

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



61932 PRIVATE

**J. W. THOMPSON**

23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 19

*CWGC Headstone for Pte J. W. Thompson is located in  
Grave Plot # 53. C. 20. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## John William THOMPSON

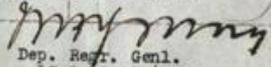
John William Thompson was born on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1899 at Corowa, NSW to parents John William and Beatrice Rosalind Thompson (possibly Roxland??). He was an 18 year old, single Farrier from 143 Swanston Street, South Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1918 with the 13<sup>th</sup> (V) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 61932 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs B. R. Thompson of 143 Swanston Street, South Geelong, Victoria (father deceased). John Thompson had served 8 months with Civilian Forces.

As John William Thompson was under the age of 21 he needed his parents' consent to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. Mrs Beatrice Thompson signed her consent for her only son to enlist as Mr John William Thompson was deceased & she also signed a Statutory Declaration stating that her son's date of birth was 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1899. The Recruiting Depot needed proof of age for John William Thompson & a request was sent to Registrar General, Melbourne on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918. A reply was returned on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 stating that "No trace can be found of record of the above, years 1897 to 1901, inclusive".

The Registrar General,  
Gr. Little Bonsdale & Queen Sts.,  
MELBOURNE.

TOWN HALL  
MELBOURNE

PLEASE VERIFY PARTICULARS APPEARING BELOW.

Date of birth	Place of birth	Surname	Christian Name	Father's Name	Mother's maiden name in full.
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1899	Corowa N.S.W.	Thompson	John William	deceased Beaton	Beatrice Roxland
7:12:1899	Corowa	Thompson	John William		Beatrice Roxland.
No trace can be found of record of the above, years 1897 to 1901, inclusive.					
Date 12 / 6 / 18		 Alan J. Glegg Lieut. G. G. Recruiting / Town Hall, Melbourne		 Dep. Regr. Genl. 15:6:18, 18/5714 (Signature and official stamp)	

Private John William Thompson embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Thompson was marched in for Australia to 5<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

Private John William Thompson was sent sick to No. 4 C C Hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1918. He was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire the same day & admitted with bronchitis.

Private John William Thompson was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire and reported as dangerously ill with broncho-pneumonia on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Private John William Thompson died at 11.55 am on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho-pneumonia.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte John William Thompson contains a letter from A.I.F. Headquarters stating that Pte John William Thompson, 61932, was admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand General

Hospital on 30.12.18 with Broncho-pneumonia & Bronchitis. He was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Australia General Hospital on 21.1.19. He died at 11.55 am on 6.2.1919 from effects of Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for J. W. Thompson, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private John William Thompson was buried on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 53. From the burial report of Pte Thompson - *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 the 1st Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by two Officers and a number of N.C.O.'s and Men of deceased's late Unit. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U. K. were represented at the funeral.*

Pte John William Thompson requested in his Will, dated 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1918, the whole of his property and effects be left to his mother – Mrs Beatrice Rosalind Thompson of Geelong.

Pte John William Thompson was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Thompson's mother – Mrs Beatrice R. Thompson (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private John William Thompson, 61932, of 23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Beatrice Rosalind and the late John William Thompson. Born at Cowra, New South Wales. (CWGC has place of birth as Cowra - should be Corowa.)

Private J. W. Thompson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 100.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

J. W. Thompson is remembered on the Freshwater Creek Honour Board located in Freshwater Creek Community Hall, Dickins Road, Freshwater Creek, Victoria.



Freshwater Creek Honour Board (Photo from [Together They Served](#))

(79 pages of Pte John William Thompson'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.



## Newspaper Reports

### NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Mrs Thompson, 143 Swanston Street, has received word from the Base Records Office that her son, Private J. W. Thompson, has been admitted into 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France, dangerously ill, with broncho-pneumonia.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – Tuesday 11 February, 1919)

---

### NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Mrs Thompson of 143 Swanston Street, South Geelong, has received word that her son, Private J. W. Thompson, previously reported dangerously ill, died in hospital in France on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – Friday 14 February, 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 John William Thompson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



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



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



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*