

**PERCY JOHN CHRISTIAN WILLIS. Plumber 1st Class
H.M.A.S. SYDNEY 11.**

Percy (sometimes called Jack) served in the Navy for more than 21 years.

Like all the men and women who served for Australia and especially for us with him on the H.M.A.S. Sydney 11.....He is our Hero.....We are so very proud of him.....

Although he was away from his young family a lot of the time, he was a loving father and Husband to Amy and their five children Kay, Malcolm, Vida and Edna (twins) and Stanley. They lived on a property at Acacia Ave Kentlyn, Campbelltown N.S.W.

Apart from his career in the Navy as the ships plumber, he was also very interested in growing fruit trees, almonds and other nuts and marigolds and dandelions for making natural ointments and medicines for the children, he also had Turkeys on the property.

When he was home, there was always a dance at the local hall and Percy and Amy would sing together, Vida and Edna can still remember them singing Sweet Little Alice Blue Gown. He was musical and would play music at the kitchen table with a falk and tap out a tune on what ever would make a sound. He played guitar and mouth organ.

When he came home from being away, he always had presents for the children from the many places he had visited, and take great delight in unwrapping the gift and untying the string so slowly and folding each piece of string and paper while they waited to see what he had brought for them.

While on board ship he made Amy a beautiful Bedspread and Pillow Shams out of silk cord that he had to knot together and had fringing on the edges

Edna and Vida remember the great Christmas parties on board ship for the families, when it was docked in Sydney at Christmas time.

He loved visiting the many places while on board the SYDNEY and the other ships and told the family many stories of his visits, Fishing was another love and would go fishing any chance he could.

Percy was a member of the Vaucuse Masonic Lodge.
They also had a house at church St, St Peters.

When the H.M.A.S. SYDNEY 11 returned in February, 1941 after the battle with the Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni in the Mediterranean, Campbelltown Council had a dance at the Town Hall in his honour, they presented him with a leather wallet with his name in gold and he presented the council with a model of the H.M.A.S. SYDNEY.11 he had made, it was made out of metal and timber and the deck was made into a cribbage board.
The whole town was proud of him, and a great celebration was had for his homecoming.

As they grew up Sons Kay and Malcolm joined the Army and Daughter Vida Joined the Land Army.

He was due to come off the ship but chose to stay onboard as there was a lot of young sailors to come on board and the new Captain, And some older sailers, experienced with the ship were needed on board.

The family was left to wonder for 67 years, but never gave up hope, he may come home. His Wife Amy, and sons Kay, Malcolm and Stanley have passed away still wondering.....

Vida and Edna (84) now know what happened to their father.

Edna went to the Memorial in Geraldton 19.11.2008 with daughters Karen and Janet and the daughters of Malcolm, Beverley and Rosie and their husbands and the daughter of Stanley, Joanne and her two daughters Aimee and Kristen and her husband.

The Memorial at Geraldton is Beautiful, and we feel very happy that the people of Geraldton love the Ship and our sailors as much as we do.

The thought that has gone into the building of the Memorial, as every part of it has a special meaning to the H.M.A.S. Sydney 11. It is a really special place.

Percy's 5 children married and had 20 Grandchildren, and his story has been told for all those 67 years of the Grandfather we never met, but loved.

The finding of the H.M.A.S. SYDNEY 11 has meant so much to the families of the men on board her, To everyone connected to the FINDING SYDNEY FOUNDATION, and to David Mearns, and to everyone's continueing belief that she could be found.
Thankyou all so much.

On behalf of Edna Medlin and Vida Thompson (Twin daughters of Percy John Christian Willis) and families.

Service Record.

Percy John Christian Willis Plumber 1st class. 12524

Cerberus.....	5.7.1920.....	9.12.1920
Melbourne.....	10.12.1920.....	4.7.1921
Melbourne.....	5.7.1921.....	14-6.1923
Penguin.....	15.6.1923.....	23.8.1923
Melbourne.....	24.8.1923.....	24.1.1924
Tingira.....	25.1.1924.....	4.7.1924
Tingira.....	5.7.1924.....	30.6.1927
Penguin.....	1.7.1927.....	24.7.1927
Platypus.....	25.7.1927.....	1.9.1928
Penguin.....	2.9.1928.....	15.8.1929
Australia.....	16.8.1929.....	3.8.1931
Penguin.....	4.8.1931.....	25.5.1932
Penguin.....	26.5.1932.....	28.11.1932
Australia.....	29.11.1932.....	4.7.1934
Penguin.....	5.7.1934.....	15.5.1935
Canberra.....	16.5.1935.....	31.1.1936
Penguin.....	1.2.1936.....	13.1.1937
Cerberus.....	14.1.1937.....	2.1.1938
Sydney.....	3.1.1938.....	20.11.1941