

Andrew Ian Keith - Lieutenant - HMAS SYDNEY 2

Date of Birth: 2 September 1908

Place of Birth: Sydney

Andrew generally known as Ian was born to Donald & Annie Keith on the date shown above. His father was born in Scotland on the Isle of Jura where he grew up. His mother was also born in Scotland. Donald was a Master Mariner in the Merchant Navy with his last employment being with the Australian shipping company the North Coast Navigation Steamship Company where he was Master of the company's vessel "SS Macleay" engaged in the NSW north coast trade. The vessel grounded near Broughton Island north of Newcastle on 12 October 1911 with the loss of fifteen of the seventeen crew members. At the time he was 38 years of age.

Ian was born in Sydney and spent his early days living on a farm at Tomago just north of Newcastle NSW where he was elder of three siblings, William his brother and Heather his sister. After completing his schooling he followed in his fathers footsteps by joining the Merchant Navy as a Deck Boy shipping out of Newcastle on his first ship on 15 November 1923. As with his father he progressed through the foc'sle as Ordinary Seaman and Able Seaman whilst studying for his Deck Officers Certificates. He duly was successful in studying for and obtaining his 2nd Mates, 1st Mates Certificates and passing his Masters exam he was granted his Masters Foreign Going Certificate on 16 March 1938. He was employed by the Adelaide Steamship Company on the vessel "Allunga" prior to entering the Royal Australian Navy through the RANR.

His RAN service commenced on 20 July 1940 as probationary Temporary Lieutenant. He was confirmed in rank of Temporary Lieutenant RANR(S) on 20 July 1940 and was appointed to HMAS Cerberus on 10 August 1940 where he served until 7 April 1941. He was appointed to HMAS Sydney on 8 April 1941 as Lieutenant RANR(S) where he remained until the vessel was lost. His record of service is endorsed presumed lost SYDNEY 20/11/41.

