

City Tabernacle World War II Servicemen and Women

The life stories of the World War II servicemen and women of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, Brisbane

In The Great War of 1914–18, 62 men and women associated with the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, Brisbane offered their services. Their service was acknowledged by their inclusion on the church's Honour Roll and recounted in *For God, King and Country*.

In the Second World War of 1939–45, a further 93 men and women who also offered their services in defence of their country were added to that roll.

Their life stories are outlined in these pages.

David Driver

Published by City Tabernacle Baptist Church

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Foreword

For many of us, the opportunity to visit or worship at a historic church comes very rarely. On entering these remarkable houses of God, we are often taken by the grandeur of the architecture and the many reminders of the history of the church. These links to the past remind us that a church is not a building, but those that utilise that building to worship God and go out from the building to serve others. In 1 Peter 4:11 we are directed to “serve with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ”. One particularly poignant reminder of the history of the church and the commitment to the service of others by the members of the church is the Roll of Honour, which recognises the service and sacrifice, of the church members in World Wars I and II, with 145 men and women having served of whom 13 died.

Whilst the Roll of Honour is hung in a place of prominence in the church those whose service is described upon it are rarely known to the current generation of church members. In a previous work, *For God, King and Country*, written with Hope Colegrove, David provided the backgrounds to those members who served in World War I. Through the depth of research that this book encompasses David has given the current members and adherents of the City Tabernacle a remarkable insight into the lives and families of those past members who have served their nation with distinction in World War II. David has truly given life to the honourees.

The Introduction provides an overview of the conduct of the church throughout the war years and the support that the church provided to those Australian and Allied servicemen who were posted to the Brisbane area with extracts from the Year Books of the era including the Pastor’s Letters and Annual Reports. It also provides a detailed comparison of the service by members in both world wars.

The stories of each of the 93 men and women in the book go well beyond their service, to the details of their lives and those of their families (not always consistent with membership of the church). The descriptions of their military service provide many examples of the dedication, commitment, bravery, and courage demanded by service to your country. The use of anecdotes provided by family members adds a highly personal tone to the already intriguing life stories. This approach serves to emphasise the selfless nature of voluntary military service and the significant impact that global conflict had on the Australian community and way of life, without glorifying war itself. Further, it shines a light on the truth that nobody desires peace more than a soldier, sailor, or airman for it is they that must fight to maintain it.

David is to be applauded for having the tenacity to undertake such a demanding research task. In doing so, he has personalised the lives and military service of each honouree on the Honour Roll for the benefit of the current and future generations of church members.

Mark Patch, Brigadier (retd)

April 2022

Preface

The Great War of 1914–18 was meant to be the *war to end all wars*.¹ Unfortunately the League of Nations (the forerunner of the United Nations) was unable to prevent further war.

The sacrifice of the 23 million wounded military personnel and eight million killed was not in vain, however. The aggressor was defeated and freedom was restored, if only temporarily. Of its population of 4.9 million, Australia suffered losses of 61,527 (1.3% of the population) killed or missing in action and 152,171 wounded. Of the male population aged 18 to 44, 38.7% enlisted.²

The City Tabernacle Baptist Church, Brisbane had a membership of approximately 400 and an unknown number of adherents and children in the 1910s. From this number 62, potentially 10% of the men and women in the church enlisted in the Great War. Eleven of the adults associated with the church were killed in action.

In September 1939, war again broke out in Europe, and Australia, as a member of the British Empire, joined in support of Great Britain who had declared war on Germany.

By then, the Tabernacle had a membership of 427. It is unclear how many of these men and women enlisted. The WW II Roll of Honour includes the names of 85 men and women. But many of these seem to have had either no involvement or very limited involvement in the church prior to their enlistment. The church's leadership resolved in 1946 that the names of members of the church or its organisations at the time of their enlistment, would be eligible for inclusion on the Honour Board. There were eight men who were recognised as servicemen and associated with the church but not included on the Roll of Honour. There are a further five men who had strong associations with the church and enlisted but were not acknowledged by the church.

Apart from the last group of five men, the lives and service of the other 93 men and women are outlined in this book. Where known, their family background, involvement at the Tabernacle before and after the war, their contribution to the war effort, and life after the war is outlined.

Unfortunately, the National Archives of Australia has not yet digitised and made publicly available the military records of some of these men and women. So,

¹ Wells HG, 1914: *The War That Will End War*. London: Frank and Cecil Palmer, 1914

² Scott E, 1941 *Australia during the war, the official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, Vol XI. Angus and Robertson, p. 874.

unless family members have been able to provide their stories, the detail of the contribution to the war effort of some of the men and women is limited.

It has not been possible to locate any descendants of some of the servicemen and women. The consequence is that for these servicemen and women the account is briefer than would be anticipated, and it has not been possible to verify the accuracy of what has been written, or to gain their consent. This is regretted.

What has been written on the following pages, honours and promotes the understanding of the service, sacrifice and experiences of these service personnel. It is hoped that it will contribute to an understanding of Australia's wartime heritage and the role of the City Tabernacle.

Abbreviations

AAMWS	Australian Army Medical Women's Service
AANS	Australian Army Nursing Service
AIF	Australian Infantry Forces
AMF	Australian Military Forces
AWAS	Australian Women's Army Service
CAF	Civilian Air Force
CE	Christian Endeavour
CMF	Citizen Military Forces
HMAS	His Majesty's Australian Ship
HMS	His Majesty's Ship
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RANR	Royal Australian Navy Reserve
RSL	Returned and Services League of Australia
SGMU	Senior Girls' Missionary Union

Acknowledgements

As was the case with *For God, King and Country*³, ultimately, all praise and thanks go to our Lord who saves us and who, through His Spirit, enables us to carry on His work. He has used a variety of people to help bring about the publication of this book.

Firstly, I would like to thank the living descendants of the servicemen and women whose lives, service and ministry are summarised in the following pages, with whom I have had the privilege of sharing their stories. It has not been possible to use all the material that they have made available, and their contributions are further acknowledged in the chapters recording their forebears' stories.

Secondly, several past and present members of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church have made significant contributions in a variety of ways. Many of them have provided encouragement for this book based on their reading of the previous book, *For God, King and Country*.

Glenys Ivett, Robyn Laurens, Ruth Pfeffer, Robin Stay, and Daphne Roberts have made themselves available for the task of reviewing the manuscript.

Debbie Watson from Get It Right Proofreading, did a thorough job of editing and proofreading the manuscript.

All known descendants of the servicemen and women have been sent copies of the final draft of the relevant chapters and asked to check it for accuracy and this input has been gratefully accepted. Any remaining errors, however, remain mine.

Retired Brigadier Mark Patch, very graciously agreed to write the Foreword. His contribution is greatly appreciated.

The Australian Government grant towards this project from the *Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program* is gratefully acknowledged.

I would also like to thank my wife, Charmaine for allowing me to indulge my passion for research and writing to bring this project to its fulfilment.

³ Driver D and Colegrove H, 2018 *For God, King and Country*. Brisbane: City Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Sources

The names of the servicemen and women's forebears, siblings, spouses and children, together with the dates and places of their births, deaths and marriages, have been obtained, in the main, from Ancestry (www.ancestry.com.au). Where possible, these details have been checked using the birth, death, and marriage registers of Queensland (www.bdm.qld.gov.au) and New South Wales (www.bdm.nsw.gov.au), and Free BDM (www.freebdm.org.uk).

The National Archives of Australia (www.recordsearch.naa.gov.au) has been used to view the service records of the servicemen and women. Unfortunately, in some instances, the military records for the servicemen and women have not been digitised and made publicly available, and this has limited the amount of information about their war service.

The Australian War Memorial archives have provided photographs and details of the battles in which the servicemen fought and their citations for military awards.

Trove (www.trove.nla.gov.au) has been used extensively to locate and transcribe newspaper and other published material relating to the men and women whose lives are recorded here.

The *Year Books* and minutes of both deacons' meetings and members' meetings and other records of the City Tabernacle, have provided details of the involvement in the church of the men and women and their families. This material is held in the City Tabernacle Baptist Church archives, and access to it was made available by the secretary of the church.

Photographs of the servicemen and women, where available, have been obtained from the National Archives of Australia or their descendants.

Various family members have provided anecdotal comments and photographs. Their contributions are duly noted throughout this publication. It has not been possible, in some cases, to include everything that they have sent me.

In some cases, it has not been possible to locate or contact any living descendants of the servicemen or women. In these instances, it has not been possible, therefore, to obtain their approval for the inclusion of what has been learnt from other sources. If, as a result of this, material has been included which living descendants would prefer was not put in print, this is regretted.

Introduction

The City Tabernacle Baptist Church

The Tabernacle, as it is affectionately known, was formed in Brisbane as the Wharf Street Baptist Church in 1855 and relocated to its current location in Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill in 1890 when it outgrew its original premises.

By the 1910s, the church membership had grown to almost 400. Sixty-two, mostly young, men and women who were closely associated with the Tabernacle, enlisted in the AIF and Associate Services in The Great War. Eleven of those men did not return, having made the ultimate sacrifice. The service of all those men and women was recognised by the inclusion of their names on a prominent Roll of Honour in the church foyer. Their service and life stories are outlined in *For God, King and Country*, which was launched on the centenary of the Armistice, on 11 November 2018. (A digital copy of the book can be downloaded from the City Tabernacle's website, www.citytabernacle.com).



City Tabernacle Baptist Church,
Brisbane

When the then prime minister, Robert Menzies, announced that Australia had declared war against Germany on 3 September 1939, the membership stood at 427. During the course of the war, until Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day, on 15 August 1945, the membership had decreased by only four to 423.

On Sunday 10 September, at the call of the prime minister, the day was made one of special intercession. At the evening service, Rev Albert Butler preached on *World Happenings and God's Warning*.

John Wesley Hetherington migrated from England to Australia, in 1907. He enlisted in the 1st Infantry Brigade, 2nd AIF, on 15 September 1914 and arrived in Egypt in December 1914. He landed at Gallipoli on Anzac Day, 25 April 1915, was wounded the same day and repatriated to Malta for four months before returning to Gallipoli. After deployment from the Gallipoli Peninsula, he resumed the fight on the Western Front in France, returned to Australia in September 1918 and was discharged in January 1919.

One generation later, his son-in-law, James Johnston enlisted in the 11th Australian Field Regiment, 2nd AIF and served in the Northern Territory and in Borneo. His life story is presented later in this book.

The report of the Tabernacle's Anzac Service in 1939 was reported in *The Australian Baptist* as follows:

The Anzac service at the City Tabernacle was a record both for numbers and interest. Indeed, this characterised the whole of the celebrations this year, and is probably due to world conditions stimulating the interest. The Hon Digby Denham, ex-Premier and deacon of the Tabernacle, represented the State Governor, while the Rev [Sydney] M Potter [President of the Baptist Union of Queensland] delivered the Anzac address. We were honoured in having the Digger's Choir, under the baton of Stefan de Polotynski, which added greatly to the occasion. Mr Will Stay at the organ, and the Tabernacle choir, led the singing.⁴

Combined Churches Anzac Day Services were held at the Tabernacle throughout World War II. These were followed by a luncheon for returned men. This tradition was continued after the cessation of hostilities.

Of the 12 elected deacons in 1940, four (Frank Hirst, Clive Morcom, Walter Bush, and Charles Robbins) had seven sons or daughters enlist in World War II.

Congregations crowded the church on 26 May 1940, in response to the appeal of King George VI, that the day should be marked by fervent intercession for the Empire. Rev Butler delivered most eloquent and heartening sermons at each service, and in the afternoon, at the united service, he was assisted by Revs Allan Brookes (Church of Christ), Edmund Heather and Lawrence Shakespeare. The collection was devoted to the Red Cross Fund.⁵ A further Day of Prayer, in response to the Royal Proclamation, was held on 8 September 1940.

Les Ball commented that:

During Mr Butler's time at the Tabernacle, the church was led into increased activity and service to the community. Congregational attendance



Tabernacle Diaconate, 1940

Insert: Hon DF Denham, BG Wilson, C Martin
Back Row: J Lewis, WR Webster, FHB Hirst, RJ Reid
Second Row: D Fleming, JS Johnson, C Morcom,
T Davies, TM Smith
Front Row: R Clark, Rev A Butler, WE Bush, CB Robbins
(Photo: City Tabernacle Archives)

⁴ *The Australian Baptist*, 9 May 1939, p. 4.

⁵ *The Australian Baptist*, 4 June 1940, p. 8.

grew, and the church became a well-known institution in the life of the city. Statistics do not tell the full story, since Mr Butler's term of twelve years was a period of rapid multiplication of churches, which inevitably drew suburban members away from the central city church, as well as the trauma of World War II, which had a severe impact on all social groups. However, despite all the vacillations of attendance, the membership grew from 391 when he started to 419 by the time of his death in 1947. Within this, the number of new members actually admitted to the church was 298 (98 of whom were admitted through baptism). At the same time, the church finances, having been somewhat stabilized by the end of Mr Hurst's time, became secure during Mr Butler's pastorate.⁶

During the war, the Tabernacle was referred to as the "Church on the Hill". Apart from its three worship services each week, its programmes and organisations included: a Sunday School with an enrolment of just under 100; four CE Societies with a total membership of about 100; a Young Men's Fellowship with over 20 active members, despite the war; a Ladies' Guild with about 50 members; a Choir with about 50 members; regular Mothers' Meetings with about 50 attendees; a SGMU with over 20 members; and a cricket club, which went into recess midway through the war due to a shortage of members. The club was revived after the war in 1947, and although they had regular church parade services, these were not well attended.



Tabernacle Cricket Team, 1948–49
Back Row: DV Fleming, EJ Scott, PT Harrison,
TH Flint, NLH Cooper
Second Row: FM James, JO Smith, GE James,
R James
Front Row: IG Davis, RB Window, CE Thow,
MR Lockhart, CG Day
(Photo: City Tabernacle Archives)

The Tabernacle's outreach included four or five radio broadcasts of a church service each year. Rev Butler was also prominent in the community, including, among other things, the establishment of a midweek, interdenominational Intercessory Prayer Service in the City Hall.

The jubilee of the opening of the church building for public worship, on 12 October 1890, was celebrated in conjunction with the church's 85th anniversary,

⁶ Ball L, 2005 *Grow the Vision: The Sesqui-Centennial History of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1855–2005*. Brisbane: City Tabernacle Baptist Church, pp. 47,48.

in August 1940. The Rev Charles Tinsley, vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and minister of the Stanmore Baptist Church, Sydney, was the preacher on Sunday, 4 August. The regard with which the church was held in the wider community is demonstrated by the presence at the public meeting on 6 August, of the Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson, and Alderman Louis Luckins representing the lord mayor, Sir John Chandler who was unable, through indisposition, to be present.

In 1942 George Leggett, the father of Joe Leggett, of the Rosalie church, sent a letter to the deacons at the Tabernacle, which included a copy of that church's circular letter sent to their men in the forces. The diaconate considered it desirable to send a circular letter to those from the Tabernacle in the forces and if possible, a precis of one of the pastor's sermons preached during the month.⁷ The newsletters were written by Syd Johnson and typed and duplicated in the offices of Roy Lockhart. In October 1944, Freeman James wrote to the deacons suggesting that the circular should include news of the ladies and men of the church in military service.⁸

Special activities associated with the war included weekly Soldiers' Teas, and the formation of a branch of the Baptist Girls' War League.

The report on the Easter Sunday Anzac Day services in 1943 gives an insight into the involvement of both Australian and US servicemen and chaplains in the church's ministry.

Mr Butler preached eloquently on "Resurrection and Remembrance" in the morning, to a large congregation, while at night Chaplain-Colonel AR Burrows, of the U.S. Army, preached from the text, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Mr Butler conducted the service, Senior Chaplain [Ralph] Sayce led in prayer, and Mr [Leo] Price, a veteran of the 1914-1918 war and Lieut [Bob] England, wounded in the Middle East, read the Scriptures. At both services a large number of Australian and American men of all three services, and many women in uniform were present.⁹

The Church Members' Meeting minutes includes the comment that "large numbers of men and women of the Allied Services were present and at night, the men occupied the 6 front pews."

At least seven American soldiers and navy personnel were baptised at the Tabernacle in 1943, including three by Chaplain Charles Trent, of the United States Army, in October. On 5 December 1943, between 500 and 600 attended the evening service at the Tabernacle, including six American chaplains. US

⁷ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 14 July 1942

⁸ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 17 October 1944

⁹ *The Australian Baptist*, 11 May 1943, p. 7.

uniformed servicemen also augmented the choir and found pleasure in being in the choir loft and greatly helped the church's service of praise.¹⁰

The Church Service Announcement on Christmas Eve 1943, also gives an indication of the involvement of US servicemen in the Tabernacle's ministry:

BAPTIST CITY TABERNACLE, Wickham Terrace, Rev A Butler.
11 am, Cpt. Chaplain [John] Drakeford
Anthem, *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*
7.25 pm, Rev A Butler.
Subject: *A Great Declaration*.
Carols. *While Shepherds Watched, Silent Night*.
Soloist, Sgt. Gilbert Spencer, USA.
3 pm, Reading & Writing Room Open to Men of the Services.
Tea, 6 pm.¹¹

The US Army camp, Camp Victoria Park, was about a two km walk from the Tabernacle.

At a special Christmas Eve tea in 1944, the attendance was 300. During Rev Butler's absence on annual leave, the preacher at the Tabernacle was often an Australian or United States Chaplain.

A great thanksgiving service was held in the Tabernacle on Victory in Europe Day. The ministers who took part were Revs Thomas Warriner, MA, BD (president), Hilton White (vice-president), and Sayce (general secretary). The address, given by Rev Butler, and the magnificent work of the Tabernacle choir, were outstanding features of the great occasion.

The VP Day Thanksgiving Service at the Tabernacle was also a memorable occasion, with every available seat occupied. Rev Warriner MA, BD, conducted the service, assisted by Revs William McKay BA, White, and Chaplain Chester Martin. Rev Butler gave the address.¹²

The service was described as "the outstanding event in the past month". In his "great address", Rev Butler dealt with three main headings – Sacred Remembrance, Sober Rejoicing, and Solemn Responsibilities. The service was splendidly sustained by all who took part in it, including a large choir under Will Stay, LRSM. The congregation filled every seat.¹³

After the war, Cecil Sweetman told his fellow deacons that "he felt that with the young men and women returning from their defence service [that] a challenge was presented to the church to present such an appeal to these young people as to win

¹⁰ *The Australian Baptist*, 17 November 1952, p. 7.

¹¹ *The Courier Mail*, 24 December 1943, p. 5.

¹² *The Australian Baptist*, 28 August 1945, p. 8.

¹³ *The Australian Baptist*, 19 June 1945, p. 8.

them and hold them in the church. He urged that consideration be given to the selection of a number of bright and challenging hymns for use at the evening service.” Rev Butler replied that the choir master, Will Stay, had already sought permission for the printing of a number of appropriate hymns for use at the monthly praise service.¹⁴

At its meeting in November 1945, the diaconate accepted the recommendation of Cecil Sweetman to arrange a special welcome home social for the men and women of the services associated with the church, and their parents and friends, on 14 December. Special invitations were sent to the young men and women and Baptist padres. It was also agreed that at the same time as the Welcome Home Social to the soldiers was being announced from the pulpit, to request parents or friends of those returning home to advise the pastor or one of the officers, to enable a visit to be paid and a welcome extended on behalf of the church, by one of the officers.¹⁵

Rev Albert Butler

In November 1935, Rev Butler commenced his twelve-year term as Minister. His views on the war and the involvement of Australia, and the men and women from the church in particular, are evident in his annual reports to the church published in the church’s annual yearbooks and collated in the following chapter of this book. There is little doubt that his views were influenced, in part, by his own involvement in World War I as a Chaplain. He was ordained in 1916 and was the Minister of the Deloraine and Moona Church, in Tasmania during that war. Typical of his role as a chaplain, is the following report:

The Rev Captain Chaplain Butler, who has recently returned from a visit to the Claremont Camp, has evidently been putting in good work amongst the gallant 40th with blessed results. He paid visits to the hospitals and guard-room during the day, and held a prayer meeting every evening from 8:45 to 9 p.m. His best day, however, was Sunday, and his best service that held in the evening, when fourteen young men came right out and sought Christ. Mr. Butler says that they are splendid cases and asks our prayers on their behalf.¹⁶



Rev Albert Butler
(Photo: City Tabernacle Archives)

¹⁴ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon’s Meeting*, 16 October 1945.

¹⁵ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon’s Meeting*, 20 November 1945.

¹⁶ *The Australian Baptist*, 27 June 1916, p. 10.

Typical of his pulpit ministry, is the following account of his preaching on the topic *The Minister and the Message*, in December 1940:

Never was there a greater opportunity for the Church than in the world crisis to-day. Every crisis, whether it happens in the experience of the individual, the Church, or the nation, is responsible for three things—it offers an opportunity, reveals an obligation, and demands a new order of things.

The crisis of to-day demands a new order. The work of reconstructing the world lies with the Church. The last war did not save the world, neither will this one. That task is not for the Army or the Navy, or the Air Force, nor for the Government. This is the God-given task of the Church.

There is a tremendous need to-day for a right understanding of God. Many are perplexed over the silence and seeming indifference of God in the midst of a broken and bleeding world. While the spirit of apathy may be evident in many, there are those, nevertheless, who are earnestly seeking after truth. They are looking for reality in this unreliable world. And the Church must be alive and alert, and practice those principles proclaimed by the Lord Jesus, that the one sure hope of a permanent foundation for world peace lies in the principles of the Christian gospel.

In these days of National crisis we are made to realise as perhaps never before, our obligation to King and Empire, and the cause we represent. And everywhere there is a ready response on the part of all. The church must realise that she has an obligation towards God and all humanity.

And God is challenging the Church to lead in the solution of present-day problems. We are challenged to prayer and meditation. We must feel the call to give ourselves in personal service to the cause of righteousness.¹⁷

In May 1945, Rev Butler wrote to the mothers of the men who had attended the Sunday afternoon Soldiers' Teas:

Dear Mother,

As minister of the Church, and also on behalf of the Committee who provide tea and a time of happy fellowship for the servicemen every Sunday evening, I wish to send you special greetings on this Mother's Day.

These are days of great anxiety for wives and mothers; no women of the services hold a higher place in the cause we represent, than the mothers of fighting men.

We want you to know that we esteem it a great privilege indeed to be able to do something in the way of hospitality for the many men who come along each week.

¹⁷ *The Australian Baptist*, 24 December 1940, p. 4.

We trust that before next Mother's Day, the war in the Pacific (as well as in Europe) will be over, and that your loved ones may be spared to return home again.

With best wishes, and kind thoughts on this day,

On behalf of the Committee,

A. Butler,

Minister

Rev Butler passed away on 15 July 1947 at home in Auchenflower, aged 60. The fact that he had been under medical treatment for a considerable time, was not known by many, as he had always been active in the work of the Kingdom of God, and so many aspects of this work claimed his interest and active participation.

He had been the Tabernacle's minister for nearly 12 years. Many of the Baptist Union's Departmental Committees had called upon him for service especially the Foreign Mission and College Committees. He was the chairman of the former for a number of years and he had been chairman of the latter during the war years but had relinquished the position within the last 12 months. After serving as a vice-president of the Council of Churches for a considerable period, he had just completed a year as president. He was also president of the Queensland Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Through the Temperance League, the broadcast services and devotional sessions, the midweek intercessory prayer service held in the City Hall, the Queensland Evangelisation Society, the CE Union, and other similar means, he had exerted a strong influence upon the religious and moral life of the city.

His ministry at the Tabernacle has been marked by success and many other churches, both Baptist and non-Baptist had enjoyed and profited from his ministry.¹⁸

His funeral at the Tabernacle was conducted by Rev George Morling, who flew up from Sydney for the occasion. Rev Morling would have known Rev Butler well from their time in ministry in Sydney in the 1930s, when Rev Morling was principal of the New South Wales Baptist Theological College, which was located in Ashfield, and Rev Butler was the minister of the neighbouring Concord Baptist Church



Albert and Laura Butler with Lorna (left) and Roma (right) (Photo: H Nairne)

¹⁸ *The Australian Baptist*, 22 July 1947, p. 3.

Introduction

and president of the Baptist Union of New South Wales.

In May 1948, Rev Frederick (FT) Smith was inducted as the Minister at the Tabernacle. As a chaplain with the Australian Army, he had preached at the Tabernacle during the war.



Chaplain FT Smith
(Photo: City Tabernacle Archives)

The Servicemen and Women

Many of those who enlisted in the Second World War were close relatives of combatants in the First War or Boer War. These include:

Geoffrey Grainger Abbott, the son of Arbon Abbott;
Iris Blain, the daughter of William Davis and niece of John and Charles Leitch;
Keith and Selwyn Bowen, the nephews of Rowland Bowen;
Peter and Delores Cabell, the nephew and niece of Francis McMaha, and grandson and granddaughter of Francis McMaha;
Newton Chalk, the nephew of John and Charles Leitch;
Lesley Cooksley, a cousin of William Cooksley;
Les Dart, the brother of Raymond Dart and James Dart;
Leslie Duncan, the son of Herbert Duncan;
Robert and Joyce England, the son and daughter-in-law of John England;
John Carnegie Farquhar, the brother of William Reid-Farquhar;
Robin Fraser, the son of Claude Fraser and nephew of John and Charles Leitch;
William Gough, the nephew of Vere Bradburne;
Alban Gurnett-Smith, the son of Gurnett Smith;
Allan Hughes, the son of William Hughes;
Norman and Allan Jerome, the sons of Norman Jerome;
Lloyd Kent, the son of Reuben Kent;
David Knight, the son of Frank Knight;
Les Larmar, the son of Robert Larmar;
Herbert Lawton, the son of Arthur Lawton;
Douglas and Frank Leivesley, the nephews of Frank Leivesley-Pelisser, Arthur Leivesley, and Douglas Alcorn;
John Mactaggart, the son of John and Marjorie Mactaggart;
John McLennan, the son of John McLennan;
David McKenzie, the son of William McKenzie;
Charles Powter, the nephew of Henry Powter and Charles Thompson;
Prudence Moir, the daughter of Clive Morcom;
Esther Ohlson, sister of Peter Ohlson;
Douglas and Eric Praeger, the grandsons of Alexander Ross;
Clive Price, the son of Leo Price MC;
Douglas Reed and Jean Ross, a nephew and niece of William Reed;
Thomas Roper, the nephew of John and Charles Leitch;
Jean Slater, the niece of John and Charles Leitch;
Allan Slaughter, the son of Harry Slaughter;
William Stay, the nephew of Ernest Stay and Ernest Ernst;
Sydney Tannock, the son of Alexander Tannock;

Pat Walker, the brother of William Walker;
Albert Webster, the nephew of Roy Webster;
Jack Willard-Turton, the son of Leslie Willard-Turton and nephew of
Arthur, Archibald and Frederick Turton;
Gilbert Window, the nephew of Norman Window; and
Roy Wright, the son of Emmanuel Wright.

Some had numerous brothers, sisters and cousins who also enlisted. Notable, are the five grandchildren of Rev Thomas Leitch. Some of these are not included in the list above.

It has not been possible to identify any formal connection between some of the men and women listed on the World War II roll and the Tabernacle. This was rarely the case for those listed on the World War I roll.

It seems likely that these men had registered at one or more of the Soldiers' Teas and that this was their only association with the Tabernacle. It should be noted that many of these men did not consider themselves Baptists.

Neither formal church membership and being listed on the church's roll nor church attendance are important. What is critical is being named in the "Lamb's book of life" and only the individual concerned and God Himself knows if their name is included.

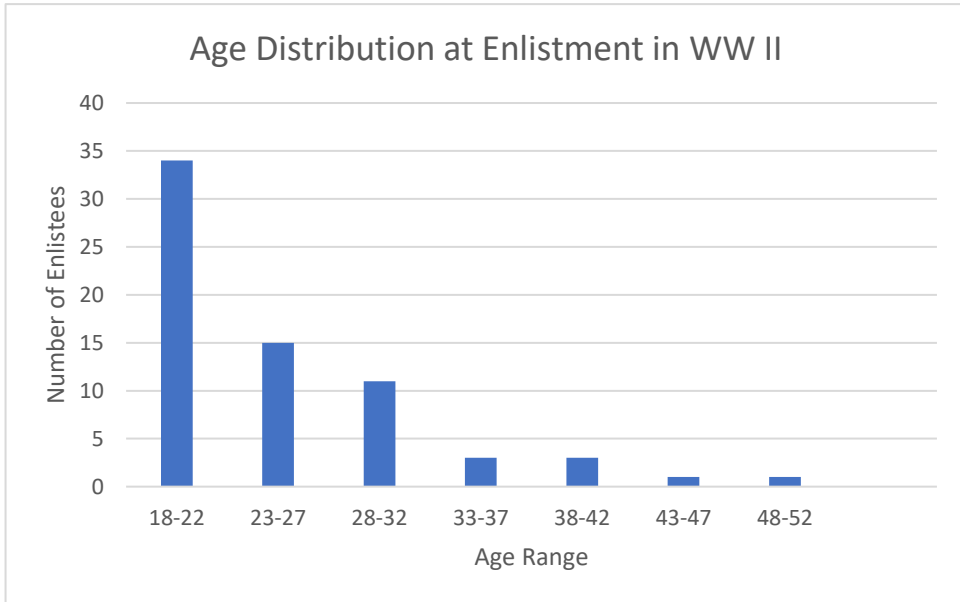
There are several notable differences in the enlistment patterns in the First and Second wars.

Services: In World War I, the vast majority of servicemen were in the AIF, with only a small number in the RAN. There was no RAAF. In World War II, of the men associated with the Tabernacle, 52 joined the AIF, 22 joined the RAAF and 8 joined the RAN. One serviceman remained in the CMF for the duration of the war.

Heritage: In both wars, the vast majority of the servicemen and women were of English descent. However, in World War I, several of the servicemen had arrived in Australia, in some cases unaccompanied, quite recently, as first generation Australians. Those who enlisted in World War II are more likely to be the sons and daughters or grandchildren of English migrants. There were a few enlistees, however, who had German ancestry.

Non-combat roles: In World War I, the most common choice of those men who did not want a combat role, for whatever reason, was to join the Field Ambulance. In World War II, two men joined (remained in) the CMF and CAF. Some men with specialist qualifications, such as medical or engineering degrees, were also able to avoid combative roles, although that may not have been their preference.

Ages: In World War I, the vast majority of volunteers were young men, still in their teens or early twenties. In World War II, many of the men were considerably older. The graph below shows the age, at enlistment, of servicemen associated with the Tabernacle, for whom the data is available. The median age was 22.



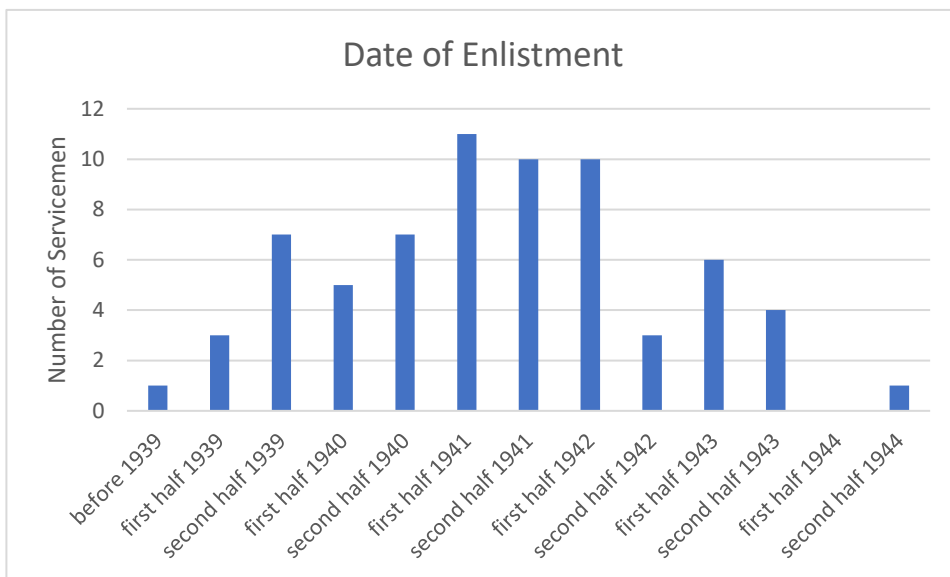
There are a number of other significant differences between the two wars.

The Theatre of war: World War I was fought in the Middle East and Western Europe. The second World War was again fought in Western Europe, but much closer to home, was the fighting in South-east Asia – America (Hawai’i), Philippines, Singapore, Borneo, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. It is not known if the “local” threat had a significant impact on enlistment. The following graph would suggest that neither the bombing of Darwin nor the fall of Singapore in February 1942 had a significant impact.

Casualties: In World War I, eleven men who were listed on the Roll of Honour, paid the supreme sacrifice. In World War II, although a larger number of men were listed on the Roll of Honour, only two did not return. Although they were both airmen, neither of them was actively engaged in conflict at the time of their fatal crashes.

Conscription: The Federal Labor Government attempted twice to introduce conscription in World War I, but the two plebiscites (referenda) were narrowly rejected. In 1939, at the start of World War II, all unmarried men, aged 21, were to be called up for three months’ military training. These men

could serve only in Australia or its territories. Conscription was effectively introduced in mid-1942, when all men aged 18–35, and single men aged 35–45, were required to join the CMF.¹⁹



Women in the Services: In World War I, the only opportunity for women to contribute to the nation’s war effort was to serve as a nurse in the Australian Army Nursing Service. In World War II, in addition to nursing in the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service in both Australia and overseas, women were able to serve within Australia with the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force, Australian Women’s Army Service, and Women’s Royal Australian Naval Service. One of the women from the Tabernacle contributed directly to the war effort through her service with the Young Women’s Christian Association.

Expectations: None of the men and women who enlisted in World War I had any prior knowledge of what to expect when they reached the frontlines. Going overseas to fight was an exciting prospect. By contrast, 46 of the men and women who enlisted in World War II had a father, brother, uncle or other close relative who had experienced World War I. Four of them had a close relative who was killed in action and numerous others knew someone who had suffered enormously after returning and died prematurely.

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conscription_in_Australia

The Soldiers' Teas

Under the heading *Entertainment of Enlisted Men*, the deacons resolved to investigate and devise means for entertaining soldiers from the camps on Sunday afternoons, and a sub-committee consisting of Thomas Smith (convenor), John Johnson, Ronald Reid, Wilfred Webster, and the Pastor was appointed.²⁰ Subsequently, Clive Morcom was added to the committee, and it was decided to ask the choir to nominate one or two representatives, and to appoint Mr Reid as convenor. In late 1941, Leo Price assumed responsibility as convenor of the organising committee. Clive and Leo were the only committee members whose daughter and son were on active service.

At the first such meeting, on 8 September 1940, 18 servicemen were entertained. On the following four Sundays, the average attendance was 60. Possibly the largest gathering was on 15 December 1940, when 231 servicemen enjoyed a splendid repast and fine programme of solo items and community hymn singing.

Later that month, *The Australian Women's Weekly*, under the banner Women also Serve, published the following account:

Tabernacle teas are popular institution.

"You ought to go to one of the Sunday teas for soldiers at the City Tabernacle on Wickham Terrace," an airman friend told Corporal Ray Martz, R.A.A.F. "You couldn't have a better evening".

Corporal Martz took his friend's advice, and gave The Australian Women's Weekly an enthusiastic account of his visit to one of the teas.

In the reading and writing room, gay with flowers, he read and talked to the other men until tea at a quarter to six.

We had salad of tomato, cheese, lettuce, egg and cucumber," he said, "as cool a meal as a man could want this hot weather. The toothpicks for manipulating the salad was a good idea to save washing up. Sandwiches, cake and fruit too and everything as dainty as if served for two instead of 80.

Afterwards, there was community singing of popular hymns, led by so enthusiastic a conductor that the boys were singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" as whole-heartedly as any of their renderings of "Roll Out the Barrell."

Forty girls give one Sunday a month to this work at the Tabernacle and Hilda Stay and Shirley Webster are in charge of the workers.

Boys of the Baptist congregation do the washing up.

Every Sunday about 80 sailors, soldiers airmen and are provided with this tea, and make good use of the reading and writing facilities.

²⁰ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 16 July 1940

It was like a touch of home,” said Corporal Martz, “and I agree with my companion who wrote in the visitors book” “Had a lovely evening. Am going away feeling better than when I came.”²¹

The Young Men’s Fellowship held a concert in April 1941, to support the Soldiers’ Teas fund.

Each Sunday, Alfred (Alf) Ingham and various other men from the church would distribute invitations to servicemen in the city and botanic gardens. The invitation was printed on card, about the size of a playing card which would fit in the serviceman’s pocket.

In 1943, the opportunities provided by the church were conveyed to men and women in the services through the Services personnel under the command of Captain Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Director, Amenities.

Alf and Frances Ingham, who were indefatigable workers in connection with the soldiers’ teas, organised a concert in the lecture hall on 30 June 1944, in aid of the tea fund. They were fortunate in securing the valuable aid of the Brisbane Orchestral Society, who were assisted by Margaret Waldock, Mavis Sewers, Bert Telford, and the Albion Male Quartet. The SGMU and others also presented a fine pageant. A packed audience showed their appreciation and thanks to the organisers and artists for a worthwhile entertainment.²² Alf was still only 12 when World War I ended and already 33 when World War II commenced.

In its report on the soldiers’ teas, published in *The Australian Baptist*, the church said that:

A notable piece of war-time service by the church through which 38,000 sailors, soldiers and airman of the Australian, American, and British forces have been entertained, ended on



Edward Winchester and Alf Ingham in the Botanic Gardens
(Photo: Tabernacle Archives)



An Invitation Card

²¹ *The Australian Women’s Weekly*, 21 December 1940, p. unknown.

²² *The Australian Baptist*, 18 July 1944, p. 8.

Sunday, February 24, when seventy-one were entertained to tea and an attractive programme of vocal and instrumental items and community singing of hymns was given. This marked the termination of a splendid piece of service rendered by a few devoted laymen and a fine body of young women who, since September 1940, have carried on this business of preparing and serving teas for large numbers of men who have sat down, sometimes 200 or more in number, for a tastefully set-out tea of individual salads, sandwiches, cakes, fruit, etc., each Sunday afternoon.

The lecture hall was set out for a reading and writing room for two or three hours prior to the tea and, after it, a splendid programme was rendered by voluntary artists, who joined with the men in the community singing of well-known hymns under the leadership of Mr A Ingham, who had roamed the streets and the parks buttonholing men in uniform and inviting them to come along. Miss [Beulah] Winchester played for the men for four and a half years and sometimes the men would contribute solos.

It has been a very blessed business and contact has been, and is being maintained, with 150 men even now by letters written to them, to which they send grateful replies.

The financing has been mainly done by bi-monthly contributions, which the Church General Fund has added to as was necessary, but special mention must be made of the Blenheim Baptist Church which, for every month in which there were five Sundays, has taken up a collection and sent it to the Tabernacle Treasurer, while the Blenheim ladies have contributed as well. There have been many gifts of food as well as of money sent by Tabernacle friends.

Rev A Butler was sorry to miss the last of the teas for he has attended each when at home and said a few words but he will be able to speak the church's gratitude and his own at a break-up party that is to be held for the workers in March.²³

The final Soldiers' Tea was held on 24 February 1946 and the Committee organised a break-up social on 22 March 1946, to which all who had assisted in the work were invited. Representatives from the Blenheim Church were also invited. The refreshments for the break-up social were donated by David Webster and Sons Pty Ltd.

Although it is quite lengthy, the following report by Mr Ingham, presented at the social, provides some interesting and humorous insights into the Soldiers' Teas.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In presenting this report of some of the work I have been privileged to do for the boys, I would first of all like to state that to me, the time spent has been one of the happiest periods of my life.

In the early part of the war, it was noticeable that on Sundays the Soldiers seemed to be at a loose end, and the only entertainment that was available for them – was to us – as a Church, rather objectionable for the day, so in August 1940, when the Rev [Charles] Tinsley was in Brisbane, and a special Sunday afternoon meeting was held in this Hall for men only, I along with Ken and Cliff Hirst went around the streets of the City, distributing invitation cards to Servicemen. This was the beginning of our work for the boys, and although the response at

²³ *The Australian Baptist*, 5 March 1946, p. 7.

first was very small, it grew more and more, and on many occasions over 150 boys attended the teas, besides our Christmas record of over 300.

In distributing the Invitation cards, I have had the assistance of Ken & Cliff Hirst as previously mentioned, also Reuben Hirst and Clive Price. All these boys later entered the Services, and for a long period I carried on alone, till more recently I have had the assistance of Mr. [Edward] Winchester. ... During the five years and seven months that we held the teas, we have given out thousands of invitation cards, and have contacted approximately three hundred thousand men. It would take much more than the time I have tonight to tell of the many and varied contacts I have made, but I feel sure that we will be remembered more as the "church on the hill" than as the City Tabernacle Church – through my little rubber stamp with that wording, which I used to put on every card. It was amazing the number of chaps who thought I was selling something, when they saw the cards in my hand, and who would say before I got too close to them something like "Sorry mate, but we're broke to the world". Others just could not take it in when they found that the tea was FREE, and would enquire where the catch came in! One of the greatest thrills I experienced was when chaps who had returned from the M. E. recognised me, and of course I felt it was due to my good looks, or perhaps to my White Helmet, by which hundreds of boys have come to remember me. I remember on one occasion, being in Anzac Park with only one card left and wondering if I would bother with it, when I saw a Soldier sitting alone, and when I went up to him, he hailed me gladly, and told me that he had often been to our teas before going overseas, and that he had written his appreciation of our work. I was able to keep in touch with him after that, and to visit him in hospital when the need arose. One rather humorous incident I will tell you of – which no doubt sounds more like a "Bluey and Curly" episode, was when I approached a group of chaps in the Gardens, and handed them a few cards to read. One chap, on seeing that it was from a BAPTIST church – said "Well I believe that's my religion too," and as he spoke dived down into his shirt and producing his identity discs said "Yes, that's right mate – put it here – I'm a BAPTIST too." The contacts made with chaps of all sorts of religions has been most interesting, and has taken us to the Gardens, Anzac Park, Albert Park during the outdoor concerts, and on wet days one was able to go up and down the main streets and speak to the chaps as they sheltered in the doorways. We often received side-glances from Policemen, who wondered what we were up to, and only recently two plain clothes men stopped me to make sure I was O.K. in what I was doing. On the whole, the general reception from the boys was very good, and only on very rare occasions did we get a rebuff. Just here, I feel I must pay a tribute to Mr. Percy Briggs of the firm of Messrs Briggs and Co., printers, who has made available to us – free of cost – the many thousands of cards which have passed through our hands to many thousands of boys....

Just here, I would like to express my personal thanks to Miss Hilda Stay for her part in the rostering of the workers, but especially do I thank and congratulate the four Hostesses – Misses Blanch Hogberg, Beryl Hayes, Gladys Goldsmith (Mrs David Neville) and Elsie Martin (Mrs W Rowan) – for their able leadership of the groups of workers. What would have been the use of the outside work inviting the boys to the tea, had they not been giving their time in preparing the food and making the tables attractive.

Next came the Sing Song & Programme to which all the boys were invited, and which I estimate was attended by about 60% of those who came for tea. It was always a pleasure and delight to conduct the Hymn singing, and to listen to the music of many men together singing the old hymns, which we love so well. ...

ARTISTS. It would take better language than I possess to express fully our thanks to the many artists who came along each week to help to entertain the boys. We found, that while we appreciated their coming, they in turn were grateful for the opportunity to assist such a worthy cause. We had representatives from almost every other denomination, lots of

Australian Servicemen, several Americans, and at one time a Royal Navy Officer sang for us. We remember with pleasure the visit one Sunday of the American Negro singers, also the visit of the Military Band which gave a Programme during the afternoon and were later entertained at tea with the rest of the chaps. It was a very hot afternoon, and the conductor – a Melbourne man – admitted having 5 cups of tea. Worthy of mention is the Brisbane Orchestral Society who assisted with the programme once a month for almost four years. Once again I would also express my thanks to Miss Beulah Winchester, who has been pianist for the programme for four and a half years. Her consistent interest and valuable assistance made it possible for me to carry on each week, and at the last Programme, I took opportunity to express my appreciation to her in the form of a small gift. The visit of our Pastor Mr. Butler towards the end of the Programme was always appreciated, and he always had a word in season for the boys. Mr. Butler also extended an invitation to the Church Service, and it was gratifying to see that many of the boys attended – some even admitting that they hadn't been inside a church for years.

The arranging of the Programme and securing artists each week was no easy task, and I would like here to pay tribute to my wife [Frances] who was really responsible for this, and who has made hundreds of phone calls, besides writing letters and visiting people in order to have something worthy for the boys.

During the Programme on Mothers' Day last year, those present were invited to leave names and addresses of wives or mothers to whom they would like a letter sent from our Committee, and quite a number availed themselves of the opportunity. Mr. Butler – who wrote the letter on behalf of the Committee – received quite a number of replies, all expressing thanks for our work and interest in their loved ones.

MONTHLY LETTER. In June of last year, we began a monthly letter, sending it to 77 servicemen who had left their names and addresses, and though the number gradually rose as the months went by, it naturally has become smaller again, as the men are being discharged. There are four of us on the Committee who take a turn to write (Alf, Clive Morcom, Hilda Stay and Elsie Martin), and altogether we have sent out 1,478 letters, which are called "Your friendly letter from the Church on the Hill." Hundreds of replies have been received, besides Christmas cards and many Souvenirs from the Islands and other places. We are still continuing this work, and though many of the chaps are discharged, they have requested that we still forward a copy of the letter to them. I have recently received a letter from an ex-digger who often came to us in the early part of the war, and then again on his return from overseas. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude for what we did for him and for hundreds of others like him.

One other person I feel I must mention before I finish, and that is Mr. Jim Walsh, who is known to all our workers, and who is a Digger from the last war. He has been very consistent in his attendance, and has been of considerable help in tidying the room after the boys have all gone, and also in taking the left over supplies to the Silver Hut or other places to which we used to send them.

And now I must bring this to a close – though I feel that I will never stop talking of this work, and the joy it has been to me. I repeat what I have said on many occasions – "If we have been the means of helping just one chap – through our efforts, then our work has not been in vain." Let us praise God for the opportunity which came our way to be of service to these men, and for the days to come, let us live ...

"For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrong that needs resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that we can do."

Numerous replies to those letters were sent to Alf, Clive Morcom, Hilda Stay and Elsie Martin. These were meticulously kept by Alf and remain in the Tabernacle archives.

As many as 16 US servicemen and women attended the worship services on any given day and signed the visitors' book, indicating their first attendance at a service at the Tabernacle.

The financial statement for the Teas shows a total cost over five and-a-half years, of £837, of which a little over £112 was from the church's General Fund. This does not include gifts-in-kind, such as refreshments. By comparison, the church's total income in 1945–46 was £2925, including £1938 in offerings.

The Roll of Honour

The original Roll of Honour was unveiled during The Great War in 1916. Initially, it included the names of 34 servicemen. Throughout the remainder of the war, names engraved on individual boards were added as other men and women enlisted. At the conclusion of the war the Roll of Honour was replaced with a consolidated list. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to locate any photographs of either the temporary or consolidated board. A more detailed account of the unveiling of the Roll of Honour was provided in *For God, King and Country*.

The temporary Roll is thought to have been similar to the Roll of Honour in the Jireh Baptist Church.

At its meeting in June 1940, the diaconate decided that a list should be compiled of all those who had enlisted for overseas service with a view to forming an Honour Roll and also advising the chaplains of their names and rank, and another list of those serving in the Militia for transmission to the chaplains.²⁴

In 1946, two side panels were added to the World War I Roll of Honour in the Church Foyer. The names of 85 servicemen and women were recorded on these. An additional eight men who were mentioned in the Church Yearbook for 1940–41 were not included. Several of these men still had strong associations with the church. The most likely reason for their omission is that they had requested that their names not be included.²⁵ It is possible that there were other



Jireh Baptist Church, Roll of Honour
(Photo: Queensland Baptist Archives)



City Tabernacle Roll of Honour (Photo: D Driver)

²⁴ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 18 June 1940

²⁵ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook 1940–1941*, pp. 18, 19.

men and women associated with the Tabernacle who served but have not been identified. If so, their omission from this account is regretted.

There are four possible omissions from the Roll of Honour. Commander G Cox who, along with his wife was baptised at the Tabernacle by Rev Butler in June 1942 and came into membership in August 1942. Rev Arbon Abbott who came into membership at the Tabernacle in May 1938. Arbon's son, Geoffrey is on the Roll of Honour. Percival Leivesley enlisted in the RAAF. His brother's names are on the Roll of Honour, but his isn't.

Captain Albert Postle married Lillian Prideaux in 1923. He had previously served in the machine gun battalion and was a prisoner of war in World War I and re-enlisted in World War II, in May 1942, as a lieutenant, but was promoted to captain in November 1943. He served in Townsville as a Hiring Officer. Lillian had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1913 and is thought to have still been in membership during World War II.

Harold Carothers sang solos at least 13 times at the Tabernacle throughout the war, from 1940 and came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1954 having enlisted in the 2nd AIF in 1943.

Mrs Margaret Dix, who had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1903, asked if her son, Russell's name could be included on the Roll of Honour. Russell had not been in membership at the Tabernacle and the deacons advised her that it was regretted that he could not be included, as "none of the other persons whose names are to be shown on the Honour Board were similarly situated".²⁶

Mary Kennedy (Molly) Lucas was born in Childers in 1910, the daughter of James and Mary Lucas. Her brother Leslie served in the AIF in the First World War. Molly was working as a nurse and living at St Martin's Hospital in Ann St, Brisbane when she came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1936-37, following her baptism. Her involvement in the church is unknown and she was removed from the roll during a major revision in 1953. She was attached to the Australian Army Service as a nurse, with the rank of Captain in January 1941 and was discharged in May 1946. She is not listed on the Roll of Honour, suggesting that she was not in fellowship in 1941. In 1948, after the war, she went to England, where she married James Cook, who was a government officer and in 1952, with James and their two children, she sailed to Malaya, during the Malayan Emergency. She did not return to Australia.

At a special deacons' meeting in March 1946, it was agreed that the Honour Boards should be provided by the church as its "tribute to the men who had fought

²⁶ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 15 April 1947.

in the war”.²⁷ At the following meeting, the deacons resolved that “the names of members of the church or its organisations at the time of enlistment, would be eligible for inclusion on the Honour Board”.²⁸ In May, the church secretary, Walter Bush tendered a list of names to be considered for inclusion on the Honour Board. The list of names was duplicated to enable each deacon to give it careful consideration. The list was subsequently sent to all church members for their perusal and correction where necessary. In March 1947, a majority of the deacons were of the opinion that the servicemen and women’s ranks should not be displayed. The list of names compiled by the deacons was displayed on the notice board in the church vestibule for two Sundays in April and an announcement was made from the pulpit inviting all interested to peruse the list and to notify the officers of any inaccuracies in the names shown.



Walter Bush (Photo: B Potten)

The new Honour Board was unveiled on 7 September 1947. The original Board, which included the names of those who served in the Great War of 1914–18, was preserved. Their names were renewed, so as to match those of the 85 men and women who served in the World War of 1939–45, whose names had been inscribed on two additional panels, one on either side of the original board.

The design was prepared by the architect, Walter Kerrison, with the joinery and carving carried out by Edward Ingram of Ingram’s Joinery, Ipswich, and the writing and illuminating was undertaken by Victor Day.

The service was conducted by Rev Eric Evans, of Melbourne, who delivered a brief address eulogising the great service, loyalty and heroism displayed by those whose names appeared on the Board, two of whom had made the great sacrifice. He said that the late Rev Butler, could claim a right to their honour, for the brave manner in which he had sustained himself and the church during the dark days of the war.

Rev Evans then called on Rev Butler’s widow, Laura who said: “To the glory of God, and in honour and gratitude to the men and women, whose names are inscribed thereon, I now unveil this Honour Board of the City Tabernacle Baptist

²⁷ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon’s Meeting*, 29 March 1946

²⁸ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon’s Meeting*, 16 April 1946

Church.” Mr Evans then led in a prayer of dedication, and the National Anthem was sung.

The service in the church related the Honour Board to the great memorial of the Communion of the Last Supper, as an incentive to quickened memory, a tribute of devotion, and a recognition that the place of Calvary is the foundation of all real sacrifice. It was worthy of the ceremony, the church and the large congregation that gathered, including the men and women whose service had been honoured.²⁹ (Rev Evans served as interim pastor at the Tabernacle throughout September 1947. Rev Evans had been released by the East Camberwell Baptist Church.)



Bert, Dorothy and Valerie Webster arriving at the Tabernacle for the unveiling service

It is not known how many men and women whose name is on the Honour Board attended the unveiling service. The unveiling preceded the morning worship service. The church’s visitor’s book does not record the names of any of the servicemen or their families. The only public advertisement of the unveiling was in the previous day’s religious notices.

Spread over two years, the new Honour Board cost a total of £107/19/6, the equivalent of about \$7,000 when adjusted for inflation.

Rev Butler’s annual letters and extracts from Mr Bush’s Annual Secretary’s Report from the Tabernacle Yearbooks have been transcribed in the following chapter to provide a chronological account of the changes in sentiment and activities of the church throughout the war years.

²⁹ *The Australian Baptist*, 23 September 1947, pp. 10, 11.

Rev Thomas Leitch

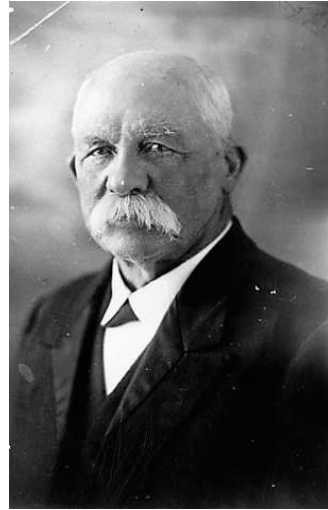
Thomas Leitch was born in Coldstream, Scotland in 1849 and arrived in Australia on the bark *Star of England* in 1863, aged 14, with his parents, John and Isabella, and four siblings, Anne, David, James, and Robert. Thomas was converted soon after his arrival in Brisbane and baptised in the Wharf Street Baptist Church by Rev James Voller.

Thomas studied for the ministry, and following his ordination, was the founding Minister of the Windsor Road Baptist church in 1877 and served there for 52 years. Thomas and Liliias Barker, the daughter of Captain Peter and Eliza Barker, were married by Rev Henry Coombs, at the residence of the bride's parents in Hill Street, Gregory Terrace in 1881³⁰. Rev Coombs was the minister at the Tabernacle at the time.

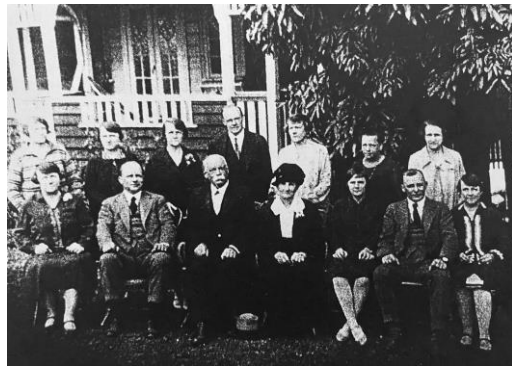
Peter Barker was a survivor of the Eureka Stockade in 1854 and, after several attempts to “make it rich” by finding gold in Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, and Rockhampton, became a sea captain.

In 1891–92, Rev Leitch was president of the Baptist Union of Queensland. Several years after his death, his widow Liliias became a member at the Tabernacle in 1953 and remained in membership until her death.

Thomas and Liliias had 13 children, all of whom survived to adulthood: Eliza (Mrs Ernest Dixon), Isabella (Mrs George Roper), Thomas, John, Ellen (Mrs Miles Fletcher), Liliias (Lilian), Catherine (Mrs Frank Hirst), Charles, Eva, Dorothy (Mrs William Davis), Annie (Mrs Horace Hockings), Grace (Mrs Albert Chalk), Elsie (Mrs Percival Lock), and Marjorie (Gladys, Mrs Claude Fraser). Isabella, Gladys, and Jean were all



Rev Thomas Leitch (Photo: State Library of Queensland)



Thomas and Liliias Leitch and their family
(Photo: L Powell)

³⁰ *The Telegraph*, 9 July 1881, p. 2.

married in the Windsor Road Baptist Church by their father, Rev Leitch. Catherine was married by her father in Sandgate.

Rev Leitch's grandson Noel (the son of Charles and Ethel) was married to Margaret Williams, at the Tabernacle in 1953, by Rev FT Smith.

Two of Thomas and Liliass's three sons, John and Charles, enlisted in World War I.

Their daughter Lilian served as a nurse with the AANS in the Middle East and Europe. Her wartime service is outlined in *Women Who Made a Difference*.³¹ She came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1953. In 1965, she was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), Civil Division. The citation for her award reads:

Miss Leitch's life has been marked by high standards of professional ability, devotion to duty and the warm humility she has exhibited to her patients and fellow nurses.

Amy was a collector for the Tabernacle's annual missions' appeal and Superintendent of the Junior CE.

At least five of Thomas and Liliass's grandchildren enlisted in World War II. They were Thomas Roper, the son of Isabella; Jean Slater (née Fletcher), the daughter of Ellen; Iris Blain (née Davis), the daughter of Dorothy; Dr Newton Chalk, the son of Grace; and Robin Fraser, the son of Marjorie.

Rev and Mrs Leitch left Brisbane on a trip to Scotland on 26 March 1929, on the *SS Moreton Bay*. Rev Leitch had been pastor of the Windsor Road Baptist Church for over 50 years and was resigning from active service. He intended to preach his farewell sermons at his church on 24 March. His record was unique in the pastorates of Baptist ministers in Australia, in that he held only the one charge throughout his ministry and will probably be unequalled in any denomination. He was wished a pleasant voyage, a happy holiday, and a safe return by a host of friends.³²

Thomas was returning from his six-month trip to Scotland with his wife and daughter Eva, when he was put ashore at Port Said, Egypt with paralysis. He died in hospital in Port Said in September 1929, aged 80, and his remains were brought back to Brisbane for burial.³³

Liliass died in Brisbane in 1943.

³¹ Parker, D (ed), 2009 *Women Who Made a Difference: Celebrating the contribution of Queensland Baptist Women to church, community and mission*. Baptist Heritage Queensland: pp. 28, 29.

³² *The Australian Baptist*, 19 March 1929, p. 4.

³³ *The Australian Baptist*, 24 September 1929, p. 13.

Yearbook Extracts

PASTOR'S LETTER

Maxley,
Coronation Drive, Toowong, SW1
4th September 1939.

My Dear Friends,

What a complete change has come over the world in the last few days.

We are at war. The very word sends a shudder through all peace-loving people. Just how far-reaching or how long this conflict will be the future will reveal.

As an Empire we have a clear conscience on the whole matter and we enter the struggle with clean hands. Everything that could be done has been done by the British Prime Minister to bring about a peaceful settlement, but his appeals were disregarded by the offending party who were bent on war.

As Christian people we must face the situation in which we now find ourselves with a calm confidence in God knowing that "the Lord of Hosts is with us and the God of Jacob is our refuge."...

The future will make greater demands upon us than hitherto because of the disturbed condition of the world. But let us be equal to the occasion. The call of the hour is a challenge to our Christian faith and fortitude. We take our stand with the Apostle who said, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

Yours in united fellowship,
[Albert] BUTLER³⁴

PASTOR'S LETTER

14 August 1940.

My Dear Friends,

I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus.

His Divine presence and protection have been very real to us in the most trying year nationally.

And yet it has been a wonderful year Spiritually.

When I wrote my letter to you in September of last year, war had just been declared.

I said then that we would face the situation with a calm confidence in God.

Many things have happened in the last twelve months. Things we never thought could happen in so short a period of time.

Country after country has fallen before the ruthless onslaught of an invading foe, until to-day, Great Britain stands practically alone among the Nations of the World, in her defence of Liberty, Truth and Justice.

³⁴ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1938–39, pp. 5, 6.

The present situation presents a tremendous challenge to the Christian Church, and we are greatly encouraged by the splendid response which the people are making to the challenge. ...

What a magnificent lead the Nation received from His Majesty the King, when he asked that His people should not only have a special day of Intercession, but that we should also spend a few minutes every day in prayer. ...

We believe that as a result of the earnest prayers of God's people, there will yet come to the whole world a very real consciousness of God's Divine power that will revolutionise the thoughts and lives of men. ...

To all who have been called upon to pass through sorrow because of the loss of loved ones, and to those whose husbands, sons or near relatives, have enlisted for active service, some of whom have already gone overseas, we specially commend with their loved ones to the care and protection of our Heavenly Father.

In September, the first anniversary of this war will be held. We earnestly pray that before another anniversary is reached, the dark clouds that threaten Great Britain today, will have rolled away, and a brighter day will have dawned.

Wishing for you all God's Divine blessing,

Yours in gospel service,
A BUTLER³⁵

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1940.

The year that has just closed has been a memorable one in many ways, but one event transcends them all and that is the culmination, owing to Germany's acts of aggression in Europe and especially her brutal invasion of Poland, of a state of war (declared on 3rd Sept. 1939), between the British Empire and her ally, France, on the one hand and the German Reich on the other. Since that time events have followed in such bewildering sequence that it is safe to say that the war and its consequences and the question "What is to be its ultimate outcome?" have been the dominating impulse in the thoughts and actions of our rulers and statesmen and has largely influenced the expression of our religious faith and experience.

As this report is being written, Great Britain and the heart of the Empire are in imminent risk of invasion, and contingents from the overseas Dominions and our own Commonwealth are standing there and elsewhere, shoulder to shoulder with the Home Forces in their defence, while our naval forces and airmen are uniting with the Royal Navy and Air Force in the gallant offensive which is being waged against the enemy, with whom belatedly, Italy has thrown in her lot, while Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France have all been overthrown and Britain and her great Commonwealth of free nations, stands alone, and yet not alone, for we firmly believe God is with her.

In these disturbing and anxious times it is good to know that Christian people are turning more than ever to God, and our own people have been no exception. Large

³⁵ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1939-40, pp. 4, 5.

congregations have gathered to listen to the heartening calls to courage and faith that have been sounded by our Minister, Rev A Butler, who has risen splendidly to meet the needs of the hour, and both on Sundays and throughout the week has shown an intense faith in God and has strongly insisted on the need of repentance and prayer by everyone, if God is to be, as in past days, our refuge and strength in these times of trouble. ...

Roll of Honour.— with the Empire at war it has been decided to form a Roll of Honour for those who are or will proceed on active service in the Royal Australian Navy, the A.I.F., and the R.A.A.F., and also a list of those who are serving on the Home Front and already 15 names have been forwarded, but as the list is incomplete, it is not proposed to incorporate it in this year's record. Members are invited to forward the names of members of their families already serving or who may enlist or be called up.

On behalf of the Diaconate,
[Walter] E BUSH,³⁶

PASTOR'S LETTER

4th August
1941.

My Dear Friends,

As we review the year just closed, there is much to thank God for. ...

This is due very largely to the co-operation of members and friends in their loyal support of the work and worship of the Church.

The great world war has placed a tremendous burden upon the whole Empire and we, one of the furthest outposts of this great Commonwealth of Nations, willingly accept our responsibility in this great struggle, for liberty and justice.

Already a number of our young men from the Church have responded to the call of their country, and some are on active service overseas, whilst others are engaged on Home Defence.

These young men are remembered in our daily intercession. Nor do we forget the loved ones at home who carry a heavy burden of anxiety.

The serious times through which we are passing is a very definite challenge to our Christian faith and witness and whilst we are encouraged by the splendid response of the people in their attendance at Worship every Lord's Day.

With Christian Greetings,

Sincerely Yours,
A BUTLER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1941.

The outstanding feature of the past year has been the wonderful goodness of God to our Church and its members, during periods of possibly the gravest anxiety that

³⁶ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1939-40*, pp. 6, 14.

our great British Commonwealth of Nations has ever experienced, and when we have all been liable to alternate hopes and fears, as the war situation has ebbed and flowed and our brothers and sisters in the Homelands and the peoples of other countries have had to suffer slaughter and wide-spread destruction of their homes and many historic and beautiful buildings and churches. Through it all we have been spared the horrors of war in our beloved land, and our Church Services and organisations have been blessed by God's presence and power. We might fittingly sing

“Come and rejoice with us
For God has proved our Friend,
He has supplied our every need,
And loved us without end.” ...

Ladies' Guild.— The war, while it has in some measure changed the objective of this splendid band of workers, has done nothing to abate their interest or enthusiasm, for it reports an enrolment of 53, an increase of 11, and an average attendance of 31 for the year. Under the wise leadership of its President, Laura Butler, assisted by its capable Hon Secretary and Treasurer, Millie Stanley and Dora Petty, the Guild has concentrated more particularly on the knitting of Soldiers' Comforts for Overseas and making pyjamas for Military Hospitals, and altogether 342 articles were sent in two large parcels or distributed in other ways.

...

Soldiers' Teas and Reading Room.— In September it was decided to open a Reading and Rest Room for Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen of [His Majesty's] Australian Forces, in the Lecture Hall, to provide teas for all who accepted the Church's invitation, followed by a brief season of musical and elocutionary items and the singing of well-known hymns. A committee was formed with Mr Ron Reid as Convenor, and it went to work with a will. A roster was drawn up of young ladies to prepare and serve the teas, Mr [Wilfred] R Webster capably undertaking the task of catering, while Mr [Alf] Ingham has been indefatigable in issuing invitations, seeing to the preparation of Rest Room, and arranging and supervising the musical programme and sing-song by the men, to whom he has been an inspiration and real friend, while other members of the Church and congregation have helped in inviting and welcoming the men themselves, to whom, prior to the prayer meeting, Mr Butler has spoken a few words each Sunday. The number of men attending each Sunday has varied each Sunday from nearly 100 to 40 or 50, with a record attendance for the Special Christmas Tea on 13th December, when 231 were entertained.

This piece of Service has been greatly appreciated by the men in uniform, who have been generous in their applause to the ladies who entertained them and to the ladies and gentlemen, who have kindly come forward to play, to sing and to recite to them, to whom also the thanks of the Church are tendered for their splendid help, as to all who have given provisions and cash to enable the Committee to

function without loss. A work well done—may it have God’s blessing in the days to come as well as at the present time.

Roll of Honour.—The following men connected directly with the City Tabernacle or intimately related to our members, have enlisted for active service in HM Royal Australian Navy, A.I.F., and RAAF, but does not include men in the Militia. It does not claim to be complete and additions or corrections will be welcomed.

Royal Australian Navy

Seaman Margar [Nargar], Seaman JR Smith, B60l, Seaman S Tannock, AB Seaman Weston.

Australian Imperial Force

Lieut. RF England (QX6019), Private SW Clark (QXI7609), Corp. A Holmans (QX4229), Private DF Knight (QX17615), Private R Lincoln (QX17004), Serg’t. SJ McKenzie (QX6535), Private F K Milne (QX7359), Gunner GS Solomon (QX8346), Private J Turton (QX20584).

Royal Australian Air Force

E Ham (ACI), (28312), Hayes (ACI.), SA, (VQ.22884), Ian Kerr, LAC, (405179), F Kleckham (ACI, (22191)), McKenzie (ACI), DW, (23515), Slaughter, J (404434), DG Dean, 24 Drynan St., Paddington.

On behalf of the Diaconate,
W E BUSH³⁷

PASTOR’S LETTER

21st July 1942.

My Dear Friends,

St. Paul’s salutation to the Church at Corinth is my salutation to you:

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ; I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given unto you by Christ Jesus; that in everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance and in all knowledge.”

As a Church we have now reached the eighty-seventh milestone in our journey, and never in all the years have the days been darker, nationally, than they are to-day.

Since my last letter to you twelve months ago, the war has come to our own shores, and a very real threat to our land and to our liberty now hangs over us. Many of our young men and young women have been called up for military duty and are serving in the forces, both at home and overseas.

³⁷ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1940–41*, pp. 6–19.

These young people are remembered by us every Lord's Day in our period of intercession, and also in private devotions.

With Christian Greetings, Sincerely yours,
A BUTLER³⁸

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1942.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to our own Minister who has maintained the high level of preaching ability, which he has attained in former years, and this high level has been followed through dark days when peril seemed to overshadow Australia and when defeats and setbacks to our cause occasioned disappointment which might have issued in despair, had we not been constantly reminded that the Lord reigneth and in His hands are the issues of life and death. ...

Diaconate.—The principal business has been concerned with the compliance with [Air Raid Precautions] and brown-out regulations, and in placing the basement of the Church premises at the disposal of the State Authorities for use in receiving injured persons and others rendered homeless through air-raids. ...

The Soldiers' Teas have been held regularly each Sunday afternoon and are still being largely attended and much appreciated, both by our own men of the fighting forces and many of our American cousins.

Mr Reid resigned the post of Convenor during the year, and [Oliver] St J Kent kindly undertook the task. Mr Ingham has again been most zealous in preparing the Reading and Rest Room, issuing invitations and organising and conducting the singing of hymns and the programme of items with which it is interspersed, and many talented friends have come forward to assist. A splendid body of young women have prepared the tea and viands and made the tables attractive and waited on the guests under the direction of Miss [Hilda] Stay while the members of the Young Men's Fellowship have assisted in the washing up and clearing of tables. Many ladies have sent cakes and other goods, while Mr Webster has given most generous measure and help in the actual catering and all financial needs have been met by the generosity of the congregation and of members of other churches. ...

Ladies' Guild.—This valuable organisation has centred its efforts on work for the soldiers, and although having a slightly depleted membership of forty-six, maintained an average attendance of twenty-nine, and was able to donate forty-five suits of pyjamas to Greenslopes Military Hospital, sixteen suits to the Red Cross, and one hundred washers and thirty-six handkerchiefs, while parcels of sixty-eight and forty-six knitted articles were given to the Red Shield Fund for overseas soldiers, and seventy-four articles for bombed children. ...

The Baptist Girls' War League, a new organisation, had a busy and successful year under Hilda Stay as President, Jill Morcom, Vice-President, Margaret Broadbent, Secretary, and Marjorie Mines, Treasurer.

³⁸ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1941–42, p. 6.

In close co-operation with the Queensland Patriotic Fund it was instrumental in sending Christmas letters to men of the Church overseas and to some in Australian camps, and of layettes to children in the homeland and the Mothercraft Auxiliary, and of garments to Mrs Cronau for needy soldiers' wives in the district.

On behalf of the Diaconate,
W E BUSH³⁹

PASTOR'S LETTER

10th July 1943.

My Dear Friends,

When I wrote to you a year ago the position in the Pacific was very ugly indeed. The threat to Australia by the Japanese was a very real one. We were obliged to dim the lights in our homes, our churches, our business houses, our streets, our cars, as a precautionary measure against air raids. For many months we groped our way by night in the darkness. A feeling of uncertainty and insecurity prevailed. Some churches changed the evening hour of worship to late afternoon to allow worshippers to reach their homes before nightfall.

Many people were afraid to venture out at night and remained at home to be near their air raid shelters in case of alarm. Such an experience was foreign to the people of this country. Never in her history has Australia been so close to disaster. As I write to-day the outlook is much brighter. The threat of invasion has, we are informed, been removed, and once again lights have been restored and we are able to move about with a greater sense of security.

As we review the year with its changing conditions we can say with the Psalmist, "If it had not been the Lord Who was with us when men rose to attack us they would have swallowed us alive, Blessed be the Lord. He did not leave us for their teeth to tear." Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth.

...

We heartily welcome our Allies from overseas, and are glad to have them with us, not only in the defence of our country, but also in the devotion of the Church worship.

With Christian Greetings, Sincerely yours,
A BUTLER⁴⁰

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1943.

The dominant note that must be sounded in connection with the past year is that of thankfulness to God Almighty for His wonderful goodness to us as a nation and as members of that great Commonwealth of Nations which we know as the British Empire, and as partners with the Allied Nations in the great cause to which we and they are pledged. From an atmosphere of doubt and foreboding as to when

³⁹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1941-42, p. 12.

⁴⁰ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1942-43, p. 5.

victory was to reward the gallant efforts of our seamen, soldiers and airmen and their leaders, we have passed to a hope, not only of ultimate victory, but through the knowledge of victories achieved by our Allies and ourselves and that in every part of the vast theatre of war, which this mammoth struggle has covered, to the expectation that, whatever may be the possible setback to our arms, we shall go on from victory to victory, till our foes and the foes of all mankind are completely vanquished.

For this great mercy we are indebted to God alone, for He it is that has inspired our leaders and the brave men who have fought under them. To Him then be all the praise.

As a Church we have been singularly blessed. Our services, under the capable leadership of our Minister, Rev A Butler, have been channels of blessing to all who attended and who took part in them, including large numbers of men and women of our own and the American forces, whose generous contributions to God's work have caused our coffers to be overflowing, while all our organisations have been able to maintain their witness, in spite of the absence of valued members whose war duties have temporarily removed them from Brisbane. ...

Soldiers' Teas.—Large numbers have attended the teas and the subsequent singing of hymns and rendering of choice musical and elocutionary items, which have been contributed by many friends, many of whom do not belong to the Church. Mr Ingham has been most assiduous in organising the after meeting, and in inviting and welcoming the men in which he has been assisted by others. While the young ladies, under Miss Stay and her helpers, have been most loyal in their attendance and unremitting in their preparation and serving of the refreshments. To all of these friends grateful appreciation has been expressed by those entertained and we of the Church owe them our warmest praise.

Our Minister makes it a rule to say a word in season to our guests prior to the close of the after meeting and generous support has been given by our own congregation and by others to the cost.

Monthly Letter to those serving in the Forces.—In May last it was decided to send a circular letter containing news of the Church and its organisations, and Mr J Syd Johnson undertook to inaugurate this service and carry it on for a period of three months.

The records reveal the names of seventy wearing the King's uniform, who are at present or were formerly connected with the Church and its various organisations.

The Baptist Girls' War League has had a busy year and is now affiliated with the Social Service League but will continue to make garments needed by the Mothercraft Association, which expressed its warm appreciation of the layettes it has already handed to it. Mrs Booth, of the Association, gave the members of the League an interesting address about its work and the manner in which the garments donated by the League are distributed. At Christmas the League sent letters and parcels to the boys of the Fighting Forces. Miss Stay was President,

Miss [Jill] Morcom Vice-President, Mrs Morton Secretary, and Miss M Mines Treasurer.

On behalf of the Diaconate,
W E BUSH⁴¹

PASTOR'S LETTER

12th August 1944.

My Dear Friends,

Once again we have come to that place in the onward march of the Church where we pause for a moment to take stock of our activities.

As we do so, "We remember all the way which the Lord our God has led us."

The past year has witnessed great changes in the progress of the war, and we look forward prayerfully and hopefully to final victory in the near future, at least, so far as the war in Europe is concerned.

Our young men and women who are engaged in National Service have been specially remembered in our United Intercession every Lord's Day.

Thus far all our young men on active service have been protected by the covering wings of the Almighty.

We offer our congratulations to F.Lt. [Geoffrey] Abbott on being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for conspicuous bravery in his flights over enemy territory.

The monthly letter sent from the Church to all our young men on active service is looked forward to and greatly appreciated by them.

The tea and praise service provided every Sunday evening for men of the Services have been well patronised by the soldiers. This avenue of service presents a splendid opportunity to contact the men and invite them to attend the evening service. Our very best thanks are due to the faithful band of workers who carry on this good service.

With affectionate greetings, Sincerely yours,
A BUTLER⁴²

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1944.

The past year has been marked by the goodness of God, both in our national and church life. While we humbly acknowledge our shortcomings as citizens and church members, the guiding and protecting hand of God has been experienced again and again in the great conflict in which the Allied Nations have been engaged, and His blessing has rested upon our services and on our organisations in a remarkable degree, and we can truly say, "Thy mercies are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."

Pulpit Ministry.—In his pulpit ministry our Minister has sounded a deeper note of authority and exhortation, and in his appeals to men and women, boys and girls,

⁴¹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1942–43, pp. 7–17.

⁴² City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1943–44, p. 5.

to turn unto the Lord and accept the salvation He offers us in Jesus Christ, there has been a strong and more urgent witness. The response has evidenced itself in increasing congregations, which have included men and Women of all the Services, both Australian and American. The services have been enriched by the hearty singing of the congregations, led by the choir under Sergt Will Stay, L.R.A.M., and by the offerings of visiting vocalists. ...

In addition to the inspiring messages of our own pastor, we have been privileged to enjoy those of other ministers and of many chaplains, among those who have taken part in our services being Chaplains E Waldrop, Starr, Wayne L Hunter, J. Drakeford, Elliott, [Wilbur McDaniel], and McPherson of the USA, Chaplains Allan Brooke, AH Brooks, C Martin, and FE Smith (sic).

Special Services.—On 4th July, Independence Day was observed in honour of our American Allies, 12th September was a Day of Thanksgiving for the surrender of Italy,

Teas for Men of the Forces.—These have been maintained in full vigour and have been largely attended by our own and American sailors, soldiers and airmen, who have also patronised the facilities for reading and writing prior to the serving of tea and have enjoyed the hymn singing and fine programmes provided by visiting friends, while many have responded to Mr Butler's invitation to stay to the evening service. We are again greatly indebted to Mr and Mrs Ingham and all those who assist them in this fine piece of worthwhile entertainment, and to those who have given generously to its financial support including friends of the Church at Blenheim. A notable effort was the splendid concert organised by Mr and Mrs Ingham and arranged by the Brisbane Orchestral Society, which took place on 30th June.

The Monthly Letter has been continued and has been greatly appreciated by all to whom it was sent. Mr Syd Johnson again undertook its compilation and distribution and secured the hearty co-operation of Mr Butler and others in providing news items, and of Mr Lockhart in its typing and duplication.

The Baptist Girls' War League has had a busy year making layettes and other garments as required for the Mothercraft Association, and in sending letters and canteen orders to the boys of the Forces who are connected with the Church, all of which have been greatly appreciated. Early in October they lost their President, Mrs [Colleen] Gamble, when she left to reside in Sydney, but were fortunate in securing again the services of Miss Stay, the first President, with Miss G. Goldsmith as Vice-President, Miss [Audrey] Symons Secretary, and Miss [Lilian] Gough Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Fighting and Auxiliary Services.—To all our young men and women who are engaged in the great enterprise of the War, we send our affectionate greetings. You are remembered every time we meet in prayer or worship. May God have you in His kind and gracious keeping and may He bring you all safe home again to your dear ones, and to the Church, which remembers your loyal service with deep thankfulness.

To all who have earned promotion and awards we extend our congratulations. We are proud of every one of you. May God bless you all.

To our gallant Allies we extend similar greetings. We have enjoyed your fellowship and we pray for the welfare of your dear ones and yourselves.

On behalf of the Diaconate, very heartily yours,
WE BUSH⁴³

PASTOR'S LETTER

25th July 1945.

My Dear Friends,

The year just ended has been a momentous one for us all.

The ghastly war which meant chaos and calamity to the countries of Europe during the past six years, ended in victory for the Allied Nations.

For the Thanksgiving Service which followed the end of hostilities, the Tabernacle was crowded to capacity with thankful people all eager to show their gratitude to God for His wonderful deliverance.

What has happened in Europe, we pray may happen soon in the Pacific. For here so many of our boys are engaged. Our daily prayer is, "That God in His Divine mercy may protect them, and hasten the day of their return to their waiting loved ones".

We have been pleased to welcome home some of our young men from overseas and rejoice with those who rejoice in happy reunions. ...

The tea and social hour for men of the services have been carried on each Sunday evening, and a splendid roll up of men attend each week.

With Christian Greetings, Sincerely yours,
A BUTLER⁴⁴

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1945.

During the year covered by this report there have been great happening both in our Church, in the denomination and in the great world, for all of which we would express our devout thankfulness to God for His goodness, His mercy and the power He has manifested in bringing the war in Europe to an end. This thankfulness was admirably displayed when our Church was completely filled for the impressive United Service on 9th May last, [Victory in Europe] day, when the Officers of the Union led by the President, Rev TC Warriner, MA, BD, took part, and our Minister, Rev A Butler, gave a notable address, under the three sub-titles of Sacred Remembrance, Sober Rejoicing, Solemn Responsibilities. ...

Special Services were for the Royal Navy, 9th, July; [Prisoners Of War], 30th July; ... Memorial Service to the late President Roosevelt, 15th April; ...

United Services of the Baptist Union were held ... on VE Day, and the combined Anzac Day service with our friends of the Church of Christ. ...

⁴³ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1942-43, pp. 7-18.

⁴⁴ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1944-45, p. 5.

The Visitors' Book records the name of 545 service men and women and other visitors, all of whom have been welcomed by our Officers and Mr [William] Martin, who has shown great zeal in this work. An illustrated memento of the Church is now being given to each visitor. ...

Teas for Men of the Forces.—A most commendable and highly appreciated service has been rendered Sunday by Sunday in providing tea and entertainment to large numbers of the men of the Allied Forces, who have not only been served with a tasty tea by a very bright and efficient number of young ladies, but have been given paper and writing facilities, books and magazines before tea and after treated to a good “sing song” of gospel hymns and a fine musical programme by visiting friends, with a word of cheer and invitation by our Minister. More recently letters have been sent by Mr Ingham and Mr Clive Morcom to those attending, and these have evoked some grateful replies. To all who have helped in this praiseworthy act of service the Lord will say, “Well done” and we say, “Thank you,” as we do to those who, every two months, have contributed to its financial support, and including the Blenheim Church, which takes up a collection every fifth Sunday in a month and sends us the amount, while its Women’s Union also contribute. God bless you all.

The Monthly Letter to our own men has been sent regularly and this contained a brief message from Mr. Butler and reports from the Secretary and various organisations, which have been collected, arranged, and forwarded by Mr J Syd and Mrs Johnson. This letter has been greatly esteemed by the recipients. ...

The Fighting and Auxiliary Services have been constantly in our thought and prayers and for them much has been done, as the preceding pages evidence. Again we commend you all to God’s kind and wise keeping and may He bring you all safe home to your dear ones before another report is penned.

On behalf of the Diaconate, we commend you all to God’s blessing and care in the ensuing year.

W E BUSH⁴⁵

PASTOR’S LETTER

July 1946

My Dear Friends,

When I wrote my letter at the close of our church year twelve months ago, the war in Europe had just ended.

We then looked forward to the day when the war in the Pacific would come to an end. We prayed that God in His mercy would bring this about.

As I write to you now the long prayed has happened, and we rejoice that after six terrible years we are able to celebrate the Ninety-first Anniversary of the Tabernacle in an atmosphere, if not of peace and goodwill on the earth, at least with the satisfaction that the war is behind us.

⁴⁵ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1944–45, pp. 7-17.

Our boys have returned from the various battle fronts—with only one or two exceptions, all have come back safe and well, for which we give thanks to God.

We miss the young men who during the war years came from every part of Australia, and also our Allied friends from across the seas, who joined so heartily with us in the worship of the Church, and also in the young people's organisations. Letters have been received since their return home expressing their gratitude for the help and hospitality they received during their stay with us.

The Secretary's report no doubt will tell of the splendid work done by the Committee in providing tea for the soldiers every Sunday evening for over five years.

With the thought of war out of our minds, and the strain of anxiety over the safety of our boys now passed, we are able to settle, down to normal church work once again.

The past year has been one that calls for much thankfulness.

Mrs Butler joins me in sending Christian greetings. Sincerely yours,
A BUTLER⁴⁶

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1946.

The period covered by this report has been one of the most momentous in the history of the world. It brought the close of active warfare, when Japan surrendered to the Allied Forces, shortly after the use of the "atomic bomb" had been so devastatingly displayed against two of its large cities, and it closed shortly after that first of two great experimental demonstrations of the effect of the bomb had been staged at Bikini. It has been marked by great rejoicing, by great distress, by great criminal trials, by great upheavals, and by great unrest, and as this report is being framed, all eyes are turned on Paris, where the Peace Conference of the United Allied Nations has just opened, and many hearts are filled with foreboding as to the future. Yet the dominant note for our Church and for God's people everywhere must be that conveyed in Miss Waring's beautiful hymn:

"In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear;
And safe is such confiding for nothing changes here;
The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?" ...

Teas and Service for Men of the Forces.—The end of the war brought our teas on Sunday afternoon to an end, the last one being held on 24th February of this year, when seventy-one were catered for. On 22nd March a social evening for the helpers and artists was held followed by a sit-down supper, which all enjoyed. In the course of the social, over which Mr Butler presided, and which had been organised and programmed by a committee of helpers, reports were furnished by Miss Stay, Mr Morcom, Mr Robbins and Mr Ingham, and that of the last-named and Mr [Charles] Robbins have been pasted in the Church minute book as a record

⁴⁶ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1945–46*, p. 5.

of a splendid piece of service by the workers, shared in by the Church's congregation and that of Blenheim Baptist Church. whose Secretary, Mr Mutzelburg, came down specially to be present and speak a word of cheer and commendation, and very much appreciated by "the boys" who came from Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, and other parts of the Empire, from the United States, and other countries engaged in the war, and not least, by the Aussies themselves, who, of course, were the largest in numbers and were our particularly honoured guests, for it was commenced and primarily carried on for them during the five and a half years of its existence, during all of which time, Mr Ingham, sometimes helped by others and sometimes on his own, distributed the cards of invitation to "The Church on the Hill." In June of last year letters were addressed to seventy-seven men who had left their names and addresses with the workers and letters are still being sent to quite a number.

The Monthly Letters to our own men were discontinued last November. This service was very much appreciated by all our boys and girls who had joined up in the Forces, and, as in previous years was collected arranged and forwarded by Mr J Syd and Mrs Johnson.

A Social to Returned Men was held in the Lecture Hall on 14th December, to which they were specially invited by letter. Mr Butler presided and Mr [Will] Stay provided an attractive musical programme, while several hymns were sung. In response to the welcome and invitation a number of those present said a few words of appreciation and of their reactions to the changed conditions of peace, and here it is fitting to record the loyalty of our returned men to the Tabernacle Church and its Minister. ...

For the men who have returned we offer to God our devout thanks and to them our warm welcome and sincere congratulations. We honour them for their service and sacrifice. We are inspired by their presence at our services and in our organisations. With all our hearts we wish them well, and in sadness and sympathy we proudly record the names of those who died—

JOHN MACTAGGART.

ALAN SLAUGHTER.

It is hoped soon to record the names of all who served on an Honour Board in the Church vestibule, and to inscribe the names of those who died on the Memorial Tablet in the Church.

On behalf of the Diaconate,
W E BUSH⁴⁷

Names of Women and Men who served in the Armed Forces of the World War, 1939–1945

ABBOTT, Geoffrey G, DFC, Flt Lieut, RAAF.

BARTLETT, Allan, [Leading Aircraftman], RAAF.

BOWEN, Keith G, Sgt, RAAF.

⁴⁷ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1945–46, pp. 7-18.

BOWEN, Selwyn G, AIF.
BROWN, Alan JD, Sgt, AIF.
BUSH, Arthur F, Major, AIF.
CABELL, Del.
CABELL, Peter, Trooper.
CAMERON, John H, Pte.
CHALK, Newton S, Surgeon RAN.
CLARK, Stanley W.
COLLEDGE, Arch.
COLLEDGE, John, LAC, RAAF.
COOKSLEY, Leslie J, Major, AIF.
DART, J Leslie, Capt, RMC.
DAVIS, Beryl, AWLA.
DEAN, Douglas G, Cpl, RAAF.
DUNCAN, Leslie J, S/Sgt.
ENGLAND, Robert F, Lieut, AIF.
ENGLAND, Joyce, (Mrs RF), Lieut, AWAS.
FARQUHAR, John C Rev, Chaplain.
FLETCHER, Fairlie, AAMWS.
FRASER, Robin E, Cpl, AIF.
GOUGH, William, J, RAAF.
HAM, Edwin G, [Mentioned In Dispatches], RAAF.
HAYES, Stephen A, F/Sgt, RAAF.
HIRST, Clifford F, Pte, AIF.
HIRST, H Reuben, MID, Sgt, AIF.
HIRST, Kenneth TU, Pte, AIF.
HOLMANS, Alan, Sgt, AIF.
HUGHES, Allan J, DFC, P/O, RAAF.
JAMES, Freeman M, Gunner.
JAMES, Geoffrey E, Gunner.
JENNER, A Harold, Capt, AASC.
JEROME, A Roy, Signaller.
JEROME, Neville [Norman] V, Pte.
JESSUP, Cyril, Capt, AIF.
JOHNSTON, Edwin WT, Sgt.
JOHNSTON, James, MID, Cpl.
JONES, Ronald D, Cpl.
KERR, Ian, MID, Flt Lieut, RAAF.
KERR, Wilbur·M, Sgt, AIF.
KENT, Lloyd A, LAC, RAAF.
KLECKHAM, Fred A, LAC, RAAF.
KNIGHT, David F, Pte, AIF.
LARMAR, H Leslie, F/O, RAAF.

LAWTON, Herbert, RAN.
LEGGETT, Joseph W, Cpl, AASC.
LEIVESLEY, Douglas, Pte.
LEIVESLEY, Frank L, Cpl.
LINCOLN, Robert, Pte.
LOCKHART, Cecil R, Lieut, RAN.
MACTAGGART, John, (Died), RAAF.
McKENZIE, David W.
McLENNAN, John SA, Cpl.
MILLER, J Eric, Cpl.
MILLER, William E, [Distinguished Flying Medal], F/O, RAAF.
MILNE, F Roy, Cpl, AAMC.
MORCOM, Prudence, WRAN.
OHLSEN, Esther, Field Service, YWCA.
POWTER, Charles C.
PRAEGER, Douglas N, Capt, AIF.
PRAEGER, Eric N, Gunner, RAA.
PRICE, Clive, J, Lieut, RA Engineers.
PRITCHARD, Colin A, Pte.
REID, Douglas S, Cpl.
REDD, Jean, AM.
RIDER, Herbert, Driver.
ROBBINS, Douglas B, Cpl, AIF.
ROBBINS, Edward B, Lieut, AIF.
ROPER, Thomas LG, Lieut, RA Engineers.
SLAUGHTER, Allan J, (Died), F/O, RAAF.
SMITH, AF Gurnett, Lieut.
STANLEY, Alan J, Pte.
STANLEY, W Leonard, Pte.
STAY, Will J, Sgt.
STORRY, Eunice E, ACW, RAAF.
SWEETMAN, W Edward, Pte.
TURTON, Jack W, Pte.
WALKER, Colin H, L/Cpl.
WEBSTER, A Keith, F/O, RAAF.
WHEAT, Mervyn S, Sgt.
WHITTINGHAM, Herbert E, RAAF.
WINDOW, Gilbert M, LAC., RAAF.
WRIGHT, Roy E, Sgt, AIF.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook 1946–47*, pp. 22, 23.

It should be noted that several servicemen who were mentioned in the 1940–41 Yearbook were omitted from this list. The reason(s) for this are unknown. They were:

NARGAR, PL, Seaman

SMITH, JR, Seaman.

TANNOCK, S, Seaman.

WESTON, AB Seaman.

LINCOLN, R, Private.

McKENZIE, Sydney J, Cpt, AIF.

MILNE, Fitzroy K, AIF.

SOLOMON, George S, Gunner.

The biographies of these eight men have been included. It is possible that they had requested that their names not be included. If so, any offence caused by including their details here is regretted.

It is possible that there were other omissions.

Abbott, Geoffrey Grainger DFC

Geoffrey, who was commonly known as Geoff, was born in Brisbane on 28 June 1920, the son of Arbon (Hedley) and Anna (Annie) Abbott (née Pfrunder). Hedley and Annie's first child, Hedley, died in the Brisbane General Hospital of peritonitis, in 1923, aged 12 and they had no further children.

Hedley was ordained to the Baptist Ministry, in the Lanefield Baptist Church, on 3 March 1927. The service was directed by Rev John Latimer (president of the Baptist Union of Queensland), supported by Rev William Bell, MA (principal of the Queensland Baptist College), who delivered the charge to the candidate. The service concluded with the laying on of hands, and a solemn dedicatory prayer offered by the Rev Latimer.

Hedley enlisted in World War II in Brisbane, in April 1941, as a corporal in the Intelligence Corps of the Australian Army, and was discharged on 6 December 1944. His deep familiarity with the geography of the Solomon Islands led to his work in General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters in Brisbane.

Although Hedley and Annie had transferred their church membership from Annerley to the Tabernacle in May 1938, Arbon is not listed on the Roll of Honour. Hedley and Annie died in Brisbane in 1950 and Kedron in 1968 respectively. Hedley's obituary was published in *The Australian Baptist*.

He had suffered a relapse from an attack of the prevalent influenza epidemic. For many years, Hedley had been a missionary with the South Seas Evangelical Mission in the Solomon Islands. His son Geoff remained proud of his father's service in the Solomon Islands and Australia.

Returning to Queensland, Hedley entered the Baptist College and undertook the course of training for home ministry and served in several Baptist churches, notably, Lanefield, Marburg, Sandgate, and Annerley. For a time, he was a member of the field staff of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and at the time of his death was the pastor of the Sunnybank Uniting Church. He was a member of several committees of the Baptist Union, especially the Clifford House Committee, as convenor of the property subcommittee. For some years, he had been a member of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and was awarded the Fellowship of the Society (FRGS) for conspicuous work in that connection.⁴⁹

Annie transferred her membership to Nundah Baptist in 1960. She died in Nundah in 1968.

⁴⁹ *The Australian Baptist*, 17 October 1950, p 9.

In 1931 and 1932, Geoff was a scholar at the Sandgate Baptist Sunday School and was awarded an honour certificate and a book prize in the lower intermediate division of the Scripture examination with marks of 88% and 94%. In 1934, he was a student at Brisbane Boys' Grammar, when he was awarded the William Alexander Morrow Form Prize for III^f. In 1937, he completed his senior year of high school at the State Commercial High School. He was awarded a B grade pass in Economics and C grade passes in English, French and Mathematics A. He was one of the 281 students in Queensland who matriculated that year.

Geoff also came into membership at the Tabernacle in May 1938 by visitation, indicating that he had been baptised elsewhere, probably at Annerley, but had not been in membership there. He was the treasurer of the Young Men's Fellowship and resigned his church membership in 1948.

Geoff was an evening student in the Faculty of Commerce, in 1938, at the University of Queensland and passed in two subjects. He passed another three subjects in 1939 and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce. Before the war, Geoffrey joined the Queensland Public Service. He commenced work on the office staff of the Co-ordinator General of Public Works in February 1940.

Geoff enlisted in Brisbane on 7 December 1941, aged 20, as an airman. He gave his religion as Baptist. Prior to enlisting, he had served with Signals Northern Command from 2 September until 5 December 1940, as a Private. He was 155 cm tall and weighed 50 kg. He had fair complexion, blue eyes, and light brown hair. He gave his interests as tennis, chess, swimming, and philately (stamp collecting). He was promoted to leading aircraftsman in September 1943 and was appointed a Flying Officer on 9 October 1942. He continued to serve as a Navigator until his discharge on 4 September 1945.



Flt-Lt GG Abbott
(Photo: P Abbott)

In Melbourne, he completed an Observers Course at 3 Initial Training School in April 1942 and thereafter, the nature of his service was Air Navigator. In England, he was attached to 467 squadron. He embarked from Melbourne on 22 May 1942 and arrived in Canada on 20 June. He left Canada on 27 October arriving in the United Kingdom on 4 November of the same year. He returned from the United Kingdom on 30 May 1945, arriving in Sydney on 7 July, before arriving back in Brisbane on 17 August. He was attached to the Royal Canadian Airforce and then the RAF, while overseas.

While in Canada, he trained on an Avro Anson, and in the UK, he trained on Vickers Wellington, Avro Manchester and Lancaster bombers, and de Havilland Mosquito fighter aircraft. He was an instructor on Wellington and Airspeed Oxford aircraft. His only hospitalisation was at the Derby City Hospital from 25 February 1943 until 3 April the same year.

On 30 June 1944, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (for skill and fortitude in operations against the enemy), in addition to the 1939–45 Star, Aircrew Europe Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939–45, Australia Service Medal 1939–45, the Returned from Active Service Medal, and the Air Navigation Badge.

In a confidential report in 1945, Wing Commander Arthur Doubleday DSO, DFC, MID, wrote that he had “shown initiative and drive at all times as navigation leader and is well above the average as instructor. His keenness and cheerful cooperation has set a fine example to his entire section. Above average as officer.”

The Queensland press reported that Flight-Lieutenant Geoff Abbott of Woolloowin had been awarded the DFC in recognition of his gallant service. He had taken part in operations over Berlin, Leipzig, and Nuremburg when 73, 79 and 94 heavy bombers were lost, and collided once with another Lancaster over the target, but eventually, the pilot made a perfect landing. Flight-Lieutenant Abbott had been appointed Navigation Officer of the 2nd Australian Lancaster Squadron and had recently been promoted to flight-lieutenant.⁵⁰

The investiture ceremony at which Geoff was presented with his DFC was reported far and wide in Melbourne, Warwick, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns as well as Brisbane.



Distinguished Flying Cross

Eighty-five awards for bravery in war and peace by members of the armed forces, policemen and civilians were presented by the Governor, Sir John Lavarack, in an attractive setting in front of Parliament House on 19 November 1946. It was the first presentation of this nature by Sir John and comprised the largest number ever made in Queensland at one function. Each

⁵⁰ *The Telegraph*, 8 July 1944, p. 2.

recipient was congratulated by His Excellency and thanked on behalf of the King for his bravery.⁵¹

The bombing raids over Berlin and other German cities, for which Geoffrey was awarded the DFC are thought to have occurred in January 1944. Those raids were described in the *Queensland Times* as follows:

London, January 31 - Last night's heavy Royal Air Force raid on Berlin—the third attack on the capital in four days and the 14th since the present battle opened—brought the weight of bombs dropped in the past three attacks to well over 5000 tons. Lancasters and Halifaxes forced the Luftwaffe up after it had been twice in action against both the RAF and American Air Force in four days.

The weather was slightly more favourable for defence than the last two attacks. Although there were thick clouds to over 10,000 feet, visibility above was good. Over Berlin not only was there bright moon light, but the sky was brilliantly lit up by hundreds of fighter flares laid before the spearhead of bombers arrived.

The city was completely ringed with these. They stretched outwards for miles. In this brilliantly lit arena the main air battle took place. There were encounters on the way out and home. One bomber crew reported that out of 16 combats, 13 took place over the city.

Some fighters flew alone, but one pilot reported 10 flying together. The enemy failed completely to break up the concentration. It was a typical swift saturation attack and was all over in 25 minutes. The crews again were unanimous in their praise of the Pathfinders. The target was so brilliantly marked that one pilot said: "You just could not miss."

Because of the glare from fighter flares, the first crews found it difficult to observe results, but later arrivals had indisputable proof that fierce fires were burning. Columns of thick grey smoke by the end of the attack had risen to 15,000 feet. The glow could be seen over 100 miles away.

Mosquito crews prolonged the attack. A surprising feature was the weakness of the ground defences. There was heavy flak at the start, but as the bombing went on the barrage grew weaker. "It was the best organised attack I have known," said the commander of a Halifax squadron, Wing Commander DS Wilkerson, DFC. "I have never seen a better concentration of aircraft."

Germany is maintaining the closest secrecy regarding the raid on Berlin yesterday, says Reuter's Stockholm correspondent, The German News Agency usually issues to Stockholm an account of the raids shortly after they occur.

A message describing the latest raid confirms that fires are blazing all around Berlin. The firemen were assisted by an army of civilians trying to extinguish the flames before another attack was made. A large area of the city was without water, and traffic in many districts was paralysed. Berlin's railway stations are said to be crowded by people whose only wish is to get out.

The Berlin radio admits that the raiders were able to evade the defences and carry out their attack in a remarkably short time. The defences were subjected to the whole weight and fury of the attack in a mere breathing space. ...

The Stockholm correspondent of *The Times* says: "The tone of Berlin newspaper comment on the raid on Berlin on Saturday was more serious than ever. The *Voelkischer Beobachter* said it was one of the most severe terror attacks Berlin has suffered. The population has feverish hours behind it. The damage is great. The *Allgemeine Zeitung* says that many Berlin people were found dead under the ruins."

⁵¹ *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, 21 November 1946, p. 1.

The British United Press aeronautical correspondent said: “The air battle over Europe reached a height of 3500 Allied planes, which in 80 hours dropped over 7500 tons of bombs on Berlin, Brunswick, and Frankfurt. ...

The planes carried nearly 30,000 members of air crews. The missing men total over 1200. The RAF have dropped over 5000 tons on Berlin in the past 3, days, bringing the total dropped on Berlin to nearly 28,000 tons since the attack started on August 23, following the summer lull.” ...

Hundreds of Australians again were among RAF-RAAF bomber crews over Berlin last night. The Australian Air Force sent Lancasters and Halifaxes from each of its Britain-based squadrons. Those seen reporting back after the raid included ... Flying Officer GG Abbott, of Brisbane.⁵²

The Tabernacle sent an airgraph letter (a miniature photograph of a letter, sent by airmail) to Geoff conveying the congratulations and good wishes of the church.

Geoff was welcomed back to Brisbane by Rev Butler in July 1945. Later in life, he considered himself an agnostic and didn’t consider his membership compatible with his belief position.⁵³

In 1949, Geoffrey was again living with his parents Hedley and Anna in Woolloowin, working as a clerk in the public service and remained there until August 1953.

Geoff and Joan Willitts met in Australia after his return from the UK. Joan was born in 1922, the daughter of Norman and Isabella Willitts, who lived in Stockport. She had travelled unaccompanied through Fremantle in 1949 en route to Sydney, with the intention of being a teacher. She gave her intended address as “Education Dept. Sydney”. She was posted to Uki in Northern NSW, and they met either in Northern NSW or in Queensland. They both used to go to the Gold Coast.⁵⁴ (It is possible that Geoff and Joan met while he was serving in England. Geoff was based at Waddington, about 94 miles from Joan’s hometown of Stockport.)

Geoff and Joan sailed on the SS *Strathaird* to London, and were married on 28 July 1951, in Stockport, Cheshire, England. When she sailed from Sydney to London, her destination was 217 Gorton Rd, Reddish, Stockport.

In December 1951, after their marriage, Geoff and Joan travelled from London to Australia via Fremantle, aboard SS *Strathmore*. Their residence in England had been 75 Lower Bents Lane, Bredbury, Stockport.

⁵² *Queensland Times*, 2 February 1944, p. 3.

⁵³ Abbott P, Personal communication, 2022.

⁵⁴ Abbott P, Personal communication, 2022.

Geoff and Joan had a son, Roy Hedley Abbott, in 1955. Joan wanted the name Roy because she disliked the Australian tendency to shorten names and chose this as it's so short it can't be shortened.⁵⁵

Geoff and Joan were living with his mother in Woolloowin in 1954 after his father's death. By 1958, Geoff and Joan were living in Kedron. Geoff was an economist in the Queensland Electricity Commission and Joan ran her own kindergarten. When he retired from the public service, Geoff was Chief Economist within the Commission.

Geoff attended a national reunion of the 463/467 Squadron Branch of the Air Force Association, in Brisbane, on 8 June 1981. He was still living in Sydney St, Kedron at the time.

After Joan's death in 1969 from a brain tumour, Geoff married Irma, who had also been widowed. Irma's mother and brother lived in the same street as Geoff and Joan and the families knew each other before Joan's death. Patricia Abbott's understanding is that for a time, Irma also lived with her mother after Irma's first husband died. Geoff died 20 September 1989 aged 69.

Geoff and Joan's son, Roy graduated from the University of Queensland in 1977 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and was commissioned in 1986 in the Australian Army Legal Corps. He then completed his Masters in Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales in 1990, and Master of Laws degree in military law from the Judge Advocates General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA in 1995. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Australian Army in 2002, when he was recognised in the Australia Day honours list, having been awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross.⁵⁶ Roy retired in 2014 with the rank of Colonel, and died in 2022.

Geoff's memoirs are held by the State Library of Queensland.

⁵⁵ Abbott P, Personal communication, 2022.

⁵⁶ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 January 2002, p. 35.

Bartlett, Allan Beresford

Allan was born in Paddington, on 13 June 1912, the son of John and Elizabeth Bartlett (née Campbell). John was born in Kirkaldy, Scotland, and migrated to Australia, in 1896, aboard SS *Glamang*, sailing as an able-bodied seaman. Elizabeth was born in Glasgow. John and Elizabeth were married in Queensland in 1906.

John, who became a sea captain, died in 1923, aged 55. His charred remains were found in the ashes of his residence on Thursday Island, where he was the relieving harbourmaster. He was the harbourmaster in Rockhampton at the time, having transferred to the Marine Department in 1919 after several years as a sea captain in North Queensland.⁵⁷ The inquiry into his death, was told by several witnesses who were visitors at Captain Bartlett's house up to midnight, before the fire was discovered at 3 o'clock in the morning, related that the deceased saw them off the premises, when all was apparently right. No evidence explaining the cause of the fire was forthcoming. It was suggested that the upsetting of a kerosene lamp, or a smouldering cigar butt, thrown down by one of those who spent the evening with Captain Bartlett, might have started the fire. As Captain Bartlett was known to be a heavy sleeper, he probably was overcome with smoke, and then was unable to find his way through the surrounding flames out of the burning building. There was no indication of foul play, and apparently the cause of the disaster must remain a mystery.⁵⁸



Captain John Bartlett
(Photo: A Frost)

Elizabeth was living alone in Toowong while John was a sea captain but had joined him on Thursday Island by 1921. She may have moved to Rockhampton prior to her husband's death. She died in Brisbane, in 1964. Allan had an older brother John (Jack) Bartlett, whose life story is summarised in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*⁵⁹. Jack's second given name was his mother's maiden name, so it is likely that another of Allan's forebears had the family name Beresford.

⁵⁷ *The Telegraph*, 5 July 1923, p. 8.

⁵⁸ *The Brisbane Courier*, 17 July 1923, p. 15.

⁵⁹ Driver, D, op. cit.

Jack came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1923 and transferred his membership, when he became a home missionary at Gordon Park Baptist Church, in 1936. Their great-uncle, Henry, had been in membership briefly in the 1860s.

There is little doubt that Jack and Allan would have been deeply impacted by their father's death. They were only 15 and 11 at the time.

Allan is described by his daughter Noela as the dearest soul, one of the most gracious, humble, dependable, patient men she has ever known and a wonderful father. The circumstances of his father's death were truly horrific. She was told that his mum took a stroke at the news and never spoke again. Her two young sons had to become the breadwinners and help their mother relearn basic tasks.⁶⁰

Allan came into membership at the Tabernacle in December 1927 following his baptism by Rev William Hurst but resigned in 1953. He was treasurer of the Intermediate CE Society in 1927–31 and became assistant superintendent of the Society in 1932–33. He was also a member of the Young Men's Fellowship in 1930 and assistant superintendent, secretary and/or treasurer of the Sunday School in 1938–43. In 1942 he was appointed as one of the Tabernacle's representatives to the Baptist Union Sunday School Department. He continued in these positions until his enlistment in the RAAF. He resumed his involvement in the Sunday School after the war as secretary (1946–49).

Allan lived with his mother and brother in Clayfield, Auchenflower, and Kedron from 1925 until 1941, employed as a clerk.

At age 28, Allan enlisted on 14 May 1941 in Albion. He had previously served for two years in the RANR, nominating his mother as his next-of-kin and gave his religion as Baptist. He was assigned to Northern Command Signals, Lytton, but discharged in September 1941, under Australian Military



Jack and Allan Bartlett,
Redcliffe, 1925
(Photo: A Frost)



Allan Bartlett
(Photo: N Smith)

⁶⁰ Smith N, Personal communication, 2021.

Regulations and Orders 253A (1) (J) – at his own request on compassionate grounds. His request may have been due to his brother's enlistment and posting away from Brisbane, leaving their mother, who had been a widow for about 16 years, alone. In early 1943, he enlisted in the RAAF.

Allan's brother John (Jack) also enlisted in 1941 and served until 1945. His involvement at the Tabernacle, military service and life are outlined in *For God, King and Country*. His name is not on the Roll of Honour, because he was no longer in membership at the Tabernacle when he enlisted.

Like many servicemen, Allan rarely spoke about the war. His daughter recalls that he had a photo of a squadron posed in front of a Lancaster Bomber and a little metal moulding of one. She believes that he worked with a team on the ground testing and repairing radio equipment on planes. She remembers that when she was growing up, he'd make radio sets and was always the fixer, who could be relied on to get almost anything from motors to watches up and running again. He had immense patience and focus.⁶¹

The family had moved to Nundah by 1943.

Alison Rodger was born in Ipswich in 1916, the daughter of Robert and Alma Rodger, who were married in Lanefield in 1909, by Rev Henry Hill, using the rites of the Baptist Church.



Fort Lytton Signal Station
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)



Allan Bartlett (left) and his brother Jack
(Photo: N Smith)

⁶¹ Smith N, Personal communication, 2022.

In 1938, Alison resigned her position at the Ipswich Electric Supply Company to take up duties with a Brisbane firm. She was living with her parents in Corinda in 1943, working as a telegraphist. Alison's older brother Donald (Don) was in the Syrian Campaign and rose to the rank of captain.

Allan and Alison announced their engagement in November 1945 and were married by Rev Albert Butler, on 6 April 1946, at the Tabernacle. Allan's brother Jack was one of their witnesses. The other witness was Alison Petty, who came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1962. Alison Petty's brother, Allan had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1932, suggesting that the two Alisons knew each other through their involvement at the Tabernacle. Allan and Alison were aged 33 and 30 at the time of their marriage.

After their marriage, Allan and Alison lived at Grange, until at least 1954, then at Holland Park until 1980. Alison did not come into membership at the Tabernacle. Allan resigned from the membership at the Tabernacle in 1953.

Allan and Alison had a son, Donald who died in 2021, and a daughter, Noela.

Noela married Peter Smart at the Tabernacle in 1971. Neither Noela nor Peter were in membership at the Tabernacle. Peter was English and they moved to the United Kingdom in 1972. Noela now lives with her second husband, Alan Smith in England.

Don and Noela took singing lessons with Will Stay in his city chambers and also at the Tabernacle. Noela describes him as a lovely man, who was an excellent teacher.⁶²



Alison Rodger, aged 21, 1937
(Photo: D Bartlett)



Allan and Alison Bartlett
(Photo: N Smith)

⁶² Smith N, Personal communication, 2022.

Bartlett, Allan Beresford

Allan died in Brisbane, on 3 September 1987 aged 75 and was buried at Hemmant. Alison died in 1991.

Blain, Iris Beryl (née Davis)

Iris Davis, who was generally known as Beryl, was born in Ipswich on 29 November 1925, the daughter of William (Maurice) Davis and Dorothy Leitch and granddaughter of Rev Thomas and Liliás Leitch. Maurice served with the Australian Imperial Force, as a gunner in World War I, in Étapes, France. He gave his religion as Methodist. His father, William died in 1917 while Maurice was in France. He was not discharged until May 1919. His widowed mother was living in Brisbane with her four, as yet unmarried daughters.

Beryl's parents were married in Brisbane in September 1925. Although they separated early in their marriage, they did not divorce each other. Beryl, her younger brother Graham, and mother were living with Beryl's grandmother in the Leitch residence in Herston by 1934.

Beryl's mother died in 1942 aged 43, leaving Beryl and her brother in the care of the broader Leitch family. It is likely that Beryl's aunt Eva, who was still living in the Herston home until her death in 1944 was their primary care giver.

Maurice enlisted again in World War II, as a gunner in the 2/10th Field Regiment and was a prisoner of war when he died in Japan, in 1943. He is buried in the Yokohama British Commonwealth War Cemetery. His headstone includes the quote "greater love hath no man than this".



William Davis
(Photo: *Queensland Pictorial*)



Maurice Davis's headstone
(Photo: J Roche)

Beryl was one of the four hostesses at the Soldiers' Teas conducted each Sunday at the Tabernacle for almost the entire duration of the war. In 1944, aged 18, she

enlisted in the RAAF in Brisbane as an aircraftwoman. She was discharged from service in 1947 and took up employment with the Department of Civil Aviation.

Robert (Bob) Blain was born in Terang, Victoria in 1924, the son of Charles and Ada (Lillian) Blain. He also served in World War II, in the CMF.

After the war, Beryl and Bob were married in Victoria in 1949. Immediately after their marriage, they lived in Prahran, where Bob was employed as a police constable. At the time of her marriage, Beryl worked with the Imperial War Graves Commission before accompanying Bob to a posting in Benalla. In 1951, they shifted to Warrnambool where Bob took up another posting.



Beryl Blain (née Davis)
(Photo: J Blain)

Bob resigned from the police force in 1952 and took up dairy farming in Coorinemungle (near Port Campbell). Bob was originally from a dairy farm in this area. They cleared land from virgin bush into a successful dairy farm.

They retired from farming in the early 1980s and moved to Warrnambool, where Beryl died on 28 January 1994 aged 68 and Bob died in 1999.

Beryl and Bob had four children: John, Graham, Russell, and Helen.

Beryl often spoke of a strong connection with the Tabernacle in her early life and maintained a strong faith. While living in Brisbane, she attended diligently every week and routinely visited her mother's grave in Toowong cemetery every Sunday after church.

Bowen, Keith Griffiths and Selwyn Griffiths

David Griffiths Bowen and Elvera Born were married by Rev George Rowe, in the Albert Street Methodist Church, Brisbane on 15 July 1914. David was born in Amherst, Victoria and became a timekeeper in Wondai before his marriage. Elvera, whose father Jacob was born in Germany, was born in Ipswich in 1881.

They had three sons, Leonard (Len), and twins Keith and Selwyn, when they were living at *Gwnfa*, on the corner of Annerley Road and Alice Street (later renamed Ponsonby Street), Annerley Junction. Elvera died in 1956 and David remained in the same house until his death in 1958.

Gwnfa is of Welsh origin, but whether the name had any personal significance for David is unknown. (Gwnfa is a village in Newton, Montgomeryshire, Wales.) The given name Griffith or Griffiths probably originated in the 1870s when David Bowen and Margaret Griffiths named their son Roland Griffiths-Bowen. (In most of the records, the surname is not the hyphenated Griffiths-Bowen, but simply Bowen.) David, his father David, his brother and sister William and Elizabeth, numerous cousins and nephews, all three sons, and at least one grandson were given the name Griffiths.



Honour Avenue Plaque
(Photo: Kings Park)

David and Elvera transferred their church memberships from Annerley to the Tabernacle in 1942. Elvera was pianist for the Mothers' Meeting at the Tabernacle. Elvera and her sister Ivy taught piano, organ and singing in Ipswich prior to her marriage. She also travelled as far away as Charters Towers to sing solos. She was a member of the Ipswich Methodist Church choir and sang solos in that church and elsewhere.

Len was born in Ipswich in 1916 and married Gwenyth (Gwen) Evans in Rockdale (Sydney) on 23 December 1940. They moved to New Zealand in the 1980s, where Leonard died in 1989.

David's brother, Rowland (Roland) Griffiths-Bowen, OBE, was a commander in the Royal Australian Navy on HMAS *Cerberus* in World War I and was Aide-de-Camp to three Governors-General (The Lord, Sir Henry Forster, The Lord Stonehaven, GCMG, DSO, PC, and Sir Isaac Isaacs, GCB, GCMG) from April 1922 until January 1936. He died in Canberra in 1965.

Keith Griffiths Bowen

Keith was born in Queensland on 18 October 1919. He grew up in Annerley, was baptised by Rev Chester Martin at Annerley in March 1940 and received into membership at the Tabernacle in 1942 on transfer from the Annerley church.

John McLellan, managing director of the Intercolonial Boring Company, wrote that Keith's parents were well known to him and could not be regarded otherwise than those of the best citizens. The home influence both from the religious viewpoint and otherwise had been of the best and Keith had a worthy example in his father and mother. Rev A Hedley Abbott, minister of the Annerley Baptist Church, also wrote a character reference for him. Keith was employed for about 18 months by Charles Gilbert Co Pty Ltd, Tailoring Specialists.⁶³

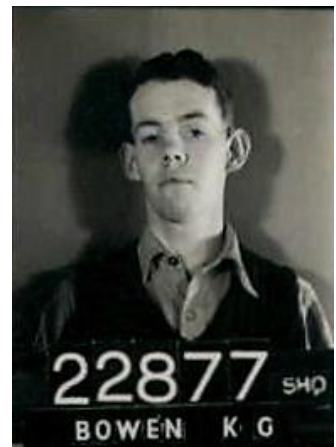
In April 1940, Mr Cyril Connell, the Teacher-in-Charge of the Unemployed Youths' Commercial Classes at the State Commercial High School wrote that Keith had been diligent and attentive in his studies and had made satisfactory progress, while his conduct, at all times had been exemplary. He regarded Keith as an energetic and trustworthy young man of pleasing personality and had no hesitation in recommending him for any position for which he was qualified. Keith had made rapid progress in studying accountancy reaching the Intermediate stage in that area of study.⁶⁴

Keith enlisted in the RAAF in World War II in July 1940 and served as a corporal and then sergeant (leading aircraftsman) in stores (accounts). He gave his denomination as Baptist. Initially, he was paid 7/6 (75¢) per day. He spent a month or so in various locations, including Richmond, New South Wales and served for about 16 months in Sembawang (Singapore) before returning to Australia.

Keith was a prisoner of war in Changi (Singapore) where he sustained injuries to his jaw that impacted his health in later life.

Because he was in a non-combat role, Keith was awarded the Active Service Badge.

Keith came into membership at the Tabernacle in July 1942.



Keith's enlistment photograph
(Photo: National Archives of
Australia)

⁶³ National Archives of Australia, A9031, 22877, p. 43.

⁶⁴ National Archives of Australia, A9031, 22877, p. 40.

In June 1945, he was discharged to undergo theological training⁶⁵ at the Sydney Bible Institute and transferred his church membership to Central Baptist Church, Sydney.

Keith married Shirley Dagger and they had a daughter Margaret and a son David.

His pastoral ministry with the Presbyterian Church is fully documented in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*.

Following his leaving pastoral ministry, Keith and Shirley were living in Inala in 1958–72, where Keith was working as a storeman packer.

After Keith's death on 25 October 1975 aged 56, Shirley moved to Corinda. She was living at Bupa Care, Banora Point when she died in 2011.

Selwyn Griffiths Bowen

Selwyn was Keith's twin, born on 18 October 1919. He was also baptised by Rev Martin at Annerley in March 1940 and came into membership there. He was leader of the Young Men's Fellowship in 1939–40 and transferred his membership to the Tabernacle in August 1942. His name was deleted from the membership list in 1953. He was also a member of the William McLeod Lodge of Kedron.

Selwyn enlisted in the 2nd AIF in Brisbane as a bombardier, in the 101st anti-tank regiment, 4th Battalion of the 5th Division.

He suffered some hearing loss as a result of his war service.

In 1954, he was living with his parents in Annerley, working as a tailor's cutter. His "high class ladies' and gents' tailoring" business was located at 420 George St, City.⁶⁶



101st Anti-Tank Regiment
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Following his marriage to Joan Holdaway from Coorparoo, in 1955, they lived in Camp Hill.

Selwyn and Joan had a son Ian, and a daughter Kay.

⁶⁵ National Archives of Australia, A9031, 22877, p. 8.

⁶⁶ *Dayboro Times and Moreton Mail*, 26 June 1954, p. 4.

They had built a house and moved to The Gap by 1963, when Selwyn bought a shop building and started his own business, Ashgrove Mens Wear, in Waterworks Rd, Ashgrove. They remained there until they sold the business and retired in 1988 and moved to the Keperra Sanctuary, Keperra.

Selwyn was very active in the Ashgrove Lions Club and enjoyed an afternoon of bowls at the Ashgrove Bowls Club.

Selwyn died on 5 August 2011, aged 91. His funeral was held at The Gap Uniting Church. Officers and Brethren of the William McLeod Lodge were respectfully invited to attend his funeral, suggesting that he had remained active in the lodge until his death.

Joan was still living at Keperra Sanctuary, when she died in 2022, aged 95. Her funeral was also held at The Gap Uniting Church.

Brown, Alan Edward

Alan was born on 2 April 1907, the son of Alexander and Clara Brown (née Powell). His parents were married by Rev William Whale at the Tabernacle in 1896. Alan's siblings were Beryl (whose marriage to William Fox was officiated by Rev William Pope), and Ronald. Alan and his siblings grew up in Woolloowin and Clayfield. Their father was a public servant. Alexander and Clara celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1946. Clara died in 1949.

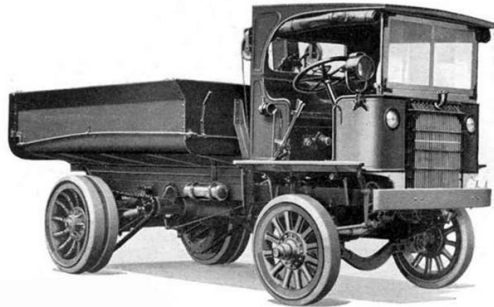
Alan and his mother came into membership at the Tabernacle on 15 June 1924 when they were living in Junction Street, Clayfield and Alan was moved to the supplementary list in 1953.

In 1929, Alan was working as a salesman for Butler Bros of Creek Street, who were distributors of Garford trucks. He was secretary of the Young Men's Fellowship at the Tabernacle in 1929–30, and a vice-president in 1931–34. Alan is thought to have been a close friend of Marjorie Earnshaw, who married Leslie Cooksley.

Alan volunteered in the CMF from 1 July 1925, when he was aged 18, until 3 July 1928 and again when he was 22, in the 42nd Battalion, from 16 December 1929 until 30 June 1931 when his services were no longer required.

Alan was on the committee of his local lacrosse club.

He married Gladys (Glad) Horne on 1 October 1937 in the Northgate Methodist Church. Glad was given away by her mother; her father having died the previous April. Glad was born in Queensland in 1902, the daughter of James and Elizabeth Horne. She was living with her mother in Northgate prior to her wedding. Glad had seven sisters: Phyllis (Mrs Alfred Traves), Bessie (who died in infancy), Adeline (Mrs Joseph Ferling), Gertrude (Mrs John



Garford Truck
(Photo: *what-when-how*)



Mr and Mrs Alan Brown, 1937
(Photo: *The Telegraph*)

Sweet), Grace (Mrs Harry Woodrow), Florence (Mrs Athol Telford), and Vera (Mrs James Hobson) and two brothers, Louis and Graham.

It was described in *The Telegraph* as a quiet wedding, (they did not have any attendants) probably due to the recent passing of Glad's father. The officiating clergyman was Rev Wilfred Slater of the Indooroopilly Methodist Circuit, an old friend of the bride's family. The church was decorated in golden tones by Beryl Briggs, sister of the bridegroom, who was in membership at the Tabernacle. The wedding march was played by Ken Best, a friend of the bridegroom, who in 1934, for a short time, was the Tabernacle organist. Their honeymoon was spent touring the north coast.⁶⁷ After the ceremony, the guests were entertained at the Canberra.



The Canberra Hotel, c. 1940
(Photo: Queensland State Archives)

After war broke out, Alan enlisted in the AIF. No details of his service are known.

Alan and Glad had a son, Ronald (Ron) in 1940.

Alan and Glad were living in Glad's parents' home in Northgate from 1943 until Glad's death in 1974. Alan continued to live in Northgate working as a salesman until his retirement. He had moved to Carramar Aged Care in Sunnybank Hills where he died on 15 May 1992 aged 85.

Alan and Glad were survived by Ron and his wife Carol, and their three children. Mourners were requested to make donations to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in lieu of flowers.

⁶⁷ *The Telegraph*, 1 October 1937, p. 15.

Bush, Arthur Frank

Arthur was born in Auckland, New Zealand on 6 February 1912, the son of Walter and Margaret Bush (née Allwood). Walter was born in Surbiton, Surrey, England in 1875 and Margaret was born in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, England in 1876. Walter's father, John Bush owned a very successful drapery business in Surrey, in the latter third of the nineteenth century. In 1911, he was a Baptist Minister at the Zion Chapel, New Cross Road, London.

Walter and Margaret were married in 1901 in Bedfordshire and migrated from England to New Zealand in 1906 and then to Brisbane in 1929. Arthur's siblings, who were born in New Zealand were Walter (Jack), Jack's twin sister Margery, Douglas, and Margaret (Joan).

Jack, Margery, and Joan remained in New Zealand, where Jack, had taken up sheep farming and Margery remained in Auckland, studying at the New Zealand Bible Training Institute. Joan joined her parents in Brisbane after they had settled in. Douglas undertook studies in Law and then Accountancy and was living in Brisbane in 1929–31 before settling in Sydney in 1932. Joan died in Brisbane on 8 November 1932, at the age of 16, having suffered with ill health all her short life. Revs Benjamin Hewison and Ernest Kirkwood assisted Rev William Hurst at the private interment at Lutwyche Cemetery. Arthur was very sick as a baby, suffering from pernicious anaemia and was fed raw liver to boost his red blood cell count.

Walter and Margaret established their family home, *Kianga* (which is sometimes spelt as *Kainga*) in Ascot and transferred their membership from Auckland to the Tabernacle in late 1929. Walter was the newly appointed Chief Engineer, Water Supply and Sewerage, for Brisbane City Council, having been "head-hunted" for the position. They almost immediately immersed themselves in the life of the church. Walter was on the diaconate at the Tabernacle from 1929 until 1949 and then made a life deacon. He was the church secretary from 1931 until 1947 and leader of the Young Men's Fellowship from August 1929 until 1943. He then became the emeritus leader of the Young People's Combined Fellowship. In 1940, the Tabernacle nominated Walter to the Baptist Union Council, and he continued to serve in this capacity for several years. He was also a Tabernacle delegate to the Annual Assembly.



Arthur Bush, with his parents Walter and Margaret and daughter Robyn
(Photo: R Bush)

Walter composed the following prayer-hymn:

A Hymn for 1942.

Lord, in these days of grievous wrong,
Increase our faith and make us strong
To will and do, to plan and dare,
While on Thy love we cast our care.

Our foes have gathered in their might,
O God, be with us in the fight,
Without Thee we are all undone,
But with Thee, victory will be won.

We ask Thy pardon for our sin,
We pray Thee cleanse us from within,
That in the trying days ahead,
Fearless we may our pathway tread.

We know not what the days may bring,
On Thee our fears, our cares we fling.
Thou art our God, our cause is just,
We can do naught but fight and trust.⁶⁸

Walter and Margaret moved to Moorooka in 1943, where Margaret died in 1949 and Walter died six months later in 1950. Walter's funeral service was held in the Tabernacle, but Margaret's wasn't. The house, also named *Kianga*, passed to Margery, who sold it in 1959. The family do not know how the house was used while Margery was overseas.

Margery was ordained for missionary service by Rev Kemp at the Wellington Assembly in New Zealand in 1931, leaving immediately afterwards for India. She was principal of the Chandpur School, 1936–38, and acting nursing superintendent of the Chandpur Hospital, 1939–40. She continued to serve in Chandpur and Brahmanbaria until 1949 when she returned to Brisbane, before leaving again for India in October 1950. Margery transferred her church membership to Annerley during this period but transferred back to the Tabernacle on her return from the mission field in 1964. Her story is outlined in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*.⁶⁹ Neither Arthur nor any of Arthur and Margery's other siblings were in membership of the church.

Prior to Margery's departure from Brisbane in August 1931, her parents and the church held a number of farewell functions and Arthur was present at these. He also bade her farewell at the train station when she left Brisbane to go to India via Sydney and New Zealand.

⁶⁸ *The Australian Baptist*, 3 February 1942, p. 2.

⁶⁹ Driver, D, op. cit.

On her return from the mission field, Margery became the Hostel Matron at the Young Ladies Hostel (*Willara House*), until 1968 and following her “retirement” she returned for a further 15 months from October 1970 until December 1971.

Douglas was a member of the Young Men’s Fellowship in the early 1930s.

Arthur was educated at Kings College in Auckland, where he was a member of the college cadet corp. He travelled with the family to Brisbane in 1929 and completed his education at Brisbane Grammar School. As a young adult, Arthur was present at a number of functions assisting his mother who was the organiser for various pageants to raise funds for a range of causes, including the Women’s War Memorial Fund, The Lord Mayor’s Unemployment Relief Fund, the Creche and Kindergarten Association, Rotary and Unemployed Hostels and Unemployed Women’s Work in 1930–31.

Arthur was secretary of the Young Men’s Fellowship in 1932–34, supporting his father who was still the leader. He then took on the role of job master in 1933–35. In 1936–37 he took on the role of secretary of the cricket club. In addition, Arthur played cricket for the Toombul club and was also a keen tennis player—the Ascot house having had a tennis court on site.

Arthur had a good singing voice and sang bass in the Tabernacle choir. He also sang solos on occasions such as at the Thanksgiving Service at the City Tabernacle on Sunday 13 August 1939, when he sang *O Rest in the Lord*.

Prior to his enlistment, Arthur lived with his parents in Ascot while employed as a clerk in the Queensland State Government Main Roads Commission. In March 1941 in the Albert Hall, Arthur acted in the Main Roads Commission Dramatic Society’s updated presentation, *The Social Bug*, a satirical comedy by FC Francis, based on TW Robertson’s comedy-drama *Caste*.

Arthur was a good debater and an avid reader, who enjoyed poetry like his father, and plays and live theatre like his mother. He was very particular about the correct use of English and grammar, had extremely neat and legible handwriting and could also express himself well in the written word. Perhaps this reflects the interests of both his father, and his mother who was involved with the performing arts, at least from an organisational viewpoint, and also attending performances.



Arthur Bush, 1941
(Photo: National Archives of
Australia)

Arthur enlisted in the CMF on 26 October 1939, aged 27 years, with the rank of lieutenant, on the strength of his having previously been a college cadet in Auckland. He did an Officer's War Course in Geelong in August 1940 and then further training was undertaken in Townsville.

Arthur volunteered for full-time war service on 8 November 1941, aged 29 years, enlisting at Gaythorne, and was given the rank of lieutenant and served with the Australian Army Service Corps (AASC) Field Units 1st Military District in Townsville, undertaking training in preparation for the defence of Northern Australia.

He was subsequently seconded to the AIF on 29 July 1942, after volunteering for overseas service, and was promoted to captain on 1 September 1942 and then temporary major on 26 November 1942, rising to the rank of major on 18 April 1944.

On 26 November 1942, Arthur was appointed Coordinator Repairs and Maintenance, Head Quarters Command, 5th Australian Division AASC and served with the 5th Division in Townsville until the Division was sent to New Guinea on 21 January 1943.

On 28 November 1944, Arthur was appointed Officer Commanding 131 Australian General Transport (AGT) Company and then, on 20 February 1945, Officer Commanding 9th Australian Motor Ambulance Convoy.

Arthur served at Milne Bay in New Guinea as well as in New Britain and Bougainville from January 1943 until May 1945 and, remained in the AIF, volunteering for service during the demobilization period before ceasing full-time service on 18 February 1946, due to a proposed change in command requiring



Australian Army Officer group, 1941
Arthur is in the back row, 3rd from the right
(Photo: S Gill)



Major Arthur Bush, 1944
(Photo: S Gill)

relocation to Sydney. Arthur's full-time service comprised 582 days in Australia and 825 days overseas.

Transport from Townsville to Milne Bay New Guinea in January 1943 was on the TS *Duntroon* and, between New Guinea, New Britain, and Bougainville in 1944 and 1945, on the ships TS *Moreton* and *Ormiston*.

Arthur was admitted to the Brisbane Military Hospital for almost three weeks in September and October 1945 with malaria. It is not known when he suffered the initial infection, although he appears to have been in Cairns from 30 May 1945, having been flown there from Treasury Island (Solomon Islands) on 29 May 1945 via Port Moresby, following 11 days on Bougainville, which followed his deployment in New Britain on 2 December 1944.

Apart from being 'marched in' from Headquarters 131 AGT Company in Australia on 5 June 1945, there are no further deployment notations on his record before he was sent to Brisbane on 25 September 1945 for admission to the 112 Australian Military Hospital. Perhaps this was a long drawn out episode of malaria having started in Bougainville or an episodic condition from which he was not recovering and hence requiring hospitalisation in Brisbane.

He spent a further three weeks in hospital in Holland Park in January-February 1946 with allergic dermatitis. He had a relapse of malaria and more allergic dermatitis. Arthur may have been receiving treatment as an outpatient for some of this time, as he was able to take his wife, Joy to hospital for their daughter, Robyn's birth on 23 January 1946.

Joy Care was born in Roma in 1919, the youngest daughter of Hector and Ellen Care, both of whom had died prior to her marriage. Ellen died when Joy was 6 years old and Hector died when she was 16 years old. The family had moved to Brisbane in 1924 for Ellen's health. After her father's death in 1935, Joy was sent to Stott's Business College and lived with an Aunt and Uncle (Ken and Nell Bassett) in Toowong until her marriage. Joy was a stenographer at Gollan and

Co Pty Ltd, Shipping Agents in George Street, Brisbane. She would later tell stories of having been a fire and air raid warden for her floor and of the preparations and precautions planned in case of air attack.



Air raid warden and members of the WAAF, 1942
(Photo: The Courier Mail)

Joy joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) under the control of the aid organisations, St Johns Ambulance and Red Cross, in Brisbane. Then on 26 July 1941, she enlisted in the VAD and was attached to the Northern Command. On 23 November 1942, those VAD units working in military hospitals, became the AAMWS. Joy was taken into the AAMWS in Brisbane and immediately transferred to the 116 Australian General Hospital (AGH) in Charters Towers arriving on 26 November 1942, with the rank of Private.

Joy subsequently enlisted in the AIF on 18 February 1943, after volunteering for overseas service. Her rank at the time was Private in the Nursing Orderly Group, working in various roles in nursing, radiography, and dentistry, as well as switchboard operator. Between 4 May 1944 and 23 August 1944, the 116 AGH relocated to Cairns (at Redlynch). During that time, Joy travelled to Brisbane for her marriage on 2 August, and honeymoon. Joy served with the 116 AGH in Cairns until ceasing full-time war service on 10 July 1945. On her return to Brisbane in July 1945, Joy lived with Mrs Margaret Boyland in Wilson Heights (Newmarket).



Private Joy Care, 1944
(Photo: S Gill)

Joy was raised in the Church of England and attended St Margaret's Church of England Girls' School and is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

Arthur and Joy announced their engagement in November 1943. Arthur had leave from New Guinea from 17 July until 23 August 1944, having embarked on the TS *Gorgon* on 6 July 1944 from Madang, New Guinea and disembarking in Sydney on 17 July 1944. During this leave, Arthur and Joy were married at the Tabernacle on 2 August by Rev Albert Butler. The witnesses to the marriage were Joy's sister Ina and Arthur's good friend Major Stanley Jones. Joy's wedding dress was a loan from a good friend in her AAMWS unit, as it was impossible to acquire such items due to rationing. Joy's brother, Bassett, escorted her into the church and paid for the wedding with the assistance of Arthur's parents.

The service was fully choral, the bridegroom being for many years a loyal member of the choir, and was beautifully conducted throughout.

As the bride entered the church with her brother, Bassett Care, and attended by her sister Ina, the choir, under Sergeant Will Stay, LRSM, assisted by Mrs [May] Whittingham at the piano, sang the Bridal Chorus from *Lohengrin*. She was received by the bridegroom and Major Stan Jones, and the Minister, and the hymn *O Love, Divine and Golden*, was sung.

Both Mr Butler's prayer and his short address to the wedded pair was of a very choice character.

During the signing of the register, the choir rendered *The Voice that breathed o'er Eden* and *O Perfect Love*, to organ and piano accompaniment and, as the happy pair walked down the aisle, Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* was played.

The reception was held in Lennon's Hotel, when 51 guests attended to do honour to the bride and groom, whose health was proposed by Mr Butler after that of the King had been honoured. The bridegroom, who had come from New Guinea for the wedding, suitably responded and, after other toasts had been honoured and the cake cut by the bride, the happy couple left for their honeymoon on the South Coast.⁷⁰

Arthur and Joy honeymooned at Burleigh, Arthur being on call for a swift return to New Guinea if required. Following his leave, Arthur returned to New Guinea emplaning from the mainland, probably in Cairns, and deplaning at Nadzab airfield near Lae in New Guinea on 23 August 1944.



Arthur and Joy Bush, 1944
(Photo: S Gill)

After the war, in 1946, Arthur and Joy purchased a Queenslander style house and settled in Annerley. Arthur was re-employed in the public service before moving on to employment as a clerk at Palings in Queen Street Brisbane, a specialised sheet music and musical instruments retail store, the Brisbane branch having been established in 1888.

They had three children: Robyn, Suzanne (Sue, Mrs David Gill), and Geoffrey who was only six when his father died, so he has little memory of him.

Following the war, Arthur suffered from ongoing allergic dermatitis and bouts of malaria and died on 12 January 1958 aged 45.

For about fifteen years, Joy worked, initially as a casual and then full-time, sales assistant mainly working in the Manchester section at Myer and its predecessors, Allan and Stark in the City and at McWhirter's in Fortitude Valley.

Joy remained in their marital home until 1972 when she purchased a unit in Annerley, about 300m from her previous home. Joy was living there independently in Annerley when she died in 2012, having been a widow for 54 years.

⁷⁰ *The Australian Baptist*, 15 August 1944, p. 5.

Cabell, Peter and Dolores Elizabeth Jean Driscoll (née Cabell)

Elizabeth Craig married Francis McMaha in Queensland in 1889. Francis was born on Thursday Island, and enlisted in World War I, in Charters Towers in 1918 and died in 1926, while working for His Majesty's Customs. Elizabeth was living in Ipswich while Francis was in North Queensland.

Elizabeth and Francis had a son Francis in 1891, and two daughters, Dora in 1890 and Jean in 1901. In 1913, Elizabeth and Francis were living at *Glenbrae*, Wickham Terrace. Elizabeth was baptised at the Tabernacle and her application for membership in 1941 was approved but she did not come into membership.

Dora McMaha was born in Ipswich in 1890. Elizabeth, Francis, and Dora lived in Paddington until 1913, when they moved to South Brisbane.

Dora's first child, Mary, was born on 6 February 1914, prior to her marriage to Charles Cabell in New Farm on 16 February 1916, by Rev Douglas Price of the Modernist persuasion. Mary only survived three months.

Although born in Chicago, Illinois, United States in 1892 Charles enlisted in the Australian Forces in 1917. He had arrived in Sydney in December 1915.

Dora's brother, Francis, enlisted in World War II, at the age of 48 and was promoted to sergeant in February 1945.

Dora and Charles were divorced in 1923. Under the banner *Cabell, from Chicago, Weds and Runs Away* it was reported that in the Divorce Court, a little young brunette from Brisbane, named Laura (sic) Cabell, née McMaha, brought a suit for divorce against her husband, Charles, an American, on the allegation that he was guilty of adultery with one Olga Wolf. The case was not contested. The bride, who belonged to Ipswich, Queensland, had known the bridegroom, who hailed from Illinois, but a few months. He was employed by Birt and Co shipping agents, in Sydney, and shortly afterwards they settled down in a flat at Darlinghurst, where they lived happily until the young wife left on a visit to her people in Brisbane.

While there her child was born. After a time, she wrote urging her husband to make a home and be ready to receive her; but following this she heard something that shocked her confidence in him, and she wrote asking him whether it was true, as she had been informed, that he was living with a woman. He denied this, and the question remained in abeyance so far as he was concerned. She kept on at Brisbane, awaiting the home that never came, and after a year or so of hope deferred, while receiving no support from him, she came south to Sydney, and obtained his town address from his employers. What she learned later on caused her to set about getting her liberty, and the necessary papers were served upon Cabell at the Equitable Building, George Street.

A portly boniface named Charles Hardy, the licensee of the Aberdeen Hotel at Aberdeen, New South Wales, recognised a portrait of Cabell as that of a gentleman who stayed at his hotel for some months during the early part of last year with his wife — at least the lady was understood to be Mrs Cabell and Cabell familiarly addressed her as Olga: but certainly she was not the petitioner in the suit. At this period Cabell was employed at the local metal works and was unknown to the witness before.

His Honor was satisfied regarding the domicile, marriage, and adultery with a woman unknown.⁷¹ A decree absolute was granted and pronounced in April 1923.⁷²

Charles may have left Australia before the divorce proceedings. He returned to England and his family then sent him to New York City to work in an insurance company with whom their family meat packing business had dealings. He married Ruth Dailey in 1925 in St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and had an additional two wives. He died in Los Angeles, California in 1952.

Jean remained a spinster until the early 1950s when she married Samuel (Sam) Bradshaw, who was a widower. (His first wife had died in 1949.) Sam had served in World War I, in the 9th Infantry Battalion, and suffered a gunshot wound to his right knee in France. He died in 1961.

Elizabeth moved to Beaudesert to live with Jean in the late 1950s. In 1963, Elizabeth was in her 90s when she died in Beaudesert, while Dora was living in Gordon NSW, working as a “domestic” at the Presbyterian Ladies College, Pymble.

Dora was living in Edgecliff in 1954–58 and in Kingsford-Smith (Sydney) in 1968. She died in 1972, aged 81 and was buried in the Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney. Dora's whereabouts between 1928 and 1953 are unknown. She may have been in the Capricornia region of Queensland in the late 1920s. Her absence from the electoral roll is puzzling. She may have taken another name during the intervening period. In 1931, Dora told her mother that she was going to Sydney to find somewhere to live and get a job and then she would send for the children. But she didn't make any further contact with her family.⁷³

It is not known if Francis or Dora had any involvement at the Tabernacle. Neither of them were in membership.

Dora and Charles's first child, Robert was born in South Brisbane on 5 September 1917. He enlisted in World War II in Toowoomba, and gave his grandmother, Elizabeth McMahan as his next-of-kin, suggesting he did not know his mother was

⁷¹ *Truth*, 9 July 1922, p. 4.

⁷² *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 April 1923, p. 6.

⁷³ Eisenreich A, Personal communication, 2022.

still alive. In 1943, he signed the Tabernacle's visitors book, suggesting that he was not a regular attender at the church. He gave his address as Wickham Terrace, which was probably his grandmother's address. It is not known if this was before or after he enlisted. He worked as a station hand in Nangwee, via Toowoomba, in the 1940s and retired in Sydney, where he died in 1991.

Robert, Peter, and Del were all abandoned by their mother and raised by their grandmother, Elizabeth.

Peter Cabell

Peter was born in Brisbane on 11 September 1923. His father was not named on his birth certificate. He was a guest at the seventh birthday party of Hedley Craig, who may have been a cousin, in South Brisbane in 1930.⁷⁴ In 1936 he was living with his grandmother in Reis St Woolloongabba when he enrolled in swimming classes at the Toowong Baths.

Within a month of turning 18, Peter was conscripted on 6 October 1941 into the CMF. His enlistment papers state, incorrectly, that his parents were deceased. He gave his denomination as Baptist and had completed seventh grade in a state school and had been employed as a grocer. He was living with his grandmother, whom he gave as his next-of-kin.

He transferred to the AIF on 29 June 1942 as a private (trooper) and was assigned to Fort Bribie.

He undertook a four-week cooking and catering course at the Queensland Line of Communication Cooking and Catering School in Chermside in September-October 1942. In his examination he gained 53.33% on the practical and 45% on the written. His instructor reported that he was "backward in his work, too slow and needs further experience. Recommend further cooking course at a later date."

He was sent to Port Moresby in December 1941 and Borneo in April 1945 and evacuated back to Queensland in August 1945 due to dermatitis and Bulbous Impetigo. He had been overseas for 312 days.



Peter Cabell, (Photo: B Cabell)

⁷⁴ *The Telegraph*, 16 December 1930, p. 14.

He was discharged on 7 May 1946, and was awarded the Pacific Star, War Medal, and Australian Service Medal.

Peter was again living with his grandmother in Spring Hill in 1949, working as a storeman. He then went back to Papua New Guinea, working as a storeman for Burns Philp from November 1954 until December 1955, when he was dismissed for “pilfering”.⁷⁵ In 1958, he applied for a war service home.

The only mention of Peter’s involvement at the Tabernacle, is his inclusion in the list of service men and women from the Tabernacle, in the 1946–47 Yearbook. It seems likely, however, that he attended services at the Tabernacle with his grandmother.

It is not known where or when Peter married Betty. They had a stillborn child in Sutherland, New South Wales in 1959 and were living in Blaxland, New South Wales in 1963–80, where Peter was working as a storekeeper/supervisor. Peter and Betty retired to St Georges Basin on the New South Wales South Coast.

Peter and Betty had two sons, Bradley (who now lives in New Zealand) and Gregory, and an adopted daughter Elizabeth.

Dolores Elizabeth Jean Driscoll (née Cabell)

Dolores Cabell, commonly known as Del or Dell, is mentioned in Robert Cabell’s death notice. She was Dora’s fourth child, born in Brisbane on 30 October 1928 after her mother’s divorce. Her father is not named on her birth certificate. She was raised by her grandmother after she and her brothers were abandoned by their mother, when she was three.

The only mention of Del’s involvement at the Tabernacle, is her inclusion in the list of servicemen and women from the Tabernacle, in the 1946–47 Yearbook, where there is no identification of which service she was with, or her rank. She may, like her brother, have attended services with her grandmother.

She attended Buranda State School up until year 7, and then attended a commercial school in Brisbane to learn secretarial skills.

Del enlisted in the Women’s Land Army, but left after three weeks due to an infected toe. It has not been possible to locate her military record.

Del was successful in the examination for appointment to the Commonwealth Public Service, as a Grade 1 assistant in 1947 and was appointed as a typist in the Taxation Branch in Brisbane in 1948.

⁷⁵ Burns Philp Staff Records

Del went to Sydney in the late 1940s with a friend on a working holiday. She may have wanted to find her mother, but her grandmother said: “let sleeping dogs lie”. Del’s friend had a penfriend in the navy and Del asked her if she could suggest someone for Del to have as a penfriend. She wrote to John Driscoll for about a year, while he was in the navy.

Del and John Driscoll of Coromandel Valley, South Australia, announced their engagement in Brisbane in June 1949⁷⁶. Their marriage was solemnised in St John’s Church of England, Coromandel Valley, on 21 January 1950, by the Rev ET Wyllie. The bride was given away by Thomas Pearce. John was born in Coromandel Valley on 20 June 1927, the son of John BH and Adelaide Driscoll and was still in the RAN. John’s father had served as a corporal in the AIF and was wounded in action in France. Coromandel Valley is about 16 km south of Adelaide.

John was a warehouse assistant when he enlisted in the RAN in 1946 and was discharged in August 1949, medically unfit following the removal of his right kidney. It is not known why he nominated his mother as his next-of-kin, even though his father was still alive.

John and Del moved to South Australia, where Del continued to work with the Taxation Department. They moved back to Brisbane (Mt Gravatt) in the early 1950s, where John was an accountant. John later became a manager and Del worked as an interviewer and as a clerk. They had two sons, Geoffrey (Geoff) who also joined the RAN, and Malcolm, who became a carpenter and a daughter Anita (Mrs Frank Eisenreich). The family attended various Methodist and Uniting Churches.

John and Del later lived in Adelaide and Mt Gambier. John was working as an accountant for Union Cinemas and the local drive-in and Del continued to work in the Taxation Department.

They again returned to Queensland and lived in Coorparoo, Wynnum West, Beenleigh and Springwood. Del worked in the accounts department of David Jones, in Merrylands (Sydney), before moving back to Queensland in the 1980s. John died in Queensland in 1992.

Del died in Brisbane on 26 January 2018.

⁷⁶ *The Coromandel*, 4 June 1949, p. 3.

Cameron, John Howorth

John was born in Brisbane on 13 March 1918, the son of Peter and Winifred Cameron (née Howorth). Peter and Winifred had been married at the Tabernacle in 1913 by Rev Harry Wright, the Minister of the Rockhampton Baptist Tabernacle. It is not known why they had an “out-of-town” marriage celebrant. Peter and Winifred were living at *Wattlebrae*, Wilston in 1928, where Peter was employed as a shop assistant. John was an only child. His mother died in 1929.

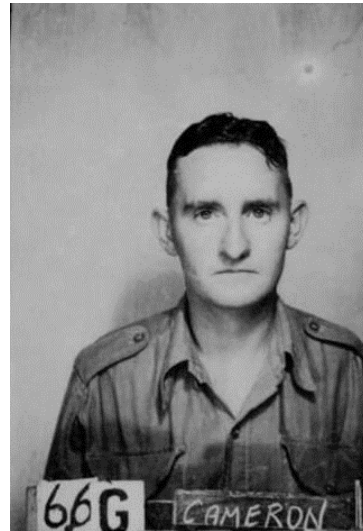
Peter had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1911 and Winifred joined the church in 1915–16. John was dedicated by his parents, as an infant, at the Tabernacle in 1918, and came into membership in April 1936, following his baptism by Rev Albert Butler and transferred his membership to Ashgrove in 1958.

John was working as a labourer when he enlisted as a private in the CMF at Enoggera on 13 January 1941, aged 22, and served for 56 months before being discharged on 1 November 1945. He served in Brisbane and on Magnetic Island (off Townsville). He was stationed at the Young Men’s Christian Association Rest Camp at Arcadia. His service entitled him to the War Medal and Australian Service Medal.

In December 1941, John announced his engagement to Muriel Steele, but there is no record of their marriage. Muriel married George Richardson in October 1942.

While in the army, John married Vera Bierton in the Albert Street Methodist Church, on 2 November 1942. The ceremony was performed by Rev Bernard Frederick. Vera was born in 1918, the daughter of Frederick and Clara Bierton and grew up in Howard, Queensland.

Vera’s family may have been relatively well off. In 1939 it was reported in the local newspaper that Vera was spending a holiday with her relatives at Kingaroy and Taalbinga Village. Her brother Arthur Bierton was holidaying at Traviston (Burrum Heads) and her brother Frederick was spending his holiday at his seaside residence at Toogoom, on the Fraser Coast.⁷⁷ In 1948, John and Vera and their daughters Beverley (born in 1947 at Stanthorpe) and Glennis were the guests of



John Cameron, 1941 (Photo:
National Archives of Australia)

⁷⁷ *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, 7 January 1939, p. 10.

Vera's brother at Toogoom over the Christmas holidays. John and Vera were living at *The Summit*, Stanthorpe in 1947.

John and Vera also had a son, Peter who was a salesman.

Vera was able to join John on Magnetic Island in late 1943. She did not become a member at the Tabernacle. Her brother, Frederick was conscripted in World War II, but only completed his compulsory initial training. He may have "escaped" military service because of his occupation as a coal miner.



Recreation Hall, Arcadia Rest Camp
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

John was working as a news seller and living in Albion in 1943. John and Vera moved to Howard briefly, where they lived with Vera's father, in 1948. (Vera's mother, Clara had died in 1943.)

John was working as a labourer, living with Vera at 428 Upper Edward Street, adjacent to Willara House, in 1949. It is presumed that both John and Vera attended the Tabernacle during this period.

They had moved to Mitchelton by the early 1950s, where John worked as a storeman. In the early 1960s, they lived in Stafford. John then became a wardsman and they moved to Chermside in the mid-1960s.

John died on 8 February 1969 aged 50. He was survived by Vera and their three children, Peter, Glennis, and Beverley.

By 1972, Vera had remarried Joseph (Leo) Lindley. They moved to Kybong (Gympie) where Vera died in 1987. Leo died in Hervey Bay in 2002. He had served in World War II in the 21st and 23rd Battalions of the Volunteer Defence Corps.

Chalk, Newton Symonds

Newton was delivered by Nurse Ada England in the Woolloowin Private Hospital, Brisbane on 9 July 1920, the son of Albert Chalk and Grace Symonds. Grace had become a member at the Tabernacle in 1911, and was Superintendent of the Junior CE in 1911. Grace's father, Rev Thomas Symonds, was Superintendent of the Queensland Baptist Home Mission from 1883–1924. Grace taught in the Tabernacle Sunday School up until her marriage.

Albert and Grace were married in 1919. Albert was the Sunday School secretary at Nundah from 1921 until 1934. Albert and Grace came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1937. Albert's mother, Emily Chalk became a member at the Tabernacle back in 1873 and remained in membership and was a strong supporter of the Sunday School until her death in 1943. She lived at Breakfast Creek for most of the time that she was a member.

Newton was a scholar at the Nundah Sunday School in 1930, when he gained 93% on the Baptist Union Sunday School Examinations, in the Junior division. He attended Brisbane Boys' College where in 1935, he passed the Junior public examination. In his Senior examination, two years later, he was awarded two A grade passes, one B grade pass and two C grade passes. He was, however, too young to qualify for university entrance so he repeated his final year. He was awarded the slightly better results of A grade passes in English, Chemistry and Physics, B grade passes in Mathematics A and Mathematics B and a C grade pass in Latin. He matriculated to study Arts, Commerce, Agriculture, Dentistry, Medicine, or Veterinary Science and chose medicine. He was in the same cohort at university as Norm Chenoweth.

Albert and Grace returned to the Tabernacle in 1951 having previously transferred to the Nundah Church. Albert was appointed as an auditor at the Tabernacle in 1953.

Newton's aunt, Frances Chalk came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1932 following her baptism. In 1941–42, she was reported as having the best attendance at choir practice. She became the choir secretary in 1945–46 and continued in this role until 1955–56.

Newton had a younger sister, Marion, who came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1938 and married Dr Arthur Crawford at the Tabernacle in 1947. She graduated from the University of Queensland in 1943 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Country and southern people coming to town for two big city weddings, servicemen's wives setting off for Japan to join their husbands, and several informal dance and dinner parties have highlighted the social whirl during the week.

East will meet West, South and North at the marriage of Marion Chalk (Nundah) and Dr Arthur Crawford (Gympie) in the City Tabernacle on Saturday.

The bridegroom is the only son of Dr and Mrs AP Crawford, of Northgate, and is coming from Gympie. His best man will be the bride's brother, Surgeon Lieutenant NS Chalk, who is travelling from Sydney, where he is based. Recently engaged Shirley Webster will be bridesmaid, and her fiancée, Dr EG Ponting, will come from his home in Kingaroy for the wedding. The reception is at Whytecliffe, Clayfield.⁷⁸

Newton also came into membership in 1937 following his baptism. In 1939, he was successful in the examination to be appointed to the 3rd Division of the Commonwealth Public Service. It is not known if he proceeded with his application.

Newton was conferred with his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees by Sir James Blair, Chancellor of the University of Queensland in June 1944. In October, he was appointed surgeon lieutenant in the RANR.

Newton enlisted in the RANR on 18 October 1944, aged 24. He served on His Majesties Australian Ships: *Moreton* (two shore-based tours), the cruisers *Westralia*, *Sydney*, and *Penguin* (four tours), the destroyers *Quickmatch* and *Warramunga*, *Kuttubul*, the minesweeper *Swan*, and the frigate *Shoalhaven*.

The *Shoalhaven* was at anchor at Shanghai when the Yangtse Incident occurred. The Royal Navy frigate *Amethyst* was beleaguered by communist fire and suffered casualties as did the support destroyer HMS *London*. At the request of the Royal Navy, Surgeon Lieutenant Chalk was transferred to the *London* via HMS *Black Swan* as the replacement doctor, as that ship's doctor had been killed by enemy fire. Newton was mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Naval General Service Medal with the Yangtse 1949 bar. He was the only Australian awarded this medal. Mr R Pike, later wrote: "I was a stoker onboard at the time and while the ship was being shelled the first-aid parties, Surgeons etc were very busy tending to the very seriously wounded and trying to dodge shells and bullets in between".⁷⁹



Surgeon Lieutenant N Chalk
(Photo: S Crittall)

⁷⁸ *The Courier Mail*, 4 December 1945, p. 6.

⁷⁹ Crittall S, Personal communication, 2021.

Thanks to doctor

City Man Did a Fine Navy Job

A Brisbane doctor has been thanked for his services in the cruiser HMS *London* when she went to help the sloop HMS *Amethyst* in China on April 20 last year.

He is Dr Newton S Chalk, 29, of Cavendish Road, Nundah.

The citation, issued by Admiral Sir Patrick Brind, Commander-in-Chief of the Far East Station, reads:

“Throughout the entire period the bearing and conduct under fire of all on board were in accordance with the highest tradition of the service.”

Dr Chalk was commissioned in 1944 as a surgeon lieutenant with the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.



HMAS *Shoalhaven* (Photo: Royal Australian Navy)

He served in the RAN ships *Westralia*, *Warramunga*, and *Swan*, and also went mine sweeping in northern waters.

At the end of 1948 he transferred to HMAS *Shoalhaven*, which was based in eastern waters.

When he was transferred to HMS *London*, Dr Chalk was the only Australian on board.

The *London* and the British sloop, *Black Swan*, were ordered from Shanghai to assist HMS *Amethyst* which was then lying partially disabled in the Yangtse River after having been shelled by guns of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. *London* suffered severe damage, and heavy casualties.

Dr Chalk was discharged last August. He is a Registrar at the Brisbane Children's Hospital.⁸⁰

Newton's citation was also reported in newspapers in Maryborough, Townsville, Rockhampton, and Mackay.

After the end of the war, Newton sought to be released from the RANR to further his medical studies. Despite numerous applications for release he was unsuccessful in achieving this. He remained with the RANR, after the end of the war in 1945, until 1949. His service during this period saw him minesweeping in the Pacific and also in occupied Japan. His appointment as surgeon lieutenant was finally terminated in August 1949.

⁸⁰ *The Courier Mail*, 28 January 1950, p. 3.

In 1952, Newton relinquished his position as Registrar at the Brisbane Children's Hospital to take a position at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury as Registrar to the Professor at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester and to the teaching staff of the University of Manchester.⁸¹

He pursued further medical study, firstly at the Royal College of Physicians, London where he was awarded both a Diploma in Child Health and a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh. In 1953–54 he went to America to study as a research fellow in Paediatrics at Harvard University, Massachusetts and then worked at Boston Hospital. He returned to Queensland in May 1954 to commence private practice with diseases of children his primary interest and became a teaching Registrar in children's diseases at the University of Queensland.⁸²

During 1955–57, Newton was a member of the University of Queensland Advisory Committee on Paediatrics, and a Member of the Royal College of Paediatrics. He continued to contribute to the public health system as a consultant paediatrician alongside his extensive private practice. Horse (camel) Field Ambulance in World War I, including at Gallipoli and in Egypt.

Newton married Marie Aitchison in 1958 in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Creek Street. They had met 2 years earlier. Marie had returned to Australia in August 1955 from Texas, USA where she had been on a Fulbright Scholarship. Newton had returned from America in the October of the same year. Marie was born in 1930, the daughter of Angus and Sylvia Aitchison. Like her father,



Newton and Marie Chalk, 1957
(Photo: S Crittall)



Newton and Marie Chalk
(Photo: S Crittall)

⁸¹ *Sunday Mail*, 17 August 1952, p. 5.

⁸² *The Courier Mail*, 1 May 1954, p. 6.

she was a teacher before her marriage. Her father served as a corporal in the 1st Light.

Newton had a vision of enabling patients and their families to access specialist medical services in a suburban location. In 1965 he purchased and renovated the Nundah Hospital in Sandgate Road Nundah converting it into a medical centre. He named the medical centre Cadogan House after William Cadogan, an eighteenth century physician and pioneer of paediatrics.⁸³

He had consulting rooms on Wickham Terrace in addition to his rooms at Cadogan House and maintained teaching responsibilities to medical students. Other medical colleagues from a range of disciplines followed his lead and set up rooms within Cadogan House from which to consult. Cadogan House continues to operate as a medical centre today. Nundah Private Hospital (now Cadogan House) was located on Sandgate Road, Nundah. It was opened in December 1933. The hospital was built to accommodate 30 patients in single or double rooms on the ground floor, with the staff being accommodated upstairs.

Newton and Marie had three children, John, Margaret (Mrs Watson), and Susan (Mrs Crittall). Newton was committed to his family. He was considered retiring by nature with a keen sense of humour and had no time for sham or humbug. When he was invited to comment he wasted no words and spoke with obvious conviction and complete frankness. His many acts of kindness to his family, his friends and his colleagues bespoke these feelings of sincerity and honesty. He enjoyed a life-long love of gardening and music.

Newton and Marie and their family lived in Nundah, Wavell Heights, and Aspley. Newton and Marie became members of the Wavell Heights Methodist Church and then St Andrew's Uniting Church where Newton was an Elder.

Newton died suddenly in Brisbane on 13 September 1979 aged 59. Marie and her three children remained at Aspley after Newton's death. She died in Hamilton, Brisbane in 2003.



Newton Chalk, 1970 (Photo: S Crittall)

⁸³ <https://www.nundah.com/history-of-nundah/>

Clark, Stanley Walter

Stanley was born in London on 10 September 1902, the son of Jenders and Elizabeth Clark (née Justice). It is not known when he arrived in Australia.

In 1931, he was living with Lena Clark (also known as Lena Caske) in North Perth, working as a grocer. They moved to Osborne Park, Western Australia, where they were living together in 1936–37, and he worked as a storeman.

Lena was born Lena Jennings in Prahan, Victoria in 1895. In 1918, she married Arthur Caske. She became Stanley's de facto and took his name while in Perth but then reverted to her married name when they moved to Brisbane. Arthur Caske (Kask) died in Brisbane in 1958.

Lena was living in New Farm in 1943–58 but moved to Mt Gravatt in 1958. She is thought to have died in 1966 and been buried in Mt Gravatt.

Lena and Arthur had a son, Arthur, whose marriage to Carlyle Linning was conducted by Rev Albert Butler at the Tabernacle in 1947. Arthur was a seaman, living with Lena in New Farm in 1947 and served on HMAS *Sydney*. Arthur and Carlyle's wedding cake was in the shape of HMAS *Sydney*. He was living in Coorparoo when he died in 2006, and was survived by a daughter.

Lena and Arthur's daughter, Joyce and Sergeant Etienne Oostendorp were married at the Tabernacle in November 1945 by Rev Butler. She was a driver with the Netherlands Intelligence Services. Her sister, Thelma was one of their witnesses.

Thelma was living with Lena in New Farm in 1943. She married Gerardus (Gerry) de Lang who was also a witness at Lena and Etienne's wedding.

Stanley was not in membership at the Tabernacle and his involvement in the church is unknown. Lena was baptised by Rev FT Smith in September 1952. After Stanley had moved away from Brisbane, Lena applied for membership at the Tabernacle, but did not come into membership. It seems likely that Lena became connected to the Tabernacle through her son Arthur, future sons-in-law Etienne and Gerry, and Stanley's attendance at the Sunday Soldiers' Teas.

Stanley served with the Australian Army in World War II. When he enlisted at Kelvin Grove, he gave his "next of kin" as Lena Caske who was described as a neighbour. They were living in the same block of flats in New Farm. Lena continued to live at the same address until her death in 1966, as a single woman. She was buried in the same plot as her husband Arthur in the Mt Gravatt Cemetery.

Immediately after the war Stanley was living in New Farm but moved to Mt Isa, where he worked for Mt Isa Mines as a storeman (1949–58). He later moved to South Brisbane (1963–72) and continued working as a storeman. It appears that

Stanley remained a bachelor until his death on 11 September 1975, the day after his 73rd birthday. He was also buried in the Mt Gravatt Cemetery.

Colledge, Archibald Gladstone and John Archibald Curry

Thomas (Archibald) Colledge and Elizabeth Curry were married in Kinning Park, Glasgow in 1882 and migrated from Northumberland, England to Brisbane in 1888, aboard the SS *Waroonga* with their three children Thomas, Grace, and James (Jim). They had three more children in Brisbane, George, Elizabeth (Betty), and William. Archibald was working as a warehouseman in Aberleigh Hill (Herston) in 1913 and was the Tabernacle's Sunday School Superintendent in 1912.

Archibald and Elizabeth returned to Buckinghamshire, England in 1916. He was a buyer for D and W Murray Ltd in Adelaide and made another return trip to Australia in 1920. Two of their children, William and Elizabeth came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1912.

Thomas (Tom) Colledge was born in Berwick, Northumberland in 1882. He studied singing in Brisbane with Miss Minnie Norris. In 1928, Tom and John England, father of Robert England sang solos at a Dinner and Diggers' Concert given by the Commercial Travellers' Association and Club.

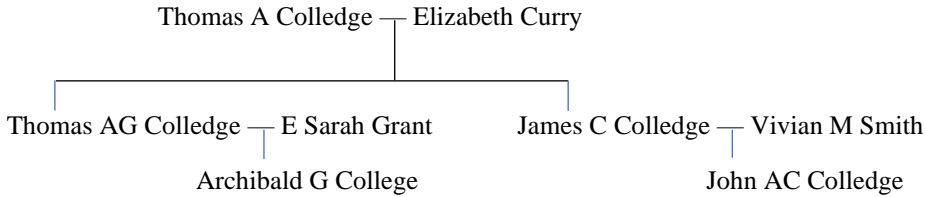
Tom married Edith (Sarah) Grant in Queensland in 1907. They had five children: Elizabeth, Archibald, Gwendolyn (Mrs Roy Fraser, Roy served in the 9th Battalion within Australia in World War II), Leonard (who served in the Australian Army in World War II but is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour) and Ellen. Sarah and Tom both died in Brisbane in 1941 and 1953 respectively.

Thomas and Sarah joined the Tabernacle membership in 1891 and 1908. Thomas was a deacon from 1905 until 1920 and Church Secretary in 1914–16. He was also the Sunday School Superintendent in 1908–13. In November 1912, Thomas, Sarah, and Ellen went on an extended holiday/urgent business to the United Kingdom. Their names were removed from the roll in 1922–23. Thomas and Elizabeth, and their youngest son William returned to England in 1916. Thomas and Elizabeth died there in 1939 and 1926. Their other three surviving children, Elizabeth, Gwendolyn, and Archibald remained in Australia.

James Curry Colledge was Tom and William's brother, born in Northumberland in 1886. He married Vivian (Vivienne) Smith at the Tabernacle in 1910. They had six children: James (who was a gunner/sergeant in the RAAF in World War II but is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour), John, Alexander, Elizabeth (Mrs William Allinson), Marjory, and Vivian (who was a flight sergeant in the RAAF in World War II but is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour).

James and Vivian joined the Tabernacle membership in 1912. They were on the List of Members Resident beyond Brisbane in 1914–15, when living at

Abbotsford, Tabragalba (Beaudesert). They were removed from the roll in 1935–36. Vivian died in 1943 and James died in 1956. Two of their children, Elizabeth and John came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1939 and 1942. Elizabeth was the superintendent of the Intermediate CE in 1947.



Archibald Gladstone Colledge

Arch as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane, on 31 July 1911. He came into membership at the Tabernacle on 20 September 1936 following his baptism, when he was living at 23 Tower St, Albion Heights with his parents, sisters Elizabeth and Gwendolyn (Mrs Roy Fraser), and brother Leonard. He was not removed from the roll until 1980.

Arch was treasurer of the Young Men’s Fellowship and was described in the Fellowship’s report for 1935–36 as the “energetic secretary”. He was also the secretary of the choir in 1936–37.

Arch was still living with his parents in 1943, working as a clerk, when he enlisted at Gaythorne on 9 January 1943 but was not discharged until 15 November 1951, more than two years after the end of the war. He rose to the rank of Warrant Officer Class I.

He was in Yokohama, Japan when his father, Tom died in 1953. He remained in Japan until 1969 when he returned to Australia from Yokohama, aboard *ST Eastern Argosy*, after living in Japan for 25 years, and resumed work briefly as an accountant. By 1972 he had retired to Sydney and was living in Chatswood.

It seems most likely that Arch was in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, which occupied Japan from 1946 until the end of occupation in 1952, and remained there after his demobilisation. He may have been in Japan soon after the Japanese surrendered on 2 September 1945.

It is not known what Arch was doing in Japan for over 20 years.

Arch had been living in Chatswood, Sydney, when he died in Norah on the New South Wales central coast on 14 February 1984 aged 72 and was buried in the Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens, North Ryde, New South Wales. Arch is thought to have died a bachelor.

John Archibald Curry Colledge

John was born in Brisbane, on 29 February 1912. John and his siblings grew up in Ilfracombe (1913), Tabragalba (Beaudesert) (1913–26), where their father worked as a station hand and dairy farmer. John remained in Beaudesert when his parents moved to Southport in the mid-1930s.

He married Rachel (Rachael) Phipps on 20 October 1934. Rachel was born in Nambour in 1911, the daughter of Ernest and Ellienna (Helena) Phipps.

Initially, John and Rachel lived at Adies Siding, Beaudesert where John was working as a farm hand in 1936. Their son Donald was born in Beaudesert.

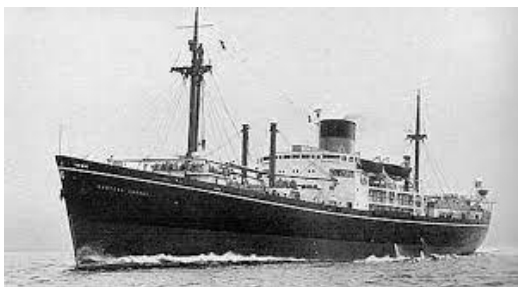
John and Rachel were living in Vernor (Ipswich) when he enlisted in Brisbane on 24 January 1942, aged 29. He gave his religion as Church of England and undertook initial training in Redbank and Goondiwindi. He then served with the 2/2nd Field Ambulance as a Private at Milne Bay, New Guinea from March 1943 until September, when he was evacuated to Cairns with malaria. He remained on active duty in Queensland until his discharge in October 1944. He was granted a discharge because he worked in an essential industry—dairy farming.

John was baptised and came into membership on 4 October 1942, while on active service. He was “living” in Kerry Rd, Beaudesert at the time. John and Rachel were living in Mt Cotton in 1944 but moved to Sydney before John transferred his membership to the Ashfield church in Sydney in October 1947. Although the reason for their going to Sydney is unknown, it may have been related to his father being there.

They had returned from Sydney by 1949 when John was working as a farmer in Mt Cotton West. John did not transfer his church membership back to the Tabernacle. He was employed as a farmer, living in Carbrook, Brighton, Cooroy, Jandowae, and Maclean before retiring in Cooroy West, inland from Noosa (1977) and Thorneside.

John and Rachel had four children: Malcolm, Donald, Jan, and Richard.

John suffered a stroke and died in hospital in Brisbane on 28 September 1986 aged 74 and Rachel died in Nambour in 1993.



ST Eastern Argosy (Photo: Clydeships)

Cooksley, Leslie Graham

Les, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 18 September 1908, the son of John and Ada Cooksley (née Vizer). John and Ada were married in 1901 by Rev William Whale at Ada's parents' home, and died in 1933 and 1927, respectively. John was a member of the Albion Freemasons Lodge. He was described as a well-known personality in the Turbot Street Fruit and Vegetable Market for 40 years, prior to his death from double pneumonia.

Les and his older brother, Jack (Roy) grew up in Hamilton. Roy and Doris Bates were married by Rev John Latimer at the Tabernacle in 1935. The Tabernacle was without a minister at the time, between the ministries of Rev George Pope and Rev Albert Butler. Rev Latimer was the minister of the Taringa Baptist Church.

Roy served in World War II in the 1st Army Troop Company, but is not listed on the Roll of Honour because he left the church immediately after his marriage. They were living in Grange in 1936.

Members of the Cooksley family had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1861 when Les's great-grandfather, William F Cooksley and his wife Elizabeth joined. His grandfather, William JF Cooksley, was a member at the Tabernacle when he enlisted in World War I. He was killed in action and his life and service is outlined in *For God, King and Country*. His uncle, William P Cooksley was on the Tabernacle diaconate from 1908 until his death in 1934 and church treasurer from 1908 until 1911.

In 1922, Les passed the State Scholarship examination, entitling him to free education in any approved secondary school in Queensland. It is not known if he took up his scholarship. He earned his Royal Life Saving Society bronze medallion in 1923 at Brisbane Girls' High School [Somerville House]. The school was held in the Tabernacle auditorium from its formation in 1899 until 1912.

Ada became a member in 1924 and her sons Roy and Les joined in 1921 and 1923, following their baptisms. They both had "Missionary Boxes" in 1919–21. His first official role at the Tabernacle was Sunday School Secretary from 1927–30. He was also a member of the Young Men's Fellowship in the early 1930s. His name was deleted from the membership list, however, in 1943, probably for non-attendance. His father did not come into membership. John and Les competed in a "council sanctioned speed event on road"



Les Cooksley (Photo: E Cooksley)

organised by the Royal Automobile Club in July 1929. Les drove a 6 cylinder Erskine Royal Sports car. Their best result was a seventh.⁸⁴

Les was working for WD and HO Wells, cigarette and tobacco manufacturers as a salesman, when he enlisted in the CMF in December 1929. He was secretary of the Tobacco Trade Distribution Committee, which had control over the manufacture and distribution of tobacco, in 1948⁸⁵ and remained in this role until at least 1951.

In 1931, Les was fined £3 in the Traffic Court for speeding. On the same day, other offenders were fined £5 and £10 for the same offence, so this was either his first offence or he only exceeded the speed limit by a small amount. On the weekend of 17–18 June 1933, while Les was absent (possibly at church), burglars entered his home and stole jewellery and clothing valued at £13.

Les was a member of the church's A grade cricket team in 1934–35 and had the team's second best bowling figures at 9.4 runs per wicket.

Les married Marjorie Earnshaw in Brisbane on 10 August 1935. Marjorie was born in 1909, the daughter of William and Kate Earnshaw and completed Junior at Brisbane Girls' Grammar School. Prior to their marriage, she had worked for car salesmen, EG Eager and Son Ltd.

Les and Marjorie lived in Clayfield from 1937 until at least 1980. Les was employed as a clerk, and in 1938, passed his examination in Secretarial Practice with the Institute of Incorporated Secretaries, as a partial requirement for admission to the Institute. He completed all of the requirements and was admitted to the Institute in November 1933. Les gained first place on the Taxation Law



Les Cooksley (Photo: E Cooksley)



Marjorie Earnshaw
(Photo: E Cooksley)

⁸⁴ *The Brisbane Courier*, 15 July 1929, p. 8.

⁸⁵ *The Evening Advocate*, 5 April 1948, p. 2.

examination in 1933. He had been a student of Lightband and Donaldson Pty Ltd.⁸⁶

Having previously served in the CMF for three years, from July 1926 until October 1932, Les enlisted in the 5th Field Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) in September 1939, four days before his 31st birthday, as a lieutenant and successfully completed a three-week artillery course at Holsworthy (Sydney) in March 1940. He was given the commission on the basis of his previous service in the RAA (Militia) – Field artillery in 1939.

He was promoted to captain in June and then major in December 1940.

Les had command of A Brigade of the 5th Field Brigade when they were in camp at Ipswich. A newspaper report at the time commented that:

The first of the 70 days training camps to be held in Queensland commenced to-day, when the 5th Field Brigade of Artillery moved into their camp at the Ipswich Show grounds. The brigade consists of about 25 per cent militia volunteers and the remainder national service trainees.

Soon after their arrival at the Ipswich showground camp the men were introduced to the camp routine and were quickly filling their palliasses. Each man is allowed seven lb. of straw and the palliasses are filled under the supervision of officers.

Preceded on Saturday by an advance party of 100 officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners, who will form the foundation of the camp, about 300 men reached the show grounds to-day.

The advance party has been through a school of instruction at Kelvin Grove during the past month.

The militia volunteers and national service trainees (NSTs. or recruits as they are called) entrained at Roma Street and, on their arrival at Ipswich, marched through the streets to the camp.

There they formed a hollow square and were addressed by the officer commanding the troops (Major Harold B Taylor).

"You are now members of the Field Artillery," Major Taylor told them, "a regiment of which each of us who have been in it a long time is very proud. The success of your training depends entirely on your individual co-operation. We have seen you march from the station and are satisfied that you are a fine body of young men. You are being trained because your country wants you trained in the event of a possible invasion." ...

Their quarters are situated in the grandstands and pavilions. The grounds have been improved especially for the camp. The menu for the first day in camp shows that, so far as the cook house is concerned, the trainees will be well looked after.

"We are going to try and make the training interesting from the start," Major Taylor said. Towards the end of the camp the men will be taken to ML Walker, where they will be given artillery practice.

The officers of the Brigade expressed pleasure at the manner in which the men had conducted themselves on the train and at their march through Ipswich.⁸⁷

⁸⁶ *The Courier Mail*, 10 August 1935, p. 3.

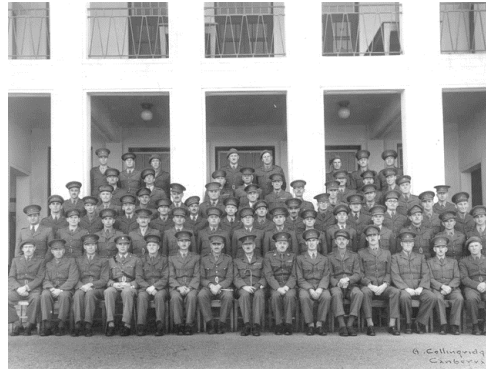
⁸⁷ *The Telegraph*, 26 August 1940, p. 4.

Les was placed on the retirement list, with permission to retain his rank and wear his uniform, in January 1956.

Les and Marjorie had a daughter Mary and two sons, Deryk, and William (Graham).

Les was elected to the Parents and Citizens' Committee of the Eagle Junction State School in 1947. The school was only 270 metres from their home.

Marjorie died at their home in Clayfield in 1987 and Les died five months later on 21 September 1987 aged 79. He was survived by his three children and eight grandchildren. His grandson Andrew describes him as a very warm, genial bloke.⁸⁸



Staff School, Duntroon, 1942
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

⁸⁸ Cooksley A, Personal communication, 2022.

Dart, John Leslie

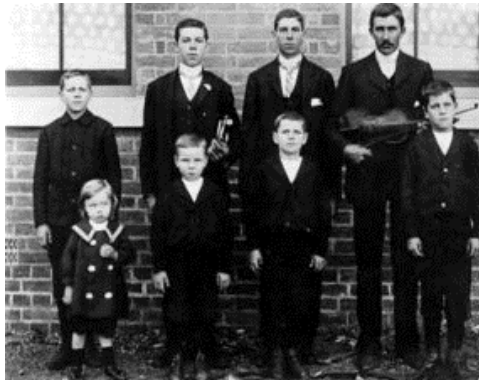
Les, as he was commonly known, was born in Toowong on 12 May 1896, the son of Samuel and Eliza Dart (née Brimblecombe). Samuel had taken up farming at the age of 19 at Graceville, and was one of the pioneers of Brookfield. He later moved to Blenheim, and established a grocery store at Toowong, and then returned to Blenheim to combine his farming and storekeeping interests. The property in Blenheim was named *Medeba*, probably named after the Moabite town which was assigned to the tribe of Reuben. The name may mean “gently flowing water”. Samuel and Eliza joined the Blenheim German Baptist Church before the establishment of the Laidley Church. Rev Otto Krueger and his wife, who had recently arrived in Blenheim from America, were among the select few who were invited to Samuel and Eliza’s 25th wedding anniversary in 1905.⁸⁹



Samuel and Eliza Dart
(Photo: R Dart)

He took a keen interest in the activities of the Baptist Church, and for a number of years was a member of the college and missions committees, and before the Baptist Church was established in Laidley, was general superintendent of all Methodist Sunday schools in the Lockyer district.

When Eliza died in 1954, aged 92, she had three sons who were doctors, and three who were Ministers of religion. She was pre-deceased by her husband, a daughter Lucinda, and a son Rev Silas (Norman) Dart. Her seven living sons were: Rev William (Willie) Dart, of the USA; Dr



Samuel and Eliza Dart’s eight sons:
William, Samuel, James, Raymond, John, Silas,
Harold, and Oliver (Photo: P Hannah)

⁸⁹ Lucke H, Eliza, Samuel and family, undated

Samuel (Bertie) Dart, a veterinary surgeon in the USA; Mr James (Percy) Dart, of the USA; Professor Raymond (Ray) Dart, Witwatersrand University Johannesburg, South Africa; Dr John (Les) Dart; Rev Dr Harold Dart OBE, Director of the Sydney Rescue Mission; and Mr Oliver Dart, of Brisbane, who followed commercial careers.⁹⁰ Her surviving adopted daughter, Dorothy Wilkinson was a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute and a teacher of music. Nine of her ten children had been baptised as believers.

Eliza was described as a gracious Christian lady, whose life had been spent in selfless devotion to the work of the church and the training of her family. She was possessed of a calm dignity and a gracious spirit. At her funeral service, conducted by the Rev FT Smith, who was a fellow college student of one of her sons and a frequent visitor of Mrs Dart in the last four years, Rev Smith referred to her as “one of God’s most gracious ladies.” She was a rare benediction to her children, and they rise up to call her blessed. The remembrance of her consistent Christian life and example will not only be a fragrant memory to them, but a challenge to all who were privileged to know her.⁹¹ The Eliza Wing at Brookfield Green is named in her honour.

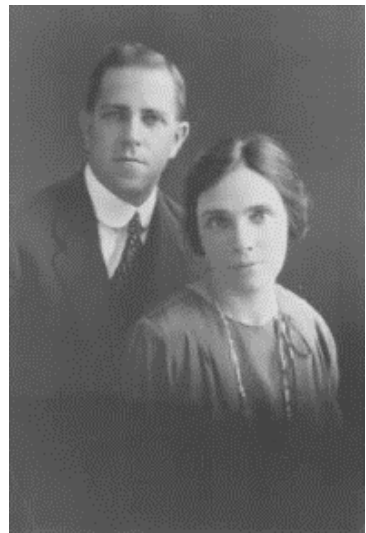
Samuel had died at his home at Toowong in 1937, aged 77. Samuel and Eliza’s headstone includes the texts: “I know that my Redeemer liveth” and “Behold, He cometh and every eye shall see him”.

Les was living with his parents, working on their farm in Blenheim in 1919.

Dr Harold Dart supplied the pulpit at the Tabernacle for three Sundays in January 1947 while Rev Butler was on vacation.

Two of Les’s brothers served in World War I. Ray was a medical officer, with the rank of captain in World War I. After serving in France, he remained in the United Kingdom after the war to study anatomy at University College, London. Percy served as an engineer in France in the Australian Imperial Force. He was discharged as medically unfit due to repeated exposure to gas. Neither Ray nor Percy are listed on the Roll of Honour.

In 1923 Les married Ellice Hamilton (commonly known as Dr Ellice) in the Hurlstone Park Methodist Church, NSW. Les



Les and Ellice Dart
(Photo: H Lucke)

⁹⁰ *The Courier Mail*, 24 August 1954, p. 9.

⁹¹ *The Australian Baptist*, 1 September 1954, p. 5.

came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1935. His older brother Ray had been in membership from 1911 until 1915 when he transferred his membership to the Stanmore Church in Sydney. They were the only two of Samuel and Eliza's children to come into membership.

Ellice had graduated in Arts, Science and Medicine, also at the University of Sydney.

Les and Ellice had three children, Ruth (Mrs Horst Lucke), John, and Clive. Clive was awarded a prize by the Baptist Union of Australia for the best paper in the elementary division of the Sunday School examinations in 1939. In 1934 and 1935 Ruth attended the Gordan Park Baptist Sunday School and then the Albion Baptist Sunday School and was awarded book prizes in the elementary division of the annual Scripture examinations. She did a Biblical recitation at the Tabernacle Sunday School Anniversary in 1941.

Dr Ellice gave a number of health talks to the Tabernacle Mothers' Meeting in 1936–37. She conducted a general practice in Brisbane until 1969 and then moved to Adelaide and lived with her daughter, Ruth, until she died in 1983.

Les graduated with a MB CHM, also from the University of Sydney, in 1925 and returned to Brisbane with Ellice, where he established the Lutwyche General Practice, which he sold in 1938. Les was appointed as orthopaedic surgeon at the Brisbane Hospital in 1929 and honorary assistant ophthalmologist to the Brisbane Hospital in 1937.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Dr Dart was frequently engaged to speak at meetings of the Australian Nurses' Christian Movement.

Les was elected to serve on the executive of the Queensland Baptist Union from 1933 until 1939. He was the Sunday School superintendent at Gordon Park in 1934, when on behalf of his family, he presented the LM Dart Memorial prize to the Rev R Frewin. The prize commemorates the work of Lucinda Dart.

Les was in membership at the Tabernacle from 1935, when he transferred his membership from Gordon Park, until his death. After further training in Melbourne, he practiced as an eye specialist in Brisbane and Ipswich and later in St Lucia, Brookfield, Clayfield, and Carrara. In 1964 he gifted 34 acres of land to the Baptist Union of Queensland, on which the new Carinity aged care and retirement community at Brookfield was built. The association between the Dart family and Brookfield Residences is summarised in the August–September issue of *Queensland Baptist*.⁹²

Les and Ellice moved to Woolloowin (1934–37), Toowong (1943), and St Lucia (1943), when Les was a specialist oculist. Les and Ellice separated in the mid-

⁹² *qB*, August/September 2018, p. 31.

1940s. In 1949, Les was living alone in Brookfield (as an ophthalmologist) and Ellice was still living in St Lucia. Les had moved to Clayfield by 1958, as an ophthalmologist. It is ironic that in 1933, Ellice had participated in a dialogue at the Brisbane Women's Club about divorce, where she presented Shakespeare's views on the subject.⁹³

In late 1935 Dr Dart commenced a Bible Study Class at the Tabernacle with ten members. The total enrolment was thirty-six with an average attendance of ten. Real blessing was experienced. The class aimed to know God's Word more thoroughly and to win others for Jesus Christ. Two of its members were baptised in its first year of operation and another had decided to take the same step. It met on Mondays at 8 pm under Dr Dart's devoted leadership, and each week copies of the studies were distributed among members. The class was supported by Robert Clark and Ron Reid from the Diaconate.⁹⁴ Miss Dorothy Dart was the class secretary from 1937–38. The class continued until 1941. In 1940–41 they relocated from the Church's parlour to Dr Dart's rooms on Wickham Terrace, which was more convenient.

In addressing the men's conference of the Baptist Assembly in 1935, on the subject of personal evangelism, Dr Dart said that:

two of the profits of personal evangelical work were that the world around the worker became a better place to live in and he made friends of foes. It required tact and patience, and, being personal work, should be done privately, enabling the worker to understand better the problems of him whom he wished to convert.⁹⁵

Dr Dart was elected to the Executive Committee of the Queensland Baptist Union in 1937.

In 1937, Dr Dart purchased a property on the western side of Mt Coot-tha. He immediately planted bananas but was unhappy with the marketing arrangements operating at that time. So in 1939, he purchased Stewart's Banana Ripeners and changed the name to "Trumps". The premises were located in Turbot Street opposite Little Roma Street – a stone's throw from George Street. His son, John Dart (who died in 2021), joined the business in 1951.

Les had attended the Gatton Agricultural College and never lost his interest in agricultural and pastoral pursuits. He acted as a judge of cattle at agricultural shows.

Les enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corp Reserve in 1926 and was appointed as an honorary captain. After war broke out, he was made a provisional captain in December 1941 and appointed as a Regimental Medical Officer at

⁹³ *The Brisbane Courier*, 2 June 1933, p. 19.

⁹⁴ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1935–36, p. 20.

⁹⁵ *The Courier Mail*, 3 October 1935, p. 17.

Enoggera. He remained in Brisbane for the duration of his service. Les's older brother, Ray, was in membership of the Tabernacle from 1911. He also studied medicine at Sydney University, went to an academic appointment in England and was the Dean of the Medical School at the *University of Witwatersrand*, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 1925 to 1943.

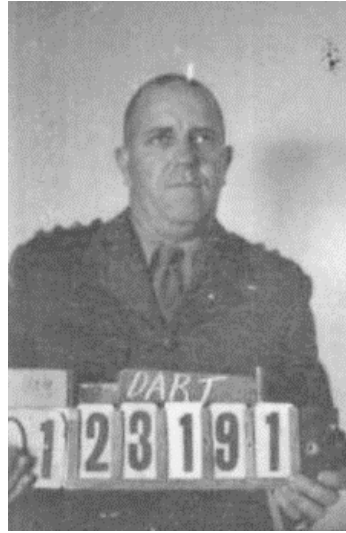
He later became Emeritus Professor at that university. He attained world-wide fame as the discoverer of the *Australopithecus Africanus* (the "missing link") ⁹⁶ in 1924.

In 1938–40, Dr Dart was the State President of the United Protestant Association. He was also President of the United Protestant Party in 1940. He had been on the committee of the United Protestant Party since 1937.

Dr Dart commenced a Poll Hereford stud at Warrawilla, Pullenvale, in 1949. He was president of the Queensland Stud Pony Society in 1952–54 and bred both Shetland ponies and Shetland-Welsh pony crosses.

Les was elected to the inaugural executive of the Father and Son Welfare Movement in Brisbane in 1953.

Les was living on the Gold Coast in Carrara when he died on 9 February 1979 aged 82.



Dr JL Dart, 1941 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

⁹⁶ Wheelhouse F and Smithford KS, 2001 *Dart: Scientist and man of grit*. Sydney: Transpareon Press.

Dean, Douglas Graham

Charles and Sarah Dean migrated from England to Australia as Queensland Government Assisted Passengers, arriving in Moreton Bay in January 1884, with their five children, aged between two and 10. Charles worked in the upholstery trade in Paddington where he helped found the first Salvation Army Corps at Paddington and was associated with the Petrie Terrace Baptist Church. They had four more children in Brisbane. Sarah died in 1935, aged 83, about 12 months before Charles in 1936, aged 86.

Albert, their last child and fifth son, was born in 1891 at their home in Paddington. He married Eliza (Lila) Graham in 1915 in the Windsor Road Baptist Church, Red Hill. The ceremony was performed by Rev T Leitch. They had two children, Douglas (Doug) born on 20 January 1918, and Eric.

Lila died in 1927 of lobar pneumonia, pleurisy, toxæmia, and respiratory failure while pregnant with a daughter, who also died.

For a time, the family was split up—Doug lived with his father's sister Bessie, and Moses Goodin at Carina and attended the Carina State Primary School.

Albert knew Mehetabel (Reinee) Aviss from the Windsor Road Church and they had always been friends. One afternoon at her normal finishing time at Littledikes, Albert was waiting outside for her. He said, very unromantically: *"I've got two nice boys, would you like to be their mother?"* Reinee agreed and they were married at her father's home in Red Hill in 1928. She was aged 35.

From the time the family were reunited, Doug and Eric attended the Milton School until Doug was 13, when his father was out of work due to the depression. Doug wrote his recollections when asked by his granddaughter, Fidi, who was doing an assignment on the Depression for school. He wrote:



Doug, Eric, and Lila Dean, 1927



Albert, Reinee, Eric and Doug Dean, 1928

I was 11 years old at the beginning of the depression. My father ... worked as a charge hand for B G Harding at Given Terrace, Paddington (Grocer).

People were being put off from their work because nobody was buying goods. This was worldwide. The stock exchange in the USA crashed and many people lost their money and some committed suicide because they owed people so much money.

My father lost his job because people weren't buying and could not afford to eat what they used to. He tried but could not get a job. The grocer he worked for closed down.

There were many men out of work and the Government started assisting these people by giving them work for two days a week, such as pick and shovel work on the roads. There was no such thing as dole payments like they have today. ...

In 1931 when I was 13 years old and doing the scholarship class at school I arrived home and found that Dad had found a job for me. I was to help a Fur Traveller who had come up from the south to sell furs. I used to take a port full of furs by tram to stores in Brisbane. I did this for two weeks.

I then got a job in the packing section of Carricks Furniture Factory and because they were not busy was told by the foreman to hide in a loft when I had nothing to do. After four months I was then moved to the Polishing Department and used to go down to the Boiler Section which was used to Generate Power to drive the saws, drills etc. They always had boiling water and I would make a number of billies of tea for the men for lunch. After 3 months I left and got a job in the Upholstering Department of AJ Littledike & Son, Furniture Factory and became apprenticed to become an upholsterer, which in those days took five years.

It was a very hard time for families to live and pay off their house. I can remember coming home from school, looking for something to eat. There was only a loaf of bread available and no butter. In those days they used to cook with beef dripping (fat). After cooking the dripping was poured into an enamel dish to set. It used to have dark gravy at the bottom of this dripping and we liked to spread this on our slice of bread. You should try this some time as it is quite tasty.

My mother could only afford the cheap sections of meat in those days. The butcher would give you the bones free and this was made into soup.

Travelling was by tram. We used to pay two pence to get to town and if you did not have the money we would walk. There was a theatre near where we lived and we got to know the person on the door and sometimes he would let us go in free after interval.

After the depression, Albert became a tram conductor working out of the Paddington sheds, for 18 years. On Albert's retirement, they moved to Clontarf. They made many friends through their association with the Clontarf Methodist Church. Albert loved to sing in church and Reinee played the organ for many years. She was a wonderful mother to Doug and Eric.

Doug used to mow their lawn at Clontarf in their later years and because he still worked and played bowls on Saturdays, he only had Sunday to do the mowing so the family would travel to Clontarf after church so that he could mow the grass in the afternoon. Albert gave Doug a hard time about working on a Sunday.

Doug completed his apprenticeship in March 1939 and continued to work until his enlistment in the RAAF. During his apprenticeship he attended the Central

Technical College from 1934 until 1938. In the third term of his final year his report from the college on his freehand drawing course was good, indicating that he had achieved between 66 and 74%. By April 1939 he had become a member of the Federated Furnishing Trade Society of Australasia—a pre-requisite for further employment.

Doug met Doris Miller in May 1937 at the Windsor Road Church. Doris's father was the choir conductor and Doris was in the choir. One Sunday he was sitting in church with his aunt, Grace Aviss and asked her who the girl in the choir was. Grace later introduced them and their relationship began. Doris came into membership at the Tabernacle in November 1938, and Doug sang with the basses in the Tabernacle choir.

Doug and Doris purchased land in St John's Wood in January 1940 for £67.10, some 20 months before they married.

Doug enlisted in Brisbane in the RAAF Citizen Force as a Fabric Worker, Aircraftsman Class 1. On 20 August 1940 he was enrolled as a Reserve of the RAAF. AJ Littledike had provided a reference in July, stating that he had been working for them for approximately eight years and that he was most industrious and was attentive to his work as an upholsterer. He was honest and of sober habits.



Doug 1941

The enquiry made through the Commissioner of Police noted that discreet inquiries showed that he was of good character, honest, sober, respectable and was not a member of any communist organisation.

On enlistment, his daily pay was eight shillings and six pence and after his marriage he received a separation allowance of three shillings per day and one shilling per day for each child under the age of sixteen.

He undertook and passed the Recruit Drill Course No 23, at 3rd Amberley in November-December 1940. His next posting was to Richmond in January 1941 and then to HQ Rathmines in February. By 3 March he was back in Richmond for a two week Initial Parachute Course, which he passed with 89%.

At the Rathmines maintenance base, Doug was trained to fold and repair parachutes, repair the fabric on the aircraft's ailerons, rudders and main plains of aircraft such as Walrus, Supermarine Seagulls, Catalinas and Sunderlands.

When Doug was in Sydney in 1989, staying with his daughter Barbara and her husband Ron, they drove up to Rathmines, on Lake Macquarie, for a nostalgic journey. Doug related a story of his time at Rathmines. He had always been a very heavy sleeper and when he was living in Hut 109 at the barracks, he woke up one morning to find that he and his collapsible bed had been lifted and carried into the lake during the night. His bed was in about a foot of water and he hadn't heard a thing! Fortunately, neither he nor his palliasse got wet.

There was very little left of the Rathmines that Doug knew as Australia's main flying boat base during the war, apart from the hospital, a couple of mess halls and a few huts. Many of the buildings and structures had either been demolished or removed to become public halls. There was no sign of the huge hangar which was once the dominant feature of Richmond.

Doug was promoted to Leading Aircraftsman on 1 June 1941.

Doug and Doris were married at the Tabernacle by Rev Albert Butler, at 6 pm on 15 November 1941. Doug left Rathmines on the Friday to travel by train to Brisbane hoping to be there in time for the wedding. Doris had no idea whether he had reached Brisbane in time until she actually arrived at the church. One of the groomsmen, Eric Miller was Doris's brother who was also in membership at the Tabernacle.



Doug and Doris Dean. 1941



Doug, Hut 109 Rathmines

Prior to the wedding, Doug rang the Strathaired apartments in Terrigal to make a booking for their honeymoon. The chap said: "No need to book". Doug persisted and said it was his honeymoon and that he wanted to make sure he had accommodation, but the chap insisted that it wasn't necessary to book. They caught the train to Gosford with all of their possessions in 6 suitcases. When they arrived at the apartments they were turned away—it was fully booked. Doug was understandably upset. However, the proprietor sent them down the road to the home of a couple who took in travellers. They were given the main bedroom. The manager of the Strathaired had done them a favour.

After their honeymoon, they found a self-sufficient boat house to live in at Kilaben, right on the lake, with their own vegie garden. Doug used a dingy to row across the lake each day to work at Rathmines, having been granted permission to live off base.

By December the war was hotting up and, on the 9th, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Japan. By 4 January 1942 there were Japanese air raids on Rabaul, New Britain and they took Rabaul and Kieta on Bougainville. The Japanese then landed on New Ireland and on 23 February, Japanese aircraft bombed Darwin. The Japanese landed at Lae, New Guinea on 8 March 1942.

As these events were occurring, 100 Squadron was formed on 15 February 1942. The Squadron was initially based in Richmond and was equipped with Bristol Beauforts. Doug joined the Squadron on 7 March 1942. On the day he arrived, he walked into the hanger and found the parachute section. There were quite a number of aircrew sitting about still in their English greys. Doug was given a week's leave as most of the ground crew hadn't arrived.

The Squadron then moved to Mareeba where it conducted torpedo bomber training and anti-submarine patrols. The Parachute Section was trained in a purpose built building. Tents were their accommodation and the mess was an outdoor arrangement. Doug moved there on 22 May 1942, two weeks after the Battle of the Coral Sea. After 100 Squadron reached operational proficiency, Doug returned to Laverton, Victoria for a refit of the Squadron in July 1942.

Doug was still in Laverton when Elva was born in 1942. He kept the newspaper cutting of her birth in his service address book until he died. While at Laverton, Doug was able to take some leave and catch a flight to Nowra on one of the Beauforts. From there he caught the train to Brisbane to meet his new daughter.

He left Laverton in September for the Garbutt Staging Camp in Townsville and was deployed to Milne Bay in October. They boarded the HMAS *Tasman* (Batavia) in November and arrived in Milne Bay on the 6th, two months after the Japanese had been repelled from the area.

Doug was fortunate to have arrived after the Japanese attacks. On their first night in camp they set up their beds on the road and the following day, their accommodation tents were erected. Conditions were very primitive—the camp was a tent city, apart from the



RAAF Setting up Camp, 1942

airmen's mess, which was like a native construction with a woven roof and walls. The showers were set up on a platform in the open amongst the coconut palms.

The parachute section was located in a large marquee with a long table for folding the parachutes and there was a sewing machine for running repairs. The weather was rather damp and humid so mould was a big problem. To keep the parachutes dry, on sunny days they would hang them between the coconut trees to give them a good airing. They also repaired the fabric covered aircraft rudders.

Doug was based in Milne Bay for just over twelve months until November. During his stay he managed the Parachute Section of 100 Squadron and was promoted to acting corporal on 1 January 1943.

By 20 January the Squadron had experienced five bombing raids by the Japanese. On this particular night there was a very big raid, which included 23 bombers and Zeros. Eight of the squadron's aircraft were hit and they had a very sleepless night with the two raids lasting two hours and one hour. Bombs had been dropped just half a mile away.

On 22 January, when three raids with bombs dropped about 200 yards away, four Military Police were killed. On 14 April at about 11 o'clock they endured the biggest raid yet with about forty bombs and twenty fighters, thirteen of which were brought down. The squadron lost three of their aircraft. Doug saw two aircraft come down in smoke, a Corvette was sunk and a ship beached. The Japanese were cleared from Papua on 22 January.

Doug was admitted to the Station Sick Quarters with dermatitis in January 1942 with an infected right shin, and again in April 1943, and when he ran a sewing machine needle into the first finger of his left hand and the needle broke, in August 1943. The dermatitis, which kept recurring may have been related to the dope he painted on the fabric of the Kittyhawks while he was stationed at Richmond. The dope, which smelt like nail polish remover, was used to make the fabric taut before it was painted.

Doug had leave from his base from 21 to 23 March 1943 to proceed to Samarai on duty. His promotion to full corporal took effect on 1 August 1943. Doug moved to Goodenough Island on 26 November 1943 and left for Townsville on 10 December 1943 having spent 21 months with 100 Squadron, ending his overseas service. He caught a plane from



Folding a parachute Milne Bay, 1943

Townsville to Brisbane on 12 December and was given 30 days leave, to report back on 14 January 1944.

Doug was then posted to Amberley on 18 January 1944. Doug and Doris set up house in a flat at Basins Pocket, Ipswich until his discharge the following April. While at Amberley, Doug was to be posted to 23 Squadron, which was going to Japan as part of the occupation forces, but the doctor, much to Doug's regret, discharged him as being Tropically Unfit with dermatitis.

Doug served his country for four years and 153 days and was awarded the 1939–43 Star with Ribbon, 1939–45 War Medal, Pacific Star, 1939–45 Australian Service Medal, and Returned from Active Service Badge. During his period of service, he was paid a total of £1419.02.01.

Doug didn't often speak to his family about the war.

Because of the intervention of the war Doug and Doris had lived together for only a short period since their marriage, but still managed to create their family, with their second daughter, Barbara, arriving in 1944.

Early in 1945 the family moved to St John's Wood, using finance through a War Housing Scheme. A gas line was connected to the house in 1957 but it wasn't until 1964 that the sewerage was connected. Prior to this, the toilet was an outhouse in the back garden.

After his discharge, Doug returned to work at Littledike as Foreman Upholsterer and continued working there until 1952.

Doug and Eric had always attended the Windsor Road Baptist Church with their parents, but by 1938 Doug had met Doris and the Miller family decided to change to a more central church. So early in 1938 Doug and Doris and Doris's parents and her brothers started attending the Tabernacle. At the same time Doug, Doris and Eric Miller and their father Jack joined the church choir. Jack and his wife Isabel along with Doris and Eric became members of the church and Doug and Doris joined the CE Society. Doug resumed singing in the choir after the war.

Elva and Barbara were both dedicated in the church when Elva was three and Barbara was five weeks old. As a family they attended church regularly. Elva and Barbara were on the cradle role of the Sunday school and attended Sunday school



Doris, Doug, Barb and Elva
Dean, 1954

throughout their school years as well as church in the morning and often in the evening.

The church was a wonderful place for the girls to meet friends and lasting friendships were made with the people they met there, particularly through the youth group, as they grew into their teens and then twenties.

Elva was baptised and received into membership at the Tabernacle in 1958 and married Maxwell (Max) Shaw there in September 1962. Max became a member of the Young People's CE in 1960 and was received into church membership in 1962. Elva had also been a CE member since 1960 and was secretary in 1961–62.

Doug was a Foundation Member of the Ashgrove Bowls Club and was involved with the club for more than half of his 73 years.

In 1951, Doug became a member of the Ashgrove branch of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland. He attended their monthly meetings in the early years of his membership but after a while life became too busy and although he retained his membership until 1976, he did not attend very often.

In 1952, Doug left Littledike to work as Sales Manager at Plastic Products in Newmarket, a family business which became one of Queensland's top plastic fabrication companies. In 1968 the company opened their new factory at Hamilton. By the time he retired he had been working for Alan Stanley and Cec Healey for about 25 years. He often talked about having his own upholstery business but his concern was that he might not be able to provide for his family while the business was growing.

Doug was very eager to retire and did so early, as he was tired of the daily grind. His plan was to do upholstery to help support them until he was able to receive the "burnt out diggers" pension at age 60. Doris wasn't too sure about his retiring early but he convinced her that his being at home would not affect her daily routine. He retired in October 1977, 3 months before his 60th birthday. There wasn't much of a fanfare or celebration, and the entry in his diary for that day was "*Retired from PP. Club 5 p.m. Hamburgers*".

Once he retired Doug never seemed to be at home. He was a warm and loving father who doted on his grandchildren and was very loyal and philanthropic to his family and extended family. Both Doug and Doris were able to apply for the service pension and this was granted on 10 January 1978.

In retirement, Doug used his talent as an upholsterer by recovering all types of chairs for friends and relatives and anyone who heard of his skills. He often went to the local tip to dump rubbish and came home with very dilapidated old chairs which he renovated by refinishing any timber work and re-upholstering them. Most of these ended up in the auction and supplemented their income.

At the end of August 1980, Doug started helping at Meals on Wheels.

Doris had her first episode of heart problems in February 1982. In September, she had another heart attack and died at home on the 13th. Doug had his first heart attack later in February 1982. A month later, his blood pressure was 160/100. He was then admitted to Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital in October for a prostate operation and had a second heart attack in March 1984.

Doug regularly attended the Ashgrove Baptist Church in 1989.

He joined the Air Force Association in 1989 and in mid-October he attended the 100 Squadron Reunion in Sydney. Later that month, he attended the Air Force Association meeting at the Yeronga Services Club.

Throughout 1990, Doug had a number of medical issues, including an operation for a carcinoid tumour of the bowel and a heart attack. Then in 1991 he received the diagnosis of bowel cancer, a secondary tumour of the brain requiring a course of radiation treatment.

He was admitted to the Sydney Adventist Hospital, where tests indicated that he had renal and heart failure. He passed away peacefully early on 19 April 1991 aged 73 and was buried in the Castle Hill Baptist Cemetery.

At his death Doug was the father of two daughters, grandfather to Elva and Max Shaw's six children and doting great-grandfather to their two granddaughters. He loved them all.

He left a note addressed to Barbara and Elva:

A few things I would like you to do for me.

With the tools under the house, I would like Ron to have the Triton saw bench plus the toolbox he made for me with the tools in it.

The lathe Ken might like but if he is not inclined to take, maybe Ron,



Doug and Doris Dean 1981

otherwise sell. The electric tools etc can be divided to ones satisfaction.

I would like Ken to have the Grandfather clock.

Barb I would like you to have the tea and coffee silver set and Elva to have the Shelley tea set.

Then you can work out what you would like to do with the rest. Don't forget I will be looking down and keeping an eye on you.

Doug, Father.

A memorial service was held on Thursday 2 May at the Ashgrove Baptist Church.

Duncan, Leslie James

Les, as he was generally known, was born in Woolloongabba, Brisbane on 30 July 1920, the only son of Herbert (Bert) and Eva (Millie) Duncan (née Lamond). His father served in the Australian Imperial Force with the 6th Company of Field Engineers in England and France. Bert and Millie were married in Glasgow in 1919 while Bert was stationed at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Bert suffered a gunshot wound to the back and returned to Australia in June 1919 with his wife. In 1947, he undertook some plumbing work at the Tabernacle manse. He died in the Greenslopes Hospital in 1965.

Millie was born in 1892 in Brisbane, the daughter of James and Elizabeth Lamond, who were married in the Wharf Street Church in 1885.

Les had two sisters, Barbara, and Jean. Although not in membership at the Tabernacle, before her marriage in 1953, Barbara taught in the Sunday School. She was also involved with Crusaders and Beach Missions. Along with her husband, Colin O'Connor, she joined Kenmore Baptist Church in 1975.

Les attended Brisbane Grammar School and then joined his father's business and completed his apprenticeship as a plumber.⁹⁷

Les was secretary of the Young People's CE in 1937–38 and became a member at the Tabernacle in 1939, following his baptism by Rev Albert Butler in November 1938. He was a leader in the Young Men's Fellowship in 1939–40 and involved with the Free Tract



Herbert Duncan
(Photo: *Queensland Pictorial*)

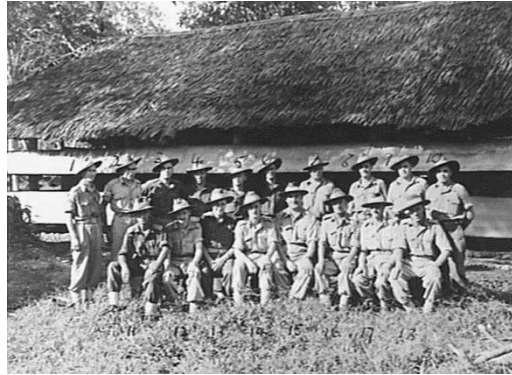


Les Duncan
(Photo: City Tabernacle Archives)

⁹⁷ *Daily Standard*, 27 June 1935, p. 10.

Band, which conducted open-air evangelistic services throughout south-east Queensland.

Les was living with his parents in Woolloongabba and working as a plumber in 1943. He enlisted in World War II as a staff sergeant with the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, serving in Dobadura and Lae in New Britain. He gave his religious denomination as Presbyterian. (This was probably the church in which he was baptised as an infant. His father also gave his denomination as Presbyterian when he enlisted.)



Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical
Engineers, Lae, 1944
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

After his discharge in 1945, Les undertook further studies, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant while still living with his parents, and later graduated from the Melbourne Bible Institute (MBI).

His testimony was published in the China Inland Mission (CIM) magazine, *China's Millions*. The call came after his discharge from the AIF. He knew that God was calling him, and that he must obey. Later, after much prayer and thought the Lord confirmed His call to China. Les was accepted for the CIM (now Overseas Missionary Fellowship International) candidate's course in mid-1949.

It is not known where Les's parents worshipped. They may have been Presbyterian. They were not in membership at the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle had what it considered the distinct honour of one of their young men being called to service on the Mission Field in China. In September 1949, Les addressed the Prayer Meeting and told of his call to the CIM, and on Sunday the 11th, the Pastor conducted a valedictory service for him. Their prayer was that God's rich blessing would be with him in all his service for Christ in the needy land of China.⁹⁸

Les and Kathleen Watsford met at the MBI, and were both studying at the Chinese Language and Customs School in Chungking, Western China, when the political unrest and Communist takeover by Mao Tse-tung resulted in their forced departure from China, being escorted down the Yangtze River to Hong Kong.

They returned to Australia in July 1951, and were married in the Kew Baptist Church, Victoria in November. Kathleen, who was most commonly known as

⁹⁸ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook 1949–1950*, p. 7.

Elizabeth, was a nurse from Kew North. She was the daughter of Rev Edward and Rita Watsford.

While on furlough, Les was the speaker at a Tabernacle Young People's CE meeting. Their eldest child, David was born in 1952 at St Kilda Private Hospital. In 1955, Les transferred his church membership to Graceville, immediately prior to their return to Singapore where they served with the CIM from 1956. Rev Will Holman was the pastor at Graceville at the time. In Singapore, they were the host and hostess at the CIM International Headquarters until 1965 and assumed responsibility for the Christian Witness Press and preaching at English-speaking Chinese churches.

Leslie then served on the mission field in India. His service is outlined in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*.

On their return from the field, while living in Sherwood, Les undertook further studies at St Francis's College. He was ordained to the Anglican Diaconate in St John's Cathedral, Brisbane in December 1967. He continued his studies at the College in 1968, while serving as a Deacon at St Bartholomew's, Mt Gravatt. In December 1968, he was ordained to the Priesthood.

He continued to work in ministry, living at Wishart while serving in the Mt Gravatt, Wishart, and Rochedale Parishes, and then at Mt Tamborine. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Les was chaplain to the State Emergency Services and Queensland Ambulance Service on Mt Tambourine and was instrumental in the revitalising of St Luke's Anglican Church in Canungra and St John's on Beechmont and the establishment of St George's Anglican Church at Eagle Heights. He continued to serve on Mt Tambourine, exercising a notable evangelical ministry until his retirement in July 1990. Les completed two doctorates (PhDs) in 1999 and 2006.⁹⁹

One of his successors at St Philip's Anglican Church, Rochedale commented that Les is remembered with great affection by some of the older folk in the church, who recall his earlier ministry as faithfully biblical and true to the gospel.¹⁰⁰

Les's niece Ros met Les and Elizabeth on several occasions and remembers that when he rang to chat he would say "Duncan here".¹⁰¹

Les died on 23 April 2007, aged 86. Fittingly, his funeral was held in St George's Anglican Church, Eagle Heights.

Les and Elizabeth had four children: David, Andrew, Douglas, and Philip. Elizabeth is now a resident of the Churches of Christ Nursing Home, Southport.

⁹⁹ *Tambourine Mountain News*, 2 May 20017, p. 14.

¹⁰⁰ Stuart GS, Personal communication, 2020.

¹⁰¹ Raward R, Personal communication, 2021.

England, Robert Francis, and Alice Joyce (née Allen)

Robert England and Alice Allen grew up living across the road, 30 metres from each other, at 32 and 25 Bennison St, Clayfield. They both attended Ascot State School.

In Sydney, on 6 April 1940, a wedding of Brisbane interest took place, when Lieutenant Robert England of the 2nd AIF married Miss Alice Allen. The ceremony, at which Rev Charles Cockett officiated, took place in the Pitt Street Congregational Church. The bridegroom was the only son of the secretary to the Co-ordinator General of Works, John England. He was attended by Lieutenant Dennis Daunt of Brisbane, also of the Second AIF, as best man. The bride was the eldest daughter of Percy and Mary Allen, who was given away by her father. She wore an ensemble of pink wool angora, allied with a navy hat and accessories. An orchid to tone was worn as a shoulder posy. For “something old” she featured a brooch which belonged to her great-grandmother. Joy was unattended. The reception was held at the Wentworth Hotel. Mrs Allen, who received the guests with her husband, wore matching accessories with a navy ensemble.¹⁰²

Robert Francis England

Bob as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 7 July 1915, the only child of John and Ruby England (née Lethem). His father served in World War I and his life story is documented in *For God, King and Country*. His mother died in Brisbane, three days after his birth. John enlisted in September 1915, and it is presumed that Bob was raised by his grandmother, Frances (Fanny) Lethem during his father’s war service. John remarried Ethel Bryant in Victoria after the war and died in Brisbane in 1979. Ethel had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1911.

Fanny came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1881, following her marriage to Ebenezer, who had been a member since 1875. Ruby joined the church in 1909 and John joined in



John England with Bob as an infant
(Photo: D England)

¹⁰² *The Telegraph*, 6 April 1940, p. 7.

England, Robert Francis, and Alice Joyce (née Allen)

1903. His parents had been in membership since 1891.

Although Bob was not a church member, he was a member of the Tabernacle choir in 1940–41.

While a student at Brisbane Grammar School, Bob had been a member of 11th Brigade Cadet Unit for about a year and-a-half. He returned to the school in 1939 to play cricket with the Old Boys' Association against a school team.

In 1934, while working for the Bank of New South Wales in Brisbane, Bob joined the AMF Militia, Royal Australian Army and was discharged in July 1936. He re-enlisted in the 25th Battalion in September 1937, when he was a student at the Queensland Agricultural College (QAC), Lawes. Subsequently he transferred to the AIF on 16 March 1939 and was appointed, on probation, with the rank of lieutenant and assigned to the 2/15th Battalion.

Speaking on behalf of college members of the AIF at the 1939 annual QAC diploma students' dinner, Bob said that:

They felt honoured to be invited to the diploma day dinner. They felt that now Australia was at war it was necessary for everybody to do their bit, and in joining the Second A.I.F. they were only following up what they were taught at the college. They also felt that if they could carry on and add to the traditions of the college they would help to repay in part for what the college had done for them. He wished the diploma students the best of luck.¹⁰³

In December 1940, Bob was advised that because he was a trained infantryman, he was eligible to become a member of the "A" class reserve and was urged to give serious consideration to an invitation to apply.

Bob was one of the speakers recorded for a broadcast of



RF England



Lieutenant RF England (Photo: *The Australasian*)

¹⁰³ *Queensland Times*, 2 December 1939, p. 3.

Voices from Overseas on 4QR and regional stations in February 1942.

Bob was wounded in the Middle East and invalided home in March 1943. He was photographed aboard a hospital ship with Mr Wilfred Clark, representing the Red Cross and sisters Betty Glasson and E Davis of the AANS.

On his return to Brisbane, he resumed his involvement at the Tabernacle. On 5 August 1945, at the church's 90th Anniversary service, he sang with great feeling, *The Lord is my Light and my Salvation*, prior to the sermon. He sang solos regularly throughout the 1940s.

In November 1945, Bob and Joy brought their son John to the Tabernacle to be presented to the Lord. Their daughter Elizabeth was brought in a similar manner in June 1949.

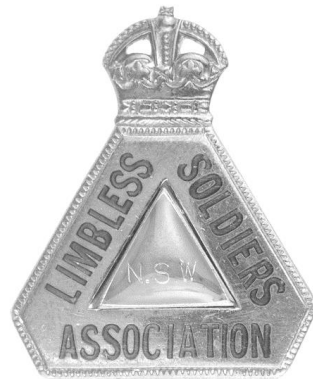
Bob was selected to serve on the Regional Education Committee of the Services Canteens Fund Trust in 1947. He was also vice-president of the newly formed Limbless Soldiers' Association in 1944 and remained in that role until at least 1947. Bob was also involved with the Royal United Services Institute in the 1950s.

After the war, Bob again joined the Brisbane Grammar School Cadet Unit. He was promoted to captain on 28 February 1949.¹⁰⁴

Bob remained in the army after the war. In 1952, he was transferred from the CMF retired list to the 9th Infantry Battalion as a lieutenant and was promoted to captain in 1954.¹⁰⁵ In 1958 he was appointed to a Short Service Commission for a period of five years.

From 1943 until at least 1980 Bob and Joy were living in McLean Parade, Ashgrove. He continued to give his occupation as soldier until at least 1980.

Bob died in Brisbane on 30 October 1989 aged 74. He was survived by his wife and four children.



Limbless Soldiers' Association badge
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

¹⁰⁴ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 16 June 1949, p. 1717.

¹⁰⁵ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 5 August 1954, p. 2251.

Alice Joyce England (née Allen) OAM

Joy as she was generally known, was born in Norwood, South Australia on 31 October 1915, the daughter of Percy and Mary Allen (née LeDan), who had married in the Tynte Street Baptist Church, North Adelaide in 1912. The family had moved from South Australia to Clayfield by 1925. Percy and Mary transferred their church membership to the Tabernacle in 1926 and remained in membership until their deaths in 1968 and 1979.

Joy's sister Margaret joined the church in 1948. When she married Maxwell Binnie at the Tabernacle in 1953, Prue Morcom was one of her bridesmaids.

Joy completed her Junior Public examination and came into membership in November 1938 on transfer from Clayfield. She was treasurer of the Sunday School in 1938–39 and continued in this role after her marriage to Bob. Her name was removed from the roll in 1965.

While Bob was serving overseas, Joy devoted her spare time to secretarial duties as Secretary of the 2/9th Battalion Comforts Fund and training at the Exhibition Grounds to qualify as a licensed military ambulance driver.

Joy was matron of honour at her sister Lorna's wedding to Private Leslie Hewitt at the Tabernacle in June 1940. She was aged 26 and employed as a stenographer-accountant when she enlisted in the AWAS as a driver on 14 January 1942. A photograph of Joy, working on an army truck at Kelvin Grove was published in *The Courier Mail* on 9 March 1942. She gave her religion as Baptist. Bob was already serving overseas when she enlisted. In May, she was promoted to lieutenant. Joy undertook her service in Brisbane and "retired" in November 1943. Because she did not serve overseas, Joy was awarded the War Medal, Australian Service Medal, and General Service Badge.



Joy England, 1942
(Photo: *The Sunday Mail*)



Joy England, 1942
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

Joy and Bob's first child, John Robert was born in September 1945, and was a national serviceman in 1968 and remained in the army until 1992, based in Townsville and Seymour before returning to Brisbane.

Joy and Bob had two more sons, David and Phillip and a daughter, Elizabeth, who was living with her parents in Ashgrove in 1977 and was also a soldier.

In 1952 and again in 1953 and 1954, Captain and Mrs England and their four children had a holiday at Scarborough, 36 km from their home in Ashgrove. It was reported that they had "a delightful holiday at Scarborough, where they had a cottage for a week with their children and where the fishing proved excellent."¹⁰⁶

Joy died in Maroochydore on 15 July 2000, aged 84. She was survived by her four children, John, David, Elizabeth, and Phillip and their families.

After her death, Joy was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the General Division in the 2001 Australia Day Honours list, for "service to the community of Maroochydore, particularly to veterans, war widows and their dependants".¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁶ *Brisbane Telegraph*, 15 May 1953, p. 10.

¹⁰⁷ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 26 January 2001, p. 1.

Farquhar, John Carnegie

John was born in Torry-Nigg, Kincardineshire, Scotland on 5 February 1887, the son of James and Isabella Farquhar (née Reid). His family always referred to him as John, but in newspaper articles and in *The Australian Baptist*, he was referred to as Rev J Carnegie Farquhar.

As a teenager, aged 16, John was converted through a workmate in the ship-building industry, who introduced him to the Salvation Army. Through his studies of Scripture, John became convinced of believer's baptism and transferred his church allegiance from the Presbyterian Church to the Baptist Church. Following studies at the Glasgow Bible Training Institute, he was awarded a Diploma in Theology.

As a 21 year old, Rev Farquhar was brought to Queensland by Rev Alfred Shaw, the Minister at the Rockhampton Tabernacle, in late 1908, aboard TSS *Somerset*. Rev Farquhar was the Minister in charge of the Lake's Creek Mission [Baptist Church], which, prior to the construction of a church building, met in a disused butcher's shop.

John's brothers, James, and William, migrated to Queensland and Western Australia in 1912. His half-sister Elsie, and her husband Daniel Beauchamp's migration to Queensland on the SS *Vedic*, was sponsored by John in 1927. William enlisted in World War I in 1917 and James enlisted in World War II as a machine gunner in 1942.



Rev JC Farquhar, c. 1908,
(Photo: A-M Laurie)

A welcome social was tendered to Rev Farquhar on 1 October 1908 in the Mission Hall. Rev Shaw, who presided, described his meeting with Mr Farquhar in Glasgow the previous June and recounted the circumstances which had led to Carnegie's decision to come to Queensland. Mr Farquhar, though a young man, had had several years' experience in preaching and was an attractive solo singer. The mission already operated a Sunday School, Women's Guild, choir, Bible class, and CE Society. The charge was delivered on behalf of the mission by Rev Shaw. Mr Farquhar's reply opened with a Gospel solo, from which he passed on to consider the chief needs of pastor and people and asked that unity and prayer should characterise them in the work.¹⁰⁸ Rev Farquhar had sung and preached at

¹⁰⁸ *The Capricornian*, 3 October 1908, p. 2.

the mission the previous Sunday. His first involvement in an evangelistic mission, supporting Rev Shaw as a soloist, was in the Denison Street Baptist Church, Rockhampton in the last week of October 1908.

Rev Shaw retired in Victoria, but preached on occasion at the Tabernacle, including in 1947 during the interim between the ministries of Rev Albert Butler and Rev FT Smith.

Rev Farquhar married Ethel Shaw, the daughter of Rev and Mrs Shaw on 30 November 1910 in the Denison Street Baptist Tabernacle, Rockhampton.¹⁰⁹ The service was conducted by Rev Shaw who was assisted by Rev Joseph Whyte, pastor of the John Knox Presbyterian Church, and Rev John Bongers, of the Murray Street Congregational Church. Their marriage lasted 62 years. After a few weeks honeymoon at Emu Park, he left Ethel in Rockhampton to accompany the American evangelist, Dr John Henry to New Zealand.

On their return to Australia, Dr Henry invited him to join his team as soloist and musical director in which capacity he had several months' experience in 1911 evangelising in Australasia.



John and Ethel's wedding
(Photo: A-M Laurie)

United Evangelistic Mission, Inaugural Meeting

Warm welcome accorded to Dr John Quincy Adams Henry and Mr JC Farquhar.

The united evangelistic mission, to be conducted by Dr John Quincy Adams Henry (who recently completed a very successful mission campaign in New Zealand, extending over a year), and Mr J Carnegie Farquhar (soloist and choir leader), was actually begun yesterday under most favourable auspices, although the inaugural meeting, which partook of the nature of a welcome to the missionary, was held in the Limestone Street Methodist school hall, on Saturday afternoon. At the latter meeting, the various local Protestant Churches and temperance organisations were well represented. ... Mrs Farquhar was present, and a welcome was also extended to her. ... The ministers of this city were united, and had agreed and prayed about the mission, and tendered a warm welcome to the missionary (Dr Henry) and to Mr and Mrs Farquhar and pledged themselves to stand by and help as they were able. ... Mr Farquhar then sang *Make me a Channel of Blessing*. The solo was rendered with distinctness and expression the accompaniment being played by Mrs Duesbury.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ *The Brisbane Courier*, 14 December 1910, p. 17.

¹¹⁰ *Queensland Times*, 29 May 1911, p. 5.

Following the Ipswich mission, Dr Henry and Rev Farquhar conducted missions in the Albert Street Wesley Church Brisbane, Toowoomba and Warwick before Dr Henry returned to America and Rev Farquhar took up the pastorate of the Ipswich Baptist Church.

From 1911 to 1916 he pastored at Ipswich and undertook further studies at the Queensland Baptist College. The report of his welcome to Ipswich stated that he had created a favourable impression when in Ipswich with Dr Henry on his recent mission. In his reply to the welcome, Carnegie:

Thanked the speakers on behalf of himself and Mrs Farquhar for the many nice things said. He believed in his soul, that he had been called to the ministry of the Church by God, and, after paying a tribute to the work of past ministers of the Church, he said that he hoped that he would be permitted to reap where others had sown. The Church ought to evince a militant spirit and not be content to be sown and reaped as the seasons came and went if it wished to become a power in combating sin. The members must be faithful to Christ at all times, they must all be missionaries. They might not all be able to sing or preach, but all could pray and all could take a firm stand for Jesus Christ. They had not to fall asleep, but to be up and doing, to win their way into the strong holds of evil. They must step out to win men to Jesus Christ, and if they were determined to press forward, they would not fail. His mission in Ipswich was to win men and women for Jesus Christ, and, when that mission ended, he would go. Referring to remarks made about his personality, he said that a Church built up around any one man would perish with that man, but that if they build on Jesus Christ all would be well. He wanted them to go forth with a serious optimism, to go forth not forgetting the difficulties and with their eyes fixed above them. He asked for their prayers, their sympathy, and their co-operation, so that he and they might work together, shoulder to shoulder, for God's glory and the extension of His kingdom in Ipswich. (Applause.)¹¹¹

His 1916–25 Victorian ministry embraced the Ballarat and Fitzroy churches. After a preaching/evangelistic trip to Canada he took two Queensland pastorates, Silkstone, and Rosalie, from 1925 to 1942.

He had a strong evangelistic emphasis. Several of his churches grew numerically under his ministry, some dramatically, and he conducted many evangelistic campaigns in other churches over the years. Possessed of a rich baritone voice of exceptional quality, he often sang in association with his preaching. While pastoring the Silkstone Church, Rev Farquhar conducted an evangelistic campaign at Rosalie Baptist Church in 1927. He also assisted as soloist and choir leader at the “New Life Campaign”,



Rev JC Farquhar, 1935–36,
(Photo: Queensland Baptist
Archives)

¹¹¹ *Queensland Times*, 20 September 1911, p. 5.

conducted by Rev WD Jackson BA from the Collins Street Baptist Church, at the Tabernacle in September 1930 and Rev Wilfred Jarvis's mission in 1931.

In 1934–5 he served as President of the Baptist Union of Queensland. His Presidential Address was titled: *May We Expect a Revival in our Time?* He was awarded a Jubilee Medal in 1935 to commemorate His Majesty, King George VI's accession to the throne.

At the conclusion of his term as President, the Queensland reporter to *The Australian Baptist*, Rev Sydney Potter wrote:

The Rev JC Farquhar lays down his office as President with honour. "To and fro" "up and down," he followed the peregrinations of Satan, but to nobler ends, and won not a few from the grip of the Prince of Darkness. No President of the State has a finer record of service rendered to all the churches and baptisms and church membership has followed in his train.¹¹²

Rev Farquhar was the padre at the boys' camp at Currumbin in January 1935 and again in 1936 and conducted one and two-week missions in Gympie, Murgon, Lakes Creek, Warwick, and Cairns among other centres.

Rev Farquhar also served as chairman of the College Committee in the 1940s and chairman of the Home Mission 1948–57, he exercised a strong influence in Union affairs. However, his greatest impact on the denomination came as a result of his pastoral work and evangelistic preaching in various churches throughout the state. His strongly conservative theological stance and colourful personality had a marked impact on many Queensland Baptists, including pastors.¹¹³

Rev Farquhar served as a senior chaplain in the AIF from December 1939 (aged 56) until August 1947. He was attached to the 13th Advanced Australian Ordinance Department, at Enoggera. In late 1942, he was "promoted" to senior chaplain. His appointment was terminated on 7 August 1946. He spent



Rev JC Farquhar, 1946,
Sandgate Baptist Church (Photo:
Queensland Baptist Archives)

¹¹² *The Australian Baptist*, 1 October 1935, p. 3.

¹¹³ SW Nickerson, in Brian Dickey (ed) 1994. *Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography*, Evangelical History Association: Sydney.

some time in Grovely, Charters Towers, Boronta, Tolga, Redbank Camp, Canungra, Enoggera and on the Hospital Ships *Wanganella* and *Sydney*.

While still engaged as a chaplain, Rev Farquhar and Ethel came into membership at the Tabernacle in June 1944 on transfer from Rosalie where he had been pastor and they transferred to Sandgate in 1946–47. On discharge from the army, he was given permission to retain the rank of chaplain 4th class and to wear the prescribed uniform.

Rev Farquhar and Ethel lived in Fitzroy, Silkstone, Rosalie, Sandgate, Buranda, and Taringa, while he pastored churches in Ipswich, Silkstone, Rosalie, Sandgate, and South Brisbane.

Shortly after retiring from chaplaincy, Rev Farquhar paid a short visit to Lakes Creek and preached at both services on 20 October 1946. He then took charge of the Sandgate Baptist Church.



Carnegie and Ethel's 60th wedding anniversary (Photo: A-M Laurie)

In “retirement”, Rev Farquhar was the Moderator of the Moore Park Church for four years and spent a further 21 years as Chaplain at the Repatriation Hospitals in Brisbane. He was “on call” day and night to minister to soldiers regardless of whether or not they were Christians.

Rev Farquhar and Ethel's children and their spouses were Ronald and Catherine Farquhar, Ian and Phyllis Farquhar, and Heather and Clarence Castledine.

Ronald completed a training course at the Melbourne Bible Institute and was accepted as a missionary of the Sudan United Mission.

Rev Farquhar died in Brisbane on 16 September 1972, aged 85. Following his death, Rev Frank Stone, in his capacity as General Superintendent, wrote to Ethel, on behalf of the Annual Assembly of the Baptist Union of Queensland to extend to her and the family their deep sympathy in his passing. He forwarded a copy of the following Annual Assembly minute:

This Assembly of the Baptist Union of Queensland places on record its appreciation of the life and service of the late John Carnegie Farquhar, Minister, President and Life member, who passed away on 16th September 1972, after serving in the Baptist Ministry for sixty-four years.

After Rev Farquhar's death, Ethel moved to Resthaven, Kenmore, where she died in 1981.

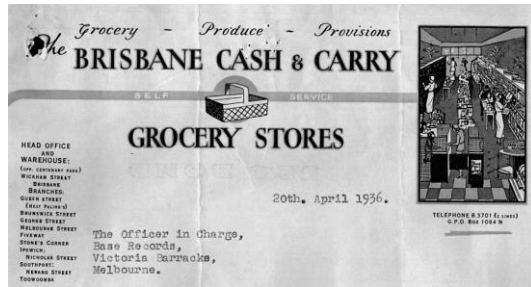
Fraser, Robin

Robin was born in Brisbane on 4 May 1926, the eldest son of Claude and Gladys (Marjorie) Fraser (née Leitch) and grandson of Rev Thomas and Liliás Leitch. Rev Leitch, who was the Pastor of the Windsor Road Baptist Church for over 52 years, solemnised their wedding in 1925.

The wedding was a family affair. Gladys's sister Dorothy was one of her bridesmaids, her brother-in-law George Roper "gave her away", and her brother John was best man. About 50 guests were entertained at a wedding breakfast at Finney's Roof Garden Café.

Claude served in France with the 9th Battalion of the AIF, as a sergeant in World War I. After the war, he became a company director, served again in World War II and lived with Gladys in Ashgrove and Bardon. Claude died in 1988 and Gladys died in Bardon in 2003.

Claude Fraser made his fortune establishing Australia's first chain of self-service grocery stores—supermarkets, *Brisbane Cash and Carry Stores*. In 1924, the 32 BCC stores were acquired by Woolworths and formed the basis of Woolworths' entry into the grocery market in Queensland.



BCC Letterhead, 1936
(Photo: National Archives of Australia)

Robin had two younger sisters, Lillas (named after her grandmother) and Mary, and a brother, Donald. Robin and his siblings grew up in Upper Paddington.

In her obituary, Lillas was described as a pioneer filmmaker and irrepressible optimist.¹¹⁴ Her daughter, Jane Castle became a highly regarded cinematographer. Jane is the writer and director of *When the Camera Stopped Rolling*, which premiered in November 2021 at the Sydney Film Festival.

Mary became a sculptor and one of her works is incorporated in the pulpit of St John's Anglican Cathedral in Anne Street, Brisbane. She became a Deaconess in Sydney at a Baptist Church and died in 1919.

¹¹⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 November 2004, (date unknown).

In 1943, Robin was living with his parents in Bardon. At age 17, he enlisted on 12 August in the RANR. He gave his religion as Baptist and served as a Petty Officer in supplies at HMAS *Moreton* in Bulimba and HMAS *Rushcutter* in Sydney and on a variety of Australian warships including the HMAS sloops *Swan* and *Penguin*.

In December 1944, he was a deserter from His Majesty's Service. In the arrest warrant, he was described as "18 years, 5 ft 9in, fresh complexion, auburn hair, green eyes, from HMAS *Penguin*". A reward not exceeding £3 was offered for his arrest.¹¹⁵ He had been missing since 3 November. He was "recovered" on 5 January 1945.

He was found guilty of theft of a motor truck in February 1945, fined £20 or 3 months in HMAS *Moreton* and discharged on completion of his sentence, for desertion.

Robin was again in trouble with the law in 1946 when he forfeited his bail of £10 for failing to appear on a charge of being under the influence of liquor while in charge of a motor car.¹¹⁶ It was his first offence.

In late 1946, Robin went disguised as Santa Claus to a dance given by Mrs TGH Jones, to aid the Women's College Building Appeal in the Milton Tennis Clubhouse.

In 1949, Robin announced his engagement to Jill Jaeger of Bardon.¹¹⁷ It seems that Robin and Jill did not marry.



Robin Fraser, 1936
(Photo: *The Telegraph*)



Robin Fraser and Edna Mauch, 1946
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

¹¹⁵ *South Australian Police Gazette*, 13 December 1944, p 409.

¹¹⁶ *The Telegraph*, 29 June 1946, p. 12.

¹¹⁷ *Sunday Mail*, 25 September 1949, p. 10.

Robin was not in membership at the Tabernacle and his only association with the church was his mother, who he regularly drove to church.

Among other business ventures, Robin established and operated the hugely successful Lizard Island resort, off Cairns.¹¹⁸

It is possible that he married Peggy and that in 1954, they were living in Wilston where Robin was a café proprietor. They then moved to Kedron, where in 1958, Robin was working as an executive.

Robin had several wives and has been married to Pam for over four decades. They now live in Yamba, in Northern NSW.

¹¹⁸ Castle J, Personal communication, 2012

Gough, William James Edward Isaac

Bill, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 15 June 1924, the fifth child of William and Victoria Gough (née Bradburne). William and Victoria were married at Victoria's home, *Heathcot*, 74 Isaac Street, Spring Hill in January 1914. There had been a bereavement in the Gough family and it was a custom at the time not to have a church wedding during the mourning period. The death was probably that of Bill's maternal grandfather, James Martin who died in December 1913. In

keeping with the custom at the time, Bill's maternal great grandmother, Letitia Blackburn wore black for 12 months after her grandmother's passing.

Victoria died in 1956. Edward was not good at repairs or doing manual work, so their nephew Walter Bradburne did all the work about the house.¹¹⁹ Bill was best man at Walter's marriage to Zena Gralton in 1942. His uncle Vere served in the Light Horse in World War I.

Bill's siblings were Annie (who died in infancy), Lillian, Dorothy (who married James Morris at the Tabernacle in 1952), Queenie (Mrs Eric Praeger), June, and Darcy (who married Gweneth Skerman at the Tabernacle in 1955).

Bill's father was an insurance agent and died of peritonitis in November 1941. Eric and Queenie's story is told elsewhere.



Victoria Gough, outside 74 Isaac Street
Back row, left to right: William Bradburne, Dorothy,
Victoria, Lillian, Queenie, and Vere Bradburne
Front row, left to right: Darcy, June, Bill
(Photo: H McMillan)



Dorothy, Darcy, Bill, Queenie, Lillian, and June
Gough (Photo: H McMillan)

¹¹⁹ McMillan H, Personal communication, 2022.

Bill was a student at the State Commercial High School, located in George Street Brisbane, in 1939 when he sat the Junior Public Examination. He had studied English, History, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Free Hand Drawing, and Steno typing. He was also granted both General and Commercial Endorsed Certificates. He joined the Commercial Bank of Australia in 1940.

Although neither Bill nor his father came into membership, his mother and sisters Lillian, Dorothy, Queenie, and June, all came into membership between 1938 and 1953 following their baptisms. Bill gave his denomination as Presbyterian when he enlisted. Dorothy's marriage to James Morris in 1952 was conducted by Rev FT Smith at the Tabernacle. June was also a member of the Young People's CE in the late 1940s and early 1950s and treasurer in the late 1950s.

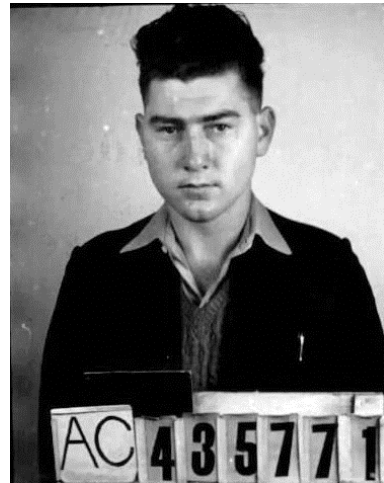
In 1943–44, Lillian was the treasurer of the Baptist Girls' War League which had a busy year making layettes and other garments as required for the Mothercraft Association, and in sending letters and canteen orders to the boys of the Forces who were connected with the Church, all of which had been greatly appreciated.¹²⁰

After the war, Lillian took on the role of secretary of the Young People's CE. She married Edward Cox at the Tabernacle in 1947.

Darcy came into membership in December 1947 following his baptism by Rev Ernest Laxton, the Minister of the Essendon Baptist Church, Victoria. (Rev Laxton pastored at the Tabernacle in December 1947 in the interim between the death of Rev Albert Butler in July 1947 and the commencement of the ministry of Rev Smith in April 1947.) Darcy was also a member of the Young People's CE in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Will Stay was his teacher when he was preparing for his Trinity College of Music, London examinations on the organ in 1945–46. In



Bill Gough
(Photo: H McMillan)



Bill Gough, 1943
(Photo: National Archives of Australia)

¹²⁰ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook 1943–44*, p. 18.

1950, Darcy played an organ-piano duet with Joan Stay at a sacred concert at the Central Baptist Church, Ipswich.

Darcy and Gwen Skerman were married by Rev Smith at the Tabernacle in 1955. Darcy transferred his membership to Nundah in 1968 but returned to the Tabernacle when he became the church organist from the end of 1970, following the retirement, after 34 years, of Will Stay. He continued in that role until the present organist, Len Ryan took on the role in May 1989.

Bill was conscripted into the AIF in Fortitude Valley on 1 July 1942, aged 18. He was a private in the 15th Infantry Training Battalion and did his training in Glen Innes and Warwick and served as a clerk, based on his training and occupation prior to being conscripted.

Aged 19, he transferred to the RAAF on 17 July 1943 and was posted to No 36 Squadron and served as a navigator/wireless operator, based in Townsville. He had achieved the rank of flight sergeant by the time of his discharge in November 1945. Bill's mother was his next-of-kin due to his father's death.

Bill's squadron was involved in transporting food, supplies and people. He was the navigator/wireless operator, primarily in DC-3 Dakotas. He didn't talk that much about his involvement in the war, but he did many airdrops of food and supplies—biscuit bombing, in his words—to the islands, especially Papua, New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, and many small islands hardly visible on an atlas. They also transported nurses to those places. Bill was generally not involved directly in any combat.



DC3 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

His daughter Robyn recalls his recounting of an incident in the Philippines which remains etched in her memory. Bill had flown to the Philippines and landed at a United States airbase. There were many US planes at the base at the time. The Australian contingent was directed to park away over the other side of the airfield where there was space. There was no accommodation for them so they slept in their plane, which was a common occurrence. That night, there was a bombing raid on the airfield by the Japanese. When Bill and his colleagues got out of their plane to witness the aftermath, they realised that all the US planes that had been

lined up alongside the airstrip had been destroyed. But the Australian plane had been spared, presumably because it was parked so far away from the others.¹²¹

Norma Cheesman was born in Biggenden in 1925, the younger daughter of Alwyn and Gladys Cheesman of Nambour. She studied Bookkeeping, Business Methods, Shorthand, and Typewriting. She also studied piano with Edith Innes and was awarded a credit in the Grade IV exam of the Australian Music Examination Board in 1939 and was awarded a prize for progress of a half-term's tuition. Her brother Edwin Cheesman was a signaller in the AIF, in Stourbridge, England.

Bill and Norma met in Nambour in 1947, when Bill was a clerk at the Commercial Bank of Australia and Norma was a clerk at the English, Scottish and Australian Bank. They were married in the St Alban's Church of England, (Anglican Church) Wilston on 16 October 1948.

Bill and Norma had two sons, Russell, and Gregory (Greg) and a daughter Robyn (Mrs Peter Crow).

After the war, Bill and Norma were living in West End in 1949. They moved to North Rockhampton, Stafford, Dubbo, Caringbah (Sydney), Kew (Melbourne), and Beecroft (Sydney), as Bill progressed up the promotion ladder. In 1975, he was in the Inspectors' Officer Melbourne, as Manager Credit and Lending Sydney.



Bill Gough, 1944
(Photo: H McMillan)

Bill was transferred to Wellington, New Zealand, to take up the role of Manager for New Zealand with the Commercial Bank of Australia. While in New Zealand, he also served one term as Chairman of the New Zealand Bankers Association. He continued as Manager for New Zealand until the Commercial Bank of Australia amalgamated with the Bank of New South Wales in 1982, to form the Westpac Banking Corporation. Bill returned to Sydney and became Chief Manager for Westpac until his retirement in 1985, having worked for over 45 years in banking. He then served as President of the CBA Retired Officers Club for many years.

Norma was a regular churchgoer all her life. Bill and Norma always belonged to a local Anglican church wherever they were living. They attended St Alban's

¹²¹ Crow R, Personal communication, 2021.

Gough, William James Edward Isaac

Anglican Church, Epping, for over 20 years, following their return to Sydney in 1982.

Bill died in Parramatta on 29 September 2010, aged 86. Norma died in 2021, aged 95. Their ashes have been scattered in the rose garden in the grounds of St Alban's Church.

Gurnett-Smith, Alban Frederick OA

Alban was born in Sandringham, Victoria on 9 January 1923, the son of Gurnett and Florence (Emily) Smith (née Hill) and grew up in Taroom and Wheatvale (about 19 km west of Warwick). Gurnett was a farmer and grazier who served in the AIF in France during World War I as a veterinarian. He was a deacon, Sunday School superintendent, and lay preacher in the Warwick Baptist Church. Gurnett's brother Roland also enlisted in World War II. He was also on the diaconate and the Christian Endeavour Superintendent at Warwick and became a Baptist minister.

Gurnett and Emily moved to Brisbane in the early 1940s so that Gurnett could take up a clerical position at the GPO. He collapsed and died from heart failure, aged 52, while conducting the morning service at Nundah Baptist Church on 28 February 1943. He had just concluded the children's address. The minister of the church, Rev George Haughan said that:

Mr Smith had been appointed leader of a big spiritual campaign, and we were in the middle of preparation for it. Everybody followed him because everybody loved him. He was a splendid personality.¹²²

A lengthy tribute was published in *The Australian Baptist*. His sermon notes, which were found in his Bible, and summarised at his funeral would "if he had been spared to deliver it have been one of the most telling messages that ever fell from his lips."¹²³ Emily died in 1944. Her funeral was also held at the Nundah Baptist Church.

Alban had two brothers, Raymond, and Graham. Alban changed his family name from Smith to Gurnett-Smith in August 1944. Neither of his brothers changed their family name. In Warwick the family was known as "the Gurnett Smiths", presumably to distinguish them from other Smith families in the district, so Alban decided to make it "official", and in honour of his father.

Alban sat for the Queensland University Junior Public Examination in 1936, at Warwick State High School. He was then a student at the Queensland Agricultural High School and College in Gatton in 1939 and was awarded an open scholarship to the University of Queensland.

He transferred his church membership from Warwick to the Tabernacle in August 1940 when he was a university student, living at King's College, River Terrace, Kangaroo Point. He later transferred his membership to Griffith, New South Wales in 1946.

¹²² *The Telegraph*, 1 March 1943, p. 3.

¹²³ *The Australian Baptist*, 9 March 1943, p. 5.

Alban was living with his parents in Toombul when he enlisted in Fortitude Valley on 18 January 1943, aged 21. (He may have added a year to his age on his enlistment papers.) He had already qualified with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) and Diploma of Dairying from the Queensland Agricultural College. He may have delayed his enlistment until he had completed his university studies.

He served as a lieutenant in the AAMC (Malaria Control Unit) in New Guinea, Bougainville, Morotai (Maluka Islands) and Labuan (Malaysia) from August 1943 until February 1946, for just over three years—a total of 1,129 days.

Alban's instructor in the Land Headquarters School of Malaria Control's advanced course in malaria vector identification and recently developed control measures, reported that he was suitable for employment in the entomological systematics and survey work in the Anti-Malaria Control Unit for entomological instruction work for AMCU personnel. Captain Frederick Perkins commented that Alban was an excellent type who had helped to create a good tone in the school. He gained 97.5% on the written examination and 80% on the practical exam.



AF Gurnett-Smith, 1943 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)



Malaria Control Unit, New Guinea
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Grace Oliver was born in Rockhampton in 1921, the daughter of John and Lucinda Oliver. Grace was living with her parents in Coorparoo up until her wedding and had an older sister, Eliza and three younger sisters, Marion, Mary, and Lucinda. Marion came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1939.

John Oliver, AFIA was treasurer of the Queensland Home Mission Committee and president of the Queensland Baptist Union in 1943–44. His presidential address, titled *The Power that is Ours*, was published in *The Australian Baptist*. He introduced his address with:

This year will be a most important one in the history of our Union. We have some big problems to solve, some important decisions to make. Only as we seek and obtain Divine strength and guidance can these be made rightly.

It may be that in the goodness of God the war clouds may clear in the near future, perhaps earlier than we expect. We must prepare now for post-war conditions. Sooner or later a great army of our young men and women, who have been in service for King and country, will be returning to civil life. Will they return to Church life?¹²⁴

Alban was on leave, while still serving in the AIF, when he and Grace Oliver were married at the Tabernacle on 14 August 1944 by Rev Albert Butler. Kenneth Hirst was one of their witnesses. Grace had come into membership at the Tabernacle in 1938 and her sisters Marion, May, and Lucinda were baptised by Rev Butler and joined the following year or later.

Immediately after the war, Alban was appointed assistant bacteriologist in the Department of Agriculture and Stock and was to be stationed at the Yeerongpilly Animal Health Station.¹²⁵

In 1946, when Alban and Grace were living at the Irrigation Research Station in Griffith, where Alban was an assistant research officer, their church memberships were transferred to Griffiths. He was a regular contributor to *The Murrumbidgee Irrigator* and in June 1946, wrote: "As a newcomer from Queensland, my first impressions of the [Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area] are, first, the co-operative spirit that prevails here; secondly, the extent of land affected by salting; thirdly, the deterioration in soil structure, and finally, the extent of paspalum growth in ditches."¹²⁶



AF Gurnett-Smith, Rev FP McMaster (Canberra Baptist Church), Dr Gardner and Mrs Taylor (Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, USA), 1959
(Photo: *The Canberra Times*)

Alban and Grace and their three daughters migrated from Montreal, Canada to Sydney via London in 1955 on the SS *Empress of Australia* and *Himalaya*. Alban had been a research officer working at the Australian Scientific Liaison Office in London. The family had previously lived in the United States. They settled in Acton, Canberra where Alban continued work as a research officer. In 1958, he became assistant to the chief of the Commonwealth Scientific

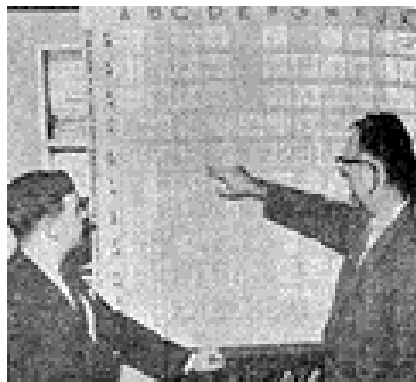
¹²⁴ *The Australian Baptist*, 28 September 1943, pp. 1, 4.

¹²⁵ *Queensland Country Life*, 7 March 1946, p. 13.

¹²⁶ *The Murrumbidgee Irrigator*, 7 June 1946, p. 6

and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Division of Land Research and Regional Survey.

Alban was the Secretary of the congress organising committee for the January 1964 congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.¹²⁷ Almost 4,000 scientists, technologists and educators attended the week-long congress.



AF Gurnett-Smith (left) and GL Williamson, 1963
(Photo: *The Canberra Times*)

In 1965, Alban was president of the ACT Agricultural Science Institute and in 1966, was appointed Secretary of the Agricultural and Biological Sciences in the CSIRO and then in 1975 he was appointed to the Australian Development Advisory Board.

He was included in the 1983 Australia Day Honours Awards.

Mr Alban Frederick Gurnett-Smith of Deakin also becomes a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), for public service. He was an officer with the CSIRO from 1946-1982 and was in charge of the Centre for International Research Cooperation from 1978 to 1982.¹²⁸

Alban and Grace had three daughters, Marion (Lorraine), Marina, and Adriane (Mrs Clyde Dunlop). Lorraine was born in Griffith in 1947. She remained single and worked in the Commonwealth Public Service in Canberra, until at least 1999 but now lives on the Gold Coast. Marina sat for the Higher School Certificate in 1972 in Goulbourn. Adriane was a student at Telopea Park High School in 1966 when she was awarded an American Field Service scholarship to the United States. Towards the end of her twelve-month stay in the US she revisited Washington, where she had lived for four years while her father was scientific liaison officer at the Australian Embassy. After her return to Canberra she undertook an arts degree at the Australian National University.¹²⁹ and married Clyde.

Alban and Grace were involved in the Canberra Garden Club from its formation in 1971 and in the 1980s were also involved with World Vision International, and Lifeline (as chairman of the facilities committee and president of the board). In

¹²⁷ *The Canberra Times*, 13 June 1963, p.12.

¹²⁸ *The Canberra Times*, 26 January 1983, p. 14.

¹²⁹ *The Canberra Times*, 1 December 1966, p. 20.

1984 he spent about two weeks in Ethiopia as a consultant for World Vision, looking at long-term rural-community projects.

Alban and Grace remained in Deakin, ACT until at least 1980. In 1988–94 Alban regularly competed in social bowls competitions of the ACT.

Grace died in 2002 and Alban died on 30 September 2003 aged 80. A Thanksgiving Service was held in the Canberra Baptist Church. Alban was survived by his three daughters, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

His daughter Marina describes him as a very committed Christian, who came home from the war, determined to create world peace. He was given an Order of Australia (OA) for his work in underdeveloped countries, mainly Indonesia. He never marched in an Anzac March with his medals. His family were all very proud of him.¹³⁰

¹³⁰ Gurnett-Smith M, Personal communication, 2021.

Ham, Edwin Charles

Edwin was born in Toowoomba on 16 December 1921, the son of Charles and Mary Ham (née Hurford). Edwin's siblings were George, Dorothy (Elsie, Mrs George Ham), and Joyce (Mrs Mervyn Wheat). Elsie's marriage to George Ham in 1938, in the Vulture Street Church, was conducted by Rev Thomas Warriner. Mervyn's story is recounted elsewhere.

Edwin's older brother George, also served in World War II. After the war, he was on the central staff of the Department of Immigration in Canberra. He is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

Charles and Joyce came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1942, on transfer from the Vulture Street Church. George came into membership in 1945. Other members of the extended Ham family had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1892, when Alfred Ham joined the church.

Edwin was a scholar at the Vulture Street Baptist Church Sunday School in 1932 when he sat the junior division of the Sunday School Scripture Examination. In 1935, he was successful in the State Scholarship Examination.

Edwin and Margaret (Betty) Wheat announced their engagement in August 1944, while Edwin was in the RAAF. They were married by Rev Albert Butler at the Tabernacle on 9 January 1945, and were attended by Patricia Howard and Flight-Lieutenant Len Froud. Betty was born in 1922, the daughter of John and Margaret Wheat. Their reception was held at the home of the bride's parents in Didsbury Street, East Brisbane. Edwin and Betty had both come into membership at the Tabernacle in 1942, on transfer from Vulture Street. Edwin was also a member of the Loyal Prince of Wales Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Edwin was a mechanic in the Central Automatic Telephone Exchange at the Brisbane General Post Office on 25 July 1940, aged 18 years and six months, when he enlisted in the AMF. He later transferred to the RAAF as a flight-lieutenant, with the Air-Sea Rescue Flight.

The following story, under the title "Airmen's Thrilling Experience" is illustrative of Edwin's "adventures" in the war.

Writing from "somewhere abroad" to his parents, Mr and Mrs Charles Ham, of Diggora, 166 km north of Melbourne, Flying Officer Edwin Ham tells this gripping story:-

It is now 7 pm, 14 March 1945, and although I wrote only three days ago I have plenty of news, even of today's events, to fill a book. This morning Dick and I were first emergency for an O.P.P., and when one of the other kites became 4/s before take-off, we took off in its place. We went out 850 nautical miles and began a sweep with another aircraft. We spotted a bridge and proceeded to attack it. On our first run there was a terrific explosion just below us, but everything seemed OK, so we carried on and made three more runs. Just after completing the third run and when we were at 300 feet our port motor stopped completely. Dick had it feathered in about five seconds. He put the starboard motor on full bore while

we got ready to ditch in the sea. After five minutes it became apparent that so long as our starboard motor kept going we could stay in the air. Meanwhile I had contacted base 400 miles away on the radio, also the other aircraft with us, and a Catalina, which happened to be about 50 miles away behind us. With our starboard engine going full bore, we gradually climb to 1500 feet, although we made progress crabwise, with one wing up and the other down. We managed to climb at 135 mph. (the normal staling speed with both engines). When we levelled out, and Dick got her trimmed properly, we got along at 150 mph., but 400 miles from base. What a hope! The Catalina was coming after us full bore, but his full bore speed couldn't overtake us. The other aircraft with us had a lot of trouble to keep going as slow as we, but with his flaps down he managed it. I was in continuous contact with base, the Cat. and the aircraft with us. After about 1 hour 15 minutes we were still going OK, with storms and rain all around us. The Catalina told us that if we ditched between there and base he couldn't land on the sea to pick us up. However, we kept going on our one motor; the other propellor was stationary. Gee, it looked funny! We had to dodge storms as best we could, but at times we lost sight of the sea in rain and cloud. I was flat out plotting the courses, which was made harder owing to the fact that with one motor gone the kite drifts a certain way without respect to the compass; also, I was working the radio every couple of minutes. We just about had the air to ourselves, as the frequency was cleared for our own use in case of having to ditch. After about 3 ½ hours we sighted land again, only about 20 miles from where I calculated, and by this time had climbed to 2300 feet. We crossed a range of hills about 2000 feet and kept going. Meanwhile, back at base the strip was cleared with ambulance and fire tender nearby. We sighted base, and came straight in, to land in heavy rain and poor visibility. We found our flaps wouldn't come down, while our undercart came down very slowly. We came on to the strip at 140 mph. (35 mph high due to no flaps) and touched down OK. Our tail wheel had been smashed, and this soon slowed our speed. We pulled up at the end of the strip and got out to inspect the damage. We had several lumps of shrapnel through our port engine and about 40 holes in the wings and fuselage, not to mention the tail wheel, which had had it in large lumps. It's amazing that it flew at all; yet Dick had flown it back 400 miles, which equals the greatest distance that any one has flown back on one engine. All I can say is that his skill and endurance were magnificent: wouldn't be surprised if he gets a DFC. out of it. He certainly deserves it. He saved the Government thousands of pounds, not to mention our lives and possible captivity by the Nips. I'm certain now that he's the best pilot in the squadron. All the other pilots are, amazed, and we are the chief topic tonight for once.¹³¹

Another adventure was reported under the banner "Q'ld Pilot's Sea Rescue".

Half an hour after ditching their plane in the sea north of the Halmaheras, the crew of a Beaufighter was rescued by an RAAF Catalina. The Beaufighter was piloted by Flight-Lieutenant Colin Williams (Brisbane), and his navigator was Flight-Sergeant A Hamilton (Mackay). Williams was



RAAF Air-sea Rescue Flight, Catalina
(Source: *BirtwistleWiki*)

¹³¹ *The Riverina Herald*, 21 April 1945, p. 7.

leading a formation of Beaufighters when the port engine cut out. Forty miles from home the plane lost height at 800 feet a minute and had to be 'ditched.' Half an hour after receiving the rescue call, the Catalina piloted by Flight-Lieutenant Edwin Ham (Coorparoo), picked up the Beaufighter's crew.¹³²

Then Acting Flight-Lieutenant Leonard (Len) Froud and Acting Flight-Lieutenant Edwin Ham were both mentioned in despatches "for distinguished services in the North-Western Area".¹³³

Len was born in England in 1921, less than eight months before Edwin. He migrated to Adelaide in 1927 with his mother Minnie, older brother Robert and younger sister Eileen. His father, Percival was a seaman. The family was living in Coorparoo in 1943.



ANA logo

(Source: *Tasmanian Aviation History Society*)

After the war, Edwin became a first officer with Australian National Airways (ANA), which became Ansett Airways in 1957 and was later known as Ansett Airlines of Australia.

Edwin and Betty had two sons, John, born in 1945, and Richard.

Edwin died in Coorparoo on 12 December 1948 aged 26.

A three-year old child was burned to death when a house in Mackay Street, off Cavendish Road, Coorparoo, was destroyed by fire late at night. His father, First-Officer Edwin Ham, 28, an Australian National Airways' (ANA) pilot, was rushed to hospital suffering from burns and shock. A second child, a 15-month-old boy, was saved from the flames by his mother, who is also suffering from shock. The fire started in the six-roomed weatherboard home about 11:30 pm. Police believe the fire began at the back of the house in a refrigerator. The dead boy was John Ham. His father is in the Mater Public Hospital, where he is on the dangerously ill list, and doctors early this morning were battling to save his life. He was reported to have been scorched "from head to toe" trying to save his son, and he was receiving blood transfusions. First-Officer Ham had 5½ years' war service in Catalinas.

Ernestine Bennett who lived next door said: "I was awakened about 11:30 pm by Mr Ham screaming out 'Get John, get John.' I called my husband and we ran to our back steps and saw the Ham's house ablaze. Mr Ham rushed to our back steps screaming. The clothing was almost burned off him, he was badly shocked and was bleeding terribly. As he collapsed, my daughter-in-law, Mrs CG Bennett, threw a blanket round him while we telephoned the ambulance." Mrs Betty Ham was also badly shocked. She went to hospital with her husband in the ambulance. Police and firemen searching in the gutted house at 12:10 am found the

¹³² *The Courier Mail*, 2 June 1945, p. 3.

¹³³ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 11 May 1945, p. 1082.

body of the child in a back room, where he had been sleeping. His brother Richard had been sleeping in a sleepout a few yards from John's room, but he was rescued by his mother. Neighbours are looking after Richard.

Mr Ham and his wife went to bed at 9 o'clock in a front room. When they awoke at 11:30 the back part of the house was enveloped in flames. Mr Ham was burned as he dashed into the roaring flames towards John's bedroom to try to find him. People in the street stood in silence as a fireman brought John's body from the house and placed it in an undertaker's car. A woman standing in the crowd sobbed quietly.

The Ham neighbours on the other side are Mr and Mrs HJ Williamson and their 26 year-old daughter Miss Jessie Williamson. They were awakened when people hammered on their front door to tell them the house next door was ablaze. Mr Williamson, who is only just out of hospital after a severe operation and is still convalescing, dashed to the blazing house followed by his wife and daughter. They could hear the screams of Mr and Mrs Ham as they tried to rescue their children. Mr Williamson had to be restrained from entering the burning home. Mrs Williamson said: "It was terrible. We could hear Mrs Ham calling out to her husband to get John. The house was well alight then." Mrs Ham gave Richard over the fence to Jessie Williamson, who took him into the Williamson home. Mr Bennett and Jessie Williamson and her father attempted to fight the fire with garden hoses, but it swept through the building. Brigades from Coorparoo and Woollongabba were unable to prevent the house being gutted. After the fire the walls of the house were still standing, but the interior had been burnt out.¹³⁴



Edwin and John Ham
(Photo: *The Courier-Mail*)

The next day it was reported that Edward Ham, died in hospital early this morning, from injuries he received while attempting, unsuccessfully, to rescue his son from the blazing house. Ham died in the Mater Hospital at 5.30 a.m. His death ended a six-hour battle by five doctors at the hospital who gave him seven blood transfusions in an attempt to save his life. Ham joined the ANA after his discharge from the RAAF in December 1945. As a flight-lieutenant during the war, he was mentioned in despatches for saving the life of his crew when he was forced to "ditch" a crippled Catalina during the assault on Borneo. In June 1945, as skipper of another Catalina, he rescued the crew of a Beaufighter who had been forced to "ditch" their 'plane in the sea north of the Halmaheras. He also ferried 'planes from the United States to Australia and made two operational tours.¹³⁵

In a front page article in *The Courier Mail*, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade chief, Mr George Healy, in describing Edwin's attempt to save his son, said: "It was an extraordinary act of courage." Fellow ANA pilot First Officer John Dickie, said the rescue attempt was "just the sort of thing Ed would do." Commander Andrew

¹³⁴ *Sunday Mail*, 12 December 1948, p. 1.

¹³⁵ *Queensland Times*, 13 December 1948, p. 3.

Munro, senior route captain for ANA, said Ham would have received his captaincy with ANA. He was “highly thought of”.¹³⁶

His funeral was held at the Tabernacle on the 14th. Former Flight Officer W Kelly and rear navigator Flight Lieutenant Douglas Nolan, two former members of Edwin’s wartime Catalina crew from Grafton and Young, flew from Sydney, at very short notice, to be pall-bearers at his funeral.

Baptist circles and, indeed, all Brisbane, were shocked by the, humanly speaking, tragic happening early last Sunday morning when fire destroyed the home of a young Baptist couple and took the lives of the husband and father and his three year-old son. The fire had already secured a strong hold when the parents awakened. The father, Edwin Ham, with the courage which had characterised his service as a pilot of Catalinas during the war years, instantly went to the assistance of his elder child. His effort was a noble failure and he was so badly burned that after a six-hour fight to save his life, he, too, entered into the presence of the King.

Edwin Ham was a member of a fine Baptist family, which was for many years associated with our Vulture Street Church. He was, at the time of his death, a member of the City Tabernacle, whose Minister, Rev FT Smith conducted the double cremation service.

The Tabernacle was overcrowded with mourners and friends who thus paid silent tribute to a heroic sacrifice. Noticeable were the number of ministers present, the representatives of the staffs of ANA (for which company Mr Ham was a pilot), the TAA, Ansett Airlines, the Catalina Association, and young men of the Vulture-Street Church, with whom Edwin was associated in Christian service.

Services at the church and crematorium were of a high tone, and a fine contribution was made by the organist, Mr Will Stay, to the spirit of the service. Members of ANA, and the Catalina Association acted as pall-bearers.

The loving sympathy of the whole denomination is feelingly extended to Mrs Ham and Baby Richard, to Mr Ham, senior, and all the members of the bereaved families. At various meetings since the event, they have been lovingly commended to the comfort of the Most High.¹³⁷

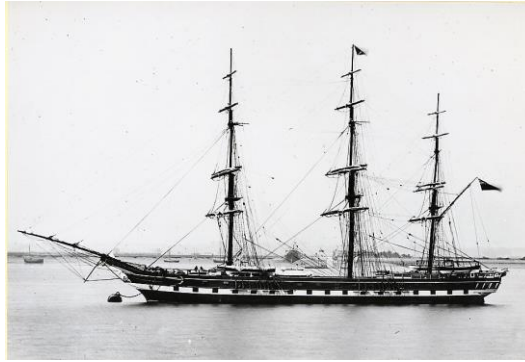
Edwin was survived by his son Richard and wife Betty who remained a widow. In 1958, she moved from Temple Street Coorparoo to *The Nook* Southport where she was working as a stenographer. She remained at Southport until at least 1963.

¹³⁶ *The Courier Mail*, 13 December 1948, p. 1.

¹³⁷ *The Australian Baptist*, 21 December 1948, p. 4.

Hayes, Stephen Arthur

Stephen Brett and Emma Butler were married in Woolwich, Kent, England in 1874. They had two children, Stephen, and William in England prior to their emigration to Queensland in February 1880, as assisted migrants, aboard the SS *Earl Dalhousie*. They had a further seven children in Queensland: Sarah, Esther, Una, Walter, Edward, Helena, and Mabel.



Earl Dalhousie

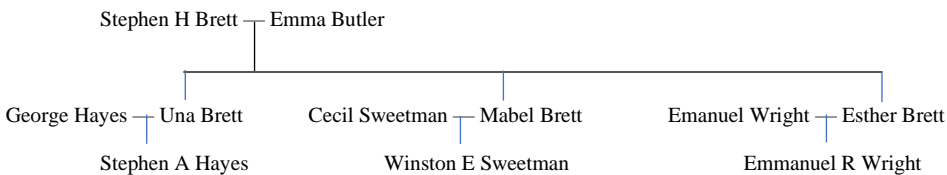
(Photo: State Library of South Australia)

In 1889–95, the family were living in Bulimba. Stephen worked as a labourer. They later moved to Red Hill (1900–04) and Kelvin Grove (1905–21).

Stephen and Emma's youngest daughter Mabel came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1942, several years after her marriage to Cecil Sweetman in 1921, and their daughter Una and granddaughter Beryl Hayes both came into membership in 1931.

Stephen and Emma both died in Brisbane, in 1922 and 1930, respectively.

Una's son Stephen Hayes, Mabel's son Winston Sweetman and Esther's son Emmanuel Wright all enlisted in World War II and are listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour.



Stephen was born in Brisbane on 22 February 1922, the son of George and Una Hayes (née Brett). Stephen and his older sister Beryl grew up in Newmarket, where their father was a fuel merchant, and owned a garage in New Farm. George was a Right Worshipful Brother and treasurer of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland (UGLQ). Although not in membership, George and Una attended the Tabernacle and took their children there. When he enlisted, Stephen gave his religion as Baptist. Una died in 1964 and George died in 1970. Una's funeral was conducted in the Tabernacle.

Although Stephen did not come into membership at the Tabernacle, his sister Beryl did in 1931 and she remained in membership until her death, as a spinster in 1967. She sang in the choir for many years. Stephen was also a worshipful brother in the Aberleigh Lodge of the UQLG.

Stephen went to Intermediate School, Brisbane North (Newmarket) and then worked for Barry and Roberts in the Temple Buildings in George St, as an office boy. He was still employed by Barry and Roberts, as a clerk when he enlisted.

When he enlisted in the Citizen RAAF on 8 July 1940 as an 18-year-old, Stephen nominated his mother as next-of-kin because his father did not give his approval for his enlistment. He was living in Brisbane with both his father and mother at the time. He gave as his reason for enlisting that he was “patriotic”. He provided references from Mr HE Martin, head teacher at the ISBN, and Robert Horn, minister of the Windsor Road Baptist Church, who wrote, in part:

I have known Mr S Hayes during the last three years and can speak with confidence of his industry and integrity.

Any position of trust would be filled with credit to himself and all concerned.

I have much pleasure in commending him to your confidence.

He was initially appointed as an aircraftman but was later promoted to leading aircraftman (November 1940), and sergeant (December 1941). As part of his training, he completed the equivalent of high school in several subjects.

He re-mustered on 27 March 1943 and qualified as a pilot but after he had finished training, it was realised that his eyesight was considered inadequate to be a pilot.

Despite this, because he was trained as a pilot on multiple aircraft as well as having navigation skills he was sent to England. He sailed on the SS *Queen Mary* across the Atlantic and was based in Scotland as a pilot on Lancaster and Avro Anson aircraft with



Barry and Roberts Store, George St, Brisbane, (Photo: State Library of Queensland)



Stephen Hayes, (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

the RAAF. In England, one of his responsibilities was to fly an aircraft towing a drone which was used for target practice by trainee pilots. Very few of the men with whom he trained returned from Europe.

On VE Day, he joined some mates who stole a tractor and attempted to drive it to London for the celebrations, but only got as far as a court to be court-marshalled and was told “you can’t drive a tractor to London”.¹³⁸

During the war, while he was overseas, Stephen was still registered with both his parents in Newmarket in 1943, working as an “aircraftsman”. He served overseas from 30 May 1944 until 28 November 1945, rising to the rank of warrant officer and when he was discharged on 24 January 1946, he was granted 60 days recreation leave. After his discharge, Stephen rode his Harley-Davidson motor bike from Sydney to Bundaberg, where he approached the local police station and requested a bike licence. When asked did he have a bike, he replied “Yes, I just rode it up from Sydney”. He was granted his licence without further questions or a test.

Stephen married Olive Dickson on 22 April 1946. Olive was born in 1926, the daughter of John (Jack) and Emilie Dickson of Bundaberg. Olive was working in the canteen at the Bundaberg air force base. Emilie’s maternal grandparents had migrated from Germany to Australia in the 1880s. John served in World War I in England and France and again in WW II, transporting prisoners of war and as a prison guard. Stephen and Olive had known each other since about 1941 when Stephen was stationed in Bundaberg. Olive’s family were Lutheran, and although he considered himself a Baptist, Stephen attended St John’s Lutheran Church in Bundaberg with Olive and her family.

After the war, Stephen and Olive lived in Red Hill (1949–54) where they owned a mixed business-newsagency. They moved to Bundaberg (1954–63) where they lived briefly in Olive’s father’s house before they bought their own home. Stephen was working as a sales representative for Arnott’s Biscuits, covering the territory from Rockhampton to Maryborough and west to Moura. They then returned to Brisbane, where they lived in the western suburbs and then Newmarket (1970) where Stephen was the founding manager of Arnott’s snack food department.

Stephen and Olive had two sons, Robin, and Stephen. Robin played the piano for Sunday School, and the pipe organ in the Bundaberg Lutheran Church for services on occasion. On a few occasions Robin sat with Will Stay at the organ console at the Tabernacle. Robin, on piano, accompanied his father, on violin, for concerts in old peoples’ homes in Brisbane. Stephen was second violin in an early symphony orchestra in Brisbane.

¹³⁸ Hayes R, Personal communication, 2022.

Stephen died of leukemia on 17 January 1969 aged 46. His funeral was held at St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, and he was buried in the Anzac Garden of Remembrance in the Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery, Aspley. After his death, Olive enrolled in Brisbane Legacy, but managed without its assistance.

Olive moved back to Stephen's parents' home in Newmarket. She was called home in 1993. Her funeral was also held at St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, and she was buried at Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery, Aspley.

Hirst, Clifford Frank, Kenneth Thomas Uren and Herbert Reuben

Herbert Hirst and Ellen Blamires were both born in Yorkshire, England. Herbert arrived in Sydney, unaccompanied in 1876, travelling steerage class. Herbert and Ellen were married by Rev John Soper in the Petersham Baptist Church, Sydney in 1887. Herbert was a clothing manufacturer.

Herbert and Ellen moved to Queensland shortly before the birth of their son Frank in 1889. Frank spent his early years in Wynnum and then grew up in Coorparoo. In 1910, Frank came into membership at the Tabernacle following his baptism. Herbert and Ellen's daughter Ellen's marriage to Frederick Brown at the Tabernacle in 1921 was celebrated by Rev George Pope. Their daughter Alice's marriage to Harold Wilson at the Tabernacle in 1929, was celebrated by Rev William Hurst. Another daughter, Ilma, who came into membership in 1961, died a spinster in 1975.

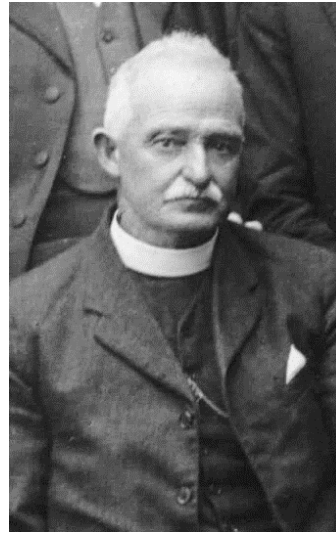
Catherine Symonds was also born in 1889, in Gympie, the daughter of Rev Thomas and Amy Symonds. Rev Symonds migrated to Australia in the 1880s and married Amy Barnes in 1888. Thomas and Amy had a further four children: Grace, Millicent, John, and Amy. The family lived in Nanango, Lanefield, Beaudesert and Ithaca while Thomas served in various Baptist churches.

Catherine, her parents, and her sisters Grace and Millicent all came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1911 on transfer.

Frank and Catherine were married in 1917 by Catherine's father, at the Baptist manse, Sandgate. Rev Symonds was the Queensland Baptist Home Mission Secretary at the time.

Frank's sisters, Amy, and Ellen (Mrs Frederick Brown) came into membership in 1912 and his brother David joined in 1914, following his baptism. Frank and Catherine's son Herbert (Reuben) joined in 1936 and their daughter Amy (May) joined in 1938. Their twin sons, Clifford and Kenneth joined in 1939.

Frank and Catherine moved south to Yandina in the 1920s. In 1928, Frank was a storekeeper in Maleny. He was the manager of the Maroochy Cooperative Society



Rev Thomas Symonds, c. 1916
(Photo: Queensland Baptist Archives)

in Yandina in 1933. Catherine was the vice-president of the Yandina branch of the Country Women's Association in 1934. Catherine's father Rev Symonds holidayed with Frank and Catherine in 1935. Frank was the church secretary at Yandina in 1931–34.

Frank and Catherine then moved to Annerley in the late 1930s. Frank served one three-year term as a deacon from 1938, until his death in 1941, and Catherine taught in the Sunday School and became superintendent of the Intermediate CE.

All three of Frank and Catherine's sons were involved in the Soldiers' Teas, accompanying Alf Ingham and other men from the church as they walked around the city and botanic gardens inviting servicemen to attend.

Catherine died in South Brisbane in 1953. Her funeral was held at the Tabernacle. Although they had four children, they did not have any grandchildren. Frank's death was noted in *The Australian Baptist*.



Cliff Hirst, Alf Ingham and Reuben Hirst.
(Photo: Tabernacle Archives)

We very deeply regret to have to record the death of Mr FHB Hirst, of Annerley. News of his decease will come to many and bring deep sorrow, as he was a man greatly esteemed and beloved, both in religious and business life. He will be remembered by our readers by his association with the church at Yandina. Since the removal of the family to Brisbane, Mr Hirst served as a deacon in the City Tabernacle, and was a member of the Council. Our deepest sympathy is expressed for Mrs Hirst ... and her sons and daughter.¹³⁹

Rev Butler referred to the great loss the Church and the diaconate had incurred by the sudden home call of Mr Hirst, and the deacons resolved to minute a cordial appreciation of his fine Christian character, earnest loyalty to the Church and denomination and the excellent services he rendered for the past 2½ years, and to convey the sympathy of them all to Mrs Hirst and the family.¹⁴⁰

Following her death in 1953, Catherine was described as a gracious Christian lady who, in her quiet, dignified way, was a glowing example of Christian womanhood, and wielded a very gracious but definite influence for her Lord and Master. Her

¹³⁹ *The Australian Baptist*, 4 February 1941, p. 5.

¹⁴⁰ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 18 February 1941.

funeral was conducted at the Tabernacle.¹⁴¹ In accordance with her will, the land she owned in Yerrongpilly was devised to her four children as tenants in common in equal shares.

Frank and Catherine had one daughter, Amy, who attended the Yandina Baptist Sunday School and was awarded honours in the intermediate examination division of the Scripture examination in 1930. She was also a member of the Tabernacle Young People's CE in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 1980, she was unmarried, living with her brother Reuben in Alderley, working as a nurse at the Brisbane General Hospital. She was one of the founding staff of the Tabernacle nursery, which continues to operate during the morning service, until she transferred her church membership to Broadbeach in 1984.

Herbert and Amy moved to Alderley in the mid-1970s.

Clifford Frank Hirst

Clifford, who was generally known as Cliff, was born in Maleny on 4 October 1921. In 1931 and 1932, he was a scholar in the Yandina Baptist Sunday School and sat for the junior division of the Sunday School Examination. He was a student at the Nambour Rural School when he sat for the Junior Public Examination in 1936 and was awarded one B grade pass and 6 C grade passes. He repeated Junior in 1937 but chose not to follow an academic career.

In January 1937, Cliff was given a reference by the manager of the Nambour branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, in which he said:

I have known this young man for several years and have been acquainted with his family for a very long period of years. I know the lad to be clean living, well behaved type and have no hesitation in recommending him to your consideration,

Cliff was appointed to a position on the staff of the Brisbane Branch of the Queensland National Bank Limited in January 1938.

He came into membership at the Tabernacle in October 1939, following his baptism, and was in the CE in 1951. Cliff was captain of the Tabernacle's B grade cricket team in 1940–42.

Cliff was living in Annerley when he enlisted in the Australian Army in Brisbane on 7 January 1942 and rose to the rank of sergeant. Due to his father's passing the previous year, his mother was nominated as his next-of-kin. He served for a total of 1,631 days including 648 days outside Australia.

In 1942, the senior scholars of the Tabernacle Sunday School offered to forfeit their annual prize and donate the money to purchase four parcels, valued at 10/-

¹⁴¹ *The Australian Baptist*, 4 March 1953, p. 12.

each to be given to four of the young men from the church in the services. Two of these canteens, along with an accompanying letter were given to Cliff and his brother Ken.

Cliff shared his extensive reminiscences of his service in the 2/6th Battalion with Sir David Hay and some of these were recounted in *Nothing Over Us*. Cliff's accounts, which are housed at the Australian War Memorial record that:

The rest of the [6th] Battalion had been preparing for the second phase of the operations against Salamaua, namely the capture of Observation Hill and the next ridge to the north. D day was fixed for 7 July [1943] and Zero at 12 noon. The CO's plan was for B Company [which included Cliff] to lead the way from the west (i.e. from the flank) and secure the high ground behind the Jap positions on Observation Hill, and for A Company to pass through them and capture the Jap positions. ... This was to be the Battalion's first set-piece attack since arriving in New Guinea, and for many of the young men since the battle for Wau, the first time in action. ... After the air strike B Company, under Captain [Henry] Gullett, led the way to Observation Hill, coming in from behind the main Japanese position. ... As recalled by Cliff Hirst who has prepared a most detailed description of B Company operations in both New Guinea campaigns, Jack [Barkley of A Company] warned the B Company men to look out for booby traps and also Jap snipers. Cliff's section was in the leading platoon. ... Cliff's description goes on:

When we struck the main track leading to Observation Hill, we turned south towards the Jap positions. Our section was forward and had advanced about 100 yards along the track when Tom [Leslie] Bowman our forward scout moved around a large clump of bamboo and was killed by a burst of Jap machine gun fire ... Bruce Lang came forward and directed the Bren gun on to the Jap position. The Japs returned the fire narrowly missing Bruce and our Bren gunner.¹⁴²

In the margin of his personal copy of Day's book, Cliff wrote: "my first action".

On 12 August 1945, the day after the final battle of the Aitape-Wewak campaign, Cliff wrote to Alf Ingham from Wewak, New Guinea. It would appear from his letter, that Cliff did not know that the battle, one of the final campaigns of the war in the Pacific was over.

Immediately after the war, Cliff was living in the Commercial Hotel, Biloela working as a bank clerk, but moved to South Brisbane in the late 1940s. While in Biloela he was on the inaugural committee of the Biloela Tennis Club.

¹⁴² Hay, D 1984 *Nothing Over Us: the story of the 2/6th Australian Infantry Battalion*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra:, pp. 325, 326.

In 1950, Cliff owned a mercer's shop in Logan Road, Stone's Corner. Three men broke into his shop on 24 May and stole clothing valued at £621/8/-.¹⁴³ Cliff's uncle, Joel Hirst was a retired clothing manufacturer when he died in 1928.

Cliff moved to Casino in the mid-1950s, where he was a storekeeper. His brother Ken was also living in Casino, but at a different address. By 1963, they were living at the same address. In 1973, Cliff was an independent candidate for the seat of Casino in the New South Wales election. He came fourth on the primary vote with 10.3% of the votes. Cliff and Ken continued to reside together until at least 1980.

Cliff was living at the Lady Small Haven on the Gold Coast when he died 30 April 2005, aged 83. He died a bachelor. His family requested no flowers, in lieu donations to Central Gold Coast Baptist Church.

Kenneth Thomas Uren Hirst

Ken, as he was commonly known, was born in Maleny on 4 October 1921. In both 1931 and 1932, Ken was a scholar in the Yandina Baptist Sunday School and was awarded an honour certificate in the junior division of the Sunday School examination.

He was a student at the Nambour Rural School when he sat for the Junior Public Examination in 1936 and was awarded one A grade pass, three B grade passes and five C grade passes. He repeated Junior in 1937 and gained slightly better results with an A in Geography, Bs in English, English History, Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry, and Cs in French, Chemistry, and Physics. He was also granted an extension to his State secondary scholarship.

He came into membership at the Tabernacle in October 1939, following his baptism, when he was living with his brother Herbert in Annerley. He was still in Annerley in 1949, working as a bank clerk. He transferred his church membership to Cairns in January 1955.

Ken was living in Innisfail when he was drafted into the Australian Army. He enlisted in Brisbane on 16 March 1942,



Cliff Hirst, Alf Ingham and Ken Hirst.
(Photo: Tabernacle Archives)

¹⁴³ *The Courier Mail*, 9 June 1950, p. 6.

aged 21, as a private (rifleman) and served in the 2/31st Battalion. While in the army, he attended training camps for intelligence officers and section leaders and undertook a clerical course. He was promoted to acting corporal in July 1942 and served in New Guinea (at battles in Lae, Markham Valley and Ramu Valley) and at Balikpapan, Borneo.

As part of his demobilisation, Ken undertook a three week course in bookkeeping and his certificate states that he “was very studious, worked well to gain full marks”. He was not discharged until 28 June 1946.

In October, November and December 1945, Ken wrote letters to Alf Ingham, Clive Morcom and Hilda Stay, from Bandjermasin, the capital of Dutch Borneo. The 2/31st Battalion had been sent there after the Japanese surrender. They were welcomed by the local Indonesians and Chinese, who had suffered under the occupation of the Japanese.

He was living in Casino with his brother Cliff in 1953, where he was an ironmonger. He was appointed a trustee of the Casino School of Arts in 1970.

Ken was also living in the Lady Small Haven, Benowa when he died on 18 July 2015 aged 93.

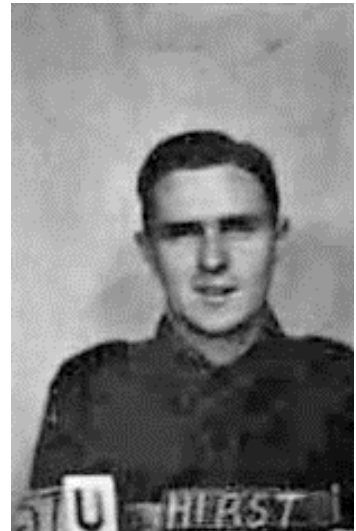
Herbert Reuben Hirst

Reuben as he was commonly known, was born 19 July 1920. He also played in the church’s cricket team.

On completion of his studies at the Brisbane Teachers’ Training College in 1937, he was appointed to a school in the St Lawrence district.

Reuben is listed in the Tabernacle Yearbook of 1946–47 as having “served in the Armed Forces of the World War, 1939–1945”, but is not listed on the Roll of Honour. The reason for this omission is unknown. He may have transferred his church membership on taking up his teaching position.

When he enlisted in the CMF at Proserpine on 30 January 1941, he was a single schoolteacher, and gave his mother, Catherine as next-of-kin. This was changed to Jean Crabb after his marriage on 21 September 1942 in the Wynnum Presbyterian Manse by Rev Andrew



Reuben Hirst, 1941 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

Wilson. Jean was born in Wynnum in 1918, the daughter of George and Rosanna Crabb.

Reuben enlisted in the AIF on 3 March 1943 and trained in Victoria and then served in Brisbane (Lytton), the Northern Territory, Sarawak, Borneo, Ceylon, and Proserpine in the Services Reconnaissance Department and the top secret Z Special Unit. His final rank was warrant officer Class 2. He was mentioned in despatches in 1945, in both Australia and England, for “distinguished services in the South-west Pacific Area”¹⁴⁴ and was discharged on 22 May 1946, having served overseas for 197 days and 1,303 days in Australia. He qualified as a parachutist in January 1945. He spent some time in Victoria with the Army Education Service between the end of hostilities and his discharge.

Reuben was granted a divorce in 1944, on the grounds of Jean’s adultery with a member of the US forces. He did not remarry.

Immediately after the war, Reuben moved back to his mother’s home in Annerley and resumed work as a teacher. In the early 1950s he was transferred to Brigalow, 20 km south-east of Chinchilla. He was back in South Brisbane by 1954, living in his mother’s home. It is not known if he returned to Brisbane before or after his mother’s passing in 1953. He was a member of the church’s cricket team at about this time. His sister Amy was living at the same address in 1954 and may have been there for some years.

By 1972, Reuben was a lecturer.

Reuben and Jean did not have any children.

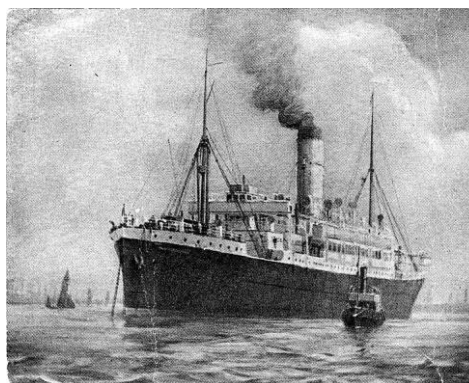
Reuben transferred his church membership to Broadbeach in 1984 and died in the Gold Coast Hospital on 3 November 1987 aged 67.

¹⁴⁴ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 6 March 1947, p. 746.

Holmans, Alan Harry

Alan was born in Paddington, Lancashire on 16 July 1901, the son of William and Elizabeth Holmans (née Guthrie). In April 1911, the family were living in Willesden, Middlesex, England.

Alan migrated to Brisbane in 1911 aged 10, on the SS *Themistocles*, with his parents, older sister Amy (whose marriage to James Larkin in 1926 at the Tabernacle, was solemnised by her brother, Rev Will Holmans) and brothers William (Will) and Hugh. Another sister Margaret had died in infancy in England. William and Elizabeth came into membership at the Tabernacle in January 1912, within a year of arriving in Australia. Elizabeth died in 1945 and William died in 1953. His funeral was held at the Tabernacle.



SS *Themistocles*
(Photo: State Library of Queensland)

Alan's sister Amy joined the church in 1914 and his brother, Will, joined in 1915. Their younger brother, Hugh did not join the church. Amy was a Sunday School teacher and Alan was treasurer of the Intermediate CE Society in 1918–19. Although he was involved in the church, Alan did not come into membership.

Will was in the CMF in 1911–20 and enlisted in World War II in April 1942, having become a Baptist pastor in Queensland. He was appointed an acting sergeant and undertook a map reading course and served in Murgon until March 1945. His life story is outlined in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*. He is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour, because he had transferred his membership to Nambour when he was appointed as the Home Mission pastor there in 1929.

Alan was engaged to Winnie Townsend in 1924 but did not marry her. It is likely that Winnie married John Hamilton in 1931.

From 1925 until 1943, Alan was living alone in Indooroopilly, working as a jeweller.

Alan was Chief Templar of the Good Templars' Lodge. The Delenco Lodge Number 7 met for the first time in the new Temperance Hall, Edward Street, in 1928. Alan presided and intimated that final arrangements had been made for the

celebration of the Jubilee of the Lodge. On Sunday September 9, a church parade was held at the Tabernacle, when Rev William Hurst preached a temperance sermon.¹⁴⁵

At the age of 38, Alan enlisted in the AMF in Kelvin Grove on 20 October 1939. He had incorrectly given his age as 34. This was not corrected in the records until 1944. He was assigned to the 6th division 2nd AIF, in the Australian Army Ordnance Corp Recovery Section of the 2/1 Army Federal Workshop. He was a qualified motor engineer (panel beater). Even though his father was still alive, he nominated his mother as his next-of-kin. This was later changed to Agnes after their marriage. He gave his religion as Baptist.

In February 1940 he was appointed acting corporal and sent to Melbourne, probably for his initial training, then transferred to Ingleburn (Sydney). In June 1940, he was shipped out to Gourock, Scotland and assigned to the Royal Army Engineers. By December 1940, he had been promoted to acting lance sergeant and in May 1940, sent to the Middle East. He returned to Melbourne in October 1942 and was then sent to the Northern Territory in August 1943. He was promoted again to sergeant in October 1943 and was discharged in November 1944. Alan was awarded the 1939–45 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, and Australian Service Medal.

Alan married Agnes Philippi in Gin Gin on 2 June 1943. Agnes was born in Burnett Heads in 1912, the daughter of William and Donella Philippi. She had been living alone in Albion Heights since 1937, engaged in “home duties”. For the remainder of the war, Agnes lived in Paddington and then with Mrs Ryan in East Brisbane.

Alan and Agnes lived in Indooroopilly from 1949 until Alan’s death on 29 November 1968 aged 67. He had resumed work as a panel beater. Following his death, Agnes enrolled with Brisbane Legacy. She remained in their family home until 1977 then returned to Gin Gin, where her brother Leslie was living. She died in Gin Gin in 1996 and was buried in Holland Park.

Alan and Agnes did not have any children.



A Holmans (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

¹⁴⁵ *The Brisbane Courier*, 22 August 1928, p. 18.

Hughes, Allan James DFC

Allan's enlistment papers give his date of birth as 22 May 1920, in Brisbane, the son of Ernest and Minnie Hughes (née Watson). The Queensland birth records, mis-spelt his name as Allen and the Honour Roll mis-spelt it as Alan.

Allan nominated his brother Edward Lewis Hughes as his next-of-kin. Edward was living in Rose Lane, Kedron in 1942, but this was later changed to Goulbourn St, Kedron. This matches with the electoral roll. Allan gave his own address as Woolloowin. Ernest and Minnie had another five sons: Arthur, Francis, Alfred, Clifford, and Ronald, and a daughter Dorothy. Ronald was also called up for military service. Edward was born in 1910 and died in 1985. Francis, aged 20 was killed in a boating accident on Moreton Bay in 1933, when the raker, *Romp* he was on was returning from Dunwich and capsized. Three other young men were killed in the accident. The accident was reported in newspapers from Cairns to Melbourne.¹⁴⁶

Ernest and Minnie's deaths in 1931 and 1926 would explain Allan's next-of-kin being his brother Edward. It is not known who raised the five boys after they were orphaned. Their ages ranged from 13 to 23. Edward had married Mary McIaney seven months before his father's death.

Allan did not come into membership at the Tabernacle, although he gave his religion as Baptist when he enlisted and was assistant secretary of the Sunday School in 1937. He was living in Woolloowin, working as a clerk and foreman prior to his enlistment.

Allan enlisted in the RAAF in Brisbane on 1 February 1942, aged 21. He did his training in Cootamundra, Evans Head, Parkes, and Sandgate. He had previously served as air crew in a Transport Unit as a corporal and then transferred to the Civil Air Force, for five months. He then qualified as an observer in December 1942, by which time he had been promoted to sergeant. He undertook further training in the RAF in England, Canada and Llandwrdd, North Wales as a staff navigator, on Wellington, Halifax, Ventura, and Anson aircraft.



Allan Hughes, 1942 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

¹⁴⁶ *The Northern Miner*, 9 January 1933, p. 2.

He then served in Burma and India, before returning to the United Kingdom in July 1944. From December 1943, Allan was a flight sergeant with Flight Lieutenant JW Bradley in 160 Squadron as navigator on Liberator aircraft. 160 Squadron was a Strategic Air Force operation. He was promoted to pilot officer in March 1944 and flying officer in September.

The main duties, often carried out by 160 Squadron, which spent three of its four-year lifespan stationed in Ceylon, were bombing, mine-laying, reconnaissance, and later the dropping of supplies to units operating behind enemy lines. Such was the influence of the island on the squadron that the motto chosen was the Sinhala *Api soya paragasamu* ("We seek and strike") and the insignia was Sri Lanka's lion rampant. Among the varied RAF squadrons stationed in Ceylon during the war and its aftermath, No 160 has an especial association with the island.¹⁴⁷



A salute to 160 Squadron (Photo: *The Sunday Times*)

It is not known if there was a specific event on 12 February 1943, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in November 1944, but he was one of only 124 Australian recipients of that award.¹⁴⁸ His citation reads:

Flying Officer Hughes is a navigator of outstanding skill who has always shown the greatest enthusiasm in his work. He has flown on many long and arduous sorties and at all times has displayed cool courage, determination and devotion to duty worthy of the highest praise.¹⁴⁹

For courage and devotion to duty in flying operations against the enemy.¹⁵⁰

Allan was also awarded the 1939–43 Star with Ribbon and Burma Star with Ribbon. When he was discharged on 13 November 1945, Allan had served two years and seven months outside mainland Australia.

After the war, in 1948, Allan enrolled in the RAAF Reserve as a navigator while working for Qantas Empire Airways as a navigation officer.

He was living alone in Wollstonecraft (North Sydney) in 1949–54, working as a navigation officer. In 1957, Allan went to Hawaii. This may have been due to a

¹⁴⁷ *The Sunday Times*, 30 December 2012.

¹⁴⁸ Supplement to the *London Gazette*, 11 June 1943, p. 2682

¹⁴⁹ *National Archives of Australia*, A9300, p. 11.

¹⁵⁰ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 30 November 1944, p. 2649

change of base for his employment, as he “disappears” from the electoral roll between 1954 and 1963. He had returned to the same address in Wollstonecraft by 1963.

In July 1971, Allan was the navigator of the flight by then federal opposition leader, later prime minister, Gough Whitlam to China. This was the first flight over China by an Australian aircraft.¹⁵¹

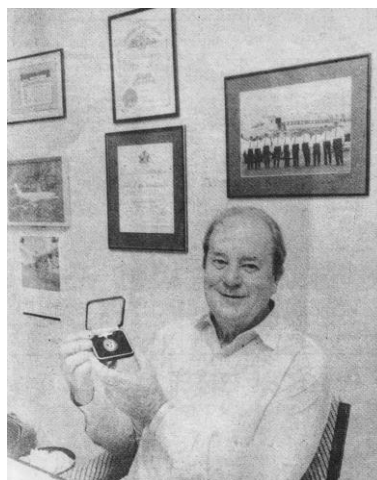
At a ceremony in Sydney, on 29 July 1971, Allan was awarded a Master Air Navigator certificate by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators (now known as The Honourable Company of Air Pilots incorporating Air Navigators) and was invested as a member of the guild. He was granted Freedom of the City of London and became a Liveryman of the Guild on 27 May 1989.

Allan married Sarah (Glenda) Gibson in the mid-1970s. Allan and Glenda retired to Boambee (Sawtell). Glenda had two children from a previous marriage, Suzanne, and Christopher. Allan and Glenda did not have any children.

In 1991, Glenda was on the Board of the Bingara District Hospital. She died in 2016. Allan was President of the Bingara RSL.

Allan had been living on the family property, *Broadacres* in Bingara when he died in Tamworth on 3 July 1998 aged 78. His funeral was conducted at St John’s Anglican Church, Bingara and he is buried in the Bingara Cemetery. As he was being lowered into the grave, some RAAF flew just over the heads of the mourners. They buzzed the house where he had lived for a few days, both before and after his funeral.¹⁵²

Allan was a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Navigation, and a life member of the NSW Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. Allan and Glenda met through their association with the IDBC. He was also very involved with the Returned and Services League.



Liveryman Allan Hughes
(Photo: S Bales)

¹⁵¹ Bales S, Personal communication, 2021.

¹⁵² Bales S, Personal communication, 2022.

James, Freeman Maurice and Geoffrey Evans

Ernest James (Ernest Snr) and Alice Davies were born on the Isle of Wight and in Jersey, Channel Islands. They married in 1900 in Albert Park, Melbourne. They moved from Malvern, Victoria to West End, Townsville in the late 1910s, and then to Sherwood in the late 1920s. Alice died in 1933.

Their son Ernest (Ernest Jnr) was born in Armadale in 1908 while they were in Melbourne and became a member at the Tabernacle in December 1927, following his baptism by Rev William Hurst. In 1930, he was the editor of *The Optimist*, the quarterly publication of the Tabernacle Young Men's Fellowship. He was elected to the diaconate in August 1935 but reluctantly resigned after two years when he was transferred to Rockhampton. He was actively involved in the Sunday School in 1935 as secretary.

Ernest Jnr married Eleanor Biggs in 1937. The marriage was held at the Tabernacle and solemnised by Rev Albert Butler, assisted by Rev James Mursell. Ernest and Eleanor had settled in Sherwood by 1943. Eleanor came into membership in 1955.

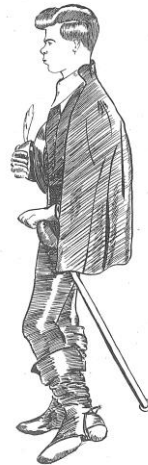
Ernest Jnr was secretary of the Sunday School in 1929–36 and a group leader in the Young Men's Fellowship, in 1929–30 and was the secretary in 1930–34. He was captain of the B grade cricket team in 1934–35.

Ernest Jnr was living in Sherwood with his parents until the early 1950s and then in Graceville with Eleanor from the mid-1950s until at least 1980, working as an accountant.

Ernest and Alice's son Raymond was a member of the Young People's CE and the cricket team in the late 1940s and early 1950s and joined the church in 1952 following his baptism by Rev FT Smith in 1951.



Ernest Freeman's family including Alice (far left), Geoff (2nd from the left) and Ernest Jnr (far right), 1925 (Photo: H Malone)



The Parting of the Musketeers.

Sketch of "the Musketeer"
(Norman Hurst)
by Ernest James
(Source: City Tabernacle
Archives)

Ernest Snr died in 1953.

Freeman Maurice James

Jim, as he was generally known, was born in Melbourne on 17 August 1912. He came into membership at the Tabernacle in March 1931, following his baptism by Rev William Hurst.

Jim joined the teaching staff of the Kindergarten Department of the Sunday School in 1930 and continued teaching until 1938. He was a member of the Young Men's Fellowship in the early 1930s and became job master in 1935 and was secretary of the cricket club in 1936–39. He transferred his membership to Taringa in 1939 but continued to play in the Tabernacle cricket team until the late 1940s. Prior to his marriage, Jim lived with his parents in Sherwood.

Jim enlisted in Kelvin Grove on 6 May 1941 in the 2/11th Field Regiment and was discharged on 21 December 1945.

June Pashen was born in Brisbane in 1927, the daughter of Walter and Grace Pashen. She enlisted in the AWAS in Coorparoo in April 1945 and was discharged on 26 July 1946. She is not listed on the Roll of Honour.

Jim and June's marriage at the Tabernacle on 26 November 1947 was conducted by Rev Reginald Dingle, who was superintendent minister of the Lutwyche Methodist Church. The Tabernacle was without a minister following the death of Rev Albert Butler and before the commencement of the ministry of Rev Smith. Jim and June had announced their engagement on 21 April 1947.

Jim and June were living in Coorparoo in 1949–54 and then in Wynnum in 1958–80, where Jim worked as a wool clerk.



Jim James (Photo: N Wynne)



June Pashen (Photo: N Wynne)

Jim and June had two daughters, Jennifer (Mrs Patrick Wynne) and Wendy (Mrs Bernard (Bernie) Maguire).

Jim was a member of the Tingalpa branch of Toc H which was formed in Belgium during the First World War by Rev Phillip (Tubby) Clayton. In 1915, Tubby established a recreation centre for young people going to and from the front lines. The centre was named Talbot House in honour of British officer Gilbert Talbot, who had been killed in action. Following the war, Toc H spread into a worldwide movement. In 1925, Toc H opened its first Australian branches and the first Youth Camp was held at Mannum, South Australia in 1928. Today, its focus is building communities through service. In addition to Youth Camps, its active team of volunteers regularly work with like-minded organisations providing people power, fundraising support, and advocacy to important causes.¹⁵³



Jim and June James's wedding
(Photo: N Wynne)

Jim died on 28 June 1996 aged 83. He was survived by June, Wendy, Jennifer and six grandchildren. His funeral was held in the Wynnum Baptist Church. His headstone in the Hemmant Lawn Cemetery includes the phrase "In God's Care". June died in 2019.

Geoffrey Evans James

Geoff, as he was commonly known, was born in Townsville on 12 December 1920. In 1938 he earned a credit in the grade three piano exam. Geoff was baptised by Rev Butler in late 1946 but did not become a church member at the Tabernacle. He played in the church cricket team in the late 1940s.

He enlisted in Kelvin Grove and served as a gunner in the 2nd AIF.

In 1950 Geoff was appointed to the Taxation Branch (income tax) of the Commonwealth Public Service as a third division clerk. His duties in 1952 "were the calling of quotations and the purchase and procurement of stores in the prescribed manner".¹⁵⁴ In 1954, he was transferred from the Stores and Transport

¹⁵³ <https://www.tochsa.org/>

¹⁵⁴ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 27 November 1952, p. 4472.

Branch to the General Section of the War Service Homes Division, Queensland, of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

After the war, Geoff lived with his parents in Sherwood, working as a clerk / auditor. He lived with them until at least 1954 and then moved to Carina with his wife Joyce (Joy) Hallam following their marriage at the Tabernacle by Rev Wilfred Jarvis on 21 January 1956. Joy was born in Jundah (320 km west of Blackall) in 1925, the daughter of Wilfred and Ethel Hallam and was a teacher at the time of their wedding.

Geoff and Joy had three sons, Robert, Ian, and David, and lived in Carina (1958–63).

JAMES Geoffrey Evans (Geoff) — Late of 1 Thomson Street, Chifley. Dearly beloved husband of Joy and loved father of Robert, Ian and David. Passed away December 29th, 1975, as a result of drowning. Cremated at the Tweed Heads Crematorium 31st December 1975.¹⁵⁵

After Geoff's death aged 55, Joyce remained in Canberra, until at least 1980. She is thought to have died in Canberra in 2011.

¹⁵⁵ *The Canberra Times*, 3 January 1976, p. 10.

Jenner, Alfred Harold

Harold, as he was generally known, was born in Brisbane on 3 January 1902, the son of Clarence and Emma Jenner (née Burge). Clarence and Emma migrated from England in the 1890s and married in Brisbane in 1899. Clarence died in Toowong in 1939 and Emma died in Brisbane in 1957. Harold and his siblings, Alice (Mrs Frank Palmer), Florence (Mrs George Clark), Doris (Mrs Eustace Roberts), Alan, Vera (Mrs Cornelius O'Sullivan), Una (Mrs Walter Shelley), Gladys (Pauline, Mrs Archibald Dabelstein), Albert, and Alexander grew up in Corinda.

Pauline, as she was generally known, was baptised at the Tabernacle in October 1940 and was a member of the Young People's CE in the late 1940s and early 1950s but did not come into membership. Harold was the only member of his family who was in membership at the Tabernacle.

Harold's marriage to Gladys Pitt on 26 January 1924 at the Tabernacle, was officiated by Rev William Pope. The church was beautifully decorated by members of the choir, of which both Harold and Gladys were members. The choir had over 50 members at the time. Gladys was born in Reading, England in 1902, the daughter of Thomas and Mabel Pitt of Woolloowin. Although not in membership at the Tabernacle, Mabel was a financial supporter of the church's missionary outreach. Syd Johnson, who was a deacon at the Tabernacle at the time, was Harold's best man. After their reception at the Café Majestic, Harold and Gladys left by the afternoon train for Southport.

Harold and Gladys both came into membership at the Tabernacle in June 1919 following their baptisms in April by Rev Pope. Gladys was already a teacher in the Sunday School's kindergarten. Their daughters Gladys, Barbara, and Margaret joined the church in 1940, 1953 and 1961 and their son Harold joined in 1950. Harold, Gladys, and their son Harold transferred their membership to Hurlstone Park (Sydney) in 1950. They returned to Brisbane and the Tabernacle sometime later. Gladys died in 1990.

Harold was a member of the South Brisbane Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star Lodge in the 1930s when they were living in Spring Hill.



Harold Jenner, 1942
(Photo: National Archives of
Australia)

Harold and Gladys moved to Ashgrove in the mid-1930s when Harold was a travelling salesman/clerk, working for the Merrilea Margarine Company in South Brisbane. Harold's father died in 1939 and his mother died in 1957.

He enlisted at Ashgrove on 26 July 1941, aged 39 and was assigned to the 4th Australian Supply Personnel Company and was initially stationed at Enoggera and promoted to staff sergeant in May 1942. He was further promoted to lieutenant in August 1942 and captain in August 1944.

In 1942, his instructors in Geelong reported that he "has a good style as a lecturer and made good use of preparation and illustration. Will develop into a very useful instructor. Made very good progress on the course. Although not young, he may be considered for a commission." In 1942, he spent some time in Warwick and Lowood.

In June 1943, he was attached to the Australian Army Services Corps as a liaison officer for the RAAF and United States of America Army Forces in Australia. He was stationed at Enoggera for the duration of his service until his discharge on 21 September 1945.

Harold and Mabel's daughter, Margaret was born in 1944 during his enlistment.

In 1953, Harold was charged with having kept a common gaming house, known as "Dibdin's Room", in Little Roma Street, and was fined £10, with 6/- costs, in default one month.

Harold and Gladys had seven children: Barbara, Gladys (Pauline), Margaret, Ann, Harold, Ross, and Ian.

Barbara was baptised by Rev FT Smith in 1953 and her marriage to Noel Sands at the Tabernacle in 1957 was celebrated by Rev Smith. Noel was a YMCA secretary in 1957. Barbara and Noel were living at The Gap in 1980. Their daughters Deborah and Ruth were also married at the Tabernacle.

Harold was baptised by Rev Smith and came into membership in 1950. His marriage to Irene Weeks at the Tabernacle in 1951, was also celebrated by Rev Smith. Their son Harold, described as "God's gift of a son", was born in late 1952.

Pauline was the inaugural secretary of the Tabernacle Tennis Club which was established immediately after the war and had two teams in the Church Union Competition. It is thought that Alfred and several other former servicemen from the Tabernacle, including Cec Lockhart, Will Stay, Ken, Cliff and Reuben Hirst, Alban Gurnett-Smith and Keith Webster were also involved in the club. In addition to the A and B grade teams, there were a total of 40 members of the club who enjoyed many an afternoon at the Social Club court. Pauline was also a member of the Young People's CE in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Harold and Gladys lived in Spring Hill (1925–28) and at Ashgrove (1936–49 and 1954–80). Harold was employed as a clerk.

Harold was living in Ashgrove when he died on 20 July 1981 aged 79. He was buried in the Bridgeman Downs Cemetery. Gladys died in Brisbane in 1990. Her death notice was published in the Melbourne press, but not in Brisbane.

Jerome, Norman Victor and Allan Roy

Norman J Jerome and Annie Carlisle were married at St James Church of England, Toowoomba in 1910. They were both born in Queensland and had nine children: Norman V, Robert, Leonard (Lenny), Allan, Yvonne, Patricia (Mrs William Dougan), Lorraine (Mrs Raydon John), Juanita (Mrs Steven Thurecht) and an un-named daughter who died in infancy. Raydon John was an ex-prisoner-of-war.

Norman Snr enlisted in the AIF in World War I, in 1915 but was discharged after 17 weeks owing to his wife's objection, on the grounds of her "bad state of health". He re-enlisted on 19 February 1917 and served as a private in the 15th Battalion in France, where he was gassed and was discharged in 1919. He gave his denomination as Church of England. William Dougan also served with the Australian Army in World War II.

Norman and Annie moved from Toowoomba to Brisbane in the early 1920s, when they were living in Paddington. Neither Norman nor Annie were in membership at the Tabernacle and there are no official records of their involvement in the church. Their sons Roy and "Neville" are included in the list of "Names of Women and Men who served in the Armed Forces of the World War, 1939–1945" in the Tabernacle Yearbook of 1946–47.

Norman and Annie both died in Brisbane in 1960 and 1974, respectively.

Norman Victor Jerome

Norman, who is sometimes referred to as Neville, was born in Toowoomba on 28 May 1911.



N J Jerome
(Photo: *The Queensland Pictorial*)



Annie Jerome with Norman, Alan and Lenny (Photo: L Major)

He was living with his parents in Kelvin Grove in 1937 and enlisted as a private in Kelvin Grove on 9 May 1941, aged 29. He was employed as a milk carter at the time. He was on camp staff at Kelvin Grove Barracks, Chermside where he was an assistant cook. He was discharged as medically unfit in May 1943.

Norman was granted four days leave with pay to marry Joyce Eeles in Brisbane on 10 October 1942. Joyce was born in Brisbane in 1920, the daughter of Sydney and Ellen Eeles. Norman and Joyce had two children, Ross, and Narelle.

Norman and Joyce lived in Hendra with Joyce's parents after their marriage. Later, they lived in Mt Gravatt (1954–58) while Norman worked as a storeman, then in Virginia (1963–72) when he was a rubber worker at the Roberts Butler Rubber Company in Fortitude Valley.



Norman and Joyce Jerome's wedding
(Photo: L Major)



Norman Jerome
(Photo: L Major)



Norman Jerome
(Photo: L Major)

Norman died on 31 March 1974 aged 62. After his death, Joyce moved to Kallangur where she lived with her son Ross and his wife Vicki for a while before moving into her own home in Kallangur, where she died in 2007.

Allan Roy Jerome

Roy, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 16 December 1919. In some records, his name is spelt Allen. He was also known as Jerry. There are no records of his involvement at the Tabernacle.

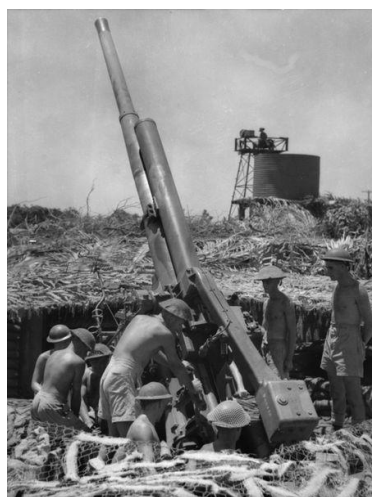
Roy enlisted in the Militia Forces on 15 June 1941, and was one of two soldiers from the Lytton Camp who had a miraculous escape from death. While riding a motorcycle, they crashed into the Brisbane-Wynnum passenger train. David Brown aged 22 was riding the motorcycle, at the Glenora Street railway level. He received severe injuries to the left thigh, left arm and concussion. Roy was riding on the pillion seat and received injuries to the left knee, left ankle and abrasions. They were taken to the Wynnum ambulance station and later by the military ambulance to the military camp at Lytton.¹⁵⁶

Roy enlisted in the AIF at Lytton on 15 December 1941, the day before his 22nd birthday. He joined the 14th Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Signals Section as a Signaller. It is not known if Roy was still in this battery when they were in Darwin during the bombing by the Japanese in 1942. He qualified as a Morse Code operator in December 1944, when he was based on Bougainville. Roy was not discharged until 22 May 1946. While Roy was stationed on Bougainville, the Allied and Japanese navies were firing at each other from opposite sides of the island, over the heads of the Australian Army. The Australians always hoped that none of the shells fell short.

Roy lived with his parents in Spring Hill until he married and then moved to Kelvin Grove, where he worked as a storeman.



AJ Jerome (Photo: R Jerome)



14th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery,
Darwin, November 1942
(Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

¹⁵⁶ *Truth*, 30 March 1941, p. 14.

He later worked as a tyre-buffer and retreader at Roberts Butler Rubber Company in Fortitude valley and then as a forklift driver at Castlemaine Brewery, Milton.

He married Ethel (Jean) Andrews in the Albert Street Methodist Church on 7 August 1946. Jean was born in Mount Morgan in 1925, the daughter of William and Edith Andrews.

Roy and Jean had four children: William (Bill), Cheryl (who was stillborn), Coralie, and Robert (Rob).

Roy and Jean moved to Rosalie in 1970 and Ethel remained there after Roy's death on 19 February 1978 aged 58. She later lived with her daughter Coralie in Gaythorne and Capalaba and then in Bethania where she died in 2011.



Allan Jerome (front row, on the left) and comrades, probably during training in Darwin at the Grovely Army Barracks (Photo: R Jerome)



Allan Jerome, Townsville, 1944
(Photo: L Major)

Jessup, Albert Cyril

Jo, as he was generally known, was born on 25 January 1901, the son of Albert and Elsie Jessup (née Massey). Albert and Elsie were married in the Windsor Road Baptist Church on 29 March 1899 by Rev Thomas Leitch. Albert died in 1905, when Jo was only four. Elsie was a widow for 50 years until her death in 1956. Jo had an older brother, Herbert who died before his first birthday, and a younger sister, Edna who married Douglas Tannock, who was a half-brother of Sydney Tannock. Their marriage in 1932 was performed by Rev Percy Evans at the Petrie Terrace Baptist Church. Edna was “given away” by her brother Jo.



Elsie Jessup (Photo: C Olive)

Jo came into membership at the Tabernacle in September 1915 following his baptism and became secretary of the Intermediate CE Society soon after, and then joint superintendent of the Junior CE. His name was removed from the roll in 1953.

He lived in Warwick, Paddington, and Merthyr working as a clerk, then in Kilcoy, working as a public accountant. In 1931, Jo successfully completed the intermediate examination of the Federal Institute of Accountants.

In 1932, Jo was appointed secretary of the newly formed South Brisbane Traders' and Property Owners' Association. He was also a member of the social committee of the Yeronga Bowlhouse and secretary of the



Queensland National Bank, South Brisbane, c. 1928
(Photo: State Library of Queensland)



1929 Hupmobile (Photo: Hyman Ltd)

East Brisbane Automobile Social Club. For the 1931 club events, he drove a Hupmobile. His office was located in the Queensland National Bank Chambers in Melbourne Street, South Brisbane.

Jo married Lucy Webster on 30 April 1938. Lucy, who was commonly known as Gladys, was born in 1909, the daughter of William and Hannah Webster and was also living in Kilcoy, where her father was a grazier. The family moved to Brisbane and attended services at the Tabernacle. Gladys's family attended the Church of England as it was known then, but her sisters preferred the Baptist Church, because they didn't have to kneel for the prayers. It would appear that Jo and Gladys had known each other for some time, because Jo presided at the 21st birthday party of Gladys's sister in 1934.¹⁵⁷



Jo Jessup, 1940 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

In Kilcoy, Jo was vice-president of the District Cricket Association, secretary of the Kilcoy District Hospital Board, secretary and then treasurer of the Kilcoy Show Society, and president of the Kilcoy Shire Council.

At the age of 40, Jo enlisted on 11 November 1940 at Kelvin Grove. They were living at Kilcoy at the time, where he was employed as a clerk. He gave his year of birth as 1900 (not 1901) and his denomination as Baptist. Initially, he was given the rank of acting lieutenant, but this was changed to lieutenant in January 1942.

The family moved to Moorooka to be closer to medical facilities.

Jo had a heart condition, which prevented him from serving in an active role. Because of his age, he was considered fit only for "Home Service". He was assigned to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and was placed in charge of stores at Archerfield, where



Archerfield Igloos
(Photo: Royal Navy Research Archive)

¹⁵⁷ *Daily Standard*, 16 June 1934, p. 6.

there were igloos full of stores such as woollen blankets ready for despatch to the front.

Jo did a three-week training course in Ordinance and Stores in Melbourne in November-December 1941. He was promoted to captain (temporarily) in February 1943 and then permanently the following day, the day before his appointment was terminated and he was transferred to the Retired List, as medically unfit for military service due to congestive cardiac failure and coronary artery disease. He spent 12 months in the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital recovering and was removed from the retired list in July 1947.

After the war, Jo and Gladys moved to *Yanna* in Moorooka and Jo resumed work at Archerfield as a cost accountant with Qantas, where he was in charge of stores. In 1948, his office was in Albert House, King George Square, Brisbane. He was very involved in a voluntary capacity with the many Greek immigrants following the war, assisting them with adaptation to life in Australia and especially the taxation system.

By 1954 he was a registered tax agent, practising as Walter C Haslam, 21 Wharton St, Moorooka, which was his residence at the time. Walter, who had been Jo's long-time friend, had died in 1947 and Jo left his good job with Qantas to help Walter's widow, Edith conduct his business.

Jo and Gladys had two daughters, Judith (Mrs John Greaves) and Nerida (Mrs John Corfe).



Jo and Gladys Jessup, 1972 (Photo: C Olive)

He was very involved in the Thompson Estate (St Phillip's)

Anglican Church for many years, especially when the church and parish hall were destroyed and the rectory was partly destroyed by fire in November 1954. The family attended the local Anglican Church because it was more easily accessed than the Tabernacle.

Nerida believes that Jo's community involvement and sense of service can be attributed to his upbringing in the Baptist Church.

Jo died on 4 December 1972, aged 71. Gladys continued living in Moorooka until at least 1980. She died in 2004. Her funeral was conducted at St Phillip's Anglican Church, Thompson Estate, Annerley.

Johnston, Edwin William Tennant and James Ewing

Rev James Johnston and Elizabeth Aitken were both born in Scotland, in 1881 in Roxburghshire and 1885 in Midlothian, respectively. James trained for the ministry in Scotland at the Bible Training Institute, Glasgow and migrated to Queensland in 1908. James and Elizabeth married in Queensland in 1911, and had two sons, Edwin, and James who both enlisted.

Rev Johnston was the Baptist Pastor in Lakes Creek (Rockhampton) in 1916. Rev and Mrs Johnston transferred their membership to the Tabernacle in 1926. Elizabeth transferred her membership to Petrie Terrace in 1938 but returned to the Tabernacle in December 1940 and remained in membership until her death. James did not become a church member.

The family were living in Toowong 1925–43 while Rev Johnston was the pastor of the Toowong Baptist Church. He was a deacon at the Tabernacle for a three-year term in 1934–36. He resigned from the diaconate when he took up pastoral ministry at Petrie Terrace. He also pastored the churches in Gympie, Lake's Creek, Wynnum, Warwick, and Lismore.¹⁵⁸

In 1935–36 he was appointed as “Church Visitor”. The 1934–35 Yearbook reported that:

to meet the need, during the period the Church has been pastorless, the deacons asked Rev James Johnston to undertake this gracious ministry and as far as his health and the scattered location of our members permitted, he has been unremitting in his visitation of sick and aged members.

In the following year he was acting Sunday School Superintendent.

Rev Johnston died in Brisbane on 2 October 1941, following prolonged suffering. His funeral was conducted by Rev Albert Butler at the Tabernacle.

Obituary

The Rev James Johnston, Baptist Minister, who died on Wednesday afternoon, was born in Scotland 60 years ago, and came to Australia in 1908 after serving for two years in the Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh. For a time he was minister at Irvinebank, and afterwards at Gympie, Toowong, Lake's Creek (Rockhampton), Lismore, and Warwick. His last position was at Toowong, where he retired, because of ill-health, in 1924. However, he took up work again at Petrie Terrace, giving this up a few years ago. He was a deacon of the City Tabernacle, for some years. Mr. Johnston leaves a widow and two sons.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁸ *The Australian Baptist*, 21 October 1941, p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ *The Courier Mail*, 4 October 1941, p. 5.

Both of his sons were on active service at the time of his passing in 1941. Elizabeth died in Brisbane in 1972.

Edwin William Tennant Johnston

Edwin was born in Brisbane on 31 December 1911. In 1926, he was successful in the Secondary School Scholarship Examination. It is not known if Edwin took up his scholarship. He came into membership at the Tabernacle in January 1927 and was a member of the Young Men's Fellowship in the early 1930s.

In 1933–34, Edwin was the relieving organist for the mid-week meetings of the church and in 1936–38, he was the choir librarian. In 1939, WH Paling and Co sent him to Mackay to give a recital in the Parish Hall to raise funds for the Mackay Patriotic Fund. He played an Everitt Orgatron (Wurlitzer)¹⁶⁰. It was described as a “charming organ recital”. His numbers included a selection of Christmas Carols of his own arrangement. Edwin was the organist at the Mowbraytown (East Brisbane) Presbyterian Church. In 1940, he achieved a merit pass in the Higher Local Music examination of the Trinity College of Music, London.



Everitt Orgatron
(Photo: World Radio History)

Edwin enlisted in Brisbane on 1 November 1940, aged 28 and was assigned to the Northern Command Ordnance Workshop. He was still living with his parents in Toowong and had been working as a salesman.

Within a month of enlisting, he was promoted to sergeant. He had been promoted to acting staff sergeant when he was discharged, at his own request in December 1941. The reason for this request is not known.

After the war service, Edwin returned to his parents' home and resumed work as a shop assistant.

He married Enid Burchill in the Mowbraytown Presbyterian Church, East Brisbane, on 27 January 1945. Enid was born in 1916, the daughter of Joseph and Hilda Burchill. In 1928 and 1930, she sat for the Presbyterian Church Sunday

¹⁶⁰ *Daily Mercury*, 12 December 1939, p. 11.

School Examination in the lower and then upper intermediate divisions, as a scholar of the Mowbraytown Presbyterian Sunday School.

Edwin and Enid's first child, Roslyn, was born in 1946. They settled in Wilston and remained there until at least 1980. Edwin became a clerk in the Commonwealth Public Service in 1950.

In 1963, Edwin was granted copyright of a musical work titled *Grand March Warana*. No record of a public performance of this work has been uncovered.

Edwin and Enid had a son, Ian, and two daughters, Roslyn (Mrs Geoffrey Goodwin), and Marilyn.

Edwin died in Brisbane on 21 June 1982 aged 70, and Enid died in Coolumb in 2007, aged 91.

James Ewing Johnston

James was born in Lake's Creek (Rockhampton) on 24 April 1916. He completed his Scholarship year but did not proceed to High School. He was also a member of the Young Men's Fellowship in the early 1930s and was the Tabernacle cub master in 1936–37 but did not come into membership at the Tabernacle.

James enlisted in Grovely on 15 August 1942, aged 26, in the 41st Battery, 11th Australian Field Regiment and was given the rank of staff sergeant and qualified as a Motor Transport Driver of class 1, 2 and 3 vehicles. He gave his denomination as Baptist. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, working for MR Hornibrook and Co.

Margaret (Peggy) Hetherington was born in Northumberland, England in 1919, the daughter of John and Sarah Hetherington. John's marriage encountered difficulties and he migrated to Australia without his wife and infant son in 1907. He enlisted in the AIF and later wrote extensively of his experiences in France in World War I, serving in the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion as a warrant officer. (He landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and was wounded the same day.) During the war, he was reconciled with his wife and after returning to Australia, he arranged for her to come to Australia with his son and daughter who was born



James Johnston, 1942 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

while he was in England. He lived to age 99 and died in Sydney. He had a colourful life in the United Kingdom before emigrating to Australia, becoming a fervent Methodist and fervent abstainer of alcohol¹⁶¹ and became a Rechabite. He re-enlisted in World War II in June 1940, in the 2nd Battalion of the AIF as a training sergeant. On both occasions when he enlisted, he gave his age as 10 years younger than he was at the time.

James and Margaret were married in St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Sydney on 24 November 1945. They had announced their engagement two weeks earlier.

James served in the CMF from September 1941 until August 1942 in Selheim and Townsville. He was hospitalised in Cairns with dengue fever in 1942. He then transferred to the AIF as a warrant-officer, until October 1945.

At 2:00 am, on 4 June 1944, while serving in New South Wales, WO Johnston was injured in a collision between two military vehicles. The investigating officer reported that James was on duty at the time of the accident, but there was no neglect, misconduct, carelessness or failure to observe any act, regulation, order, or instruction on his part.

Having done a course in map reading at Winnellie (Darwin), he then became an instructor in map reading. He trained for jungle warfare at Canungra in 1945 and served for 1,167 days in Australia (including in the Northern Territory) and 122 days overseas on Tarakan Island, Borneo.

Immediately after the war, James and Margaret lived with James's mother in Toowong, but had moved to Sydney's eastern suburbs by 1949, when they were living in Kensington with Margaret's parents. They then moved to Bondi, and then Maroubra, where James worked as a carpenter. In retirement, they moved to Woy Woy on the New South Wales Central Coast.

James and Margaret had two sons, John, and Ross.

James died in New South Wales at Ettalong on 31 December 1994 aged 78 and was buried at Wyong. Margaret died in 2003.



Winnellie Camp (Photo: Australian War Memorial)

¹⁶¹ Heatherington S, Personal communication, 2021.

Jones, Ronald Davies

Ronald was born in Brisbane on 20 October 1904, the son of Henry and Sarah Jones (née Davies). Sarah came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1880, prior to her marriage in April 1890. Her parents, Captain John and Martha Davies came into membership in 1908 and 1881. Martha's sisters Margaret and Ida were also church members. Henry and Sarah were living at *The Laurels*, Normandy Terrace, Kelvin Grove in 1906–37. Henry was a contractor/carpenter. Sarah was a regular contributor to the church's missionary appeals. She died at home in 1937, having been in membership for 57 years, and Henry died in Kelvin Grove in 1939.

Henry and Sarah had six children: Lillian, Evelyn, John, Ida (Gwen), Dorothy, and Ronald. John died in childhood and was buried in Toowong with his grandparents. Evelyn died in her twenties.

Although Henry did not come into membership, it would seem that he may have attended, given that his wife and at least four of their children were actively involved in the church. His will of 1937 bequeathed land in North Brisbane, Enoggera and Toombul to Lillian and Ronald.

Ronald was a member of the Young Men's Fellowship. His sisters Lillian and Evelyn came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1911 and Gwen joined sometime later, but Ronald did not formally join the church. Evelyn and Gwen were teachers in the Primary Department of the Sunday School. Evelyn was still in membership when she died in 1918. Gwen became superintendent of the Kindergarten Department of the Sunday School in 1921–22. She continued in this role until the end of 1924. The extent of Dorothy's involvement at the Tabernacle is unknown.

Before his parents' deaths, Ronald lived with them on Normandy Hill and then with his sisters in St Lucia, working as a salesman.

When Ronald enlisted in the RAAF on 19 September 1942, he nominated his oldest sister Lillian as next-of-kin. He was discharged on 28 February 1946. No details of his service are available. His sister Dorothy died five weeks after his enlistment, in October 1942.

After the war, Ronald returned to St Lucia to live with Lillian (who died in 1962), and Ida (who died in 1984) and resumed work as a salesman. All five of Ronald's sisters remained spinsters, and were buried with their parents in the Toowong Cemetery.

Ronald played in the church cricket team and in one match against Morningside in 1954 had the outstanding bowling figures of 5 for 6 and then 6 for 27.

Jones, Ronald Davies

Ronald died a bachelor on 14 June 1963 aged 58. In effect, although he was the youngest sibling, Ronald was probably the only breadwinner for the family after both their parents died in the late 1930s.

Kent, Lloyd Andrews

Lloyd was born in Red Hill, Brisbane on Good Friday, 30 March 1923, the second son of Reuben and Daisy Kent (née Gadd). His parents had married in the Maryborough Baptist Church in 1915. Lloyd had an older brother, Reuben, who was born in 1920.

Lloyd's parents had come into membership at the Tabernacle in 1919 on transfer from Maryborough, shortly after Reuben returned from military service in World War I, in July 1919. His life and service is outlined in *For God, King and Country*. Daisy was involved in the Mothers' meeting and when she celebrated her 80th birthday party at an afternoon party for the mothers of the district and the members of the Ladies' Guild at the church, she had been in membership for 32 years.

Lloyd attended Ithaca State School and Brisbane Boys' Grammar School, completing his Junior Examination in 1937.

Lloyd and Reuben grew up in Paddington and attended church and Sunday School at the Tabernacle, including through the depression years. Lloyd's first job in 1938 was as a telegraph messenger in the Post-Master General's Department. He was promoted to junior assistant in 1939. In late 1940, he passed the relevant examination for transfer to the Commonwealth Public Service as a clerk (ledger keeper), third division.

Lloyd made a commitment in 1940, was baptised by Rev Albert Butler in 1942 and received into membership at the Tabernacle in April 1944. Lloyd's brother, Reuben came into membership in 1946.

Lloyd enlisted in the RAAF in Brisbane in May 1943 as an aircraftman class 1 and was promoted to leading aircraftman in January 1944, on completion of his training. He was quite short, at 5'3" (160 cm). By October 1943, following a four-week course at the Radio Direction Finding School in Richmond, New South Wales, he had qualified as a radar operator and was stationed in Sandgate and Townsville before being posted to Dobodura, New Guinea.

He said that the most hazardous thing in NG was not the enemy but the falling coconuts. He had learned from the locals how to climb a palm tree.

Lloyd was very proud of his military service and attended the February 19th bombing of Darwin ceremonies and Anzac Day parades whenever he



Lloyd Kent, 1946
(Photo: P Kent)

could, marching or being driven in the parades until his later years. The Last Post was played at his funeral in recognition of his military service and his medals were displayed on the casket.

In his application for discharge from the RAAF, Lloyd wrote:

In support of my application I should like to state, firstly, that it is my conscientious belief that I have a “calling” to the vocation and can render more effective service in that capacity.

Secondly, there exists a demand in the Victorian

Baptist Home Missionary Society for Theological students and furthermore, my application to the society has been accepted.

Thirdly, the training course is an extensive one and cannot be undertaken while a member of the forces, and in addition to which I am anxious to commence as early as possible.

And lastly, during my period of service, I have faithfully discharged my duty as a member of the RAAF.

Discharge is requested at Melbourne, Victoria, as training is to be undertaken in that state where I intend to make my place of residence.

His military record stated, incorrectly, that he intended to study meteorology upon discharge.¹⁶² On discharge in April 1945, he went to Melbourne to commence theological studies. Rev Butler wrote him a letter of introduction, saying that Lloyd had proven himself a most loyal and worthy member of his church and went with the fullest confidence of the church which trusted that he would eventually prove himself a good minister of Jesus Christ. Lloyd transferred his



Milne Bay RAAF Radar Station, c. 1943
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)



Lloyd and Win's wedding
(Photo: P Kent)

¹⁶² *National Archives of Australia*, A9301, 124498, p. 5.

membership in 1947 to Brunswick Baptist Church while studying at the Baptist College of Victoria.

Lloyd's engagement to Winifred (Win) Denning, following his proposal by letter, while Win was in East Pakistan (Bangladesh), was announced in *The Australian Baptist* in 1949. Prior to their marriage, Win had been a missionary in Orakandi, with the Australian Baptist Missionary Society. They were married in the Croydon Baptist Church, New South Wales in February 1952, prior to Lloyd being inducted, in October of that year, as the Minister of the Tottenham Church.¹⁶³ Win was the daughter of Rev Ernest and Mrs Selma Denning.

Lloyd's life story is outlined in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*.

In May 1958, Lloyd was promoted to acting director of the Youth Department.¹⁶⁴ He demonstrated qualities of leadership and capabilities for detail and organisation, while also making wide contacts in the interests of youth amongst churches and in State and Federal Baptist Unions.¹⁶⁵

Lloyd returned to the Commonwealth Public Service in 1962, as a third division clerk, in Melbourne in the accounts branch. Then in May 1964, Lloyd and Win and their two sons, travelled to Darwin, when the city's population was just 18,500, with the specific aim of establishing a Baptist church. To finance the move, initially Lloyd worked as a senior training officer with the Northern Territory Administration while establishing and pastoring the Darwin Church as honorary pastor. As the work became established, he relinquished his public service job to work full-time in the church.

Over the next 15 years, Lloyd also served as: honorary pastor; director and secretary of the North Australian Baptist Homes Trust; Secretary of the fledgling Baptist Union of the Northern Territory (BUNT); and executive officer of the proposed William Carey College, which did not eventuate. He continued to serve various churches as honorary pastor while working as an executive officer in the Commonwealth Public Service, commencing in May 1978.



The Kent family at Warrabri, 1964
(Photo: P Kent)

¹⁶³ *The Australian Baptist*, 12 November 1952, p. 12.

¹⁶⁴ *The Australian Baptist*, 3 July 1957, p. 4.

¹⁶⁵ Introducing Christian Education Directors, in *The Australian Baptist*, 11 February 1959, p. 12.

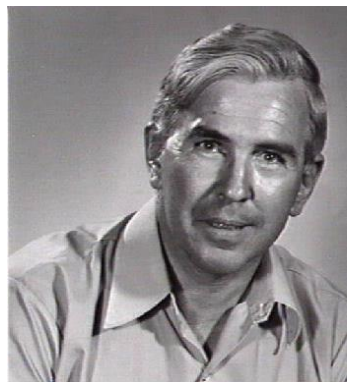
Lloyd continued his involvement in other community organisations both within the church and outside with The Northern Territory Council on the Ageing, Orchid Society (as a committee member, judge, and president), Arthritis Foundation (as president), and the Northern Gateway College.

As if not busy enough, Lloyd also undertook masters level studies in missiology (1995–99) and doctoral studies in 1999–2001 leading to a PhD in Biblical Studies. He completed his thesis (*The involvement of Australian Baptists in overseas mission work*) in 2001, at the age of 79 years, a testament to the principle of life-long learning.

Lloyd died in 2012 aged 89, on the eve of Anzac Day, after a battle with cancer and his funeral was held in the Casuarina Baptist Church. His funeral notice requested no flowers but that donations to the Australian Baptist World Aid would be appreciated. He was survived by his wife, Win and sons Peter, and Andrew.

Lloyd's obituary was recorded in the minutes of the Assembly of the BUNT of 16 June 2012. It stated, in part, that having established a Baptist Church in Darwin, Lloyd's vision and energy drove much of the development of Baptist work in the Top End. His warm nature reached out to people of all kinds, and his legacy was still visible in the lives of people across the Northern Territory. He had a special place in his heart for indigenous folk and sought to involve them in the wider life of Baptists. He was honoured for his vision, energy, and love for people.

Throughout his ministry, Lloyd was ably supported by Win who passed away in 2014. Following her death, the Lloyd and Win Kent Scholarship Fund was established by the BUNT to acknowledge the life and ministry of Lloyd and Win. A scholarship to help people learn more about the Bible and Christian ministry was considered an appropriate memorial to Lloyd and Win, as they were both avid scholars of the Bible.



Lloyd Kent (Photo: Northern Territory Archives)

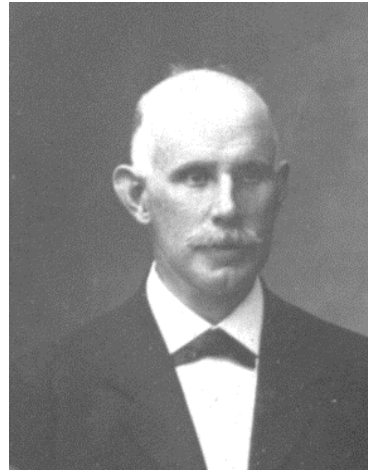


Lloyd after the Bombing of Darwin Ceremony, 2012 (Photo: P Kent)

Kerr, Wilbur Morgan and Ian Henry

Robert Kerr was born in Dumfries, Scotland in 1866. In 1887, he received a call to be Minister of the Toowong Presbyterian Church and was appointed Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland in 1893. Robert arrived in Brisbane unaccompanied, on 24 May 1889 aboard SS *Taroba*. He had previously been to South Africa during the First Boer War. None of Robert's sisters migrated to Australia.

Rev Kerr and Edith Barnes were married in the Albert Street Methodist Church, Brisbane on 2 November 1909 by Rev George Rowe. In 1914, Rev Kerr was Superintendent of the Joyful News Mission in Leichardt Street. He became the Minister of the Toowong Baptist Church in July 1914.



Rev R Kerr, c. 1915
(Photo: Queensland Baptist Archives)

Robert and Edith had three sons, Robert, Wilbur, and Ian. Rev Kerr died in the Glenrowan Private Hospital, Brisbane in September 1930. The family was living in the Baptist Manse, McLennan St, Albion at the time.

Obituary

Rev Robert Kerr.

The death of the Rev Robert Kerr, at the age of 64, in Glenrowan Hospital, on September 8, the Baptist Church in this State has lost one of its best known and highly respected ministers. A native of Scotland, the late Mr Kerr, was for many years engaged in Christian work in that country, and closely associated with missionary activities in Glasgow. He saw service as a Bible reader with the British troops in the South African war (during the Boer War) and came to Queensland more than 35 years ago to engage in Evangelistic work, in connection with which he travelled widely and became known to a large circle of friends. Entering the Baptist ministry, he became pastor of the Toowong Church, and was stationed there for nine years, when he removed to Albion, and for over six years was minister there. Some three months ago he entered [Glenrowan Private] Hospital for an operation but became too ill for it to be performed. Later he rallied, but towards the latter part of last week was again admitted to hospital. He is survived by Mrs Kerr, who is sister to the State Treasurer (Mr WH Barnes, MLA) and Messrs GP Barnes, MLA, and F Barnes, of this city, and by three sons.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁶ *The Queenslander*, 9 September 1930, p. 14.

After a service in the Albion Baptist Church, Rev Kerr was interred in the Toowong cemetery in the presence of many sorrowing friends. A lengthy obituary was published in *The Australian Baptist*.¹⁶⁷

After Rev Kerr's death, Edith and her three sons lived in *Glenfel*, Fourth Ave Kedron and transferred their church membership from Toowong to the Tabernacle in 1936. They remained there until Edith's death in 1942. Edith was appointed secretary of the Junior CE in 1937–38 and was president of the Queensland Baptist Women's Missionary Union in 1939.

Edith's death, in 1942, was described as "a great loss to the prayer life of the Church and a real mother in Israel".

The Brisbane City Tabernacle lost one of its saintliest members, and the Christian community one of its most gracious personalities, by the Home-call of Edith Kerr, widow of the well-known Baptist Minister, the late Rev Robert Kerr. Her three sons, Robert Kelvin, Corpl. Wilbur Morgan and Pilot-Officer Ian Henry, who is now in England, mourn the loss of a beloved and devoted mother, to whom they paid the high tribute of constant care and loving homage.

Mrs Kerr was the daughter of Mr Hiram Barnes, and a sister of the late Mr WH Barnes, one-time Treasurer of Queensland, and Mr GP Barnes, who represented Warwick for many years.

After leaving school, Mrs Kerr gave early evidence of her desire to serve Jesus Christ and His Gospel to the utmost. She hoped to offer for service in China, but substituted for it work in a Chinese school, which she established in Kelvin Grove, and later she became the first sister associated with the Albert Street Methodist Church, where her example and ministry are affectionately remembered.

Her marriage to Mr Kerr was a happy one for himself and the churches he subsequently served, and both at Toowong and Albion they carried on a wonderful work together. When the new cause was begun at Gordon Park, Mrs Kerr and her three sons gave it their ungrudging support, until the attraction of the Rev Albert Butler's ministry, and other causes, led them to link up with the Tabernacle, where Mrs Kerr exercised a very gracious ministry.

During later years she had been a great sufferer, and particularly was this so during the eight or nine months preceding her decease, but the suffering was borne with an exemplary patience and with a radiant faith, that often disguised the agony she was undergoing.¹⁶⁸

Her funeral in the Tabernacle, was conducted by Rev Albert Butler. Revs Harold Wheller and Bernard Frederick, from the Albert Street Methodist Church, also took part in the service.

After her death, the three boys remained in the family home until at least 1949. None of Robert and Edith's sons had any offspring.

Robert was born in 1910 and remained a bachelor, living in Kedron until the mid-1970s and then in Bracken Ridge, working as an electrician. He was aged 91,

¹⁶⁷ *The Australian Baptist*, 16 September 1930, p. 3.

¹⁶⁸ *The Australian Baptist*, 8 December 1942, p. 8.

living in the EM Tooth Memorial Home in Manly, Queensland when he died in 2003.

Wilbur Morgan Kerr

Wilbur was born in Brisbane on 30 December 1912. In 1926, he successfully completed the Secondary Schools Scholarship Examination and attended Brisbane Boys' College for his secondary schooling, where he completed Junior in 1928.

Wilbur was asked to teach a class of senior boys in the Tabernacle Sunday School in 1943.

Wilbur enlisted in Albion on 13 May 1941, aged 28 and was assigned to the 1st Labour Company. He was a bank officer and had previously been a senior cadet for six months. He was classified as temporarily unfit for active service due to glycaemia (low blood sugar), from which he had suffered for 2 years.

He subsequently joined the CMF in April 1942 and was assigned to the District Accounts Office in Queensland in a non-combat role. His mother was his next-of-kin. He served for 1,526 days in Australia and 22 days in New Guinea in August–September 1944, rising to the rank of staff sergeant. His short trip to Port Moresby, New Guinea on SS *Ormiston* was as a member of a currency escort. He was discharged in June 1946.

Wilbur was church treasurer briefly in 1953–54. After the war, Wilbur continued to live with his brother Robert in 1954–72 working as a bank officer. They then moved to Bracken Ridge in the late 1970s.

Wilbur was also living at the EM Tooth Memorial Home when he died in Manly, Queensland, aged 91, on 16 April 2004. He is thought to have died a bachelor.

Ian Henry Kerr

Ian was born in Brisbane on 30 September 1915. He was the Tabernacle choir secretary in 1938–40.

Ian enlisted in Brisbane on 2 February 1941 and was promoted to flight lieutenant in January 1945. He was serving with the RAAF in 11th Squadron when he was discharged on 26 February 1946.

Brisbane Flier Hits U-Boat

London, April 14 (Special).—

Flying-Officer Ian Henry Kerr of Brisbane, has made a flying start as navigator of a British Coastal Command aircraft, having participated in two attacks during his second anti-submarine patrol.

Members of the crew sighted a U-boat soon after dawn, but they were so far away that the submarine submerged in the 90sec. that elapsed before depth charges could be dropped.

The crew planned to carry on their patrol and return to the same position five or six hours later, hoping that by that time the U-boat might have regained confidence and again come to the surface.

The plan worked. When they returned they found the submarine circling an unsuspecting ship. Heavy clouds favoured the approach of the aircraft, which dropped a perfect straddle of bombs. The submarine crash dived, but subsequently it was officially credited to the aircraft as "badly damaged".¹⁶⁹

In August 1948, Ian was again commissioned in the RAAF Reserve, as a Flying Officer. He was awarded a Coronation Medal in 1953 by Queen Elizabeth.

Ian married Melva Lofthouse in St John's Cathedral on 11 October 1947. Melva was born in 1922, the daughter of John and Florence Lofthouse. After the reception at Lennon's Hotel, Ian and Melva toured the Northern Rivers for their honeymoon.

After their wedding, they lived with Melva's mother, (who had been widowed in 1928), for a short time, but by 1954 had moved to St Lucia, where Ian was an accountant and later worked as an assurance consultant. They lived in Sherwood for a few years in the late 1960s and then moved back to St Lucia.

The circumstances surrounding Ian's filing for bankruptcy in 1970 are unknown.

After Ian's death on 10 October 1974 aged 59, Melva moved back across the river to Graceville and resumed work as a secretary. Ian and Melva did not have any children.

¹⁶⁹ *The Courier Mail*, 15 April 1943, p. 1.

Kleckham, Frederick Henry Albert, OBE

Fred, as he was generally known, was born in Holborn, Middlesex, England on 18 August 1915, the son of Frederick and Adelaide Kleckham (née Bench). Fred had two younger brothers Dereck, and William and a sister Betty, who died in infancy.

Fred's parents split up and Frederick and Fred migrated to Sydney in 1919 aboard SS *Benalla* and almost immediately moved to Brisbane. The SS *Benalla* had previously been known as HMAT *Benalla* and used as a military transport in The Great War. Fred waved goodbye to his mother, who was on the dock when he left England with his father.



SS *Benalla*, (Photo: Clydeships)

Adelaide and Dereck remained in England, where she remarried Henry Niblett in 1929 and died in 1987.

Frederick was a hairdresser, living in Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill, less than a 300m walk from the Tabernacle. He died in 1924, when Fred was 10 years old. Sometime after this, Fred was adopted by Leslie and Abigail Marks. He did not, however, take their name, probably because his mother was still alive in England.¹⁷⁰

Although neither Fred nor his father were in membership at the Tabernacle, his adoptive parents and their children were in membership. It is likely that as a teenager, he attended services at the Tabernacle and the Sunday School of which Leslie was superintendent and auditor. The Marks family lived in Rockbourne Terrace, Paddington. Leslie was a member of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland for over 40 years.

Fred successfully sat for the State Scholarship Examination in Brisbane in 1930 and was a



LP Marks,
(Photo: State Library of Queensland)

¹⁷⁰ *The Telegraph*, 24 July 1945, p. 8.

student at the Gatton Agricultural College (GAC) for four years. While a student at the college, he passed his second class internal combustion engine-driver's certification exam. He was farming when he enlisted in the RAAF in Brisbane on 15 April 1940. He was overseas for three years and four months, as a flight sergeant, working as a fitter.

While serving in the RAAF, Fred married Marjorie Sheldon in Melbourne on 15 November 1940. Marjorie was born in Brisbane in 1918, the daughter of Edward and Sarah Sheldon. Fred and Marjorie lived in Sunnybank in 1943 and moved to Seaforth in Central Queensland briefly.

In July 1945, Sergeant Kleckham, of Bardon, was the first man to be released by the RAAF in Queensland under the five-year service plan. He was at the Sandgate RAAF station awaiting discharge at the time. He had plans to take up fruit farming in the Mackay district, for which he was preparing when he spent four years at the GAC, before joining up. He had spent nearly three and a half years abroad attached to the No 458 Squadron of Wellingtons. After a few months in England, he was sent to the Middle East, and helped "to keep them flying" through tough campaigns. He was glad to be getting out to shape his future, although he had a good mind to stay in the Air Force, where he had made many friends in the service, whom he would miss.¹⁷¹

Fred was an agricultural officer in Papua New Guinea (PNG) from 1948 until 1963.

In 1950, Fred accompanied a group from the Mackay Harbour Board. It was reported that they had fish for breakfast 50 miles inland. In spite of their three nights in the "unknown" at the hands of untried camp cooks, all members of the Board's timber exploration party were fit and well on their return to Mackay. The only ill effects were aching bones after a 70-mile ride on horseback. Describing the lighter side of camp life, John Mulherin, Harbour Board member, said the party soon found out who was the best cook. Mr J Pearce, Harbour Board overseer, tried his hand at their first camp at Black's Creek, and did well enough. But Fred, who had had cooking experience in New Guinea, had it over Mr Pearce, because he provided fish for breakfast. Fred did duty as chef at the second camp, at Paper Hut and always managed to catch fish for breakfast, in the creek. He was the only member of the party who could.¹⁷²

While in PNG in 1951, a volcanic eruption occurred on Mt Lamington. Marjorie and their three children were evacuated to Port Moresby. Fred was taking photographs of the mountain when it exploded. Twenty years later, he was quoted as saying:

¹⁷¹ *The Telegraph*, 30 July 1945, p. 3.

¹⁷² *Daily Mercury*, 18 September 1950, p. 2.

I was taking pictures when there was a tremendous rumble.
There was a tremendous explosion when it went up and a huge cloud came rolling out towards us.
I reckoned that by the intensity of the thing the whole of Higaturu would have been blasted away.
I decided there and then to wait for a while, 40 minutes, because we couldn't see anything through the dust anyway.
Forty minutes was the time it usually took for people in a hurry from that area, to reach Popondetta.
I got men organised to get drums of water from the creek because I reckoned the ash would ruin the water.
About 30 minutes later a few people came down from Sangara plantation.
A few of us went into the area and reached Sangara about midday. Everything was covered with dust. Just past an uncompleted hotel on the plantation we found a big number of burned and dead natives.

We got a jeep from the plantation and tried to get through to Higaturu, but couldn't because of a blocked road, so we went to Awala plantation to get the news out.

From there we could look straight on to Higaturu. It was completely obliterated.

There was not a tree or anything, it, was like a lump of concrete.

We got through on the radio and told them Higaturu had been wiped out.

Atmospherics were bad because of the explosion and we had to use morse code.

With the second explosion most of the Europeans panicked and ran down the road to the coast.

I raced down the road after them and brought them all back. The next day the airlift started.¹⁷³



Mt Lamington eruption, 1952
(Photo: PNG Association of Australia)

Marjorie, who escaped with her three children, one a baby aged six months, also gave a graphic account of the destruction and devastation.

It was terrible on Sunday morning when the mountain erupted. It was an earth-shattering explosion that sent a great wall of fire and blackness into the air. It seemed to be seven or eight miles high. We were at Popondetta, and from there could see the mountain of pumice that was falling on Higaturu. The Rev Dennis Taylor was on his way to Popondetta when the explosion came. He turned back to Sangara to try to rescue his wife and four children. Later our menfolk picked him up on the road. He was staggering along with his legs almost burnt off. When we helped him out of the truck at Popondetta he managed to stagger to the trade store between two of us. As he let go of us the skin on his arms peeled off like rubber gloves. His flesh just seemed to be peeling off, yet he remained cheerful about his pain. He kept worrying about his wife and children. It would have been impossible for him to have got through to them. He said there was a wall of fire between him and Sangara. About ten

¹⁷³ *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, 20 January 1971, p. 5.

Kleckham, Frederick Henry Albert, OBE

minutes before he died we asked him if he would like a cup of tea. He said: "That seems a jolly good idea," but died while Mrs Morris was helping him drink it.¹⁷⁴

Fred, who was employed as an agricultural Officer in the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, in Port Moresby at the time, was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) (civil) for bravery. A total of 14 awards for bravery were made in relation to the disaster.¹⁷⁵

Fred's citation reads:

Immediately after the eruption, in company with Messrs Hart, Scurrah, Stephens and Elliott Elijah, he proceeded to the eruption zone collecting and evacuating wounded native people. Continued throughout Monday and Tuesday. He then continued travelling through danger area as guide, with vulcanologist [Mr GA Cross who was awarded the George Cross].¹⁷⁶

Fred returned to Papua New Guinea and was the Regional Rural Development Officer for Papua from 1970 until 1975. He was captain of the Koitaki polocrosse team in Port Moresby in 1973–75. Fred was elected as a member of the overseas officers' executive of the Public Service Association in 1970. He retired in PNG about a week before PNG gained independence in September 1975.

In 1973, while a student at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Richmond, Fred's son Percy was granted Australian Citizenship by naturalisation.

The family moved back to Seaforth where Fred worked as a fisherman until at least 1980. In retirement, Fred and Marjorie occupied themselves shell collecting and orchid growing. They sent seashells and freshwater mussels to New York for identification and naming, Fred had a seashell named *Barneystrombus* (*Dolomena*) *kleckhamae* (female Latin ending in honour of Marjorie). The gastropod, whose typical location is Rabaul, New Britain, PNG, was originally described by Cernohorky in 1971. Its official etymology states that it is named for Mrs Marjorie Kleckham, Port Moresby, Papua, who brought this species to the attention of Mr Cernohorky.¹⁷⁷



Strombus kleckhamae
(Photo: Auckland Institute and Museum)

¹⁷⁴ *The Canberra Times*, 24 January 1951, p. 1.

¹⁷⁵ *The Advertiser*, 22 April 1952, p. 1.

¹⁷⁶ *The Canberra Times*, 22 April 1952, p. 1

¹⁷⁷ <http://www.stromboidea.de/?n=Species.BarneystrombusKleckhamae>

Fred died in Seaforth, Queensland on 11 May 2002 aged 86 and was survived by his wife, Marjorie and four children, Marjorie (Mrs Richard Falconer), Fred, Percy, and Elizabeth (Mrs Betty Smith).

Marjorie died in Mackay in 2007.

Knight, David Frank

David was born on 30 April 1921, the son of Frank and Louisa Knight (née Mead) and grew up in Toowong. Frank was a truck driver.

David's father died sometime between 1937 and 1940, and his mother died in 1981. His siblings were Doris (Mrs Robert Bingham), Mary (Mrs James Carew), and June. None of David's family came into membership at the Tabernacle.

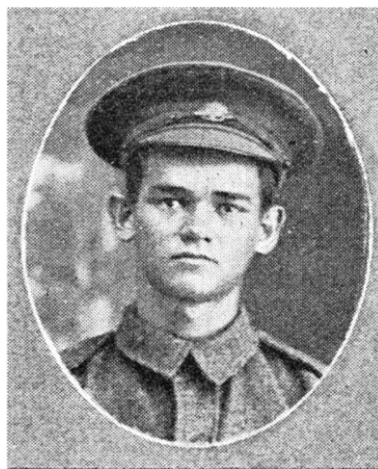
David's father served as a private in World War I in Étaples, France with the 2/52nd Battalion. He suffered both Tuberculosis and Pleurisy while in France.

In 1937, Frank and Louisa were living in Torwood. After Frank's premature death, Louisa moved to Taringa and subsequently lived in Shorncliffe, Manly, Wynnum, and Scarborough.

David enlisted at Water Street, Brisbane on 23 January 1940, aged 20. He had given his date of birth, incorrectly, as 4 June 1919 and nominated his mother, of Curphey Street, Valley as his next-of-kin. This was updated after his marriage. His denomination was given as Methodist. He was quite short at 166 cm. He was a farm labourer and was assigned to the 9/49th Battalion.

David married Freda Damro on 9 May 1942 in Christ Church of England, Milton. Freda was born in 1924 the daughter of Senior-Sergeant Friedrich (Frederick) and Beatrice Damro of Red Hill. Friedrich's grandfather migrated from Germany to Rosewood, Queensland in the mid-1860s.

Freda's brother August served with the 148th General Transport Company and her sisters, Doreen (Mrs Edmund O'Malley), Beatrice (Bessie), Ruth (Mrs Albert



Frank Knight
(Photo: The Queensland Pictorial)



David Knight
(Photo: National Archives of Australia)

Preston), and Irene (Mrs Clifford Quinn) all served in World War II in the AWAS. None of them served outside Australia. Freda's other two sisters married servicemen. Her father may have been a member of the Loyal Prince of the Colonies Lodge. Freda's mother was one of the matrons for the Police Patriotic Ball, held in the Brisbane City Hall in June 1941. It is not known if Freda or one of her sisters made their debut at the ball.

David and Freda had two children, David, and Carol.

David and Freda were living in Paddington in 1949 when David was a labourer. He was a carpenter, living in Stafford by 1954. In 1968, he was a builder, living in Woody Point. They moved back to Stafford in the early 1970s.

Freda died in Brisbane in 2000. In 2008, David was living in Margate. He was living at Peninsula Aged Care when he died in Kippa-Ring on 22 August 2015 aged 94.



Freda Damro, 1941
(Photo: *The Courier-Mail*)

Larmar, Robert Leslie

Les, as he was generally known, was born in Hetton-Le-Hole, Durham, England on 29 May 1920, the oldest son of Robert and Florence (Florrie) Larmar (née Bunt).

Les's father, Robert, enlisted in World War II in 1941, at the age of 50. Before migrating to Australia, he had served in World War I and was posted to France in the Royal Army Ordnance Corp. Robert was trained in accountancy and the entire Larmar family attended the local Methodist church each Sunday. He was considered unfit for active service but fit for other service, being promoted to corporal within a month of his enlistment and then to sergeant a little over a year later. His final promotion was to staff sergeant in the Pay Corps in November 1943. Robert and Florrie were living in



Robert Larmar senior
(Photo: J Robinson)

Camp Hill after Robert's discharge in July 1944. He was "mentioned in despatches" but it is not known when or why this happened. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal, for his service to King and Country.

Robert was the President of the Camp Hill Progress Association in 1934. He was the National Citizens' Party candidate for the Bulimba ward in the Brisbane City Council election in 1934 and the United Australia Party candidate for Bulimba for the Queensland Parliamentary election in 1938, in which he received 21.8% of the vote. Robert died in Brisbane in 1961 and Florrie lived out the rest of her days in Brisbane until 1982.

At the age of two, Les migrated to Australia with his parents and two sisters, Ethel (Mrs John Reoch) and Vera (Mrs Darrel McMullen), departing London in September 1922 aboard SS *Themistocles*, which had been a troop carrier during World War I. His father, Robert, was employed as a drapery traveller. They planned to reside with Henry and Lucy Bunt in Chinchilla. Henry, who was Florrie's uncle, was a farmer who had arrived in Queensland in 1878. Unfortunately, he died in August 1922, before Robert and Florrie arrived in Australia. Robert and Florrie had settled in Annerley by 1925.

Les attended Brisbane State High School, gaining his Junior Certificate in 1935.

Lillian (Lily) Window was born in Queensland 1918, the daughter of Arthur and Ednea Window. She worked for Nissan Jewellers in Fortitude Valley, where she packed and forwarded country orders from the catalogue for Bayards. She was

also a volunteer Air Warden for the army, checking if all the lights were out in the Teneriffe area where the family store was located.

Lily was holidaying with friends on the Sunshine Coast, when she heard hymn singing on King's Beach, Caloundra while walking alone on the beach. Being a strong Christian she decided to join them and met Les who was part of a Beach Mission team.¹⁷⁸

Les gained employment at the National Bank of Australasia Limited (NBA) in Brisbane, and then was transferred to the Gatton branch, before enlisting on 21 June 1941, aged 21, five months after his father. He served as a flight lieutenant with the RAAF and was based at several air force stations across Australia in No 36 Squadron, flying missions into New Guinea and across the Pacific.

Les and Lily were married at the Tabernacle on 19 September 1942 by Rev Albert Butler, while Les was on leave from the RAAF. The happy couple were attended by Lily's sister, Edna, her best friend, Olive Lyons, along with Les's close friends, Charles Miller and Aircraftman Ernie Thompson.

His official flight log records indicate that on 17 September 1945, he was the second pilot of the flight which transported the Queensland Governor, Sir Lesley Wilson and Lady Wilson, from Townsville to Cooktown, via Cairns and back, for official war duties.

He was a skilled fighter pilot and trained several RAAF recruits throughout his war service.

Lily's family owned a mixed crop farm in the Glasshouse Mountains until they moved to Brisbane around 1937. In 1938, Lily and her sister, Edna, were the first members of the family to come into membership at the Tabernacle.



Les and Lily Larmar and their attendants
(Photo: J Robinson)



Flight Lieutenant Les Larmar
(Photo: J Robinson)

¹⁷⁸ Larmar N, Personal communication, 2022.

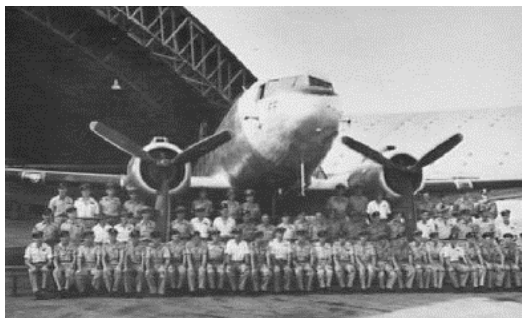
Lily's parents, Arthur and Ednea came into membership in 1939, along with her brothers Gilbert and Roy. Lily was working as a shop assistant in the family business at Bulimba during the war years until she married Les.

Les and Lily had four children: Earl, Merilyn (Mel), Narelle (Relle), and Jennifer (Jeni), all of whom were dedicated at the Tabernacle as babies. All three girls were nurses as some stage in their careers.

Les graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1949.

The family moved from Tarragindi to Surry Hills, Victoria around 1950 for Les to take up a managerial position in Melbourne, at the head office of the NBA and he became an economist. They remained in the southern capital for two years until Mel developed double pneumonia twice and the doctors warned they would be burying her down there if she had to endure another Melbourne winter. Mel's health issues also precluded Les from taking up a position with the bank in London.

On transfer from Canterbury (Victoria), Les and Lily renewed their membership at the Tabernacle in 1954 after moving to Wellers Hill on the southside of Brisbane. Les was the superintendent of the Young People's CE Society from November 1954 and sang solos on special occasions such as an ordination service at the Tabernacle in 1957. He was the tenor in a quartet with Cedric Johnson, Cec Leggett, and Harold Carruthers. Les and Lily were involved with the Free Tract Band in the late 1930s, which conducted open-air evangelistic services throughout South-East Queensland. Les also played in the church cricket team and in one match against Hamilton in 1954, he scored 73 runs.



36 Squadron, RAAF (Photo: Ozatwar)



Les and Lily Larmar with Earl, Jeni, Narelle, and Merilyn, 1956 (Photo: J Robinson)

After moving back to Queensland, Les worked for the Prudential Insurance Company. When Lily fell pregnant with Jeni in 1955, they purchased a large Queenslander home in Clayfield to accommodate their growing family.

Earl married Margaret Johnstone (aka Yvonne O'Leary). The ceremony was performed by Rev Neville Kellam at the Tabernacle in 2001. He currently lives in the Brisbane CBD, working as a Chartered Accountant, in his own company.

Earl and Mel were baptised by Rev FT Smith in 1963 and came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1964. In 1973, Mel married John Bradbury at Kudjip Mission Station in Papua New Guinea. While honeymooning in Europe, they invited Les and Lily to join them, enabling Les to visit his place of birth in Hetton-Le-Hole, for the first time since sailing to Australia in 1922. Sadly, John passed away in 2019 while Mel passed away in 2021. Mel's life story was published in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*.



Les and Lily Larmar, 1973
(Photo: J Robinson)

Narelle never married but lived at home for most of her life, and currently lives in Mapleton in the family home.

Jeni went on an 18-month working holiday in New Zealand when she was 17, but returned home to Brisbane when her father, Les, suddenly passed away. After moving to Canberra in 1975, she married the following year. She is a published author and currently lives in Yackandandah, Victoria, with her husband, Steve Robinson.

Although Les and Lily started attending the Church of the Nazarene, Coorparoo in 1961 their membership at the Tabernacle was not formally transferred until 1963. They were attending Christian Life Centre in Brisbane when Les passed away.

Les died of renal failure in Brisbane on 10 December 1974 aged 54 while Marilyn was on the mission field in Papua New Guinea and Jennifer was living in New Zealand. He was buried in the Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery, Bridgeman Downs on Lily's 56th birthday. Lily remained a widow and was devoted to her local church until her death in Maleny in 2005.

Lawton, Herbert Davies

Bert, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 8 March 1920, the son of Arthur and Annie Lawton (née Davies). Arthur was born in Yorkshire, England and migrated to Australia in 1913 before joining the AIF in World War 1 in 1916 and serving in France and Belgium. After the war he went back to England and lived with his parents, briefly, in Leeds. His girlfriend, Annie Davies lived across the road from his parents, and they married in Leeds in 1919. Arthur and Annie arrived in Australia on the HT *Katoomba* in September 1919.

Arthur and Annie and their young family lived in Brisbane and Gympie before returning again to Leeds, England via the Suez Canal in 1932 on the SS *Hobsons Bay* and came back to Brisbane in 1934 on the SS *Baradine*, with their three children: Bert (now aged 14); Elizabeth (Gwen, who married Leslie Phillips in 1943 at the Tabernacle) and James (Jim). Leslie served with the AIF as a corporal and Elizabeth served with the AAMWS. Neither Leslie nor Elizabeth are listed on the Roll of Honour.

The family settled in Toowong and Taringa. They were all Baptist. Arthur and Annie both died in Brisbane, in 1969 and 1976, respectively.

Bert and his brother James came into membership at the Tabernacle in April 1938. In 1938, Bert was a Church Union Cricket umpire. It is not known if he also played in one of the Tabernacle's cricket teams.

Bert enlisted on 25 November 1938. He was an ordinary seaman and served as an assistant cook, cook and leading cook on HMAS *Cerberus*, *Australia*, *Canberra*, *Penguin*, *Ipswich*, *Kuttabul*, and *Whyalla*. HMAS *Kuttabul* sank in Sydney Harbour in June 1942 as a result of being hit by a torpedo fired by a Japanese midget submarine, with the loss of 21 lives. Bert had been serving on the *Kuttabul* in February 1942.



Arthur and Annie Lawton
with James, Elizabeth, and
Bert in Eden, 1932
(Photo: J Bear)



Bert Lawton
(Photo: J Bear)

Bert's choice of the navy may have been influenced by the fact that his maternal grandfather, Evan Davies was a ship's captain.

The HMAS *Whyalla* was commissioned at Whyalla, South Australia on 8 January 1942, one of sixty Australian Minesweepers built during World War II in Australian shipyards and began service on escort and patrol duty on the Australian east coast. The Japanese forces landed on the northern coast of New Guinea at Gona and Buna on the 21 July 1942 and began advancing towards Kokoda village. In December 1942, the *Whyalla* proceeded to New Guinea, where she served an important and dangerous role as a survey ship, secretly charting the coastline of New Guinea, to enable the defence of and planning for attacks against the enemy. On 2 January 1943, while hidden in McLaren Harbour, Cape Nelson, New Guinea, approximately 80 kms southeast of Buna, the *Whyalla* and three other small survey vessels, were attacked by six Japanese dive bombers escorted by twelve fighters. On the smaller ships, during Battle Stations, all crewmen had their battle roles to perform, such as an Auxiliary Gunner, Fire Fighter etc. These were outside of their normal functions. While all the bombs missed their targets, there were near misses resulting in two sailors being wounded by splintered shrapnel and one of these sailors was Bert who had only joined the *Whyalla*, the day before—New Year's Day, 1 January 1943.

The shrapnel caused a compound comminuted fracture of the left femur, which never healed. The *Whyalla* was undamaged and Bert was placed in a shore hospital, to be eventually discharged twelve months later, in December 1943 as medically unfit. Bert suffered a lot with his wound.

Bert married Eileen O'Keefe on 25 June 1945. Eileen was born in Brisbane in 1918, the second eldest child of David and



HMAS *Whyalla* (Photo: Royal Australian Navy)



Bert & Eileen's wedding, 1945
(Photo: K Hammer)

Margaret O'Keefe. Eileen had six siblings and her younger sister, Mary was her bridesmaid.

Bert and Eileen lived in Deagon, Kedron, and then Grange. Their homes in Kedron and Grange were owned by Eileen's father. Bert worked as a store manager and clerk.

After his return from the war, Bert never fully recovered from his injury. He suffered continuous, debilitating pain from the shrapnel wound, necessitating long periods of hospitalisation, finally dying at the Grange, Brisbane on 25 August 1958, aged 38.

Eileen was also very ill and followed him four years later, dying in Redcliffe, in 1962. Both are buried in Lutwyche Cemetery, Brisbane.

Bert and Eileen were survived by their daughter, Suzanne (Mrs John Lawless).

Leggett, Joseph Walter

Joe, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 19 April 1918, the son of George and Alice Leggett (née Gaylor), who had married in 1912 in the Presbyterian Church, Willesden, Middlesex, England. They had migrated to Brisbane by late 1913 when their daughter Evelyn was born. She died in 1914. They lived in Wynnum from 1914 until at least 1932 but had moved to Auchenflower by 1936. George was a carpenter/joiner by trade. They had a further four children: George, Dorothy (Mrs Clarence Trudgian), Joe, and Frederick.

Joe successfully sat the Scholarship examination in Wynnum in 1931, enabling him to attend any state high, grammar or other approved secondary school in Queensland. In 1932, he attended Sunday School in Wynnum and passed the intermediate division of the Baptist Union Scripture exam.

Joe came into membership at the Tabernacle in October 1941, on transfer from Rosalie. His mother, brother George and sister Dorothy, joined the church in 1946, and Frederick joined in 1952. George Snr and Alice were not members at the Tabernacle. They may have been in membership at the Rosalie Church. Joe's father died in 1970 and his mother died in 1978 in Brisbane.

Joe enlisted in the Army during World War II and while on leave married Violet Green at the Tabernacle on 21 July 1942. Rev Albert Butler was the celebrant. Violet was born in Brisbane in 1920, the daughter of Frederick and Irene Green and was employed as a clerk. The witnesses to the marriage were Joe's father and older brother George.

While undertaking his initial training in Townsville, a very traumatising event happened which had a serious effect on Joe. He accidentally killed a friend because the bullet had not been taken out of the rifle he was using. This was the fault of somebody else. Joe was horrified and had a difficult time getting over it. His family knew about this but found out more of the effects from the RSL after his death. He had a heart attack sometime after this and had to have psychological help from the army. He never told any of his family about its effect on him, not even the heart attack. It is possible that he resigned from the army after that.¹⁷⁹

Joe served in Papua New Guinea.

In 1943, Joe and Violet were "living" in Auchenflower with Joe's parents. This may have only been Joe's address for the purpose of the electoral roll while he was serving in the army. It is likely that Violet continued to work as a clerk, at least for the duration of Joe's military service.

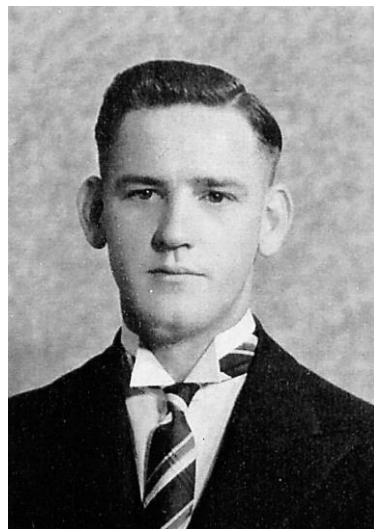
¹⁷⁹ Mischlewski A, Personal communication, 2021.

Dorothy was a secretary of the Young People's CE in 1948 and Cecil was a member from 1952 and vice-president from 1956 until at least 1965.

Immediately after his discharge in 1945, Joe was accepted on probation for the Queensland Home Mission staff.¹⁸⁰ Initially he was appointed minister of the Torquay Baptist Church. It was believed that his four-years' service with the army would be beneficial to him in his new service. Joe's church membership was transferred to Maryborough in October 1947 upon his taking up of this pastoral role.

Joe's pastoral ministry in Torquay, Woodford, Wamuran, and Petrie Terrace is recounted in *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*.

Irene, who is generally known as Ann, was born in 1946 at Torquay. Her marriage to Garry Jonson at the Tabernacle in 1966 was celebrated by Rev FT Smith. She later remarried Kevin Mischlewski.



Rev JW Leggett (Photo: Queensland Baptist Archives)

In 1948, in the Licentiate of Theology examinations, Joe secured the highest average marks for the year.¹⁸¹

Joe and Violet's son Peter was born in 1949 and died in Adelaide in 2017.

An ordination service was held for Pastors Jarrott and Leggett in April 1950. The Tabernacle was filled for the occasion. Rev FT Smith addressed the young ministers on the subject of *The King's Crier*.¹⁸²

In 1950, Joe was a luncheon speaker at the Protestant Women's Democratic Association.

While Joe was the Minister at Petrie Terrace in 1951–53, *The Courier Mail* under the banner *The Pulpit: Revival of Bible Reading Big Need*, reported one of his sermons.¹⁸³

It is unclear when or why Joe left Petrie Terrace. He was still referred to as Rev JW Leggett in *The Australian Baptist* in July 1954.

¹⁸⁰ *The Australian Baptist*, 3 April 1945, p. 3.

¹⁸¹ *The Australian Baptist*, 11 January 1949, p 4.

¹⁸² *The Australian Baptist*, 11 April 1950, p. 10.

¹⁸³ *The Courier Mail*, 17 March 1952, p. 2.

Joe transferred his membership back to the Tabernacle in 1958 and Violet came into membership at the same time. Violet and the children continued to attend the Tabernacle for some time thereafter.

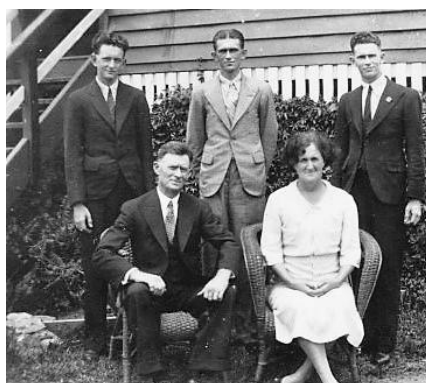
Joe and Violet lived in Milton from 1958 until 1974, when they were flooded out and had to move. Joe was working at Barry and Robert's Department Store in Queen Street Brisbane, and later as a funeral director at Alex Gow Funerals. Throughout this period, his occupation on the electoral role was given as minister of religion, even though he was no longer in pastoral ministry.

The family were living in Cannon Hill from 1977. Joe had become general manager at Alex Gow Funerals and was still living in Cannon Hill when he died on 26 October 2005 aged 87. Violet was living in Kingston when she died in 2006.

Ann came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1965. Her church membership was cancelled in 1976, probably because she had started attending the Garden City Assembly of God Church.

Leivesley, Douglas Alister and Frank Leon

George Leivesley married Mary Alcorn in Nanango in 1913, and they had three sons: Percival, Douglas, and Frank. George was a railway porter in Nanango before becoming a baker in Gladstone and then resumed working as a railway employee and moving around Queensland working in Farleigh (Mirani), Rockhampton, Mt Larcom, Mingela (on the western line between Townsville and Charters Towers), Spring Bluff, and Toowoomba. He retired to Brighton and died in 1971, having been a widower for less than a year after Mary's death in 1970. Mary's younger brother Douglas Alcorn was



Frank, Percival and Douglas Leivesley,
with their parents, in Rockhampton
(Photo: R Leivesley)

awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion in World War I. His son John enlisted in World War II. Three of Mary's nephews enlisted in World War II. Ivan (Bruce) and Cyril served as chaplains in the AIF and RAN, and Reginald (Reg), was an able bodied seamen in the RAN.

In 1940, George and Mary chartered Captain Percy Moody's Leopard Moth plane for a quick flight to Bowen where, they had been informed, their son Douglas was dangerously ill with tetanus. The plane left Rockhampton at 1 pm and reached Bowen at 3:16 pm. It was feared that the trip would be in vain, but later reports indicated that there were hopes that the young man would recover.¹⁸⁴ Percy had served in the RAAF as a Flying Officer and was the proprietor of the Daydream Island Resort in the 1940s.

Percival, who was also known as Perce, was born in Kingaroy in 1914, and married Ethel Wilson in the Lakes Creek (East Rockhampton) Baptist Church in 1936. Doug was Percival's best man. It was anticipated that Percival and Ethel would be missed from the church, as they were both



Douglas, Frank, and Percival Leivesley
(Photo: K Leivesley)

¹⁸⁴ *Morning Bulletin*, 1 May 1940, p 6.

involved in the Sunday School, tennis club, CE, and choir.¹⁸⁵ Ethel was also the church organist. Percival enlisted in the RAAF in World War II, and served in New Guinea as a leading aircraftman, but his name is not on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour. Given that Percival and Ethel were living in Rockhampton in 1937 and again in 1943, it is presumed that Percival had no involvement at the Tabernacle prior to his enlistment. Percival and Ethel had three children: Eric, Gwen, and Kevin. He was with a newly formed radar unit in Merauke, NG. On discharge from the RAAF, he had attained the rank of flying officer.

Frank was named after his uncle, Frank Leon Leivesley-Pelisser who enlisted in World War I in 1917 and died of wounds received in action in France in 1918, seven weeks before the Armistice. Frank Pelisser's brother Arthur was also killed-in-action, while under the command of Lieutenant General John Monash, during the Battle of Hamel, in France, in July 1918. Unfortunately, his name was published in the casualty list before his family had been advised. Frank and Arthur's father, Francois, had died in Brisbane in 1914. Between 1914 and 1918, Francois' wife, Margaret lost her husband and two sons.

Douglas Alister Leivesley

Doug as he was commonly known, was born in Rockhampton on 27 June 1918. He completed Junior at the Rockhampton State High School in 1932 and was granted an extension of his Secondary Scholarship to continue to the Senior examination, which he completed in 1934. He has been described as a solid student with a great memory. He had a great interest in birds, fowls and horticulture and a great sense of humour.¹⁸⁶

Doug came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1935, on the basis of his testimony. He had been baptised at Lake's Creek by Rev Frederick Pell. He was awarded 85% in the senior division of the Baptist Sunday School examination as a student at Lake's Creek the same year.

In 1937, Doug was living in Ingham and came third in the baritone solo, second grade, singing *A Russian Lament* in the Innisfail Eisteddfod. He also competed in the North Queensland Eisteddfod. He was studying Commerce as an external student at the University of Queensland and passed one subject. In 1941, he was awarded a merit in one subject and a pass in another subject.

Doug enlisted as a private in the CMF in Ingham in May 1938. In November 1939, along with 29 other soldiers he was stationed as a guard at the ammunitions dump, 24 km outside Townsville, unloading and securing dynamite from the trains.

¹⁸⁵ *The Australian Baptist*, 12 January 1937, p. 10.

¹⁸⁶ Leivesley R, Personal communication, 2022.

Having been issued with his .303 rifle (number 7167) Doug was set the task of shooting a boat 300 m out to sea, and given 9 bullets. His friend Harry Rees who had been in the Grammar School Cadets gave him some advice: "Before you use your rifle, you take your 'pull through' (a piece of cord with a brass sinker on one end and flannelette on the other end soaked in oil) and pull it through the barrel leaving a smear of oil inside the barrel so the bullet will slip out more easily". That was, in Doug's words, the rottenest advice anyone could give. In effect, the coating of oil made the barrel narrower so the bullet cannot get out so easily and the explosion makes the butt of the rifle kick fiercely. Doug took sight on the target, held the butt in firmly against his shoulder and pulled the trigger. The trusty rifle kicked madly and he felt as if someone had hit his shoulder with a hammer, at the same time giving him a mighty biff on the cheek. Doug got the other 8 shots away with utter discomfort, unimpressed by his trusty rifle, which had been handed down from World War I. The next time he went shooting on the rifle range, Doug had a Lewis machine gun, and scored 100 out of 105, to which everyone said what a wonderful shot he was.¹⁸⁷



Private DA Leivesley (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

He contracted tetanus in April 1940 and spent 77 days in hospital and convalescing at Queen's Beach, Bowen. The doctor-in-charge was Norman Talbot, who had supervised his entry into the world. The other four doctors said that he was "dead from the waist down". Dr Talbot prescribed Anti-Tetanus Serum. After the first injection, Doug felt that he was going to be all right. One by one, the three army padres came to visit him - the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Protestant. They all had the same message – words of comfort and an assurance that his passage to the next life would not be so bad after all. Doug thought it was a bit of a joke because he was sure that he would be OK. Doug spent the next 10 days in the Bowen Hospital morgue, because it was the only room in the hospital which met the necessary conditions of no noise or light. The hospital matron, Anna Bonner, Sister Fisher and a third lady kept vigil over him.

In December 1941, he transferred to the AIF. He was living in Ballard, via Toowoomba, where he was working as a teacher at the time and in February 1942,

¹⁸⁷ Leivesley D, Personal memoirs, undated.

he spent a month guarding Caloundra against the Japanese, until responsibility was handed over to the Americans.

Doug's request to be transferred to the 117th Australian General Hospital (AGH), was granted in March 1942 and he served at Glennie and Downlands in Toowoomba before transferring to Chermside and Redbank.

He was transferred to New Guinea (NG) on 17 January 1944, and remained there until October 1945. He sailed from Brisbane to Townsville and then to Buna in NG aboard HMAS *Katoomba* and returned on the same vessel. While in NG, he worked as a nursing orderly and in pathology, and undertook clerical duties as a Grade 3 Clerk. He was also the first line man of the winning team from the surf lifesaving club from the Aitape AGN, competing against 11 other army and air force teams.

Day after day, in single file, New Guinea natives marched past the Australian camp to assemble for their corroboree or sing-sing. In groups of about 20, amazingly clad in bird of paradise head-dress and ornate outfits, they banged their drums and exquisitely performed their dances. It puzzled Doug that members of different tribes, who hated each other, could forget their hate in the intoxication of the dance and betel nut.

Soon after his discharge, Doug's marriage to Estelle Binnington on 8 December 1945 at the Tabernacle, was celebrated by Rev Albert Butler. Estelle was born in 1921, the daughter of William and Henrietta Binnington. She came into membership at the Tabernacle in November 1948, following her baptism in July by Rev FT Smith. They had announced their lengthy engagement in July 1942

Doug and Estelle had three children: William (Bill), Kay, and Ian.

In 1949, Doug and Estelle were living in Mitchelton, where Douglas was a teacher. Subsequently he taught in the Wondai and Aspley districts, before retiring in St Lucia having been principal at Narangba State School.

Estelle died in 2001 and Doug died on 21 December 2007 aged 89. His funeral was held at the St Lucia Uniting Church.



Doug and Estelle Leivesley's wedding (Photo: R Leivesley)

Frank Leon Leivesley

Frank was born in Rockhampton on 30 August 1921. His primary education was disrupted by frequent moves due to his father's employment. He attended Blackwater, Rockhampton Central Infants, Crescent Lagoon (West Rockhampton), Emu Park, Lake's Creek, and Allenstown State Schools. His high school education was equally disturbed, attending Rockhampton, Charters Towers, and Mackay State High Schools. Although he struggled academically at times, Frank excelled in tennis, cricket, and athletics.

In 1937, Frank gained a credit pass in auditing, studying at the Mackay Technical College. He was awarded a two-year extension on his state scholarship the same year, as a student at Mackay State High School.

The extent of Frank's involvement at the Tabernacle, apart from the cricket club, is unknown. In 1935 he had sat for the advanced junior division of the Sunday School examination in Lakes Creek. He was baptised at the Tabernacle in 1940 but did not come into membership, possibly due to his enlistment. He joined the membership of the Wondai Church in 1947.

Frank was a junior clerk in the Queen Street and Woolloongabba branches of the Commercial Bank of Australia before the war.

In early 1941, a recital of popular sacred music by a select choir and orchestra under the conductorship of Naomi Turton, "featuring the brilliant young bass-baritone, Frank Leivesley", who was assisted by leading metropolitan artists, was held in Nasco House, Brisbane. The recital was organised by Jack Willard-Turton of the Protestant Labour Party, with proceeds to "missions".¹⁸⁸

Frank enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in Mitchelton on 23 July 1943 and trained at Puckapunyal, Victoria and was then stationed at Harlaxton.

While in Toowoomba, Frank sang at church recitals, where he got to know Liela Virgen. Their parents knew each other, possibly through their mutual association with the Church of Christ.

He was registered in Spring Bluff in 1943, while a soldier, and was associated with the army medical corps in Buna-Gona, New Guinea. As a result, he was not involved in combat roles. Frank was discharged on 23 June 1946 as a medical orderly with the rank of corporal.

Frank and Doug were stationed together at Buna. Along with some mates, they were impressed by the brass ashtrays and aeroplanes made from 25-pounder shells and Perspex, being made as souvenirs, and they wanted to make some too. They

¹⁸⁸ *The Telegraph* 8 February 1941, p. 18.

chose a moonless night and walked a few miles to the ammunition dump and waited until the sentry had walked in the other direction before hopping through the fence and filling their packs and nicking out again. The next time they had a free moment they got stuck into the brassware with hacksaw, drills, and soldering irons to make their ashtrays. Frank was whacking his chisel with a hammer trying to get rid of the white stuff clogging up the cylindrical object destined to become a beautiful silver vase. No one had told him it was a parachute flare. Suddenly a blinding flash accompanied by a deafening bang left them dazed. Frank lost his eyebrows, some of his hair and his eyes were damaged. Someone hurried him off for some treatment. The rest of them packed their tools and materials into their packs and rushed them 20 metres to the riverbank and hid them there. When the sergeant and corporal came down, asking "What caused the explosion?" they replied: "We think Frank was hammering a bomb he had picked up". "Has he anything else of this sort?" he said. "We don't think so" they replied. "Are there any more of these bombs in the tent?" he said. "We don't think so" was their reply. "Well search the tent" he said, and they did. Frank's eyes were bandaged for a few days. He didn't make any more souvenirs. After a few days the rest of the lads retrieved their packs from the river and it was soon business as usual.

After the war, Frank worked for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Proston, Burleigh Heads and Southport.

Frank and Liela were married in the Toowoomba Church of Christ on 5 April 1947. Liela was born in Toowoomba in 1926, the daughter of Percy and Mary Virgen. She was involved in the Sunday School and was a Girls' Brigade leader in the Toowoomba Church of Christ.

Frank played reserve A-grade cricket for Diggers in Mackay in the late 1940s. In one of his better matches, he had the bowling figures of 2/17 against Western Suburbs. In another match a bright sixth wicket partnership by Quinn and Leivesley quickly mounted the score. Both batsmen dealt severely with the slow attack of the Colts. In 45 minutes they scored 50 runs. When the partnership was worth 51, Howard tricked Quinn with his top spinner, the ball hitting the batsman's pads. Quinn had hit three fours. Leivesley batted well and carried his total to 39 before L Druery



Frank and Liela Leivesley's wedding (Photo: R Leivesley)

completely beat him. He hit six fours. The remaining Diggers' batsmen carried the team's total to 124.¹⁸⁹

Frank and Liela were associated with the Southport Baptist Church in 1951.

They were living in Woolwich (Sydney) in 1954 when Frank was a student at the Churches of Christ Bible College. His first pastorate was in Albury in 1955. While Frank was studying, Liela supported him by working in an orphanage/boys' home in Stanwell Tops, which was operated by the Church of Christ.

Frank and Liela had three sons: Errol (born in Wondai in 1948), Selwyn (born in Albury, 1957), and Royce (born in Brisbane in 1962).

Frank gave his occupation as preacher in 1958–62 while living in Georgetown (a north-western suburb of Newcastle), and as "missioner" when living in Redcliffe in 1963. He had been the pastor of the Churches of Christ church in Lismore up until 1962. He then served with Children's Special Services Mission from 1962 until 1965. In addition to pastoral duties, Frank was involved with Christian Commandos (Open Air Campaigners), Life Boys, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade as a captain/chaplain and CE as district president. Liela was involved in Girls' Brigade as a lieutenant, Sunday School as a teacher or superintendent, Ladies' Guild as president, and was a youth group leader, in various churches.

In 1965, Frank and Liela went to New Zealand with Ambassadors for Christ. During this period he was an "officiating minister" with the Associated Churches of Christ, and he then served in the Nelson and Christchurch Church of Christ. After returning to Australia in 1970, Frank served with Churches of Christ in Gympie. He had a consistently strong evangelistic ministry.

Frank left the ministry in 1972 and worked for McKenna's Joinery and Funerals before becoming a naturopath, working on Norfolk Island and a chiropractor in Scarborough, Woody Point, Redcliffe, Stafford Heights, Petrie, and Deception Bay from 1974 until 2001. He was both state and national president of the Australian Natural Therapists' Association in 1975 and 1976.



Frank Leivesley
(Source: R Leivesley)

¹⁸⁹ *Daily Mercury*, 22 November 1948, p. 4.

Frank continued in ministry, conducting home fellowship groups and prayer meetings in their own home after leaving “full-time” ministry.

When Liela died in 1996, Frank was assisted by Max Winch, from Albury, at her funeral service.

Frank was living in Mitchelton when he died on 16 June 2017 aged 96.

Lincoln, Robert Francis

Robert was born in Roma on 5 November 1907, the youngest of nine children of Henry and Lillian Lincoln (née Williams). Henry died in Yeppoon in 1927 and Lillian died in the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1944. Robert's siblings were Alice (Mrs Les Ranger), William, Edward, Henry, Harold, Herbert, Lilly (Mrs Francis Hughes), and John. Robert and his siblings grew up in Woolloongabba.

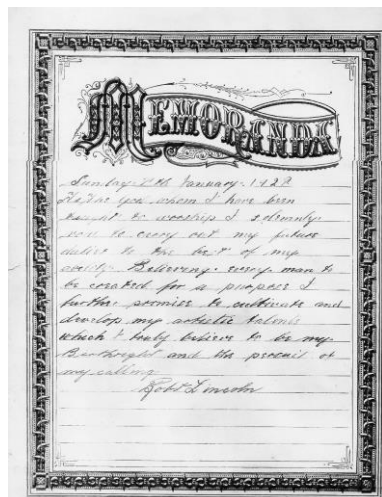
The circumstances under which Robert wrote the memoranda shown is unknown. It may have been prompted by a New Year's resolution. It reads:

Sunday 8th January 1928

To the God whom I have been taught to worship, I solemnly vow to carry out my future duties to the best of my ability.

Believing every man to be created for a purpose, I further promise to cultivate and develop my artistic talents which I truly believe to be my birthright and the pursuit of my calling.

Robt Lincoln



Robert Lincoln's Memoranda, 1928
(Source: E Schulz)

Before his marriage, Robert was an engine driver in Roma in early 1930 but had moved to Buranda by the time of his engagement to Mona Studdert in late 1930. Robert's parents were living in Buranda and Mona's parents were living in West End.

Robert and Mona were married in the Holy Trinity Church, South Brisbane on 15 January 1932, by Rev Reginald Massey. They had been engaged for a little over a year. Mona was born in 1909, the daughter of Gordon and Mabel Studdert.¹⁹⁰

Robert then became an inspector with the Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty (QSPC) (now the Queensland Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)



Robert and Mona Lincoln, wedding 1932
(Photo: E Schulz)

¹⁹⁰ *The Brisbane Courier*, 21 January 1932, p. 18.

living in Highgate Hill but became a fruit merchant when living in Kangaroo Point in 1937. He had returned to the QSPC as an inspector by 1943 when he and Mona were living in Moorooka.

Robert was not in membership at the Tabernacle and the extent of his involvement in its organisations is unknown.

At age 35, Robert and Mona were living in Moorooka when he enlisted on 18 March 1941. He joined the Australian Intelligence Corp (Northern Command Section). He gave his denomination as Church of England.

Robert was promoted to corporal in May 1941 and assigned to Mackay. He was discharged on 17 July 1945 and awarded the War Medal and Australian Service Medal for service in non-warlike operations. Mona lived in Mackay during the war.

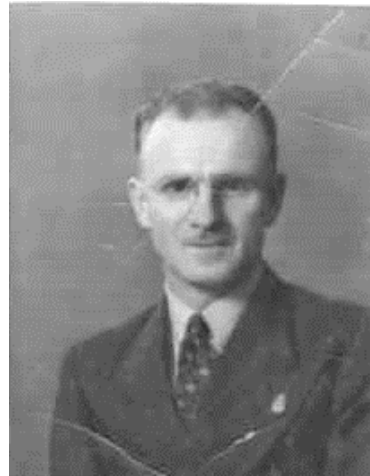
In 1944, Robert nominated for the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as the member for the Electoral District of South Brisbane, on behalf of the Queensland People's Party. The QPP was formed in 1943 and became part of the Liberal Party of Australia in 1945. The other candidate, on behalf of the Labor Party, was the sitting member, Vincent C Gair, who later became the Premier of Queensland.

After the war, Robert re-joined the QSPC briefly and they returned to their home in Moorooka. He was living alone in Adavale in 1954, working as a contractor, while Mona remained in their home in Moorooka. In 1958, he was again living with Mona and had become a credit manager. They had moved to Rockhampton by 1968 and Robert later became a company secretary. In 1980, Robert and Mona were living in Mount Archer, (a suburb of North Rockhampton).

Robert and Mona had two daughters. Robert died in Sandgate in 1992.



Robert Lincoln, 1941 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)



Robert Lincoln, 1944 (Photo: E Schulz)

Lockhart, Cecil Robert

Cec, as he was generally known, was born in Stanmore (Sydney) on 13 July 1922, the son of Oliver (Roy) and Iris (Ivy) Lockhart (née Cockburn). Cec had two brothers, Maxwell (Max) and Donald, who died at the age of 11. Roy, Ivy, and Cec came into membership at the Tabernacle in March 1939 on transfer from Stanmore, having recently moved from Marrickville. Cec had been a student at Dulwich Hill Public School and Canterbury Boys' High School. Roy died in Lutwyche in 1961, and Ivy died in New Farm in 1976.

Roy was elected to fill a casual vacancy on the diaconate in May 1941 and remained a deacon until his passing. He was the relieving Sunday School superintendent in 1940–41 and then permanent superintendent from 1942 until 1948. In 1944, he was one of the Tabernacle's delegates to the Annual Assembly.

Roy was in great demand as an anniversary speaker. Beyond the Tabernacle, he was chairman of the Queensland Baptist Youth Department, and "in his spare time" he was state manager of a large agricultural machinery firm in all its ramifications throughout Queensland. He was appointed as a director of HV McKay, Massey Harris Pty Ltd in 1948.

The Tabernacle Yearbook of 1961–62 records that:

During the year the Church suffered a heavy loss in the Home-Call of Mr RO Lockhart, an esteemed member and Officer of the City Tabernacle. He was loved by all for his gracious and kindly manner. In paying tribute to our brother, we record the "Special Minute" placed in the Church records:

Roy Lockhart who passed to his reward on 25th July 1961, at the age of sixty-three years, most devoutly and faithfully served his Master as a Deacon of this Church for twenty years, and as Sunday School Superintendent for five years. At the time of his Home-Call, he was rendering outstanding leadership as Superintendent of our Adult Bible School.

We record our affectionate tribute to the memory of our beloved brother, who by his consecrated consistent life inspired and challenged his fellow deacons and Church members generally and has left amongst us treasured memories of our association with him.

Whilst Roy Lockhart sacrificially laboured amongst us he also rendered outstanding service for his Master in our denominational life as President and Leader in a number of activities, especially in Youth work.

In the business world with large responsibilities he was outstandingly true in his Christian witness and therefore was held in high respect by all in his daily witness for his Lord.

We salute his memory and render heartfelt thanks to our Heavenly Father that he passed our way and left such lasting memories of his enriching influence and fellowship. For him the coronation has come. "He fought a good fight: he had finished his course he had kept the faith"¹⁹¹

Max came into membership in 1947 and his marriage to Noela Webster by Rev FT Smith took place at the Tabernacle in 1955. Cec was one of their witnesses.

¹⁹¹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1961–62*, pp. 11, 12.

Cec played in the church cricket team and was an opening bowler and high order batsman and was treasurer of the Young Men's Fellowship in 1942–43.

Cec set his course on a career in commerce and joined the Shell Oil Company in 1939 at the age of 17 as a mail boy in the Bowen Hills office. He commenced accountancy studies in 1941 but put that on hold when he enlisted during World War II in the RANR on 3 September 1942, as an ordinary [able bodied] seaman, then spent time in officer training and graduated as a sub lieutenant. He served on HMAS *Cerberus* and *Rushcutter* and was promoted to first lieutenant in 1945 where he had command of the recently commissioned anti-submarine vessel HMAS *Air Cloud*, patrolling the Australian and Papua New Guinean coastline.

Air Cloud and *Air Sailor* departed Brisbane on 22 April 1945, joined by HMAS *Air Trail*, their passage north continuing to be hampered by poor weather. *Air Cloud* arrived at Darwin on 22 May. She remained in northern Australian waters conducting air sea rescue duties until December 1946. In addition to her ASR duties, she did, on occasion, offer assistance to other boats experiencing difficulties, provided medical assistance to civilians, and assisted in the RAAF drawdown in northern Australia following the cessation of hostilities.¹⁹²



Cec Lockhart (Photo: P Lockhart)

In January 1946, Cec was still aboard HMAS *Air Cloud*, when he wrote to Alf Ingham:

I cherish no hopes of being discharged for quite some time yet, but don't anticipate I'll be sailing these water for much longer. At the moment I'm in the Gulf of Carpentaria, my base is Darwin, but it us now over two months since we called there. I'm expecting instructions to proceed to a southern port within the next couple of months - the sooner the better as far as I'm concerned, but I suppose it's quite on the cards that I'll no sooner be down there, and I'll be back this way on another ship.

Many thanks for the monthly letter, which have been coming to hand regularly. You'll notice that my address is different to what you have on your books now.

¹⁹² <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-air-cloud>

I was glad to hear that the teas are still being served every Sunday evening, an effort of which all concerned may feel justly proud. I recall the humble beginnings which they came from when you and the Hirst twins used to go to the gardens etc. and give out the invitations. There's been a lot of hard work, but I'm sure it was worthwhile.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon,

I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

Cec Lockhart.

P.S. Kindly remember me to Mrs Ingham

Cec regretted that he was unable to attend the Breaking Up Social of the Soldiers' Teas in March 1946. He wrote to Alf Ingham saying that he was "unable to attend, but should certainly have made an attempt had [he] been little handier to the home port. Even if [he] received orders now to take the ship south, she'll have to sprout wings, I'm afraid, to make Brisbane on 22nd."



HMAS *Air Cloud* and *Air View*, Darwin Harbour
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

While serving in the RAN, Cec continued his accountancy studies, successfully completing the intermediate examination of the Federal Institute of Accountants in 1944 and company law and mercantile law in mid-1946. At the conclusion of the war in June 1946, he left the RAN and resumed his career at Shell Oil.

Cec and Alice (Betty) Barber were married at the Tabernacle on 25 June 1949 by Rev FT Smith. Betty was the daughter of Rupert and Dorothy Barber of Hamilton. They honeymooned on the South Coast and in Melbourne. The report of their wedding in *The Australian Baptist*, under the banner *Wedding of Interest*, stated:

Interest in Baptist circles throughout the Commonwealth was attached to the wedding of Miss Betty Barber to Mr Cecil Lockhart, in the City Tabernacle. Both young people are well known and highly regarded in the city church in which their fathers are deacons.

Mr RAW Barber is shipping manager of Dalgety's and was formerly connected with the East Camberwell Church in Victoria. Mr RO Lockhart is a director of McKay-Massey Harris, and before coming to Queensland was connected with the Stanmore Church in Sydney. Since coming to Queensland he has taken a very active part in the work of the denomination, especially in the Youth Department.

Greetings and telegrams came to the young people from all parts of the Commonwealth. They intend making their home in Melbourne, from which centre Mr Cecil Lockhart will continue his occupation as visiting accountant for the Shell Company.¹⁹³

Betty, her sister June, and her parents had come into membership in 1945 on transfer from East Camberwell, Victoria. Betty was living with her parents in early 1949 in Hamilton and worked for the National Australia Bank. Rupert was elected to fill a casual vacancy on the diaconate in 1946–47 and remained on the diaconate for three years.

Cec successfully completed his final Federal Institute of Accountants Advanced Accounting examinations in October 1949 and joined the audit staff at Shell which led to several interstate postings. Initially Cec and Betty lived in Brisbane and then through a transfer, moved to Cottesloe, Western Australia. They transferred their church membership to Claremont in 1949.

They then moved to Sydney, living in Lane Cove and in 1954, Cec was transferred to Shell's Head Office in Melbourne and ended up as a senior executive in Shell Oil as Head of Information Systems with a national staff of several hundred. He pioneered the introduction of the first computer at Shell, having spent several months in Holland ahead of its introduction in Australia. In Melbourne they lived in Beaumaris. They attended the Sandringham Baptist Church where Cec served as church secretary and then moved to Beaumaris Baptist when it was first established where he was the Sunday School superintendent. He was for many years chairman of the Baptist Book Depot in Melbourne. He always sang in church choirs having a very good tenor voice. He took leads in particular pieces, and often performed solos at the Tabernacle.

They remained in Victoria until 1980, when Cec retired from Shell after 41 years of service. They then returned to Brisbane, where they renewed their membership at the Tabernacle in May 1981 and Cec worked as a part-time consultant to a number of major Australian companies for several years. Cec was appointed church auditor in 1981 and was on the diaconate for one three-year term from 1984 until 1987. He served on the Baptist Community Homes Board and had a strong involvement with the establishment of Prison Fellowship. He was involved



Cec and Betty Lockhart, 1949 (Photo: *The Courier-Mail*)

¹⁹³ *The Australian Baptist*, 5 July 1949, p. 4.

with this work from 1982 until 1989 including three years as Queensland Chairman and as a National Board member.

Cec and Betty had three children: David, Peter, and Amanda (Mandy, Mrs Ross Rundle). Peter and Amanda were both married at the Tabernacle. Peter came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1978 following his baptism and was superintendent of the Junior CE in 1980–81. He served on the diaconate for one term.



Cec and Betty Lockhart, c. 1998
(Photo: P Lockhart)

In later years Cec was one of the Tabernacle's visitors in the ministry of special care and led a series of studies on Nehemiah for the Northside Life Group in 2013.

Cec and Betty were both living at The Gap when they died, on 12 May 2014 aged 91 and in 2015, respectively. They had been married for 64 years. Cec's memorial service was held at the Tabernacle.

Mactaggart, John

John was born in Maryborough, Queensland on 23 November 1921, the eldest son of John and Marjorie Mactaggart (née Wilson). His parents had married in the Sandgate Baptist Church on 18 January 1921.

Marjorie was a granddaughter of Rev Benjamin Wilson, the first Minister of the Wharf Street Baptist Church, which relocated and became known as the City Tabernacle. She enlisted as an army nurse in 1916 and served in England and France. Although she became a member at the Tabernacle in 2010, she is not listed on the Roll of Honour. Her service is outlined in *For God, King and Country*.

John and Marjorie established their home at *Whydale*, Ascot, where they brought up their three sons, John, Peter, and Dougald. John's father and brothers did not come into membership at the Tabernacle. John's father, John Mactaggart Snr served as a gunner in France and Belgium in the Australian Imperial Forces in World War I. He was gassed at least twice.

John enlisted on 25 May 1941, aged 19 and became a flying officer in No 3 Squadron RAAF. Sadly, he was killed on 18 August 1942, aged 20, in a dive bombing training exercise during the battle of El Alamein in the Middle East. He lost control while pulling up from his bomb-dive and his Curtiss Kittyhawk went into a spin at low altitude, crashing into the ground. He is buried at Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.¹⁹⁴



Flying Officer John Mactaggart

Although his death does not follow the strict interpretation of 'Killed in Action', his name (and the dates 1939–45) was attached to the City Tabernacle's 'Killed in Action during the great war 1914–18' marble Memorial Tablet situated at the back of the sanctuary.

A memorial service was held in his alma mater, Brisbane Church of England Grammar School (Churchie). John had attended there from 1931 to 1939, leaving at senior. The Headmaster, Canon Morris, in a tribute to him, described him as an ideal schoolboy. He was a champion 400 metre swimmer and helped make

¹⁹⁴ www.3squadron.org.au/indexpages/kia.htm.

Churchie shine in swimming. He was stroke of the Churchie rowing eight at the Head of the River and received the trophy on behalf of his crew.

John was in his second year at the University of Queensland Medical School, Herston, Brisbane when he enlisted. His name is listed on the University of Queensland Medical School Honour Roll.

His death was reported to his father as follows:

Your son was a member of a formation of five aircraft which were detailed to carry out bombing and gunnery practice. When they were over the target, the aircraft dived to release their bombs. Your son appeared to carry out the initial attack satisfactorily, but failed to pull out after releasing his bomb, and the aircraft crashed to the ground. The report also stated that your son was buried at the scene of the accident.

Two other reports add some additional details:

The practice took place at 1835 hours. The formation leader led an attack on the target approaching at 6000 ft and each aircraft dived to release the bombs at 4000 ft. P/O Mactaggart appeared to execute the initial attack satisfactorily but evidently failed to pull out clearly and spun in, with insufficient height for his parachute to open and was killed. Investigation of the aircraft failed to reveal any faults due to its disintegrated state.¹⁹⁵

The aircraft appears to have dived into the ground striking port mainplane and fuselage, then bouncing about 30 yards before coming to rest in a destroyed condition. The engine was badly damaged – reduction gear and rear cover broken off. The engine did not catch fire.



Crashed Kittyhawk
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

More details of John's brief life story have also been published in *For God, King and Country*.

¹⁹⁵ *National Archives of Australia*, A9300, p. 8.

McKenzie, David William and Sydney John

John McKenzie migrated from Scotland to Maryborough, Queensland in 1862. Emily Murfin was born in Brisbane in 1859. They married in Brisbane in 1883 and had nine children: William, Alexander, Edith (Mrs Charles Parsons), Murdoch, Gladys, Alice, Catherine (Mrs Alexander Grant), Jessie (Mrs Rudolph Schoenheimer), and Victoria (Mrs Lancelot Humphries). All except Murdoch survived to adulthood. John and Emily came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1884. John was on the diaconate from 1892 and church secretary from 1912, until his death.

John and Emily were living in Indooroopilly in 1913. John died in Brisbane in 1915. Emily survived him for almost 26 years, dying in Brisbane in 1941.

Their son William was born in Brisbane in 1883 and married Charlotte Franks in Brisbane in March 1921. William was a tinsmith, living in Chapel Hill in 1925.

Alexander was born in Brisbane in 1885 and married Nellie (Rose) Penhaligon in 1916. He was a blacksmith, living in Indooroopilly in 1925.



Nellie Penhaligon, c.
1912 (Photo: J Meara)

David William McKenzie

David was born in Brisbane on 13 November 1921 the son of William and Charlotte McKenzie (née Franks) and grew up in Chapel Hill. He had two brothers, Colin and William and four sisters. Neither David, his parents, siblings or future wife were in membership at the Tabernacle. The family moved to Byron Bay when David was 5 or 6 and he started school in Byron Bay. He left school at about 14 and started working to help support his younger siblings. He was a tinsmith for three years at the Norco Butter Factory, Byron Bay.

David's father, William was a signaller in the Militia for five years before enlisting in 1916 and serving as a private and wheeler corporal in France. He died in Brisbane in 1928, aged 44. His mother, Charlotte is thought to have remarried John McLachlan in 1936 and died in Byron Bay in 1979.

In May 1940, Melville Gerry, the rector at St Paul's Byron Bay wrote:

This is to certify that I have known David William McKenzie all his life and that I have had opportunity of observing him. He has always borne a good character and I have every

confidence in him. I have always found him obedient and courteous and feel that I can vouch for him as to his general character.

James Hunter, chief engineer of Norco Co-Op Ltd, wrote:

This is to certify that Mr D McKenzie has been employed by us in our Retinning Department for the past three years.

He has always proved himself a most conscientious and intelligent worker and given excellent promise of becoming a very competent tradesman.

He comes of an extremely well thought of family and enjoys a very good reputation as to personal character.

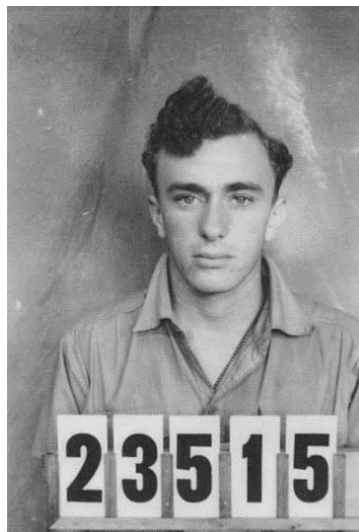
We understand that he wishes to leave our employ in order to join the Flying Corp and we wish him every success in his application.

However, Constable Stanley Long wrote in August 1940 that:

On 15/5/35 [David] received a caution from the Police Department, for Break, Enter & Steal from a shop at Byron Bay, in company with another youth on 13.3.35. I have known this youth for the past 6 years, and since the above named caution, he has been most honest, sober and reliable, and very respectable. It is thought that company led him into the above caution.¹⁹⁶

David was living in Byron Bay when he enlisted in the Citizen Air Force in Brisbane on 29 August 1940 aged 18, and due to his father's early death, nominated his mother as his next-of-kin. He was a fitter and gave his religious denomination as Church of England. He had completed two and a half years schooling at Mullumbimby High School, and played cricket and representative hockey as well as swimming and running.

David subsequently enlisted in the RAAF on 11 November 1941. Although his aptitude test indicated that he was weak on numerical calculation, he was rated good on mechanical aptitude. He served most of the



David McKenzie
(Photo: National Archives of Australia)



RAAF Aircraft mechanics
(Photo: State Library of Queensland)

¹⁹⁶ *National Archives of Australia*, p. 20.

war years in Amberley and Townsville, as an aircraft flight mechanic (leading aircraftman). He was unsuccessful in his application for air crew.

While based at Amberley, David was absent without leave, for between one and three days, seven times between October 1941 and September 1942. In August 1943, he was fined 5/- for being drunk at approximately 12:50 pm. He was discharged in February 1946 and moved to Beaudesert.

David married Muriel Julian (née Woolley) in Byron Bay on 27 January 1947. Muriel was born in 1917 in Tregagle (Byron Bay), the daughter of Edward and Christina Woolley. She had previously been married to Sergeant Harry Julian, a Canadian, who died in Concord in 1941. Harry had served with the RAAF.

David and Muriel had two daughters, Robyn (Mrs David Bannah) and Christina.

David and Muriel were living in Byron Bay in 1949–68 and Beaudesert in 1977–80. David was a tinsmith like his father, but later became a boiler maker. (Charlotte and her family had moved to Beaudesert in 1973.)

Muriel died in Beaudesert in 2002 and David moved into a nursing home in Tewantin where he died on 2 December 2003 aged 82.

Sydney John McKenzie

Syd as he was sometimes known, was born in Brisbane on 3 September 1918, the son of Alexander and Rose McKenzie of Camp Hill. His father died in Brisbane in 1928. In 1943, Rose was living at the Carinya Private Hospital in Camp Hill. In 1945, she remarried Frank Whalley, who was also widowed. Frank and Rose lived in Indooroopilly, where Frank died in 1957 and Rose died in Brisbane in 1962. Syd had two brothers and two sisters.

Syd was a student at Brisbane Boys' College in 1933 when he completed Junior and was granted a two-year extension of his State Scholarship.

Prior to his enlistment, Syd worked with the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) as an insurance clerk. He was wicketkeeper for the AMP cricket team in early 1939. He was also a member of the AMP Debating Society. Playing for the Northern Suburbs C grade team



Syd McKenzie, AMP wicketkeeper, 1939
(Photo: *The Telegraph*)

against South Brisbane at Maggs's Paddock, Chermside in 1937, Syd scored 113 not out!

Syd enlisted on 3 September 1939, 2/3rd, aged 21 and was discharged as medically unfit on 17 December 1939. He subsequently re-enlisted. He was a Presbyterian. Initially, he served in England and the Middle East and was wounded in action in 1941.

He arrived in Port Moresby in September 1942 and was wounded in action again in November by a gunshot wound to his right arm. In November 1943 he was placed on the seriously ill list suffering from malaria and paratyphoid. (His diagnosis was later changed to scrub typhoid.) He later suffered from malignant hypertension, nephritis, and chronic arthritis. He returned from New Guinea on HMAS *Cremer* in December 1942, having served on the Kokoda Track and in the Markham Valley.

He was promoted to sergeant on 2 January 1940, lieutenant on 10 November 1941, and captain on 6 August 1943 and was appointed adjutant (an administrative roll) of the 2/31st Infantry Battalion in November 1944. He was evacuated to the Lady Wakehurst [Red Cross] Convalescent Home in Strathfield in March 1945 and was later transferred to the Concord Military Hospital in November. He was discharged in June 1945.

Syd married Eileen Wilson in Hornsby on 9 May 1942. Eileen was born in 1921, the daughter of DW Wilson. Eileen was living in Killara, NSW in 1943.

Syd died in Sydney at 101 Australian General Hospital on 27 January 1946, aged 27. It seems likely that his death was attributable to his war service.



W/O SJ McKenzie, 1941
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

Sudden Death of Mr SJ McKenzie

Formerly well known in Brisbane, Mr Sydney John McKenzie, died suddenly at his home at Killara, Sydney, yesterday morning, aged 27.

Mr McKenzie served in the 2/31 Battalion, A.I.F., in England, the Middle East, on the Kokoda Trail, and in the Markham Valley. He rose from the ranks to become company commander, and later adjutant of the battalion as captain.¹⁹⁷

McKENZIE.— A precious memory to my devoted Son, Syd., Capt. Sydney John McKenzie (2nd/31st Batt.), who passed away on 27th January 1946, at 101 A.G.H., Sydney. God called him home, it was His will. But in my heart he is with me still.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁷ *The Courier Mail*, 28 January 1946, p. 3.

¹⁹⁸ *The Courier Mail*, 27 January 1946, p. 6.

Eileen remained a widow and resumed work as a secretary while living in the northern suburbs of Sydney, until at least 1980. She died in 2016.

Syd and Eileen did not have any children.

McLennan, John Simon Alexander

John was born in Brisbane on 11 January 1920, the son of John and Ethel McLennan (née Jackson). His parents were married in 1919 by Rev William Pope, minister at the Tabernacle, at Ethel's parent's home, *Orlander*, in Bowen Terrace. John's father served in the AIF in World War I as a staff sergeant in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment. He was wounded by a bullet to the forearm at Gallipoli, but recovered and returned to Brisbane, where he died in 1964. Ethel died in Brisbane in 1965.

In December 1926, when John was five, he was taken by his parents to Hawaii, on the RMS *Niagara*.

His mother and her sister Beatrice had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1905. John and Ethel continued to live in the home Ethel had lived in prior to their marriage. Ethel remained on the roll until her death.

John Jnr enlisted in the AIF in Brisbane in 1940. No details of his service are available.

In 1943–54, John was living with his parents in New Farm, working as an engineer. In 1947, he competed in a Queensland Motor Sporting Club in a hill climb at White's Hill. John drove his Singer 9 over the 622 m course. He was one of three stewards at the Australian Grand Prix of 246 km at Southport in 1954. The QMSC was one of the promoters of the race.

John married Joyce Campbell in 1956. Joyce was born in Sydney in 1925, the daughter of Alpin and Aileen Campbell. She enlisted in Sydney and served as an aircraftswoman in the RAAF. Joyce was living with her parents, in Clayfield in 1954. She had grown up, however, in Longreach, where her parents lived from



Sgt J McLennan
(Photo: State Library of Queensland)



1947 Singer 9 Roadster (Photo: Mediadromeuk)

1930 until at least 1943, before moving to Clayfield in the mid-1950s. Alpin was the manager of Primaries in Longreach. Joyce studied piano and theory of music in 1938 in Longreach. Her sister, Valda moved to Charleville with her husband Donald (Don) Rutledge. Joyce's father, younger brother John, and sister Valda also enlisted in World War II.

John and Joyce had three daughters: Judith (Judy), Robin (Mrs Joe Flynn), and Lesley.

In 1958–63, John and Joyce were living in Alderley and John was employed as an engineer. He became a company director and they were living in Clayfield in 1964.

In 1972, John was living in Ascot when he died in Surfers Paradise on 20 December 1973 aged 53. John and Joyce had a holiday home at Mermaid Beach. Joyce was living at Bundall, on the Gold Coast when she died in 2003.

Miller, John Eric and William Edwin

John Miller, who was generally known as Jack, was born in Albion in 1894. He married Isabella Goeldner in 1919 at the Albion Baptist Church and had five children: Doris (Mrs Doug Dean), John (Eric), William, Keith, and Clifford. The family members were regular churchgoers at Albion Baptist Church for quite a few years. Jack was the Albion Baptist choir conductor in 1924 and was inducted into the Nambour Masons the same year.

Their lives up until the Depression in 1932, went well apart from the death of their son Clifford in 1929; and then with the depression things became difficult. Jack's music business fell in a heap. From there they moved into fruit shops, mixed businesses, and groceries which all meant hard work. For a time the family was split up, half went to Granny Goeldner, while Keith and Eric went to Gran Miller.

The family lived in Bridge Street, Toowoomba and Jack had a music shop in Ruthven Street. In 1930, Doris wrote to "Uncle John", editor of the Children's Page in *The Australian Baptist* to report that "my brother, Eric, came top of his class at school at the last examination, while I came second in my class. My daddy has lately become a joint superintendent of the [Junior CE] at Toowoomba."¹⁹⁹

Jack was a great music man and in Toowoomba, was conducting the community singing at the Toowoomba City Hall and was always interested in music eisteddfods. He also conducted the Queensland Junior CE 1,400 voice choir. During this period the children attended the East Toowoomba Primary School.

Jack and Isabella, with Eric and Keith, went to Pialba to live and then to Maryborough for 12 months where Jack was acting manager for Radio Station 4MB. Jack also did piano tuning for Wynns Music Store.

In 1934, they were living in Annerley and attended the Annerley Baptist Church.

Jack, Isabella, Doris, and Eric, came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1938. For many years Jack was the choirmaster. He also conducted the Sunday School Anniversary children's choirs from 1939 until 1952. In 1939, it was reported that the song service preceding the evening services on the first Sunday of each month were well maintained, with Jack as the song leader, a service to which he brought fine gifts and enthusiasm.

When Jack died from cardiac failure at the age of 61 in 1955, Isabella moved to William and Lorna's home in Ferny Hills where she died in 1972.

Their son Keith, and Joan Phimister were married at the Tabernacle in 1948 by Rev FT Smith and their daughter, Lyn married Ronald Eldridge.

¹⁹⁹ *The Australian Baptist*, 12 August 1930, p. 8.

John Eric Miller

Eric, as he was generally known, was born on 18 August 1921, and attended the Enoggera State School in 1927.

During World War II he was “called up” into the Australian Army and served as a transport driver spending most of his Army life in North Queensland.

Eric and Enid Crowe, the daughter of Herbert and Doris Crowe, were married on 22 September 1945 at the Tabernacle by Rev Albert Butler. They lived in Brisbane for the first years of their marriage, at least until their three children, Margaret (Ann), John, and Lynn arrived between 1946 and 1951.

Eric worked in the rag trade at D&W Murray, in Elizabeth Street Brisbane. D&W Murray celebrated its centenary in 1953.

The family moved to Melbourne in the mid-1960s, where Eric progressed well, still in the rag trade, with Exacto. Because of their move to Melbourne, they didn’t see much of their families.

Eric inherited his father’s heart problems and had a heart attack while in Melbourne.

He retired and with Enid moved back to Queensland, in the late 1970s, to live in Clontarf where he enjoyed bowls, fishing, and golf. He still suffered with heart problems.

Eric died on 30 September 1990 aged 69. Ann returned from America for his funeral service and John came up from Melbourne to be with his mother. Lynn was living in Queensland and was already nearby.

Enid died in 2009 at Clontarf.



Eric Miller 1941



Eric and Enid, 22 September 1945

William Edwin Miller DFM

Dusty, as he was known, was born in Albion on 10 September 1923 and started school at Woolloowin in 1928. In 1933 he went to Gordon Park School, then in 1934, when the family lived in Annerley, he attended Junction Park School. Dusty went to State Commercial High School until Junior because he was only interested in office work.

He started work in the insurance industry in 1938 with Bankers and Traders (B&T) Insurance Co Ltd—the “B” in QBE. His first pay was sixteen shillings (\$1.60) per week. It cost 2/3 (25¢) for a weekly tram ticket for a five and-a-half day working week and he paid his Mum ten shillings with which she clothed and fed him.

Dusty enlisted in the RAAF in Brisbane in 1941, two months after his 18th birthday. It took him two months to get his parents to reluctantly sign the agreement forms. His initial training was at Sandgate. From there he was posted to Maryborough where he did a wireless course and then to Evans Head where he did the air gunners’ course in Fairy Battles, a forerunner of the Hurricane. After passing, he received his wings and was promoted to sergeant. Soon after he was given a posting to the United Kingdom (UK).

They left Brisbane on a Dutch vessel, the *Klipevon Tain*. The small ship of about 6,000 tonne was escorted out from Brisbane for only two days and then they were on their own across to San Francisco. After disembarking they travelled by troop train to the Eastern States of America to Camp Miles Standish, where they waited for a ship to take them to the UK.

While at Camp Miles Standish, they were on leave most of the time and spent most of it in and around New York, Rhode Island, and Boston. The Yanks could not do enough for them, taking them into their homes to feed and entertain them.

The troop trains in Australia were shockingly over-crowded, with not enough room to lie down and sleep. The food, if any, was a biscuit, similar to dog biscuits, which were as hard as nails and not very palatable, but supposedly full of nutrition. By comparison, in America, they had a sleeping compartment each, clean sheets every night, and the train stopped at numerous places, sometimes for hours so that the passengers could have a break and time to wander about and see some of the sights.

They boarded the *Queen Elizabeth* in New Jersey. The *QE* at that point had not been fitted out as a cruise liner. It was finished as a going ship in Scotland and then came across to America, which was a safe haven. There it was fitted out as a troop ship and didn’t become a luxury liner until after the war.

The Aussies on board were very fortunate, even though there were also a lot of

Yanks because they were also involved in the war and were going to England in droves. There was only a handful of Aussies and they were allocated a shared cabin. The Yanks slept in relays because there were sleeping areas for only a third of the passengers. They were allotted a space and could use it for 8 hours and then had to leave it so others could sleep.

They travelled unescorted across the Atlantic because there were no war ships that had the speed to keep up with them. For safety, they relied on continual changes of direction and speed but always at about 30 knots. Because there was no radar to spot submarines and enemy aircraft, the few Aussie aircrew on board volunteered to do aircraft and submarine watch although their expertise was aircraft, not submarines. Part of aircrew training was to make them proficient in spotting and identifying any plane flying anywhere in the world in a split second. Dusty's position when they were on aircraft spotting duties was on the port wing out from the bridge.

They landed at Greenock in Scotland and were sent to a staging camp in Bournemouth. They vacated there after a short time, because of the mess the German bombers made of the area and moved to Brighton where they had an easy few weeks. The RAAF had taken over the Grand Hotel and the Metropole Hotel—the two top hotels in Brighton. One was for the officers and the other for the Non-Commissioned Officers and airmen. Dusty stayed in both because he was a sergeant when he first arrived and a flight lieutenant when he left to come home.

Dusty's first posting was to an operational training unit at Silverston. He was separated from the RAAF and attached to the RAF. Silverston was one of the many operational units where the various musterings that were headed towards operations assembled and they met pilots, navigators, bomb aimers and air gunners. They virtually sorted themselves out as to who was going to fly with whom, thus becoming a crew.

They were flying Wellingtons. They were flying on a very cold 1°C day that he always remembered. The starboard engine caught fire and spread to the wing and fuselage. They couldn't stay airborne and were soon on the deck (ground). The flight was a gunnery exercise for bomb aimer, wireless operator air gunner (WAG) and gunners. Dusty was in the rear turret, furthest from the flames, and was the only survivor.

Within a couple of weeks, he was in the air again, with another crew, that was a WAG short, on another gunnery exercise. They weren't carrying bombs but were fully equipped with armament and ammunition. Another engine caught fire but was contained until they "hit the deck". They all survived, but there were some injuries from exploding ammo as they got as far away as possible from the plane, now engulfed in flames.

In order to go from Wellingtons onto Lancasters they went to a conversion unit for

about a month on Manchesters.

The Wellington, in its day, did a good job. It was a two-engine bomber, which could carry a 4,000 high explosive bomb (cookie), which was used a lot in bombing raids over Germany. Although the Wellingtons, referred to as “Wimpys”, had seen better days at the time Dusty was in them, they still carried a bigger bomb load than the American B17s (the Fortresses) and the B29s (the Super Fortresses).



Back: Ron Smith, Dusty, Fred Coleman,
Front: Stan Hurrell, Harry Blow, Pete
Smith

Losses on raids were tremendous. The greatest number was 93 planes on 30 March 1944 for target Nuremberg and 78 for target Leipzig on 19 February 1944. There were seven crew to a plane.

They eventually converted to four-engine, Lancaster bombers, which were considered the best bomber in the world, given its durability, ease of handling, and pay load, with fewer crew and less armament, the job it did, and the punishment it would take.

Dusty was posted to No 9 Squadron RAF, which was stationed outside of Lincoln at Bardney Station. Dusty's crew were the pilot Harry Blow, flight engineer Fred Coleman, navigator Stan Hurrell, wireless operator Ron Smith, mid upper turret gunner Jock Harley, rear gunner Dusty Miller, and bomber aimer Peter Smith. Dusty lost the toss between the two WAGs as to who was going to be the wireless operator and who was going to be the rear gunner. Fortunately, Dusty survived to tell the tale.

Typically, they would take off at 17:00 or 18:00 hours after having a decent meal, including an egg, which was a big deal, due to their short supply. Debriefing took forever due to the limited number of intelligence officers. Then they had another feed before sleep. Dusty never seemed to be able to sleep for long and they were up and about again long before lunchtime. They would take a night flying test. The crew would all have a turn at handling the aeroplane. If none of them had any idea of the basics of flying and the pilot were to be killed, they were all done for, so they all had some training. They could then at least fly a course for England and take the risk of bailing out using their parachutes if they had to. For this reason, Dusty spent much of his spare time in the link trainer (a simulator, like a tiger moth), which helped a great deal when he re-mustered.

Dusty was in the Squadron for six months to do thirty operations, and of those, his crew did thirteen on Berlin. The average length of a bombing operation was about

eight-and-a-half hours. Once they had crossed the coast of the continent, they were shot at most of the time, in fact, every trip they did, the plane was hit.

One night they aborted their operation. This was only done if the situation was desperate. They had about 4,000 pounds of incendiaries plus the usual cookie. Cookies weren't used on every trip but they were the main equipment to make a big hole and the incendiaries were to burn as much as possible. On this particular night, they were all on the plane doing the usual checks and run ups to check that the motor and turrets etc were operating properly. The cookie fell off and hit the ground. Fortunately, it only dropped a few feet and didn't explode. That delayed their departure while the armament section came out to reattach it. They hadn't long been in the air and the intercom packed up, which meant they couldn't talk to each other. The intercom was crucial on an operation in order that the navigator could keep the pilot informed of the course they should take, for the gunners to tell the crew when they were being attacked, and for the wireless operator to pass on messages. They were on radio silence when airborne but the English authorities could send messages regarding wind speeds and directions and any late information they may have received about concentration of enemy activities. They all needed to know this but particularly the navigator and the pilot; so without the intercom this was difficult. The wireless operator eventually got the intercom working to a degree, so they pressed on. While over the North Sea the port outer caught fire. Once the fire in this engine was extinguished, it was too dangerous to restart the damaged motor and they were left with only three engines. The loss of the motor meant that the rear turret was out of commission as it relied on hydraulic pressure from the port outer to operate. In addition, as they were only at about 10,000 feet, and could not climb any higher on three engines—they were sitting ducks for the enemy ack-ack and fighters. Evasive action would also have been difficult. They dropped their bombs into the North Sea and headed back to Bardney. It would have been too dangerous to try to land with the bombs still in the bomb bay. Discretion was the better part of valour on this occasion and it was better to risk the wrath of the authorities for turning back, aborting the trip and living to fight another day. Fortunately, the authorities accepted their decision.

There was always a lot of stress and tension from the start when they knew they might be going on an operation. That's when the adrenaline started to flow and continued for the whole of the trip until they got back and were debriefed. They never totally unwound. It was a very stressful six months, which seemed to go on forever. Every trip was a nightmare.

On another occasion, they were going out one night and were still over England when another Lancaster was indiscreetly coming in the opposite direction, right into the middle of the stream of aircraft going out. The mid-upper gunner fortunately spotted him when he was very close. They still don't know where he came from. The pilot, having been alerted by the mid-upper gunner, Jock, was able to

manoeuvre away slightly, but the other plane hit their starboard fin and rudder and also the top of the rear turret, 50 mm above Dusty's head. With great difficulty they continued to the target, Schweinfurt, in southwest Germany, a fairly long trip. On average there were 800 to 1,000 at this stage, made up of Lancasters, Halifaxes and still a few Stirlings. The Stirlings couldn't get up anywhere around the height of the other aircraft. It sounds a bit selfish, but they were always pleased when they knew that Stirlings were making up the planes in a particular trip because they'd cop the flack before they did.

On this occasion there were two waves and the first planes were supposed to be over the target at about 10 o'clock at night and then the next wave was due about half an hour later. Dusty was in the second wave and because of their limited manoeuvrability due to the damaged fin and rudder they couldn't do any doglegs, which were used when you were getting to the target a bit ahead of the scheduled time. When they had about 800 to 1,000 planes, each plane was given a time to be there. It was impossible and too dangerous to have too many in the one spot at one time. As it turned out they arrived at the target a few minutes earlier than intended and being in the first part of the second wave they felt a bit sorry for those coming behind them because by the time they'd dropped their bombs, everything was on alert again on the ground and they would cop more of the defences earlier than they might have if they hadn't been early.

After the bombing run the usual procedure was to turn as smartly as possible and climb to the best height they could get. The more height, the further they were away from the ack-ack and this reduced the enemy's accuracy a bit. They took a long time—it seemed forever to them—to make their turn for home. They managed to get back towards base without any further inconvenience. The collision with the other Lancaster had robbed them of all their aerals, so they had no radio contact either by morse or voice contact, which was normal within a limited range of base where they could call up and get permission to land. There were 26 planes from the Squadron all trying to get back on the deck as soon as possible. As they got near to base, the idea was to call up and get permission to land. They were given a height and a course to steer until they could drop another 500 feet when somebody else had landed and thus, they are kept moving down out of the stack. As they had no facilities for this procedure they just lined up with the runway, took potluck and came in.

When they got to the end of the runway, they were unable to turn off into the taxi areas to move back to their dispersal point. By the time they got to the end of the runway there was a jeep waiting for them and the bod in it had a few words to say. Dusty was first out of the plane and it turned out to be the commanding officer. He made a bit of a noise about what the hell they thought they were up to. Unfortunately, he'd come up on the side of the aircraft so that he couldn't see the damaged fin and rudder. Nothing really came of Dusty's having a few unkind words

to say to him regarding why he didn't enquire as to what the problem was instead of shooting off his mouth. Being the only Aussie on the Squadron, he probably put it down to those stupid Aussies who didn't have better manners.

For the pilot's efforts he was given a green endorsement in his logbook for doing a particularly fine job. The Armament Section later told Dusty that the collision must have sheared off two of the four bolts securing the turret.

Dusty was awarded a Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM). His citation said something along the lines "*The Award was for Courage Beyond the Call of Duty*".

Usually it was the pilot of the crew who received recognition for anything outstanding. But by the time the crew had finished their tour of operations they had all received a medal—3 DFCs, 3 DFMs and the mid-upper gunner received the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

While stationed near Lutterworth, Dusty became friendly with Warrant Officer/Gunner Dutchie Holland whose mother was the housekeeper/cook on a farm, just outside Lutterworth. Because he felt that the tucker was not too good at the camp, even though they weren't starving, he could get them a good feed from his mother.

Lorna Ball was working as a land army girl on the farm, milking cows, making haystacks and other farm duties. So apart from having a good feed, Dusty got chatting to Lorna and they started going out together to dances or a picture show in Leister. They mainly got around by pushbike.

Dusty married his English rose on 9 August 1944 at the Saltergate Methodist Church in Chesterfield. They spent the last night of their honeymoon in Leister at the Bell Hotel.



Lorna Miller (née Ball)



Dusty and Lorna Miller, 9 Aug
1944

Even though Dusty was awarded the DFM during his tour of duty over Germany, the medal was not presented until shortly before he came home from England, towards the end of 1945. Lorna and their daughter Glennis, and Lorna's sister, Madge, accompanied Dusty on the visit to Buckingham Palace to have the medal presented by His Majesty, King George VI.

A photograph of Dusty was published in *The Courier Mail* in recognition of his receiving his DFM.²⁰⁰

After he had finished his tour of operations, mainly as a gunner and relief wireless operator, Dusty re-mustered and trained to be a pilot. He finished the war with the rank of flight lieutenant.

Dusty came back to Australia towards the end of 1945 and had a bit of leave.

The government had decreed that if the firm you had been working with prior to the war was still operating after the war, they were obliged to give you back your job. Dusty had no problem there, as they had been struggling along with a skeleton staff throughout the war. So Dusty went back to work at B&T at the end of 1945. He returned before his leave was up, to save a bit of cash so that they could build a house. As an officer Dusty was being paid 24 shillings (\$2.40 per day) and the air force was also contributing to Lorna's support. When Dusty went back to B&T he was earning a lot less.

After returning to work, Dusty was still on active reserve in the RAAF and was required to spend one weekend every six weeks at Amberley. He was able to keep his hand in on various pursuits, do a bit of flying and attend a few lectures on various aspects of how the air force was changing and developing.



Madge with Glennis, Dusty, Lorna and friend at Buckingham Palace



Dusty Miller 12 March 1945

²⁰⁰*The Courier Mail*, 7 September 1944, p. 4.

Lorna arrived in Brisbane on 23 April 1946 on the RMMV *Athlone Castle* with Glennis, who was twelve months old when she came to Australia.

They lived with his parents in Windsor and rental properties, until they bought a block of land which cost fifty pounds while the house cost one thousand four hundred pounds to construct.

Dusty and his siblings had all been brought up to go to church and Sunday school but Doris was the only one who kept it up on a regular basis.

In 1955 B&T transferred Dusty to Townsville, to replace the local manager.

Dusty joined the Freemasons Lodge not long after they moved to Townsville and remained active for many years. He also served on the Fire Brigade Board for many years and for the last four years they were in Townsville, was the Deputy Chairman. Lorna was active in Meals on Wheels in Townsville and Dusty joined her when they moved to Yandina. Dusty was also involved in Legacy from 1956 until 2000 and was President of Townsville Legacy in 1966.

By 1968 Dusty was the North Queensland Manager of NGI with a staff of 35 spread between the Townsville office and others in Cairns, Innisfail and Mackay. Although based in Townsville, Dusty covered the territory from Mackay in the south, north to Cooktown and west to Mount Isa and Boulia, taking in Winton.

In 1972, they returned to Brisbane and bought a house in Ferny Hills. Dusty joined real estate agents, Northside Realty.

Dusty was only 50 when he retired from serious work and was looking for some work. Ian Hastings gave him a job as his office manager and part-time salesperson in printing and stationery.

In the early 1980s, Dusty and Lorna finally settled in Yandina. Dusty and Lorna's girls, Glennis, Valerie, Denise, and Laurel (Mrs Arthur Costin), born between 1945, and 1952, are now spread over the eastern seaboard of Australia.



CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,
ST JAMES'S PALACE, S.W. 1.

24th July 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

The King will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, the 31st July, 1945, at which your attendance is requested.

It is requested that you should be at the Palace not later than 10.15 o'clock a.m. (Doors open at 9.45 a.m.)

DRESS:—Service Dress; Morning Dress; Civil Defence Uniform or Dark Lounge Suit.

This letter should be produced by you on entering the Palace, as no further card of admission will be issued.

I am desired to inform you that you may be accompanied by two relations or friends to witness the Investiture, but I regret that owing to the limited accommodation available for spectators, it is not possible for this number to be increased. The spectators' tickets may be obtained on application to this Office and I have to ask you, therefore, to complete the enclosed form and return it to me immediately.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Flying Officer William E. Muller,
D.F.C., R.A.A.F.

Secretary.

Dusty continued to be heavily involved in the bowls scene, spending more time in administration and umpiring than playing in later years. He first played bowls in 1955 at the Cutheringa Club in West End, Townsville.

In 1990 they found a small acreage in Yandina with a bitumen strip out front, which reduced the dust problem. Dusty had open heart surgery in 1994, the day before his and Lorna's 50th wedding anniversary.

Lorna's health deteriorated with her experiencing many mini strokes and in October 2012 she had a very large stroke and deteriorated very quickly, passing away peacefully on 3 November.

About two years later, Dusty moved into Sanctuary Park Retirement Village in Nambour where he enjoyed his new home, surrounded by other friendly, helpful retirees.

He was in Selangor Private Hospital with bronchitis and heart problems for quite a while when it was decided to send him to Buderim Private Hospital where they could monitor his erratic heartbeat. He was home with his daughter Valerie, who had come down from Townsville on about 28 July, having been told that he could live on much longer but he was also a candidate for a stroke. It seems that in the afternoon he was out in his open garage putting things in the car and he passed away. Fay Moss, a local friend found him. He had died on 31 July 2016 aged 92. This was the way he wanted to go. His funeral was well attended by many of the friends he had made over the years through his many associations.

Dusty received the French Legion of Honour just after his death. He knew it was coming but didn't get to see it.



WE Miller
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)



WE Miller's Legion of Honour
(Photo: B Wilcox)

Milne, Fitzroy Kelly

Roy, as he was sometimes called, was born in Sydney on 16 January 1920, the son of Malcolm and Sarah Milne (née Hill). Fitzroy's older siblings were Malcolm, David, Faith (Fay, Mrs Walter Scudds), and Irene. Roy was named after his grandfather, FK Milne, who was the first Town Clerk in Rockhampton in 1861.

Before his marriage, Malcolm worked as a miner in Bundamba in 1903–05. He had been a missionary on South Male Kula, New Hebrides, when he married Sarah in Brisbane in 1908. The wedding was conducted by Rev Thomas Leitch in Sarah's parent's home. In 1913, Malcolm was a missionary in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Malcolm and Sarah were living in Jondaryan in 1914, where Malcolm was a Congregational missionary. They moved to Wynnum South in about 1915 and then Hawthorne, where Malcolm worked as a carpenter. Malcolm and Sarah had moved to Western Australia and were living in West Perth (1931) and Pingelly (1936–37) where Malcolm was working as a missionary with the Gospel Mission to Australian Aborigines. Sarah died in Katanning, Western Australia in 1933, while Malcolm was serving on the Katanning native reserve.

At the Royal Commission at Katanning in 1934, to enquire into the "plight of aborigines and half-castes", Mr Milne, the local missionary, who had six years of work among natives of Australia and 10 years in the New Hebrides, said he:

received no remuneration and was not in receipt of private income. He favoured small settlements in lieu of large ones, so that natives would not be too far removed from their natural environment. He mentioned Carrolup and a small area near Tambellup. He regretted the lack of water supply at Katanning. In summer the young children had vomited when attempting to drink the muddy substance. Katanning water board had alleviated the trouble by carting water. The police had been very helpful and courteous, but he recommended that police officers should not be appointed protectors, as pressure of other duties precluded their paying sufficient attention to details, in addition to which the officer was often called upon to prosecute natives.

Mr Milne also considered there was a great opportunity for the Christian Churches to attend to the spiritual training of the native children. He likewise said the aboriginal should not be tried on the standard of the white man's law, as their customs and laws differed widely. He believed many of the Northern murders were due to interference by whites with native women, the native penalty for adultery being death. He complained muchly concerning the inadequacy of rations, but he did not favour the issue of rations without work. The establishment of settlements would overcome this.

Mr Arnold Piesse, MLA, expressed the conviction that:

mission work in the settlement was likely to guarantee the most success in the matter of spiritual and educational welfare. He referred to the excellent work carried out by Mr MGB. Milne on the Katanning native reserve in both these respects. The native children under the influence of Mr Milne were making excellent progress, were noticeably, cleaner in their habits and a hundred per cent, better all-round.

Mr Piesse said the native camps were reasonably habitable in the summer, but during the winter months they were hopelessly inadequate, and the frequent cause of mortality from pneumonia, influenza and other seasonal diseases. They were not weather-proof and the inmates often lived in wet or damp clothes and surroundings for weeks on end.²⁰¹

Malcolm then served as a pastor, at the Katanning Baptist Church, Western Australia and the Clare Baptist Church, Peake, South Australia as pastor. His daughter, Irene was living with him in 1941. Malcolm retired to Dinmore (Ipswich) in the late 1940s and died in Ipswich, Queensland in 1952. Rev Milne also served in the Congregational Church in Queensland.

Honoured Minister Passes.

We have just learned with regret of the sudden death in Queensland of Pastor MGB Milne, who for many years served devotedly in the Home Mission work of this State. Mr Milne served with great fidelity in the Clare, Peake, and Jamestown Circuits, and in them all was held in high esteem. Previous to coming to our [South Australian] work, he had rendered yeoman service in work among the aborigines.

Mr Milne, who was 72, was a widower, and deep sympathy is expressed with his daughter, Mrs C Wray, of Peake. It can be truly said of the deceased preacher that he loved his Lord and served his fellows with a deep and abiding love.²⁰²

Fitzroy grew up in Queensland, Western Australia and possibly South Australia. It is not known when he moved back to Queensland. The extent of his involvement in the Tabernacle is also unknown. It is most likely that he registered his attendance at the Sunday afternoon Soldiers' Teas.

He enlisted in the Australian 2/2nd Field Ambulance at Kelvin Grove on 1 May 1940 as a private. He was a corporal when he was discharged on 1 December 1945.

Fitzroy and Joyce Moore were married by Rev A Hedley Abbott in the Greenslopes Baptist Church on 2 October 1942. Joyce was born in Brisbane in 1921, the daughter of Robert and Olive Moore of Greenslopes.

Joyce also enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force. In 1943, she was living with her mother, who may have been widowed, in Greenslopes. It is presumed that Roy was still on deployment.

In late 1945, Fitzroy wrote to the church asking that his name be removed from the roll because he would be very unsettled for years. The deacons decided to recommend to the church that he be asked to allow his name to remain on the roll until he linked himself to another church and desired a transfer. His name was removed from the roll in 1953.

In 1949, Fitzroy and Joyce were living in Darwin, where Fitzroy was working as a clerk and Joyce was a stenographer, and they then moved to Papua New Guinea.

²⁰¹ *The Southern Districts Advocate*, 29 October 1934, p. 5.

²⁰² *The Australian Baptist*, 16 January 1952, p. 12.

It appears that the marriage had failed by the late 1950s, and Joyce moved to Canley Heights, Sydney where she was living in 1958, working as a secretary. She did not remarry and was living in the Church of Christ Retirement Village, on Bribie Island when she died in 2004.

Roy worked in Papua New Guinea between 1953 and 1973 with the Housing Commission, Department of Treasury, Department of Finance, and the Electricity Commission as Deputy Administrator and Associate Commissioner.

By 1977 Roy was living in Roseville, with his second wife, Marie Milne, working as an accountant. He was still living in Roseville when he died suddenly on 25 September 1982 aged 62. It is not known why he was cremated in Adelaide. Marie is still living in Roseville Chase.

Milne, Fitz-Roy Noel Jesse

Noel, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 11 July 1921, the son of Fitz-Roy and Edith Milne (née Pierce). He had two younger brothers, Trevor and Graham. His father was a high school teacher in Warwick in 1949.

In 1951, Noel's father was the Principal at Cairns State High School, and wrote in the school magazine *Euroka*:

The opportunities of our "teen-agers" were never better. To the poor as well as the rich, the opportunities are there to be grasped. The Commonwealth Scheme of Scholarships at the University has thrown open the doors of those professions which were formerly the prerogative of the wealthy.

My purpose in this letter is to appeal to parents to give their children the very best start in life. We parents need educating in the possibilities of Vocational guidance, and in choosing the vocations of our children. Probably to act, as I have suggested, will mean a little extra sacrifice, but is it not worth it in the end? Why allow your child to be a "hand" when he has the ability to be a "head"?

To the wise parent, who contemplates allowing his boy or girl to complete the Secondary course, I give this assurance, that the School will do its part faithfully and well in equipping its pupils, for a full and happy life, a life enriched and ennobled by character, for the motto of the school is "Vincit qui se vincit" [He Conquers Who Conquers Himself].

Noel's father died in Ashgrove in 1968, and his mother died in 1998. Trevor married Jessie (Jess) Coleman and Graham married Heather.

Noel sat for his Junior Public Examination in Gatton in 1936 and successfully completed the second half of his first year science degree at the University of Queensland, as a student at King's College in 1939. Clearly, his father had practiced what he preached.

Noel came into membership at the Tabernacle in November 1938 following visitation. He had previously been baptised in the Annerley church but was the only member of his immediate family to join the Tabernacle. His name was removed from the roll in 1953 following a review of the membership, suggesting that he had not been attending services at the Tabernacle for some time.

In 1939, Noel sat and passed the examination to enter the third division of the Commonwealth Public Service, but it is not known if he took up this opportunity.

In August 1940, following consultation with Rev Albert Butler, Mr Walter Bush presented Private Roy Milne with a copy of *Daily Light*, after a Sunday service.

Noel enlisted in Brisbane on 28 February 1943 and joined the 2nd AIF as a private and rose to the rank of lieutenant by the time of his discharge on 1 February 1946.

In 1943, Noel was living in East Brisbane, working as a schoolteacher. His brother Trevor was living with him in 1949. Noel's future wife, Jessica (Beth) Bell was

also living in South Brisbane, with her mother in 1949. Beth's father had died in 1943. She had been a typist in Bundaberg in 1943.

Noel's marriage to Beth in the King's College Chapel, in Kangaroo Point on 16 September 1949, was officiated by Rev Hubert Trigge, the Master of King's College. Beth was born in Bundaberg in 1921, the daughter of Laurence and Charlotte Bell. By 1954 Noel had become a public servant and moved "up the road" to Highgate Hill.

Noel graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1948.

Noel and Beth moved to Wynnum North and remained in the Wynnum area until at least 1980. His mother, who was living with them in 1972, died in 1974.

Noel died in Brisbane on 30 December 1990 aged 69 and Beth died in 1991. They had no children.

Moir, Prudence Mary (née Morcom)

Prue, as she was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 26 June 1923, the daughter of Clive and Enid (Ruth) Morcom (née Van Millingen), who married in Woollahra, Sydney in 1920 and moved to Brisbane in 1921. They lived in New Farm before moving to Indooroopilly in 1925 where Prue was brought up, until around 1950 when they moved to Yeronga. Clive's dental practice was located in Queen Street Brisbane.

Clive enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Forces in World War I and was quickly commissioned as an officer and posted to the dental corps, rising to the rank of captain. After the war, he obtained a £300 "peace loan".

Prue's grandfather Walter Morcom was on the Tabernacle communion roll in 1924, so although he was not in church membership, he was allowed to partake in communion.

Clive's brother, Llewellyn (Lyn) married Margaret Pope, the daughter of Rev William Pope in 1924. Rev Pope conducted their wedding at the Tabernacle. Lyn was the Sunday School superintendent and church secretary at Clayfield throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Clive's sister, Alison married Henry Manning at the Tabernacle in 1916. His sister Enid was secretary of the Senior Girls Missionary Union and Baptist Women's Union and Sunday School at Clayfield from the 1930s until at least the end of the 1960s.

Prue had an older sister Jill, who married Noel Wanmer at the Tabernacle in 1945 and died in 1980, and a brother Thomas. Their mother and father both died in Yeronga in 1972 and 1975, respectively.

Prue attended St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School at Corinda, where she took out the writing prize and special 1st form prize in 1930, the physical culture



Lieutenant C Morcom (back row, 3rd from left), 1917 (Photo: *The Queenslander*)



Clive Morcom
(Photo: J Morcom)

award in 1935, and competed in the inter-house athletics in 1938. She learned piano with Miss Irene (Lily) Malyon, the daughter of the Rev Thomas Malyon in 1937 and 1938 and played in concerts in 1937 and in the Temperance Hall, Canberra Building, Brisbane with other students of Miss Malyon in 1938. In 1936, she sat for the Scripture examination conducted by the Baptist Union of Queensland—she was a scholar at the Tabernacle’s Sunday School.

Prue competed in the lady skippers’ handicap, sailing dinghies with the Oxley Club on the Hamilton sailing course in 1941.

Prue enlisted in the Women’s Royal Australian Navy (WRAN), on 19 April 1943, as a Group III writer and was stationed at HMAS *Moreton*, Bulimba. She was advanced to Leading Writer in November 1945 and discharged on 13 September 1946. Prue was at HMAS *Cerberus*, on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria from November 1945 until August 1946. The electoral roll states that in 1949 Prue was still in the WRAN while living with her parents in Indooroopilly.

Prue came into membership in 1948 following her baptism. Her parents had been members since 1936. Her mother had recently been baptised, but her father had been baptised previously in another church. Clive was a deacon from 1937 until 1964 and then an honorary deacon until his death in 1975. He was also the duplex offering envelope secretary. Prue’s grandparents, Walter and Emily Morcom had been in membership since the 1880s. Walter founded and then ran a successful printing business in Brisbane in 1896.

Clive was also actively involved in the church’s Teas for Men of the Forces program. These were conducted on Sunday afternoon prior to the evening service for both Australian and American sailors, soldiers, and airmen, who were provided with the facilities for reading and writing prior to the serving of tea and enjoyed the hymn singing and fine programmes provided by visiting friends, while many responded to Rev Butler’s invitation to stay to the evening service.²⁰³

The 1945–46 Yearbook report on the Teas and Service for Men of the Forces, made special mention of Clive’s contribution.²⁰⁴

Prue’s mother was secretary of the Tabernacle Mother’s Meeting. Although she was not in membership, Jill was the minutes secretary and then organising secretary of the SGMU in 1941–45 and vice-president of the Baptist Girls’ War League in 1942–43.

In 1954–58, Prue was living with her parents in Yeronga, working as a stenographer.

²⁰³ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook*, 1943–44, p. 12.

Moir, Prudence Mary (née Morcom)

Prue's marriage to Kenneth Moir on 31 October 1958 was conducted by Rev FT Smith at the Tabernacle. Kenneth was born in Brisbane in 1927, the son of Thomas and Evelyn Moir. Thomas served in France and Belgium in World War I as a field engineer and as a qualified surveyor. Kenneth was a biochemist. He did not come into membership at the Tabernacle.

Prue and Kenneth lived in Clifton Hill (Tarragindi) from 1963 until at least 1980. They had three sons: Keith, Andrew, and Simon.

In 1964, Prue was a foundation member of the Queensland Branch of the Ex Wrens Queensland which is now known as the Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Queensland Subsection.

Prue and Kenneth moved to Palmwoods. Kenneth died in Brisbane in 1986 and Prue was still living in Palmwoods when she died on 18 August 2009, aged 86.

Grandsons of John Nargar—Percival Langford Nargar and Mervyn William Weston

John Nargar was born in Toowoomba in 1864. His father died in 1869 and in 1876, he and his half-brother George were admitted to the Diamantina Orphanage as their mother was unable to support them. John was moved to the Reformatory School, the *Proserpine*, moored at Lytton in the Brisbane River. John married Barbara Haberling in the Maryborough Baptist Church in 1884. They had six children: Flora, Lillie, Maud, Percy, Hilda, and Elsie. John died in Tinana in 1913 and Barbara died in Maryborough in 1957. Barbara and her daughter, Elsie were both regular members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

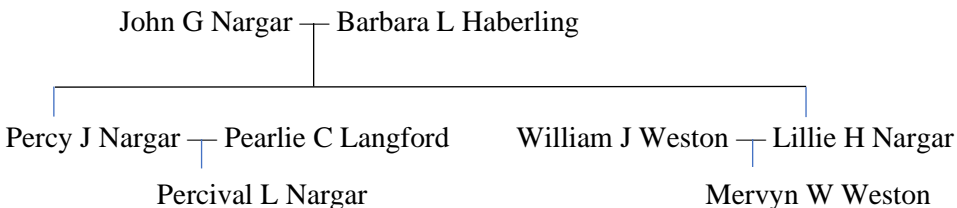
Two of their grandsons, Percival Nargar and Mervyn Weston served in World War II and are listed on the Tabernacle's Roll of Honour.

A third grandson, Mervyn (Merv) Nargar, Percival's brother, also enlisted, in 1942, and served on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and on Morotai (Dutch East Indies) as a coastal watchman / signaller (wireless operator). He is not on the Roll of Honour, even though he gave his denomination as Baptist. When he enlisted his parents sent him a telegram Care T I Fortress, simply saying "Both consent join A I F Best Luck Love Mum Dad". It is not known why he nominated his mother as next-of-kin.

The involvement of the three servicemen in the ministries of the Tabernacle are unknown.



Back: Lillie, Barbara Nargar, Flora,
Middle: Elsie,
Front: Maud and Percy
(Photo: yclept14)



Percival Langford Nargar

Pat, as he was commonly called, was born in Brisbane on 19 October 1919, the son of Percy and Pearlie Nargar (née Langford) who were married in the Presbyterian Church Manse in Lismore in January 1919 and moved to Kalinga in about 1938. Pat and his brother Mervyn grew up in Milton and Albion. Percy was a railway employee and he and Pearlie both died in Brisbane, in 1968 and 1984, respectively.

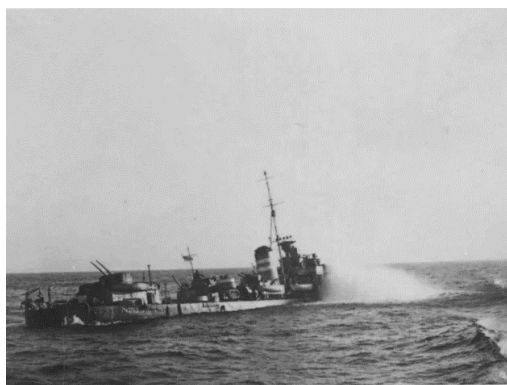
Pat was a 19 year old fireman in the railway when he enlisted in Brisbane on 14 September 1939, as an able-bodied seaman. Initially he served on HMAS *Penguin* and *Kanimbla*. He later served on the converted British merchant cruiser HMS *Arawa*, the destroyers HMAS *Nestor*, and *Warramunga*, the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*, the heavy cruiser HMAS *Shropshire*, and the mine layer HMAS *Gull*. Pat also undertook torpedo boat commando raids at Narvik, Norway on HMS *Kelly*, under the command of Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Pat was aboard HMAS *Nestor* in June 1942, as part of the Operation *Vigorous* escort force, protecting a supply convoy to Malta. On the evening of 15 June, the ship was heavily damaged by air attack. Despite attempts to tow the ship to base, *Nestor* was abandoned and scuttled with depth charges off Crete the next morning. The ship's company consisted of 249 officers and sailors at the time she was sunk. The crew were all safely transferred to HMS *Javelin*.

Vera Lord was born in Punchbowl, Sydney in 1919, the daughter of John and Vera Lord. She enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Navy as a stewardess in January 1943. She served on HMAS *Kuttabul* (Garden Island, Sydney) and



Pat Nargar, c, 1939
(Photo: J Nargar)



HMAS *Nestor*, sinking off Crete
(Photo: Reddit)

Penguin and was discharged on compassionate grounds in September 1944, probably due to her pregnancy with her first child. Vera and Pat did not meet on board.

Pat and Vera were married in the Punchbowl Methodist Church, NSW in December 1943. After the war, they lived in Punchbowl, until 1963, when Pat returned to Brisbane to live with his parents in Kalinga, where he was employed as a vehicle builder, while Vera remained in Punchbowl. Pat's father died in 1968 and Pat lived with his mother until at least 1980.

Pat and Vera had a son, Ian, and a daughter, Patricia (Joan) who both remained with their mother in Punchbowl and attended Sunday School at the Punchbowl Methodist Church.

Pat re-enlisted in the RAN for a further six years in August 1949 and remained in the RAN until August 1963 as an Able Seaman. Pat was awarded the 1939–45 Star, Atlantic Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939–45, Australian Active Service Medal 1945–75 with Malaya clasp, Australian Service Medal 1945–75 with PNG and FESR clasps, Australian Defence Medal, Royal Naval Long Service, and Good Conduct Medal. After leaving the Navy, he lived in Indooroopilly and Victoria Point.

Pat had very little contact with his wife, children, or grandchildren after moving back to Brisbane, and died of renal failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, in the Mater Private Hospital, Redland on 27 March 2005, aged 85. Vera died in Lemongrove, Penrith in 2014.



HMAS *Nestor* crew, aboard HMS *Javelin*
(Photo: Royal Australian Navy)



Pat, Vera, and Joan Nargar, 1945 (Photo: J Nargar)

Mervyn William Weston

Mervyn was born in Maryborough on 22 October 1913, the son of William and Lillie (Lily) Weston (née Nargar). Lily and William were married in the Maryborough Baptist Church in 1907 and moved to Brisbane in 1917. Lily was granted a divorce in 1925 on the grounds of desertion in 1920, when Mervyn was only six.²⁰⁵ Lily remarried Frank Baverstock in 1946. Frank came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1946 following his baptism by Rev Albert Butler. William and Lily both died in Brisbane, in 1969 and 1966, respectively. Mervyn remained with his mother and grew up in Fortitude Valley, where Lily was a fruiterer. He had two older sisters, Hilda (Mrs Ian Reece-Hoyes), and Dorothy (Mrs Alexander Johnston). Alexander was a major in the 2nd AIF, serving in Morotai before joining the regular army and serving in Japan, Korea and Singapore. He remained in the army until his death in Concord (Sydney) in 1966.



Lillie Baverstock
(Photo: B Ferguson)

Lily came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1936, following her baptism. Her funeral was conducted at the Tabernacle in 1966.

Before the war, Mervyn was living with his mother in Fortitude Valley. He was a member of the Institute of Social Services Cadet Corps, in which he was recognised for his general proficiency, attendance, good conduct and dress in 1930.²⁰⁶ He was presented with a bugle band silver medal in 1931.



Back: Lillie Baverstock & Hilda Schmith,
Front: Mrs A McDade with Sharon-Lee and
Barbara Nargar
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

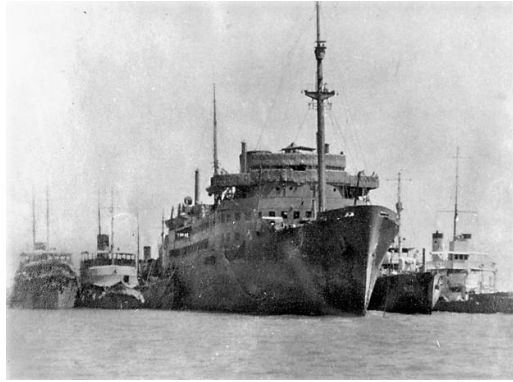
Mervyn married Alma Williams in Brisbane in 1938. Alma was born in Brisbane in 1915, the daughter of

²⁰⁵ *The Telegraph*, 21 September 1925, p. 2

²⁰⁶ *The Brisbane Courier*, 12 December 1930, p. 29.

William and Eva Williams. She was also living in New Farm prior to their marriage, just over a kilometre from Mervyn.

Mervyn enlisted in the RANR on 31 May 1933 as an able-bodied seaman and was called up to serve as a leading seaman in the RAN on 16 September 1939 on the armed merchant cruiser, HMS *Kanimbla* in the 5th Light Cruiser Squadron. The *Kanimbla* had previously been the Australian passenger ship MV *Kanimbla*. He gave his religion as Church of England.



HMS *Kanimbla*
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Mervyn was recommended for good service at Bandar Shahpur, Iran on 25 January 1942, where, alone, he fought internal ship's fires for over 6 hours. He was an AB Seaman in the *Kanimbla*, when it

arrived in the [Persian] Gulf on 7 August 1941 where it maintained a low profile, disguising its armaments through the use of canvas screens. A few days later some 300 troops including two platoons of Gurkhas and members of the 3rd/10th Baluch Regiment were transferred on board.

Over the next two weeks, the crew carried out training exercises designed to enable them to board and secure the enemy ships and to thwart efforts by their crews to scuttle them. Taking advantage of British naval intelligence information, including complete lay out drawings of their main target, the *Hohenfel*, they practised landing on *Kanimbla* and gaining access to its engine room until they were able to complete the operation in three minutes. They also worked out where they thought explosive charges would be hidden by the German crew of *Hohenfel*.

Finally, on 25 August 1941, the operation commenced. *Kanimbla* led the way as it had the furthest to travel. ...

Once the rest of the attacking party was in position, the operation began in earnest. On board *St Athans* was Chief Petty Officer Frank Newman RANR. He took his party down one side of *Hohenfel*, severing electrical leads from an emergency generator as they passed, CPO Newman using a Kukri on loan from the Gurkhas. They discovered later these wires had been hooked up to explosive charges in the engine room.

By the time they reached the engine room it was already flooding. In addition, fuel oil taps had been opened and the oil set on fire. Grabbing a fire extinguisher CPO Newman tried to put out the flames only to discover the extinguisher had been booby trapped and was making things worse.

They were able to put out the flames which luckily had not gained a good hold but still had to deal with the water pouring into the engine room.

"We began duck-diving with all our gear on shutting off some of the valves, two turns at a time, and kept this up until we felt a bump," CPO Newman recalled. "We had obviously been dragged to a shallow section of the estuary (to prevent the ship from sinking). The

water flowing into the engine room had slowed, but by now was twelve feet deep and becoming muddier, which affected visibility. At least we had saved her from going down.”

...

“*Kanimbla* then carried out a major salvage feat on *Hohenfels* which is worthy of special mention.”

“Once the ship had rested in shallow waters, PO Jack Humphries, the ship’s diver, then swung into action. It was indeed an incredible performance.

“First, with the aid of the ship’s drawings we were able to indicate which valves had been opened and where the sea inlets were situated on the ship’s hull,” CPO Newman said.

Jack Humphries then descended through the muddy water 12 times taking incredible risks that his air pipe could be fouled by the machinery under water. Having completed this task, he then had to close off the main sea water cooling inlet to the engine room from the outside.

A mild steel plate was devised with a grommet and “J” bolts but had to be curved to the shape of the ship’s hull. PO Humphries took measurements while kneeling in the mud on the bottom of the sea.

“He performed this task with amazing accuracy and once we had the measurements we made the closing plate on *Kanimbla*.

“Once sealed we pumped her out and *Hohenfels* was subsequently towed to Karachi for a refit,” PO Newman said.

PO Humphries was awarded the George Medal, the highest decoration for a rating in World War II. CPO Newman was mentioned in dispatches.²⁰⁷

Mervyn’s role, as a diver aboard *Kanimbla* is unknown.

He also served on HMAS *Australia*, *Westralia*, *Moreton*, and *Warrego*. Between 3 September 1939 and 4 January 1942, the ships on which he served travelled 177,160 miles, capturing 25 enemy vessels, convoyed 83 RAN vessels, and examined 371 other vessels.

He also served on HMAS *Balmoral*, *Platypus* and *Penguin* as a diver and was discharged on 3 January 1946.

Mervyn and Alma lived at *Laura*, Lutwyche immediately after Mervyn’s discharge but lived in Bardon from 1946 until Mervyn’s death. Mervyn was a piano tuner.

Mervyn and Alma had three children: Howard, Kenneth, and Sheldri.

Mervyn died at home in Bardon on 12 February 1992, aged 78, and was buried in the Garden of Remembrance, Bridgeman Downs.

Alma remained at Bardon until about 2002 when she moved into Canossa Care, Oxley, and died in Greenslopes Hospital in 2005.

²⁰⁷ Department of Veterans’ Affairs: 2021, *An extraordinary war for HMS Kanimbla*, DVA Anzac Portal.

Powter, Charles Carter

Charles was born in Brisbane on 20 November 1916, the youngest child of Cyril and Rosina Powter (née Thompson). Charles's older siblings were Arthur, Edna (Mrs Charles Carey), Grace (Mrs Harry Ingram), Geisha (Mrs Charles Ingram) and Lillian (Mrs Vincent Scriven).

Charles's uncle, Henry Powter fought in the Boer War in South Africa with the 3rd Queensland Mounted Infantry, and his uncle Charles Thompson fought in France with the 10/25th Brigade in World War I. He was wounded twice in action and gassed.

Rosina died in 1916, two days after Charles was born, of eclampsia and heart failure. Cyril and his young family moved to Booval where they lived with Cyril's parents.

In 1919, within three years of his wife's death, Cyril remarried. He and his new wife, Florence Threlfall, moved to Sandgate and started a new family. They had two children, Joyce and Herbert. Cyril was living in Chelmer when he died in 1940. His funeral service was conducted by Rev JC Farquhar.

Charles was enrolled at Taringa State School in 1922, when Cyril was still living in Sandgate. It is suspected that Charles was living with his aunt Florence and her husband William McDonald, who had a house in Indooroopilly. Florence was nine years older than Cyril and her marriage to William had been conducted by Rev William Whale. William and Florence already had two children of their own, William born in 1909, and Florence, born in 1911. Florence and William were associated with the Taringa Baptist Church and it is likely that Charles grew up in



Cyril and Rosina Powter and their family
(Photo: J Moran)



Charles Powter (Photo: National
Archives of Australia)

that church before moving to Annerley. Charles's church membership was transferred from Footscray, Victoria to the Tabernacle in 1942.

Newspaper articles and notices imply that Charles was considered their grandson.²⁰⁸ For example, in 1938, an engagement notice read:

POWTER —KENT— The engagement is announced of Joyce Rosina, only child of Mr and Mrs HEB Kent, Swann Road, Taringa, to Charles Carter Powter, younger son of Mr and Mrs W McDonald, Clarence Road, Indooroopilly.²⁰⁹

Charles and Joyce did not marry, however.

When Charles was conscripted into the Militia Forces in Innisfail on 3 February 1939, he gave his father as next-of-kin. He re-enlisted in Brisbane on 20 October 1941, aged 24 and a fitter and turner. He gave his denomination as Baptist and nominated his uncle William McDonald (who was his guardian) as his next-of-kin. He was assigned to the 5th Australian Reinforcement Depot, as a private but rose through the ranks to lance corporal (December 1941), corporal (April 1942), sergeant (May 1942), senior sergeant (October 1942) and eventually rose to the rank of warrant officer II (June 1943).

He served in the workshops at Milne Bay in New Guinea from January 1944 until August 1945 and was discharged on 15 November 1945, having been overseas for 496 days.

Charles and Vida Watt announced their engagement in February 1942 while Charles was still in uniform. They were married on 27 March 1942 at the Tabernacle by Rev Albert Butler. Freeman James was one of the witnesses at their marriage. Vida was born in 1918, the daughter of David and Amy Watt. She was working as a stenographer at the time of her wedding. Amy had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1899.



Camouflaged Workshop, Milne Bay, 1942
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Charles left Brisbane for Sydney almost immediately after their wedding.

Charles transferred his church membership from Annerley to the Tabernacle in April 1942. Vida, and her sister Beth, had come into membership in September

²⁰⁸ Ingram A, Personal communication, 1921.

²⁰⁹ *The Courier Mail*, 14 April 1938, p. 12.

1936 following their baptism by Rev Butler, along with their mother. Beth was the organist for Young Men's Fellowship (1939–41) and superintendent of the Junior CE for four years (1938–42).

Vida was a soloist and sang in a performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* at the Tabernacle on Palm Sunday, 1945. She sang several solos at Tabernacle church services and sang a duet with her sister Beth in 1944. She occasionally sang solos in other churches.

Charles and Vida transferred their membership to Maryborough in 1946, when Charles was working there as a fitter.

Vida's sister Beth married Bert Rider. His story is outlined elsewhere. In 1948, they had a fortnight's holiday with Charles and Vida in Maryborough.

Charles was one of 18 returned service personnel who were welcomed home at a special function at the Maryborough Baptist Church in July 1946, where the Minister for Education, Mr Thomas Williams, was the invited speaker. In his conclusion, Mr Williams said that the Christian church could play an ever-increasing part, so that it might never again be written — as an officer of that great soldier, the Duke of Marlborough, once wrote

“God and the soldier we adore when danger's present — not before;
when danger's past and all things once more righted,
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted.”

Warm words of welcome and acknowledgment of the part each had played in keeping Australia safe, were also addressed to the ex-service personnel by the Mayor, Alderman Robert D McDowell, and Mr David Farrell, MLA, on behalf of the citizens.

The Rev Albert Chisholm, who had served in World War I, presided and introduced in turn each of the ex-servicemen and women present. Each was accorded a hearty reception. Mr Chisholm, on behalf of the Baptist Church, added warm words of welcome. He assured the guests of honour that the church was mindful of its duty in the difficult task of rehabilitation of ex-service personnel and appealed to one and all to bring their problems and difficulty to the church, which would at all times render what spiritual and material assistance it could.

A telegram from the Rev Ralph Sayce, President of the Baptist Union of Queensland, conveying a message of congratulation and appreciation to ex-service personnel who attended, was read by Mr Chisholm.

Charles was involved in a collision in Maryborough during rain in early 1950. Although he was not injured, his car was slightly damaged and the motorcyclist

with whom he collided had a minor leg injury.²¹⁰ Charles was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1950.

In 1947, Charles was the preacher at the Granville Baptist Church and in 1952, Vida sang a solo *Bless this House* at the reopening of the West Rockhampton Baptist Church, following its relocation. In April 1954, Charles sang a solo at the Gospel Service of the Rockhampton Baptist Tabernacle.

Charles and Vida moved back to Brisbane, living in Moorooka between 1949 and 1954, where Charles worked as a clerk and although they renewed fellowship at the Tabernacle, they did not re-join the church membership.

Charles and Vida lived in Nedlands, Western Australia briefly from around 1954 until 1958. They then moved to Victoria, and lived in Highfield Park (1958), where Charles was a manager, Camberwell (1963), Wattle Park (1968), and Glen Waverley (1972) when Charles was a consultant.

Vida died in Fitzroy, Victoria in 1974. After Vida's death, Charles was living in Burwood and remarried Merle Parsons, who was a widow. Merle died in 1977 and Charles died in Camberwell, Victoria on 24 February 2002 aged 85. He was employed as a "fund raiser" when he died.

Charles and Vida had two daughters, Marilyn, and Cheryl.

²¹⁰ *Maryborough Chronicle*, 1 March 1950, p. 2.

Praeger, Douglas Neville and Eric Noel

Arthur WA Praeger was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and had spent much of his early life in Ireland, from where he travelled to Australia, arriving in Melbourne on the Orient Liner, SS *Garonne*, on 29 July 1878. His father was born in Leipzig, Germany. He married Alice Mace in 1881 at All Saints' Anglican Church in Wickham Terrace, the oldest Anglican Church in Brisbane.

Their son, Arthur J Praeger was born in Brisbane. His marriage to Julia Ross at the Tabernacle on 4 May 1912 was conducted by Rev James Mursell.

The City Tabernacle Baptist Church was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday May 4 when Mr Arthur James Praeger (only son of Mr and Mrs Praeger, Dornoch Terrace) was married to Miss Julia Mabel Ross (daughter of the late Mr Alexander Ross and Mrs Ross, Clinton Woolloowin). The Rev James Mursell officiated. The church was prettily decorated by girl friends of the bride. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr AH Ross. Misses Praeger, Ida Morley, and Alice Praeger acted as bridesmaids. Mr Boulter acted as best man, and Messrs Westaway and James as groomsmen. After the ceremony a reception was held by Mr and Mrs Ross at Clinton. Mr and Mrs Praeger left for a honeymoon tour to Sydney and the Blue Mountains.²¹¹



Arthur J Praeger, 1922

Julia had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1903. She was assistant superintendent of the Junior CE in 1903–07 and secretary of the CE Society in 1907. Her father served in World War I and his life and service is outlined in *For God, King and Country*. Julia died in 1945 having been a member at the Tabernacle for 42 years. Julia's brother Alexander (Harold) Ross was the Tabernacle's auditor for many years.

Arthur and Julia had four sons: Arthur H, Douglas, Alexander, and Eric.

Arthur, who was generally known as Harold, came into membership in 1928 and was a member of the Young Men's Fellowship throughout the 1930s and became deputy leader in 1939–41. Harold's work as an engineer designing boilers for the navy may have precluded him from military service. Alexander was in membership for 18 years up until his death in 1946.

Arthur and Julia both died in Brisbane, in 1936 and 1945, respectively.

²¹¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, 8 May 1912, p. 17.

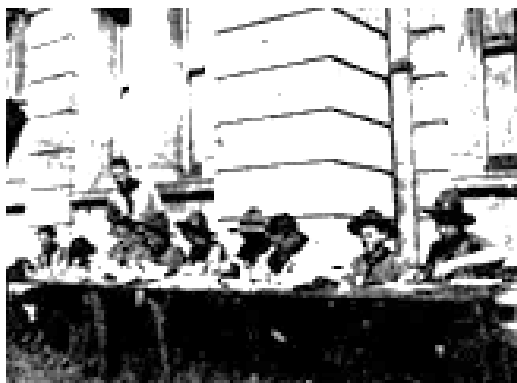
Mr AJ Praeger— The death occurred recently of Mr Arthur James Praeger at the age of 50 years. Mr Praeger was the only son of Mrs Praeger, Dornoch Terrace, and the late Mr AW Praeger, and was educated at the old Normal school and the Brisbane Grammar School. He was a member of the Federal Institute of Secretaries, the Federal Institute of Accountants, and the Association of Accountants of Australia. Until 1932 he was manager of Laycock, Littledike and Co. when he resigned to assume office as Assistant Secretary of the North Australian Rubber Mills, Ltd. He was Treasurer of the Queensland Committee of the Australian Baptist Foreign Mission, and a member for 24 years of the City Tabernacle. He was also a member of the Hamilton Bowling Club. He leaves a widow and four sons — Harold, Douglas, Alec, and Eric.²¹²

Douglas Neville Praeger

Doug, as he was generally known, was born in Brisbane on 14 September 1916 and grew up in Woolloowin. He was a scholar at the Albion Baptist Sunday School in 1927 when he sat for the junior division of the Baptist Sunday School examination and was awarded a book prize in the senior division in 1932. He also showed Collie dogs at the Windsor Show in 1926. In 1931, Doug was a student at Brisbane Boys' Grammar School and was awarded an extension on his State Scholarship to complete his final two years of high school.

Doug came into membership in 1931 and was scoutmaster in 1937 and treasurer of the Young Men's Fellowship in 1939–40.

Doug successfully completed several examinations of the Federal Institute of Accountants in 1937–39. He lived in his parents' home in Woolloowin before and after his involvement in World War II.



Scoutmaster DN Praeger (Photo: *The Telegraph*)

He was an assistant factory manager when he enlisted in Albion in the signals on 2 September 1941 and became a lieutenant on 15 September and later a captain. His mother was his next-of-kin, due to his father's premature death.

Like many returned soldiers from World War II, Doug spoke rarely of his time in the war. Whilst he didn't talk about his war experience, he did line drawings of jungle scenes, hanging rope bridges over creeks and camouflaged aircraft hidden

²¹² *The Courier Mail* 15 February 1945, p. 6.

in caves. His children have one slip which reads “Received one body, alive, Japanese from Captain Praeger.”

Doug was in New Guinea for nine months in 1943 and was on the Kokoda Trail. He spoke fondly of the “fuzzy fuzzies”, as he called them (New Guinea natives), who looked after them on the Kokoda Trail and were a significant part of the war effort.

He told of an event where the signals went ahead of the mortar group to set up camp and see where the shells were landing. The Japanese located the signals’ position first and the unit took a direct hit. All members except Doug were killed. This happened again a further time. As a result, Doug suffered from survivor guilt for the remainder of his life. Of a contingent of 600, only 128 survived.

Doug suffered badly from dermatitis and asthma and was repatriated back to Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital toward the end of the war.

Rev Albert Butler officiated at Doug’s marriage to Joan Westaway on 17 March 1945 at the Tabernacle, six months before his mother’s death. Joan was also born in 1917, the daughter of William and May Westaway, and had grown up in Yeerongpilly.

Initially they set up home in Alderley and Douglas resumed work as an accountant at North Australia Rubber Mills. Then later he was Company Secretary of Thomas Brown Pty Ltd. Following that time, he was employed by Reid Murray Property Development as receivership accountant to wind the company down. In the late 1950s or early 1960s, they moved to Windsor and in the late 1970s, they moved to Wynnum.

In 1977–86, Douglas had rooms in Perry House on the corner of Elizabeth and Albert Streets, where he operated his own accountancy business known as Lockwood and Associates. He also had an office in Wynnum.

Doug and Joan had two sons and two daughters: Joan (Margaret, Mrs Albert Knijnenburg), Judith, David, and Ralph.

Doug and Joan were both heavily involved in charity work for local community organisations. He also enjoyed bowling at the Booroodabin Bowls Club and supported the local sea scouts. He enjoyed his Meccano set, constructing all kinds of useful machinery and of course, the railway lines.

Doug was living in the Pleasantville Nursing Home in Lindum up until his death on 22 November 1996 aged 80. After Doug’s passing, Joan enrolled with Brisbane Legacy.

Joan died in Wynnum in 2006. Doug and Joan were buried with Joan’s parents in the Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens, Holland Park. Their headstone includes the phrase “with the Lord”. Doug’s funeral was held in the Lindum Uniting Church

and it was requested that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the Wynnum Blue Nurses.

Eric Noel Praeger

Eric was born at the home of his parents in Woolloowin, Brisbane on 30 November 1922. He was Arthur and Julia's fourth son.

Eric started school at Woolloowin State Primary School. Just a few weeks before he was to sit his Scholarship Exam (at the end of Year 8) his father died very suddenly of a cerebral haemorrhage – with only a few hours warning. Eric was very close to his father, and this tragedy meant that he repeated his final year of primary school to gain his Scholarship qualification. He then attended Brisbane Grammar School, the fifth in his family to do so following his father and three older brothers. After he completed his State Junior Certificate, Eric declined an extension to his State Scholarship and joined the Commercial Bank of Australia (CBA) as a junior clerk.

Eric came into membership at the Tabernacle in April 1939, following his baptism in March. He was treasurer of the Young Men's Fellowship and secretary of the B grade cricket team in 1940–41.

Prior to his enlistment, Eric served for over six months in the CMF. His work in the bank was interrupted when he was old enough to enlist for war service in Fortitude Valley on 9 December 1941, just after his 19th birthday. Eric joined the army on 22 April 1942 and served with the AIF from 30 October 1942 as a "T. G. 2 Computer" being promoted to bombardier in September 1943. In late 1943 he was "detached for duty to Townsville Fortress" where he served in the searchlight unit. In late 1944 Eric was transferred to the 1 Australian Base Depot Personnel in NSW and on 12 July 1945, after training in NSW and in Canungra Queensland, he embarked on HMAS *Duntroon* to join the 2/3rd Australian Field (artillery) Regiment in Wewak, New Guinea. He served there until the end of hostilities and was discharged from the army on 1 March 1946. He had been overseas for 212 days.

Whenever Eric was on leave in Brisbane he attended the Tabernacle, in particular the CE group. One of Eric's friends from his time in



Eric Praeger, 1941 (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

the bank was William (Bill) Gough, who was both a member of the City Tabernacle and also serving in the armed forces. The CE meetings were one of the few social activities available for young people in the church and Bill and Eric would attend when on leave. Bill's family lived not far from the Tabernacle, in Spring Hill. Nevertheless, Bill's mother did not like his sisters being out at night especially since their father had died in 1941, and because of the blackouts. Rev Butler from the Tabernacle made sure that Bill's siblings had escorts to take them to the tram stop on their way home.



Eric Prager (right) and Bill Gough

In this way Eric got to know Bill Gough's family, and in particular Bill's older sister Queenie, who came into membership in 1942 following her baptism by Rev Butler. Eric and Queenie were engaged to be married just before Christmas 1943, before Eric headed off to Townsville.

Queenie recalls an incident from Eric's time in Townsville. Eric was manning the searchlights alone, as his mates were on leave, when he saw planes heading towards Townsville and realised that they were Japanese. It was a surprise attack as there had been no intelligence warning. Eric notified Townsville headquarters, apparently just in time, as only the area around the airfield was bombed. Eric had to work all the lights on his own.

Eric was reluctant to speak about his experiences on active service during the war. In the last couple of years in Nambour he would accompany his daughter to the Anzac Day dawn services, and in Brisbane he went to similar services with his sons Iain and Trevor. The only time his daughter Cheryl remembers a conversation with Eric about his war service was in late 1973, when Eric and Queenie visited her in Canberra where she had just taken up a research fellowship at the Australian National University. The three of them spent a long afternoon at the National War Memorial, and in the museum discovered a diorama which Eric recognised as the location where he was stationed in New Guinea. He spoke about the Australian troops needing to hide from US aircraft to avoid being fired on. He pointed out where a Japanese artillery unit and machine gun sniper was situated on a hill overlooking the Australian positions. The Australian troops had not been able to deal with it. Eric recalled how disturbed he was when, some hours after, news came that Japan had surrendered. Some members of his regiment recommenced firing, taking out the Japanese unit. That conversation in 1973 is believed to be the only time Eric ever spoke about the incident, and his family

have since discovered that it is recorded as “the last fire mission in the New Guinea campaign”²¹³.

Eric recalled that the only Japanese soldier his section encountered in NG was a soldier that was literally “caught with his pants down” detained while going to the toilet. After their surrender, when the Japanese soldiers came out of the jungle, contrary to what they had been told, (that the enemy was poorly fed and poorly equipped) the Japanese soldiers were well fed and well-armed as they were being provisioned and reinforced by cargo carrying submarines. Not only that, but to the surprise of the Australian men, the Japanese had infiltrated their lines and were in position to launch a new offensive against the surrounded soldiers.

Eric and Queenie were married at the Tabernacle by Rev Butler, while Eric was on leave, on 15 February 1945. There was very little warning about the timing of his leave and arrangements were made with help from many friends: one friend was a photographer who could provide eight negatives (only) for wedding photographs; a friend of Queenie’s cousin agreed to sell Queenie her wedding dress made of silk from Switzerland. It fitted Queenie perfectly. A two-tier wedding cake was made and gifted to the couple by Queenie’s employer, GE Adams Cake Manufacturer, and the wedding reception was held in a lovely old house in North Quay, which was the headquarters of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, of which Queenie’s mother Victoria was a member. Eric’s brother Douglas and Queenie’s sister Lilian acted as witnesses.



Eric and Queenie Prager, 1945



Eric and Queenie Prager

²¹³Bleby, GEH 2/3rd Australian Field Regiment AIF 1939–1946. In Brook, D (ed) *Roundshot to Rapier: Artillery in South Australia 1840–1984*. Hawthornedene, South Australia: 1986. Investigator Press for the Royal Australian Artillery Association of South Australia. pp. 83–91.

On his discharge from the army in March 1946, Eric used his discharge pass to take Queenie on a four-week holiday to Sydney. After this he returned to work for the CBA. He and Queenie spent the next few months travelling by train around Queensland as Eric was posted to relieve bank staff in Monto, Innisfail, Bowen, and Boonah. Eventually Eric was transferred to Toowoomba, where he and Queenie set up house together. Eric and Queenie transferred their church memberships to Toowoomba in 1947, where Eric was the Intermediate CE leader in 1950. Queenie was the secretary of the SGMU in Warwick in 1953 and Girls' Brigade leader in Nambour in 1961.

Two of their children, Cheryl and Iain were born in Toowoomba. There followed transfers to Warwick, Redcliffe—where their third child Trevor was born—and then to Nambour. During the five years in Nambour, Eric embarked on a major career change. He commuted to Brisbane weekly for several years to complete his studies in chiropractic and naturopathy, and in 1962 the family moved to Brisbane, where Eric worked for Blackmore Chiropractic and Naturopathic Clinic in Lombard House, Adelaide Street Brisbane. In 1966, he commenced in his own clinic, The Praeger Chiropractic Clinic in Holland Park. Later the name changed to Holland Park Chiropractic (1991) and then to HPC Chiropractic and moved from Holland Park to Camp Hill (2012). Eric continued to work as a chiropractor at HPC Chiropractic until his death.

Eric was living in Mt Gravatt up until his death in the Princess Alexandra Hospital on 9 January 1996 aged 73. Queenie died in 2009.



Eric and Queenie Prager with Cheryl

Price, Clive James, MBE

Clive and his twin sister Colleen were born in the small Upper Hunter town of Merriwa on 7 July 1922, the son and daughter of Lionel (Leo) and Hilda Price (née Coleman). Leo was a civil engineering student when he enlisted in World War I, in August 1915. He served as a lieutenant with the 1st Field Company engineers in Étaples, France and was wounded-in-action (gunshot wounds) twice—in Belgium and then again in France. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry.



Leo Price (in uniform) with his parents and siblings
(Photo: D Walker)

Hilda was the daughter of Rev Thomas Coleman who emigrated from South Wales around 1900 to minister to the coal miners of New South Wales. Rev Coleman was the minister of the Harris Street Baptist Church, Sydney in the 1910s and of the Islington, Hinton, Northbridge, and Merewether Churches in Newcastle in the 1920s.

Leo, who had enjoyed a successful period as the City Engineer of Newcastle moved to the position of Brisbane City Engineer in 1941. From this position he was seconded to the Allied Works Council which was responsible for organising the civilian defence of Queensland during World War II.

Clive, his parents, and sister Colleen transferred their church membership from the Newcastle Tabernacle to the City Tabernacle in 1941. Clive's younger brother, Maxwell (Max), was received into membership in 1943 following his baptism.

Leo was on the diaconate at the Tabernacle in 1944 and was the convenor of the Soldiers' Teas sub-committee prior to his transfer to Melbourne. Leo, Hilda, and their family were farewelled at a church social on 10 November 1944. Their memberships were transferred to Kew in early 1945.

Most of Clive's childhood was spent in Sydney, where his father continued his engineering career, working for several city councils. Clive completed his Intermediate Certificate at North Sydney Boys' High School in 1936. At the end of that year the family moved to Newcastle, where Clive gained his Leaving Certificate from Newcastle Boys' High School.

He commenced engineering studies at the University of Sydney and completed the degree at the University of Queensland and became a member of the Institute of Engineers.

He was a slim young man, just over 6 feet tall with a definite touch of ginger in his fair hair, expressive blue eyes, and a debilitating stammer.²¹⁴



Clive Price, Alf Ingham and Reuben Hirst, Botanic Gardens (Photo: Tabernacle Archives)

Clive enlisted in the CMF at Kelvin Grove on 27 November 1941, aged 19. He was in his third year of university, studying civil engineering. His initial training was at Chermside, Cash's Crossing and Enoggera.

Having completed his university studies, he enlisted in the AIF for a total of 1,114 days, including 391 days Active Service outside Australia, commencing at Milne Bay, New Guinea, on 8 March 1943. Like his father, he was a lieutenant. He served with the 1st Australian Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers.

In April 1944, he was injured in an accident at Milne Bay which caused bruising and abrasion to his right knee, when, during a severe storm, the tent he was in collapsed under the weight of a coconut tree which had fallen across the tent.²¹⁵

Clive's account of the event was sent to a group of Christian Endeavourers in Newcastle, as part of a paper on being a Christian in the armed forces. It shows something of his character. The paper was referring to God's protection "as a hen gathereth her children under her wing." In his own words:



Clive Price (Photo: E Ellis)

During a recent rainstorm and gale, a tall coconut tree, some 70-80 feet high was blown down and crashed thro' the tent in which four of us were

²¹⁴ Ellis E, Personal communication, 2021.

²¹⁵ *National Archives of Australia*, B884, Q108375, p. 9.

seated around a table. That tree passed straight between us all, missing each of us by not more than a foot. There was no time then to ask for aid or protection, but after it was over everyone said it was nothing short of a miracle. All four were regular church attendees and agreed it was evidence of the Hand of God guarding us.

Clive's second tour of duty from October 1944 until May 1945 was to the Aitape/Wewak area, where again with the Royal Australian Engineers he was involved in providing infrastructure to assist troop movements. Some of those roads still existed when he visited the area in 1972.

Clive was discharged from the Army in January 1946.

Although his wartime experience was beneficial as he began his engineering profession, Clive never discussed this time with his family and wore out his uniforms in the garden.



Royal Australian Engineers, Wewak, 1945
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

While Clive was serving in the Royal Australian Engineers, his engagement to Jean, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alfred White, of Pymble, was announced in February 1944.²¹⁶ Clive and Jean were married in the Pymble Baptist Church, Sydney on 9 June 1945. They were married by Jean's uncle, Rev Charles Tinsley.

Following Clive's discharge from the army, the couple moved to Brisbane where Clive had an engineering position with the Brisbane City Council as a Design Engineer and Engineer in Charge of the Southern Water Supply and Sewerage District Depot, responsible, amongst other projects, for the construction of the Cavendish Road Reservoir and the West End Sewer. Jean transferred her church membership from Pymble to the Tabernacle in 1946.

Jean and Clive returned to worship at the Tabernacle and made many lifelong friends among the young couples there. From the names on the church Honour Board, these friendships included Cec Lockhart, Alban Gurnett-Smith, Will Stay, Keith Webster and the Hirst family—the twins Cliff and Ken, their brother Reuben and sister Amy. Clive and Jean were living in Coorparoo.

Their first daughter Everyl was born in Brisbane in early 1948 and dedicated at the Tabernacle in May. Later that year Clive accepted a position with the Hydro

²¹⁶ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 February 1944, p. 12.

Electricity Commission in Tasmania. They transferred their church membership in 1951 from the Tabernacle to Moonah (Hobart).

Clive worked in Tasmania on the high central plateau where he was the Engineer-in-Charge of the construction of Brady's Lake Dam, part of the Nive Scheme. The workforce was mainly single European men, many from Poland. The family lived in the construction village of Bronte Park in a small, prefabricated cottage. The countryside was beautiful, but the winters were cold with plenty of snow around.

Jean and Clive's second daughter, Lyndall, was born in Sydney in 1950 and the family reunited when Clive moved to the Hydro Head Office in Hobart, where Clive was on the Construction Planning staff and became the Senior Planning Engineer in October 1953.

From 1950 until 1954 the family lived at Glenorchy, then a semi-rural suburb on the outskirts of Hobart, a mile from the tram terminus. This was the first of many gardens Jean and Clive established together.

In 1954 their son Andrew was born and the family moved to Newtown, Tasmania which was within walking distance to the city and the Friends' School, where Everyl and Lyndall had their early schooling. They transferred their church membership to the Hobart Tabernacle, where again many lifelong friends were made.

When Clive was a child, his mother suffered from chronic ill health and he had a very strong and loving relationship with his grandmother which developed into an active interest in the field of Aged Care. Subsequently, he readily accepted a position on the Board of St Ann's Home in Hobart.

Clive and the family moved to Canberra in 1958 when Clive became the First Assistant Commissioner (Engineering) at the inception of the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC), a position he held until 1972.

As head of the Engineering Department, he was responsible for a wide field of activities associated with urban development, in particular the development of Lake Burley Griffin, Scrivener Dam, Kings Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue Bridges, Water Supply and Sewerage treatment works, roadworks and transport networks.

This gave him the opportunity to direct significant engineering



Scrivener Dam and Lake Burley Griffin
(Photo: Flickr)

projects in the planning and development of Canberra—to become involved in a multidisciplinary exercise without equal in urban development at that time.

During his time with the NCDC he also had special assignments, including advising the Pakistan Government on the Water Supply for Islamabad and being the technical consultant to the Senate Select Committee on Water Pollution in 1969–70.

He was awarded an MBE in 1972. His citation reads:

To be appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE): Clive James Price, BE, First Assistant Commissioner (Engineering), National Capital Development Commission, Canberra. For public service.²¹⁷

In 1972 Clive resigned from the NCDC and became a director of Maunsell and Partners Pty Ltd, in charge of their Canberra office. He was responsible for the firm's diverse planning and development operations particularly related to centres of growth in existing cities and in new towns. These assignments were carried out across Australia as well as the Trengganu Coastal Region in Malaysia. In 1974 he was the adviser to the Tanzanian Government on the development of their national capital, Dodoma. Clive resigned as a director of the firm in 1980 and remained a consultant with them until 1984 when ill health forced his retirement.

Clive and Jean joined the Canberra Baptist Church in 1958 and were a very active part of its growing membership. Clive had a great love for children and young people. He became Sunday School Superintendent around 1960 when there were over 300 children on the roll, a staff of 50 and a transport network.

This developed into a youth leadership role from the mid-1960s for a period of about 10 years. He led house-parties at Fitzroy Falls, Blackheath and Bundanoon and mentored other leaders to take over the role. For much of this period the young people held a monthly 'coffee hour' after the Sunday evening service. There were low tables and low lighting, a talented group of local musicians and about 100 young people in attendance. At these evenings Clive would deliver a "three minute flat", directly relating Christian living to relevant snippets of daily life, often using examples from his engineering career. Clive was appointed as the Youth Director of the Canberra Baptist Church in 1969.

The other focus area of Clive's Christian outreach was in his steadfast work as part of the visionary team led by the Canberra Baptist Church minister at the time, Rev Frederick McMaster, to provide the first nursing home for the aged in Canberra. (Clive was the secretary of the Canberra Regional Board of the NSW Baptist Homes Trust from 1965 until 1969.) Meetings were held in Clive and Jean's National Circuit home from 1961 until Morling Lodge was opened in 1968. The site of Morling Lodge is now being transformed by BaptistCare into a new

²¹⁷ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 14 January 1971, p. 249.

retirement village. The caring work begun at Morling Lodge continues at a new aged care property in Griffith, ACT.

In the wider community at this time Clive served on the Board of The Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar School from 1965 until 1968 and chairman of the school's development committee. He was appointed to the inaugural Council of the Canberra College of Advanced Education in Canberra in 1979. This institution became the University of Canberra.

During these years Everyl, Lyndall, and Andrew completed their education at the Australian National University, were baptised and married in the Canberra Baptist Church.

Clive was a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Australia (FIE Aust) and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian Planning Institute (FRAPI).

Clive had persevered with determination to overcome his stammer to the point where he could deliver papers at international conferences, conduct church services, and reach out to young people. From the age of 40, he was an insulin dependent diabetic and coped with this disease quietly while enjoying a full professional career.

Clive and Jean made homes and beautiful gardens in Forrest, Farrer, Red Hill and Sutton (NSW), moving back to Deakin in 1992. During the last ten years of his life, he sank into the mysterious and inexplicable world of dementia. He was loved and cared for by Jean until he became a resident in Morling Lodge where he died on 22 August 1995 aged 73. His death notice reads:

PRICE, Clive James BE, MIE, MBE. — Tuesday 22nd August 1995 at Morling Lodge. Beloved husband of Jean. Much loved father and father-in-law of Everyl and Ross Ellis (Canberra), Lyndall and Tony Purcell (Brisbane), Andrew and Norma Price (Cowra). Loving Papa to Roland, Tom, Deborah, Andrew, Stephen, Angela, Declan and Lachlan. Brother and brother-in-law of Colleen and Ken Gamble (Melbourne) and Max and Frances Price (Melbourne). Aged 73. 'In Heavenly love abiding.'²¹⁸

His funeral was held in the Canberra Baptist Church.



Clive and Jean Price (Photo: E Ellis)

²¹⁸ *The Canberra Times*, 23 August 1995, p. 40.

Pritchard, Colin Arthur

Col, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 4 April 1917, the son of Edward and Ada Pritchard (née Parker). Edward and Ada were married in the Jireh Baptist Church, Fortitude Valley in 1911. Col had a sister Violet (who died in infancy before Col was born) and two brothers, Cecil (Cec), and Mervyn. Their father died quite young in Brisbane in 1937 from tuberculosis, caused by the fumes from his job as a tinsmith while working at Doomben. Their mother died in Rockhampton in 1966. Edward's early death left the family in a very precarious position financially and as young adults and teenagers, the three boys were left to look after their mother, who died in 1966.

Col grew up in Doomben and Kedron. The three boys attended Hamilton State School, where Col passed the State Scholarship examination in 1930. Although he attended various youth activities at the Baptist church, neither Col nor any of his family were in membership at the Tabernacle. Col, Cec, and Mervyn's religious affiliation, listed by their father on their school enrolments at Hamilton State School, was Baptist.

Col and his brother Cec were very active with CE meetings and Conventions. Col was deeply religious all during his life and was active in the service of his Church.

Col's brother Mervyn enlisted in the 9/49th Battalion of the AIF in 1940, as a sergeant, but transferred to the Citizen Air Force, then the RAAF in 1944 and then the RAF as an instrument maker, rising to the rank of flight sergeant, in the Middle East for three years, then in England. He is not on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour. (In 1937, he received a Quarterly Ticket of Methodist Church Membership.)

During the war, Cec and Col shifted their mother to Laidley, because of the "Brisbane Line". Living at Laidley, there would have been less chance of her abode being bombed! In the years prior to 1940, Col and Cec held religious events in Laidley, so they may have known the area well.

He was 25 when he transferred to the AIF, Ordnance Services in Brisbane on 27 March 1943. He had previously worked as a clerk (not qualified accountant). On entry, he was given the rank of lieutenant on the strength of his service in the CMF. He gave his denomination as Methodist. He was already a member of the Australian Finance Industry Association. Until his marriage, Ada was Col's next-of-kin.

In January 1944, he was promoted to captain. He served on Bougainville from September 1944 until November 1945 when he was evacuated to Lae, New Guinea and then transferred to the Holland Park Military Hospital with renal failure. He was readmitted in December 1946 and was on the "seriously ill" list for three weeks. His appointment was terminated on 24 February 1947.

Col announced his engagement to Margaret (Merle) Shedden on 1 December 1942. They were married on 1 May 1943. Merle was born in 1921, the daughter of Alexander and Janet Shedden. Col's family had moved to Laidley, and Merle's family were in Toowoomba. During the war, Merle lived with her mother in Toowoomba.

Col and Merle lived in Murarrie, Annerley, Camp Hill, Wellers Hill, and Mt Gravatt. Col was a poultry farmer, then a clerk and an accountant. He continued his studies in accountancy after the war, and in 1951, passed the Taxation Law and Company Law exams of the Federal Institute of Accountants. He then completed Bankruptcy Law, and Mercantile Law in 1952.

Col was a dedicated Christian and was a lay preacher and Sunday School Superintendent at Coorparoo Methodist Church for many years.

Col and Merle were living in Merrimac until they moved to the Noyea Riverside Retirement Village in Mt Warren Park where they died, in 2004 and on 4 February 2011, aged 93, respectively. Col's funeral was held at the Newlife Uniting Church in Robina.

Col and Merle had three children, Lynette (Lyn), Graham who was born in 1947 and became a teacher, and Gweneth (Gwen), born in 1948. He was survived by his three children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Col's niece, Marilyn knows from her mother, Adelyn's letters, that Col was a great support to her while Mervyn was overseas on active service for five years. Col and his family were an important part of her family's lives.²¹⁹



Col Pritchard (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

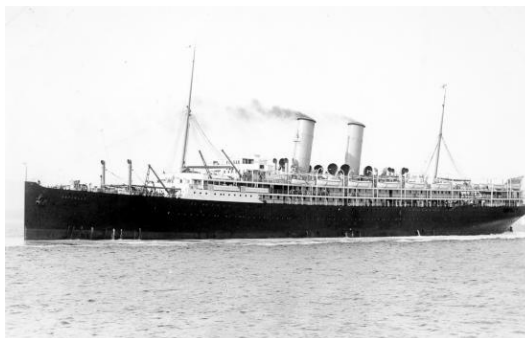


Col Pritchard, 2011

²¹⁹ M Hamilton, Personal communication, 2022

Reed, Douglas Stanley and Jean Evelyn Ross (née Reed)

Alfred Reed was born in Fortitude Valley in 1887 and Christina McLachlan was born in Fyfeshire, Scotland in 1889 and arrived in Brisbane in 1911 with her younger sister Mary aboard the SS *Osterley*, both aged about 20. Christina and Mary's parents, Daniel and Jane Cameron and their three younger children arrived in Brisbane in 1912, aboard SS *Paparoa*.



SS *Osterley* (Photo: Western Australia Museum)

Alfred and Christina were married by Rev James Mursell at the Tabernacle on 14 November 1914 and had five children: Douglas, Jean, Mary (Molly), Ruth, and Nancy. Douglas and Jean both enlisted in World War II. The family lived in Herston, Kelvin Grove and then Chermside. Alfred was a foreman with the City Council.

Christina had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1912 and Alfred came into membership in 1921. They both remained in membership until their deaths in 1957 and 1972.

Christina's younger brother William served in the AIF in World War I. He is listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour and his life and service are outlined in *For God, King and Country*.

Molly was born in 1919. She married Percy Manley in 1946.

Ruth was born in 1921 and came into membership in 1938. Her marriage to Sapper Douglas (Preston) Hancox at the Tabernacle in 1942, was performed by Rev Albert Butler. Preston was not in membership at the Tabernacle and is not listed on the Roll of Honour.

Nancy married Sergeant Dudley Reid at the Tabernacle in April 1947. Rev Albert Butler officiated at their wedding.

Douglas Stanley Reed

Douglas was born in Queensland on 28 February 1917 and came into membership at the Tabernacle on 6 March 1932. His name is mis-spelt Reid in some editions

of the Tabernacle Yearbook. His name was not removed from the roll until his death.

Douglas was employed as a storeman when he enlisted in Brisbane. He returned to live with his parents in Herston immediately after the war. No details of his service are available publicly.

Douglas and Joan Ferris were married on 2 October 1950 at the Tabernacle by Rev FT Smith. Joan was born in Brisbane in 1921, the daughter of Henry and Gertrude Ferris. Their reception was held at the Carrington and they honeymooned on the North Coast. Joan did not come into membership at the Tabernacle.

Douglas and Joan had twin boys Darryl and Keith (who both died shortly after birth in 1953), Julie (Mrs Gregory Munro) and Pamela (Pam, Mrs Michael Gracy (sic)).

Douglas and Joan lived in Hawthorne in 1954 and then moved to Norman Park. He continued to work as a storeman until at least 1980.

Joan died in 1994 and Douglas died in Upper Mount Gravatt on 30 May 2000, aged 83.

Jean Evelyn Ross (née Reed)

Jean Reed was born on 3 April 1915. She was living with her parents in Herston until her marriage.

She came into membership at the Tabernacle in early 1931 and her marriage to Gilbert Ross at the Tabernacle on 5 August 1944 was conducted by Rev Albert Butler. Her sister Molly was one of their attendants and her sister Mary and her future husband Percy Manley acted as witnesses. Gilbert was born in Rockhampton in 1920, the only son of William and the late Margaret Ross. Jean and Gilbert had been engaged for a little over a year.

Jean was a shop assistant when in September 1942, she enlisted as a private in the AAMWS. She worked as a laboratory technician before she was discharged on compassionate grounds in August 1944, a week after her marriage.

Gilbert also served in the AIF. Like his father, he was a beef and poultry farmer in Cooneel (Wowan, 50 km south-west of Mount Morgan) in 1943.



Private Jean Reed
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

Gilbert was not in membership at the Tabernacle and is not listed on the Roll of Honour.

Gilbert was a farmer in Yeppoon in 1949 and then became a carpenter (1954–72). He retired in Rockhampton.

Jean and Gilbert had four sons: Gerald (Gerry), Philip, Bruce, and Christopher (Chris).

Jean didn't tell her children much about her past. She was a humble lady who most likely believed that they would not be interested.²²⁰

Gilbert and Jean both died in Rockhampton, in 2007 and on 2 January 2011, aged 95, respectively. Jean's funeral was held in the Rockhampton Gospel Hall, where she was a regular church attender and had taken her family to church.

²²⁰ B Ross, Personal communication, 2021.

Reid, Esther Freva Hilda Linnier (née Ohlson)

Esther Ohlson was born in Queensland on 8 May 1904, the daughter of Adolphus (Adolph / Fred) and Augusta Ohlson (née Jacobsohn). Her family name is spelt both Ohlson and Ohlsen in various records. Augusta migrated from London on the SS *Bulimba* at the age of 24, arriving in Brisbane in 1887 and married Adolph in 1889. Augusta's brother Carl also migrated to Australia in 1887. He was naturalised in 1904 and owned land in Caloundra when he died in 1935. He anglicised his family name to Jacobson.

Esther had an older brother Peter and four older sisters, Anna (Svea, Mrs Robert Carson), Emily, May, and Agnes (Mrs Thomas Collis). Adolph died in Brisbane in 1915 and Augusta died in 1938. Augusta's funeral was held at the Tabernacle.

Peter was born in Cairns in 1892 and enlisted in the 15th Battalion in December 1915. He had previously served in the naval Brigade for 1 ½ years. He gave his religion as Baptist, and served in Egypt and France as a lieutenant. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1917. He re-enlisted in the CMF in February 1943 and was appointed as an adjutant and quarter master and promoted to captain in March 1944. He was discharged as medically unfit for general service due to his injuries.

Esther's mother came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1887, prior to her marriage. Her name was removed from the roll in 1893.

Esther was a fourth-class student at the Kangaroo Point Girls' State School in 1914 and was a bridesmaid at both her sister Agnes's marriage to Thomas Collis, and her sister-in-law Elsie Collis's marriage to William Spence, which were both held in the Sandgate Baptist Church in 1922.

Esther lived with her mother and siblings in Sandgate until 1925, working as a clerk. In 1930, Esther and Svea were living in Cairns. Esther was still doing clerical work and Svea was a dressmaker. Esther returned to Brisbane in 1931 and was living with her mother and sister Ada in Clayfield in 1934.

In September and October 1931, Esther was the pianist at a Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) *Girls of the World* concert in the All Saints' Hall and a benefit in the St Andrew's Hall, Creek Street. In April 1932 she was one of the hostesses at a YWCA party organised by a group of members of the association specially interested in training for leadership and was the piano accompanist at the annual YWCA opportunity fete.

Esther was the pianist for the Sandgate and Nundah Baptist churches combined choir at a grand musical festival which concluded the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Sandgate church, and the organist for several weddings in the Sandgate church in 1932.

In February 1934, when they were living in Woolloowin, Esther and her mother and sister Edna transferred their church memberships from Sandgate to the Tabernacle. Esther was living on her own, however, in New Farm in 1936 but living in Townsville in 1937–38, after sailing to Cairns on the *Kanimbla* in September 1936, and with her brother and his wife Ada in Woolloowin, in 1943.



YWCA logo

In 1943, Esther was appointed the YWCA representative with the AWAS in North Queensland. Her appointment increased the number of YWCA representatives serving in Australia, with the AWAS, AAMWS, and the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force to about 40.²²¹

More than half of the hundreds of letters received by various volunteers who assisted with the Soldiers' Teas at the Tabernacle were written on note paper supplied by the YMCA in association with The Salvation Army and Australian Comforts Fund.

Esther had been a YWCA war services representative in the Army for nearly three years, serving in Atherton, when she was appointed Business Secretary to the YWCA in Adelaide. She had been in charge of the recreation centre, and a friend and adviser to nearly 1,500 AWAS and AAMWS stationed in that area.²²² She also played the organ in Atherton occasionally. Esther transferred her membership to Flinders St, Adelaide in 1946.

She married Walter Reid, of Dulwich, in the Flinders Street Baptist Church, Adelaide on 19 December 1946. Their marriage was solemnised by Rev Samuel Millar BA BD (the Minister at Flinders Street), who was assisted by Rev William Dunn (who was a Methodist Minister). Walter was born in Semaphore, South Australia in 1884, the son of Thomas and Clara Reid. He was a solicitor, who was wounded in action, serving in Pozieres, France, in World War I while serving with the 50th Battalion. He was discharged as medically unfit in November 1918. His first wife, Barbara had died earlier in 1946.

Esther and Walter had returned to Brisbane by 1958 and were living in Clayfield. Walter died in Queensland in 1959, aged 77. After Walter's death, Esther lived in

²²¹ *The Age*, 29 July 1943, p. 3.

²²² *The Courier Mail*, 14 March 1946, p. 6.

Ascot, working as a housekeeper and renewed her membership at the Tabernacle in April 1961. She died in Queensland on 27 August 1967 aged 63.

Walter and Esther did not have any children.

Walter's children from his first marriage were Jean (Mrs Harold Gorham) and Lorna Johnson.

Rider, Herbert Edward

Bert, as he was generally known, was born in Corinda on 10 March 1922, the son of Ernest and Kate Rider (née Brooks). Ernest was a railway shunter. Bert had three older siblings, Marjorie (Mrs Harold Self), Ernest, and Doris (Mrs Alexander Scorgie). Harold Self and Ernest also served in World War II. Ernest and Kate raised their family in Darra. They both died in Brisbane, in 1958 and 1966, respectively.

Before enlisting, Bert was a storeman and packer with HS Gresham, hairdressing suppliers in the Commercial Travellers' Association Building, 283 Elizabeth St, Brisbane, while living in Graceville.

Bert enlisted in Brisbane on 15 December 1941, aged 19. He was one of the 661 men who applied as recruits that day—a record for Brisbane. The rush was so great at the AIF recruiting centre in Desmond Chambers that the enlarged staff and panel of seven Army doctors did not stop even for the mid-day meal.²²³

At enlistment, he gave his denomination as Methodist.

Bert trained at Redbank, Goondiwindi, and Glenn Innes before going to Milne Bay, New Guinea in November 1942 as a private in the 2/12th Australian Transport Platoon, on HMAS *Katoomba*. He was evacuated to Cairns on USS *President Jackson* in October 1943 with malaria. Thereafter he remained in Australia at the School of Mechanical Mob Wing. He suffered an ulcer of the cornea of his right eye due to a cigarette burn in November 1944.

When he enlisted, Bert said that he was able to type. After training as a typewriter repairer, he was transferred to Morotai, Maluku Islands, Indonesia (Borneo) in May 1945 aboard USS *Jefferson Davis*. He



CTA Building
(Photo: Queensland Department of
Environment and Science)



Herbert Rider, 1941
(Photo: National
Archives of Australia)

²²³ *The Courier Mail*, 16 December 1941, p. 5.

was discharged in January 1946, having served 566 days overseas and 815 days in Australia. He was awarded the 1939–45 Star, Pacific Star, 1939–45 War Medal, and Australian Service Medal.

Bert and Margaret (Beth) Watt's marriage at the Tabernacle on 29 August 1944, was conducted by Rev Albert Butler. Beth was born in Brisbane in 1920, the daughter of the late David and Amy Watt. Bert and Beth had been engaged since November 1943. David had been a commercial traveller.



Transport Platoon, Milne Bay
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Beth had been a member at the Tabernacle since 1936 and was employed as a typist. Beth's sister, Vida (later Mrs Charles Powter) who had come into membership at the same time as Beth, was one of their witnesses and the other was Herbert's brother, Ernest. While Bert was overseas, Beth lived with her sister in Auchenflower. Charles and Vida's story is recounted elsewhere.

Bert and Margaret were living in Highgate Hill in 1949 when Bert was still working as a storeman. In late 1949, a black leather satchel, owned by Bert, was stolen by Israel Davis. The satchel, valued at £3 was found in Davis's possession by a warder at Brisbane Jail. He had been jailed for being in possession of stolen jewellery.

By 1954 Bert and Margaret had moved to Ashgrove and Bert was working as a "traveller". They remained there until at least 1980. Beth died in late 1991.

Bert and Margaret's daughter, Annette (Mrs Arthur Campbell) came into membership in 1973. In 1980, she was living with her parents in Ashgrove, working as a stenographer. Her name was removed from the roll in 1987. Bert and Margaret also had a son, Phillip, born in 1952 in Brisbane, who died in infancy, aged two.

Bert was living in the Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village when he died on about 4 February 2004 aged 82. He was survived by his daughter Annette and his wife and companion Mavis. It is not known when he married Mavis. He requested that mourners make donations to Diabetes Australia in lieu of flowers, suggesting he had suffered from diabetes.

Robbins, Edward Breach and Douglas Breach

Charles Breach Robbins was born at sea on the barque *Jerusalem* in 1883, en route from London to Brisbane. His exact place of birth was 0 degrees 40 minutes South Latitude and 26 degrees West Longitude, which is in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. He was christened at sea by the ship's captain, Mark Breach, and was given the captain's name. His birth was registered in Brisbane on arrival. Charles had a younger sister. His parents had two children prior to Charles, neither of whom was still alive. The name Breach has been kept alive in Charles's family—both his sons, three of his grandsons, a great-grandson, and a great great-grandson were given it as their second name.

Charles's parents, John and Mary were in membership at the Tabernacle from 1884, soon after their arrival in Brisbane, until 1888. In 1903, Mary was living alone, working as a housekeeper at the Brisbane Hospital. She died in 1921, aged 61. There is no mention of John in her death or funeral notices. It is possible that John had "done a runner" to North Queensland²²⁴ between 1888 and 1903.

Charles and Ethel both came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1905. In 1908, Charles commenced work, aged 15, with Fenwick and Co Ltd, as an office boy at the old Newmarket and Cannon Hill saleyards. His first job at Newmarket was to help with stock droving from the trucking yards at Normanby.²²⁵ By the time he retired from the company in 1951 after 51 consecutive years, he had been secretary of the company from 1934.

Charles and Catherine (Kate) Michael were married by Rev William Poole at the Tabernacle on 6 January 1909. Kate came into membership in 1936 following her baptism. Charles was the Tabernacle's auditor from 1909 until 1921 and a deacon and treasurer at the Tabernacle from 1931 until 1953. In 1944, he was appointed to the Baptist Union Council and was one of the Tabernacle's delegates to the Annual Assembly.

In his annual reports, the church secretary regularly expressed the church's thanks for the way Charles exercised his duties as treasurer and on one occasion wrote: "Mr CB Robbins has again been most punctilious in his care of the Church's funds and the rendering of the Church accounts."

Charles and Kate had five children: Charles (Garnett), Edward (Ted), George, Catherine (Isabell) and Douglas (Doug), who all grew up in Clayfield. George married Irene Johnston at the Tabernacle in 1939.

²²⁴ Robbins G, Personal communication, 2021.

²²⁵ *Queensland Country Life*, 8 January 1953, p. 4.

Isabell was the only one of their children to come into membership at the Tabernacle (in 1938).

Charles was acknowledged for his involvement in the Teas and Service for Men of the Forces conducted at the Tabernacle for the duration of the war.

At the morning service on Sunday on 1 May, the new communion furniture was dedicated to the Service of the Lord. The table was presented to the Church by Mr and Mrs Robbins, in gratitude to God for the safe return of their sons from World War II.



Charles and Kate Robbins and their family, c. 1948
Doug and Lelda on the left-hand end, Ted and Kay
second from the left. (Photo: G Robbins)

At the Church Annual Business Meeting in 1951, when the report of the Secretary, and the Treasurer's Annual Statement were received and adopted, and Deacons and Officers elected, the meeting was well supported by members and a happy time of social fellowship was enjoyed at the close. At this meeting a resolution of gratitude to God for the restoration to health of our beloved Treasurer, Mr CB Robbins and Mrs Robbins, and of our appreciation of the untiring and faithful service to the Church by Mr Robbins as the steward of the gifts of God's people here at the Tabernacle, was passed unanimously and placed on record.²²⁶

Charles was an adviser on financial matters to several Union committees, especially on the council and the Finance and Advisory Board.



Robbins family gathering, 2011
(Photo: G Robbins)

Charles and Kate both remained in membership until their deaths in 1953 and 1956. Charles's funeral was conducted at the Tabernacle.

²²⁶ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1951–52*, p. 6.

Edward Breach Robbins

Ted, as he was generally known, was born in Brisbane on 2 August 1913. After passing the Secondary Scholarship examination, he attended Brisbane Grammar School for two years and passed the Junior Certificate. In 1931, he passed his First Aid examination with honours at the Central Technical College and in 1933 gained a credit pass in Wool Classing.

Ted left home to gain further experience in the wool industry. He was offered a position with a band of shearers and it was the recommendation of the station manager that led to his employment as a wool valuer with Fenwicks, a small company subsequently acquired by Goldsborough Mort. He was credited with introducing the wool clip business to Goldsborough Mort.

In 1934–35 he had the best batting average (23.5) for the Tabernacle's A grade cricket team. Although Ted was not in membership at the Tabernacle, he married Kate (Kay) Sims there on 19 August 1939. Rev Albert Butler was the celebrant. Their witnesses were Arthur Bush and Kay's sister Nellie. Kay was born in 1913, the daughter of Leonard and Lillian Sims. She did not come into membership either. Kay was a typist prior to their marriage.

Ted enlisted in Brisbane on 12 December 1941, aged 28. He gave his occupation as wool appraiser. He was given the rank of lieutenant in April 1942 in the 2/2nd Australian Field Regiment (AFR). His initial training was at Redbank, but he did further training in Canungra and Townsville, including battery signals in the School of Artillery, and bulldozer driving. He spent some time on the Atherton Tableland building a road. He did "a very good course" in signals, placed 2nd of the 15



Ted and Kay Robbins
(Photo: A Robbins)



Ted Robbins (Photo: A Robbins)

candidates, gaining 75% on the practical and 85% on the oral examinations.

Ted served for a total of 1,438 days, of which 390 were in New Guinea (from November 1944 until December 1945) at Aitape-Wewak. After his discharge in January 1946, he was entitled to the award of the 1939/45 Star and Pacific Star with ribbon and clasp.

Ted's brother Doug recalled that the Artillery normally acted in support of the Infantry. When this happened, the Artillery sent a Forward Observation Officer (FOO) up to the front who directed the Artillery fire as required by the Infantry. Ted was involved in that and Doug was of the understanding that he did a very good job. It was quite amazing just what those FOOs could do. They controlled firing by wireless.

Ted and Kay's children were Linda (Mrs Robert O'Brien), Peter, Lesley (Mrs Philip Gluckman), and Anthony (Tony).

Ted was in New Guinea when he received the news of the birth of his baby girl, Linda. Linda was two years old when he saw her for the first time. He was friends with Arnold Williams, from Brookfield, who was in the same Regiment. Arnold received the news of the birth of his daughter Yolanda at about the same time. Ted and Arnold remained close friends after the war, when Ted and Kay went ballroom dancing with Norma and Arnold at the Brookfield Hall every Saturday night for many years. Arnold was the chairman at Linda's wedding reception.

Ted never talked about the war. His daughter, Lesley thinks he wanted to put it behind him. She doesn't think he was suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress, although he did suffer from malaria for many years afterwards. Lesley remembers him lying in the bedroom, in a lather of perspiration, high temperature and obviously in a lot of pain. Such is the man that he was though, that he never made his family aware of what must have been shocking, ghastly experiences. His way of coping, and his way of enabling his family to not be conscious of the horrors of war and the horrors he had experienced, was to tell another side of the story.²²⁷

Lesley relates the following memories of her father.

He told his family about a shipload of crates of chocolate shipped into New Guinea for



Ted judging at the 1975 Ekka
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

²²⁷ Gluckman L, Personal communication, 2021.

the American servicemen. Unfortunately, it had been packed around the ship's funnel and when it was unloaded it had, obviously, suffered from the effects of the heat from the funnel and was unceremoniously dumped. The dump was a well-guarded strategic location. One night Ted was assigned guard duty with a couple of others from the unit when they came upon the massive stack of chocolate. It seemed too good to be true. Starved as they were for anything in the way of treats, they transferred the crates of chocolate back to base and shared it round. That, to the chocolate-loving little girl that she was, remained in her mind as the highlight of the war. It was probably a highlight for Dad and the troops also, but she is sure there were many other most disturbing events that could have taken precedence. It is a testimony to Ted's positivity and his sensitivity that that is the war story he passed on to his family.

While the troops were waiting for the arrival of the HMS *Implacable* to take them home, they were very hungry. Very, very hungry. They had some leftover ammunition (and nobody to fire it at) so they threw hand grenades into the water, waited for the fish to float to the top, then dived in and brought dinner out. "Fish is very good for you, you know", Ted would say very seriously. Strangely, they never had fish at home. Maybe he was over fish after living off it for so long after the war.²²⁸

Ted was employed by Goldsborough Mort (later Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort) as a wool valuer and was Chief Judge of the wool clip at the Brisbane RNA Show (Ekka) for many years. Ted and Kay built their house at Moorooka in 1939 and lived there for 63 years until 2002, when they moved to Brookfield Village, in the Western suburbs of Brisbane.

Ted died on 5 September 2002 aged 89 and Kay followed him in 2005, aged 91. They are survived by their four children, eight grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Douglas Breach Robbins

Doug, as he was generally known, was born in Brisbane on 26 October 1922, the youngest of Charles and Catherine's five children. He attended Eagle Junction State School, where he sat and passed the Secondary Scholarship Examination, and then Brisbane Grammar School, leaving after Junior. He did not come into membership at the Tabernacle.

He started work as a junior auditor with Clarke and Sons and began his accountancy studies. In April 1941, he passed his intermediate auditing examination with the Association of Accountants of Australia.

²²⁸ Gluckman L, Personal communication, 2021.

In 1941, while auditing a business in the Wool Exchange, he spotted the beautiful Lelda Simpson and, with the determination and resolve for which he was known, set about finding out more about her. Before long they went out together for the first time and so began their wonderful seventy-year union.

Doug gained great strength from Lelda during his war years, at all times carrying a photo of her and his sister Isabell in a Bible in his shirt pocket.

Doug enlisted on the same day as his brother Ted. He was only 20.

Doug's active service in the 2/9th Infantry Battalion totalled 1,603 days, including 667 days in New Guinea (November 1942 until March 1943 and again from August 1943 until May 1944) and then in Borneo from May 1945 until February 1946. He entered the army as a private but was promoted to corporal in April 1942 and his final rank was lance sergeant. He was not discharged until 24 June 1946. While in NG, he suffered cellulitis of his left foot, dengue fever and malaria (which recurred for many years after the war).

In Borneo he was a member of the Battalion Intelligence Section where he, among other duties, planned and led patrols, relying on his skill in map and compass reading, and his ability to lead patrols to precisely the target positions.

Doug was involved in the battles of Buna and Sanananda in East New Guinea. He was evacuated from Sanananda to Port Moresby suffering from tropical ulcers. His next service was the battle for Shaggy Ridge where it was so steep and narrow the front line had space for only three men. In 1945, he was part of the largest amphibious landing in Australia's military history at Balikpapan, Borneo, where he later represented the battalion's "other ranks" at the surrender ceremony on HMAS *Burdekin* in Balikpapan harbour. A lot for such a young man.

There is no doubt that his war service shaped his values and made him grow into a strong, compassionate man of great dignity and integrity. He wrote an account of his war years a few years before his death and in it he focussed mostly on the good things. In his eulogy at Doug's funeral, his son Greg recounted the following stories, as recorded by Doug.



Doug Robbins 1942
(Photo: G Robbins)

On his first trip to New Guinea, he played his first ever game of two-up and, remarkably, threw nine straight heads, winning £256 in a couple of minutes. Typically careful, he gave this money to the pay clerk for safe keeping and banked it on his return to Australia. Given his entire pay for all the years he was in the army was £678, this two-up win of £256 was very significant. Greg doubts he ever told his father, who was very strict about such things.

At a training camp at Boggabilla, a couple of soldiers acquired some tear gas from somewhere. One day they crawled under the officers' mess and drilled a hole in the floor. That night they went back in and let off the container of gas which seeped up into the mess. By the time the officers came running out the soldiers had disappeared.

When Doug left the convalescent camp at Burleigh Heads after recuperating from a bout of malaria, he set out to return to the unit which had by now moved to the Atherton Tablelands. He passed through the staging camp in Brisbane and, while waiting for a train north, was given a leave pass for each day. One day along with two others from the 2/9th he was in the city when a couple of military police saw them, recognised their colour patches and assumed the men were absent without leave. Doug and his colleagues saw them approaching so moved off, slowly at first then faster and faster, up Queen Street. As the MPs got closer, they hurried their pace and went through a shop into Adelaide Street with the MPs still chasing. Eventually the MPs caught up and demanded to see their leave passes, which they showed them. The MPs were not very happy when the men told them they had been hurrying to catch a bus.



Doug's Kris
(Photo: G Robbins)

On another occasion, when helping to relocate a women's unit, new latrines were dug but, unbeknown to the women, a loudspeaker was hidden below while doing so. Next morning after breakfast when the latrines were very busy a voice over the loudspeaker down below yelled out "Hey lady, will you move over, we're trying to fumigate down here". Doug would never say whether he was the voice but he never denied it either.

While on patrol in Borneo one day, they came across a small native village. One of the women was very sick with malaria and Doug had a supply of *Atebrin* tablets

with him, which he gave to her husband. He also gave them some food. One afternoon later on Doug was sitting outside his tent when a native came up to him and told him he was the man to whom he had given the tablets. The man remembered Doug who then recalled him. He gave Doug a native kris or dagger, highly prized by the natives. The story was that the natives took these daggers out of its thin scabbards only with the intention of drawing blood. This was a very significant gift, which Doug treasured and handed down to his children.

Before the return to Australia from Borneo, there was much shifting of personnel and the 2/9th inherited an officer named Captain King, who was, according to Doug, a bit difficult. It was at this time that Doug began his great friendship with Russ Tyson who was with the army radio station. A plot was hatched and every morning when Captain King arrived at the morning parade Russ would play over the loudspeaker the Eddie Cantor song *Little King Without a Throne*, to the pleasure of all except Captain King himself.²²⁹

Although Doug and Ted both served in New Guinea, their paths never crossed.

Doug finally returned to Australia in February 1946 and within a month of his discharge, he married Lelda in her home church, Scots Presbyterian Church, Clayfield on 20 July 1946. Lelda was the younger daughter of John and Mabel Simpson of Ascot. The Scots Presbyterian Church minister, Rev David Galloway was the celebrant.

They enjoyed a remarkable and wonderful marriage for more than 65 years. Their first home was a small flat in Toowong. A few years later Karen (Anne) arrived. They then built a home at Enoggera where they lived for almost 40 years. Gregory (Greg) was born soon after they shifted to Enoggera. Doug and Lelda were members of the Alderley Presbyterian (later Uniting) Church, where Doug was, at one point, an elder.

Doug finally qualified as an accountant in 1953, working for Palings and then for many years as company secretary for Elphinstones Ltd. During that time, he and his mate Doug Cochrane were the force behind the Queensland Branch of the Australian Society of Accountants.

At the end of the 1970s Doug was invited to join the Board of Governors at St Andrews' War Memorial Hospital, on which he served



Doug and Lelda Robbins 1946
(Photo: G Robbins)

²²⁹ Robbins G, Douglas Breach Robbins Eulogy, 2012.

for many years in another example of his tireless and willing help to others over his life. It is somewhat fitting that he spent his last days at St Andrews where he felt secure and comfortable and where the care for him was exceptional. When Doug retired in 1983, the pull of Buderim was strong from his boyhood and he realised his dream when he and Lelda built a new home, moving-in in 1989. They had a great life there with the Mons School Road community where their morning walks would include numerous friendly chats. Doug threw himself with his usual gusto into Legacy, Anzac Day celebrations, the Memorial Hall, the Bowls Club, Probus and the Buderim Uniting Church.

Doug and Lelda were living in Bridgeman Downs when they died on 28 March and 23 February 2012, respectively, aged 89 and 90. Their funerals were held in the Buderim Uniting Church. They were survived by Anne (Mrs Anthony Tobin) and Gregory (Greg), four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Doug's son, Greg concluded his eulogy with the words:

“Douglas Breach Robbins – a true gentleman whose life was very well lived, who showed us how life should be lived.”

Roper, Thomas Leitch Gordon

Tom, as he was known, was born in Brisbane on 10 June 1914, the son of George and Isabella (Bee) Roper and grandson of Rev Thomas and Liliias Leitch. At the wedding of Gladys Leitch and Claude Fraser in 1925, George “gave the bride away”. George was an inspector of machinery and scaffolding, consulting engineer and secretary of the Queensland District of the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers Union of Employees. George and Bee both died in Brisbane, in 1951 and 1956 respectively. George was killed when struck by a tram in Adelaide Street, while he was crossing the road. He died in an ambulance on the way to hospital.²³⁰

As a young child, Tom had the measles. One of the consequences was an ulcer on the scar tissue when he was in New Guinea.

Tom had a brother Edwin. Their sister, Joyce became Lady Joy McAllister. Sir Reginald McAllister CMG, CVO, FRGSA, was the Under-Secretary of the Queensland Premier’s Department. Joyce and Reginald were married in St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in 1951.

Tom grew up in Kelvin Grove and attended Kelvin Grove State School and Brisbane Commercial High School where he sat the Junior Public Examination in 1931.

From a young age, Tom was very good at drawing and a photo of the dog he drew was awarded first prize in *The Courier Mail* at age 12. His son Ian (Andrew) still has the drawing. His favourite sport was hockey and he played A grade hockey for Clayfield Hockey Club when they won the premiership in 1934. He was also keen on rowing and rowed in a “four”.

After leaving school, Tom worked for the Brisbane City Council as a draftsman, then went to TAFE where he qualified as a civil engineer.

He then joined the AIF in the Royal Australian Engineers, on 19 December 1941. He served as an engineer in Lae and Rabaul in New Guinea. In July 1943, he was deployed to Dobodura, New Guinea. The division operated the first “Thick and Thin” Sawmill, installed electricity everywhere, constructed roads and cold storage rooms,



Tom Roper (Photo: K Roper)

²³⁰ *The Courier Mail*, 19 July 1951, p. 3.

loaded mechanical equipment into planes and ran a Dump. They joined the turf club and raced *Kitty* and *Move On*.

While in NG, Tom sustained an infection in one eye and, due to the nature of the infection, was transferred back on a hospital ship heading for Brisbane and then onto the Army Hospital at Redbank. It was there that Tom was nursed back to health by a lovely girl who captured his heart—Edith (Betty) Bell. Edith was a World War II nurse who had enlisted in Western Australia in 1942 and suffered much more from her war experience, nursing the survivors of the Borneo Prisoner-of-War camps.

Tom was discharged from the Royal Australian Engineers on 10 April 1945. He did not retire from the Royal Australian Artillery, however, until 1951, with the rank of lieutenant.

Betty was discharged on 21 June 1946 in Western Australia and sent Tom a message stating: “you had better come across”. He hurried across as three days later, he was getting married.

Tom married Betty at Maylands Church of Christ, Western Australia on 24 June 1946. Betty was born in Mt Lawley, Western Australia in 1916, the daughter of Peter (Albany) and Edith Bell. Their celebrant was Pastor Arthur McRoberts. They honeymooned at Yanchip in Western Australia. Their first child was born in the Brisbane Women’s Intermediate Hospital in March 1947.

After moving back to Queensland in the late 1940s, Tom worked for Main Roads Queensland, as a civil engineer, until his retirement. The couple lived in Sherwood then Coorparoo and Ashgrove until Tom was transferred to Barcaldine in 1959, then Rockhampton in 1960 and back to Brisbane in 1966, where they lived until Betty passed away. Tom then lived by himself for a time before moving into a nursing home in 1996.

In 1977, Tom was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal.

Both Tom and Betty were regular attendees at the Tabernacle in their later years, though they didn’t come into membership of the church.

Although they were both deeply impacted by their respective war experiences, neither of them spoke much about it. However, it was never far from their mind and they both had generous hearts to those less fortunate than themselves and to the memory of the places where they had served in World War II and the people impacted. They donated a significant amount towards the setting up a hydroelectric plant to generate electricity for a village in PNG, in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

One of the few occasions on which Tom spoke about the war, was at the funeral of one of his war buddies, where they chatted about the war. Tom reminisced

about the racehorses they bought and raced in NG and the smart Aussies who made Samurai swords out of old truck springs and sold them to the Yanks as souvenirs for a great profit. He recounted that one of the sappers found a container of Japanese hand grenades in the bush and placed them under his camp bed to defuse and again sell to the souvenir hungry Yanks. In the middle of the night, he woke up and realised that if they exploded no one would find what was left of him, so he took them outside and hid them for later.²³¹

Tom had a corneal graft in the early 1970s at the Sydney Eye Hospital when grafts were in their infancy and Betty used to watch him going around all their paintings and seeing them properly for the first time. The family still don't know how he managed to get around the fact that he really couldn't see out of that eye when he enlisted.

Betty passed away in Brisbane in 1994 and Tom passed away on 7 June 1998 aged 83. Both of their funerals were held at the Tabernacle. They had been living in West Ashgrove.

Tom and Betty are survived by their children, Peter, Andrew, and Julie (Mrs Paul Truong) and their spouses, eight grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

²³¹ Roper A, Personal communication, 2021.

Slater, Jean Fairlie (née Fletcher)

Jean Fletcher was born in Brisbane on 5 February 1925, the daughter of Miles and Ellen Fletcher and granddaughter of Rev Thomas and Lillias Leitch. Miles and Ellen were married in the Windsor Road Baptist Church in 1923, by Ellen's father, Rev Leitch. Miles was deaf and his speech was affected. Ellen was his interpreter at an inquiry into the death of a truck driver who was killed in an accident on Redcliffe Road on New Year's Day 1924. Ellen and Rev Leitch were in the car when the accident occurred.²³² Miles and Ellen both died in Brisbane, in 1975 and 1985 respectively.

Jean grew up in Kelvin Grove with her parents and sister Helen. She completed sub-junior (grade 9) and was Presbyterian. Miles described himself as a grazier.

Jean enlisted in the CMF in Redbank and then, shortly after her 18th birthday, in the AAMWS in May 1943.

Jean was again living in Kelvin Grove with her parents in 1949–54. In 1949, she was a student.

Jean married William Slater in Auckland, New Zealand on 13 February 1951. William was born in Dudley, England in 1926, the son of William and Eveline Slater. He had migrated, unaccompanied, from Scotland to Australia on the SS *New Australia* in 1950.

It is not known why Jean went to New Zealand or when she went to England, but in December 1952, Jean and her five-month old son Gordon, returned from London to Australia on the SS *Strathaird*.

Jean and William moved to Ballina briefly and then, in the late 1950s to Harbord on the northern beaches of Sydney, where William was employed as a merchandise services officer. Jean returned to Ballina, after William's death in 1983 and was living in the Pacific Palms Residential Village.

William and Jean had two sons and two daughters, Gordon, who was born in 1952 in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, Rosemary who was born in Brisbane in 1954, Richard, and Janice.

William died in Harbord. He requested donations to the Cancer Council of NSW in lieu of flowers, suggesting he died of cancer.

Jean is thought to still be alive, living in a Retirement Home in Grafton, aged in her late 90s.

²³² *The Telegraph*, 12 February 1924, p. 2.

Slaughter, Allan John

Allan was born in Brixton, Queensland on 16 February 1918, the son of Harry and Sarah Slaughter (née Hartshorn). Harry and Sarah were both born in England but married in the South Brisbane Congregational Church in 1906. Harry served in the AIF in World War I. Harry and Sarah moved from Thulimba (Stanthorpe) to West End sometime between 1937 and 1943, when Harry was working as an orchardist. They both died in Brisbane, in 1957 and 1964 respectively.

Allan had two siblings, Oliver, and Doris.

In 1932, Allan was a student at Warwick State High School when he sat for his Junior Examination. He then worked as a clerk for Peter's Ice Cream in West End. He also worked in Innisfail as a banker at some point.

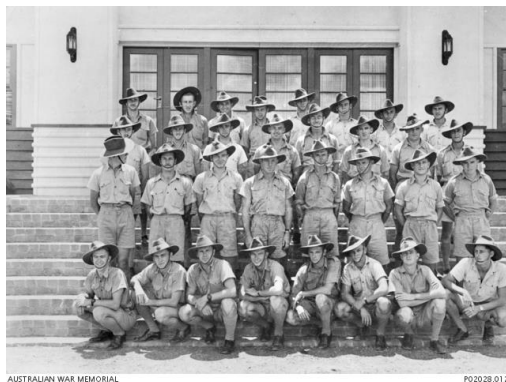
Although he was not in membership, he sang with the basses in the Tabernacle choir for many years.

Allan enlisted in the Militia Forces in February 1939 and then transferred to the Reserve in January 1940 before enlisting in the RAAF in Brisbane on 16 August 1940 as a pilot officer. In England, he served with the RAF.

His marriage to Agnes (Nancy) Thorburn on 8 March 1943 in the Old Parish Church, Kirkcaldy, Scotland was solemnised by Rev A Renshaw Mackay MA. Nancy was born in 1919 in Maryhill, Scotland, the daughter of Henry and Agnes Thorburn. Her father had served in France in World War I and died in Kirkcaldy in 1924 and her mother, who was a publican in the mid-1930s, lived in Hertfordshire until her death in 1984. Nancy had a sister, Jane (Janet), who was



P/O Allan Slaughter
(Photo: City Tabernacle Archives)



RAAF Service Flying Training School, c. 1941
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

living with her in Sefton Park (Liverpool) in 1938 and two brothers Andrew, and Henry.

Allan was only 25 when he was killed in an accident at Ashton-Under-Hill, England. He was only very recently married and had no children.

Allan J Slaughter, son of Mr and Mrs HN Slaughter, Crowther Street, West End, killed in air accident at Ashton, Under-Hill, England. Pilot Officer²³³



Kirkcaldy Old Parish Church
(Photo: British Listed Buildings)

The inscription on the memorial in Ashton-Under-Hill, St Barbara's Church Hudson Aircraft Crash Memorial reads:

In memory of Sqd/Ldr J A Meade (Pilot) RAF and P/O AJ Slaughter RAAF from [Telecommunications Flying Unit], RAF Defford [Worcestershire] who lost their lives when their aircraft crashed whilst on an air test over the Vale of Evesham on July 16th, 1943.

Their aircraft, a Lockheed Hudson MK6 FK571, developed severe engine problems resulting in engine failure whilst flying over Ashton-Under-Hill. The two brave crew stayed with the stricken aircraft, steering it clear of the village. It then crashed in an inferno of flames, in a field just north of Ashton-Under-Hill.

Allan had completed a large number of operational flights over the Continent in an Experimental Squadron at the time of his death.²³⁴ He was serving with the TFU, later named the Radar Research Flying Unit (RRFU), which was responsible for research and development.

The RRFU formed as a Special Duty Flight at St Athan from Station Flight Perth on 14 November 1939. It was re-designated Telecommunications Flying Unit at Hurn on 10 November 1941. Renamed Radar Research Flying Unit at Defford on 1 November 1955, it became the Radar Research Squadron on its transfer to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bedford in 1977 before being incorporated into the Defence Research Agency / Defence Evaluation and Research Agency in 1991.

²³³ *The Courier Mail*, 28 July 1943, p. 4.

²³⁴ *The Telegraph*, 6 August 1943, p. 2.

Allan was buried in Scotland in East Wemyss Cemetery, not far from Kirkcaldy. His headstone also mentions Nancy's father and mother, so it was probably a family double plot.

Nancy was living in Harpenden, Hertfordshire at the time of Allan's death. After his death, she married Lieutenant George Butler, of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, on 1 October 1945, at Lewisham, London. Nancy died in 1997 in Hertfordshire. George's first wife had died following complications with the birth of their daughter Leonie. In subsequent years, Nancy and George had Patricia and then Lorna.

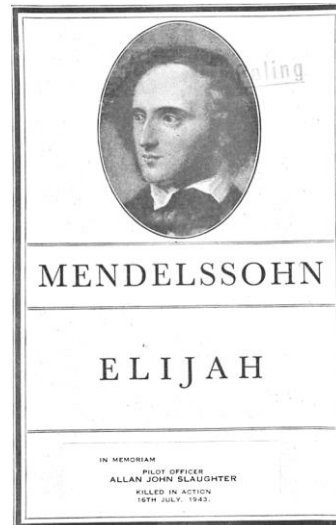
Allan's name is listed on the marble memorial at the rear of the Tabernacle auditorium beneath the names of the men who were killed in action in World War I.

On Monday 4 March 1946, the Tabernacle choir, under the direction of Will Stay, presented a number of anthems. An offering was taken and receipts used for the purchase of choir music to be dedicated to Allan Slaughter. The service was broadcast on national radio. The newspaper advertisement included the words: "Come and honour his service and sacrifice." The offering amounted to £6 and this was used to purchase copies of Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.²³⁵ Herbert Whittingham played organ solos at the recital. Excerpts from the oratorio were sung by the choir on 2 July 1950. A photograph of Allan is still on display in the choir vestry at the Tabernacle.

Allan's parents were sent a letter of sympathy from the church following Allan's death.



St Barbara's Church
Aircraft Crash Memorial

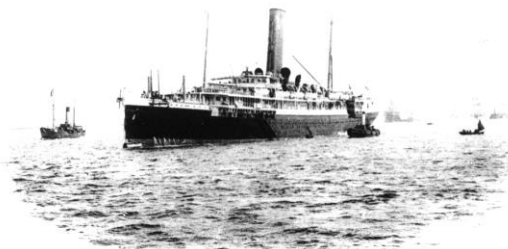


Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah

²³⁵ Annual Report of the City Tabernacle Church Choir, July 1947.

Smith, James Reid

James was born in Brisbane on 17 December 1911, the son of James and Ann Smith (née Reid) who had married in Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1906. The family migrated to Australia, arriving in 1910 aboard RMS *Omrah*, which was used as a troop carrier in World War I. James's father and mother died in 1934 and 1963, respectively. He had two older brothers, Robert and George, a sister Isabella who died in infancy in 1917, and a younger brother William, who also enlisted in World War II, in the AIF, but is not listed on the Roll of Honour.



THE ORIENT-PACIFIC LINE R.M.S. "OMRAH."

(Photo: State Library of Queensland)

James grew up in a variety of houses in South Brisbane. His father was a "carpet planner". James and his mother moved to Kangaroo Point in the mid-1930s, probably after his father's death, and James obtained work as a bootmaker. His mother had moved to Rosewood by the early 1940s and then to Redcliffe by the late 1940s.

James married Edna (Alice) Lennon in the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, Brisbane on 26 July 1940. Edna was born in Rockhampton in 1917, the daughter of Jack and Olive Lennon. Rev Percy Pearson officiated at their wedding, which was witnessed by Phyllis Ward and James's brother William.

James enlisted in the RANR as a Seaman on 15 February 1940. In 1941, he was based at the Naval Depot, Alice Street, Brisbane. He served as an able bodied seaman on HMAS *Penguin IV*, *Australia*, *Brisbane*, and *Maitland*. In November 1943, James was awarded the Volunteer Long Service and Good Conduct medal by the RANR.

James and Alice had a daughter, Carmel, in about 1941.



James and Alice's wedding, 1940
(Photo: C Cherry)

In early 1949, James was living with Alice in The Gap, but moved to Milton, where he was living alone, employed as a builder's labourer. James and Alice's marriage had failed, and James was given custody of their daughter, Carmen.

Fears for Missing Girl, says Counsel

Since a 10-years-old girl had not been returned to her father under a Supreme Court custody order, fears have been held for her safety, a barrister said in the Summons Court today.

Under the terms of the custody order the mother was to have access to the child during the Christmas holidays, the barrister, Mr JG Garland, told Mr Burchill SM.

Efforts to trace the mother, Mrs Alice Gladys Smith, formerly of Tank Street, Brisbane and her daughter, Carmel, had been unsuccessful, Mr. Garland said, and fears were held for the child's safety in view of the mother's strange, peculiar, and eccentric behaviour.

Mr Garland successfully applied for the dismissal of an application for maintenance by Mrs Smith against her husband, James Reid Smith, concrete worker, of Blaxland Street, Milton. When Mrs Smith did not appear in court this morning, Mr Garland told Mr Burchill that on October 3, Mr Justice Philp, in the Supreme Court, had given her husband custody of their daughter.

Under the order Mrs Smith was allowed access to the child during the Christmas holidays, by taking the child to the residence of her mother from January 8 to January 26.

Police aid sought

In December, Mr Garland continued. Mrs Smith issued a maintenance summons against her husband, but when the matter was called in court for hearing on January 11, three days after she had taken possession of the child, she did not appear and the hearing was then adjourned until today.

Smith's solicitors sent a registered letter to Mrs Smith advising her of the date of the hearing, but the letter had been returned unclaimed Mr Garland said.

The child had not been returned to her father as ordered, and the whereabouts of the child or her mother were unknown.

Mrs Smith's mother said the child was at her home for three days, but Mrs Smith then took her away. She had not seen or heard from her daughter or the child since.

Police assistance had been sought to locate both the mother and the child, and the husband would welcome the assistance of any person whatever in finding his daughter, Mr Garland said.

Mr Garland added that when Mrs Smith was located her husband intended to take Supreme Court proceedings against her for contempt of court.²³⁶

In 1952, James filed for divorce, in the Supreme Court of Queensland

To ALICE GLADYS SMITH (also known as EDNA GLADYS SMITH) formerly of Cobden Street Moorooka Brisbane in the State of Queensland but whose present whereabouts are unknown - Take Notice that JAMES REID SMITH has commenced an action against you for dissolution of marriage No 783 of 1952 on the grounds of your desertion without cause for three years and upwards. If you wish to defend you may enter an appearance in the Registry of the Supreme Court of Queensland at Brisbane within thirty days from the date of publication hereof. You may obtain without charge a copy of the Writ of Summons and Petition from O SHEA CORSER & WADLEY Solicitors Bank of New South Wales Chambers 33 Queen Street Brisbane. Dated 14th July 1952 FJ RUSSELL Second Deputy Registrar.²³⁷

²³⁶ *Brisbane Telegraph*, 1 February 1951, p. 8.

²³⁷ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 July 1952, p. 12.

Given that the notice was published in the Sydney press, it is likely that Alice had moved to Sydney.

In 1954, James was again living in Albion working as a steel setter. From 1958 until 1977, he was living in Morningside, and continued working as a steel setter. Carmel continued living with her father until at least 1963. Another daughter, Ailsa continued to live with James in Morningside as an adult, from 1968 until his death, on 9 November 1977, aged 65.

Alice reverted to her maiden name and was living in West End, Brisbane in 1972, working as a domestic. She moved to Mackay in the mid-1970s with her daughter Sharon and died there in 1997.

Solomon, George Samuel

George was born in Brisbane on 10 July 1907, to Jewish parents Lenis and Edith Solomon (née Myers). Lenis and Edith were married at *Glen Erin*, Villiers Street, New Farm in 1905. They both died in Brisbane, approximately five weeks apart, in 1946. George had an older brother, Arthur who died in infancy before George was born, and a younger sister Enid.

George grew up in New Farm and was successful in the Scholarship Examination in 1921 and went on to Junior in 1923 and he was awarded a two year extension to go on to Senior which he completed in 1925. He excelled in Mathematics. He became a bank clerk, and before the war, worked in Ingham and Monto, where he lived at the Grand Hotel.

George married Thelma (Maisie) Marks at the Tabernacle on 26 January 1938 when they were 30 and 29 years old. They had been engaged since March 1937. The ceremony was performed by Rev Will Holmans, and Will Stay was the organist. George's parents were disappointed that he did not marry a Jew. Maisie named her adoptive parents on her wedding certificate.

Maisie was born in Toowoomba in 1908, the daughter of Delia Concannon. Her father was not named on her birth certificate but family members believe it was the Catholic priest in Maryborough²³⁸. Another illegitimate daughter, Veronica was born in 1912. Delia married Charles Parnell in Brisbane in 1916 and died in 1963 of breast cancer.



Maisie Marks, 1938
(Photo: *The Telegraph*)

Maisie was brought up by the nuns at the Toowoomba Catholic Convent. They taught her sewing, piano and singing. She stayed there for seven years and was educated at the school next door to the Catholic Diocese. She was adopted by Leslie and Abigail Marks of Brisbane.

Although she never met her mother, records show that they lived less than a kilometre away from each other when Maisie lived in Paddington with her adoptive parents.

²³⁸ Johnsen F, Personal communication, 2022

Leslie Marks had been a member at the Tabernacle since 1917, and Sunday School superintendent from 1924 until 1930, before he died in Brisbane in 1945. He was an accountant with the Queensland Meat Export and Agency Company and the British Australian Wool Realisation Association and also in private practise. In 1922 he was on the council of the Children's Welfare Association, and in 1925, he was actively involved in the Charity Organisation Society.

For some years, Leslie had occupied the office of Grand Secretary to the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Queensland, and a Masonic service was held in the Masonic Temple, in Ann Street, Brisbane on 25 January, at which fitting tributes were paid to the splendid manner in which he had served Freemasonry, and to his high character as a citizen. He left a widow (Abigail), a son Horace, a daughter (Maisie), and an adopted son Frederick Kleckham, to mourn their loss.²³⁹ Frederick's story is told elsewhere.

The Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge, said that he was very grieved to hear of the death of Mr Marks, saying: "After many years of very valuable service to Freemasonry throughout Queensland he will be greatly missed in the State".²⁴⁰

Leslie and Abigail had three other sons, Horace, Walter and Otto and a daughter Helena. Abigail, Horace, Otto, and Helena were all in membership at the Tabernacle. They had three other children who died either at birth or as infants.

Maisie came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1930 at the age of twenty-one. She had been a nurse at the Dudley Hospital, Orange earlier in 1930. She then trained as a nurse and midwife at Mackay District Hospital under Dr Bolton, a friend of Leslie Marks from The Masonic Lodge, till 1936, when she became a midwife in the Monto Hospital, where she met George Solomon, who was working in the National Bank of Australia as a bank clerk. Maisie moved to Paddington in 1937.

George and Maisie's honeymoon was a cruise to Tasmania on the SS *Ormiston*, which was used as a troop transport during the war and was torpedoed by the Japanese off Coffs Harbour in 1943. Before and after the war it was a cruise ship operating along the east coast of Australia between Cairns and Hobart.

²³⁹ *The Australian Baptist*, 20 February 1945, p. 8.

²⁴⁰ *The Courier Mail*, 24 January 1945, p. 3.

George enlisted in the Australian Imperial Army in Rockhampton as a machine gunner in 1940. The reason for his omission from the Roll of Honour, despite having been listed in the Yearbook, is unknown.

Maisie gave birth to their first daughter Wendy in 1939 and moved in with her mother Abigail Marks at Rockbourne Terrace, Paddington, when George left for training in the army. She lived there for five years while George was fighting in the Middle East and New Guinea.

George joined the C3 Platoon 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion and trained at the Redbank and Enoggera Camps for range practice. He left Sydney early on Boxing Day 1940 on the SS *Ormiston*, disappointing Maisie who travelled to Sydney from Brisbane, with baby Wendy, to farewell him on the day he was scheduled to depart. Many disappointed wives and families arrived to find no ship. The ship was given orders to leave a day early with the soldiers not having any way to communicate with loved ones.

When their ship arrived in Palestine, the Battalion was stationed at Camp Khassa. They spent time digging trenches as protection against the German mortar bombs and 50 mm anti-tank guns. They supported the artillery and British Armoured Brigades in Egypt, Syria and



AIF Recruits, Rockhampton, 14 June 1940
GS Solomon, right end of middle row
(Photo: *The Morning Bulletin*)



SS *Ormiston* (Photo: Gordy)



2/2 Machine Gun Battalion
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Lebanon and had leave visiting Cairo and Tel Aviv. They bused to Jerusalem where they spent Christmas visiting biblical sights and the feeling amongst the men was very spiritual. The 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion suffered 73 battle casualties during the final Battle of Alamein. George suffered dysentery and endured the harsh conditions of the desert while fighting.

The 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion were congratulated by Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead and the Commander-in-Chief Middle East General, Field Marshall Sir Harold Alexander at Gaza for their courageous performances in battle while fighting in the Middle East.

Australia's prime minister, John Curtin, and General Douglas MacArthur had been fighting the top-level battle with Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt and all four recommended the Ninth Division of Australian troops be brought back to Australia. The Japanese were now the biggest threat to Australia. The troops boarded the *Queen Mary* for Australia but someone forgot to replenish the supplies of beer and the ship was soon dry. Altogether there were 11,000 troops on board which was way over the limit of passengers the ship normally had onboard. To disembark in Sydney this many troops demanded expert organising skills for ferries, trains, buses, and taxis.

The troops were sent to train in tropical conditions west of Cairns. Virgin rainforest was cleared which was similar to the New Guinea rainforest where they would be heading as soon as they were climatized. In the first two weeks of being back in Australia 5,676 letters were handled by the army postal staff. They still had not seen their families. The Battalion were soon moved to Cairns where two ships loaded the troops and stores and left the harbour at 10 am with the destination of Milne Bay New Guinea. The 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion's main role now would be to give protection for the Airforce runway at Lae, where their main supplies were landing. Malaria was a problem and Atebrin, the anti-malaria medication, ran short most of the time.

The 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion Association published an account of their contribution to the war effort in the Middle East and New Guinea in a published book called *Muzzle Blast*.²⁴¹



George suffered the symptoms of malaria and when an American plane on fire made an emergency landing, parts of the propellor broke off and hit his arm severely injuring his right hand. The medics ran to him and took him to the Army Hospital. George was treated and returned to his Battalion. At the end of the war

²⁴¹ E Oakes, *Muzzle Blast Six Years of War with the 2/2 Australian Machine Gun Battalion, AIF*, 2002.

the 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion were declared redundant. They sailed on the SS *Georgetown Victory* but did not arrive in Brisbane to a fanfare of wives and family members.

George made his way to Abigail's Paddington house where Maisie and Wendy were. He arrived early in the morning and went to sleep in a hammock under the house. He hadn't showered or tidied up, having come straight from the ship and was in a sorry state. Five-year old Wendy, who did not recognise her father, as he had been absent most of her life, saw him sound asleep. She ran to her Mum and told her there was a poor dirty man asleep downstairs. Maisie found George in a terrible state, unwell with malaria and his injured hand needing medical attention. In the coming months he had to learn to write with his left hand as the damage made it impossible to hold small objects such as a pen or knife.

After the war George worked in the National Bank of Australia at the Head Office in Queen Street Brisbane. He and Maisie lived in Taringa in 1944, Bardon in 1954 and Chermside North in 1965.

George and Thelma had three daughters: Wendy (Mrs Brian Fox, who was dedicated at the Tabernacle in 1940), Glenice (who did not marry), and Faye (Mrs Morris Johnsen). All three of their daughters now live on the Sunshine Coast or in Brisbane.

Maisie was transferred to the Tabernacle's supplementary list of members in 1953. (This is about the time they moved from Indooroopilly to Bardon.)

George retired from the bank at the age of 65 and worked for a further two years for the Queensland Government. He died in Geebung on 28 May 1977 aged 69. George was survived by his three daughters, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Maisie remained in Geebung after George's death and died in 1997 aged 88.



George and Maisie's family, 2021
(Photo: F Johnsen)

Stanley, Alan James and William Leonard

William F Stanley and Ruth (Millie) Ross were married at the Tabernacle on Wednesday 6 January 1909. The ceremony was conducted by Rev Thomas Leitch, who was the Minister of the Windsor Road Baptist Church, Red Hill. A detailed account of the wedding was published in *The Telegraph*.²⁴² This was during the period between the ministries of Rev George Rice and Rev James Mursell at the Tabernacle.

Millie's grandmother came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1859, following her migration from Scotland, and Millie's father Alexander and mother Julia had been in membership since 1882 and 1877 respectively. Millie was awarded second prize in the intermediate division of the Sunday School Union Examinations in 1899, and third prize in the senior division in 1890. Her sister, Mabel was awarded fourth prize in 1899 and third prize in the intermediate division in 1890. Their brother Harold also passed the examination in 1889. Mabel was superintendent of the Junior CE Society in 1903–07. Harold was the Sunday School librarian in 1906–09, and a teacher in the Sunday School until 1910.

Millie came into membership at the Tabernacle in April 1935 following her baptism by Rev JC Farquhar. She continued in membership while the family moved around the state and remained in membership until her death in 1963. It is not known which churches the family attended when they were living outside Brisbane. William did not come into membership.

Millie was secretary of Ladies Work Meeting in 1906–08. In 1909, she took on the role of financial secretary/treasurer and continued in this role until 1915. In 1913, she took on the new role of convenor of the Oversight Committee of the Tabernacle Branch of the Baptist Women's Union. In 1939 she became secretary of the Ladies' Guild. She continued in this role until 1946. The 1940–41 report on the Ladies' Guild included the comment that:

The war, while it has in some measure changed the objective of this splendid band of workers, has done nothing to abate their interest or enthusiasm. ... Under the wise leadership of its President, Mrs Butler, assisted by its capable Hon Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs RM Stanley and Miss [Dora] Petty, the Guild has concentrated more particularly on the knitting of Soldiers' Comforts for Overseas and making pyjamas for Military Hospitals, and altogether 342 articles were sent in two large parcels or distributed in other ways.

William was a teacher and the family moved around the state, living in Woolloowin, Emu Park, Mitchell, Cairns, and then back to Woolloowin. By the

²⁴² *The Telegraph*, 7 January 1909, p. 2.

time of his death, he had become a state school headmaster. After William's death in July 1939, Millie remained in the family home in Woolloowin.

William and Millie had four children: Alexander, Alan, Ruth, and William, who were all born in Brisbane.

Alexander, who was commonly known as Ross, came into membership in 1927 when living in North Queensland and was readmitted in 1937–38. Ross was captain of the Tabernacle's A1 cricket team in 1940–41.

Ruth was born in 1916 and joined the church in 1935. Ruth and Warrant Officer Robert Heron Park were married at the Tabernacle in 1943 by Rev Albert Butler. Robert joined the church in 1949. Robert and Ruth transferred their membership to Geebung in 1973.

Alan James Stanley

Alan was born in Brisbane on 30 June 1914 and came into membership in 1928 and was readmitted in 1937–38, while living with his parents in Woolloowin.

He enlisted on 14 March 1941 in Albion but, for some unknown reason, did not see active service.

He was living with his parents until he married Beryl Wood at St Andrew's Church of England, South Brisbane in 1946. Beryl was born in 1917, the daughter of Leslie and Florence Wood of Yeronga. They had a son Kevin in 1948.

Alan and Beryl were living in Yeronga in 1949 and Alan was an assistant manager. By 1954, they had moved to Alderley and Alan was then a manager. They remained in Alderley until at least 1972 but moved to Burleigh Waters in the mid-1970s and retired to the St Andrew's Aged Care.

Alan died on the Gold Coast on 3 March 2009, aged 94, and Beryl died in 2013. Alan's funeral was held in the Burleigh Uniting Church.

William Leonard Stanley

William, commonly known as Len, was born in Brisbane on 13 October 1920.

He became secretary of the Cricket Club in 1939–40. The 1940–41 report on the Cricket Club included the comment that:

The Cricket Club had two teams in the field, one in the Churches Association A.I. competition, captained by Ross Stanley with Len Stanley as Secretary, and the other in the B grade, captained by Ken Hirst and [Freeman] James as vice-captain and [Eric] Praeger as Secretary and interesting and enjoyable games were played.

Despite his involvement in the church, including membership of the choir, Len did not come into membership.

Like his brother, Len was living with his parents in Woolloowin, working as a clerk, until he enlisted in World War II in Albion on 29 May 1941 in the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion, aged 19. Due to his father's death almost two years previously, his mother was nominated as his next-of-kin. Len was stationed in Townsville and Charters Towers from August 1942 until November 1943 when he was sent to New Guinea.

Len served his country for four years based in New Guinea at Port Moresby, Rabaul and Lae. In early 1943 he was involved in the Battle of Milne Bay and it is not known if he crossed New Guinea over the Kokoda Track.

During this time, he was twice struck down by malaria and flown to the military base hospital in Townsville for treatment. He didn't discuss any of this with his sons – it was only when his first grandson, David completed a school project to interview any grandparents regarding war service, that this information was shared with his family, and again when preparing his eulogy.

From August 1945 until his discharge from the Australian Army on 18 April 1946, he was on Bougainville, Solomon Islands. He was overseas for a total of 860 days.

While Len was stationed in Chermside, his engagement to Mary Fenwick was announced in April 1942. They were not married in Brisbane, until 10 May 1947. Mary was born in 1919, the daughter of Oliver and Frances Fenwick of Hawthorne. She was living with her parents, working as a typist up until their marriage.

Initially Len and Mary lived in Hawthorne but moved to Camp Hill in the mid-1950s. They remained there until about 1970 when they moved to Forest Hill, Victoria.

Len was still living in Forest Hill when he died on 22 June 2004 aged 83. Mary died a little over a year later in 2005.

Len and Mary had three sons: William (John), Keith, and Gregory.

Stay, William Joseph

Will, as he was commonly known, was born in Warwick on 20 February 1908, the son of Edward (George) and Nellie Stay (née Ernst). George worked in an Iron Monger store in Warwick and died in 1958. Nellie died in 1978. Will had a younger sister, Hilda.

The family moved to Brisbane but during World War I, Nellie took Will and his sister back to Warwick to live. Two of Will's uncles served in World War I. Ernest Stay fought with the 26th Infantry Battalion and died in Villers Bretonneux. Nellie's brother Ernest also served with the allies.

Will was educated at the Warwick Central School where he passed scholarship and was an early member of Scots College, Warwick. After leaving school he was apprenticed to Mr Crowe and in mid-1929 was qualified for all musical instrument repairs and tunings.

However, his desire was to be an organist, and Will began playing the Methodist Church organ in 1926. By 1927, he was regularly presiding at the organ for weddings in Warwick.

When Will passed his examination in the junior division for the organ in 1927, he was the first Warwick-born pupil to gain that distinction on a two manual organ. Dr Edgar Ford, DMus, FRCO, FTCL, who conducted the examination, was an eminent organist, and for Will to gain a pass under his supervision, only four marks short of honours, was very creditable. The trustees of the Warwick Methodist Church had recently selected Will to fill the position of organist at the central church in succession to Miss Fernie Jutsum, who had resigned that office. Will was a pupil of George Leadbitter.²⁴³ Will was also the pianist for the Warwick Liedertafel Society choir.

Will was a member of the Independent Order of Rechabites, which met in the Methodist Church at The Summit, Warwick.

Will was the organist and choirmaster of the Warwick Methodist Church until March 1930, when he was appointed organist and choirmaster of the Woolloowin



George and Nellie Stay with Will and Hilda (Photo: P Stay)

²⁴³ *The Brisbane Courier*, 20 August 1927, p. 12.

Methodist Church. At his farewell from Warwick, Rev Harold Rycroft spoke of his devotion, and self-sacrifice in his services as organist during the past three years, and in extending to him congratulations, prayed that God would bless him in the use of his talents to the glory of the Church and extension of His kingdom.²⁴⁴

Will moved from Warwick, where he was a piano tuner, to Woolloowin to work as a music teacher. He was also a musical instrument maker. He had his Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music diploma and Associateship diploma from Trinity College of Music, London, which he gained in May 1931 in Brisbane. His studies in Brisbane were continued under such people as Percy Brier (piano), Harold King (singing), and Dalley Scarlett (organ).

Will returned to Warwick in February 1934 to present an organ recital in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Throughout the programme he played brilliantly and with an ease which was all the more remarkable, as he was suffering from a sprained wrist.²⁴⁵ The proceeds from the programme were for a "worthy cause".

In October 1934, he went to Sydney to the Conservatorium²⁴⁶ and studied with Lillian Frost, organist of the Pitt Street Congregational Church and received his Associate of Trinity College London (ATCL) for Organ. He was also congratulated by Alfred Cunningham of the Sydney Conservatorium and given his LAB for singing. He also qualified to be a licentiate of the Royal School of Music (LRSM), his highest qualification.

While he was studying in Sydney, Will was relieving organist at the Drummoyne Methodist Church for a short time. Back in Brisbane, he became organist at the Mowbraytown (East Brisbane) Presbyterian Church.

In May 1935, Will was appointed organist and choir master at the Tabernacle—a position he held with distinction for many years—in succession to Sidney May, who had resigned. He took up duties on the first Sunday in June.²⁴⁷

Will also played for charitable events such as the concert in the City Hall in May 1935, arranged by the Musical Association of Queensland, for the Darnell Appeal for the Queensland Art Fund. The various performers were described as "many of Brisbane's best known musicians".²⁴⁸ Will was one of only four organists with a key to the City Hall organ.

Joan Carver was born in 1918, the daughter of Frederick (Fred) and Mary Carver. She was a well-known pianist and held numerous diplomas. Will had been her teacher from 1931 until 1938—she was one of his first students—when she

²⁴⁴ *Warwick Daily News*, 13 March 1930, p. 6.

²⁴⁵ *Warwick Daily News*, 5 February 1934, p. 2.

²⁴⁶ *The Courier Mail*, 21 July 1934, p. 19.

²⁴⁷ *The Courier Mail*, 24 May 1935, p. 10.

²⁴⁸ *The Courier Mail*, 31 May 1935, p. 20.

undertook her licentiate (LTCL), with the Trinity College of Music, London and Associate Diploma in Music (AMusA) with the Australian Music Examination Board. Will also taught Joan's sister, Noela.

Will and Joan's marriage on 9 August 1939 at the Tabernacle, was conducted by Rev Albert Butler and Rev Edward Walker. Neither Will, Joan nor their parents were in membership at the Tabernacle. Their wedding was considered to be of special interest in musical circles. Joan, who was a member of the choir, was given away by her uncle, Mr William Carver. (Joan's father had died in 1932.) Because of their connection with the choir, the wedding was fully choral. Mr Bob Donaghey was the soloist during the signing of the register. Bowls of Iceland poppies and arum lilies and miniature palms beautified the church, and white streamers radiated from the pulpit to the choir seats.²⁴⁹ The night before their wedding, Will and Joan were presented with a dinner service by the members of the choir at the church's annual tea meeting. Wills' sister Hilda and Arch Colledge were their witnesses. They were both living in Eagle Junction at the time of their wedding.

Rev Walker was Minister of the Woolloowin Methodist Church, which was Joan and her parents' home church. When he enlisted, Will gave his denomination as Methodist. He had been the Woolloowin church organist for several years.

Will was employed as a piano tuner (1930) and as a music teacher (1931–77). Their home in Torwood opposite the Milton State School had two rooms at the front with a piano in each so that Will and Joan could teach at the same time. There was a third piano in one of the bedrooms. One of Will's numerous students



Joan Carver
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)



Will and Joan Stay with her bridesmaids, Hilda Stay and Noela Carver
(Photo: P Stay)

²⁴⁹ *The Telegraph*, 9 August 1939, p. 19.

was Darcy Gough who succeeded him as the Tabernacle organist.

When Joan was expecting their first child, they didn't know if she was carrying one or two boys or girls. Will was playing for a service at the Tabernacle when she gave birth. A signalling system had been established so that as soon as there was news, Hilda appeared at the rear of the church and signalled to the choir. The aisle in which she appeared indicated whether it was a boy or a girl. She walked in and out and in again up the same aisle to indicate that it was twins. By the end of the service, everyone knew that Will and Joan's twins – Douglas and Graeme – had arrived.

Although his mother was German, Will enlisted in the Australian Army in Annerley on 16 May 1942, aged 34 and was discharged on 17 January 1945, with the rank of lance sergeant. He was quite tall, at 185 cm.

While Will was on active service, if he was not available to play at a church service, Douglas Taylor took his place. Because Mr Taylor was also on active service, if neither of them were available, Joan played for the service.

During the war, Joan and the very young twins (Douglas and Graeme), like a lot of other women and children, were evacuated to Warwick for a time, when it was feared Brisbane would be attacked, and they lived with other Stay family members in Warwick, until it was safe to return to Brisbane.



Will Stay (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

Joan's younger brother Stan also enlisted in the RAAF as an aircraft mechanic on Wirraways. He later became a missionary in Papua New Guinea and worked with the Bible Society for a long time.

Hilda was the main organiser of the helpers who prepared and served the refreshments at the Sunday afternoon Soldiers' Teas throughout the war.

Will and Joan lived in Coorparoo (1943) and Torwood (1954–77). In retirement, they moved to Ferny Grove (1980).

Will and Joan had four sons: Douglas (Doug), Graeme, Robin (Rob), and Philip. In 1968, Doug's marriage to Rosemary Beattie at the Tabernacle was conducted by Rev FT Smith, with Will playing the organ.

Will was very committed to serving and the four boys had the non-negotiable task of collecting the used communion glasses on Sunday mornings. Rob still worships at the Tabernacle with his wife Sue, and regularly collects the communion glasses.

Although not in membership, Will was the Tabernacle organist and choir director for 34 years. In 1945, Rev Albert Butler referred to the splendid, faithful service he had rendered for the previous 10 years and recommended to the diaconate that his salary be increased to £104 per year and, in addition, it was decided by the deacons as a further recognition of his service to present him with a cheque for £10.²⁵⁰

He retired as organist and choir director in December 1969. During his term, he oversaw the formation of a youth choir in 1956 and a nine-piece church orchestra in 1965. Under his leadership, the choir had grown to 63 members by 1963.²⁵¹ Expressions of appreciation of his long and faithful service were made at the choir Christmas function and the church secretary made a presentation on behalf of the Church.²⁵²

The following report, published in the 1965–66 Yearbook, gives an indication of the work of the choir under Will's leadership.

The Choir under the capable and devoted leadership of Mr Will R Stay, LRSM, has again rendered valuable service to the Church. Membership stands at fifty-one comprising twenty-five sopranos, nine contraltos, three tenors and fourteen basses. The attendance at the weekly practice has been disappointing.

Special features included assistance to the Presbyterian Youth Choir and Westminster Singers at a concert in the Church on the 26th August, organised by Mr Stay in aid of Tinsley Memorial Mission Hospital, New Guinea; singing at a Mission conducted by our Pastor in the Annerley Baptist Church; assisting the Presbyterian Youth Choir and Westminster Singers in the presentation of Thimon's *Nativity*; Messiah excerpts and other works at a sacred Concert arranged by Mr Stay in the West End Methodist Church in aid of the Blue Nursing Service; Rev Vernon Turner's Mission; the rendition of Thimon's *Nativity* at the Church evening service on 5th December; and John Maunder's *Olivet to Calvary* at the evening service on Sunday, 3rd April.²⁵³

Will ran up to four choirs at any one time, including the Baptist Youth Choir. He and Joan used to put on choir concerts at towns such as Kalbar on Saturday nights, then drive back to Brisbane late at night in a little old car on country roads and be ready for church the next morning. In 1950, Will conducted the 70-voice Baptist Youth Choir at a sacred concert in Warwick. The choir, consisting of young people from various city and suburban Baptist churches in Brisbane, was also planning a tour to Melbourne in 1951. Joan was the choir's accompanist. The

²⁵⁰ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 17 July 1945.

²⁵¹ Ball L, 2005 *Grow the Vision: The Sesqui-Centennial History of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1855–2005*: City Tabernacle Baptist Church: Brisbane, p. 88.

²⁵² City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1969–70*, p. 7.

²⁵³ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Yearbook, 1965–66*, p. 19.

community hymn singing service, led by the youth choir, on 18 February 1951, was broadcast on radio station 3LO.

Will never took a holiday from playing at church. Even when the family was holidaying at Labrador, he would drive back to Brisbane early Sunday morning, and drive back to Labrador late at night after the evening service.

Joan often accompanied the choir as pianist. She also played the pipe organ on occasions while Will was on active service.

Will became sick as a result of his war service and this illness continued for the remainder of his life. On occasions when he was not well, Joan would sit beside him at the organ and take over (without missing a beat!) if he could not continue. Will and Joan often played duets for church—Will on organ and Joan on piano. Will was the last organist at the Tabernacle who was also the choir master.



Shirley Webster, Cpl Ray Martz and Hilda Stay (Photo: The Australian Women's Weekly, 21 Dec. 1940)

Although not in membership, Will's sister Hilda was very involved in the Soldiers' Teas and was president of the Tabernacle branch of the Baptist Girls' War League. Her marriage to Stanislav (Stan) Pokorny at the Tabernacle in the 1957 was celebrated by Rev Smith. She died in Brisbane in 1990.

His final appointment was at the Ann Street Presbyterian Church before suffering a stroke in 1978 that left him an invalid, confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak, for the last decade of his life. He died in Brisbane on 22 June 1990 aged 82. Joan was living in Mitchelton when she died in 2016.



Will Stay at the Ann St Presbyterian Church Organ (Photo: P Stay)

Throughout much of his musical career he was ably assisted by Joan. With her help, he presented numerous musical programmes to raise funds for the Ambulance, Blue Nurses, and other charitable organisations.

Sweetman, Winston Edward

Ted, as he was generally known, was born in Herston on 3 November 1922, the eldest son of Cecil and Mabel Sweetman (née Brett). Cecil was a first cousin of Stephen Hayes. Mabel and Cecil both died in Brisbane, in 1967 and 1981 respectively. Ted had a younger brother, Jack. They grew up in the family home in Herston.



The Sweetman Family, c. 1917
L to r: Gladys, George, Cecil, Isabella, Charles,
Winnifred, Margaret nursing Lorraine, Elsie
(Photo: D Fletcher)

Ted attended primary school at Kelvin Grove State School, the nearest to the family home, and his secondary education was at Brisbane Grammar School. He

was, by his own admission, an average student but excelled in sport, particularly cricket and tennis and was selected in the first eleven for cricket. He believed his academic performance could have improved if he had paid less attention to his sporting interests. This interest in sport, particularly cricket and rugby league, continued throughout his life and he was a regular spectator at Victoria, Gilbert, and Lang Parks for even the most obscure of fixtures.

Ted's grandparents George and Margaret Sweetman had been in membership at the Tabernacle from 1867 until their deaths in the 1950s.

Cecil and Mabel were also active there, transferring their membership from Windsor Road Baptist Church in 1942. In 1944, Cecil was one of the Tabernacle's delegates to the Annual Assembly. He was a deacon from 1946 to 1968 and then was an honorary deacon until his death. He was church secretary from 1964 to 1968, president of the Baptist Union of Queensland in 1947–48 and president-general of the Baptist Union of Australia in 1953–56.



CG Sweetman, President-General
of the BUA, 1953–56
(Photo: *The Australian Baptist*)

In 1945, Cecil was appointed president of the Chamber of Commerce. In responding to sincere congratulations from Rev Albert Butler, he “requested prayerful support for his heavy task ... that he felt his call to this high office a challenge to take Christ into the very midst of business life and had accepted the challenge trusting fully in the Grace of God and in the consciousness of the support of his praying friends.”²⁵⁴

Ted grew up in this Christian environment and also transferred his church membership from Windsor Road to the Tabernacle in 1942. Records show that he attended CE in 1948 and 1949, and probably both before and after this.

Cecil owned a grocery store in Windsor Road, Red Hill, almost opposite the Windsor Road Baptist Church. He went on to own and manage Merchants Mutual and Foodstuffs, wholesale suppliers to Four Square and other independent grocery retailers. In 1939, he was president of the Queensland Grocers’ Association and in 1946, he was elected, for the second time, as President of the Queensland Chamber of Commerce.

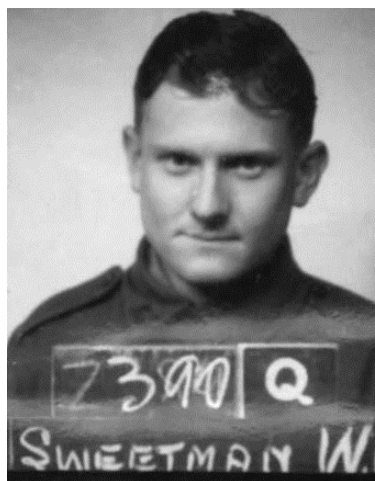


Sweetman’s Store (Photo: R Sweetman)

Ted, following in his father’s footsteps, worked in these businesses in various capacities but didn’t display, to his father’s disappointment, the entrepreneurial business skills required to run the business. Ted was a good worker and well-liked by his fellow employees in the store and dispatch sections where he felt most comfortable. He made many lifetime friends during that time.

There is uncertainty about when Ted transferred from the CMF to the AIF.

Some records indicate that he was in Port Moresby when he enlisted in the AIF on 3 November 1943, on his 21st birthday and



Ted Sweetman (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

²⁵⁴ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon’s Meeting*, 11 September 1945

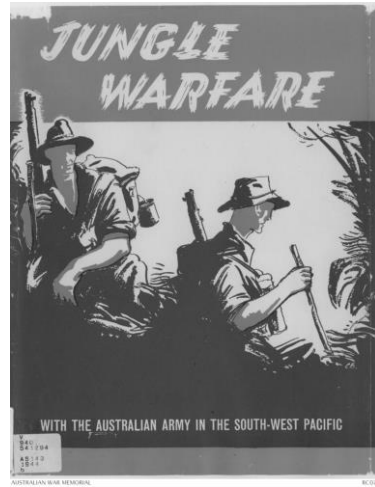
was assigned to the 226 Australian Supply Depot Platoon as a private. He served at Port Moresby and Milne Bay as a truck driver. He had been in the CMF for 21 months and served for 430 days in Australia and 798 days overseas in New Guinea and on Bougainville from July 1942 (when he was still in the CMF) until April 1944. Ted was hospitalised several times with malaria, the first bout being in December 1942.

Ted would never talk about his wartime experiences despite being asked on many occasions. He had at least two books about the war in NG in the box seat in his bedroom. One was *Jungle Warfare: with the Australian army in the south-west Pacific*.²⁵⁵ When pressed he would say: “Read the books. It’s all in there.”

Ted’s brother, Jack commented that his time in the armed forces changed Ted forever. The confident, affable, capable Ted was replaced on his return by a withdrawn, insecure person who suffered long bouts of debilitating mental health issues which eventually rendered him unemployable. His and his doctors’ attempts to overcome these problems were largely unsuccessful although he did experience some short periods of improvement from time to time. Ted was classified as Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) and began receiving a pension. This was a relief to Ted and his wife, assisting them to ensure financial security for the family but a disappointment for Ted personally, as he felt a failure with his incapacities.

Despite his sickness, to his wife and sons, to the best of his ability, he was always a loving, caring and committed husband and Dad.

Prior to his marriage, Ted was living with his parents and brother in Herston, working with



(Image: State Library of Queensland)



Ted Sweetman (Photo: R Sweetman)

²⁵⁵ Australian War Memorial, *Jungle Warfare: with the Australian army in the south-west Pacific*: Canberra: 1944.

his father. It is most likely that Cecil and Ted both worked for GT Sweetman and Co “the cheapest cash grocers in Brisbane” in Kelvin Grove, which had been operating since at least 1893.

Ted met Winifred (Win) Hambly in the youth group at the Windsor Road Baptist Church and they made many friends there. Ted and Win announced their engagement in September 1949, and were married on 8 September 1951 in the Windsor Road Baptist Church by Pastor Gwynne Durward.

Win was born in 1922, the second daughter of eight children (she had five brothers and two sisters) of Charles and Elizabeth Hambly who lived most of their lives in Windsor Road, Red Hill. Win or Winnie as she preferred to be called, was a kitchen supervisor at the Royal Women’s Hospital before her marriage. She would walk to and from her shifts at the hospital at all times of the day and night directly past the Sweetman family home in Herston Road.

Win was a waitress prior to their wedding, living with her older sister Marjorie in Red Hill (1943–49). Marjorie married George (Roy) Waite in the Windsor Road Baptist Church in 1949.

Win’s sister Audrey was secretary of the Sunday School, SGMU and Baptist Women’s Union and a leader in the Young People’s CE and Girls’ Brigade at Windsor Road at various times in the 1950s and 1960s.

Ted and Win had two sons, Russell (Russ) born in 1952, and Bruce born in 1959. The family home was in Ashgrove which Ted and Win moved into immediately after their marriage and where they lived for most of their married life.

Russ and his wife Joanne have continued the Baptist heritage started by their great grandparents, as members of



Ted and Win Sweetman, 1951
(Photo: R Sweetman)



Ted and Win Sweetman (Photo: R Sweetman)

Ashgrove Baptist Church for many years, and now attend The Grove Baptist Church.

Ted continued working as a grocer, and transferred his membership to Ashgrove in 1952. Ted and Win were active members and regular attenders of the Ashgrove Baptist Church when it was in Trout Street, Ashgrove. Ted's unstable health was a limiting factor on their involvement. Ted's brother Jack married Joan Farmer in the Ashgrove church in 1950 and exercised a leading role in this church over many years including during its relocation to Firhill Street, Ashgrove. After a business life with Hardies, Jack retired early to fill administration roles in many churches and organisations including the Ashgrove, Bracken Ridge, and Bridgeman Downs Baptist Churches. He died in 2017.

Ted was receiving treatment in Greenslopes Hospital for weight issues and depression when on 28 January 1980, aged 57, he suffered a massive heart attack and died. Ted's weight had fluctuated between eleven stone (70 kilograms) and nineteen stone (140 kilograms) for many years.

After Ted's passing, Win continued to live in the family home with Bruce, until the house was sold in June 2004. She spent her last days in Brookfield Village and then Hilltop Gardens, Baptist Aged Care residences and died in 2011.

Ted's uncle, Charles Sweetman (Cecil's younger brother) also served, as a captain in the AIF in World War II but is not listed on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour. No details are available of his service.

Tannock, Sydney

Syd, as he was commonly known, was born in Willara, Sydney on 4 August 1908, the son of Christina Tannock (née Schön). His “father” Thomas Tannock had died in Rockhampton in 1905! Christina was living in Milton when she died in 1946.

Syd’s older brothers, Alexander and Douglas were born in 1899 and 1901. His sister, Thelma (Gertrude), was born in 1898. Alexander served in World War I and his story is told in *For God, King and Country*.

Christina came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1908. Syd and his future wife, Joyce Grigson came into membership in 1924, three weeks apart.

Syd had several “run-ins” with the law. In 1926, he pleaded guilty to falsely pretending that a cheque for £14 was good and valid. He used it to buy a talking machine [gramophone] and obtain £7/14 from his employer, Horace Lather. His mother, who was a widow, said that her son had been a good boy and had helped her and that she would see that restitution was made. He was fined £8 to include £7/14 restitution, or in default a month’s imprisonment. An order was made to return the machine which had been recovered and was as good as new.²⁵⁶ He pleaded guilty again in 1928, to using a motor car without the owner’s consent.²⁵⁷ He had used the car, owned by Rent-a-Car Limited, for a joy ride to Redcliffe and around the suburbs and then abandoned the car in Alice Street. He did not have a license and was fined £10.

In 1930, Syd was living in Darlinghurst, aged 21, when he first volunteered for the Militia Forces. He was rejected because he had a deficient weight (52 kg). He had previously served in school cadets for two years.

In 1932, Syd was best man at his brother, Douglas’s marriage to Edna Jessup, the sister of Albert (Cyril) Jessup, in the Petrie Terrace Baptist Church. Syd and Douglas were described as the sons of the late Mr and Mrs TA Tannock of Toombul Road, Northgate. Before his marriage, Syd lived with his mother and brother at *Copperfield* in Northgate.



AF Tannock
(Photo: *The Queenslander*)

²⁵⁶ *The Telegraph*, 30 December 1926, p. 16.

²⁵⁷ *The Brisbane Courier*, 4 September 1928, p. 3.

Syd was living in Northgate, aged 25 in 1934, working as a window dresser when he re-enlisted in the Militia, in the 5th Field Brigade. He was discharged from the Militia in 1936.

Syd married Joyce Grigson in Brisbane on 17 August 1936. Joyce was born in 1912, the daughter of Edwin and Amelia Grigson. The Grigson family were associated with the Petrie Terrace Baptist Church in the 1930s.

Syd was a seaman in World War II. He may have been in the merchant navy.

In 1943, Syd and Joyce were living in Milton and Syd was working as a tram conductor. Joyce transferred her church membership from Petrie Terrace back to the Tabernacle in 1943. It is not known when or why she had previously transferred from the Tabernacle to Petrie Terrace.

Syd and Joyce remained in Milton until at least 1968. In 1972, Syd was working and living as a caretaker at 99 Creek St, Brisbane. They then moved to Bardon.

Syd and Joyce had two sons and two daughters: Bruce, Malcolm, Lorraine (who married Paul Kenealy and came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1950 following her baptism by Rev FT Smith in November 1949), and Ailsa.

Bruce, Malcolm, and Ailsa were all dedicated at the Tabernacle in September 1943.

Syd's family and his brother, Douglas's family shared many alternate Sunday afternoon visits with each other. Douglas's family would travel from Kedron by tram, changing at Roma Street for Milton, and Syd's family would do the reverse.²⁵⁸



Joyce Tannock with (l to r) Malcolm, Bruce, Ailsa and Lorraine and Christina Tannock
(Photo: WDITIA75)



Joyce Tannock (Photo: WDITIA75)

²⁵⁸ Blumel L, Personal communication, 2021.

Syd and Douglas were both members of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows Grand Lodge, the Loyal Queen of England Lodge.

It is not known when Syd and Joyce's marriage failed. Syd remarried Ethel (Margaret) Baptiste sometime after 1980. Margaret, who was the daughter of Charles and Cecilia Baptiste, was living in Deagon when she died in 2018.

Syd died in Brisbane on 5 January 1997, aged 88, a little over two years after Joyce, who died in Brisbane in late 1994. Syd did not have a funeral cortege. He was buried in the same plot as Charles and Cecilia Baptiste.

Walker, Colin Henry Plantagenet

Pat, as he was commonly known, was born in Kilcoy on 25 February 1907, the son of James and Hannah Walker (née Dickens). Pat's siblings were Robert, Mary, Jane (Jess), Annie (Nan), James (JD), Thomas, William (Wippen), Norman, Alma (Flo), Harold, and Eric (Dig). Some official records do not include his given name of Plantagenet.

William served in World War I as a lance corporal and was wounded in action in France. Eric served in World War II as a guard in the RAAF in various locations in Queensland.

Neither Pat nor any of his family were in membership at the Tabernacle. He considered himself a Methodist, but not a practising religious person.²⁵⁹ It is most likely that his only involvement at the Tabernacle was attending the Sunday afternoon Soldiers' Teas. He may have also accepted Rev Albert Butler's invitation to remain for the evening service on occasion.

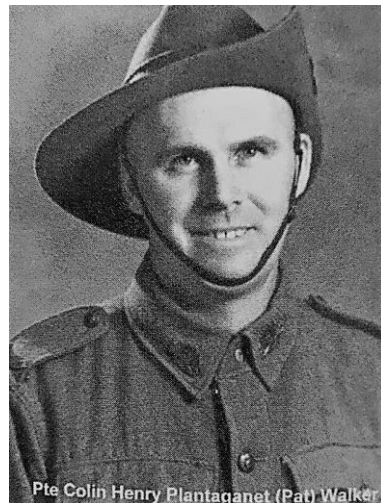
Pat attended Stanley River State school and worked as a labourer in the timber industry in Kilcoy after leaving school, and then became a cane cutter in Lilypond (Ingham). In 1938, he returned to Kilcoy.

After work one night, Bessie Greensill went to catch a bus to a dance, but the bus had already left. Pat came along and he suggested they both go with Victor Hall who had a small Ford bus. Pat and Bessie were married on 18 June 1938. Bessie was born in Kilcoy in 1914, the daughter of Herbert and Elizabeth Greensill.

Pat and Bessie had two sons: Leonard (John) and Peter, and three daughters, Janice (Jan), Judith (Judy), and Jo-Ann (Joey).

After Pat and Bessie married, they took over Mrs McGregor's café, located at 28 William Street, Kilcoy. Pat was well known for the pies and soups he made. Pies cost threepence, homecooked meals one shilling and sixpence (15¢).

Private Walker enlisted on 23 September 1942 in the Light Horse Infantry. Initially he was a cook in Unit 1 Australian ATR. He embarked at Cairns on 3 April 1945 for Morotai (then British North Borneo) and



Pte Colin Henry Plantagenet (Pat) Walker

Private Pat Walker

²⁵⁹ J Walker, Personal communication, 2021.

transferred to Holding Strength Leave and Transit Depot and attached to 2/3rd Tank Attack Regiment as a Gunner until discharged at Redbank (demobilised) on 23 January 1946.²⁶⁰

He also spent some time in New Guinea.

While Pat was in the army, Bessie sublet the café and bought a house at 13 Row St Kilcoy, living there until Pat returned at the end of the war. Pat and Bessie then lived on the corner of William and Seib Streets, Kilcoy.

Pat's brother Eric also enlisted and served as a guard in the RAAF.

When Pat returned to Kilcoy he worked as a labourer until at least 1949. Pat and Bessie were café proprietors in Kilcoy again in 1954–80.

Later Pat became involved in farming. At one time, he was a licensed bookmaker and part owner of 2 racehorses. *Fire Chat*, his most successful horse with part owners Les Stanton and Pat's brother, Harold, raced in the 1950s at Kilcoy, Woodford, Esk, and Gatton.

About 1951, the family left the café and moved to dairy farming at *Fernhyurst*, Spring Creek, Harlin. They returned to the café about December 1952. In 1958–59, Pat and Bessie managed a café in Toogoolawah, called *Wises Café*. They returned to Kilcoy about 1959–60, when Pat purchased a small building and placed it on the fence line of their property. He put in a fridge where Bessie sold fruit, drinks and lollies to those playing sport in the park and to children passing by.²⁶¹

Pat was a member of the Kilcoy RSL and patron of the Hazeldean-Kilcoy Race club.

Pat died in Kilcoy on 10 May 1994, aged 87 and Bessie died in Kilcoy in 2002. Pat's funeral was held in St Mary's Anglican Church, Kilcoy where Pat and Bessie were buried.



Light Horse Infantrymen
Pat Walker in the front row

²⁶⁰ *War Service Men and Women of Kilcoy*, Kilcoy District Historical Society Inc.

²⁶¹ *The Pioneers of the Kilcoy District*, Volume 4 (1920-1930), Kilcoy District Historical Society Inc.

Webster, Albert Keith

Keith, as he was generally known, was born in Brisbane on 16 March 1917, the son of Albert (Bert) and Matilda (Dorothy) Webster (née Jensen). Bert and Dorothy were married in the Vulture Street Baptist Church in 1912 by Rev William Bell, MA. Bert was superintendent of the Thompson Estate Baptist Church from 1918 until 1928 and Sunday School superintendent from 1918 until 1924.

Keith's uncle Roy Webster, was killed-in-action in France in World War I. He had enlisted in the 5/25th Battalion as a private (gunner) as a 21 year old. He transferred to the 11th Field Artillery battery as a bombardier in 1918 and was killed on the day of his promotion. He was buried in the Millencourt Commonwealth Cemetery.

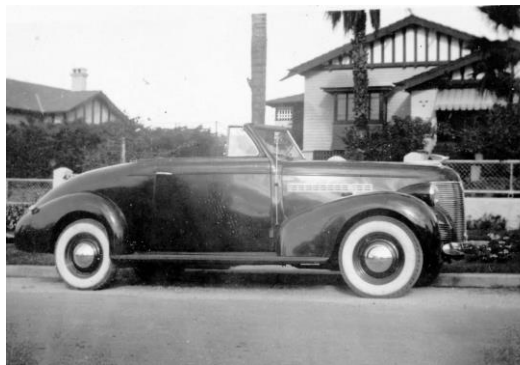
Keith and his three sisters, Clarice (Clare, Mrs Horace Lather), Edris (Royale, Mrs Ralph Hyde), and Alison (Val, Mrs James Finnimore), grew up in Gladstone Road, South Brisbane.



David Webster & Sons Cake & Biscuit Factory, Annerley Road, Dutton Park, c. 1930s
(Photo: S Webster)

Dorothy was a regular worshipper at the Tabernacle. Keith's uncle Wilfred had been in membership since 1920 and was a deacon (1938–55), church auditor and supporter of the Soldiers' Teas. Webster's Biscuits was established in 1883 by David Webster, Keith's grandfather.

Dorothy remained a devout person and often Keith and one or more of their children picked her up after Sunday morning service at the Tabernacle and



Keith's 1939 Chevrolet Roadster
(Photo: S Webster)

took her home for Sunday lunch, after which they would go for a drive.²⁶² Lunch was often roast chicken. (Keith had built a chicken shed at their home in Coorparoo.)

At age 23, while working at David Webster & Sons as a cost clerk, Keith enlisted in Kelvin Grove on 27 June 1940. He gave his denomination as Baptist. He was still living with his parents in Dutton Park. He had become an accountant by 1943 when he was living in South Brisbane.

Keith became engaged to Valerie Stevens in July 1940. The jottings of “a lady about town” commented that the solitaire diamond ring which he presented to Valerie before he left for the North was much admired. Valerie, who had not yet had her 21st birthday, was described as one of our loveliest social “lasses”.²⁶³ Valerie was born in Brisbane in 1921, the daughter of Samuel and Evelyn Stevens.

Keith and Valerie were married on 15 November 1941 at the Tabernacle by Rev Albert Butler. They were attended by Misses Joy Lang and Valmai Webster, Corporal L Heywood and Mr Geoffrey Stevens. Valmai was baptised by Rev Butler in 1940 and was Fellowship Secretary in 1947–49.

Keith was initially assigned to the 15th Battalion of the CMF but had transferred to the 49th Battalion when he arrived in Port Moresby in late December 1940. He was placed on the RAAF list in May 1941 and transferred to the RAAF in June 1942.



Keith and Valerie's Wedding (Photo: S Webster)



Keith and Valerie Webster on their honeymoon at Mooloolaba, 1941
(Photo: S Webster)

²⁶² S Webster, Personal communication, 2022.

²⁶³ *Truth*, 28 July 1940, p. 23.

As a navigator, he was promoted to sergeant in March 1943 and warrant officer in September 1944.

No 460 Squadron, RAAF, was formed at Molesworth in the United Kingdom on 15 November 1941. It was an “Article XV Squadron”, formed in accordance with agreements that implemented the Empire Air Training Scheme. The squadron became part of the RAF’s Bomber Command and joined the strategic bombing campaign against Germany. Equipped with Vickers Wellington bombers, it mounted its first raid, against the German city of Emden, on 12 March 1942.



RAAF 460 Squadron
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

In the ensuing three years, the squadron was heavily committed to operations over Germany, Italy, and German-occupied Europe. It operated, in succession, from airfields at Molesworth (November 1941–January 1942), Brighton (January 1942–May 1943), and Binbrook (May 1943–July 1945). Although it had originally been planned to re-equip the squadron with Handley Page Halifaxes in September 1942, it began operating Avro Lancasters in the following month and joined Bomber Command’s No 1 Group. The bulk of the squadron’s operations formed part of the strategic bombing offensive against Germany, although prior to, and during, the D-Day landings in June 1944, it was employed in support of Allied ground operations. The squadron flew its last raid, against Berchtesgarden, on Anzac Day 1945.

The squadron is regarded as having been the most efficient of the Australian bomber squadrons. It maintained consistently higher serviceability rates among its aircraft, set numerous operational records within Bomber Command, flew the most bombing raids of any Australian squadron, and was credited with the greatest tonnage of bombs dropped - 24,856 tons. The Australian War Memorial’s Lancaster “G for George” was a 460 Squadron aircraft. The squadron, however, suffered heavily. It lost 181 aircraft on operations and 1,018 fatal casualties (589 Australian) - the highest number of any of the Australian squadrons.

Following the end of hostilities in Europe in April 1945, the squadron participated in Operation Manna, which involved the airdropping of food to Dutch civilians during the first week of May 1945. It was subsequently employed to transport liberated Commonwealth prisoners of war to Britain. With this role complete, 460 Squadron was selected to form part of "Tiger Force", Bomber Command's intended contribution to the strategic bombing of Japan, which necessitated a transfer to No. 5 Group and a move to East Kirby.

The war in the Pacific ended, however, before "Tiger Force" was deployed. The squadron relinquished its aircraft in early October 1945 and disbanded on the 25th of that month.²⁶⁴

Keith's son, Stephen comments that:

It's fair to say that whilst Keith was pretty terrified on all of their operations over enemy territory, on one particular occasion, one for which, as the navigator, he took full responsibility, he actually gave incorrect directions to their pilot and they were separated from their flight. The captain asked Keith to find another target as there was no way they were going to return to base with bombs on board. Keith set a course for a large industrial city with suitable targets and they proceeded to run in to drop their bombs. They were on their own and drawing incredible fire from ground defences. The pilot, in an effort to get under the set range of the fire, put their Lancaster into a dive. He asked Keith to help him pull the plane out of the dive and when Keith saw the flack from the anti-aircraft guns he almost went into shock. It was the most frightening thing he'd seen and he realised that the pilot and certainly forward turret gunner saw this every time. From then on, he was in awe of their bravery. Their plane, "S" for Sugar, returned to base but sadly not all of the crew survived. While crew losses were common, particularly the turret



Keith Webster (Photo: S Webster)



Keith in Canada, 1942
(Photo: S Webster)

²⁶⁴ Webbo51, ancestry.com.

gunners, on this occasion Keith naturally felt responsible and only spoke about it to Stephen once.

After Keith had completed his tour of 30 operations, he took leave, which apparently had not been approved. He took off to visit his normal billet in Scotland for some "R and R". He was picked up and escorted back to base where he appeared before a tribunal of superiors. Stephen doesn't know any details but Keith obviously had to explain himself and he recounted his experiences with the RAAF thus far. He told them that he had volunteered for the army and was deployed in New Guinea, prior to any real engagement there. There were calls from the RAAF for those who might want to transfer and Keith did and was subsequently accepted. He stated that he wanted to be a pilot and they sent him to Kingaroy for maths lessons, after which to Cootamundra for Navigation training. He was asked if he'd prefer the Pacific theatre or Europe. His choice was the Pacific as his priority was to defend Australia. He was then sent to Canada for northern hemisphere training after which he was given the choice of remaining in the United Kingdom or North Africa and the Mediterranean. The RAAF kept him in the UK. He was then given the choice of light or heavy bombers and despite opting for light, he was assigned first to Wellingtons and then Lancasters, the biggest they had. As Keith told

it, the tribunal members then asked him what he wanted to do next and he simply asked to be sent home. He and Valerie had their first child Geoffrey by then and Keith had never met him, so Stephen imagines he was pretty anxious to get back home. He was sent home and was actually in Panama when the war in Europe was declared over. His punishment was to work as a cleaner at Eventide for a period after which he acted as Navigation

Officer at Archerfield Airfield prior to being demobbed (discharged). Keith rarely spoke of his experiences, and to Stephen's knowledge never attended an Anzac Day parade but served Legacy for many years helping families of those who didn't return. Sometime in the 1980s Keith and Valerie attended a 460 Squadron reunion and Stephen is sure he was pretty happy that he had.

After the war, Keith and Valerie established their home in Beresford Terrace, Coorparoo, and lived there until 1980. Keith became Production Manager at David Webster & Sons. Websters Biscuits was sold to the Weston's Biscuit



Keith and Valerie's family - Stephen, Keith, Valerie
with baby Susan, Geoffrey and Linda, 1959
(Photo: S Webster)

Company (George Westons Foods Ltd) in 1966. Like his father, Keith was a keen fisherman and loved nothing more than to fish the reefs off Mooloolaba where Bert and Dorothy owned the much loved holiday home *The Retreat*. Keith and Valerie built a new holiday home at Point Cartwright and after retiring from Websters, sold their home and moved to Point Halloran.

Keith and Valerie had five children: Geoffrey, Ian (who died in infancy), Linda, Stephen, and Susan.

Keith died in Brisbane on 15 November 1990 aged 73. Valerie was living at Point Halloran prior to her death in the Redlands District Hospital in 2005.

Wheat, Mervyn Shelley

Mervyn was born in Gladstone on 11 August 1916, the son of William and Clara Wheat (née Pickering), who had married in the Methodist Church, Forest Hill, Queensland in 1915. William worked for the railway and the family moved frequently, living in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Barcaldine, Beenleigh, and Toowoomba during Mervyn's childhood and adolescence. William and Clara died in Ipswich in 1974 and 1962 respectively. Mervyn's three younger brothers were Colin, Neville, and Alister.

Mervyn successfully sat the state scholarship examination in Laidley in 1928, enabling him to attend high school. He attended Brisbane Grammar School in his sub-junior year but was then recalled home to work on his maternal uncles' dairy farms in Heifer Creek and Ma Ma Creek with the onset of the Great Depression. Released from farm duties, he worked in the office of the Toowoomba Foundry, moving at the age of 21 to live in Yeerongpilly, working for Evans Deakin as a costing clerk during the construction of the Storey Bridge.

In 1938, Mervyn was president of the Yeronga branch of the United Protestant Association. Dr Les Dart was president of the Association.

In June 1939 he enlisted in the Voluntary Militia Forces and was assigned to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment. He was aged 22, living in King Street Annerley, and still employed as a cost clerk at Evans Deakin in Rocklea at the time. His father was station master at Murphy's Creek.

On 4th September, Merv enlisted in the 2nd AIF. He joined the 2nd/7th Australian Cavalry Regiment when it was raised in May 1940 and embarked on the *Queen Mary* on Boxing Day of that year for service with them as a medic and orderly room clerk in Africa and the Middle East. He had returned from active service by May 1942. By October 1944, when he was discharged, he had been promoted to staff-sergeant.

Mervyn and Joyce Ham were married by Rev TC Warriner at the Tabernacle on 4 May 1942. Rev Warriner was the pastor of the Vulture Street (South Brisbane) Baptist Church where Mervyn and Joyce were in membership. Joyce was born in Toowoomba in 1917, the daughter of Charles and Mary (May) Ham. May had died in 1937. Charles was living in East Brisbane at the time, and William and Cara were living in Gympie. Their first child, Janice was born in Warwick in 1944.

Joyce's father, Charles, and brother Edwin also transferred their memberships from Vulture Street to the Tabernacle in 1942. Edwin is also listed on the Roll of Honour. His story is told elsewhere.

Mervyn and Joyce transferred their church membership from Vulture Street to the Tabernacle in 1942. Joyce transferred her church membership shortly before their

wedding and Mervyn transferred his membership after the wedding. They transferred their memberships to Margate in late 1947 when they moved to Margate and remained in membership until their deaths.

Mervyn was a deacon and lay preacher throughout his membership at Margate, the Margate Men's Society secretary from 1956 until 1958 and Church treasurer from the late 1960s to the mid-1990s. Joyce was Junior CE leader in 1952–53 and Girls' Brigade leader from 1958 until 1962. Their daughter Patty took on leadership of the Girls' Brigade from 1966 until 1969 and Janice was a Brigade leader at the Tabernacle in 1966. Janice was in membership at the Tabernacle from 1966 until 1972–73. None of Mervyn and Joyce's other children came into membership.

Mervyn worked as a technician in the Post-Master General's Department. He was appointed as a technician-in-training in late 1946 and was promoted to senior technician in mid-1951 and became a technical instructor in 1953.²⁶⁵ By the time of his early retirement in 1965 due to sight loss, Mervyn had been a senior technical instructor for some years, periodically acting in supervisory roles.

For his long years of volunteer service of the highest order, to first aid administration and training, including lengthy service on the World Priory Council of the Order of St John, and authorship in Australia of specialised industrial first aid manuals, Mervyn was appointed to the honour of Knight of the Order of St John. The Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller is a Christian, chivalric, ecumenical, and international community directly descended from the Hospitaller activities at the Hospice, founded before the turn of the 12th century by Amalfi merchants, for pilgrims in Jerusalem.²⁶⁶

In 1977, Mervyn was the recipient of a Silver Jubilee Medal.

Joyce and Mervyn both died in Redcliffe, in 1998 and on 13 June 2000, aged 83, respectively.

Mervyn was survived by Janice, Patricia (Patty), Ray, Maxwell (Max), Chris, their spouses and his six surviving grandchildren. His funeral was conducted in the Clontarf Baptist Church.

²⁶⁵ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 24 September 1953, p. 2659.

²⁶⁶ <https://www.sosjinternational.org/>

Whittingham, Herbert Edwin

Herb, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 12 November 1922, the first child of Herbert and May Whittingham (née Day). Herbert and May were married by Rev Robert Kerr in the Toowong Baptist Church in 1921. May and Herbert both died in Brisbane in 1968 and 1976, respectively. Their other children were Ernest, May, Colin, and Edith (Grace). Herb was a scholar at the Toowong Baptist Sunday School when he was awarded an honour certificate in the 1931 and 1932 Scripture examinations.

In 1936, Herb earned a credit pass in grade three piano, under the tutorage of Miss Edna Hosking. As a student at Brisbane Boys' College, in his Senior Public Examination in 1938, he was awarded A grade passes in English, French, Geography, and Chemistry, and B grade passes in Mathematics A, Mathematics B and Physics and was granted matriculation to the University of Queensland. He was also awarded a studies and general excellence award by the school.

Herb, his parents and siblings Grace, May, and Ernest all transferred their church membership from Toowong to the Tabernacle in November 1944. Herb had been Sunday School Secretary and Church Secretary at Toowong. Herb, and May both accompanied Will Stay on the piano at the Tabernacle, and during Will's absence on active service, Herb also played the pipe organ for services. May, Grace, and Ernest were members of the Young People's CE in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

It would appear that Herb and the family were attending services at the Tabernacle for some time prior to coming into membership. In September 1944, the deacons noted he had obtained his Associate Diploma of Trinity College, London for the organ and had been promoted to the rank of sergeant and expressed their appreciation of his services at the piano at Sunday evening services.²⁶⁷ Herb also played some organ solos at the recital and dedication service for Allan Slaughter, which delighted the audience and choir, in March 1947, and the City Hall organ.

Herb began study for a science degree at the University of Queensland in 1939 and took up full-time employment as a junior meteorological assistant in the Brisbane Weather Bureau. He is recognised as one of the outstanding research and special investigations meteorologists of the post-War Bureau, a national font of meteorological wisdom in the 1950s and 1960s and a wise and generous mentor of many of the Bureau's new recruits, former colleagues, and future leaders.

Herb enlisted in the RAAF in Toowong on 17 April 1941. He and three other members of staff of the State Meteorological Bureau enlisted together. They took the oath before enlisting officer, Flight Lieutenant DA Wright. They were to serve at airport weather bureaus in Australia, which had recently been taken over by the

²⁶⁷ City Tabernacle, *Minutes of Deacon's Meeting*, 12 September 1944.

RAAF from the Commonwealth Meteorological authorities. Herb was retained as a meteorological assistant.

Under the new scheme, the weather arrangements at each air station and civil airport were controlled by the Air Force. They formed a Commonwealth wide network for the collection and distribution of information

on flying conditions. The system began with a central bureau which distributed a complete all weather flying 'map' to regional and local airport weather officers from day to day. In Queensland civil aviation weather facilities were established at Archerfield and Townsville, but to implement the scheme additional offices were opened at newly made airports and flying fields not already served.²⁶⁸

In July 1942, with the RAAF rank of sergeant and his university studies on hold, he was posted to the Allied Air Forces Meteorological Section of General MacArthur's Allied Headquarters at St Lucia and in the Brisbane CBD. His initial responsibilities, as a meteorological assistant, included weather report decoding and plotting in support of the Southwest Pacific forecasting responsibilities of the section.

Although he had not completed his university degree, Herb was soon recognised as possessing a rare level of scientific insight into meteorological issues. As the war developed and the section became deeply engaged in urgent research aimed at improved weather forecasting support for RAAF and allied combat operations, he undertook a series of important research investigations and, in partnership with Bill Gibbs,

produced a large number of reports and scientific papers on weather and climate process in the Southwest Pacific. He played a key role in the inauguration of the



Herb (third from right), 1941
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)



Herb with his parents and siblings, 1943
(Photo: C Michel)

²⁶⁸ *The Courier Mail*, 18 April 1941, p. 5.

RAAF Tropical Weather Research Bulletin, the forerunner of the Bureau's Australian Meteorological Magazine.

In looking back on the operation of the war-time RAAF Meteorological Section 50 years later, Dr Gibbs recalled Herb as a short, thin wiry young man who was another treasure on the staff of our office and a very respectable young man who was an accomplished musician and extremely well read. He noted that although his formal education, at that time, had not extended beyond secondary level, Herb had a natural scientific outlook which gave him an insight into atmospheric processes which was superior to some who had the benefit of a university education.²⁶⁹

Herb was discharged on 19 March 1946 and returned to a civilian career in the Bureau of Meteorology and worked on a range of tasks and scientific investigations in the Brisbane Bureau while resuming his university studies through evening lectures. He completed his Science degree in 1951 with distinction topping his class in final year physics.

In 1943, Herb was living with his parents in Toowong, working as an assistant meteorologist. He continued to work as a meteorologist until his death. Although in membership at the Tabernacle, Herb was music leader at the Toowong Baptist Sunday School in the mid-1940s.

Herb and his sister May lived with their parents until 1968.

In 1949, Herb registered the copyright of a musical, titled *The Starry Cross*. It is not known if his musical was ever performed publicly.

Herb and his brother Colin both graduated from the University of Queensland.

Brothers gained B Sc Together

Colin, 21, and Herbert, 30, both learned yesterday that they had won their Bachelor of Science Degrees at this year's university finals.

They are sons of Mr H Whittingham, barber, of Quinn Street, Toowong.

Both were awarded distinctions in their final subject, Physics III. Colin also obtained a credit in Mathematics III.



Herbert (right) and Colin Whittingham, 1951
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

²⁶⁹ Gibbs, WJ, *A Glimpse of the RAAF Meteorological Service*, Metarch Papers No. 7, Bureau of Meteorology, 1995, p. 67.

Herbert said he had begun studying for a degree in 1939. During the war he had served for five years in the RAAF.

A Science degree was necessary in his work as meteorological assistant at the Brisbane Weather Bureau.

Colin studied for about three years while a [Post-Master General's] engineering cadet.²⁷⁰

In 1953, the Commonwealth Minister for the Interior, Wilfred Hughes directed that Herb be sent to Crohamhurst, on the Sunshine Coast, with an open mind, to undertake a six-month investigation, on behalf of the Commonwealth Director of Meteorology and the Minister, into the long-range weather forecasting of Inigo Jones.²⁷¹



Meteorologists Course, 1954-55,
Herbert is on the right, seated
(Photo: Bureau of Meteorology)

In March 1954, Herb was posted to the Bureau's Central Office in Melbourne for twelve months' training as a professional meteorologist. On return to Brisbane, he was appointed to a new professional position of research and special investigations meteorologist, working in the second-floor Library of the Bureau at the corner of Wickham Terrace and Upper Edward Street, opposite the Tabernacle. He was promoted from Meteorologist Grade I to Grade III in 1958 and to the higher position of Senior Meteorologist in 1964 but he remained in his special investigations role for the rest of his Bureau career, occasionally filling in for emergencies on the forecasting roster and often dropping into the forecast room on the first floor to ask questions or offer scientific advice. He was also a regular visitor to the forecast room on Friday afternoons to check on the weather forecast for his much-loved weekend fishing trips to 'the Pin'.

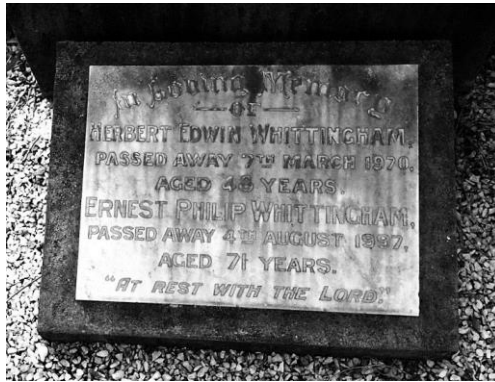
Herb was appointed as Queensland's first bushfire researcher in late 1955. He was given the task of studying for at least a year before he could produce timely fire warnings. In announcing his appointment, Mr BW Newman, deputy director of the Weather Bureau said: "He has a big task. He will delve into weather and bushfire records for years. He will examine the effects of temperature, humidity, wind, soil moisture and greenness of vegetation — the main factors in bushfires. One of Mr Whittingham's biggest puzzles would be why apparently similar sets of conditions caused fires in New South Wales and Victoria, but not in Queensland. The old 'hazard stick' is going out. It is not good enough. Science

²⁷⁰ *The Courier Mail*, 4 December 1951, p. 3.

²⁷¹ Day, D, 2007 *The Weather Watchers*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton. p. 289

will take its place. (The ‘hazard stick’ is a pole weighed regularly by foresters to gauge bush fire risk by variations in its moisture content. It is used in New South Wales, Victoria, and the United States.)²⁷² He was appointed as the first State Controller of the Commonwealth Bushfire Control Organisation in 1956. His work on fire weather led to his appointment as a Member of the Institute of Foresters. He was also an Associate of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Herb’s sister Edith married John Michel at the Tabernacle in 1960. Rev FT Smith performed the wedding. Edith’s sister May was one of their witnesses.



Herb’s headstone (Photo: J Weston)

Herb suffered from chronic ill-health and died in Brisbane on 7 March 1970, aged 47. His headstone, in the Toowong Cemetery, includes the phrase: “At rest with the Lord”.

In a 2021 history of the Bureau of Meteorology 1939–2003, former Director John Zillman described Herb as ‘A brilliant synoptician, theoretician and applied meteorologist who progressed from a weather assistant role in Allied Headquarters in World War II to become one of the widely accepted fonts of Bureau wisdom in the 1950s and 1960s but suffered from chronic ill-health that led to his untimely death’. But the most fitting summary of Herb’s professional career is to be found in the final paragraph of Alan Brunt’s 1970 obituary. In Alan’s words, ‘Everything he tackled was done in a meticulous and painstaking manner. If Herb had done a job, you knew that it was done as well as it possibly could be. He was a deep thinker, an excellent critic, and a completely professional meteorologist. Men like him are few and far between.’²⁷³

After Herb’s death, May continued to live with her widowed father. She continued living in the same residence, after her father’s death in 1976, until at least 1980.

Herb’s sister May remained a spinster and had been living in Cleveland when she died in 2012. Her death notice simply said: “Fondly remembered by her many relatives and friends.”

²⁷² *The Farmer and Settler*, 2 September 1955, p. 4.

²⁷³ Day D, 2007 *The Weather Watchers*. Melbourne University Press, Carlton.

Willard-Turton, Jack

Jack was born on 8 February 1921 at a private hospital in Glebe Point, NSW, the son of Leslie and Olga Willard-Turton (née Hutchin). Leslie and Olga were married in St Matthias' Church, Paddington (Sydney) in 1916. Leslie was the solicitor for the railways' office in Sydney in 1924. Olga played in the first talking picture made in Australia and was the champion lady skater in New South Wales in 1916. Leslie produced shows for the Sydney Tivoli in 1914.²⁷⁴

Sometime before 1916, Jack's father, who was born Willard Leslie Turton, decided for whatever reason that Leslie Willard-Turton carried a ring of celebrity about it and therefore shuffled the names in order to elevate his acting career and perhaps social image.²⁷⁵

Leslie trained as a trooper in the AIF in World War I at Menangle but did not serve overseas. Three of Jack's uncles also enlisted. Arthur Turton was in the Militia for two years and then served in New Guinea in the Special Forces, as a sergeant in World War I. His military record wrongly assigned him the name Arthur Archibald Turton. (In 1920 an inquiry was told that when he enlisted in August 1914, aged 17, Arthur gave his name as Arthur Archibald Gerald Turton. He "was very young when he enlisted, assumed his brother's Christian name in conjunction with that of his first, with the view to baffle enquiry should his age be questioned".)²⁷⁶ Arthur's older brother, Archibald



Olga Willard-Turton with Jack, 1924
(Photo: P Brookes)



Leslie Willard-Turton
(Photo: J Walker)

²⁷⁴ *Sunday Mail*, 18 May 1947, p. 3.

²⁷⁵ Brookes P, Personal communication, 2022

²⁷⁶ *National Archives of Australia*: B2455, Turton Arthur Archibald Gerald, p. 16.

(Archie) enlisted in the 2nd Battalion in November 1914 and served at Gallipoli. Another uncle, Frederick Turton served in the 4/26th Battalion in Armentières, France. As a result of an extended bout of bronchitis, he was deemed permanently unfit for general service, but fit for home service.

Prior to her residence in Warwick and Stanthorpe, Olga was well known in leading metropolitan theatres, having appeared with TC Williamson in *The Ring Boys Are Here* and *Messages From Mars*. She was under engagement with EJ and Ryan Carroll in picture productions and under Longford-Lyell Management.²⁷⁷

The Rosary will be presented in an elaborate manner next Tuesday night at the Town Hall. The cast comprises Olga Willard-Turton, William Chambers, Leslie Willard-Turton, James Pope, Betty Whitehead, Leila Brunckhorst, Dorrie Ricketts and Bruce Carroll. The story is one of pathos and emotion which is delicately handled by Olga Willard-Turton, (who is known to many Warwick theatregoers), Bruce Carroll and William Chambers. There is a great amount of comedy relief, there being four splendid laughter making parts.²⁷⁸

In 1935, Olga sang the title role in *Leave it to Jane* in the Warwick Town Hall. The review in the *Warwick Daily News* reported:

LEAVE IT TO JANE

This Stanthorpe company needs no introduction to Warwick audiences and those who witnessed previous performances, particularly “The Rosary” presented last year, are looking forward to seeing the same cast in comedy role. This opportunity will be given patrons on Friday, June 21, when “Leave it to Jane”, will be played in the Town Hall Warwick, and the interest taken in the performance so far augurs well for a packed house. The play, a brilliant farcical comedy in three acts, has already been acclaimed by Stanthorpe audiences as “one of the brightest shows ever seen in the town”, and competent critics affirm that the individual performers have put forth their best efforts to date, Olga Willard Turton shows great versatility in successfully interpreting the difficult character of “Jane” having had the experience of taking part in the film, versions of “On Our Selection” and “Why Mabel Learned to Jazz”; both of which are brimful of comedy. Mrs. B. Denyer, Kevin Gunn, and Leslie Turton also excel in their parts. The players have the assistance of Mr. George Leadbitter’s symphony orchestra, which will play specially selected; entr’acte-numbers. “Leave it to Jane” promises to be a delightful change to Warwick audiences, and patrons are advised by those who have already seen both performances in Stanthorpe not to miss it. The entire proceeds go to the Presbyterian Colleges.²⁷⁹

The comedy had been performed in Stanthorpe with the proceeds going to the Church of England.

Jack had two younger siblings, Naomi (Mrs Alan Hardy), and Anthony (Leon). They grew up in Warwick. Naomi taught music at St Hilda’s School, Southport

²⁷⁷ *Warwick Daily News*, 20 August 1934, p. 4.

²⁷⁸ *Warwick Daily News*, 15 August 1934, p. 2.

²⁷⁹ *Warwick Daily News*, 27 April 1935, p. 10.

in the late 1940s. In 1940, at 16, Mrs Hardy conducted an adult choir and a 30-piece orchestra in a recital of sacred music in Brisbane.²⁸⁰

In 1924, shortly after his third birthday, Jack was taken to Melbourne and Launceston, Tasmania by his parents, for a brief visit and tour of the island.

Jack's mother passed away in November 1935 when Leon was only 4. Leslie did not remarry and died in Queensland in 1975.

Jack's sister, Naomi married Lieutenant Alan Hardy in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Creek Street in November 1941 and lived in Scarborough, Queensland until she passed away in 2017. Alan enlisted in February 1941 and was overseas in the Middle East and New Guinea from August 1942 until February 1944.

Jack was successful in his matriculation exams in Warwick in 1938 and was granted entry into Arts and Commerce at the University of Queensland.

Jack's brother, Leon, drowned in November 1938 at age 6 in Kedron Brook, and was privately cremated the following day at Mt Thompson Crematorium. He had been allowed to stay home from school because of a sore foot. When his body was found, his bow and arrow were found on the bank of the creek. His inseparable companion, a black and tan cattle dog, Rover had kept a solitary vigil.²⁸¹

Jack enlisted in the 9th Division in World War II in Brisbane in the AIF Medical Corps.

Jack had arrived in Buna, New Guinea about six months before the Leivesley brothers. He had the advantage of knowing everything. Doug Leivesley thought he was really insufferable. Each night, someone produced a tin of condensed milk, which was boiled up on a primus and they all had a luxury supper of cocoa and biscuits. They invited Jack over each night from the neighbouring tent. After a couple of weeks, Doug's mates had had enough of Jack, whose most prized possession was his bushy black moustache. One bright lad suggested that they improve Jack's appearance by shaving off his mo. The next night they yelled out "Come over for a cuppa, Jack". As soon as he arrived they grabbed him, held him on a bed, lathered his mo, and shaved half of it off. When they let him go, he looked around like a mad bull, singled Doug out as the one he could vent his anger on, and swung a punch at Doug who stepped behind him and put on a strangle hold. As he gasped for breath, he cooled down and Doug let him go and he took off to his tent. A few weeks later, he came back for supper. All was forgiven, but not forgotten.²⁸²

²⁸⁰ *Sunday Mail*, 18 May 1947, p. 3.

²⁸¹ *Warwick Daily News*, 12 November 1938, p. 1.

²⁸² Leivesley D, Personal memoir, undated.

There is a plaque of appreciation to Jack at the National Australia Remembers Freedom Wall in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha.

He was baptised by Rev Albert Butler in March 1943 but did not come into membership at the Tabernacle.

Jack became engaged to Nelly (Nell), elder daughter of Thomas and Mary Harbottle, of North Rockhampton, in May 1943.²⁸³ Nellie was the dux of Rockhampton State High School in 1939.

Jack and Nell planned to marry in June 1943, but were not married, in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton, until March 1945. They were both students at the Queensland University at the time. Jack was in his third year of Commerce, having studied while on active service. Nelly was attended by her sister, Edna, and John Harbottle was best man.²⁸⁴ Jack graduated in 1953.

Jack was a grade tennis player for university in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1949, he was the organiser for the inter-State university tennis carnival in Brisbane. He graduated in May 1949.

In 1947, while a student at the University of Queensland, Jack was appointed general secretary of the Queensland Peoples' Party.²⁸⁵ Jack's father had also been involved in politics as state secretary of the Protestant Labour Party in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Jack and Nell were living in Annerley in 1949, when Jack was working as an accountant. They moved to Victoria in 1952 and by 1954 they were living in Highfield Park. They had settled in Ringwood by 1963, where they built the family home in which Nell lived, until moving into aged care in 2016.

In 1952, Jack was promoted to clerk, third division in the Department of the Navy.

Jack was the managing director of Electronic Engineering Pty Ltd, which in 1964 patented a new device called a *Divertafon*, which could automatically transfer an incoming telephone call from one number to another and was to be marketed throughout the world.²⁸⁶



Nelly Harbottle 1943
(Photo: *The Courier Mail*)

²⁸³ *The Telegraph*, 22 May 1943, p. 6.

²⁸⁴ *The Courier Mail*, 7 March 1945, p. 5.

²⁸⁵ *The Courier Mail*, 25 January 1947, p. 3.

²⁸⁶ *The Canberra Times*, 30 December 1964, p. 9.

In 1976, Jack was president of Allied Marriage Consultants, a Melbourne based, match making organisation, trying to find Chinese marriage partners for what he described as “surplus” men in Australia. In an interview, after visiting Hong Kong, he said he would go to Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Penang, Bangkok and the United States on a similar mission. The *South China Morning Post* quoted him as saying that in Australia there were twice as many men as women between 20 and 50 who had never married.²⁸⁷

Jack and Nelly had four sons and two daughters: Gwyneth, Graeme, Sharyn, Darryl, Howard (Dale), and Malcolm.

Jack was living in Ringwood when he died in Preston, Victoria on 10 October 1977 aged 56, as the result of a motor vehicle accident. A memorial service was held in the Mitcham Baptist Church. His funeral notice described him as a “Servant of Jesus Christ”.

²⁸⁷ *The Canberra Times*, 19 April 1976, p. 6.

Window, Gilbert Martin and Eunice Evelyn (née Storry)

Arthur Window and Ednea Hosken married in Brisbane on 1 June 1911. Arthur had a mixed farm in Beerwah in 1934, including growing flowers to send by train to the Brisbane markets. They then bought a shop on Commercial Road, Newstead. This shop serviced personnel from the American warships berthed nearby—a three course meal for 1/6d!—and other necessities. It was a place of ministry. They served too, but not in uniform.

Arthur's brother, Norman Window enlisted in World War I in 1917, at the age of 26. While returning from Europe in October 1918, he contracted pneumonia while aboard HMAT *Bakara* and died and was buried in the Naval and Military Cemetery, King Tom, Sierra Leone.

They had four children: Edna, Gilbert, Benjamin, and Lillian (Lily). Although his birth certificate says Benjamin Roy, he was generally known as Roy. On the electoral roll, he is listed as Roy Benjamin Window until 1963, but Benjamin Roy Window from 1968 onwards.

Edna and Lily (later Mrs Les Larmar) came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1938 and their parents, Arthur and Edna, and siblings Edna and Roy joined in



Edna and Arthur Window, with Edna c. 1955
(Photo: J Robinson)



The Window family - all members at the Tabernacle at some time.

L-R: Roy and Eunice Window; Edna and Roger Anderson; Lily and Les Larmar; Gilbert and Lily Window.

Seated: Edna Window
1973 (Photo: J Robinson)

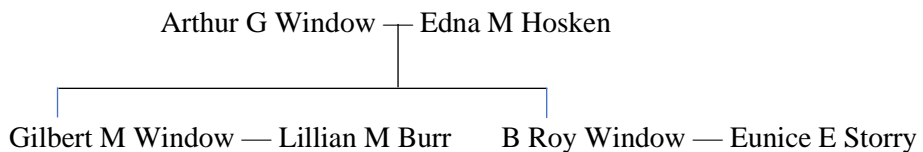
Window, Gilbert Martin and Eunice Evelyn (née Storry)

1939, following their baptisms. Lily joined the teaching staff of the Sunday School in late 1940.

Edna joined the teaching staff of the Sunday School in 1940–41. She married Roger Anderson at the Tabernacle in 1965 and remained in membership until her death in late 1973.

Les Larmar's story is told elsewhere.

Arthur and Edna remained in membership until their deaths in 1964 and 1974, respectively.



Gilbert Martin Window

Gilbert Window was born in Brisbane on 10 August 1914 and married Lillian (Lily) Burr, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Burr on 23 March 1940. Lily was born in Brisbane in 1915 and came into membership in June 1940 following her baptism by Rev Albert Butler.

Gilbert left school after Scholarship and came into membership in April 1939, following his baptism in March. He was a Sunday School teacher in 1940–41, leader of the Youth Fellowship in 1942–43, secretary of the cricket club in 1947–48, and was captain of the B grade cricket team when they won the premiership in 1948–49. He was a member and then leader of the Young People's CE Society between 1948 and 1952.

Prior to enlisting, Gilbert was a corporal in the CAF, number 23 (City of Brisbane) Fighter Squadron. He then applied to join the RAAF and passed the necessary entrance examinations. In his application, he stated: "I have had 1 day a week for two years at Colledge (sic) learning internal combustion. I have also had 3 to 4 years' experience assembling autos at Austral Motors and McIntosh Motors. I am a member of



Gilbert Window, 1942, (Photo: National Archives of Australia)

Transport Union of three years standing. I have been driving delivery vans during that time.”

In March 1942, however, he was informed that “owing to the large number of applications received of a similar nature, it is regretted that you were not selected to fill one of the limited vacancies available. The reason for this letter is that you may now feel free to offer your services to one of the other Defence Forces.”

Gilbert was a motor mechanic and transport driver (carter) for Bryce Ltd when he enlisted at the age of 29, on 21 April 1942.

In August, he was re-mustered into the RAAF with the rank of leading aircraftman, as a fitter armourer. He had one day’s Christmas Leave in 1942. He was living at *Llwyn* in Milton with Lily at the time.

Gilbert was promoted to lance corporal in March 1943 and to corporal in January 1944. He trained in Ultimo (Sydney), Hamilton and Evans Head and served in New Guinea with 4 Central Reserves at Alexishafen following the Battle of Madang. He was discharged in January 1946 with 69 days leave owing.

When he was discharged, Gilbert was awarded the Pacific Star, War Medal, and Australian Service Medal.

After the war, Gilbert and Lily were living in Wilston, where Gilbert was a transport driver. He was Secretary of the rejuvenated Tabernacle cricket team in 1947–48.

He was living in Warwick, working as a wholesale distributor in 1954.

Gilbert and Lily had eight children: Beverley (Bev, Mrs Ross Meech), Elizabeth (Beth, Mrs Wayne Saunders), Lynette (Lyn, Mrs Terry Hindley), Desley (who died in infancy), Cheryl (who married Henry Bruce at the Tabernacle in 1971), Janette (Jan, who married Allan (Al) Morrison, at the Tabernacle in 1971),



Gilbert (2nd from the right) and fellow servicemen,
(Photo: J Morrison)



A boatload of bombs ready to be unloaded,
(Photo: J Morrison)

Glenard, and Hartley. Beverley was a member of the Young People's CE in 1960–61 and came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1960. Janette and Cheryl joined in 1969 and 1970, and Al Morrison came into membership in 1969.

Gilbert and Lily transferred their church membership to Warwick in 1951, where Gilbert was the superintendent of the Young People's CE. They moved to Albion in the late 1950s, where Gilbert continued his involvement in CE as superintendent of the Intermediate Society. He was also Church Secretary in the early 1960s. They returned to the Tabernacle in 1974, after they moved to Bardon. They moved to Ashgrove after Gilbert's retirement in the late 1970s.

After Gilbert's death in Brisbane, on 13 July 1984 aged 69, Lily transferred her membership to Enoggera in 1985. Gilbert was buried with their infant daughter Desley. Their headstone includes the phrase "Rejoicing with their Lord".

Lily was living in Sunsetholme in Normanby when she died in 1992. Her funeral was held at the Enoggera Baptist Church.

Eunice Evelyn Window (née Storry)

Eunice Storry was born in Featherston, New Zealand on 18 October 1917, the daughter of Glaud and Ellen Storry (née Boyd). Glaud was born in Scotland and married Ellen in Taringa, Queensland in 1915. Their marriage was solemnised by Rev Robert Kerr, Minister of the Toowong Baptist Church.

Glaud's oldest brother, John had migrated to New Zealand around 1910. Eunice's brother Colin was also born in Featherstone, in 1916. Glaud was a banana farmer at Currumbin Creek in 1925. Glaud died in Tweed Heads 1977 and Ellen died in and Brisbane in 1985.

Eunice and her sister Ella, and brother Colin grew up in Currumbin Creek and Tugun and attended Coolangatta State School. Ellen was the Sunday School superintendent at Tugun from 1939 until 1944. Eunice and Ella came into member at the Tabernacle in March 1939 following their baptisms the previous December, by Rev Albert Butler. Ella and George Walker were married at the Tabernacle in 1943 by Rev Butler.

Eunice was living in Woolloowin in 1943 and enlisted in Brisbane. At her passing out parade in November 1943,



Eunice Storry (front left) learning how to cook a steak on an open fire, 1943
(Photo: *The Telegraph*)

Eunice and several other “rookies” in the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) said they had joined the service to help their brothers in the RAAF. Aircraftwoman Eunice said she joined because she was so proud of the record of her brother, Flying-Officer Colin Storry who had recently been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for sinking an enemy vessel during a snowstorm off the Norwegian coast.²⁸⁸ His citation reads:

Pilot Officer Storry had completed a number of operational sorties with the Bomber Command before joining 455 Squadron. In these operations, he was exceptionally successful and bombed targets which included Hamburg and Cologne.

He has since completed a number of missions in torpedo-carrying aircraft and bombing attacks on barracks areas which were achieved with precision and great success.

He has also taken part in many offensive sweeps against enemy shipping during which success has been attained in spite of heavy opposition and adverse weather. Throughout all these operations, Pilot Officer Storry has set an excellent example to other members of his squadron.

His determination, energy and devotion to duty have been most praiseworthy.²⁸⁹



P/O Colin and Joan Storry, London, 1944
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Colin married Joan Rutter in 1943 at St Peter’s Cranley Gardens, Kensington. She accompanied him to his investiture at Buckingham Palace on 1 February 1944. Joan sailed to Australia with their daughter Rosalyn in 1946.

Colin and Joan divorced and Joan returned to Wales in 1952. Colin became a civilian airways pilot and died in 1981.

Eunice’s engagement to Roy Window had been announced in November 1939. After a lengthy engagement, they were married at the Tabernacle, by Rev Butler on 9 December 1944, after Eunice had obtained her discharge from the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force, where she had been an office orderly. Roy’s sister Edna and Cec Lockhart were their witnesses.

Roy was baptised and came into membership in 1939. He was asked to become a teacher in the Sunday School in 1943 and was the Leader of the Young People’s Combined Fellowship in 1943–46. In 1943, he was working as a foreman while

²⁸⁸ *The Courier Mail*, 14 December 1943, p. 2.

²⁸⁹ *National Archives of Australia*, A9300, p. 26.

living with his parents in Teneriffe. After the war, he was employed as an orderman – salesman.

Roy and Eunice had a daughter, Suzanne (Sue), who married Richard Kissick at the Tabernacle in 1971.

Roy also played in the church cricket team from the late 1940s, when he was captain, until the mid-1950s.



P/O Colin Storry (Photo: Imperial War Museums)

Roy was a deacon at the Tabernacle from 1966 until August 1976, when the church rules of the time, precluded his re-election for a fourth term. Eunice was the church's flower convenor up until 1975–76. Eunice had the gift of hospitality and often had visiting preachers to stay. The family was always blessed by the fellowship. Eunice warmly welcomed anyone who visited or was a newcomer to the church.

Eunice remained in membership until her death on 14 March 1981 aged 63.

After Eunice's death, Roy married Helen Proschogo (née Lyons) at the Tabernacle in 1982. Helen was also a widow and Rev Paul Harrison officiated at their wedding. Roy's brother Gilbert was one of the witnesses at the wedding. Roy also remained in membership until his death in 1995.

Wright, Emmanuel Roy

Roy, as he was generally known, was born on 5 February 1909, the son of Emanuel and Esther Wright (née Brett). His father's name is variously spelt Emanuel and Emmanuel. His parents were married by Rev Thomas Leitch in the Windsor Road Baptist Church in 1908. Esther died in 1970. Roy had a younger brother, Conrad, and a younger sister Una. Emanuel had enlisted in World War I and served as an ambulance officer in France.

Roy and his brother and sister grew up in Paddington and he was living with his parents in Paddington in 1937. His father was a cabinet maker. Roy was a chauffeur at Government House, Brisbane.

In 1939, Roy was tried and found guilty of the attempted unlawful killing of Dorothy Coffin, an usherette at the Majestic Theatre, on 16 December 1938. The jury recommended Wright to mercy because of his previous good character.

In court, it was alleged by Plainclothes-Constable P Stone in evidence that he went to Government House at noon on December 16 and told Wright that Miss Coffin had been shot at the Majestic Theatre that morning, and it had been ascertained that Wright had been there at the time. Wright replied that he knew nothing about the shooting and denied having been at the theatre.

Detective AN White said that he told Wright at the Criminal Investigation Branch Office that he had reason to believe he had shot Miss Coffin. Wright replied, "No, you are all wrong. I wasn't at the theatre this morning." He said he had known Miss Coffin for a long time but was not keeping company with her. He was engaged to a girl at the Moreton Club, Creek Street, and had not seen Miss Coffin for weeks. At 2 pm, Detective White, told Wright that he had arranged for him to be confronted by Miss Coffin at the hospital. Wright said, "Don't take me down there. I don't want to see her. I will tell you the truth. I shot her this morning, but she has been accusing me lately". Wright added that Miss Coffin was in a certain condition and that she had blamed him, "I wanted to marry the other girl," he said. Wright said he had parked a car in Elizabeth Street and walked to the theatre with a pea rifle, Detective White added. When returning to Government House he had thrown the rifle into the river near the Grey Street Bridge. He thought it had contained a .22 short cartridge, the last of a box he had bought with it. No one at Government House had known he had the rifle, which had been kept in a drawer in the garage. Dragging operations, however, failed to locate the rifle. Wright said that he had seen Miss Coffin on the previous Tuesday night, when she had accused him of getting her into trouble, said Detective White.

In reply to Mr Goldsmid, who suggested that it was the Monday, not the Tuesday, night, White said, "I was told by Wright that he went to the Masonic Temple on the Tuesday night and left after he had let his passenger off there."

Mary Josephine Cumerford, cashier at the Majestic Theatre, said that on the morning of December 16 Wright asked to see Miss Coffin. He moved towards the steps carrying a long brown parcel. Two or three minutes later there was a loud report, followed immediately by a scream. Wright came down the stairs and hurried out on to the footpath. He still carried the parcel.

Muriel Carton Allen, usherette at the theatre, said that she saw Wright ascend the theatre stairs carrying a long parcel, which looked like a rifle. Shortly afterwards there was a

report, followed by a scream. As she ran up the stairs to investigate, Wright, who passed her, going down, said, "Some-body's been shot up there."

Detective Sergeant Harold: "Did you notice anything unusual about him?" — "Yes, he was very white, much paler than when he came in."

At the trial, Mr EJ Stanley, counsel for Wright, read references from Sir John Goodwin, a former Governor, from the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Blair) and from the present Governor, which gave Wright an excellent character.

Mr Justice Henchman said he would consider the jury's recommendation adding that he could not but be impressed with the weight of the testimonials regarding the prisoner's character.²⁹⁰

In April 1939, it was reported that Wright may have to serve a full year. Although the Government had no authority to increase the sentence imposed on him for shooting Dorothy Coffin, it could withhold remissions for good conduct, and Wright might be required to serve a full year in gaol.

Mr Justice Henchman, in sentencing Wright to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, ordered that he should be released after serving one year upon his entering into a £200 bond, with one surety of £200 or two of £100 each, to be of good behaviour for the unexpired period of the sentence. "If you behave yourself," his Honour added, "you will earn remissions and be let out of gaol in nine months."

Legislation to give the Crown the right to appeal against criminal sentences that were regarded as too lenient were suggested to the presessional meeting of the Parliamentary Labour (sic) party.

Queensland law gave a convicted person the right of appeal against the severity of a sentence, but in New South Wales and certain other States the law went further, and the Crown could appeal against the lightness of sentences. This authority, it was stated, would be granted to the Crown Law Department by an amendment in the coming session of Parliament.²⁹¹

Shortly after his release on parole, Roy married Margaret Tobin on 6 July 1940. It seems likely that this marriage did not last long, as Margaret was back living and working as a waitress at the Moreton Club in Creek Street by 1943. She had been living and working there prior to the shooting. She reverted to her maiden-name and was living in Gympie and again working as a waitress in 1949.

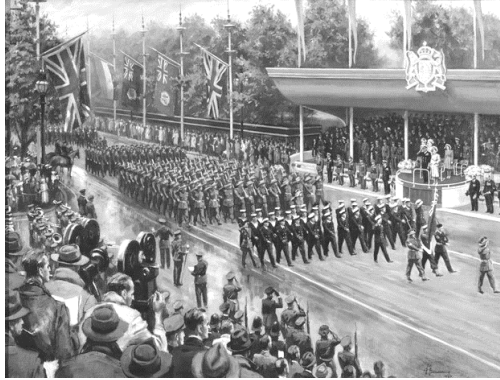
When he enlisted in Kelvin Grove, Roy nominated his mother, Esther as next-of-kin, suggesting that his marriage had already failed and that his father had also died, although it is also possible that his parents were estranged.

Roy served with the 6th and 7th Divisions of the AIF and the Australian Victory Contingent (AVC). In March 1946, an AVC was raised from the Australia's military forces for the purpose of taking part in the planned victory celebrations

²⁹⁰ *The Courier Mail*, 28 March 1939, p. 1.

²⁹¹ *Queensland Times*, 11 April 1939, p. 8.

in London later that year. After some difficulties in raising the group, the contingent left Australia in April. Making stops along the way, the contingent arrived in England in late May. The parade was on 8 June and crowds of more than five million people came out to watch. After the parade, many in the contingent took the chance to tour Britain and Europe. The contingent finally left Europe in early July, stopping at a number of ports on the way home. The



Victory March, London, 10 June 1946
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

AVC was ostensibly a chance for Australians to celebrate their involvement in the victory of the Allied powers over their Axis enemies. However, the contingent's journey also functioned as a reinforcement of Australia's solidarity with the British Empire.²⁹²

Roy was working as a motor driver (chauffer), living with his parents in Ashgrove in 1958–72. He had retired to Golden Beach, Caloundra by 1977.

Roy died on 20 September 1996 aged 87 and was buried in Caloundra.

Una Gladys Wright was born in 1911. She came into membership at the Tabernacle in 1930 and was a member of the CE in 1949. Una was living with her parents in Ashgrove before her marriage. She married William Reid at the Tabernacle in 1972. William and Una continued to live at the same address after their marriage. William had been in membership at the Tabernacle since 1948. He was the Tabernacle caretaker and cleaner and died in 1989. After his death, Una went to live with Roy. She died in Caloundra in 2003.

²⁹² Donohoe-Marques A. Victory contingent, 1946, in *Wartime*: official magazine of the Australian War Memorial: 2017, 78

Epilogue

In times of war, the “call to serve” is clear. Whether serving on the battlefield, in the air, on the sea or on the homeland, all recognised their duty and contribution to their combined efforts. Together with those who enlisted, whose service has been outlined in this book, the service of those who remained, for whatever reason, on the home-front, also needs to be acknowledged. Their service and contribution should also be acknowledged. The service of some of these men and women is outlined incidentally throughout the book.

In times of war and peace, Christians are called to serve the King of kings, as soldiers of the kingdom of heaven. This service ought to be even more courageous and wholehearted than that of the service of those outlined in the book.

We need to follow Paul’s injunctions to the Christians in Ephesus to *put on the whole armour of God*, and to Timothy to *fight the good fight of the faith, taking hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession*.

We do not fight this fight alone. Christ is both our commander and comrade. Our fellow believers are at our side. So let’s adopt as our war cry, the 19th century hymn by John Monsell:

Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God’s good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

About the Author

David is a baby-boomer, born in Sydney in early 1948, the second son of Stanley (Stan) and Ellen Driver (née Tyas).

The compulsory military training, known as the Universal Service Scheme, introduced from 1 January 1940, required unmarried men turning 21 to undertake three months' training with the Citizen Militia Forces. Stan didn't turn 21 until January 1944. By then, he was working as a technician with the Post-Master General's Department and would have been exempt from service. His brothers Alfred and Douglas were also employed in protected occupations.

Two of Ellen's three brothers and her brother-in-law all served in World War II. Her younger brother, Kenneth was too young, having been born in 1930.

Reginald (Reg) Tyas was a pilot with the RAAF, attached to the RAF, No 142 Squadron, with the rank of flight sergeant. He was shot down and killed over Turin in November 1943 and was buried in the Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy. Reg was flying a night bombing mission attack on the Fiat ball bearing factory at Turin which went disastrously wrong, due to terrible weather over northern Italy. 142 Squadron lost five aircraft—its worst losses of the whole war. Only two of the 14 aircraft in 142 Squadron managed to reach Turin but were unable to identify it through 10/10 cloud cover. Reg's headstone includes the quotation "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life". Ellen kept a photograph of Reg in his RAF uniform beside her bed for over 70 years. She was 19 when Reg left Sydney to sail to the United Kingdom.



David Driver (photo: GAP Studios)



Reginald, Kenneth, Frank, Jeanne, and Ellen Tyas, c. 1932 (photo: D Driver)

Frank Tyas joined the AIF in the 8th Field Ambulance as an ambulance bearer—he was a conscientious objector. He was captured in Malaya by the Japanese and worked on the Burma railway for three years as a Prisoner of War. He returned safely from the war but suffered poor eyesight as a result of malnutrition during his incarceration.

Francis (Frank) Gorman married Ellen's sister Rosa (Jeanne) during the war, while he was serving in the AIF in Brisbane. He was a signalman with the 2/14th Australian Field regiment, working at Nightcliff outside Darwin when the Japanese bombed Darwin. He saw the first wave of bombers come overhead and alerted his superiors, but they ignored his warning thinking that he had wrongly identified the aircraft. He later served in New Guinea and New Britain. He returned to his wife without any major incidents.

David has had an interest in family history for over 40 years and was the lead author of *For God, King and County* and the author of *Sent Forth from the City Tabernacle*, both published by the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, Brisbane.