

FROM MRS DAWN WHITEHURST.

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27 WALLER ST,
NATHALAIN WA 6100

1-2-09.

Please find enclosed form filled in, plus 3 pages of Family History on the relative, a cousin of mine, who was on board HMAS GYDNEY II for the Great War Virtual Memorial are compiling.

I have not much to add about Altheseman CLIFTON CHARLES BUCK, at this present time. But what I've written I hope may get him on to the V.M. site. I have only compiled my mother's side her Family Tree, the main part of them were all in 5th Aust, with only her parents coming West. No-one's histories has been delved into their life side, over here, not much was talked about them either. I want to know more also about my sailor New. i.e. - What his job was on the ship?? Where he worked on it?? - Was a photograph taken of him anywhere?? as mentioned on his War Records I obtained. I've written away to see what Medals & Awards he'd have been eligible for.

If someone can give me any information on him I'd greatly appreciate it. I didn't know of him till the ship's list was in our local paper. 67 yrs on, so got me inquiring then. To find him.

I am one person who doesn't have Internet access, here's mention in one leaflet sent me of a Paper Book being published, - I would like one please.

Incidentally, I am a Geraldton-ite with a sister still up there, even though we came Perth I still

I get back Home as often as I can, now on my own (after WWII Veteran RAAF husband passed on 2001) - I've been up home last 3 yrs in October & again this year + also Nov 08 for the services of The Sydney, as VIP relative. I thank one & all for finding the ship & for organising all the events that took place, also I & sister able to be there for our mother's family. Where the Memorial is built on the remaining sandhill is where we kids from Forrest St in Wat Hills used to play on as our play grounds. So I have double the memories of that place now. We even had an Air Raid Warning on Saturday night - my mother used to teach dancing at the Yacht Club (my dad had Polio in 1933, left him slight limp left leg so he couldn't go with her).

Everyone around our street Forrest St, had to go up that Memorial part of the hill & stay there till the all clear event. Of course the hills had berry bushes Johnsons, - everyone was looking for where to sit down, with TORCHES ON. Next day (it was a false alarm thankfully) we were told "The Japs could've opened fire on us all, the Hills were lit up like a Xmas Tree". I even put our blanket down on a prickly bush went to sit on it, dad said "I told you to wait till I got up here with the Torch". !!! Then these hills could tell some stories.

Best of luck for all you are doing - it is greatly appreciated, that something's will be left to remember all those on the "Sydney" for the future.

From Mo Dawn Whitehead (nee FATHERS Geraldton) ^{cat}

PS. Can we add to this project ad any future date!

(U)

My INFORMATION IS ABOUT my COUSIN, AN ABLE SEAMAN. ON BOARD THE HMAS SYDNEY II LOST AT SEA 19.11.1941.

HIS NAME IS CLIFTON CHARLES BUCK.
SERVICE NO 24220. SERVED ON CEREBUS,
BATHURST & SYDNEY II - BORN 11.4.1921 WALLAROO
Sth AUSTRALIA. PARENTS:- DORIS & THOMAS
CLIFTON BUCK. OF WALLAROO Sth AUST. - OF C. of Eng
RELIGION. - & AN LABOURER.

CLIFTON SIGNED UP FOR 12 YRS IN THE NAVY ON 2.4.1940.

HE DIED AGED 20 YRS 7 MTHS:- HE WAS OF FAIR
COMPLEXION, BLUE EYED WITH BROWN HAIR, & 5ft 7 1/4"
HEIGHT:

I CAN ONLY WRITE HERE WHAT I KNOW, AS I DID
NOT KNOW HIM PERSONALLY OR THAT HE WAS ON THE
SHIP WHEN IT CALLED INTO GERALDTON 1940's. (my
PARENTS & my HOME TOWN). WE DID NOT KNOW HE
WAS THERE AT THAT TIME. TO MEET HIM.

CLIFTON COMES FROM "SAILING" STOCK - FROM
HIS (a MINE) GR, GR, FATHER HENRY PRETTY JOHN
WHO MIGRATED TO ADELAIDE Sth AUSTRALIA 1839 - IN
THE 1st LOT OF SETTLERS. - HE WORKED HIS PASSAGE
OUT ON THE "FAIRFIELD" - WAS IN ROYAL NAVY U.K. AS A
MIDSHIPMAN & LIEUTENANT, HE WAS PRESENTED TO
HM WILLIAM IV BY A LORD FITZCLARENCE. (WHAT FOR
I DONT KNOW). HE TRAVELLED WITH A FAMILY OF
BROMLEY'S - LATER MARRIED A DAUGHTER ROSE. -
HAD 12 CHILDREN. - I OF WHOM WAS ROSA AUGUSTA
PRETTY JOHN, SHE MARRIED THOMAS LYONS BUCK
(ALSO OF WALLAROO. S.A) WHO HAD THE SON THOMAS

FROM MRS DAWN WHITEHURST (NEE FATHERS OF GERALDTON WA),
27 WALLER ST, KATHLAMAIN WA 6100.
29.1.09.

2 CLIFTON BUCK. (B) 21-3-1890 D 7-12-1946. THIS IS
A.B. CLIFTON CHARLES. FATHER. - (HE WAS AN ONLY CHILD)
(HIS GR PARENTS HAD 12 CHILDREN) CLIFTON
CLIFTON & MRS DAWN (WHITEHURST) MRS. - ARE BOTH GT,
GR, CHILDREN OF H. PRETTYJOHN. - THROUGH MY OWN
GR/FATHER (ANOTHER CHARLES.) - WHO WAS ROSE A'S
BROTHER. FAMILY LIVED AT ONE STAGE PT LINCOLN
SA. WHERE MY GR/FATHER WAS BORN, A FISHING TOWN.
THE PRETTYJOHN'S LATER SETTLED AROUND WALLAROO
KADINA & MOONTA. BECAME WELL KNOWN.

CLIFTON'S 2ND NAME:- CHARLES. (IS POSSIBLY) AFTER
1 OF HIS FATHER'S BROTHERS, AS CLIFTON AFTER A
2ND BROTHER, ALSO HIS GR MOTHER ROSE AUGUSTA'S
OWN BROTHER. (MY GR/FATHER)

MY GR/FATHER CHARLES PRETTYJOHN, WAS A SHIPWRIGHT
IN FREMANTLE WA; WHEN HE & HIS OWN, + HIS WIFE'S
FAMILY MOVED WEST 1895. HE ALSO WAS A SAILOR ON
REGATTA TYPE YACHT'S HERE, RACING. HE DROWNED ALSO
1904 ON YACHT "THELMA" OFF FREMANTLE, WITH HIS OWN
7½ YR OLD & ONLY SON, (HE TOOK OUT THAT DAY), ON A TRIAL
RACE RUN, KING WAVE HIT THEM & LOST ALL CREW.

SO CHARLES, CLIFFORD & NOW CLIFTON ARE ALL TOGETHER
IN THE OCEAN. MY MOTHER WAS BORN MONTHS AFTER
THE ACCIDENT & IS NAMED AFTER YACHT, AS IS ME.
MY YOUNGER SISTER WAS ALSO A SAILOR (& WE BOTH COME
FROM GERALDTON.) SHE RACED YACHT'S FOR THE YACHT CLUB
THERE. MANY YEARS. (SHE PLANS TO SCATTER HER ASHES
IN THE HARBOUR WHEN SHE GOES, TOO); STILL LIVES THERE.
INCIDENTLY WHERE "SYDNEY" MEMORIAL IS NOW IS ON THE
SANDHILL, WE KIDS USED, THEM ALL, FOR OUR PLAYGROUND.
LIVED FORREST ST. THEN, SO MANY MEMORIES THERE, NOW.

3) FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE COLLECTED ALL NEWS ITEMS ON THE "Sydney". SO IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT NOW I HAVE A COUSIN ON IT. I CAN REMEMBER WHEN THE SHIP WAS IN PORT IN GERALDTON & A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD GO UP TO SEE HER. IF WE HAD KNOWN CHIFTON WAS ON BOARD WE COULD HAVE HAD HIM HOME & MET HIM IN PERSON. IT'S SUCH A RELIEF FOR EVERYONE THAT OUR SHIP HAS BEEN FOUND AT LONG LAST & ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN FINDING HER. MY TRIPS BACK HOME TO GERALDTON, THESE LAST FEW YEARS ALWAYS LED ME BACK TO MY SANDHILL & THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL BUILT ON IT. NOW IT MEANS A LOT MORE TO ME.

AT THE SERVICE THERE ON 19.11.2008, I FEEL MY MOTHER, GM/FATHER CHARLES & GT/GR/FATHER HENRY PJ WERE THERE WITH US, IN SPIRIT, WITH MY SISTER & ME, TO REPRESENT OUR COUSIN:

CHIFTON CHARLES BUCK.

AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO HIM, & ONE[&] ALL FOR THEIR LIVES SO TRAGICALLY TAKEN.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. LEST WE FORGET.

PS. I AM A WAR WIDOW TOO, WWIT - MY HUSBAND WAS IN RAAF, ON MORATAI ISLAND 1945. HE

PASSED AWAY 2001. BURIED BACK HOME NABAWA (OUT OF GERALDTON WA). A. R.S.L. MEMBER SINCE 1946 Jan. I KEEP UP HIS TRADITIONS FOR ANZAC DAYS & ANY OTHER SERVICES, FOR HIM & PROUDLY WEAR HIS MEDALS.

PPS. My mother was Mrs THELMA BUCKLEY FATHERS (NEE P. JOHN) (nee'd)
— my sister is Mrs DOROTHY RUTH DRYDEN (NEE FATHERS) all of