

Sapper Thomas Henry (Harry) Morrison 1866-1918

NZETC # 4/1571

Thomas Henry Morrison was born in New Zealand on 10th July 1866 to parents John and Louisa Jane Morrison, nee Jaggard. (Source: NZ BDMs online Reg #1866/26204)

John and Louisa married in Brighton Sussex, England in November 1864) and promptly immigrated as assisted passengers to New Zealand. (Source: GRO Marriage Reg District: Brighton Vol 2b p 415)

They sailed on "The Empress", leaving London on the 3rd Feb 1865 and arriving in Auckland, New Zealand on 14th May 1865. (Source: NZ Herald 15th May 1865)

Gold mining licences in the name of John Morrison can be found in records dating back to 1867 during the Thames Gold rush. (Source: www.kaelewis.com/goldminers)

By 1870 the Thames Electoral Roll records John Morrison living at Karaka Creek, Thames (#1551)

And in the same year John's occupation is recorded as Miner, in Grahamtown, on his son George's birth certificate.

Thomas Henry or Harry as he seemed to more commonly known as was the oldest of 5 children born to John and Louisa Jane. His sister Elizabeth Annie was born circa 1868 (to date no birth registration has been found for her), George (my Great Grandfather) was born in 1870, Louisa Margaret in 1872, John Frederick in 1874 and Charles William in 1876.

Sadly Louisa Jane died of Tuberculosis in Thames on 25th August 1878, aged 36 years.

(Source: microfiche record #1188.

She is buried in Shortland Cemetery, Thames. (Source: Cemetery fiche D01:31)

Harry's early life can only be guessed at but on his attestation paper he had passed the Fourth Educational Standard or equivalent.

After his mother's death when he was 12 years old there was no record of him being placed in the Thames Orphanage and Industrial School with his younger siblings.

It is possible that he assisted his father mining for gold.

The Thames Star of 18th October 1878 (Source: Paperspast)

Harry Morrison, a small boy, gave corroborative evidence in the case of an alleged assault on Mr Buckley by Mr Donovan. Harry agreed with other witnesses.

New Zealand Herald 11th January 1887

Rings stolen from a Harry MORRISON at the Salt Water Baths on 26th December 1886. Harry Morrison was described as working in the bush near Helensville at the time of the court appearance. (Source: Paperspast)

Ohinemuri Gazette, 30 May 1900.

Possible story about Harry Morrison of Hikutaia being injured in a horse riding accident. (Source: Paperspast)

1900 Electoral roll for Bay of Islands – possible registration for Thomas Henry Morrison

1905-06 Electoral roll for Kaipara, Northland – possible registration for Thomas Henry Morrison

1914 Electoral Roll for Thames Waikato. Thomas Henry Morrison, Kapowai Bush, Gumtown, Bush contractor.

Auckland Star 6 August 1915 (Source: Paperspast)
Recruits accepted for service.
Harry Morrison

The Herald 7 August 1915 (Source: Paperspast)
Recruits accepted for service in NZ Forces.
Harry Morrison

Harry appears to have altered his date of birth and age in order to enlist. On his Attestation papers his date of birth is given as 17th August 1875 making him 40 years old.

His occupation was “Bushman” and his last employer the Kauri Timber Company, Mercury Bay.

His brother John Frederick Morrison of Arch Hill, Auckland was Harry’s nominated Next of Kin and his relationship with John (or Jack as he seemed to be known) endured with In Memoriam notices being inserted annually in the Auckland Star for many years after Harry’s death in November 1918.

The New Zealand Tunnelling Company began its active war service on the Western Front in March 1916. Arras was the main area of their focus.

Details of the work done by Sapper Harry Morrison and his fellow servicemen needs to be gleaned from personal accounts and those of officials.

Harry Morrison’s Service record: New Zealand 6th October 1915-17th December 1915

Foreign 18th December 1915-16th March 1918

New Zealand 17th March 1918-13th April 1918.

Harry Morrison’s “Casualty Form- Active Service” offers more detail to this Service.

Army Form B. 10g.

Regimental Number 4/1521

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps New Zealand Engineer Tunnelling Company

Rank Sapper Surname Morrison Christian Name Harry

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) 6-10-15 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 6-10-15

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b)
or Corps Trade and Rate

Occupation Signature of Officer

| Report | | Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c. during active service, as reported on Army Form B.21g, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. | Place of Casualty | Date of Casualty | Remarks Taken from Army Form B.21g, Army Form A.35, or other official documents. |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Date | From whom received | | | | |
| | | Embarked <u>Auckland</u> | <u>18-12-15</u> | | |
| | | Disembarked <u>Plymouth</u> | <u>18-2-16</u> | | |
| | | <u>Embarked for France</u> | <u>England</u> | <u>9-3-16</u> | <u>Emb. Roll.</u> |
| <u>25-11-16</u> | <u>do. N.Z.E. Tunn. Coy.</u> | <u>Proceeding on leave</u> | <u>France</u> | <u>21-11-16</u> | <u>A.F. B.213.</u> |
| <u>9-12-17</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>Rejoined unit from leave</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>4-12-16</u> | <u>A.F. B.213.</u> |
| <u>28-7-17</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>Detached to A.P.M. N.Z.E.F. 2</u> | <u>"</u> | <u>25-7-17</u> | <u>B.213. (P.21. 34/213)</u> |
| <u>4-8-17</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>Rejoined from A.P.M. N.Z.E.F. Lon.</u> | <u>"</u> | <u>31-7-17</u> | <u>B.213. (P.21. 34/213)</u> |
| <u>10-11-17</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>Detached to U.K. on leave</u> | <u>"</u> | <u>9-11-17</u> | <u>B.213.</u> |
| <u>16-11-17</u> | <u>Adm. N.Z.E.F. (U.K.)</u> | <u>Admitted No. 2. N.Z. Gen. Hospital</u> | <u>Walton</u> | <u>12-11-17</u> | <u>Defective vision, acute delusional insanity. 37a. 374. X.6974. (P.21. 49/346)</u> |
| | | <u>whilst on leave from France</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>15-12-17</u> | <u>7. A. 224. X.6263.</u> |
| <u>21-12-17</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>Discharged on leave from No. 2. N.Z. Gen. Hosp.</u> | <u>do.</u> | <u>15-12-17</u> | <u>7. A. 224. X.6263.</u> |
| | | <u>to report at N.Z. Discharge Depôt</u> | <u>Torquay</u> | | |

16.5.18 B.21g/4/1521

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or called into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or call-up will be entered.
(b) Signaller, Shering-Smith, & Co. W.13863—M4177 10000 1/17 (2/62) S.P. & Co., Ltd. Form B.10g. 2/27.154. (P.T.O.)

Cenotaph Database
Sapper Harry Morrison

Forename(s) Harry
Surname Morrison
Also Known As Thomas Henry
Place of Birth Thames, New Zealand
Religion Church of England
War World War I, 1914-1918
Service Number(s) 4/1571
First Known Rank Sapper
Occupation Bushman
Next of Kin John Frederick Morrison (brother), 21 Dean Street, Arch Hill, Auckland, New Zealand
Marital Status Single
Address before Enlistment Clarence Street, Ponsonby, New Zealand
Medical Data Height: 5 feet 8 inches
Weight: 11 stone 12 ounces
Complexion: tanned
Eye colour: brown
Hair colour: brown

Enlistment Date 6 October 1915
Age at Enlistment 40
Recruitment Locality Auckland
Embarkation Body Tunnelling Company
Unit on Embarkation Field Engineers
Date of Embarkation 18 December 1915
Place of Embarkation Auckland, New Zealand
Transport on Embarkation Ruapehu 18 December 1915
Vessel Ruapehu
Destination of Embarkation Plymouth, England
Nominal Roll pg. no. 520
Military Awards British War Medal (1914-20)
Victory Medal
Wounds and Disease Admitted to No 2 New Zealand General Hospital, Walton, 12 November 1917
Date of Discharge 13 April 1918
Last Unit Served New Zealand Engineers
Discharge Reason No longer physically fit for war service
Last Rank Held Sapper
Place of Death Auckland, New Zealand
Date of Death 7 November 1918
Age at Death 52
Year of Death 1918
Cause of Death Died after discharge from the NZEF from wounds inflicted or disease contracted while on active service
Cemetery Name Waikumete Cemetery, Glen Eden, Auckland, New Zealand
Grave/Memorial Reference Prot. Soldiers Burial B Row 1, Plot 47
Biographical Notes Father was John Morrison born in 1839 and died in 1913.
Mother was Louisa Jane Morrison, nee Jaggard, born in 1841 and died in 1878.
John and Louisa emigrated to New Zealand from Brighton, Sussex England on the Empress arriving in Auckland in 1865. They had six children. Harry appears to be their first child.
Morrison appears to have revised his age downward in order to enlist.
Further References Search www.archway.archives.govt.nz for information about this person's Military Personnel File. Use the Simple Search option.
Sources Used Nominal Rolls of New Zealand Expeditionary Force Volume I. Wellington: Govt. Printer, 1914-1919

Copy provided by the Armoury Information Centre

New Zealand Herald 14th March 1918 records the return of Harry Morrison among over 2000 “Sick and Wounded Men”. (Source: Paperspast)

It is interesting that the Army described him as Senile but also thought he was still able to work, although with far less capacity than he had previously. His pension, if it was granted, was to be reviewed after 3 months. His condition was deemed to be due to “age” but active service had aggravated it.

Official discharge was 30th April 1918. He was later awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. His medals were to be forwarded to his younger brother George Morrison of Karangahake.

Harry died on 7th November 1918 of Influenza. Last residential address was: 48 Pompallier Tce, Auckland.

The Taranaki Daily News of 18th November `1918 records the death of Thomas Harry Morrison of Auckland among others who had returned from war service. (Source: Paperspast)

He is buried in Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland.



Waikumete Cemetery, Waitakere City, Auckland New Zealand.

Protestant Soldiers' Area B. Row 1, Grave 47.

Compiled by: Lynley Chapman. Great niece of Thomas Henry (Harry) MORRISON.