

**City Road Cemetery,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**8360 PRIVATE**

**J. THORPE**

**ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS**

**19TH SEPTEMBER, 1919 Age 54**

## Joseph THORPE

Joseph Thorpe was born at Sheffield, Yorkshire, England to parents Thomas and Ann Thorpe (nee Hodgson). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1865.

The 1871 England Census recorded Joseph Thorpe as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at 3 Pembroke Street, Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Thorpe (Pen Blade Grinder, aged 29, born Sheffield, Yorkshire) & Ann Thorpe (aged 28, born Sheffield, Yorkshire). Joseph was one of four children listed on this Census (all born Sheffield, Yorkshire) – Sarah Thorpe (Scholar, aged 8), then Joseph, William H. Thorpe (Scholar, aged 4) & Ann E. Thorpe (aged 1).

A “Joseph Thorpe” aged 13, Pen Pocket Blade Grinder, was listed in H.M. Prison at Wakefield on 4th April, 1879 for Juvenile offence – stealing 1 shilling (?). He was to be whipped with – strokes with a \_\_\_rod. He was discharged on 12th April, 1879.

The 1881 England Census recorded Joseph Thorpe as a 16 year old Spring Knife Grinder, living with his family at 76 Lower Chippinghouse Road, Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Thorpe (Spring Knife Grinder, aged 39) & Ann Thorpe (aged 38). Joseph was the eldest of five children listed on this Census (all born Sheffield, Yorkshire) – Joseph then Ann E. Thorpe (Scholar, aged 11), Thomas (Scholar, aged 9), John Thorpe (Scholar, aged 7) & Samuel Thorpe (aged 3). Also listed in the household were 2 Boarders – John Crapper (Spring Knife Grinder, aged 20) & his wife Sarah Crapper (aged 18).

Joseph Thorpe joined South Yorkshire Regiment on 19th April, 1883 at Pontefract, Wakefield, West Yorkshire & was issued with a Regimental number of 557. He was a Grinder, aged 18 years & 7 months & stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with the 3rd Battalion, South Yorks Regiment. His religion was listed as Church of England & his next-of-kin was listed as his father – Mr Thomas Thorpe, 76 Chipping House Road, Low Fields, Heeley, near Sheffield. Joseph Thorpe had the following details noted in his Medical History sheet – “*Imitation of ring tattooed on back of 3rd finger of each had – Two dots on back of left hand – Two dots on back of left fore arm & anchor on back of left fore arm.*”

Private Joseph Thorpe was on Home Service from 18th April, 1883 to 24th November, 1884. During that time he was Absent without leave from 30th June to 5th July, 1883 & again from 6th September to 12th September, 1883. Private Thorpe was Absent without leave again from 10th November to 27th November, 1883. He was listed as “rejoined \_\_\_conf’t” from 28th November 1883 until 5th December, 1883. Private Thorpe was Imprisoned by C. O. from 6th December to 23rd December, 1883. The next entry on the Statement of Service form lists Private Joseph Thorpe serving from 24th December, 1883 to 21st May, 1888 – a total of 4 years & 149 days.

Joseph Thorpe was listed in H.M. Prison at Wakefield on 27th November, 1883 at Sheffield. He was a deserter from the 2nd South Yorkshire Regiment & was sentenced to 8 days unless removed by an Escort. His description was listed as 19 years old, 5ft 4 ¼ inches with sandy hair. His occupation was listed as Grinder or Soldier. He had an anchor & several blue dots on his left arm. Joseph Thorpe was discharged on 4th December, 1883.

Private Joseph Thorpe was serving in the East Indies from 25th November, 1884 to 20th December, 1887 – 3 years & 26 days. He served in the Burmah 1886–7 campaign. Private Thorpe received the India Medal & Clasp for Burmah 85 – 87 & Clasp for Burmah 1887 – 89.

Private Joseph Thorpe was paid Good conduct pay @ 1d. on 14th August, 1886.

Private Joseph Thorpe was back on Home Service from 21st December, 1887 until 17th April, 1895 – 7 years & 118 days.

The Statement of Service form recorded that Private Joseph Thorpe was with “\_\_\_ A. R. 51 Regtl Dist” from 22nd May, 1888 until 30th September, \_\_\_ - 2 years & 132 days.

Joseph Thorpe married Frances Caroline Shaw on 14th October, 1888 at Christ Church, Heeley, Yorkshire, England. Their marriage was registered in December quarter, 1888 in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Private Joseph Thorpe served for a total of 12 years.

The 1891 England Census recorded Joseph Thorpe as a 26 year old, Spring Knife Grinder, living with his wife & 2 children at 8 Midland Road, Heeley, Yorkshire. Joseph's wife was Frances C. Thorpe (aged 22, born Sheffield, Yorkshire) & their 2 children (both born Heeley, Sheffield, Yorkshire) – Frances Thorpe (aged 2) & Joseph Thorpe (aged 2 months). Also listed in the household was Caroline K. Shaw, a visitor (Scholar, aged 10).

The 1901 England Census recorded Joseph Thorpe as a 36 year old, Spring Knife Grinder, living with his wife & 4 children at 36 Barton Road, Heeley, Yorkshire. Joseph's wife was Frances C. Thorpe (aged 32) & their 4 children (all born Sheffield, Yorkshire) – Frances Thorpe (aged 12), Joseph Thorpe (aged 10), Ann E. Thorpe (aged 5) & John W. Thorpe (aged 4 months).

The 1911 England Census recorded Joseph Thorpe as a 46 year old, Grinder living with his wife & 3 children at 20 Midland Road, Heeley, Sheffield, Yorkshire which was a 5 roomed dwelling. Joseph's wife was Frances Carline Thorpe (aged 42). They had been married for 22 years & had a total of 13 children – 5 still living; 8 having died. The three children were – Ann Elizabeth Thorpe (aged 15), Ada Thorpe (aged 6) & Edith Thorpe (aged 2 months).

Ann Thorpe, mother of Joseph Thorpe, died in 1914 in Easingwold, Yorkshire, England.

Thomas Thorpe, father of Joseph Thorpe, died in 1915 in Easingwold, Yorkshire, England.

The photo of Private Joseph Thorpe (see below) shows the cap badge of West Yorkshire Regiment.



Private Joseph Thorpe is listed on the UK World War 1 Pension Ledgers & Index Cards for 1914 -1923 with Royal Defence Corps, service number 8360 – Other Ranks survived.

### **Royal Defence Corps**

The Royal Defence Corps was a corps of the British Army formed in March 1916 and disbanded in 1936.

It was initially formed by converting the (Home Service) Garrison battalions of line infantry regiments. Garrison battalions were composed of soldiers either too old or medically unfit for active front-line service; the Home Service status indicated they were unable to be transferred overseas. Eighteen battalions were converted in this way.

The role of the corps was to provide troops for security and guard duties inside the United Kingdom; guarding important locations such as ports or bridges. It also provided independent companies for guarding prisoner-of-war camps. The corps was never intended to be employed on overseas service.

(Wikipedia)

No Military Records could be located for Private Joseph Thorpe for World War 1. Many World War 1 Service Records files were lost in the bombing in World War 2.

Private Joseph Thorpe died on 19th September, 1919 from Bronchitis

A death for Joseph Thorpe, aged 54, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Private Joseph Thorpe was buried in City Road Cemetery, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England – Plot number EE. "C". 15202 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Joseph Thorpe is listed on the UK World War 1 Pension Ledgers & Index Cards for 1914 -1923 with Royal Defence Corps, service number 8360 – Other Ranks Died. Date of death 19th September, 1919. His widow was listed as "*Francis Karoline Thorpe*".

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Thorpe – service number 8360, aged 54, of Royal Defence Corps. He was the son of Thomas and Ann Thorpe; husband of Frances Caroline Thorpe, of Russell St., Cardiff, New South Wales, Australia.

Private Joseph Thorpe is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*\*\*\*\*Note: It appears that Private Joseph Thorpe's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.*

*Mrs Frances Thorpe, aged 50, along with 2 daughters – Ada Thorpe (aged 15) & Edith Thorpe (aged 9) were passengers on Euripides that departed from the port of London, England on 31st March, 1920 bound for Australia.*

*The 1932 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Hunter, subdivision of Boolaroo, New South Wales, listed Frances Caroline Thorpe, Home Duties, & Edith Thorpe, Shop Assistant, both at Russell Street, Cardiff.*

*Mrs Frances Caroline Thorpe, widow of the late Private Joseph Thorpe, died on 21st April, 1934. She was buried in Sandgate Cemetery, Sandgate, near Newcastle, NSW, Australia*



**Commemorative Roll** (Photo from AWM)



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives*



### 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.

## City Road Cemetery, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England

During the First World War there were two substantial war hospitals in Sheffield, the Wharnccliffe, in the Wadsley Asylum, and the 3rd Northern General, housed in 15 separate buildings. The city, a centre for war industry during the Second World War, suffered heavy enemy air-raids during the Blitz with 600 people killed in a single raid in December 1940.

The First World War graves in Sheffield (City Road) Cemetery are scattered and a screen wall in Section Q (near the main entrance) bears the names of a number of casualties buried in graves that could not be marked with headstones. There is a small plot of Second World War graves in Section H and the rest are scattered. The plot also contains a number of special memorials headstones to casualties buried elsewhere in the cemetery in graves that could not be marked individually and a screen wall commemorates casualties buried in Sheffield (St Philip)(Wardsend) Church Cemetery whose graves could no longer be maintained.

In all, SHEFFIELD (CITY ROAD) CEMETERY contains 193 burials and commemorations of the First World War and 138 from the Second. There are also five non-war service burials and nine war graves of other nationalities.

On the western boundary of the war graves plot there is a memorial commemorating 30 servicemen whose remains were cremated at SHEFFIELD CREMATORIUM.

*(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photo by Ian S)*



*(Photo by Peter Davies)*



*(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Private J. Thorpe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in City Road Cemetery, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.

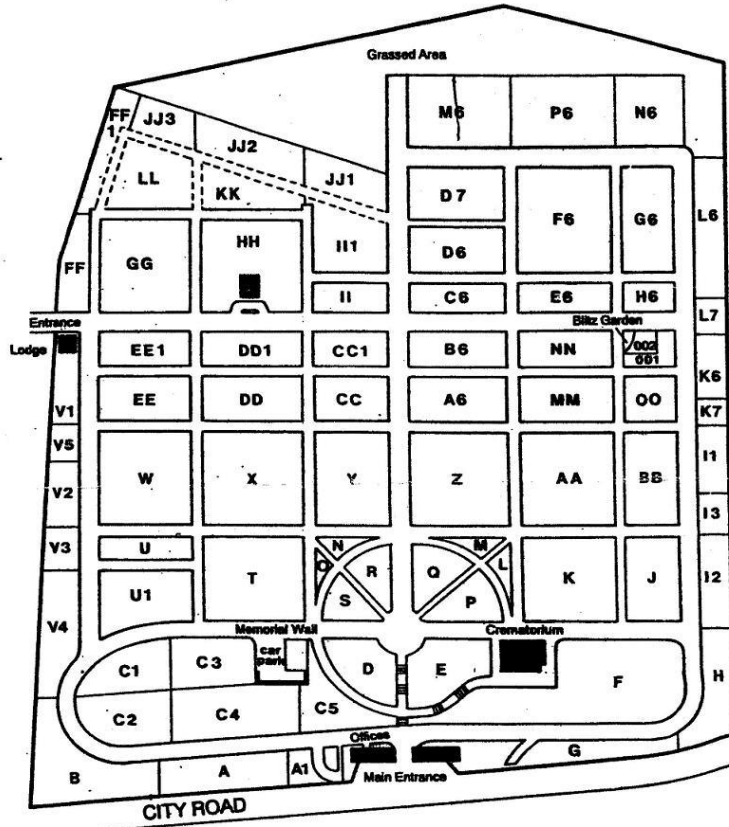


*(Photo by Stephen Farnell – Find a Grave)*



# CITY ROAD CEMETERY

City Road, Sheffield 2.



■ = Buildings



Sheffield City Council, Directorate of Environmental Services & Standards, Bereavement Services Department.