Name of memorial: Thomas Woodgate Memorial

Place: Courthouse, Kilkenny.

Address and map reference: Courthouse, John's Bridge, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny.

Co-ordinates: N 52.6541°; W 7.2535°.

Access: at all times. **Parking:** public car park adjacent. **Disabled access:** yes.

Position: on footpath beside the entrance to the Courthouse.

Description and dimensions: two life-size statues on an iron plinth, and an information board..
Height: appx. 200cms Width: appx. 100cms. Depth: appx 100cms.

Recorded by: Donal Croghan and James Cartwright.

Text:
(on the base of the statue)

The Thomas Woodgate Memorial

was unveiled by

Minister Malcolm Noonan T.D.

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform

and

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council

on Sunday 11th October, 2020

Designed and erected by

The Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee

in partnership with

Kilkenny County Council

Funded by public and private donations

The Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee are

Donal Croghan, John Joe Cullen, Anne Marie Gleeson, Ken Kinsella,

Michael McLoughlin, Berni Egan, James Cartwright, Jim Corcoran, Michael Gabbett

(On the information board).

**This memorial commemorates
Thomas Woodgate
Private 2nd Class, 297699,
23rd Training Squadron, RAF.**

Born: 31/12/1903, Died: 10/10/1918, Age: 14 years, 9 months, 10 days.

**Son of Edward J. and Hanora Woodgate, Mill Street, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.
Officially the youngest Irishman of the Allied Forces to be killed by enemy
fire during World War I, 1914-1918. Also to the memory of all the youth
of Ireland who left to take part in conflicts around the world.**

**More than 3,000 men and women from Kilkenny City and County served in World War I. Over 800 of them died,
including 66 still in their teens. At least 300 of the dead have no known graves. A total of
over 200,000 men from Ireland fought in World War I. About 30,000 and died serving in Irish regiments of
the British Forces and almost 49,400 died altogether. Around 4,500 Irish women served as nurses in
the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), the Red Cross and other organisations. All were volunteers.**

**Thomas Woodgate died on 10/10/1918 following the sinking of the RMS Leinster by the German UB-123.
The submarine fired three torpedoes which are represented at the base of the memorial.**

**567 lives were lost, making the sinking of the RMS Leinster the greatest ever loss of life in the Irish Sea, and
the highest ever death toll on an Irish-owned ship. Those who were lost in the sinking came from Ireland,
Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Funerals took place in many parts of Ireland.
144 military casualties were buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin.**

**Attempting to return to Germany, UB-123 was lost in a minefield in the
North Sea with all of its 36 crew.**

Sources: rmsleinster.com