



MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W. & A.C.T.

Paper No. 157

Bro. Charles Taylor NOBLE

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Charles Taylor Noble was born in Wollongong on the 2 February 1899 to Charles & Mary Noble, He was educated in Wollongong on leaving school became a telegram delivery boy. In due cause he studied Telegraph Communications (Morse Code) becoming a qualified Telegraph Operator for the PMG

On the 2 February 1915 he joined the Royal Australian Navy as a 'Boy Seaman' 2nd class After his basic training at HMAS Tingara, in October 1915 was graded as 'Boy 1st Class' On 20 November 1915 he was transferred to London where he joined the crew of HMAS Sydney (1) a Light Cruiser serving in naval operations in Scapa Flow, West Indies and North America.

On 3 March 1916 he was made Able Seaman, 3rd March 1916 made Leading Seaman. He remained with HMAS Sydney returning to Australia on 5 April 1919. In 1921 he was promoted to the rank of Regulating Petty Officer, being discharged on 7 March 1924 He remain on the Navy's Fleet Reserve.

After leaving the Navy on the 10 March 1924 he joined the NSW Police Dept Commencing his probationary training at Newtown Police Station as a foot Constable.

On 6 May 1926 he was transferred to the Newcastle Water Police patrolling the harbors and coastline. During the next 9 years he was involved in the flood rescue operations in the Maitland area.

For his actions in the heavy floods on 18/19 June 1930 he rescued numerous stranded families. Constable Noble, whilst operating a flood boat in Rescue duties displayed an exceptional act of bravery in saving the Randal family, he was awarded the Royal Shipwreck and Humane Societies Bronze Medal for Brave Conduct.

In 1935 he returned to the Sydney Water Police Operations to continue his own studies and performed duties as a training officer and teacher in flood boat rescue. He was the holder of the Life Saving Bronze Medal and First Aid Bronze Medal.

In 1936 he passed the examinations and was granted his Harbor Masters Certificate. Charles Noble was now a Senior Constable and recognized as an authority in boating and navigation regulations and procedures.

From 1924 to 1941 he was active in the Royal Auxillary Fleet Reserve. On 8 April 1941 he was recalled to active service as a regulating Petty Officer and after a short gunnery training course joined the crew of HMAS Sydney (2) performing duties in Regulating and Gun Captain. He was performing those duties when HMAS Sydney went into action against the German raider 'Kormoran'. In the Indian Ocean, both ships were sunk, Sydney with all hands lost in action.

Regulating Petty Officer Charles Taylor NOBLE was awarded the British War Medal 1914-1918 War Medal 1939-1945 and Australian Service Medal 1939-1945

Charles Noble¹ on the 4 March 1919 Married 'Elizabeth' at Bondi. They resided at several locations at Kingsford, Marrickville, Gladesville and Petersham.

Masonic history

Charles NOBLE was initiated into Lodge Fidelity No 163 located at Newcastle 10-7-1930
He was passed on 14-8-1930 and raised on 11-9-1930 G.L. Certificate 115872

Bibliography:

Mostly Unsung Military History
Veterans Affairs
NSW Police Archives
GL Records