

Name	Pte Leslie Charles SHERRINGHAM
Service	CMF, Australian Army
Service Number	N351747
Date of Birth	21 May 1903
Place of Birth	Cumnock, NSW
Date of Enlistment	2 Feb 1942
Locality on Enlistment	Cumnock, NSW
Place of Enlistment	Molong, NSW
Next of Kin	Father, John Sherringham
Date of Discharge	7 Mar 1946
Rank	Private



Brief Biography:

Leslie Charles Sherringham was the eldest son of John and Mary Jane (nee Reilly) Sherringham. They had five children: Leslie Charles was born 21 May 1903; Henry Lancelot b 1904; John Walter b 1906; William Kenneth b 1908; and Annie Joyce b 1919.

Leslie's father, John Sherringham (1881-1968), was the son of Joseph Sherringham (1857-1933), who was the son of Henry Sherringham (1824-1891). Henry Sherringham bought "Norwich", while his son Joseph Sherringham took up "Happy Valley" in Cumnock, around 1875. John Sherringham was a Councillor on the Amaroo Shire Council for 27 years (1920-1947), and a long term member of the Cumnock P.A. & H. Association and the Cumnock Fire Brigade.

Leslie Sherringham was listed as a farmer at Happy Valley in the 1930, 1934 and 1936 Calare/ Cumnock Electoral Rolls (ER). He enlisted, aged 38 years, in the Australian Army during WW2 on 2 Feb 1942. His war dossier states that he was single, a share farmer, 5 feet 10½ ins tall, had blue eyes and fair hair and complexion. He was of the Church of England religious denomination.

Pte Leslie Sherringham initially served with the 31 Garrison Battalion until the 1 Sep 1943, when he was transferred to the 38 Employment Company. On 21 Sep 1943 he embarked on a ship at Brisbane and disembarked at Buna, New Guinea, on 8 Oct 1943. The Battle for Buna had occurred between 16 Nov 1942 and 22 Jan 1943. He was treated for Dengue Fever 11 Jan - 16 Jan 1944 and on 13 May 1944 he was detached to 8 Australian Motor Cycle Group in New Guinea..

The Australian army began a new series of campaigns in 1944 against isolated Japanese garrisons stretching from Borneo to Bougainville, involving more Australian troops than at any other time in the war. Pte Leslie Sherringham embarked at Lae, New Guinea on the "*John Lykes*" on 7 Nov 1944 and disembarked at Torokina, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on 9 Nov 1944.

Pte Leslie Sherringham embarked at Bougainville per "*Duntroon*" on 13 Feb 1945 and disembarked at Sydney on leave on 19 Feb 1945. He returned to Torokina from leave on 24 Apr 1945. He returned to Australia per "*Gorgon*" disembarking at Brisbane on 1 Aug 1945. WW2 ended in the Pacific on 15 Aug 1945.



Torokina airstrip, Bougainville, Solomon Islands 1943-44.

Pte Leslie Sherringham continued to serve with the 35 Works Company until 11 Jan 1946 when he transferred to the 21 Works Company. He was discharged from the Australian Army on 7 Mar 1946.

The Wellington Times - 7 Jan 1946, p5, reported on a public function and ball held at the Cumnock Theatre on New Year's eve. The highlight of the night was a welcome home given to the service women and men by the President of the Amaroo Shire Council, Sylvanus R Reynolds. Lesley Sherringham was one of a large number of service personnel present. In May 1946, Lesley became a member of the Cumnock -Yeoval Returned Services League (RSL).

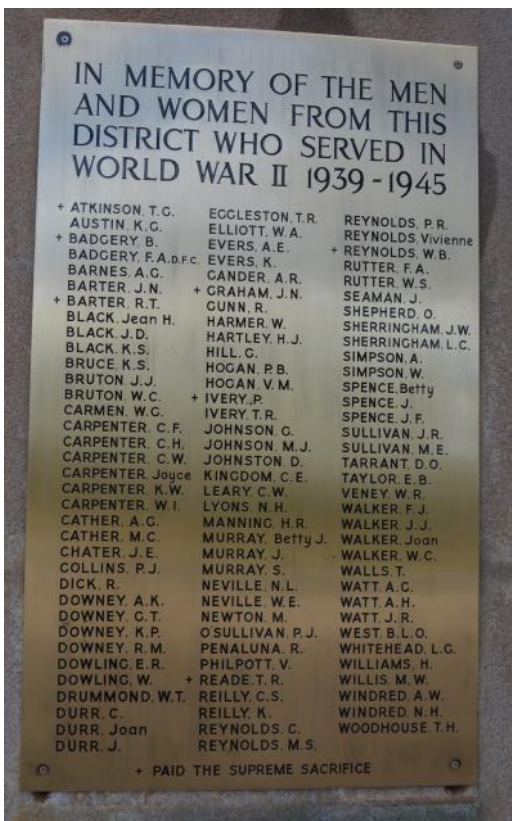
Leslie returned to "Happy Valley" in 1946. On the 19 Jun 1946, Leslie, aged 43 years, married Hilda Bailey (nee Davis) at St. John's Church, Orange. Hilda was a daughter of Lawson and Rachel Davis, of Cumnock. Hilda had previously been married to Herbert Bailey (1901-1949) in 1923 and they had two children, Rachel (1923-1939) and William (1928-1941). Hilda and Herbert divorced in 1933. Leslie and Hilda Sherringham had a son, Bruce.

Leslie share farmed for Arthur Kenny at "Catombal" for many years. Leslie and Hilda moved to Obley Street, Cumnock in 1959. Leslie worked as a postman in Cumnock and also looked after the green at the Cumnock Bowling Club. Joan Marriott states in her book, *The Crossroads*, published 1993, that: "Les Sherringham was Cumnock's longest serving and the last full time postie before retiring in 1965."

Leslie Sherringham died, aged 90 years, on 4 Oct 1993. Hilda Sherringham died on 21 Oct 1999, aged 99 years. They are buried in the Cumnock Cemetery.

Thank you to Bruce Sherringham, son of Leslie and Hilda, for the photo of Leslie and for information on his parents.

Dianne Strahan & Val McKenzie, June 2021.
cumnockswmemorials.com



Above: Cumnock Memorial Gates WW2 Honour Roll.



Above right: Pte Leslie Sherringham's WW2 medals.



Right: Headstone Leslie and Hilda Sherringham, Cumnock Cemetery.