

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6840 PRIVATE

R. H. THORBURN

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 22

In Memory Of

My Dearly Loved Son

Peace, Perfect Peace

Raymond Hercules THORBURN

Raymond Hercules Thorburn was born at Budgong, NSW on 10th September, 1894 to parents William and Mary Puxty Louisa Boxsell Georgina Yeoman Thorburn (nee Faulks).

Raymond Hercules Thorburn attended School at Budgong, NSW.

William Thorburn, father of Raymond Hercules Thorburn, died on 15th February, 1916 at Jaspers Brush, NSW.

Raymond Hercules Thorburn was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Merro Meadow via Nowra, NSW when he enlisted at Kiama, NSW on 14th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6830 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Thorburn, Merro Meadow via Nowra, NSW. (Note: Merro Meadow should be Meroo Meadow – spelling as per Embarkation Roll). Raymond Thorburn stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 1 year with Cadets then was exempt.

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn was posted to 13th Battalion on 14th October, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Port Nicholson* on 8th November, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

13th Battalion

The 13th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion was recruited in New South Wales, and with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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 Raymond Hercules Thorburn was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from Overseas on 10th January, 1917.

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn was sent sick to Salisbury Isolation Hospital from 4th Training Battalion at Codford on 11th February, 1917 with Influenza.

(Note: The Hospital Admissions form in the Service Record file of Private Thorburn recorded that he was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital on 10th February, 1917 & died on 20th February, 1917 from Broncho Pneumonia & Heart failure. The Hospital Admissions form does not record any names. It also does not list Sutton Veny Hospital (below)

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn was admitted to Sutton Veny Hospital, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1917 sick (slight).

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn died at 3.30 pm on 19th February, 1917 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Raymond H. Thorborn, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn was buried on 22nd February, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 111 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Thorburn, Meroo Meadow, via Nowra, NSW, on 7th May, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late Private R. H. Thorburn but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive 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.

Base Records again contacted Mrs M. Thorburn, Meroo Meadow, via Nowra, NSW, on 25th July, 1923 asking if communications addressed would reach her & also asked if the father of the late Private R. H. Thornburn was still alive.

Base Records wrote to Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation at Redfern, NSW, on 21st March, 1924 stating that they had written previously on "25th July last, to which no reply has so far been received." The letter continued "I shall be glad to learn whether any pension is being paid on account of the service of the late No. 6840 Private R. H. Thornburn, 13th Battalion, if so, the name, address and relationship of the pensioner." A reply was sent on 31st March, 1924 stating that no claim for a pension had been lodged on account of the service of the late Private R. H. Thornburn.

Base Records wrote to D.F.O. (District Finance Officer) 2nd Military District on 23rd April, 1924 asking if the War Gratuity or other file could furnish them with the names and addresses of any blood relations of the late Private Raymond Hercules, Thornburn, 13th Battalion. A reply was sent on 2nd May, 1924 with the information that Mrs M. Thorburn, Meroo Meadow, NSW was paid the Gratuity.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Thorburn, Meroo Meadow, via Nowra, NSW, on 16th May, 1924 stating they had written to her on 6th May, 1921 & again on 25th July, 1923 requesting her to advise if the father of the late Private R. H. Thornburn was still living but had not received any replies & no letters had been returned unclaimed. Base Records continued in the letter that they required to know so that the War Medals etc could be issued. If no reply was received the only course open was to place the mementoes as "Untraceables" to be "in all probability, eventually destroyed...".

Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn 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 Thorburn's next of kin (Scroll & Plaque records both marked "Pending").

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn – service number 6840, aged 22, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Mary Thorburn, of Meroo Meadow, Nowra, New South Wales.

Private R. H. Thorburn is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 71.

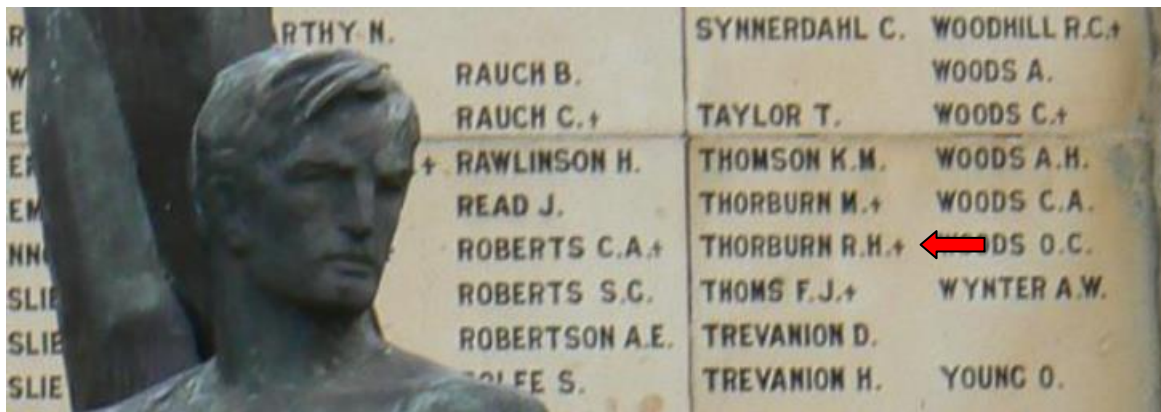


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. H. Thorburn is remembered on the Nowra Soldiers Memorial located on West & Junction Streets, Nowra, NSW.



Nowra Soldiers Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(42 pages of Private Raymond Hercules Thorburn'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

FOR AUSTRALIA

A HEAVY CASUALTY LIST

The 277th list of Australian casualties was issued this morning.

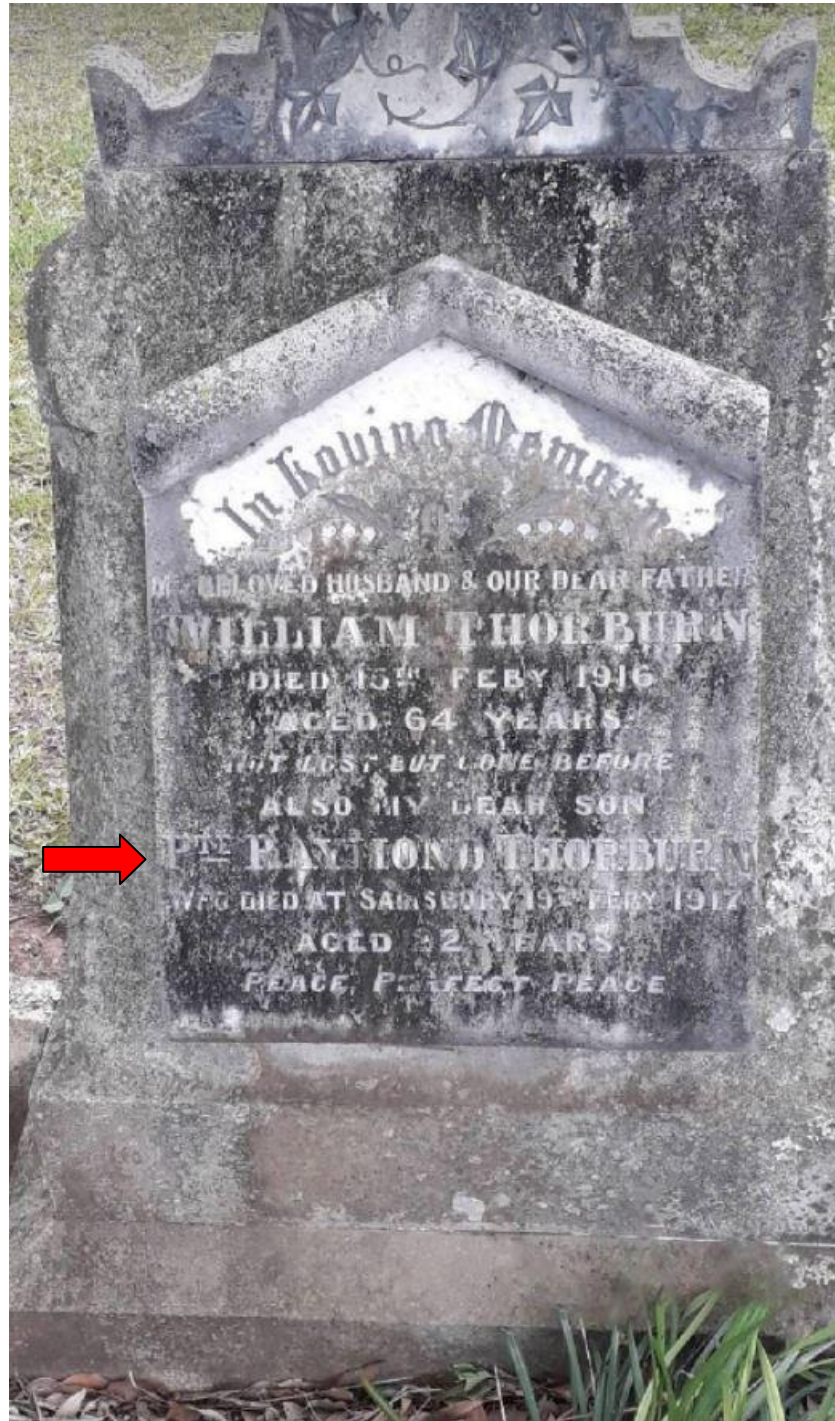
DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte R. H. THORBURN, Nowra

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 8 March, 1917)

Raymond Thorburn is remembered on his father's headstone in Berry Cemetery, 2 Kangaroo Valley Road, Berry, NSW.





Pte RAYMOND THORBURN

Who Died At Salisbury 19TH Feby 1917

Aged 22 Years

Peace, Perfect Peace



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 R. H. Thorburn does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory of My Dearly Loved Son

Peace Perfect Peace

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Private R. H. Thorburn's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



Original Grave Markers – Private R. H. Thorburn (red arrow)





Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice

Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)