

FOR PRESS:

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PRIVATE SIMPSON'S WAR RELICS

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies.

The war relics of Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick - "The Man with the Donkey" - have been presented to the Australian War Museum.

They are the gift of his sister, Mrs. Annie Simpson Pearson, of Brightlingsea, Essex, who has said that they should remain the property of her late brother's beloved Australia.

They comprise Private Simpson's identity disc, his service medals and ribbons, his Oak Leaf and scroll for his Mention in Despatches and a bronze medal presented after his death by King George V.

The story of "The Man with the Donkey" is well known throughout Australia and Private Simpson has been honoured by the erection of a statue near the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. A replica of this statue is on display in the Anzac Gallery of the War Museum in Canberra and his war relics will be placed with it.

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CANBERRA.

21st April 1965.