

## CHAPMAN, Percy Wellesley



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Percy Wellesley Chapman was born in January 1887 at Glen Innes, New South Wales, and educated in Orange and Armidale. Percy attended HAC between 1904 and 1906. He was awarded the First Year Certificate in 1905, winning Equal Best on Piggery. Percy graduated with a Practical Certificate (Farm, Dairy, Orchard) in 1906, winning Best on Poultry. He also was a member of the Ambulance Class and gained an Ambulance Certificate in 1906.

In 1910 he was farming 400 acres in Forbes, NSW.

Percy enlisted on 5 March 1915, leaving Australia as a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment. He served for eight weeks on Gallipoli (where he was recommended for promotion) until the evacuation of the Peninsula. Percy arrived in France as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion. In July he was promoted to Lieutenant, and in August awarded the Military Cross at the Battle of Fleurbaix, 'For conspicuous gallantry during an action. He repeatedly led bombing attacks along the enemy's trenches and fought them back long enough to enable many of our wounded to reach safety.' In October, Chapman suffered a gunshot wound to his leg and was transferred to England to recuperate. When he reached the front again in December, he was promoted to captain.

On 12 March 1917, Chapman was reported missing in the advance to Bapaume. His body was found three days later near the German line. In a condolence letter to Chapman's father, Sergeant Stephen Philip Livingstone wrote, "...the boys respected him so much that they always referred to him as Captain Chappie, and I never heard anyone speak a single disrespectful word of him..."

Percy Chapman was buried in Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, he was 30 years old.