

BREDAHL

Johann Thomas

Service No: 3351



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Johann Thomas Bredahl (Joe)

Service number: 3351

Date of enlistment: 23/10/1916

Age at Enlistment: 18

Civil Occupation: Painter

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 10 ½ inches

Weight: 144 Pounds

Chest measurement: 96 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Ginger

Father: Carl Julius Bredahl

Mother: Mary Ann Fopel

Siblings: Augusta Ernestina, Carl Henrick, Martina Henriekka, Mary Irene



Joe Bredahl in his World War 2 uniform
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

Life Story

Johann, known as Joe, was born in Brunswick, Victoria, in 1897. By 1903, the family was known to be living in Western Australia, where Joe's father's occupation was listed as tinsmith.

In 1913, the family moved to York. Around the age of eleven, Johann was apprenticed to his father who, advertising as C.J. Bredahl and Sons, worked as a house decorator, painter and paper hanger.

On the 23rd October 1917, Johann enlisted at York as a Private attached to the 89 Depot. He embarked the HMAS *Miltiades* at Fremantle on the 29th January bound for England. On arrival, Joe was sent to Codford, in Wiltshire, the site of a large training and transfer camp.

After six months, it became apparent that Johann was unwell, and he was admitted to the Group Hospital at Codford suffering from pleurisy. A medical examination detected a heart murmur and subsequent examinations diagnosed cardiac disease. It was noted that Johann had suffered from rheumatic fever a year before his enlistment, implying that this had affected his overall health.

On the 26th July 1917, a Medical Board declared Johann C3 (permanently unfit for service) and he returned to Australia on HT *Pakeh*, arriving on the 14th October. Joe was admitted to the Australian General Hospital in Fremantle and finally discharged as medically unfit on the 1st November 1917. He was granted a pension of thirty shillings per fortnight.

After his discharge, Johann appears to have lived for some years in the Collie district, perhaps to be closer to two of his sisters who had married and were living in the area at that time. Johann was an active member of the Collie branch of the R.S.L. between 1926 and 1930, serving on the Committee for most of those years.

By 1936 Johann was back in York working as a painter with his brother, Carl, a partnership that continued until 1946.

On the 10th February 1942, Johann enlisted in the Australian Army, still keen to serve his country during World War Two. On his discharge in 1944, he held the rank of Corporal and was posted to the 29 Garrison Battalion.

Johann's health seems to have improved after the First World War, as newspaper reports show he competed in the 120 yards' handicap foot race held at the Collie Sports Meet in 1926. He also became an active member of the York Tennis Club and the York Bowling Club in the years following World War Two. Johann became the first person to be made a Life Member of the York Lawn Tennis Club, and he continued playing until his death in 1967.

Acknowledgements

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