

# THOMAS BYRNE

VC

21<sup>st</sup> Lancers



BORN: December 1867 (St Thomas's, Dublin, Ireland)

RESIDED: Canterbury, Kent

DIED: 17 February 1944 (Canterbury, Kent)

BURIED: Westgate Cemetery, Canterbury, Kent



*"The bravest man I have ever known"*

Winston Churchill. 1898

*"At the Battle of Khartoum, Sudan, despite having received a bullet in his right arm, he went to the assistance of the wounded Lieutenant Molyneux who was unhorsed and surrounded by Dervishers. Byrne's arm had lost its power so his sword dangled uselessly from his hand as he charged the enemy time and time again, giving the Lieutenant a chance to escape. Byrne received a spear wound in his chest but managed to ride away to safety".*

His identity as Molyneux's saviour was discovered by Winston Churchill (Morning Post Correspondance in Sudan) some days later. Skin taken from Churchill's chest was grafted onto Byrne's deep chest wound helping to save his life.



Thomas's grave was recently restored following pressure applied from a number of quarters (including ourselves). This is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when people combine to apply pressure. Credit is due to the **Canterbury City Council** who paid for the work to be completed.



In Loving Memory of  
**BRIDGET BYRNE,**  
THE DEVOTED WIFE OF  
**THOMAS BYRNE, V.C.**  
WHO PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 1939,  
AGED 60.

ALSO HER HUSBAND  
**THOMAS BYRNE, V.C.**  
WHO PASSED AWAY MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> 1944,  
AGED 77.

R.I.P.

