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JOYCE MARY HARFORD & JOHN FRANCIS OVEREND

Joyce Mary was the second child and eldest daughter of Francis John and Blanche Harford. She was born at Queen's Home, Rose Park, Adelaide on 17 December 1913.



Blanche & Joyce 1914

This was a private maternity hospital which had opened on 24 May 1902, the birth date of Queen Victoria. It later formed part of the Queen Victoria Hospital in Fullarton Road. This would have been the newest and most modern maternity hospital in Adelaide and Blanche would have received the best of treatment which she always expected and generally demanded. Joyce's Birth Certificate shows Blanche's address as Hampton St, Goodwood

Joyce's early life and also that of the family is contained in the story of **Francis John Joseph and Blanche**. Rather than duplicate here it would you please refer to that story

We believe in 1929 Joyce had gone to boarding school with the Sisters of Mercy at Geelong. Enquiries to the Mercy Archives in Melbourne have not been able to confirm this. How Blanche could afford this (and indeed Colin's schooling at Douglas Park) we don't know, given her circumstances, but it leads us to believe the costs were covered by the church at the instigation of Blanche who always wanted one or more children to become members of the clergy.



Joyce (Right) with School Friends



Joyce 1943

After finishing school Joyce returned to the Mildura district. The first Electoral Roll for which she was eligible was in 1936 showed her address as Gol Gol West. This was a different address to her parents.

Joyce became a nurse and she did her training at the old Children's Hospital. This was her address on the 1943 Electoral Roll. She continued to work there after she finished her training



Joyce Trainee Nurse



Nurse at Children's Hospital



Joyce The Nurse

Joyce met **John Francis Patrick Overend** and married him at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Ararat on 1 July 1944. Joyce's sister Patricia was Bridesmaid and John's Best man was her brother Frank. The address shown for Joyce on the marriage certificate was 151 Hampton Road, Hampton.

The Overend Family

John was born in Albury, NSW on 5 April 1914. He was the second child of **Francis Harold Overend** and **Annie Murray** and he had an elder sister **Ennis Agnes** born in 1912 at Albury. His father, **Francis Harold**, was born 2 May 1880 in Melbourne. Frank's parents and John's grandparents were **John Francis Overend** and **Florence Knight**. Both John Francis and **Florence had been born in 1854 in England with John was born in Liverpool. Florence was born in Southampton at 5 Orchard Terrace on 8 July. Her parents were James Hoskins Knight, a Mariner, and Susan Corke.**

John Overend and Florence Knight independently decided to come to Australia and after what was obviously a shipboard romance they married in Cape Town, South Africa, on 6 August 1878 on the trip out to Australia. We do not have precise details of their arrival in Victoria and the birth of Francis Harold in May 1880 is the first reference we have located. His birth place is shown as Melbourne. Florence was born in September 1854 at Southampton, Hampshire, England. They had two children the eldest was Francis Harold (born 1880) and they also had an unnamed female born in 1882 but the child lived only one day.

At the time they were living in Prahran. Tragically, John Francis died in the same year. The cause of death shown on the Death Certificate was Pulmonary Consumption which today is known as Tuberculosis. He was only twenty seven.

Deaths.

OVEREND.—On the 16th inst., at 23 High street, Prahran, John Francis Overend, in his 27th year.

The Argus 17 October 1917

THE Friends of the late Mr. JOHN FRANCIS OVEREND are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, St. Kilda Cemetery.

The funeral is appointed to leave his late residence, No 23 High-street, Prahran, THIS DAY (Tuesday, 17th inst.), at 1 o'clock.

JAMES RAYBOULD, undertaker, 98 Chapel-street, Prahran.

The Argus 17 October 1882

These notices provide details of where they lived in Prahran at 23 High Street, and also of John's burial at St Kilda Cemetery. He is buried in the Church of England Section, Compartment D, Grave 124 but there is nothing at this grave today that indicates that John Francis is buried there.

Francis Harold was left with his mother but by the time he was nine Florence also died. The cause of death was also consumption. By that time Francis would have been at school but we know that he only attended State School meaning he was only educated to Grade 6 Primary level.¹ This was the common level of education in those times.

We do not know who would have taken over caring for Francis and the next reference we have to him is his marriage. This was in 1908 almost twenty years after the death of his mother.

Francis married **Annie Murray** who was the fifth daughter of **Thomas James Murray** of Tallangatta. at St Patricks's Cathedral on 1 September 1908.

OVEREND—MURRAY.—On the 1st September, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, by the Rev. Father Murphy, Francis Harold, only son of the late J. F. Overend, to Annie, fifth daughter of T. J. Murray, Esq., Glen Dave, Tallangatta.

The Argus 14 January 1909

¹ Service Record Australian Army



Annie Agatha Murray

Annie was the seventh of eight children of **Thomas James Murray** and **Bridget Stephens**. Both Thomas and Bridget were born in Ireland. Thomas was born in 1832 at Cork and Bridget in 1842 in County Clare.

They had the following children:

- **Johanna**. Born at Rutherglen in 1864. Johanna married **William Henry Culbertson** at Rutherglen in 1898. William was born at Rutherglen in 1863 and died at Wodonga in 1922. Johanna died at Wodonga in 1933.
- **Margaret**. Born at Rutherglen in 1866. Married a **Maloney** and lived at Orange NSW.
- **Abigail Mary**. Born at Yackandandah in 1868. Died Albury 1950. Married **William Arthur Quin** at Yackandandah in 1890. Died Albury 1949. Lived at Wodonga, Vic., Daysdale & Lavington, NSW. Foster parents of Ennis and John Francis Overend.
- **Patrick Francis**. Born at Snowy Creek in 1870.
- **Thomas**. Born at Mitta Mitta in 1873
- **Catherine**. Born at Mitta Mitta in 1874. Married a **Moylan**.
- **Annie Agatha**. Born at Tallangatta on 1 October 1878. Married **Francis Harold Overend** on 1 September 1908, St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne. Died 22 February 1916 at Tallangatta, aged 38, and she is buried in Tallangatta Cemetery. They had two children: **Ennis** born 1912. **John Francis** born 1914.
- **Mary Veronica**. Born 1881 Married **Peter Alexander McMahon** in 1904 at Albury. They had at least four children, all boys. Peter died at Bendigo in 1925.

Annie's father, **Thomas**, died at Tallangatta on 1 September 1918. Her mother, **Bridget**, died at Wodonga on 20 February 1928. She was buried with her husband at Tallangatta Cemetery.

After they were married, **Frank and Annie** went to north eastern Victoria. We believe they may have gone to Tallangatta where Annie was born. However, Frank worked as a Storeman at Kiema and while it is possible they settled there we believe it is more likely that he travelled to his job at Kiema from Tallangatta. In 1914 Frank took over Laurel Hotel at Mitta Mitta, about 60 kilometres from Tallangatta on the Omeo Highway.

Notice of Application for Transfer of a Victualler's Licence.

I ELIZABETH CRAIG, being the holder
of a Victualler's Licence for the pre-
mises situate at Mitta Mitta, and known as
the Laurel Hotel, do hereby give notice that
I desire to obtain, and will, on the 11th
day of February, 1914, apply to the Licen-
sing Court for the Licensing District of
Towong, sitting at Tallangatta, for a
transfer of the said Licence to FRANCIS
HAROLD OVEREND, of Kiema, storeman
Dated the 22nd day of January, 1914.

E. CRAIG.

And I, the said FRANCIS HAROLD OVEREND,
will apply for a transfer of the said Licence.
Dated the 22nd day of January, 1914.

F. H. OVEREND.

F. J. T. LYNE, Solicitor, Tallangatta.

29 January 1914 Upper Murray & Mitta Herald



Laurel Hotel Mitta Mitta

As was always the case, a hotel in a small town was the centre of much activity and the publican always participated in local events. The newspaper reported on a few events in which Frank was involved in. In particular, Frank was a subscriber to the Public Library and a member of its committee and meetings were held at the hotel.

The newspaper reported that Frank also played football with the Mitta Mitta Club. He kicked one goal but the team was beaten by 26 points. Although not reported it would have been normal for the team to adjourn to the hotel for an after the game drink.

Frank was also a member of the committee managing the Mitta Mitta Racing Club and meetings were held at the hotel. In 1915 they met there & decided to have a picnic meeting on Boxing Day with proceeds to go to the local patriotic effort. Frank offered his own donation of twenty one Shillings. However, Frank was unsuccessful in obtaining the refreshment booth at the race meeting. The other hotel in the town run by Mrs. Moncrieff, Bridge Hotel, bought the booth rights for 5 Pounds.

There were at least three separate reports in 1915 identifying that Frank was owed money, and there were two other court actions at which Frank was a witness where events occurred at the hotel.

Frank held the license until early 1916 when he enlisted and left for Melbourne. He transferred the Laurel Hotel license to his wife Annie.² However, Annie died in Tallangatta on 22 February 1916 at the age of 38 years. She was buried in Tallangatta Cemetery

A sad death occurred at Tallangatta on Tuesday morning, the victim being Mrs. Annie Overend, licensee of the Laurel Hotel, Mitta Mitta. Mrs. Overend, who was in a delicate condition of health, had been suffering from a heart affection as well. On Sunday, she was brought to Tallangatta to consult Dr. Salts, who found her in a very bad way indeed. Despite every effort of the medical man and nurses at the Cottage Hospital, the poor woman passed away about 10 a.m. on Tuesday. The certified cause of death was myocarditis. The late Mrs. Overend was the fifth daughter of Mr. Thos. J. Murray, one of the oldest residents of Tallangatta. She was born on Glendave estate. Some ten years ago she was married to Mr. Francis Overend. About two years ago Mr. and Mrs. Overend entered upon the business of the Laurel Hotel, Mitta Mitta. Mr. Overend himself a month or two ago enlisted, and was in camp at Maribyrnong when he received word of his bereavement. Mr. Overend is left with a family of two young children, aged 4 and 2 years respectively, and the painful circumstances of his bereavement have aroused general sympathy. Mrs. Overend was 38 years of age. The interment took place yesterday afternoon in Tallangatta Cemetery, the funeral being numerously attended.

Mrs. Annie Overend, licensee of the Laurel Hotel, Mitta Mitta, died at Tallangatta Cottage Hospital on Tuesday, after a brief illness. The circumstances surrounding the death are extremely sad, as her husband, Mr. Frank Overend, had only recently offered his services to his country, and had just transferred the license to his late wife to permit of his enlisting. He was absent in camp when death took place. Two young children are left. The cause of death was heart failure. The deceased was 39 years of age, and was a daughter of Mr. Thos. J. Murray, formerly of the State Education Teaching Staff, and one of the pioneers of this district.

Upper Murray & Mitta Herald
24 February 1916

Border Mail & Riverina Times
24 February 1916

² Upper Murray & Mitta Herald 27 January 1916

The death occurred at Tallangatta on Tuesday of Mrs. Overend, wife of Mr. F. H. Overend, licensee of the Laurel Hotel, Mitta Mitta. The late Mrs. Overend, who leaves a family of two young children, was the fifth daughter of Mr. T. J. Murray, Tallangatta, and sister of Mrs. W. Culbertson, Wodonga. Mr. Overend recently joined the Expeditionary Forces and entered a training camp three weeks ago.

**Albury Banner & Wodonga Express
25 February 1916**

Frank enlisted in Melbourne on 7 January 1916. He was 35 years and 6 months. He allotted three fifths of his pay to his wife and children. After Annie's death he nominated his next of kin as his sister in law Mrs. Johanna Culbertson C/- Wodonga Post Office. His occupation was given as Victualler and address as Laurel Hotel Mitta Mitta. He was posted to 5/58 Battalion with the rank of Private.



Francis Harold Overend 1914

Frank embarked for Europe on *SS Shropshire* leaving Melbourne on 25 September 1916 disembarking at Plymouth on 11 November 1916.

For the next six weeks his unit underwent training in Wiltshire as part of the 15th Training Battalion until 30 December 1916 when they went from Folkestone to Etaples, France on the *SS Princess Clementine*.

Frank's unit joined the 5th Australian Divisional Base Depot at Le Havre where they were given very thorough medical checks and underwent at least a further ten days training. From there Frank's unit on 7 March 1917 joined the 58th Battalion which made up part of the 5th Division in the field on the Western Front.

Prior to Frank joining the 58th battalion, this unit had experienced its first taste of fighting on the Western Front in July 1916 when it was involved in the Battle of Fromelles. In this role the battalion was held in reserve and provided medical stretcher parties. The reserve force, about half of the battalion, was committed at the climax of the battle and lost a third of its strength to machine gun fire and the battalion was being reinforced with later recruits. It is very likely that Frank was with the 58th in the Flanders region.

Frank was wounded in action on 11 May 1917 and was put into a field hospital with gunshot wounds to the chest and lower leg. The service record does not provide any details of the location of the action. On 16 May, he was admitted to hospital at Abbeville, France, but the next day, 17 May, he left Le Havre for England on board the *SS Warilda*.

The AIF had a sound process for communicating with relatives and six telegrams were sent to Johanna Culbertson, as the nominated next of kin, keeping her informed. The first was a telegram on 31 May advising that Frank had been wounded. Then she was advised on 5 June that he had been admitted to the 4th Southern General Hospital Plymouth, suffering from wounds and this was followed the next day with a further advice that he was seriously ill. A telegram on 26 June said that he was "progressing favourably" and a later message on 17 September said he was "still progressing favourably". The final telegram on 29 October 1917 said he was "Convalescent".

Frank was taken to Plymouth where he was admitted to the 4th Southern General Hospital. He stayed there until 13 October when he was transferred to Harefield Hospital. He stayed there for a further two months when he was shipped home to Australia on 16 December 1917 on the *HMAT Kanowna* arriving on 13 February 1918.

Frank was sent to the No.16 Australian General Hospital at Macleod and on 13 August 1918 a Senior Medical Officer from that hospital reported on his Admission Form that Frank was at that time totally disabled, unfit for work and would be unfit for an indefinite period. It was recommended that he be retained for further treatment. Frank was discharged from the Army on 29 August 1918 but he stayed at the No 16 A.G.H for some time This was the address shown for him on the 1919 Electoral Roll.

Ten years after Annie's death Francis Harold married again in 1926 to **Eileen Maude Blanche Victoria Fels**. Eileen was born in 1897 at Collingwood and was therefore seventeen years younger than Frank. She was the daughter of Joseph Bernard Fells and Marianne Mc Caffery.



Eileen Fels

Eileen and Frank had two daughters. The eldest was **Lesley** who was born on 3 September 1927. Lesley was a Typist who never married. She lived with her parents and was shown on the 1949 Electoral Roll with them at 49 Brougham Street Kew. Lesley's sister **Barbara Joan** was born about 1929. They had earlier lived at 70 Eglington St Kew in 1931 and from there they moved to Blackburn The 1963 Electoral Roll showed Frank, Eileen and Lesley at 16 Shafer St.



Joan & Lesley

Joan went to Ensay to work on a farm and we believe she was about 14 when she left. She was shown on the 1954 Electoral Roll at Ensay and this Roll was the first roll available to her after reaching the voting age of twenty one. Joan lived on the farm which was later left to her. She was very interested in animal welfare and kept farm animals and a number of dogs. She lived alone and rarely left the farm. While she was reclusive, she always received visitors. Joan died on 26 December 2012. She left the farm to some local brothers and the funds she had to her niece and nephews.



Joan at Ensay



Lesley, Ann & Patrick



Joan Eileen & Lesley



Frank, Eileen, Lesley & Joan

Frank died on 26 December 1963 at the Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg and Eileen died on 14 August 1964 at Blackburn. After their parents death Lesley lived in the family home at 16 Shafer St Blackburn. She died on 26 November 1997 at Blackburn.



Francis Harold at Tallangatta

Frank was cremated at Springvale Crematorium on 27 December 1963. His ashes were later taken to Ensay Cemetery.



Overend Headstone at Ensay Lawn Cemetery

Ennis and John

After Annie died and with Frank enlisting, Ennis and John went to live with Annie's sister **Abigail** and her husband **William Arthur Quin** at Wodonga. They were married at Yackandandah in 1890 and already had a family of seven children:

- Eileen Augusta born 1891
- Edith Abigail born 1893
- Dorothy born 1894
- Angela Kathleen born 1899
- Thomas Johnson born 1901
- William Arthur born 1905
- Roy born 1911

Two of these children were still quite young and Ennis and John were four and two years old. However, with older girls Abigail would have had a lot of help.

We have located a number of references to Ennis when she was at school. She attended the Catholic school at Wodonga and in 1926 the newspaper reported her as passing her Merit Examinations.³ The next year she was reported as being successful in the commercial examinations conducted at Stott and Hore's Business College.⁴ There were eight subsequent reports from 1932 to 1937 where Ennis attended a number of Balls. The newspapers named all the girls participating and described the dresses they wore. Ennis' dress changed from year to year and we presume she was working and paying for the clothes herself.

The 1936 Electoral Roll shows Ennis was living at Bond Street Wodonga. However, she was not living with the Quin's at that time because they had moved to Lavington, NSW. The 1943 Electoral Roll shows that she was at the Globe Hotel at Albury with the occupation of Clerk.

Ennis came to Melbourne where she met and married Harry Hooper. They lived at Rosanna Road with Joyce and John for a short time and also they lived in Burgundy Street, Heidelberg.

They had a rather tumultuous relationship and we have been told they were divorced and Harry was jailed for failing to provide appropriate support. They later remarried and lived at the Salvation Army Home at Carrum Downs and they both died there. Ennis was buried in a pauper's grave.

³ Wodonga & Towong Sentinel 17 December 1926

⁴ Wodonga & Towong Sentinel 16 December 1927



Ennis, Patrick & Ann

John

We have not identified any school reports for John and indeed the earliest reference we have is in 1936 when the Electoral Roll showed him as a labourer living at Lavington. Abigail and her husband had moved there from Albury and John continued to live with them until he joined the Army.

John's World War 2 Service

We believe that John was involved in the Militia at Shepparton before World War 2 broke out. He enlisted at the 3 AIF Depot at Shepparton on 28 June 1940 and was a member of the 2/14th Training Battalion at Shepparton with the rank of Corporal. On 31 October he was admitted to the Regional General Hospital Caulfield "for investigation". John's Service Record provides no further details of the reasons or what was found. At the same time he was transferred to the 2/21st Training Battalion stationed at Broadmeadows.

On 2 January 1941 John was discharged from hospital and joined the battalion at Broadmeadows. He was transferred to the 4th Training Battalion at Darley on 27 February 1941. Two months later he joined the Recruitment & Training Camp at Caulfield a couple of days before he was discharged for his enlistment in the AIF.

John enlisted at Royal Park on 29 April 1941 and joined other recruits for the 2/14th Battalion and undertook initial training at Darley in Victoria. During this he developed a skin infection and was hospitalized for a week. In June 1941 they left Sydney for the Middle East arriving on 25 July 1941.

The 2/14th was part of the 7th Australian Division which had moved to Egypt in early April 1941 to bolster the defences along the Libyan frontier against an expected German attack. In late May the battalion returned to Palestine in preparation for its first campaign in the invasion of Syria and Lebanon. It remained as part of the garrison in Syria and Lebanon until early January 1942. John would have joined the battalion on his arrival in July 1941.

John and his battalion sailed home from Egypt on 29 January 1942 and disembarked at Adelaide on 21 March 1942. Its stay at home was brief. On 13 August it left Brisbane on the SS *James Wilson* arrived at Port Moresby, and by 16 August was advancing along the Kokoda Trail to confront the rapidly advancing Japanese.

The retreat back along the Trail was characterised by bitter, desperate fighting. The 2/14th's ordeal on the Trail ended with its relief at Imita Ridge on 16 September. By this time the battalion was so weak that it had been amalgamated with the 2/16th to form a composite battalion.

The battalion returned to Australia in January 1943 with John leaving on the SS *Isaac Coles* and arriving in Cairns on 18 January. Immediately prior to leaving he was treated for Cellulitis and on his return was treated for Malaria over several months.

The 2/14th was rebuilt and retrained before returning to Papua in early August. John left Townsville on the "*Katoomba*" on 30 July 1943 and arrived in Port Moresby on 4 August. The battalion spent a month conducting advanced training near Port Moresby before moving to New Guinea to play a minor role in the operation to capture Lae in mid-September.



Training Atherton Tablelands



Australian Soldiers in the Finisterres

Early 1944

The battalion's main area of operations for 1943, however, was the Ramu Valley and the Finisterre Mountains. It led the 21st Brigade's advance along the valley, from Kiapit to Dumpu, between 29 September and 5 October. We cannot be sure of John's involvement in this action because on 28 September 1943 he was admitted to 2/5 Australian General Hospital with first and second degree petrol burns to both hands. He was discharged on 2 November 1943. The battalion then spent the next four months engaged in patrol actions in the upper reaches of the valley and into the Finsterres.

The battalion returned to Australia in March 1944. John left Port Moresby on the "*Taroona*" and arrived in Townsville on 12 March. During his time in Australia there were two significant events in which he was involved.

In April 1944 John gave evidence at the widely reported "Pajama Girl" Inquest. The report provided some details of his prewar life and also indicated that he was known as Johnny or "Ginger Quinn" because of his association with Abigail Quinn and her family.⁵

SOLDIER'S EVIDENCE

At this stage Mr Read, assisting the coroner, said that another witness, who had been referred to as Quinn, desired to give evidence. He was a member of the 7th Division and was to take part in the march. The inquiry was then adjourned until 3 pm.

On resuming, John Francis Overend, a member of the 7th Division, in reply to Mr Read, said that for a number of years he had lived with his aunt, Mrs A. M. Quinn, at Albury. He had been brought up by her. To some people he had been known as Johnny or "Ginger" Quinn. Before joining the AIF he was a shed hand and had travelled throughout Riverina. During August and September, 1934, he was with his cousin, Tom Quinn, at Yanco Station, where he was employed as a shed hand. Yanco Station was well over 60 miles from Albury.

While at Yanco he had never come down to Albury. He was there for approximately four weeks. While there he had heard of the finding of a body of a girl under a culvert

at Albury. He had known a woman named Lucy Collins for about 15 years. She had resided in and

named Lucy Collins for about 15 years. She had resided in and around Lavington, in the Albury district. He remembered the shack his cousin Tom had at Lavington, Lucy Collins had lived there. Prior to that he had gone to the shack when Tom Quinn was living there. He had never known of an iron bedstead being inside the shack. There had been one outside. He had never gone to the shack while Lucy Collins had been living there. He had never been friendly enough with Lucy Collins to visit her at the shack or anywhere else.

SHACK FIGHT DENIED

In reply to further questions by Mr Read, witness said that he had never been to the shack when a strange girl was there. He had never talked to such a girl or had a fight with her. He had never hit a girl over the head with a piece of bedstead in the shack. Nothing like Dr Benbow had stated as having been described to him by Lucy Collins had ever happened.

The hearing is unfinished.

The Argus 20 April 1944

In the above case, the dead woman's husband was charged with Murder but the jury found him guilty of Manslaughter

⁵ The Argus 20 April 1944

The second event was his marriage to Joyce on 1 July 1944. This took place at the Immaculate Conception church at Ararat. Joyce's brother Colin had moved to Ararat from Traralgon with his wife Eila and two young boys, John and Peter, and we believe he organized the event. Certainly the family would have been accommodated at their Rundle Street home. Joyce's sister Patricia was her Bridesmaid and John's Best Man was Joyce's brother Frank.

We have no idea of when Joyce and John met and his Army Service Record does not provide sufficient detail to identify his location at specific dates in 1944. However, it does appear that there may have been a very short time from when they met to when they married.



Patricia & Joyce



John & Joyce

There is no record of the leave that John may have taken to be married. It is possible that he only had the weekend and hence no opportunity to have a holiday with Joyce. At the time of his wedding John was based at Royal Park in Melbourne and in October 1944 he was in Queensland.

At that time John was involved in an accident. He was engaged in training for the loading of troops from a ship to a transporter. He was climbing down a cargo net when he slipped and fell with his left foot caught in the ropes and he hung upside down from the ropes. He was lowered down and found to have a large swelling to his hip. He had sprained his thigh and groin muscles. An investigation was held and it was found there was no neglect, misconduct or carelessness. He was admitted to 116 Australian General Hospital on 12 October 1944 and discharged on 20 October.

The 2/14th's last operation of the war was the Balikpapan landings. It left Australia on 2 June 1945, sailing from Townsville on the "*General Anderson*" for Morotai Island landing on 8 June. His unit left Morotai on 24 June 1945. The battalion landed at Balikpapan on 1 July and fought its major action of the campaign around Manggaar Airfield between 4 and 10 July. On 24 August John was accidentally injured. An investigation was held but there was no evidence of neglect. He rejoined his unit on 25 September 1945.

Hostilities ceased in August 1945 and the Army wasted little time in demobilising its troops. On 19 December John disembarked in Sydney and on 8 January 1946 he was discharged from the Army.

We recollect that John had a Japanese Samurai sword as a souvenir of his wartime experiences. He had it inside a cupboard at his Rosanna Road home and we used to love to take it out and look at it. We always thought it was the sword handed over on the surrender of the Japanese.



Private John Francis Overend



John & Joyce in Fitzroy Street St. Kilda

At his discharge John gave his address as 26 Charnwood Road St Kilda, a place I remember visiting. They were both shown on the 1949 Electoral Roll at Charnwood Road with Joyce's Occupation as Nurse and John as Labourer. Blanche and Patricia also lived there with them.

John and Joyce's first child **Ann Maree**, was born on 30 December 1946 and she was baptized at St Mary's East St Kilda. Ann married **Charles Domaingue** on 10 January 1975 at St Clements Bulleen. They have four sons and a daughter.

Their second child, **Patrick John** was born on 16 May 1948. Patrick married **Helen Banfield** on 5 May 1972 at Mentone. They have a son and a daughter.

Their third child **Michael** was born on 25 March 1954. His partner is Jill Brookes who has a book shop at Altona.

All of the children attended St John's Heidelberg for their primary education. Ann later attended Vacluse in Richmond. Patrick attended CBC Parade at Alphington and later at Victoria Parade East Melbourne. Michael also attended school at Parade Alphington but from there went to CBC Parade at Bundoora.

Joyce and John went to Tallangatta in 1949 and while there he joined the Victorian Railways, possibly at Colin's instigation and he became a Guard. John was able to get a War Service Loan and they had a house built at 95 (now 149) Rosanna Road, Rosanna which they moved into in 1950

Joyce had done her nursing training at the Old Children's Hospital and continued to work there after they were married. Later, she later nursed at Heidelberg House. At the time Joyce had Menieres Disease, a disorder of the inner ear which can affect hearing and balance. However, this clearly did not interfere with her ability to work.

Both Joyce and John did shift work and they were both able to work while the children were young by arranging shifts so one of them was always at home.



Ann, Patrick & Michael



Patrick & Ann at Ensay



**Bernard & Ann First Communion
St John's Heidelberg**



**Joyce, Ann , Patrick & Michael
Rosanna Road**

Joyce died on 30 August 1965 being hit by a vehicle while crossing Rosanna Road to catch her bus for work. She was 52 years old and was buried at Coburg Cemetery.



John & Betty Clarke

John and Betty May Clarke

In 1968 John married **Betty May Clarke** at Holy Eucharist Church, Chadstone. Betty was born in 1922 and was previously married to **William (Bill) James Clarke**. Bill had died on 24 May 1965.

John and Betty initially lived at her family home 25 Bonanza Road, Beaumaris and were shown there on the 1972 Electoral Roll. However, on the next Electoral Roll in 1977 they were shown living at Rye at 1 Yarrayne St.

John died in 1987 and was buried with Joyce at Coburg Cemetery. Betty died on 4 July 1992 and was buried in her husband's grave at Cheltenham Cemetery.



Betty Headstone Cheltenham Cemetery