

ORDER OF RSL TRIBUTE FUNERAL SERVICE
CHARLES "CHICKA" CARROLL

On behalf of the President & members of the City of Wollongong RSL sub-Branch I extend our sincere condolences to the family.

"We are gathered here today to honour CHARLES "CHICKA" CARROLL, Service Number 2087195, now that he has fought his last battle & joined other fallen comrades. Rest in Peace Comrade

Chicka served in the British Territorial Army from before the start of World War 2. In 1936 he changed his age to enlist with the local 51st (Highland) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers in his hometown of Dundee in Scotland.

These Anti-Aircraft battalions were just starting to form as a result of the increased threat of aerial bombing to protect Scottish Airspace.

Chicka's War Service records show that he officially joined the British Territorial Army on the 17th of March 1939 aged 19, still months before the declaration of World War 2 in September 1939.

In early 1939 as Europe and the world descended towards war, the British Air Command was mobilised. All established Anti-Aircraft Battalions were then transferred to the Royal Artillery under British Air Command in preparation for war.

In 1940 his Battalion was renamed the 51st (Highland) Searchlight Regiment. At this time he was involved in the defence of Britain during both the Battle of Britain and the Blitz conflicts, serving and defending Dundee, Tyneside, Sunderland, Southampton and Gloucester

In February 1942, the regiment was converted to the Light Anti-Aircraft artillery role as 124 (Highland) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. After years successfully defending Britain, his Regiment then joined the Allied offensive landing in Normandy as part of Operation Overlord in 1944. Over the next 2 years he was involved in the following operations

The Battle and liberation of Caen in France

The liberation of Ostend in Belgium

The Battle of the Scheldt and liberation of the Northern Belgium region and the Dutch Zeeland region in the Netherlands.

After the end of the war in Europe his Regiment then moved into occupied Germany to garrison Munster in the Dortmund region. The Regiment remained in Germany until its demobilisation and his discharge on the 1st of July 1946

He then returned to Newcastle in England after the war before eventually relocated to Australia in 1953.

He joined the City of Wollongong RSL sub-Branch on the 17th of May 1973 and was a member for 48 years

Truly a very special man from a special generation of men

*O valiant hearts who to your glory came,
through dust of conflict and through battle flame
tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved
your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

*“The hour has come to rest. This **Poppy**, an emblem of sacrifice, the symbol of a life offered in the service of one’s country, is a link between our comrade & us who remain.*

I place it here - In remembrance.

- Place **poppy** on the casket Salute

*I now invite all present who have **poppies** to please come forward and also place them in remembrance*

- On completion of **poppy laying**

Would all those who are able please stand for the recital of The Ode followed by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille in memory of our comrade.

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them. (30 seconds silence)*

Lest we forget.

End silence with LAST POST and REVEILLE