Life of RAY VERNON NICHOLLS.- by Gary Pennifold

Ray Vernon Nicholls was born on 18th March 1895 in Terowie, (a railway town), in the mid-north of South Australia about 220Kms from Adelaide. Raymond was the eldest child of William (1865-1941) and Marion May (nee Radford) Nicholls.

He was brought up by his grandmother at Gulnare and Burra, although he spent some time with his Bell family relatives at Boolaroo Centre (S.A.). He accompanied bullock wagons carrying wheat through the Port Germein Gorge to Port Germain for shipping to further ports. After leaving school in Burra, he worked on Canegrass Station until he enlisted for the First World War.

After returning from the War, Ray married Avis Ellie May (nee West) (1895-1971), who was governess to the Radford children at Glenora Station. The station closed down as a result of drought and they moved to Kolendo Station in the Gawler Ranges (S.A.) where he became station manager.

They had eight children. Their birth dates are as follows:

Eleanor Marion Nicholls, born 1922

Joan Maud Nicholls, born 1923

Patricia Elise Nicholls, born 1925

Ray Winifred Nicholls, born 1928

Jocelyn Avis Nicholls, born 1933

Wallace Clare Nicholls, born 1933

Jess Marie Nicholls, born 1936

Rosemary Ailsa Nicholls, born 1940.

Ray and family moved to Pennington, Adelaide in 1939, where he joined the Commonwealth Peace Force until his retirement. He then cultivated a house block, producing seedlings and flowers for which he was most admired, until his death in 1972.