



Lieutenant Colonel A.D. SWIFT

[1915 – 2009]

Research has not revealed a photograph of Colonel Swift.

Colonel Swift was the Secretary of the Club from 1974 to 1976

Arthur Dean Swift was born in Waverley, Sydney on 20 July 1915.

His father was Arthur Swift – no details of his birth, marriage or death are known, other than that he was divorced or died by 1921.

His mother was Vera Edith – details of her birth are not known. She died in Newtown, Sydney in 1964.

Vera subsequently married Albert Reginald Bellion [1896-1972] in Sydney in 1921. They had no children. He had been born in Port Melbourne and lived in Hay, NSW where he had refreshment rooms and was a shopkeeper. He served as a Sergeant in 29th and 32nd Battalions in France and Egypt. He also served as a Temporary Captain in 11th Garrison Battalion and Assistant Camp Commandant, NSW LoC from 1939 to 1945. After the Second World War they lived at Quakers Hill and Merrylands and retired to Toukley. He died in Parramatta.

Colonel Swift's military records have not been located; however, a summary of his movements is below:

In 1937, Arthur Dean Swift was a soldier at Victoria Barracks Brisbane.

He transferred to 2nd AIF in Port Kembla.

In mid-1943 he joined 2/1st Medium Regiment in South-East Queensland, and then attended a gunnery course at the School of Artillery.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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He was then posted to 2/13th Australian Composite Light AA Regt in South-East Queensland for the remainder of the year, and then re-joined 2/1st Medium Regiment at Kairi (Lake Tinaroo) North Queensland as Reconnaissance Officer.

In November 1944 he was seconded to 2/2nd Aust Medium Regiment for a period before returning to 2/1st Medium Regiment. In July 1945 the regiment was disbanded, and he was posted to LHQ.

On demobilisation he remained in the Army as a Lieutenant and served in Sydney.

Arthur had married Joan Catherine (née Herrmann) [1917-1947] in Sydney in 1942. In 1946 they had twin boys – one, Jonathan, died in infancy. The fate of the other twin is unknown.

By 1949 he was in Brisbane at Victoria Barracks and was promoted a Temporary Captain.

He did not serve in Korea.

By 1954 he was living on Gregory Terrace Paddington together with Shirley Swift (occupation home duties). No records have been located regarding Shirley's birth, marriage, or death. There are no records of any children from the marriage.

Arthur and Shirley were living in Chelmer by 1963. He had left the Army by 1972 when they lived in Hendra and his occupation was listed as "Club Manager" (some two years before his appointment at the United Service Club). By 1980 he and Shirley had retired to Thornlands.

Colonel Swift joined the Club in 1948 and he died on 25 May 2009.

During his tenure, Lieutenant Colonel Swift served Presidents Smith and Wilson.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents
- NAA
- DVA
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