



## Lieutenant Colonel N.E. ALEY ED

[1911 – 1977]



### Colonel Aley was the Secretary of the Club from 1960 to 1973

Norman Edwin Aley was born on 10 October 1911 in Sydney. His father was Arthur Aley [1877-1953], an insurance agent who was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and died in Sydney. Arthur's family had moved to Sydney by 1894. His mother was Laura Edith Hopkins (née Moses) [1877-1919] who was born in Newcastle, married Arthur in Glebe, Sydney in 1903, and died in Sydney from Spanish Influenza.

Norman had two older siblings:

- Dorothy May [1904-1989] born in Glebe. She married Frank Aubrey Knowles [1907-1976] in 1933 (they had separated by 1943) and lived in Nowra and Canberra by 1949. They had one son and a daughter. She was Assistant Manageress at the Hotel Acton and died in Canberra.
- Arthur John [1909-1939] born in Glebe, and a motor mechanic. He married Mary Catherine (née McCabe) [1912-1989] in 1935 in Sydney. They had one son and a daughter. He died in Sydney.

Norman had become an insurance agent by 1933 and live variously in Manly (with his father and brother) and in Kensington and Waverley in Sydney.

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There is some evidence that he had joined the Militia before the war and may have been a Warrant Officer by October 1939. In June 1940 he was appointed as a Lieutenant (Probationary) in the Australian Army Service Corps (AASC – to become RAASC in 1948). He appears to have entered full-time service in January 1941.

He was promoted Captain in December 1949; Major (provisional) in 1951; his promotion to Major was confirmed in 1954; and he left full-time service in October 1958 from his final posting in Melbourne.

In December 1958 he was placed on the Retired List (Southern Command) with the Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He had been awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1948.

Norman had married Nina Marion Beryl (née Worland) [1914-2002] in 1943 in Sydney. They had two children:

- Robert Colin [b. 1948] He was commissioned into RACT and was promoted Captain in 1973 and Major in 1978. In that year he married Gillian (née Carmody) in Sydney. He joined the Club in 1970
- Miss R.F. Aley

The family lived in Manly in Sydney and in The Gap in Brisbane.

Norman joined the Club in 1956. After his retirement from the Army in 1958, he was Assistant Secretary to Major General Steele, and succeeded him as Secretary in early 1960. The Club History records that in the early 1970s there was debate at the Committee over the Secretary being solely a Secretary, or a Secretary Manager. Colonel Aley, saw himself as a manager, implementing Club policy on behalf of the committee. After some discussion it was agreed that the Secretary would carry out the duties of a secretary and manager – although the title did not change until 1985. He retired from the position in 1973.

Colonel Aley died 4 August 1977 in Brisbane.

With 13 years service, he has been the Club's longest serving Secretary.

**During his tenure, Colonel Aley served Presidents Kerr, Yates, McEachern, Cameron, Campbell, Olive, Kingwell and Smith.**

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
- Trove