

Geoffrey Leigh BOWEN

15/02/2016

Geoffrey Leigh BOWEN

Western Australia Police Force

on secondment to National Crime
Authority, Adelaide, S.A.

Regd. # ?

Rank: Detective Sergeant

Stations: ?, Geraldton, C.I.B., Drug
Squad – W.A., National Crime Authority –
Adelaide – death

Service: From 30 August 1976 to 2
March 1994 = 17+ years Service

Awards: National Medal – granted 28 May
1992

Born: ?

Died on: 2 March 1994

Cause: Murdered – parcel bomb

**Event location: Former NCA Office, 124
Waymouth St, Adelaide, S.A.**

Age: 36

Funeral date: ?

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?

[alert_green]GEOFF IS mentioned on the Police Wall of
Remembrance[/alert_green]

Funeral location: ?

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

Detective Sergeant

Geoffrey L BOWEN

Adelaide SA (on secondment from Western Australia Police)

2 March 1994

Jurisdiction:

Western Australia

Details of Death:

Murdered in Adelaide, SA whilst on secondment to the National Crime Authority. BOWEN was killed when he opened a letter containing a bomb at the Adelaide Headquarters of the NCA. He joined the Police Force on August 30 1976.

<http://www.npm.org.au/bowen-0>

15 years since parcel bomb murder of Detective Sergeant Geoffrey Bowen



“I did an awful lot of healing with those women and that’s why I like to give back now.”

A brief but moving memorial service was conducted on March 2 in front of the NCA offices in the Adelaide CBD, where Detective Sergeant Geoffrey Bowen was killed by a parcel bomb 15 years ago. His widow, Jane Bowen-Sutton, is pictured with her two sons, Simon (L) and Matthew at the service.

“The stigma of being different—having your father murdered and blown up by a bomb was really difficult (for Matthew and Simon) in the beginning.

“Children can be quite cruel. One little boy at primary school used to make explosive noises as the boys walked past!”

Police Legacy board member Jane Bowen-Sutton was recalling the darkest days of her life, back 15 years ago when her husband Det. Sgt. Geoff Bowen was killed by a parcel bomb on March 2, 1994.

At the time Geoff, a WA Police detective sergeant with a great future ahead of him was on a prestigious secondment to the National Crime Authority in Adelaide. He was just 36 at the time of his death and he and Jane had two young sons, Matthew, seven and Simon, five.

Before going to the NCA, Geoff had already had extensive experience working in WA Police, including stints at Geraldton, the CIB (as it was then known) and Drug Squad.

“That’s what was so awful about his death. We thought he was so safe at the NCA,” she said.

The South Australian coroner found that Geoff was killed by a parcel bomb sent to him by an individual, whom he named. However 15 years later SA Police have been unable to successfully bring anyone to justice through lack of admissible evidence.

Last year, following an extensive cold case review (requested by Jane), the South Australian Government posted a \$1 million reward for information leading to the conviction of the parcel bomber. Jane remains hopeful that her husband’s murderer will eventually be brought to justice.

Over the last 15 years, with the support of Police Legacy, the Widows Guild, the Police Union and WA Police Health and Welfare branch, Jane has gradually rebuilt her shattered life. Five years after Geoff’s death she met and subsequently married another police officer, Sgt Phil Sutton, who had previously worked with Geoff, and of whom she cannot speak highly enough. She works as a teacher and her two sons have grown into young men of whom any mother would be proud.

Simon, 20, graduated as a police officer in June 2008 and Matthew, 22, is hoping to soon join him in the job, having already passed his entry exams, with the physical exams to follow.

“You think your life’s ended. You don’t want to go on when your husband is killed and your children are young,” said Jane. “My recovery is because of them, they were so little. I had to go on.”

She said the help she has received from Police Legacy, the Widows Guild and Mike Dean and the Police Union, in particular, over the years has been “amazing”.

“I hadn’t really heard about Police Legacy, which had only been formed in WA in 1992. Paul Newman (now an Inspector, working for the Deputy Commissioner) was the Police Legacy Welfare Officer and Board Member who flew over to Adelaide and really helped me through those early days and he still keeps in regular contact.”

Back in Perth, Jane said she networked with other police widows, through the Widows Guild and found their support invaluable.

“I did an awful lot of healing with those women and that’s why I like to give back now. They were very good to me. When I was first widowed they said to me: ‘It’s dreadful, but you’ll be alright. You’ll never be the same and it will take a long time’.”

As well as the support of the Widows Guild, Jane said the family had received Police Legacy education grants for the boys throughout the years, as well as being involved in numerous Police Legacy outings and events.

Jane said her two sons also benefited from a fundraising appeal, which she is very conscious occurred because of her husband’s highly public death. Matthew was recently able to put a deposit on a home and his brother will eventually follow suit with the money which Jane ensured was kept for their future welfare.

Continued on page 11.

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15 years since parcel bomb death of Detective Sergeant Geoffrey Bowen

As a member of the Widows Guild and Police Legacy Board member she is very keen to ensure that as many police officers as possible contribute to Legacy.

"Just remember Police Legacy is always there to help your family, should you be killed on duty or pass away through natural causes. It might be you or it might be your best mate. I think it's really important to be a part of Police Legacy and the Union."

As one might expect, Constable Simon Bowen, 20, is already a regular contributor to Police Legacy. Recently, while attending a memorial service for the five officers from Newman who were killed in a police plane crash, he addressed school groups.

Talking to some five-year-olds, poignantly he told them: "I was just about your age when my dad was murdered."

Jane said she is positive Geoff would have been extremely proud of both his boys.

"I have always made a point with the boys of saying: "Don't let it be an excuse to ruin your life. Their father's death affected them very deeply and it will always affect them, but it's not going to define them.

"It's been a challenge bringing up the boys, not having anyone charged and brought to trial. You have to bring them up to be good people, good

citizens, otherwise we would end up like the person who murdered Geoff."

Most people would agree that Jane has more than succeeded in her quest.

"Just remember
Police Legacy is
always there to help
your family ..."

<http://policelegacywa.org.au/downloads/newsletters/4022TrueBlueApril09.pdf>

▪ **November 24 2014**

Plans for new medal to recognise slain, seriously injured WA police

Nicole Cox

EXCLUSIVE

Every slain and seriously injured **WA police officer** would be automatically honoured with a special commendation medal to mark their selfless community sacrifice, under a new plan to be mooted at the WA Police Union conference today.

The idea, which is modelled on an award offered by **Victoria Police**, has been raised by outgoing union deputy vice-president **Jon Groves** and has won support from the state

opposition and families of officers killed in the line of duty.

Opposition Leader Mark McGowan will unveil a proposal at the police union's annual conference on Monday for a **WA medal**, similar to the **Victoria Police Star** and the US military decoration the Purple Heart, to acknowledge officers killed or seriously injured while on duty.

Under the concept, fallen officers including **Constable Damien Murphy**, who was run down and killed by a drunk and drugged driver in Craigie in **2007**, would be posthumously awarded the medal, along with those who sustain life-changing injuries – like Senior Constable Matt Butcher, who was left partially paralysed by a “flying headbutt” during a brawl in Joondalup in February 2008.

It would apply to all work-related injuries, including **psychological illnesses**, regardless of whether the conditions **first manifested on or off-duty**.

“The Victorian Government has struck a medal for police officers who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty and it recognises the sacrifice, valour and contribution of those police officers,” Mr McGowan told Fairfax Media.

“It's only awarded rarely, but it is an appropriate recognition and certainly gives families of those who have died in the line of duty some additional recognition of their mother or father, husband or wife.

“It's also for those who are seriously injured in the line of duty – so officers who put their lives on the line and get injured as a consequence...that they are appropriately recognised for that.

“It is rare recognition, but appropriate recognition and I think that should happen here in WA.”

Mr Groves said a medal that acknowledged officers killed and maimed in the line of duty – and not only acts of bravery – was needed to highlight their community sacrifice and the risks that police officers come up against every day of their working lives.

“We need a medal that recognises the police officers in this state who have **paid the ultimate price – either with their lives or their health – in serving the community,**” he said.

“It’s something tangible for those who have been kicked out the door of WA Police, due to work-related illness or injury, to have in their hands to remind them of the good times and the good work they did for the community.”

WA policeman Simon Bowen was five years old when his father **WA Detective Sergeant Geoff Bowen** was killed by a **parcel bomb** at the **National Crime Authority** in **Adelaide** in **1994**.

Detective First Class Constable Bowen, who has served with WA Police for seven years, welcomed the idea saying a special medal would validate the ultimate sacrifice **his father** made.

“I think it’s a great concept in not only is it a keepsake, but it’s something else in the present that will identify the sacrifice and the memory,” he said.

“It’s a small token that you can just marvel at and look at it and say, for my situation, the memory of Dad is never going to be forgotten not only by me but by the blokes that he used to work with and generations to come.

“It’s a small bit of recognition. It would be humbling.”

Tracey Ball, who was widowed when her husband **Constable Peter Ball** was run down by a car and killed while chasing a suspected car thief in Cannington in August 1998, welcomed the police medal proposal.

The couple’s daughter, **Brianna**, now 17, was only 18 months old

when her father died in the line of duty.

“**Brianna** was just 18 months old so she really has no memories of her dad,” Ms Ball said.

“She’s very proud of him but she never really knew him, she never got the chance. So to have something physical and tangible that links who he was as a police officer, I think would be extremely important to her.

“My granddad served in World War I and we have his medals. Having those medals, we used to do the Anzac Day parade and we were so proud and patriotic. To have chance to have that for someone in the police force, I think would be awesome.

“I know the defence forces award medals posthumously and with Legacy the kids go on camps with the armed forces kids who talk about their dads’ medals whereas the police kids don’t have that, they don’t have anything.”

A WA Police spokesman said the force already offered several Police Commissioner’s awards for bravery and conduct including the Cross for Bravery, commendations and a group citation for conduct.

In addition, there is also the WA Police Medal for diligent and ethical service, service medals, the Commissioner’s Medal for Excellence, a Certificate of Outstanding Performance and a WA Police Cadet Medal.

The spokesman said the **Western Australia Police Cross** for Bravery could be awarded to officers killed or seriously injured after a specific act of bravery and members killed in the line of duty were also recognised on the WA Police Memorial Honour Roll and the National Memorial Honour Roll.

He said the “existing awards and medals are quite comprehensive” but declined to comment about the proposal for a medal for officers killed or seriously injured in the line

of duty.

“I am unaware of any proposals for new medals and the department does not make a habit of commenting on speculation or possible proposals,” he said.

Comments:

- les bassednean, **Nov 24 2014** at 9:41am
that is all well and good, but what do those officers who put their body on the line for their state, and then get arrested, interrogated, humiliated, insulted and shamed get?
- Mrs Elliott Watt (9038) **Nov 24 2014** at 11:37am
I wonder if the medal will be awarded to officers with psychological injuries who have died from these injuries like PTSD, depression and anxiety? My husband died on duty from depression after 15+ years service...surely he, and other officers like him deserve to be recognized too?
- Long overdue Perth, **Nov 24 2014** at 9:40pm
This issues has been raised for quite literally decades that I have been aware of, and yet the Dep't has chosen to ignore the injured in the hope they will leave. It is only if you suddenly become high-profile media interest then they cannot ignore you.
The embarrassing fact is as things stand, all the officers who came to Matt Butcher's aid can be recognised, but there is literally nothing that can be given in acknowledgement to Matt himself as there was no "clever act" they can use for a special commendation. And not even Toxic Tony could spin a believable one for the actions of an unconscious man. This has been raised at the highest levels in emails that were ignored and not replied to.

If they finally come to the table on this one, great!
Allow retrospectivity, even better. The men and women
who put their life on the line so you can be safe
deserve nothing less!

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/plans-for-new-medal-to-recognise-slain-seriously-injured-wa-police-20141123-11sgts.html>

Wally GROCH

15/02/2016

**Wallace / Walter ' Wally ' Charles
GROCH**

New South Wales Police Force

Possibly stationed at Queanbeyan in January 1964 (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/105764898?searchTerm=wally%20groch&searchLimits=>)

**Stationed at Nowra at one time in the
late 1970's – early 1980's**

Suicide

Died: 20 January 1994

55 old

Funeral

GROCH, Walter Charles (Wally). — January 20, 1994. Loving husband of Gwen, father and father-in-law of David and Jennifer, Robert and Frances. Loved brother of Ted, Clarrie, Margaret, Gladys, Mick and Mart, Joan, Barbara and Helen. Fond brother-in-law and uncle of all his nieces and nephews.
Aged 55 years.

Canberra Times Saturday 22
January 1994 page 74 of 78

Possibly: 9 siblings mentioned in this obituary – including ' Ted ' GROCH.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?q=%22walter+charles+groch%22>

FUNERALS

GROCH. — The family and friends of the late Wally Groch are invited to attend his funeral to leave from the Anglican Parish Church of Christ Church, Rutledge St, Queanbeyan after a service commencing at 11am on Monday January 24, 1994, with interment to follow at the Queanbeyan Lawn Cemetery.



M. H. O'ROURKE

MEMBER AFDA

CANBERRA QUEANBEYAN
248 0031 297 1052

Canberra Times Saturday 22
January 1994 page 74 of 78

ENGAGEMENTS
GROCH — GRIFFIN. — The engagement is announced of Gwenda May, elder daughter of Mr. H. Griffin, of Curtis Street, Queanbeyan, and Mrs. Nichols, of Sydney, to Walter Charles, third son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Groch, of Temora, N.S.W.

Canberra Times Friday 19
October 1962 page 20 of
32

Brother to Arthur Edward ' Ted ' GROCH

NSW Police Force

**Further information is needed and sought about this matter. —
May 2014**

Dallas Leonard TIDYMAN

15/02/2016

Dallas Leonard TIDYMAN

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ?

Rank: Senior Constable

**Stations: School of Traffic and Mobile
Policing – Goulburn**

**Service: From 8 December 1980 to 15
August 1994 = 13+ years Service**

**Awards: National medal – granted 2
December 1994 (posthumously)**

Born: 24 August 1957

Died on: 15 August 1994

**Cause: Motor Vehicle Accident (Police
motor cycle)**

**Death location: Lachlan Valley Way,
Boorowa**

Age: 36

Funeral date: ? August, 1994

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: ?

[blockquote]

Memorial location: ? Lachlan Valley Way,
left hand side 5 kms from Boorwoa

Lat: -34.543611

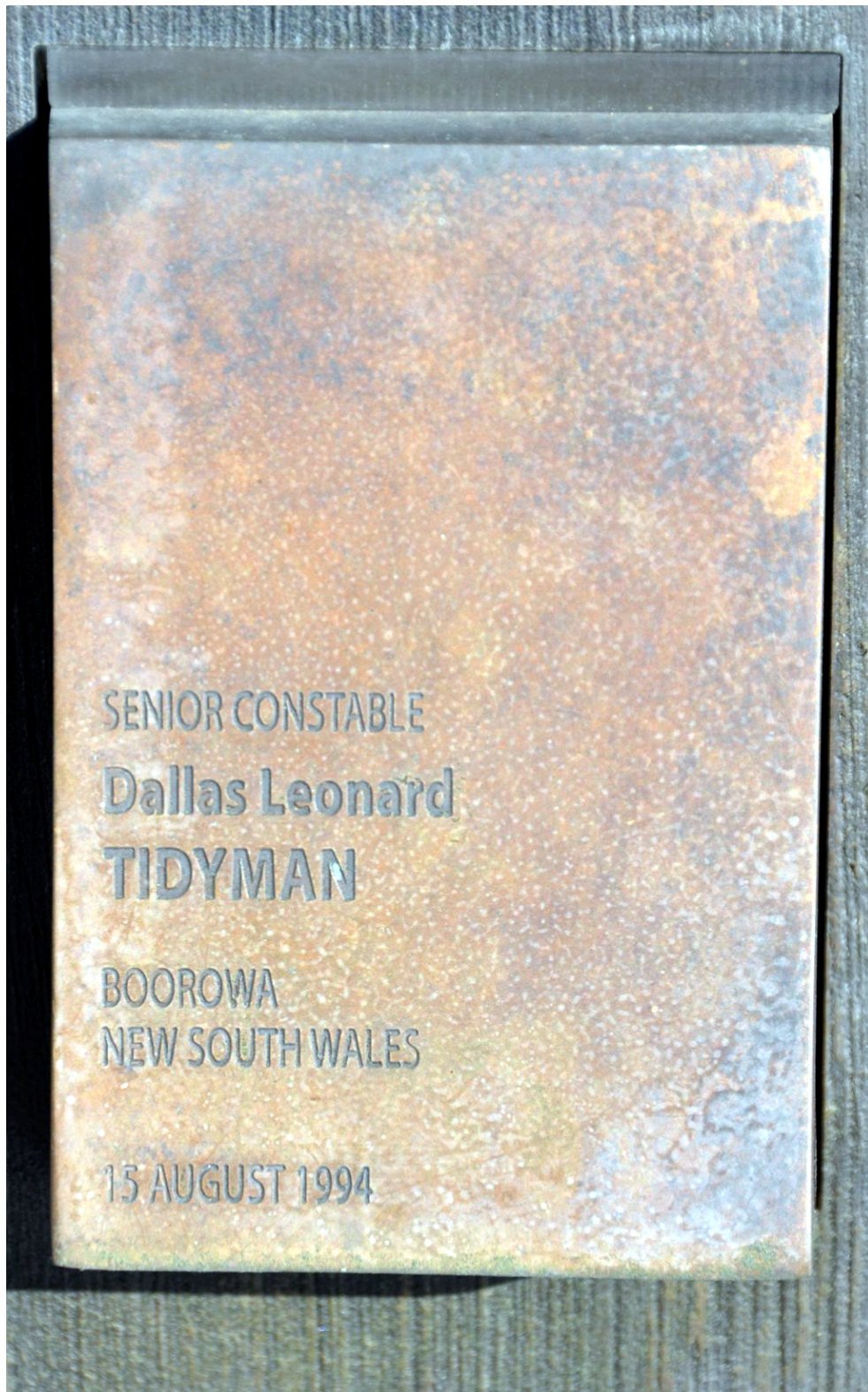
Long: 148.731389

[/blockquote]

Front Inscription

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF SENIOR CONSTABLE DALLAS TIDYMAN. 24.8.57.
– 15.8.94. TRAGICALLY KILLED WHILST ON DUTY. A TRIBUTE FROM
HIS WORK MATES.*

[alert_green]DALLAS IS mentioned on the Police Wall of
Remembrance[/alert_green]



Dallas Leonard TIDYMAN memorial touch plate at
Canberra Wall of Remembrance



Senior Constable Dallas TIDYMAN
at the Police Driver Training
Unit



Dallas TIDYMAN – in July 1994. Always in for a laugh.



Dallas TIDYMAN – in July 1994



Dallas TIDYMAN – in July 1994 (Dallas on the far right – just over 3 weeks before his death)



Terry Lester (left) and Dallas Tidyman (right) at the Goulburn PDTS late 1991 or early 1992. Dallas killed whilst instructing on a HWP motorcycle course at Boorowa, NSW. RIP two good friends. Terry died 25 June 2015

At 2.30pm on 15 August, 1994 Senior Constable Tidyman, a senior motor cycle instructor, was riding at the rear of a column of trainee police cyclists. While travelling along the Lachlan Valley Way, Boorowa he was struck by an oncoming vehicle and fatally injured. The offending driver had apparently lost control of the vehicle before veering across the roadway and colliding with Senior Constable Tidyman's cycle.

The constable was born in 1957 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 8 December, 1980. At the time of his death he was attached to the School of Traffic and Mobile Policing, New South Wales Police Academy, Goulburn.
