

Margaret (Peg) O'Brien

Margaret (Peg) Ganly was born in 1920, the fifth child of Michael Joseph (Mick) and Mary Jane Ganly nee Carrucan. Peg was a great grand daughter of Patrick Carrucan

She started school at St Joseph's Malvern then transferred to St. Roch's East Malvern when it opened. By the time she reached Grade 8, the family had moved to Mentone so Peg went to St. Pat's.

The Ganlys had a sense of humour and fun that we think may have come from the Carrucan side. Peg remembers having a dressmaking dummy which she and Mick dressed up and placed in the front entrance. They then told Jack there was a lady to see him! They later put it in the hedge to surprise Molly and Toppy when they arrived home late!

Peg took her turn helping her father Mick, holding leads, turning cranks etc. They enjoyed seeing him tatting with a hair clip to make lace. It is thought that he learned that when he was engineer on the boat.

Her sister Molly helped her get a job at the milliners where she worked for a few years. She started as an apprentice putting trims on hats. They enjoyed the socials (in the house opposite Pat's shop) and dances in the Parish. Peg made her debut. Her mother taught her to dance, even Irish dances. It was at one of these socials, the music stopped to announce that war was declared. Much later, on her way home from work, a friend said, "Let's go into the War Office." Peg was the only one to come out with the papers signed!

Peg trained at Cooking School in Watsonia for a number of months, then cooked at the Army Postal Unit for the Officers and Recruits (in the Toorak Mansion that had been Judge Higgins' house – he was in Arbitration). Her family always teased her that she was working for the enemy but her friends insisted that she was a good cook.

The man next door had a nice brother, Bill, who used to visit, his visits gradually becoming more frequent. Bill eventually asked Peg to marry him in June 1943. The Army Officers gave them a guard of honour at the wedding. The happy couple lived at Smiths Gully, then Greensborough where they grew their own vegies. After Michael was born, they moved to Frankston where the other five were born.

Bill died in 1973 but Peg lived on for many years. In that time she watched her family grow-up and start families, worked as a volunteer in church groups and the Blind Association, where she would ring the blind shut-ins on a regular basis, bringing them good cheer.

Her Service Record reads as follows

Name	GANLY, MARGARET
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	VF345370
Date of Birth	17 Apr 1920
Place of Birth	ABBOTSFORD, VIC
Date of Enlistment	19 May 1942
Locality on Enlistment	MENTONE, VIC
Place of Enlistment	MELBOURNE, VIC
Next of Kin	GANLY, MARY
Date of Discharge	17 Mar 1944
Rank	Private
Posting at Discharge	16 A W A S BARRACKS