

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



399 PRIVATE

W. C. THOMSON

AUSTRALIAN CYCLIST CORPS

8TH MAY, 1916

William Campbell THOMSON

William Campbell Thomson was born on 10th September, 1893 at Townsville, Queensland to parents Duncan Campbell Thomson & Sarah Thomson (nee Scott).

William Campbell Thomson attended Brisbane Grammar School, Queensland from July, 1907 to April, 1910. He attended the University of Queensland.

William Campbell Thomson was a 22 year old, single, University Student from Cloncurry, North Queensland when he enlisted on 18th March, 1916 in Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sarah Thomson, Lake Nash Station, Cloncurry, North Queensland.

Private William Campbell Thomson was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 28th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 2/4th Cyclist Corps from 22nd April, 1916.

Australian Cyclist Corps

The Australian Cycling Corps was formed in Egypt in 1916 as part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and fought on the Western Front in France and Belgium during World War I. They were used mainly as despatch riders, while also conducting reconnaissance and patrolling. It was disbanded in 1919.

When the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was reorganised and expanded in Egypt in 1916 following its evacuation from Gallipoli, each of its five infantry divisions was allocated a company of cyclists in accordance with the British New Army establishment adopted at that time. At this time each company had an establishment of a headquarters and six cycle platoons with a total strength of 204 men. These companies were formed in March and April 1916 from volunteers from other AIF units in the Middle East. However, following their arrival in France, they were subsequently reorganised as corps troops, with the 1st and 2nd Cyclist Battalions being formed and attached to the I and II ANZAC Corps respectively in May and July. Meanwhile, a Cyclist Training Company was also formed in England. The 2nd Battalion included two companies of New Zealanders, and was commanded mostly by New Zealand officers. The establishment of each battalion included a headquarters and three companies, each of three platoons with a total of 26 officers and 310 other ranks.

The cyclist battalions were organised like the infantry, and were mainly used as despatch riders...*(Wikipedia)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DAOD01 39

Members of the Australian Cyclist Corps at Broadmeadows, Victoria, c. January 1915

Private William Campbell Thomson, Service number 399, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Clan McGillivray* (A46) on 1st May, 1916 with the 4th Cyclist Company, 2nd Reinforcements.



HMAT *Clan McGillivray* (A46)

Private William Campbell Thomson died at 5.45 am on 8th May, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Clan McGillivray* (A46) from Influenza, Myocarditis & Heart failure.

Private William Campbell Thomson is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

[Note: There is no official record of Private Thomson being buried at Sea & on what date in his Service Record file.]

Philip Frankel & Co., (Engineers' Furnishers and Oil Merchants), Brisbane, Queensland wrote to The Commandant Defence Department, Melbourne on 26th May, 1916: *"I heard to-day that a lad named William Thompson who was on board the Troopship "Clan McGallivry" No. A.46 died and was buried at sea before reaching Freemantle, I am very interested in on of the lade named William Campbell Thompson, and I should be very pleased if you would kindly advice whether this is the lad who died. If you would kindly send me a collect wire, I shall be very grateful to you indeed."*

Base Records replied to Mr P. Frankel on 9th June, 1916 with the following: *"....I beg to state the member of the force who is reported as having died on 8/5/16 from influenza, myocarditis, and heart failure at sea on board Transport "Clan McGillivray" is Private William Campbell Thomson, 2nd Reinforcements, 4th Cyclists Corps, who enlisted as a single man at Brisbane on 18th March 1916, stating his age at that date to be 22 years and 6 months. He was a University Student, and was born at Townville, Queensland, next-of-kin being show as mother, resident at Cloncurry, Queensland."*

(Note: On the summary Sheet of Private William Campbell Thomson – the following notes were made:

"1/6/16 Referred. Letter from P. Frankell asking information re death of above.

9/6/16 Reply sent to P. Frankell to 26/5/16.

The following was written but crossed out:

13/6/16 P Frankel acknlg 9.6.16 and asking whereabouts of his son."

DATE.	PURPORT.
31.5.16	M. C. 1 Advised Died 8/5/16. Influenza, etc.
1. 6. 16	COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS
1 6 16	AAG 3MD Refund. letter from P. Frankel asking information re Death of son
9 6 16	Reply sent to P. Frankel to 26/5/16 fwd by AAG. 3MD.
10 6 16	P. Frankel asking 9.6.16 and asking whereabouts of his son
8 6 17	DPM 3MD Ref. for information re Embell. & aid of work

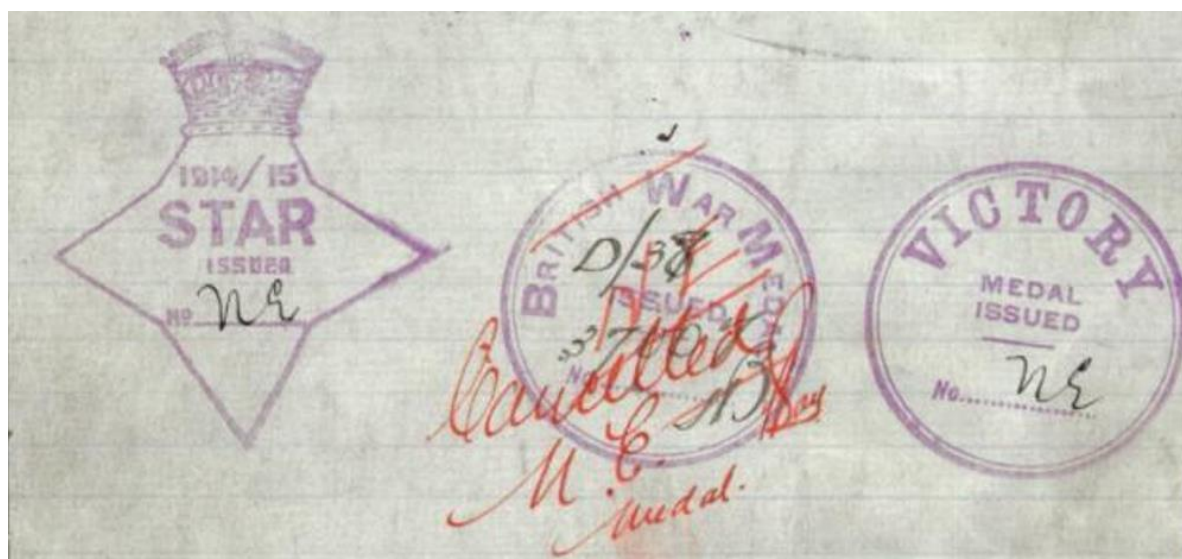
The Superintendent, Savings Bank Department, Commonwealth Bank, Brisbane, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 22nd November, 1916 requesting a Certificate of Death.

Base Records contacted Mrs S. Thomson, Lake Nash Station, Cloncurry, Queensland on 24th May, 1922 with the following letter: "I should be much obliged if you would advise me whether the father of the late Private W. C. Thomson, 4th Cyclists Corps, is living, and if so, his present address. This information is required in order that certain war mementos issuable in respect of the abovementioned soldier may be rightly disposed of."

Mrs S. Thomson, Ardvell (?) Station, Quilpie, replied to Base Records on 25th July, 1922 advising that the father of the late Private W. C. Thomson was living & that his address was D.C. Thomson, Manager, Ardvell (?) Station, Quilpie Post Office, Queensland. She also stated that the address given was also her new address.

Mr D. C. Thomson added to the letter from his wife (both sections of the letter were written by Mr D. C. Thomas, with him signing his name on the bottom portion & S. Thomas signing her name to the top portion of the letter) with the following: "As father of Private W. C. Thomson of 4th Cyclists Corps I would request that any mementos that should be forthcoming be given to my wife S. Thomson, mother of W. C. Thomson."

Private William Campbell Thomson was originally entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. He was marked as being issued British War Medal 37607 but this has been crossed out & written in red "N. E. Cancelled" (N.E. = Not entitled) A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Thomson's mother – Mrs S. Thomson, as signed over by his father. (Scroll & Plaque sent August, 1922).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Campbell Thomson – service number 399, of 4th Coy., 2nd Australian Cyclist Corps. No family details are listed.

Private W. C. Thomson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. C. Thomson is remembered on the Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board (2)



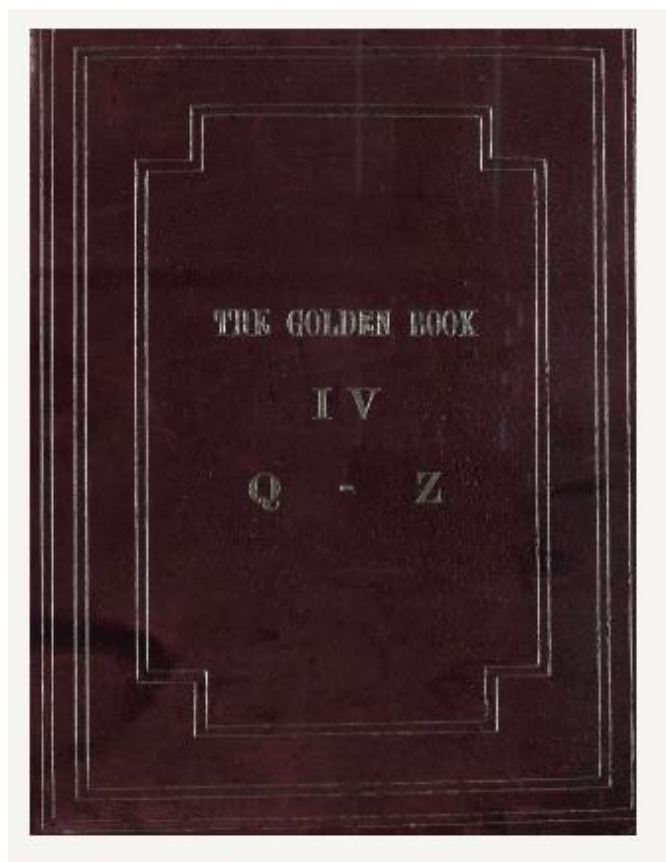
Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library



Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board

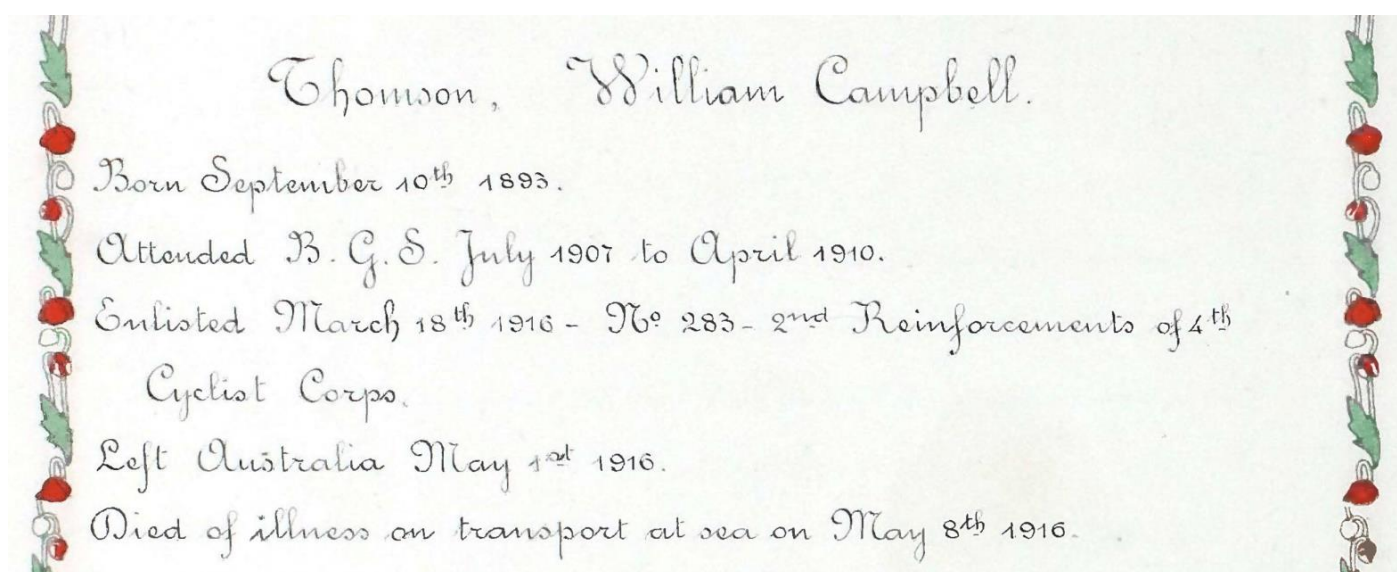
(Photos from Queensland War Memorials -Lesley McBurney)

William Campbell Thomson is remembered in The Golden Book (Volume IV) at Brisbane Grammar School. The volumes contain the names and records of the known 1020 Old Boys who volunteered for service in the First World War. Each name and record occupies an entire page, surrounded by an interlacing border of Flanders poppies.



The Golden Book - Volume IV

(Photos courtesy of Brisbane Grammar School)



William Campbell Thomson is remembered on the University of Queensland Roll of Honour, located in Forgan Smith Building, University of Queensland, University Drive, St. Lucia, near Brisbane, Queensland.



(Photo from VWMA – courtesy of University of Queensland)

(26 pages of Private William Campbell Thomson'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 (Note: The Service Record file is incorrectly listed under Service Number 3946 – should be 399)





(Photo from Brisbane Grammar School)



(Photo from The Queenslander Pictorial – 24 June, 1916)

The Roll of Honour.

QUEENSLAND CASUALTIES AT THE FRONT.



PVT. E. MURPHY, *Wounded*. PVT. J. H. BRADY, *Wounded*. PVT. W. EDWARDS, *Wounded*.



LIEUT. G. FRIDMANT, *Wounded*. *Wounded*. *Wounded*.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN MEMORIAL CHURCH, *Wounded*. *Wounded*. *Wounded*.



PVT. R. H. BLAKE, *Wounded*. P. J. TAYLOR, *Wounded*. A. WILKINSON, *Wounded*.



CORP. H. V. JENNINGS, *Wounded*. *Wounded*. *Wounded*.



PVT. H. B. BARRON, *Wounded*. PVT. A. B. WILLIAMS, *Wounded*. W. F. THOMAS, *Wounded*.



J. W. THOMAS, *Wounded*. PVT. HENRY J. BENTON, *Wounded*. WPT. WILKINSON, *Wounded*.



PVT. C. DAVIS, *Wounded*. PVT. J. J. JENNINGS, *Wounded*. PVT. A. BRADY, *Wounded*. —Photos by Talbot and Page.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO A SOLDIER. The soldier of today is a different man from the soldier of 1914. He is a more intelligent, more educated, more physically fit man. He is a more determined man. He is a more courageous man. He is a more loyal man. He is a more patriotic man. He is a more self-reliant man. He is a more resourceful man. He is a more adaptable man. He is a more resilient man. He is a more resilient man. He is a more resilient man.

(Photo from *The Queenslander Pictorial* – 24 June, 1916)

Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

175th LIST OF AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. C. Thomson, Cloncurry; 8/5/16

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 12 June, 1916)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish

Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice

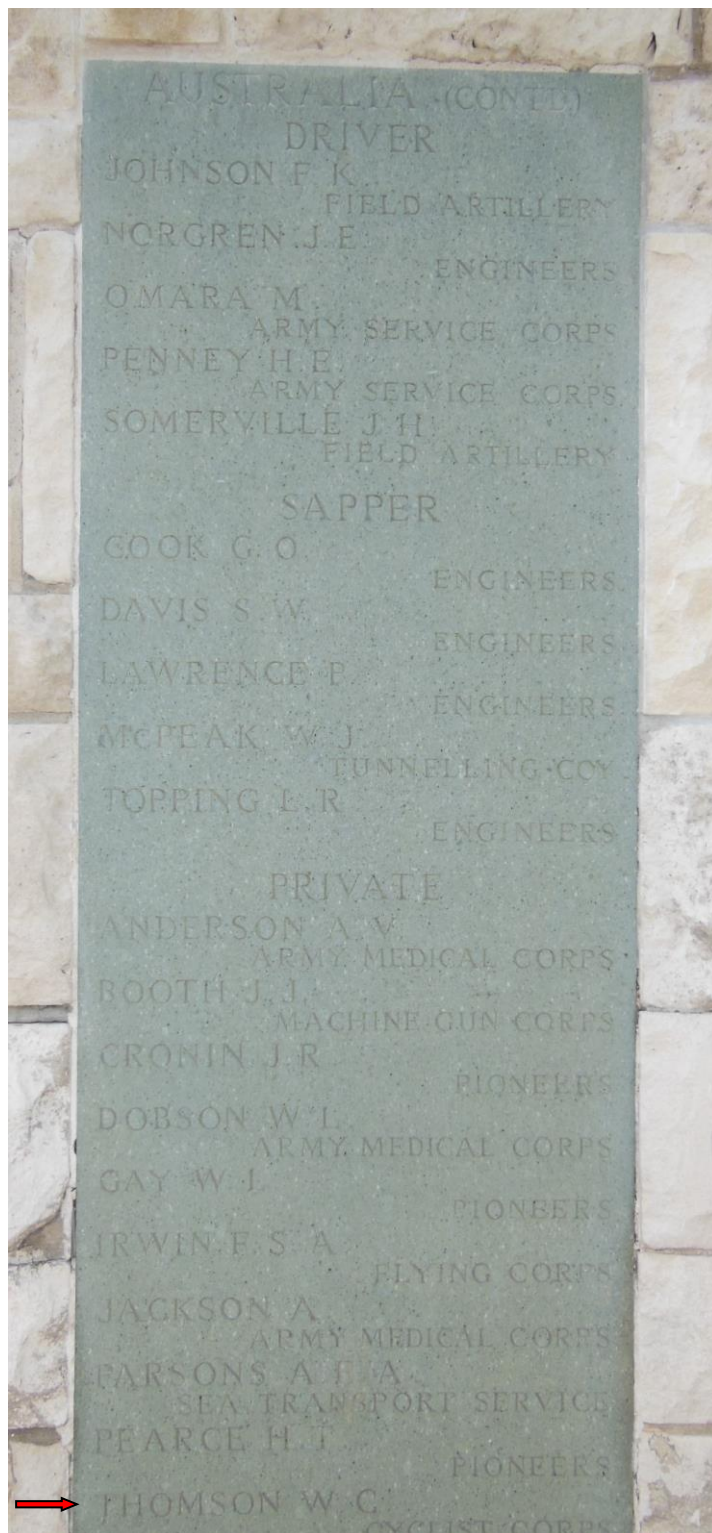


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice *(Photo from CWGC)*



CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Private W. C. Thomson's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

