Lionel Woods Irvine was born to Thomas and Catherine in Northumberland, England in September on 1913. He was 1 of 5 children to the best of our knowledge (familial records) and the family moved out to Australia.

He married Doris Jean Lane in Singleton NSW in February 1940, before enlisting for WWII in Tamworth later that year.

I do not know much about my great-grandfather's time in the Army, none of the living family do to be honest. It wasn't something you spoke about to your family outside of those who also Served as they could commiserate.

We do know that he was a P.O.W in Changi, before he was sent home the end of WWII. The ship docked in Sydney on 6.10.1946, just 17 days after it set sail from Singapore.

He was later discharged at own request on compassionate grounds on 12.4.1946, just 5 months before his first child was to be born.

Curly and his wife Doris welcomed their first born child Ronald 11 months to the day of his return to Australia in Gunnedah, just west of Tamworth when he first enlisted.

Their 2nd child came just over a year later, another health boy that they named Colin, who soon became the middle child as 18 months later they welcomed their 3rd and final child, a daughter they called Margaret.

As with a lot of our Service Men, Curly had PTSD, but unfortunately for him and a lot of his fellow service men, PTSD was not officially recognised as a mental illness until 1980, so Curly and many others would have had to suffer all manner of psychologic symptoms include denial, numbing, intrusive images and thoughts, and nightmares as a result of what they went through in the War. There was no help for them, some of them drowned their sorrows, some re-enlisted because having the organisation of the Army helped them to keep focused.

Curly used to ride a motorcycle. I like to think it was his way of 'escaping his demons' and clearing his head. My great-uncle Ron used to say he loved the open road almost as much as he loved Granma, himself and his siblings.

Curly was riding his bike in Newcastle NSW less than a week after his daughter turned 2. His bike was hit by a car, and he unfortunately did not survive. We do NOT have any conclusive evidence as to whether it was a deliberate move on his part (deliberately moving in front of a vehicle), or a complete and utter accident. In any event, Curly passed away 21.2.1951 leaving Doris with 3 young children to raise. Ron was 5, Colin was 4 and Margaret only 2.

This is all I know of my great-grandfather Lionel Woods Irvine (11 Sept 1913 - 21 Feb 1951)