

Thomas was born in 1894, the son of Charles Cranstown Downward and Mary Elouera Downward (nee Grahame). Thomas stated he enlisted under his mother's maiden name, although he spelt it incorrectly. He gave no reason for this. It could well be that his father would not have given his consent to Thomas being on active service as he was in fact only 20 on enlistment, even though he put 22 on his attestation papers. Thomas was the second eldest of eight children born to Charles and Mary.

On 11th August 1914 Thomas enlisted into the AN&MEF and was allocated to D Company. He gave his birthplace as Moruya, NSW and his mother as his next of kin. He was single and gave his occupation as labourer.

Thomas served in the AN&MEF until discharge on 4th March 1915, time expired, a total of 206 days.

On 12th April 1915 Thomas enlisted in the AIF (Service Number 2148) as part of the 6th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion. On 16th June he departed Australia aboard the KAROOLA, arriving in Suez on 17th May 1915, joining B Company of the 1st Battalion on Gallipoli on 6th August 1915. Sometime between 6th and 9th he was killed in the advance on Lone Pine and was initially buried at Browns Dip North, Row 1, grave 2. He was on the Peninsula only one day.

A mate, and soldier who also was with him in the AN&MEF, Private Arthur Edward Kelly (Service Number 2242) gave the following witness account of his death:

"Witness states that he was alongside him when he was killed. Shot by rifle bullet, just above left eye, in forehead, never moved. Was killed about midnight on 7th August at Lone Pine. Were in a communication trench together – were observers. Headquarters at Lone Pine told witness that Grayham's personal property would be sent home. Was a great chum of witness. Known as Tom L Grayham, enlisted at Sydney, lived at Stanley St., Leichardt, his mother is Mrs Downward, Stanley St., Leichardt, N.S. Wales. Signed on together. Left Sydney for New Guinea 18th August 1914, and Sydney 16th June 1915, by "Karoola", arrived Peninsula 3 a.m, 6th August. Witness has his hatband in his possession showing name of Grayham on it, also bullet hole through the leather. Has never written Grayham's people but intends seeing his mother on his return shortly."

Thomas Leonard Downward (Grayham) was reinterred at the Lone Pine Cemetery and is also remembered on Panel 28 at the Australian War Memorial.