



6th Light Horse Regiment



2nd Light Horse Regiment

**Corporal Thomas MURPHY**  
**558 – 6<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Regiment**  
**683 – Head Quarters Staff**

**Born:** 1890, Bathurst, NSW.

**Parents:** Daniel & Mary Louisa Murphy

**Occupation:** Horse Breaker

**District Connection:** Googodery, Cumnock.

**Enlistment Date:** 18 Nov 1914, Liverpool.

**Enlistment Age:** 24yrs 1 mth

**Embarkation:** 21 Dec 1914, HMAT *Suevic* A29

**Served:** Egypt, Gallipoli

**Fate:** KIA 3 Oct 1915

**Honour Boards:** National War Museum, Canberra;  
WE Agland MBE Memorial Museum, Orange; Orange  
Cenotaph; Cumnock War Memorial Gates.

### Biography:

Thomas was born at Bathurst in 1890, a twin to Vincent Murphy, the sons of Daniel & Mary Louisa Murphy. Daniel Murphy and Mary Louisa Thompson had married at Bathurst in 1889. By 1892 they had moved to Orange where Harry, Mary, Daniel, Samuel, Vera, and William Murphy were born.

When Thomas enlisted in the AIF on 18 Nov 1914, he listed his parents as living at Googodery, near Cumnock, and he was working as a horse-breaker. He was 5 feet 11 inches tall, had fair hair, grey eyes, brown complexion and was of the Roman Catholic religious denomination.

As a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Light Horse (LH) Regiment, B Squadron, Thomas embarked from Sydney on *HMAT Suevic* A29, on 21 Dec 1914. Other Cumnock soldiers also on board the *Suevic* as members of the 6<sup>th</sup> LH Regiment were 629 Pte Major Johnston (DOW 18 Aug 1916, Egypt), and 582 Pte Aubrey Reynolds (RTA 26 Dec 1918 with the rank of Captain).

The *Suevic* was part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian and New Zealand Convoy that left Albany, WA, on 31 Dec 1914 for Egypt. The 1<sup>st</sup> Convoy had departed on 1 Nov 1914. The fifty-four Australian and New Zealand ships of these two convoys carried a total of 40,000 soldiers and nearly 17,000 horses. They were the two largest convoys to depart from Australia for the whole of the war.

After several months training in Egypt, Pte Murphy was deployed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> LH Regiment to Gallipoli and landed there on 12 May 1915. On the 25 May, he was temporarily attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division Head Quarters on Anzac Cove, where he served until rejoining the Head Quarters Staff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LH Brigade on 19 Jun 1915.

An offensive against the Turkish Army was undertaken on 7 Aug 1915, and the 2nd LH was to carry out a feint attack from Quinn's Post. The first assault wave was brutally mown down. Fortunately, the officer commanding the attack had the wisdom and courage to call off further attack waves. Of the 56 men who charged in the first wave, 16 were killed and 37 wounded.

On the 8 Aug 1915, Pte Murphy was slightly wounded. *The Molong Argus*, 15 Oct 1915, p4, Cumnock, reported: "Mrs D Murphy, of Googodery, states that her son, who was wounded in the head with shrapnel, has so far recovered as to be enabled to return to his place in the firing line."

On 12 Sep 1915, he was appointed Lance Corporal and on 15 Aug 1915, he was promoted to Supernumerary Provisional Corporal.

Cpl Thomas Murphy was killed in action on 3 Oct 1915. His war records do not state how he was killed and the 2<sup>nd</sup> LH unit diary for that day reported a fairly quiet day. He may have been killed by a sniper or by a shell burst. Cpl Murphy was buried at Shell Green Cemetery No. 1, Gallipoli, about 1150 yards south of Anzac Cove. He was the first soldier from Cumnock to die in WW1.

The Molong Argus, 29 Oct 1915, P4, Cumnock, published this report:

*“On Tuesday last residents of Cumnock were shocked to learn that one of our gallant lads had fallen at the front on October 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. The young fellow, Thomas Murphy, was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs D Murphy, of Googodgery, and was 28 [sic 25] years of age. He was a fine stamp of a young Australian, broad shouldered, sturdy and virile. He was in the full strength of his manhood, just the stamp of a man that is always first to answer his country’s call; and, although his career has been cut short, and his relatives and friends are grieving at his death, they have the consolation of knowing that he died the death of a hero, upholding the glorious traditions of our Empire...”*

A younger brother, **488 Driver Harry Murphy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Btn**, died on 17 Feb 1917 of wounds received in action in France, aged 25yrs.

Another brother, **2937 Pte Daniel Murphy, 57<sup>th</sup> Btn**, was also wounded in France but recovered and returned to Australia on 22 Sep 1918.

Thomas’s father, Daniel, received his 1914/1915 War, British War and Victory Medals.

Cpl Thomas Murphy is listed on the following websites:

Cumnock NSW War Memorials - [www.cumnocknswmemorials.com](http://www.cumnocknswmemorials.com)

Orange Wiki Orange City Council Honour Roll - [www.theorangewiki.orange.nsw.gov.au](http://www.theorangewiki.orange.nsw.gov.au)

Spirits of Gallipoli - [www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/men/men-m.htm](http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/men/men-m.htm)

Trove Newspapers - <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

(Molong Argus – 15 Oct 1915, p4, 29 Oct 1915, p4 & 3 Dec 1915, p5; Molong Express & Western District Advertiser – p10)

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**Top:**  
**683 Corporal Thomas MURPHY**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Light Horse**  
**Grave Reference: I. F. 14**  
**Cemetery: Shell Green**  
**Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.**

**Left: WW1 Roll of Honour,**  
**Orange Cenotaph, Robertson**  
**Park, Orange.**