Thompson, John Webb

A.S.C. 1907-10

Number: 5448: Private

Unit: 17th Battalion

Date of death: 15 April 1917

Memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

War Grave Register Notes: Age 20. Son of Frederick John and Maria Frances Thompson, of Orsova, Yule St., Dulwich Hill, Born at Milthorpe.

CHARACTER OF THE TEAM.

J. Thompson played a few matches for the 1st X1, but made very few runs.

Bathurstian
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

Name: THOMPSON John Webb
Unit: 57th Bn
Joined on: 1877

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation:

1. What is your Name?

2. In what Parish or Town were you born?

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B. If the latter, papers to be shown.)

4. What is your age?

5. What is your trade or calling?

6. Have you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?

7. Are you married?

8. Are you next of kin? Address to be stated.

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?

10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with ignominy, or as incapable and worthless, or on account of Confinement of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?

11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy,

9 years 9 months,
5 feet 3 1/2 inches,
9 1 lbs.

Hair: Dark Brown
Eyes: Dark Brown
Complexion: Light
“Shell Contusions” in March, killed three weeks after returning to unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>17.3.17</td>
<td>Admitted Shell Contusions, France. 16.3.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td>Rejoined Br.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.4.17</td>
<td>KILLED IN ACTION.</td>
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Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier: John Neil Thompson

2. Unit and Number (if known): 1/41 Baralow 16 51/48

3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)
   Town (if any): Millicent, District: Barabur, State: S. Aust.

4. What was his Birthplace: Millicent

5. Date of Death: 15.4.17

6. Place where Killed or Wounded: Sign: France

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling: Bank Clerk

2. Age at time of Death: 20

3. What was his School: All Saints College, Barabur

4. What was his other Training:

5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia: Born in Australia

6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F? (Please state particulars)

7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F, or of his Regiment:
   Son of the late Edwin Thompson, of St. Barabur, Parish and Diocesan Registrar of the Barabur Diocese, and the
   grandson of the late William Neil of Millicent

8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself? (Please state Relationship)

9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information:
   Name: Maria Frances Thompson
   Relationship to Soldier: Mother
   Address: Oscoy 4th St Dulwich Hill
The following, gives an account of the locality and events on the day of John’s death. It is acknowledged as being pasted in its entirety from AWM records.

**Battle of Lagnicourt**

**March 1917 - April 1917**

Lagnicourt, in northern France, was the scene of fierce fighting in March and April 1917. When the Germans withdrew to the Hindenburg Line in March and the British and dominion forces advanced rapidly in their wake but as they neared the Hindenburg Line they were confronted by well-prepared rearguard forces, which were only removed after difficult fights. One such action took place at Lagnicourt between 26 and 27 March. Closing with the Hindenburg Line, the British lost no time in launching a major offensive around Arras. This left their line weak in several places, including Lagnicourt. Aware of this weakness, the Germans launched a counter-stroke in the Lagnicourt area at dawn on 15 April, utilising 23 battalions. Their aim was not to permanently recapture the territory, but merely to hold it for a day and capture or destroy all the equipment and supplies they found there. They rapidly occupied Lagnicourt and captured several batteries of the 1st Australian Division’s artillery. A vigorous counter-attack by four Australian battalions just after 7 am recaptured the village and most of the guns, and forced a premature German withdrawal.

**War Casualties**

News has been received by Mrs. Thompson, of Yule street, Dulwich Hill, that her son, Private John Webb Thompson, aged 21 years, was killed in France on April 15. He was the eldest son of the late Canon Thompson, of Bathurst and previously was on the staff of the Australian Bank of Commerce.

SMH 12/5/17 P.14

Pte. John Webb Thompson, eldest Boa of the late Canon Thompson, of St. Barnabas', South Bathurst, was killed in Franco.
Deceased, who was 21 years of age, was in the employ of the Australian Bank of Commerce.

SMH 30/5/17 P.12

How the accounts varied. From “hit in the abdomen,” to being “bayonetted,” to being “hit in the middle of the forehead.” One considers that the last of these, would have been the most merciful account for his mother.

17th A.I.F. Thompson J.W. 5448.
(K. Apl. 15/17 Det D/B)

“Thompson was a Signaller, C. Coy. I saw him the morning after the fight at Lagnicourt lying dead in the open. He was doubled up with his hand thrust in his throat. He had been hit in the abdomen. He was buried near by.”

Eye-witness:

Description: From Dulwich Hill, Sydney.

Informant: L/Cpl. L.C. Robinson 5399,
17th A.I.F. C. Coy.,
Bethnal Green Military Hosp.

Home address:
Daisy Bank,
Bega,
South Coast, N.S.W.
In loving memory of Private John Webb (Jack) Thompson, Signaler 17th Battalion killed in action at Lagnicourt, France, April 15th 1917 aged 19 years, elder son of the late Canon Thompson of Bathurst. He chose the path of sacrifice. Inserted by his mother.

SMH 15/4/1919 P.6
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Dulwich Hill

AWM