

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

VOLUME 19: 1991–1995

A–Z

GENERAL EDITOR
Melanie Nolan

MANAGING EDITOR
Malcolm Allbrook



Australian
National
University

P R E S S



Published by ANU Press
The Australian National University
Acton ACT 2601, Australia
Email: anupress@anu.edu.au

Available to download for free at press.anu.edu.au

ISBN (print): 9781760464127
ISBN (online): 9781760464134

WorldCat (print): 1232019838
WorldCat (online): 1232019992

DOI: 10.22459/ADB19

This title is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0).



The full licence terms are available at
creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode



Cover design and layout by ANU Press

Cover artwork: Dora Chapman, Australia, 1911–1995, *Self portrait*, c.1940, Adelaide, oil on canvas, 74.0 x 62.5 cm (sight), Bequest of the artist 1995, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, © Art Gallery of South Australia, 957P71

This edition © 2021 ANU Press

... Elinor Wray', *Theosophy in Australia* 45, no. 3 (September 1981): 251–52; *Theosophy in Australia*. 'Farewell to Pioneer Speech Pathologist Elinor Wray.' 57, no. 1 (March 1993): 18–19; Wray, Elinor. 'The History of Speech Therapy in Australia.' In *Conquering Physical Handicaps: Official Proceeding of the First Pan-Pacific Rehabilitation Conference, Held in Sydney, Australia, Nov. 10–14, 1958*, 263–69. Sydney: Australian Advisory Council for the Physically Handicapped, 1959.

DIANA MALONEY

WRIGHT, HAROLD JOHN (HARRY)

(1919–1991), survey draughtsman, air force officer, and political activist, was born on 28 December 1919 at New Farm, Brisbane, eldest son of Queensland-born parents Harold John Austin Wright, artist, and his wife Kathleen May, née Bohan. Educated at St Columban's College, Brisbane, Harry secured a survey drafting cadetship with the Queensland Irrigation and Water Supply Commission (QI&WSC) in 1938 and subsequently enrolled in arts and law at the University of Queensland.

After World War II broke out, Wright discontinued his university studies and in 1941 was briefly mobilised in the Citizen Military Forces. On 26 April that year he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Trained as a navigator in Australia, Canada, and Britain, he 'crewed up' (Wright 1989, 12) at a Royal Air Force (RAF) Bomber Command operational training unit in July 1942. His room-mate described Wright as 'a long, thin, twenty-year-old Queenslander with untidy hair and a self-mocking physiognomy' (Charlwood 1991, 28), and 'the untidiest, most generous, least promising-looking man among us' (Charlwood 1956, 21).

In September Wright was posted as navigator to No. 103 Squadron, RAF, and in April 1943, the crew transferred to 156 (Pathfinder) Squadron. Following night raids over Germany, Italy, and France, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (1943) for 'keenness and courage' and 'fine technical knowledge' (*London Gazette* July 1943). He was commissioned a pilot officer in May. On the night of 16–17 September, navigating to Modane, France, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross (1943) for guiding his pilot in bad weather 'to the precise target exactly as planned' (*London Gazette* October 1943). His plane was first over the target,

dropping bombs 'bang on' (Wright 1941–44). He became squadron operations officer and an 'odd bod' (Wright 1989, 35), flying with different crews until March 1944.

Wright promptly volunteered for another tour and was posted to 582 (Pathfinder) Squadron in April. In four months he flew twenty-one sorties, bringing his total to seventy-eight. The strain on his nerves was 'absolutely terrific' but 'the old booze helped at the time' (Wright 1989, 35). He received a Bar to the DFC (1944) for displaying a 'high standard of leadership and courage', which was 'a source of inspiration and encouragement to less experienced crews' (*London Gazette* December 1944). In September 1944 he was promoted to flight lieutenant. Returning home in October, he transferred to the RAAF Reserve on 5 March 1945 in order to join Qantas Empire Airways Ltd as a navigator. After his brother was killed in April 1946, his parents convinced him to give up flying and return to the QI&WSC as a survey draughtsman.

On 4 September 1948, Wright married Pauline Ruby Pike at St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane. She helped ameliorate his war-related nightmares. Resigning from the QI&WSC for health reasons in 1956, he sold whitegoods before returning to QI&WSC in the early 1960s. A devout Catholic and fervent anti-communist, he joined the Democratic Labor Party and established Citizens for Freedom, vociferously supporting the Vietnam War, fundraising for aid projects in South Vietnam, and leading a fiery protest against a North Vietnamese trade union visit in February 1973. For advocating diplomatic recognition of Taiwan, he received the Order of the Brilliant Star (grade 5), awarded by the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Returning to the University of Queensland, Wright completed the degree he had abandoned during the war (BA, 1979). He refrained from applying for medals until 1978, when he decided to march on Anzac days. Gradually coming to terms with his war experiences and the losses of comrades and friends, he revisited wartime airfields in England, communicated with air-war historians, and blended his and other veterans' stories into a cathartic novel, *Pathfinders—'Light the Way'* (1983). In failing health, Wright retired in 1984. Amiable and sociable, he remained active in his church, the Returned Services League of Australia, and the Pathfinder Association. Survived by his wife

and two daughters, he died of pneumonia on 29 January 1991 at the Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes, Brisbane, and was cremated.

Charlwood, Donald Ernest. *No Moon Tonight*. Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1956; Charlwood, Donald Ernest. *Journeys into Night*. Melbourne: Hudson Publishing, 1991; *London Gazette* 9 July 1943, 3096; 22 October 1943, 4674; 8 December 1944, 5636; National Archives of Australia. A9300, WRIGHT H J A; Sternes, Phil. Personal communication; *Watery Sauces Oldies & Boldies* (Water Resources Retired Officers Association Inc.). 'Obituary', No. 4, May 1991; Wright, Harold John Alfred. Log Book 1941–44. Unpublished. Private Collection. Copy held on ADB file; Wright, Harold John Alfred. *Pathfinders—Light the Way*. Brisbane: McCann Publications, 1983; Wright, Harold John Alfred. Interview by Edward Stokes, May 1989. Transcript. Australian War Memorial.

JOHN MOREMON

WYNN, DAVID (1915–1995), winemaker, was born on 21 January 1915 in Melbourne, eldest of three children of Polish Jewish immigrants Samuel Wynn [q.v.12] (formerly Shlomo ben David Weintraub), factory worker and later cellarman, and his wife Eva (Chava), née Silman. During the 1920s and 1930s David's father was a highly successful wine merchant, distributor, and restaurateur. Although based in Melbourne, the business of S. Wynn & Co. acquired substantial South Australian interests.

David lived with his family above their Bourke Street wine saloon. After completing his schooling at Wesley College, he studied bacteriology and accountancy at the University of Adelaide, but did not take a degree. In 1932 and 1933 he learned winemaking and blending at Romalo cellars at Magill in Adelaide's foothills. He rose to a managerial role in the family business, which expanded to encompass wine exporting to Britain, India, and the Pacific Islands. On 25 September 1937 at the Presbyterian Manse, South Melbourne, he married American-born Thelma Chapman; a son and a daughter were born before the couple separated.

Restrictions on shipping during World War II led to a contraction of the company's export business. On 2 May 1942 Wynn enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. Having trained as a fitter at No. 1 Engineering School, Ascot Vale, he joined the school's staff in December. He was promoted to acting sergeant

in December 1944. Granted several months compassionate and occupational leave because of his father's ill health, he was discharged at his own request on 26 July 1945. With Samuel and his second wife Ida increasingly preoccupied with the Zionist cause, David took control of the business. He expanded the company's winegrowing and production capacity, establishing a large vineyard at Modbury on Adelaide's north-eastern fringe in 1947, and buying a winery and vines in New South Wales at Yenda, near Griffith, in 1959.

In 1951 Wynn had purchased the vineyards of the defunct Chateau Comaum at the former Coonawarra Fruit Colony in South Australia's south-east. Convinced of the region's potential, his decision ignored not only his father's reservations, but also a report he himself had commissioned that noted management and climate difficulties of winegrowing in the Coonawarra. In the following years, initially under the winemaker and viticulturist Ian Hickinbotham, production of high-quality cabernet sauvignon and shiraz was achieved. David's energetic promotion of Wynn's Coonawarra Estate included wine labels that featured a striking Richard Beck woodcut of the winery's historic triple gables, as well as advertising campaigns in concert programs and literary magazines. His success in establishing the Coonawarra's reputation as a source of premium red table wine prompted other producers, including Mildara, Penfolds [q.v.5.15], Orlando, and McWilliams [q.v.10], to buy into the region.

Wynn was a keen innovator; his Modbury vineyards were the first in the country to use contour-planting to conserve water. In 1958 he introduced the refillable, distinctively ribbed half-gallon (2.25 L) Wynvale flagon. A commercial success, it was marketed under the slogan: 'The luxury of wine at little expense'. He later took up the abandoned prototype of the soft-pack wine container, improving its tap mechanism and lining before launching it in 1971. The popularity of Wynn's winecask and the invention's subsequent adoption by other companies helped to increase substantially the consumption of table wine in Australia.

Publicly listed in 1970 as Wynn Winegrowers Ltd, the business was sold to Allied Breweries Ltd and Tooheys Ltd for \$7.5 million in 1972. David left the company to champion the cultivation of chardonnay. He established Mountadam winery (named

Wright, Harold John (Harry)

Moremon J

2021-03-09

<http://hdl.handle.net/10179/19733>

14/03/2024 - Downloaded from MASSEY RESEARCH ONLINE