

WWII – Cornelius Patrick Carrucan

Cornelius Patrick Carrucan, one of the great grand children of Patrick Carrucan and Mary O'Brien, was called up for full-time army service in January, 1942. After initial training at Mount Martha, he left in March, 1942, for service in Western Australia with the 14/32 Australian Infantry Battalion.

In April, 1943, he was transferred with the unit to Queensland and in July, 1943, to New Guinea. After service in the Buna, Lae, and Bulolo areas, he went with the unit to New Britain in November, 1944, where the flowing three months were spent. The remainder of 1945 was spent in Australia until his discharge on the 28th November, 1945.

1945 also saw him marry Clare Elizabeth McArdle in Ballarat.



*The wedding of Cornelius Carrucan and Clare McArdle at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat in 1945.
Bridesmaid: Lil McArdle, Best Man: Ivan Carrucan*

When Con was discharged from the army about Christmas 1945 (the war ended 15th August 1945), he reported to the Education Department and was appointed temporarily to Macarthur St. State School in Ballarat. He was then given a temporary posting to Eureka St. State School, as the returned soldiers had to be fitted to various schools. So he and Clare lived there for 1946 and, during that time, their first child Helen was born.

At the beginning of 1947, Con had the chance to accept a posting to Patho, 20 miles from Echuca, which included a school house. It was the only one available, and he got that because the family had a child. It was there that their second child Francis (Frank) was born in 1948.

Con died suddenly in tragic circumstances in 1949 when he drowned while on duck shooting. This left Clare with two young children to bring up on her own. She returned to Ballarat where Con was buried.