
Stanley Victor Cook

Resume of My Wartime Service in Australia

When war broke out in September 1939, I was in Leederville Rifle Club, sometime later the club joined with the Leederville Returned Services League to form the Voluntary Defence Corps to be known as the V.D.C., like the Home Guard in England.

Our group Leederville, with other groups in the area formed the Swan Battalion. We met on evenings after work and at weekends. The meeting place for our group was the R.S.L. Hall in Oxford St. Mt Hawthorn.

In the grounds behind the Hall we had squad drill, musketry and bayonet training. There was instruction on Lewis and Vickers machine guns, also on hand grenades. I was very good at throwing and lobbing the hand grenades on the exact spot, the only trouble was when we had exercises in the bush it was my job to carry the mills bombs, or H.E. 36s, as they were called, they were quite weighty.

The field exercises would take place around Mongers Lake in the bush and at the Leederville Football Oval.

On some evenings there would be a route march on the programme usually about five to ten miles. A chap named Norm Foote used to play a kettle drum to help keep us in step. Norm was a member of the Congregational Church in Subiaco, which I also attended. It was a beautiful architectural building, but sad to say it has been demolished for retirement units. Our route marches would take us through the streets, sometimes people would come out to see what all the noise was about, other times we would march out to the beach and back.

Most of us were issued with Boer War .303 rifles, they had very long barrels, however mine was a cavalry carbine which was short and had no provision for a bayonet, it was in very good condition. Later we were issued with .310 bore rifles ex-school cadet issue.

For firing practice .22 calibre rifles were used on the Rifle Club's Miniature Range and the Army Signalling Depot in Vincent St behind the Oxford St Theatre.

We didn't wear uniforms, the Officers and Non Commissioned Officers wore different coloured armbands according to rank, uniforms were issued later.

As some others and I were good at drawing, we were to spend a few months drawing charts of towns, landscapes, and of mountain areas, these were to be used for map reading and range finding. My job was drawing illustrations of tank warfare. I still have some of these drawings. All this took place in the hall of my old Leederville School.

In 1942 all members were told that they had to attend the V.D.C. Company in their suburb or town nearest to their place of residence so, if there was an urgent call out it would be easier and quicker to assemble.

I wasn't happy about this as I had some very good friends in the Leederville Company. I was transferred to the Subiaco Company who met in the R.S.L. Hall in Townsend Road Subiaco.

I was only to attend a few times as my work as a plumber took me to the country, away from home most of the time.

The firm for which I worked did only defence work, building Bases and Camps for the Navy, Army and Air Force, also Munitions factories and Munition storage camps.

As a rule we worked fifty-two hours a six-day week. If the work had to be completed in a hurry, because the troops were arriving, we would work 69 hours over a seven-day week, and have two days off every three weeks.

All those who did this work were classified by the Controller General of Manpower as Reserve Occupation Grade 2, this excluded us from serving in the Armed Forces.

In 1942, after the Japanese entered the war all males between the age of 18 and 35 years, being British subjects, were called up for service. On receiving my call up I reported to the Recruiting Officers at Claremont Showgrounds for my medical examination, along with a lot of others. Having completed the medical one would be sent to different areas in the Complex according to whether you passed fully, partly or unfit medically.

I was medically fit but sent with my papers to a panel of men behind a table who questioned me as to where I was working and to whom I was employed. After giving them my answers, my papers were stamped R.2. so it was back again to Defence work.

In 1943 when I had completed my apprenticeship I applied to enter service in the Army and was thanked for my application but was notified that I was not accepted as I was in a Reserve Occupation, later in 1944 when I applied for service overseas, I received the same answer, from the Air Force and the Navy.

My Army papers were already stamped R.2.

Some of the Defence Camps and Bases I had worked on as a construction plumber continuously from 1942 to 1945:-

Melville Army Camp
Melville S.T. Diseases Hospital
Pearce Air Base
Chidlow Army Camp
Rottnest Island Army Forts
H.M.A.S. Leeuwin Naval Base
Red Hill Army Camp
Booran Munition Camp
Welshpool Munition Factory
Buckland Hill Forts
Submarine Boom Depot Fremantle
Guildford Army Camp
Burt St Fremantle Artillery Barracks
Drill Hall Bayswater Army Signals
General Bennett H.Q. Mt Lawley

Army Remount South Guildford (AWAS)
Merredin Stores (Air Force)
Hamilton Hill (Army)

I have attached a copy of one of my Military Security Passes that we were issued with to enter and leave various defence establishments where I had worked.

I have also attached copies of Certificates of Exemption from Service as I was working on Defence Construction work. I have attached copies of answers to my recruitment endeavours.

I have attached a copy of my wartime issue Identification Card.

N.S.F. 10.

ORIGINAL

COMMONWEALTH



OF AUSTRALIA.

WA 1612

Nº 25612

NATIONAL SECURITY (MAN-POWER) REGULATIONS.
Sub-regulation (2) of Regulation 7.

Certificate of Exemption from Service in the Defence Force

I, HAROLD THOMAS STITFOLD, Deputy Director General of Man-Power in the State of Western Australia, in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-regulation (2) of Regulation 7 of the National Security (Man-Power) Regulations hereby certify

that Stanley Victor Cook
(Name in full)
of 67 Olive St. Subiaco
(Address)

RECRUITING AREA 11A
321 VINCENT STREET
LEEDERVILLE, W.A.

in the Military Area of

employed as App. Plumber (Final year)
(Occupation)

specimen signature and particulars of whom appear below is exempt from being called up for service as required by section 60 of the Defence Act, 1903-1941, by reason of:—

- (a) Section 61 of the Defence Act.
- (b) Sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 6.
- (c) Sub-regulation (4) of Regulation 6.
- (d) Sub-regulation (5) of Regulation 6.
- (e) Employment in a reserved occupation.
- (f) Regulation 14.

Strike out whichever not required.

* (Whilst employed by B.B. Norizen

7 Sexton Rd. North Maylands

* Here state period and/or conditions (if any).

Specimen Signature:

H.V. Cook

H. J. Stitfold
(Signature)

Deputy Director General of Man-Power in
the State of Western Australia.

Married } Strike out whichever
Single } not required.

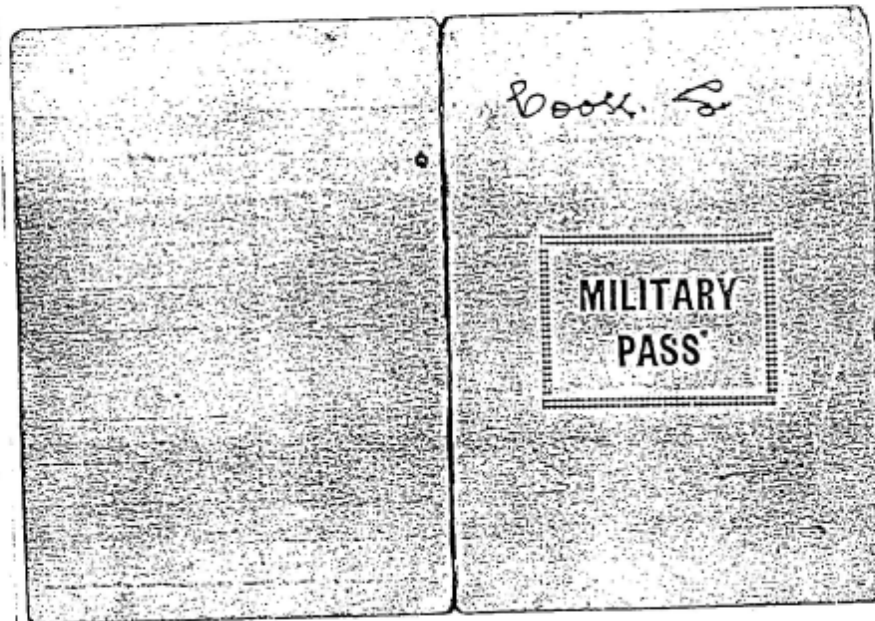
DB 8/1/23

Dated this 31st day of March 1943

ISSUED FROM
NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE
RECRUITING AREA 11A
321 VINCENT STREET,
LEEDERVILLE, W.A.
(Location.)

Upon the cessation of the employment condition or status on which the exemption is based or upon the cancellation of the exemption this certificate must be surrendered immediately to the Director General.

QUOTE YOUR IDENTITY CARD
NUMBER HERE W. 1123 10395



W.A.L. OF C. AREA.		RENEWALS	
TO	ISSUING OFFICER		
393			
The bearer <u>S. Cook</u>			
of <u>T. J. Suook & Son</u>			
whose signature appears at foot hereof is <u>Pertle</u>			
authorised to enter <u>Rothwest</u>			
<u>Island</u>			
from <u>2. 11. 42</u> to <u>—</u>			
<u>W. J. Suook</u> Major.			
for Comdr., W.A.L. OF C. AREA.			
Signature <u>S. V. Suook</u>			

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. P. 547/44.

S. V. Cook,
67 Olive Street,
SUBIACO.

NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE


FORREST PLACE

PERTH

7th June, 1944.

With reference to your application for entry into the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, it is advised that the Deputy Director of Manpower has ruled that you are employed in a Reserved Occupation. It is regretted, therefore, that it is not possible to give your application further consideration.

You are sincerely thanked for your offer of service.


Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.
NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICER R. W.A.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

No. 4 Recruiting Centre,
McNeil Chambers,
9 Barrack Street,
PERTH.

Mr. S. V. Cook,
67 Olive Street,
SUBIACO...... I.A.


13 Nov 44.

Dear Sir,

Further to your application for enlistment in the Royal Australian Air Force, you are advised that the Manpower Officer has ruled that you are employed in a reserved occupation.

2. As this fact renders you ineligible for enlistment, it is regretted that your application must be considered unsuccessful.

Yours faithfully,


for Officer Commanding,
No. 4 Recruiting Centre,
PERTH.

Form C.R. 3
Citizen Registration (British Subjects)

Keep this Identity Card in a cover.
It will fit into an ordinary envelope.
Carry it with you when away from home.

IDENTITY CARD.

NUMBER
W4 M23 10395 Stanley Victor Cook

Notify any change of place of residence on Form C.R. 4 (obtainable at Post Office).
If not delivered within 14 days return to Divisional Returning Officer.

BE DETACHED, COMPLETED AND AFFIXED TO IDENTITY CARD.
I certify that I have this day given notice on Form C.R. 4 that I have changed my place of living to the following address:
Stanley Victor Cook
178 York St. Subiaco.
Signature S.V. Cook Date 13-6-45

TO THE PERSON TO WHOM THIS CARD IS ADDRESSSED—

This Identity Card must be signed by you on receipt, in the presence of a witness, and must be preserved. You may need it under national emergency conditions for important purposes. You must not loan it or allow it to be stolen or permit it to pass into the hands of any unauthorized person. If nevertheless the card is stolen or definitely lost you must immediately report the facts to the Divisional Returning Officer by whom it was issued. Therefore make a separate note now of the address of that officer (see left hand corner on other side) and of the Identity Number shown on this card so that if the card is lost you will be able to quote that number.

2. If you change your Place of Living (either than temporarily) you must, after making the change notify such change on Form C.R. 4, (obtainable at a Post Office).

3. You must carry this Identity Card with you whenever away from your home. The Card must be shown, at any time on demand, to any person authorized by law to see it.

W. F. Goodin
Address of Witness
70 W. of Subiaco

Signature of Holder S. V. Cook
Holder's Name C. Winger
Address (if date of signature card) Winton Rd. Winton

FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES, IF REQUIRED

M232841
B413400112
C 3543013
D 393805

Any person finding this card should hand it in at the nearest Police Station.