

ANZAC DAY
KEMBLE THOMPSON
WW11 POW

Kemble Alexander McNeil Thompson was born 1920 in Nabic to Joseph and Miriam (McKay) Thompson. Kemble grew up in Tuncurry and spent the early years of his life there. Aged 17 he went to work at the local picture theatre that was owned by the proprietor of the Bellevue Hotel, Mr Beale.

Kemble enlisted in the army on 13th September 1941 Service No. 44767, Dubbo being his first stop for prep training. November 1941 before sailing to Singapore, Kemble married Enid Worth at St John's Church in Glebe Point. Enid was the daughter of John and Isabella Worth. His unit was the 2/3 Motor Ambulance Convoy driving to transport the injured and deceased back to base.



In February 1942 Kemble was captured and sent to Changi Prison where all POW's were forced to work on the Thai-Burma Railway, working day and night with picks and shovels in Hell Fire Pass. During that time many suffered malnutrition, cruelties and disease, which had a profound effect both spiritually and physically. A foot injury coupled with a malaria attack laid the foundation for his early evacuation from the then completed railway. After three and a half years being held a prisoner in Changi he was transported by sea, back home with stops at Perth, Melbourne and then Sydney to spend time in hospital recuperating from his injuries.



On his discharge from the army, Kemble went back to work for PMG (now Telecom) and became a head technician involved with technical research in Melbourne and later retired back to the Great Lakes area.

Kemble Thompson died in 2017 aged 97yrs