

The Doube Family – WWII

Henry John Doube and Augusta Mary Gus) Ziesing were married on on 5th October 1911 in Queen of Angels Catholic Church, South Road, Thebarton, and had a family of 4 children:

Charles Michael (Chas) – b 1912

Henry Joseph (Harry) – b 1913

Mary Eileen (Molly) – b 1915

Brian Ignatius (Barney) – b 1917

At the outbreak of WWII, the three boys enlisted and left home on active service and Mary enlisted in the WANS, serving on the home front.



Henry (RAAF), Brian (RAAF), Charles (RAAF) and Mary Doube (WANS) all served during the Second World War

Luckily all 4 children returned alive and unwounded at the end of the War.

Charles Michael Doube

Charles Michael (known as Chas), the eldest son of HJD and Gus, was born at Payneham, SA on 2nd August 1912. He was educated by the Marist Brothers, Queen St, Norwood and was a serious minded hardworking person of moderate habits, but with a great sense of humour and an inexhaustible supply of stories. He was a keen sportsman, taking on cricket, tennis, football and boxing, and in later years became an expert at lawn bowls.

Chas left school at 14 and worked as a delivery boy for Motor Traders, but quickly began to study, through night school, his life's work of accountancy. He served in the RAAF in a fighter control unit in Darwin during the War. On 13th March 1945, in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide, he married Naomi Helena Brown, a talented musician and horsewoman. Chas and Naomi had two children Ann and Naomi and the family lived in their own home at Kyle St Glenside. Chas worked as an accountant for a number of Adelaide businesses as well as maintaining his own private accountancy business. Chas became a JP and, after retirement, took up drawing and painting, achieving some considerable success. Chas and Naomi lived for many years. Naomi died in May 2000 and Chas in March 2002.



Charles Doube during the War years

Henry Joseph Doube

Henry Joseph (known as Harry), the second son of HJD and Gus, was born on 16th September 1913, probably in the front room of “Kinkora”. Harry was educated at the Marist Brothers, where he excelled at marbles, providing his brothers with a daily supply to lose the following day, thereby perpetuating a very satisfactory cycle. Harry excelled in all things mechanical and served an apprenticeship as a blacksmith as well as attending night school to learn oxy and electric welding, fitting and turning and motor mechanics. Unbeknown to his parents, he took up motor cycle racing with his beloved four-valve Rudge cycle. In later life he took up pistol shooting and was, like his father and his nephew Andrew, an excellent shot. Harry was a ‘real character’ and there are many stories about his pranks and inventions.

In 1936-37 Harry joined the RAAF as an aircraft maintenance engineer and volunteered to join an advance party based in Darwin. He served there and in the islands of the southwest Pacific until the end of the war after which he joined the police force as a vehicle mechanic. On 6th April 1942 Harry married Marie Elizabeth Kelly at St Savior’s Catholic Church, Hindmarsh, and they lived in their own home at Arthur St, Clarence Gardens, where they raised four sons Michael, Anthony, Gregory and Paul. Harry died of a ruptured aortic aneurysm on 25th October 1983.



Henry Doube circa 1940

Mary Eileen Doube

Mary Eileen Doube (known as Molly), the third of the children born to HJD and Gus, was born at “Kinkora” on 16th May 1915 and was educated by the St Joseph nuns at St Peter Claver’s church/school, then by the Loreto nuns and then finally with the St Joseph nuns at Beulah Rd, Norwood. After leaving school, she attended business college and worked in various clerical positions. Molly was an accomplished ballroom dancer and played tennis and basketball.

During the war years, while her brothers were away on active service, Molly served with the WANS – the Women’s Australian National Service - servicing the needs of those left behind. One of those was Robert Murray (Bob) whom she married in 1946 at St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral, Adelaide. Bob was an accomplished musician, playing both the viola and the violin. Bob and Molly had two daughters, Mary and Bronwyn.



Mary Doube during the War

Brian Ignatius Doube

Brian Ignatius, the youngest child of Gus and HJD, was born at “Kinkora” on 28th September 1917 and was educated initially by the Marist Brothers, Norwood and at the Thebarton Technical High School. Brian’s schooling was dogged by dyslexia, but he managed to survive and even won a prized magazine medal for articles reporting school events. At 16 he left school and joined Eddy’s Ltd, to begin a distinguished 43-year career in the furnishing trade in Adelaide. After Eddy’s Ltd, he joined Miller Anderson’s and worked here for some time before joining the war effort. Initially he served with the 13th Field Regiment – (Artillery) but later joined the RAAF training as a radio mechanic and serving in New Guinea and the surrounding islands. Upon the cessation of hostilities, Brian was demobbed and rejoined Miller Andersons after which he joined Hoopers Ltd, rising quickly to become a member of the Board of Directors. In 1959 Pattersons Pty Ltd (Melbourne) took over Hoopers and Brian accepted a ‘golden handshake’ and joined Hains Hunken Ltd, where he stayed for two years before starting in his own business as a manufacturers’ representative. He established the Brian Doube Agencies Pty Ltd and the Brian Doube Trading Co. which grew quickly to include not only Australian companies, but also those from England, Europe, Pakistan, India and USA.

During the war years Brian met Kathleen Margaret Browne and they were married in Our Lady of Doloures Catholic Church, Kingswood on 31st Dec 1942 by the Rev. D Donovan. Kathleen was an outstanding pianist. Following the war, they lived in a variety of rental accommodation but in 1949

moved into their own home in Ferguson Ave, Myrtle Bank. They stayed there until 1977 when they moved to a new home which they had built on a property at Echunga in the Adelaide Hills, 25 km from Adelaide. As business prospered, Brian invested in property and he and Kathleen went on numerous overseas adventures, many associated with the carpet trade in the Middle East and India. They had three sons, Bernard, Andrew and Lawrence, all educated at St Ignatius College, Norwood.



The marriage of Brian and Kathleen Doube in 1942

Brian was known as the Doube Chronicler, such was his interest in family history, and much of our early Carrucan research was helped by his extensive studies. In March 1996 he and Kathleen produced a 231 page Doube Chronicle entitled 'The story of Brian and Kathleen Doube (née Browne)'. A small number of copies of this document exist. This chronicle is based on their extensive research involving interviews, details from births, deaths and marriages offices and the South Australian Archives, and three visits to Counties Clare and Limerick, Ireland.

Kathleen died of pancreatic cancer in 1986 and Brian of old age.