

# IN MEMORIUM

## DAVID SCOTT THOMSON MC

21 Nov 1924 – 13 October 2013

### Rank: Brigadier

Service Number: VX146397, 3328

Service history: Australian Imperial Force  
Interim Army,  
Australian Regular Army

Date of enlistment: 28 February 1942  
Date of resignation: 31 May 1973

Date enrolled RMC: 28 February 1942  
Seconded to AIF: 16 December 1943  
Transferred to Interim Army: 01 July 1947  
Transferred to ARA: 14 August 1947

Overseas service: Borneo 02 June 1945 to 06 February 1946 (Wounded in Action twice – Balikpapan)  
Japan 07 February 1946 to 03 March 1947  
Japan 20 April 1947 to 19 January 1948  
Japan 03 March 1952 to 02 April 1952  
Korea 03 April 1952 to 07 December 1952 (Wounded in Action- Korea)  
Japan and Korea 08 December 1952 to 19 April 1953  
Japan and Korea 13 May 1953 to 22 February 1954  
India and Pakistan 15 January 1956 to 08 March 1957  
Singapore: 16 July 1960 to 30 July 1960  
The United Kingdom: 11 October 1960 to 23 January 1963  
Singapore and Borneo: 28 May 1965 to 10 June 1965  
Malaysia and Borneo: 20 September 1965 to 15 November 1966 (Borneo April 1966 to September 1966)  
Vietnam 01 March to 10 March 1966, 27 November 1966 to 29 October 1966, 05 October 1967 to 19 October 1967  
New Zealand: 07 May 1968 to 14 May 1968,  
New Guinea: 17 June 1968 to 22 June 1968  
Singapore and Vietnam: 23 September 1968 to 08 October 1968  
United Kingdom, Canada and the USA: 28 May 1969 to 28 June 1969  
Vietnam 01 October 1969 to 19 October 1969

Principal Units: The Royal Military College  
2nd /16th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF  
Headquarters 34th Infantry Brigade, AIF  
65th Australian Infantry Battalion,  
Headquarters, British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, Japan  
5th Infantry Battalion  
14th National Service Training Battalion  
15th National Service Training Battalion  
1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment  
Australian Ancillary Unit, Korea  
Headquarters, Australian Component, British Commonwealth Forces, Korea  
The Royal Military College (Instructor)  
Army Staff College, Camberley, UK  
4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment  
Army Headquarters  
Headquarters, 3rd Task Force

Medals: Military Cross  
Mentioned in Despatches  
1939-45 Star  
Pacific Star

War Medal 1939-45  
Australian Service Medal 1945  
Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam  
Korea Medal  
United Nations Service Medal, Korea  
General Service Medal 1962 with Clasp Borneo  
Vietnam Medal  
Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps South West Pacific, Japan, Korea and South East Asia  
Defence Force Service Medal  
Australian Defence Medal  
Pinjat Jas Malaysia  
Infantry Combat Badge  
Returned From Active Service Badge

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David Scott Thomson was born in Sale, Victoria in 1924 and educated at Sale High School, Scotch College (Melbourne) and at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He joined the Australian Army on 28 February 1942 and was commissioned in December 1943.

During a 30-year military career, Thomson served with 2/16 Battalion in the South West Pacific Area (1945) and BCOF in Japan (1946-48); as Officer Commanding A Company, 1 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Korea (1952, awarded a Military Cross); and then in Japan again (1953-54). He was later an instructor at Duntroon (1957-59) and at the British Army Staff College, Camberley (1961-62); Commanding Officer, 4 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Malaysia and Sarawak during 'Confrontation' (1964-66, and Mentioned in Despatches); Director of Infantry and Regimental Colonel of the Royal Australian Regiment (1967-70); and an Army Commander in North Queensland (1970-72). Thomson then transferred to the Commonwealth Military Forces, retiring from the Army Reserve's active list in November 1979 with the rank of Brigadier.

Prior to his election to the House of Representatives in December 1975, as the National (Country) Party Member for the North Queensland seat of Leichardt, Thomson and his wife Judy ran a tourist resort north of Cairns. He lost the seat in the general election of 5 March 1983.

In the Fraser Government, Thomson was Minister for Science and the Environment (1979-80), then Minister for Science and Technology (1980-83). He was also a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (1978) and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (1978 and 1979-80). He represented Australia at a 24-Nation Conference in Paris in March and April 1981, to discuss science and technology and later in the month represented Australia at an international conference to help the development of Zimbabwe.

After leaving federal politics, Thomson had been Director of Rockwell International (1983-95) and Director, John McEwen House Pty Ltd (1984-99).

Hon. David Scott Thomson MC, MID passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**Rest Ye, Oh Warrior. You'll battle no more,  
no longer to live the horrors of war.  
Your duty was done with Honour and Pride.  
Farewell ! Oh brother, until we march by your side.**

**VALE**