

Jack Simpson

Rushworth Chronicle

8 July, 1938

SIMPSON. – On 4th July, 1938, at Rushworth, Jack Thomas, dearly loved husband of Elma and darling daddy on Ian. Good-night dear.

SIMPSON. – On 4th July, 1938, at Rushworth, Jack Thomas, loving son of Mrs. And the late Mr. Alex. Simpson of Rosedale, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. David Graham, Tunstall, and loving brother of Alex., Frank, Marge, Jean and Greg, dearly loved husband of Elma and darling daddy on Ian.

SIMPSON. – On 4th July, 1938, at Rushworth, Jack, esteemed friend and fellow worker of Gordon and Noel. Rest in Peace.

SIMPSON. – In memory of my esteemed friend, Mr. J. Simpson.

He was with us yesterday, God alone knows where he is. Fate has taken him to the judgment throne. Although we are bereaved let's not lament. He was one of nature's gentlemen. --- Inserted by his friend, Mrs. M. E. Stevens.

SHOOTING FATALITY

Mr. Jack T. Simpson the unfortunate victim.

Residents of the town and district sustained a severe shock on Tuesday morning when the body of Mr. J. T. Simpson, manager of the Rushworth Printing Company and editor of this journal, was found near a fence through which he had been crossing when an automatic pea-rifle accidentally discharged, the bullet entering his forehead, death apparently being instantaneous.

Deceased left home about 3.45 in the afternoon with the intention of getting some mushrooms and took the rifle to do some shooting if the opportunity occurred. He cycled to a place on O'Neill's lane some two miles from the town and left the cycle against the fence.

Mrs. Simpson became alarmed when he did not return home after dark and Messrs J. Koopman, J. Richards and B. G. Marshall made a fruitless search in the direction he was known to have taken. The police were then informed and a search was again made under Constable Ashe.

This proving futile, the firebell was rung and arrangements made for a search by daylight, but a further effort to locate the missing man was made at 2 a.m. when Mr. Max Muir stated he had seen a cycle in O'Neill's lane on his return home from work. The 13 searchers led by Senior-Constable Ashe and Mr. J. Koopman, searched until 4.30 and as subsequent developments proved had passed within 100 yards of the body.

In the morning, at 7 a.m., about 50 searchers assembled and the party discovered the unfortunate victim about a mile from the cycle. Deceased's foot was caught in the wires of the fence and the discharged rifle was lying beside him.

The Rushworth Ambulance conveyed the remains to the Rushworth Police Station where an enquiry was opened by Mr. D. Crothers (deputy coroner) and adjourned to a date to be fixed. An order was given for burial.

The sympathy of the whole town and district is extended to Mrs. Simpson, her baby son, Ian and relatives of deceased in their loss of a devoted husband, father son, and brother in such distressing circumstances.

The passing of Mr. J. T. Simpson leaves a gap in the community which will be felt by all as his association with this paper as editor during the past three and a half years has made him well-known and respected throughout the district.

His loss to this paper which he has served so faithfully during his term of employment as manager and editor is such that we cannot express it in words, and the many friends he has made during his residence grieve the loss of a good pal and friend. His unfailing courtesy and tact made him a popular business man.

The late Mr. Simpson was born in Maude street, Shepparton, in 1904 and was thus 34 years of age at the time of his untimely death. He then went, with his parents, to Molong, N.S.W., and was educated at the Orange High School. Starting in the printing trade at the Molong "Argus", he served his apprenticeship there, afterwards going to Rosedale with his father, who had taken over the "Courier".

After about 6 years' experience there his ambitious nature took him to the metropolis for experience and there he managed the Blackburn and Mitcham "Reporter" for four years, finally taking up his residence at Rushworth.

Shortly after coming to Rushworth, Mr. Simpson was married to Miss E. M. Graham, , who is left, with her little son, Ian, to mourn the loss of a loving husband and father. Also left to mourn the loss of a devoted son and brother are his mother (Mrs. Alex. Simpson, Rosedale), three brothers (Alex., Frank and Greg), and two sisters (Marge and Jean). His father predeceased him a little over 12 months ago.

The funeral to the Rushworth cemetery was attended by a large number of residents of the town and district and many beautiful floral tributes were placed on the casket, including one from the Rushworth Golf Club and one from the Croquet Club.

The burial service of the Presbyterian Church was read by Mr. A. F. Landers, who also conducted a short service at the home.

The coffin bearers were Messrs. W. Johnson and N. Davis (Stanhope), R. Cocks and G. Townsend, the pall-bearers, Messrs. A. A. Bryant, J. Koopman, J. Richards, A. Maxwell, B. G. Marshall and A. D. L. Cameron, and the flower-bearers, Messrs J. Connolly and F. V. Hammond. Mr. David Graham, father-in-law of deceased, headed the long procession of mourners.

Mr. E. F. Anderson had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Waranga Shire Councillors stood in silent tribute at the next meeting, and sent a letter of condolence to Mrs. Simpson.