

Petty Officer Stewart – Donald Ross

My Grandfather Donald Ross was born in Chatsworth Victoria on 5 April 1899, the second last of ten children (6 boys and 4 girls), to Hugh and Catherine Ross, Donald was a grocer when he enlisted in the AIF on 24 January, 1917, he was 18. Donald served with 14 Infantry Battalion, 25 Reinforcements in France and at wars end left the Army on 5 March, 1920.

In the intervening years Donald worked on the railways in Victoria, married Hilda Walton, my Mother, Lynette, was born on 8 August, 1928 at Carlton when Don was based in Victoria.

Joining the Navy in 1925 Donald served on HMAS Australia, Canberra and Stuart before being transferred to HMAS Sydney II on 11 January, 1939. He stayed with the Sydney to the end, 19 November, 1941. His daughter Lynette was happy that she knew her Father's resting place when the Sydney was found on 16 March, 2008.

In our family we have Donald's service medals, from both wars, as well as his diaries from the war, ironically Donald gave them to Hilda the last time the ship was in Sydney.

