



VBAL P0242

WHERE IS THIS?

It is the Merricks Store when it was first built. The man in front of the store is Jack Joyner. He and his sons had built the store for Tilly, the boys' sister, who was to wed Alf Weston. Alf was a navy man, a petty officer, stationed at the Cerberus base. He and Tilly planned to run a general store at Merricks when Alf was discharged from the Navy. Alf's pay had gone toward realising their dream.

The Joyners were local people – they had a farm at Merricks – and Alf was a Queenslander. The store was completed in 1922 and opened for business with Tilly behind the counter. Tilly's mother had run the Merricks post office from the Joyner home and it too was relocated to the new building.

Alf and Tilly married in 1926 at the end of Alf's enlistment period and they continued to run the store together for many years. The building was later expanded; the newer section became the store and the older section was turned into a grain store.

The name of the dog was not recorded for posterity.

Ilma Hackett at the History Room