

**Fulford Cemetery,
Fulford, Yorkshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



JOHN SIMPSON

ABLE SEAMAN RN. J/2683

H.M.S. "PEMBROKE"

27TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 26

John SIMPSON

John Simpson was born on 19th October, 1892 at York, Yorkshire, England to parents Arthur & Rose Elizabeth Simpson (nee Cole). He was baptised on 19th March, 1893 in St. Maurice's Church, York, Yorkshire.

The 1901 England Census recorded John Simpson as an 8 year old, living with his family at 2 Groves Lane, Walmgate, York, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Arthur Simpson (Tin Plate Worker, aged 41, born York, Yorks) & Rose E. Simpson (aged 38, born Stockton on Forest, Yorks). John was one of seven children listed on this Census (all born York, Yorks) – Kate E. Simpson (Chocolate Cream coverer, aged 17), Harry Simpson (Errand Boy, aged 13), Arthur Simpson (aged 9), then John, Florence (aged 5), Ada Simpson (aged 2) & George Simpson (aged 1).

John Simpson joined the Royal Navy. His occupation was listed as a Hammerlad with Railway Works. John Simpson was given an official/service number of J. 2683 (Chatham).

Boy 2nd Class John Simpson was posted to H.M.S. *Ganges* on 31st July, 1908. H.M.S. *Ganges* was established as a boys' training establishment based at Shotley from 1905. Boy 2nd Class John Simpson was promoted to Boy 1st Class on 17th March, 1909.

Boy 1st Class John Simpson was posted to H.M.S. *Berwick* from 7th May, 1909 then transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke* on 11th September, 1909. HMS *Pembroke* was the name given to a shore barracks at Chatham. Boy 1st Class John Simpson was posted to H.M.S. *Terrible* on 23rd November, 1909 then transferred to H.M.S. *Powerful* on 12th January, 1910. He was promoted to Ordinary Seaman on 19th October, 1910, having attained the age of 18, still on board H.M.S. *Powerful*. John Simpson signed on for 12 years' service on 19th October, 1910.

The 1911 England Census recorded Ordinary Seaman John Simpson, aged 18, as crew on board H.M.S. *Powerful* which was a Protected Cruiser, First Class, captained by Edward F. Bruen. H.M.S. *Powerful* was positioned in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on the night on the Census – Sunday 2nd April, 1911. He was attached to H.M.S. *Powerful* until 5th August, 1911.

Ordinary Seaman John Simpson's Service record records "Run 5.8.11" The term "run" means that he deserted on 5th August, 1911 & received 42 days detention.

Ordinary Seaman John Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Penguin* on 24th October, 1911 then transferred to H.M.S. *Powerful* on 28th October, 1911. Ordinary Seaman Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 17th March, 1912 then transferred to H.M.S. *Hecla*. Ordinary Seaman Simpson was in cells for 14 days from 22nd April, to 7th May, 1913 – he was listed as being on cells 10 days only as he was medically unfit to complete the sentence. Ordinary Seaman Simpson was appointed Able Seaman on 20th June, 1913 while with H.M.S. *Hecla*.

Able Seaman John Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke* on 1st October, 1913 then transferred to H.M.S. *Weymouth* on 7th January, 1914 then back to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 17th January, 1914 till 19th January, 1914. He spent 5 days in cells & resumed back at H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 25th January, 1914.

Able Seaman John Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Natal* on 1st April, 1914. He spent 7 days in Cells from 5th September, 1914 & another 7 days in Cells from 4th October, 1914.

Able Seaman John Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 5th December, 1915 then spent 10 days in Cells until 10th January, 1916. On 25th January, 1916 Able Seaman Simpson was recorded as "Run". He was recovered & sentenced from 30th March, 1916 to 90 days. He resumed at H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 28th June, 1916.

Able Seaman John Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Duncan* on 8th July, 1916 then transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke* on 11th April, 1917. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Ceres* on 2nd June, 1917 then back to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 14th June, 1917.

Able Seaman John Simpson was transferred to H.M.S. *Laggan* on 3rd July, 1917 & reported back at H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 1st January, 1918.

Able Seaman John Simpson died on 27th February, 1919 at Military Hospital, York, Yorkshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for John Simpson, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Yorkshire, East Riding, England.

Able Seaman John Simpson was buried in Fulford Cemetery, Fulford, Yorkshire, England – Plot number F. 7 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Able Seaman John Simpson would have been entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque would also have been sent to Able Seaman John Simpson's closest next-of-kin.



Memorial Plaque (or Death Penny) for Able Seaman John Simpson

The Naval Casualties, Indexes, War Grave Rolls and Statistics Book for World War 1 records A.B. John Simpson, of H.M.S. *Pembroke*, Royal Navy, service number J. 2683 (CH), who died from disease. His next-of-kin was listed as his mother – “*Rose, Elizabeth. 3 Nelson Street York.*” The cause of death was listed as “3”. [Key to numerals In Column 9 (Cause of Death) – 3 - Deaths from disease.]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Able Seaman John Simpson – service number J/2683, aged 26, of H.M.S. “*Pembroke*”, Royal Navy. He was the son of Mrs R. Simpson, of 12 Botany St., Waterloo, Sydney, Australia.

Able Seaman John Simpson is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour. (*Note: It appears that Able Seaman Simpson's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned it was assumed would be Australian.*)

Mrs Rose E. Simpson, Charwoman, aged 56, of 3 Nelson St, York was a passenger on *Demosthenes* which departed from London, England on 22nd July, 1921. Mrs Simpson, mother of the late Able Seaman John Simpson, had contracted to land at Sydney, NSW & her country of intended future permanent residence was listed as Australia.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



Fulford Cemetery, Fulford, Yorkshire, England

Fulford Cemetery contains 235 Commonwealth Commission War Graves – 106 from World War 1 & 129 from World War 2.



Cross of Sacrifice in Fulford Cemetery (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Able Seaman John Simpson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fulford Cemetery, Fulford, Yorkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Fulford Cemetery)