



HARRIS FAMILY

HARRIS
Alwyn Spencer
Tuckfield

Service No: 2333

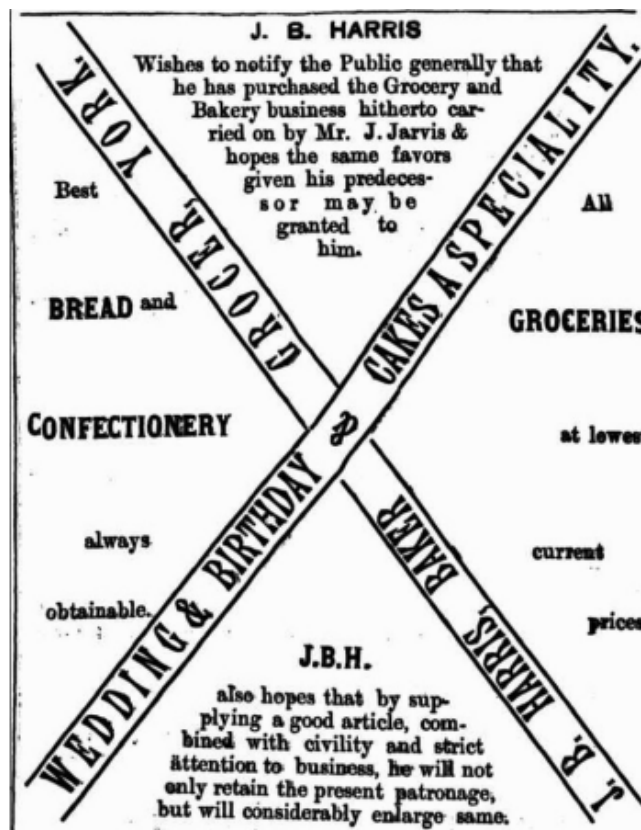
RESIDENCY MUSEUM

Family History:

Jonathon Bult Harris, and Theresa Harris, nee Williams, arrived in Western Australia from the copper-mining town of Moonta, in South Australia. Initially attracted by the Western Australian goldrush, Jonathon moved his family to York in 1897, where he purchased a bakery and grocery store, which he later relocated to larger premises in the Central Buildings on Avon Terrace.

In 1908, when the Greenhills railway line was being built, Jonathon set up stores in Greenhills and Quairading.

Johnathon and Theresa had one daughter, Josephine Theresa, and four sons. Three sons, Keith, Cedric Vernon and Alwyn, all saw action in World War One. The fourth, Joseph, died in infancy.





Basic Information

Name: Alwyn Spencer Tuckfield

Service Number: 2333

Date of Enlistment: 19/3/1917

Age at Enlistment: 18 Years 9 months

Civil Occupation: Motor Mechanic

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

Height: 5 Ft 7 ½ inches

Weight: 126 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 32 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: Jonathon Bult Harris

Mother: Theresa Williams

Siblings: Joseph Tippett Leith, Cedric Vernon, Keith Bult, Josephine Theresa

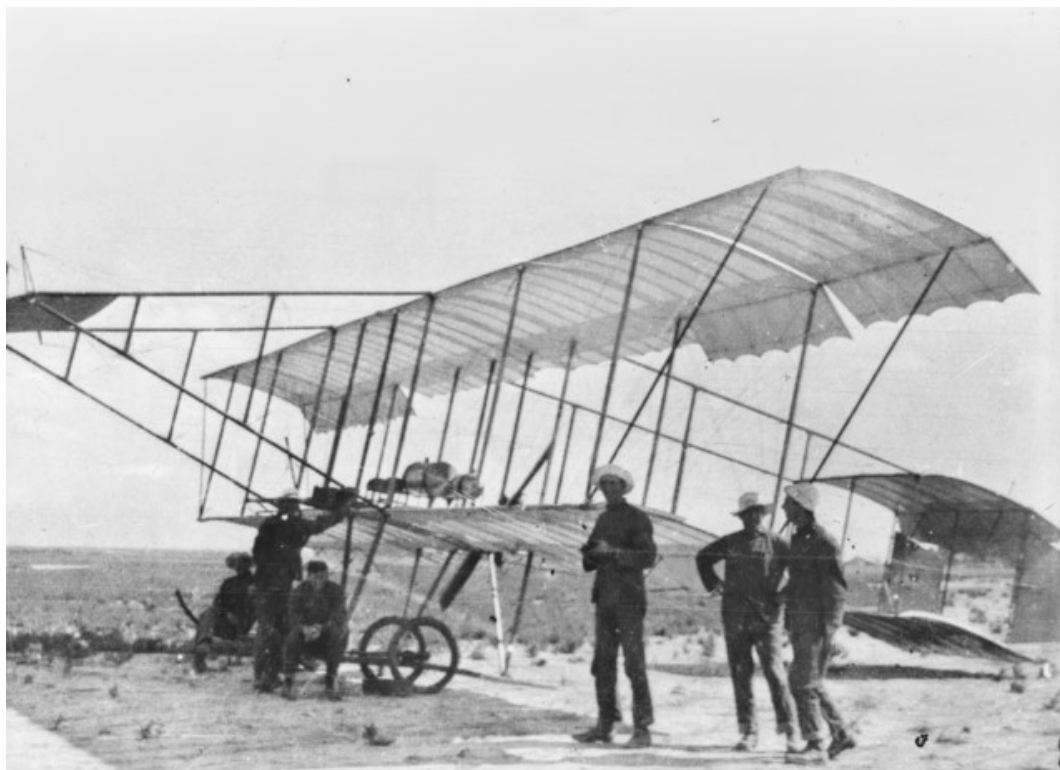
Married: Marjorie Price

Children: Kevan Alwyn, Ronald Spencer and a daughter

Life Story

Alwyn Spencer Tuckfield was born in Western Australia in 1899. Little is known of his childhood, but he probably attended York State School along with his siblings, and he was documented as a member of the York Scout group in 1912.

Alwyn enlisted on the 19th March 1917 at the age of eighteen, listing his profession as motor mechanic and his father as next of kin. As he was underage, Alwyn needed to have written permission from both his father and mother before he was permitted to serve overseas.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C03695

1st Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, Bristol aeroplane (box kite type) at Laverton Aerodrome

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

By the 24th August, Alwyn, was a Sapper with the Engineer Reinforcements, 2nd Military District, in Sydney. He was moved to the Laverton Air Base near Melbourne and, by the 30th October, was listed as a 2nd Class Air Mechanic with the Australian Flying Corps.

On the 9th November 1917, Alwyn embarked for Egypt aboard HMT *Karoo*. Arriving at Suez, he continued on to Alexandria, before finally arriving at Southampton, England, on the 9th January 1918.

Alwyn marched in to the Australian Flying Corps Depot at Wendover on the 9th January 1918. He was attached to the 1st Training Wing at the Advanced Regulating Station (A.R.S.) at Leighterton Airfield before being sent to the A.R.S. at Minchinhampton Airfield. Alwyn moved between airfields until the 23rd December 1918, when he proceeded to France to join the 3rd Squadron A.F.C. for a short stint in the Field.

Alwyn boarded the *SS Kaiser-I-Hind* on the 6th May 1919, bound for Australia.

Details of Alwyn's post-War life are sketchy. In 1922, he is listed on the electoral roll as a motor mechanic at Yalgoo (staying at the Yalgoo Hotel) and, that same year, he married Marjorie Price in Perth.

In 1926, Alwyn held a pastoral lease in the Meekatharra area but, as he and his wife appear on the electoral roll for Subiaco that year, it is likely they were no longer residing in the area. Apart from visiting family in York, the couple continued to live in the metropolitan area for the remainder of their lives.

Alwyn became an active member of the Australian Flying Corps Association (later known as the Air Force Association) which was formed in Perth in July 1929. He served, as various times, as a committee member, president and secretary.

During World War Two, Alwyn served on the board of the Western Australian division of the R.A.A.F. Comforts Fund. His son, Ronald, served in the R.A.A.F.

By the time of his death, in 1984, Alwyn was living in Bullcreek which is where the Air Force Association Village, established in 1972, is located. It is possible he had retired to the complex.

HARRIS

Cedric Vernon

Service No: 17533



Basic Information

Name: Cedric Vernon Harris

Service Number: 17533

Date of Enlistment: 13/6/1916

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 11months

Civil Occupation: Hardware Assistant

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

Height: 5 Ft 7 ½ inches

Weight: 145 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Jonathon Bult Harris

Mother: Theresa Williams

Siblings: Joseph Tippett Leith, Keith Bult, Alwyn Spencer Tuckfield,
Josephine Theresa

Married: Lucy McGuckin, Inithe Jane Ashbolt



Courtesy Residency Museum

Life Story

Cedric Vernon Harris was born in South Australia in 1895. At the time of his enlistment, on the 13th June 1916, Cedric was working as a hardware store assistant, and his father was living in Quairading.

Cedric's enlistment papers noted previous service with the 37th Battalion Australian Field Artillery, and he spent time training at the Signal School at Blackboy Hill before departing for Sydney.

In May 1917, Cedric embarked from Sydney for service abroad. He arrived at Basrah on the 25th June but was admitted to hospital three weeks later with an unspecified illness. He was discharged but admitted to the 23rd British Stationary Hospital in Baghdad at the beginning of September.

After leaving hospital, Cedric transferred from the 1st Australian Cavalry Division Signal Squadron and was Taken on Strength with the 1st Australian Wireless Squadron in May 1918, where he was appointed a Driver, a position he held for the remainder of the War.

On the 26th February 1919, Cedric boarded SS *Northbrook* bound for Bombay, India. From there, he took a train to Calcutta to board the SS *Janus*, finally arriving home in March 1919.

A final reminder of Cedric's War Service appeared in 1920, when his cornet was found and returned to him by the Defence Department; it had been included with other effects of the A.I.F. attached to the Wireless Division. As the case was engraved with Cedric's name, they returned it to him. A talented musician, Cedric wrote to the Department, expressing his thanks.

Cedric married Lucy McGuckin in Albany in 1922 and took a job as a traveller for the Vacuum Oil Company in the Narrogin District.

By 1925, the year their son was born, Lucy and Cedric were living in Perth, and he was working as a bank organizer. However, wedded bliss was not to last and, by 1930, the couple had separated and Lucy was living with her parents in Marble Bar. In 1935, she sought a divorce citing “habitual neglect,” as Cedric had failed to pay maintenance to her and their son.

Cedric lived in Marble Bar briefly, taking over the licence of the Coongan Hotel in 1930, but this was a very short-lived venture, and Cedric was back in York by 1931. In 1932, he was listed as the secretary of the York branch of the R.S.L.

Cedric left York around 1936 and found employment providing a car service before becoming a salesman in South Perth.

In 1938, Cedric married Inithe Jane Ashbolt in York. (Inithe Jane was also known as Peggy or Clara). The couple made their home at Cookernup, in the South West of the State, but continued to visit family and friends in York. Cedric earned his living as a store keeper, but he was also active in community events, volunteering to play Father Christmas and playing music at social gatherings.

During World War Two, Cedric became involved in a “Farewell Committee” which evolved into the Welfare Committee, and he was tasked with assisting returned soldiers. His son, Robert Leonard Bolton Harris, served in World War Two. He enlisted in Victoria, as his mother had moved there and remarried.



Harvey Murray Times
7th November 1940



In 1951, it was recorded in the local paper that Cedric played the bugle at the opening of the Yarloop World War Two War Memorial.

Cedric and his wife, Peggy, retired to Kelmscott around 1958. Peggy died in 1963 and was cremated. Cedric eventually moved to the Richard Cleaver Lodge, an aged care complex in Bentley, where he died in 1974.



HARRIS

Keith Bult

Service No: 15689

Basic Information

Name: Keith Bult Harris

Service Number: 15689

Date of Enlistment: 7/2/1916

Age at Enlistment: 22 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: School teacher

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

Height: 5 Ft 7 inches

Weight: 138 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 31 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black

Father: Jonathon Bult Harris

Mother: Tessie (Theresa) Williams

Siblings: Joseph Tippett Leith, Cedric Vernon, Josephine Theresa, Alwyn Spencer Tuckfield

Married: No

Life Story

Keith Bult Harris was born in Moonta, South Australia in 1893, the second son of Jonathon and Theresa Harris. His elder brother, Joseph, died the year before he was born.

Keith attended York State School where he excelled, passing in nine subjects. As a result of this success, he was selected by the Education Department to enter the Normal School (a teacher training establishment) in Perth for two years at the expense of the Department, before undertaking further training at the Claremont Teachers' College. While at the School, Keith passed the University of Adelaide examinations in pure Mathematics, Physical Geography and Geology.

Keith, with the other members of his family, participated in many social events in York. In 1907, he was listed as a member (and organist) of the Loyal Temperance Legion and, in 1911, he performed at a school concert, playing the piano.

By 1910, Keith was working as a Monitor at White Gum Valley School and, in 1911, he held the same position at York State School before, in 1914, being chosen to fill a vacant teaching post at the School.

In 1915, Keith was appointed Assistant Teacher at Subiaco and, at the time of his enlistment in January 1916, had just been appointed Acting Teacher in Charge at Picton School, a position that he did not take up.

On the 7th February 1916, Keith enlisted as a Private in the Army Medical Corps General Reinforcements. He embarked the *Suffolk* in October and arrived in Plymouth, England, on the 2nd December 1916. Just over a month later, he was Taken on Strength with the 14th Field Ambulance and proceeded overseas on the *Princess Clementine* to France.

On the 1st October 1918, Keith was Wounded in Action. However, the wound was probably not serious, as he remained on duty.

On the 7th November 1918, Keith was Taken on Strength with the 3rd Australian General hospital and remained there until February 1919, when he was sent to A.I.F. Headquarters in London.

While in London, the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation organized employment for Keith; he taught French at Hugo's Language Institute in Oxford Street, London and was paid six shillings per day to provide evening classes.

On the 15th November 1919, Keith embarked HMAT *Ypiranga* bound for Australia. His paperwork indicates that he was part of the nursing staff on the ship.

After the War, it appears Keith resumed his teaching career. He was appointed 1st Assistant Teacher at Fremantle in 1920 before being appointed to the same position at Beaconsfield School between 1921 and 1923.

In 1923, Keith was selected through the Empire League of Education to represent the Education Department of W.A. on a year-long teacher exchange with a teacher in England "for the purpose of exchange of ideas." He left Fremantle on the 21st June 1923 and, on his return, was appointed 1st Assistant Teacher at Leederville School, a position he held until 1930.

During his Long Service leave, in 1928, Keith returned to Britain and also spent time in Europe. The lure of "The Old Country" was strong and, on the 31st December 1930, he left Western Australia aboard the *Esperance Bay* to live in England.

From 1932, Keith lived in the Clifford's Inn/Holborn area of London before, in 1956, moving to 83 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London.

In 1947, the first phone call to England was made through the York Post Office when Keith's father, Jonathon, rang him to pass on birthday wishes.

It is believed that Keith Harris did not marry. He died in Camberwell, London, in 1973.

With surprising clarity last week Mr. J. B. Harris and Miss Trixie Harris were able to converse over the telephone with their son and brother, Mr. Keith Harris, who is domiciled in London. The occasion was to wish Keith "many happy returns." This is the first occasion that a call to England has gone through the local Post Office. Although booked for 11 p.m. Australian time it did not come through until 2 a.m. Despite this the wonderful reception and being able to hear every word spoken more than compensated for the few hours of waiting.

York Chronicle
1st August 1947,

Acknowledgements

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Harvey, Heather
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