

## 1931 DIARY OF HERBERT WILLIAM GELDARD (BERT)

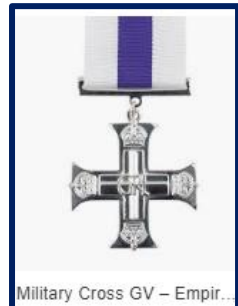
Herbert William Geldard or Bert (*right*) as he preferred to be known as, was born right in the middle of The Great War, believed to be the War that would end all wars. He was born the 20 Sep 1916 at the tiny bush hospital in Miles, located in the Western Downs of Queensland. He was the eldest child of Ernest Arthur



Geldard (Ern) and Avie Vera Hodder, who came 600 kms, from Armidale in the New England Tablelands of New South Wales to settle in the Columboola area of the Western Downs, Queensland in 1909.



Pictured left is the Geldard family in Armidale, Lorna, Bert, father Ern, Ken & mother Avie (sons, Eric & Neville arrive later). This family photo was probably taken about 1923, before they left Armidale to return to Columboola in 1924, after spending several years back in Armidale finalising the estate of Ern's father, Henry William Geldard (Harry).

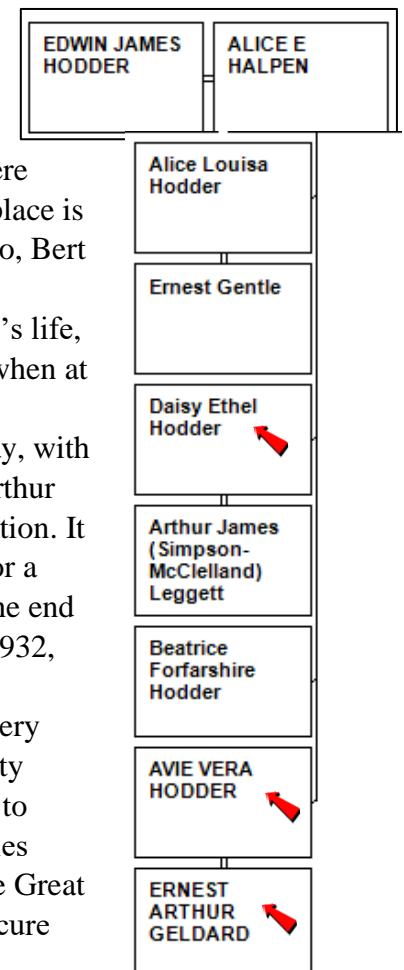


Bert was named Herbert William after his father, Ern's two brothers, Bert's uncles, the sons of Harry Geldard and Frances Moore Bone (*see Family Tree p.6*). 'Herbert' - after Ern's youngest brother, Capt. Herbert Stanley Geldard (*photo p4*) who fought in WW1 at Gallipoli, Egypt, France, and Belgium in the Battle of Polygon Wood, where he won the Military Cross for Bravery. In WWII, Herb was captured by the Japanese in the Fall of Singapore and spent the remainder of WWII as a POW in Changi.

Bert was also named 'William' after Ern's middle brother, Pvt William Henry Geldard (*left*) who also fought in WW1, but his award for bravery was at the age of 26 years old, to be one of the unknown thousands who, only eight months after his enlistment, were 'Killed in Action' at the battle of Fromelles. His resting place is among the anonymous bones in VC Corner, Fromelles. So, Bert carried the names of two very brave men.



While, there will be plenty more to add about Bert's life, this section of Bert's Story is his 1931 diary that he kept when at the age of 14 years old, he left the remote bush property and his parents at 'Stockton', Columboola and went to live in Eastwood, Sydney 1000 kms away, with



his Aunt Daisy and her husband, Arthur Leggett (*left*) to complete his education. It seems probable that he was away for a whole year from 30 Mar 1931 till the end of Mar 1932 or even the whole of 1932, without going home.

During those times, it was very common for the Queensland property owners to send their children down to

Sydney for their schooling. Bert's sister, Lorna went to the Presbyterian Ladies College in Sydney, but I imagine that in 1931, Australia was reeling from The Great Depression of 1929/30 and on the land, Bert's parents were not financially secure

**AUSTRALIA.** Australia's Great Depression began with the Wall Street Crash of 1929, which foreshadowed years of crushing poverty for hundreds of thousands of wage-earners and their families. Unemployment reached a record high of around 30% in 1932. There was also incidents of civil unrest, particularly in Sydney, Australia's largest city. Before it was over, Australia had experience of a slum town called Happy Valley and the despair of those who took to the 'swag' and walked, which was named 'the Hungry Mile'

enough to take the option of a private boarding school, so his Aunt Daisy and Uncle Arthur came to the rescue.

Remembering his stories, I know that at 14, Bert was doing the work of a man, and could turn his hand to just about everything on a bush property. However, I don't imagine that Bert even at 14 years old, would have made the 1000 km journey by himself, into the perceived urban jungles of busy, bustling Sydney. Most probably, his mother, Avie, even though pregnant with her youngest son, Neville, who was born

on the 22 Jul 1931 took Bert down in Mar 1931. Reading the diary, it appears that Avie stayed for a visit, took Bert shopping, visited his Uncle Herb (Geldard), settled him into school, all things that Avie would be likely to do for her son, then other family members. Though it might be my imagination, but I am sure I can



detect some pathos in Bert's final entry 20 Dec, 1931. "*Christmas Sunday Endeavour Church Sunday School. Grandad came from Armidale*" So, did his Grandfather take him home and stay at Stockton over Christmas then took Bert back in the New Year, as we know that Bert was still at Eastwood School in Mar 1932. Or did Edwin stay at Eastwood till the end of March, 1932 and take Bert back home to Queensland then? If so, Bert was a full year away from his home! By 1931/32, Edwin has been a widower for over six years and would have

enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Stockton family and his Eastwood family. Eventually Edwin went to live with Daisy and Arthur at Roseville, but at this stage, Bert's diary confirms that Edwin is still living in Armidale, with frequent long visits to his three daughters, Alice, Daisy and Avie and their families. (*Edwin & Alice Hodder above left, the background appears to be Myora, Armidale*)

Bert used to tell me that in his youth, the Queensland Western Line was serviced by a rail motor and if they wanted to catch the train, then they travelled down to the railway line and stood there and hailed the Rail Motor and it would stop, even though there was no station. In 1931, Bert would have hailed the train at Columboola and travelled to Toowoomba. Then the next day caught the Wallangarra Mail from Toowoomba, connected up with the Sydney train at Wallangarra (*map below right*) and disembarked the Sydney train at Hornsby.

Bert's diary reads like this –

Mon 30 Mar - *Left home for Toowoomba, stayed at Roger? for the night.*

Tue 31 Mar - *Left Toowoomba for Hornsby.*

Wed 01 Apr - *Arrived about middle of the day at Hornsby*

Thu 02 Apr - *Went into Sydney for shopping.*

Fri 03 Apr - *Went to Fuller's Bridge to a Picnic Spot*

Sat 04 Apr - *Went to Collaroy to see the Baptist Camp. Had a swim.*

Sun 05 Apr - *Went to Endeavour Church and Sunday School.*

Mon 06 Apr - *Went to Easter Baptist Camp to see the sports*

Tues 07 Apr - *Stayed at home.*

Wed 08 Apr - *Went to Eastwood School.*

Thu 09 Apr - *Went to school.*

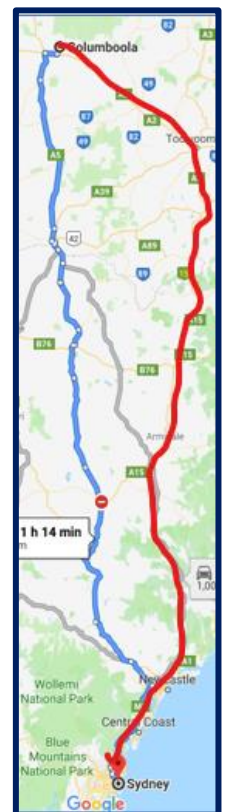
Fri 10 Apr - *Went to school.*

Sat 11 Apr - *In afternoon went to Uncle Herb's (Geldard). At night I went to the Talkies.* (I believe that the Geldards and Hodders had a very good relationship, as in Armidale, Edwin and Alice lived in 'Myora', a house owned by Ern's father Harry, and left to his wife, Fanny when Harry died in 1919)

Sun 12 Apr - *Went to Manly for a swim. Came home.*

Mon 13-Fri 17 Apr - *School*

Sat 18 Apr - *Overhauled Ron's bike.*



Sun 19 Apr. *Church - Endeavour and Sunday School.*  
 Mon 20- Fri 24 Apr – *School*  
 Sat 25 Apr – *Rained*  
 Sun 26 Apr – *Church - Endeavour Sunday School. Watched (Anzac Day) procession.*  
 Mon 27-Thu 30 – *School and exams each day*  
 Fri 1 May – *School - exam to 12.30pm and then ordinary*  
 Sat 2 May – *Hornsby Dee Why - had a swim.*  
 Sun 3 May – *Endeavour church and Sunday School*  
 Mon 4-Tue 5 May – *School*  
 Wed 6 May – *We had Empire Day at school in? theatre. Half Day school*  
 Thu 7-Fri 8 May – *School*  
 Sat 9 May – *Regatta - went to Parramatta River to see boat races (Shaw)?*  
 Sun 10 May – *Endeavour Church Sunday School*  
 Mon 11 -Wed 13 May – *School*  
 Thu 14 May– *Broke up school*  
 Fri 15 May – *We had a mud fight.*  
 Sat 16 May – *Went to Endeavour picnic - Meadowbank*  
 Sun 17 May – *Endeavour Church, Sunday School. Church - Maisie baptized.*  
 Mon 18 May – *Ron and I went round selling lemons.*  
 Tue 19 May – *Went to the Zoo by car all day.*  
 Wed 20 May – *Went to elocution.*  
 Thu 21 May – *Went to Epping and Ryde.*  
 Fri 22 May - *Went around selling lemons. Got fireworks.*  
 Sat 23 May - *Got our bonfire ready - lit it at night - had fireworks.*  
 Sun 24 May - *Endeavour church - Sunday school.*  
 Mon 25 May - *Played down at our ovals???*  
 Tues 26 May - *Had dinner down there.*  
 Wed 27 May - *Raining all day - played in the house. Elocution.*  
 Thu 28 May - *Went to Cream of Tartar factory, Parramatta. Bought bike.*  
 Fri 29 May - *Went to Parramatta by bike. Went round park and saw the tree where the first governors wife was killed.*  
 Sat 30 May - *Went to Hornsby and then to De-Burg Bridge by bike (26 miles)*  
 Sun 31 May - *Endeavour Sunday School - train accident.*

The Sydney Morning Herald

Sat 6 Jun 1931, p. 13

*Don't know what impact this had on Bert that he recorded it. But if Monday's entry is significant, obviously the railway engine had been taken off the tracks to save the man and perhaps this is what the Monday's entry is referring to.*

Mon 1 Jun - *Went to see them trying to lift up the Engine.*

Tues 2 Jun - *Went to school*

Wed 3 Jun - *School - Elocution*

Thu 4 Jun – *Fri 5 Jun - School*

Sat 6 Jun – *Went on our bikes (illegible). Went to Turramurra and then to Hornsby and back.*

Sun 7 Jun – *Endeavour Sunday School Church*



Mon 8 Jun – *Museum and Art Gallery*

Tues 9-Fri 12 – *School (Wed was also elocution)*

Sat 13 Jun – *Turramurra come by Chatswood. Met car. Crook. Went by bike.*

Sun 14 Jun – *Endeavour Church Sunday School*

Mon 15-Fri 29 Jun – *School*

Sat 20 Jun – *Played football*

Sun 21 Jun – *Endeavour Church - Sunday School*

Mon 22 – *Fri 26 Jun - School*

Sat 27 Jun – *Football*

Sun 28 Jun – *Endeavour church, Sunday School*

Mon 29 Jun – *Fri 3 Jul - School*

Sat 4 Jul – *Football - Church of England Boy's Home - 1 all*

Sun 5 Jul - *Endeavour Church - Sunday School*

Mon 5 Jul - *Fri 10 Jul - School - Wed was sport.*

Sat 11 Jul - *Linfield Bike - Clarrie Hockey*

Sun 12 Jul - *Endeavour church - Sunday school*

Mon 13 - *Fri 17 Jul - School - Sport on Wed*

Sat 18 Jul - *Practice football*

Sun 19 Jul - *Endeavour Church - Sunday School*

Mon 20 - *Fri 24 Jul - School (Sport on Wed)*

Sat 25 Jul - *Played football (illegible) beat 2/0*

Sun 26 Jul – *Endeavour - Uncle Herb's and Nanna (Ern's brother, Herb Geldard living in Lane Cove and Ern's mother Fanny Geldard from Armidale must have been visiting him – pictured right)*

Mon 27- Thu 30 Jul – *School - sport on Wed.*

Fri 31 Jul – *Half day into town - photo taken. (perhaps photo right, possibly it was his Nanna Geldard who wanted his photo taken)*

Sat 1 Aug – *Played football against Dalmar Homes - 1/1*

Sun 2 Aug – *Endeavour church - Sunday school*

Mon 3 – Fri 7 – *School - Sport on Wed.*

Sat 8 Aug – *Football*

Sun 9 Aug – *Endeavour Church Sunday School*

Mon 10-Fri 14 Aug – *School - Sport on Wed*

Sat 15 Aug – *played football - Eastwood Wreckers*

Sun 16 Aug – *Endeavour Church Sunday School*

Mon 17-Fri 21 Aug – *School - Sport on Wed*

Sat 22 Aug – *Convention at Town Hall. Delegates from States. Commonwealth of Australia.*

Sun 23 Aug - *Endeavour Church Sunday School*

Mon 24-Fri 28 Aug – *School - Sport on Wed*

Sat 29 Aug – *Sports – Eastwood vs Epping. Eastwood won.*

Sun 30 Aug – *Endeavour Church Sunday School*

Mon 31 Aug -Thur 3 Sep – *School*

Fri 4 Sep – *Played about on our bikes and other amusements*

Sat 5 Sep – *Went to watch Clarrie play his first cricket match this season.*

Sun 6 Sep – *Endeavour church Sunday School*

Mon 7 Sep – *Went 8 ½ miles, from Windsor we went about 40 miles altogether (on bikes). We started 8.30am and had ½ hour dinner and got home at 2.20pm.*

Tues 8 Sep – *Played on sledges down 'hill sixty'.*



Wed 9 Sep – *Played about on bikes and other amusements.*  
 Thu 10 Sep – *Went on sledges down (hill sixty)*  
 Fri 11 Sep – *Went about on bikes and other amusements.*  
 Sat 12 Sep – *Made billycart - stayed home as going to watch Clarrie play cricket.*  
 Sun 13 Sep – *Endeavour church Sunday School*  
 Mon 14 Sep – *Went to Manly by boat M.R.V. Had a great time.*  
 Tue 15 Sep-Thu 17 Sep – *School*  
 Fri 18 Sep – *Many by car driving most of the time of running in our bathers. Great time!*  
 Sat 19 Sep – *Made a billy cart - stayed at home from cricket.*  
 Sun 20 Sep – *Endeavour church Sunday school - church. (Bert's birthday!)*  
 Mon 21 Sep – *Town Hall*  
 Tues 22-Fri 25 Sep – *School*  
 Sat 26 Sep – *Left blank*  
 Sun 27 Sep – *Endeavour church Sunday school*  
 Mon 28 Sep – Fri 2 Oct – *School*  
 Sat 3 Oct – *Went down a hill in a billy cart.*  
 Sun 4 Oct – *Endeavour church, Sunday school.*  
 Mon 5 Oct – *Went to Fullers Bridge bike picnic*  
 Tues 6-Fri 9 Oct – *School*  
 Sat 10 Oct – *Bike to Hunter? Hill. Cricket Eastwood won. Clarrie 6 runs.*  
 Sun 11 Oct – *Endeavour Sunday School Church.*  
 Mon 12-Fri 16 – *School*  
 Sat 17 Oct – *Left blank*  
 Sun 18 Oct – *Endeavour church - Sunday school (sounds like Dad had a heavy week, with only the prescriptive entries!)*  
 Mon 19-Fri 23 Oct – *School*  
 Sat 24 Oct – *Eisteddfod. (Don't know how he went! He would never talk about it!)*  
 Sun 25 Oct – *Endeavour church - Sunday school*  
 Mon 26-Fri 30 Oct – *School*  
 Sat 31 Oct – *Visitors - wet.*  
 Sun 1 Nov – *Anniversary - wet continued next Sunday.*  
 Mon 2-Fri 6 Nov – *School*  
 Sat 7 Nov – *Sunday? Picnic. 7am to 7pm. Row in boat and ride on a punt.*  
 Sun 8 Nov – *Repeated Anniversary (Don't know what that was about!)*  
 Mon 9 -Fri 13 Nov – *School (Different writer)*  
 Sat 14 Nov – *All day at Dee Why. Had a good time! (Different writer)*  
 Sun 15 Nov – *Endeavour Church and Sunday School (Different writer)*  
 Mon 16-Fri 20 Nov – *School Exams every day - Wed elocution. (Different writer)*  
 Sat 21 Nov – *Practice for concord (hospital?), wedding, rally at Epping. (Different writer)*  
 Sun 22 Nov – *Endeavour church and Sunday School (Different writer)*  
 Mon 23 Nov – *School - concert and Concord visit. (Different writer)*  
 Tue 24-Fri 27 Nov – *School (Different writer)*  
 Sat 28 Nov – *Watched cricket - rained - mucked round on our bikes (different writer here)*  
 Sun 29 Nov – *Church Sunday School Endeavour (Different writer)*  
 Mon 30 Nov-Fri 4 Dec – *School*  
 Sat 5 Dec – *Went to Hawkesbury - ride on bikes - 50 miles. Rained most of the time.*  
 Sun 6 Dec – *Endeavour Church - Sunday School*  
 Mon 7 Dec - Tue 8 Dec – *School*  
 Wed 9 Dec – *School - Speech Day - Maisies*  
 Thu 10 Dec – *Went into Sydney*

Fri 11 Dec – Went over to Dee Why by tram, boat, train and walk but very different. Ron's Speech Day.

Sat 12 Dec – Went over to Dee Why - came home by car.

Sun 13 Dec – Left Blank

Mon 14-Wed 16 Dec – School

Thu 17 Dec – School broke up - Breaking up party

Fri 18 Dec – Dee Why swim, then Manly trip on boat, had a small ?, came home, went down street.

Sat 19 Dec – Went to Dundas Park to see the Cricket.

Sun 20 Dec – Christmas Sunday Endeavour Church Sunday School. Grandad (Hodder) came from Armidale.

Sun 20 Dec 1931 is the last entry in Bert's diary. I seem to remember being told by Bert, that his Grandfather Hodder travelled with him back to



Stockton. However, Bert told me many times that he along with the rest of his school, walked over the Sydney Harbour Bridge the day

before it was opened which was 19 March 1932, which indicates that either he stayed with the Leggetts till the end of Mar 1932 or he went home for Christmas and came back after for 1932 or at least part of – I suspect the former.







Bert went to Eastwood High School, though I can no longer find a record of its existence. Jan Hercus, Maisie's daughter, tells me that both Maisie and Aldyth went to the Methodist Ladies College and Maisie's school also walked over the Sydney Harbour Bridge, before it was opened so it was obviously, an opportunity taken up by many of the local schools. Jan would probably know which school Ronald went to, as obviously by the entry of Ronald's Speech Day, that it was a different school. Interesting, towards the end, I notice that the diary had snatches of different handwriting, so I wonder if Ronald or Maisie had a hand in it as well.

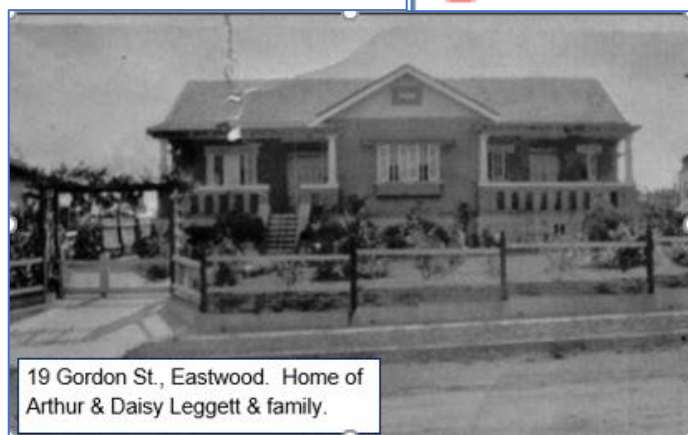
So who are the family at Gordon St., Eastwood that are mentioned in the diary? They are Bert's Aunt and his cousins. Bert's mother Avie Hodder is the youngest child on the Family Tree (left) and Daisy Hodder is the second child of Edwin Hodder and Alice Halpen.









Daisy Ethel Hodder (*pictured below left with husband Arthur at Lyme Regis and right is their home at Eastwood*) was the second daughter of Edwin Hodder and Alice Halpen, born 19 June, 1879 at 18 St George's Rd., Camberwell (Peckham), Surrey, England. In Oct 1881, along with her parents and her elder sister, Alice, at the age of 2 years old, Daisy left the UK on the vessel "Forfarshire" out of Plymouth. Daisy and her family including new sister, Beatrice arrived in Sydney on the 16 Jan 1882.

Daisy Hodder married Arthur James Leggett on the 6 Apr 1910, at the St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Armidale, NSW. Jan Hercus tells us that the newspaper reported that "*the reception and breakfast was held at the Imperial Hotel, Armidale. Daisy was given away by her father, Edwin, the bridesmaids were her sisters Avie (my grandmother), Alice and Miss Leggett. The groomsmen were JM Bone and J. Cameron. WS Gentle thanked the bridesmaids, JM Bone responded.*"

I am speculating that the groomsmen was most likely my father, Bert's great uncle, Miarus James Moore Bone who was born in 1869 in Armidale and was the sister of Fanny Moore Bone, Bert's grandmother (*see Family Tree next page*). Henry Geldard and Fanny's son, Ernest Arthur Geldard married Daisy's sister, Avie Vera Hodder, my grandmother. Mairus James Moore Bone married Ann Elizabeth Cameron on the 28 Oct 1914 at Armidale. Ann had a brother, John William Cameron b. 1883 who may have been the other groomsmen. But it does demonstrate what a close community all the families were in the area.

	<b>EDWIN J HODDER</b> 1853-1945
Spouse & Children ▾	
	ALICE E HALPEN
	Alice Louisa Hodder
	Daisy Ethel Hodder
	Beatrice F Hodder
	AVIE VERA HODDER



2nd great grandfather	
 <b>JOHN BONE *</b> b: 01 Jul 1822 Grimston, Norfolk, England d: 02 Jul 1895 Uralla, New South Wales, Australi	 <b>ELIZABETH MOORE *</b> b: 16 Apr 1823 Grimstone, Norfolk, England d: 14 Aug 1914 Uralla, New South Wales, Australi
Great grandmother	Great grandfather
 <b>FRANCES MOORE BONE*</b> b: 1861 Grimston, Norfolk, England d: 04 Sep 1944 Armidale, New South Wales, Aust	 <b>HENRY WILLIAM GELDARD #</b> b: 16 Apr 1860 Armidale, New South Wales, Aust d: 16 Oct 1919 Armidale, New South Wales, Aust
Paternal grandfather	Paternal grandmother
 <b>ERNEST ARTHUR GELDARD</b> b: 09 May 1887 Armidale, New South Wales, Aust d: 02 Feb 1951 Miles QLD Australia	 <b>AVIE VERA HODDER</b> b: 28 Sep 1890 Arding, Via Uralla, New South Wa d: 26 Aug 1967 Miles QLD Australia
Father	
 <b>HERBERT WILLIAM GELDARD</b> b: 20 Sep 1916 Miles Queensland Australia d: 19 Feb 2006 Bilinga Queensland Australia	
Self	
 <b>KATHERINE MARY GELDARD</b> b: 26 Jun 1950 Miles Queensland Australia d:	

For, as well as his grandparents, Edwin Hodder and Alice Halpen, Bert had a large range of family living around Armidale and especially in that small pocket at Arding and around Uralla. Bert's other grandparents were Henry (Harry) Geldard (Armidale) and Frances (Fanny) Moore Bone, (the Bone's had a farm only a block away from Arding School) and their families were also living in the area, such as the Geldard ancestors, Henry and Anne Ingle (Rocky River), their cousins the Youngs (Rocky River) and Fanny's family, the Moores (Rocky

River) and the Bones. Bert's Uncle Herb was his father, Ern's brother, the youngest son of Harry & Fanny Geldard.

So how did Daisy Hodder and Arthur Leggett arrive at their home in Eastwood? Jan Hercus tells us that her grandfather, Arthur owned two properties near Merriwa, NSW, "Bellevue" 825 acres, acquired by ballot at Merriwa and "Inglewood" Oxley's Peak, via Merriwa inherited from his father. In 1916, the family moved into Armidale to live so that the children could go to school. Then in 1926/7, they sold up at Merriwa and moved into

Eastwood, Sydney, before moving to Roseville.

It was shortly after that in 1931, that my father, Herbert William (Bert) Geldard was sent to live with Daisy and Arthur, so that he could attend High School. For many years, it was common for the early Settlers and Graziers in southern Queensland to send their children to school in Sydney. I am not sure how long Bert stayed with his Daisy and Arthur, but the diary previous indicates at least a year, if not longer. My father told us that he along with the rest of his school marched across the Sydney Harbour Bridge the day before it was officially opened on the 19 Mar 1932, so it appears that he was with the Leggett family in Sydney for that date. It appears that Daisy and Arthur were a great churchgoing family, as Bert regularly records attending the Baptist Church and while he was very evasive, it appears that Bert was part of a group who used to entertain the elderly. Daisy Hodder and Arthur Leggett had four children, who are referred to in Bert's diary - Clarence Arthur Campbell; Aldyth Daisy; Maysie Avie and Ronald Hodder.

Arthur Leggett died 9 Sep 1968 at 18 Trafalgar Ave., Roseville, Sydney, NSW and it is in writing this that I realised the significance that Arthur and Daisy had in my father's life. My father, Bert was a quiet man and was uncomfortable in crowds and around people – and hated cities and city traffic. Earlier in 1968, when I was 18 years old, had left boarding school and was working in a bank in Brisbane, I was surprised when my father asked me to take holidays, to go to Sydney with him along with my sister, Julianne aged 11 (the same sister, who travelled throughout Dorset and Devon with me). We stayed in Manly and had a lovely time. But it seems the primary reason for our visit to Sydney, was to visit some people who had been very important to my father, and he took us to 18 Trafalgar Ave, Roseville to meet Daisy and Arthur, obviously Dad had heard that Arthur was ill. There are times, that one looks back with regret and this is one of them, that I did not recognize how important this visit was for my father. I vividly remember, the house and the people, my father tried to explain to me who they were, but obviously at 18 years old, other things were more important. Daisy died 7 years later on the 9 Mar, 1975 at "Wendy Lodge", Roseville, Sydney. NSW.

While the immediate family of the following will have their own personal family history and memories of their loved ones, I will describe them through the records they have left behind and my own personal memories, relationships or knowledge. Daisy is Jan Hercus' grandmother, so her family's story is told more in depth in Jan's book, "Hodder Family; Facts & Folk Tales"



Occasionally Bert will mention his cousin Clarrie in his diary. Daisy and Arthur's eldest child was Clarence Arthur Campbell Leggett born 24 Jul, 1911 in Sydney, Australia. 1911 was an extremely important year for Australia, the Australian Capital Territory was established as the seat of government, the Northern Territory was separated from South Australia and the NT city of Palmerston was renamed Darwin, in honour of Charles Darwin. On the 1 Jan, compulsory military training began from the age of 12 years and above.

The University of Qld was founded, as well as the Royal Military College, Duntroon; the Commonwealth Bank was established and the Marburg railway line in south-east Queensland opened. The steamer SS Yongala was sunk in a cyclone off the coast of Townsville, with the loss of 122 lives and the first national census was taken the night of 2/3 April<sup>ii</sup>, so obviously Clarrie was not counted.

In 1923, the Mudgee Guardian tells us that in Merriwa, Master Clarence Leggett aged 11 years old, sat an examination which entitled him to take up a seat in Armidale High School<sup>iii</sup>. In 1926/7, Clarrie as he was called was about 14 years old when the family moved to Eastwood in Sydney. My father, Herbert (Bert) William Geldard told me that Clarrie was an excellent runner and sportsman and that, when he lived with the Leggetts from 1931-2, he (Bert) would massage Clarrie's legs before he competed. In 1933, Clarrie

was a student, still living with his

**EDWIN J HODDER**  
1853-1945

Spouse & Children ▾

- ALICE E HALPEN
- Alice Louisa Hodder
- Daisy Ethel Hodder
- Beatrice F Hodder
- AVIE VERA HODDER

**Daisy Ethel Hodder**  
1879-1975

Spouse & Children ▾

- Arthur J ( Leggett
- Sir C A C ( Leggett
- Aldyth D ( Leggett
- Maysie A ( Leggett
- Ronald H ( Leggett

**MASTER G. LEGGETT.**  
Master Clarence Leggett, aged 11 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Leggett, of Merriwa, recently qualified at an examination held under Mr. R. H. Woolley, which enables him to attend the Armidale High School. Master Clarence has taken his seat there, and we congratulate him on his success. He was taught by Mr. Woolley, who is head teacher of the Merriwa Public School.

parents, at 19 Gordon St., Eastwood. In 1934, as a member of the Sydney University Hockey Team, he toured NZ and later that year played against India<sup>iv</sup>. In 1936, he was living at 29 Lord Street, Roseville as a medical student, then a year later, the 1937 census shows him as living at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, as a Medical officer. On 20 Dec 1939, Clarrie married Avril Olga Bailey at the Central Baptist Church, George St., Sydney. Jan Hercus tells us that the reception was at "Amory" Ashfield, NSW and Avril's bridesmaid was Aldyth Leggett and the best man was Ron Leggett.

3. Operational Service:—

(a) Overseas area of service	Embarked from Aust.	Disembarked in Aust.
Milne Bay N.G.	1/10/42	12/10/42
Port Moresby N.G.	2/4/43	13/6/43
Borneo	18/9/43	27/3/44
Borneo	15/12/45	29/1/45

MBE stands for Member of the Order of the British Empire, and is one of the kinds of honours awarded twice a year by Buckingham Palace, for the New Year's Honours and the Queen's Birthday Honours in June. The MBE is given for 'Outstanding achievement or service to the community. Feb 6, 2018

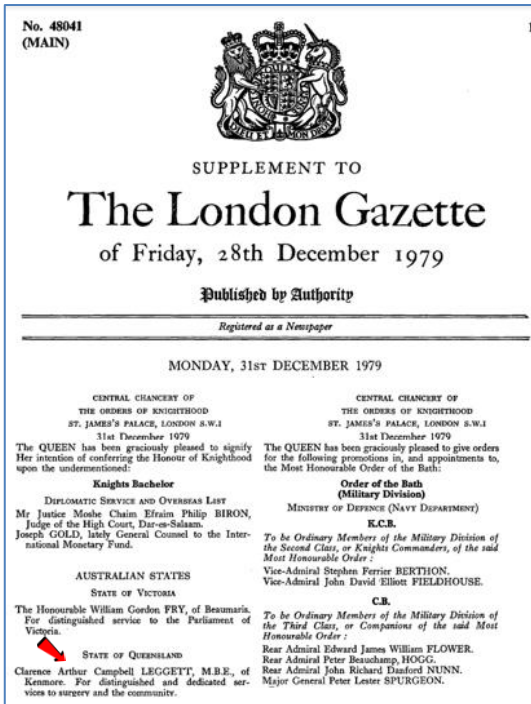
Knights Bachelor – From the days of medieval chivalry, the method used to confer the knighthood is known as the accolade, which is the touch of a sword by the Sovereign. ... Ranks in the Order are Knight or Dame Grand Cross (GBE), Knight or Dame Commander (KBE or DBE), Commander (CBE), Officer (OBE) and Member (MBE).



Clarrie enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, on the 6 Jan 1942. At the time, he and Avril were living at "Mary Ann Hill", Weiholt Street, Auchenflower, Brisbane, Qld. His dependents were listed as a wife and two children under the age of 16 years old. Clarrie served overseas in Milne Bay, NG; Port Moresby, NG & Borneo, and was the Senior Surgeon AIF South Pacific, in 1943, he was awarded the M.B.E.<sup>v</sup>. He resigned his commission as a Major in Nov. 1945. Further information on Clarrie's war service is available at <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>.

It seems, that that family has a history of War Service, his wife, Avril's father, Robert Lester Bailey a 19 year old Auctioneer, from Bedtrowbury, Singleton, born in Ulmarra in northern NSW in 1894, enlisted 1914 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment. He had an impressive list of 1<sup>st</sup> World War Battle Honours and Decorations, fighting at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli; North Africa; Sinai and Palestine. (Ironically, I had never heard of Ulmarra, NSW but I only had lunch the day before writing this - a quaint little town, on the main Pacific Highway, only a few kms north of Grafton, set against the magnificent backdrop of the Clarence River – with a most impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> hand bookshop).





During WWII, while Clarrie was serving overseas, his wife Avril and their two eldest children, came to live with my grandparents, Ernest Geldard and Avie Hodder out at “Stockton”, Columboola, Qld. I have since been told by one of Clarrie and Avril’s daughters, that they have very happy memories of that time. My father, Bert was not accepted into the Army, as he was in a protected industry. Together he and his father, Ern worked the various properties, a huge task but it was the lot which fell to those left behind, to support those who were away risking their all in the war. As well as Ern, Avie & Bert living there when Avril and their children were living at Stockton, Bert’s younger brother, Neville was still at home as well. Bert’s sister, Lorna was

Name:	Clarence Arthur Campbell Leggett
Birth Date:	24 Jul 1911
Birth Place:	Sydney New South Wales
Year Range:	1940 - 1947
Enlistment Place:	Charters Towers Queensland
Service Number:	QX48888
Spouse:	Avril Leggett
Series Description:	B883: Army, 2nd AI F

married and living several miles away at Goombi while his brothers, Eric and Ken, like Clarrie were away serving in the war.

In the late 60’s Clarrie was an Oncologist, with a practice up on Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. I remember, when I was about 18 years old, living in Brisbane on my own, I had a pendulum type mole/skin tag under my arm, which was giving me some trouble. Clarrie said he would have a look at it. When I arrived at his rooms, people, waiting to see him were queued right down the front stairs. His receptionist took me in the back way and I lifted my arm to show him the painful mole and as he looked at it – it fell off! He thought it was hilarious! Later, he removed my appendix and when I was pregnant, he sent a message down to me in Wagga Wagga, NSW where I was living, to make sure that I didn’t take the Morning Sickness drug.

On the 28 Dec 1979, it was published in the London Gazette that the Queen has been graciously pleased to signify her intention of conferring the honour of knighthood upon Clarence Arthur Campbell Leggett MBE of Kenmore, for dedicated service to surgery and the community<sup>vi</sup>.

Shortly before Clarrie died, my father asked me to take him to see Clarrie and Avril. Sir Clarence Leggett died 17 Sep 1998. His wife, Avril died 8 Mar 2008. They had three children, as per funeral notice right, who all followed their father and became medical professionals.

Daisy and Arthur’s second child was Aldyth Daisy Leggett born 15 Apr, 1914 in Armidale, NSW, Australia. Born three months before the Great War, the War to end all wars was declared on 28 July. Her parents were living in Merriwa at the time of her birth. *Photos courtesy of Jan Hercus – right, Aldyth showing her fancywork, left, Aldyth with Avie, my grandmother and the wedding of Mervyn and Aldyth.* There is no mention of Aldwyth in Bert’s diary, but I imagine that a glamorous 18 year old teenage girl did not have a lot in common with a gawky, shy 14/15 year old boy cousin.

On Sat 13 Apr 1940, the Sydney Morning Herald, p16 announced the Engagement of Aldyth, elder daughter of Mr

**LEGGETT, Sir Clarence.** — Late of Kenmore, Brisbane. Passed away on September 17, 1998. Beloved husband of Avril, dearly loved brother of Aldyth, Maisie and Ronald (deceased). Loved father and father-in-law of Judith and John, Robert and Janice, Barbara and David.



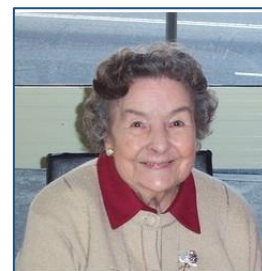
and Mrs A.J. Leggett of Roseville to Mervyn, younger son of Mr and Mrs T.A. Mildenhall of Eastwood. In 1940, Aldyth married Mervyn Thomas Mildenhall, the marriage was registered in Ashfield, NSW. The 1980 Electoral Roll tells us that Mervyn, a Surveyor and Aldyth were living at 9 Wiltshire Place, Turramurra. Her husband, Mervyn died on the 1 May, 1985. On the 15 Apr, 2014, Aldyth turned 100 years old, and she was living in Brookfield Village, Old Gold Creek Road, Brookfield, Qld. Jan Hercus and her sister, Margaret Christensen took me with them, when they came to Brisbane to visit their aunt and she remembered my father, Bert very well and said that Bert and her brother, Ronald on a weekend would get on their bikes and ride and ride all day. Aldyth died 10 Nov, 2016 and I was privileged to officiate at her funeral. They had no children.



Daisy and Arthur's third child was Maysie Avie Leggett (left) born 9 May, 1916 in Armidale, NSW. She is a bit over three months older than Bert and obviously named after his mother, Avie. Maysie gets several mentions in the diary. This is Jan Hercus and Margaret Christensen's mother, so they will have their own stories and memories, I will only provide the basic facts, records and milestones of her life. In the 1937 electoral role, Maysie is living with her parents, Arthur and Daisy Leggett and her sister, Aldyth at 29 Lord Street, Roseville, North Sydney.



After the sale of their properties, the Leggetts appear to have been financially secure, considering this is in the closing stages of Australia's Great Depression, which began with the Wall Street Crash of 1929, and foreshadowed years of crushing poverty for hundreds of thousands of Australian wage-earners and their families. Unemployment reached a record high of around 30% in 1932. There were also incidents of civil unrest, particularly in Sydney, Australia's largest city. Before it was over, Australia had experience of slum towns, one notorious one called Happy Valley and the despair of those who took to the 'swag' and walked from town to town to collect their 'dole'. This pilgrimage of desperation was named 'the Hungry Mile'. But by 1937 Australia is beginning the journey out of the depression.



In 1941, Maysie Avie Leggett marries Robert Eric Clulow, (b. 1912 in Leichhardt, NSW), the marriage is recorded at Ashfield, NSW. Robert was a builder and the 1933 newspaper article that

It was announced at the annual meeting of the Master Builders' Association that the Federal building construction prizes had been allocated:—Mr. Robert Eric Clulow, an employee of H. W. Thompson, Ltd., Sydney, first prize, £25; Mr. Alan Edward Smith, Queensland, second, £2/7/; and Mr. Ian Dancy, Geelong, third, £2/2/. Mr. Clulow obtained 152 marks out of possible 200, Mr. Smith 129, and Mr. Dancy 91.



Jan has provided right, indicates his professionalism and his integrity. In 1980, Robert, a builder and his wife, Maysie are living in Muston Street, Mossman. Maysie and Robert had seven children, including Jan Hercus. Janita Anne Georgina b. 1943 at Chatswood. Janita (Jan) married Phillip, a naval architect, who was born 20 Dec 1942 in Auckland, NZ (both pictured left). Jan and Phillip were married 6 May 1965 at the North Sydney Baptist Church, NSW and they have two children. On the 26 Jan 1995, Phillip received the Order of Australia, but sadly he suffered ill health and died 3 Sep 2017 at their home in Mosman, NSW.

Ronald Hodder Leggett
30 Oct 1918
Muswellbrook New South Wales
1939 - 1948
Austral New South Wales
NX115923
<a href="#">Heather Leggett</a>
B883: Army, 2nd AI F

Daisy and Arthur's fourth child was Robert Hodder Leggett born 30 Oct, 1918 at Muswellbrook, NSW and probably the one mentioned the most in my father's diary. Bert and Ronald spent a lot of time together and according to Aldyth, my father, Bert and Robert would go out riding their bikes of a weekend. Apparently, they travelled for miles and it was nothing for people to come across them in the most unusual places. The extraordinary thing was



that most of the time they did not ride together, but often several 100 metres apart.

After announcing their engagement on 2 Nov 1940, on the 6 Dec 1941, Robert married Heather Amie Ruth Tyas at Eastwood, NSW. On the 18 Aug, 1942 Robert enlisted at the Epping Recruiting Center. He was discharged 3 Dec 1945 from the 14 Australian Army Service Corp. Robert and Heather had two children. Robert died 20 Nov 1984 at Killara, NSW and is buried in North Ryde, NSW.

What amazing people, Arthur and Daisy were! To take their nephew for at least one to two years and what is important is, that even after 35 years, my father Bert still held them in such high esteem. He must have! For a person, who avoided crowds and cities so much, to make the pilgrimage to Sydney to see them, shows the regard that he had for them both.

So how did Bert come by that blank diary and faithfully commit himself to write in it everyday – I can't imagine that it is something that he would want to do himself – he wasn't a writer, but I like to think that it was his father, Ern, himself a chronicler, who gave it to him, so that he could record his time away from home. Upon Bert's return to his home, at 'Stockton', he remained working with his father on the various properties, even after he bought his own property 'Roxborough'. He married Mary O'Keefe in Toowoomba on 17 Sep 1949 and his father, Ern died at home at Stockton on the 2 Feb 1951, when I was only a little over seven months old. Bert's mother, Avie died in Miles 26 Aug 1967 and the rest is still a story yet to be written.

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<sup>i</sup> Photo of Daisy & Arthur Leggett on Granny's Steps, The Cobb, Lyme Regis. Courtesy of Jan Hercus.

<sup>ii</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1911\\_in\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1911_in_Australia)

<sup>iii</sup> Mudgee Guardian & North-Western Representative. Thu 15 Feb 1923, p 22.

<sup>iv</sup> Geoffrey Sherrington, "Sydney University Sport, 1952-2007, More than a Club", Sydney University Press. P198/9

<sup>v</sup> Geoffrey Sherrington, "Sydney University Sport, 1952-2007, More than a Club", Sydney University Press. P198/9

<sup>vi</sup> [www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/48041/supplement/1/data.pdf](http://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/48041/supplement/1/data.pdf)

Thanks go to Jan Hercus, who supplied many of the photos used.