

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



1995 PRIVATE

T. J. SKIPPER

51st BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7th JANUARY, 1918 Age 45

THOUGH COMPARATIVELY LITTLE

I DID MY BEST

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T J Skipper is located in Middle Row

Grave Plot # 3 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery

Thomas James Skipper was born in 1871 at Mount Barker, South Australia to parents Octavius and Annie Skipper (nee Bourke). He was a Prospector (previously an Accountant), single & aged 43 years & 3 months from Marble Bar, Western Australia when he enlisted in February, 1916 with the 51st Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His service number was 1995 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr Michael John Skipper of Mount Barker, South Australia.

Pte T J Skipper embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Seang Bee* (A48) on 18th July, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th September, 1916.

On 28th November, 1916 Pte Skipper embarked for France for active duty. He was admitted to hospital on 5th January, 1917 with suspected mumps & rejoined his unit on 26th February, 1917.

On 2nd April, 1917 Pte T J Skipper was wounded in action with a gunshot wound to the knee. He was returned to England on 8th April, 1917 & admitted to Spalding Hall Hospital.

On 1st July, 1917, Pte Skipper was posted permanently to the No 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

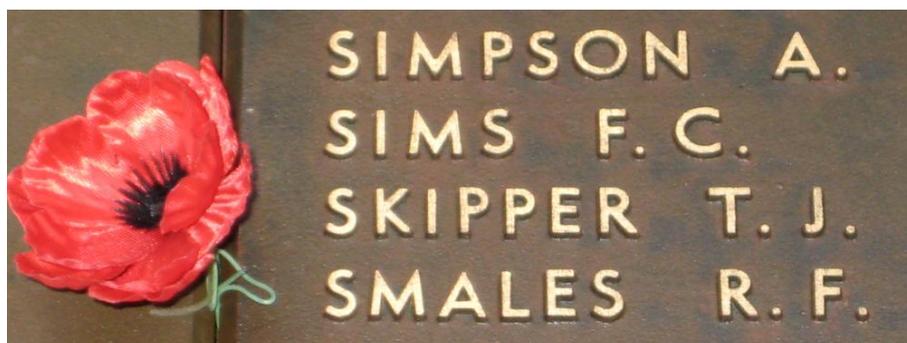
On 31st December, 1917 Pte Skipper was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire – seriously ill.

Pte Thomas James Skipper died at 10.30 p.m. on 7th January, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant of Phthisis. A death for Thomas J Skipper, aged 46, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte Skipper was buried on 10th January, 1918 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of Pte Skipper – Coffin was of Polished Elm with Brass Mountings. Pte Skipper was accorded a Military funeral.

Pte Thomas James Skipper requested in his Will, dated 20th July, 1917 that “my personal estate I bequeath to my brother Michael John Skipper, Mount Barker, S. Australia.”

Private T J Skipper is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 154.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Pte T J Skipper was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque (July, 1923) were sent to Pte Skipper's new next of kin – his brother – Mr O. W. Skipper of Innamincka, South Australia. Pte Skipper's previous next of kin – brother Mr Michael John Skipper – deceased.

(77 pages of Pte Skipper'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

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****Three of Pte Skipper's nephews (eldest sister's sons) fought in World War 1 – two died.**

- Patrick Thomas Pyne – Service no 973, died between 25th April, 1915 & 29th April, 1915 (Killed in Action Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey) Buried Beach Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.
- Octavius John Pyne – Service no 2428, died 17/3/17 (Severe gunshot wound to head – led to Septic Meningitis). Buried Boulogne Eastern Military Cemetery, France)
- Cpl William Ewart Pyne – Service no 6526 was discharged from AIF at Adelaide on 2/10/1919 Termination of period of enlistment.

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Notice of an Application for a Gold Mining Lease – Thomas James Skipper

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – Thursday 21st September, 1899)

<p>NOTICE of APPLICATION for a GOLD-MINING LEASE.</p> <p>No. 13.</p> <p>Notice is hereby given, that we, the undersigned, have MADE APPLICATION this day for a LEASE under "The Goldfields Act 1895," and the Regulations, of ground known as the EMPRESS HELENA, containing 24 acres, adjoining Lease No. 5, on Crown lands outside goldfield (known as the Queen of the South), to the southwards, datum point starting 15½ chains south of above lease; thence running north to southern boundary of above lease; thence 18 chains west; thence 15½ chains south; thence 18 chains east to point of commencement; all measurements being only approximate.</p> <p>As witness our hands and seal at Perth, this 22nd day of August, 1899.</p> <p>EDWARD JACKSON THOMAS JAMES SKIPPER. ROBERT SYKES.</p> <p>OBJECTIONS against the above application must be lodged at the office of the Under-Secretary for Mines, on or before the 22nd day of September, 1899.</p> <p>J. J. CROCKETT, For Under-Secretary for Mines.</p> <p>2659</p>

PERSONAL

The death occurred at Mount Barker on Saturday last of Mrs Skipper, widow of Mr Octavius Skipper, who was for over 30 years clerk of the court at many of the south-eastern towns, and latterly of Mount Barker. The deceased, who had resided at Mount Barker for many years was born in Ireland in 1840, and came to Australia with her parents in 1847. For some time they resided in the vicinity of Gepp's Cross, and afterwards removed to Echunga, where they lived for many years. Mrs Skipper was married at the old St Patrick's Church, West-terrace, Adelaide, by the late Rev. Father Smythe. There were seven children of the marriage, five of whom survive. The sons are Mr M.J. Skipper, who has just recently been appointed to the clerkship of the Mount Barker Council; and Messrs. O.W. Skipper, of Broken Hill and T. J. Skipper, of Western Australia. Mrs J.A. Pyne of Strathalbyn, and Miss T Skipper, of Mount Barker, are the surviving daughters.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Wednesday 13th May, 1914) & (The West Australian, Perth – Tuesday 26th May, 1914) & (The Western Mail, Perth, WA – Friday 5th June, 1914)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – The Roll of Honour

Wounded

T.J. Skipper (Mt Barker, South Australia)

(The West Australian, Perth – Tuesday 8th May, 1917) & (Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW - Tuesday 8th May, 1917)

THE AUSTRALIANS

381st Casualty List – South Australia

DIED OF ILLNESS

1995 –Pte. T. J. SKIPPER, Mount Barker (Jan. 7)

(The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Friday 1st February, 1918) & (The Chronicle, Adelaide, St Aust – Saturday 2nd February, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Died of Illness – T.J. Skipper (Mt Barker, S. Aus)

(Sunday Times, Perth, WA – Sunday 3rd February, 1918)

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 Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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)

Pte Skipper does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte T J Skipper's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey