

**St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard,
Tettenhall Regis,
Marchington, Staffordshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1354 PRIVATE

A. S. THOMAS

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

21ST OCTOBER, 1915 Age 23

A Duty Noble Done

Arthur Stanley THOMAS

Arthur Stanley Thomas was born at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England on 22nd July, 1890 to parents John & Helen Thomas (nee Clark).

The 1891 England Census recorded Arthur Stanley Thomas as an 8 month old living with his family at 27 Vicarage Road, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. His parents were listed as John Thomas (Manufacturer's Clerk & Grocer, aged 28, born Wolverhampton, Staffordshire) & Helen Thomas (Grocer's Assistant, aged 27, born Wolverhampton, Staffordshire). Arthur was the youngest of three children listed on this Census – all born Wolverhampton, Staffordshire – Louie Helen Thomas (aged 2), Edith Martha Thomas (aged 2) then Arthur.

The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur Stanley Thomas as a 10 year old living with his family at 49 Sweetman Street, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. His parents were listed as John Thomas (Brass Founder's Clerk, aged 38) & Ellen Thomas (aged 36). Arthur was one of six children listed on this Census – Louie Thomas (aged 12), Edith Thomas (aged 12), then Arthur, Andrew F. Thomas (aged 7), Allen F. Thomas (aged 5) & Dorothy J. Thomas (aged 1). Also listed was John Thomas' widowed mother – Ann Thomas (aged 73, born Westbury, Shropshire).

Arthur Stanley Thomas attended St. Andrews School, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton.

The 1911 England Census recorded Arthur Stanley Thomas as a 20 year Brewer's Clerk, living with his family in a 5 roomed dwelling at 322 Hordern Road, Wolverhampton. His parents were listed as John Thomas (Brass Founder's Clerk, aged 48) & Helen Thomas (aged 46). John & Helen Thomas had been married for 23 years & had 8 children, with 1 child deceased. Arthur was one of seven children listed on this Census – Louie Helen Thomas (aged 22), Edith Martha Thomas (aged 22), then Arthur, Andrew Frank Thomas (County Court Clerk, aged 17), Alan Fredk. Thomas (Accountant's Clerk, aged 15), Dorothy Janet Thomas (School, aged 11) & David Leslie Thomas (aged 4).

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by Mr John Thomas (father), Arthur Stanley Thomas came to Australia when he was 21 years & 2 months old.

Arthur Stanley Thomas was a 23 year old, single, Clerk when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill Camp, Western Australia on 14th November, 1914 with the 4th Field Ambulance, 4th Infantry Brigade "C" Section of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1354 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – John Thomas of 322 Hordern Road, Wolverhampton, England. According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by Mr John Thomas (father) Arthur Stanley Thomas was connected to the town of Northam, Western Australia.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ajana* (A31) on 30th December, 1914.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 12th April, 1915.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas was attached to 13th Infantry Battalion at Anzac from 16th July, 1915.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas was admitted to Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* at Anzac on 11th August, 1915 with Pyrexia (abnormal elevation of body temperature). He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Andania* on 15th August, 1915 & admitted to St. George's Hospital at Malta on 21st August, 1915 suffering from Gastritis.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas embarked from Malta for England on 8th September, 1915 on *Italia*.

Newspaper article – *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – 29 September, 1915.

A Victim of Sunstroke

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas of the Australian Army Medical Corps, whose father lives at 322, Hordern-road, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton has been invalided to England, suffering from sun stroke while in the trenches at the Dardanelles. Thomas went to Western Australia five years ago, and upon the declaration of war immediately

enlisted. He was sent to Egypt, and thence to the Dardanelles. About three months ago he was wounded in the wrist by shrapnel, but was fortunately not put out of action.



Private Arthur Stanley Thomas

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas was admitted to the County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 15th September, 1915 to 4th October, 1915 suffering from sunstroke.

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by Mr John Thomas (father) – Arthur Stanley Thomas had contracted Malaria & Dysentery while at Gallipoli.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas died at 6.15 pm on 21st October, 1915 at the 21st General Hospital, Wolverhampton from Lobar Pneumonia, aged 25 years & 3 months.

A death for Arthur S. Thomas, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas was buried on 26th October, 1915 in St. Michael's Churchyard, Tettenhall Regis, Marchington, Staffordshire, England – South-east part and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. A firing party was supplied by the Lichfield Depot & the officiating clergyman was the Rev. J. V. Wilson, St. Andrew's Vicarage, Wolverhampton.

Private Arthur Stanley Thomas requested in his Will, dated 21st April, 1915, that in the event of his death he gives £5 to his brother – Andrew Frank Thomas and the remainder of his property he gives to his mother – Mrs Helen Thomas, both of 322 Hordern Road, Wolverhampton, Stafford.

Pte Arthur Stanley Thomas was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Thomas's father – Mr J. Thomas, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Stanley Thomas - service number 1354, aged 23, of 4th Field Amb., Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of John and Helen Thomas, of 322 Hordern Rd., Wolverhampton, England. Born in Wolverhampton.

Private A. S. Thomas is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 184.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Arthur Stanley Thomas is remembered on the Word War 1 Roll of Honour located in St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton.



St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton Roll of Honour (Photo courtesy of Alf)



Arthur Stanley Thomas is remembered on the Wolverhampton Roll of Remembrance, which is held at Wolverhampton City Archives & was compiled in 1920.

(39 pages of Pte Arthur Stanley Thomas' 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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

EIGHTY-FIFTH CASUALTY LIST

ILL

4th Field Ambulance – A. S. Thomas (England)

(*The West Australian*, Perth – 2 October, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

107th CASUALTY LIST

DEATHS

A. S. Thomas, 4th Field Ambulance (England) died of illness, previously reported ill.

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 19 November, 1915)



Thomas Family Photo taken around 1910 at Wolverhampton

Left to right – Back - Andrew, Edith, Arthur (arrow), Louie, Alan

Front – John (father, seated), David, Dorothy & Helen (mother, seated)

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*)

Pte A. S. Thomas does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Duty Nobly Done

St. Michael's Churchyard, Tettenhall Regis, Marchington, Staffordshire, England.

St. Michael's Churchyard, Tettenhall Regis, Marchington, Staffordshire contains 25 Commonwealth War Graves – 15 relating to the First World War & 10 relating to the Second World War.



St. Michael and All Angels Church, Tettenhall Regis (Photo by Geoff Pick)



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

Photo of Pte A. S. Thomas' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, Tettenhall Regis, Marchington, Staffordshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)