



... always in our hearts and  
never to be forgotten.

*We love you*



*In loving memory of*  
**Walter Blumenfeld**

30th July 1930 – 25th April 2016

Royal Military College Duntroon  
Friday 6th May



Born in Berlin Germany, to loving parents Martin and Elsa Blumenfeld, he was an only child. The family escaped the Second World War, and went to England where they had relatives and stayed for nine months.

They then had an opportunity to go to America or Australia for which they chose the latter. After a lengthy journey by ship, they landed in Sydney, staying in Bondi, until being transferred out to a country town Wyong, where his Father was put to work on a farm, and his mother worked in the guest house.

This was a huge adjustment as Walter came from a family of professional backgrounds, however this was their opportunity to survive their past War torn Germany, and start a new life in Australia.

Walter being the academic that he was, did not have the appropriate schooling for a boy of his intellect. He then made a decision to join the Navy, at the age of 15, against his parents wishes, however they granted him one year to try it.

Walter always had a strong desire to have a career at sea, however it was very hard to get a position (Circa 1945).



Walter Blumenfeld leading 32nd Small Ship Squadron ANZAC Day 2008.



He was the most beautiful father, wonderful husband, loving grandfather and caring friend to many. Walter's generosity of time and services were above and beyond words. Nothing was ever too much for this man, and he would drop everything only to help a person and to ensure they were ok.

As many of his friends said, "they were a better person for knowing him". The sheer determination that Walter undeniably had, was the driving force of such a full and colourful life.

Walter was not one to stand still, and his preferred environments were outdoors, skiing, cycling, walking, climbing mountains, you name it, Walter did it! Set him any challenge and he was up for it, proving that he was willing and able, even at the age of 85!



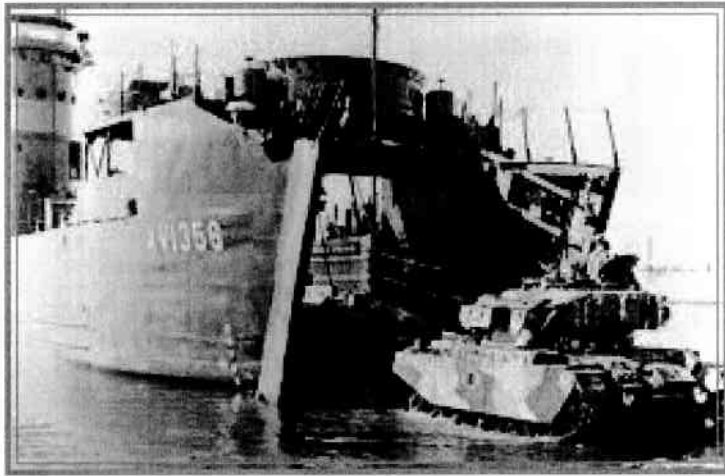
At Oumi Village, Sepik River, Walter Blumenfeld is on the left and on the right is Bill Tebb, a government trawler skipper who was a Chief Petty Officer, RN, during WWII.

No other ship of that size has ever reached so far up that river, either before or since.

Walter's ships were also involved in the Malaya and Borneo campaigns during 1965-1966 where Australian Engineers and Servicemen were sent.



September 65 - October 65 Walter navigated the John Monash to New Guinea followed by July 66 - September 66 to Manus, South Vietnam, Sabah and Manus Islands.



Unloading tanks in Veitnam

Bear in mind these ships are flat bottomed. (to make a shallow draught for beach landings) making for a rough ride when at sea.

June '68 - Dec '68 he navigated the Clive Streele on a voyage to South Vietnam and finally September '70 - October '70 finished on the Brudnell White to South Vietnam.

After leaving the Army Ships, Walter went to work for the Marine Operation Centre in Canberra, where his career finished at 65 years of age. During this period he was also in the Army Reserve and The Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

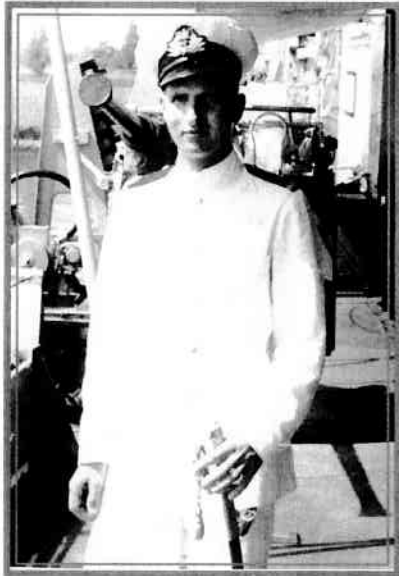
He was also an active member of the SES (for 37 years), a Guide at the Australian War Memorial (around 30 years), a St Johns First Aid Instructor and Ski Patrol for many years.



Walter also put himself through university as a mature aged student and studied economics as well as languages, where by he was multilingual.

What an incredible man Walter was! Courageous, diligent, empathetic, honest, dignified, soft gentleman. One of the true golden ones, that is rare and precious.

Walter's life was enriched with everything he did. A truly humble and quiet achiever, he touched people's lives without even knowing. Always positive with a smile on his face, Walter was put on this earth to help others and assist in any way he could.



Royal Navy Reserve

Circa 1957 he returned to the Southhampton Navigation College to study for his Captain's Foreign Going Certificate. After passing he rejoined the Danish Company.

During the 1950s Walter had also joined the Royal Navy Reserves and spent time on British Destroyers and a small stint on a submarine.



Walter left the Merchant Navy and joined 32 Small Ships Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers, in 1964. The types of ships he commanded were LSM's (Landing Ship Medium), previously used in World War II by the American Military.

May '64 - August '64 Walter was in command of the Harry Chauvel on a voyage to Sabah. In that same year, in command of AV1354 Brudenell White, he carried out a survey support task where the ship navigated the Sepik River to the May River Junction - a distance of 595km.



He was a private man with his faith, but so incredibly diligent and devoted. The Jewish community are honoured to have such a man in their midst.

The indescribable pain of losing such a wonderful being, I don't think will ever heal. Walter you have left a hole in many people's lives, however we will always live in your legacy of courage, strength and honesty.

We love you so much and a future without you by our sides will be a very challenging journey ahead...



His first job was in a garage, he later managed to join an Australian Coastal Vessel as a deck Boy on the Iron Warrior.

Later he applied for a position as a Cadet Officer onboard vessels owned by the Australian Shipping Board. He was successful and served 4 years with them. The voyages were mainly around the Australian coast with one trip to India.

After serving 4 years as a cadet he went to a marine college in Sydney to study for a Second Officers Foreign Going Certificate. He passed and joined a coastal vessel named Kinda as a Third Officer. Walter wanted to go overseas so he later joined an English company called the Bank Line which took him to America.

Walter left the Bank Line in America and travelled as a passenger on an American Vessel to the U.K. After a while in the U.K onboard short sea traders, he joined the Blue Star Line as a Third Officer which traded between England, South America, and Australia.

Circa 1953 he attended the Southampton Navigation College to study for his First Officers Foreign Going Certificate. He passed and later joined a Danish Shipping company called the Danish Eastern Asiatic Company.