

ALFRED HORWOOD SHEPHERD F.2324 RANR Engine Room Artificer 4th Class was the youngest of five brothers being the sons of FREDERICK JAMES SHEPHERD (Snr) who was the Secretary of the Western Australian Govt. Railways Midland Junction Workshops Institute and MABEL MARIA SHEPHERD.

He grew up and was educated in the Midland Junction and Bassendean area. He served his apprenticeship as a Mechanical Fitter at the W.A.G.R. Midland Junction Workshops.

He was married on 14th June 1941 to Gladys Anne Robson (see enclosed Wedding Invitation). After the loss of the Sydney our family unfortunately lost contact with Gladys and we believe she went to the U.S.A.

Alf was home on leave from the Eastern States during October 1941 when he received his posting to H.M.A.S Sydney which he joined in Fremantle. Although I was only four years of age I can remember him visiting us as it was my fourth birthday on the 26th October 1941. I still have the present he gave me which was a lovely clothes hanger.

I feel since the Sydney has been found we can now finally say farewell. I only wish that my father was still here to know that his brothers' resting place is now known.

The brothers(all deceased) were:- Charles – Frederick (my father) – Edward - Gordon and Alfred

I have five other cousins who were not born at the time of the sinking of the Sydney and I have a brother who has no recollection of Alf.

Margaret Boorn (nee Shepherd)