

80 YEARS AT GRANGE

By Clive Hill

Childhood

November 2010 marked 80 years since our family came to live in Sturt Street, Grange, now Charles Sturt Avenue, where we had a small house just North of Jetty Street, the first house on the western side; the house is still there.

From Sturt Street we moved to Number 5, *The Marines*, where we met the Sadlers, Mr. Coombe, the Fletchers, all nice people. Our father was to do a lot of work for these people, and my brother, Ray, and I helped him.

Ray had some nasty illnesses, like rheumatic fever and scarlet fever, and was knocked down by a delivery truck near the corner of Jetty Street and Sturt Street - he had a lot of very bad gravel rash, but he could have been killed; we were playing chasey coming home from school.

Ray and I used to run home from school for lunch and on one occasion, running in the lane near the school and High Street, a dog bit me on the tail, and my mum took me back to the school teacher and showed her the bite. How embarrassing for me.

Our next move was to the east side of Seaview Road near Grange Road, next door to Mackies, and later the McCabe sisters and their lovely cake shop.

Although it was the Depression years, thanks to our loving parents, Ray and I had a very happy childhood. Our parents were keen on gardening.

Marriage

My Christian journey started about 1934, when Mrs Farmer's sister - I think her name was Miss Raymond - took Ray and me to the Grange Baptist Church. This was to be very important. I met my wife-to-be, Shirley, in 1942. Sadly Shirley passed away in May 2010, and although I have strong Christian beliefs, Shirley's quiet, gentle spirit is more than a memory. We were introduced by Helen Deane who lived next door to Shirley, and Helen was a member of the Grange Baptist Church. Helen played the piano, and I think she became a school teacher. Shirley and I married on 29 May 1946, the same day that Helen married. It was the year after I had returned from service overseas.

When the War arrived I joined the Air Training Corps, followed soon after by my brother, Ray. Jack Benson and I were in the First 50 A.T.C. here.

I wonder if some of these chaps are still around. Sadly, I know some have passed on, namely Don Fleetwood, Elven Colwell and Ray Hill.

I went into the RAAF on 30 January 1943 at Victor Harbor. The Air Force decided that I could train as a Wireless Air Gunner (WAG) at Ballarat. A few weeks into the course the RAAF indicated that if we wanted to see war action and go overseas, we could finish our training as straight air gunners, and I and many others went to Port Pirie to complete that course.

Elven Colwell flew fighter aircraft in the Pacific. I was a Mid-Upper Gunner on Lancaster Bombers and completed a tour of bombing missions over Germany. The Benson family lived in White Street, Henley Beach, and I believe one or two sons went into the Royal Australian Navy. Jack Benson, Elven Colwell, George Willoughby (R.A.N.) and I corresponded during the War.



Air Training Corps Squad Parade, Woodville, October 1942.
**John Hicks, Don Fleetwood, Ray Hill, Bob Rippon, Jack Benson,
Eric Paul, Elven Colwell, Keith Small, Clive Hill.**
(Photo by Kevin Riley, courtesy Clive Hill)

Building

Only weeks after returning to Australia from the United Kingdom, the War in the Pacific came to a sudden end, due to the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan and I was demobilised. I wanted to get a job in carpentry, but as I was not a tradesman nothing was available. Ray and I obtained jobs as painters with a firm at Mitcham and we did private work at weekends. Eventually, Ray, Colin Smith and I joined together to do building extensions.

Later I was accepted into a carpentry and building training course that the government was offering ex-servicemen and when I completed the course I worked for Mr Fred Draper, a builder. After gaining experience I decided to go out on my own, initially carrying out small building jobs, alterations and additions, getting work through architects. Shirley did the book work and attended to the 'phone calls.

I built many homes in the Henley and Grange and West Beach district, the first being in White Street, Henley Beach. Some of this work was done under contract for the War Service Homes.

In 1962 I took a building supervisor position with a developer and supervised the building of many homes in Grange, east of the Grange oval, West Lakes and Fulham. When the building boom slowed down, I took a job with the South Australian Housing Trust when they were buying homes and altering and renovating them for rental.

I built our first home in 1948, and in 1961 bought a double block of land on the corner of Grange Road and Kentdale Street. In 1972 we sold the home and built a smaller home on the back block, facing into Kirkcaldy Park. Shirley designed both these homes and in August, 2009 our long stay in Kirkcaldy came to a close and we shifted into a unit in the Grange

SHOW AND TELL

Report on Society Meeting, Friday 18 March 2016.

By Roger André

Contributors: Nancy Bruer, Clive Hill, Jim Fitzpatrick, Glen Ralph,
Jan Cutler, Linda Sambell

Nancy Bruer

Calendar print, Grange Jetty, by Timothy Messack

Painted by Timothy Messack from the perspective of Grange Jetty looking to the Grange Pub and residences on the foreshore around 1950 and used for a local trade calendar, this eye-catching view was worth framing. There were steps at the end of the jetty and at the third-way mark, which would have been the artist's vantage point. Timothy Messack had a connection with Grange in that he lived some time at the two-storey house of Mrs M.M. Mead in High Street.

Timothy Messack was one of a number of talented Ukrainian artists who came through the horrors of World War Two to seek a settled life in Australia, where their individual techniques and style were to influence Australian art. Messack favoured bold colours and raised texture. He was a finalist for the Archibald Prize in 1952 and 1953 and for the Wynne Prize for Landscape in 1956. Timothy Messack died in 1998 at the age of 83. Last year his work was represented in an exhibition, *Australian Artists from the Ukraine*, held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago, Illinois.

Clive Hill

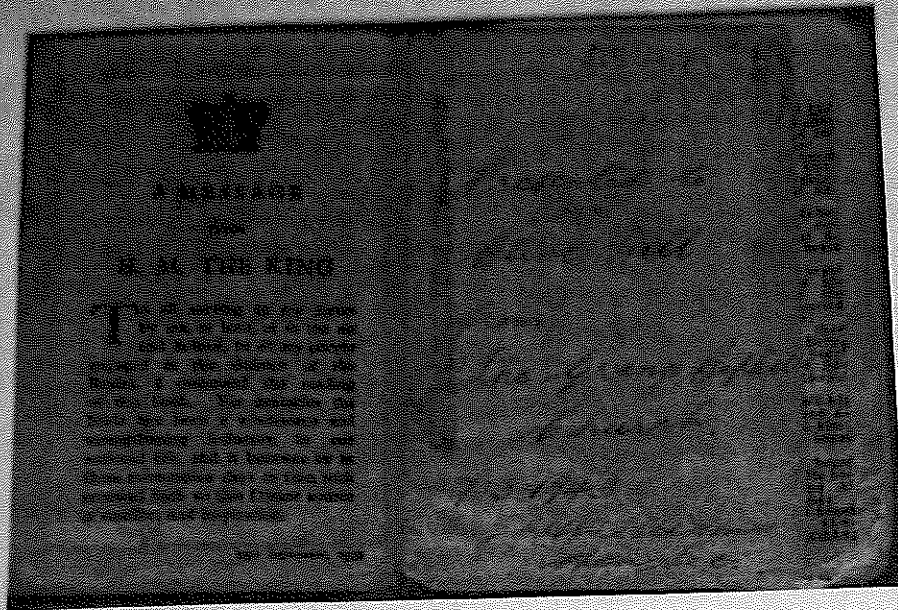
Bible carried on service in World War

Two

In February 1941 the War Cabinet approved the formation of a cadet corps known as the Air Training Corps, or ATC, which I joined with Jack Benson. We were amongst the first 50 in Adelaide to join. Then, when 18 years old, I joined the RAAF and started training at Victor Harbor. When I was only two weeks into this traineeship my father died suddenly, which was very upsetting.

After Victor, I went to Ballarat to train as a wireless air gunner. Some weeks into this course we were given the opportunity to change as air gunners, with the likelihood of going overseas and into action.

In Ballarat, I attended the Baptist Church, the minister, Reverend Bond, came from Adelaide.



We completed our training at Port Pirie. When I was leaving for overseas, the Grange Baptist Church gave me this small *New Testament Bible* which I carried with me in my breast pocket on all our operations.

My first posting was to Royal Air Force Station, Hemswell, in Lincolnshire. Flt Lieut Chris Holland, who became the pilot with our crew, was training other pilots. Chris complained that these chaps were going on operations and he had not been on an operation. Often pilots of a new crew went off with an experienced crew and Chris wanted the chance to fly with an experienced crew, planning to come back to us. However, Chris and crew flew on an operation to Brunswick, Lower Saxony, and all were killed. We found this very upsetting. So we were required to go back a stage and get another pilot. Flight Lieutenant William Stevens had already done one tour.

Whilst at RAF Hemswell, I met up with Allan Talbot who also came from the Grange Baptist Church. Allan was killed in a training accident ten days later. He was a most likeable chap, so this was another upset.

Our first mission, from RAF Kelstern, also in Lincolnshire, was to Cologne, the fourth largest city in Germany; it was a frightening experience. Of course pilots were under a lot of pressure. For myself, being in the mid-upper turret and being able to revolve a full circle, one could see back at the burning target. It has worried me how many children we may have maimed or killed – the innocent victims, as children are now from broken homes.

Our rear gunner got the DFM (Distinguished Flying Medal) for shooting the first German jet.

In 1984 when my wife and I visited the UK and Europe, going to Cologne, it was very uplifting to stand on the steps of that wonderful Gothic cathedral and notice that all the surrounding buildings had been rebuilt, similar to St Paul's Cathedral in London.



Avro Lancaster
(Courtesy Clive Hill)



*The Crew, 576 Squadron,
sitting on a 4,000 lb bomb, Fiskerton RAF Station, Lincolnshire, April 1945.
L to R Ted Clarke, Jack ('Thornie') Thornton, Jimmy Boyle, William ('Stevie') Stevens,
Don Balsler, Clive Hill, Charlie Taylor.*
(Courtesy Clive Hill)

Jim Fitzpatrick

La Coleccion, book from Museo Enrico Poli, Peru

Christine and I visited the Museo Enrico Poli in Miraflores, Lima, Peru in 2002 when we acquired this richly-illustrated book on the collection. The Enrico poli Museum has one of the largest private collections of pre-Inka, Inka and Spanish Colonial artefacts in Peru and, indeed, South America. The *La Coleccion* book contains images of items from all three periods, brought together by Enrico Poli.

BEHIND CLIVE HILL'S
AWARD OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR

By Roger André



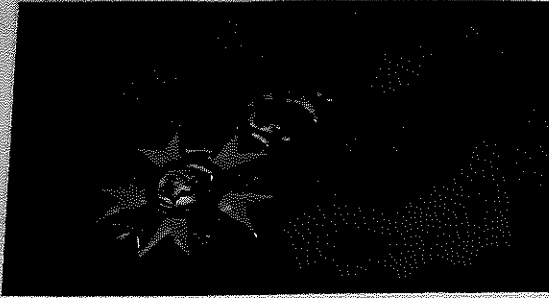
Ambassador Lecourtier bestows the Legion of Honour on Clive Hill.

(Courtesy Veterans SA, anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/2016/10/legion-of-honourawards-september-2016/)

On 30 September 2016 our longstanding member, Clive Hill, was invested with the Legion of Honour by the French ambassador, M. Christophe Lecourtier. Clive was one of ten South Australians to be made Chevaliers of the Legion of Honour for the part they played in the liberation of France in World War Two, the others being Ralph Aston, Leonard Bence, Clarence Bruhn, Derek Dawson, David Leicester, Donald Looker, Cecil Mattingley, Ernest Milde and Colin Watt.

Closely involved in the Adelaide Town Hall ceremony, Director of Veterans SA, Mr Rob Manton, paid tribute to the veterans and to the enduring friendship between Australia and France, saying in part

Australians tend to shy away from the use of overly praiseworthy terms such as 'hero' and I'm sure these gentlemen seated before us today do not see themselves as being of godlike prowess. They would see themselves in that laconic, soldierly manner of ordinary men simply doing their job. That may be true but they did extraordinary things at a time of great peril.

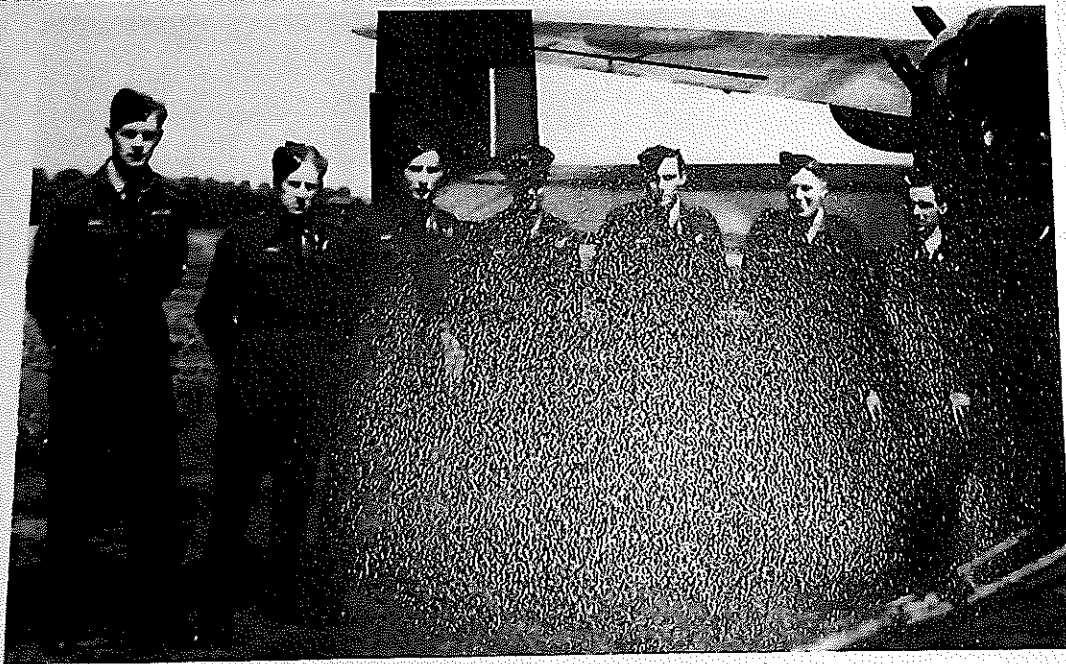


Legion of Honour Insignia.

(Courtesy Veterans SA,
anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/2016/10/legion-
of-honourawards-september-2016/)

The traits described by Rob Manton would certainly be true of Clive Hill.

Clive, then a jobbing painter and carpenter, enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 30 January 1943. He was aged 18 and but had already acquired experience as one of the first cadets to join the Air Training Corps which was formed in 1941. Clive's initial training with the RAAF was undertaken at Victor Harbor. Sadly, he was only two weeks into his training at Victor when Clive got news of the sudden death of his father, an engineer, but he continued with his training, proceeding to Ballarat in late May 1943 to learn the skills of a wireless air gunner. After some weeks he moved into training as an air gunner with the opportunity of a posting and action overseas, training he completed at Port Pirie before a stint in Melbourne.



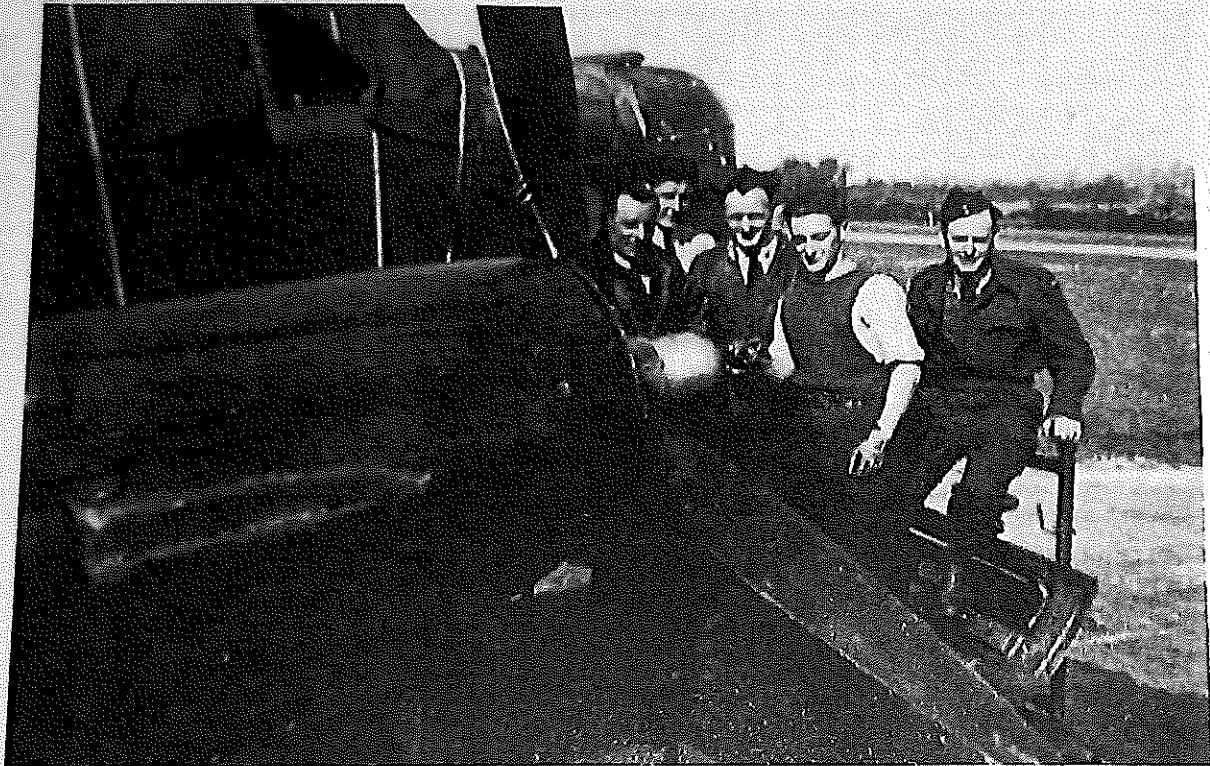
The Crew at RAF Waltham, Grimsby, Lincolnshire, August 1944.

L to R: Chris Holland (pilot), Charlie Taylor (engineer), Jimmy Boyle (navigator), Don Balser (bomb aimer), Ted Clarke (wireless operator), Clive Hill (mid-upper gunner) and Jack Thornton (rear gunner).

(Courtesy Clive Hill)

Clive was attached to the Royal Air Force from 17 November 1943 to 2 September 1945, flying out of RAF Hemswell, Kelstern, Fiskerton and Waltham (Grimsby) in Lincolnshire from January 1944. In all, Clive flew on 32 missions over Europe, manning turrets of Lancaster bombers as a mid-upper gunner.

Prior to his placement overseas, Clive was presented with a small *New Testament Bible* by The Grange Baptist Church, of which he is a member to this day, and this he carried with him on all his operations. Readers will recall that Clive displayed his treasured *Bible* at the last Henley & Grange Historical Society's *Show and Tell* meeting held in March 2016. While Clive had to endure the loss of many colleagues who flew with the RAF, particularly upsetting was the death in a training accident at RAF Hemswell of Allan Talbot, also of The Grange Baptist Church. Clive described Allan as 'a most likeable chap'. Clive also knew the Burrett boys well, James and Ralph, both killed in World War Two; Audrey Willoughby wrote up their story for our *Journal* number 32 of 2011.



Ground crew inspecting damage to 576 Squadron's Lancaster, RAF Fiskerton, Lincolnshire, April 1945. 'We were very lucky', observed Clive. 'One propeller came off; it hit and damaged the next propeller and the aircraft'.

(Courtesy Clive Hill)

Clive was promoted to Flight Sergeant in April 1944 and commissioned as a Pilot Officer on Australia Day 1945. At the end of his service in the UK, Clive's commanding officer, Squadron Leader H.F.R. Bradbury wrote of him 'An above average officer who has carried out his duties in a most satisfactory manner', remarks endorsed by Squadron Leader W.G. Devas. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the France and Germany Star.

After disembarking in Adelaide, Clive was demobilized on 1 October 1945 and, as the government supported the return of servicemen to civilian life, he was able to take up an apprenticeship in carpentry and building construction with a Mr Battams at West Croydon, enabling him to set up as a builder eventually and become a successful small businessman in that enterprise.

had two sons and two daughters, Trevor and Dennis and Lynette and Judith. Sadly, Shirley died in 2010 and elder daughter Lynette, in 2013.

Clive spent the last 11 years of his working life in the building section of the South Australian Housing Trust and found the work very congenial as he had an excellent boss. From the recreation angle, Clive has been involved in a number of clubs, Grange Cricket Club from 1946 and the Probus Club to name two. He put in 25 years as a volunteer driver for the local Meals on Wheels and ten years with Lifeline Australia. Clive and Shirley enjoyed many holidays around Australia and toured the UK and Europe three times. On their 1984 trip they saw the Oberammergau passion play in Bavaria, and in the course of the same trip, visited Cologne where they admired the rebuilt city from the vantage point of the steps of the city's beautiful cathedral. Clive had last seen Cologne in flames from the mid-upper turret of a Lancaster on his first raid and the number of innocent children likely to have been among the casualties was to concern him thereafter.

Clive continues to lead an active life, playing table tennis at the Western Youth Centre on Marion Road, often meeting up with friends, including two Rats of Tobruk at Westminster Aged Care, Len Allen, who celebrated his one hundredth birthday last winter, and John Gadson. He is 'not a great one for reunions', however. Clive attends Grange Uniting Church, where he likes playing Scrabble, as well as Grange Baptist Church. Grange Village, too, gives him a regular opportunity to play Scrabble. He enjoys the Pot Black competitions at the Henley and Grange Community Centre and is frequently seen at Henley & Grange Historical Society meetings.

It was just before his sixth birthday in 1929 that Clive first took up residence in Grange with his family at the corner of Sturt Street, now Charles Sturt Avenue, and Post Office Place. Except for his time in the Air Force, he has lived in Grange - 'The Grange' as it used to be known - ever since. He is proud to share his birthday (30 November), with the late Winston Churchill.

It is typical of Clive not to have broadcast his award of the Legion of Honour by France, news of which would otherwise have made our 2016 *Journal*.



Pilot Officer Clive Hill, 1945.

(Courtesy Clive Hill)

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Acknowledgements:

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DID YOU KNOW ?

By Audrey Willoughby



Standing in the slit trenches

Grange resident Clive Hill, an interested reader of our Journal, discovered himself and family members in the above picture published in Journal No. 27 last year. He reported that the picture was taken on the beach just north of Grange Road in February 1942.

Pictured (Left to Right)

Dawn Haseldine (now Dawn Hinton), Shirley Haseldine (now Shirley Hill, Clive's wife), Clive Hill, June Haseldine (June Gray, now deceased), Ray Hill.

In those days the Hill boys lived on Seaview Road and the Haseldine family lived on Grange Road, Grange. Clive Hill was six years old when he came to live at Grange and enrolled at Grange Primary School. He will be 83 this year and has never left the district, now residing at No. 1 Kirkcaldy Avenue, Grange. He Served in the RAAF Air Crew in England during World War II.

LEGION d'HONNEUR



On Friday 30th Sept. Clive Hill, along with 9 other veterans, was bestowed with the insignia of the Legion of Honour by the French Ambassador to Australia, and the SA Director of Veteran Affairs. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of World War II, the French Republic



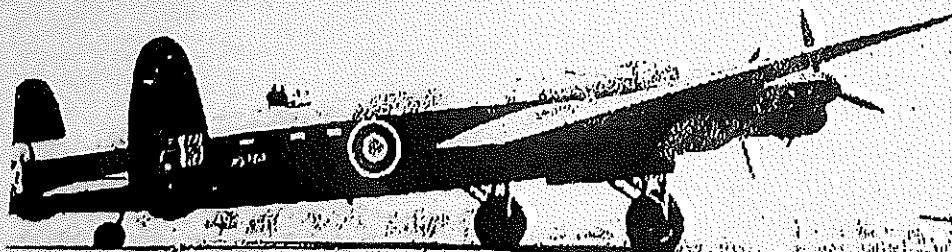
decided to honour veterans who fought for the liberation of France by awarding them to the rank 'Chevalier of the Legion of Honour'. The award was first established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

Rob Manton, SA Director of Veteran Affairs, said in his address, "*Australians tend to shy away from the use of overly praiseworthy terms such as 'hero', and I am sure these gentlemen seated before us today do not see themselves as being of godlike prowess. They would see themselves in that laconic soldierly manner of being ordinary men simply doing their job. That may be true, but they did extraordinary things at a time of great peril.*"

Clive enlisted in Adelaide on 30/01/43, aged 18 years. After initial training, he volunteered to move to the UK and joined the RAF as a mid upper gunner on Lancaster bombers.

He flew 32 missions over Europe, and was discharged on 01/10/45 with the rank of Flying Officer.

(We thank God that Clive was one of those who returned home safely, from what must have been an experience that no one should have to be called upon to endure. Ed.)



GRANGE U/CHURCH.