

jsh01

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Subject: note for the HMAS Sydney Virtual Memorial

Sydney Virtual Memorial

Note for File - Betterman, Donald Richard

Rank/Rate/Branch: Able Seaman
Location: SA AUSTRALIA
Force: RAN
Service Number: 24305

Date of Enlistment: 7-May-1940
Locality Of Enlistment: Kapunda, SA
Home Port/Port Division: Melbourne, VIC

Memorial Location: Panel 56, Column 3

Date Of Birth: 28-Oct-1919 (died at age 22)
Place Of Birth: Angaston, SA

Next Of Kin: Son of William Charles and Emily Charlotte Betterman, of Mile End, South Australia

Note

After the remains of HMAS Sydney were found off the coast of Western Australia, our mother, Patricia A Hall (nee Giles), telephoned us after reading through the crew list in The Advertiser newspaper published at Adelaide, South Australia.

1. As background, our mother , born in 1925, was a young schoolgirl in Kapunda , South Australia at the outbreak of WW2. She was the sister of 4 boys, 3 of whom made the ultimate sacrifice.
2. From recollection, the conversation went as follows-" when I was 14 , I was on my bicycle at the top end of the street (Coghill Street in Kapunda) when I was struck to see the sailors uniform of a young boy coming down our street. To me as a young country schoolgirl, he stood out in his uniform, as Kapunda is a country town well away from the sea. And to my recollection no others in Kapunda had joined the Navy; the Army was the more likely Service for the Boys to join." He had lived with his grandmother who lived behind our family house. "
3. She felt a great degree of sadness for the boy and his grandmother and said a prayer for the young man.

To assist anybody building up a deeper picture of those times for Donald Betterman, there might be a chance to find a photograph of the young man from either Kapunda High School records/connections or from families of shipboard chums.



Yours faithfully
Mark and John Hall
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