

WWII – Donald Patrick and John James Carrucan

Donald Patrick Carrucan, born 27th March 1914 in Traralgon in Victoria, and John James Carrucan, born 21st May 1921, were two of the children of Kevin James O'Doherty Carrucan (1885-1933) and Rubenia Beaton (1890-1984). They were great grand children of Peter Carrucan and Hannah Woods.

Both boys joined the AIF on the same day – 21st June 1941. Their place of enlistment was noted as Paddington in NSW so presumably the family had moved from Traralgon to Sydney at some stage.

Their army service records read as follows:

Name	CARRUCAN, DONALD PATRICK
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	NX37030
Date of Birth	27 Mar 1914
Place of Birth	TRARALGON, VIC
Date of Enlistment	21 Jun 1941
Locality on Enlistment	ACTON, ACT
Place of Enlistment	PADDINGTON, NSW
Next of Kin	CARRUCAN, RUBENIA
Date of Discharge	14 Jul 1944
Rank	Private
Posting at Discharge	2/78 Light Aid Detachment
WW2 Honours and Gallantry	None for display
Prisoner of War	No

Name	CARRUCAN, JOHN JAMES
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	NX37029
Date of Birth	21 May 1921
Place of Birth	MELBOURNE, VIC
Date of Enlistment	21 Jun 1941
Locality on Enlistment	CANBERRA, ACT
Place of Enlistment	PADDINGTON, NSW
Next of Kin	CARRUCAN, RUBENIA
Date of Discharge	3 Apr 1946
Rank	Corporal
Posting at Discharge	2/123 AUST BDE WKSHOP
WW2 Honours and Gallantry	None for display
Prisoner of War	No

Donald enlisted for the army on 21st June 1941 in Paddington, NSW. Prior to this he had been employed as a Tabulating Machine Mechanic. Whilst in the Army he was a Craftsman and served overseas in the Middle East from 1st September 1941 to 25th February 1943 and in New Guinea from 31st July 1943 to 21st February 1944. He was discharged in 1944, aged 30 years, being required for employment in an essential occupation. He returned to his work as a mechanic and worked in places such as the Woomera Rocket Range. Unfortunately on return from the war he did not marry. He died 22nd April 1974 of throat cancer.

Jack also joined the army on the same day, at the tender age of 20. He served overseas in the Middle East from 1st September 1941 to 25th February 1943, New Guinea from 31st July 1943 to 21st February 1944 and Tarakan, Borneo from 28th March 1945 to 24th February 1946. Jack was discharged as part of the demobilisation on 9th April 1946.

He went on to work as an accountant at the Canberra Hospital and did not subsequently marry. He loved fishing particularly on the South Coast of NSW. His family remember him as a happy go lucky person who loved to have a beer. Whenever extended family came to visit, he loved to show everyone around Canberra and

was always ready to help out. Jack lived with his mother Rubena until she died in 1984 and then he went into a nursing home. He died in 2004.