

PERCY SIMMONS

Percy Simmons was the third child of John Ward Simmons and his wife Amy (nee Robinson). He was born in 1895 in Geelong.

His father, John died in Geelong in 1910 aged 47 when he drowned in Corio Bay whilst fishing, and his wife, Amy died in 1922 in Elsternwick aged 62. As his father was already deceased, Percy gave his mother, Amy Simmons, who was living in South Yarra at the time, as his next of kin. She had moved there with her 7 children after her husband's death.

Percy's siblings were George Thomas (1887 – lived 6 months), Mabel Maude (1889), Minnie Elizabeth (1890), John Vessy Robinson (1893), Reginald Cecil (1898), Victoria Gertrude (1901) and Albert Edward (1901).

Percy belonged to the Cadets and Citizen Forces, prior to enlisting in the AIF. He was a 19 year old, single motor mechanic, being educated to be a civil engineer, when he enlisted.

Service Number	2196
Enlistment	21 April 1915 in Melbourne as a Private
Embarkation	17 June 1915 from Melbourne on board HMAT A62 <i>Wandilla</i>
Unit	8 th Battalion, 6 th Reinforcement
Returned home	21 March 1919 arriving on 7 May, discharged on 6 July 1919

Percy seemed to have a few injuries in the beginning of his time on land at Gallipoli. He joined the 8th Battalion on 8 August 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula, but by 11 August, he was admitted to the 1st General Hospital at Heliopolis suffering from a crushed thigh. He had also suffered from a back injury, shock and wounded skull although not many details are given of these. He rejoined the battalion on 31 October 1915, and was once again admitted to hospital with rheumatism and rejoined his unit on 23 January 1916. He was once again admitted to hospital, the No 4 Auxiliary Hospital in Abbassia, suffering from mumps.

He embarked for the Western Front from Alexandria on 21 June 1916 on board HT *Ivernia* and disembarked at Marseilles on 30 June. He went out to join the 60th Battalion on 28 March 1916 and spent some time with this unit at training school which he completed on 11 August 1916.

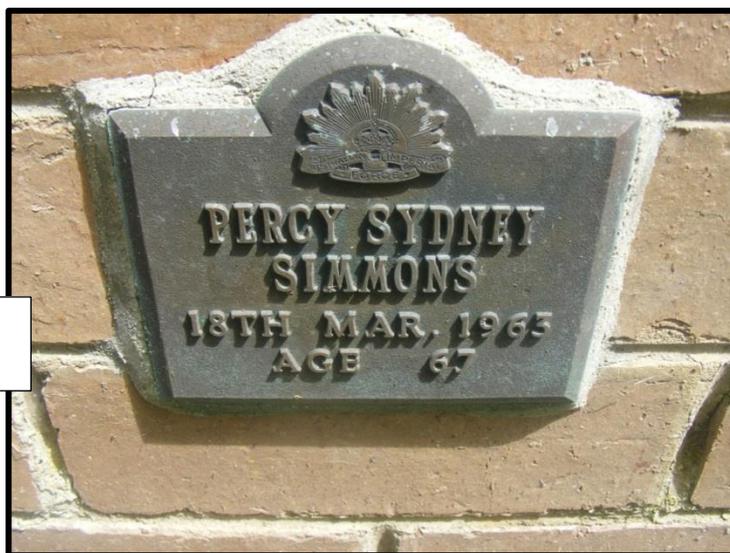
In January 1918 he spent some time in England on leave and when he returned to France on 1 February he rejoined the 60th battalion. On 27 September he was transferred to the 59th Battalion and again on 19 October 1918 transferred to the 58th battalion, but had furlough in UK before rejoining them on 15 November 1918. On 18 January 1919, he left Haure in preparation for returning to Australia. He returned home on the SS *Kildonian Castle*, disembarking on 7 May 1919 and was discharged on 6 July 1919.

He was awarded the 1914-15 star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war he married Hazel Olive Chandler in 1920. She died in Melbourne in 1933 aged 39. She is buried at the Brighton cemetery. After the marriage they lived in Melbourne at Kew where Percy worked as a motor mechanic. By 1931 they were both living in Shakespeare Street, Traralgon where Percy was still working as a motor mechanic. He continued to live in Traralgon after his wife died and stayed with cars; around 1936 coming into motor sales for Roland Hill. He spent quite a lot of time assisting with the welfare of returned soldiers after he returned.

He and his wife had 3 children whom he brought up with a little help - Jack, Elaine and Margaret. Elaine and Margaret are still alive. He died in Traralgon on 18 March 1963 aged 67, and is buried in Traralgon. He had a brother Jack Robinson Simmons (2455) who was with the 23rd battalion and was KIA on 3 May 1917 on the Western Front.

Gippsland Memorial Park
WB4-6-2



1914-15 Star



Victory Medal



British War Medal



SS Kildonan Castle

HMAT A62 Wandilla

