

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4267 PRIVATE**

**D. THORPE**

**28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**13TH JULY, 1918**

## Daniel THORPE

Daniel Thorpe was born in Wairoa, New Zealand around 1876 to Stephen Thorpe. (No match can be found in New Zealand Births, Deaths & Marriages). (A marriage was registered in 1878 between a "Stephen Thorpe & Ahenita Taura".)

The 1903 & 1906 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Fremantle, subdivision of North Fremantle, Western Australia listed Daniel Thorpe, Labourer from Thompson Road.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Fremantle, subdivision of North Fremantle, Western Australia listed Daniel Thorpe, Labourer from Thompson Road, Buckland Hill.

Daniel Thorpe was a 40 year old, single, Labourer from Thompson Road, Fremantle, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 5th January, 1916 (date as per Embarkation Roll however Attestation Papers are dated 21st December, 1915) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4267 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Stephen Thorpe, Wainoa (as listed on Embarkation Roll), New Zealand. Daniel Thorpe stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 8th months with W. A. I. R.

Private Daniel Thorpe was posted to 40th Depot on 5th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 1st February, 1916.

Private Daniel Thorpe embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 1st April, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private Daniel Thorpe embarked from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on H.T. *Minnetonka*. He disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12th June, 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 Daniel Thorpe proceeded to France on 25th July, 1916 from 7th Training Battalion. He was marched in to No. 2 Divisional Base at Etaples, France on 26th July, 1916. Private Thorpe proceeded to his Unit on 4th August, 1916 & was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 8th August, 1916.

Private Daniel Thorpe was sent to Hospital on 12th August, 1916. He was admitted to No. 5 Australian Field Ambulance on 15th August, 1916 with Pleurisy then transferred to No. 4 Casualty Clearing Station on 16th August, 1916. Private Thorpe was transferred to Ambulance Train on 24th August, 1916 & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 24th August, 1916 with Pleurisy. He was marked for transfer to England on 26th August, 1916 & embarked from Boulogne, France on 26th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Western Australia*.

Private Daniel Thorpe was admitted to Royal Victorian Hospital, Netley, England on 27th August, 1916 with Pleurisy. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 21st September, 1916. Private Thorpe was discharged on 23rd September, 1916.

Mr S. Thorpe, Wairoa, New Zealand was advised by Base Records on 19th September, 1916 that Private D. Thorpe had been admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital on 27th August, 1916 suffering from pleurisy – mild.

Private Daniel Thorpe was taken on strength of No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 25th September, 1916.

Private Daniel Thorpe was transferred to 7th Training Battalion & medically classified as B on 10th October, 1916.

Private Daniel Thorpe was granted furlough from No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs from 9th November, 1916 & reported back from furlough on 9th November, 1916. He was medically classified B1 A.

Private Daniel Thorpe was recorded to be fit for General Service on 19th March, 1917.

Private Daniel Thorpe proceeded overseas to France from 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire, on 25th April, 1917. He was marched in to No. 2 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 25th

April, 1917. Private Thorpe proceeded to join his Unit on 30th April, 1917 & rejoined 28th Battalion in France on 2nd May, 1917.

Private Daniel Thorpe was wounded in action in France on 1st June, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field with bullet wound/s to back. Private Thorpe was transferred & admitted to 61st Casualty Clearing Station on 1st June, 1918. He was transferred to Ambulance Train on 2nd June, 1918 & admitted to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outram, France on 3rd June, 1918. Private Thorpe embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 5th June, 1918.

## **28th Battalion**

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.....

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France and the Western Front, as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 28th Battalion took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 6 August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division returned to the south in October, where the 28th Battalion took part in confused and costly fighting to the east of Flers, in the Somme Valley.

For many of the major battles of 1917 the 28th found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the 28th provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting. The 28th went on to attack as part of the third phase at the battle of Menin Road, capturing its objectives in seven minutes, and was in reserve during the capture of Broodseinde Ridge. The battalion was also in reserve for the battle of Poelcappelle on 9 October, but, with the attack floundering in the mud, it soon became embroiled in the fighting.

In April 1918, the 28th fought to turn back the German spring offensive and, from 8 August participated in the joint British and French offensive that marked the beginning of Germany's defeat. The Battalion was prominent in the fighting to secure crossing points over the Somme River around Peronne, and in the advance beyond Mont St Quentin. The 28th's last actions of the war were fought as part of the effort to break through the Beaulieu Line in the first week of October 1918. The first members of the battalion began returning to Australia in January, and the 28th was disbanded in March 1919.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 28th Battalion

*Divisional Reserve La Houssoye*

*1st June 1918*

*Weather – Warm*

*Relief – At midnight 31st – 1st the Battn was relieved by the 22nd Battn. 6th (A.I. Brigade). The Companies in being relieved proceeded by march route to LA HOUSOYE independently. On arrival at LA HOUSOYE switch trench of "B" Company an enemy plane appeared overhead. Apparently the Company was observed by the pilot, who, in quick succession dropped two bombs, which unfortunately fell on that Company, killing 27 OR & wounding 1 Off & 39 O. Ranks & 3 horses killed. The Headquarters Staff including Lt. Col. Gurrie, D.S.O. had a marvellous escape, they being only seven yards away from where the bombs dropped. At the time of the accident the men were in excellent spirits after their turn of duty in the trenches & Brigade Reserves. The affair cast a gloom over the whole of the Battalion. The bodies were buried in Franvillers Cemetery.*

*General – Apart from this very painful affair, the day passed off very quietly.....*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Daniel Thorpe was admitted to Southwark Military Hospital, London, England on 6th June, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Back – severe & wounds to Spinal cord (paralysis to left leg).

The Defence Department advised Base Records, Wellington, New Zealand on 14th June, 1918 to "inform Stephen Thorpe, Wairoa, son 4267 Daniel Thorpe wounded." They advised Base Records Wellington on 20th June, 1918 to "inform next of kin 4267 Thorpe admitted Southwark Military Hospital sixth June gunshot wound back severe."

The Defence Department advised Base Records, Wellington, New Zealand on 21st June, 1918 to "*inform next of kin 4267 Thorpe dangerously ill.*" Base Records Wellington was advised on 26th June, 1918 to "*advise next kin 4267 Thorpe condition stationary.*"

The Defence Department advised Base Records, Wellington, New Zealand on 4th July, 1918 to "*inform next of kin 4267 Thorpe progressing favourably.*"

Private Daniel Thorpe died at 11 pm on 13th July, 1918 at Southwark Military Hospital, East Dulwich Grove, London, England from G.S.W. (bomb) back with wound spinal cord (Corda Equinia).

A death for Daniel Thorpe, aged 43, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Camberwell, London, England.

Private Daniel Thorpe was buried at 1.30 pm on 18th July, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground Grave number 181, 300.

*From the burial report of Private Daniel Thorpe - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the Funeral*

The Defence Department advised Base Records, Wellington, New Zealand on 20th July, 1918 to "*inform next kin 4267 Thorpe died wounds 13/7/18 Southwark Military Hospital.*"

Base Records wrote to Mr S. Thorpe, Wairoa, New Zealand on 19th April, 1923 stating that the site of the late No. 4267 Private D. Thorpe's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row B Grave 2. "*While the actual place of burial remains unchanged the previous registration allotted thereto has been altered to conform with the uniform layout of this Cemetery.*" This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV.B.2. Private Daniel Thorpe now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Daniel Thorpe contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. There are two letters in Private Thorpe's Red Cross file:

- Letter from Major, R.A.M.C., Registrar for O.C. Southwark Military Hospital "*I have to inform you that Pte D. Thorpe was admitted to this Hospital on 6-6-18 and died on 13-7-18. He was suffering from G.S.W. (Bomb) back with lesions spinal cord crushed spine. The body was taken over by the Australian Authorities and I presume that he was buried at Brookwood.*"
- Margaret S. Hepner, Frognaal Priory, 43, Frognaal, Hamstead wrote: "*Re 4267 Pte D. Thorpe. 28th Battalion, A.I.F. who died at the Southwark Military Hospital on 6-6-18. I have ascertained that this patient was seriously ill when he entered the Hospital. He was suffering from an injury to the spine which paralysed the lower part of the body, and lower limbs. Sister Forsythe, War H.2. in which the patient was, remembers all about the case. She told me that she wrote two letters to the relations of Pte D. Thorpe, the Matron of the Hospital, also wrote two letters to his relatives. Sister Forsythe said everything was done to help the patient possible, but from the first it was a serious case. When Pte D. Thorpe died, the Nurses gave a wreath to place on his coffin, the other patients also gave a wreath, and the Hospital Visitor for the Australian Red Cross gave a wreath. The Hospital Lady Visitor for the Australian Red Cross was very kind and attentive to Pte D. Thorpe during his illness. Sister Forsythe said Pte D. Thorpe is buried at Brookwood, Woking and when Sister Forsythe wrote, she sent to his relatives, in her letter, a few little flowers from the wreaths placed on the grave.*"

Private Daniel Thorpe requested in his Will dated 14th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to Mrs Naomi Bailey, of Thompson Road, North Fremantle.

The personal effects of the late Private Daniel Thorpe were sent to Mrs N. Bailey, Thompson Road, North Fremantle, Western Australia.

Private Daniel Thorpe was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal (despatched February, 1922). A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Thorpe's father – Mr S. Thorpe, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private D. Thorpe – service number 4267, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

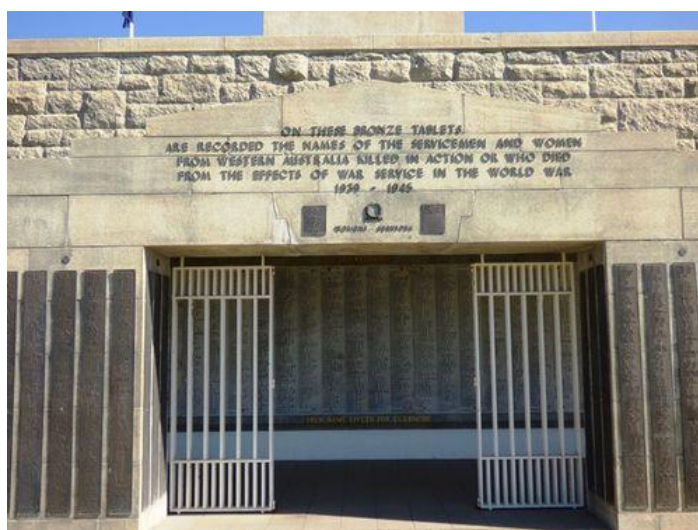
D. Thorpe is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica 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)*







28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

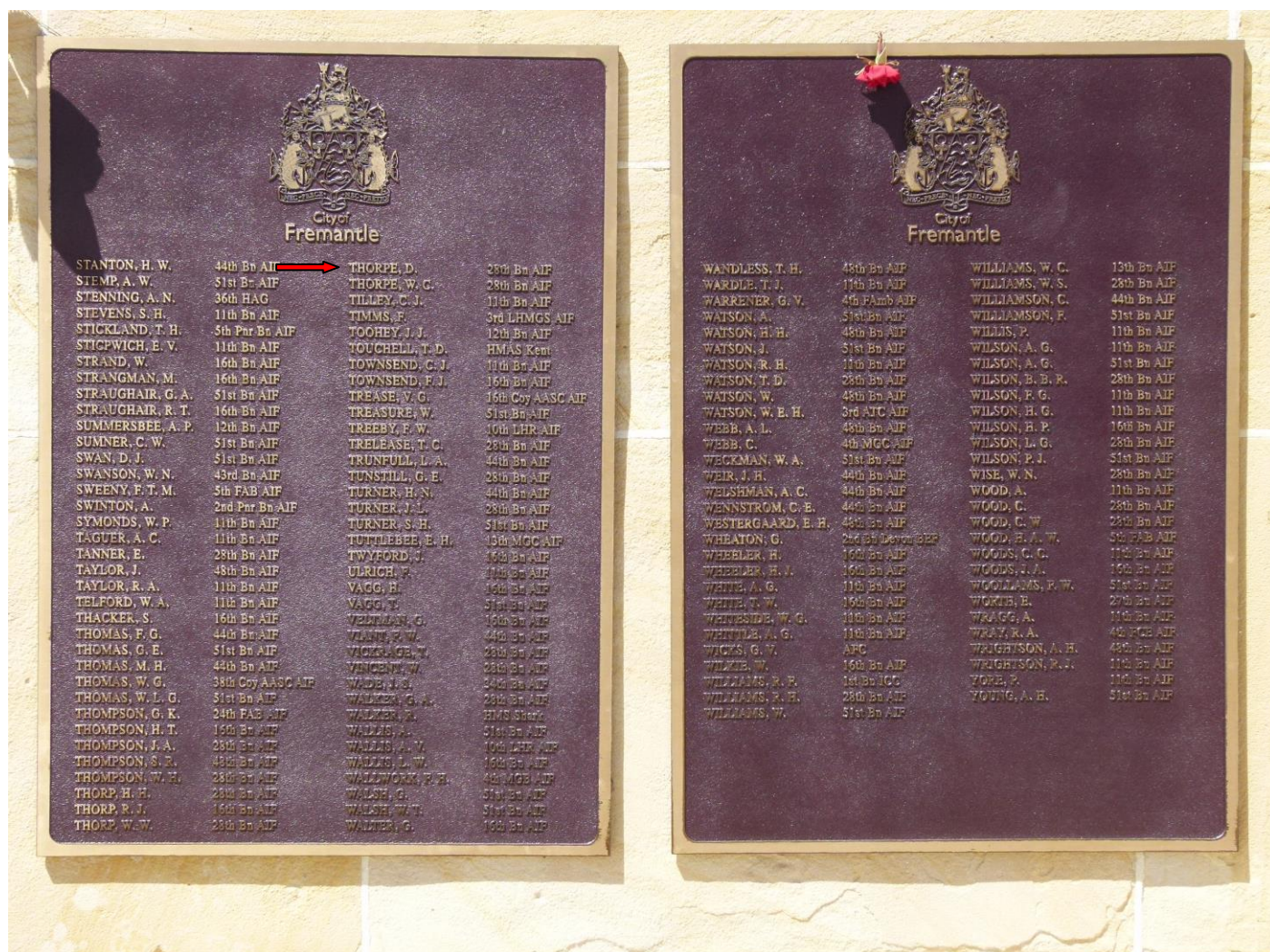
D. Thorpe is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.







Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Fremantle Name Panels (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

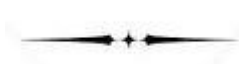
Private D. Thorpe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 114.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(64 pages of Private Daniel Thorpe'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**

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR**

The 413th list of casualties reported to have occurred among West Australian members of the A.I.F. is as under.....

#### **WOUNDED**

Daniel Thorpe, N.Z., previously reported ill.

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 2 July, 1918)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

....

### **WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES**

An Australian hospital report is:-

Progressing Favourably: Daniel Thorpe, Wairoa.

*(New Zealand Herald – 15 July, 1918)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

....

### **WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES**

DIED OF WOUNDS

Thorpe, Daniel, July 13 – S. Thorpe, Wairoa (f.)

*(New Zealand Herald – 29 July, 1918)*

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## **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

### **W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR**

The 420th list of casualties among West Australian members of the A.I.F. is as follows.....

DIED OF WOUNDS

Daniel Thorpe, N.Z., previously reported missing.

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 2 July, 1918)*

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### 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 D. Thorpe does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

*A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)*

*Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.*

*Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.*





**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photo from CWGC)



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)







*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



**Australian War Graves** *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*



Photo of Private D. Thorpe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.







(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

