

## **Life Sketch of Leslie Claude Burlace (03/08/1920 -10/04/2005**

*“Les attended school in Dannevirke, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. Later he was employed in a cycle and mower shop in Dannevirke and later again he joined the Territorials where he trained as a ‘Trench Mortar Operator’.*

*Following three months with the territorials he went to Palmerston North, where he worked for a Mr. Walworth, an apiarist. He received lots of stings while working with the bees.*

*When Les Turned 21 years of age he was called up to go overseas in the army. As he had been attending the ‘Seventh Day Adventist Church’. With his wife Myra Jessie. He was having Bible studies, he decided to appeal against having to take up arms. He was, however, prepared to go overseas with the Medical Corps. His court application was successful and so after a month in camp at Awapuni, Palmerston North, he embarked on the hospital ship ‘ss “Maunganui”’, for North Africa. He was attached to the 5th Field Ambulance Corps which served with the ‘Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force’. They were initially based at Tripoli.*

*Six weeks before Les left Trentham camp near Wellington. He married Myra at the ‘Seventh Day Adventist Church’, Palmerston North, the service being conducted by a Pastor Stan Leeder on 10th September 1941. Les was baptized by Pr. Leeder the night before his marriage. During the war he was away for three years.*

*Les was with the 5th Field Ambulance corps for the entire three years of his absence overseas. He saw service in North Africa and Italy, his duties were that of a stretcher bearer. He also assisted with medical duties in the advanced medical stations and hospitals.*

*Upon his return to New Zealand, Les rejoined Myra who had moved to Tauranga. He found work in an orchard where his wages were Five Pounds per week. He later obtained work in a Mr Pryer’s cycle and mower shop in Cameron Road. This became his trade.*

*Brain, Les and Myra’s first son arrived in July 1946 and when he was a year old the family shifted to Mount Maunganui. Nearly three years later a second son, Kevin: was born and three years after that Sharon arrived. Their family was now complete.*

*Les worked for Mr. Gordon Roberts doing concrete work such as making chimneys etc. He also assisted with lunch hour office duties. Les used to put his bicycle aboard the ferry at the Mount and travel over to Tauranga every week day, he then had to cycle to his*

*work at Dive Crescent. He was a very reliable hard worker and stayed with the film for 33 years until his retirement at 60 years of age.*

*After selling their house at Ocean Beach Road, Mount Maunganui in 1962 Les & Myra had a home built at Watling Street in Tauranga. Les continued to cycle to work each day.*

*Following his retirement Les was kept busy looking after his property, assisting the neighbours and doing monthly duties at Food Bank. He took a keen interest in the activities of the Historical Society and performed deacon's duties at church. He was in fact the Senior Deacon for some years.*

*Les kept reasonably good health over the years and attended church the Sabbath before he left us. Les died suddenly at home with Myra his dear wife and friend at his side".*

