

Generation 3

Stansfield Joseph Ortger

Stansfield (or Stanley as he was generally known), the third child of Joseph and Elizabeth Ortger (née Doherty) was born in India in 1869 and, on 24th November 1904 at Allahabad, at the age of about 35, he married Elizabeth Hynds, some fourteen years his junior, who had also been born in India, on 28th February 1883, possibly at Peshawar.¹

Elizabeth was baptised on 5th March 1883 at Rawalpindi. She was the first child born to James Hynds, who attained the rank of Captain in the army, and his wife Elizabeth (née O'Rielly?) whose marriage had been recorded as occurring in Peshawar in 1882. Seven more known children were born to the couple over the next nineteen years. Ellen Hynd's birth was recorded at Jullundah Station for 1885. The next four children were born at Rawalpindi - Ethel on 7th January 1888, Marie on 15th February 1889, the first of three sons, James on 13th November 1880, and Mabel on 28th January 1893. The last two children were sons - Edward born on 12th May 1895 at Allahabad and William Anthony, who was born at Agra on 4th August 1902. Two of Elizabeth Hynds' sisters died young. Ethel only survived three weeks, and was buried at Rawalpindi on 28th January 1888. Marie was nearly 12 when she died at Agra, where she was buried on 18th October 1900 in St Patrick's Roman Catholic cemetery.²

Some time between late 1902 and 1912 (and most likely in 1911/1912) James and Elizabeth Hynds migrated to Tasmania where they were included, together with their son James, in the 1914 electoral roll for Wilmot, in the sub-district of Devonport. James the elder was listed as having no occupation (presumably having retired) and James the younger was a clerk.³

While Edward was not found in the 1914 electoral roll we know that he too was living in Devonport in 1914. On 19th August of that year Edward Hynds, 19 years of age, single and a fitter by trade, enlisted as an Armourer Sergeant at the 12th Battalion Headquarters. In his attestation papers he stated that he had served some time in the Tasmania Militia 91st Infantry Regiment. His unit embarked at Hobart on board HMAT A2 Geelong on 20th October 1914. Two years later he enlisted in the 40th Battalion, 6th Reinforcement as a Private. His unit embarked from Melbourne on board the HMAT A67 Orsova on 6th December 1916. For both enlistments he cited as his next-of-kin his father James Hynds. Edward returned to Australia on 27th May 1919 with a Military Medal, the citation for which was carried in the Commonwealth Gazette, No 185, of 27th November 1918 as follows.

Military Medal

At RIBEMONT, MERICOURT and HEILLY on 24th April, 1918, this man rendered excellent service in connection with the maintenance of communications during a heavy hostile bombardment of villages and battery areas with H.E. and gas shell which commenced at 4 a.m. and continued up until mid-day. In repairing communications he was compelled to pass through heavy enemy shell fire and through wooded areas in the valley of the ANCRE full of gas. He succeeded in re establishing communication between Brigade Headquarters and forward units although suffering from the effects of gas. In his work throughout the period he showed great determination and displayed a total disregard for danger.

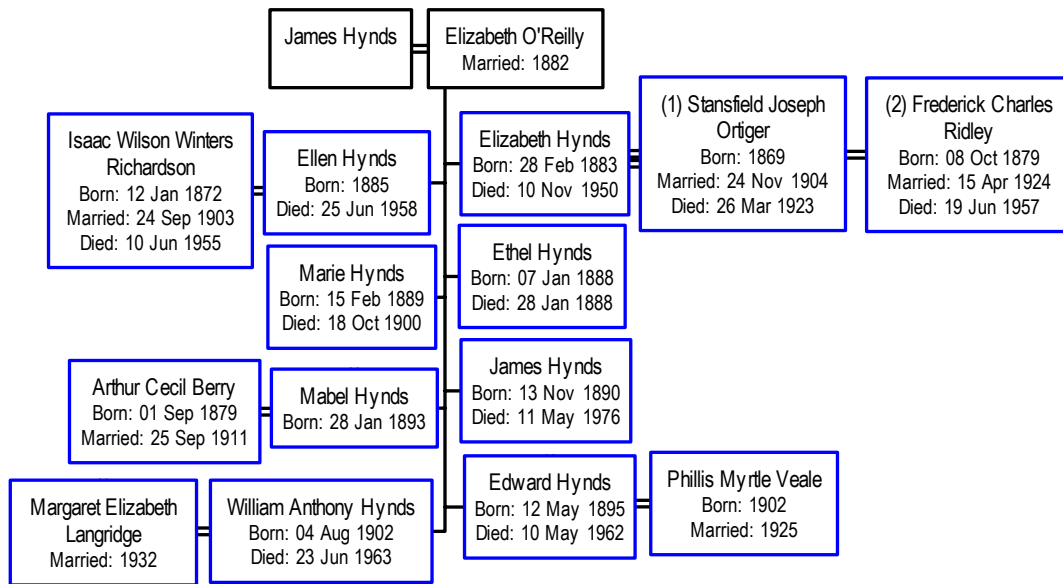
The local newspaper took up the story and on 5th June the following item was featured.⁴

THE MILITARY MEDAL

Mr. and Mrs J Hynds, Esplanade, Devonport, have been advised by cable that their second son, Signaller Ed. Hynds, has been awarded the military Medal. At the outbreak of war he was an apprentice of Messrs. Finlayson Bros., engineers and ironfounders, Devonport, and was one of the first to enlist. After getting as far as Colombo, however, he was stricken with pneumonia, and was invalided home and discharged. With health renewed, he again repeatedly offered himself for enlistment, and finally passed the doctor once more, and has ever since been on active service.

Edward's older brother James enlisted on 26th July 1915 in the 26th Battalion, 4th Reinforcement at the rank of 2nd Corporal. At the time James was a 24 year old bachelor, and a clerical draughtsman. He had no previous military service, but it was recorded that he had been a member of the Devonport Rifle Club for about six months, and indeed we find records of his, and his fellow club members' rifle shooting prowess recorded by the Mercury. James cited his mother, Mrs Elizabeth Hynds of Esplanade, West Devonport, as his next-of-kin. His unit embarked from Melbourne on board HMAT A20 Hororata on 27th September 1915. While the records do not show when Edward returned, James returned to Australia on 13th April 1919.⁵

To finish off what I know about the Hynds family – James and Elizabeth were still on the Tasmanian electoral roll in 1922, but I have not found them subsequently. We know, from a later event, that James senior was still alive in 1935.⁶



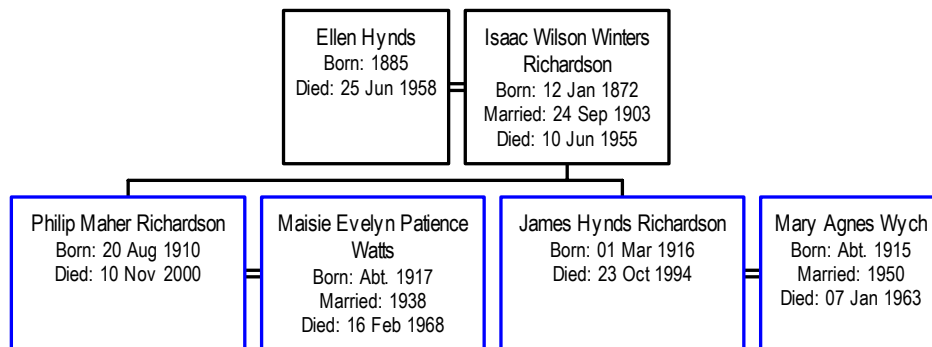
Before returning to the eldest of the Hynds children, the following provides brief further information on her surviving siblings.

Ellen Hynds married at the age of 18 at Mussoorie. She and 31 year old Isaac Wilson Winters Richardson were married on 24th September 1903. Isaac's birth had been registered at Carlisle for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1872, and according to the Indian Army Quarterly List for 1st January 1912, Isaac, as was Ellen's father, was in the Ordnance Department and had attained the rank of Warrant Officer in January 1909. Their first son was born at Allahabad on 20 August 1910. The couple moved to Australia, where they are located in the 1914 Australian electoral roll living at 457 Coventry Street, South Melbourne, at which time Isaac was a storeman. It was at South Melbourne that their second son, James Hynds Richardson, was born on 1 March 1916.⁷

In fact, as we learn from Isaac's WWI service record, he retired from the British Army and Indian Ordnance Department and came to Australia in 1911 where he joined the Ordnance Branch of the Department of Defence in Melbourne. On the outbreak of the war in 1914 (at the age of 42) he volunteered for active service overseas, but was retained in Australia for important war services. Finally, in 1919 he was accepted for service abroad. His enlistment documents confirm his birth at Carlisle, on 12th January 1892, and we learn that he 21 years of service under his belt, 9½ in the infantry with the Border Regiment and 11½ with the Indian Ordnance Department. He had taken part in the Waziristan Expedition of 1894-95 for which he was awarded the Indian Medal with clasp. Isaac finally 'got away' in 1919 to New Guinea with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANM & EF) with the rank of Lieutenant and appointed Director of Stores and Supplies. He left Rabaul on 13th November 1920 on board the ss Melusia and was discharged in December 1920. Correspondence included in his war service record shows that as he had not embarked from Australia before 11th November 1918, Isaac was not eligible for the award of any war medals. The electoral records show that by 1930 Isaac and Ellen Richardson had moved from Melbourne to Sydney. The 1930 and 1933 records have them at Parramatta, and for the subsequent records (1936-1954) they were at 28 George Street, Liverpool, where Ellen's brother James was a long-term boarder. Isaac Richardson died on 10th June 1955 at the age of 83 and was buried the following day in the Catholic section of the Liverpool Cemetery. It was his son Philip who wrote to the OIC, AIF Records in Canberra seeking details of his father's WWI service, as this information was required for an application on behalf of Isaac's widow to the Repatriation Department for a grant towards funeral and burial expenses. Ellen died a few years later at the age of 73 in 1958 and was buried with her late husband.⁸

Both the Richardson boys married – Philip, in 1938, to Maisie Evelyn Patience Watts at Granville and James, in 1950, to Mary Agnes Wych at Liverpool. And both boys served in the army in WW2. Philip enlisted on 3rd May 1937 at Sydney. The Nominal Roll record gives his rank on discharge as captain, and the date of discharge as

20th August 1969 which suggests either that he was a career soldier, or the record is incorrect. Younger brother James enlisted on 11th June 1940 at Paddington and served with the 8th Division. He was a Japanese Prisoner of War, as stated on the Nominal Roll, but as also commemorated on a Japanese-issue unbleached calico shirt. This shirt had been issued to a fellow POW, Private Stanley Herron. Stanley's account would have mirrored the experiences of James Hynds. Stanley, having worked on the Burma-Thailand railway, was subsequently sent by sea on the Hell Ship Awa Maru to work in the coalmines at Senryu in the mountains of Japan. It was there that he was issued with the calico undershirt. He did not wear the shirt but kept it under the floorboards taking it out for fellow prisoners to sign in indelible pencil after the Japanese surrender. Among the names Stanley Herron's wife embroidered over after the war was NX25602 Driver James Hynd [sic] Richardson AASC. The shirt was on display at the POW gallery at the Australian War Memorial for many years. Maisie Richardson died relatively young at the age of 51 on 16th February 1968. Philip outlived her by over thirty years. He died at the age of 90 on 10th November 2000. Mary Richardson, like her sister-in-law, died young, at the age of 48 on 7th January 1963. James, like his brother, spent many years as a widower. He died on 23rd October 1994. All four were yet more of this extended family to be buried in the Catholic section of the Liverpool Cemetery.⁹

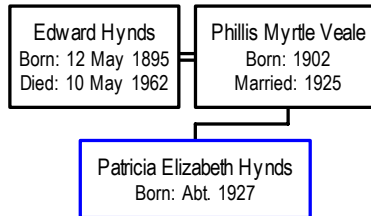


James Hynds junior never married, and he died at the age of 85 on 11th May 1976, and was buried in the Catholic section of Liverpool cemetery three days later. We know that for a time after WWII he ran a small poultry farm holding at Moorebank where he was joined in early 1935 by his nephew Harold Denis Ortger and, later that year, by his brother-in-law, Frederick Ridley. For some time he lived with his sister Ellen and brother-in-law Isaac Richardson at 28 George Street, Liverpool. It is from his death certificate that we can establish with some certainty the year that his family arrived in Australia, and this is the first record I have found of his mother's maiden name. James Hynds, bachelor, died at the Lady Davidson Home in Turrumurra, Sydney. His occupation was given as Repatriation Pensioner and his usual residence as 22 George Street, Liverpool. The certificate confirms James's birth place as Rawalpindi and he had been 64 years in Australia. He was a son of James Hynds and Elizabeth O'Rielly. The informant was his nephew James Hynds Richardson, of 22 George Street, Liverpool. The cause of death was hypostatic pneumonia with complications from a long standing heart problem.¹⁰

Like her two elder sisters, Mabel Hynds also married in India. On 25th September 1911, at the respective ages of 17 and 31, she and Arthur Cecil Berry wed at Ferozapore, Bengal. The marriage registration actually has Arthur's surname as 'Barry', but I think this is a mistranscription, based on some, as yet unsubstantiated, records. I have located a birth registration for an Arthur Cecil Berry for 1st September 1879 at St Thomas Mount, Madras. The parents of this boy were Alfred and Chloe Berry. Working backwards I have found four records for the marriage of Alfred Berry and Chloe Anne Cammiade on 29th December 1862 at Madras. These records also gave the birth years of the bride and groom as, respectively, 1844 and 1836, and their fathers as A J F Cammiade and Joseph Berry. The couple married at the Roman Catholic Cathedral with the Rev J Colgan officiating and afterwards at Emanuel Church by the Rev D C Gibson, MA. Further records indicated that Arthur had at least four siblings – Alfred Eugene (born 21st June 1869), Annee Lucille Berry (born 25th June 1877) and Charles Eustace (born 1st June 1882). However, I have nothing further on Arthur and Mabel.¹¹

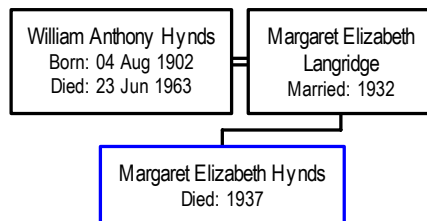
Edward Hynds' marriage in 1925 to Phyllis Myrtle Veale was registered at Redfern, Sydney. Phyllis had been born in 1902 at Merewether, in the Newcastle area, to William and Elizabeth Veale. The 1930s electoral rolls show Edward as based at HMAS Penguin as an engine room artificer. He was one of the New South Wales recipients of the King's Jubilee Medal, issued in May 1935. It was as an Engine Room Artificer 1st Class, he

continued with the Royal Australian Navy during WW2, being discharged on 19th November 1945 and posted to HMAS Rushcutter. The 1949 electoral roll finds Edward Hynds, an engineer, and his wife Phyllis Myrtle, home duties, and a daughter, Patricia Elizabeth, typiste, living at 24 Hercules Street, Brighton-le-Sands. The marriage, which had been on shaky ground probably from at least 1929, seems to have broken down sometime after 1949 as the 1954 roll finds Edward and Phyllis at different addresses. Edward was living at 48 Military Road, Neutral Bay, and Phyllis and Patricia, now a bookkeeper, were at 12 Clifton Avenue, Burwood. And it was at Burwood that Edward's death, just before his 67th birthday, was registered. He was buried on 14th May 1962 in the same Liverpool cemetery as his brother James.¹²



The last of the Hynds children was William Anthony, born at Agra on 4th August 1902 and baptised two weeks later. He would no doubt have accompanied his parents to Tasmania, but not having reached the voting age did not appear with them on the earlier electoral rolls. When he does first feature, he is found in 1931 living at 54 Emmaline Street, Northcote, in Victoria and employed as a mechanic. He was in fact boarding with the Langridge family, which gave him an opportunity to get to know and court one of the Langridge daughters. In 1931 William married Margaret Elizabeth Langridge, one of the daughters of Samuel Robert and Mary Margaret Langridge (née Tipping). After their marriage the couple moved to 40 Mount Street, Heidelberg, and they were still there in 1954, by which time Anthony was described as a motor salesman. I am not sure how many children were born to William and Margaret, but one record shows that they lost a daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, in 1937. Perhaps the couple retired to Queensland because the last record I have located for them is the death of William Anthony Hynds on 23rd June 1963 and his burial at Atherton Cemetery. The inscription on the gravestone [the age should read 61] reads¹³

In loving memory of William Anthony HYNDS
Died 23-6-1963 aged 59 years
Rest in Peace



Having spent some time on the other Hynds family members, we return now to the eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

Stansfield Joseph Ortger was another of the Ortger family to be employed on the Indian railways. According to the Ortger family tree he and Elizabeth had seven children – four boys and three girls - born between 1906 and 1920. The first was Gerald James, born on 9th October 1906 and he was followed by Douglas Joseph born on 5th August 1908. Harold Denis was born at Asansol on 16th November 1910 and by the time Trevor Stanislaus came along on 11th July 1913 the family was living at Lahore. Iris Noreen was born on 6th December at Quetta. The family then relocated south to Sukkur where Maria Theresa was born on 5th January 1918 and they were back at Quetta when their last child, Cynthia Margaret, was born on 2nd November 1920. The birthplaces reflect the peripatetic life of railway families.

On 26th March 1923, at Quetta, husband, father and breadwinner, Stansfield Ortger died. Elizabeth, at the age of 40, was now responsible for the care of a brood of dependent children. Her situation changed within a year or so of widowhood when she married Frederick Charles Ridley on 15th April 1924 at Quetta. It was the second marriage also for Frederick, to which he brought a daughter, Honor Mary Ridley, by his wife Millicent Matilda

Bradshaw. It is possible that Honor had a brother, Fred Charles Ridley, son of FC Ridley, who had been born in 1913 and who had died at Allahabad on 13th June 1920.¹⁴

Who was Frederick Ridley? Unlike so many in this account, he had not been born in India. His birth at Enfield, Essex, was registered at Edmonton, Middlesex, for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1879, and he was baptised in the parish of St Andrews, Enfield. He was one of many children of Henry and Harriet Ridley (née Turner) who had been married on 27th May 1860 at St Leonard's parish church, Shoreditch, London. The Ridley family, with Frederick shown as a one-year old, was living at "River Bank", Chase Side, Enfield, Middlesex, for the 1881 census. Household head, Henry, was a french polisher by trade, and his wife supplemented the family income as a laundress. The family was at the same address for the 1891 census, by which time Frederick was recorded as a scholar and his father as a sword polisher. Within a few months of this census Frederick's father died at the age of 51, as registered for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1891 at Edmonton. Two years later his 57 year old mother died, and her death was registered at West Ham for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1893. We do not know who looked after him after the death of his parents, but by 1901 he had joined the army. The census of that year, conducted on 31st March, records Fredk Charles Ridley, aged 19, as private in the Essex Regiment, Warley Barracks, Brentford.¹⁵

Frederick served with his Regiment in South Africa during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) after which, and possibly as early as 1902, he left England for India where he found work first with the East India Railway at Asansol, before moving to Quetta and working for the North West Railways. There is a chance that, in the close-knit community of railway employees, Frederick might have been acquainted with Henri Pierre Ortger and the other Ortger family members employed by the EIR. We do know, however, that when he moved to Quetta Frederick (Fred) became well acquainted with one of his colleagues, Stansfield (Stanley) Ortger.¹⁶

About two years after her marriage to Frederick, Elizabeth, at the age of 43, gave birth to a daughter, Mary Verdun Millicent Ridley, on 1st November 1926 at Quetta. And the family remained at Quetta for nearly ten years. They were there when the major earthquake struck on 31st May 1935, and we have a first-hand account by Frederick Ridley of the event and its immediate aftermath which appeared in a Melbourne newspaper.



Harrowing hours in the darkness following the Quetta earthquake, and the horrors of the three following days when friends and relatives were dragged dead and injured from the ruins were related today by Mr. F. Ridley, father of a family of eight, who escaped serious injury, although their home crashed about them. He and his family are passengers to Sydney in the Maloja.

Because of a presentiment, Mr. Ridley, who was employed at Quetta as a locomotive driver, rushed four of his daughters, Mary 8, Cynthia 14, Marie 13, and Honor 11, out of the house before the collapse.

But Mrs. Ridley was buried beneath fallen masonry and a heavy linen chest. She was rescued by her son Douglas.

Another daughter, Iris, was nursemaid at the Alexander Hotel. She, and the child of whom she had charge, escaped injury, but 20 others perished in the ruins of the building.

The following day Mr. Ridley and his son [step-son Douglas] assisted in the rescue work, and among the dead, found Mr. Ridley's lifelong friend, Mr. George Thackeray. Mrs Thackeray lay beside her husband, critically injured, but an 11-months-old baby, in the same bed, was unharmed.

"The scenes during the three days following the quake were appalling," said Mr Ridley. "The dead had to be buried in batches of 25 to a trench, the only distinction for Europeans being that they were buried apart from the natives."

"Many of the corpses were unrecognisable: for others there was no one to identify them, so they were buried nameless and unknown."

For three weeks after the disaster, Mr. Ridley and his family lived in tents, being dependent for sustenance on the rations issued by the military authorities.

The account concludes by saying that Mr. Ridley had been in India for 33 years, and Mrs Ridley was born there 53 years ago. They were now to make their home in Sydney. Included in the photograph in the Melbourne newspaper account is James Hynds, father of Elizabeth. I am not sure of the identity of the young boy at the left of the photograph.¹⁷

The Ridley 'adventure' was also featured in the Sydney Morning Herald and I have reproduced full article as it provides some additional family information.¹⁸

QUETTA

FAMILY IN SYDNEY.

Earthquake Survivors.

"NIGHT OF HORROR"

To try and forget the horrors of the Quetta earthquake, Mr F C Ridley, an engine-driver on the north-western railways India, arrived in Sydney by the Maloja yesterday with his wife and five daughters. They intend joining Mr J Hynds, a brother of Mrs Ridley, on his mixed farm at Moorebank, George's River.

"That night of horror extended into days of torture," said Mr Ridley, speaking of the earthquake.



"I estimate that 90 per cent of the population in the area affected by the earthquake were killed - some crushed to death as they slept, others mangled and buried to die in agony. We had a warning about 3 am - just a loud rumbling. Then the earth began to roll and rock so violently that when we jumped out of bed it was impossible to stand up straight. Our house began to crumble and collapse, and before my wife could get outside a wardrobe fell on her, pinning her by the legs. My son and I released her just in time to prevent her from being buried in the ruins of the home."

GHOSTLY WHITE PALL

"In the open it was a scene of horror. The blackness of the early morning seemed to be transformed into a ghostly white from the pall of powdered bricks and mortar. On every side there were screams and groans from persons in agony. Three of my daughters were away from home at their place of employment. Iris the eldest aged 20, who was minding a child for her employer, ran with the baby to try and reach the open, but they were buried in the bathroom when it collapsed. By some means they escaped with bruises. Another daughter, Marie, aged 17, who was employed in the same building, also escaped, but the child she was minding was killed. This place was only a mile and a half from our home, but it was five days before Iris could get home. Meanwhile we did not know whether she was dead or alive and she was not able to learn how we had fared."

"After doing all I could to help in relieving pain suffered by my wife when the wardrobe fell on her, my son and I went to try and help our neighbours. Their houses had been razed. I found my best chum and his two sons all dead crushed in the debris. His wife was still alive, but a beam had fallen across her leg, crushing it terribly. She was still pressing her 11 months old baby to her breast trying to shelter it from the bricks and mortar that were crashing everywhere. I took the uninjured baby from her and carried it across to my wife and she made it as comfortable as possible. Then I sought other neighbours but only found their poor crushed bodies. Those who were not killed or injured were nearly frantic."

PRAISE FOR MILITARY

"Quetta people will never forget what the military of all ranks did to aid the wounded, recover the dead, and give help wherever it was needed. Many had their loved ones crushed almost beyond recognition and hundreds of the rescuers were almost on the point of collapse on account of the injuries they had received. The wives of military officers did wonderful work, even sharing their clothes with people who possessed only their night attire. We were

given three military tents to live in but in a few days it was necessary to clear everyone out of the city area. And what days of nightmare - just the steady stream of military and other waggons piled up with dead passing in an almost endless stream to the outer parts of the city where the bodies of the Hindus were piled up and burned and the Mohammedans and the English victims were buried in trenches. The disposal of the dead had to be carried out so quickly that trenches were dug to receive up to 28 bodies.”

Mr Ridley was one of the busiest men on the wharf sorting out his 28 boxes of luggage, the contents of which were still steeped in the dust that for days hung in a thick pall over the ruined city. “I think I shall get on all right in Australia” he said. “I’ve brought my old card table and Mum has her sewing machine, but one of my daughters who escaped death in the Quetta horror has arrived in Sydney with the toothache.”

One son, Harold, arrived at his uncle’s Moorebank farm in February last, and because he could not ascertain the fate of his family in the Quetta earthquake he left Sydney for India a few weeks ago on the Narkunda. His steamer passed the Maloja in mid-ocean, but by now he should know of his family’s safe arrival in Australia. His father sent him a cable message.

We can identify Douglas Joseph Ortger as the son who assisted his father during the aftermath of the earthquake. While we knew that Iris Ortger had been away from home when the earthquake struck, we now find that Marie and Cynthia had also been elsewhere, and whereas the child in Iris’s care had survived, the one being looked after by Marie had not – and this must have been a very traumatising experience for such a young girl. From this account we learn that the family had somewhere to live in Sydney – on the small holding run by James Hynds, Elizabeth’s brother, and that her son Harold Denis Ortger had arrived in Australia some time earlier, and had also been living with James.¹⁹

Starting with James Hynds, the majority of the Ortgers, and their connections by marriage, gravitated to the Moorebank area. Now Moorebank is a suburb located 27 kilometres south-west of the Sydney central business district in the local government area of the City of Liverpool. Liverpool is one of the oldest urban settlements in Australia, founded in 1810 as an agricultural centre by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. He named it after Robert Banks Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool, who was then the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Liverpool is at the head of navigation of the Georges River and combined with the Great Southern Railway from Sydney to Melbourne reaching Liverpool in the late 1850s, Liverpool became a major agricultural and transportation centre as the land in the district was very productive.

Until the 1950s, Liverpool was still a satellite town with an agricultural economy based on poultry farming and market gardening. However the tidal surge of urban sprawl which engulfed the rich flatlands west of Sydney known as the Cumberland Plain soon reached Liverpool and it became an outer suburb of metropolitan Sydney with a strong working-class presence and manufacturing facilities. The Liverpool area also became renowned for its vast Housing Commission estates housing thousands of low-income families after the slum clearance and urban renewal programs in inner-city Sydney in the 1960s.

For new migrants the area offered relatively cheap housing, almost guaranteed work for people with trade qualifications, and the opportunity to ‘get on’ for those so inclined. On a different level, living ‘out west’ encouraged a sense of community grounded in shared experiences for the ‘pioneering’ newcomers.

While 28 pieces of luggage might sound excessive, I expect that the Ridley’s came to Australia with all that they were able to salvage from the earthquake – and it is touching to note their attachment to treasured items - Frederick’s card table and Elizabeth’s sewing machine – as if these familiar belongings assured their happiness in Australia.

None of the above accounts make any reference to another branch of the Ortger family who were also in Quetta at the time of the earthquake. Elizabeth’s niece by her first marriage, Enid Mary Florence Porter (née Ortger) and her son Peter survived the quake, but her husband, Philip and her elder son Malcolm were both killed. I am not sure if there was any social contact between the two families, given that Philip Porter was an Indian Civil Service employee and at one time the aide-de-camp to the Governor, and may have been a few rungs up the socio-economic ladder.²⁰

The next official record I have found for Frederick and Elizabeth is a WW2 service record for Frederick as follows. Clearly, Frederick did not give his correct date of birth on enlistment. Perhaps he looked young for his age, or perhaps the authorities were not too concerned. On 1st April 1941 Private Ridley would have been in his early sixties, and in his mid sixties on discharge in October 1945. And our Frederick was not born in Liverpool,

England, although he did live in the Liverpool area of NSW, as shown in the electoral rolls.²¹

Name	RIDLEY, FREDERICK CHARLES
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	N107944
Date of Birth	6 Oct 1892
Place of Birth	LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
Date of Enlistment	1 Apr 1941
Locality on Enlistment	MOORE BANK
Place of Enlistment	PADDINGTON, NSW
Next of Kin	RIDLEY, ELIZABETH
Date of Discharge	18 Oct 1945
Rank	Private
Posting at Discharge	32 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY TRAINING BATTALION
WW2 Honours and Gallantry	None for display
Prisoner of War	No

The Ridley family appears in three electoral rolls – 1943, 1949, and 1954, and for all of them they were living in Epsom Road, Moorebank. Frederick (no occupation) and Elizabeth and Maria Teresa [Ortger] (home duties) are listed in 1943. Mary Millicent Ridley had reached her majority by the time the 1949 electoral roll was drawn up, and she was the only person in the family in paid employment – she worked as a machinist. For the 1954 electoral roll, only two members of the family were listed – Frederick and his daughter, Mary Millicent, by which time Maria Teresa Ridley [Ortger] had married and Elizabeth Ridley had died.²²

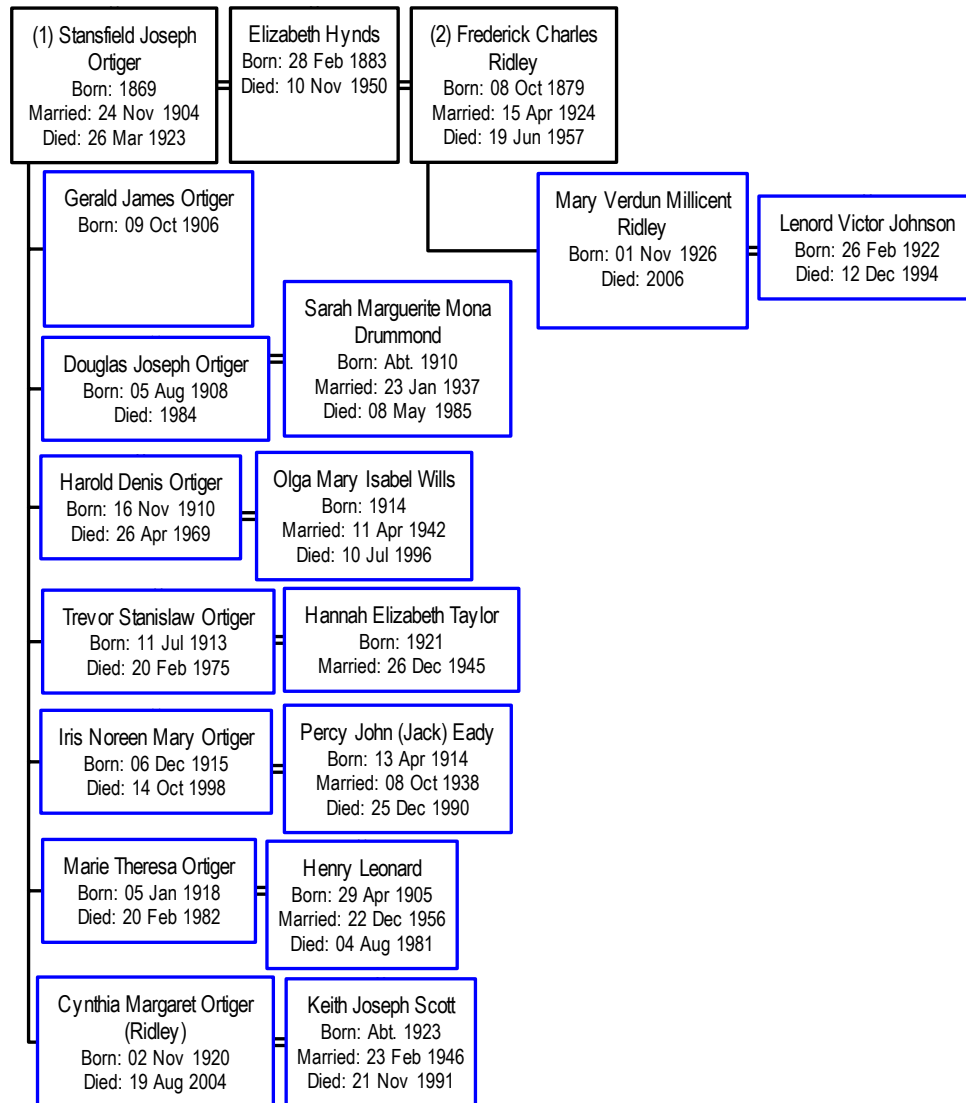
The death of Elizabeth Ridley was registered at Liverpool in 1950. She had a history of heart problems, and had been diagnosed with diabetes a year or so before she died of a heart attack on 10th November at home at Epsom Road Moorebank. She was 67 years old. The informant was listed as H W Ortger [Harold Denis] also of Epsom Road. It seems that he was a bit hazy as to some family details. He recorded that Elizabeth's father had been James Hynds, an army captain by occupation. He did not know the maiden name of James's wife, Elizabeth. He had no idea as to the date and place [apart from the fact that it occurred in India] of his mother's first marriage to Stansfield Joseph Ortger, and could only recall that Elizabeth's second marriage took place in Quetta when she was 42 [actually about 40]. The death certificate states that when she died, Elizabeth had been living in New South Wales for 15 years, which ties in with the newspaper reports of the Ridley family's arrival in 1935 after the Quetta earthquake. The column recording the children confirms that the first marriage resulted in 7 children – four sons of whom one had died, Gerald James Ortger died of TB as a young man at Dehra Dun, and three daughters, and that only one child, a daughter, had been the issue of the second marriage.²³

The Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday 11th November 1950 carried the following notice and she was buried on the same day as the notice, in the Catholic section of the Liverpool Cemetery.²⁴

RIDLEY, Elizabeth – November 10 1950 at her residence, Epsom Road, Moorebank, dearly beloved wife of Frederick Charles Ridley and loved mother of Douglas, Harold Trevor Ortger, Iris, Marie, Honor, Cynthia and Gerald (deceased) aged 67 years RIP.

Frederick Ridley's death was also registered at Liverpool, in 1957. He outlived Elizabeth by about 7½ years, and died on 19th June 1957 at the age of 78. It seems that he died at home at Epsom Road, Moorebank, but he had spent time at the State Hospital, Liverpool. Again we find that the immediate family had very sketchy knowledge about the deceased. The informant for Frederick's death was his daughter by his marriage to Elizabeth, Mary Johnson (née Ridley). She recorded that her father's last occupation had been a watchman, but she underestimated his age by two years, stating that at the time of his death he had been 76 years old. She knew that he had been born in Enfield, England, and had lived in Australia for 22 years. Mary was able to recall that her paternal grandparents were Henry and Harrietta Ridley, but she did not know what Henry did for a living, nor did she know her grandmother's maiden name. We are none the wiser as to the provenance of Frederick's first wife, whom Mary cited as Millicent Bradshaw, the offspring of which marriage was Honor who at the time of her father's death was 39. Mary understood that her parents were married at Quetta, and that her mother was a widow at that time. The cause of Frederick Ridley's death was bowel cancer, with secondary cancer of the liver. On his death he was delivered to the Medical School, where he seems to have been held for some time. There is a notation on

the death certificate - 'In addition to the particulars in columns 11 and 12 (concerning details of burial/cremation, Minister of religion, and witnesses to Burial/cremation) read 22nd August 1958 Rookwood Crematorium T.J. Massey, Church of England. J P Drysland, Church of England. M. Partridge'. The certificate was signed off on 10th September 1958.²⁵



I have nothing further on first child of Stansfield and Elizabeth Ortiger, Gerald James Ortiger, who died in his late teens. What follows is brief account for the other children of Stansfield and Elizabeth, the child of Frederick and Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's step daughter Honor Ridley.



Notes

¹ Ortiger Family Tree; FMP Army Returns – Births 1881-1885- give her birth place as Peshawar station; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948, Births and Baptisms 1786-1947.

² I have referred to the rootsweb family tree prepared by Michael Collier, a descendent of Frederick Charles and Elizabeth Ridley, formerly Hynds (née Ortiger), for much of the information on the Hynds/Ridley families; IGI Record Batch No C750289 1882-1883; FMP Army Returns – Marriages 1881-1885; IGI Genealogical Index/Asia; FMP Army Returns – Births 1886-1890; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948; India Office Family History Search N/1/287 f.109; the death record for Marie cites her father as a Cdctr, Ord-Dept whereas the certified copy of Death Certificate of Elizabeth Ridley (née Hynds) 1950/028613 records her father as being an army Captain.

³ For the possible date of arrival, refer to section on James Hynds, junior, with respect to his death certificate. Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954; the Tasmanian electoral rolls include a number of Hynds families living on the island (perhaps related) - an item from The Mercury (Hobart) for Tuesday May 14 May 1912 reports on the Geeveston 8th annual fruit produce and flower show, promoted by the Roman Catholics of Geeveston, and among the multiple prizewinners, and particularly in the needlework section, were the Misses E and M Hynds.

⁴ The Mercury (Hobart, Tas.) Wednesday 5 June 1918, page 5.

⁵ For example, The Mercury of 1 December 1914; service records for Edward and James Hynds sourced from the AIF Project www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8080/intex.html.

⁶ Refer to accounts of his daughter Elizabeth and her husband and family arriving in Australia in 1935.

⁷ Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; Indian Army Quarterly List for 1 January 1912; Free BMD Birth Index 1837-1915; Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954; they possibly migrated to Australia at the same time as Ellen's parents.

⁸ World War 1 service record NAA: B2444, Richardson Isaac Wilson, Mapping our Anzacs: :Philip Maher Richardson service record, www.w2roll.gov.au ; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 10077/1955, 10363/1958.

⁹ NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 7849/1938, 21666/1950; WW2 Nominal Roll; Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association; www.catholiccemeteries.org.au – Block G Grave 1, Block D Grave 39.

¹⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 18109/1976; www.catholiccemeteries.org.au - Block H, Grave 53.

¹¹ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947, Marriages 1792-1948; FIBIS Index of Ecclesiastical Returns and The Times of India Marriages 1863, Chloe Cammiade was more than likely a member of the merchant family of that name of Madras.

¹² NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 10073/1925; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 14005/1902; Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 6 May 1935, page 6; Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954; www.w2roll.gov.au; page 4 of the Sydney Morning Herald of 14 August 1929 carried an item titled 'Naval Man Bound Over' and read as follows: 'Edward Hynds, chief petty officer on board H.M.A.S. Platypus, was charged at the Kogarah Court with having assaulted his wife, Phyllis Hynds, at Hurstville on August 4. He was ordered to enter into a recognizance to be of good behaviour for six months. The complainant stated that defendant told her that he was going away, and asked her to give him all the money that she had. When she refused he punched her on the face. Defendant said that when he told his wife he was going away she assaulted him with a broom, and he retaliated by punching her'. NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 12888/1962; www.catholiccemeteries.org.au, Block M Grave 47.

¹³ Family Search Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954; Victoria Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages; Australia Birth Index 1788-1922; Australia Death Index 1787-1985; Australian Cemetery Index 1808-2007, compiled by the Cairns and District Family History Society Inc.

¹⁴ Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948; Michael Collier family tree; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948; no date is given Frederick Charles Ridley's first marriage and nothing further has been found for Millicent Bradshaw; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; I have located an India Office Family History Search marriage record for 1906-1911 at Bangalore between Frederick C Ridley and Adelaide Pateman Z/N/11/11/f.644, which needs to be followed up. I have also found an India Death and Burial record for a Hanna Millicent Ridley, died at Agra on 21st November 1919 at the age of 35. However the record has the spouse as T. C. Ridley. A further Death and Burial record, but with no father's name stated is for a baby girl, Hannah Millicent Ridley, who was born in 1914 and died/buried on 4th August of that year.

¹⁵ FreeBMD Birth Index 1837-1915; London, England Births and Baptisms 1813-1906; London, England, Marriages and Banns 1754-1921; RG11/1392/89/pp51-52; RG12/1086/25/p44; FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1915; RG13/1665/88/4; note – Frederick's age is incorrect – he would have been 21 for the 1901 census.

¹⁶ Michael Collier family tree.

¹⁷ Article in Melbourne Newspaper 1935, sourced by Michael Collier; note the ages given for the daughters are not correct, with particular reference to those given for Marie, who would have been 17, Cynthia 14 and Honor Ridley 11; the Ridley family's arrival in Sydney was also recorded in an article in a Sydney newspaper, the caption for which incorrectly stated that the infant in the care of Iris was killed.

¹⁸ Sydney Morning Herald, Friday 9 August 1938, page 11.

¹⁹ The Melbourne account regarding the fate of the daughters does not tally with the Sydney account. It may be of note that Marie had no children of her own.

²⁰ Refer to section in this Ortiger account on Enid Mary Florence Ortiger.

²¹ www.wv2roll.gov.au/.

²² Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1954.

²³ NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 28613/1950; certified copy of Death Certificate.

²⁴ www.catholiccemeteries.org.au, Block M Grave 47, Block Section Grave 181.

²⁵ NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 19807/1957; certified copy of Death Certificate; an earlier record, the first marriage of his daughter Honor, shows that in 1939 Frederick was a poulterer. By the time of her second marriage, her father was employed as a caretaker.