

# LYN JORDAN

1924-1984



Born Douglas Lyndon Jordan in Rotorua 16 October 1924. He as a pre-schooler moved with the family to their newly acquired sawmill on the Puhipuhi plateau. They lived nearby to their sawmill and not far from the Puhipuhi Mercury Mines.

His WWII friend Jim Hyatt was the only person who called him by his first name, Doug. Everyone else preferred to call him by his second name, Lyn. He also only referred to himself as Lyn, when introducing himself.

Lyn had begun an apprenticeship as a mechanic with Green Brothers & Johnson Ltd in Kawakawa before joining the Airforce. His ambition was to become an Airforce pilot but unfortunately a shadow on the lung prevented this from happening. He continued with the Airforce throughout WWII as an aircraft mechanic at the Airforce bases in Wigram and Woodburn. He often reminisced about servicing the American aircraft which had intercepted the Japanese fleet on the Coral Sea, but were flying over to NZ for refueling and re-arming. He quoted that many of the US pilots didn't even get out of their cockpits before flying off again. On one occasion having just serviced an aircraft but was still up on the wing, the pilot throttled up prematurely, blowing him off the wing. He was obviously unhurt but unfortunately like so many others that pilot never returned.

After the war Lyn teamed up with a friend by the name of Darcy Thomas and together they began a quarrying operation. Their quarry was not far from where the Russell quarry is today. For some reason, only known to them, the operation didn't succeed and they both went their separate ways. Darcy continuing with his barber/hair-dressing business and Lyn bought into a local shoe manufacturing and repair business in Kawakawa.

The largest quarrying operator at that time in the region was W.E. Sharp & Sons Ltd. Knowing of Lyn's recent aspirations to begin a quarrying business, they used to hire him on a casual basis for deliveries even while still running his shoe store. Lyn soon realized he could make more money working for W.E. Sharp & Sons than selling shoes. He joined Sharps in the early 1950's.

The Sharp family had been in the quarrying industry since the late 1800's with their quarry on the Bombay Hills south of Auckland. An old photograph shows members of the Sharp family spreading metal with shovels on the Bombay Hill roads in the early 1900's. With a transportable crushing plant, Lyn moved with the plant to many different locations around the Northland region.

To mention a few and starting closest to his home - Kawakawa Quarry, Owae Rd-Karetu, Russell Quarry, between Opua and Paihia (2 sites), Puketona; Kerikeri/Puketotara; Kaeo; Mangamuka Gorge; Mangamuku Bridge; Broadwood; Templetons Hill, Umawera; Waihou Valley, Rangiahua; Waima Valley, Waima; Punakitere; Taheke; Okaihau (2 sites); Kaikohe (2 sites); Mataraua (2 sites), Waimatenui; Kaihu River, Kaihu; and Twin Bridges.

On occasions he would relieve for the quarry managers at the Sharp's Quarry on the Bombay Hills or the quarry in the Whangaripo Valley. With the long distances involved and the poor road conditions it meant that most of his quarrying career was spent camped at the various quarry sites. His family not seeing him until the weekends. Eventually W.E. Sharp & Sons Ltd was purchased by McBreen

and Jenkins Ltd of Whangarei in the early to mid-1970's and Lyn was given the position of Quarries Division Manager.

During this time and being able to be at home throughout the working week evenings, he began to work on establishing the Northland Branch of the IOQ. In this endeavour, he joined forces with Tom Linnell, the quarry manager for Winstones Quarry, Otaika, Whangarei.



At the time of his premature death in 1984 it was decided by the Auckland Branch of the IOQ, in particular Mr Fred Reid and Mr Bruce Hayhow, that an award in Lyn's name should be presented. The mounted exploder, used for the award, was donated by ICI and was to represent his many successes with the use of explosives.

The Lyn Jordan Memorial Trophy is awarded to the Institute member, or members, **whose technical paper is judged the best given at an Institute Branch Meeting or the NZ Annual Conference.**

The uses [of explosives] were not only for the purpose of quarrying, but Lyn also held a Construction Blasters Certificate, and was called upon by many companies to help out with small, but precise and effective blasts. The largest of his blasting projects was the road realignment at the south end of the Mangamuka Gorge. Some of the drill holes are still visible in the rock batters to this day.

Lyn Jordan is survived by his three children Roger, Murray, Sharon Rutledge and his brother Sir Neville Jordan, along with five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.