

ANZAC Spirit School Prize 2021



LLOYD EVELYN WIGG

Written by Jennifer Nguyen

Our Lady of The Sacred Heart College

Part A



Figure 1: Lloyd E. Wigg and his wife Gwen

Lloyd Evelyn Wigg was born on the 4th March 1923, in Alberton South Australia at a midwife's house to parents Howard and Mary Wigg. Lloyd and his two brothers Allan and Nelson were raised by their aunt after the unfortunate deaths of their parents, his father passed when he was five and his mother when he was nine years old. He had completed school up to grade 7 where he then left at age 13 and began working as a billy boy at Fricker Bros in Royal Park. There he had the task of making glue over fire, Lloyd later left this job starting an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner at Fricker Development Group (the company went into receivership in 1990). Entering middle adulthood, Lloyd had met Gwen, the couple had soon married in 1953 and together they had 4 children: Kathryn, Colleen, Phil, and Brian.

Pursuing his passion for helping others, Lloyd had joined the St John Ambulance as a cadet in his early teenage years where he later was a part of the senior division (Port Adelaide Ambulance Division) serving for 35 years. He was often described by his family as a man of strong faith who possessed a kind and loving nature. His family and friends were his pride and joy, being deeply devoted and committed to them throughout his entire life. Lloyd was also a warm grandfather to 7 grandchildren and a great grandfather of 5, all of whom he profoundly cherished.

After the commencement of World War II on the 1st of September 1939, following the German invasion of Poland, Lloyd Wigg was called up for service. According to the stories recounted by his family members, Lloyd completed the army training course as a soldier, however he found that aiming at the target was a difficult challenge and he was a terrible shot. This inability to hit the target made it impossible for him to join the military as a soldier, but despite this, his training with St John had provided him with an opportunity to serve in a different role during WW2.



Figure 2: Photograph of Private Lloyd Wigg after his enlistment serving the role as a medical orderly (Service Number: S114267)



Figure 3: A Papuan War Carrier (Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel) assists an injured Australian Soldier on the Kokoda Trail (Photographed by George Silk, 1942)

Lloyd enlisted on the 17th December 1941 at 18 years of age as a Medical Orderly the 128th Australian General Hospital (Dec 1943 – Nov 1945) located in New Guinea. The appalling events which occurred on the gruesome battlefield had caused significant injuries leaving thousands of wounded individuals fighting for their lives. Lloyd's duty was to assist the nurses in aiding the sick and dying affected by the conflicts of war. His skills in carpentry were also applied to mend campsites and hospitals. Amidst the harrowing scenes, Lloyd Wigg had felt an immense gratitude for the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. These group of Papua New Guinean War carriers ardently referred to by Australian troops as 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels', supported the Australian army in transporting resources to designated areas and carried injured soldiers on the Kokoda Trail. Lloyd was deeply fond of them recalling how the men had aided

the Australian army by bringing wounded or dying people back to hospitals from the dangerous fields and track.

Devastated about leaving his family behind as he embarked on a journey filled with violence, Lloyd felt particularly homesick after his long separation from his loved ones. His time of service was proven to be a significant test as he felt stunned at the horrific actions that human beings could heartlessly do to each other.

Leaving the gruesome sight of bloodshed and combat, Lloyd had returned to Australia on the 8th November 1945. There he was stationed in Brisbane taking on the duty of assisting with the establishment of Greenslopes Hospital for the returning Australian POW (Prisoner of War) troops from Singapore. When he returned, he continued to work at Fricker's Brothers, training apprentices including the Mossop brothers who went on to form Mossop Construction & Interiors. Lloyd worked for Fricker's in various positions until his retirement at the age of 60. Lloyd's family had described that he remained strong of faith with a kind temper however, due to the disturbing events he experienced, Lloyd had distanced himself from those memories avoiding speaking about the war and never marched in any parades commemorating ANZAC Day. In 1951, his brother Allan sadly passed away, following the loss of his other brother Nelson.

Lloyd had accomplished many outstanding achievements after returning from WW2, reflecting his passion and drive of helping others. In 1953, he began the construction of his house in Murray Street Albert Park South Australia initiating a new chapter in his life. During his career, Lloyd had mentored and supervised around 90 joinery employees as he was a highly skilled carpenter. He was then assigned to work on the restoration of the buildings at Carrick Hill and library after a devastating fire broke out damaging collections of rare lithographic prints and other artefacts in 1958. Later, Lloyd was sent to Canberra assisting to complete the joinery at the newly established Liberal Party Headquarters, there he had a delightful opportunity to meet Sir Robert Menzies, the former Prime Minister of Australia.



Figure 4: Photograph of Sir Robert Menzies Former Prime Minister of Australia and Lloyd Wigg (on the right of S.R.M) in Canberra.



Figure 5: Photograph of the Port Adelaide Ambulance Division Competition team representing St Johns after winning the competition (Lloyd sat on the right)

Alongside his qualified carpentry career, Lloyd was also dedicated to his medical profession. He had competed in the St John competitions and proudly represented South Australia at the state and national level. In the period from 1947-1952, he and his team had successfully won 6 state competition championships and 2 Australian championships as a member of the Port Adelaide Ambulance Division Competition Team. The Australian Championships he participated in bringing 2 triumphant wins were held in Melbourne in 1949 and Launceston in 1951. The competitions involved a scene being set up for the participants to demonstrate their first aid skills by assessing and treating patients. Each competition had 2 rounds, the first round permitted the use of all equipment and the second, only resources such as clothing or personal tools could be used. Furthermore, a uniform inspection was also part of the contest.

In addition to his remarkable involvements, on the 22nd November 1967 Lloyd was admitted as a serving brother of The Order of St John of Jerusalem The Priory in Australia, receiving the order during 1968. This chivalric order formally referred to as 'The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John Jerusalem' is a title given to members of the British empire for their service.

Lloyd's health had declined in the last few years of his life however, as a result of two unfortunate falls amidst the short months prior to his death it had further accelerated the rapid deterioration of his overall health. On the 30th March 2020, Lloyd Evelyn Wigg had peacefully passed away at the Southern Cross Care Mount Carmel Residential Care facility at the strong age of 97 from natural causes.

Lloyd Evelyn Wigg had embodied the ANZAC Spirit characteristics of perseverance and mateship. The harsh circumstances at war left a significant impact on his life. He was brutally confronted with mass sightings of people with missing limbs, critically injured, and deceased individuals. Despite the unbearable trauma, Lloyd had kept himself grounded, focusing on saving, and aiding the sick although he himself was vulnerable being surrounded by dangerous conditions on the battlefield. After returning home from war, Lloyd had to endure the pain triggered by the deadly conflict, at times it severely challenged his mentality and well-being. Regardless, he maintained a positive and warm face in front of his family and loved ones. The incredible bravery that Lloyd exhibited displayed his strong quality of perseverance. Furthermore, mateship was another quality that Lloyd had reflected. During his time of service, Lloyd and other serviceman/woman had contributed to helping each other, he had recounted to his family that everyone was friendly and caring particularly the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. He had formed many friendships while at war, together these courageous individuals had relied on each other to cope with the distressing ordeals as they earnestly supported one another.



Figure 6: Photograph of Lloyd, his wife Gwen, and their 4 children (Kathryn, Phil, Brian, and Colleen)

Part B:

To honour the remarkable story of Lloyd Evelyn Wigg, I had intently researched to gather the evidence needed to tell his life story. In the beginning, I was unsure of which personnel's story to choose however, I was briefly introduced to the story of a teacher's grandfather who previously taught me Digital Technologies. This was a great opportunity to gain a deep and reliable source of information that could be transformed into a captivating piece of writing. I thrillingly emailed Mrs. Grace De Bono regarding her grandfather which she then replied and provided me with various sources of information to assist with my research.



Figure 7: Lloyd and his granddaughter Grace De Bono (photographed in 2014)



Figure 8: Lloyd at his granddaughter Grace's wedding (photographed in 2019)

I first began searching his name on the Virtual War Memorial Australia website in hopes of finding facts to commence writing. Lloyd's profile on VWMA supplied limited information however, it was a step in the right direction. After googling his name and service number, I had spent a week going through each website that contained relevant details. During this period, I had uncovered a few sources including various death notices, upon further inspection I was able to find the residential facility he lived at when he passed. Presuming that he had spent some time at Southern Cross Care Mount Carmel Residential Care facility prior to his passing, I sent the

facility an email introducing and notifying them of my interest in their past resident Lloyd Evelyn Wigg. Throughout the stages of writing the biography, I had investigated across online libraries, St John Ambulance's website/social media, newspaper articles, and other online resources. With the evidence found, I had placed them into dot points for a clear layout.

Following the extensive investigation online, I had constructed a word document with questions for Lloyd's granddaughter Grace De Bono (her mother is Colleen, Lloyd's daughter). The questions consisted of details that were still required to complete his story. Grace swiftly replied providing thorough insights and materials (a folder containing numerous images and his medals). This interview significantly assisted with my writing, being a primary source. Throughout the process, I had mainly relied on and referred to the answers acquired from his granddaughter who had gathered the findings from her personal knowledge or Lloyd's eulogy given by his sons Phil and Brian Wigg. Additionally, there were also involvements from his daughter Colleen, son-in-law, and grandson (Grace's parents and brother) through a discussion.

The process that I undertook in researching on Lloyd Evelyn Wigg although was lengthy, I had instantly felt an immense sense of admiration for Lloyd and the bravery that he embodied. Grace De Bono was a fundamental key in retelling Lloyd's profound story, one of a man possessing passion and devotion.

Word Count

Part A: 1412 words

Part B: 465 words

Appendices:

Appendix 1: The London Gazette Newspaper featuring the recipients appointed the title of Serving Brother of The Order of St John of Jerusalem The Priory, 2nd January 1968



**THE GRAND PRIORY IN THE
BRITISH REALM OF THE MOST
VENERABLE ORDER OF THE
HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF
JERUSALEM.**

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to sanction the following appointments in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

As Serving Brother

John Owen Jones
Mervyn Goodall
Dr. John David Scarby
James Henry Jordan
Lloyd Evelyn Wigg
John Alfred Ryan
Donald David Thomas

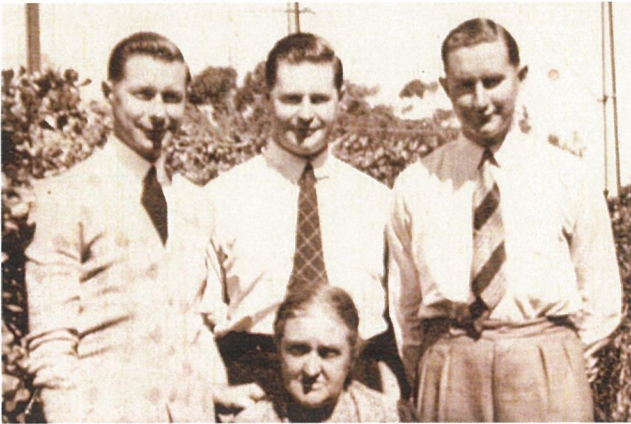
Appendix 2: Portrait of officers of the 128th Australian General Hospital (Ports Moresby, Papua 8th October 1944)



Appendix 3: Lloyd Evelyn Wigg's service medals (left to right): The 1939-1945 Star, The Pacific Star, The War Medal 1939-1945, The Australian Service Medal 1939-1945, Order of St John Service Medal



Appendix 4: Portrait of Lloyd, his two brothers (Allan & Nelson), and their aunt



Appendix 5: Port Adelaide Orpheus Society Roll of Honour 1939-1945 featuring L.E Wigg, 2nd Column Last Row (located at Maritime Museum, SA)



Appendix 6: Photograph of Lloyd and wife Gwen at his 80th birthday, (2003)



Appendix 7: A damaged artwork restored from the fire at Carrick Hill Estate, Adelaide in 1958



Appendix 8: The Breast Star of the Order of St. John (chartered in 1888)



Appendix 9: Photograph of Lloyd Wigg as a Serving Brother of St John

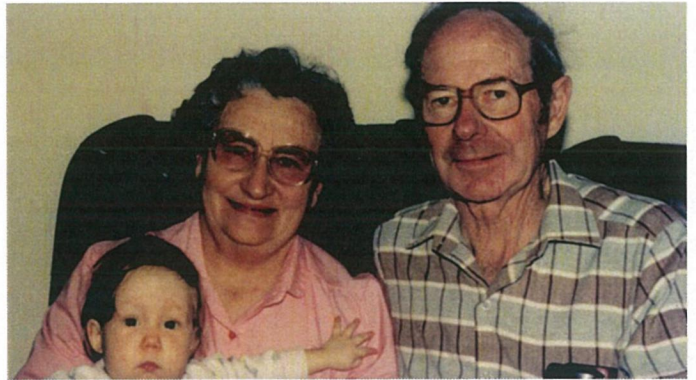


Appendix 10: The Ribbon of the Order of Saint John

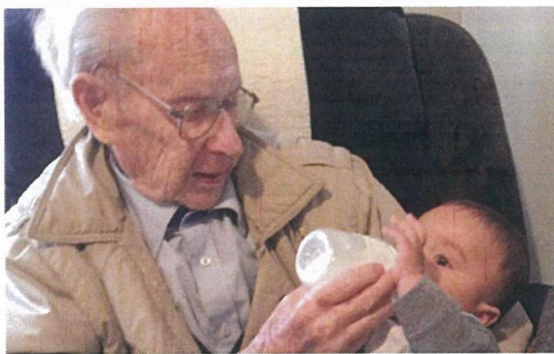
Appendix 11: Lloyd Wigg after returning from war



Appendix 12: Left to right: granddaughter Grace, wife Gwen, and Lloyd, (1991)



Appendix 13: Lloyd and his great grandson Eli



Appendix 14: Lloyd and Gwen celebrating with their grandchildren, (1994-1995)



Appendix 15: Photograph of Lloyd and his family taken at the wedding of his granddaughter Grace, (2019)



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