

**Bower Old Churchyard,  
Bower, Scotland  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**835 CORPORAL**

**J. SIMPSON**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**26TH JULY, 1916 Age 26**

*Even Them*

*Which Sleep In Jesus*

*Will God Bring With Him*

## James SIMPSON

James Simpson was born at Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland around 1890 to mother Elizabeth Simpson.

[Note – details on the 1901 Scotland Census listed below may be that of Corporal James Simpson but as his father's name is not recorded on his Attestation Papers it is presumed to be the correct person]

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded James Simpson as an 11 year old Scholar, living with his family at U F C Manse, Bower, Caithness, Scotland. His mother was listed as Elizabeth Simpson (Agricultural Labourer, aged 47). James was one of five children listed on this Census – Alexander Simpson (Scholar, aged 15), Elizabeth Simpson (Scholar, aged 12), Maggie Simpson (Scholar, aged 12) then James & Janet Simpson (Scholar, aged 8).

James Simpson was a 24 year old, single, Carpenter from Northam, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 10th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 835 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Simpson, Brabstendorran, Bowerwick, Scotland. James Simpson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with 5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders for 4 years.

Private James Simpson was posted to 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade Infantry.

Private James Simpson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 31st October, 1914 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, "G" Company. According to the Embarkation Roll recorded on The Australian War Memorial website – the troops embarked from Fremantle on 31st October, 1914 & anchored for two days before sailing on 2nd November, 1914.

Private James Simpson embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. Suffolk on 2nd March, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private James Simpson was sent to Hospital on 6th September, 1915 while at Gallipoli Peninsula. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 6th September, 1915 with Debility & transferred to Mudros the same day. Private Simpson was admitted to 25th Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros on 6th September, 1915 then transferred to Base on 8th September, 1918. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Assaye* & disembarked at Alexandria on 11th September, 1915.

Private James Simpson was admitted to No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 11th September, 1915 with Debility. He was transferred to No. 3 Convalescent Hospital at Helouan on 29th September, 1915 & discharged to duty at Zeitoun on 26th October, 1915.

Private James Simpson was admitted to 15th Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 9th November, 1915 with Venereal disease then transferred on 27th November, 1915 to Convalescent Depot. Private Simpson was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station at Lemnos on 27th November, 1915 & discharged on 5th December, 1915.

Private James Simpson was taken on strength at Base at Mudros on 5th December, 1915. He was marched out to his Unit on 24th December, 1915 & rejoined his Unit the same day at Lemnos.

Private James Simpson disembarked at Alexandria from *Empress of Britain* on 7th January, 1916 from Lemnos (& evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private James Simpson was appointed Lance Corporal on 6th February, 1916 at Habieta with 11th Battalion.

Lance Corporal James Simpson was appointed Corporal on 1st March, 1916 at Serapeum with 11th Battalion..

Corporal James Simpson embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5th April, 1916.

### 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 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.

In March 1916, the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres, the battalion manned trenches near Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme valley for winter.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Corporal James Simpson was transferred to 3rd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery on 9th May, 1916 from 11th Battalion while in France.

Corporal James Simpson was wounded in action in France on 3rd July, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 8th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to neck. Corporal Simpson was reported to be seriously ill on 14th July, 1916. He was transferred to England on 17th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Dennis*.

#### War Diary - 3rd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery

*FLEURBAIX – 3rd July, 1916:*

*Raid by 11th Battn at 0030 on Tadpole. Battery bombarded for 15 minutes with 6 guns under Lts HART, NEWLAND & PAGE. 800 Rds expended. Lt PAGE badly wounded. 2 O/R killed 4 O/R wounded. No prisoners captured during raid, no casualties amongst Raiders.*

*Battery relieved by 12th A.L.T.M.B. at 3 pm, and route marked to Guttersteene, arriving 9 pm. Troops very tired. – food Billets.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Corporal James Simpson was admitted to Military Hospital, Chatham, England on 18th July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to right arm, leg & neck. The Hospital Admissions form records that Corporal Simpson had a compound fracture of tibia. He developed Septicaemia from tibia & pneumonia on right side.

Corporal James Simpson died at 1 pm on 26th July, 1916 at Chatham Military Hospital, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. multiple – right arm, leg & neck.

A death for James Simpson, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Medway, Kent, England.

Corporal James Simpson was buried on 31st July, 1916 in Bower Old Churchyard, Bower, Caithness-shire, Scotland – Plot number "A. New Ground. 55" and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. James Simpson requested in his Will (recorded in his Pay Book) that in the event of his death, the whole of his property & effects to be given to Mrs E. Simpson, Babsterdoran, Bowen, Wick, Caithness, Scotland.

A War Pension was granted to Elizabeth Simpson, of Babsterdoran, Bowen-by-Wick, Caithness, mother of the late Corporal James Simpson, in the sum of £2.12.3 per fortnight commencing from 26th September, 1916.

Corporal James Simpson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Simpson's mother – Mrs E. Simpson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal James Simpson – service number 835, aged 26, of 3rd Light T.M. Bty, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Alexander and Elizabeth Simpson, of Brabsterdoran, Bower.

Corporal J. Simpson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 20.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

J. Simpson is remembered on the Northam Fallen Memorial, which is located in Northam Memorial Hall, 263 Fitzgerald Street, Northam, Western Australia.



**Northam Fallen Memorial** (Photo from *Virtual War Memorial Australia*)

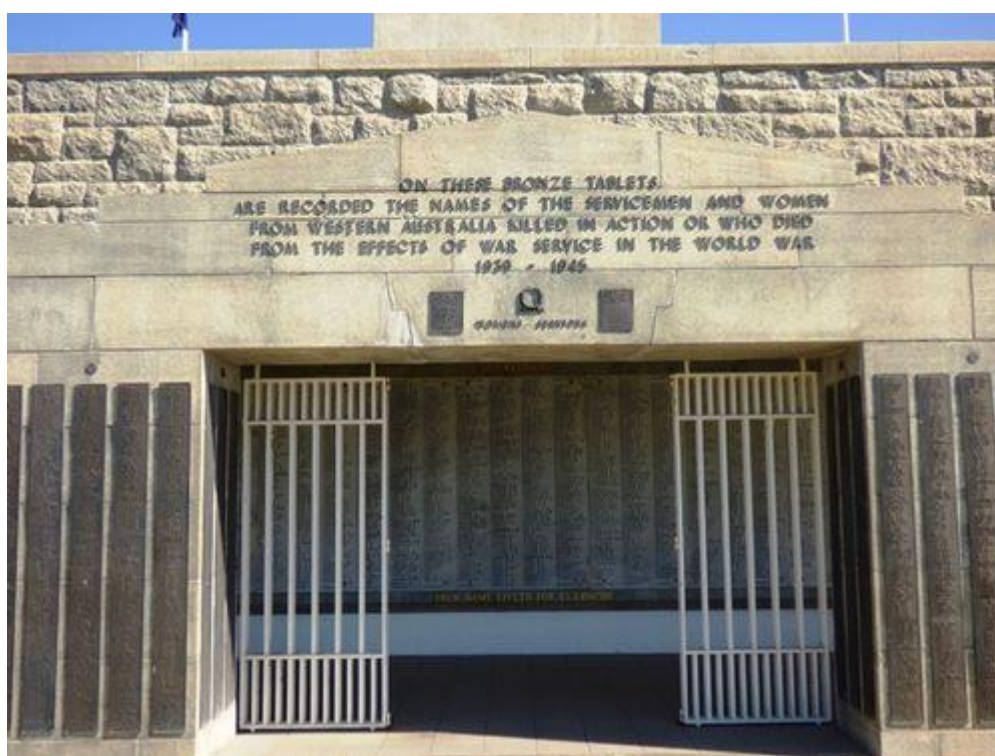
J. Simpson is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica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





**Other Corps Panel** (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

J. Simpson is remembered on the Bower War Memorial, Caithness, Scotland.





**Bower War Memorial, Scotland**

James Simpson is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.

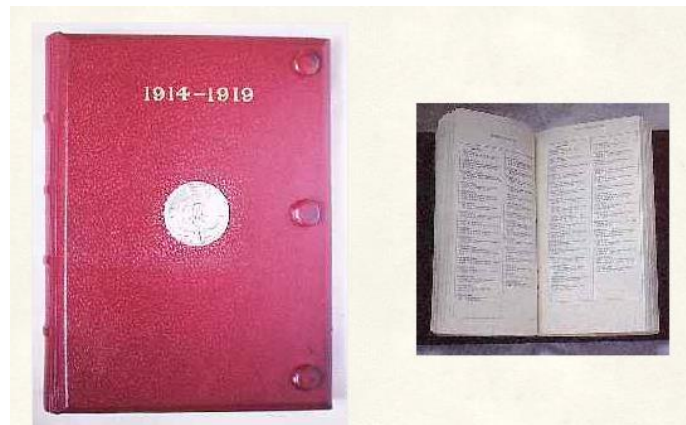


**The Scottish National War Memorial**



**The Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.**

*(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)*



(37 pages of Corporal James Simpson'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**

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **LATEST CASUALTY LIST**

The 188th casualty list of Western Australian members of the A.I.F. was released on Saturday....

#### **WOUNDED**

Corporal J. Simpson (Scotland), and seriously ill

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 31 July, 1916)*

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### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **190th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED**

Corporal J. Simpson (Scotland), previously reported wounded and dangerously ill

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 August, 1916)*

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### **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)*

Corporal J. Simpson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

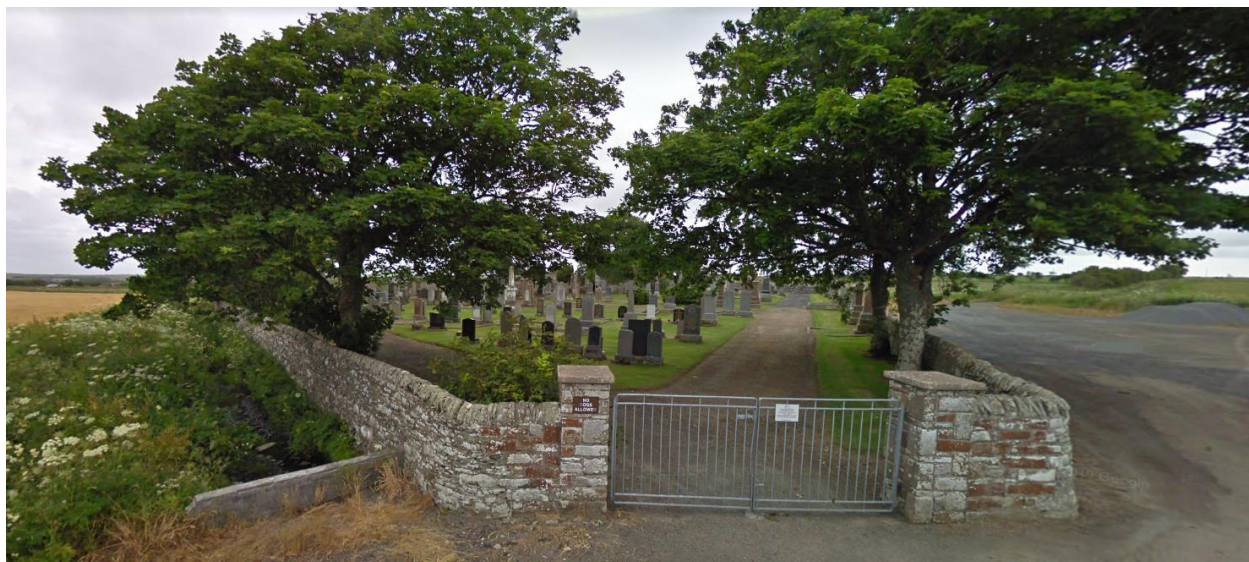
*Even Them Which Sleep In Jesus Will God Bring With Him*

## **Bower Old Churchyard, Bower, Caithness-shire, Scotland**

The churchyard, containing the ruins of the former Parish Church, lies in an isolated position between Bower and Scarmclett. It includes a Western extension called the New Burial Ground.

There are 5 Commonwealth War Graves from World War 1 & 3 from World War 2.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Bower Old Churchyard**



Photo of Corporal J. Simpson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bower Old Churchyard, Bower, Caithness-shire, Scotland.

