

ERIC T. RICHARDS

I first met Eric Richards at Woodside Army camp in 1940, where we both became part of No. 38 Troop B Sqn 7th (later to become 9th) Div.Cav. (armoured) Regiment. That was in May.

Eric had begun his army days before this at Keith, with the militia unit, the 3rd Light Horse Regiment.

In the Regiment he became a wireless operator and saw active service in Syria, Lebanon and the Western Desert.

On returning to Australia in 1943, after Commando training in North Queensland, he again saw active service in Borneo. He was discharged in 1945 after five and a half years in the A.I.F.

While Eric was in the Light Horse he met Marjorie Joyce Clarke, who at that time was working at the Mt Gambier hospital. They were married on 21st December 1940, in the Blackwood Methodist Church. They have three children, Barbara, Graeme and Robert. Barbara was born while Eric was in the Middle East and he did not see her till she was fifteen months old.

On returning to civilian life Eric became the manager of a Meadow Meat Co. shop on the Main North Road Nailsworth, where he remained till his retirement, 26 years later.

Eric became acting president of the South Australian Association, (taking my place when I had to step down through ill health) from May '77. He was elected president at the Annual General Meeting of that year and filled that position with kindness and consideration to everyone, until his retirement in 1984.

During those years and on till the September 1987 issue, he provided most of the South Australian material for Green Fields.

Green Fields.

Eric enjoyed reasonable health until early 1986, when he suffered a nervous complaint. He was admitted to hospital on 3rd September 1987, and, after several massive heart attacks, he passed away on the 9th, with his family at his bedside.

I would like to record my thanks to Marj. for helping with the details of this tribute to a good mate and friend.

Marj. has asked me to convey her thanks to all the members for their messages of sympathy and their attendance at Eric's funeral.

T. McAuliffe.

*****VALE*****

Blackburn, R.A.	Carter, M.
Dunne, K.C.	Fuller, R.H.
Gorringe, R.A.G.	Hatty, W.G.
Hayes, L.F.J.	Lucas, W.
McIntyre, A.E.	Richards, E.F.
Thomas, F.R.	Whitehead, R.
Reilly, H.T.	

REST AFTER TOIL

Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Dream of battled fields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking.

In our isles enchanted hall

Hands unseen thy couch are strewing,
Fairy strains of music fall
Every sense in slumber dewing.

Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Dream of fighting fields no more,
Sleep the Sleep that knows not breaking,
Morn of toil, nor night of waking.

Sir Walter Scott