

Proposal

My Great Grandfather, Horace Charles Kerley died before I was born. He died when my eldest brother was only a baby. Yet I have seen photos of him and heard stories about him from my family especially my Great Grandma who was Horace's wife. Apparently when Horace was alive, he didn't talk a lot about the war even to his wife and children. When he got home from overseas, he just wanted to put the war behind him and move on with life. I think it is sad that as a family we don't know much about his time at war and that there is really no evidence of his war service. I personally don't really know much about him as a person, so for my research project I have decided to focus on **Horace Charles Kerley**, and his time spent as a **rear gunner in World War II**. I have 3 possible questions which are all similar yet also different.

My potential questions are –

- How can I most effectively create an online record of my Great Grandfathers war service?
- OR how can I ensure my Great Grandfathers war story is never forgotten?
- OR **Not many rear gunners returned from WWII, Horace Charles Kerley did. How can I best learn about and document my Great Grandfathers war service?**

At this stage I think I will do – the last question (**in bold above**) as I think that is the most detailed and it will let me **investigate Great Grandpa as a person, rear gunner** and I'll be able to create **some sort of record** for myself and my whole family for his time at war.

My Other Topic Interest – I had another idea of doing my research project on how teenage boys could maximise their opportunity to play AFL football. Football is a passion of mine, and I would've enjoyed researching this question, yet my Great Grandma is almost 95 years old, and I thought it would be best to do this research into Great Grandpa while I have the opportunity to still talk to her in person and share my research findings.

Research Methodology	Sources/Titles/Extra details
Archival Visual	Websites – Australian War Memorial, National Library of SA, Australians at War – Department of Veterans Affairs – veterans' stories, Trove, Familysearch.org, Findmypast.com.au, Documentaries - Remembers: Australia 75th Anniversary of The End Of WWI, (ClickView) US Army 'The Rear Gunner' (YouTube) Inside a Halifax Heavy Bomber: Crew, Turrets and Guns (YouTube) The Lancaster at War - SBS documentary (ClickView), Bomber Command ClickView Documentary. Primary Sources – original photographs, sketches, and maps
Archival Written	Secondary - <i>Bomber Command – Australians in WWII</i> – Richard Reid, <i>They Hosed Them Out</i> – John Beded Cusack, <i>Australia at War – Bomber Command</i> – Peter Stanley, <i>Handbook of World War II – An Illustrated Chronicle of the Struggle for Victory</i> , <i>Lancaster Men – The Aussie Heroes of Bomber Command</i> – Peter Rees, <i>Full Circle - A Memoir of Howard Hendrick</i> - J Davis. Primary – Original War service records, flight journals, diary and postcards sent home to Mrs. Moreen Kerley
Qualitative	Interviews - Mrs. Moreen Kerley (wife of Horace Charles) Mr. Dean Kerley (son) RSL Loxton veterans, Howard Hendrick – pilot during WWII
Quantitative	Statistics about rear gunner life expectancy, military personnel numbers, conversion of imperial measurements to metric for understanding e.g., miles to kms or pounds to dollars.
Action Research	Returned and Services League - Loxton Branch - visit, Commemorative Unveiling WWII RAAF Avro Anson Aircraft Crash Memorial incorporating flyover 20 Sept 2020 - attended

Capability – Literacy - My chosen capability is **literacy**. I will need to communicate with a range of people such as my Great Grandma (94 years old, Primary Source / Wife of Horace) Dean Kerley (Grandpa / son of Horace / Primary Source) Howard Hendricks (War Veteran / Pilot of WWII). My plan is to interview / email these people asking the best possible questions that will benefit my research project. I will also be reading a wide range of sources including old documents which may be difficult to read. I will need to write as a form of communication, and also view and listen to documentaries. By doing these things I will be constantly using, improving, and developing my literacy skills.

Ethical Research – Great Granny will be 95 in December, even though she is quite healthy and active, I must keep in mind that she can get tired quickly and that she sometimes gets frustrated when her memory fails her. So ethically I need to take her personal wellbeing into consideration and make sure that I give her plenty of warning about interviews and make sure that she is comfortable talking about Great Grandpa and doesn't get too emotional.

Outcome - For my outcome I am planning on making an **online record for his war service**, I think my family will really enjoy this and find it very valuable, as his war service was never really spoken about, also future generations of my family can refer to it as well. I think the best way to show my research would be to create a record of my Great grandpa on the **Virtual War Memorial Australia** website. VWMA is an online commemorative collection, made to honor the personal experiences of all those who have served the nation in times of conflict.

Physical Position and Conditions	Role	Personal Particulars	Ancestry	Photographs	Occupation before and after WWII	Aircraft – Halifax, Wellington, Anson	Bomber Command	Crew
Responsibilities	What's a Rear Gunner?	Survival Rate	Family Connections	Who was he?	Birth, Death and Marriage Records	Rear Gunner Instructor	RAAF Royal Australian Air Force	Squadron
Uniform	Payment?	Daily Schedule	Childhood	Health / Wellbeing	Children – Dean, Jeanette, Roger	Training	RAF Royal Air Force	Maps
Background Information	Deaths / Statistics	Australia's Involvement	What's a Rear Gunner?	Who was he?	RAAF	Wife – Moreen Beryl Kerley Nee Werner	Daughter in Law Pamela Joyleen Kerley Nee Cockshell	Son – Dean Russell Kerley
Key Figures	WWII	Battles	WWII	Horace Charles Kerley Rear Gunner WWII	Primary Sources	Original Flight Logbook	Primary Sources	Original Enlistment and Discharge Papers
Australian Alliances	Locations / Maps	Dates	Secondary Sources	Digital Platforms to Share Story	Service	Original War Service Medals	Postcards from War	Photographs
Department of Veteran Affairs Website	Australian War Memorial Website	TROVE	Virtual War Memorial Australia	ArcGIS StoryMaps	Microsoft Sway	Rank	Enlistment	Training
Bomber Command Australians in WWII – R. Reid	Secondary Sources	They Hosed Them Out – J. Cusack	Wix	Digital Platforms to Share Story	Adobe Spark	Discharge - Leave	Service	Service NO.
Inside a Halifax Heavy Bomber – YouTube	Howard Hendricks Full Circle a Memoir	Lancaster at War SBS Documentary	Prezi	WordPress	Canva	Amount of Flight Operations	Requirements	Locations of places he went

Lotus Reflection –
 I used the lotus diagram as a visual way to brainstorm and organise my initial thinking about my topic. Using the lotus let me create subtopics which directly helped me create my sub questions (below). I think the lotus will also come in handy throughout the rest of my project as I will be able to refer to it when needed. I think that the background research I had already done really helped me complete my lotus diagram.

Capability – Literacy – When completing my lotus, I was using specific language and terminology that connects to WWII and my topic. There were some acronyms such as RAAF, RAF and words including ancestry and squadron that were new to me and I needed to define them for my own understanding. This means I am increasing my topic vocabulary.

I have developed some **sub-questions** that will help me **direct my research -**

- Who was Horace Charles Kerley?** - ancestry, family, connections, photographs
- War identification and service** – enlistment, training, RAAF, bomber command, battles, roles, experience, squadron, aircraft - Lancaster/ Handley Page Halifax/Avro, geographical locations, uniform
- World War II** – background
- What is a rear gunner?** – understanding of role and being part of crew.
- Platforms/programs to best curate an online record of Great Grandpa's war service.**

Research Planner - Time Management Tool linked to sub-questions				
Weeks 2-4	Sub-question 1 - Who was Horace Charles Kerley? -	Schedule interview with Great Granny Week 3 Video interview and collect primary sources, photographs, postcards etc	Schedule interview with Grandpa Week 4 – I had to do this interview early as Grandpa went away on holidays. I can ask further questions on the phone if needed.	Online research - ancestry.com Archival Research - Back to Peebinga Book. Visit Loxton cemetery to see cremation plaque.
Weeks 5-7	Sub-question 2 - War identification and service Sub-question 3 - World War II	Analyse primary documents – flight journal, medals, service records and photographs from War Memorial site.	Trove Newspaper articles – put into order by date. Howard Hendricks – interview?	World War II background research won't need to be lots. Just need to understand where Great Grandpa was and what he would have experienced.
Week 8	Sub-question 4 - What is a rear gunner?	View and analyse ClickView documentaries. Training to become a rear gunner – Ballarat WAG school	Analyse – Australian War Memorial site- Striking by Night - Crew – rear gunner	Look into statistics about life expectancy Rear Gunner instructor – flight journal, location, and dates.
Week 10	Sub-question 5 - Platforms/programs to best curate an online record	Look at Microsoft Sway Analyse Howard Hendricks pages – Argis Story Map, VWM page, Sophie's Anzac Spirit Prize report	Register for Virtual War Memorial so I can investigate if that is suitable for my Outcome.	Experiment with which platform to use for Outcome. Trial different options so I can do my Outcome in the holidays.

Source Analysis – Qualitative Research / Interview (Face to Face) Dean Kerley – Son of Horace Charles Kerley

Citation - Kerley, D 2021, pers. comm., 19 July.

Journal Entry – *I probably would have conducted this a little later in my research project yet Grandpa (Dean Kerley) was going away on holidays for 2 months, so I needed to hold the interview and gather as much information as possible from him before he left. If I need to ask any further questions, then I can follow up with phone call or email. I went to Grandpa's house and videoed the interview/discussion on my phone so that I can analyse responses carefully.*

Currency: This face-to-face interview took place on 19th July 2021. The information gained from the interview was based on memories and recollections.

Relevance/Accuracy: Highly relevant to my research. The entire interview was connected to Horace's war service and him as a person. Accurate primary account of Dean's knowledge concerning Horace and supported by primary artefacts including – Flight logbook, medals, and enlistment forms.

Authority: Dean Russell Kerley is the eldest son of Horace and Moreen Kerley. He was born on 18th July 1947 and worked closely with Horace Charles Kerley on a wheat and sheep farm in Peebinga SA. They had a close family and working relationship. Information gained during the interview is based on what Dean remembers about his dad and stories that they shared together.

Purpose: The interview took place so I could collect evidence about Horace Kerley from his son. The interview was held like an informal discussion or conversation which was appropriate due to our relationship.

Key Findings: Below is a summary of the key information that came from the interview in dot points. Then next to that are things I need to follow up and check using other sources.

Statements/Claims by Dean Kerley	Follow up required
Horace has polio as a child and as a result had a dropped shoulder	What is polio?
Horace lied about his age to enlist in the war.	What was the age for enlistment in WWII?
Went to Sale in Victoria as part of his training. Ballarat Wireless Air Gunners School.	Need to investigate 1WAGS https://www.1wags.org.au/
Flew in Wellington, Halifax, Anson aircraft	Research different types of planes that he went up in. .
After completed his tours in Middle East he then went on to become a rear gunner instructor in England.	Need to analyse the original flight log book carefully to cross check dates.
When looking at the Flight Journal – identified he was in Squadron 462 of RAAF.	
Rear gunner was the usually the first position in the aircraft that was hit by enemy fire.	Look into different roles of crew members – National Archives of Australia Squadron 462 history.
He never spoke about the war, that he can remember. When Dean's Uncle Len Salt used to visit then sometimes, they would reminisce about their war experiences but only to each other and never to his children.	Need to ask Moreen Kerley if Horace ever spoke to her about his war experience.
Collected original items – birth certificate, flight logbook, medals, discharge papers.	
Italian Star medal – only person in the Riverland/Mallee to be awarded the Italian Star.	Research how the medals need to be worn and what each of the medals mean or were for.
Other medals include – Defence Medal, War Medal and 45?	
Airforce levels of rank – LAC, Warrant Officer	LAC stands for Leading Aircraftman

Further Research – Medal identification – Using Department of Defence website -

<https://www1.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/medals/imperial-awards/world-war-two>



Original photograph of H.C. Kerley WWII Medals.

1. **The 1939-45 Star** was awarded for service between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945 a period of two months operational service for air crew personnel.
2. **The Italy Star** was granted for operational service on land in Sicily or Italy at any time during the campaign from the capture of Pantellaria on 11 June 1943 until 8 May 1945, the date of the end of active hostilities in Europe.
3. **The War Medal** 1939-45 was awarded for 28 days full-time service in the Armed Forces between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945.
4. **The Australia Service Medal** 1939-1945 was instituted in 1949 to recognise the service of members of the Australian Armed Forces.
5. **The Defence Medal** is awarded for six months service in a prescribed operational area subject to enemy air attack.

Sub Question 1 - Who was Horace Charles Kerley? -ancestry, family, connections, photographs

Sources - I used a variety of primary and secondary sources to help me understand who Horace Charles Kerley was. I needed to find out about his childhood and family connections. The main sources are listed below.

- Family Search 2019, Richard Charles Kerley, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, viewed 9 August 2021, <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/KKQP-NZ9/richard-charles-kerley-1891-1961>.
Geneanet 2021, Myrtle Emily Stringer, viewed 9 August 2021, <https://gw.geneanet.org/rsmith45?lang=en&pz=robert+francis&nz=smith&p=myrtle+emily&n=stringer>.
Kerley, M 2021, pers. comm., 10 August.
My Heritage Ltd 2021, Horace Charles Kerley, viewed 9 August 2021, <https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-301478831-3-519713/horace-charles-kerley-in-myheritage-family-trees>.
Registrar Births, Deaths and Marriages South Australia, 1920. Copy of Birth Certificate Horace Charles Kerley, District of Wellington, South Australia.

Credibility/Authority/Accuracy - Some of the online sources such as My Heritage and Geneanet are put online by family historians or people who are researching their family trees, so not necessarily experts yet people who have an interest in family history and want to be as exact as possible with dates and names. I made sure that I cross checked the dates and places with other sites and particularly the information gained from the primary documents like the birth certificate and information from Moreen Kerley interview.

Purpose - I needed to work out exactly who Great Grandpa was and see it in a family tree so I could also figure out where I fitted into the family tree. Trove was an excellent source for cross checking because most of Family Notices that were put in newspapers had original dates.

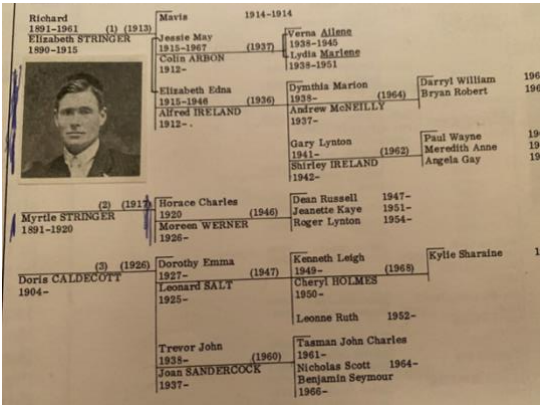
Key Findings -

- DOB 3 August 1920 in Pinnaroo South Australia at Nurse Robinsons Maternity home and died 24 February 1999 aged 78 years old at Loxton Hospital.
His parents were Richard Charles Kerley & Myrtle Emily Stringer - he was the only child of Richard and Myrtle.
His mother died when he was 18 days old, and he was raised by his paternal grandmother Emma Trypheena Kerley and Grandfather Charles Kerley, until he was 12 years old and enough to return to the family farm with his father and his stepmother Doris Irene Caldicott.
His mother Myrtle died of blood poisoning after childbirth - CROSS CHECK - Blood poisoning is now known as maternal sepsis https://nursinganswers.net/essays/puerperal-sepsis-history-causes-2802.php
Richard Kerley had 3 wives. His first 2 wives died in childbirth or not long after having their baby.
He had 2 half-sisters from his father's first marriage - twins Jess and Bess and then a half-sister Dorothy Kerley (Salt) and half-brother Trevor Kerley from his father's third marriage to Doris.
He married Moreen Beryl Werner on 30 April 1946 at the Pinnaroo Methodist Church. -TROVE
He had 3 children with Moreen- Dean Russell Kerley 1947 (my grandpa), Jeanette Kay Richardson 1951 and Roger Lynton Kerley 1954.
He enlisted to serve in World War II in Adelaide on 28th February 1942.

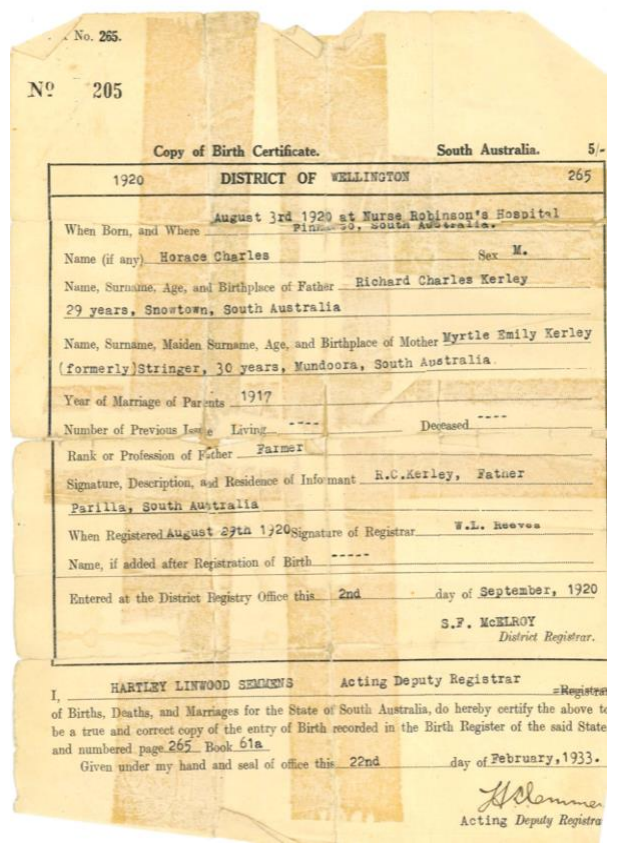


KERLEY.—On the 21st August, at the Private Hospital, Pinnaroo, Myrtle Emily, the dearly beloved wife of Richard Charles Kerley, of Parilla, aged 30 years. Sadly missed.

Death notice of Horace's mother - Trove



Section of family tree scanned from family history book - The Cavenett Family in Australia 1840-1970 pg 27.



Scan of original birth certificate - 101 years old.

Capability - Literacy - I found that when looking at family trees that lots of people have the same name and it was quite common for parents to name their children with their own names. For example, Elizabeth Stringer had baby and called her Elizabeth so when reading these family trees, I had to read and reread to make sure I had the right person. Also, family trees are all displayed in different ways - so I had to use my visual literacy to work out how each of the family tree images were organised.

Trove Newspaper Articles that mention Horace Charles Kerley

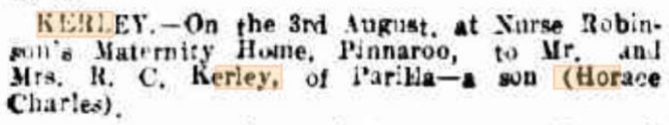
Currency - All the articles come from the past. The oldest is 1920 when Great Grandpa was born and then articles from the time he was in the RAAF.

Relevance - Highly relevant, let me see copies of newspaper articles from WWII that had Great Grandpas name.

Authority/Accuracy - Trove scans copies of original newspapers so the authority and accuracy is taken from the original newspapers of the time which include The Chronicle, The Pinnaroo and Border Times and The Advertiser.

Purpose - I used the information from these articles to help gather vital information connected to sub **question 1 - Who was Horace Charles Kerley** and **sub question 2 - War identification and service**. Took a long time do yet was interesting to read the first-hand accounts of what was happening at the time. I am going to share lots of these Trove articles with Moreen when I interview her next week.



Newspaper - The Chronicle (Adelaide)		
Date	Title	Link & Key Findings
14 August 1920	BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/89186891?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - On the 3rd August, at Nurse Robinson's Maternity Home, Pinnaroo, to Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kerley, of Parilla — a son (Horace Charles). Great Grandpa's birth notice.
CAPABILITY - The translations from the original scanned newspaper articles were sometimes incorrect. I had to make sure I read both versions to work out the right meaning.		 <p>Further investigation - what was Nurse Robinsons Maternity Home? His Mum Myrtle Emily Kerley died 21st August when he was only 18 days old. See death notice - https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/210562746?searchTerm=myrtle%20emily%20kerley</p>
Newspaper - Pinnaroo and Border Times		
17 September 1942	PARILLA VISITORS	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190000953?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - soldier home on leave – this was when he was in training in Ballarat
1 October 1942	CONCERNING OUR SOLDIERS	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190001014?searchTerm=horace%20kerley
15 October 1942	PRESENTATION TO LAC HORACE KERLEY	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190001092?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - Now a qualified air gunner - Has been training for some time. Further Investigation - Where did he train to be a rear gunner? See - Ballarat WAG School https://www.1waqs.org.au/people/display/2745-horace-charles-kerley_service-number-417267
29 October 1942	SOLDIERS ON LEAVE	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190001207?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - Home on leave in October 1942 - must have been while he was training.
17 December 1942	PERSONAL	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190001535?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - promoted to Sergeant Air gunner
25 March 1943	CABLE FROM AIRMAN	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/189832357?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - Sent a cable (message) to say that he had arrived in England and was doing well. Further Investigation - Need to check dates in original Flight Journal to see if newspaper is accurate. Did he go straight to England?
13 April 1944	SOCIAL NOTES	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/189834638?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - Sgt Horace Kerley has now been transferred from the RAAF to the RAF, and is now a Flt. Sgt. Capability - Literacy - RAAF - Royal Australian Air Force RAF - Royal Air Force (British)
9 November 1944	SOCIAL NOTES	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/189835956?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - promotion of Flt. Sgt. Horace Kerley to the rank of Warrant Officer.
25 February 1945	SOCIAL NOTES	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/200136408?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - Warrant Officer Kerley home on leave
8 March 1945	DANCE FOR MEMBERS OF FORCES SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN HONOURED	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/200136499?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key findings - WO Kerley has spent a long term overseas, taken part in more than 30 operational flights over enemy territory. Further Investigation - Is 30 operational flights average for rear gunners?
24 May 1945	SOCIAL NOTES	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/200136866?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings -WO Horace, Kerley recently received his discharge from the RAAF and is assisting on his father's farm.
Newspaper - The Advertiser		
15 March 1945	FAMILY NOTICES	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/43484747?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - engagement of Great Grandpa (Horace) to Great Grandma (Moreen)
11 April 1946	FAMILY NOTICES	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/35689237?searchTerm=horace%20kerley Key Findings - Marriage of Horace to Moreen listed in newspaper

Journal Entry – Using Trove has been good for gathering information that people would have forgotten or were unsure of. For example, Great Granny thought that Horace's mum died when he was 6 weeks old yet using the birth and death notices, I worked out that she died only 18 days after having her baby.

Citation - Kerley, M 2021, pers. comm., 10 Aug.

Currency: This face-to-face interview took place on 10th of August 2021. The information gained from the interview was based on first-hand accounts of Moreen Kerley’s life with Horace Charles.

Relevance/Accuracy: Highly relevant to my research. The entire interview was centred on Horace as a person. Accurate primary account of Moreen’s knowledge concerning Horace and supported by primary artefacts including – photographs, family history books including Cavenett Family in Australia and Stringer Family History.

Authority: Moreen Beryl Kerley (94 years old) is the wife of Horace Charles Kerley and Mother of, Dean, Jeanette, and Roger. She knew Horace from the age of 12 years of age and was married to him for 53 years.

Purpose: The interview took place so I could collect evidence about Horace Kerley from his Wife. The interview was held like an informal discussion or conversation which was appropriate due to our relationship. She is my Great Grandmother on my mums’ side of the family.

Key Findings: Below is a summary of the key information that came from the interview in dot points. Then next to that are things I need to follow up, check using other sources or further clarification.



Statements/Claims by Moreen Kerley	Cross Check/Clarification
As a newborn he was fed crushed arrowroot biscuits mixed with cow’s milk as his mother died and there was no access to baby formula	Arrowroot biscuits are still available now. They were first baked by Arnotts in 1888.
He went to school at Parilla Primary School.	Parilla is a small farming town near Pinnaroo.
His twin half-sisters Jessie and Elizabeth (known as Bessie) who were daughters of Richard and Elizabeth Kerley (Stringer) were separated and raised by different Aunts when Elizabeth died on the 16th of March 1915 during childbirth.	Great Granny had black and white photos of the twins. Jess also had twins’ girls when she was married yet they died quite young of ricketts.
His maternal grandmother Ann Stringer (formerly Ireland) left him money when she died, and Horace cleverly used the money to further his education and he paid for 2 final years of education at Urrbrae Agricultural College in Adelaide.	Article from the Chronicle 1937 from Trove about Horace winning a Pruning competition at Urrbrae - https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/92487166?searchTerm=kerley%20urrbrae
Horace enlisted for WWII before the Government made the policy that men who worked on the land were encouraged to stay home and keep farms operational.	Dean Kerley though he lied about his age yet according to Moreen, he was 22 when he enlisted which was old enough.
Horace enlisted hoping that he could become a pilot but his grades at the Empire Training Scheme school were not high enough, so he trained as a rear gunner at Sale in Victoria after 1Wireless Air Gunners School in Ballarat.	I still need to do a source analysis on the 1Wireless Air Gunners School at Ballart website. I think this will help he understand the training Horace did.
Horace and Moreen wrote letters and postcards to each other while he was overseas.	She doesn’t have any of the letters or postcards anymore.
The coloured portrait photograph was taken once he returned from war and Moreen asked him to have it taken.	I think this is the picture I will use in the final outcome on the virtual war memorial. See photograph on page 9 of folio.
His father Richard Kerley requested that he be discharged from the RAAF as he needed him to come home and help on the family farm.	Grandpa gave me his discharge paper which had the date 11 th May 1945. He served for 3 years and 2 months.
Horace and Moreen moved to Peebinga in ***** they started farming a wheat and sheep farm which they called ‘Nalya’. The farm at Peebinga was called Nalya by Moreen. It is an indigenous word that means circle of hills. Moreen found the word in The Women’s Weekly magazine.	I found the article from The Women’s Weekly on Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/51392923
Horace died of lung cancer – he started smoking when he was in the RAAF. He smoked for about 30 years yet quit when he was approx. 50 years old.	Smoking was common during WWII – almost everyone smoked.

Capability development – Literacy – Listening and asking clarifying questions were the literacy skills that I developed most during the interview with Great Granny and Grandpa. As my interviewees were extended family members, I was able to conduct the interviews as **informal conversations** and really focussed on **listening** carefully to responses and connecting what I heard with the research that I had already conducted. I let them both talk and if I was unsure then I could ask **clarifying questions** to make sure that I formed the correct understanding from the **oral history** they were relaying to me. I am pleased that I videoed the interviews so I could rewatch certain sections for deeper understanding.

Sub question 2 – War Identification and Service

Journal Entry – At the end of July I requested a digital copy of Horace's record held at the National Archives of Australia. Some of the WWII records have been digitized yet Great Grandpa's hadn't been done yet. I sent request email and it cost \$39. It was only supposed to take under 30 days yet when I hadn't got a reply after a month, I sent another email and they said because of COVID lockdowns I probably wouldn't get access to the record until the middle of October. So I have to use other sources to learn about H.C. Kerley's war service, and then hopefully I can check with NAA record when it arrives.

I used **The Australian War Memorial, Department of Veteran's Affairs, original flight logbook and discharge papers.**

Key Findings –

- Enlisted in Adelaide on 28th February 1942 aged 21 years old.
- Discharged 11th May 1945
- Training at No. 1 Air Gunners School Ballarat – see source analysis below.
- Service Number – 417267
- **No. 462 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force** - formed at Fayid, Egypt, on 6 September 1942. Based in Egypt and for much of its operational career most of the the squadron's personnel were British. The squadron joined the RAF's Middle East Command and, operating Halifax heavy bombers. In January 1943 the squadron relocated to Libya and its main role became attacks on harbours and shipping in Sicily. It moved again in February to Gardabia in Tunisia to operate in support of the ground campaign there, returning to Libya when these operations drew to a close in late May. Operating from a succession of airfields in Libya - Hose Raui (22 May - 1 October 1943), Terria (1 October 1943 - 1 January 1944), and El Adem (1 January 1944 - 1 March 1944) - the squadron resumed operations over southern Europe, striking at targets in Italy, Sicily, Greece, Crete and the Dodecanese Islands. On 1 February 1944 the squadron departed Libya for Celone in Italy and once there reformed as 614 Squadron RAF. Australian personnel were transferred to RAAF Squadrons in Britain, and 462 Squadron ceased to exist on 1 March 1944.
- Flew in over 30 'sorties' - A sortie is a french word for "military mission." **LITERACY CAPABILITY** – vocab development.
- **Photos from war memorial** - <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C363776>

I learnt a lot from the 3 photos that were on the AWM sites eg – crew members, location of operations, conditions of camp, uniforms etc. **VISUAL LITERACY** – gathering information from images.



Scanned original photograph from H.C.Kerley War album. RIGHT -

Downloaded WWII Service Record from department of Veteran's Affairs. BELOW



Great Grandpa is 3rd from left.

SOURCE ANALYSIS – ARCHIVAL VISUAL SOURCE -

<https://1wags.org.au/>

Citation - No. 1 Wireless Air Gunners School Ballarat 2021, *People, Memorial Roll, Courses*, Australian Government, Ballarat, viewed 12 September 2021, <<https://www.1wags.org.au/>>.

Relevance – I learnt from Great Granny that Horace went to Ballarat for training, yet she didn't know much more. This source had heaps of information about the training that the RAAF trainees undertook, what their daily lives were like and where they were posted once they graduated.

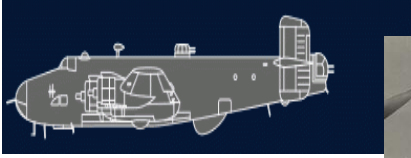

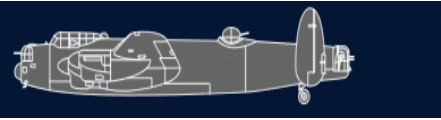

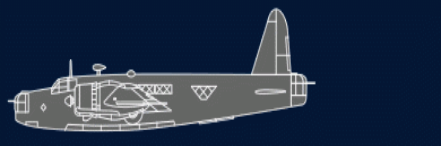
Authority – The No. 1 Wireless Air Gunners School website is collated by historians from Ballarat and draws on information from the NAA, AWM and primary records of the RAAF trainees.

Key Findings/New Knowledge -

- No. 1 Wireless Air Gunnery School [W.A.G.S] Ballarat was established on the 22nd of April 1940 as part of the Empire Training Scheme. This scheme was to support RAF Bomber Command during WW2.
- There were 58 Wireless Air Gunner Courses and 12 Navigator Courses conducted from 1940 to 1945. Great Grandpa was in Course 26.
- After 24 weeks the men graduated from Ballarat and moved to 1,2 or 3 BAGS [Bombing Air Gunners School] to complete the Gunnery component of the course – Great Grandpa went to 3BAGS in Sale Victoria.
- New recruits who became crew in Bomber Command were told their life expectancy was ' six weeks'. These brave young men aspired to do two tours, which was thirty sorties. The average was thirteen, so you had to be lucky. You had to beat the average by more than twice to survive. **Horace flew over 30 operations!**



WWII Aircraft Research – Sub-question 2 War Service and Identification – RAAF & RAF

Aircraft Type & Photo	Sizes	Key information	Dates flown in by HC Kerley according to Flight Logbook.
<p>Handley Page Halifax</p>  <p>Right – Photo from the Australian War Memorial shows HC Kerley, 3rd from left, with his crew standing under a Handley Page Halifax.</p> 	<p>Wingspan – 31.75m Length – 21.36m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Handley Page Halifax remained a front-line bomber plane throughout the whole of WWII. Lots of Halifax squadrons suffered from many casualties causing the rate to be high, as it didn't perform as well as some of the other planes. The crew in Halifax planes consisted of 7 people. There was up to 5897 kg of bombs on board. 	<p>13th June 1943 – 24th July 1943 Lyneham England 34.45-day hours 12.10 night-time hours.</p> <p>25th July 1943 – 7th March 1944 Middle East, Cairo, Foggia, Celone, El Adem,</p>
<p>Arvo Anson Lancaster</p>  	<p>Wingspan – 31.09m Length – 21.15m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arvo Lancaster was a redesigned plane it originally was the twin-engine Manchester bomber. The plane became operational in 1942 and became one of the most successful in the war. Thousands of Australians that enrolled for war flew in the Arvo Lancaster Squadrons. The Crew consisted of 7 people. 	<p>1st July 1944 – 2nd August 1944</p> <p>13 Air Gunnery School, El Ballah, Egypt,</p> <p>For the last month of service Horace worked as a rear gunner instructor in Egypt.</p>
<p>Vickers Wellington</p> 	<p>Wingspan – 26.25m Length - 19.68 m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vickers Wellington was a twin-engine bomber that was made in the early stages of war. Carried a good amount of bombs on board. Most action in these planes took place in the Middle East. 	<p>1st May 1943 – 29th May 1943</p> <p>Lichfield England</p> <p>64-day hours 41.10 night-time hours.</p>

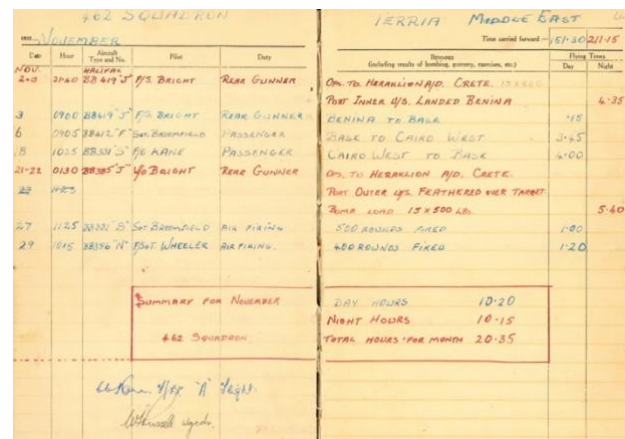
Citation - Australian War Memorial 2021, *Striking by Night - Planes*, viewed 8 September 2021,

<<https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/striking/planes>.

The Australian War Memorial site had a section that was all about the bomber planes that were used in WWII. I decided to just use this one website to find out about the 3 planes Horace flew in, as The Australian War Memorial website is focused on all Australian war history, and it uses primary source photographs and documents. I used – Handley Page Halifax, Avro Lancaster, and Vickers Wellington, sections from the AWM site.

Crosschecking new knowledge – Because the 3 planes that Horace flew in were British planes, I used a UK site to check the information from the AWM site. I used the site Classic Warbirds

<https://www.classicwarbirds.co.uk/british-aircraft/handley-page-halifax.php>. Both sites confirmed each other.



Scanned page from Horace's Flight Log Book

Sub question 3 - World War II – background, particularly focussed on RAAF.

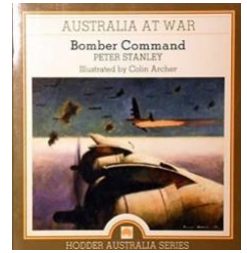
Citation – Stanley P, 1985, Australia at War – Bomber Command, Hodder & Stoughton Australia Pty Ltd, New South Wales.

Currency – Published in 1985, this source is old, yet the information is written about an historical event based on information from the Australian War Memorial, so currency doesn't have much impact on information provided.

Relevance – Particularly relevant to developing my understanding of Bomber Command, RAAF, and the context in which my Great Grandfather would have been working in during WWII.

Authority/Credibility– Peter Stanley is a Professor of History in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at UNSW Canberra. He has published more than 30 books mainly in the field of Australian military.

Purpose – Published as an informational text for secondary students. Part of a series of books 'Australia at War', easy to read & understand.



New knowledge/Key Information –

- About 20000 Australian airmen took part in bomber attacks, 4320 were killed in action or died in flying accidents. Memorial at the AWM Canberra for all those who died, indicated as 'Flying battle' – **Personal connection - I visited the AWM Canberra in 2017 and saw first-hand the bronze roll of honor panels.**
- Strategic bombing and airfare began late in WWI yet only developed during WWII.
- 1939 Prime Minister Robert Menzies - 'Australia is also at war' - Australia's role was to support England as a Commonwealth country.
- Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) was only small with few 'modern' aircraft.
- Decided that men would be trained in Australia to then serve with the British Royal Airforce in Europe. '**Empire Training Scheme**' was devised – April 1940 and then began flying in Britain in 1941 – 26000 Australian's were trained under this scheme.
- Training as either pilots, navigators, wireless operators, bomb aimers or gunners. **Connection** - *Horace Charles was a rear gunner or tail gunner.* Training was demanding - study, practicing new skills, dangerous & exciting - **out of every 7 trainees 1 was killed in training before they even went into battle.**
- Despite flying with the British Airforce - Australian's still wore their Australian dark blue uniforms as belonged to the RAAF- **See scanned original photograph of Horace Charles Kerley 1945 in Australian dark blue RAAF uniform.** Photograph obtained from Great Granny -Moreen Kerley – The photograph was taken once he was discharged, and Great Granny made him have the photo taken as he didn't have a formal portrait as a Warrant Officer.



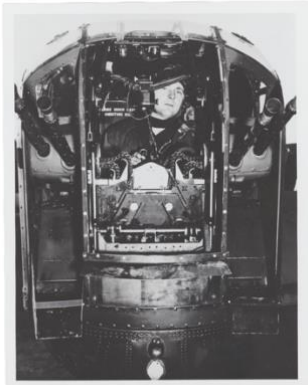
Sub question 4 - What is a rear gunner? – understanding of role and being part of crew

Citation - Australian War Memorial 2021, *Striking by Night - Rear Gunner*, viewed 8 September 2021, <<https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/striking/crew/reargunner>>

Relevance/Accuracy: I used the Australian War Memorial site again as it is the most credible and extensive Australian site. The information from the site is put together by historians using primary sources of information.

Key Findings –

- The rear gunner sat in isolation in the rear turret. Also known as '**Tail end Charlie**'
- He had the control yoke between his legs and used this to rotate the turret and elevate his 4 x .303 machine guns.
- Very cramped. Space too small to store parachute – stores outside turret. No time to get out of turret and put parachute on, resulting in many rear gunners not escaping in an emergency!



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL UK1219


- Usually, the crew member who got the coldest.
- Because of his position and what he could see, it was often the gunners who advised the pilot on evasive action.
- Uniform consisted of a helmet, oxygen mask, parachute, boots, shirt, trousers, tie, gloves, a whistle and an escape kit.
- The mid upper gunner and rear gunner would also wear a flying suit as these positions meant that they were exposed to the weather. It was electrically wired and adapted for use under extreme conditions by using a variety of electrically heated linings, gloves, and boot liners.
- Physical details - Height - 5 ft 2in minimum and no taller than 6 ft Weight - not over 175lbs (That means I would be too tall to be a rear gunner as I am 6ft tall) Horace was 5ft 9inches tall (175cm)



Location of where the rear gunner sat is shown in the image (above) At the very back.

Sub question 5 - Platforms/programs to best curate an online record of Great Grandpa’s war service.

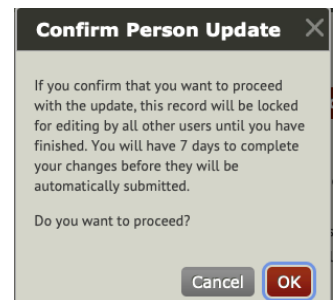
Journal Entry – I need to find the best way to share my research finding with my extended family and I want to be able to create an online space that recognises and acknowledges Horace Kerley’s war service. This page is where I am going to work out which online platform to use.

Name of platform	Cost	Used before	Notes/Pros/Cons/Example links
Wix https://www.wix.com/	FREE and premium available	No	Hundreds of free templates and examples. Looks easy enough to use. Don’t think I will be able get everything onto the free version of the website.
Microsoft Sway https://sway.office.com/	FREE	No	School newsletters are done with Sway. Seems quite easy to use yet the examples I have seen include a lot of images and I really need to include writing/text as well. See some examples at - https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/digitallearningatwhitehurstparkprimary/ww2-sway-projects/
Adobe Spark https://spark.adobe.com/sp/	FREE	Yes	Used for PLP presentation. Easy to use and I have experience with it. Example of a primary school students work at - https://spark.adobe.com/page/yaTN3/ Looks professional, graphics can be included. Stand alone website not connected to organisation. Not Australian.
Virtual War Memorial https://vwma.org.au/ 	FREE	No	Have to sign up for an account. Scaffold and template is already in place for details to be added to eg photos, personal stories. Lots of other soldiers from WWI and WWII have already been uploaded. Howard Hendrick has a detailed record on the VWM. See Howard’s record at – https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/511479 Other soldiers that I could base my Outcome on. Would be nice to add details about Horace as currently it is just an empty record. Going to use this platform for final outcome.
Arcgis Story Map https://storymaps.arcgis.com/	FREE Base level and have to pay for pro level.	No	ArcGIS StoryMaps helps you tell remarkable stories with custom maps that inform and inspire. Would be good to include a map of the places that Great Grandpa was a rear gunner at yet that is one of the pro features.

Capability – Literacy – By comparing the various online platforms above I as constantly using literacy skills is **analysing different text types**. I had to be aware that the sites were promoting their own products so were biased and I had to read carefully to avoid being persuaded to use the wrong site or pay for something that I could get for free. I am going to be **composing an online text** for a wide audience yet it will be my extended family that will specifically read it so I will need to be accurate in my **writing** and choose my words carefully with the audience in mind.

Journal Entry 29th August – I registered for the Virtual War Memorial today which was a easy process. I just had to register an email and password and confirm with a link in confirmation email. Once I logged in I noticed that I only had 7 days to update the details for Great Grandpas record so I will have to be organised with everything ready to copy and paste into the platform so I can get it done in the week. See screenshot of message right -

What Horace Charles Kerley’s Virtual War Memorial page looked like before I started –



Literacy - Glossary – Acronyms and topic vocabulary	
EATS	Empire Air Training Scheme
RAF/RAAF	Royal Air Force (British) Royal Australian Air Force
sortie	Slang for flying operation
WAGS	Wireless Air Gunners School
LAC / WO	Leading AirCraftsman / Warrant Officer