

JAMES FREDERICK HARFORD

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James Frederick (Fred) was born 2 April 1915 at Broken Hill, the second child of James Thomas and Annie Rafferty. He had an older sister Doreen who was born in 1913 and his younger sister Mary (Mollie) was born in 1917.

Fred's father, James Thomas, died on 24 December 1920 when Fred 5 years 9 months old. He would hardly have known him. His mother Annie remarried Henry Lovis in 1924 when Fred was turning 9 years old.

Fred had little schooling and later Army records indicate that he had no secondary school certificates indicating he did not go past primary school level. That would not have been unusual for the times. Fred like many of his counterparts in Broken Hill found work as a Labourer most probably at the mines.

Fred married **Hazel May Tucker** on 18 May 1940 at the Methodist Manse Chloride St Broken Hill. Hazel was the eldest of five children of William Henry Tucker and Flora Pearson.

TUCKER FAMILY

Benjamin Tucker (Born 1805 Surrey, England. Died 1890 Adelaide)¹ and his wife Keziah Jane, nee Williams (Born 1806. Died 1896 Queenstown, South Australia) arrived in South Australia on 16 November 1840 aboard the *Diadem* which left London on 31 July and came via Plymouth. They brought a son, Benjamin Frederick and two other children.

Benjamin Frederick (Born 1831 Surrey, England. Died 29 April 1915, Sevenhill SA.) married in South Australia Catherine Agnes O'Connor (Died 22 April 1915 Sevenhill SA.) In 1860 they had a child named **Frederick Benjamin** (Died 1940 at Broken Hill) who married Hanorah Agnes O'Malley (Born 1870 Caltowie SA. Died 1954 at Broken Hill) at Broken Hill in 1892.

Fred and Hanorah had a son **William Henry Tucker** (Born 1892 Died 4 April 1964 at Broken Hill) who married **Flora Pearson** (Born 1890 at Stawell Vic. Died at Broken Hill 11 June 1971). Bill Tucker and Flora Pearson had five children all born at Broken Hill:

Hazel May Born 1919. Married **James Frederick Harford** (1915 to 1967) on 18 May 1940 at Methodist Manse Chloride St Broken Hill. Died 16 August 1954 at Broken Hill.

Eunice Isabel Born 17 February 1921. Married **Leonard Schipanski** (1917 to 2003) on 1 April 1939 at Broken Hill. Died 11 January 1963.



Eunice Isabel Tucker

¹ Details of Tucker Family courtesy of Ian Schipanski, Broken Hill.

William Richard. Born 1927. Married **Dawn Rose Carroll** 20 April 1951 at Methodist Church, Oxide St Broken Hill. Died 18 March 2005 at Broken Hill.

Lorna Lillian. Born 1913. Married Frederick Arnold Everuss (1907 to 1968) at Broken Hill in 1941. Died 3 September 2005 at Broken Hill.

Frederick John. Born 1931. Married Eileen Mary (Dixie) Lavers in 1950 at Broken Hill. Died 2 February 1957 at Broken Hill.

Hazel was twenty one when she married Fred. We know little of her early life. The only newspaper report was her arrest for stealing in Adelaide:

Thefts From Dance Halls

The theft of overcoats and other articles from dance halls by Hazel May Tucker, 19, waitress, of Franklin street, city, resulted in her appearance before Mr. Morgan, S.M., in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, on two charges—that on May 9, she stole a fur coat, valued at £4, the property of Mavis Hilda Ratzner, of Halifax street, city, and on May 14, a woman's overcoat, an evening bag, four handkerchiefs, a round of rouge, a tube of face cream, a comb, and 9d., together of the value of £2 14, belonging to Phyllis Jean McGregor, of Colonel Light Gardens. She was sent to gaol for 14 days on each charge, the terms to be concurrent.

Miss Ratzner gave evidence that her coat disappeared while she was at a dance at the Palladium, in Pirie street. Miss McGregor testified that her goods were stolen from the Palais Royal.

Constable Eaton said that the defendant, when arrested, admitted having taken the goods and sold them to secondhand dealers.

Mr. A. J. Kinnane pleaded for leniency for the defendant. He said that she had come from Broken Hill recently and obtained employment as a waitress. She became homesick and, not having enough money to pay her fare back, took the articles mentioned in the charge.

Assistant Police Prosecutor Dayman prosecuted.

Barrier Miner 27 May 1938

The Police Gazette also reported the event giving a description of Hazel:

"Hazel May Tucker born 1919, 5' 4 1/2", slight build, sallow complexion, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, ordinary nose, large mouth, round chin. Vide SA Photo 27/87. Tried at Adelaide 26 May 1938. 14 days each of two charges (concurrent)²"

It appears that Hazel returned to Broken Hill after this unfortunate experience.

Fred's Army Service

Fred enlisted in the Army at Broken Hill on 5 June 1940 less than three weeks after his marriage to Hazel. He was 24 years old. He gave his occupation as "*Labourer Unemployed*" and his address as 90 Iodide St where his mother and Harry Lovis lived. He gave his religion as Catholic. He reported for duty on 12 June and was posted to the 2/43rd Battalion at Woodside. Fred appears to have joined up because he was unemployed and also because of the early community pressure for men to enlist. This pressure would have been greater for Fred because he did not have a job.

ADDITIONAL PREMISES FOR A.I.F. RECRUITING

The superintendent of the Silverton Tramway Co. (Mr. T. C. Gun) has made available two offices at the Sulphide Street Railway Station to be used as the headquarters of the 2nd A.I.F. recruiting unit, where applications will be received and all medical examinations will be carried out.

The centre at the Barrier Boys' Brigade, Oxide Street, will continue to be maintained and applicants for enlistment in the Second A.I.F. will be dealt with there, but the medical examination will take place at the Sulphide Street Station depot.

Both centres are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Sunday, when the Sulphide Street Station depot only will be open from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Medical examinations are carried out precisely at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

Captain Moore is working daily between the 2nd A.I.F. Depot and the R.A.A.F. Centre.

The latest recruit for the A.I.F. is Fred Harford, who will go to Adelaide by tomorrow night's train. Five men left last night.

Man Power Officer (Captain J. R. Moore) said today that the papers of Patrick Connell Peoples, who enlisted last week, have been held up by him.

Barrier Miner 6 June 1940

Urgent Call For Local Recruits

Tendency To Lag, Says Officer

AN urgent call for a further improvement in the number of recruits offering for enlistment in the Second A.I.F. was made today by the local recruiting officer (Lieut. W. J. Stevens).

He said that the call was being made, as there was a tendency to lag again because of the news that large numbers were offering their services in the metropolitan areas and other country centres.

"There is not any reason why we should sit back and allow others to do our job," declared Lieut. Stevens.

Applications for enlistment will be received at the Sulphide Street Railway Station, where a depot was opened yesterday, and in the main hall of the Barrier Boys' Brigade Hall, Oxide Street, the hours being from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Standards are between 20 and 40 years of age, 33in. chest measurement and minimum height 5 feet.

Enlistments today for the A.I.F. are: Ronald Howard Burke, Gordon James Sands.

Barrier Miner 7 June 1940

² SA Police Gazette 1938

Fred's term in the Army (Service Number SX5181) was short lived and eventful. In August he was given two days convalescent leave but on 28 September he went Absent without Leave for twenty days. For this misdemeanor he was given 14 days detention and fined 8 Pounds 10 shillings which he could ill afford. Undeterred by this punishment, after his release from detention Fred went AWL immediately for 29 days from 3 November until 2 December. He was given a further 28 days detention and forfeited 14 Pounds 5 shillings from his pay.

In a little over six months or about 202 days Fred had spent 49 days AWL and 42 days in detention representing about 45% of his time in the Army. He forfeited his pay for each of these days. While Fred had volunteered probably to get a job and be paid, it is hard to understand why he offended if it cost him money that was badly needed to support his wife.

Clearly, Fred had decided being in the Army was a mistake and by the end of December the Army came to the same conclusion and he was discharged on 31 December 1940.

Fred returned to Broken Hill and a short time later on 9 February 1941 their first child **James William** was born. In 1981, Jim wrote to the Army seeking a copy of Fred's Service Record. He received the details of this period of Fred's service and we can be very sure he would not have been at all impressed.

Fred obtained a job with Zinc Corporation working in the mines.



Fred April 1941

ORIGINAL.

4840

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.
BUREAU OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Certificate No. 4840 Broken Hill, 22nd April 1941

This is to Certify that Fredrick Harford
whose signature appears on this Certificate, was examined at
the Bureau on 22nd April 1941, and
was found fit for employment in and about the mines at
Broken Hill.

W. L. G. G. G.
Medical Officer in Charge.

Signature of Examinee Fredrick Harford

KEEP THIS CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY.

2982 5.37 D. H. PAISLEY, GOVT. PRINTER.

Tattoo: Anchor on Right Shoulder, 11/11/11

HARFORD + FREDERICK 18324 22-4-41

Medical Certificate

In June it was reported that he had been injured:

Fred Harford, a miner at the Zinc Corporation mine, was admitted to Ward 1 at the Hospital today suffering from a lacerated back. His condition is satisfactory.

Barrier Miner 2 June 1941

For some reason, almost beyond belief, Fred again volunteered for the Army on 15 December 1941. However, mysteriously he enlisted under the name of Frederick Richards (Service Number SX 15498). He gave his date of birth as 15 April 1915 and his next of kin as Hazel Richards.

Perhaps shedding some light on this strange event, the SA Police Gazette dated 17 December 1941 contained a record of a warrant for the arrest of *“James Frederick Harford also known as Totter Harford charged with failing to maintain his child. NSW Labourer, 26 years, looks younger, 5 ft 4 in. thin build, fair complexion and hair, blue eyes, broad nose, clean shaven, heart tattooed on left upper arm. To be brought before P.C. Adelaide. Warrant and photograph filed at CIB.—C12970.”*

This gives the appearance that Fred joined the Army to avoid his parental responsibilities and Hazel lost no time in ensuring that he would meet them.

Fred joined the 3rd Training Battalion on 22 December. Almost immediately he went AWL at 0515 on Christmas Day returning on Boxing Day at 0615. He was confined to barracks for 7 days and fined 12 shillings.

Within a week or two, Fred had again deserted from the Army:

“SX 15498 Private Frederick Richards, 27 years, Miner, 5 feet 10 Inches, 10 st 4lb, dark complexion, brown hair. A miner from B Coy 3rd Training battalion Glenelg 5 January 1942. Warrant filed at CIB-- (C2348)”

SA Police Gazette 11 March 1942

An Inquiry was held on 16 January as Fred was still absent and it appears that at this time the Army was aware that Fred Richards was also known as Harford. The court reassembled on 25 April and declared that Fred was still illegally absent from 16 January. Accordingly, it was decided to discharge him from that date because of his false declaration on the Attestation Form in regard to his name. Fred later signed the discharge form with the name of Harford.

“No. SX. 15498, Private FREDERICK RICHARDS, otherwise HARFORD, 27 years, miner, 5ft. 10in., 10st. 4lb., brown hair, dark complexion; from Third Training Battalion, Tanunda, on 5/1/42. Warrant filed at C.I.B.-(C.5306.)”

SA Police Gazette 13 May 1942

As World War 2 proceeded circumstances worsened and more men were required for the armed forces. In mid 1942 Fred was called up for service in the Army. It appears that the Army had totally inadequate processes not to have checked Fred's previous service. By that time he and Hazel were living in Adelaide and he was working as a Painter. They were living at 7 Olive Street Parkside. He enlisted at Port Adelaide on 17 July 1942.

It was no long before his bad behavior became evident again. He went Absent Without Leave on 28 August. That was just the first of many occasions.

Over the period of his service Fred was Court Martialled three times:

SX44116 30 October 1942 Penalty 120 days detention from 30 October. Served 68 days

SX 28466 14 June 1944 Penalty 30 days detention and 34 days pay. Total 64 days pay.

SX 28466 30 January 1944 Penalty 6 months detention. Served 142 days.

Analysis of Fred's second period of service shows that he was AWL nineteen times. He also was in trouble for failing to obey a hospital order on two occasions.

These misdemeanours yielded 312 days of detention for Fred and cost him a total of 423 days pay forfeited representing 26% of his time in this second period of service.

However, Fred also managed to spend a significant amount of time in the hospital, which we might add did not stop him going AWL. Fred was in hospital for number of times as follows:

- 11 September 1942 for five days with Scabies.
- From 23 May to 8 July 1943 or about 46 days with injuries to his head and eye obtained at Bathurst while AWL. He had a large haematoma near his left eye and a lacerated mouth.
- From 1 March to 31 March 1944 or 31 days with allergic dermatitis.
- From 15 August to 10 November 1944 or about 85 days with fractured left ankle.
- From 30 August 1945 to 17 October 1945 or about 42 days with dermatitis.

The total days are about 209 and when added to the detention days means that Fred spent 43% of his time away from Army duties. We cannot understand why the Army spent so long putting up with Fred. There was a major war being fought and it was an absolute waste of time attempting to discipline him.

We are mystified at Fred's motives especially as he would have been well aware of the punishment he would have received. Why did he continue to offend? He obviously did not value the pay he received but his wife certainly would have. Did he ever reflect on his responsibilities to his family?

One possible explanation is that he wanted to return home to see Hazel. He certainly returned to Broken Hill a few times as he was apprehended there and on one occasion it is clear that he was with Hazel as it resulted in her being pregnant with Barry.

Barry John was born at Broken Hill on 28 April 1944. They also had a daughter **Judith Ann** born on 4 December 1948.

Fred and Hazel ultimately separated although we cannot be sure of the timing of this and it was probably an "on again off again" relationship. Hazel had to work to ensure that she and her family were supported. This meant the children were looked after by relatives. Hazel ran the dining room at the Globe Hotel and she also ran dining rooms at other hotels including the Central and the Grand.

There is evidence that Fred and Hazel tried to get back together. However, it is clear Fred could not manage himself.

MAN BOUND OVER FOR WIFE ASSAULT

In the Police Court yesterday James Harford was found guilty of having assaulted his wife on July 31. He was released on a bond of £10 to be of good behavior for 12 months.

Mr. E. J. Forrest, S.M., was on the bench.

Mrs. Harford said she conducted a dining room at the Globe Hotel. She had not been living with her husband. About a week before the assault her husband started to live with her again, but he drank heavily.

About 8.30 p.m. on July 31 she left the Globe Hotel, intending to visit a friend's place. Her husband grabbed her arm and forced her back and she fell to the ground. He abused her and dragged her back to the hotel.

Defendant told her she could not leave, but some friends came to her assistance.

Witness said her husband did not work.

Cross-examined by the defendant, witness admitted he was weak when he came out of the Hospital.

James Frederick Harford said he had a few drinks on the night of the alleged assault.

He saw his wife and asked her where she was going. She told him to mind his own business.

Harford said he tried to drag her back, but did not harm her.

Barrier Miner 16 August 1950

After this event Hazel would not have wanted to have anything more to do with Fred. She died prematurely and in suspicious circumstances in 1954.

DEATH OF WOMAN

Police are making inquiries into the death of a 36-year-old married woman who died at the Hospital about 10 o'clock last night. The woman, Mrs. Hazel May Harford, was admitted to the Hospital about 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon.;

She came to the city on Thursday from outback, where she was a cook. She was in a nervous condition and a doctor was called on Friday. Her condition deteriorated and she was taken to Hospital and admitted on Sunday.

Det.-Sergt. E. Mabbutt is investigating. A postmortem is to be held today by the.

Government Medical Officer [(Dr. J. Cullen). The matter has been reported to the City Coroner (Mr. W.H. Hall, S.M.).

Barrier Miner 17 August 1954

The cause of death was Septicaemia or blood poisoning which is believed to have been caused by an abortion which at that time was illegal.

Funeral of Mrs. Harford

The death occurred at the Hospital on Monday of Mrs. Hazel May Harford (36). Mrs. Harford was born at Broken Hill and had resided here all her life. The funeral, which was private, took place today, leaving Oxide Street at 2 p.m. for the Methodist Cemetery. Fred J. Potter & Son had charge of the arrangements.

Barrier Miner 18 August 1954

Fred continued to make a living doing odd jobs and laboring work. In the 1960's Electoral Rolls showed him as residing at the South Broken Hill Hotel. He died at Cockburn, South Australia in 1967 and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery Subsection KI Row 12 Grave 1

Death Notice

Harford Frederick James 51 years of Cockburn SA Born Broken Hill survived by his sons James & Barry Harford & daughter Judith Harford. Relatives and friends of the sons and Daughter of Frederick James Harford are respectfully informed that his remains were peacefully laid to rest in Catholic Cemetery this day (Mon) at 4.15pm

F J Potter