

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – WORLD WAR II FALLEN HEROES

Welcome back to this year's edition of "**Crackers Chronicles**".

Each week in this column we will trace some of the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club* by recounting the contributions made by some of our club members.

The *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* was not founded until 1921, so it had no players engaged in World War I. However, while we were researching the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club*, John Bell and I became aware that our Club did lose a number of its players during World War II.

This week we focus on our brave past players that served in World War II and paid the ultimate price ...

Graham Grantham Anderson (VX48780)

In 1937, Graham Anderson from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played three seasons with our club from 1937 – 1938 (before games were recorded) plus one game in 1939, playing first in the number "30" jumper before changing to the number "8" jumper vacated by Ewen "Ginner" Davidson in 1938.

Graham was single and a clerk. On 15 March 1939 at Melbourne, he enlisted in the 5th Infantry Battalion AIF, aged 19. He went to serve overseas in North Africa. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 23 February 1940. Graham was killed on **13 July 1942** at the 'First Battle of El Alamein', aged 23, and is buried at *El Alamein Cemetery* in Egypt.

Brian Coleman Harry (VE329222 & VX46499)

In 1936, Brian Harry from *Scotch College* joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played two seasons with our club, in 1936 & 1937, playing in the number "31" jumper.

Brian was single and a bank clerk. On 11 January 1939 at Albert Park, he initially enlisted in the 14th Infantry Battalion AMF, aged 22. Later on 15 July 1940 at Caulfield, he re-enlisted in 2nd/21 Infantry Battalion AIF, aged 23. He trained in Darwin and later served overseas in Amboina, Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia). He was promoted to Sergeant on 1 June 1941. Following the 'Battle of Ambon' in 1942, on 2 February 1942 Brian was reported as missing in action presumed dead, but later it was confirmed that he had been executed by the Japanese on **20 February 1942** whilst a prisoner of war, aged 25. He is buried in *Ambon War Cemetery*, Amboina, Indonesia.

Geoffrey Francis Jackson (400414)

In 1934, Geoffrey Jackson from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played four seasons with our club from 1934 – 1937 (before games were recorded) playing in the number "32" jumper.

Geoffrey was single and a wool valuer. On 4 September 1939 at East Melbourne, he enlisted in the 14th Infantry Battalion AIF, aged 24 years. Later, on 20 August 1940 he transferred to the RAAF. After training as a pilot in Canada, he served overseas in Malta. He was promoted to Squadron Leader on 1 January 1943. On **23 January 1943**, Geoffrey was shot down flying a Wellington bomber in No. 221 Squadron over the Mediterranean Sea between Sicily and Tunis whilst attacking an enemy convoy West of Sicily, and was subsequently presumed dead, aged 27. His memorial is in *Valetta Cemetery*, Malta.

Harry Horwood Lawson (400204)

In 1938, Harry Lawson from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played two seasons with our club, in 1938 (before games were recorded) and sixteen games in 1939, playing in the number "2" jumper.

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – WORLD WAR II FALLEN HEROES

Harry was married and a barrister. He married Alice on 10 June 1940. On 21 July 1940 at Melbourne, he enlisted in the RAAF, aged 25. He trained as a pilot in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from 31 October 1940 – 6 June 1941 before being stationed at No. 42 Squadron Abbotsinch, Glasgow, Scotland. He was promoted to Flying Officer on 16 August 1941. On **29 November 1941**, Harry was killed in an aircraft accident, aged 26. He is buried in *Leuchans Cemetery*, Fifeshire, Scotland.

Norman Pope Macleod (VX38709)

In 1935, Norman Macleod from *Scotch College* joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He only played one season with our club, in 1935, playing in the number “36” jumper.

Norman was single and worked for the Myer Emporium in Melbourne. On 3 September 1940 at Royal Park, he enlisted in 2nd/11 Field Regiment and was then posted to the 4th Anti Tank Regiment as a Gunner, aged 27. He married Jean on 21 April 1941. He trained at Williamstown and Puckapunyal before being shipped to Singapore on 9 June 1941. On 16 February 1942 following the ‘Battle of Singapore’, Norman was reported missing in action. Later on 23 August 1943, it was confirmed that he was now a prisoner of war and on 22 October 1944 it was also confirmed that he was interned in a POW camp in Borneo. On **13 February 1945**, Norman died of Beri Beri and heart failure on the first 260km death march of Australian & British POWs from Sandakan to Ranau, Borneo.

Trevor Emlyn Roberts (400105)

In 1934, Trevor Roberts from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played five seasons with our club, 1934, 1935 & 1937 (before games were recorded), plus thirteen games in 1939 and six games in 1940, wearing the number “30” jumper.

Trevor was single and a salesman. On 27 May 1940 at Melbourne, he enlisted in the RAAF, aged 24. He then married Ruth on 13 November 1940. After training as a navigator at Laverton, Somers, Essendon, Cootamundra & Evans Head, on 27 May 1941 he was shipped to the United Kingdom and posted to No. 445 Squadron. He was promoted to Flying Officer on 11 October 1941. On **4 April 1942**, in a Hampton bomber, he was shot down and killed by enemy action over Germany in an attack on Essen, aged 26. From German sources via the International Red Cross in Geneva, it was later confirmed that he was buried on 13 April 1942 in the *Rusthof (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery* Amersfoort, Netherlands.

George Windsor Sayer (400212)

In 1932, George Sayer from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played only one season with our club in 1938 (before games were recorded), playing in the number “22” jumper.

George was single and a chemist with Boon Spa Pty Ltd. On 21 July 1940 at Melbourne, he enlisted in the RAAF, aged 27. He trained at Somers, Essendon, Wagga, Ascot Vale, Point Cook and Townsville. Initially he was posted to No. 8 Squadron on 30 May 1941, then to No. 84 Squadron in Egypt on 22 October 1941 and then to No. 30 Squadron back in Perth on 11 June 1942 before being moved to Port Moresby on 17 September 1942. He was promoted to Flight Sergeant on 1 May 1942. On **23 September 1942**, he was killed in air operations in a Beaufighter, shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire near Buna, Papua New Guinea, aged 29. He is buried in *Bomana War Cemetery*, Port Moresby, New Guinea.

Ronald Courtney Shrimpton, “Shrimp” (VX46500)

In 1937, Ronald Shrimpton, or “Shrimp” as he was known, from *Scotch College* where he had played in the School 1st XVIII, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played four seasons with our club, 1937 & 1938 (before the number of games played was recorded) plus sixteen games in 1939 and two games in 1940, playing the number “7” jumper.

At the time, he was single and a clerk. On 13 August 1940 at Caulfield, he enlisted in the 2nd/21 Infantry Battalion AIF, aged 25. On 5 July 1941 he was promoted to Lieutenant in No.3 Ind. Coy. In November 1941 he married Mary. He went on to serve overseas in New Guinea. On 9 August 1943, while serving in New Guinea, he was wounded in action to the right side of the skull and to the right arm & hip. He died of his wounds on **22 August 1943**, aged 28 and is buried in *Bomana War Cemetery*, Port Moresby, New Guinea. He was survived by his father Walter & mother Florence, wife Mary “Molly” and son James “Jim” who was a very staunch supporter of our club all his life.

Wilfred Stone (400070)

In 1932, Wilfred Stone from *Scotch College* joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played three seasons with our club, in 1932, 1934 & 1935 (before the number of games played was recorded), playing in the number “20” jumper.

On 26 May 1940 at Melbourne, he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. While serving as a Flight Sergeant in the RAAF 19 Operational Training Unit in the United Kingdom, he was killed on **10 July 1942** and is buried at *Runnymede Memorial Cemetery*, Surrey, England, aged 31.

John and Geoff are continuing their search of other *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* players of the late thirties to ensure no casualties are overlooked.

Lest we forget

Next week we will look at our premiership players.

I welcome any feedback to gmcracken@oldscotchfc.com.au