

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6177 PRIVATE

J. V. SIMPSON

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH DECEMBER, 1917

James Victor SIMPSON

James Victor Simpson was born at Marrickville, Sydney, New South Wales around 1897 to parents Frank R. & Louisa Simpson (nee Jackson) (see Note below).

[Note: There is no record of James Victor Simpson's parents in his Service Record file – only that they were both dead. A search on NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages website does not find any birth's registered for "James Victor Simpson".

Private James Victor Simpson was entitled to 2 War Medals for his service in World War 1 & these were issued to his eldest brother "F. R. Simpson".

A note in the Service Record file lists a slip of paper & underneath his aunt's name is "(Sister) Miss Doris L. Simpson, 6 Reservoir Rd, Surry Hills, NSW.

A search as made on NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages for "Doris Simpson" & a birth was registered at Marrickville for Doris L. Simpson in 1902 with parents Frank R. Simpson & Louisa Simpson.

A search was then made on NSW Births Deaths & Marriages website for children with surname Simpson & parents Frank & Louisa & the following births were registered: Frank R. Simpson (1895 at St. Peters)- eldest brother who was issued the War Medals, Herbert J. Simpson (1897, Marrickville), Albert V. Simpson (1899, Marrickville) & Doris L. Simpson (1902, Marrickville).

A Memorial notice was placed in the newspaper in 1920 "Inserted by his loving brother and sisters, Frank, Herb, Willie, Doris, Marjorie" where Willie & Marjorie were listed as stepbrother & step sister in a 1918 Memorial Notice.

A search was made for a marriage between Frank R. Simpson & Louisa & a result showed that they were married in 1895 & Louisa's maiden name was Jackson.

James Victor Simpson's birth may have been registered as "Albert V. Simpson".

From Memorial Notices - Willie & Marjorie Ballard were stepbrother & stepsister to James Victor Simpson. A death was registered in 1904 at Marrickville for Frank R. Simpson & Louisa Simpson remarried in 1906 at Marrickville to Clarence M. Ballard. Louisa Ballard (formerly Simpson) died in 1914 at Marrickville.]

James Victor Simpson was a 19 year old, single, Horse Driver from 15 Princess Street, Miller's Point, Sydney, New South Wales when he enlisted on 18th July, 1916 at Royal Agricultural Show Grounds, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his aunt – Mary Humphries, Euston Road, Alexandria, New South Wales (address was changed later to 44 Mackie St, Surry Hills, NSW). James Simpson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with Senior Cadets & had previously been rejected from Militia due to sickness – 1 year ago due to Pneumonia.

On the "Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force" form – James Victor Simpson recorded that both his parents were dead.

Private James Victor Simpson was posted to "C" Company, 1st Depot Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW on 18th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company, 1st Depot Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW on 4th August, 1916. Private Simpson was transferred to C/4th Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 21st August, 1916 then to A/4th Battalion on 31st October, 1916. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion on 3rd November, 1916.

Private James Victor Simpson, Service number 6177, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Afric* (A19) on 3rd November, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements.

Private James Victor Simpson was written up for an Offence on 11th December, 1916 while at Sea – Neglect of Duty. This was admonished by Colonel G. H. Dean. He was written up for an Offence on 19th November, 1916 while at Sea – Asleep at Post whilst on Guard. He forfeited 2 days' pay. Private Simpson was written up for another Offence while at Sea – Absent from Parade on 22nd December, 1916. He was awarded a forfeiture of 1 days pay. Private Simpson disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private James Victor Simpson was marched in to 6th Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 11th January, 1917. He was written up for an Offence while posted at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 2nd February, 1917 – Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline in that when told to cease talking on Parade he continued to talk, He was awarded 5 day confined to Camp. Private Simpson was written up for an Offence while posted at Rollestone, Wiltshire - A.W.L (Absent without Leave) from 9.30 pm on 2nd June, 1917 to 10.30 pm on 3rd June, 1917. He was awarded a forfeiture of 4 days' Pay & 7 days confined to Camp by Lieutenant Colonel F. Forbes on 4th June, 1917. His total forfeiture of pay was 6 days.

Private James Victor Simpson proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 14th June, 1917 from Rollestone. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 15th June, 1917 & joined 21st Battalion in France on 3rd July, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private James Victor Simpson reported sick on 7th August, 1917 & was admitted to 58th Scottish (?) General Hospital at St. Omer the same day. He was transferred to 7th Convalescent Depot with Appendicitis then transferred to 3rd Rest Camp at Boulogne, France on 14th September, 1917. Private Simpson was marched into 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 17th September, 1917.

Private James Victor Simpson reported sick on 24th October, 1917 & was admitted to 2nd General Hospital at Havre on the same day with Abuminia from 2nd A.D.B.D. He embarked for England on 30th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Panama* with Nephritis.

Private James Victor Simpson was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England on 31st October, 1917 with General Nephritis – severe.

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.....

In early May 1917, the battalion fought at Bullecourt, and then in October participated in the 3-kilometre advance that captured Broodseinde Ridge, east of Ypres. Like the rest of the AIF the battalion saw out the year recuperating from the trials of the Ypres sector.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Victor Simpson died on 4th December, 1917 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England from Chronic Parenchymatous Nephritis & Uraemia.

A death for James V. Simpson, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England.

Private James Victor Simpson was buried at 2 pm on 7th December, 1917 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Grave No. 289 Section B 10 Soldiers' Plot.

From the burial report of Private James Victor Simpson - Coffin was good polished Elm and brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Gun Carriage, Buglers and Pallbearers were supplied by the R.A.M.C. 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham. Prior to interment a service was held in the Chapel at the Cemetery. The grave will be turfed immediately. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

His name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 289 as he does not have a headstone.

Private James Victor Simpson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Simpson's eldest brother - Mr F. R. Simpson (address was 327 Crown St, Surry Hills, NSW then changed to 22 Bruce St, Brighton-le-Sands, NSW), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Victor Simpson – service number 6177, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. V. 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 95.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(51 pages of Private James Victor 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

Latest Casualties

377th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte J. V. Simpson, Alexandria.

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 11 January, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SIMPSON – In loving memory of Private Victor Simpson, died in hospital in England, December 4, 1917, beloved nephew and cousin of Mr and Mrs William Wales and family.

SIMPSON – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, James Victor, who died in Birmingham, Hospital December 4, 1917. He fought and died for his country.

No one he loved was by his side
To hear his last faint sigh,
Or whisper just one loving word
Before he closed his eyes.

Inserted by his loving aunts, Mary Humphreys and Lal, Phillis, also cousins, Rob, Willie and Norman.

SIMPSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private J. V. (Vic) Simpson, who died of illness in the 1st Southern Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England, December 4, 1917.

We pictured his safe returning,
We longed to clasp his hand;
But God has postponed the meeting
“Twill be in a better land.

Inserted by Doris, Frank (on active service), also his little stepbrother and sister, Willie and Marjorie Ballard.

SIMPSON – In fond memory of my dear friend, Private J. V. (Vic) Simpson, died of illness, 1st Southern Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England, on December 4, 1917.

Too far away for sight or speech,
But not too far for my thoughts to reach.

Inserted by his friend Alex. Russell.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

SIMPSON – In loving memory of my dear nephew, who departed this life December 4, 1917. Gone but not forgotten. Inserted by his loving aunt, Mary (Doll).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 December, 1919)

On Active Service

SIMPSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Victor, who died on active service, December 4, 1917.

Inserted by his loving brother and sisters, Frank, Herb, Willie, Doris, Marjorie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 December, 1920)

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.

Private J. V. Simpson does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



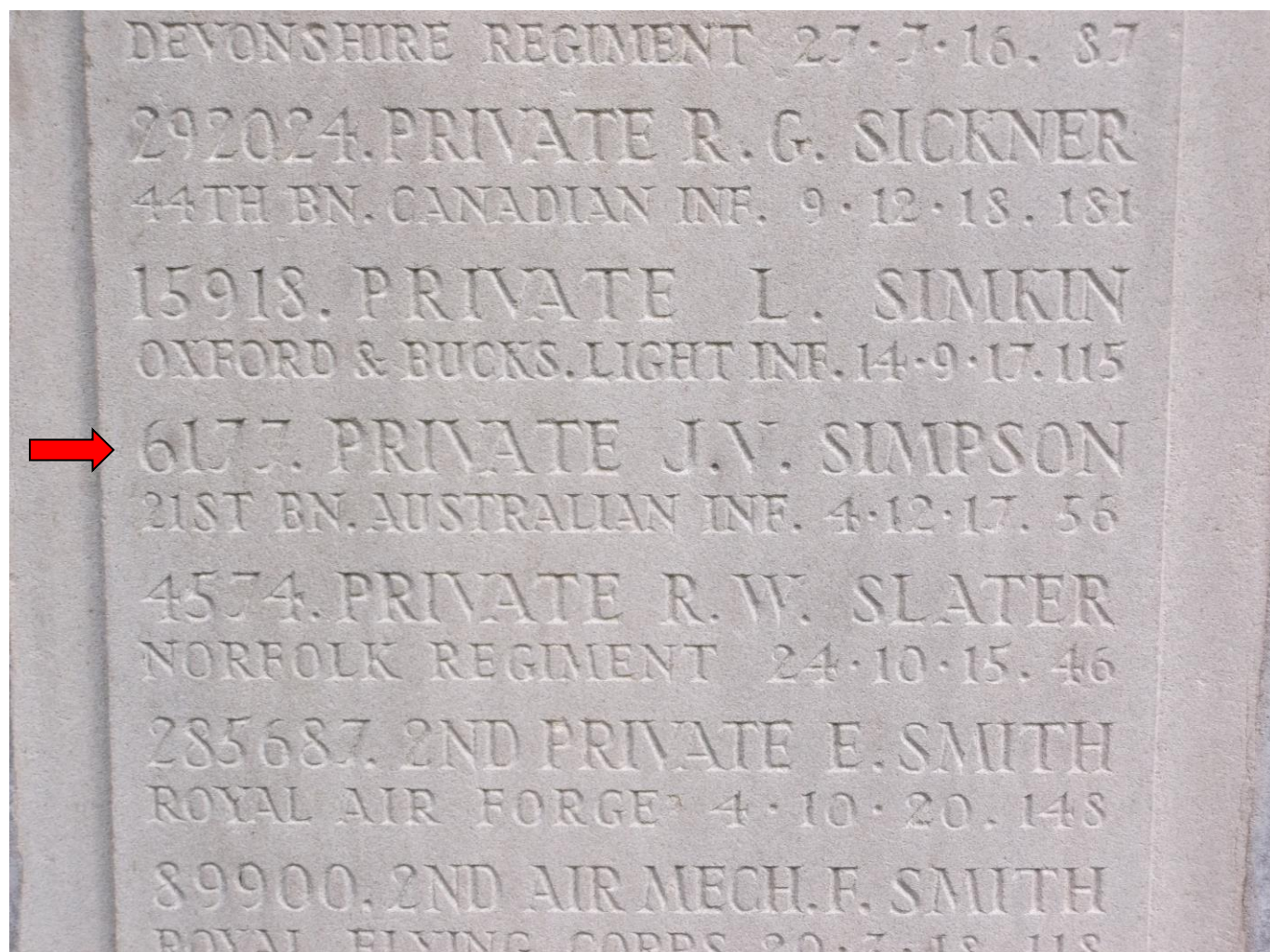
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private J. V. Simpson's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

