

**John Stanley Davey, Petty Officer Cook,
No--11064 ---RAFR (Vic)**



John S. Davey was born on the 5th July 1901 at Clyde Street, St. Kilda. He was the third of five sons in a family of 8 children born to George and Maria Aubray (nee Roberts) Davey of Bath Street St. Kilda. John was educated at Brighton Road State School. He joined the Navy on 6th January 1919 at 17 years, serving until 1926 when he resigned... He married his first wife Marion Mary Bland on the 16th October in Queensland; they returned to Victoria, and lived around Mitcham and later in St. Kilda. Their first child Lorraine Aubray Davey was born on 11th.July1927 in Victoria, and a second child Melva Marion Davey was born in1928.

His wife and both daughters became ill with tuberculosis. The death of their youngest daughter Melva Marion occurred at the Children's Hospital Carlton on the 13th July 1929 (she was aged 7 months). She was buried with her grandfather George Davey in the Brighton, cemetery. John's wife and other daughter are buried in the Mt. Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane; Lorraine on the 18th December 1929 and Marion Mary was buried on the 14th November 1929. Jack's brother Albert told me that Jack took his dying wife and daughter back to her family in Queensland travelling by train from Victoria.

John (known as Jack) was acknowledged in the navy as a leading lightweight boxer, after his nose was broken twice he retired. Jack worked at many jobs during the Depression 1931-36 he was tile presser at AT&Ttile company Mitcham, and later worked as a sawyer at Hall's timber mill situated in Mitcham. It was there in about 1936 that he met with an accident in which he lost his the top of his middle finger top of his thumb and his index finger on his left hand (he was left handed).

He played some football for Boronia, according to his brother Albert he was a fast winger and accurate left foot kick. He was 5' 8 inches tall with brown eyes and dark wavy hair. He could pick out a tune on the piano, and did a good take off of Charlie Chaplin. Cricket was also a game he enjoyed and played .



John married his second wife Linda May Birkett at St. Paul's church, Geelong. They took up residence next to his mother, who had moved to Boronia, after the death of George his father in 1922. Maria had bought 3.25 acres and built a cottage on the land; this was where John and Linda lived and where their four children were born. John, November 1931, Jean Margaret 16th, June 1933, Stanley David 14th June 1936 and Bruce William born 22nd December 1940. Linda's parents, William Robert Birkett and Lily Amelia Wanders were farmers. William's father Joseph Birkett arrived from Cumberland England on the ship "Ocean" on the 27th September 1842...and settled in Portarlington - Lily's grandparents James and Alison Grieve arrived from Edinburgh on the ship "Persia" on the 20th March 1854 and settled in the Bellarine town of Drysdale.



John reported for service on the 31st August 1939. He was stationed at *Penguin* (from 11/3/1941 to 24/3/41) whilst waiting to join the HMAS *Sydney*. John was awarded another good conduct badge on 28th May 1940. H. M.A. S. *Sydney* left Port in West Australia. 10th November never to return—sunk 19th November with all hands.

John's grandfather George Washington Davey, was born in Washington DC on the 4th July 1825, he was reputed to have joined the American Navy..(his story) and we believe he went to the Californian gold rush before coming to Victoria, His early life remains a mystery. In the January of 1852 he arrived in Sydney on the "Queen of Sheba", and then moved to Victoria, where he met cohabited with Catherine Junor (the eldest daughter of Donald Junor and Mary Mackintosh).from of Avoch, Black Isle, Scotland. Scotland; Catherine arrived in Australia on the "Almora" on the 1st. January 1856. Catherine passed away 27th August 1873 and is buried in Heathcote Cemetery.

George W. spent his later years around Bald Hill and Wattle Flats area (Heathcote) and was still gold mining until 1908 aged 83 yrs. Then he went to live with his son in St. Kilda; he passed away 5th July 1913.

His only son George Junor Davey was born on the 8th July 1863 at Wattle Flats via Heathcote. He married Maria Aubrey Roberts (born Omaha, Nebraska USA, 29th April 1870) on the 24th September at Gipps Street Collingwood. Their first three children were born in Heathcote. Aubrey Alice Victoria was born in 1893, Jane (Jean) May was born in 1896 and William Edward was born in 1899. George and Maria moved to St. Kilda and had five more children, John Stanley (born 5th July 1901), Victor Gordon (born 4th May 1904), Myra Isabel (born 6th Feb. 1907), Albert Edward (born 1st May 1910) and Reginald Robbins (born 1919)

SERVICE

John S. Davey joined the R.A.N on 6.1.1919, at 17½ years of age commencing his full time service on 5th July 1919 aged 18 years of age, signing on for 7 years. On joining he went to Cerberus shore establishment which was in Williamstown till 31th March 1921, then moved to Crib Point Naval Training Facility 1.4.1921.

When John first joined the navy he served in the following H. M. A. S. Ships: the Battle cruiser *Australia* 1.7.1921 to 22.8.1921; the cruisers *Sydney* (1) 16. 3.1921 to 30.6.1921; *Melbourne* 2.3.1922 to 9.6.1924 On the 4th March 1925 he went to England for the commission of the *Moresby* and was on board from 20.6.1925 until 10. 11.1925, he then served on the *Parramatta* 11.10.1925 to 20.11.1925 and the *Brisbane* 21.11.1925 to 10.2.1926.— Serving on Parramatta 11.10.25 -- 20.11.25---
-He also served on the --. *Encounter, Marguerite, Franklin, Platypus Stalwart, Penguin, Geranium*—
His seven years was up on 5.7.1926 and was extended to 24.10.1926

All up a total of 7 years and 9 months. He earned a good conduct badge on 5th July 1922 and was rated Petty Officer 24th October 1924. John then enrolled in the Royal Australian Fleet Reserve (RAFR) (M221) for 5 years. From 1928, he re-enrolled three more times each time for 5 years, the last time being in 1938.

Badges — Petty Officers Club no 257---X Naval Assoc. No 105



Following this time war was declared and John Stanley Davey was called up on the 31st August 1939 and was stationed at H. M A. S. Cerberus from 31/8/1939—9/3/1941, then given 14 days from 10/3/1941—24/3/1941 to attend shore base H. M. A. S. Penguin to join Sydney 11—



Margaret says that:

A memory-- (perhaps it was in the March of 1941), however all of the family went to Melbourne to watch the March in Swanson Street. We were very excited when our Dad passed by and we all waved our flags. Then a ride on a Double Decker bus to Spencer Street Railway Station to see the men all dressed in their white uniforms march onto the platform, before boarding the train.. There was time for a last hurried goodbye; "Be a good girl", and the train left. The last time I saw dad was when the "*Sydney*" was in Port Melbourne in September 1941 .I remember we were taken to the kitchens to see where Dad worked, he was so proud of being on this unsinkable ship. The plane took off from the Sydney while we were waiting to board the ship ,a real thrill for us country kids

The Telegram

At the time we received the telegram I was 8 years old, and will never forget those few weeks. Rumours had abounded in the then tiny village of Boronia that a ship had been sunk; my mother was very edgy and on this day told my eldest brother and I to go after school to her friend's place, as she did not want to be home alone on that day.

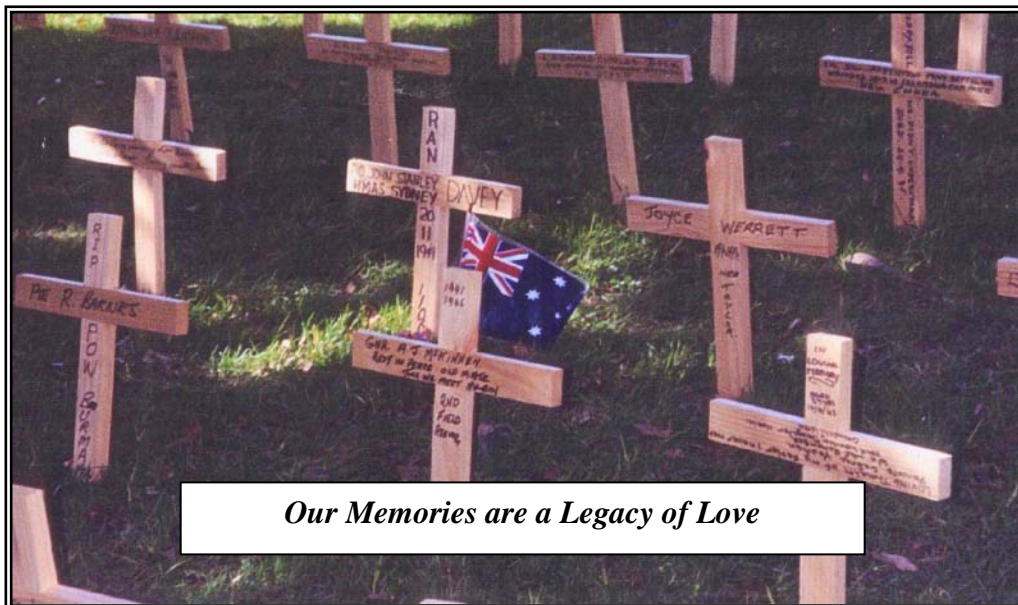
I was feeding Bruce (aged 11 months) he was on my knee at the time, when I heard the knock at the door. We lived in a fairly secluded part of Boronia and had very few visitors so we all followed our mother to the door. Mr and Mrs. Dyer the local postmaster and his wife had waited till the post office closed for the day and had walked the long distance to personally deliver the telegram. Our mother did not cope with all the uncertainty; she walked the floor night after night. Later naval friends of our Dad called to see us, always the talk was that after the war we would know just what happened to the Sydney and even then many believed that a Japanese submarine was involved. So I waited till the end of the war always expecting my Dad to return.

The last photos sent to Dad of his children were returned unclaimed; they arrived too late and he never saw me with my hair cut

Australia Remembers Year, (1995) at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. His children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, their husbands, wives, along with nieces and a great nephew all gathered to place our Cross in Remembrance of P.O. John Stanley Davey. (the rest is history)

*In loving remembrance of our father John Stanley Davey P.O. cook 1901---1941
Margaret Morse, Stan & Bruce Davey*

Australia Remembers --cross with flag DAVEY



Our Memories are a Legacy of Love