
Honor Stewart Dowdell

My Story

I was born in Narrogin 10-09-20. I had four brothers; Jack, Steve, Dave and Wallace, and one sister, Mary (all older than me). My parent's farm at Harrismith was 50 miles east of Narrogin and I spent a carefree young life there.

After I married my husband Robert Oswald Dowdell 1-12-41 he was called up for service in the Army in the Second World War and was stationed at Salters Point for training. I rented a room with the use of a kitchen in Victoria Park to be near him and worked in a Munition Factory at Welshpool. Sometimes my shift was at night and I hated going to work when everyone else was coming home after their days work to relax for the night.

Eventually my husband was sent to Darwin in the Transport Division. He travelled by train in cattle trucks with other soldiers to Adelaide and up to Darwin and they played cards 500 all the way. When he came home on leave he knew every card in the pack. My brother, Wallace, a cousin and his girlfriend and I used to play and thought we knew it all but our ego was shattered properly.

I stayed at the Munition Factory until I became pregnant and then went home to Harrismith to my parents. My first son 3-10-43 Geoffrey Robert was born in Narrogin, Joan Elizabeth was born 15-11-45.

My husband was sent to Borneo to guard a fuel dump there for six months after the war ended. When he finally came home we bought a farm north of Harrismith. One more son Kenneth John was born 9-02-50 and twin girls Ruth and Robyn Mary were born 29-10-51.

My husband died in 1968 and I now live in Albany.