



Captain J.T. YATES

[1914 – 2002]



Captain Yates was President of the Club 1962-63

James Thomas Yates was born on 7 July 1914 at Brisbane, the son of William John Yates [1881-1960] and Isabella (née Elder). He had two siblings – William John (b.1903) and Isabella Donald (b.1905)

On 16 December 1939 he married Alice Joan (née Hooper) [1916-2012] at St. John's Cathedral, Brisbane. The family lived in Paddington in the 1950s and 1960s, and then at Moorooka. They had one son - James David Elder, who became a bank officer and lived at one time in Rockhampton and Brisbane.

Yates enlisted in the Army on 6 October 1941 at the Exhibition Grounds in Brisbane and was allotted to the Armoured Corps (QX23987). He undertook his recruit training at Greta in the Hunter Valley, NSW and then, in 5 Armoured Regiment, was promoted Lance Corporal, and then Corporal in December on posting to Tamworth, NSW. Throughout 1942 he served with 5 Armoured Regiment and attended AFV courses in Victoria and was promoted to Acting Sergeant.

In mid-1943 he attended OCTU in Victoria and was commissioned and allotted to Armoured Corps in September 1943. In March 1944 he was posted for regimental duties to 2/7 Armoured Regiment

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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in Western Australia. In October 1944 he was posted to 3 Australian Movement Control Group in NSW. From that time, he was engaged in movement control duties.

After the cessation of hostilities, he served in the Occupation Forces at Morotai, and then at Kure in Japan from January 1946. His voluntary service continued with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. He discharged on 14 February 1947 as a Lieutenant - his last unit was HQ British Commonwealth Movement Control Group.

Records are not available, however it is presumed that Yates continued to serve in the Citizen Military Forces after his demobilisation, resulting in his promotion to Captain around 1950.

Prior to his enlistment he was an advertising representative. After the war he was engaged in the motor trade. He was an executive at Eagers Holdings Limited for many years.

The then Lieutenant Yates joined the Club in 1945. He joined the Committee in 1949 (as Lt Yates; he was Captain by 1951). He was Joint Vice President 1958-61, and elected President 1962-63. He served as Immediate Past President 1964-65.

Life Member Murray Adams recalls that Captain Yates was a stickler for correct procedures and democracy.

Captain Yates died on 13 October 2002 in Newmarket, Brisbane.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- NAA Service Records