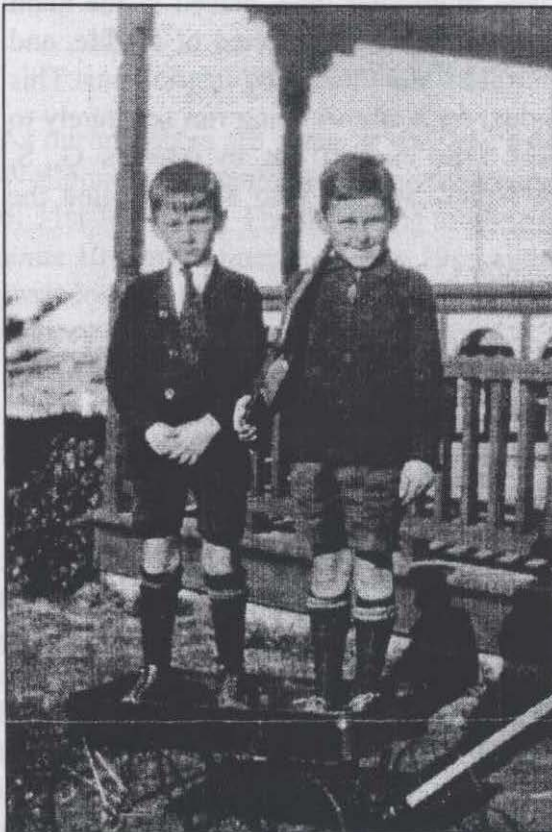


## TWO LITTLE BOYS.

**Based on information supplied by Miss A Macarthur-Onslow and research by John Herben.**

With the grim realisation of war, thoughts turn again to its waste and futility.

I send this photograph, taken in 1921, of two little boys playing soldiers. It was taken at my grandparents' home Bonshaw in Cliff Road, Wollongong. The boy on the left is Evelyn Ernest Owen, the inventor of the Owen Gun. Next to him stands Harold Robert Irving Cox who joined the RAAF early January 1940.



Evelyn (Evo) Owen and H Robert (Bob) I Cox at Bonshaw, Cliff Road, Wollongong.

### Evelyn Ernest Owen.

Evelyn was born on 15 May 1915 at Wollongong to Ernest William Owen and Constance E MacMillian. He was the fourth child out of five, David, Julian, Eleanor, Evelyn and Percy. He and his brothers Julian and Percy joined the Australian Army in mid 1940. Evelyn was on final leave when he was recalled to Melbourne and was attached to Army Invention Board. He spent all he war years at Lysaght's at Port Kembla supervising and improving his Owen gun he had worked on long before WWII began. The Owen Gun, no doubt, contributed to Australia being saved from the Japanese thrust southwards. A total of 46,000 guns were manufactured for the Australian Army.

Evelyn Owen died suddenly on 1 April 1949 and was honoured with a military funeral the next day. He was buried with other family members in the Anglican section of Wollongong General Cemetery.