

John Robert Thomas HAMER

04/12/2018

John Robert Thomas HAMER

AKA ?

Late of Monterey, NSW

NSW Redfern Police Academy Class # 100

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 11103

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed 17 August 1964 (aged 21 years, 5 months, 29 days)

Constable – appointed 17 August 1965

Senior Constable – appointed 17 August 1973

Senior Sergeant – appointed 31 December 1987

Final Rank = Senior Sergeant

Stations: ?, 'D' District, G.D's all of his service in Metro & Country areas, Police Academy lecturer at the Secondary Training annexure, Elizabeth St, Redfern (1980's), Sutherland District Office, Kogarah – Retirement

Service: From ?? pre August 1964? to ??? = ? years Service

Awards: National Medal – granted 2 March 1981 (Sgt 3/c)

1st Clasp to National Medal – granted 7 October 1991

2nd Clasp to National Medal – granted 10 August 2000

Born: Friday 19 February 1943

Died on: Monday 3 December 2018

Age: 75 years, 9 months, 14 days

Cause: Parkinson disease (sufferer for 10 years) & recently suffered progressive dementia

Event location: ?

Event date: ?

Funeral date: Monday 10 December 2018 @ noon

Funeral location: South chapel, Woronora Cemetery, Linden St, Sutherland

Wake location: Cafe', Woronora Cemetery

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Woronora Cemetery, Linden St, Sutherland

Memorial located at: ?

JOHN is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance * NOT
JOB RELATED

Funeral location: [codepeople-post-map]

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace



a Sergeants course or First Line Commanders course at Penrith Police Station around mid 1980s. Can't remember all the names but I will give it a try. **Back row:** Laurie Eddy (# 16868?), Greg Peterson (# 15106), Warren Newton (# 14491), Bob Murrell (# 15864), Hank Vanderwaarden (# 15760), Ron Blake (# 10029). **Middle row:** John HAMER – instructor (# 11103), Ernie Jones (# 15468 or # 14515), Gary BUCKLEY (# 16269),

Ces **Kearney** (# 16804), Ray **Filewood** (# 15912), Dave **Clouston** (# 16727), Alan **Targett** (# 14196), Helmut **Myers** (# 16359). **Front row:** Kieron **Power** (# 17384), John **Findlater** (# 13571), Ron **McGOWAN** (# 15631), Gordon **Middlemiss** (# 17058), Gary **Winchester** (# 15414), Mal **Roser** (# 16028).

the Metropolitan South Associates Branch of the Police Association have advised of the death of retired **Senior Sergeant John Hamer**, last station **Kogarah**.

During his service John performed general duties at country and metropolitan stations, and for a time was a lecturer at the Police Academy. He was an absolute gentleman, a very humble and respected man. For the past ten years John battled Parkinson disease and more recently suffered progressive dementia. Rest in Peace friend.

03/12/2018 – John Robert Thomas HAMER, 75 old, Reg. No. 11103. Ret. Sen. Sgt of Monterey, Sydney NSW.

John's funeral will be held at 12.00pm on Monday the 10th Instant at the South Chapel, Woronora Cemetery, thence a burial will be conducted within the grounds.

The family are desirous that former colleagues attending John's funeral may wear relevant medals. If so, appropriate dress clothes would be required. The family have indicated that they would also like a Police Honour Guard to be present. Later, a wake will be held within the grounds to celebrate John's life.



Government House
Canberra
2 March 1981

IT is notified for general information that the Governor-General has awarded the National Medal, and Clasps as indicated, to the following persons:

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

Awarded the National Medal

Detective Constable First Class Leslie Howard
CHAPMAN
Constable First Class David Kenneth LLOYD
Constable Raymond John TAYLOR

TASMANIAN AMBULANCE SERVICES

DEVONPORT AND DISTRICT AMBULANCE BOARD

Awarded the National Medal

Station Officer Kenneth Bertram HAINES

Awarded a Clasp to the National Medal

Superintendent/Secretary Kenneth John PURSER

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE FORCE

Awarded the National Medal

Detective Sergeants 3rd Class

Donald George FERGUSON
Lancelot David HINES
Robert Alexander KYLE
John OPENSHAW
Egbert Lenze OOSTERHOFF
Terry RUSKIN
Sheridan URE

Sergeants 3rd Class

John Austen ANDREWS
Leslie Alfred BUTTERWORTH
Thomas Henderson CONNERTON
Brian Joseph COUPER
Alan DOAK
Richard Lawrence DOUST
Jack FARMER
Raymond William FRANKHAM
Reginald Thomas HALL
John Robert Thomas HAMER
John Warren KENT
Olaf Edward LARSEN
Allan Stephen McCLOSKEY
William James MAHONY
Laurence John MOFFIT
Roger William MORRISON
John Babington MORELAND
Ralph Ian PARRY
Gerald Asprey PERKIN
Anthony RUTTER
Alan Geoffrey STUBBS
Bryan Desmond STUBBS

Detective Senior Constables

Frank Joseph BUFFONI
Carlton Graeme CAMERON
Harvey James CHAPMAN
James William DENHOLM
Stephen John DENNETT
James Leslie HACKWORTHY
Peter James HARRIS
Gregory Stephen HICKEY
Raymond George HOUSE
Brian Arthur HOWARD
Graham Edward KELL
Reginald Clarence LEMME
Richard Baillieu MARR
Robert John MOORE
Brian Reginald MOORE
Nicholas John STOVES
Kevin Charles WILKINSON

Senior Constables

Eric Roland BAGULEY
James Denis BANKS
Peter Francis BEACROFT
Richard George BEAUMONT
Henry Francis BOURKE
Brian Frederick BOWER
Peter John BURTON
Ronald Norman Telfer CALDWELL
Michael James CARMAN
Peter Charles CARTER
John Edward Andrew CARL
Terence CUNNINGHAM
John Joseph DAVOREN
Lloyd Matthew DEVER
John Charles DUFF
John Raymond DUGGAN
Geoffrey Ian D'Arcy DUNLOP
Peter Michael DAY
Bruce Alfred ELDER
Ian Kenneth ELLIS
Ronald Edward FARMILLO
Kevin Brian GOLDSPINK
Terence Charles HAYES
Frederick William HENNING
Richard Hugh HOLLAND
Brian Robert HOLMES
Kevin David HOWARD
Jack HYDE
Lance William HOPKINS
Eric Bruce IDDLES
Arnold Roden JACKSON
Ronald James JAMIESON
Joseph Yohan JANSSON
Graham Harold JESSOP
Peter James KELLY
David Edward KENSELL
Christopher LONG
Maurice LONGE
Clifford Donald LONSDALE
Warren Lynwood LORD
Peter Wilson MACDONALD

Neil Purvis RIP brother in blue
Greg Wilson Rest in peace John...
Janne McMahan RIP John.
Junelle Doherty RIP Sir.
Tracey Kearns Rest In Peace my old friend
Pete Wilson RIP dear friend.
Val Ivlev RIP.
John Richardson RIP John. A thorough gentleman.
Les Dalrymple Sergeant Hamer was an instructor at the Academy when I did secondary training back in the very early 80s. A thorough gentleman – Vale John.
Richard Hurst RIP Senior Sergeant HAMER.
Ron Alexander I worked with John at the secondary training annexure Elizabeth Street Redfern during the late 80's. John was admired by all and a true friend. RIP John.
Peter Poulton RIP brother
Carol Allman Very sad lovely man
RIP
Bill Connors R.I.P. Brother
Col Colman Thank you John Hamer for your fine and dedicated Service to our Community. We also thank you for your enthusiastic approach whilst performing instructional duties at the Police Academy, and on behalf of the many hundreds of Probationary Constables you instructed in class, and launching them into a wonderful career, we say thank you, you really did make a difference. As a new Instructor at the Academy, during John's tour, I found him most helpful and informative, during those first few months. RIP.....
Graham Gerholt RIP Sir.
John Pizantias R.I.P mate
Phil Evans RIP John. Would anyone know if he lived at Gladesville prior to joining the NSW Police?
Barry Salter John was in my class of August 1964
NSW Fallen Police Do you have a Class number Barry? Also, do you recall the exact date you all walked into the Academy – I assume at Redfern? Cal
Peter Cinitis RIP
Warwick Saunders Rest in Peace, a class after me.
Phillip Martin Rest in peace John.
Paul Grossett RIP
Darryl Smith Rest In Peace Sarge. ????

Belinda Dunn-Toemoe Thank you for your service. Rest in peace.
????

Rob Allman A true Gentleman & a wonderful friend. Lovely memories

R.I.P. Dearest John.????

Ian Bell Rest In Peace my friend

Ken Emms I was a student of John's in the Methods of Instruction Course. A very competent teacher & all round good bloke. He will be sadly missed. Sincere sympathies to John's family.

Glenn Stan Cam Stanley John was attached to Sutherland District Office when I was in SOGs and he was always a gentleman who also had a good sense of humour. Will be sadly missed RIP mate

Stewart McNeice Worked with John at Kogarah. A real gentleman. A dam shame.

Phillip Brand RIP fellow Sergeant

Peter Bjarne JOHANSEN

04/12/2018

Peter Bjarne JOHANSEN

aka Barney

Late of Medlow Bath

Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy with **Class # 054**

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 8945

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday
20 January 1958 (aged 19 years, 1 month, 24 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed 3 March 1958 (aged 19
years, 3 months, 4 days)

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Constable 1st Class – appointed 3 March 1964

Senior Constable – appointed 1 July 1968 * (3 mths Seniority
lost)

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 1 March 1974

Chief Inspector – appointed 28 August 1985

Final Rank: ?

Stations: ?, 21 Division Special Squad (pre 1961), Picton
GD's (1961 – 1968),

Griffith (1960's), Bowral (1972 – 1974), Griffith (1975 –
1982),

Wallsend (C/Insp – OIC – 1980's), Northern Region
Operational Support (1990's),

Service: From 20 January 1958 to 27 May 1994 = 36 years, 4
months, 7 days Service

Age at Retirement: 55 years, 6 months, 0 days

Time in Retirement: 22 years, 9 months, 19 days

Awards: National Medal – **granted** 22 August 1980 (Sgt 3/c)

1st Claps to National Medal – **granted** 3 September 1985 (Sgt
1/c)

2nd Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 7 May 1994 (Sgt 1/c)

Born: Sunday 27 November 1938

Died on: Saturday 18 March 2017

Age: 78 years, 3 months, 19 days

Cause: Dementia

Event location: Catholic Healthcare Bodington, Wentworth
Falls

Event date: Saturday 18 March 2017

Funeral date: Friday 24 March 2017 @ 11am

Funeral location: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 168
Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood

Buried at: Springwood Cemetery, 40 Davesta Rd, Springwood,
NSW

Grave location: **Roman Catholic**, Row M, Plot 9

Memorial located at: ?

PETER is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance
***NEED MORE INFO**

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

JOHANSEN, Peter Bjarne.

Passed away peacefully 18th March 2017.

Late of Medlow Bath.

Devoted husband of Deirdre.

Proud father and father-in-law to Thorbjorn & Svetlana, Tim & Melanie and Ashley & Melissa.

Loving grandfather of Morgan, Samual, Mischa, Nikita, Edward and Henry.

Aged 78 years.

Peter's family and friends are warmly invited to attend his funeral service to be held at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood on Friday 24th March, commencing at 11:00

In God's Care.



Published in The Sydney Morning Herald on Mar. 21, 2017 – See more at:

<http://tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/smh-au/obituary.aspx?pid=184584852#sthash.rMPgNE3v.dpuf>

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Sunday 21 October 1990, page 2

Police to blitz speeders

SYDNEY: Police will launch a second special Night Car patrol on the Pacific Highway for one week from today in a bid to prevent accidents on Australia's notorious road.

The special patrol coincides with the first anniversary of the Sunliner coach crash at Cowper, near Grafton, in which 22 people died.

In a statement issued in Sydney, **Chief Inspector Peter Johansen**, of **Northern Region headquarters**, said increased patrols were to continue for the remainder of the year, as statistics gathered over several years had revealed an increase in serious crashes in the September December quarter.

The patrol would be on the road between 8.30pm and 4am, covering the area from Hexham, near Newcastle, to the Queensland border.

It would complement routine traffic police operations based in all major towns along the route. Chief Inspector Johansen said the Night Car patrols were necessary to maintain a constant high profile for police.

The first Night Car operation earlier this year travelled more than 3000km and booked 55 vehicles for exceeding the speed limit. This included 18 coaches, and two heavy vehicles were found travelling at 96 and 110km/h in a 60km/h zone near Coffs Harbour.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Wednesday 6 June 1990, page 16

Random patrols to cut toll

SYDNEY: The number of fatal accidents on the Pacific Highway at Port Macquarie on the NSW mid-north coast has forced police to increase patrols and start community-awareness programs, a police spokesman said yesterday.

Since January, 27 people had been killed in 20 accidents in the area, compared with 18 deaths in the same period last year, operations support commander Chief Inspector Peter Johansen said in a statement.

He said a traffic policing system had been adopted from Tasmania using a computer to select random patrol points along the Pacific Highway.

"It has the potential to reduce the accident rate by up to 50 per cent," he said.

Chief Inspector Johansen said the system aimed to undermine the security of drivers who thought they knew the "favourite radar spots".

There will be a six-month trial of the new patrolling system by Port Macquarie police and if successful it could be extended to other areas.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article120890549.txt>

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Wednesday 17 January 1990, page 3

Tough CB laws sought

SYDNEY: Tougher CB radio laws and increased police patrols were foreshadowed yesterday as a means of cutting the number

of fatalities on NSW's notorious Pacific Highway.

Senior police have recommended stiffer penalties for truck drivers who use CB radios to warn colleagues of police patrols on the state's roads.

North region commander Chief Inspector Peter Johansen said many truck drivers were using the CBs to undermine police operations, particularly those involving marked cars.

"I imagine the trucking industry has a code of ethics, but I don't think it's ethical when they divulge the position of marked cars to other drivers," Inspector Johansen said.

"I would like to see heavier fines for the illegal use of CB radios."

Inspector Johansen said existing resources would be re-examined with a view to assigning more officers to the Lismore and Port Macquarie districts to boost patrols on the Pacific Highway.

Northern NSW was the scene of two recent crashes involving tourist coaches which claimed more than 50 lives.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article120872862.txt>

Robert STEPHENS

Late of Ryde, NSW

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 7306

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed 10 June 1952 (aged
23 years, 1 month, 29 days)

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 1 January 1968

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed 14 December 1978

Chief Inspector – retirement

Stations: ?, Safety Bureau – Nth Sydney HWP, Bankstown STP (1970's), The Glebe (8 Division), Five Dock (to GD's from Traffic), Eastwood (17 Division) as OIC at time of Retirement

Service: From ?? pre June 1952? to ??? = ? years
Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: 12 April 1929 at Hurstville, NSW

Died on: Saturday 7 January 2017

Age: 87 years, 8 months, 26 days

Cause: Dementia and Pneumonia

Funeral date: ?

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: Cremated

Memorial at: ?

ROBERT is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

***NEED MORE INFO**

Funeral location: ?

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

STEPHENS, Robert

Passed away peacefully 7th January, 2017.

Late of Ryde.

Beloved husband of Deralene (deceased).

Loving father of Robert, Michael, Lesa and families.

Privately cremated

MANNINGS FUNERALS

9555-7551

Funerals

Published in The Daily Telegraph on 11/01/2017

Allan James HALL

04/12/2018

Allan James HALL

New South Wales Police Force

[alert_yellow]Regd. #
13676[/alert_yellow]

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed
23 June 1969

Senior Constable – appointed 23 June 1978

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 13 June
1985

Incremental Sergeant – retired

Stations: ?, B.A.S. @ Blacktown & Mt
Druitt in the 1970's & 80's (27 Division
) , Traffic Adjudication Section (1983) ,
Flemington (32 Division) , Flemington
Traffic Office (1984 – 88) – retirement

Service: From ? ? ?pre June 1969 to 6
September 2001 = 32 years Service

Awards: National Medal – granted 3
September 1985

1st Clasp to National Medal – granted 3
October 1995

Born: 27 January 1946

Died on: Saturday 16 July 2016

Cause: Has been ill for the past few years & suffering dementia

Age: 70

Funeral date: Friday 22 July 2016 @ 1.30pm

Funeral location: Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Lake Street, Forster

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?

[alert_yellow]**ALLAN** is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert_yellow] ***NEED MORE INFO**

Funeral location: [codepeople-post-map]

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

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May you forever Rest In Peace.

Ross Leslie DUNNE

04/12/2018

Ross Leslie DUNNE

(late of Kahibah – Lake Macquarie, NSW)

New South Wales Police Force

**Regd. # 9891 (no find in '79 Stud Book
)**

Rank: Sergeant – resigned

Stations: ? , Hamilton, Newcastle Water Police, force transferred to Mona Vale – resignation

Service: From ? to ? (because Ross does not appear in the 1979 'Stud Book', it is possible he resigned before 1979.)

Awards: ? – No find on It's an Honour

Born: ?

Died on: Thursday 28 April 2016

Cause: Suffered dementia for 13 years

Age: 78

Funeral date: Friday 6 May 2016 @
2.30pm

Funeral location: The Chapel, Harris St,
Wallsend

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?

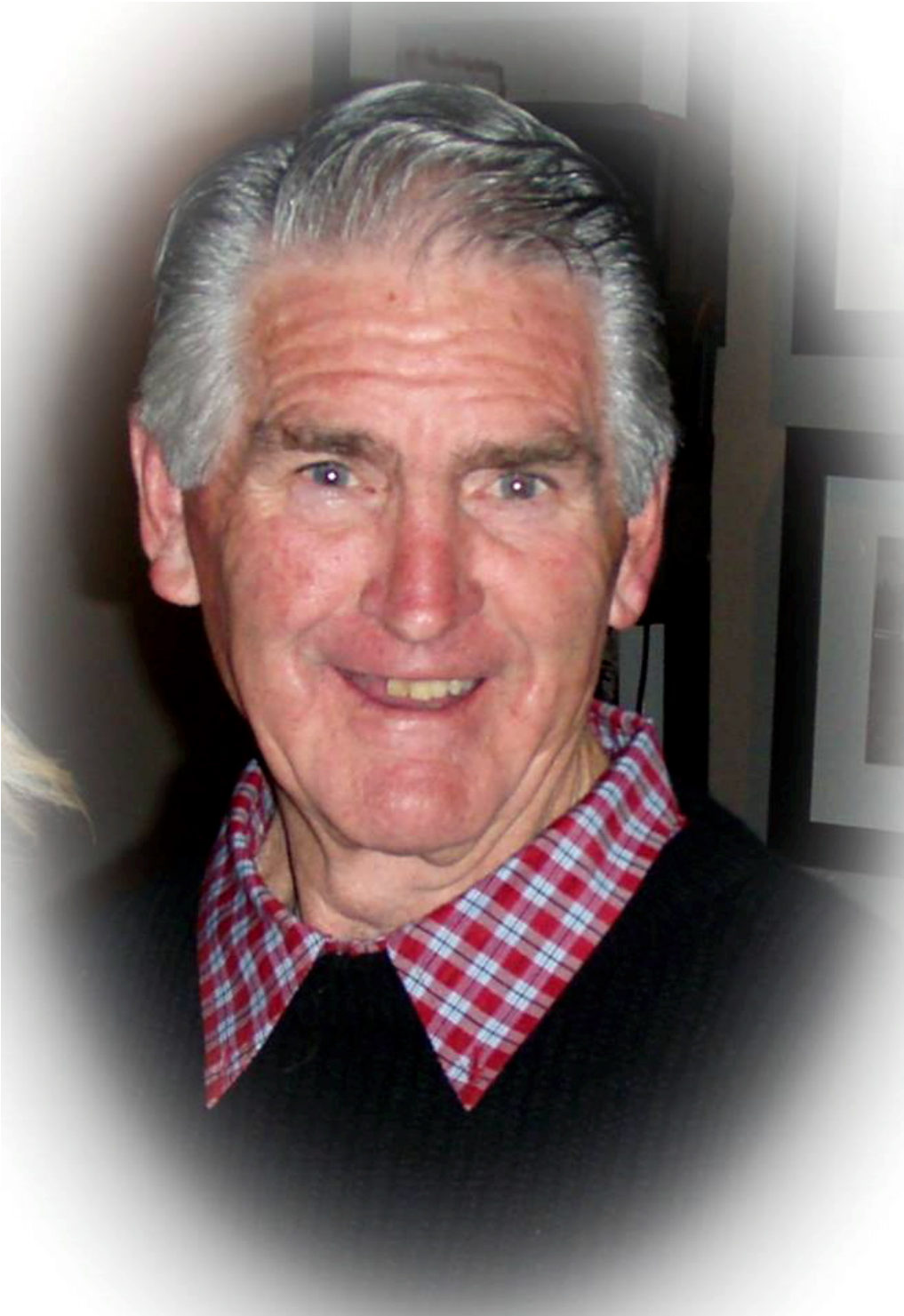


Aboard Police Launch Valiant

ROSS is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance * **NOT**
JOB RELATED

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

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DUNNE

Ross Leslie

Late of Kahibah

passed away surrounded
by His loving family

28th April, 2016

Aged 78 Years

Dear loved Husband of HELEN. Much loved Father of STEPHEN, LEE-ANNE, PETER, and their partners BRENDA, & JOHN. Loving Da to DANI, CARLY, JAYDE, SCOTT, GEORGIA, & to His Great Grandchildren, JETT, RORI, JAKOB, & DARBI. Loved Brother, Brother-in-law & Uncle to His family.

The Relatives & Friends of **ROSS** are warmly invited to attend His Funeral to be held in The Chapel, Harris St, Wallsend this **FRIDAY 6th May, 2016** Service commencing at 2:30pm..

'Forever In Our Hearts'

 **Pettigrew**
FAMILY FUNERALS
4951 1166
www.pettigrew.com.au

April 30, 2016

Thinking of you all at this very sad time of Uncle Ross's passing.

Robert and Catherine Heyer, Wollongong

April 30, 2016

Thinking of you all at this very sad time of Uncle Ross's passing.

Robert and Catherine Heyer, Wollongong

April 30, 2016

Sorry for your loss. Uncle Ross will be sadly missed

Don and Julie Burgess

April 30, 2016

Sorry for your loss. Uncle Ross will be sadly missed.

Don and Julie Burgess

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/theherald-au/ross-leslie-dunne-condolences/179824529>

Betty Margaret NIXON

04/12/2018

**Betty Margaret NIXON (nee McNEIL /
MacNEIL) – wife of Ross & mother
of Christine**

(late of Allambie Hts & Brookvale)

New South Wales Police Force

Rank: Wife / Mother

Stations: ?

Service: From ? to ?

Awards: ? – Nil National

Born: 5 August 1924

Died on: Tuesday 29 December 2015

Cause: Dementia

Age: 91

**Funeral date: Wednesday 6 January 2016
@ 12noon**

**Funeral location: South Chapel of
Northern Suburbs Crematorium, 199 Delhi
Rd, North Ryde (by request – NO flowers
)**

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?

Funeral location: [codepeople-post-map]

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

NIXON, Betty Margaret.

5.8.1924 – 29.12.2015

Aged 91 years.

Loved wife of Ross for 65 years and wonderful mother to Len, Christine and Mark. Grandmother to Emma, Amy, Sam, Brady and to new grandchild Matilda. Mother-in-law of Karen, John and Sarah.

Betty survived the Depression, served in the Australian Army Nursing Service 1945, was *Allambie Heights Brown Owl for 21 years, and secretary and member of the Methodist-Uniting Church Allambie Heights for 40 years. Betty worked for many years at Coles and Avon. She gave great support to her family, friends and the community and is greatly missed.

Betty like many others never deserved to be struck down by the incurable disease of dementia. The Nixon family pay special tribute to Alexander Nursing Home Brookvale for their outstanding care of Betty over the last 4 years.

Deeply missed, may Betty rest in peace.

A Celebration of Betty's Life will be held in the South Chapel of Northern Suburbs Crematorium, 199 Delhi Rd, North Ryde on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 12pm.

No flowers by request.

<http://tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/smh-au/obituary.aspx?n=etty-nixon&pid=177106753>

<http://tributes.dailytelegraph.com.au/notice/238182091/view?random=1451706632679>

*Allambie Heights Brown Owl was a person overseeing the local neighbourhood Brownies (female Scouts)

Family History.

Fair Cop by Christine Nixon

Birth, Death & Marriage:

Registration # 13783/1950

& 13788/1950

William Leonard ESPIE

04/12/2018

William Leonard ESPIE

aka Bill, 'Buckshot', 'The Wasp'

New South Wales Police Force

Uniform # 1868

Regd. # 10092

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy, with Class 088, on Monday 14 August 1961 (aged 27 years, 0 months, 7 days)

Probationary Constable – 14 September 1961

1st Class Constable – appointed 1 April 1967

Senior Constable – appointed 1 April 1971

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 1 February 1978

Sergeant 2nd Class – 31 August 1984 (Central Police Station)

Sergeant 1st Class – 9 August 1986

Chief Inspector – February 1989 (Fairfield & Cabramatta)

Chief Inspector – Patrol Commander (Cabramatta) until
Optional Retirement in April 1991

Stations: Central (No. 1 Division), Darlinghurst (No. 3 Division) to Liverpool (22 Division) in November 1963, Merrylands (26 Division), Cabramatta, Fairfield, Cabramatta (34 Division) – Optional Retirement

Service: From 14 August 1961 to ? April 1991 (Optional Retirement) = 31? years of Service

Awards: Queen's commendation for Brave Conduct – **granted** 19 October 1965 (rescue of two people from their burning vehicles after a collision – whilst standing in fuel)

Commissioner's Commendation – rescue – 1965 (rescue of two people from their burning vehicles after a collision – whilst standing in fuel)

Peter Mitchell Award, a perpetual trophy, for selfless & brave conduct – 1965 (as above)

George Lewis Trophy “for the most courageous act by a member of the NSW Police Force in 1965” (as above)

Australian Defence Medal

Commissioner's Commendation – for pursuing & arresting an armed prison escapee – 1971

Commissioner's Commendation – pursuit and arrest of an offender of a fatal shooting at Cabramatta – 1977

National Medal – **granted** 11 December 1980 (Sgt)

1st Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 7 November 1988 (SenSgt)

Australian National Police Service Medal

Born: Tuesday 25 June 1935 in Alice Springs, N.T.

Died on: Thursday 22 September 2011

Cause: Dementia

Age: 76 years, 2 months, 28 days

Funeral date: Wednesday 28 September 2011 @ 10.30am

Funeral location: SOUTH CHAPEL, ROOKWOOD CREMATORIUM,
ROOKWOOD

Buried at: Cremated



1976 Bill Espie standing next to Father Smith celebrating his 50 years of ordination – Charlie Perkins on far left next to Mrs Smith – Noel Hampton and David Woodford on far right

Memorial location 1: NSW Police Academy, Goulburn

Memorial 1 description: Framed picture & literature in relation to Bill's Service

Memorial date: 29 October 2015 @ 1pm



Former Det Sgt Peter Croucher & Former Sgt Sue Bytheway





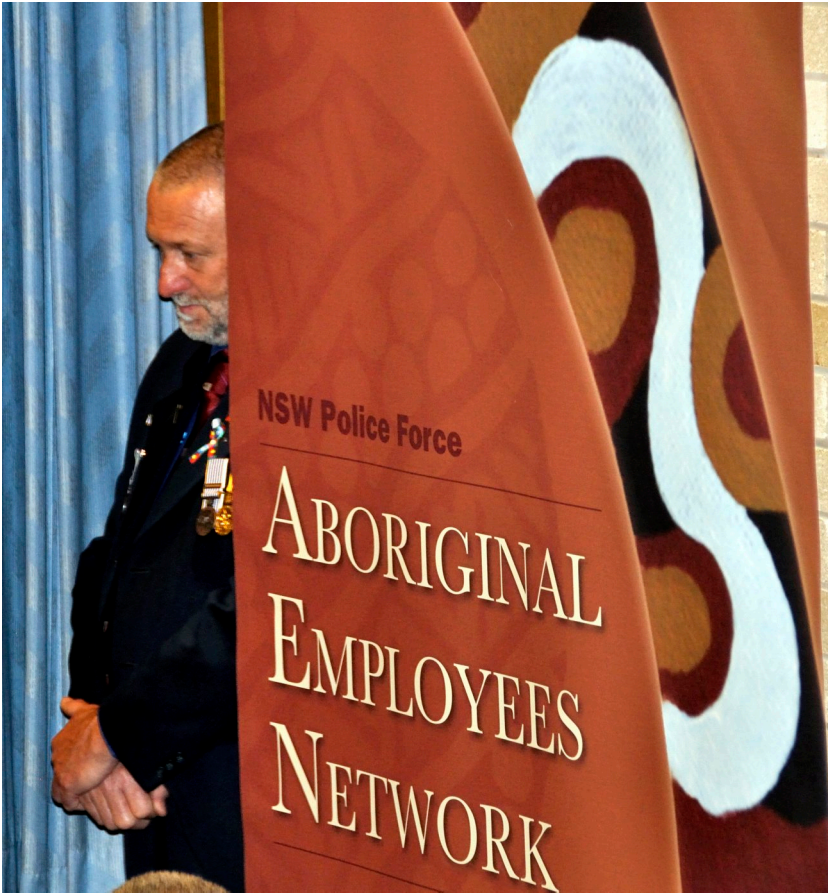


























Saint Francis House...Father Smith and Me.

This story is based on facts and my own perception of things past. It is not motivated by politics, religion or personal gain. It involves three components. Saint Francis House, Father Percy Smith and "Me". The identity of "Me" is not important as "Me" could well have been any number of young Aboriginal children who grew up in Alice Springs in the thirties.

I was born in the Alice in the thirties to an Aboriginal Mother who through no fault of her own could not have raised me in the way that she would have wished, due mainly to economic and social barriers. Fancy phrases of course but simply meaning being poor and not being fully accepted in the community in which we lived. My Mother had a choice, bring me up herself in an environment which offered no more than twenty percent chance of being successful or to let me grow up under the watchful eye of Father Smith, an Anglican Minister whose parish was in Alice Springs. The term "Father" I suspect arrived from affection rather than religious correctness. No doubt at great pain my loving Mother chose the latter. After spending a few years in the church home in the Alice I eventually travelled with a number of other young Aboriginal boys to Saint Francis House at Semaphore. This was to be my home for the next seven or eight years, again for the most of that time under the care and control of Father and Mrs Smith. It was to become my fortress, my haven against an outside community who did not fully accept persons of Aboriginal descent. It was also to become a place where friendships would flourish, ambitions to take shape and my character to develop. It was a place where I would gain an education so that I may at least obtain employment in the future.

Looking back one would have asked "How". How could a big rambling, one hundred year old house containing some twenty or so young Aboriginals, who came from far and a wide possibly help me in achieving my goals. I expect the logical answer would have been "I really don't know" perhaps calling this beautiful old house "Saint Francis House" might help in some way, but we all know names alone will not press the magic button. The next obvious question was of course "Well what was it then that made this house so successful". A place where I would partly achieve some of my ambitions. I expect no one gets it all, do they?

The accolades must of course go in the main to Father and Mrs Smith

who brought about the concept of Saint Francis House by an overwhelming desire to help young Aboriginal children take their place amongst the general community with pride and the qualifications to reach attainable goals both in the present and future. Their private lives were non-existent due to of course to their dedication in what they were doing was justified and correct. It was this dedication and commitment that made Saint Francis House a success.

Of course there were other factors that must be considered when judging the overall effectiveness of Saint Francis House, and those factors were "The Boys" the tenants, the occupants, or to be more explicit the Aboriginal boys themselves. The same boys who slept three, four, five to a room, and if it was ghost story night or someone had imagined seeing the ghost of Captain Hart (The original owner) wandering the halls prior bedtime, then it was six to a bed not unreasonable I would think.

These same boys depended on each other for guidance, support, company but most of all I think each and every one craved for that Family environment, and because of the actions of Father and Mrs Smith, achieved. The individual personalities of each of the boys also contributed towards the overall aura of the house. Their continuing effort to "fit in" within the community and their sense of humour in day to day activities made life unique and gave the house a "Soul". Even though the function of this house has long since gone one would still hope the "Soul" still haunts the corridors, hallways and rooms of this house we affectionately remember as Saint Francis House... who knows??????

As I stated at the commencement the identity of "Me" was not important, however on reflection and remembering the sacrifices that my dear Mother made for me to achieve what I have achieved, the dedication of Father and Mrs Smith, my friends that I lived with at Saint Francis House. I feel I have the obligation and the honour to say this was placed on paper by "Me".

SignedEspie.....Bill Espie



WILLIAM (BILL) LEONARD ESPIE

(1935-2011)

William (Bill) Leonard Espie was born in the Northern Territory in 1935. He was one of several talented Aboriginal men who went on to make a mark on Australia and to contribute to the progress of his people.

During his exemplary career, Bill became the highest ranking Police Officer of Aboriginal descent in all of the Australian Police Forces. He was followed by Charlie Perkins, who became a famous activist and Public Service bureaucrat; Professor Gordon Briscoe, an academic and activist for his people; John Moriarty, Artist; Vince Copley, Chairman of Indigenous Cricket and Brian Butler, in Aboriginal Aged Care.

Bill was born in Alice Springs, he was one of seven children to a mixed race Arunta woman, Edith Espie and Victor Cook, a European who had moved from South Australia to work in Alice Springs as a labourer. Bill's sister, Ellen said the family lived in a good house in "The Alice" and their parents did their best for them. Like Charlie Perkins, Gordon Briscoe and several others, Bill came under the notice of an Anglican Priest, Father Percy Smith who arranged for the boys to go to an Indigenous Boys Home (St Francis House) at Semaphore in South Australia.

Bill, who was nicknamed Buckshot, was educated at Le Fevre High School. He became a good sportsman, playing soccer, football and excelling at tennis where he played against state champions. He was also used in practice hit-ups against world champions such as Lew Hoad and Ken Rosewell. After completing his Intermediate Certificate he trained as a maintenance fitter and joined the Australian Army in 1955. He became a sapper in the Engineers and worked as a field engineer. He also served at Maralinga during the atomic testing. In 1958 he married Irene Zachary.

After leaving the army in 1961 he joined the NSW Police Force and became a Probationary Constable on 18 September 1961. His first posting was Darlinghurst and later transferred to Liverpool. Over the next sixteen years he served at Liverpool, Merrylands and Cabramatta.

Bill quickly came to notice for his discipline and attitude to his work. Former Police Commissioner Ken Moroney, said "It was in these early days of his career that Bill deservedly earned the respect, not only of his senior officers and peers, but, as important, of the community in which he worked. Long before the words 'Community Police Based Policing' became the fashion of the day, Bill Espie's life skills and worldly experiences had seen him well versed in the importance of effectively communicating with people at all levels. What you saw was what you got and there were no in-betweens. You knew exactly that he meant what he said and he said what he meant".

In March 1965 he attended the scene of a collision and found both vehicles burning fiercely. Without fear for his own safety, he went in and rescued a trapped man from each of the burning cars - earning a Commissioner's Commendation and the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Commissioner Norman Allen, also awarded Bill with the Peter Mitchell Award, a perpetual trophy, to recognise his selfless and brave conduct; he also received the George Lewis Trophy "for the most courageous act by a member of the NSW Police Force in 1965".

In 1971 he received another Commissioner's Commendation for pursuing and arresting an armed prison escapee.

A further Commissioner's Commendation came in 1977 when he received a report of a man leaving a crime scene after a fatal shooting. He was able to secure the crime scene and pursue the man, whom he arrested. The man was charged with murder and prosecuted.

In December 1980 Bill was awarded the National Medal for service and was later awarded a First Clasp of the National Medal.

After being transferred to Central Police Station in Sydney he attained the rank of Sergeant 2nd Class in 1984 and Sergeant 1st Class in 1986. Receiving a transfer back to Fairfield he was later promoted to Chief Inspector in 1989 and served as Patrol Commander at Cabramatta until he retired in 1991.

In 2000, prior to the Sydney Olympic games, Bill was given the prestigious honour to run a leg of the Olympic torch through the streets of Bathurst, New South Wales.

William Leonard Espie passed away on September 22, 2011 and is survived by his adult children Marita, William Jnr, Bettina and John.



By the QUEEN'S Order the name of

William Leonard Espie,

Constable, New South Wales Police Force,

was published in the London Gazette on

19th October, 1965,

as commended for brave conduct.

I am charged to express Her Majesty's
high appreciation of the service rendered.

Harold Wilson

Prime Minister and First Lord
of the Treasury













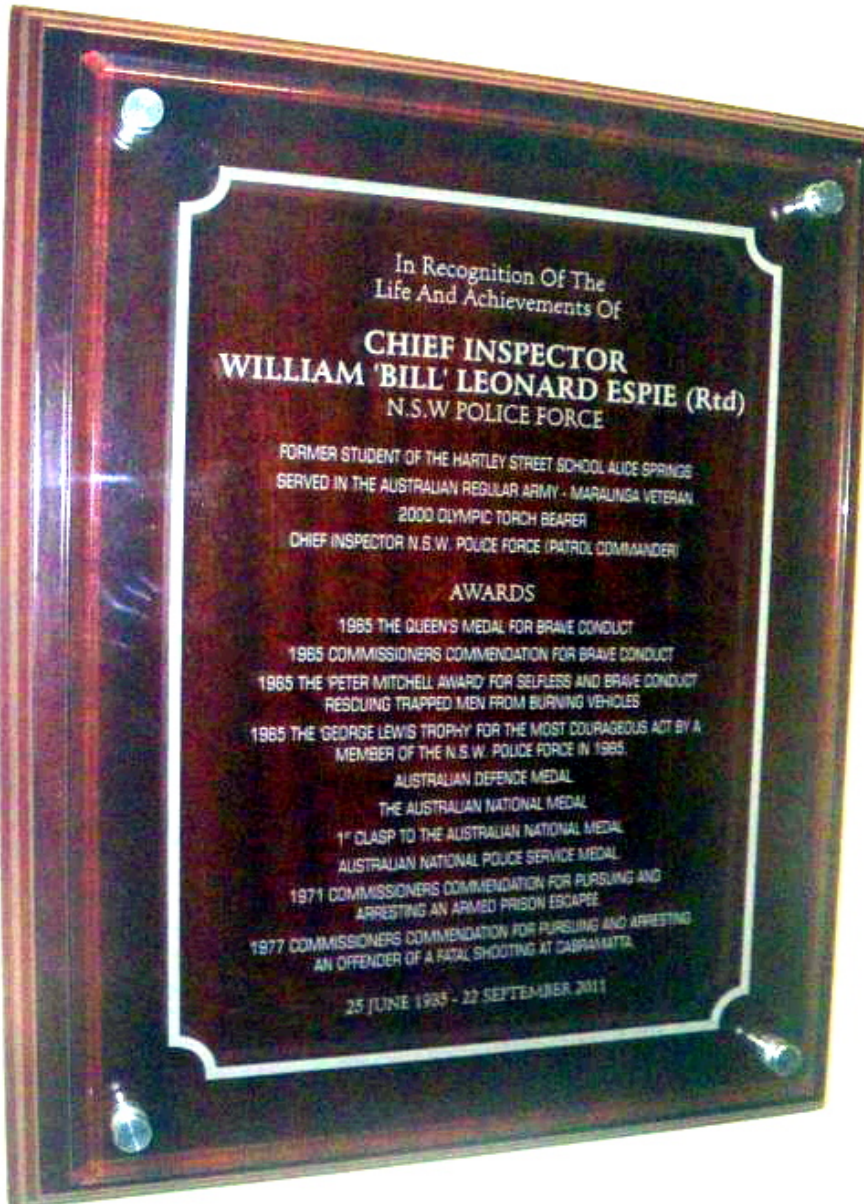


Memorial location 2: Hartley St School Museum, 39 Hartley St,

Alice Springs, N.T.

Memorial 2 description: Plaque

Memorial date: 29 July 2017





BILL is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance * NOT JOB RELATED



Bill Espie reading his Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.



1967 - CONSTABLE BILL ESPIE
IN NSW POLICE UNIFORM AT
GREEN VALLEY NSW.

Espie, William Leonard (Bill)

September 22nd 2011

Former Police Inspector of NSW Police

Dearly loved partner of Maureen
and her 3 Children.

Much loved father and father in law of Marita
and Paul, William and Mandy, Bettina and Todd
and John and Trudy.

Fond Grandfather of his 11 grandchildren and
1 great grandchild.

Much loved and cherished brother of Peter
(Deceased), Ellen, Peg, Tony (Deceased), Robert
and Linton.

Sadly missed by their families.

Aged 76 years.



Former Police Commissioner Ken Moroney





Former Detective Sergeant Peter Croucher

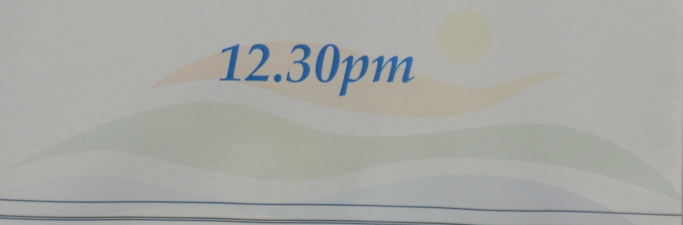
28/09/2011

Heritage
Funerals

William L Espie

South Chapel

12.30pm









WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2011

**CREMATION CEREMONY FOR RETIRED CHIEF INSPECTOR WILLIAM 'BILL'
LEONARD ESPIE. Born 250635 – 220911**

**SERVICE AT THE SOUTH CHAPEL, ROOKWOOD CREMATORIUM, ROOKWOOD,
10.30AM.**

POLICE FUNERAL.

RETIRED POLICE COMMISSIONER KEN MORONEY GIVING THE EULOGY.

Bastion of culture and community October 15, 2011□.

Bill Espie was one of several talented **Aboriginal men** born in the **Northern Territory** in the mid- to late **1930s** who went on to make, each in his own way, his mark on Australia and to contribute to the progress of his people. Espie was the first, destined for an exemplary police career in which he became the **highest-ranking police officer of Aboriginal descent in all the Australian police forces.**□□ He was followed by **Charlie Perkins**, who became a famous activist; **Professor Gordon Briscoe**, an academic and activist for his people; the artist **John Moriarty**; **Vince Copley**, chairman of Indigenous Cricket; and **Brian Butler**, in Aboriginal aged care.

William Leonard Espie was born in **Alice Springs** on **June 25, 1935**, one of seven children to a mixed-race **Arunta woman, Edith Espie**, who was part of the **stolen generation**, and **Victor Cook**, a **European** who had moved from **South Australia** to work in **Alice Springs** as a labourer.

Espie's sister **Ellen** said the family lived in a good house in Alice Springs and their parents did their best for them. Like Perkins and Briscoe and several others, Espie came under the benign influence of an **Anglican priest, Father Percy Smith**, who arranged for the boys to go to **St Francis House** at **Semaphore** in **Adelaide**, an **indigenous boys' home**.

Espie, known then as **Buckshot** by the boys, went to school in **Port Adelaide** and showed himself to be an **outstanding** tennis player, facing at one time **Lew Hoad** and **Ken Rosewall**. He completed his **Intermediate Certificate**, then trained as a maintenance **fitter**.

In **1955**, he joined the **Australian Army**, became a **sapper** in the engineers and was appointed a **field engineer**. He served at

Marginal during the **atomic testing**. Along the way, he married **Irene Zachary** and served in the **army until 1961**. At **26**, Espie decided to **go to Sydney**. He entered the **NSW Police Force** as a recruit and did his training at the **Redfern academy**, where he was noted as "**a good all-rounder**".

He became a **probationary constable** on **September 18, 1961**. Assigned for **12 months** to **Darlinghurst**, he experienced a profound culture shock – the place could have not been more different from Alice Springs – but he managed the situation and was then **transferred to Liverpool**.

During the following **16 years**, he was to serve there, at **Merrylands** and **Cabramatta**.

Espie quickly came to notice for his **discipline and attitude** to his work. Former police commissioner **Ken Moroney** said: "*It was in these early formative days of his career that Bill deservedly earned the respect not only of his senior officers and peers but, as important, of the community in which he worked. Long before the words 'community-based policing' became the fashion of the day, Bill Espie's life skills and worldly experiences had seen him well versed in the importance of effectively communicating with people at all levels. What you saw was what you got and there were no in-betweens. You knew exactly that he meant what he said and he said what he meant.*"

What Espie did in practical terms did not escape official notice either. In **March 1965**, he went to the scene of a collision and found **both vehicles burning fiercely**. Without hesitation, he went in and **rescued a trapped man from each** of the burning cars. For that, he earned a **Commissioner's Commendation** and the **Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct**.

Commissioner Norman Allen also awarded him the **Peter Mitchell Award**, a perpetual trophy, to recognise his **selfless and brave conduct**. On top of that, he received the **George Lewis Trophy**

"for the most courageous act by a member of the NSW Police Force in 1965".

In **1971**, he received another **Commissioner's Commendation** for pursuing and arresting an **armed prison escapee**.

A further **Commissioner's Commendation** came in **1977** when he received a report of a man leaving a crime scene following a **fatal shooting** at **Cabramatta**. He was able to **secure the crime scene** and **pursue** the man, whom he **arrested**. The man was **charged with murder** and prosecuted.

In **December 1980**, Espie was awarded the **National Medal** for service and was later awarded the **First Clasp** of the **National Medal**.

Transferred to **Central Police Station** in the city, he became a **sergeant second class** in **1984** and **sergeant first class** in **1986**. Arranging a transfer **back to Fairfield**, he continued performing well and, in **February 1989**, became a **chief inspector**. He served as **patrol commander** at **Cabramatta** until his **retirement** in **April 1991**.

Bill Espie is survived by his long-term partner, **Maureen Ola**, brothers **Robert** and **Linton**, sisters **Ellen** and **Peg**, his children **Marita**, **William junior**, **Bettina** and **John**, **11 grandchildren**, **great grand-daughter Sienna** and nephews and nieces.

Bill Espie: Police hero from Alice

Springs

By JOHN P McD SMITH

Bill Espie, born in **Alice Springs** in 1935, holds the unique distinction of being the **highest-ranking Aboriginal police officer in any Australian police force**.

In **March 1965** he attended a two vehicle collision with both vehicles on fire.

He rescued a man from each burning car, putting his own life at distinct risk.

For this **act of bravery Bill** was awarded the **Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct** as well as the **Commissioner's Commendation**.

POLICE HERO



1965 Newspaper clipping reporting on Bill Espie's heroic act to save two men for which he was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Bill's mother **Edie Espie** was one of a group of Aboriginal women in Alice Springs who wanted their children to have a better chance in life.

Others like her were **Hetti Perkins, Dido Cooper, Tilly Tilmouth, Melva Palmer** and **Millie Woodford** who accepted assistance from **Father Percy Smith** to help further the education of their children at **St Francis' House in Adelaide**.

All these mothers had one thing in common, and that was their determination to do the best for their children. They were strong women.

Bill Espie's nickname was "**Buckshot**" or "**The Wasp**". All the Aboriginal boys who lived at **St Francis' House** had nicknames.

Peter Tilmouth was called "**Truck**" because every Saturday he would go with the local greengrocer doing deliveries in his truck.

David Woodford was known as "**Woody**".

This is **Bill Espie's** account of his life. He passed away on September 22, 2011.

John P McD Smith



1976 **Bill Espie** standing next to **Father Smith** celebrating his 50 years of ordination – **Charlie Perkins** on far left next to **Mrs Smith** – **Noel Hampton** and **David Woodford** on far right

This story involves three components, **St Francis House, Father Smith** and **Mrs Smith** and me.

The identity of “me” is not important as “me” could well have been any number of young Aboriginal children who grew up in Alice Springs in the thirties.

My Aboriginal mother, through no fault of her own, could not have raised me in the way that she would have wished, due mainly to economic and social barriers.

Fancy phrases of course, but simply meaning being poor and not being fully accepted in the community.

My mother had a choice; bring me up herself in an environment which offered no more than a twenty percent chance of being successful, or to let me grow up under the watchful eye of **Father Smith** who was the **first resident Anglican priest in Alice Springs in 1933**.

No doubt at great pain my loving mother chose the latter.

After spending a few years at **St John's Hostel** in **Alice Springs**, I travelled with five other young Aboriginal boys to **St Francis' House** a **Semaphore**.

This was to be my home for the next seven or eight years, again for most of the time under the care of **Father** and **Mrs Smith**.

It was to become my fortress, my haven against an outside community who did not fully accept persons of Aboriginal descent.

It was also to become a place where friendships would flourish, ambitions take shape and my character develop. It was a place where I would gain an education so that I may at least obtain future employment.

Looking back one would ask, how? How could a big rambling one-hundred-year-old house containing some twenty or so young Aboriginals, who came from far and wide, possibly help me in achieving my goals?

I expect the logical answer would have been: "I really don't know."

Perhaps calling this beautiful old house "**St Francis' House**" might help in some way, but we all know that names alone will not press the magic button. The next obvious question was of course: "Well, what was it then that made this house so successful?" A place where I would achieve some of my ambitions.

The accolades must of course go in the main to **Father** and **Mrs Smith** who brought about the concept of **St Francis' House** by an overwhelming desire to help young Aboriginal children take their place amongst the general community with pride and qualifications to reach attainable goals both in the present and future.

Their private lives were non-existent due of course to their dedication in what they were doing was justified and correct. It was this dedication and commitment that made **St Francis' House** a success.

Of course there were other factors that must be considered when judging the overall effectiveness of **St Francis' House**.

Those factors were "the boys", the occupants or to be more explicit the **Aboriginal boys** themselves.

The same boys who slept three, four, five in a room; and if it was a ghost story night or someone had imagined seeing the ghost of **Captain Hart** (the original owner) wandering the halls prior to bedtime, then it was six to a bed – not unreasonable I would think!

These same boys depended on each other for guidance, support, company; but most of all I think each and every one craved for that family environment, and because of the actions of **Father** and **Mrs Smith** it was achieved.

The individual personalities of each of the boys also contributed towards the overall aura of the house. Their continuing effort to "fit in" within the community and their sense of humour in day to day activities made life unique and gave the house a "soul".

Even though the function of this house has long since gone one would still hope the "soul" still haunts the corridors, hallways and rooms we affectionately remember as **St Francis House** ... who knows?



Group of boys ready in Alice Springs in 1944 – **Bill Espie**, John Palmer (Back), Noel Hampton, Charles Perkins, Malcolm Cooper (standing in front or Mrs Smith), Mrs Isabel Smith, Father Percy Smith

John P McD Smith picks up the story.



1950s Aboriginal Football Team Alice Springs:
Bill Espie in back row 4th from left

After completing his **Intermediate Certificate** at **Le Fevre Boys High School** **Bill Espie** trained as a maintenance fitter. For a short time he returned to Alice Springs to be with his family, but he soon realised that there wasn't much of an employment future for him there.

In **1955** he joined the **Australian Army** and was appointed a **field engineer**.

He served at **Maralinga**. The world was opening up to him.

After his marriage to **Irene Zachary**, **Bill** decided to go to **Sydney** where he was accepted into the **NSW Police Force**.

He trained at the **Redfern academy** becoming a **probationary constable** in **1961**. During his career **Bill** served at **Darlinghurst, Liverpool, Merrylands** and **Cabramatta**.

He became an effective communicator as a police officer and was very good at dealing with different types of people and situations.

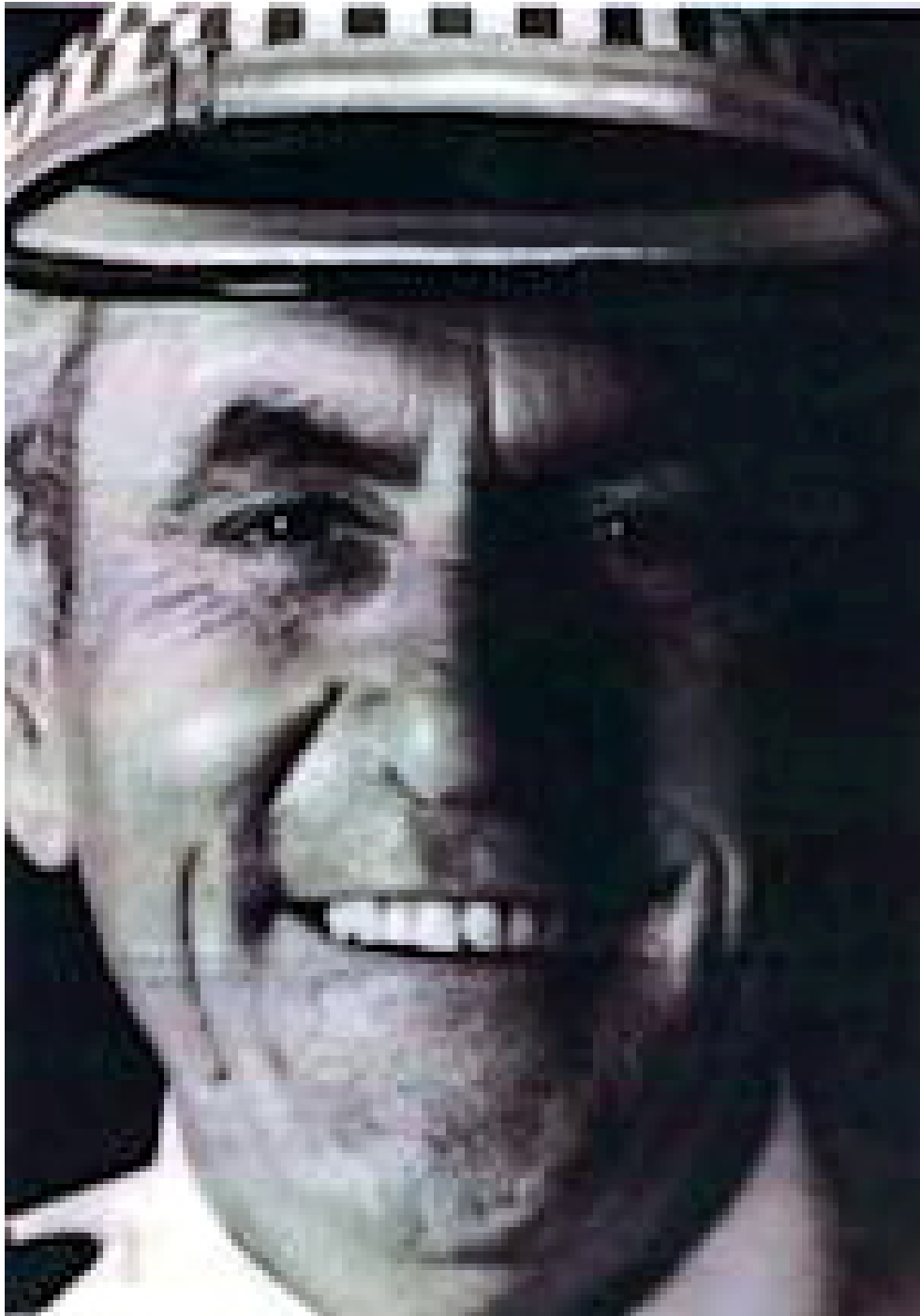
After rescuing the two men **Bill** merely said: "There wasn't

time to think, I just had to get the men out." They were saved from a firey death.

His commendations, which also included the **Peter Mitchell Award**, in 1971 **Bill** received another **Commissioner's Commendation** for pursuing and arresting an armed escapee.

Towards the end of his career **Bill** was awarded the **National Medal** for meritorious service to which later was added the **First Clasp**.

By 1986 **Bill** was a **sergeant first class**. Then in 1989 he became a **Chief Inspector** and served as **patrol commander** at **Cabramatta** until his retirement.



Chief Inspector Bill Espie

He deeply appreciated the chance he was given in life, which was manifested by his exemplary service. Much of his memorabilia is on perpetual display at the **NSW Police Academy** at **Goulburn**. He passed away in September 2011.

John P McD Smith is the son of **Father Percy Smith** (1903-82), first resident Anglican priest in Alice Springs in 1933. John

has written his father's biography, "**The Flower in the Desert.**")]

Posted: **April 5, 2019** at 8:48 am

4 Comments (starting with the most recent)

NB: If you want to reply to a previous comment, start your comment with this notation: @n where n is the number of the comment you want to reply to.

1. Dwayne

Posted **April 11, 2019** at 9:20 am

Enjoyed this story and the footy team photo is great. Would love to know who some of the other players are – if anyone around town knows.

2. James T Smerk

Posted **April 5, 2019** at 4:12 pm

What a bloke. A life well lived.

3. Nathan

Posted **April 5, 2019** at 9:51 am

Bill lived a life of service to the community. I think his own words are very strong: "My mother had a choice; bring me up herself in an environment which offered no more than a twenty percent chance of being successful, or to let me grow up under the watchful eye of Father Smith."

4. Inspiration

Posted **April 5, 2019** at 9:49 am

What a great story, Father Smith did a lot for the local Indigenous people here in the Alice.

My brother was one who went to Adelaide, **Peter Tilmouth**.

All the boys taken, all became great mates.

The Espie family was well respected here in the Alice and what an honour to have this man Bill Espie recognised, letting others know of his achievements. A story worth mentioning.

<http://www.alicespringsnews.com.au/2019/04/05/bill-espie-police-hero-from-alice-springs/>

Shotgun threat to three alleged

A 40-year-old man barricaded himself in a house and threatened the lives of three people while armed with a shotgun, Fairfield Court was told yesterday.

Ronald John Fizzell, driver, of Rachel Street, Mount Pritchard, was charged with unlawfully assaulting Elizabeth Brown Harrison Kennedy and Charles William McDonald Kennedy at Mount Pritchard on Monday.

He was also charged with assaulting Constable William Leonard Espie while on the execution of duty at Mount Pritchard on Monday.

The police prosecutor Sergeant C. Cole sought an adjournment and asked that a psychiatric examination be recommended.

Fizzell did not apply for bail.

Mr J. T. Fellows, SM, remanded Fizzell in custody to May 6.

He ordered Fizzell undergo a psychiatric examination.

Report of the Police Department for 1965

ACTS OF BRAVERY BY POLICE

Constable William Leonard Espie was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct and Departmentally commended for initiative and courage displayed in effecting the rescue of two men from motor vehicles which had collided at Cabramatta on the 18th March, 1965. Both vehicles were burning fiercely and one was in immediate danger of exploding when the Constable, standing in burning petrol, succeeded in extricating the two men from their respective vehicles. Within seconds of the rescue one vehicle became a blazing inferno.

<https://www.opengov.nsw.gov.au/viewer/b317ddac0db93a7a188f1df933f98fd1.pdf>

Bill Espie

Bill Espie was born in Alice Springs. He was in the Army for six years and remained in Sydney upon completing his service. He joined the Police Force in 1961.

Interviewed by Shirley McLeod 5th September 2005

Shirley McLeod: Good morning Bill. Bill Espie: Good morning Shirley.

Thank you very much for giving us your valuable time.

Bill Espie: My pleasure.

Shirley McLeod: First of all I'd like to ask you, what's your full name?

Bill Espie: My full name is William Leonard Espie, E-S-P-I-E.

Shirley McLeod: And what suburb do you live in?

Bill Espie: I live in Croydon.

Shirley McLeod: Croydon, right. I'll just go a little bit into your early life. I see here that you were born in Alice Springs, were you?

Bill Espie: Yeah I was, yes. I was born, strange as it may seem, in a tent outside the Alice Springs hospital back in 1935.

Shirley McLeod: And what were your parents doing there?

Bill Espie: Mum was a general hand, a cook, she had many jobs. When she grew up there as a young girl, there was about a hundred people in Alice Springs and that was about it. So – my father was a grader driver in the bush.

Shirley McLeod: Right. Now, you went to Alice Springs Primary School and then you went to La Favure Tech College, that's in Alice Springs is it?

Bill Espie: No, the Tech College is in Adelaide. The schooling in Alice Springs was very limited when I was growing up. You only had a primary school, no high school.

Shirley McLeod: And what, you would have gone to it at the age of 15 or 14?

Bill Espie: 15, 16... 15.

Shirley McLeod: And what did you do at Tech?

Bill Espie: It was a different type of Tech as they know now. It was just a high school but they called it a Technical College.

Shirley McLeod: Well we had some in Sydney, Technical College. We had North Sydney Technical, Boys Technical High School I think it was called.

Bill Espie: Usually you had to get your intermediate at those schools.

Shirley McLeod: Yes. So you did that in Adelaide?

Bill Espie: Did that in Adelaide.

Shirley McLeod: And you stayed there and you got the equivalent to your intermediate certificate?

Bill Espie: Yes.

Shirley McLeod: And what did you do after that?

Bill Espie: Well then I went back to Alice, worked as a fitter in the Department of Roads for four years prior to joining the Army.

Shirley McLeod: And where did you join up in the Army?

Bill Espie: I joined in Adelaide. So I went from – stayed in Adelaide for a couple of years and then I was fortunate enough to go to Maralinga where the atom bomb tests and came back to Sydney and stayed here for the rest of my six years.

Shirley McLeod: Right. What sort of work were you doing in the Army?

Bill Espie: I was in the engineers. So it's like an Engineering Corp that I was in.

Shirley McLeod: All right, well we'll get to the Police Force. Why did you decide to join Police Force?

Bill Espie: Again, it was just a change of direction. Six years in the army seemed to be long enough for me. And it wasn't quite what I wanted so someone suggested to me why don't you join the Police Force, well, I will. So I joined the police and never regretted it.

Shirley McLeod: Where did you join up?

Bill Espie: At Bourke Street in the City.

Shirley McLeod: Is that where the Mounted Police are now?

Bill Espie: Yes.

Shirley McLeod: I've been there a couple of times. And you did your training there didn't you in those days?

Bill Espie: Yes, I done six weeks. I was lucky to get in actually because when I, when I came to the office, the sergeant that was behind said to me, 'hop up on the scales.' I was three pound light. And he says, 'we can't take you.' And I said, 'well I'm fit enough, I just left the Army.' He said, 'no you gotta have the right weight.' but he said, 'I'll tell you what you do.' He said, 'come back and see me at 3 o'clock,' this was obviously in the morning, it was in morning. 'Come back and see me, but in the meantime go down to that fruit shop down in Bourke Street and eat 20 bananas.' This is a true story. 'Eat 20 of bananas,' and he said, 'then go to a tap and a drink as much water as you can until you start to be sick.' I thought he was joking. He said, 'do it if you want to join the Police Force.' So I did, I ate 20 bananas, this was over about a two-hour period. Drank so much water out of this tap, I was bloated, looked like I was pregnant, went back and seen the sergeant and I tipped the scales at three and a quarter pound. He said, 'you're in.'

So – and the bananas (.. unclear ..) with me for a fortnight.

Shirley McLeod: Oh dear. So you did your training and Bourke Street.

Bill Espie: Bourke Street.

Shirley McLeod: And how long were you training there?

Bill Espie: Well in those days it was six weeks initial training and then one day a week for a year. So that's the way they used to do it back in '61.

Shirley McLeod: And the initial training was also shooting?

Bill Espie: You're shooting, and law...

Shirley McLeod: Hmm. And typing?

Bill Espie: And typing down at Harris Street in the Ultimo, typing. With your fingers underneath a cover that you couldn't see and couldn't cheat. But they didn't want much, only wanted – can't remember now – but it was some paltry amount of 20 words a minute or something like that.

Shirley McLeod: You've done your training, where was your first posting?

Bill Espie: Darlinghurst. I spent two years at Darlinghurst initially.

Shirley McLeod: Was that a culture shock to somebody from...?

Bill Espie: That was a, well I was going to say terrible culture shock, but it wasn't, it was an interesting culture shock. Being smothered in Alice Springs in the quietness of the bush and then hitting Darlinghurst – when Darlinghurst was Darlinghurst – it was a shock but a nice one. For me it was interesting.

Shirley McLeod: Where was the Police station in Darlinghurst?

Bill Espie: Right opposite the Court of Sessions Court in Taylor Square.

Shirley McLeod: All right. Cabramatta. How did feel, the first time you came to Cabramatta, you've come from Fairfield anyway so you knew it fairly well. Cabramatta didn't have such a bad name in those days did it?

Bill Espie: No, I think no. It had a, you know, it was just a normal suburb. Policing wise it was just a normal suburb. Because when I first came there were a lot of nationalities,

English, Spanish you know. They had a big – in Aleck Street Cabramatta, they had a big migrant hostel where there was quite a number of nationalities living there.

Shirley McLeod: They were a mixed nationality then, were they? What year would that have been about '57?

Bill Espie: That was in '65, '63-'65. There must have been 10, 12 nationalities living in the hostel. They had the old army huts for accommodation.

Shirley McLeod: Did you have problems there, did the police, were the police called in there very often?

Bill Espie: Strange as it may seem, no. No, it was well run. The people were intermingling with one another. Occasionally you'd get a fight caused by different nationalities, but very rare, very rare.

Shirley McLeod: But Cabramatta was, in later years became very much different and you were here working at the time that the south-east Asian migrants came in here.

Bill Espie: No I was here for... didn't... in the last three years of my working with the police, that's when they were here in Cabramatta. Say from – I didn't take too much notice of it because I wasn't, until I became the officer in charge, I wasn't sort of really aware of the extent that we had. So that was in 19... say, 1987, '88. It was starting to become noticeable that it was gonna be an Asian suburb so to speak.

Shirley McLeod: How did that affect you?

Bill Espie: I don't think it really affected me that much because we, we didn't get an over problem for the first couple of years. There were minor skirmishes, minor problems that could be solved there and then on the spot. Didn't hit the news as much as it did when the drugs were involved in Cabramatta. So we hardly ever hit the newspapers for the first

two or three years that I knew. And then all of a sudden it started to change. That's when them drugs started to come in and I was lucky enough you know, I retired prior to that occurring.

I was at Cabramatta when we only had a little call box you know, a little seven by seven (feet) box.

Shirley McLeod: Where was that?

Bill Espie: There were four of us stationed.

Shirley McLeod: There was one at Fairfield like that before the police station was built. There was one here at Cabramatta too?

Bill Espie: Yes. Cos when I first came in '63, you might know – one the people you've interviewed, Baz Lawler – he was there a (.. unclear ..)..

I haven't interviewed him yet, I'm going to.

Bill Espie: And, it was a little call box, seven by seven (feet). And when it rained you'd get wet, it would come in underneath the floorboards, you know. We were in that for about two or three years. But there was only four of us then, that was in '63 to about '70, then the police started to come and things started to improve. The more police came the more improvements we had.

Shirley McLeod: Have you had, I suppose you've had some very funny incidents over your many years as a policeman. Can you remember anything specifically?

Bill Espie: Oh yes.

You don't have to mention names if you don't want to, just incidents.

Bill Espie: I think the funniest episode was I was on my way

to work when I lived in Liverpool and coming to the intersection, this car was on my right and I noticed two people sitting in the car with ski masks on. And being very astute I thought, well that's funny, it's hot (laughs). So, they had, they were both holding what appeared to be shot guns and I stopped to give way to 'em, because I couldn't believe my eyes. This was about 10 to 3 (2:50pm) in the afternoon, going to work, afternoon shift. So they turned the corner and stopped a hundred yards up the road outside the Post Office and they both bounded out and sure enough, they both had shot guns. So, I had an old car, an old the Gemini that could hardly run and it was famous around the police and they all knew it was mine. So I stopped just behind this car containing the crooks, so to speak and I said, I'll nab thee when you come out of the Post Office. But I had another bad habit of leaving my gun at home and I realised when I stopped my car and took position behind my car, I didn't have a gun. So I said, I'm not going to be a fool, I'll race across the street and ring for the police to come. By this time they'd come out of the Post Office with bags. So I got... raced back to my car, they had an old car as well and they couldn't start it.

Shirley McLeod: You hadn't fixed it?

Bill Espie: No, but they couldn't start their car. Their car was an old bomb too. You know, real brainy armed robbers. So I said, I'll have thee now. Then their car roared into life, so I got back into my car, I said, I'll follow you. My car wouldn't start because it was a bomb.

Shirley McLeod: Sounds like comic capers. Bill Espie: Comic capers. And finally it kicked over, their car kicked over, they put it into gear and somersaulted, you know how you jack-knife down the street? And here are these two crooks getting away from me, jack-knifing down the street. I'm in my car jack-knifing after them, we must have done it at no more than 10 kilometres an hour. And in the end my car just blew – just stopped. The engine blew it was so old. They went down the

street getting away from me and when they got to the corner they put the old forefinger up into the sky towards me and turned the corner. I was more insulted by the actions of the finger than the robbing.

Shirley McLeod: And you lost them?

Bill Espie: That was about the funniest thing.

Shirley McLeod: Did you ever catch them?

Bill Espie: Never did.

http://fairfieldcity.oralhistory.com.au/interviews/espie_bill/espiew_fullstory.htm

The Canberra Times (ACT) **Thursday 21 October 1965**
p8 of 36

Award for bravery

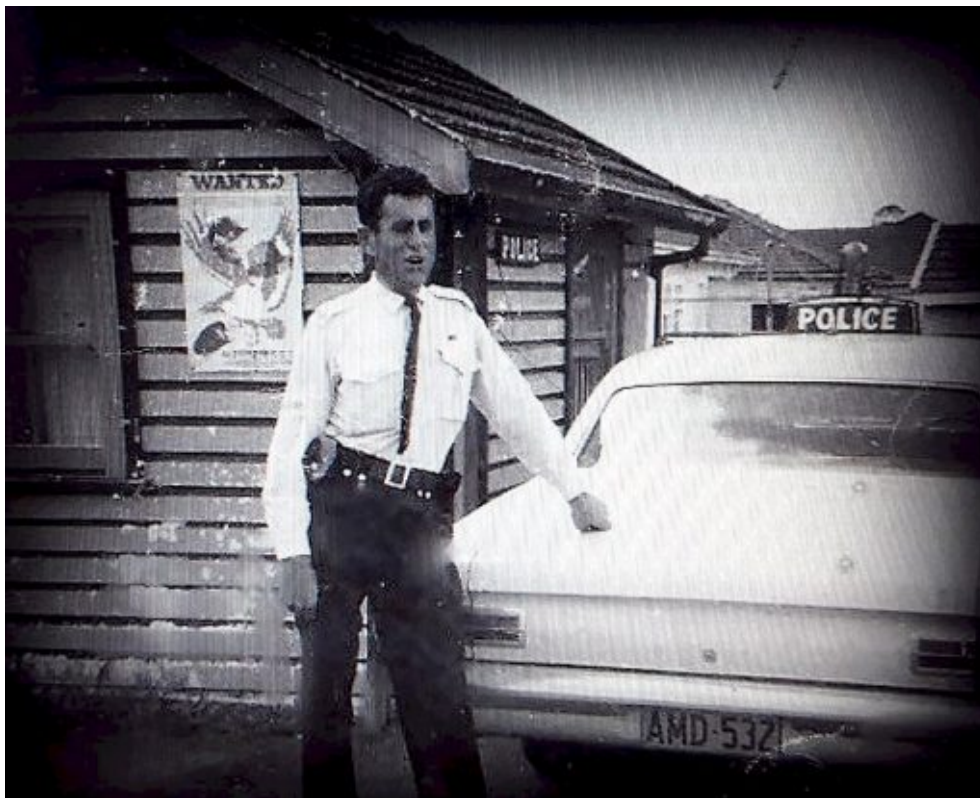
SYDNEY, Wednesday.—

Constable William Leonard Espie has been awarded the Queen's Commendation Medal for brave conduct. He rescued two men trapped in burning vehicles after a motor accident earlier this year.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/105868516>



Bill Espie and Alf Gregory at Bill's place in 1981



From Peter Croucher
The original Cabramatta Police Station in 50s

60s early 70s. It was a call box in it's time with barely enough room for three police. When I was stationed there in 1968, Sgt Bill Turner was the boss, Bill Espie, pictured above, had not long received the Police Medal for Bravery. If we were lucky to have an afternoon shift, the day shift would walk outside to let the others in. If it rained we'd sit on the bench desk with our feet on the chair so's we could keep our feet dry from the rain water running across the floor.

Peter Croucher

William Leonard (Bill) Espie (1935–2011)

by Malcolm Brown

This entry is from Obituaries Australia

Bill [William Leonard] Espie, one of several talented Aboriginal men born in the Northern Territory in the mid to late 1930s who went on to make, each in his own way, a mark on Australia and to contribute to the progress of his people, has died in hospital, aged 76.

Espie was the first of these men destined for an exemplary career: he became the highest-ranking police officer of Aboriginal descent in all the Australian police forces.

He was followed by Charlie Perkins, who became a famous activist and then public service bureaucrat; Professor Gordon Briscoe, an academic and activist for his people; the artist John Moriarty; Vince Copley, chairman of Indigenous Cricket;

and Brian Butler, in Aboriginal aged care.

Espie was born in Alice Springs, one of seven children to a mixed-race Arunta woman, Edith Espie, and Victor Cook, a European who had moved from South Australia to work in Alice Springs as a labourer.

His sister Ellen said the family lived in a good house in "the Alice" and their parents did their best for them. Like Perkins and Briscoe and several others, Espie came under the benign influence of an Anglican priest, Father Percy Smith, who arranged for the boys to go to St Francis House at Semaphore in Adelaide, an indigenous boys' home.

Espie, known then as Buckshot by the boys, was educated at Le Fevre High School, where he was a good sportsman, playing soccer, football and excelling at tennis, playing against state champions. He was even used in practice hit-ups against world champions such as Lew Hoad and Ken Rosewall.

He completed his intermediate certificate, then trained as a maintenance fitter. In 1955, he joined the Australian Army, became a sapper in the engineers and worked as a field engineer. He served at Maralinga during the atomic tests. Along the way, he married Irene Zachary, and served in the army until 1961.

At age 26, Espie decided to go to Sydney. He entered the New South Wales Police Force as a recruit and did his training at the Redfern academy, where he was noted as "a good all-rounder". He became a probationary constable on September 18, 1961.

Assigned for 12 months to Darlinghurst, he experienced a profound culture shock – the place could have not been more different from Alice Springs – but he managed the situation and was later transferred to Liverpool. During the following 16 years, he was to serve there, at Merrylands and Cabramatta.

Espie quickly came to notice for his discipline and attitude to his work. Former police commissioner Ken Moroney said: "It was in these early formative days of his career that Bill deservedly earned the respect not only of his senior officers and peers but, as important, of the community in which he worked. Long before the words 'community-based policing' became the fashion of the day, Bill Espie's life skills and worldly experiences had seen him well versed in the importance of effectively communicating with people at all levels. What you saw was what you got and there were no in-betweens. You knew exactly that he meant what he said and he said what he meant."

What Espie did in practical terms did not escape official notice, either. In March 1965, he went to the scene of a collision and found both vehicles burning fiercely. Without hesitation, he went in and rescued a trapped man from each of the burning cars – earning a Commissioner's Commendation and the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Commissioner Norman Allen also awarded him the Peter Mitchell Award, a perpetual trophy, to recognise his selfless and brave conduct, and he received the George Lewis Trophy "for the most courageous act by a member of the NSW Police Force in 1965".

In 1971, he received another Commissioner's Commendation for pursuing and arresting an armed prison escapee.

A further Commissioner's Commendation came in 1977 when he received a report of a man leaving a crime scene after a fatal shooting in Cabramatta. He was able to secure the crime scene and pursue the man, whom he arrested. The man was charged with murder and prosecuted.

In December 1980, Espie was awarded the National Medal for service and was later awarded the First Clasp of the National Medal.

Transferred to Central Police Station in Sydney, he became a

sergeant second class in 1984, and sergeant first class in 1986. Arranging a transfer back to Fairfield, he continued performing well and, in February 1989, became a chief inspector. He served as patrol commander at Cabramatta until he retired in April 1991.

Espie is survived by his long-term partner, Maureen Ola, children Marita, William jnr, Bettina and John, 11 grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, his brothers Robert and Linton, sisters Ellen and Peg, and nephews and nieces.

<https://ia.anu.edu.au/biography/espie-william-leonard-bill-166>

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First published on 10 October 2015.

Updated 27 May 2026

Ronald Alexander CORCORAN

04/12/2018

Ronald Alexander CORCORAN

late of Fitzroy St, Cowra. Formerly of Punchbowl,
Sydney

New South Wales Police Force
Class # 3 – Penrith Police Academy

Regd. # 5030

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed 18 February 1946 (aged 20 years, 10 months, 3 days)

Senior Constable – appointed 21 August 1961

Final Rank: Senior Constable – retirement

Stations: Mounted Section (1946 – 1952), Regent Street Traffic (1952 – 1960), Camperdown GD's (1960 – 1963), Glebe GD's (1963 – 1968)

Service: From pre 18 February 1946 to 7 October 1968 = 22+ years Service

Age at Retirement: 43 years, 5 months, 22 days

Time in Retirement: 35 years, 4 months, 6 days

Awards: ?

Born: Wednesday 15 April 1925

Died on: Friday 13 February 2004

Cause: Dementia

Age: 78 years, 9 months, 29 days

Funeral date: Tuesday 17 February 2004

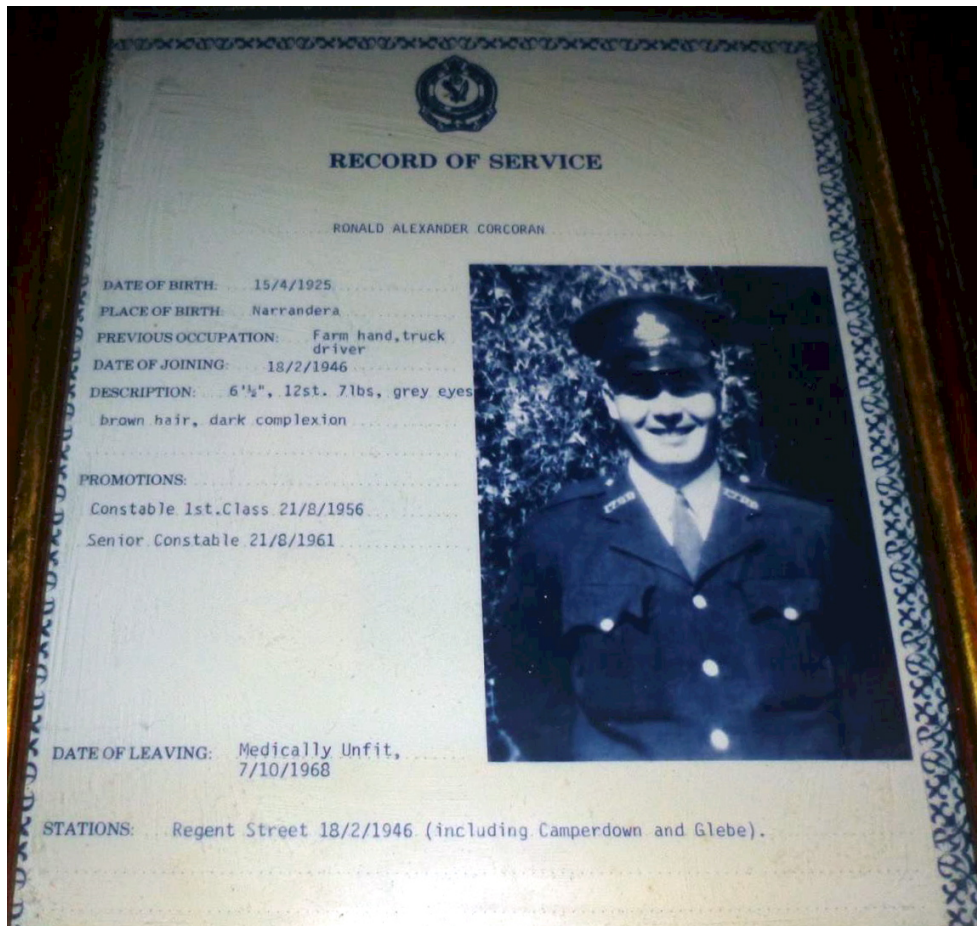
Funeral location: Cowra Anglican Church, Cowra

Buried at: Cowra Lawn Cemetery, Doncaster Dve – now laying
with Olive

Husband to Olive, father to Graeme (# 16712) & Darrell

Grave location: Catholic – New Lawn, CV, 06

**RONALD is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance *NOT
WORK RELATED***



RONALD ALEXANDER CORCORAN

First published on 20 May 2015.

Updated 20 February 2018.

Updated 2 August 2025 with further date calculations.