

Percy (Percival) was born in Clifton, NSW in 1888, the son of John Edward and Rosa Frances (nee Blunt) Ashmen.

Whilst we know he departed with the rest of the AN&MEF on the Berrima on 19th August 1914, his attestation papers are missing so we are unsure of his return date.

On 17th May 1915 he enlisted into the 20th Battalion, AIF and assigned the regimental number 1066. On enlistment he stated that he was a fireman by trade and was single. He gave his mother at Leadville, via Mudgee, as his next of kin. It is known that his father was deceased when Percy married in 1921, so he could well have been deceased at this time, possibly in 1899.

Percy left Australia aboard the BERRIMA on 26th June 1915 for Suez. On arrival he was transferred to the 4th Field Company of Engineers and given a new regimental number, 4150. He arrived on the Gallipoli Peninsular on 3rd September and was hospitalised with an injury to his back from 20th December 1915, till rejoining his unit on 23rd March 1916.

He was transferred to the 17th Field Company of Engineers on 14th May 1917 and then to the 16th Company on 3rd October the same year.

He returned to Australia aboard the BORDA, arriving on 19th December 1918 and was discharged as medically unfit, injury to right shoulder, on 13th Feb 1920.

On 13th July 1921 Percy married Mary Veronica Cubis. Mary died in 1971 and Percy in 1974.