

John Thomas Thompson

John Thomas Thompson (Jack) was a grazier, from Traralgon South, 39 years old at time of enlistment.

When he enlisted he disposed of his stock and farm implements.

He was born in Castlemaine on 13 August 1875, to David and Bessie (nee Caldell) and gave his mother as his next of kin on his enlistment papers.

Service number	11769
Enlistment	14 July 1915 in Melbourne as a Gunner
Embarkation	28 January 1916 from Melbourne on board HMAT A32 <i>Thermistocles</i>
Unit	Field Artillery Brigade 2, Reinforcement 14
Returned home	19 February 1919

Jack Thompson was one of the oldest men to enlist. It seems that before he embarked he was actually married as the next of kin was changed to Mrs Elizabeth Thompson of Flemington before embarkation. While the war was on she moved to Castlemaine and wrote from there early in 1919, asking about her husband's return to Australia, as they had to get back to the farm at Traralgon South, and she needed help due to a bad heart.

After spending the initial time in England, Jack went to France on 19 May 1916 to join the 21st Field Artillery Brigade. He had a couple of bouts influenza and ended up in hospital, and on 31 July 1917, he received a gunshot wound in the neck. He returned to the Norfolk War Hospital in England and remained there for the rest of the war.

He left notified about coming back to Australia England on 19 February 1919 eventually leaving England on 28 February aboard HT *Orca*, arriving back in Australia on 7 April 1919. He was officially discharged on 22 May 1919.

When he returned to Traralgon he made a very strong commitment to the returning servicemen.

It was reported on 21 October 1924 in the Traralgon Journal, quite a graphic piece about the death of Jack Thompson, who had taken his own life. He had been in town during the day, and showed no signs of this state of mind, but later that day succumbed to his health issue which may very probably stemmed from his war injury.

Jack was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He was buried in Traralgon on the 18 October 1924 in an unknown grave.

British War Medal



Victory Medal



HMAT A32 *Themistocles*



HT *Orca*



