

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



198 PRIVATE

A. J. THOMSON

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 22

In Memory Of

Loved Son Of

Late Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomson

Of Atherton

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. J. Thomson is located in
Grave Plot # 51. D. 25. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Albert John THOMSON

Albert John Thomson was born at Irvinebank, Queensland on 12th November, 1896 to parents James and Hannah Thomson (nee Martin). His birth is registered under Albert John Thompson. (James Thomson married Hannah Martin in 1890).

Albert John Thomson was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Atherton, Queensland when he enlisted at Atherton, Queensland on 17th February, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, "A" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 198 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Thomson of Atherton, Queensland. As Albert John Thompson was under the age of 21 years, his parents' consent was required so that he could enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. James Thomson, father of Albert John Thomson, signed on 17th February, 1915, as consent to allow his son to enlist. A death for Hannah Thomson was registered in 1915 in Queensland.

Private Albert John Thomson was written up for the Crime of Gambling while at Enoggera Camp on 21st April, 1915. Five witnesses were listed & the charge was admonished on 22nd April, 1915.

Private Albert John Thomson embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 24th May, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt (date not recorded).

Pte Thomson disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 9th January, 1916.

The District Paymaster, Brisbane advised on 8th March, 1916 that the allotment (of 2/6d per diem) for 198 Pte A. J. Thomson previously paid to Mr J. Thomson was cancelled on account of Mr J. Thomson's death. The allotment was now on favour of Miss F. M. Thomson, sister of Pte A. J. Thomson, who was entirely dependent upon him.

Pte Thomson proceeded to join the B.E.F (British Expeditionary Force) at Alexandria on 15th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916.

Pte Thomson was wounded in action on 6th July, 1916 in Belgium & taken to 73rd Field Ambulance with a bullet wound to arm and leg. He was transferred to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train to France on 7th July, 1916. Pte Thomson was admitted to No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne on 7th July, 1916 with multiple shrapnel wounds. Pte Thomson was invalided to England on 10th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Cambria*.

Pte Thomson was admitted to Harefield Hospital in Middlesex, England on 24th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right thigh & right arm. He was discharged on 7th August, 1916.

Pte Thomson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham on 7th August, 1916 & medically classified as Class A – fit. He was transferred from No. 1 Command Depot to 7th Training Battalion on 26th August, 1916.

Pte Thomson was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 23rd September, 1916, cause not yet determined.

Pte Thomson was marched in to 7th Training Battalion & taken on strength from Hospital on 13th October, 1916.

Pte Thomson was written up for an Offence while attached to 7th Training Battalion. He was reported for "Overstaying leave from 2400 on 23.10.16 until reporting at 9.45 on 6.11.16." He was awarded 14 days' detention by Commanding Officer of 7th Training Battalion on 7th November, 1916 & forfeited a total of 28 days' pay.

Pte Thomson proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 13th December, 1916 aboard SS *Victoria*. He was marched in to 2nd Divisional Base Depot at Etaples on 14th December, 1916.

Pte Thomson was admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers on 20th December, 1916 with suspected mumps. He was transferred to the Isolation Hospital at Etaples the same day. Pte Thomson was discharged on 9th January, 1917.

Pte Thomson was marched in to 2nd Divisional Base Depot at Etaples on 9th January, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit on 4th February, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 5th February, 1917.

Pte Thomson was sent to Divisional Bombing School on 26th June, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 1st July, 1917.

Pte Thomson was written up for an Offence on 6th August, 1917 – Absent without leave from 7.45 am on 4th August, 1917 to 9 pm on 4th August, 1917. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited a total of 8 days' pay.

Pte Thomson proceeded on English Leave from Belgium on 11th January, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 29th January, 1918.

Pte Thomson was detached to Divisional Bombing School on 10th March, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 23rd March, 1918.

Pte Thomson was sent sick to Hospital on 24th March, 1918. He was taken to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with Scabies then transferred to 7th Australian Field Ambulance. Pte Thomson was discharged to duty on 29th March, 1918.

Pte Thomson rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on 31st March, 1918.

Pte Thomson was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 10th April, 1918. He was taken to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with a gunshot wound to right leg. He was transferred to 56th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train the same day. Pte Thomson was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen on 11th April, 1918. He embarked for England on 13th April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Western Australia*. Pte Thomson was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital at Portsmouth, England on 16th April, 1918 with a machine gun bullet to right calf (severe). Pte Thomson was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 12th July, 1918.

Pte Thomson was on furlough from 17th to 31st July, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot.

Pte Thomson was reported as Absent without Leave by Australian Headquarters, London on 31st July, 1918.

Pte Thomson was declared an illegal absentee on 27th August, 1918 by a Court of Inquiry at London.

Pte Thomson was apprehended on 2nd October, 1918.

A Court Martial was held at Warwick Square on 7th October, 1918 for Trial of 198 Pte A. J. Thomson. The charges were: "(1) London, AWL from 31.7.18 until apprehended by the Military Authorities in London 2.10.18. (2) London, Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline in that he made use of a document purporting to be a genuine pass, in which the dates had been improperly altered." Pleading – Guilty to both charges. Finding – Guilty of both charges. Sentence – 6 months Detention. Total forfeiture of 250 days' pay.

Pte Thomson was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 9th October, 1918 with VD & discharged to Lewes Detention Barracks on 17th October, 1918. (HM Prison Lewes was signed over to A.I.F. which then raised the A.I.F. Detention Barracks at the site in the town of Lewes, near Brighton on the Sussex coast).

Pte Thomson was discharged from Lewes Detention Barracks on 6th January, 1919 due to a remission of his sentence. His Sentence was reduced from 6 months to 89 days. Pte Thomson was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 6th January, 1919.

Private Albert John Thomson died at 10.35 pm on 15th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of broncho pneumonia (Influenza).

A death for Albert J. Thomson, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

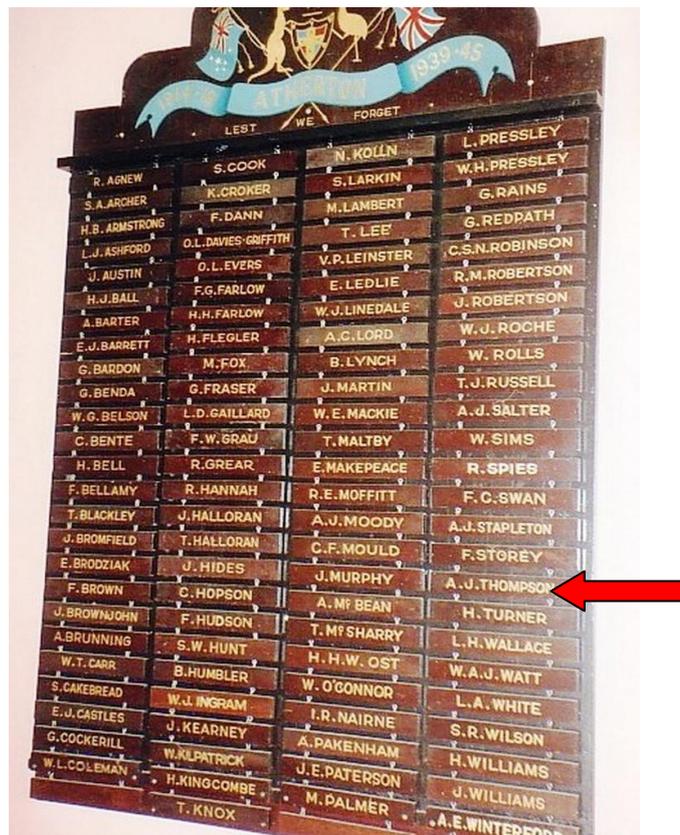
Private Albert John Thomson was buried on 18th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 51. From the burial report of Pte Thomson - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Command Depot A.I.F. Sutton Veny. The funeral was attended by 2 Officers and about 50 N.C.O.'s and Men of A.I.F. who followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private A. J. Thomson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 109.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. J. Thomson (spelt as Thompson) is remembered on the Atherton RSL Honour Roll located on Kennedy Hwy, Atherton, Queensland.



Atherton RSL Honour Roll (Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Dennis Stocks)

Pte Albert John Thomson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Pte Thomson's next-of-kin. A report from Cairns Police District, Atherton Station, dated 8th February, 1921 states that Miss Thomson, sister of late Pte A. J. Thomson was interviewed (for

the purpose of ascertaining the next-of-kin ?) & she informed the Police that her parents were both deceased – for the past 5 years. She also stated that she had a married sister, who resided at Tumoulin with her husband. The eldest brother – Sydney James was living with his brothers and sister on Herbarton Road, near Atherton. Miss Thomson stated she was the eldest sister unmarried, living at home & that she kept house for her three brothers and two sisters. From this investigation the War Medals & Mementoes were awarded to Pte Thomson's eldest brother – Mr Sydney James Thomson of Atherton, Queensland (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1923).

The CWGC lists Private Albert John Thomson, 198, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of James and Hannah Thomson. Born at Irvinebank, Queensland.

(63 pages of Pte Albert John Thomson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

Private A. J. Thomson (Atherton – second occasion)

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Qld – Saturday 18 May, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 461

Died, from Other Causes

Private A. J. Thomson (Atherton).

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld – Wednesday 19 March, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government. *(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Pte Albert John Thomson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of Loved Son Of Late Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomson Of Atherton

Photo of Private A. J. Thomson's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*

