

**Western Cemetery,
Hull, Yorkshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LEADING SEAMAN RN J/3900

T. B. WILSON

H.M.S. "EXCELLENT"

23RD OCTOBER, 1917 Age 24

Thomas Boden WILSON

Thomas Boden Wilson was born on 11th April, 1893 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia to parents Robert and Lucy Wilson (nee Boden).

The 1901 England Census recorded Thomas B. Wilson as a 7 year old, living with his family at 491 Anlaby Rd – Fruit Shop, Hessle, Sculcoates, Kingston Upon Hull, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Robert Wilson (Green Grocer & Confectioner (Baker), aged 38, born Bridlington, Yorkshire) & Lucy Wilson (aged 45, born Matlock, Derbyshire). Thomas was the youngest of three children listed on this Census – Gertrude Wilson (School, aged 13, born Townsville, Queensland), Robert J. Wilson (aged 9, born Brisbane, Queensland) then Thomas. Also listed was Ellen Laycock (Niece, Cook (domestic), aged 24, born Hull, Yorkshire).

Thomas Boden Wilson joined the Royal Navy as a 15 year old. He was given a Service number of J.3900 (Plymouth). His occupation was listed as Greengrocers Assistant.

Thomas Boden Wilson was rated as Boy II on 18th March, 1909 on H.M.S. *Ganges*. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Impregnable* on 19th June, 1909 & was promoted to Boy 1st Class on 8th October, 1909 still on board H.M.S. *Impregnable*.

Boy 1st Class Thomas Boden Wilson was transferred to H.M.S. *Leviathan* on 18th May, 1910 then transferred to H.M.S. *Illustrious* on 17th September, 1910. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Hawke* on 25th November, 1910 then to H.M.S. *Hermes* on 21st December, 1910.

On 11th April, 1911, having attained the age of 18 years, Thomas Boden Wilson signed on with the Royal Navy for 12 years. He was promoted to Ordinary Seaman on that date, still serving with H.M.S. *Hermes*.

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas B. Wilson as an 18 year old "Boy" as part of the crew on board H.M.S. *Hermes* which was a 2nd Class Protected Cruiser of the Royal Navy. H.M.S. *Hermes* was at New Dockyard, Simonstown, near Cape Town, South Africa on the night of the Census – Sunday 2nd April, 1911.

[The 1911 Census recorded Thomas' parents living at 17 Walliker St, Hull, Yorkshire, England in a 6 roomed dwelling. Robert Wilson (Fruiter, aged 48) & Lucy Wilson (aged 52) had been married for 24 years & had 4 children, 2 of whom had since died. Their only other child – Robert John Wilson (Mechanic, aged 19) was listed on the Census with this parents.]

Ordinary Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson was promoted to Able Seaman on 24th October 1912, still serving on board H.M.S. *Hermes*.

Ordinary Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson passed educationally for Petty Officer on 3rd December, 1912 & was granted Educational Certificate in February, 1913.

Ordinary Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson was transferred to H.M.S. *Excellent* on 16th April, 1913 then transferred to H.M.S. *Victory* on 18th November, 1913. Ordinary Seaman Wilson was transferred to H.M.S. *Hecla* (Unity) on 31st March, 1914. He was promoted to Leading Seaman on 1st October, 1915 still serving on H.M.S. *Hecla*.

Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson was transferred to H.M.S. *Victory I* on 28th October, 1915 then transferred to H.M.S. *Excellent* on 17th November, 1915 until 23rd August, 1916.

Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson's Service Sheet has the following details listed "N.P. 11/16 Severely injured by being struck by a __guy" and "Invalided Fracture – dislocation of Lumbar Spine with consequent dislocation" It appears he received a Pension from 12th September, 1916.

Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson died on 23rd October, 1917 at The Star and Garter Hospital, Petersham, Richmond, Surrey from Spinal fracture.

The Star and Garter Hospital, Richmond

The Star and Garter Home in Richmond, London was a specialist hospital set up by the British Red Cross Society in 1916 for servicemen who had been severely disabled during the First World War. The building was formerly a hotel, and it provided facilities for long-term rehabilitation and care.



The Old Star and Garter Hotel

A death for Thomas B. Wilson, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Richmond, Surrey, England.

Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson was buried at 2 pm on 27th October, 1917 in Western Cemetery, Hull, Yorkshire, England – Plot number 351.33937 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *Hull Daily Mail*, Hull, East Riding, of Yorkshire, England - 1 November, 1917:

Roll of Honour

Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson (24), died at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey, on October 23rd. He joined the Royal Navy as a boy, and had dearly seven years' service to his credit. His whole heart was in his career, and he served on H. M. destroyers during 1914-15. He with others received orders to proceed to a distant port, and he with his comrades were ready to leave the vessel when some gearing broke loose and threw him into the hold a depth of 60ft. He sustained a fractured spine, and internal injuries, and was brought to England. He was for eight months an inmate of Haslar Naval Hospital, afterwards being admitted to the Star and Garter, His example was all for good, his comrades, all disabled like himself, have expressed their appreciation by sending a magnificent floral anchor and artificial wreath to be placed on his grave. He was interred at the Western Cemetery, Hull, on October 27th, His parents reside at 17 Walliker-street, Hull.

Probate details:

Wilson, Thomas Boden, of 17 Walliker-street, Kingston-upon-Hull, Leading Seaman, Royal Navy, died 23 October, 1917 at The Star and Garter Hospital, Petersham, Richmond, Surrey. Administration York 14 March to Robert Wilson, Tea Dealer. Effects £337 6s. 1d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson – service number J/3900, aged 24, of H.M.S. “Excellent”, Royal Navy. He was the son of Robert and Lucy Wilson, of 17 Walliker St., Anlaby Rd., Hull. Native of Brisbane, Australia.

Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson 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.



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



Newspaper Notices

Roll of Honour

WILSON October 23rd, 1917 at the “Star and Garter” Hospital, Richmond. Thomas Boden Wilson leading seaman, R.N., beloved son of Robert and Lucy Wilson, 17 Walliker-street Hull, aged 24. Interred Western Cemetery, 2 pm, Saturday.

(*Hull Daily Mail*, Hull, East Riding, of Yorkshire, England – 26 October, 1917)

Western Cemetery, Hull, Yorkshire, England

Western Cemetery, Hull contains 493 Commonwealth War Graves – 393 from World War 1 & 100 from World War 2.



Western Cemetery Gates, Hull (Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice in Western Cemetery, Hull (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Leading Seaman Thomas Boden Wilson's headstones – a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone & named on the Private Family headstone in Western Cemetery, Hull, Yorkshire, England.



(Headstone photos courtesy of Barry Peterson, Hull City Council)





In Loving Memory Of

THOMAS BODEN WILSON, R.N.

The Beloved Son Of Robert & Lucy Wilson

Who Was Accidentally Injured Decr 26th 1916

Died In Hospital Octr 23^d 1917

Aged 24 Years

One Of The Best



Western Cemetery, Hull (Photo by Chris Cox – Find a Grave)