

# Private Eric Everard Hutchins

**Birth** 6 Apr 1922  
Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 20 Feb 1942 (aged 19)  
Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia

**Burial** [Ambon Memorial](#)  
Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia

**Plot** "Known unto God" "Their glory shall not be blotted out." Column 4.

**Memorial ID** 21405702 · [View Source](#)



~~~Transcript of Military Service, Australian Military Forces, Army, World War Two~~~

Service Number:---VX61201

Born:--- Swan Hill, Victoria, 6th April 1922.

Religion:--- Presbyterian

Civilian employment:--- Rural Worker

Martial Status:--- single

Schooling:--- State School to 8th Grade.

Next of kin:--- Father, Mr Henry Walter Hutchins, Woorinen North, Victoria.

Enlisted:--- 6th August 1941 at Royal Park, Victoria.

Age on enlistment:--- 19 years and 3 months

Final Rank:--- Private

Final Unit:--- 2/21st Australian Infantry Battalion - C Company. 2nd AIF.

Fate:---Murdered by Japanese Imperial Forces whilst their prisoner, at Laha Airfield, Ambon Island between the 6th and 20th of February 1942.( Further details available here---  
[http://www.sevensoldiers.com.au/page\\_8.html](http://www.sevensoldiers.com.au/page_8.html))

Burial:--- Ambon War Cemetery, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia details of burial plot unknown.  
Parents:--- Henry Walter (Harry) Hutchins and Mary Elizabeth Browning married 1909 in Victoria

Memorials:--- Ambon Memorial, Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

Other details:--- Eric was known as a shy kid, and would always stutter when he was nervous. He was aged 17 when he enlisted in 1941, and was sent with his brothers David and Fred, to Ambon as replacements with the 2/21st Battalion. Eric was in No 3 P.T.H Mortar Company with his two brothers, but had been separated prior to the huge invasion of the Japanese in early February 1942. After 3 days of fierce fighting, Eric was taken prisoner at Laha Airfield. Between the 6th and the 20th of February 1942, he was executed by the Japanese along with 300 other Australian and Dutch prisoners, and buried in 1 of 4 mass graves. Eric was 18yrs of age and had been in the Army for only 6 months. He was never identified and is buried in an unknown grave on Ambon.

~~~~~Military and Family Connections~~~~~

In World War Two, seven Hutchins brothers from Woorinen, near Swan Hill in Victoria, enlisted to protect and fight for the country they loved. All seven served with the AIF in different conflicts - from desert sands of the Middle East, Tobruk, Syria & North Africa, to the tropical Islands in the Pacific - New Guinea, Rabaul & Ambon. Of the seven brothers, only three returned home. Four of the brothers died tragically under barbaric Japanese imprisonment, or trying to escape it. The surviving three brothers, who returned to Australia at the end of the War, carried physical and psychological scars from their experiences. Their brother's horrific fates were not known until the 2nd of February 1946, when parents Henry and Mary Hutchins received the first of four telegrams. Three more would arrive together within the week. No Australian family, would suffer from a greater loss of life in World War II.

"We Will Remember Them"

Private VX61201 - Eric Everard Hutchins.

Private VX61203 - Fred Hutchins

Private VX41293 - Alan Leslie Hutchins, (Darky)

Private VX61202 - David Arthur Hutchins

Private VX41288 - Ivan Robert Hutchins, (The Parson)

Private VX41229 - William Ernest Hutchins, (Bill)

Bombardier VX37192 - Malcolm George Hutchins, (Mike)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05555.015



## Malcolm George “Mike” Hutchins

**Birth** 12 Jul 1910  
Lake Boga, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 10 Aug 1990 (aged 80)  
Shepparton, Greater Shepparton City, Victoria, Australia

**Burial** [Numurkah Cemetery](#)  
Numurkah, Moira Shire, Victoria, Australia [Show Map](#)

**Memorial ID** 156733015 · [View Source](#)

Informal outdoor portrait of VX37192 Bombardier (Bdr) Malcolm George 'Mike' Hutchins, C Section, 4th Battery, 2nd Anti Aircraft Regiment, of Woorinen North, Vic, standing in the garden of the family home.





Son of Henry Browning and Mary Elizabeth Hutchins. Husband of Gertrude Hutchins. Mike served in the Middle East, Syria and New Guinea. He served as a Gunner (Service No. VX37192) with the 2/4th Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery for 15 months before returning to Australia. He was sent to New Guinea with the 156th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery protecting the airfields around Port Moresby, Wau and the Owen Stanley Ranges. He returned to Australia and was deemed medically unfit in July 1944 and was discharged. He died aged 80 years.

## Parents

**Henry Walter Hutchins**

1886–1963

**Mary Elizabeth *Browning* Hutchins**

1886–1956

## Siblings

**Malcolm George Hutchins**

1910–1990

**William Ernest Hutchins**

1912–2001

**David Arthur Hutchins**

1913–1945

**Ivan Robert Hutchins**

1915–1969

**Alan Leslie Hutchins**

1917–1942

**Frederick Hutchins**

1921–1945

**Eric Everard Hutchins**

1922–1942

## William Ernest “Bill” Hutchins

**Birth** 3 Jan 1912  
Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 21 Jul 2001 (aged 89)  
Victoria, Australia

**Burial**

[Swan Hill Cemetery](#)

Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

Memorial ID 156732658 · [View Source](#)



Son of Henry and Mary Elizabeth Hutchins. Husband of Edna Hutchins. Bill served as a Private (Service No. VX41229) with the 1st Field Park Ordnance (RAAOC) in the Middle East, Tobruk, North Africa, Moratai and Tarakan until World War II ended in August 1945. He died aged 89 years.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05555.014

# Private David Arthur Hutchins

**Birth** 2 Mar 1913  
Lake Boga, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 29 Jul 1945 (aged 32)  
Indonesia

**Burial** [Ambon War Cemetery](#)  
Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia

**Plot** 18. A. 15.

Memorial ID 22743329 · [View Source](#)



~~~~~Description of Brothers Portrait see attached~~~~~  
Informal outdoor portrait of VX61202 Private (Pte) David Arthur Hutchins (left), 2/21st Battalion, and his brother, VX61203 Pte Fred Hutchins, 2/21st Battalion, both of Woorinen North, Vic. The brothers are standing at ease with their rifles, at a training camp near Adelaide River. Privates David and Fred Hutchins enlisted with a third brother VX61201 Pte Eric Everard Hutchins, on 6 August 1941. The three brothers and a second cousin VX50460 Pte Thomas Hutchins, of Rainbow, Vic, members of 2/21st Battalion (Gull Force), all died as prisoners of



war (POW) of the Japanese, at Ambon, Netherlands East Indies. Pte Fred Hutchins died on 6 July 1945, and Pte David Hutchins on 29 July 1945. In total seven brothers of the Hutchins family enlisted and served overseas. Only three, VX41288 Pte Ivan Robert Hutchins, 2/4th Field Ambulance, VX37192 Bombardier Malcolm George "Mike" Hutchins, 2nd Anti Aircraft Regiment, and VX41229 Pte William Ernest (Bill) Hutchins, 2/22nd Battalion (later 2/23rd Battalion), survived the war and returned to Australia. They had served in the Middle East and New Guinea. Another brother VX41293 Private Alan Leslie Hutchins, 2/22nd Battalion (Lark Force), died as a POW at Rabaul, New Britain. VX74662 Sapper Fredrick Wallace, 9th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, another cousin of the Hutchins brothers, was a member of the recovery team which visited Ambon in October 1945, to uncover mass graves and identify remains, including those of his cousins, at Laha airfield and Tantoei camp.

~~~Transcript of Military Service, Australian Militray Forces, Army, World War Two~~~

Service Number:--- VX61202

Born:---Lake Boga, Victoria, 2nd March 1913

Religion:--- Church of England

Civilian Employment:--- Labourer

Martial Status:--- Married

Next of kin:--- Wife, Mrs Anne Hutchins, Woorinen North, Victoria.

Enlisted:--- 6th August 1941, at Royal Park, Victoria.

Age on enlistment:--- 28 years and 4 months.

Final Rank:--- Private

Fate:--- Died of illness (beri beri), Ambon, 29th July 1945 whilst a prisoner of war held by Japanese Imperial Forces.

Burial:--- Ambon War Cemetery, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia

Parents:--- Henry Walter (Harry) Hutchins and Mary Elizabeth Browning married 1909 in Victoria.

Wife:--- Anne Barnes married 1938 in Victoria.

Memorials:--- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

~~~~~Family and Military Connections~~~~~

In World War Two, seven Hutchins brothers from Woorinen, near Swan Hill in Victoria, enlisted to protect and fight for the country they loved. All seven served with the AIF in different conflicts - from desert sands of the Middle East, Tobruk, Syria & North Africa, to the tropical Islands in the Pacific - New Guinea, Rabaul & Ambon. Of the seven brothers, only three returned home. Four of the brothers died tragically under barbaric Japanese imprisonment, or trying to escape it. The surviving three brothers, who returned to Australia at the end of the War, carried physical and psychological scars from their experiences. Their brother's horrific fates were not known until the 2nd of February 1946, when parents Henry and Mary Hutchins received the first of four telegrams. Three more would arrive together within the week. No Australian family, would suffer from a greater loss of life in World War II.  
"We Will Remember Them"

~~~~~Bio details by Contributor: Dr. J The Seeker~~~~~

HUTCHINS DAVID ARTHUR : Service Number - VX61202 : Date of birth - 02 Mar 1913 :  
Place of birth - LAKE BOGA VIC : Place of enlistment - ROYAL PARK VIC : Next of Kin -  
BARNES A - VX61202 - Pte David Hutchins died as a POW 29th July 1945 Indonesia. 32 years

old. BURIAL - Ambon War Cemetery Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia. PLOT- 18. A. 15.  
Contributor: Dr. J The Seeker (47214870) •

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## Ivan Robert “The Parson” Hutchins

**Birth** 7 Nov 1915  
Fryerstown, Mount Alexander Shire, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 30 Sep 1969 (aged 53)  
Victoria, Australia

**Burial** [Robinvale Cemetery](#)  
Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

Memorial ID 156732387 · [View Source](#)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05555.012

Son of Henry and Mary Elizabeth Hutchins. Husband of Marie Hutchins. Ivan served as a Private (Service No. VX41288) in the Middle East, Syria and New Guinea with 2/4 Field Ambulance during World War II. He returned home in June 1943. He died from motor neurone disease, aged 53 years.

## Private Alan Leslie “Darky” Hutchins

**Birth** 14 Oct 1917  
Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 31 Mar 1942 (aged 24)  
Rabaul, Rabaul District, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea

**Burial** [Rabaul War Cemetery and Memorial](#)  
Kokopo, Kokopo District, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea

**Plot** "Known unto God" "Their glory shall not be blotted out." Panel 23.

**Memorial ID** 23808202 · [View Source](#)

~~~~~Description of Cover Portrait~~~~~

Studio portrait of VX41293 Private (Pte) Alan Leslie Hutchins, 2/22nd Battalion (Lark Force), of Woorinen, Vic. Pte Hutchins enlisted on 28 June 1940, and died as a prisoner of war (POW) of the Japanese, on 31 March 1942 at Rabaul, New Britain. Pte Hutchins was one of seven brothers who enlisted and served overseas during the Second World War. Only three, VX41288 Pte Ivan Robert Hutchins, 2/4th Field Ambulance, VX37192 Bombardier Malcolm George 'Mike' Hutchins, 2nd Anti Aircraft Regiment, and VX41229 Pte William Ernest (Bill) Hutchins, 2/22nd Battalion (later 2/23rd Battalion), survived the war and returned to Australia. They had served in the Middle East and New Guinea. Brothers VX61202 Pte David Arthur Hutchins, VX61203 Pte Fred Hutchins, VX61201 Pte Eric Everard Hutchins, and a [second cousin, VX50460 Pte Thomas Hutchins, all of the 2/21st Battalion \(Gull Force\)](#), died as prisoners of war (POW) of the Japanese at Ambon, Netherlands East Indies . VX74662 Sapper Fredrick Wallace, 9th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, another cousin of the Hutchins brothers, was a member of the recovery team which visited Ambon in October 1945 to uncover mass graves and identify remains, including those of his cousins, at Laha airfield and Tantoei camp.

~~~Transcript of Military Service, Australian Military Forces, Army, World War Two~~~

Service Number:--- VX41293

Born:--- Swan Hill, Victoria, 14th October 1917.

Enlisted:--- 28th June 1940

Final Rank:--- Private

Final Unit:--- 2nd/22nd Australian Infantry Battalion, 2nd AIF (Lark Force).

Fate:--- Died of illness, Rabaul, 31 March 1942, whilst a prisoner of war held by Japanese Imperial Forces.

Burial:--- No known grave. "Known unto God"

Memorials:--- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Rabaul Memorial

Parents:--- Henry Walter (Harry) Hutchins and Mary Elizabeth Browning married 1909 in Victoria.

~~~~~Military and Family Connections~~~~~

In World War Two, seven Hutchins brothers from Woorinen, near Swan Hill in Victoria, enlisted

to protect and fight for the country they loved. All seven served with the AIF in different conflicts - from desert sands of the Middle East, Tobruk, Syria & North Africa, to the tropical Islands in the Pacific - New Guinea, Rabaul & Ambon. Of the seven brothers, only three returned home. Four of the brothers died tragically under barbaric Japanese imprisonment, or trying to escape it. The surviving three brothers, who returned to Australia at the end of the War, carried physical and psychological scars from their experiences. Their brother's horrific fates were not known until the 2nd of February 1946, when parents Henry and Mary Hutchins received the first of four telegrams. Three more would arrive together within the week. No Australian family, would suffer from a greater loss of life in World War II.  
"We Will Remember Them"



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05555.004

PANEL No 23

AUSTRALIAN  
IMPERIAL FORCE

PRIVATEES

|         |           |       |    |
|---------|-----------|-------|----|
| VX23568 | HAYES     | J.    | W. |
| VX37308 | HEFFER    | D.    | G. |
| VX19568 | HENDERSON | J. J. | W. |
| VX37502 | HENDERSON | T.    |    |
| VX48458 | HERTWIG   | A. M. |    |
| VX14542 | HEWETT    | S. J. |    |
| VX40700 | HIBBS     | B. H. |    |
| VX24156 | HICKEY    | H. J. |    |
| VX21429 | HILL      | A. R. |    |
| VX45205 | HOARE     | R. A. |    |
| VX23935 | HOLMES    | R. H. |    |
| VX46854 | HOWARD    | J. L. |    |
| VX24179 | HOWLETT   | W. L. |    |
| VX28632 | HOYE      | M. T. |    |
| VX42240 | HUGHES    | J.    |    |
| VX21358 | HUGHES    | W. E. |    |
| VX25911 | HULETT    | L. A. |    |
| NGX202  | HUNTER    | S. W. |    |
| VX41293 | HUTCHINS  | A. L. |    |
| VX36081 | HYMAN     | L. E. |    |
| VX32466 | I'ANSON   | D.    |    |
| VX29405 | JACKSON   | E. L. |    |
| VX25049 | JACKSON   | W. T. |    |
| VX38952 | JAMES     | E. W. |    |
| VX24213 | JAMES     | I. P. |    |
| VX28409 | JARRATT   | T. R. |    |
| VX29427 | JEFFERY   | J. W. |    |
| VX24113 | JENNINGS  | L. R. |    |
| VX23640 | JOINER    | R. J. |    |
| VX32218 | JONES     | F.    |    |
| VX22948 | JONES     | R. A. |    |
| VX38713 | JONES     | W. A. |    |
| VX37843 | JUDD      | L.    |    |
| VX47669 | KAHLE     | H. G. |    |
| VX29140 | KAVANAGH  | V.    |    |
| VX24042 | KAY       | H. D. |    |
| VX30453 | KELLAM    | H.    |    |
| VX19573 | KELLEHER  | P. J. |    |
| VX30571 | KENNEDY   | J. L. |    |
| VX23334 | KENNEDY   | M.    |    |
| VX21621 | KETELS    | F.    |    |
| VX23265 | KIMBER    | T.    |    |
| VX21971 | KIMPTON   | H. W. |    |

# Private Frederick "Fred" Hutchins

**Birth** 21 Mar 1921  
Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 6 Jul 1945 (aged 24)  
Indonesia

**Burial** [Ambon War Cemetery](#)  
Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia [Show Map](#)

**Plot** PLOT- 17. D. 12

**Memorial ID** 22743330 · [View Source](#)

~~~~~Description of Brothers Portrait attached~~~~~

Informal outdoor portrait of VX61202 Private (Pte) David Arthur Hutchins (left), 2/21st Battalion, and his brother, VX61203 Pte Fred Hutchins, 2/21st Battalion, both of Woorinen North, Vic. The brothers are standing at ease with their rifles, at a training camp near Adelaide River. Privates David and Fred Hutchins enlisted with a third brother VX61201 Pte Eric Everard Hutchins, on 6 August 1941. The three brothers and a [second cousin VX50460 Pte Thomas Hutchins, of Rainbow, Vic, members of 2/21st Battalion \(Gull Force\)](#), all died as prisoners of war (POW) of the Japanese, at Ambon, Netherlands East Indies. Pte Fred Hutchins died on 6 July 1945, and Pte David Hutchins on 29 July 1945. In total seven brothers of the Hutchins family enlisted and served overseas. Only three, VX41288 Pte Ivan Robert Hutchins, 2/4th Field Ambulance, VX37192 Bombardier Malcolm George "Mike" Hutchins, 2nd Anti Aircraft Regiment, and VX41229 Pte William Ernest (Bill) Hutchins, 2/22nd Battalion (later 2/23rd Battalion), survived the war and returned to Australia. They had served in the Middle East and New Guinea. Another brother VX41293 Private Alan Leslie Hutchins, 2/22nd Battalion (Lark Force), died as a POW at Rabaul, New Britain. VX74662 Sapper Fredrick Wallace, 9th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, another cousin of the Hutchins brothers, was a member of the recovery team which visited Ambon in October 1945, to uncover mass graves and identify remains, including those of his cousins, at Laha airfield and Tantoei camp.

~~Transcript of Military Service, Australian Military Forces, Army, World War Two~~

Service Number:--- VX61203

Born:---21 Mar 1921, Swan Hill, Victoria

Enlisted:--- 6th August 1941, Royal Park, Victoria

Next of Kin:--- Father, Mr Henry Walter Hutchins

Final Rank:--- Private

Fate:--- Died of illness whilst a prisoner of war, held by Japanese Imperial Forces, at Ambon, 6th July 1945

Burial:--- Ambon War Cemetery, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia

Memorials:--- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

~~~~~Details of Military and Family Connections~~~~~

In World War Two, seven Hutchins brothers from Woorinen, near Swan Hill in Victoria, enlisted to protect and fight for the country they loved. All seven served with the AIF in different conflicts - from desert sands of the Middle East, Tobruk, Syria & North Africa, to the tropical Islands in the Pacific - New Guinea, Rabaul & Ambon. Of the seven brothers, only three returned home. Four of the brothers died tragically under barbaric Japanese imprisonment, or

trying to escape it. The surviving three brothers, who returned to Australia at the end of the War, carried physical and psychological scars from their experiences. Their brother's horrific fates were not known until the 2nd of February 1946, when parents Henry and Mary Hutchins received the first of four telegrams. Three more would arrive together within the week. No Australian family, would suffer from a greater loss of life in World War II.

"We Will Remember Them"

Private VX61201 - Eric Everard Hutchins.

Private VX61203 - Fred Hutchins

Private VX41293 - Alan Leslie Hutchins, (Darky)

Private VX61202 - David Arthur Hutchins

Private VX41288 - Ivan Robert Hutchins, (The Parson)

Private VX41229 - William Ernest Hutchins, (Bill)

Bombardier VX37192 - Malcolm George Hutchins, (Mike)

~~~~~Bio details by Contributor: Dr. J The Seeker (47214870)~~~~~

HUTCHINS FRED : Service Number - VX61203 : Date of birth - 21 Mar 1921 : Place of birth -

SWAN HILL VIC : Place of enlistment - ROYAL PARK VIC : Next of Kin - HUTCHINS

HENRY. - VX61203 Pte Fred Hutchins died as a POW 6th July 1945 Indonesia. 24 years old.

BURIAL - Ambon War Cemetery Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia. PLOT- 17. D. 12.

Contributor: Dr. J The Seeker (47214870) •



# Henry Walter “Harry” Hutchins

**Birth** 10 Oct 1886  
Horsham, Horsham Rural City, Victoria, Australia

**Death** 11 Dec 1963 (aged 77)  
Fryerstown, Mount Alexander Shire, Victoria, Australia

**Burial** [Fryerstown Cemetery](#)  
Fryerstown, Mount Alexander Shire, Victoria, Australia [Show Map](#)

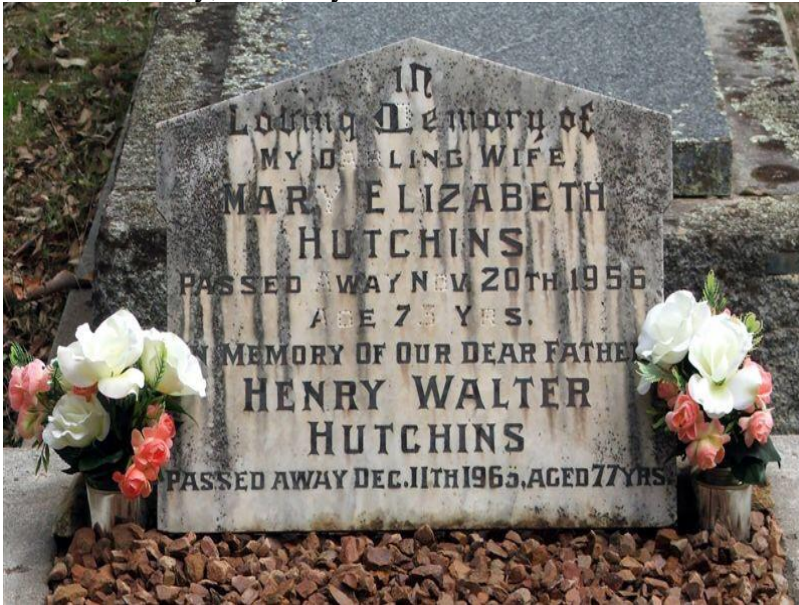
Memorial ID 142875709 · [View Source](#)



- 
- Mr Henry Hutchins had nine sons and four daughters with his wife Mary in Woorinen, rural Victoria. Seven of his sons enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force during the Second World War. They were aged between 17 and 30 and they worked mostly as labourers in the local rural community. - Died 11 DECEMBER 1963 Castlemaine, Victoria. - Henry is buried with his wife in the Fryerstown Cemetery, Victoria
- 
- [Inscription](#)
- Loved parents of Henry (Wally),  
Malcolm, William, Louisa, David,



Dorothy, Ivan, Alan, Myrtle, Elizabeth,  
Frederick, Mary, Eric, Raymond



**Mary Elizabeth *Browning* Hutchins**

**Birth** 10 Sep 1886  
**Death** 20 Nov 1956 (aged 70)  
Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City, Victoria, Australia  
**Burial** [Fryerstown Cemetery](#)  
Fryerstown, Mount Alexander Shire, Victoria, Australia [Show Map](#)

Memorial ID 228609801 · [View Source](#)



Died 20 Nov 1956 Swan Hill, Victoria - Mrs. Mary Hutchins had nine sons and four daughters with her husband Henry in Woorinen, rural Victoria. Seven of her sons enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force during the Second World War. They were aged between 17 and 30 and they worked mostly as labourers in the local rural community.- Mary is buried with her husband in the Fryerstown Cemetery, Victoria.

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#### Inscription

Aged 73 years  
Loved parents of Henry (Wally),  
Malcolm, William, Louisa, David,  
Dorothy, Ivan, Alan, Myrtle, Elizabeth,  
Frederick, Mary, Eric, Raymond

## Family Members

### Spouse



**Henry Walter Hutchins**  
1886–1963

### Children



**Malcolm George Hutchins**  
1910–1990

FAMOUS

CONTRIBUTE



1912–2001



**David Arthur Hutchins**  
1913–1945



**Ivan Robert Hutchins**  
1915–1969



**Alan Leslie Hutchins**  
1917–1942



**Frederick Hutchins**  
1921–1945



**Eric Everard Hutchins**  
1922–1942



**Eric Everard Hutchins**  
1922–1942