

William Albert Owen was born on the 14th November 1906 in the town of Outtrim Victoria. He was the son of John James Oliver Owen and Agnes Eleanor Owen (Nillson). William had 2 brothers (Oliver Neil & Ernest Leslie) and 3 sisters (Isabel Agnes, Vera Doris and Ida May). His families lineage stemmed from Wales, Scotland , England and Sweden. Maritime occupations had been prominent in his families history going back to his Great Great Grandfather so he was perhaps destined to pursue a life at sea.

William entered the Navy on the 15th June 1926 with initial training at HMAS Cerberus and with postings following on the HMAS Australia and HMAS Waterhen. He married Theresa Higinis in 1934 in North Sydney who bore him 2 children, John and Frances. William was posted to the HMAS Sydney II on the 8th October 1937. He achieved the rank of Acting Warrant Supply officer on the 1st Feb 1939. William had planned to leave the Navy in 1939 to purchase a grocery store but unfortunately this plan never eventuated. He participated in the actions in the Mediterranean during 1940 on board the HMAS Sydney II .

The family today: John Owen has two children with his wife Angela , Geraldine and Vincent. Geraldine has 3 children, William, Matthew and Olivia. Vincent also has 3 children, Nicklaus, Hanna and Michael. Frances married Walter Chichkan and also had two children, Lisa and John. Lisa passed while still an infant and Frances passed away in 1967. John has 4 children, Frances, Alexander, Jacob and Yolanda. William Albert Owen is the grandfather of 4 children and great-grandfather of 10 children. During his service in the Navy William was awarded the 1939-45 Star, The Africa Star, The War Medal 1939-45 and the Australian Service Medal 1939-45. His surviving child John, his grandchildren and great grandchildren proudly carry the memory of a true Australian Hero.