

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**4885 LANCE CPL.**

**R. H. SIMPSON**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**14TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 24**

*Have Mercy Upon Him Lord*

*And Let Perpetual Light*

*Shine Upon Him*

*CWGC Headstone for Lance Cpl. R. H. Simpson is located in  
Grave Plot # 30. I. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Roland Henry SIMPSON

Roland Henry Simpson was born at Burrawang, near Robertson, NSW in 1894 to parents John and Hannah Simpson (nee Durrant). He was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Kin Kin, via Cooran, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1915 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4885 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Simpson of Kin Kin, via Cooran, Queensland.

Private Roland Henry Simpson embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73) on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1916.

Pte Simpson was admitted to Hospital at Abbassia on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1916, cause not yet determined. He was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> A.S.H. (Australian Stationary Hospital) at Tel-el-Kebir on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 with Influenza. Pte Simpson was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian General Hospital at Ras-el-Kin on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1916.

(Service Record file does not contain entries as to when Pte Simpson arrived in England). Pte Simpson was taken on strength of 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Battalion from Camp 26 Larkhill, Salisbury Plain on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Pte Simpson proceeded Overseas from 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Battalion at Perham Down, England on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Pte Simpson was sent to Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 in the field. He was admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian General Hospital at Boulogne on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with Influenza. Pte Simpson was transferred to 7<sup>th</sup> Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & discharged to duty on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

Pte Simpson was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was marched out to 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Pte Simpson was wounded in action in France on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. He was taken to 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance then transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station with a shrapnel wound to right leg. Pte Simpson was admitted to 9<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Rouen on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 then transferred to Convalescent Depot on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. He was discharged to duty on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1917.

Pte Simpson was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. He was marched out to 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion from Havre on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 & taken on strength with 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

Pte Simpson was wounded in action (2<sup>nd</sup> occasion) on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1917 in Belgium. He was taken to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 17<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Simpson was admitted to 54<sup>th</sup> General Hospital on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1917. Pte Simpson was transferred to England on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* with shrapnel wounds to right thigh (severe). Pte Simpson was admitted to Brook War Hospital, Woolwich on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917 with a gunshot wound to left leg & discharged on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. He was transferred on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 to Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford & discharged on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Simpson was on furlo from 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Simpson was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Simpson was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1918.

Pte Simpson was marched out from Overseas Training Brigade on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1918 & proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Pte Simpson was marched on to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit from Havre on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Pte Simpson was appointed Lance Corporal on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1918.

Lance Cpl. Simpson was wounded in action (3<sup>rd</sup> occasion) on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. He was taken to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to left leg then transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Lance Cpl. Simpson was transferred to 30<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Calais on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. Lance Cpl. Simpson was admitted to East Suffolk & Ipswich War Hospital at Colchester on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. He was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & discharge the next day.

Lance Cpl. Simpson was on furlo from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1918.

Lance Cpl. Simpson was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson was sent sick & then admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 with Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson died at 07.30 hrs on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza Pneumonia.

A death for Roland Simpson, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

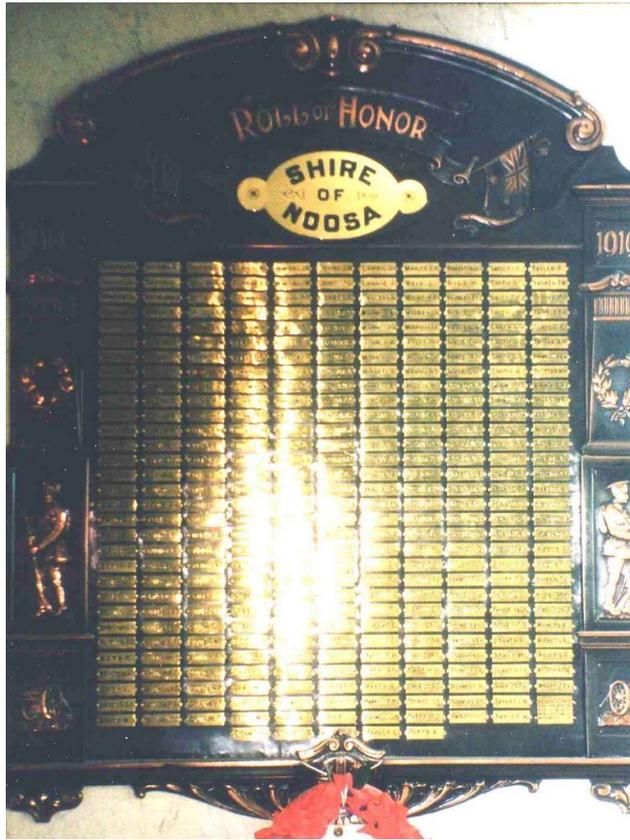
Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson was buried on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 30. From the burial report of L/Cpl. Simpson - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Overseas Training Brigade A.I.F. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Lance Corporal R. H. Simpson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 57.



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

R. H. Simpson is remembered on the Shire of Noosa Roll of Honour located in Noosa Shire Chamber, Tewantin, Queensland.



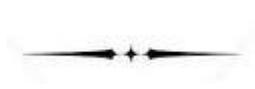
**Shire of Noosa Roll of Honour** (Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Doug Tanner)

Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to L/Cpl. Simpson's father – Mr J. Simpson (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson, 4885, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of John and Hannah Simpson, of Kin Kin, Queensland. Born at Burrawang, New South Wales.

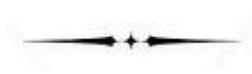
(73 pages of Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*





**Roland Henry Simpson**



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **THE 306th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **QUEENSLAND**

##### **WOUNDED**

Pte Roland Henry Simpson

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 2 June, 1917)*

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### **THE 450th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **DIED, OTHER CAUSES – QUEENSLAND**

L.Cpl. R. H. Simpson (Kinkin)

*(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – Friday 27 December, 1918)*

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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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)*

Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Have Mercy Upon Him Lord And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him*



**Original Grave marker for Lance Corporal Roland Henry Simpson**

Photo of Lance Cpl. R. H. Simpson's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** (Photos from CWGC)

