

TURNER, WILLIAM ROSS (ABLE SEAMAN)

My name is Edna Wale and my brother 'Rossie' was one of eight children born to Jessie and Leslie Turner on the 7th December 1920.

He and his elder brother were in the Naval Reserve before World War 11 broke out, so their choice of service was the Navy, which they joined both serving on *Sydney* until the order came through that brothers could not serve together. My elder brother was transferred to another ship and survived the war. 'Rossie' (as the family called him) served only on *Sydney*.

I was only 8 years old at the time *Sydney* was sunk, but can remember my mother getting the telegram telling her that her boy was lost at sea, as the *Sydney* had been sunk. It was a very sad time for her as her eldest son was somewhere fighting the enemy and communication was difficult. My father and sister were serving in the Army and she still had 5 **younger** children to look after, so the burden fell very heavily on her shoulders. **She never** gave up hope that one day he would return, but never lived to hear the news of "Finding the Sydney" as she died in 2001 at the age of 95. So it is for her I write this memorial.

Being much younger my recollections of my brother was he was a quiet, serious boy who adored his Mum and he bought her a beautiful kimono which she treasured. Girls didn't play a big part in his life at that time. He would have been 21 yrs a month after the sinking of *Sydney*.