

Thomas was born in Ballarat on 27th March 1887, the son of Louis and Matilda Gitsham. He attended the Grammar School, Ballarat before joining the Royal Artillery and on 2nd March 1908 he married Carol Crawford. Things went awry in 1909 when it would appear he deserted his new wife and child and also deserted the Royal Artillery. It is thought he went to Tasmania but ended up in Sydney where, on 11th August 1914 he joined D Company, AN&MEF. He stated that he was a sales manager and single, giving his father at 511 Gobden St, Ballarat, as his next of kin.

He was promoted corporal on 18th August and then sergeant on 8th September. He was appointed Colour Sergeant on 20th November and became acting garrison sergeant-major on 22nd December 1914. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 11th August 1915 he was appointed 2Lt with the 4th Reinforcements, 17th Battalion and sailed from Sydney on 30th September aboard the ARGYLSHIRE. On 12th March 1916 he transferred to the 55th Battalion and promoted Lt on 30th May. On 22nd October he was discharged from the AIF and the next day appointed as a Lt in the Royal Flying Corps. He was stationed at Aboukir, Egypt, and was appointed Flying Officer on 30th September 1917. On 6th October he survived a crash and was missing in action from 6th September till 5th October 1918, possibly a prisoner of war.

He was discharged from the RFC on 11th November 1918.

In 1940 he married Dorothy Phyllis Lansberg Ross and enlisted in the RAAF as a Flt Lt at outbreak of WW2, service number 250324. He was discharged on 19th August 1943 from the No 1 Embarkation Depot and died at St Kilda on 7th July 1952.