

Thomas was born on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1889 in Westmorland, UK, the son of Robert and Isabella Bousfield. He had a brother and two sisters. On 24<sup>th</sup> August 1908 he joined the Royal Navy for a 5-year term and was discharged early on 1 Jan 1913 having an – “Approved discharge by purchase, he being desirous of residing in Australia.” He served as a Stocker 1<sup>st</sup> Class in China and the East Indies.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August Thomas enlisted in the AN&MEF, stating that he was single, a sailor and gave his mother at “Flotts”, Gaisgill, Tebay, Westmorland. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 1915, having completed 161 days service.

When he enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1915 he stated his occupation as tram driver. He sailed for Suez aboard the RUNIC, departing Sydney on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was taken on strength with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on Gallipoli on 4<sup>th</sup> November and was evacuated from the Peninsular with his battalion on 28<sup>th</sup> December aboard the HUNTSGREEN.

In March 1916 he moved to France and on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1917 he was evacuated to the UK suffering from P.U.O (Pyrexia of Unknown Origin), not rejoining his unit until 2<sup>nd</sup> November the same year.

On 13<sup>th</sup> April he departed England aboard the WYREEMA, arriving back in Australia on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1919. He was discharged from the AIF on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1919.

In 1920 Thomas married Eva M O’Toole in Sydney