BELCONNEN NAVAL STATION

The Belconnen Naval Transmitting place was headed by Warrant Telegraphist Sid Wilmetts. *HMAS HARMAN 1943-1993 A HISTORY OF HMAS HARMAN* by Lieutenant Annette Nelson RAN and friends.

BOXHALL, Loran & Glanville hd & petty officer. Annette Nelson & friends had the following to say about the beginnings of Harman and Commander Boxall (note spelling): *At the end of the immediate post war period the Naval Board realised that the HARMAN STATION would need upgrading. In 1949 Commander Boxall who had been OIC Belconnen since 1945 as an electrical officer (but who originally had been a communicator) was sent to the UK and the US to study the latest developments in shore radio. On his return to Australia he submitted technical specifications for the 'new' Harman to the Director of Naval Communications (DNC), and then remained as project engineer until 1958...*

25 BULL, Thora and Raymond hd & leading seaman
COLTHEART, Enid & Leonard hd & RAN
DOCKING, May & James hd & RAN
11 GERRY, Elliot RAN
GRAETZ, Murray naval rating
HALL, Denise & Alfred hd & RAN
HUTCHINSON, Norma & Clarence hd & telegraphist
16 JONES, Hilda & Mervyn hd & naval rating
LANDER, Ila & William hd & artificer
LACEY, Thomas naval rating
McLEOD, Walter chief operator
16 MATTHEWS, Joan & Douglas hd & telegraphist
MICHELL, Bertha & Ernest hd & RAN. Ernesst Leslie Mighell died 10th June1965 aged 63 years. His address at the time of death was 11 Knibbs St Turner. His grave in the Anglican section of Woden Cemetery was paid by Mr Terence Gallagher of 95 Schlich St Yarralumla.
MILLER, Doris, Gloria & Frederick hd, hd & RAN. Frederick Charles Miller of Naval Wireless Station Belconnen paid for the grave in the RC section of Woden Cemetery for Dorothy L Miller of the same address who died 25th May 1942 aged 42 years.
PHILLIPS, Helen & Francis hd & petty officer telegraphist
PHAUP, Veneta & William hd & RAN
REYNOLDS, Louis clerk
RING, Doris & Robert hd & RAN
3 SHARP, Joan & Stephen hd & nurseryman
STEWART, Marjorie & James hd & wireless operator
STOERMER, William RAN
14 STORER, Helen & William hd & naval rating
23 WALTERS, Dorothy & John hd & RAN
WALTON, Linda & John hd & RAN
24 WELFARE, Emily & Ronald hd & RAN
WILLIS, Alfred seaman
Alfred John David John Willis of 20/1 Condamine Court Turner paid for the grave in the Anglican section of Woden Cemetery for Margaret Willis of the Naval Station Belconnen who died 14th October 1965 aged 62 years. He also paid for the grave in the Anglican section of Woden Cemetery for Baby Willis who was stillborn 13th September 1939. His address at the time was Belconnen.

HARMAN NAVAL STATION

Lieutenant Annette Nelson and friends:
THE BEGINNINGS...1928-1939
In 1924 the Communications Sub-Committee of the Imperial Defence Committee recommended the modernization of the coastal radio stations at Perth, Darwin, Townsville and Rabaul in order to provide suitable naval facilities in the Pacific. The following year the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board (ACNB) then recommended the establishment of strategic wireless stations at Canberra and Darwin. Canberra was chosen because of the need for security and the communications service particularly in relation to the likelihood of enemy attack. 'Seventy five miles from the coast satisfied the requirements, taking into consideration possible air raids launched from enemy aircraft in the Pacific or direct from direct from overseas territories." In January 1935 a Minister for Defence Minute stated that: 'The medium high powered station at Canberra is stated to be necessary for the defence of Empire interests in the Pacific so that it carry out the

duties of Rugby (UK) station on the Australian Naval Station area and the major part of the Western Pacific. It would also cover certain areas in high frequency transmissions at present skipped by the transmitters at Rugby. It also stated that the Canberra Station in conjunction with Rugby should make it possible to communicate with British Merchant of Fleet shipping in any part of the world...

In 1937 the Commonwealth Government decided to erect receiving and transmitting stations in Canberra, and on 1st October the Director of Signals together with the representatives from the Department of the Interior and the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia Ltd visited the various possible sites. For the transmitting station a site was selected in the vicinity of Ginninderra Creek in thee Belconnen district; and for the receiving station the most suitable site was on the top of Red Hill, southeastward of the reservoir. The AWA were then requested to test the suitability of the sites; and on 6th September 1938 approval was given to proceed at Belconnen and the present site of Harman. Standard Telephones Ltd started construction at Belconnen in November and at Harman early in 1939 with the first transmission being made on 22 December of that year... The article continues with the information that on Saturday 17th April 1939 the first batch of 30 naval officers and rating to9 operate and guard the *powerful short wave naval wireless station in the British Empire and the largest or commercial station in the southern hemisphere. The Post Master Generals (PMG) Department was advised on 20th July the names of Belconnen Transmitting Station Harman Receiving Station had been allocated...*

A Recreation Hall at Harman opened 27th July 1941 and a general mess in late 1940 or early 41 and a second general mess was built in 1943.

The history also mentions the use of the old Molonglo School – situated in what is now Tennant St Fyshwick. It was used as an auxiliary Wireless Station and remained operational until 1946. Marion Stevens was in charge of Molonglo from 1943-1945. The building was later used as a dog training school until the 1980 when it was pulled down.

ALFORD, Ivan telegraphist
3 ANNISON, Annie & Gordon hd & stripper
BASSETT, Alfred telegraphist
CROSS, Emma & Charles hd & wireless operator
COX, Ernest RAN
FAULKNER, Kenneth telegraphist
FEARN, Mavis & Leonard hd & petty officer
5 GILLIHAM, Valerie & Donald hd & naval rating
GREEN, Stanley matelot
30 GLOVER, Margaret, Gordon & Ronald hd, telegraphist & barman
HALL, Valerie & Stanley hd & communications officer
7 HAMILTON, Kenneth wireless operator
HARDIMAN, Florence & Lot hd & telegraphist
27 HARRISON-WILLIAMS, Linda & Frederick hd & naval rating
HINSLEY, John naval rating
HOCKING, Margaret hd
21 HODGE, Sheila hd
HUDSON, Leonard telegraphist
HUNGERFORD, Thomas chief petty officer
24 JOHNSTONE, Eve & Alfred hd & telegraphist
16 KELLY, Ronald telegraphist
8 LAMING, Phyllis & Lindsay hd & telegraphist
LE BLANG, William telegraphist
11 McGOWAN, Mary & Desmond hd & RAN
MACKIE, Nita hd
McLACHLAN, Louise & Archibald hd & naval officer
11 McMANUS, Yvonne sales assistant
MICKELWRIGHT, Michael RAN
MILLER, Arthur chief telegraphist
MORAN, Briand telegraphist
NEWMAN, Rita & Ernest hd & chief telegraphist
28 NEWTON, Estelle & Leslie hd & telegraphist
Naval Dept NISH, Joan & Ralph hd & RAN

22 PRETTY, Pamela & Edward hd & telegraphist
31 ROWE, Aileen & Casimir hd & telegraphist. Casimir Rowe of 32 Manura Road Queanbeyan paid for the grave in the Methodist section of Woden Cemetery for Aileen Muriel Rowe of the same address who died 28th February 1966 aged 41 years.
RUMBLE, Frederick stores assistant
SAUNDERS, Victor cook
SIMONS, Benjamin telegraphist
4 SULLIVAN, Dorothea & Norman hd & leading telegraphist
19 TOWERS-HAMMOND, Peter stores assistant
WAIN, Gerald telegraphist
WEARNE, Robert telegraphist
18 WELSH, Marie & Robert hd & leading steward
WHITE, Jack chef
WILLINGHAM, Billie &Charles hd & telegraphist
33 WHITELAW, Irma & Peter hd & naval telegraphist
2 WILSON, Doris & Frederick hd & telegraphist. Frederick Wallace Wilson of Harman paid for the grave in the Anglican section of Woden Cemetery for Peter Wilson who died 22nd December 1948 aged 19 years. His grave plaque in the lawn section notes his age as 18 years. Buried with him in the same grave is Doris Margery Wilson, wife of Fred (Tug) Wilson and mother of Peter who died 30th July 1999 aged 98 years.
26 WOODS, Olive & Terri shd & leading telegraphist.

NOT ON THE 1949 ROLL
Buried in Woden Cemetery:
John Malcolm Houston of Harman Naval Base paid for the grave in the RC section of the cemetery for Bay Houston who was stillborn 14th January 1952.

Frederick George Hodge of Cottage 46 Harman paid for the grave of Baby Hodge who was stillborn 11th December 1953.

George Thomas Bracken of 63 Cottage Harman paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Paul Thomas Bracken who died on 9th January 1955 aged 3 hours.

Kevin Daniel Duffy of Cottage 71 Harman paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Baby Duffy who was stillborn on 19th May 1955

Victor Lawrence Moore of HMAS Harman paid for the grave in the RC Section for Michael Moore who was stillborn on 4th April 1956.