



Major A.W. BOOTH MM

[19xx – 1999]

Research has not revealed an image of Major Booth.

Major Booth was the Secretary of the Club from 1953 to 1956

Arthur William Booth was born in the United Kingdom in the early 20th century. Details of his origins and family have not been uncovered.

He had no military service prior to the Second World War when he joined the Royal Armoured Corps (#5496801). In mid-1943 he was a Lance-Sergeant in the Sherman tank equipped 9th Queens Royal Lancers in the North African Campaign. He may have taken part in the First Battle of El Alamein and Ruweisat Ridge in July 1942 – which turned the tide of Rommel's advance on Egypt. The Second Armoured Brigade and his regiment were heavily involved.

In April 1943 between Goubaillet and Bou Arrada he was engaged in serious action in the final stages of the Tunisian Campaign. His tank was disabled, then repaired by the crew. He then rescued a soldier from a burning tank under enemy fire, and remained in the area to direct effective artillery fire showing "... a complete disregard for his own personal safety...". He received the Military Medal as an Immediate Award by the Commander-in-Chief Middle East General Wilson.

After North Africa the regiment served in Italy until the end of the War. His service and promotion to Major are not known.

The circumstances of Arthur coming to Brisbane are not known.

The April 1952 meeting of the Club Committee appointed Major A W Booth as secretary, to succeed the retiring Flight Lieutenant J B Riddall. Booth was invited to live in the Club; the accommodation charge was £2/5/- a week. Later, his salary was fixed at £1200 a year. By comparison, a four-ounce glass of beer was sixpence and a seven-ounce glass eightpence halfpenny.

Arthur married Margaret Mary (no other details of her are known) at about the time he resigned as Club Secretary in 1956. They lived at Chermside, and he was described as a "Manager".

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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