

**Lancaster Cemetery,
Lancaster, Lancashire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3399 PRIVATE

G. C. THEXTON

37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH APRIL, 1918 Age 18

For The Empire

George Clifton THEXTON

George Clifton Thexton was born at Bairnsdale, Victoria on 19th June, 1899 (as per "Extract of Birth Entry Certificate for Military purposes) to parents William Bainbridge Thexton & Elizabeth Mewes/Mews Thexton (nee Kilgour). (Note: George Thexton's birth was recorded as 19th June, 1897 on one copy of his Attestation Papers that he was born on 19th June, 1897. A second copy of Attestation Papers recorded his date of birth as 10th June, 1899)

George Clifton Thexton attended Bairnsdale State School, Victoria.

George Clifton Thexton stated he was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Bairnsdale, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 11th October, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3399 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. B. Thexton, Bairnsdale, Victoria. George Thexton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Senior Cadets at Hawthorn.

As George Clifton Thexton was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. W. B. Thexton & E. M. Thexton both signed their consent.

Private George Clifton Thexton was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 26th October, 1917. He was transferred to 1st Depot Battalion, A.I.F. at Broadmeadows on 12th November, 1917. Private Thexton was transferred to 3rd District Guard on 16th November, 1917 then transferred on 27th November, 1917 to 2nd Depot Battalion at Broadmeadows.

Private George Clifton Thexton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 22nd December, 1917 with the 37th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements. He disembarked at Suez on 16th January, 1918 & was posted to A.I.F. Camp at Suez from 16th January, 1918 to 24th January, 1918. Private Thexton embarked from Port Said on HMT Leasowe Castle on 24th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto, Italy on 2nd February, 1918. Private Thexton disembarked at Southampton, England on 14th February, 1918.

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 George Clifton Thexton was marched in to 10th Training Battalion at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire, England on 14th February, 1918 from Australia.

37th Battalion

The 37th Battalion was formed, as part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, in February 1916 at Seymour in Victoria. Its recruits were drawn from Melbourne, north-east Victoria and Gippsland.

After training in both Australia and Britain, the battalion moved to France on 23 November 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Clifton Thexton was sent sick to King George Hospital, London on 20th March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to Royal Lancaster Infirmary the same day – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) He was transferred to Lancaster Fever Hospital on 23rd March, 1918 with Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Mr W. B. Thexton, Bairnsdale, Victoria, father of Private George Clifton Thexton, was advised by Base Records on 1st April, 1918 that Private G. C. Thexton had been admitted to Lancaster Military Hospital, England on 20th March, 1918 suffering from cerebro spinal fever.

Private George Clifton Thexton died on afternoon of 10th April, 1918 at Lancaster Military Fever Hospital, Lancashire, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever. His nearest relative (in England) – Mrs Lamb, Rose Cottage, Carnforth, Lancashire was notified.

A death for George Thexton, aged 18, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lancaster, Lancashire, England.

Private George Clifton Thexton was buried at 3 pm on 15th April, 1918 in Lancaster Cemetery, Lancashire, England – Grave No. 95 Section G C of E. This is now recorded by the CWGC as Plot number G. CE. 95 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private George Clifton Thexton - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Firing Party and Buglers were supplied by the Kings Own Regt stationed at Lancaster. Prior to the interment a service was held by the Rev A. R. A. Finlay in the Cemetery Chapel. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Relative or Friends present at the Funeral – Uncle & Aunt – Mr & Mrs Robert Lamb, 27 Kirkland Kendal. Cousin – Miss H. Thexton, 4 Wingate Saul Road, Lancaster.

Private G. C. Thexton requested in his Will dated 10th December, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother Elizabeth Thexton of Jurang Street, Canterbury, Victoria.

Private George Clifton Thexton was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Thexton's father – Mr W. B. Thexton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922 but returned & resent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Clifton Thexton – service number 3399, aged 18, of 37th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Bainbridge Thexton & Elizabeth Mews Thexton, of Dalston Rd., Oakleigh, Victoria, Australia.

Private G. C. Thexton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 129.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. C. Thexton & his brothers – J. W. Thexton & W. G. Thexton are remembered on the Bairnsdale Primary School Roll of Honour, located in Bairnsdale Primary School No. 754, Main Street (Princes Highway) & McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



Bairnsdale Primary School Roll of Honour

(Photo above from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland; below courtesy of Simon Blake)

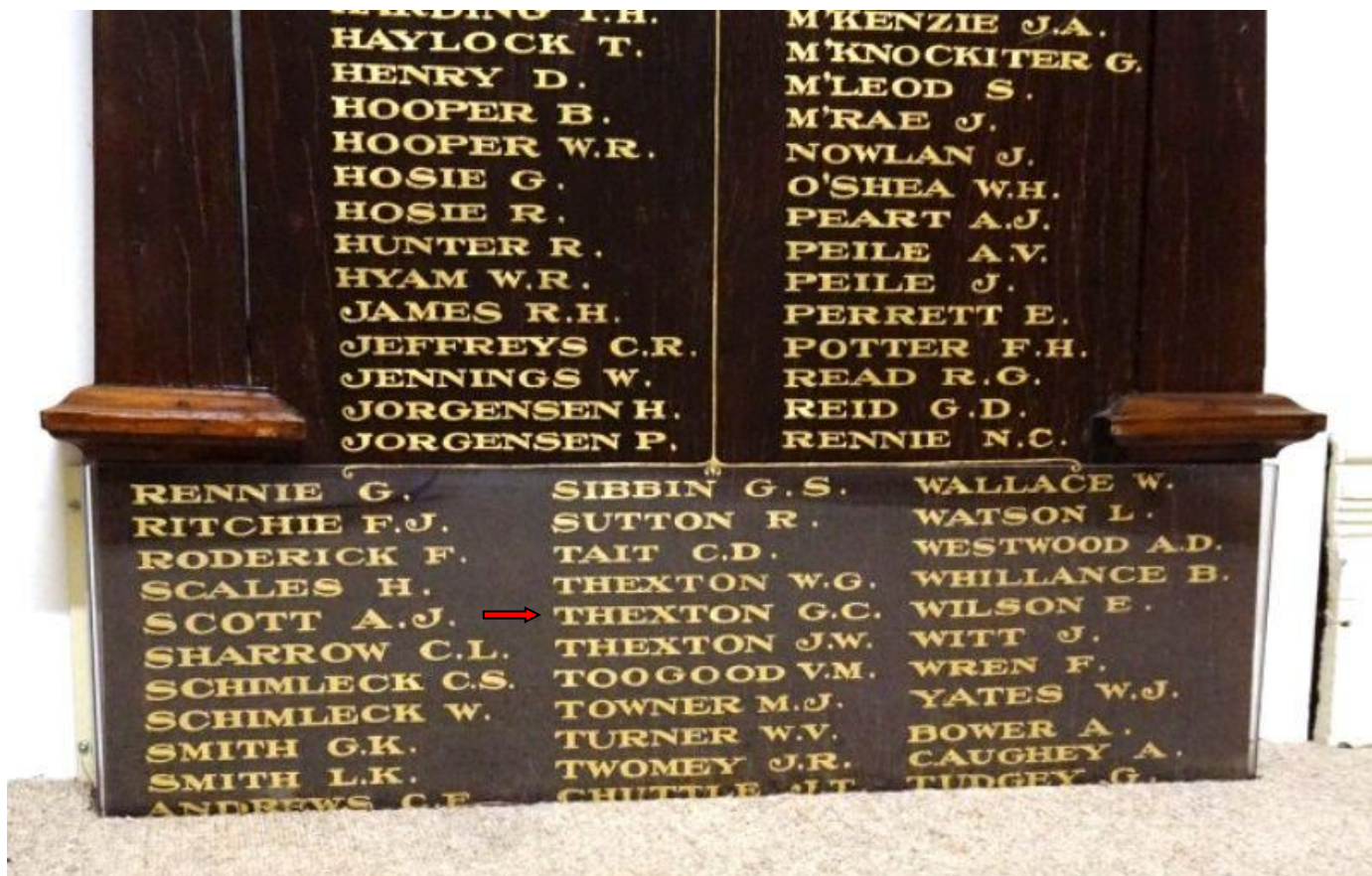


G. C. Thexton & his brothers – J. W. Thexton & W. G. Thexton are remembered on the Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour, located in East Gippsland Historical Society Museum, 40 Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour

(Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



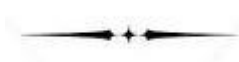
The Bairnsdale Cenotaph, located on median strip on Main Street (Princes Highway), near Service Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria does not list individual names.



Bairnsdale Cenotaph (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride)

(54 pages of Private George Clifton Thexton'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) & National Archives



Connected to Private George Clifton Thexton:

Older Brother – William George Thexton - Enlisted 6th January, 1916 as a 31 year old, single, Farmer from Bairnsdale, Victoria. Embarked on 6th May, 1916 from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Clan MacCorquodale* (A6) as Private 2434 with 8th Light Horse Regiment, 17th Reinforcements.

Died 15th May, 1916 in Perth Hospital, Perth, Western Australia

Older Brother – James Winwick Thexton – Enlisted on 4th October, 1915 as a 23 year old, single, Driver from Mitchell Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria. Embarked on 28th January, 1916 from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) as Private 4609 with 7th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

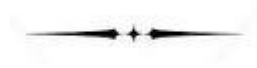
Killed in action on 19th July, 1916. Buried in VC Corner Australia Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, France.

Older brother - John Edward Thexton – Enlisted on 4th October, 1915 as a 28 year old, single, Driver from Mitchell Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria. Embarked on 28th January, 1916 from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) as Private 4608 with 7th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

Returned to Australia 13th February, 1917.

Older brother - Percy Bainbridge Thexton – Enlisted on 1st May, 1916 as a 19 year old, single, Wheelwright from 132 Auburn Rd, Auburn. Embarked on 2nd October, 1916 from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) as Private 5890 with 23rd Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements.

Returned to Australia 19th June, 1919.



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

THEXTON – On the 10th April, in military hospital, from illness, at Lancaster, England, George Clifton, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs W. Thexton, Balwyn (late of Bairnsdale), aged 18 years and 10 months.

His heart was good, his spirit brave;

His resting place, a hero's grave.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 April, 1918)

THE 394th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF CAUSE NOT STATED

Private G. C. Thexton, Bairnsdale

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 1 May, 1918)

In the 394th Australian casualty list, released on Saturday, the following Gippsland casualties are reported:-

Died (cause not stated): Pte G. C. Thexton, Bairnsdale.....

(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 1 May, 1918)

401st CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Private G. C. Thexton, Bairnsdale

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 22 May, 1918)

Pte G. C. Thexton, Bairnsdale, who was previously reported dead on 10th April, without the cause being stated, is now officially reported to have died of illness.

(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 22 May, 1918)

BAIRNSDALE'S DEATHLESS DEAD

IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL CEREMONY

They shall not grow cold, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not wither them, nor the years condemn,

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We shall remember them.

On Sunday afternoon last, at the Theatre Royal, we in Bairnsdale laid our laurels at the feet of "our illustrious dead." Though the day was boisterous and windy, in the building was a reverent feeling of determination to proclaim our solemn realisation of the responsible duties thrust upon us as citizens of no mean country, as members of a generation exalted by a great affliction and called to a great sacrifice. Manifest, also, was the reverent declaration that we would live worthy of those who have died for us, and that, we too, would make courage, self-sacrifice and nobility, the fraternal obligation of our souls. Above all was the realisation that, after all, Death is but a frail barrier, crossed by men smilingly and gallantly every day. That our beloved who are still fighting, are, as Rupert Brookes puts it so simply —

"Safe, though all safety's lost, safe where men fall.

And if these poor limbs die safest of all."

There was a triumph in that gathering, a triumph that must result, in a nobler and deeper recognition that the "path of duty is the path to glory." There was determination, too, to continue to a victorious end. Hearts were lifted in prayer and reconsecration, for

"He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat.

He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat."

....

With befitting silence and solemnity the whole audience stood with bowed heads while the officer read the Honor Roll of Bairnsdale's Deathless Dead

.....

C. D. Taitt, M. J. Towner, **J. Thexton, W. G. Thexton, G. C. Thexton**, W. V. Turner, J. R. Twomey, V. M. Toogood, J. L. Watson, A. D. Westwood, E. Wilson, W. Wallace, F. Wren, B. G. Whillance.

W. J. Yates

.....

(*Every Week*, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 20 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

THEXTON – In loving memory of Pte G. C. Thexton, 37th Batt., who gave his life on the 10th April, 1918, to keep Australia free.

Time changes many things,
But memory, like the ivy, clings.

-(Inserted by his friend, L. Hugg)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 April, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

THEXTON – In honored and loving memory of my dear friend, Private George, died of illness on 10th April, 1918; also his two brothers, who made the supreme sacrifice; also Bella, sister of the above.

Brothers and sister reunited.

-Inserted by their loving friend, Hettie Stonehouse.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 April, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

THEXTON – In loving memory of my friend, Pte George Thexton, died April 10, 1918. Also sister and brothers.

United are they
Leaving us treasured memories.

-(H. Stonehouse).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 April, 1925)

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 G. C. Thexton has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

For The Empire

Lancaster Cemetery, Lancashire, England

The cemetery was opened in 1855 and belongs to Lancaster City Council. A Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the main drive, facing the chapels, after the First World War. The war graves are scattered throughout the site. There are now 93 First World War and 23 Second World War commemorations in this site. The depot of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) was in Lancaster.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Lancaster Cemetery

Photo of Private G. C. Thexton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Lancaster Cemetery, Lancashire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave - Len)



(Photo from Billiongraves)



(Photo from Find a Grave – John Gedge)