# Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon War Graves



Lest We Forget

# World War 1



1750 PRIVATE

T. G. DRIVER

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST OCTOBER, 1915 Age 40

# **Thomas George DRIVER**

Thomas George Driver was born at Nine Elms, Waterloo, London, England to parents Thomas George & Elizabeth Ann Driver (nee Wilkerson). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1875 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded Thomas G. Driver as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at "Abbotsbury" Lewisham Park, London, England. His parents were listed as Thomas George Driver (Wine Merchant, aged 40, born All Hallows, Barking) & Elizabeth Ann Driver (aged 41, born Barley, Herts). Thomas was youngest of four children listed on this Census, all born Lambeth, Surrey – Percy John Driver (Scholar, aged 12), Sydney C. Driver (Scholar, aged 9), Edith G. Driver (Scholar, aged 7) & Thomas. Also listed were 2 servants – Susan Cooke (Nurse, aged 27) & Jenny Clark (Cook, aged 22).

Thomas George Driver attended Malvern House, Lewisham Park & Battersea Grammar School.

The 1881 England Census recorded Thomas G. Driver as a 16 year old Accountant's Clerk, living with his family at The Nook, Middleton Road, West Battersea, London, England. His parents were listed as Thomas George Driver (Night Light Manufacturer, aged 50) & Elizabeth A. Driver (aged 51). Thomas was youngest of four children listed on this Census – Percy J. Driver (Wine Merchant, aged 22), Sydney C. Driver (Commercial Traveller, aged 19), Edith G. Driver (Scholar, aged 17) & Thomas. Also listed was a friend – Susan Cook (Tea Dealer, aged 37).

The 1901 England Census recorded Thomas G. Driver as a 26 year old Land Surveyor, living with his family at 9 Elspeth Road, Southwest Battersea, London. Thomas's widowed mother was listed as Elizabeth A. Driver (aged 61). Thomas was the youngest of three children listed on this Census – Sidney C. Driver (Whiskey? Traveller, aged 29), Edith G. Driver (Teacher in Secondary School, aged 27) then Thomas. Also listed was Catherine Fry (General Domestic Servant, aged 17).

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas George Driver as a 36 year old, single, Estate Agents Clerk. Thomas George Driver was a Boarder at 12 Elborough Street, Southfields, Wandsworth, London, headed by William Hoole (Estate Agents Clerk, aged 29) & his wife Ethel Hoole (Shorthand & Typewriting Clerk, aged 29). Also listed in the household was Maria Keely (General Servant, aged 43).

Thomas George Driver, Builder, aged 38, was a passenger on *Orsova* which departed from the port of London, England on 18th July, 1913. Thomas George Driver, Builder & Decorator, was listed as a passenger on Orontes which arrived at the port of Fremantle, Western Australian from London on 19th August, 1913.

Thomas George Driver stated he was a 35 year old, single, Labourer from P.O. Kalamunda, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 12th January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1750 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Me Percy J. Driver, Constitutional Club, Northumberland Avenue, Trafalgar Square, England.

Private Thomas George Driver was posted to Depot Company on 16th January, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements, 11th Battalion on 16th February, 1915.

Private Thomas George Driver embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 19th April, 1915 with the 4th Reinforcements, 11th Infantry Battalion.

Private Thomas George Driver was taken on strength with 11th Battalion "B" Company from 4th Reinforcements at Dardanelles on 4th June, 1915.

# 11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas after just two weeks of preliminary training. It arrived in Egypt to continue its training in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Ten days after the landing, a company from the 11th Battalion mounted the AIF's first raid of the war against Turkish positions © Cathy Sedgwick 2017

at Gaba Tepe. Subsequently, the battalion was heavily involved in defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, it made preparatory attacks at the southern end of the ANZAC position before the battle of Lone Pine. The 11th Battalion continued to serve at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas George Driver was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance at Gallipoli on 23rd August, 1915 with Influenza (Dysentery). He was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Mudros. Private Driver was admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Lemnos on 27th August, 1915 with Pyrexia (Fever). Private Driver was transferred to Base on 8th September, 1915. He was invalided to England from Malta on 9th September, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Itonus*.

Private Thomas George Driver was admitted to Military Hospital, Devonport, Devon, England on 22nd September, 1915.

Private Thomas George Driver died on 1st October, 1915 at Military Hospital, Devonport, Devon, England from Dysentery.

A death for Thomas G. Driver, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Thomas George Driver was buried in Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number Mil. Con. C. 3690 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper Article - Swan Express, Midland Junction, Western Australia - 12 November, 1915:

## AN APPRECIATION FROM KALAMUNDA

Our Kalamunda correspondent writes —The casualty lists a week or two ago contained the name of T. G. Driver, and many of those resident around Kalamunda will regret to learn of the fact of his demise. Particularly will this be manifested by those with whom he came in personal contact, and the many youths of Kalamunda all of whom were much attached to the deceased. The late private, who lost his life following on an attack of dysentry, hailed from England, and made the acquaintance of this State a couple of years ago, bringing with him a number of orphan youths, whom he settled by arrangement on the land. About 12 months ago he came to Kalamunda, residing at "Boonooloo," the residence of Mr J. T. Preet, up to the time of enlisting, about March last. Mr Driver took a keen interest in Y.M.C.A. work and the Boy Scout movement, he himself being a Scout-master, and prior to leaving the motherland for these shores he was the recipient from the hands of General Sir Baden Powell, the order of the Silver Wolf, the highest honor possible for a scout to secure. With no one depending on him, and his own private means, he joined the forces purely from the standpoint of his duty to the Empire. At the front those with whom he came in contact could not sing too highly their praises of his goodness of heart, and it is reported that after one severe engagement in which he took part, the Silver Wolf left the trench, heedless of the recent trying engagement, and helped the stretcher bearers carry the wounded off the field. At the recent executive meeting of the Boy Scouts Association special tributes were paid to the late Scoutmaster, and his favorite hymn "Abide with me" was sung. Dysentery attacked the deceased whilst in the tranches, and he was taken to England, where he died. Well might it be said: "His life was gentle; and the elements So mix'd in him, that nature might stand and say to all the world 'This was a man."

Private Thomas George Driver was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Driver's brother in England – Mr P. J. Driver, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas George Driver – service number 1750, aged 40, of 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas George and Elizabeth Driver. Native of London.

Private T. G. Driver is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 62.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Driver is remembered on the Kalamunda District Roll of Honour, located in Kalamunda Agricultural Society Hall, Canning Road, Kalamunda, Western Australia.



Kalamunda District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Lisa Perrin)

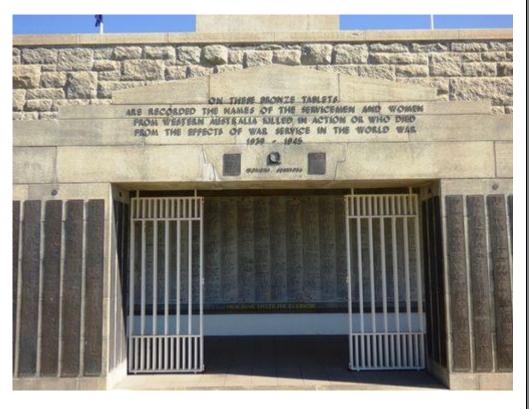
T. G. Driver is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a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





11th Battalion Names in the Crypt

Pte Thomas G. Driver is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (M360) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.

# Newspaper article - Swan Express, Midland Junction, Western Australia - 1 August, 1919:

Among the Royal Oaks to be planted on Sunday next in the King's Park to perpetuate the memory of fallen heroes, will be one to the memory of Pte Thomas George Driver (Silver Wolf), one time of "Boonooloo" Kalamunda. Pte Driver came to Western Australia some six years ago to inaugurate a Boy Scouts' Farm to be worked by scouts selected from the 77th Good Service Troop, Kent street, South London. He and two of his boys enlisted in the early days of the war. After fearful experiences most bravely borne, Mr Driver was stricken down with enteric at Gallipoli and died at Devonport, England. Such was his fine work that Mr Harold Begbie in his book, "The Little that is Good," has devoted a whole chapter to the beloved scout's memory. The tree will be planted by Scout Chief Commissioner M. H. Donaldson.

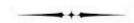




(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

(41 pages of Private Thomas George Driver'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) & National Archives



# **Newspaper Notices**

# **Ninety-fifth Casualty List**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED, ILL OR PROGRESSING

Progress Reports: T. G. Driver, England, seriously ill in Military Hospital, Devonport.

(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 24 October, 1915)

### **NINETY-EIGHTH CASUALTY LIST**

### **DEATHS**

11th Battalion

Private T. G. Driver, 4th Reinforcements, of England, died of illness, previously reported seriously ill.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 29 October, 1915)

### **DECEASED PERSON'S ESTATES**

The following probates and administrations have been issued by the Supreme Court:-

Probates – Thomas George Driver, late of Rockingham, to James Thomas Peet, £219.

(Kalgoorlie Western Argus, Western Australia – 7 December, 1915)

### 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 T. G. Driver does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

# Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area.

Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth.

Plymouth (Weston Mill) Cemetery contains 401 burials of the First World War, 1 being unidentified. Approximately half are in the naval and military war graves plots north-east of the chapel, the rest are scattered.

Second World War burials in the cemetery number 556, 11 of which are unidentified. Of these, 111 of the earlier graves filled the existing naval and military plots. A further plot was then set aside for service graves and 317 of the burials were made there. The rest of the war graves are scattered. The cemetery also contains 14 non-war service burials and 36 war graves of other nationalities, 25 of them Polish.

There are six Australians buried in this cemetery – five from World War 1 & one from World War 2.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

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Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon



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Photo of Private T. G. Driver's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo courtesy of Julia & keld)

