

LILIAN TOPIC, SECRETARY -
LEGAL + SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
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Submission 372

My Fathers Death in 1969

He was regular Army. Received a bit of gas in the WW1. After that war he went to the army school at Duntroon in Canberra, graduated as an Officer. Was then shipped off to India to train with the British Army for 4 years, in the Artillery section. He served in North Africa in WW2 during the successful Montgomery push of the German & Italian army's further to the West. After that he was presented with a 'DSO' in London.

After WW2 he was at a bit of a loss in retirement, except when in the local RSL. In the late 60's he started making many trips to the Heidelberg Repat for ICU recovery sessions. A retired ex Army Doctors were adamant that 'Tinner' would receive the very best treatment possible forever. My many frequent visits to the Repat, found him sitting up in a white gown in a busy well occupied public recovery ward.

These visits to the Repat, became more frequent and Tinner seemed to accept this treatment as being part of life and the Army process's. He was restricted in what he could do at home. He was NOT allowed to walk down the street, to buy the paper, cigarettes or a bottle of Corio. Typically he broke these rules usually weekly.

After some 7/8 visits to Tinner in the ICU public recovery unit, I received a personal call from 'management' that I better come out to visit he that afternoon. It was a sunny winter day and this time he was in a private room in nice personalized PJ's. His main comment to me, was to please remind the grand children about him !!! That kind of went over my head.

Obviously it was pre-planned. He died that night and his body was shipped off to the local medical school. Many deaths are still being organized this way. It's about time the Law was changed to allow freedom of choice for those that want to die legally surrounded by their family.

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