

## FREDERICK JAMES (JIM) IMBER

### DAD'S UNDER 16'S LIFE SUMMARY

Dad was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1924 at Forest Lodge NSW, the middle child of 3 children, and the only boy, attended the Newtown Central Demonstration School often wagging school to go to Manley for a swim, Using his very rare lunch money of 6d to catch the tram & ferry ( a return trip costing 4d and the balance spent on a **light** lunch and on other occasions would help out the local garbage collectors by driving the team of horses for them. Many a note was sent home to his parents but he was usually quick enough to catch the postman at the top of the street, however one day he missed the postman and we have never been told what action was taken over these escapades. In spite of the days of wagging school and leaving at the age of 15 he later in life reach the outstanding rank of Superintendent of Police at Dubbo after 37 years as a police officer.

Dad's parents had a hard life during the depression, with his mother taking in washing and later working in the kitchen of one of the hospitals in the area of Camperdown. Dad's father having a club foot missed both wars but managed a living by driving a horse drawn Taxi known as a Hansom cab (This cab actually turned out to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> last Hansom Cab in Sydney which sadly was chopped up for firewood when the licence was surrendered)

After leaving school and before joining up he took on odd jobs such as delivering typewriters, a farmhand on a dairy farm in Aberdeen and an attendant at the ice rink located at the Sydney showground.

Having a sense of adventure once found him riding his pushbike during a long weekend from Sydney to Orange to visit some friends, a distance of some 258 kilometers, considering the climb of the Blue Mountains it was no mean feat.

When war was declared (which happened to be his sister's birthday) Dad was still at school but when he thought he might look old enough (even though he was two months short of his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday) he went down to Martin place to the Recruitment Centre and when asked for his date of birth gave it as two years older. He received his enlistment papers but was informed that because he was under 21 years of age he would have to have his parent's signature before he could join the A.I.F., although he could join the C.M.F. without his parent's signature if he was 18. He took the papers home but his Mother refused to sign the A.I.F. forms as she said he resembled her favorite brother George who was killed in France in WWI. Eventually in time he convinced his mother that if he joined the C.M.F he would only be serving in Australia. He joined the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion Vickers Machine Gun Company and was transferred to Fremantle in 1942, later joining the A.I.F at Gin Gin W.A. In 1944, whilst stationed in Geraldton, he met & married his future wife Dawn McCafferty. Later that year he was sent to Moroti & the Celebes serving there until occupational release discharge to the N.S.W. Police Force on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1946. Whilst serving in Moroti he actually turned 21 and no one knew, except the cook found out and made him a cake with blue icing coloured with ink as nothing else was available.

The transfer into the NSW Police came about when he decided whilst he was on leave in Sydney to enquire if he would be suitable for the Police Force once the war was over, also at this stage he completed the necessary entrance exam. He was sent for from Moroti and then spent two weeks at the Old Police Barracks Sydney, writing with pen & ink in exercise books learning the rules and regulations required of the Police Force. The next 37 years saw him active in country towns throughout NSW starting with Cowra, then Broadwater, Walcha, Campbelltown, Young, Deniliquin, Griffith, Parkes, & finally Dubbo.

All in all he always said he thought he had had a good life and was proud to be a member of the WWII under 16s.









