

From: Lithgow City Council
Sent: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 10:49:35 +1100
To: Technology One Connect
Subject: FW: Possible acquisition of World War Two Artillery Gun
Attachments: BROOKS Is there a link.docx, BROOKS Teddy plaque.jpg

#ECMBODY

Amy Tamasauskas | Records officer
Records | [Lithgow City Council](#)
Phone: (02) 6354 9999 | Fax: (02) 6351 4259

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 8 March 2021 10:42 AM
To: [REDACTED]
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Subject: Possible acquisition of World War Two Artillery Gun

Matthew

Please find attached a story about two Lithgow born brothers who served in Anti Aircraft units in WWII.

While the link between the two brothers and this particular gun is tenuous from the details supplied in the article printed in the Village Voice, it may be possible that ADF has further information that might be worth further investigation.

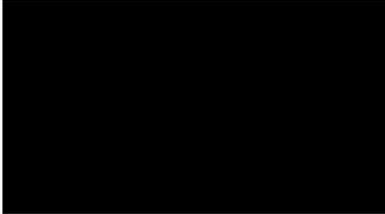
The Society would be very interested in the gun being acquired if we can make a link between it and any WWII soldiers from this area who used these types of guns.

Regards

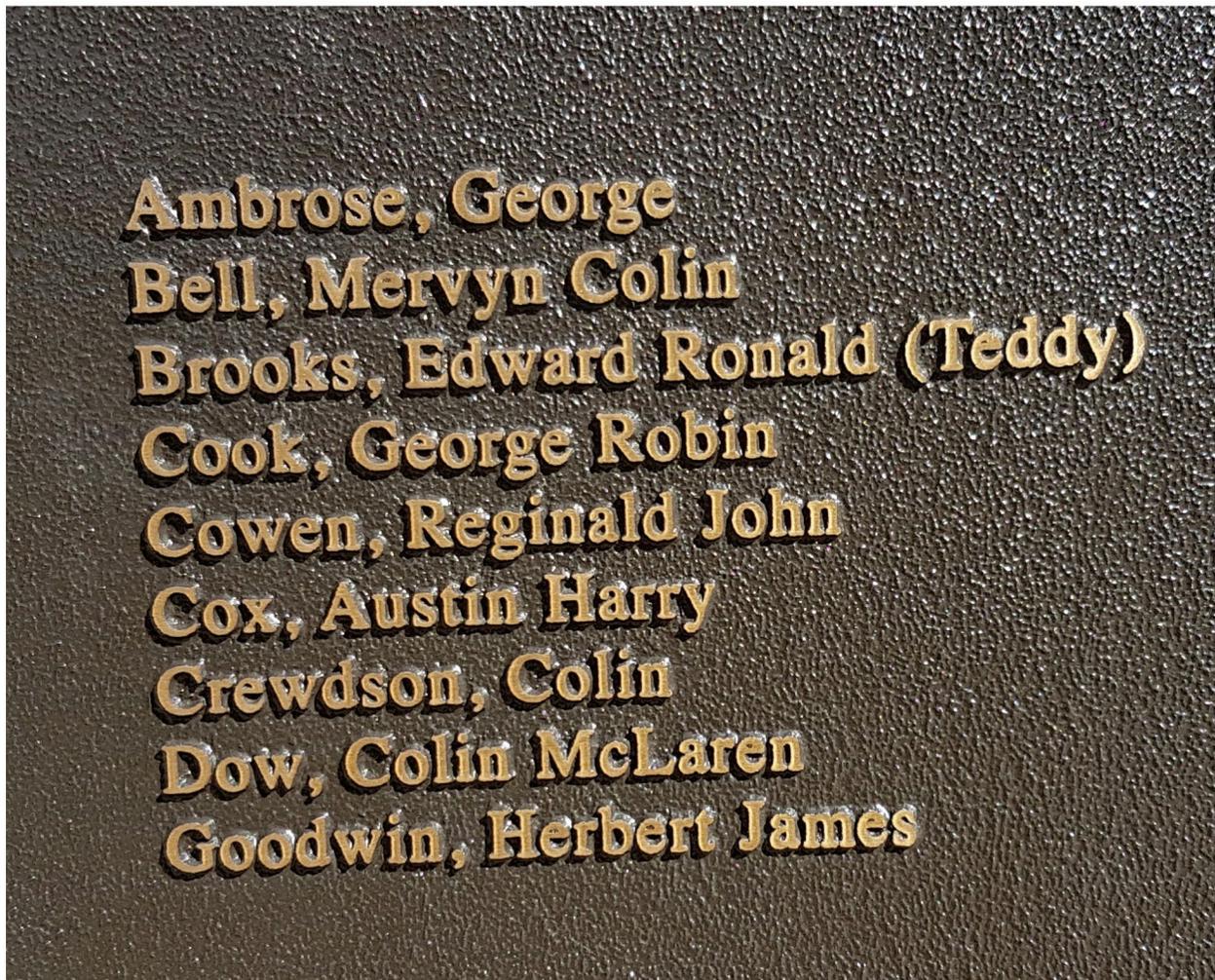
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Lithgow & District Family History Society.

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WW2 ARTILLERY GUN – IS THERE A LINK TO THE BROOKS BROTHERS?

The proposal to acquire a surplus anti-aircraft gun from the Australian Defence Force is of interest, as in the lead up to the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War 2 in 2020, the Lithgow & District Family History Society researched two brothers who served in the Middle East.

James and Amy Hannah (nee Ingle) Brooks were living at 34 Laidley Street Lithgow when their 22-year-old son James Alfred enlisted on 5 August 1940. James' younger brother, 21-year-old Edward Ronald enlisted on 25 July 1941.

Little is known of James Brooks' military service. On 18th April 1942 James married Lithgow born Marion Thelma May Fletcher, daughter of Charles W Fletcher and his wife Ethel Eliza Simpson, at St Michael's Church Wollongong. James' occupation was listed as soldier.

The World War II nominal roll records that Gunner James Alfred Brooks N130415 was discharged on 28 December 1944 and his most recent posting was with the 7th Australian Field (Artillery) Regiment, which at the time was serving at El Alamein.

Edward Ronald Brooks, known as Ted to his family and friends, was working in Wollongong at the time of his enlistment. After four months of training at Cowra and Ingleburn, N45929 Gunner Edward Ronald Brooks embarked at Sydney for the Middle East in November 1941. He was allocated to the 4th Australian Anti-Aircraft Field (Artillery) Regiment on 30 January 1942.

At that time the Eighth Army, comprising troops from Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Australia's 9th Division, including 4th & 7th A.A. Regiments, was being pursued by Rommel and withdrew to the little railway station in the Western desert called El Alamein, this being thought the best position to defend

Rommel's access to Alexandria, Cairo and the Suez Canal.

The 9th Division were deployed to Tell el Eisa, a low-lying hill west of the El Alamein 'box' (one of several localities with dug outs and surrounded by minefields and barbed wire). From here the Australians could threaten Rommel's line of communication along the coast. Rommel's attempts to counterattack were thwarted by constant artillery support from the South Africans. During the main attack on 10 July, the South Africans protected the 9th Division's southern flank and retarded Rommel's efforts during the next two days to dislodge them from Tell el Eisa.

Gunner Edward Ronald Brooks NX39854 died of wounds received in battle on 11 July 1942 and was buried in El Alamein Box Cemetery.

Ted's parents received news of the death of their 22-year-old son before the end of July. Twelve months later they moved to Wollongong when Ted's father retired from working in the State Coal Mine.

When peace was declared in 1945, Ted's brother, Reginald, younger sister Mavis and her husband Eric Weekes, and brother James and his wife Marion were living in Lithgow. James Alfred Brooks died on 28 February 1981.

Without knowing more detail about the history of the gun itself, the link is tenuous and there is no confirmation that either Edward Thomas or James Alfred Brooks used the surplus artillery gun that has been offered to Lithgow City Council by the Australian Defence Force.

Submitted



Lithgow & District Family History Society

Photo Caption: Details of plaque placed in the War Memorial precinct in Queen Elizabeth Park in memory of those who gave their lives during World War II.

Ambrose, George
Bell, Mervyn Colin
Brooks, Edward Ronald (Teddy)
Cook, George Robin
Cowen, Reginald John
Cox, Austin Harry
Crewdson, Colin
Dow, Colin McLaren
Goodwin, Herbert James