

**Hitchin Cemetery,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3611 C. Q.MR. SERJT.

T. W. JOHNSON

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

10TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 32

In Memory Of

The Dearly Loved Husband Of

Mrs Johnson Of Hitchin

Thomas William JOHNSON

Thomas William Johnson was born in St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria to parents William Joseph and Catherine Helena Johnson (nee Brodie). His birth was registered in 1887 in the district of St. Kilda.

Thomas William Johnson attended St Joseph's at South Yarra, Victoria.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Malvern recorded Thomas William Johnson, Clerk, of 18 Bride Street, Malvern. Also listed at that address – Catherine Ellen Johnson, Home Duties; William Joseph Johnson, Gardener.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Malvern recorded Thomas William Johnson, Clerk, of 18 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern. Also listed at that address – Catherine Ellen Johnson, Home Duties; Margaret Johnson, Saleswoman; William Joseph Johnson, Gardener.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Henty, subdivision of Malvern recorded Thomas William Johnson, Clerk, of 18 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern. Also listed at that address – Catherine Ellen Johnson, Home Duties; Margaret Johnson, Saleswoman; William Joseph Johnson, Gardener.

The 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Henty, subdivision of Malvern recorded Thomas William Johnson, Clerk, of 18 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern. Also listed at that address – Catherine Ellen Johnson, Home Duties; William Joseph Johnson, Gardener.

Thomas William Johnson was a 29 year old, single, Clerk from 18 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern, Victoria when he enlisted on 22nd September, 1915 with the 2nd Divisional Signal Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3611 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Joseph Johnson, 18 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern, Victoria. Thomas Johnson stated his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 year in Infantry – 5th Regiment Albert Park & 11 years Signal Engineers – 3rd Military District.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 23rd November, 1915.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was taken on strength of 5th Divisional Signal Company at Tel-el-Kebir on 9th March, 1916.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was sent sick to Hospital at Ferry Post on 22nd May, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Ferry Post on 25th May, 1916 with a bruised right foot. C.Q.M.S. Johnson was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train at Ismalia on 12th June, 1916 & admitted to British Red Cross Hospital at Montazah on 28th June, 1916. (*The Hospital Admissions form records the following – No. 1 Stationary Hospital 1 May, 1916 – 30 May, 1916. No. 3 Australian General Hospital 30 May, 1916 – 21 June, 1916. Montazah 21 June, 1916 – 14 July, 1916.*)

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was marched in from Hospital to Divisional Troops Depot at Tel-el-Kebir on 19th July, 1916.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was transferred to Pioneer Training Battalion on 19th August, 1916. He was transferred to No. 2 Detail Camp, Park House, Wiltshire, England on 18th August, 1916 from Pioneer Training Battalion (date as per Service Record file).

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was appointed to permanent cadre of Engineers Training Depot Signal Section at Hitchin, Hertfordshire on 16th September, 1916.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was visited by a Travelling Medical Board in March, 1917 at Hitchin & placed in category BII.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was appointed to permanent base at Shefford on 22nd April, 1917.

On 16th July, 1917, Thomas William Johnson, of 2nd Divisional Signal Company, A.I.F., did not desire to make a Will.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson was visited by a Travelling Medical Board on 10th October, 1917 & placed in category B III.

The address for Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson's father – as next-of-kin was altered on 4th December, 1917 to 2 Drysdale Street, Malvern, Melbourne, Victoria.

Thomas W. Johnson married Cissie A. Cox in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas W. Johnson re-transferred back to 5th Divisional Signal Company at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 20th September, 1918.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant T. W. Johnson, 3611, of 5th Australian Divisional Supply Column, was Mentioned in Despatches on 30th September, 1918.

["Mentioned in Despatches – is where a member of the armed forces has their name appearing in an official report written by a superior officer. The report is then sent to the high command, in which is described their gallant or meritorious action in the face of the enemy."]

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas William Johnson died at 2 pm on 10th November, 1918 at Depot Hospital, Clifton, Bedfordshire, England from Influenza & Pleurisy. (Burial Report states Date & place of death – "10.11.18. Signal School, Hitchin, Herts.")

A death for Thomas W. Johnson, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Biggleswade, Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire, England.

A Medical Report by Dr W. T. Johnson, MD. BS Lond. MO AE.T.D. (Sig Secn) Clifton, Beds, dated 12th November, 1918 reads:

To the AD.M.S. AIF Depots in UK

I beg to submit Medical Report as per AAMC Order 679 of the 14/8/18 re death of Soldiers. With regard to the death of C.Q.M.S. Johnson, T.W. I have to report that I was called to see the deceased on Nov 4th and found him suffering from Influenza compensated by Pleurisy. His temp was 104° & respiratory rate rapid. He was admitted into Hospital & was seen daily by me till his death on Nov 10th 1918 at which I was present & had been for two hours previously. His temp ranged between 103° & 104° for the first three days & then came down considerably. He was considerably better, but on Sunday morning a change for the worse took place & there were physical signs of Broncho pneumonia. Oxygen was administered but he succumbed at 2 pm.

*The treatment prescribed by me was absolute rest in the horizontal position in bed. The medicinal treatment was a mixture containingHe was a very delicate man & had not much reserve force & I understood that he had had a previous attack of Pleurisy. Everything possible was done for him by the AAMC staff & myself & * I request that the issue was unfavourable.*

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas William Johnson was buried on 15th November, 1918 in Hitchin Cemetery, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England – Plot number W. 164 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of C.Q.M.S. Johnson - *Coffin was good, Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Relatives and Friends of the deceased soldier. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Chap Rev: McCleery, of Hitchin, Herts. A temporary oak cross has been erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives & friends present at the funeral – Wife, Father & Mother-in-law and three sisters-in-law. Also Representative of the 5th Divisional Signal Company, A.I.F.

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The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Company Quartermaster Sergeant T. W. Johnson contains a letter from Australian Engineer Training Depot (Signal Section) Clifton, Beds dated 20th December, 1918 which reads:

“Reference death of 3611, CQMS Johnson, T. W. – 5th Div, Sig. Co.

The abovenamed N.C.O. died from Bronchial Pneumonia on 10.11.18 after 6 days’ illness.

He was buried with military honours at Hitchin Cemetery on 14.11.18.

His widow, who resides at 29 Bedford street, Hitchin, was present, and everything possible was done for her.”

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Thomas Willian Johnson “*served in the Citizen Force for 10 years before the great war, and took a keen interest in the Signal Section to which he was attached, he also took a big interest in the Boy Scouts and was Scout Master of the Malvern district.*”

In 1919 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas William Johnson’s Statement of Service form was recorded with “*Brought to notice of Secretary of Ste for War for valuable services rendered.*”

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas William Johnson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to C.Q.M.S. Johnson’s Widow – Mrs Cissie A. Johnson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas William Johnson – service number 3611, aged 32, of 5th Div. Signal Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of William Joseph and Catherine Helen Johnson; husband of C. A. Johnson, of 29 Bedford St., Hitchin, England. Born at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant T. W. Johnson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(62 pages of Company Quartermaster Sergeant Thomas William Johnson’s Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

JOHNSON – On the 10th November, officially reported died of illness at Clifton Beds, England, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Thomas William Johnson, dearly loved eldest and only surviving son of William and Catherine Johnson, loved brother of Margaret, 2 Drysdale street, Malvern, after three years' service. R.I.P.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 November, 1918)

THE 450th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

C.Q.M.S. T. W. Johnson, Malvern

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Company Quartermaster Sergeant T. W. Johnson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Husband Of Mrs Johnson Of Hitchin

Hitchin Cemetery, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England

Hitchin Cemetery, Hitchin, Hertfordshire contains 61 Commonwealth War Graves – 31 relating to World War 1 & 30 from World War 2.



Hitchin Cemetery (Photo courtesy of Edward Finch 2022)



Hitchin Cemetery (Photo above courtesy of Edward Finch 2022; below from CWGC)

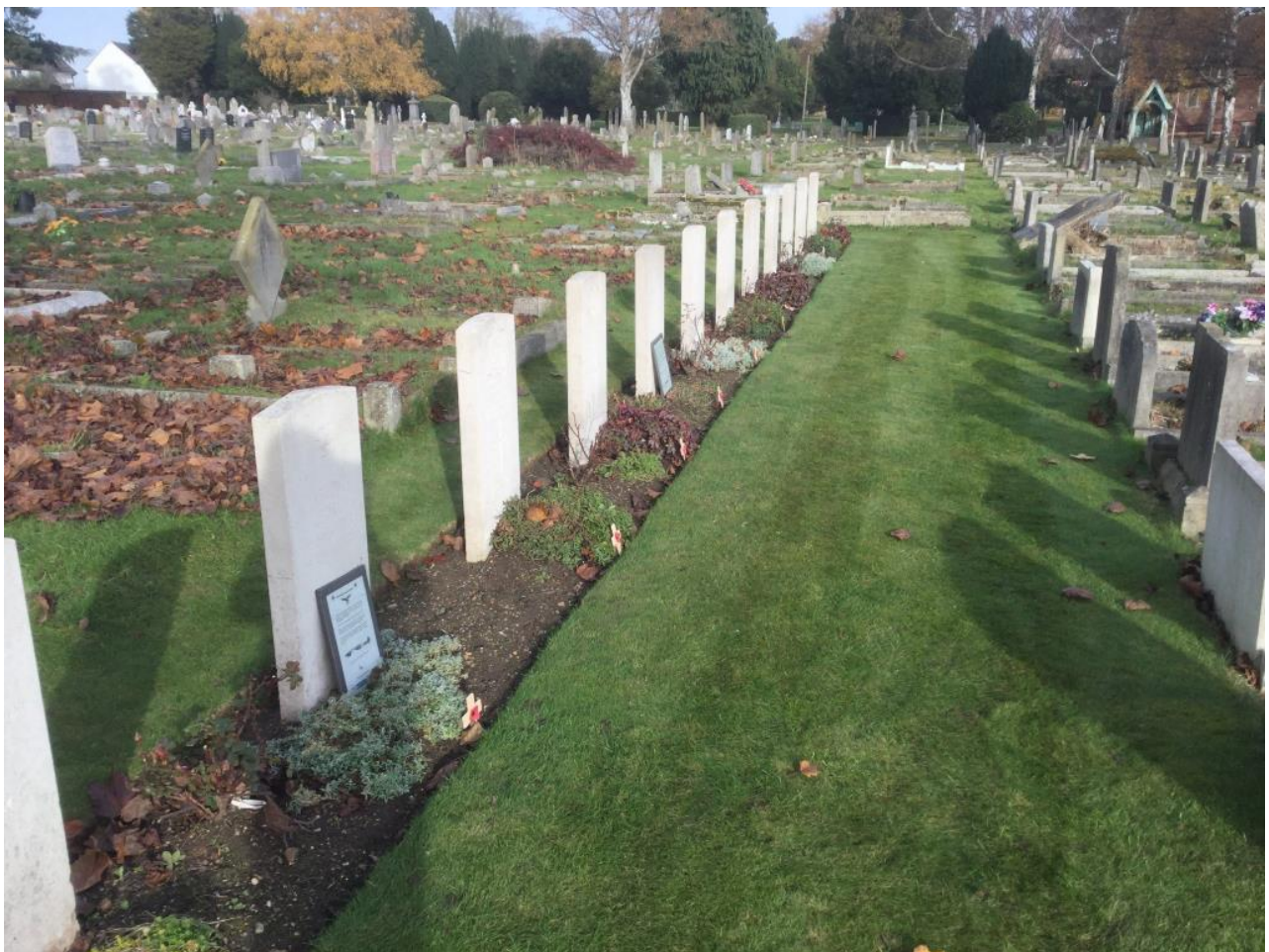


Photo of Company Quartermaster Sergeant T. W. Johnson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hitchin Cemetery, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England.



(Photos courtesy of Edward Finch 2022)

