

**Chichester Cemetery,
Chichester, West Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2160 PRIVATE

S. F. C. THACKER

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH MAY, 1917 Age 27

Thy Will Be Done

Stanley Frederick Charles (Stan) THACKER

Frederick Charles Stanley Thacker was born at "Bilpah Hills", Glenthompson, Victoria in 1890 to parents Frederick Charles and Jane Catherine Thacker (nee Kearney).

Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker attended "Bilpah Hills" Private School, Glenthompson, Victoria.

The 1912, 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wannan, subdivision of Dunkeld, Victoria listed Frederick Charles Stanley Thacker, Grazier, of Glen Thompson.

Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Glenthompson, Victoria when he enlisted at Hamilton, Victoria on 17th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2160 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Frederick Charles Thacker, Bilpah Hills, Glenthompson, Victoria.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was posted to 14th Depot Battalion at Ballarat, Victoria on 19th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion at Ballarat on 1st June, 1916 then transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 39th Battalion on 28th July, 1916. Private Thacker was transferred on 29th July, 1916 to "E" Company, 3rd Reinforcements of 39th Battalion.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 25th September, 1916 with the 39th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th November, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was marched out to 10th Training Battalion on 17th November, 1916 from No. 3 Command Depot. He was marched in to No. 11 Camp at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 21st November, 1916 from overseas.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was admitted to Hospital at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 22nd December, 1916 with Mumps & marched in from Parkhouse to No. 10 Training Battalion on 5th January, 1917.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on S.S. *Invicta* on 4th February, 1917 from 10th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 4th February, 1917. Private Thacker was marched out to his Unit from Etaples on 6th February, 1917 & was taken on strength of 39th Battalion in the Field on 7th February, 1917.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was wounded in action on 23rd February, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 23rd February, 1917 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to left leg & thigh, left hand & right leg. Private Thacker was transferred & admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 24th February, 1917 then transferred the same day to No. 10 Ambulance Train. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 24th February, 1917. Private Thacker was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 9th March, 1917.

39th Battalion

The 39th Battalion was formed on 21 February 1916 at the Ballarat Showgrounds in Victoria and drew most of its recruits from the state's Western District. It became part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 39th Battalion

Rue du Bois

5.45 am – Proceeded by a heavy barrage a party of 15-20 of enemy attempted to raid our trenches left end & right of Rue du Bois salient. Only one man (Killed) penetrated into our trenches. Two of enemy were captured and two more

were killed. Our casualties were 19. Our heavy artillery fired over Rue du Bois salient at 11.30 am a very large number of shells appearing to be duds. Our artillery bombarded at 10.30 pm. There was no retaliation.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 11th March, 1917 with GSW (Gunshot wound/s) to left leg (Note: some forms have the injury listed as the right leg).

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker died on morning of 4th May, 1917 at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France – multiple shrapnel wounds to left leg, Septicaemia & Septic Pneumonia.

A death for Stanley Thacker, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Chichester, Sussex, England.



Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was buried at 2.45 pm on 7th May, 1917 in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England – Soldiers Plot Grave No. 51 (Plot number 121.51 is current CWGC grave reference) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker - *Coffin was good, Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party (Royal West Sussex Regiment) were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and covered with several lovely floral tributes, including one from the Patients of E. 11. Ward, Nursing Staff and Australian Red Cross. Prior to the interment a Service was held in the Chapel at the Chichester Cemetery. Several Australians were present at the funeral. No relatives were present. Temporary oak cross is to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker contains two letters from Graylingwell War Hospital which read:

- *This was a case of extensive shrapnel wounds in his left foot, leg and thigh with serious damage to most of the bones of this limb. For a time it looked as if his stamina aided by surgical efforts would overcome his gravely septic condition. About two weeks before his death his lungs got involved in the general septicaemic condition and he gradually got worse. The final cause of death was Septic Pneumonia.*
- *A friend, Pte Walters, visited Thacker two days before he died, and I believe will have written to his relatives in Australia. He was buried with full Military honours in the Cemetery a short distance from the hospital, amongst other soldiers who have given their lives for their country. Several Australians followed to the grave.*

Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker requested in his Will dated 18th April, 1916 that all his property be bequeathed to his father whom he also appointed as Executor of his Will.

Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Thacker's father - Mr F. C. Thacker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker – service number 2160, aged 27, of 39th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick Charles and Jane Thacker, of "Bilpah Hills", Glenthompson, Victoria, Australia.

Private S. F. C. Thacker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 131.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. C. S. Thacker is remembered on the Glenthompson War Memorial, located on Glenelg Highway, Glenthompson, Victoria.



Glenthompson War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



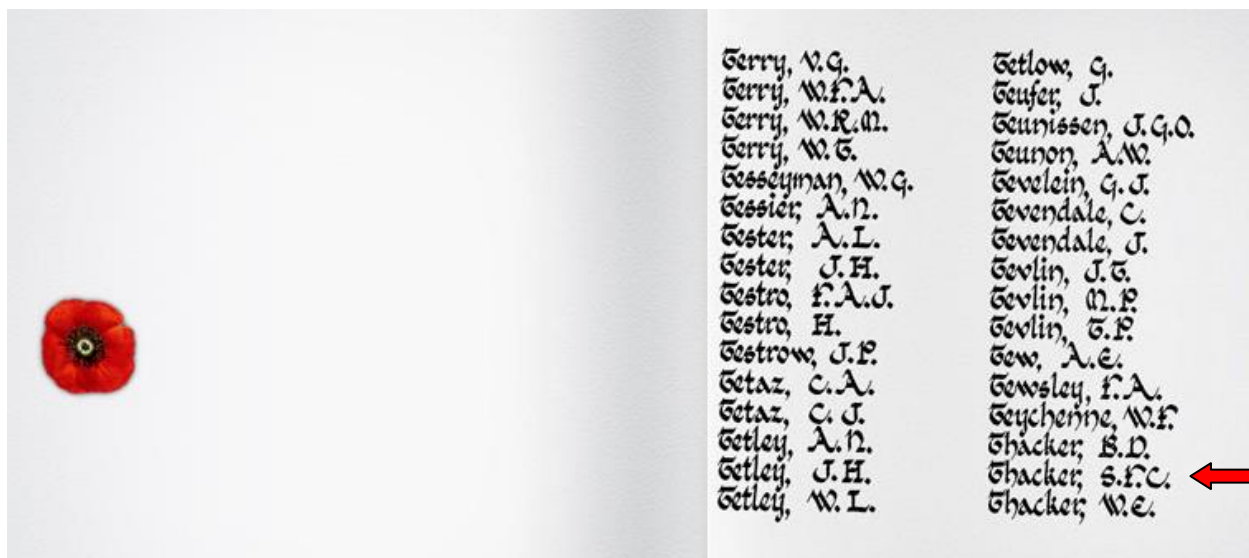
F. C. S. Thacker is remembered on the Penshurst War Memorial, located at Roundabout – Bell & Martin Streets, Penshurst, Victoria.



Penshurst War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

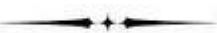


S. F. C. Thacker is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(42 pages of Private Stanley Frederick Charles Thacker'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

CASUALTY LIST

The 281st list of casualties sustained by Australian troops was issued yesterday.

VICTORIA

WOUNDED

Pte S. F. C. Thacker

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 23 March, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

299th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte. S. F. C. THACKER, Glenthompson (4/5/17)

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 19 May, 1917)

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)

Private S. F. C. Thacker does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Will Be Done

Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Chichester Cemetery has 174 Commonwealth War Graves. Also known as Portfield Cemetery.

Of the 89 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, the majority are in a War Graves Plot in Squares 121 and 126 bordering a path on the far right hand side of the cemetery. This was constructed by the City Corporation, who also erected the War Cross at the eastern end of the enclosed plot especially designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and closely resembling the Commission's own Cross of Sacrifice. The names of the 1914-1918 war dead in the cemetery are engraved on the base of the Cross. There are also 75 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, mainly in two adjoining Church of England dedicated Squares, Nos. 115 and 159, in the south-western portion of the cemetery enclosed by a hedgerow on three sides, on the fourth side a wall bearing the inscription 1939-1945 THE MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS PLOT DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. In the northern section a further Square, No. 42, is dedicated to Roman Catholic burials, there is a metal plaque bearing a similar inscription. There are also 7 non-Commonwealth war burials and 4 non World War burials in the care of C.W.G.C. within the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



Chichester Cemetery *(Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)*



Some War Graves in Chichester Cemetery (Photo above by Basher Eyre; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private S. F. C. Thacker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)

F. C. S. (Stan) Thacker is remembered on a family headstone in Glenthompson Cemetery, Victoria.



(Photo courtesy of Carol's Headstone Photos)

In Loving Memory

Of

F. C. S. (STAN)

Who Gave His Life In The Great War

4TH May 1917

Also

REDVERS GORDON

Who Died 6TH Sept. 1921

Beloved Sons Of

F. C. & C. J. THACKER

Of Bilpah Hills

Asleep In Jesus