

## **Francis Harrison GENGE**

### Surgeon Lieutenant Commander

Researching the Genge family led to the fact that Francis Harrison Genge, my husband's second cousin, perished on board the HMAS Sydney.

Hopefully knowing who this man was will personalise him, making him more than just a name on a list.

Francis "Frank" Harrison Genge, born 21 March 1897 at Paddington, Sydney NSW was the second child of Alfred John Harrison Genge and his third wife Josephine Genevieve Cusack. He had an older half sister, older brother and three younger sisters.

In 1914 Francis enrolled in Sydney University, Department of Dentistry, passed his First Year before switching to the Faculty of Medicine in 1916. In his fourth year he joined the University Unit of the Australian Imperial Forces, serving 4 October 1918 -7 March 1919. His enlistment papers describe him as being 5ft 7½ in. tall, with fair complexion, fair hair and grey eyes.

Qualifying in 1921 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery (also referred to as M. Surgery, CH.M and M.B.), Francis gained post graduate experience in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, Ireland; England; Berlin, Germany and Vienna, Austria.

The year he returned to Australia is not yet established but it was prior to 1928 as he married Edna Emma Louise Read at St John's Church, Darlinghurst, Sydney on 4 April 1928. There were no children to the marriage.

Records show that Francis and Edna resided in the Darlinghurst, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay area. One of the hospitals Francis was affiliated with was the Omrah Private Hospital, Darlinghurst.

Francis decided on a career change and enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy. His Defence Personnel Records show his date of appointment as 4 November 1935 with the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant, on short service.

He served on HMAS Penguin, HMAS Swan and HMAS Cerberus and transferred to the permanent naval force from 4 November 1940. Promoted 4 March 1941 as Surgeon Lieutenant Commander, he was posted to HMAS Sydney, commencing 5 April 1941. The last entry in his Service Record states:

**MISSING PRESUMED LOST. 'SYDNEY'**

His widow Edna never remarried. Although she knew Francis was dead she still craved closure as she told family and friends she did know if she was 'a widow or a wife.'

Sadly she could never have that peace.

Researched & written by Louise Genge

Francis Hamison Genge

**MORE PORTRAITS OF SYDNEY'S PERSONNEL**



Lieutenant-Commander  
A. M. WILKINSON



Surgeon-Lieut-Com-  
mander F. H. GENGE



Stoker P. O. WILLIAM  
M. McLEAN



Quartermaster  
A. B. SANDE



Leading Supply Assis-  
tant A. M. MCKAY



Able Seaman GORDON  
F. BONE



Bandsman JOHN D.  
MULHALL



Petty Officer JOHN W.  
STRUGNELL

**SURGEON'S CAREER**

Surgeon-Lieut-Commander Francis H. Genge, who joined the Sydney last April and is among the missing, had been with the Navy for six years. He was a surgeon specialist, and was formerly at Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria. He took his degree at the University of Sydney, and did post-graduate work at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and in England, Vienna, and Berlin.

Mrs. Genge lives at Elizabeth Bay. (Memorial Services; More Portraits of Crew, Next Page)

