

In reply to my letter of congratulation, Lieutenant Saunders sent the following letter in acknowledgment:

14 Glebe Ave.,
Cheltenham,
Victoria.

18/12/44.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your kind wishes and congratulations. My philosophy is that once a person undertakes to do something, no matter how big or how small, that person should do it to the best of his or her ability, which may account for my very small part in helping to pave the way to ultimate victory. Many thanks for your book. Many of the people mentioned in it are very familiar to me.

You mentioned in your letter an attitude towards the people of my race. But neither you nor I can change that attitude, because changing of it rests with the aborigines themselves, and my contribution towards helping them, is just simply by setting up an example—not by words, which are cheap, but by deeds.

Once again, Sir, I thank you, and wish you and your fellow-workers all the best of luck.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) R. W. Saunders.

Reg Saunders also served in the Australian Army in Korea, and in 1951 was promoted to the rank of Captain, and given the command of a Company. Men who served under him said that as an Officer and a man Captain Saunders would be hard to beat. He is now an officer of the Australian Regular Army, and stationed at a Military training camp in Victoria. His wife is a part aboriginal girl who was in the W.A.A.F's. in World War II.

Harold Blair, born in Queensland, and educated at the Purga Mission, attracted attention when he sang at his work on his employer's farm near Fassifern, and became popular at district concerts.

When he was 20 in 1945, Marjorie Lawrence invited him to sing to her at her Brisbane hotel. She praised his voice, and foretold a good future under competent teachers. About the same time he sang Advance Australia and other songs at a War Loan Rally in the Brisbane City Hall to the applause of 2,000 people.

His next success was in an Amateur Hour broadcast from Brisbane, when his singing of Macushla brought him 9,000 votes—a record at that time. To help him the Government gave him a job in the Native Affairs Department in Brisbane.

Money was raised by a group of white people to send him to Melbourne to study at the Albert St. Conservatorium. Here he made good progress, and in 1949 was awarded the Performer's Diploma, the first aboriginal to receive such an award.

Blair toured Australia for the A.B.C. as Vocalist with the Symphony Orchestra, and sang excerpts from Jephtha, Judas Maccabaeus, and Handel's Messiah. He also gave a cultured talk in the Guest of Honour Session.



Harold Blair.

He then went to America, and studied at the Howard University for 18 months under the Negro baritone Tod Duncan, and appeared as Guest of Honour on a New York television programme—the first Australian aborigine to do so.

On his return to Australia he took part in the Commonwealth Jubilee Concert Season under the A.B.C. He married Miss Dorothy Eden of Melbourne, where they now reside.

Miss Amy O'Donoghue left here in 1953 to serve at the Mt. Margaret Mission in West Australia as a Missionary teacher. She was then at 23 fulfilling a desire she had cherished for years.

She came from the Nepabunna district in the north, and when a child was taken to the Colebrook home at Quorn, conducted for the United Aborigines Mission by Matron Hyde and Sister Rutter.

She received her Primary education at the Quorn Public School, and when the Home was transferred to Eden Hills near Adelaide, attended the Unley High School and obtained the Intermediate Certificate.

Then to prepare herself to teach little children, she took the short course of the S.A. Kindergarten College at North Adelaide, did practical work at the Belair Kindergarten, and received the College certificate.

To further prepare herself for missionary work she entered the Adelaide Bible Institute in 1950, and after 2 years of intensive study gained the Institute's Diploma.

Miss O'Donoghue is the first qualified part-aborigine to go from South Australia to do mission work elsewhere, and we all wish her every success.