

John was born at Parramatta in 1894, the son of John Augustine Groves (Snr) and his wife Margaret, nee Donovan. He served in the 39th Infantry (CMF) as a corporal clerk from 1912 till 1914.

He joined D Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a clerk and single, giving his father at "Mona", The Boulevarde, Lidcombe as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On the nominal roll he is listed as enlisting in the 6th Reinforcements, 20th Battalion, regimental number 2674, but his name is struck out, indicating he was transferred to depot, sick. His mother stated he had malaria, and this could well have been the reason.

Undeterred, he went to Melbourne and enlisted in the 15th reinforcements, 1st Signals Company, 1st Light Horse Brigade as Thomas James, regimental number 6924. On his attestation he stated that his parents were both deceased (they were not) and made no mention of his previous service with the AN&MEF.

He left Melbourne on 1st March 1916 aboard the ULYSSES, entering the Engineering Training Depot at Tel-el-Kabir on 27th April. He went to Marseilles aboard the IONIAN on 7th June and then on to the UK on 28th September where he remained until 2nd April 1917 when he returned to France. He transferred to the 50th Battalion on 23rd April and then to the 1st Divisional Signals Coy on 16th November 1917.

Just before the cessation of hostilities he, on 7th October 1918, signed a stat dec stating his real name. He left Liverpool on the 20th May 1919 aboard the NESTOR, arriving home on 5th July, and was discharged on 27th August 1919.

His brother, James Ambrose Groves also served in the AIF as part of 14th Field Ambulance, regimental number 2870. He left Australia on 11th August 1915, returning home on 8th April 1919.

In 1928 he married Madge Gwendoline Thornley, whom he divorced in 1935.

John died on 10th November 1961 and is interred at Rookwood Cemetery.