

**Private Norman Bothamley Tempest®**  
**Regimental Number: 147630**  
**78th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Manitoba Regiment)**

**born: 16 September 1890 – died: 5 April 1918**

Norman was born on 16 September 1890 in Leeds, Yorkshire, England to Ellen Seth and David Tempest,<sup>1</sup> and was named for his maternal grandmother Mary Bothamley. Ellen was baptized on 10 August 1851 in Tansor, Northamptonshire,<sup>2</sup> and David was born in April 1853 in Halifax, Yorkshire.<sup>3</sup> David and Ellen had seven children:

- Arabella, who was baptized 22 September 1878 in Sheepcar, Yorkshire.<sup>4</sup> At that time, her father was a law writer. Arabella died at the young age of 7 in the fall of 1883;<sup>5</sup>
- Nellie Gertrude, who was baptized 29 February 1880 in Leeds, when her father's occupation was clerk.<sup>6</sup> Nellie too died at the young age of 5 in 1885;<sup>7</sup>
- Percy David, who was baptized 27 October 1881 in Leeds, when his father's occupation was shorthand writer.<sup>8</sup> Percy married Katherine Yeadon in January 1905<sup>9</sup> and took his father's occupation as a shorthand writer;
- Herbert Seth, who was born in December 1885 in Leeds.<sup>10</sup> He married Agnes and died 9 October 1958 at Syston, Leicestershire;<sup>11</sup>
- Evelyn, who was born 25 January 1889 in Leeds.<sup>12</sup> She died in 1947 in Leeds;<sup>13</sup>
- Norman Bothamley; and
- Mabel Alice, who was born 25 October 1894 in Leeds, where her father was a school master.<sup>14</sup> Sadly, Mabel also died as a young toddler during the first quarter of 1896.<sup>15</sup>

Norman immigrated to Canada in 1908 at the age of 18.<sup>16</sup> By 5 July 1915, he was living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he signed up for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. He listed his occupation as collector, and he had already enlisted with the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers.<sup>17</sup> The Grenadiers originated on 1 April 1908 in Morden, Manitoba, and were placed on active service on 6 August 1914 for local protection duties.<sup>18</sup>

Norman enlisted with the 78th Canadian Infantry Battalion, which embarked for the UK on 20 May 1916 aboard the RMS *Empress of Britain*. After training in Bramshott, England, the battalion arrived in France on 13 August 1916, where it fought as part of the 12th Brigade, 4th Canadian Division in France and Flanders.<sup>19</sup> As a member of the battalion, Norman fought in many of the major actions of the war including Ancre Heights in 1916 where the 4th Division carried Regina Trench during some of the bloodiest fighting of the war; Vimy Ridge in Spring 1917 where the 4th Division captured Hill 145 and Pimple; Passchendaele in late 1917 where the 4th Division attacked and carried Bellevue Spur; and lastly for Norman, during March 1918 when the enemy launched its final offensive in an attempt to break through the Allies and finish the war in victory.<sup>20</sup> Throughout these difficult times, Norman was injured three times, but returned to the field each time.<sup>21</sup>



**Memorial to Private Norman Bothamley Tempest**  
Source: *Find a Grave*

The war diary for the 78th Canadian Infantry Battalion provides a sense of what Norman was experiencing during his last few weeks. At the beginning of March 1918 his battalion was in training at Raimbert, where he was also able to attend evening entertainment, participate in sporting events or attend church services. On 12 March, the battalion moved to Sains-en-Gohelle to relieve the 15th Battalion. On 16 March, under cover of heavy artillery, the enemy attempted to raid the battalion next to Norman's. While the raid was repulsed, there were several men killed. On 18 March the battalion moved back into brigade support, where they constructed new trenches and maintained existing ones. There were periods of intense enemy barrage, which gradually extended to the battalion's location. On 23 March the battalion was again moved to the front in the right subsection of the St. Emile Sector. Again there were intense enemy barrages, but in times of quiet, considerable work was performed on wire and battle positions. On 27 March, when Norman was injured again, the battalion had received instructions for a relief the following night, but otherwise the diary records no specific confrontation with the enemy.<sup>22</sup>



**Norman's gravestone in Houchin British Cemetery**

Source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

On 27 March 1918, Norman suffered shrapnel wounds to his back and was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. At 4 p.m. that day, the station stopped receiving casualties as the war was encroaching on its safety. Over the next week, the station and its patients were moved back to Pernes.<sup>23</sup>

Sadly, Norman succumbed to his wounds on 5 April and was buried the next day in Houchin British Cemetery, in Plot 1, Row 1, Grave 9. Houchin British Cemetery was opened in March 1918 when the 6th British Casualty Clearing Station came to Houchin. From April to September the German advance made Houchin unsafe for hospitals.<sup>24</sup>

Norman's gravestone in Houchin British Cemetery includes the quote: "He fought a good fight and finished his course."<sup>25</sup>

Norman, together with his four sisters and parents, are also remembered on a family gravestone in Lawnswood V Cemetery, Leeds, Yorkshire.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Norman Bothamley Tempest

<sup>2</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Ellen Seth

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for David Tempest

<sup>4</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Arabella Tempest

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Arabella Tempest

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- <sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Nellie Gertrude Tempest
- <sup>7</sup> "Web: Global, Gravestone Photograph Index, 1265–2014," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Nellie Tempest
- <sup>8</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Percy David Tempest
- <sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Percy David Tempest
- <sup>10</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Herbert Seth Tempest
- <sup>11</sup> "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966, 1973–1995," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Herbert Seth Tempest
- <sup>12</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Evelyn Tempest
- <sup>13</sup> "Web: Global, Gravestone Photograph Index, 1265–2014," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Eveline Tempest
- <sup>14</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Mabel Alice Tempest
- <sup>15</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Mabel Alice Tempest
- <sup>16</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Tempest, N. B. Service No: 147630
- <sup>17</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>: accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Tempest, Norman Bathomley (sic), Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 9565-66, Item Number 273546
- <sup>18</sup> "The Winnipeg Grenadiers," *National Defence and the Canadian Forces* (<http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/his/ol-lo/vol-tom-3/par2/wg-eng.asp>: accessed 9 May 2017)
- <sup>19</sup> "78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers), CEF," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th\\_Battalion\\_\(Winnipeg\\_Grenadiers\),\\_CEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th_Battalion_(Winnipeg_Grenadiers),_CEF): accessed 9 May 2017)
- <sup>20</sup> *Over the Top! The Canadian Infantry in the First World War*, by John F. Meek, 1971 (<https://archive.org/details/OverTheTopTheCanadianInfantryInTheFirstWorldWar>: accessed 30 May 2017)
- <sup>21</sup> *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=TE&GSpartial=1&GSbyrel=all&GSctry=7&GSsr=721&GRid=50535094&>: accessed 10 May 2017), entry for Private Norman Bothamley Tempest
- <sup>22</sup> "78th Canadian Infantry Battalion, War Diaries 1 Jan 1918-30 April 1919," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=78th+Battalion&s13=&s12=&s11=y&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=2&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=78th+Battalion&s13=&s12=&s11=y&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=2&f=G): accessed 9 May 2017)
- <sup>23</sup> "War Diaries – 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing+station&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing+station&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 10 May 2017)
- <sup>24</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 9 May 2017), entry for Tempest, N. B. Service No: 147630
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>26</sup> *Gravestone Photographic Resource*, ([http://www.gravestonephotos.com/public/cemeteryname\\_list.php?cemetery=1807&limit=901&scrwidth=1258](http://www.gravestonephotos.com/public/cemeteryname_list.php?cemetery=1807&limit=901&scrwidth=1258): accessed 10 May 2017), entry for Lawnswood V Cemetery, Leeds, Yorkshire, England