Norman was born at Tilba Tilba in 1891, the son of Richard Mossop Bate and Henrietta Theresa, nee Higman. Norman enlisted as a driver in the Machine Gun Section, of the AN&MEF, On 11th August 1914 stating that he was a farmer, single and gave his father at Tilba Tilba as his next of kin.

Whilst in Rabaul, Norman was part of the party that captured the German boat, KOMET and was mentioned in Garrison Orders in respect of that action. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.

Whilst stating that he was single on his enlistment, Norman married Maude Maria Weatherhead in 1914, which must have been before he left for New Guinea. In 1921 he divorced Maude and married Elsie Eileen Leak on 22nd October 1924.

Norman died on 1st April 1962.