SEDUNARY, Edgar Geoffrey (RAN PA3482)



Image 1 © *Collection of the late Geoff Sednuary.*
Studio portrait circa 1943
Geoff was 18 years of age at the time this photograph

Name	**SEDUNARY, Edgar Geoffrey Telegraphist**
Service Number	PA3482
Date of Birth	13th December 1924
Died	22nd March 2015
Place of Birth	Victor Harbor SA
Resident	Victor Harbor SA
Cemetery	Centennial Park

Edgar Geoffrey Sedunary was born at Victor Harbor on 13 December 1924, the younger of two children of Alfred Lyall (SN 62600/S152-SGT AIF) and Caroline Agnes Sedunary (nee Cakebread). Geoff's father Alfred served with the Army in both World Wars. His older brother, Flight Lieutenant Alan Joseph Lyall Sedunary DFC, (SN 416619 RAAF) was killed piloting a Stirling heavy bomber aircraft over Berlin on 24 August 1943.

Geoff, as he was known, completed his education at the Victor Harbour primary and high schools and on leaving school he commenced employment with the Post Master General's Department at Victor Harbor.

At just over 18 years of age, Geoff enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve on 5 January 1943 to begin his recruitment, and later trained as a wireless telegraphist at HMAS Cerberus, in Victoria.

Telegraphists were communication sailors who sent and received signals by radio using Morse code or by voice, whereas a naval signalman used flashing lights, semaphores or hoists of flags. Competent telegraphists could send and receive Morse code at the rate of 30 words of plain language per minute. During wartime the "standard rate" was about 20 words per minute as war time signals were encrypted using secret codes. These coded messages were a jumble of numbers and letters arranged in groups of five. Sending and receiving encrypted signals required extreme concentration by telegraphists as they mentally translated the apparently meaningless stream of characters into and out of Morse codes.

During World War Two enlistment in the Naval Reserves were for the duration of the war plus 12 months.

On completion of his training in October 1943 while in Victoria, Geoff received his first posting. In November, he boarded the corvette HMAS Kapunda. It was to be the first of seven ships he was posted aboard. After being aboard for only five days, he was quickly sent ashore to the depot HMAS Lonsdale for five weeks in response to his father contacting the Minister of the Navy. His father was greatly concerned about his remaining son serving at sea so soon after his older brother Alan had been killed in action over Berlin.

In February 1944, Geoff was posted to the Sydney depot aboard the HMAS Rushcutter, then to Fairmile Motor Launch 807 for a week, which was part of the force maintaining the Harbour's anti-submarine boom, nets and patrols.

By late February 1944, he was in Brisbane where he briefly joined ML 808, one of two Fairmiles stationed there to patrol for and detect enemy submarines in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. In mid-March, Geoff was posted again this time to the converted trawler minesweeper Tongkol for three weeks before returning to the depot HMAS Moreton.

On 19 April 1944, Geoff joined Fairmile (B Class) ML 827 in Brisbane on the day it was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy under the command of Lieutenant Commander Inman RANVR.

Lieutenant Ian Downs RANVR assumed command on the vessel on 8 May 1944. Having taken 12 months to be built in Brisbane, it was the last of the Fairmile Motor Launches commissioned in the RAN.

With a crew of 17, these wooden 34 metre long launches with two 650 HP petrol engines had a maximum speed of 20 knots but usually cruised at the more economical speed of 12 knots which gave a range of 1500 miles. These versatile small ships were used as convoy escorts, naval gunfire support, troop and stores carriers in enemy held waters, and uncharted coastal areas. The armament fitted varied among the 35 Fairmiles commissioned with ML 827 equipped with 40 mm bofors guns mounted fore and aft, supplemented by two twin .303 Vickers machine guns and 14 depth charges.

Geoff, was the ship's only telegraphist, and he maintained a radio listening watch between the times of 10:00-12:00hrs, 14:00-16:00hrs, 18:00-20:00, and 22:00-24:00hrs daily; or when the ship was at action stations he manned the radio constantly. These "slots" were the standard times allotted to all single operator ships. His wireless office was directly beneath the ship's bridge with a voice pipe between the two for passing verbal messages. He also cared for the ship's chronometer checking the accuracy of its time against the daily noon time signal from Greenwich England. An accurate chronometer is an essential instrument when the ship's position is being determined by astro navigation.

When ML 827 was at sea, the ship's company split into two watches continuously working four hours on and four hours off. Only when anchored or in harbour, could the onerous and tiring two-watch system, be relaxed to provide more rest.

During October 1944, ML 827 was attached to the Australian Army's 5th Division for general duties at New Britain where it escorted barges to Arawe and Jacquinot Bay. Geoff's time on ML 827 was cut short when it was lost after running aground in Rondahl Harbour east of Waterfall Bay on 17 November. Three days later, severely damaged, the vessel was re-floated. On the night of 20 November, while being towed, a mishap occurred. While uncoupling from the tug the ML 827 sank. No causalities were reported.

Geoff disembarked at Langemak Bay on 21 November 1944. He was heavily criticised for not destroying the ciphers. Geoff remarked that he was unable to reach the locked safe on board, as the

vessel had taken on water and then sunk. Following the incident, Geoff later remarked that safe positions on other Fairmiles, had changed and thus knowledge on his vessel of the safe position was not correct.

After spending December at Madang, he joined the converted minesweeper Orara on New Year's Day 1945 for a return passage to Sydney. Geoff took two weeks leave and returned to South Australian.

On 31 March 1945, Geoff joined the armed merchant cruiser HMAS Westralia. Its departure from Brisbane had been delayed by fire in its holds. This former Australian passenger liner had served as an armed merchant cruiser until mid 1943 when it was converted to a landing ship infantry.

Following training at Manus Island, Westralia became a member of the Allied Task Forces, which then made three amphibious landings on Borneo. The first landing on 1 May 1945 was at Tarakan Island with 120 ships engaged, it carried 1047 Army personnel and it towed a Landing Craft Tank (LCT).

On 10 June, Westralia conducted landings at Brunei, it was one of 85 ships in the assault group aided by 50 minesweeping and fire support ships. After a rehearsal at Morotai in late June, the final landing was made at Balikpapan on 1 July 1945. This was Australia's largest amphibious assault with an attack group of 98 ships. Westralia carried 970 Army personnel.

While the ship was at Balikpapan, Geoff met two other Victor Harbor men, Sidney Ronald Dawe (SN 115759 RAAF) who was serving with 2 Squadron RAAF, and Stirling Ashenden (SN SX13289 AIF), then serving with 2/27th Battalion. For the remainder of the war, the ship carried troops and stores to the Solomon Islands and Papua and New Guinea. After the cessation of hostilities and into 1946, the ship was busy returning service personnel to Australia.

Geoff came ashore in Sydney on 21 March 1946. He was demobilised on 11 July 1946, at HMAS Torrens (the Birkenhead Naval Depot). He was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-1945 and the Australian Service Medal 1939-1945.

Geoff rejoined the PMG Department, but soon after, he resigned as he was advised of an imminent transfer to Whyalla.

Wishing to stay in the Victor Harbor area, Geoff established a motor garage in 1946, and in 1949 was appointed as the Ford dealer for the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula area.

Geoff married Margaret Joyce Wallage and they had three children.

Their son Alan was named after Geoff's brother who had dies in battle over Germany in 1943. Geoff retired in 1969 after he sold his Ford dealership. He died on 22 March 2015.

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*Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team.*2009. Updated by M.Young 26/07/2026

Appendix

Hindmarsh, on November 3, at 7 p.m. SEATON —RAYMOND.—The mar-riage of Ella Joyce, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Seaton, of Nor-wood, to Bruce Maxwell, youngest son of Mrs. and the late Mr. O. Raymond, of Peterborough, will be solemnised at St. Paul's, Pulteney street, on November 5, at 6 p.m. Re-ception Lordello House, East Ter-race, Adelaide. SQUIRE —GLOYN. —The marriage of Margaret, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Squire, of Edwardstown, to William, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Gloyn, of Mitcham, will be solemnised at Edwardstown Church of Christ, on Thursday, November 3, at 7 p.m. TEAGUE—COOMBE.— The mar-riage of Marie, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Teague, of Ka-roonda, to Dean, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Coombe, of Peter-borough, will be solemnised at St. Peter's Church of England, Peter-borough, on November 4, at 7 p.m. THOMAN — GREENWOOD.—The marriage of Roma Jean, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Tho-man, of Whyalla, to Herbert Des-mond, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Greenwood, of Port Pirie, will be solemnised at the Peters Street Methodist Church, Whyalla, on Nov-ember 5, at 1 p.m. THOMPSON—PETHERICK. — The marriage of Heather, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Thompson, of Semaphore, to John Peters, only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Petherick, of Blackwood, will be solemnised at Semaphore Park Baptist Church, on Saturday, November 5, at 3 p.m. THORPE—DEWHIRST.—The mar-riage of Joan, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Thorpe, of Glenunga, to Maurice Dewhirst, of Tusmore, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Dewhirst, will be solemnised at Glenunga Methodist Church, on November 5, at 4 p.m. WALLAGE — SEDUNARY. — The marriage of Margaret Joyce, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Wal-lage, to Edgar Geoffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sedunary, both of Vic-tor Harbor, will be solemnised at the Newland Memorial Congregational Church, Victor Harbor, on Saturday, November 5, at 7 p.m. ENGAGEMENTS BAILLIE—BROWN.—The engage-ment is announced of Loris Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Baillie, of Glandore, to Lachlan, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Brown, of Glen Osmond. BEAUCHAMP—JOYNER.—The en-gagement is announced of Joyce, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. H. Beauchamp, Murray Bridge, to Bill, only son of Mr. and the late Mrs. W. Joyner, Mypolonga. BLENKIRON—DAY.—The engage-ment is announced of Loral G.. younger daughter of Mr. L. H. and the late Mrs. A. S. Blenkiron, of Mt. Barker, to Malcolm F. J., second son of Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Day, Lameroo. BREMNER — PAGE.—The engage-ment is announced of Gwenda June, younger daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. B. Bremner, of Torrensville, to Stanley Clifford, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Page, of St. Peters. CLARK —PASCOE.—The engage-ment is announced of Avis Margaret, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Clark, of Burra North, to Ronald Joseph, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Pascoe, Burra. EMMS—HUTCHESSON. —The en-gagement is announced of Noreen Fay, only child of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Emms, of Sandwell, to Colin William, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hutchesson, of Dockville. FURBER — GILES. — The engage-ment is announced of Dawn, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Fur-ber, of Unley, to Claude, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Giles, of Kent Town. GREEN —O'CONNOR.—The engage-ment is announced of Frances Juliet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Green, of Sixth avenue, Ascot Park, to Jobn Joseph, son of Mrs. E. and the late Mr. O'Connor, of County Cork, Eire. HAMPEL —HENDERSON—Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Hampel, of Pennington, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their eldest daugnter, Isabel Morva to Frank, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Henderson, of Albert Park. HAMS — CORNISH.—The engage-ment is announced of Margaret Joy, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Hams, of Clarence Park, to Benja-min John, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Cornish, of Wokurna. HERSEY—HODGINS.—The engage-ment is announced of Mavis Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hersey, of 16 Augusta st., Maylands, to George Patrick, elder son of Mrs. M. A. Hodgins and the late Mr. G. Hodgins, of Albany, West. Aust. JOHNSON—GROAT.—The engage-ment is announced of Rhonda, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. John-son, Queenstown, to Ronald, second son of Mrs. and the late Mr. A. Groat, of Edinburgh, Scotland. McCANN—McEACHEN. — Mr. and Mrs. P. C. McCann, of Flinders Park, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their second daughter, Josie, to Cyril, only son of Mrs. and the late Mr. T. P. McEachen, of Grange. McCLEMENT —VALE.—The engage-ment is announced of Mavis, young-est daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. McClement, of Clarence Gardens, to Geoffrey, fourth son of Mr. and the late Mrs. W. J. Vale, of Birmingham, England. MEANEY—HERRMANN.—The en-gagement is announced of Aileen Thelma, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Meaney, Fire Station, Ade-laide, to Walter Stanley, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. A. Herrmann, of Woods Flat, via Blanchetown.

Heroes Of The Empire FOREMAN.—In loving memory of my dear brother. Bob. died N.G.. Oc . tober 30. 1943. - Six years today he passed away. I But still 1 miss him. I trill always. [—Ever remembered by his sister Vio ' let. FOREMAN.—In loving memory of ti?ob. died N.G.. October 30. 1943. My . I heart is sad when I think of that 'ibered always uy'rian. WDB * renlem HERASINGH. Pte. Herasingh Stan .' lev.—In loving memory of our brother.—Inserted by Einda Esther and family. HERASINGH.. Pte. Herasingh Stanley —In loving memory of our brother. —Inserted by Bish. Daph. and Beat. HERASINGH.. —In loving memory



Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 29 October 1949, page 22

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

MARRIAGES

BIRTHDAYS

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

PEARL WEDDINGS

SILVER WEDDINGS

Approaching Marriages

Approaching Marriages

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36694795

Image 2 & 3 *© trove.nla.gov.au 2026. Transcript of the newspaper article announcing Geoff's wedding .*

Deferred Pay Card No. 48778

1921 TO 1925 INC.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL RESERVE.

RECORD OF MOBILIZED SERVICE.

NAME (in full) SEDUNARY, Edgar Geoffrey — OFFICIAL NUMBER PA/3482

Date of Birth 13 December 1924 — Place of Birth Victor Harbor S.A. — Religion Congregational — Home Port or Port Division Pt. Adelaide

Next of Kin (relationship and address) Father - Alfred Gall, Nurses St. Victor Harbour S.A. address on Des 109.27328 4/46

Entered in Ledger List No. Cerberus 5/14769

Initials of Certifying Officer

The above-named member has been mobilized for service by proclamation. He reported for duty on 5 January 1943

~~Boatsr~~ Rating Ord Seaman C.B W/T — Seniority 5 January 1943

Specialist Qualifications or Non-substantive Rating

Service to which allocated on Mobilization Cerberus

Date 5 January 1943 — Signature and Rank of C.O. A Greening

The above-named member has been medically examined and is fit for service.

DESCRIPTION OF MEMBER.

Height. Ft.	Height. Ins.	Colour of Hair.	Colour of Eyes.	Colour of Complexion.	Marks, Wounds, and Scars.
5	8¾	Dark	Brown	Freckled	Appendix Scar

Date 5 January 1943 — Signature and Rank of Medical Officer. R. J. Rather

Signature of Member. Edgar Geoffrey Sedunary — Date 5 January 1943

EXAMINATIONS AND NOTATIONS SUBSEQUENT TO MOBILIZATION.

Date.	Particulars.
21 Jan 43	P.P.T. (Gain) Cerberus 161-2-5-46 Z.D
13 Oct 43	Passed Ord Sea (78.1% 72.8%) LOA 2.05
19 Oct 44	Passed Tely (82.1% 72.8%) Seq 1/44

Date.	Particulars.
- 5 AUG 1946	Deferred Pay Paid

WAR GRATUITY CLAIM No. 28528 AMOUNT £110-5-0 INITIALS WB. KB

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT (Inclusive dates).

From.	To.	From.	To.

TIME FORFEITED.

Date.	No. of Days.	P., C., C.P., W.T., or D.	Date.	No. of Days.	P., C., C.P., W.T., or D.

GOOD CONDUCT BADGES.

Date.	1st, 2nd, or 3rd.	Granted, Deprived, or Restored.	Date.	1st, 2nd, or 3rd.	Granted, Deprived, or Restored.
5.1.46	1st	Granted Australia			

Wounds received in Action, Hurt Certificate granted, Meritorious Service, Special Recommendations, &c.

Date.	Particulars.

Paid £2 - - in Lieu of 30 Days Re-estab. Leave

Paid £16 11 7 in Lieu of 23 Days Accrued Ry. S. Leave—Account No. ..... Dated .....

No H.S. Leave Due.

Sum of £1-12-10 being value of items clothing etc. refunded after discharge to be paid with W.S.L. Pay

National Archives of Australia NAA: A6770, SEDUNARY E G

Image 4 & 5 © naa.gov.au 2026
Naval records of service

Name SEDUNARY, Edgar Geoffrey — Official Number PA/3482

Name of Ship or Depot.	Rank or Rating.	From.	To.
Cerberus	Ord Sea W/T	5.1.43	12.10.43
"	"	13.10.43	14.10.43
Lonsdale	"	15.10.43	23.10.43
KOPUNDA	"	24.11.43	28.11.43
Lonsdale	"	29.11.43	4.1.44
"	Telegraphist	5.1.44	10.2.44
Penguin	"	11.2.44	13.2.44
Rushcutter	"	14.2.44	14.2.44
M.L.807	"	15.2.44	21.2.44
Rushcutter	"	22.2.44	23.2.44
Moreton	"	24.2.44	28.2.44
M.L.808.	"	29.2.44	7.3.44
Moreton	"	8.3.44	14.3.44
TONGKOL	"	15.3.44	3.4.44
Moreton	"	4.4.44	18.4.44
M.L.827.	"	19.4.44	21.11.44
Kangemak	"	22.11.44	23.11.44
Madang	"	24.11.44	31.12.44
ORARA	"	1.1.45	19.1.45
Rushcutter	"	20.1.45	15.2.45
Lorgnon	"	16.2.45	19.2.45
Rushcutter	"	20.2.45	5.3.45
Penguin	"	6.3.45	29.3.45
Moreton	"	30.3.45	30.3.45
WESTRALIA	"	31.3.45	21.3.46
Rushcutter	"	22.3.46	3.4.46
Penguin	"	4.4.46	16.5.46
Lorgnon	"	17.5.46	11.7.46
"	"	11.7.46	DEMOB

Character.	Efficiency.	Date Assessed.
VG	Sat	11.7.46

SEA SERVICE whilst borne on books of a Depot (To be written up from Victualling Columns of Ledger).

Ship.	From.	To.

Engaged for three years or duration of war and six months thereafter whichever is longer as from 5 Jan 1943 in rating of Ord Sea. C.B. W/T.

Remarks.

Rated Ord Sea 13 Oct 43 Cerberus 78141 12216 DA
Rated Tely 6 Jan 44 Penguin 78141 9957 B
Kepat'h Statement No. 6421 forwarded to D.N.M.S. 25/4/46
DEMOB 11-7-46 AS 10312/1513
Letter to S.A. Dept. (Treasury Funds) forwarded on 2 FEB 1948 File No. 452-221-10758

Start to ex-member 32/21/3439 5 Dec 73

National Archives of Australia NAA: A6770, SEDUNARY E G