

are looked down upon to some extent, because of their ignorance of horses and of hunting. A good horseman or a good hunter is the ideal of the Upper Thompson Indians. The Upper Thompsons considered the Shuswap their equals, and those of Upper Fraser River as the most warlike. The Chilcotin and Carriers were considered inferior warriors; while the Okanagon, especially the division of them called Tcutxwaut'ô'ê, were looked upon as the most warlike and important people of whom they had any knowledge.

The Thompson Indians fought among themselves as well as against other tribes, as evidenced by blood feuds between different families. The most trivial quarrels and insults often ended in bloodshed. No man went unarmed, and he was always ready to shoot, or guard against being shot. Scouts were on the watch at night to guard against any surprise by an enemy, and even at the cry of some bird or animal, fearing it to be an enemy's signal, would at once shout out whoops of defiance, to put their friends on the alert, and to warn the enemy that they were anticipated. In some places the fires were put out at sunset, and the people retired to fortified camps or houses for safety. It is said that even when eating their meals many men laid their weapons across their knees to be ready for instant use. Knives were carried slung over the shoulder, or placed in the legging, in the sash, or in the sleeve. Small-sized bows and arrows were sometimes concealed under the shirt, to enable a man to shoot another when least expected. After guns came into use among them, some men, it is said, cut the barrels off quite short, that they might be hidden, like the small bows and arrows. No person's life was perfectly safe in those days; and a man who had killed another was in especial danger, and needed to be on the alert. Although tribal warfare ceased before 1858, murders and blood feuds continued for some years afterward.

The Lower Thompsons claim that they had very few real trained warriors among them, and considered themselves, as a whole, much inferior in warfare to the Lytton band. They claim to have been on good terms with all the surrounding tribes, and never sent out any war-parties. Their relations with the Coast tribes and Lillooet were on the whole very amicable; and these tribes never attacked them, and were seldom attacked by them. The upper bands of the Lower Thompsons were different, however, for they occasionally sent war-expeditions against the Lower Lillooet, and frequently against the Coast tribes. In their raids on the latter they were often assisted by members of the Lytton band. Their enemies seldom ventured to retaliate. It is on record that the Lillooet did so twice by sending war-parties. One of these descended through the valley of Salmon River, and the other by way of Skazzi Creek. In both instances they were discovered, and beat a hasty retreat without making an attack. Once a large party set out from the coast to have revenge for a bloody raid inflicted on them by the Thompsons. They passed by Spuzzum without attacking the people there, and were hospitably entertained. On reaching a few miles above Spuzzum, they stopped, being advised by the people there that it would be