

**Donington Old Cemetery,
Donington, Lincolnshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3000 PRIVATE

W. J. THOMPSON

48TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 45

William Jabez THOMPSON

William Jabez Thompson was born at Swineshead, Lincolnshire, England in 1872 to parents Joseph and Frances Mary Thompson (nee Sellars). He was baptised on 25th December, 1872 at Swineshead, Lincolnshire.

[The 1871 England Census – before William's birth – recorded his parents as Joseph Thompson (Farmer, aged 50, born Lanrick) & Frances Mary Thompson (Farmer's wife, aged 40, born Kirton, Lincolnshire). The family were living at School Lane, Swineshead, Lincolnshire. There were six children listed on this Census (in order) – George Thompson (Scholar, aged 12, born Peterboro, Northamptonshire), Richard Thompson (aged 4, born Gosberton, Lincolnshire), Edward Thompson (aged 6 months, born Swineshead, Lincolnshire), Esther Ann Thompson (Scholar, aged 9, born Peterboro, Northamptonshire), Fanny Elizabeth Thompson (Scholar, aged 7, born Gosberton, Lincolnshire) & Mary Jane Thompson (Scholar, aged 5, born Surfleet, Lincolnshire). Also listed were two servants – Emma Simpson (aged 21) & Betsey Clark (aged 17)].

The 1881 England Census recorded William J. Thompson as a 9 year old Scholar living with his widowed mother & family at Cow Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. William's mother was listed as Frances M. Thompson (Stationer, aged 46, born Kirton, Lincolnshire). William was one of four children listed on this Census – Mary J. Thompson (aged 15, born Surfleet, Lincolnshire), Edward Thompson (Scholar, aged 10, born Swineshead, Lincolnshire) then William & James A. Thompson (Scholar, aged 5, born Swineshead, Lincolnshire). Also listed in the household were Elizabeth E. Sellars – Niece of Frances (Scholar, aged 11) Fanny Sellars – Niece of Frances (Scholar, aged 9) & Sarah A Dring – Visitor (Scholar, aged 9).

William Jabez Thompson attended Grammar School, Donington, Lincolnshire, England.

[The 1891 England Census recorded William's mother – now Frances Sykes (aged 56) living with her new husband – William Sykes (Farmer, aged 62) at High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. Also listed in the house hold was Mary Thompson (Frances' Daughter) (Housekeeper, aged 24) & 2 visitors – Elizabeth Sellars (aged 21) & Richard Sellars (Draper's Apprentice, aged 16).]

William Jabez Thompson was a 42 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted on 23rd August, 1916 with the 48th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3000 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Frances M. Sykes of High Street, Donington, Spalding, Lincolnshire, England.

Private William Jabez Thompson was posted to 81 Depot on 23rd August, 1916. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 48th Battalion on 14th September, 1916.

Private William Jabez Thompson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

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 William Jabez Thompson was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from Australia on 11th January, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 27th January, 1917 with Influenza & discharged on 29th January, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was again admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 19th February, 1917 with Influenza & discharged on 24th February, 1917 with 2 days light duty.

Private William Jabez Thompson proceeded overseas to France from 12th Training Battalion, Codford via Southampton on 19th June, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 20th June, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was marched out to join his Unit on 8th July, 1917 & was taken on strength in the field with 48th Battalion on 9th July, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was wounded in action on 10th July, 1917. He was taken to 13th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Thompson was admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital

on 11th July, 1917 with gunshot wounds to scalp & right leg. He was transferred to England on 16th July, 1917 on Hospital Ship "St. Denis."

War Diary – 48th Battalion (Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Ploegsteert, Belgium – 10th July, 1917

"Special salvage parties sent out, a good deal of salvage recovered.

72 men joined up from 4th A.D.B. Enemy quiet during day but heavily shell Battalion area between 9.30 pm and 10.30 pm. Working party had 2 OR killed 5 OR wounded 1 Missing.

Two civilians came into the forward area selling papers, sent them down to Brigade GQs under escort. In my opinion steps should be taken to prevent civilians from moving about in forward areas."

Private William Jabez Thompson was admitted to Lakenham Military Hospital, Norwich, England on 16th July, 1917 with gunshot wounds to scalp & right leg - severe. The Hospital Report states "wounds very superficial". He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 7th August, 1917. Private Thompson was discharged to Depot at Weymouth on 24th August, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 24th August, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson was marched out to No. 4 Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 18th September, 1917. He was medically classified on 19th September, 1917 as B1 A3 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in two to three weeks) then again on 24th September, 1917 as B1 A3. Private Thompson was medically classified on 1st October, 1917 as B1 A3 then again on 8th October, 1917 as B1 A3.

Private William Jabez Thompson was sent sick to 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 24th November, 1917.

Private William Jabez Thompson died at 8 pm on 24th November, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand Military Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire, England from Hydronephrosis.

A death for William J. Thompson, aged 44, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Jabez Thompson was buried on 29th November, 1917 in Donington Old Cemetery, Donington, Lincolnshire, England – Plot number 510 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private W. J. Thompson - Coffin was polished Elm with brass fittings. Private W. J. Thompson was given a Military Funeral. *"We should be glad to have a memorial erected by A.I.F. Mother and family are quite satisfied and pleased with care and honour shown to above on the occasion of his death and burial."*

Base Records contacted Mr R. H. Thompson, of Pingelly, Western Australia on 4th May, 1921 asking for the present address of the father and mother of the late Private W. J. Thompson and if they were already deceased, the name and address of the late soldier's eldest brother due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mr R. H. Thompson advised Base Records that his late brother's mother – Mrs W. Sykes resided at High Street, Donington, Spalding, Lincolnshire, England.

A War Pension was granted to Frances Mary Sykes, mother of late William James Thompson, 3000 of 48th Battalion, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 27th January, 1918.

Private William Jabez Thompson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Thompson's mother in England - Mrs F. Sykes, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Jabez Thompson – service number 3000, aged 45, of 48th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Frances Mary Thompson, of Donington, Spalding, Lincs. England. Born at Swineshead, Lincs.

W. J. Thompson is remembered on the Wickepin World War 1 Honour Board, Wickepin, Western Australia.



Wickepin World War 1 Honour Board (Photos courtesy of The Shire of Wickepin)



W. J. Thompson is remembered on the Pingelly Memorial Rotunda located as Memorial Park, Parade & Pasture Streets, Pingelly, Western Australia.



Pingelly Memorial Rotunda



W. J. Thompson is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff. Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

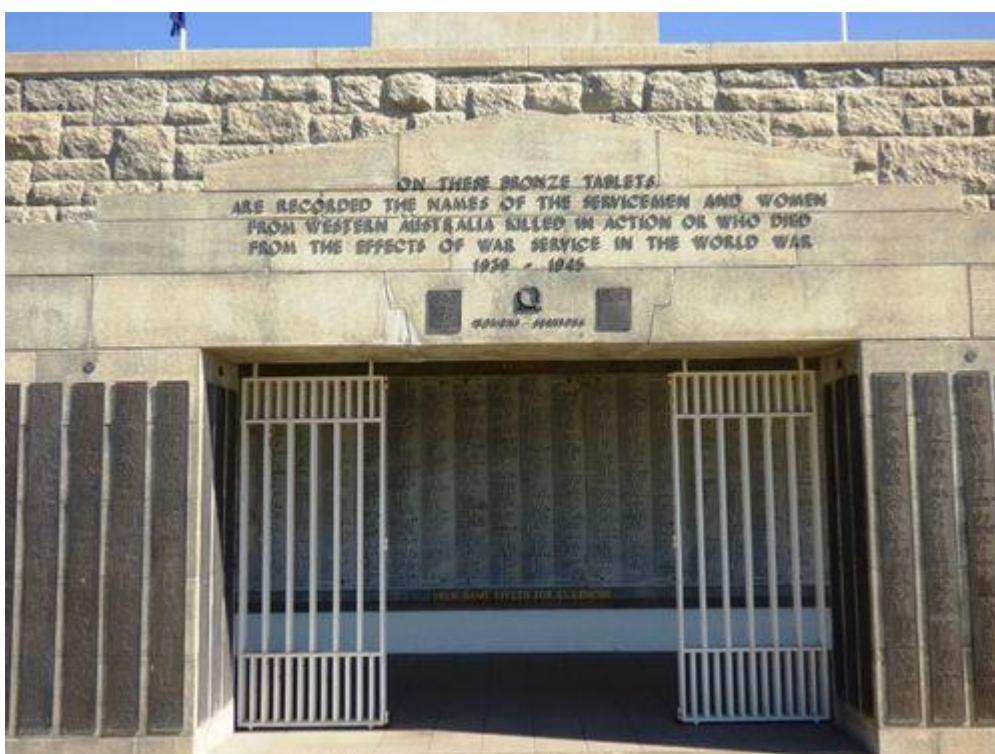
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)

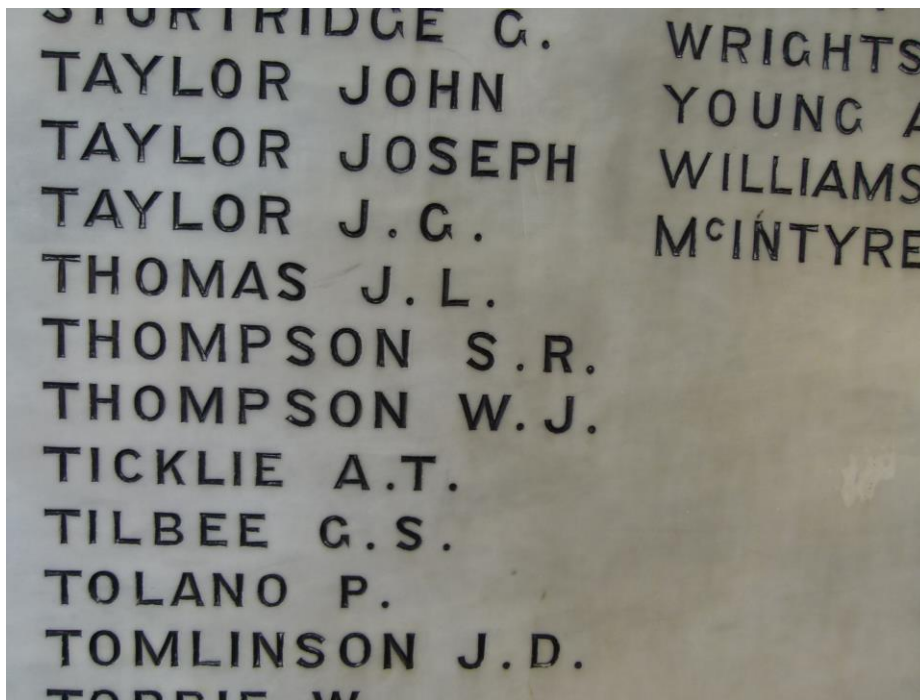
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)

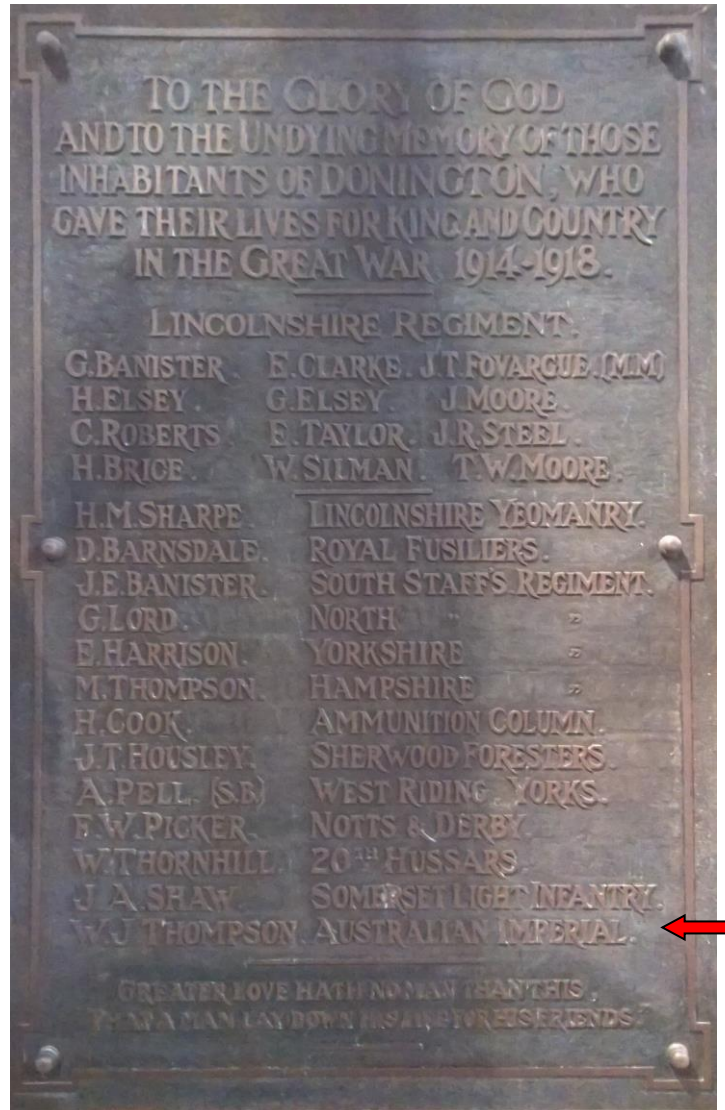




48th Battalion Names (Photos kindly supplied by Gordon Stuart)



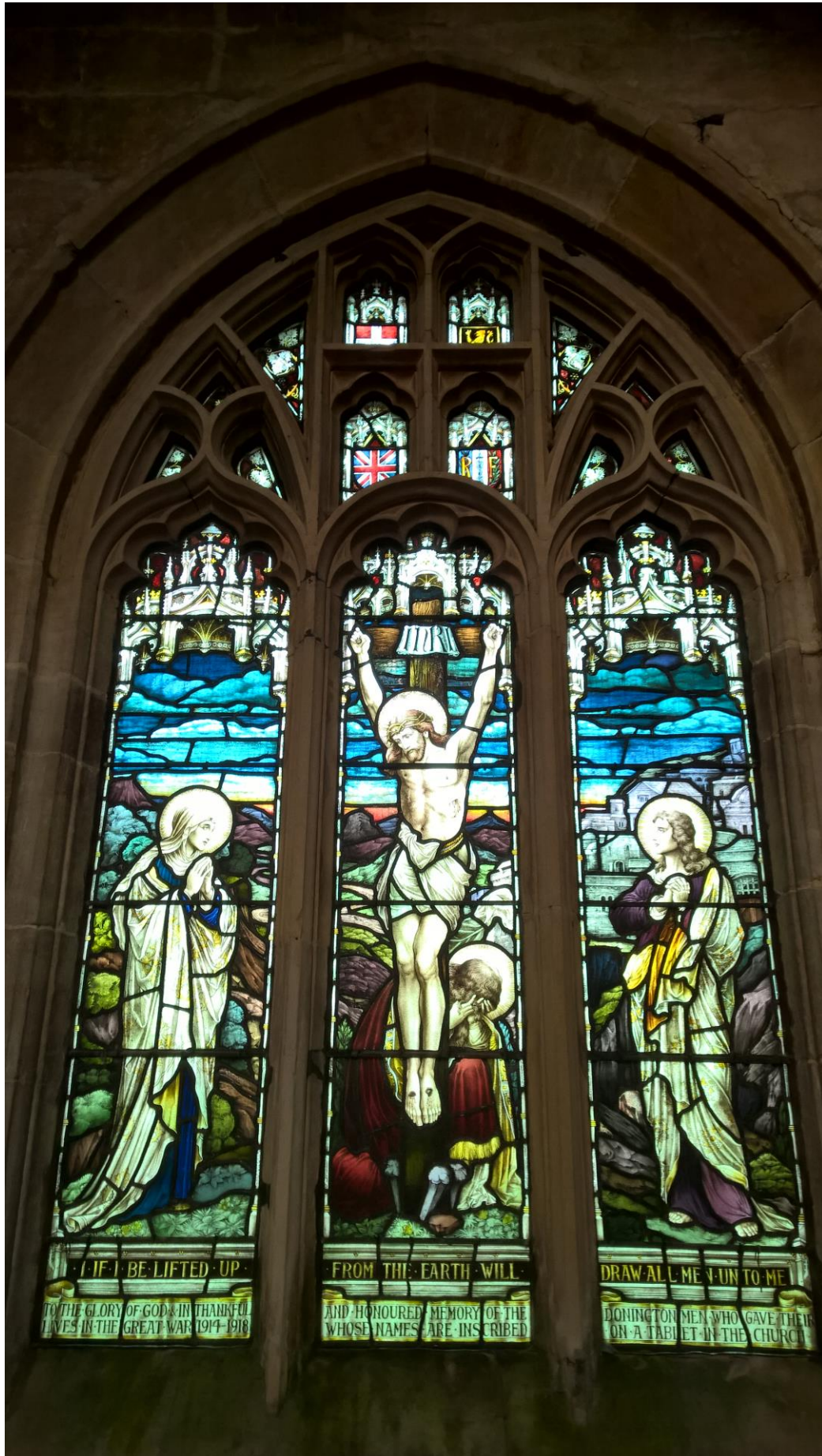
W. J. Thompson is also remembered on the Bronze tablet located on the East wall of the North aisle in St. Mary and the Holy Rood Church, Donington, Lincolnshire, England.



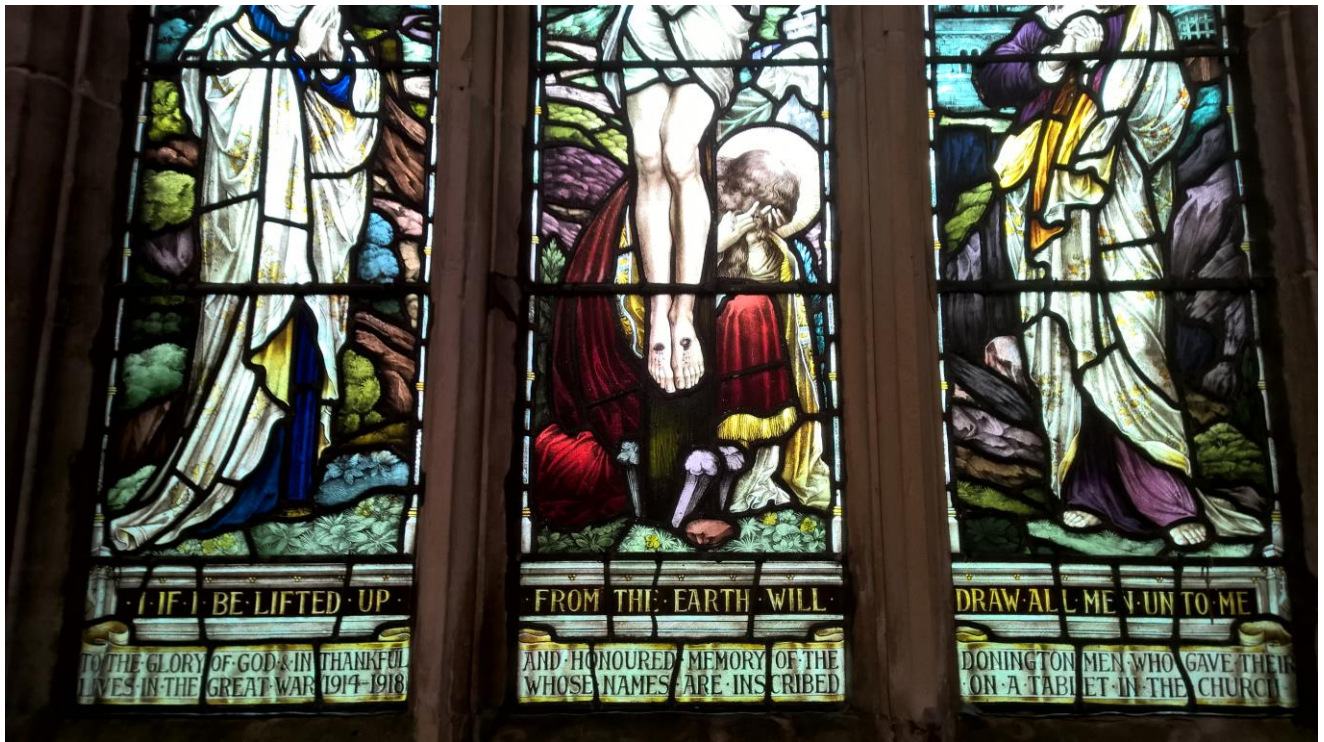
Donington Roll of Honour 1914-1918 (Photos courtesy of Edward Finch)



A Stained Glass Window is also located in St. Mary and the Holy Rood Church, Donington, Lincolnshire, England in memory of the Donington Men who gave their lives in the First World War.



(Photos courtesy of Edward Finch)



To The Glory Of God & In Thankful And Honoured Memory Of The Donington Men Who Gave their Lives In The Great War 1914-1918 Whose Names Are Inscribed On A Tablet In The Church

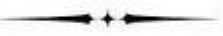
Private W. J. Thompson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 147.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(63 pages of Private William Jabez Thompson'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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

WOUNDED

William Jabez Thompson, England

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 14 August, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Died of illness – W. J. Thompson, (England)

(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 30 December, 1917)

DECEASED PERSON'S ESTATES

Amongst the probates issued by the Supreme Court to-day were the following:-

William Jabez Thompson, late Kirks Rock, to Richard Henry Thompson, £301.

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 12 July, 1918)

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 W. J. Thompson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Donington Cemetery, Donington, Lincolnshire, England

Donington Cemetery, Donington contains 5 Commonwealth War Graves – only 1 from World War 1 & 4 from World War 2.



(Photo above by Donnylad; below from CWGC)

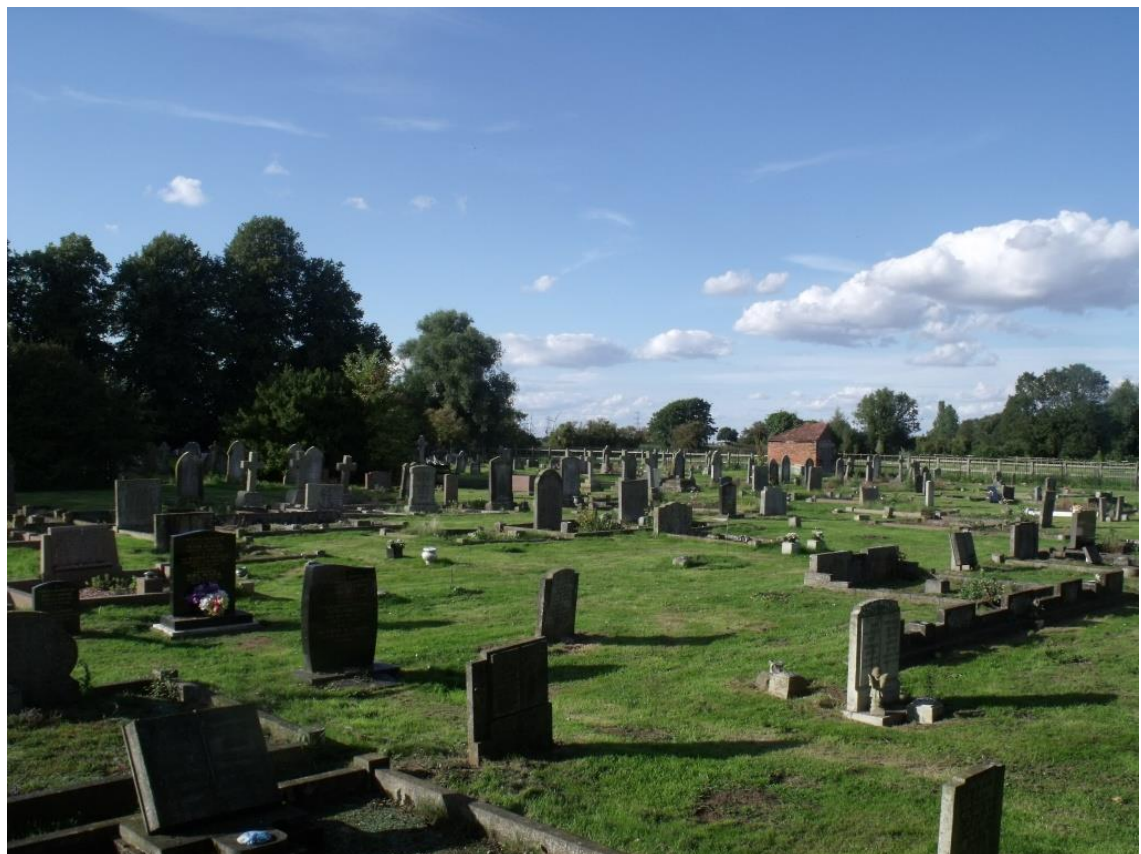


Photo of Private W. J. Thompson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Donington Old Cemetery, Donington, Lincolnshire, England.



(Photo by ColinA)



Anzac Day 2021 with Forget Me Not flowers (Photo courtesy of Edward Finch)