



Captain L.G. HITCHCOCK

[1896 – 1973]



Captain Hitchcock was the Secretary of the Club from 1947 to 1948

Laurence Gould Hitchcock was born at Barnes, London on 19 August 1896. His father was Thomas Charles Ladds Hitchcock [1849-1914], and his mother Laura Kate (née Harris) [1857-1943]. He was the youngest child – with two sisters and three brothers.

Laurence came to Sydney, (alone, a “clerk”) on the “*Ballarat*” in January 1913.

He married Brisbane-born Elsie Violet (née Harrison) [1896 – 1974] on 8 May 1916 in Brisbane - 10 days before proceeding overseas with 41 Bn, First AIF. They had three children, all born in Brisbane:

- Ronald Gould Hitchcock [1920-2009] Born Brisbane, died Nerang. Lived Bundaberg and Sydney. Served as Flying Officer in Second World War in RAAF
- Eric Raymond [1926-1945]
- Lorna Jean [1930-1985] unmarried, who died Sydney

The family lived successively at South Brisbane, Coorparoo, Taunton Street, Annerley, and Moorooka. His occupation was noted as a “commercial clerk”.

Laurence enlisted in 41 Battalion in Townsville (with Regimental Number 3) on 18 October 1915 and assembled with the Battalion at Bell’s Paddock Camp in Brisbane.

In January 1916 he was promoted to Orderly Room Sergeant, and on 18 May 1916 embarked for England with the Battalion – where it trained before proceeding to France in November 1916.

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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In December 1916 he was promoted Staff Sergeant in the Pay Corps in the ANZAC Section of the 3rd Echelon of the BEF (British Expeditionary Force). He served there until November 1918 when he joined the ANZAC Administrative HQ, before returning to Australia in March 1919. His AIF appointment terminated in March 1919.

In June 1919 he joined the Citizen Forces as a Staff Sergeant in the Pay Corps at 1st Military District, Brisbane. This engagement expired in March 1921.

In January 1942 he enlisted in the 3rd Battalion, Volunteer Defence Corps in Brisbane.

In February 1942 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2, and in April 1942 as Acting Lieutenant.

From June to September 1943, he was detached to New Guinea to the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit) Docks Company.

Returning to Australia he was appointed as Adjutant and Quartermaster of 3rd VDC Battalion

He was then successively appointed to administrative roles as an Acting Captain in 10 Aust Field Ambulance in March 1944; 68 and 206 Searchlight Batteries in December 1944; and back to 3rd Bn VDC in April 1945. His appointment was terminated in February 1946.

Captain Hitchcock was appointed Secretary of the Club in 1946, succeeding Captain R.B. Thomson RD, RNR, and resigned in June 1948. "The invaluable" Commander Eric Feldt stepped into the gap until the appointment of Flight Lieutenant J.D. Riddall at the end of the year.

Captain Hitchcock died 15 Jan 1973 at Broadbeach.

During his tenure, Captain Hitchcock served Presidents Little and Reid.

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
- National Archives of Australia