

## Benjamin Thorpe



Gunner 78 (The Duke of Lancaster`s Own Yeomanry) Medium Regt., Royal Artillery  
Service Number 1140854,

Died on 4 October 1944 Age 39

Memorial Florence War Cemetery

Son of Alfred (born 11/7/1877) and Emma (nee Allen born 28/10/1881) Thorpe.  
Alfred and Emma were married in 1900 registered in the Basford RD in the  
September quarter of that year.

By the time of the 1911 census they were living at 16 Northern Road Heanor in  
Derbyshire. and had 5 children.

- Joseph Alfred aged 10,
- George Alan aged 8,
- Benjamin aged 5 (born 23/5/1905),
- William aged 3
- Beatrice Alice Rebecca aged 1

All born in Heanor (Heanor was in the Basford RD

Alfred was a miner working underground hewing the coal.

Alfred and Emma were to have 2 further children

- Vivian C born 1912 registered in the Basford RD in the December quarter
- John A born 21/11/1916

Benjamin would go to the local school. The family had moved to Gedling by 1922 (E.R.) and their home was on Priory Road. On the 1939 register they are at no 75. They had probably moved for Alfred to work at Gedling Colliery.



Priory Road photographed in the 1950s

Benjamin showed that he was a sportsman being a member of the Old Boys Cricket Team and the Netherfield Thursday Football Team.

In 1926 Benjamin married Mary Brewster. The marriage was registered in Basford RD in the December quarter of that year

They had 5 children, births all registered in the Basford R.D.

- Bernard W born 1927 in the June quarter
- Betty M born 1/6/1930
- Sylvia M Born 1933 in The March quarter
- Geoffrey B born 1934 in the December quarter
- Gwendoline M born 1940 in the December quarter

The family moved around a little and with such a common name as 'Thorpe' it is difficult to be certain of the correct ID according to the Electoral Registers a Benjamin and Mary Thorpe were living on Carnarvon Grove Gedling in 1931

By the time that the 1939 Register was compiled Benjamin and his family were living on Cross Street Carlton. His occupation was listed as a 'sugar manufacturers Juice Operator', working at the Sugar Beet factory on Colwick Industrial Estate. By 1944 when he died the family were living at 82, Dunstan Street Netherfield



Dunstan Street photographed by Alan Sheldon in 197

Courtesy of <https://picturenottingham.co.uk/image-library.html>

Benjamin Thorpe joined up in March 1941 and became a Gunner 78 (The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regt., Royal Artillery

After receiving his initial training, Benjamin was posted to North Africa, where he served during much heavy fighting, then continuing with the invasion of Sicily and on into Italy. Benjamin was injured in the fighting around Rome and Florence.

Benjamin died from his wounds on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1944.

He was buried in the Florence War Cemetery.

For photographs and details of this cemetery please see the website

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2218882/florence-war-cemetery>

South Notts Echo  
21 October 1944

#### **Soldier Leaves Five Children**

A former member of the Gedling Old Boys' cricket team and of the Netherfield Thursday football team has died of wounds sustained in Italy. He is Sapper Ben Thorpe, Royal Engineers, of 82, Dunstan-street, Netherfield.

Born at Gedling 39 years ago, Sapper Thorpe was formerly employed at the Sugar Beet Factory at Colwick.

He joined the services in March, 1941, and after receiving his preliminary training was sent to North Africa, where he served during much of the heavy fighting. He was later sent to Italy, and fought through Rome and on to Florence.

He leaves a widow and five children, the eldest of whom is Stoker Bernard Thorpe, who is serving in the Royal Navy.



The Supreme Sacrifice 5



GUNNER BENJAMIN THORPE

THORPE (Gunner Benjamin). — A dearly beloved Husband and Father, who died of wounds on October 4, 1944. How much we miss him no one can tell.

—From loving Wife and Children (Netherfield).

South Notts Echo

21 October 1944

South Notts Echo

19 May 1945



BEN THORPE

THORPE.—Loving memories of a son and brother, who was killed in Italy on October 6, 1944.

Dearer to us than words can tell,  
Was the one we loved and miss so much;

We do not forget, or ever intend,  
We think of him daily and will to the end.

—Loving Father, Mother, Sister and Brother-in-law Edgar (Carlton).