

Thomas was born in Holloway, UK on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1889, the son of Thomas Freeborn and his wife Elizabeth, nee Osborne. In 1911 he is shown on the UK Census as living with his parents at Highbury and has his occupation listed as labourer. He had joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1906, regimental number 85998, but it is unclear for how long he served.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 1914 he enlisted in F Company, AN&MEF under the name John Plimer. John was a friend who allowed Thomas to use his discharge papers from the Seaforth Highlanders on his enlistment. He was promoted sergeant on 18<sup>th</sup> August, before leaving for Rabaul. On 13<sup>th</sup> October he advised the authorities of his correct name. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 1915.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 1916 he married Ruby Naylor at St John's Bishopthorpe.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1940 he joined the AIF as a sergeant, service number N100184, and served until discharged on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1942 from the Anti Gas School.

Thomas died at Hornsby on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1975.