



"Service to Widows of Ex-Servicemen and their Children"

PRICE 2c

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION CATEGORY "A"

MELBOURNE LEGACY

FOUNDED 1923 BY THE LATE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR STANLEY SAVIGE. K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.

PATRONS:

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, THE HONOURABLE SIR HENRY WINNEKE, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., K.S.T.J., Q.C.
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL THE HONOURABLE SIR EDMUND HERRING, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., K.S.T.J., Q.C.

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DATE 19.9.1978.

No. 2429.

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BULLETIN

PERSONAL FILE

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PERSONAL FILE

LEGATEE JOHN HENRY BRIAN ARMSTRONG

(Died: 15-9-1978)

Every member of Melbourne Legacy - and many other Legatees all over Australia - will be mourning the loss of one of the very greats of our movement.

Brian Armstrong was a truly great citizen in so many ways, and we of Legacy are so much the richer for his 54 years of active membership. Everything Brian was identified with he adorned by his charm of personality, his scholarly mind, his dedication to the virtues of loyalty and tradition; his service to his profession and to his Church. Great as were these characteristics, he inspired others because of his modesty, his delightful sense of humour, and his faithful comradeship.

He joined Legacy in 1924 and has held almost every appointment and served on so many committees that few could have equalled. One of the first duties he performed was in his professional capacity when he arranged the copyright of the Legacy name and badge. He was a member of the Committee that secured approval of the Churches for the acceptance of the Legacy Funeral Service. He also served on the Board of Management at various times, has been Vice-President, President in 1937, Liaison Officer with Benalla and Wangaratta Groups, member of Advisory, Tradition and History Committee since its inception and Chairman 1940/41, and in 1941 was Chairman of The Legacy Co-ordinating Council. The Welfare and Comradeship Committees had his services over many years. He was one of the Trustees of the estate of the late Legatee George Knocks, all of which was bequeathed to help Legacy families in need. For many years he has been the Melbourne Legacy Club Archivist.

Brian joined us on the nomination of the late "Pip" Powell, the Club's original Secretary and on his entry document he described himself as "shameless bachelor". And so he remained.

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Perhaps we may be excused for also quoting - as an indication of his humor - the following sentence from an application he made for leave of absence when going overseas in 1959:

"I am encouraged to make this application by reason of the fact that I am not a member of Comradeship or any other money-making Legacy Committee and am therefore hoping to escape the gibes and/or taunts that usually follow a request of this nature".

He had a profound knowledge of English and often wrote poetical lines - especially relating to the tragedy and the comradeship of war and of its aftermath.

Brian served in the Militia when at the University and tried to enlist in the First War. Brian enlisted in the First World War in December 1915 but because of eyesight problems he was not accepted till April 1916 when he enrolled for the Army Medical Corps. However, he served in France and Belgium as a Lieutenant with 22 Infantry Battalion - was wounded near Dernancourt on 24th April, 1918 and wounded again and taken prisoner at Herleville, France, on 18th August, 1918 when leading a night patrol in an action in which the majority of the party were killed. After discharge, he later served in the Militia as Captain in the Legal Corps. His interest in the 22nd Battalion Association was sustained to the end.

He was born on 23rd June, 1894 at Hawthorn and was educated at Brighton Grammar School and Trinity College, Melbourne University, where he achieved the M.A. and LL.B. degrees. He maintained his interest in the Old Brighton Grammarians.

Brian began to practise his legal profession in 1922 with Plante and Henty and ultimately became senior partner. In 1959, on retirement from practice, he transferred the business to Weigall and Crowther.

The Church of England had devout adherents in the Armstrong family. His father completed a life of dedicated service as Bishop of Mangaratta. In his turn, Brian as Chairman of the Social Service Committee and a Member of the Executive Council of that body. He was a Warden and Vestryman of his Church, All Saints, at Hawthorn.

For a number of years Brian was a Trustee of the Francis Ormond Estate, which trust was the genesis of The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Francis Ormond, having been a financially successful Western District pastoralist, provided the funds for the original building to create a college for training young men in the technical trades (this was about 1888). Legatee Jim Gillespie's grandfather was an original trustee and in due course that trusteeship succeeded to Jim who only recently ceased when the Trust was disbanded. When the co-trustee died some years ago, Jim succeeded in persuading Brian to act, as a result of which, he was identified with all the notable developments of R.M.I.T.

He enjoyed membership of the Naval and Military Club for many years.

To his sister, Dorothy, and the family, Legacy tenders deep sympathy at this time and expresses gratitude to Dorothy for her devotion through the lives shared together.

The Memorial Service was held on Sunday last at All Saints Anglican Church, conducted by Rev. David Warner, with Legatee "Kem" Kemsley giving the Legacy Oration in the presence of our President, Legatee David Carter, who led the Legacy segment of the Service, many Legatees and a large congregation.

"LEST WE FORGET"

- A.N.K.