



## Murray William Johns

Murray William Johns was born on the 8th of August 1913 at Youtha Hospital, Horsham, Victoria, Australia.

Murray's father was James Johns who was born on the the 8th of August too, in 1876 in Clearlake, Victoria, Australia. He died on the 4th of August 1953 and is buried in Warracknabeal, Victoria, Australia.

Murray's mother was Annie Agnes Johns (Green) She was born on the 10th of March 1880 in Geelong and died on the 2nd of November 1952 and is buried in Warracknabeal, Victoria, Australia.

There were eight children in Murray's family older brothers Lindsay and Richard, older sister Olive ( known as Gwen) and younger brother Allan, followed by younger sister Lorna, younger brothers Ivan and Arthur.

Arthur died when he was just two years old and is buried at Warracknabeal cemetery.

Murray's parents lived at Noradjuha, Victoria from about 1904 to 1910, then Riverside, Victoria from about 1910 to 1921 and in the Angip (Yellangip North) area from about 1921-1931. Here they lived on their 1265 acre wheat farm. During the depression the family farm 'went broke' and the family were forced to go their own way for work.

After this Murray worked with his brother Richard (Dick) for three years but this did not work out well as the seasons were very poor, so Murray went to work on a road gang for 'Squizzy Taylor'. Murray worked on the roads between Warracknabeal and Rupanyup. When there was no road work he worked on surrounding farms for about '10 bob a week with keep'

Murray described how he finally made the break and 'walked' to Allora in the Darling Downs in Queensland in 1938, got a job right away at 12 shillings a week.



In 1939 when the second world war broke out Dad decided to join the war effort and enlisted in Queenscliff on the 16th March 1940. He joined the Australian Army (VX 85272) and was a Lance Sergeant when he was discharged on 15th December 1943 in 9 Heavy Battery. Murray served in Darwin during the raids and also in New Guinea.

Murray married Mabel ( May) Emily Lemmon on the 30th March 1943, after meeting May on a blind date at Sorrento near Queenscliff. They married after knowing each other for three weeks.

May and Murray married at the Anglican Church in Brunswick, Victoria. Initially May lived with her parents at 44 St Phillips Street, Brunswick. while Murray continued to install heavy artillery in the Flinders area.

Murray was discharged from the army due to the crisis in Victoria's agriculture and later in 1943 moved to become manager of a property at Coldstream called 'Brampton Park'. He was interviewed for the job by Mr Emery Smith, who owned 'Brampton Park'. Mr Smith was the manager of Inglis Smith and Co., shipping merchants in Melbourne and knew little about farming.

May and Murray took up residence in a small cottage on the property. They enjoyed the beautiful property, but Murray was required to work long hours seven days a week. Numerous gardeners and housekeepers came to work at the older cottage and care for the garden and house - but they usually only lasted a short time as Mr Emery Smith was difficult and demanding.

After 18 months, Murray had a serious accident while handling horses in the yards and suffered a compound fracture of his leg. Murray spent the next 18 months in and out of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and became one of the first patients to trial penicillin.

During this time May lived with her parents in Brunswick again.

In 1947, with Dad's injury sufficiently recovered, Mum and Dad responded to an advertisement to manage a farm at the Five Mile near Sunbury for Ralph Small of 'Malvern Star'. They enjoyed this very much.

In 1948 Murray and May got their own farm at Clarkefield, Victoria, through the Soldier Settlement Scheme.

Murray and May built the farm up to be a mixed dairy, sheep and cereal property. ....Unfinished and told to me by Murray Johns