

## Thomas Percy Swinburne



Private (Pte) 2006 Thomas Percy Swinburne enlisted in the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division in Melbourne on 4 March 1916. He embarked overseas on 8 July and disembarked at Devonport on 31 August, where he later joined the 15<sup>th</sup> (Brigade) Training Battalion at Perham Downs Camp on 10 October.

Between 29 January – 21 February 1917, Pte Swinburne attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Rifle Course at the Tidworth School of Musketry, from which he qualified as 1<sup>st</sup> Class (Distinguished).

He left England on 5 April and landed in France two days later, where he was taken on strength of the 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion, in the field at Reincourt, on 16 April.

During the Second Battle of Bullecourt, the 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved into the new front line between 9 – 13 May to defend the gains made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, for the loss of 73 casualties, one of whom was Pte Swinburne who suffered shell shock on 12 May 1917.

He passed through several medical facilities before also being diagnosed with trench fever, for which he was treated at hospital in Rouen from 29 May – 8 June. He was then transferred to England and admitted to the Exeter War Hospital between 9 June – 25 October 1917.

Pte Swinburne spent the next eight months at various camps in England then contracted influenza and was admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand Hospital from 27 June – 22 August 1918.

Shortly after his discharge, on 19 October, he embarked for return to Australia suffering from a general debility.

Private 2006 Thomas Percy Swinburne disembarked in Melbourne on 27 December, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 27 January 1919.

Name: Swinburne, Thomas Percy	
Service Number	2006
Date enlisted	4 March 1916
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	57 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Previous military service	CMF – 6 months, Cadets – 4 years
Date and ship embarked for overseas	8 July 1916 HMAT A31 <i>Ajana</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	18 years 4 months
Place of birth	Richmond, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Assistant auditor
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Swinburne, Mr Percy, father, 19 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, Victoria
Permanent address	South Yarra, Victoria
Appearance	Dark complexion, black hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 8 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone, 6 lbs, chest measurement – 31/35 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	57 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	12 May 1917 Bullecourt, France
Nature of wounds	Shell shock
Date and ship embarked for Australia	19 October 1918 HT <i>Sardinia</i>
Date discharged	27 January 1919
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (debility)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Family had resided in the St Leonards district at some stage. Remembered on the St Leonards Honor Roll and St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll.