

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 13th 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