# James Lyons Youngson

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# 13 October 1881 - 16 June 1966



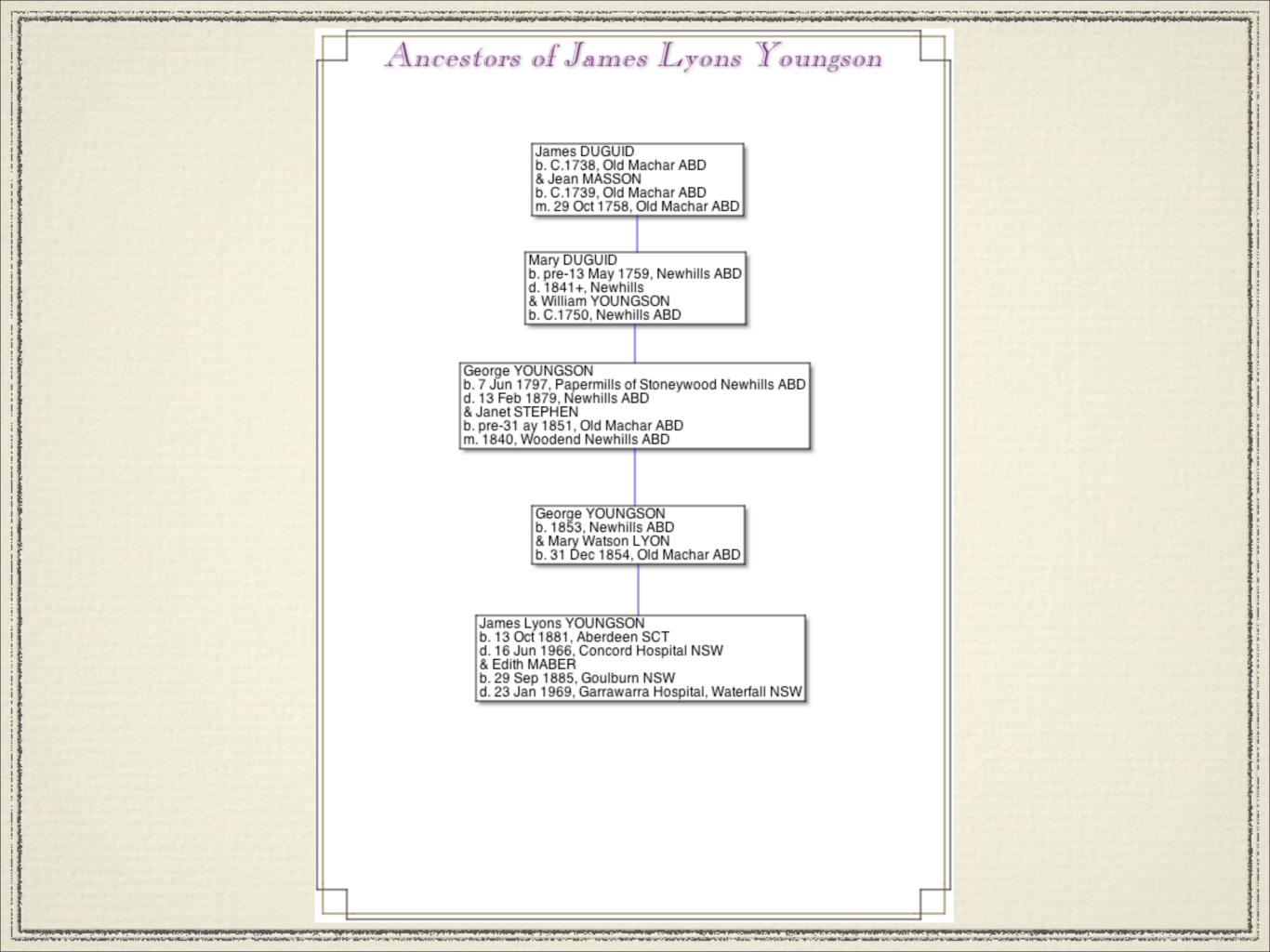
 He was born in Newhills, Aberdeenshire Scotland on 13 October 1881 (he misstated his year of birth in his army records)

- His parents were George Youngson, a mill worker, born 1853 in Newhills and Mary Watson Lyon, born 1856 in Old Machar, Aberdeenshire
- His mother's parents were James Lyon, and Elizabeth Blake of Old Machar

(Newhills and Old Machar are adjoining parishes)

 His father's parents were George Youngson, born 7 June 1797 in Papermills of Stoneywood, Newhills and Janet Stephen, born prior to 31 May 1815 in Woodend, Newhills

 His mother's parents were James Lyon and Elizabeth Blake, born in Old Machar



\* James' siblings were Elizabeth (Lizzie)(1872), Charles(1874), George(1876), Jessie(1878) and Alexander(1892)

 He was apprenticed for 5 years to stonemasons Andersons of Aberdeen

# Newhills, Aberdeenshire, Scotland





Newhills, a parish of SE Aberdeenshire, containing Auchmill and Stoneywood villages, with Buxburn station on the Great North of Scotland railway, 4 miles NW of the post-town, Aberdeen. It anciently formed the SE corner of the extensive parish of Old Machar, but having acquired a chapel in 1663 on the lands of Keppelhills, with mortification of those lands for maintaining a minister, it was constituted a parish in 1666, and took the name of Newhills in allusion to the changed status of Keppelhills. It is bounded N by Dyce, E by Old Machar and Woodside, S by Banchory-Devenick, SW by Peterculter, and W by Skene and Kinnellar. Its length, from N to S, varies between 25/8 and 5 miles; its utmost breadth, from E to W, is 45/8 miles; and its area is 10, 321¾ acres, of which 39 are water. The river Don winds 23/8 miles south-south-eastward along the Old Machar boundary; and six burns drain the interior, either to the Don or towards the Dee. The surface, in the vicinity of the Don, is low and flat, sinking to 50 feet above sea-level; elsewhere it rises westward to 403 feet near Craibstone House, 604 near Kingswells manse, 578 at Cloghill, and 870 at Brimmond Hill. Granite is the prevailing rock, and is extensively guarried, both for home use and for exportation. The soil, in the low level tract, is a deep rich mould; elsewhere is mostly black, light, shallow, and spongy. Nearly one-ninth of the entire areas pastoral or waste; 400 acres are under wood; and the rest of the land is in tillage. Antiquities are a large cairn, several tumuli, remains of a Caledonian stone circle, and vestiges of an old chapel; whilst a chief curiosity is a cavern in a ravine of Elrickhill, supposed by the vulgar to penetrate for miles under ground, and celebrated in legend as the retreat of a noted robber and his gang. The granite quarries and extensive paper works employ a large number of the population. Oldmill Reformatory (1857), near the eastern border, 2¼ miles W of Aberdeen, is a large building, occupied by about 100 boys. A cottage home for convalescents, with accommodation for from 12 to 15 patients, was opened in July 1882, the work having been started eight years before by Mrs Smith of the Manse. Mansions are Cloghill, Craibstone, Fairley, Hazlehead, Kingswells, Springhill, Stoneywood, and Waterton; and 7 proprietors hold each an annual value of £500 and upwards, 19 of between £100 and £500, 10 of from £50 to £100, and 24 of from £20 to £50. Newhills is in the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen; the living is worth £709. The parish church, 1¼ mile W by S of Auchmill, is a good building of 1830, with 1100 sittings. Other places of worship are Stoneywood Established chapel of ease (1879; 800 sittings), Newhills Free church at Auchmill, Kingswells Free church (4 miles W of Aberdeen), and St Machar's Episcopal church (1880) at Buxburn. Six public schools-Blackburn, Buxburn, Keppelhills, Kingswells, Stoneywood, and Stoneywood infant-with respective accommodation for 87, 480, 96, 141, 411, and 120 children, had (1883) an average attendance of 83, 395, 51, 101, 174, and 85, and grants of £69, 8s., £349, 9s. 6d., £44, 14s. 6d., £95, 0s. 6d., £156, 15s., and £73, 4s. 6d. Valuation (1860) £14, 789, (1884) £24, 453, plus £677 for railway. Pop. (1801) 1305, (1831) 2552, (1861) 3463, (1871) 4210, (1881) 5480.-Ord. Sur., sh. 77, 1873.

(Frances Groome, Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland (1882-4); © 2004 Gazetteer for Scotland)

Newhills, par., SE. Aberdeenshire, on river Don, 10,282 ac., pop. 5480; the church is 4 miles NW. of Aberdeen.

(John Bartholomew, Gazetteer of the British Isles (1887))

 James migrated to New South Wales in about 1906 after a period working in South Africa

 On 24 March 1910 he married Edith Maber at The City Temple, Campbell Street Sydney. Her parents were William Abraham Maber and Ann Surry



Edith Youngson, nee Maber

 Their daughter Edith Irene Dorothy May was born on 29 June 1910





### Their son George was born on 2 February 1915

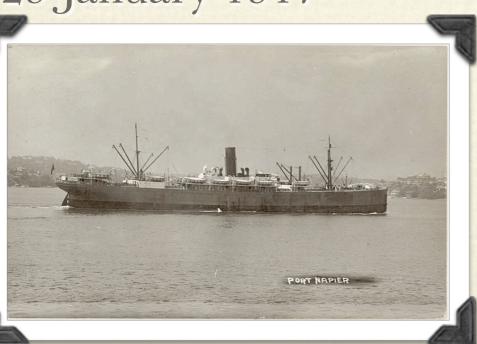


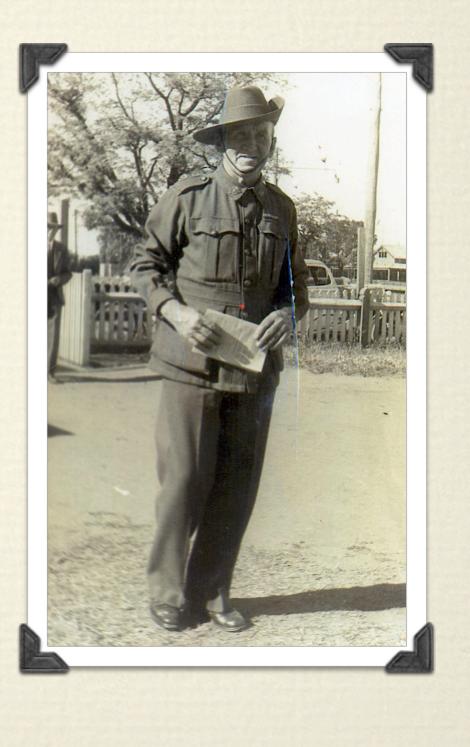
James and Edith's son
 Sydney Victor was born on
 6 February 1921

In 1917 his daughter Mary was born. Gunner was at that time employed as a railway porter and was living at 95 Pitt Street Waterloo

 Mary died, aged 3, on 25 October 1920, of pneumonia following measles and whooping cough

- On 24 July 1916 he enlisted in the army and on 30 July was sent to 2nd Cootamundra Depot Battalion
- On 17 November 1916 he sailed on the troopship *Port Napier*, arriving at Devonport England on 29 January 1917





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- On 14 May 1917 he embarked for France, after being transferred to the 8th Battalion, AIF
- On 14 April 1918, near Nieppe Forest in northern France, in the Battle of Lys, he was wounded in action, suffering shrapnel wounds to his elbow and on the 17th was invalided to the UK

#### **Australian Military Units**

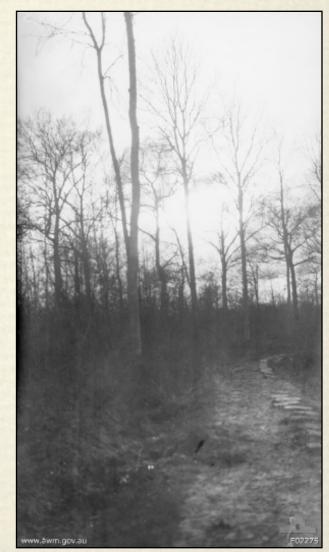
#### **German Spring Offensive**

#### March 1918 - May 1918

This term relates to the three major German attacks on the Western Front in late March, April and May 1918, known collectively as the "Kaiserschlacht" (Kaiser's Battle) offensive. Using troops released from the Eastern Front, following the revolution and collapse of the Russian Armies in late 1917, the German General Staff attempted to win the war before the Americans arrived in sufficient force to tip the strategic balance firmly in favour of the Allies. The first German attack in March was launched against the British Fifth Army in Arras (Somme area); the second attack in April centred on Lys in Flanders, and the third offensive in May focused on the Aisne, where British Divisions recuperating from the March attacks were again subjected to severe losses. Despite sweeping early gains in each of their attacks, German forces (which incurred huge casualties in their all-out attacks) outdistanced their supply lines and became themselves exhausted by the constant fighting. The final German advances were repulsed at the Marne in mid-June 1918, and the scene was set for the Allied counter-offensives of the summer.



Typical farm cottage, Nieppe, France 30/7/1917 by Cyril Trevithick



Nieppe Forest

 On 18 April he was admitted to Colchester Military Hospital



 Gunner embarked for Australia on the *Persic* on 17 July 1919, arriving back in Sydney on 2 September 1919



Persic was built in 1899, started out in life as a cargo ship and was used on the Liverpool to Sydney run. She was used as a troop ship in 1918. In 1920 she was converted for ship use as a passenger ship and continued in that role until 1927 when she was scrapped in Holland

- Between the wars Gunner lived at Paddington and worked as a stonemason at various sites in the Eastern Suburbs
- On 19th October 1940 he enlisted in the army at his age, 57, it was "Dad's Army" - the Citizens' Military Force - but he wanted to do his bit. This included guard duties at Bunnerong Power Station
- Later, he was at Glenfield, Narellan, Dubbo and Cowra and Hume(?) as an officer's batman,

- Gunner was a loved and respected, tough old Scotsman and no doubt as a result of his army training, always neatly turned out, cleanly shaven, shoes polished
- Gunner had lived through the battles in France in WWI, been wounded and sent back to the trenches, so on 31st May 1942, the night when the Japanese submarines entered Sydney Harbour and sirens wailed and searchlights raked the sky, it seemed all Sydney panicked except our grandfather. He was on leave and staying with us 41 Park Road Marrickville and thought we children were ridiculous as we fled and tried to hide under the bed in which he was sleeping. "Get out of here you silly buggers and let me get to sleep" he said!

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# World War Two Service



GUNNER JAMES YOUNGSON N79616

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AUSTRALIAN ARMY 13 OCTOBER 1883 ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND 9 OCTOBER 1940 PADDINGTON, NSW FEARNLEY, EDITH 29 JULY 1944 2 AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY TRAINING REGIMENT



#### Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



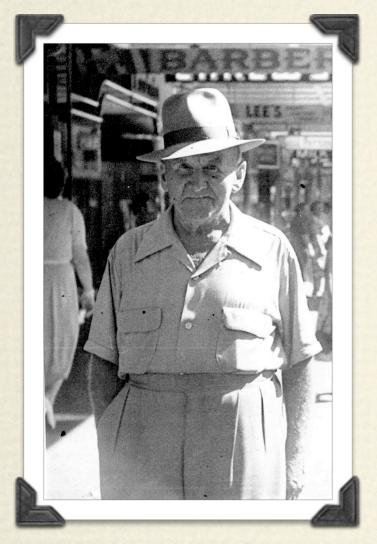
- Back in civilian life, Gunner took me, his grandson Terry, aged 13, to a cricket test match between England and Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground. I had never been to a test prior to this but it was a day that goes down in history.
- Opener Sid Barnes had scored 60 runs when Bradman came to the wicket. Bradman went on to score 234 runs and finally got out. Barnes, showing great respect for Bradman, batted on until he scored 234 and threw down his wicket, not wanting to overshadow the champion. And that's respect for you!

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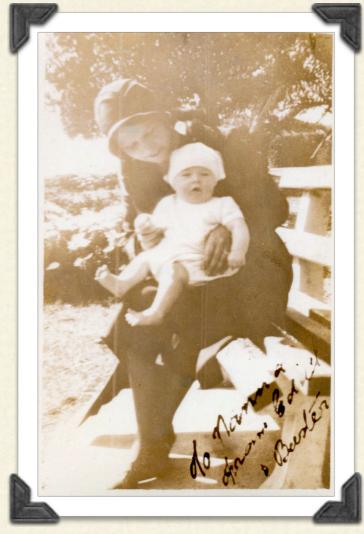
- Gunner passed away aged 86 on 16 June 1966 at the Repatriation General Concord Hospital and is buried at Rookwood Cemetery
- \* He also has a plaque in the Rookwood War Memorial







Gunner Youngson



Edith Fearnley with eldest son Ron



Edith Youngson





Edith Irene Dorothy May Fearnley nee Youngson -1910-1997



Syd & Edna Youngson & Edith



Syd - RAAF, WWII

### Prepared by Terry & Pat Fearnley 2009

