

Benjamin Simpson -P O Telegraphist H.M.A.S SYDNEY II

Born: April 21st, 1911 in Aberdeen City Scotland

Enlisted: April 26th 1926 Aged 15

Home Port: Melbourne Victoria

Married: Marjorie Gunn in January 27th 1938

Father of: Lorraine September 15th 1939

Benjamin came out to Australia with his family when he was a young boy.

For over 15 years he served on H.M.A.S ships Tingarra, Platypus, Brisbane, Albatross, Canberra, Hobart and was transferred to the Sydney on October 1st 1941, seven weeks before the sinking.

Artifacts I have in my possession:

1. War Service Medals
2. Commendatory Scroll from the King upon his death
3. A Proclamation Scroll from H.M.A.S. Brisbane dated 27th August 1928
4. The official 'Missing in Action Telegram'
5. A letter from Rear Admiral Grace on behalf of Officers & men of the Australian Squadron and another letter from Rear Admiral Grace's wife on behalf of the Officers wives.
6. A camera & album

By Lorraine:

(These are the memories related to me by my mother, as I do not remember him)

He was a quiet and reserved, who's interests included reading, music, radio & communications, he was a registered ham radio enthusiast, and had a radio room at his in laws house at Richmond Victoria. He rode a motorbike with a side car and enjoyed tinkering with the engine.

He played both tennis and soccer and was captain of a soccer team at Cerberus. Another of his interests was photography and he was trying his hand at tinting the black and white photos of that era *(I still have an album with some of his adventures and a camera of his in my possession)*. Musically, he played the guitar and ukulele.

His family returned to Scotland before the war started and we lost contact with them after the war, and I have not looked into the family history. I have been told that his uncles had gone to Canada when his family moved to Australia.

1-2-09.

To Whom it may concern.

I hope this is the type of information
you were seeking for the Virtual Memorial of Sydney II.

It pleased me that each crew
member could be honoured & thought of in this way.

Yours Sincerely
Lorraine Simpson.