The Winter is settling in now. Tonight is cold, bleak, windy & drizzling rain. Just the sort of days we will remember as kids on Booyoolie. You know, the sort of night that one thinks of a nice warm room & a fire roaring in the fire place. About five min's ago there was a crash of thunder & right now, it looks as though the very heavens are going to pour down on us in bucketsful.

Well Nell, as the hour is late, I had better close now. Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and Happy new year,

<div align="center">

I am your loving brother.
Frank.

</div>

<div align="right">

Letter courtesy – J Coffey

</div>

Frank Hale was killed in action at El Alamein on 31 October 1942, age 22.

Leading Steward Thomas Dee
Age 35
Service Number 18351
Royal Australian Navy, HMAS Sydney

Photo - Australian War Memorial

Thomas, known as Tom was born at Laura 12 September 1906. He was the second son of Michael and Catherine Anastasia Dee (*nee* Green) and was the fifth child in a family of eight. His parents had the Royal Mail Hotel at Stone Hut until 1913, when the family moved, firstly to Mundoora, and then to Freeling. By 1922 the family was living in Adelaide.

Tom was still living in Adelaide when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy on 26 April 1927 at Port Adelaide, aged 20. His enlistment papers state his religion as Roman Catholic and his mother as his next of kin.