

**Fort George Military Cemetery,  
St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5578 SERJEANT**

**T. R. THRESHER**

**ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT**

**4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 35**

*Father In Thy Gracious*

*Keeping*

*Leave We Now Thy Servant*

*Sleeping*

## Thomas Richard THRESHER

Thomas Richard Thresher was born in May, 1881 (possibly in London, Middlesex, England to mother Susan).

[There are very few records for Thomas Richard Thresher & his early years]

Thomas Richard Thresher enlisted with Her Majesty's Service on 5th September, 1895 at St. George's Barracks. He was aged 14 years & 4 months & his trade or calling was listed as Musician. The Parish or Town where he was born – was answered as "*Not Known*". His religion was listed as Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Susan Cuckow (?) 44 Hallow Rd, Grove St., Deptford, Kent.

Thomas Richard Thresher was posted to the 1st Royal Irish Regiment with a Service Number of 5578 & joined at Limerick on 7th September, 1895.

Boy Thomas Richard Thresher was posted to 2nd Battalion of Royal Irish Regiment on 26th November, 1896.

He was appointed Bandsman on 13th February, 1897 & on 5th May, 1899 attained 18 years of age.

Bandsman Thomas Richard Thresher was appointed Lance Corporal on 17th February, 1906.

Lance Corporal Thomas Richard Thresher re-engaged with Royal Irish Regiment on 30th September, 1906 to complete 21 years of service.

Lance Corporal Thomas Richard Thresher passed in Stretch Bearer Duties on 23rd November, 1907.

The 1911 Census of Jersey, Guernsey and Adjacent Islands recorded Thomas Thresher as a 30 year old, single, Corporal with Royal Irish Regiment at Alderney. His place of birth was listed as London, Middlesex.

The 1911 Census of All Commissioned Officers, Warrant officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, Drummers and Rank and File also listed Thomas Thresher as a 30 year old, single Corporal with Royal Irish Regiment.

Lance Corporal Thomas Richard Thresher was promoted to Corporal on 21st \_\_\_\_\_, 1911 then appointed unpaid Lance Sergeant from 12th June, 1911. He was removed as Lance Sergeant on 27th September, 1911.

On 16th December, 1912 Corporal Thomas Richard Thresher was appointed unpaid Lance Sergeant.

Thomas Richard Thresher married Mabel Sophia Cochrane on 16th January, 1913 at Guernsey, Channel Islands. His place of birth was listed as London, Middlesex & his trade or occupation was listed as Musician. His wife's address was listed as c/o Mrs Cochrane, 24 Nambert (?) Rd, Guernsey.

(Unpaid) Lance Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher was appointed as paid Lance Sergeant on 8th March, 1913.

A daughter – Kathleen Gladys Thresher was born on 3rd April, 1913 at Guernsey, Channel Islands. Kathleen was baptised on 27th April, 1913 at Guernsey.

Lance Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher was promoted to Sergeant on 9th February, 1914.

A son – Raymond Thresher was born on 14th April, 1914 at Devonport, England. Raymond was baptised at Devonport on 16th April, 1914.

Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher entered a Theatre of War on 13th August, 1914.

### **2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment**

The 2nd Battalion landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer as part of the 8th Brigade in the 3rd Division in August 1914 for service on the Western Front but was almost completely destroyed at the Battle of La Bassée in October 1914 with many men being taken as prisoners of war. (*Wikipedia*)

Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher was reported to be a Prisoner of War from 6th September, 1914.

Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher was interned in Holland from 29th December, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Sergeant Thomas R. Thresher on 5th March, 1918 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London. His disability was listed as Tubercle of Lungs which had originated in July, 1915 as Sennelager, Germany. *"Was taken prisoner at Mons on August 23, 1914. About one year afterward he was sick practically all the time with bronchitis. Had very bad attack last Oct. (1917) and since that time has noticed a "fever" each day. Occasionally has spit blood, sputum not free. Has been in Hospital in Holland since January 18, 1918."* The Medical Officer in charge of the case stated that his disability was due to Active Service. His present condition was listed as *"Present weight 10st 9 lbs. Weakness, cough, sputum not free, blood stained & positive to T.B. Increased breath sounds over upper right & left chest ant."* The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended that Sergeant Thresher be discharged permanently as physically unfit.

The Medical Board was of the opinion that Sergeant Thomas R. Thresher's disability was due to service during the present War, due to exposure while a prisoner, that his disability was permanent & the degree of disability was 100%. The Medical Board found that he was to be discharged as permanently unfit & further medical treatment should be desirable at a Sanatorium.

Serjeant Thomas Richard Thresher was discharged from Royal Irish Regiment on 3rd April, 1918, aged 37, at Cork as he was no longer physically fit for War Service, para 392 (XVI), King's Regulations. He had served overseas with British Expeditionary Force in France in 1914 & had served for a total of 22 years & 211 days. His military character was listed as very good & his Character in general was listed as *"a sober honest intelligent and trustworthy man."* His intended place of residence was listed as 24 Nambert (?) Rd, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

#### Summary of Military Service:

Country	From	To	Years	Days
Home	5.9.95	25.11.96	1	82
India	26.11.96	18.3.03	6	113
Home	19.3.03	12.8.14	11	147
B.E.F. France	13.8.14	5.9.14		24
P.O.W. Germany	6.9.14	22.2.18	3	170
Home	23.2.18	3.4.18		40
		<b>Total</b>	22	211

Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher was assigned a Silver War Badge & Certificate number 375,452.

#### **Silver War Badge**

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged

from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform.

*(Information from Wikipedia)*



**Silver War Badge**

Ex-Serjeant Thomas Richard Thresher died on 4th November, 1918 (after he was discharged) most probably from Tubercule of Lungs at Guernsey.

Serjeant Thomas Richard Thresher was buried in Fort George Military Cemetery, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands – Plot number P. 212 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Serjeant Thomas Richard Thresher was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Serjeant Thomas Richard Thresher – service number 5578, aged 35, of 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment. He was the husband of Mabel S. Thresher, of “Strathblane” 11 Belgrave St., Petersham, Sydney, Australia.

Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher 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:** Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher may be included on the Commemorative Roll in error. There is no indication that he travelled or lived in Australia.

In 1924 his widow – Mrs Mabel S. Thresher & her 2 children – Miss Kathleen (aged 10) & Master Raymond (aged 9) were listed as passengers on *Runic* which had departed from the port of Liverpool, England & were located at Albany, Western Australia in 1924 with their final destination – Sydney, NSW, Australia.

The Australian Electoral Rolls for NSW in the 1930's recorded Mabel Sophia Thresher living in the Randwick East area of Sydney, NSW.

*(The names on the Commemorative Roll were based on the information that the next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)*



**Commemorative Roll** (Photo from AWM)



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



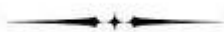
T. R. Thresher is remembered on the Bailiwick of Guernsey War Memorial, located at Smith Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.



**Bailiwick of Guernsey War Memorial** (Photo from War Memorials Online)

(13 pages of Sergeant Thomas Richard Thresher's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives UK).

*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.

Serjeant T. R. Thresher has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*Father In Thy Gracious Keeping  
Leave We Now Thy Servant Sleeping*



## **Fort George Military Cemetery, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands**

Fort George is an area south of St. Peter Port. The cemetery is sited within the former Fort George Garrison area, much of which has in recent years been re-developed for private housing.

Fort George was built as the island garrison for the British Army around the beginning of the 19th century. The cemetery was created as part of this complex and as a result contains the graves of many British soldiers and sailors from the 19th and 20th centuries. The fort was decommissioned after the Second World War and the land was transferred to States of Guernsey in 1958. The cemetery is now managed by the States of Guernsey Treasury and Resources Department and the Commission are responsible for 23 graves from the First World War and 113 from the Second World War, including 111 German graves.

After the 1914-1918 War, a Cross of Sacrifice and a memorial plaque were erected here in honour of all members of His Majesty's Forces buried in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. These now serve to commemorate also those 1939-1945 War casualties who are buried on these islands. The Cross of Sacrifice is inscribed "Their glory shall not be blotted out"; on the memorial plaque are these words:- "The Cross of Sacrifice is erected to the honoured memory of those members of His Majesty's Forces who gave their lives during the wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 and are buried in the islands of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark"

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*

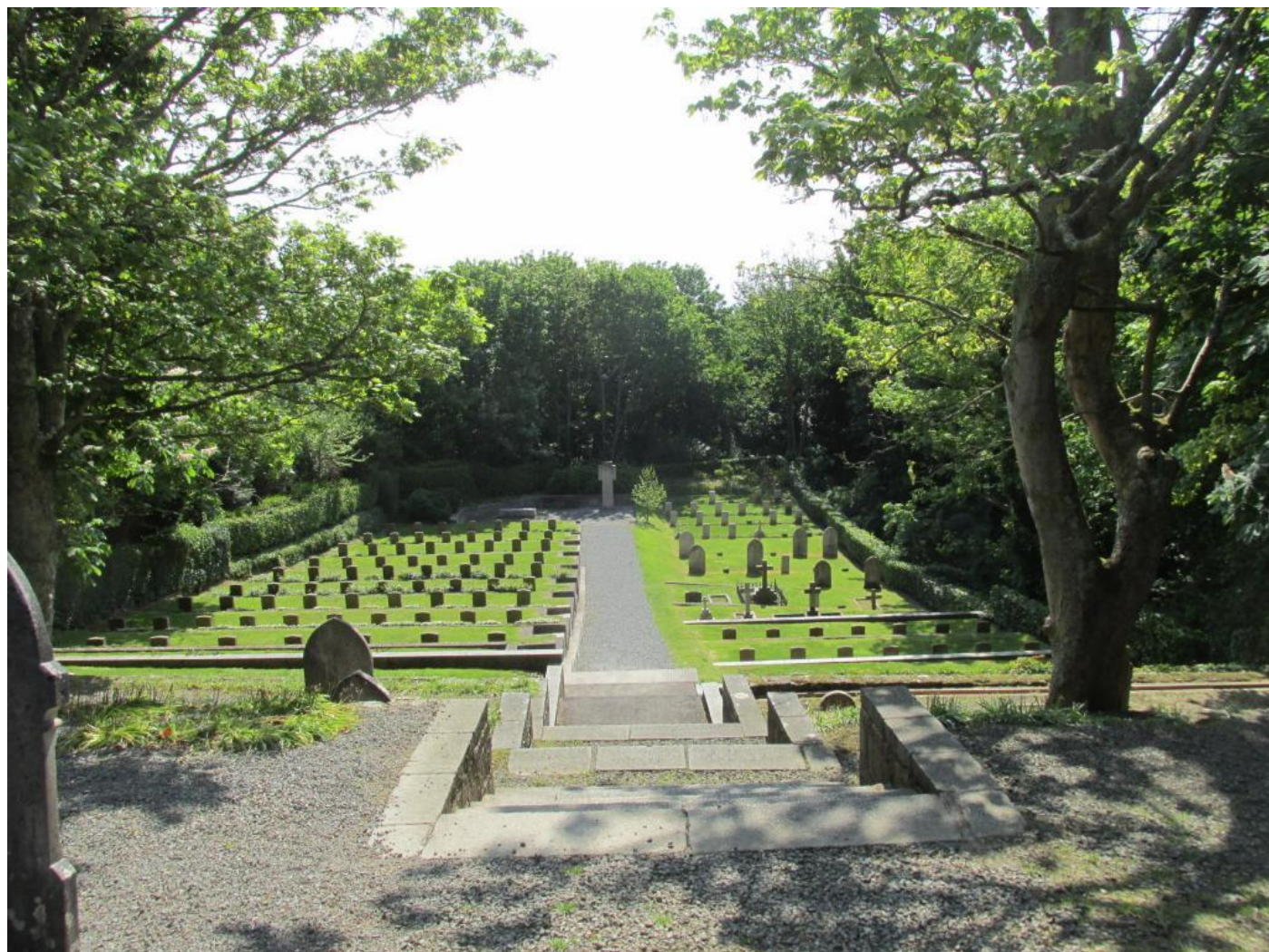








Photo of Serjeant T. R. Thresher's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fort George Military Cemetery, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.



(Photo – Find a Grave – Matthew Gsy – July 2021)