

The Life of John Irvine Ranford (although it be very short).

John Irvine Ranford was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1923 in Berri, South Australia.

He was the second born child of Sydney John Howard and Edna Muriel Ranford.

The family lived in Adelaide until 1920 when they moved to a Soldiers Settlers Farm at Monash in the Riverland of South Australia. Times were hard and they then moved to Kimba on Eyre Pensinsula in 1925 to a farming property left to his father.

John started school at the Cortlinye East Primary School, 16 kilometres north of Kimba in 1929 along with his older brother Jim and his younger sister Dorothy, who was only 4 at the time. These were also hard years farming the land and another three children were born during this period. The family moved back to Adelaide in 1933 when Sydney gained a job as a Surveyor for the South Australian Government.

John continued his education, attending the Colonel Light Gardens Primary School and then onto secondary education at Adelaide Boys High School.

His one and only choice of career was the Royal Australia Navy which he joined prior to the outbreak of War in 1939. His term of service was for 12 years. He did his training at HMAS Cerberus and was then transferred to the HMAS Sydney II as an ordinary telegraphist. This was his one and only Ship and he saw active duty throughout his time in the Navy and enjoyed his naval career without a doubt.

John was 18 years and 9 months of age when the HMAS Sydney was tragically lost in 1941.

John never married and is survived by his sister, Dorothy Heinicke, aged 83, who is now a resident of Waikerie, South Australia.

John's other family members have passed on. His Father died in 1967, and his mother 10 years later, in 1977. Older brother Jim died in 2006, younger brother, Phil, in 1983, his younger sister Alison, in 1997 and saddest of all, his youngest sister, Lesley, who died 5 months after John, in April of 1942 at the age of ten.

LEST WE FORGET.