

## **OBITUARY**

### **Thomas Walker Hodgson 30/11/1930 - 13/02/2007**

Tom was born in the Scotland road area of Liverpool, into a household that already held 19 brothers and sisters! And the odd cousin or two, Tom said "the Corned beef Sarnies used to run out before they got down to me".

He did say that he had a happy childhood growing up in those crowded streets but he always wanted to go to sea not so much for a career but a gateway to a new life. Being in a 4 berth cabin and having three meals a day was a luxury to him he said.

Nevertheless he was always inordinately proud of his family and up to the end he took pleasure in being able to recite all his siblings names in chronological order.



Tom went of to join the Vindi and start his great escape in January of 1948.

Tom was ever a very practical man and used each event in his life to the best advantage that he could for himself and later his family.

This doctrine was evident in his sea time, ships plied the sea just to take Tom where he wanted to be and that place was Australia after his first taste of it in 1949.

#### ***Tom & Gloria –Tanunda 2005***

After just 2 years at sea Tom made the life changing decision to jump ship in Sydney. Picked up by the Police shortly afterwards who told him, 'get away from Sydney, keep your nose clean for a year then apply to stay', good advice that Tom took. He went to Melbourne got a job and a year later presented himself at the Dept of immigration there and became the proud owner of letter from the Commonwealth of Australia saying that the Dept of immigration had no objection to him residing in Australia.

In 1951 armed with this letter Tom settled down to a steady job on the Australian ships . Until he made another "Life changing" decision in 1958 when on a train travelling from Sydney to Port Kembla to rejoin a ship he spied this very pretty young lady and never being of a faint heart he sat facing her on a wet seat next to a broken window that was letting the pouring rain in just to talk to her, insisting all the time that it was just fine sitting there. Gloria, the pretty young lady liked the look of Tom, but as Tom had to sail on his ship that day, thought it was but a "Brief Encounter"

Three months later Tom turned up at Gloria's work place in Lithgow bearing gifts and determination. They were married in Sydney in 1961.

When Tom left the sea he took on an amazing challenge, by taking a stevedore's job with Patricks at Port Kembla docks, a 'Stevedore' is responsible for getting as much work as possible out of the Wharfies and turning the ship around as fast as possible, so you see why it was a challenge!

That Tom was good at it and even survived it in those turbulent years of Australia's industrial history into a happy retirement says a great deal about him.

He had a great sense of right & wrong and would not be swerved from it, ever.

He had a full and colourful Liverpoolian vocabulary but with it went a wonderful sense of humour.

He was in essence a product of his birth place, a typical 'Scouser' who knows where everything is in this world and which parts of it are HIS.

Our deepest sympathies to Gloria, sons Thomas, Sam, Timothy and their families.