1713/49, File number P.371294/42, Date 17.6.49, Relating to BLENHEIM Z.7428, Missing on 24.7.42, Crashed at GOLDENSTADT, Number NZ.40736, Rank Plt.Off., name COOK B.M., Burial Details Oldenburg (Sage) Brit.Mil.Cem. Plot 14 Row C Grave 2, GERMANY Final G.R.R. Form shows that these members (included names below) were buried in VECHTA CEMETERY, graves, 142 respectively and have now been concentrated to OLDENBURG. P.P.M. 3935/46 amended re original grave numbers. Case Closed Also buried Blackadder 134028 & FM Thorne 65508	Germany	NZDFA Post presumption memorandum No 1713/49 & G.233532/JMB/6/49 (WH)/10
30-05-1950	Campaign Stars and Medals Deceased Personnel, No 40736, Rank P/O, Name Cook B.M. dispatched to (F) Mr A E Cook, 78 Hataitai Road, Wellington. Date 30 May 1950, Qualified for:- The 1939-45 Star, The Aircrew Europe Star, The Defence Medal, The War Medal 1939-45 & The NZ War Medal	Medal	NZDFA Medals sheet
			NZDFA form1580

Resume typed by Royal New Zealand Air Force after WWII and posted to next-of-kin
Pilot Officer Bryan Manssen Cook-Parents Mr & Mrs A.E. Cook 78 Hataitai Road, Wellington
Born at Wellington on the 15th October 1919, Bryan Cook received his secondary education at Wellington College, where he reached University Entrance standard. He was a member of the first rugby, cricket and hockey teams and later played cricket in the Wellington College Old Boys team and hockey for the Huia Hockey Club. He was captain of the latter club's 2nd team and several times represented Wellington province at hockey. Late in May 1938 he applied for a short service commission but his application was unsuccessful on medical grounds. At this time he was employed on clerical duties in the advertising branch of W.D. & H.O. Wills Ltd. When he later applied for war service training as a pilot on October 11, 1939 – he was employed as a clerk in the Social Security Dept., Wellington.

Pilot Officer Cook entered camp on the 12th March 1940 reporting at the Ground Training School, Levin. Early the following month he proceeded to No 1 Air Observers' School, Ohakea, for training as an air observer. He was awarded his air observer's badge and promoted to Sergeant on the 14th September 1940. On the 1st September 1941, he was promoted to Flight Sergeant, and six months later to Warrant Officer. Late in June 1942, he was commissioned in the rank of Pilot Officer.

Pilot Officer Cook embarked for the United Kingdom on the 11th August 1940, on the "Akaroa" arriving in England late in September. Early the following month he proceeded to No 13 Operational Training Unit, Bicester, Oxfordshire, where he trained on Anson and Blenheim aircraft. On completion of the course, on 14 January 1941, he was posted to No 18 Squadron, Massingham, Norfolk. From Massingham he carried out four operational flights as a navigator and bomb aimer in a Blenheim aircraft. These included raids on Boulogne and .. in France and Rotterdam, in Holland. Early in April he .. the Squadron to Oulton in the same county.

From Oulton, he carried out a further 13 operational flights. These included shipping sweeps off the Dutch Coast, and in the North Sea. On one occasion his aircraft was badly shot up when attacked by two Messerschmitt ME109s. Late in 24 June 1941, he proceeded to No 17 Operational Training Unit, Upwood, Huntingdonshire, for duties as a navigation instructor on Anson aircraft. On the 22nd May 1942, he was posted to No 18 (Burma) Squadron, Wattisham, Suffolk. From this base he took part in 7 operational flights as a navigator and bomb aimer on Blenheim aircraft. These included raids on aerodromes in Germany, including Rheine and Stade: and on Venlo and Leouwarden in Holland. He was also engaged on army co-operation duties.

Pilot Officer Cook was reported missing on air operations on the 24th July 1942. This was his 25th operational flight. Information later received through the International Red Cross stated that Pilot Officer Cook had lost his life and was buried in the Russian Municipal Cemetery, Vechta, near Bremen, Germany. His death has been presumed to have occurred on that date. 600 hours as navigator.

Written by sister-in-law Doreen COOK

Early in 1940 Bryan entered No 1 Observer School Ohakea for training as an air observer. He was awarded his Air Observers Badge and promoted to sergeant on 14 September 1940. In August 1940 he sailed on the "Akaroa" for England and proceeded to No 13 operational training unit Bicester, Oxfordshire where he trained on Anson and Blenheim aircraft. On 14 January 1941 he was posted to No 18 Squadron Massingham, Norfolk from where he carried out four operational flight as a navigator and bomb aimer in a Blenheim aircraft. In September 1941 he was promoted to Flight Sergeant and six months later Warrant Officer. In June 1942 he was commissioned in the rank of Pilot Officer. From Oulton, Suffolk he carried out a further 13 operational flights. These included shipping sweeps off the Dutch coast and in the North Sea. On one occasion his aircraft was badly shot up when attacked by two Messerschmitt 109s. June 1941 saw him at the training unit in Huntingdonshire as a navigation instructor on Anson aircraft. May 1942 he was posted to No 18 Squadron Wattisham Suffolk and from this base he took part in seven operational flights as a navigator and bomb aimer on Blenheim aircraft. These included raids on aerodromes in Germany including Rhine and Stade and on Venlo and Leeuwarden in Holland. He was also engaged on army co-operation duties. Pilot Officer Bryan Manssen COOK was reported missing on air operations over Western Germany on 24 July 1942. This was his 25th operational flight. He was buried at Sage War Cemetery Oldenburg Germany plot 14 row C Grave 2. 27 miles west of Bremen and not far from Hamburg where our original family was born. One small part of George and Johanna has returned to their homeland of German. Bryan's medals

were, 1939 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 and NZ War Service Medal

Noel Winstone COOK – RNZNVR Lieutenant

Personal information

- Name = Noel Winstone COOK
- Rank = Lieutenant
- Service = Royal New Zealand Navy
- Previous service = Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer Reserve
- Birth details = 18 December 1915 Wellington NZ
- Marital status = Married during the War – Mrs Doreen L L Cook 16 St James Road, Buhill-on-Sea Sussex England
- Parent details = Mother Mary Ethel MANSSEN (born Nelson NZ) and Father Albert Ernest COOK (born Wellington) occupation retired Civil Servant
- Address = 78 Hataitai Road Wellington E2
- Occupation = Physical Instructor
- Employment history = Y.M.C.A. Palmerston North
- Religion = Church of England
- Physical description = Medical examination 1932 height 5 feet 5½ inches, weight 126 lbs chest 34½ inches, hair light brown, eyes blue, complexion fair, nil marks.
- Medical examination 1932 = Age 16 years 8 months, Teeth very well preserved, yes to all other questions read, vision, hearing, speech, chest, heart, lungs, hernia, varicose veins, other diseases, skin, limbs, feet, joints, mental and bodily health.
- Total service = 164 days New Zealand & 1956 days Overseas from 01-04-1940 to 19-01-1946
- Decoration = RNZNVR Long Service & Good Conduct Medal awarded 02-12-1946 (granted 1st Good Service badge NZRNVR 25-08-1934)
- Medals = The 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Africa Star, France & Germany Clasp, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 & NZ Service Medal

Service information below transcribed from NZ Defence Force Archives

Date	Details	Place	Source
22-08-1932	Occupation Warehouse Asst. No 3339 Engaged three years Wybrants Olphert ship Wakakura	Wellington	NZDFA
22-08-1932	To 31-12-1932 Ord Sea number performed 19 N 3HD Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
22-08-1932	To 31-12-1932 Ord Sea 25 days drill VG character Sat Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
01-01-1933	To 31-12-1933 Ord Sea performed 1HD Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
01-01-1933	To 31-12-1933 Ord Sea 44 (7) days drill Qualified VG character Sat Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
20-05-1933	To 27-05-1933 Wakakuna ship O/Sea CT discharge VG character Sat Efficiency	Wellington	NVR training
01-01-1934	To 30-01-1934 Ord Sea performed 19 N 3HD Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
01-01-1934	To 30-10-1934 Ord Sea 2 days drill VG character Sat Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
31-1-1934	To 31-12-1934 A.B. performed 5/N 6HD Q L.S.L. Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
31-01-1934	To 31-12-1934 A.B. 63 (7) days drill Qualified VG character Sat Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
30-02-1934	Able Seaman Exam 68%		R43

08-05-1934	Qual in Gunnery Drill 84% Stripping 100%		R43
22-08-1934	Granted 1 st G/S Badge		R43
01-09-1934	Recommended for L.G.L.		R43
04-11-1934	To 10-11-1934 Wakakuna ship A.B. CT discharge VG character Sat Efficiency	Wellington	NVR training
06-11-1934	Shooting L.G.L. Wakakura		R43
14-11-1934	Exam L.G.L. 81.5%		R43
01-01-1935	To 15 -07-1935 A.B. performed 25N Q Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
01-01-1935	To 15-07-1935 A.B. 25 days drill VG character Sup Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
03-07-1935	Exam for L/Seaman		R43
16-07-1935	To 31-03-1936 A/L Sea performed 35 Q Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
16-07-1935	To 31-03-1936Act L/Sea 35 (14) days drill VG character Sat Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
22-08-1935	No 3339 Engaged one year Wybrants Olphert ship Wakakura	Wellington	Form
15-09-1935	To 27-03-1935 Dunedin ship Act. L/Sea CT discharge VG character Sat Efficiency	Wellington	NVR training
23-02-1936	Qualified For "Marksman"		R43
01-04-1936	To 15-07-1936 A/L Sea performed 13 Q Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
01-04-1936	To 15-07-1936 Act L/Sea 13 days drill VG character Sat Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
16-04-1936	To 31-03-1937 A/L Sea performed 17 Q Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
16-07-1936	To 31-03-1937 L/Sea 17 days drill VG character Sup Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
22-08-1936	No 3339 Engaged one year Wybrants Olphert ship Dunedin	Wellington	Form
01-04-1937	To 03-06-1937 L Sea performed 4 Q Wellington Wybrants Olphert RNZNVR VG character Sub ability	Wellington	Divisional record
01-04-1937	To 03-06-1937 L/Sea 4 days drill VG character Sup Efficiently	Wellington	Div Record
03-06-1937	Discharged FREE Sgn Wybrants Olphert Commanding Officer R.N.V.R. Wellington 04-06-1937	Wellington	Divisional record
03-06-1937	Discharged Free (sgn) Wybrants Olphert (C/O) A.B. 27-03-1940 01-04-1940 Mobilised	Wellington	Div Record
01-04-1940	To 30-04-1940 Philomel RNZNVR A.B.		NVR training
01-05-1940	To 16-08-1940 Victory		NVR training
26-02-1940	Leading Seaman with RNZNVR qualification Light Gun Layer Secretary Drill Instructor		Enrolment
17-08-1940	To 02-11-1941 Neptune		NVR training
03-11-1941	To 11-06-1942 Sphinx		NVR training
12-06-1942	Promoted to Ty Sub Lieut.		NVR training
12-06-1942	Appointed to New Zealand Naval Force		F66
12-06-1942	To 19-07-1942 Royal Navy rank Acting Sub Lt		F66
20-07-1942	St Christopher rank Acting Sub Lt		F66
27-09-1942	Midge rank T Sub Lt		F66
28-09-1942	To 10-06-1943 Midge rank T Sub Lt		F66
11-06-1943	To 18-10-1943 Midge rank Lieut. Promoted		F66
11-10-1943	To 09-04-1944 Midge rank Lieut.		F66
10-04-1944	To 19-10-1944 Midge Lieut.		F66
20-10-1944	Midge Lieut.		F66
18-06-1945	Fervent Lieut.		F66
19-06-1945	Victory Lieut.		F66
02-07-1945	To 07-09-1945 Cook Lieut.		F66
08-09-1945	To 19-06-1946 Cook Lieut.		F66
02-12-1946	Awarded RNZNVR Long Service & Good Conduct Medal		F66
10-01-1946	Discharged reason surplus to requirement		Discharge
16-01-1948	Received parchment commissions an Officer		Letter

16-10-1945	HMNZS "Cook" Lieut. RNZNVR age 29 station served ship, East Med – Home Fleet – "Nigeria" – "Neptune" – Motor Torpedo boats A.B. – suffered Ear trouble in both ears started 1941 in Med. And has recurred off and on ever since Blast Hospital ships "Stratheden" – Devonport sick quarters – Great Yarmouth S/Qtrs. – "Attack" – "Maloja" – did not suffer with any disease medical resulted Appears a fit healthy man. Army grade one (has served overseas)		Medical report
19-10-1945	To 22-11-1945 sick on shore		Report
02-07-1945	From HMS Victory IV to HMS Cook III		Form
19-01-1946	Discharged after 164 days NZ service & 1956 days Overseas		Grat/form
24-04-1947	Rank on temporary discharge Temp Lieutenant RNZNVR		form
04-04-1973	Notification of Death from Department of Internal Affairs died Titahi Bay NOK Mrs D Cook, 18 Richard Street, Titahi Bay		IA161

Written by his wife Doreen COOK

As a youth Noel served for five year in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (New Zealand Division). Early in 1940 he was mobilised and sailed from Wellington in the liner "Aquitania" with the R.N.V.R.N.Z. Draft fro England. From August 1940 until November 1941 he served as a gunner on the cruisers H.M.S. Nigeria and H.M.S. Neptune. At the time Nigeria was sailing the Atlantic convoys as far as north as the Artic Circle Greenland Iceland and Northern Norway encountering packs of German U-Boats which were savaging convoys of merchant ships on their way to British Ports. By May 1941 Noel had joined H.M.S. Neptune, which was to have been New Zealand fourth Cruiser and already had a large number of New Zealanders serving on her. On H.M.S. Neptune there were more convoys patrolling in the North Sea and around the British Isles and again in the Atlantic and then to South Africa and North Africa through the Red Sea and Suez Canal arriving at the Port of Alexandria in the Mediterranean Sea in July 1941 joining the large fleet of allied ships including what was to have been her sister ship the cruiser H.M.S. Leander, H.M.S. Neptune spent several months in very troubled Mediterranean escorting Troop movements and supply shipping and fighting for existence under heavy air attacks and shore bombardments. On 19 December 1941 she met a violent end in a minefield off Teipole. Neptune went down with only one survivor from her over 750-man crew. 150 New Zealanders were lost. Early in November 1941 Noel with one other rating left Neptune at Alexandria the two of them having been recommended for a commission in the R.N.V.R. How lucky they were!

They went sent to England on the Stratheden via Cape Town to the shore-based H.M.S. King Alfred. In June 1942 Noel was commissioned in the rank of Sub-Lieutenant and in July was drafted to No 12 Motor Gun Boat (M.G.B.) flotilla H.M.S. Midge, Great Yarmouth Norfolk as First Officer on M.G.B. 332 and later to Motor Torpedo Boat M.T.B. 617. These light coastal craft had great speed and were about 120 feet in length and heavily armed. They carried a crew of two officers and 16 or 17 ratings. In June 1943 Noel was prompted to Lieutenant R.N.Z.N.V.R. and in April 1944 appointed to the Command of M.G.B. 319. In October of that year he commanded M.T.B. 630 on which he served until the end of hostilities. Whilst based at Great Yarmouth and later at Dartmouth, Portsmouth and Ramsgate serving on M.G.B.s and M.T.B.s he did nightly patrols in the North Sea, the Straits of Dover and the English Channel protecting shipping lanes and attacking enemy supply convoys with their escorts of armed trawlers and heavily armed E-Boats off the coast of Holland, Belgium and France. After D-Day 06 June 1944 and the invasion of Normandy he was based on the South Coast of England and patrolled the Normandy Beach Heads and as yet unliberated Belgium and French coast. He was based at Ramsgate as the end of the War in Europe approached and after V.E. Day he had the enjoyable task of helping to welcome home some of the thousands of returning Prisoners of War from Europe some of them his own countrymen (including unknown cousins). Whilst stationed at Great Yarmouth in 1943 he met and married Doreen CAREY who was a V.A.D. attached to the Royal Navy and serving at the base hospital in that port. Their oldest son David was born in August

1944 and in January 1946 sailed with his mother for New Zealand. Noel having been sent home on a Troop Ship celebrated the end of the war with Japan on the high seas. Noels medals were, 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Africa Star, France and German Clip, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, NZ War Service Medal, R.N.Z.N.V.R. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

William Edward MANSSEN – Private 5684

Personal information

- Name = William Edward MANSSEN
- Rank = Private
- Service number = 5684
- Service = 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force – Army
- Previous military service = Served Territorial 8 months in 1935
- Birth details = 17 May 1915 Wanganui NZ
- Marital status = single
- Parent details = Mother Teresa Mary MANSSEN born Wanganui
- Address = 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui later C/- G A MARTON, Rangiwhahia R D
- Occupation = General Labourer
- Next of kin = mother T M MANSSEN 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui
- Will particulars – Teresa M MANSSEN 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui
- Employment history = Rangitikei County Council Marton
- Religion = Roman Catholic
- Education = Standard 4
- Physical description = 5 feet 5 inches, weight 9 stone 8 lbs, complexion dark, hair dark, eyes brown, birthmark on left side of neck
- Medical examination = 1935 Wanganui fit for Territorial
- Total service = 2 years 117 days
- Decoration = Nil
- Medals = War Medal 1939-45 & NZ War Service Medal

Service information below transcribed from NZ Defence Force Archives

Date	Details	Place	Source
18-10-1939	Attested Wanganui	Wanganui	History Sheet
21-11-1939	Entered Trentham camp HQ for pay qtrs discharged Att to Div for Rations Trentham –service in New Zealand began	Trentham	History Sheet
08-10-1940	Marched in to No 1 Training unit 4 th Reinforcements Trentham	Trentham	History Sheet
24-01-1941	Discharged Medical reasons 2 nd NZEF ex overseas marched to Area 5 Wellington	Wellington	History Sheet
31-01-1941	Marched out total service 1 years 72 days NZ only		History Sheet
13-04-1942	Service in NZ began again		History Sheet
25-08-1942	Marched out to Trentham military camp	Patanu	History Sheet
06-03-1943	Granted sick leave payable from 09-03-1943 Wanganui to CMD XI list	Wanganui	History Sheet
08-03-1943	Admitted to Wanganui Hospital on parade discharged from Wanganui Hospital to unit	Wanganui	History Sheet
27-05-1943	Discharged from the NZ services total 1 years 45 days NZ only Medically unfit		History Sheet
31-03-1946	Gratuity Assessment served = Army 21-11-1939 to 31-01-1941 total 438 days (1 year 72 days) service NZ only & Army 13-04-1942 to 27-05-1943 total 254 days (1 years 45 days) service NZ only total 2 years 117 days service paid total £23.1s.4d.		Gratuity sheet

John Alfred MANSSEN /GOODE – Private 37280Personal information

- Name = John Alfred MANSSEN also known as John Alfred GOODE
- Rank = Private
- Service number = 37280
- Service = 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force – Army No 2 Training unit
- Previous military service =
- Birth details = 19 May 1916 Wanganui NZ (attestation form) or 27 September 1916 (NZ 339 form)
- Marital status = single crossed out
- Parent details = Mother Teresa Mary MANSSEN born Wanganui
- Address = 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui later Box 12 Raetihi
- Occupation = Dairy Farm Labourer & Porter Barman (NZ 339 form)
- Next of kin = mother T M MANSSEN 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui
- Will particulars – Teresa Mary MANSSEN 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui
- Employment history = Metropolitan Hotel
- Religion = Roman Catholic
- Education = Proficiency (experienced with horses)
- Physical description = 5 feet 6 inches, weight 10 stone, complexion dark, hair black, eyes blue, no identifying marks
- Medical examination = 1935 Wanganui fit for Territorial
- Total service = 158 days made up of 128 + 28 + 59 = 209 days less 51 days detention from 12-12-1940 to 21-01-1941 = 158 days service.
- Decoration = Nil
- Medals = War Medal 1939-45 & NZ War Service Medal (not issued)
- Gratuity Assessment = from 02-10-1940 to 28-04-1941 37 days NZ service 59 days Overseas service total £8.12s.2d.
- Enlisted = 31-05-1940
- NZ Service = 21-10-1940 to 31-01-1941
- Overseas service = 01-02-1941 to 28-04-1941

Service information below transcribed from NZ Defence Force Archives

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Source</i>
31-05-1940	Attested Wanganui	Wanganui	History Sheet
02-10-1940	Entered Camp service NZ from 02-10-1940 to 31-01-1941 = 122 days		History Sheet
19-10-1940	Posted to AW L Trentham		History Sheet
27-10-1940	Marched in from AW L		History Sheet
13-11-1940	Charged with AW L from October 19 until October 27 th Trentham by D.C.M. Div on October 8 th 1940 found Guilty and sentences to 14 days detention		History Sheet
14-12-1940	Charged with disturbance and defiance of authority when on active service tried by D.C. and found guilty and sentence to 90 days detention		History Sheet
01-02-1941	Embarked Bombay		History Sheet
01-02-1941	Overseas service from 01-02-1941 to 31-03-1941 = 59 days		History Sheet
24-02-1941	Marched out unfit Bombay hospital (to be boarded out) Returning to NZ disembarked at Bombay ex HMT24 on Bombay		History Sheet
27-02-1941	Admitted to Service General Hospital Colaba from Central Infantry Bombay India	Bombay India	History Sheet

04-03-1941	Sailed Mauritania for Australia "Bombay" & Marched out embarked on Mauritama force NZ & discharged C.general hospital Deolali Bombay ex overseas special medical boarded 22-03-1943 grade 4 in Area 6/pool on leave without pay discharged approved		History Sheet
31-03-1941	Arrived NZ on pay sheet unfit		History Sheet
01-04-1941	Arrived NZ from 01-04-1941 to 28-04-1941 = 28 days		History Sheet
28-04-1941	Discharged Wanganui Grade IV medically unfit & 2NZEAF ex overseas discharged from forces place area 5 Discharged marched out address 21a Plymouth Street Wanganui discharged grade IV approved privilege leave and pay ceases 28-04-1941		History Sheet
13-08-1942	Certificate of Discharge issued No 235 Private John Alfred MANSSEN service number 37280 served NZ 122 days overseas 87 days. Description 24 years 12 days height 5 feet 6 inches complexion dark eyes blue hair black occupation Dairy Farm Labourer Wellington 13 August 1942	Wellington	History Sheet
31-03-1946	Gratuity Assessment = from 02-10-1940 to 28-04-1941 37 days NZ service 59 days Overseas service total £8.12s.2d.		Gratuity sheet

Cuthbert Maurice MANSSEN – NZ 41402

Cuthbert enlisted in the Royal Air Force on 17 February 1941. He was 5 feet 8 inches height, weighed 159 lbs fresh complexion, medium dark brown hair and grey eyes. He was single and his next of kin was recorded as mother I M MANSSEN, 34 Franklyn Street, Nelson and brother-in-law G WINSTANLEY, 91st Battery Tahunanui. His last employer was A E FRY of Motueka where he was employed as a trade Labourer. He was a cadet in the Territorials for three years. In February 1936 in the Wairarapa Cuthbert had a head-on motor accident which left him in a coma for 6 weeks. It took three months before he was released from hospital. This accident left him with headaches and a scar above the left eye. Cuthbert suffered from epilepsy, which resulted in a poor memory. When he first enlisted in the Air Force he was rejected. But later he re-enlisted and was noted as Trade Aircraft hand G.D. Group V Company. There was also a note about the 91st Battery Tahunanui Nelson with a recommendation that he serve as a civilian in the Home Guard was discharged on 09 December 1943 when he had served a total of 2 years 295 days in the service most of this time in Nelson.

Alick Roy ROBERTSON – RNZAF 402003 Sergeant

Alec enlisted on 12 July 1940 but there is no record of when he entered camp. He was 5 feet 9½ inches in height, and was single. His next of kin's address was recorded as 250 Main Road, Redcliffs Christchurch. He was employed by M.S. Hill, Box 35 Owaha as a four-year Garage Motor Mechanic. Alick was licensed to drive a car, lorry and motorcycle. Prior to the War he joined the Otago Mounted Rifles in September 1938 and served with the Company for 2 years. His overseas duty began on the 28 August 1943 and places recorded were Mug Canal, New Georgia, Bougainville and Essanto where he served with the RNZ Air Force. Alick has a total of 330 hour flying. His service recorded was five years 208 days. He was decorated with, 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-45 and The NZ War Medal

Hector Gerald ROBERTSON – Corp NZ 248631

Ray Mills MANSSEN – Lieutenant NZ Navy

Neil Marris MANSSEN – Corp NZ 442535

Norman Bernard MANSSEN – Lieutenant NZ 34850

Victor Thomas MANSSEN – NZ 554594

Victor enlisted on the 22 February 1942 at the age of 26 years 8 months. He was 5 feet 7 inches in height, fair complexion, light brown hair and grey eyes. He was employed by Norfolk Company in Motumaoho as a Cheese Worker. His next of kin was recorded as wife Hilda Rosaline MANSSEN of 16 Fourth Avenue, Tauranga. Victor embarked for overseas duty in New Caledonia on 27 December 1942. He served in this area until he was sent home on 01 July 1944. Victor was discharged in Wellington on 16 August that same year. His duty in NZ was 247 days and 43 days and overseas 1 year 191 days making a total of 2 years 115 days in the service. After the War Victor was employed as a Painter with T Oldershaw, Judea Tauranga. He again enlisted in the Army on 24 April 1947. His next of kin was noted as his mother Mrs L MANSSEN of Hunter Street, Tauranga. He embarked on the 22 May 1947 and arrived in Japan on 15 July 1947. I do not know what his duties were in Japan. Victor was discharged from the Army on 09 September 1948 in Wellington. His service record was NZ 45 days and 30 days, overseas 1 year 27 days making a total of 1 year 111 days in service. If you add this to his early service record the total becomes 3 years 226 days. Victor was decorated with, 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-45 and NZ War Service Medal.

Eric Charles MANSSEN – Sergeant NZ 089469

Francis George MANSSEN – Corp NZ 34020

Raymond James BARNES – Private NZ 255987

Norman Stanley FROST – Trooper NZ 551495

Norman enlisted on the 15 November 1940 in Nelson. He was aged 34 years, 5 feet 6 inches in height, fresh complexion. Fair hair and blue eyes. He farmed on his own account in Hira Wakapuaka Nelson. The next of kin was recorded as Mrs Kathleen Rita (wife) FROST of Hira. Norman was recorded as having 4 children. Norman joined the 7th I.M.R. and served from 02 January 1942 to 22 July 1942 in Nelson making a total of 194 days in the services. I found details of Norman continuing to serve after this date. It appears he re-enlisted and the last service date recorded was 24 June 1943. He spent most of this time in the Mounted Rifles stationed on Rabbit Island Nelson. Norman was issued with The Era Medal 1939-45 and NZ War Service Medal.

Albert Edwin SLOSS – Gunner NZ 550192

Albert enlisted on the 05 March 1942 and entered camp 11 days later. He was aged 31 years, 5 feet 9¾ inches in height, fresh complexion, light brown hair and light brown eyes. He was employed by the Greymouth County Council as a Traffic Inspector. Albert was married to Maud M SLOSS and lived at 70 Marlborough Street then later 38 Milton Street Greymouth. He had served in the Cadets and Territorials as a private for 2 years. It was recorded that Albert suffered with mild asthma. He joined the 17th Ind Inf Company and served in Greymouth, Ashburton Christchurch, Blenheim and Nelson. His units were the 11 Hvy Regt and 84 Hvy Bty. He was discharged on 08 April 1944 in Wellington with a total of 753 days of service. Albert was awarded with The War Medal 1939-45 and NZ War Service Medal.

James William SLOSS – Gunner NZ485914

James enlisted on the 24 February 1942 at Greymouth. He joined the 17th Ind Inf Company and entered camp on 16 March 1942 the same day as his brother Albert SLOSS. James was aged 35 year, 5 feet 8½ inches in height, fresh complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was employed by Truman's Ltd Greymouth as a Salesman. James was married to Kathleen and they lived at 57 Doyle Street Blaketown and later 25 Milton Road Greymouth. James had no previous military experience and it was recorded that his brother and sister suffered with hay fever. He service in Greymouth, Nelson, Blenheim, Christchurch, Riccarton and Lyttleton. James was discharged from the Army on 13 November 1944 after a total of 974 days. He was awarded with the War Medal 1939-45 and NZ War Service Medal.

Roy Frederick LILEY – Staff Sergeant NZ 483627

Roy served in World War I and he again enlisted on 01 July 1941 at Wanganui. He was aged 43 years 6 months, 5 feet 7½ inches in height, fair complexion, grey hair and brown eyes. He was employed by the Wanganui Chronicle as Compositor. He was married to Dorothy LILEY and lived at 14 Keith Street Wanganui. The record listed Roy's previous service. Also found was some history of heart trouble. This time Roy was to serve his country on the home front beginning on 17 January 1942 and finishing 05 December 1945 making a total of 1,419 days in service to his country most of which was spent in Wanganui. His address upon leaving the services was 82 Manuka Street Castlecliffe Wanganui. Roy was issued with the 1939-45 Medal ribbon.

Leonard Gordon Paul FLOWER – Private NZ 603239

Russell George FLOWER – Gunner NZ 66002

Walter SIMPSON – Gunner NZ 445845

Walter served in the New Zealand Forces from February 1942. He left for overseas duty on the Mooltan in January 1944 and joined the New Zealand Division at Cassino in Italy. Walter was wounded at Faenza in December 1944. Two months later he rejoined the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment until the War ended in 1945. He returned to New Zealand on the S.S. Orion in February 1946. Walter was discharged in April 1946 after a total of 3 years 8 months service in the New Zealand Army

Conclusion

It is surprising how many of the MANSSEN servicemen had blue eyes. It is something that I have noticed in many other MANSSEN descendants – the eyes are a soft powder blue. Mr father has eyes of this colour and yet had dark hair, which now has turned grey.

There were many files I could not view at the Defence Department. One reason was that the servicemen were still living. The second reason was that the Defence Department had not been notified of their deaths. Unless I could prove that the service men had died by producing a death certificate the files had to remain closed.

I would end in saying that we were not the only family of German origin to lose their boys in the Second World War. On many war memorials some of the surnames that appear are the same as those on the passenger list of the "St Pauli.

The MANSSEN family lost three boys in the World Wars. They were William George FROST killed in action in Frances during World War One and in World War Two Malcolm Bevan LESSELS killed in Action in the Pacific and Bryan Manssen COOK killed and buried in Germany.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM