

**Arnos Vale Cemetery,
Bristol, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4909 PRIVATE

J. J. SIMPSON

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST AUGUST, 1916 Age 33

John James SIMPSON

John James Simpson was born at Stanley, Victoria in 1883 to parents John James and Mary Catherine Simpson (nee Egan).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Yarra, subdivision of Richmond North, Victoria recorded John James Simpson, Rubber Worker, from 220 Church Street, Richmond. Also listed at the same address – John Simpson, Mary Catherine, Home Duties & Myrtle Isabel, Tailoress.

John James Simpson was a 31 year old, single, Rubber Worker from 74 Denham Street, Hawthorn, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 12th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4909 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. J. Simpson, 74 Denham Street, Hawthorn, Victoria. Listed on his Attestation Papers as distinctive marks – 1 gold tooth upper jaw.

Private John James Simpson was posted to 60th Company Depot at Seymour on 12th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company, 29th Battalion at Langwarrin on 13th September, 1915. Private Simpson was transferred to Reserve Company on 15th December, 1915 then transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 4th February, 1916.

Private John James Simpson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

Private John James Simpson was transferred to 60th Battalion on 20th April, 1916. He was taken on strength of 60th Battalion at Duntroon Plateau on the same day.

Private John James Simpson embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private John James Simpson was reported wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital, France with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to legs & embarked for England on 29th July, 1916 at Boulogne, France on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 60th Battalion

19th July, 1916 – Trenches on Fromelles Front

Coy Cmdrs and all other available officers received final instructions re assault at Batn Hdqtrs at 10 am.

Zero time 11 am. Head of battalion moved past Brigade Hqtrs at 1.30 and marched via V.C. Sap to front line trenches under heavy enemy artillery bombardment. Friendly artillery very heavily bombarding enemy trenches. Battalion established in front line trench by 4.20, Lewis guns excepted, a few casualties having occurred, some serious. Battalion scaled parapet and advanced in four waves, the first leaving at 6.45, the last at 7. Each wave advanced under very heavy machine gun and rifle fire, suffering very heavy casualties. Advance continued to within

90 yards of enemy trenches. The attack was held up, although it is believed some few of the battalion entered enemy trenches. During the night 19/20 a few stragglers, wounded and unwounded, returned to our trenches.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John James Simpson was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 27th July, 1916 (date as per Hospital Admissions form).

Private John James Simpson died on 1st August, 1916 at Bishop's Knoll Hospital (auxiliary to 2nd Southern General Hospital), Bristol, England from wounds received in action in France - GSW thigh - amputated & Septicaemia. (Note the Hospital Admissions form recorded the following information: "*Amputation ___ 1/3 open stump Septic. Died 11.30 pm 31/7/16.*")(The Australian War Memorial & CWGC both have the date of death as 1st August, 1916).

A death for John J. Simpson, aged 33, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private John James Simpson was buried in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. His name is remembered on the CWGC Screen Wall & he has a flat Memorial Stone. Cemetery/Memorial reference Screen Wall 3. 736.

Newspaper item – Ovens and Murray Advertiser, Beechworth, Victoria – 23 September, 1916:

Honors for Dead

BRITISH PAY TRIBUTE TO FALLEN AUSTRALIANS

92 Fleet Street, August 10

That there is no lack of honor for Australian soldiers who die of their wounds after coming over to British hospitals was manifested on two occasions last week. In both instances, the one at Bristol and the other at Peterborough, the soldiers were not only given impressive military funerals, but the inhabitants of the cities turned out in great numbers to pay their last tribute.

Private J. J Simpson, who hailed from Hawthorn, Victoria, was buried at the Arno's Vale Cemetery, near Bristol. On the preceding, Saturday he was brought to Bristol from France and received at Bishop's Knoll Hospital. He had been grievously wounded, and despite the best medical skill and the tenderest nursing, his life could not be saved.

The funeral was semi-military in character, and sympathetic interest was _____ as the cortege moved slowly through the city. The coffin, covered with the Australian flag, and beautiful wreaths of flowers was borne on an open car, and it was followed by Commandant R. E. Bush, Bishop Clifford, Sister Pront, matron of Bishop's Knoll Hospital, and members of the nursing staff ; Mr. A .G. Powell, representing the Inquiry Bureau, English and Australian soldiers, and upwards of 60 wounded men, who were conveyed to the cemetery in _____.

The service was taken by the Rev Mr. Davies, of the Navy and Army Board, and the scene with the wounded soldiers, the sisters, and many civilians gathered round the graveside, was a most impressive one. The "Last Post" was sounded by men of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Among the floral tokens was one from Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Bush, one from the Bristol branch of the British Red Cross Society, one from members of the Bristol Liberal _____ "With respect for a brave soldier," and several, including three everlasting wreaths from wounded comrades at Bishop's Knoll.

The Private Simpson referred to is a son of Mr. John Simpson, formerly, of Beechworth and Stanley, and a grandson of Mrs. C. Egan, of Camp-street, Beechworth.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr J. J. Simpson, 21 Benjamin Street, Parkville, Victoria, father of the late Private John James Simpson, on 17th June, 1931, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" featuring an article on the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his son were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr J. J. Simpson, 21 Benjamin Street, Parkville, Victoria, father of the late Private John James Simpson, on 28th June, 1935, 22nd June, 1936 & 12th August, 1937, copies of the “*Western Daily Press*” and “*Evening World*” featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his son were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop’s Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr J. J. Simpson, 21 Benjamin Street, Parkville, Victoria, father of the late Private John James Simpson, on 17th June, 1932 & 15th June, 1933, copies of the “*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror*” containing articles referring to the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his son were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop’s Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Private John James Simpson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Simpson’s father – Mr J. J. Simpson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1921).

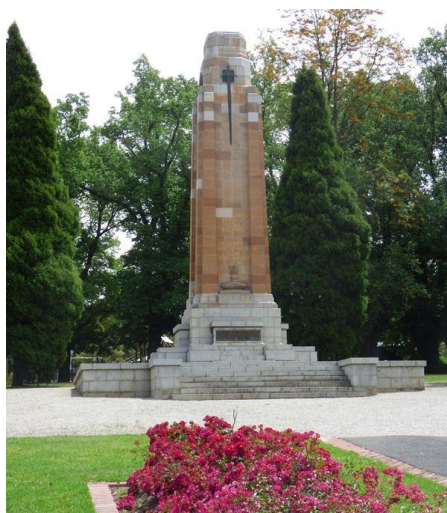
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John James Simpson – service number 4909, aged 33, of 60th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John James and Mary C. Simpson, of 21 Benjamin Street, Parkville, Victoria.

Private J. 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 171.



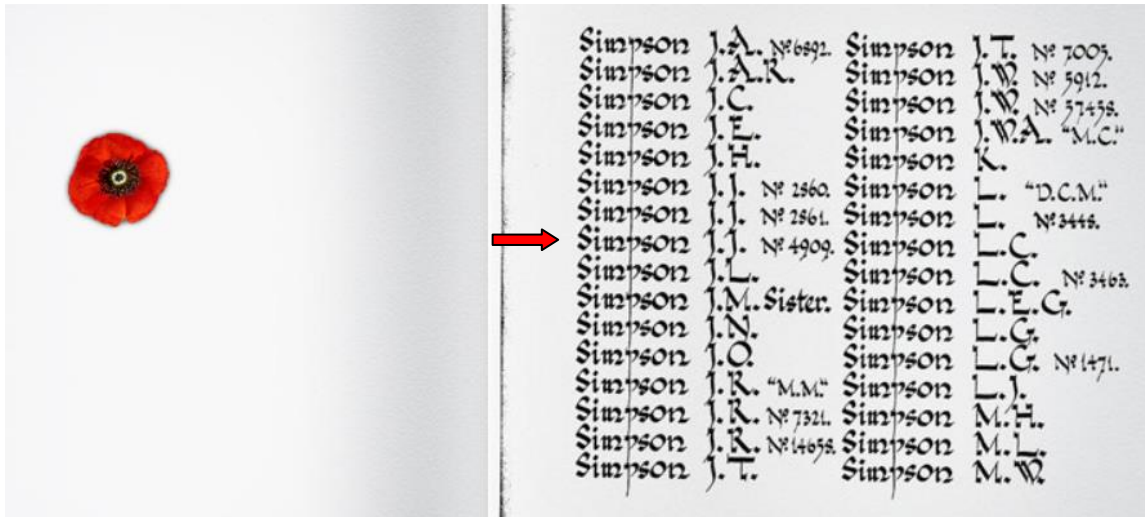
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Hawthorn Cenotaph, located in St. James Park, Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Victoria, does not list individual names.



Hawthorn Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia)

J. J. Simpson is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(35 pages of Private John 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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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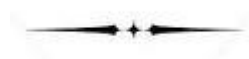
Private John James Simpson



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05963

Private John James Simpson



Newspaper Notices

756 CASUALTIES

IN 192ND LIST

Died, Cause Not Stated

Pte J. J. SIMPSON, Hawthorn

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 14 August, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE



Private J. J. Simpson.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SIMPSON – In sad but in loving memory of our dearly beloved son and brother, Private J. J. Simpson, died of wounds 1st August, 1916.

Great love hath no man than this – that a man lay down his life for his friends.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother and sister.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SIMPSON – In loving memory of our dear son, Private J. J. Simpson, who died of wounds received at Pozieres on the 19th July.

Until the day dawns, and the shadows flee away.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother and Myrtle.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 August, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

The cemetery was established in 1837. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. ARNOS VALE CEMETERY contains burials of both wars. Most of the 356 First World War burials were of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Their graves can be found in the 'Soldiers Corner', a plot established by the British Red Cross, near the main entrance. The 238 casualties buried here are commemorated on a memorial at the rear of the plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are also special memorials to one casualty buried in the cemetery whose grave could not be located and another commemorating a casualty buried in Bedminster Church Cemetery whose grave could not be maintained. There are 149 burials from the Second World War, some forming a small plot in an area in the upper part of the cemetery set aside for burials from the Naval Hospital at Barrow Gurney; the rest are scattered. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall Memorial. BRISTOL (ARNOS VALE) CREMATORIUM stands within the cemetery. A memorial in front of the crematorium commemorates 68 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



Arnos Vale Cemetery - Main Entrance on Bath Road *(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)*



(Photo from CWGC)



(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Soldiers' Corner – Arnos Vale Cemetery (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2017)



New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

Photo of Private John James Simpson's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.

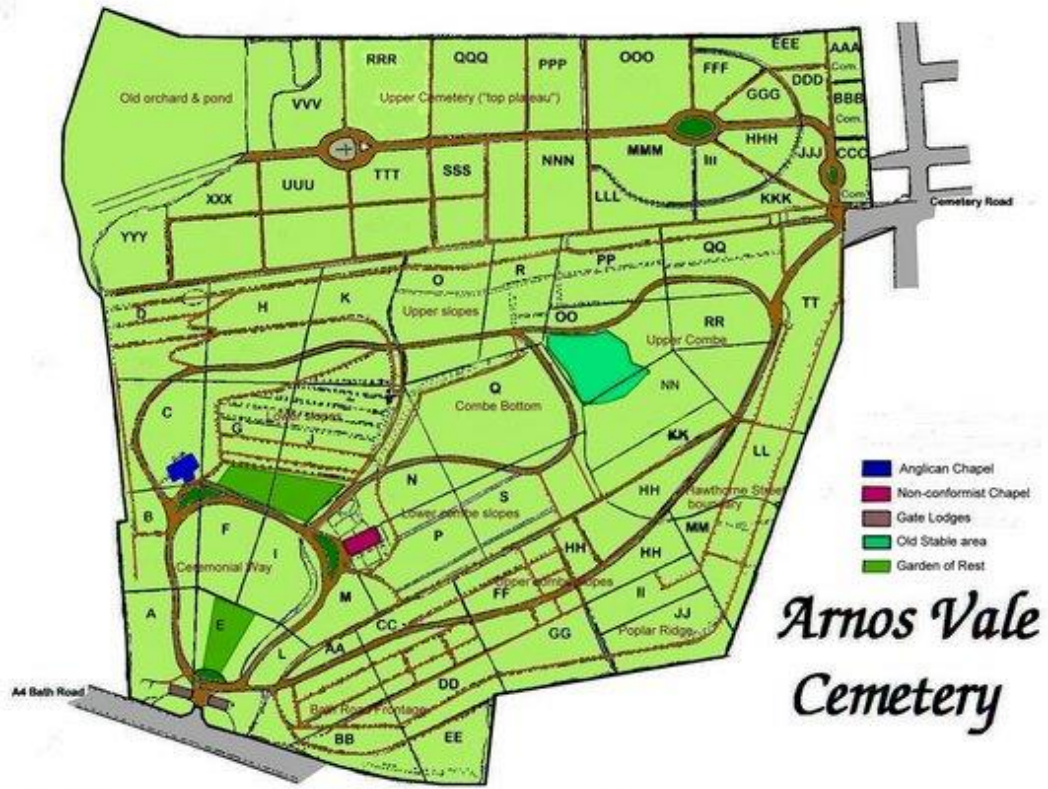


(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)

PTE. THOMAS G. ROWLANDS
PTE. FREDERICK GEORGE ROBINSON
PTE. JOHN JAMES SIMPSON
DRVR. P. CHARLES STEWART
PTE. WILLIAM WALKER

4TH M.G. BN.
48TH BATTN.
60TH BATTN.
2ND F.A.B.
6TH BATTN.





Arnos Vale Cemetery

(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)