

MALLINSON

RANDOLPH MALLINSON and his wife, Jessie Frances (nee Hammond) were both born in Victoria; Randolph at Hamilton on 22 December 1888 and Jessie at Melbourne on 4 March 1887. They were married at Preston, Victoria on 24 February 1922.

After completing his formal education Dolph (as he was always known) commenced work at the age of 15 in the newspaper office of the "Hamilton Spectator". Later he worked as an auctioneer in Hamilton and then as secretary to a firm of merchants in Warrnambool.

During this period he studied accountancy and he was also a representative Australian Rules footballer. He qualified as an accountant in late 1914 and then enlisted in the AIF. He was posted to Duntroon Military College, graduated as a lieutenant, and later sailed for France with reinforcements for the 22nd Battalion.

He was gassed on the Somme and invalided out of the line, spending some weeks in the Military Hospital at Etampes.

Upon rejoining the battalion, as a platoon commander, Lieutenant Mallinson took part in the heavy fighting of August 1918 when the sadly depleted Anzac Corps were in the forefront of the battle for the Hindenburg Line.

On 18 August he was severely wounded in an attack on Herleville and later that day he and two other surviving members of the platoon were over-run and captured in a German counter offensive.

His experiences at this time, and during the following three months which he spent in hospital and prison camps in Germany, instilled in him much of the humanity and consideration for others that characterised his later life on the MIA.

In 1920 Dolph and his brother, Les, who had served with the 4th Light Horse at Gallipoli and France, came to Griffith as intending soldier settlers.

After completing a course in general farm management at the old "Yanco Farm"; they both worked in the clearing gangs, mainly in the Beelbangera and Bilbul areas, and in 1921 Dolph drew Farm 1812, Lake Wyangan which he planted to citrus and sultanas. The farm house, to which he brought Jessie after their marriage in February 1922, was an Army disposals "molonglo" hut, which was to be modified and added to over the years as circumstances permitted.

In the meantime Les had acquired Farm 1248 in the West End area of Griffith.

It has been written that Dolph Mallinson was largely responsible for determining the pattern of development that Griffith and the MIA were to follow, but he was content to leave the talking to others. He was active in the affairs of the RSL, being chairman of the League's sub-committee set up to advance the case of the soldier settlers for realistic debt adjustment with the WC & IC. He was a forceful and competent advocate for their cause, and it is now history that relief was granted by the government on this issue.



**Randolph Mallinson
1912**



Dolph and Jessie Mallinson with Arthur 3 mths old - April 1923

Dolph was appointed a director of Griffith Producers Co-op Co Ltd in 1926, and in 1928, he resigned his directorship on being appointed Secretary to the Company. He became General Manager in 1935 and held that position until his retirement in 1953.

During the war years of 1939-45 Dolph was the MIA representative of the Citrus Growers Executive, a body set up to control the allocation of citrus to factories for processing juices for the armed forces, and negotiating prices with the government.

At war's end this body became the NSW Citrus Growers Council, and Dolph was a member of the first management committee. Subsequently he was instrumental in having all state organisations amalgamated into one body known as the Australian Citrus Growers Federation.

Apart from his work in the horticultural industry, Dolph Mallinson was also active in many other spheres during his life on the MIA. He was co-founder and trustee of both the old Lake View Golf Club and the original Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Club. He was the honorary auditor of a number of local

charitable organisations, a member of the Local Land Board and a Vice President of the Jondarvan Club.

His particular personal interest during and after the Second World War was the care and guidance of the dependants of local men who had lost their lives in that conflict. He was the initial "Contactor" in this area for Sydney Legacy and he later instigated the formation of the Griffith Legacy Group. Dolph went about his Legacy work quietly, pleasantly and efficiently, with wisdom and kindness. He maintained his interest in Legacy to the time of his death in 1972.

Dolph and Jessie had three sons - Arthur, Jim and Phil. Jim recalls "as kids we had a pretty good life. Pop allowed one shilling a week between the three of us, or 4d each, for pocket money and in order to supplement it we would trap rabbits and hock them round about. The



Dolph with sons, Arthur and Jim - 1926



**Jessie Mallinson with Arthur, Phil and Jim -
January 1930**

asking price for a fresh carcass, properly gutted and hung, was threepence (3d) but at times we had to settle for twopence rather than lose a sale. Mum could perform culinary marvels with a rabbit, and she was our best customer!

"During the summer we'd spend a lot of time swimming in the irrigation channels and dodging the Water Bailiff. In the winter we'd use the empty channels to ride our bikes up and down the sides trying to emulate 'Dare Devil Dirkin', who, along with Alf Hensen's boxing troupe, was one of the attractions at the annual Griffith

Show.

"At other times we'd round up a few sheep, preferably rams, from the hill near our place, shove them into an empty channel, and try them out for speed. We also fashioned boats from flattened out corrugated iron and bits of packing case and sailed them in the channels and the lake. We made them fairly watertight with melted tar and lead extracted from bullets dug from the mound at the end of the rifle range which was then located where Wood Road is now.

"Bird-egg collecting was a pretty universal pastime in that era too. With the kids from far and wide we concocted a game called 'grid hockey'. For some reason or other bikes were called 'grids'! Each kid would arm himself with a tree limb with a bit of a hook at the end of it and we'd make up a couple of teams, each with the idea of scoring goals against the opposition. The ball was usually a grapefruit or an orange. A goal scoring opportunity was often thwarted by the opposing goalie ramming his stick into the spokes of the potential scorer's front wheel!!

"The three of us attended Lake Wyangan Public School, then Griffith High School, followed by a couple of years at a Sydney boarding school.

The Second World War was to have a considerable impact on many of our generation, as had been the case with that of our father. The carefree days of Lake Wyangan now seem to be light years in the past".



Phil, Arthur and Jim - August 1943

En the Colony of Victoria. ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE.2

SCHEDULE 2—18 Part. No. 188.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

District Hamilton No. in Register 79
 On 27th March 1888 at Christ Church Hamilton
 Marriage by license was solemnized between As according to the
rites of the Church of England
 Signature Randolph Mallinson

DESCRIPTION.
 Residence Present Hamilton
 Usual
 Age 27
 Rank or Profession Blacksmith
 Condition Bachelor
 If Widower Former Deceased in Children Living Dead
 Wife
 Birth Place Preston
 Parents' Names and Rank or Profession Father John Mallinson Blacksmith
Mother Elizabeth Richardson
 Signature Christina Frances Hartland

DESCRIPTION.
 Residence Present Hamilton
 Usual
 Age 21
 Rank or Profession
 Condition Spinster
 If Widow Former Deceased in Children Living Dead
 Husband
 Birth Place Maryborough
 Parents' Names and Rank or Profession Father James Hartland Miner deceased
Mother Christina Robertson

I, Henry Edward Cooper being Henry Robertson of Hamilton
 do hereby certify that I have the day at Christ Church Hamilton
 duly celebrated Marriage between Randolph Mallinson
 and Christina Frances Hartland
 after notice and declaration duly made and published as by law required.
 Dated this twenty seventh day of March 1888.
 Signature of Minister, Registrar-General, or other Officer H. E. Cooper Min.
 Witnesses J. J. ...

Randolph Mallinson
 married
Christina Hartland

Frank Hammond
 married
Edith Hammond

Randolph ("Dolph") Mallinson married
 born Hamilton Vic
 22 December 1888
 died Griffith
 5 February 1972

Jessie Frances Hammond
 married
 born Melbourne Vic
 4 March 1887
 died Sydney
 19 September 1978

1. **Arthur Randolph Mallinson** born Griffith 16 January 1923: married Joyce Joan Griffin: they have three children (one deceased). Lives at Merimbula NSW
2. **James Alan Mallinson** born Griffith 9 October 1924: married Pearl Elizabeth Leader: they have three children. Lives at Griffith NSW
3. **John Philip Mallinson** born Griffith 7 November 1927: married (1) Kathleen Clytie Smythe (deed 17 February 1982). They have 4 children (one deceased). Married (2) Elizabeth Grace Vearing (nee Grant) 23 April 1988. Lives at Griffith NSW.

JOHN LESLIE MALLINSON

(Dolph's brother and known to his nephews as "Uncle Joe") was born at Hamilton Victoria in 1894 and he joined his father's firm after completing his primary education, becoming an accomplished farrier, wheelwright and coach builder.

He enlisted in the first AIF in Melbourne in August 1914, receiving the serial number 149, a fact of which he was always very proud. He saw service with the 4th Light Horse in Egypt and was at Gallipoli, later transferring to the Veterinary Corps and seeing further service in France.

Coming to Griffith in 1920, he did the horticultural course at Yanco Farm (now Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture) and served in the clearing gangs, eventually acquiring Farm No 1248 in the West End area of Griffith.



Harold ("Ben") Bennett, Les Mallinson and Harold Hudson



**"Uncle Joe" 1940
Lining up - second time around**

Selling his property in 1938 he joined the firm of Buzacotts in Queensland where he became a District Sales and Service Manager associated with their franchise of Fordson tractors.

He joined the 2nd AIF in 1940 and on his discharge at the end of the war worked on the construction of Warragamba Dam for some years.

In 1950 he married Miss Lottie Tresilian and they moved to Nowra on the South Coast of NSW where he lived in retirement until his death on 21 April 1977.

Entry and photos by courtesy of Arthur, Jim and Phil Mallinson, Griffith 2680.