

Leonard Frank Ware
30/12/1909 - 19/11/1941
HMAS Sydney II Crewman Joiner Class 3
by Phillip Leonard Ware

Leonard Frank Ware enlisted in the Navy the day after war was declared. He was posted to Garden Island and served there as a joiner. He was keen to be assigned to a ship and joined HMAS Sydney in May 1941. Growing up I was told he was Ship's carpenter.

Leonard (Lennie) was married to my mother Florence May and they lived at Ashbury, Sydney. They had a daughter who died soon after birth. I am his son and was born in January 1942.

Only recently have I appreciated the loss and hardship that my mother had to face. The loss of a child, followed by the death of her husband, then raising a baby while the threat of Japanese invasion was immanent.

My dad was a cabinet maker by trade and worked at Beard Watsons, Sydney. They were makers of quality furniture which they sold through their store in George Street, Sydney. A beautiful French polished inlaid veneer bedroom suite that he made, for themselves soon after their marriage, has been passed on to me.

He was a very keen fisherman and spent a lot of time fishing the Georges River from Picnic Point where my Grandfather had a weekend.

Mum took many photos of me in case survivors of the Sydney turned up as prisoners of war. Such was the uncertainty of their fate. I know as a child I always hoped my father would come through the door.

He is succeeded by myself, Phillip Leonard Ware, and two grandchildren, Steven Gregory Ware and Glenn Andrew Ware.

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Leonard Frank and Florence "Maisie" May Ware



Phillip Ware with his two sons, Steven Gregory and Glenn Andrew Ware on the steps of St Andrews Cathedral in Sydney 24 April 2008 at the HMAS Sydney II Memorial Service

