

## Left Behind!

Harry drove us away from the many Black Men who attacked us, My god, there were Spears all about us, Some hitting the Drays Side heavy planks, with others flying over our Heads, I just felt we would surely die this Day!

He screamed at me dropped his Colt, and fell over the Wagon side into the thick Bush land and was gone from my site, The battle ranged off to our Front, and too the right of us, I know not the Compass Direction, And the Sun seemed to be right above us, beating down a midday heat which didn't help one little bit!

I stopped when the Fighting drew away from our Wagon, and the Horses elected to stop in a Clearing of sorts, so I walked quietly about the Team talking to each in their turn to keep them quiet rather than attract attention from anymore Blackmen, while my Daughter did Her best with my youngest Daughter, and they thankfully remained in the Wagon Bed, for some Cover and what little protection as it could offer them while we prayed!

As I said, the Bushland was now near Silent, and I continued to Water our Horses and they just seemed to Appreciate my murmuring voice to each of them, Some gently snickered to me while one nuzzled me in my Shoulder as I stood there talking to them all, Then I finally returned to my Children and gave them Water as well including myself, as I stood there in the gathering quiet!

I slowly turned our Horses in a wide Circle and stated to head back the way we had come since the Attack Had started some hours ago, and two dusty, fearful hours later we were back on the Main Road as the Trooper escorts referred to it as, and again I wondered why they didn't refer to it as a Dirty dusty Track as They talked, among themselves as we travelled looking for a place to stop for a meal or even a sleep!

I have no idea of the time Travelled, "Harry" used to like trying to guess that sort of thing, as we went our ways At any time, but certainly time had passed and we rounded a long shallow bend, and came upon some Family Gear and Trinkets on the Roadside and I stopped to see if any of it was useful to us for what future we might have left between us, we grabbed a Dress and a Heavy Blanket, as well as a half full Waterbag Near new in age and wear!

We continued onwards, until the dwindling sunlight told us our Day of Terror for one and all, was drawing to a close and we must brave our first night without my "Harry" telling us about the "Stars" He loved to watch, as he did when, he was a "Kings Officer" on a Kings Warship while chasing the "French", and lost His Slow Leg as he used to tell our Daughters while beside our Kitchen Fire at nights before they turned in and he would make Love to me in front of our lovely Fire all Warm and quiet!

I kept the Horses all travelling into the night, rather than stop and be a sitting target as Harry always said, and I'd laugh at his silliness, and He would reach out and kiss my Cheeks and he claimed my cheeks were his to kiss only!

He would always claim he had secret ways of knowing how to make me drop my Pantaloons for the night So he could make love to me at any time he chose to, and new which nights I was going to be a nice old lady And if, I was going to be a "nice old Lady," and make Love to him that night, you see, He was one year younger than I, so, I was always the Older Lady in his life, and he told all I was the oldest and as Well, the wisest in our Camp!

2.

It was very late when I found myself dropping off to sleep, while trying to drive the Dray and so decided to stall the Horses, and give them a half feed for now, and they could sleep until Sunup tomorrow Morning, I bedded my Girls down for the night, and pulled a Lonely Blanket over me and waited for my Harry to lift my Dress Hem before he gave me a little fiddle about my Person, then a Kiss then Sleep with us snuggled Together, and my girls were gently sobbing in Tears just as their Mother was!

The Sun peeped over the Hilltops, and slowly dried the Dew from our Canvas wagon roof and gently awoke Us to a warm but Lonely day to start our first Day without Our Daddy, and I for one had Heard my Mother At times during Her night crying for my Daddy, we were going to miss him very much, that much I knew!

Mother was slow to arise, and there was no Giggles from Her, and Mumbles from Dad, or Thoughts from me as to what they could be doing to bring a Giggle to our Ears each day, but we knew Mother loved him making Her giggle each Morning, especially if we were traveling alone, but not this Morning,!

When we got started we were all business about ourselves, and my first job of the day was to clean and change my Baby Sister, while Mother started our Breakfast of Porridge, but with Water as the Milk would be Sour by now, with Sissy all done, and the smell of hot toast and Jam, I went down and helped with the Coffee!

Watered our Horses to help ourselves, so we could get back on the Road Early while we headed further North for Northern Township, we were making around ten miles per day at our speed, and the Horses all seemed very happy, It was about this time we came upon a large creek and stopped for a much needed bath In the cold clean water we could see!

So we stopped and left the Horses Hitched and grazing while we swam about, then redressed and mounted up and got going a little more to the West, The signs were all busted down at the next Track and we turned West anyway, and made good time over two Days and Night resting only!

Then we see Wire on the upright posts, and realised we were looking at Fence Posts, In time we could see what looked like Silver and Some Red House Roofs way off in the Distance, and new we were headed for a Town and, maybe a Town where we might get some help, So we were very careful to hold the main road direction for ourselves to go in that direction to reach the Township ahead of us!

We kept going knowing full well that town would have to be all of Two, maybe Three Days away from us and much could happen in Three Days in this Outback, and we must show Caution in everystep we took forwards to find where we hoped to live, and I took us way into the Darkness before we Stalled our Brave Horses and gave each a gentle Cuddle as well as their Evening Meal whispering to them all as we could and!

They Munched on happily for us, then we had our own Cold cuts for supper, We surely ate them and I thought Hunger was the better choice over "Food Poisoning", as the meat was positively rank, and I threw it over the side before the Girls saw what I was up too, and eased my Consciousness as best I could, and lay in my Sleeping unit on my own yet again, Good Night my Harry, may God look after you Please!

When next I awoke it was a Dirty Grey in the Sky, and new it to be Dawn, and a new day but , with signs of Rain to come, I climbed down and Fed the Four Horses and watered them as well, before I finally awoke the Girls, and told "Shirley," our Eldest Daughter, I was Pregnant yet again, and she Hugged me tight and we cried together, and thought of Daddy and how he would never know about his last Child I carried for him!

3.

Over the next three days we made good time, and finally arrived at a Large Farm House with a Large Red Steel Roof, as well as Silver Steel Sheds at least two in Number, and Shirley opened the Large Wire Gates And closed them after I passed the Wagon through, and we ran downhill to the Homestead and Stalled the Horses, only to find nobody Home at all!

I walked to the Rear Door and found a Lovely Note Pinned by a Clothes peg, telling us to stay as long as we wished, there was Milk in the Coolgardiesafe, for a Cup of tea, they had stocked the Stove up when they left and It Should simmer for two days in this manner, and this will let you know when we might return from Northern As we have gone for a Week hopefully!

When Shirley looked at the Stove it was near out and still "hottish" to touch, so we knew they would be a Day or three before they returned to us here, So we boiled enough Water for a Bath for each of us and felt Like Royalty melting away, and Shirley followed me in for her enjoyment and I then Laundered our Clothes as well, and all our "Babies Nappies"!

We unhitched the Horses and sent them into the House Paddock to graze, and a well deserved Sand Roll as Well, and ran around like Children, and I felt they had done us well in there Service to us, We found a Chook pen with Twenty Hens, and collected all the Eggs we could find and stowed most of them in the Wagon to use along the Road, as well I cooked up a Large Stew and stowed it as well for heating in a Pan over an open Fire on the Roadside!

We did not want to leave, but on our Third day we had another Bath in the Morning, ate some Eggs as well and Hitched up and Left by Lunchtime after cleaning up and, leaving a Short note of thankyou to the Owners for their Hospitality to us and wished we could meet in time to come, We made good time and the Full Moon gave us light for night Traveling until near Morning and we slept Until Midmorning to find ourselves on the edge of a Ghost Town!

Totally deserted of all people, and there were no signs bearing a Name or any Information at all, and so we drove straight through and out the other end to the clear road, and we moved on, we had not travelled a Mile before Shirley called out to me that we had Company, and when I looked back we had a scruffy looking old Dog following us at a fast Gate and was Not going to stay behind anylonger, We were afterall Company to him, so my Family grew by yet another, who was very Welcome indeed!

Our Dog was no fool, he would have his toilet stop to start our day, then again at Lunchtime when we stopped and then on to the Night time stop as well, and this was very gratifying as well, otherwise he would have to be lifted up or down, as the wagon was too high to expect him to climb or jump down each time he Had a call of Nature, and while travelling, his eyes were glued to the Roadside, and even a Kangaroo, or Rabbit would bring a "Bark" of Caution, and it was treated as such!

We continued our Westward progress, and after Three Weeks since the Farm we stopped at, we seemed to burst out of the Bushtrack we were on, Into a Lovely little Township called "Brookton", and I stalled my Wagon in the Centre of the Main Street, opposite a little Café and we all had a Bought Cup of tea, and told Our tale of woe to the proprietor, and asked if there were any Troopers here about's that could afford us any assistance please!

Her Son was sent off to find the Local Troopers in this Town for us, and they arrived on Horseback from a Place in town and a Sargent turned up with them, and the whole lot of them commented on our Courage and Bushmens Ability to get ourselves here alive and well, The Sargent had us put up in the local Boarding House, and we slept for two days solidly, with at least two Baths each in all, even the Dog had a Scrub up Which bought laughter from the Children, and much Barking from the Dog!

On the third Day of Rest we had an early Breakfast, and a Trooper Drove our Wagon for Four Days, while we drove a Beautiful Buggy, as a Favour to the Sargent So it could be returned to "Northern Township where it belong, and our now clean Dog was on the Wagon, Barking at my Girls as we travelled!

4.

We drove all night, and camped around Four O'clock in the Afternoon, and our Trooper who drove our Wagon took off on Horseback, and we were told he had to submit his Report to his Captain straight away, So we were guarded by the others into our Evening, and built Campfire up to very Large to kill off the Mosquitoes so we could sleep Properly, over the night!

One of the Troopers told us we might be able to see Northern in the Distance Tomorrow, and my Girls were Heads up in no time, and I noticed Shirley and I both had Weepy Eyes, as we both thought of my "Harry as He was missing" from our Triumph in arriving Here, and the two Guards put their Arms around our Shoulders, and consoled us both, and made us both another Cup of Tea, before our Bedtime!

Come First Light I heard a Horse arrive in Camp, and I got out of my warm bed to find the other Trooper had returned to our fold, and he and the other Troopers all seemed a little over the top about heading into "Northern Township" and I concluded it was just finishing yet another Boring Escort Trip, and they would be free to "Bed their Ladies Tonight", rather than be out here with a Frightened Woman, and her Kids, and A playful Dog!

With all the Personal Ablutions completed, and a Second Cup of Tea to help face this Day, we set off for Northern Township, to hopefully start a new life of sorts, and my New Baby would be a Boy, to at least be Name after my Lovely passed Husband "Harry",!

It was close to "Nine O'clock" in the Morning, when two more Troopers arrived and fell into Escort positions with the others, and within an Hour we were delivered to the New "District Hospital", at the other end of Town, and were taken into a Waiting Room to be checked over after our ordeal, so I was told, and We waited there for some time, and a Wheeled Bed was bought in and parked as well, A doctor then walked in and asked me to join him at the Bed!

My Harry lay there with his Beautiful Smile right across his Lovely Face, and I Fainted to the Floor!

End of Story!.