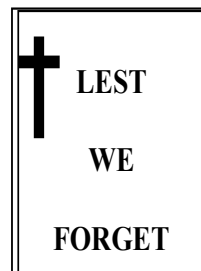


A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No. SX9236
Name John James Boyall NOBLE
Nickname: Jack or JJ



Medals and Decorations

1939 - 45 Star

Pacific Star

Defence Medal

War Medal 1939 - 45

Australian Service Medal 1939 - 45

Rank: Private

Service: Army

Enlisted: 20 Jul 1940

Died of Illness: 9 Aug 1944

Jack was born at Hindmarsh (SA) in Jun 1907 to John Noble and Harriet Noble (nee Boyall). He went to school at Hindmarsh and later at Kilkenny, leaving school at 15. He did various odd jobs around his home suburbs until the mid 1920s, when he left Adelaide and traveled to Tumby Bay to pursue a life on the land: however this was a “bad” time, just before the Great Depression, with few farmers taking on full time employees. He took employ with Tumby Bay Council as a road maintenance worker for a few shillings (1 shilling = 10 cents) a week: this work involved him leaving Tumby before sunrise on Monday mornings, with 5 days provisions and living in tented accommodation on the work site, before returning home on Friday evenings after dark. Employees were not paid for traveling time or for periods when they could not work due to inclement weather! He remained in this employ until he enlisted in 1940.

During this time, despite his prolonged absences from Tumby, he met and courted Thelma Savage, the daughter of the owner of the Ritz Café. They were married at Prospect (SA) at the Methodist Manse on 12 Mar 1928. They had 3 children (2 boys and a girl).

On 20 Jul 1940 he enlisted in the Army at Port Lincoln. He then made his way to Wayville (SA) for processing before being sent to Woodside (SA) for training, Thelma and the children moving to Adelaide to be closer to him. Unfortunately for the family, at the completion of his training he was posted to Alice Springs as a driver, transporting stores from the rail head at Alice to Darwin. He remained in this posting for almost 12 months before being sent to Sydney in Oct 1941 where he embarked on HMAT “Zealandia”; he disembarked in Singapore on 8 Jan 1942 and was posted to 8th Division

Ammunition Sub Park (1 AASC).

Unfortunately for Jack this was only a few weeks before the fall of Singapore (Feb 1942) when the whole garrison surrendered. Jack was listed as MIA (Missing in Action) from 9 Apr 1942 until 2 Nov 1943; on this date it was confirmed that he had been taken Prisoner of War (POW).

After several cards from Jack to his family a similar envelope was received in the mail: even the postman remarked that it looked like another card from Jack. Instead it was a note advising that Jack had died from illness (malnutrition) on 9 Aug 1944. Needless to say the family was shattered after firstly finding him and then losing him again.

Jack's wife, Thelma, remarried to Tom Craddock; however, she did not fully recover from the trauma of the loss of her first husband and her health remained poor until her death.



Left & Below:
Thanbyuzayat War
Cemetery, Myanmar

