



Paymaster Lieutenant James McWHIRTER RANVR

[1912 - 1942]



Name: James **McWHIRTER**

Rank: Paymaster Lieutenant

Unit: HMAS *Brisbane*

Service: Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Born: 9 December 1912; Brisbane, Qld

Enlisted: 2 September 1939; Brisbane, Qld

Date of Death: 6 August 1942 (aged 29 years)

Place of Death: Brisbane, Qld

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Cause of Death: Illness

Buried / Commemorated: Queensland Cremation Memorial, Brisbane, Qld
[Cremated Mt. Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane, Qld]
Australian War Memorial [panel 9]
Roll of Honour – Brisbane, Qld

Next of Kin: Son of James and Mary Millicent McWhirter of The Valley; Qld
Brother, Duncan McWhirter of Hamilton, Qld

In Civilian Life:

At enlistment, lived in Brisbane, Qld. He was the grandson of James McWhirter, founder of McWhirter's department store in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane; and served on the board of the company from 1938.

He attended The Southport School (1921-30) and was a prominent athlete. He also attended University of Sydney (St.Paul's College).

Military Service:

April 1937	Pay Sub-Lieutenant, RANVR (Height 5'9");
September 1939	Mobilised - HMAS <i>Penguin</i>
August 1940	HMAS <i>Melville</i> in Darwin
September 1940	Pay Lieutenant
October 1941	sea service - HMAS <i>Kuru</i>
November 1941	sea service – HMAS <i>Kangaroo</i>
January 1942	HMAS <i>Brisbane</i>
February 1942	HMAS <i>Westralia</i>
August 1942	HMAS <i>Brisbane</i>

Circumstances of Death:

On 13 July 1942 he was diagnosed with "rapidly progressive intra-pulmonary neoplasm" with a Civil Disability 100%; and was treated in a private hospital with indefinite sick leave.

Sources included:

- Australian War Memorial
- National Archives of Australia
- Sundry web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents