

**Mid-Upper Gunner RAAF Flight Sergeant Harvey Porter died near Lyne on 12 March 1945 and is buried at Engländergraven near Tarm, western Jutland, Denmark**

**70th anniversary of the shooting down of RAF Lancaster ME449**

**Speech by Karen Rice**  
**representative of the Harvey Porter family**

**Bechs Hotel, Tarm, Denmark**  
**12 March 2015**

My name is Karen Rice. I am Harvey Porter's first cousin once removed<sup>1</sup>. I'm here from Australia with my husband Ken and two of my three sons, Mitchell and Jarred. My Dad Dennis Anlezark and Harvey Porter were cousins. My grandmother Peg Anlezark and Harvey's mother Stella Porter were sisters.

My Dad grew up on the same street in Five Dock, Sydney, Australia as his cousins Raymond and Harvey Porter. My grandparents Maurice and Peg and Harvey's parents Stella and Jim had both purchased a block of land in Clements Street, four doors apart, without each other knowing at the time.

Raymond and Harvey were like brothers to my Dad. They would take my Dad to the movies on a Saturday. My Dad joined the Air League as that was the closest thing to the Air Force for a young teenage boy.

In March 1945 there was a knock on the door of 82 Clements Street, Five Dock. Nobody was home. They then went next door to the Stone's house who sent them up the road to my grandparents' house at 74 Clements Street, where my grandmother received the telegram saying that Harvey was missing in action. My grandmother then asked my Dad, who was almost 15 years old at the time, to meet his aunt at the bus stop and bring her back to their house.

My grandmother Peg then had to break the news to her sister Stella that Harvey was missing presumed dead. Stella had already lost her oldest son Raymond in October 1943 in a plane crash in Canada returning from a training mission. He was on loan with the Canadian Air Force.



**Karen Rice**  
cousin of Harvey Porter  
*Photo by Dan Michener*

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<sup>1</sup> *Karen Rice – daughter of Fay and Dennis Anlezark  
Dennis Anlezark – son of Peg and Maurice Anlezark, nephew of Stella and Jim Porter, cousin of Harvey Porter  
Harvey Porter – son of Stella and Jim Porter, brother of Raymond Porter*

Stella wrote the following in a book she kept: "On this night of 12:3:45 God touched my baby's hand, and gently led him to his heavenly home. My very heart and soul died also. Only my frame exist[s] to live hell on this earth. Ray-Ha, and Cookie<sup>2</sup> re-united in Heaven"

On losing both sons in the war, Harvey's father Jimmy suffered a mental breakdown and was later institutionalised. Stella lost her ability to walk from the shock. My grandparents used to walk her in the sand on the beach at Narrabeen to help get her legs working again.

When I was born, Stella asked Mum and Dad if I could call her "Narnie". That to Stella was like being called Nan<sup>3</sup>. My Dad always called her Aunt. Dad and I became like son and granddaughter to her.

My memory of Harvey was a large picture frame my grandparents had hanging in their lounge room. It had three individual photos of Raymond and Harvey in their Air Force uniforms and my Dad in his Air League uniform.

Stella never talked much about her boys and husband Jim. I guess that was her way of coping. She loved Dad and me dearly. She did however love to hear people talk to her and tell her all about what they had been doing.

The only photos of Raymond and Harvey that Stella had were in an envelope in her writing desk. She asked my Dad that when she died would he have that envelope buried with her, which Dad did.

Stella became good friends with Harvey's fellow airman Mervyn Bertie. She would visit the Berties in Orange and they would visit her in Five Dock. In later years Stella would visit their daughter Sue Wescott and her family.

As fate turns out, when my eldest son Brendan came home from school at the beginning of year two he had a relief teacher called Mrs. Westcott. When my Mum heard the name and said "I know a Mrs. Westcott. Ask her if her name is Sue." I did and it was. It was Mervyn Bertie's daughter Sue. Mitchell and Jarred then also had Sue as a relief teacher.

Through Sue and Warren Westcott I was able to show my Dad photos of Harvey's resting place in Tarm before he passed away two years ago. He would have loved to have been here today.

On behalf of my family, especially Stella and my Dad Dennis, thank you to the town of Tarm for looking after Harvey over the last 70 years and keeping his memory alive. To Knud Raunkjær's family, it is comforting to know that you pulled Harvey out of the wreckage of the Lancaster plane and that he wasn't alone at the end.

Stella would be so proud of how well Harvey has been looked after for all these years.

Thank you Gail Michener for all your organisation and information you have provided us. And thank you to everyone else who has been involved in organising this event.

*See Postscript on next page.*

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<sup>2</sup> Ray-Ha refers to brothers Raymond and Harvey Porter; Cookie refers to Walter Cook, an Australian airman friend, who had been killed on operations a year earlier on 12 March 1944 at age 22 years.

<sup>3</sup> Nan is a common nickname given to a person's grandmother.

***Postscript:*** I would like to thank the following two people whom I met at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial on 12 March 1945.

Firstly, Hugo Nielsen who also helped in taking the boys out of the plane wreckage and transporting them to the hospital in Tarm.

Secondly, to Inger Nielsen<sup>4</sup> whose touching account of the night she prepared Harvey for burial was given to our family at the memorial. Inger showed me the photo of Harvey in a small silver picture frame that she carries around with her. It was a very moving experience.



*Harvey James Porter's ID photo found on his body after the crash of ME449.  
Photo framed and kept safe by Inger Nielsen (nee Jensen).*



*Ken, Jarred, Mitchell, and Karen Rice with Inger Nielsen*

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<sup>4</sup> *Inger Nielsen (nee Jensen) was a trainee nurse on duty at the Tarm hospital when the bodies of Harvey Porter and Donald Morris were brought to the mortuary and prepared for burial.*