

Joyce Edna Harford

Joyce Edna (Joy) was the only child of Frank and Edna. She was born on 29 December 1931 at Kingscote Nursing Home, Kangaroo Island. Frank was 21 years old and Edna 16.



1933



1935



1936

Joy grew up on the Island attending Primary school at Kingscote and later attending the Kingscote Area School through to Intermediate level.





Joy 1947

Joy started work in 1949. She had wanted to do nursing but both Edna and Len disapproved. She obtained a job as a telephonist at Kingscote. This involved shift work and riding her bike about 10 miles from Len's farm. She left home and went to live with her grandmother (Louise Bertha) which overcome some of the difficulties. In late 1949 Joy transferred to the Phongram area in Adelaide. She later went and lived with her uncle Roy Tilka who was very good to her.

Towards the end of 1949 she met John Hillier at a dance. They were married on 18 October 1952 at the Archer Street Methodist Church North Adelaide. John was 24 and Joy 20. She was given away by her uncle Roy although Frank and May were guests at the wedding.





Edna & Joy



Roy Tilka & Joy



John & Joy

Joy's Wedding Certificate shows her surname as name of Florance the wedding was after Edna had married Lendon Florance. Len had insisted that Joy change her name to Florance, Edna

also pressured Joy to do this probably to keep the peace. She finally changed her name by Deed poll. Joy expressed her regret at doing this and she has since changed it back to Harford. Of course this does not change the wedding certificate.

John was born Nathaniel Rickards John Hillier on 17 January 1928 at 1 The Strand, Colonel Light Gardens, Adelaide SA. His parents were Nathaniel Rickards George Hillier, (born 16 April 1903 at Orroroo, S.A. Died 9 August 1968 at Adelaide) and Eileen Gertrude Spurling (born 30 September 1906 at Wallaroo Mines SA). Eileen died of Hodgkins Disease on 7 July 1935 when John was only seven years old. His father was an Engine Driver with the South Australian Railways. John's grandparents were Nathaniel Rickards Hillier, born 1874 and Mary Matilda Cooke born 1881.

John went to school at Colonel Light Gardens Primary School until 1939. He then attended Adelaide Technical High School for his secondary education from 1940 to 1943. The school was tied to the School of Mines & Industry and was organized outside the SA Education Department. The school was on the same block as Adelaide University.

John reached the Leaving Certificate level which he obtained at 15 years of age in the classical technical school subjects of English, Mathematics 1 & 2, Physics, Chemistry, Drawing, Fitting & Turning, Metalwork & Woodwork

This was sufficient to matriculate in those days and so he could attend university. He wanted to do Engineering but, unfortunately, the scholarships available provided inadequate support and it was necessary for him to get a job.

From 1943 to 1946 he worked at Wilds Manufacturing Co. and Richards industries. At Wilds, John was a Costing Clerk for 12 months. The company made Steam Cookers for the Army. At Richards, he was a Trainee Draughtsman. He was also involved with the Air Training Corps of a night.

In 1946 John joined the Australian Army and this became his career for 37 years. He joined in Adelaide and went to Rooty Hill in NSW for initial training. After the usual battery of psychological tests John was assigned to the Royal Australian Survey Corps. He had hoped to join the Occupation Force in Japan but the Survey Corps only were sending three people and there was no scope for him to be involved. He was posted to Willoughby and unit participated in a number of mapping exercises one of which was mapping the Kosciuszko area for the Snowy Hydro Commission. He was later posted to Bendigo to the HQ Cartographic Company.

In September 1947 he was involved with mapping work at Woomera when it was largely occupied by Americans. In 1948 he went to Balcombe in Victoria for a promotions course and by the time he met Joy at the end of 1949 he had reached the rank of Sergeant. On 15 December 1951, John was commissioned as a Lieutenant.

Joy worked as a Dental Nurse until after her twins born. They were named **Christopher John** and **Kenneth John** and they were born on 3 August 1953 at Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide.

Joy recalls that while she was expecting the twins she had high blood pressure. Frank invited Joy to come and stay with him and they moved into the back of Frank's garage which he had built for Blanche to stay in. During this time May cooked for her and looked after her and was "an angel" to her.

About 1954 they moved to Port Augusta because there was housing available there. At about this time John contracted TB. Joy had to stay at their government owned house with her two young children while John went to Dawes Rd Repatriation Hospital. He later moved to Birralee Rehabilitation centre and altogether was off work for about 18 months.

Joy had a trying time with her twin children while John was away. She relates the story of how they put the hose into the petrol tank and filled up with water. For quite some time later Joy on her drives to see John had to stop about every 50 miles to clean the rust that kept developing in the carburettor.

In 1958 they moved to Balcombe in Victoria and John was stationed there for two years. On 23 June 1958 their third child **Russell John Charles** was born at Mornington. By December 1961 John had reached the rank of Major and was then at Bendigo where they spent two years. In 1962/63 John was posted to Papua New Guinea doing mapping work in the mountains. Joy remained in Bendigo.

On his return they went back to Balcombe where the Survey School was located and John was the Chief Instructor. In 1965 the school was transferred to Bonnegilla and the family moved there until John obtained an overseas secondment to the British Army in Singapore in 1967/68. In this role he was Director of the British Army Survey Corps with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In this post he was able to do a lot of sailing and his crew was successful in winning the Services Far East Sailing Competition in Hong Kong.

In 1969 he returned to Canberra for four years. During the seventies, John saw further overseas duty in a number of Technical Advising roles. The first was in Jakarta Indonesia in 1973/74. By this time their boys were old enough to remain in Australia. After this John provided Technical Advice in the Pacific Islands to countries such as Fiji, the Solomons and Tonga and was also involved at the Bonnegilla Survey School before returning to Canberra in 1976.

In 1983 John retired from the Army and spent two years in Darwin working for the Northern Territory Government. He returned to Canberra and worked for the Bureau of Mineral Resources. They sold up in Canberra in 1997 and went to Bonnegilla and in 2004 moved to their present home in a very pleasant retirement location adjoining Wodonga Country Club.

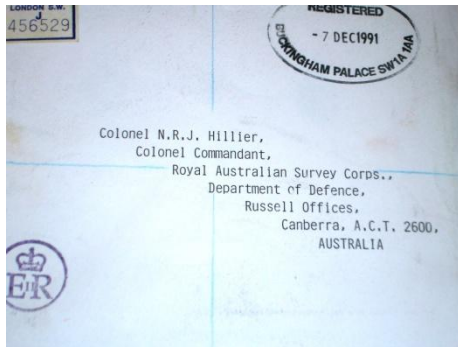


Blanche, Frank, Joy, Twins Chris & Ken and baby Russell



1999 Edna and Joy

By virtue of his post as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Survey Corps (RASC), John had H.R.H. Princess Diana as Colonel In Chief of the RASC. He received Christmas cards from her and Prince Charles.



Colonel Hillier,

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas
and New Year

from us all,
Diana.



Wishing you a very Happy Christmas
and New Year

from
Charles and Diana.



Peter, John, Joy & Elizabeth 2007

Family

Christopher John. Born 3 August 1953 at Calvary Hospital North Adelaide. He married Cheryl Sicotte in 1981 at Kaslo, British Columbia, Canada. They had one child **Hayden James** born 12 May 1981 at Kaslo, Canada. Chris and Cheryl separated in 1985 and they later divorced. Hayden married an Australian Tegan and they live in far North Queensland.

Chris remarried Elizabeth (Liz) Stewart in Sydney on 14 August 1993 in Sydney. Chris lives on a yacht currently moored in Brisbane. He is a qualified Plumber and frustrated builder who currently is a plant operator driving heavy machinery.



Chris, Hayden, Frank & Joy

Kenneth John born 3 August 1953 at Calvary Hospital North Adelaide. He is unmarried. Ken lives at Broadbeach, Queensland where he is in the hospitality industry as a Sommelier or Wine Advisor.

Russell John born 23 June 1958 at Mornington, Victoria. Married Victoria Burns in about 1980 at Wangaratta. They had one child **Kade Russell** born 13 May 1982 at Townsville, Queensland. Russell and Vicki divorced and he married Mellissa Croucher in 1988 at Templestowe Vic. They have two daughters Grace Louise born 1992 and Alice Elizabeth born 1994 both at Sandringham Vic. Russell lives in Brisbane. He three years in the Army and three years in Real Estate and is presently a car salesman and good at his job.