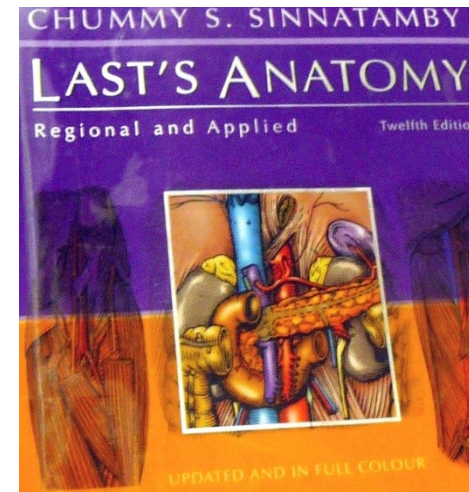
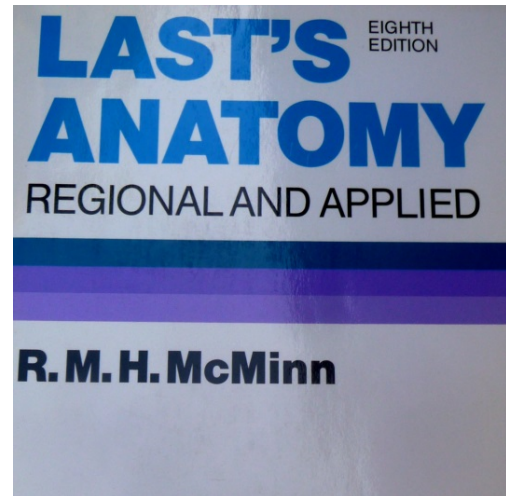
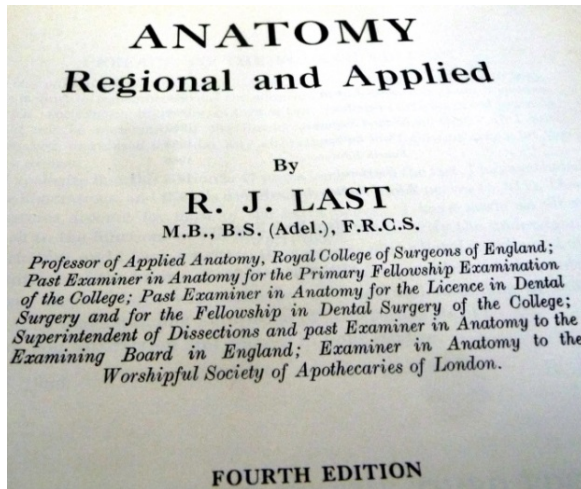
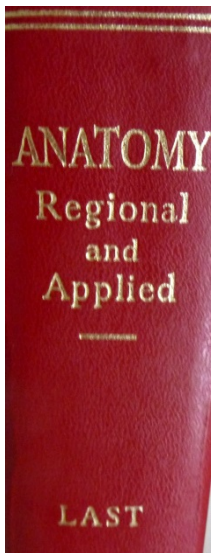


R. J. LAST: FROM A COUNTRY GP TO PROFESSOR OF REGIONAL AND APPLIED ANATOMY : FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS

RAYMOND J. LAST, *Contemporary Surgeon, Booleroo Centre, South Australia.*



Presentation at the 2017 meeting of the Australian College of Surgeons Scientific meeting in Adelaide. The italic line refers to the annotation in Hamilton Bailey's text book referring to Lasts communication about the diagnosis and location of arterial embolus in the leg as "contemporary surgeon". The front pages show the various editions of his anatomic text books.

LAST AND HIS SISTER



Last aged five and his younger sister. The family was proud of their English origin lived frugally and supported their bright son.

RAYMOND JACK LAST

Early years:

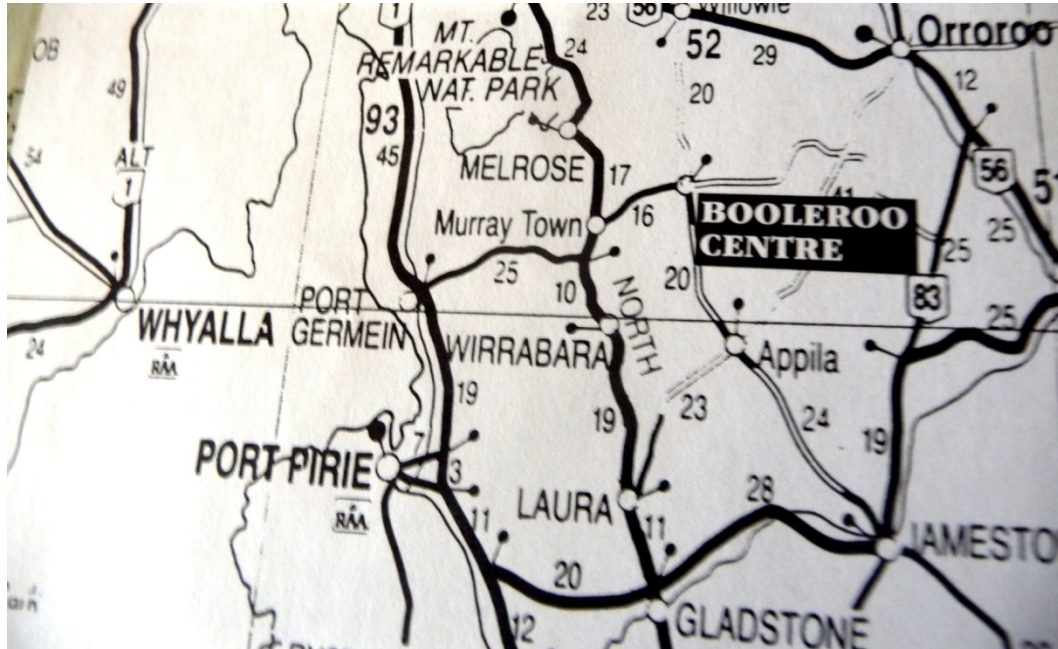
- Ray Last was educated at Adelaide Boys High School.
- One of his schoolmates was Mark Oliphant a physicist part of the Manhattan project because of his electromagnetic separation of the Uranium isotopes an later Governor of South Australia.
- He studied medicine after gaining a University Exhibition and Government scholarship.
- He graduated in 1924 and after a year of internship started as rural general practitioner at Booleroo centre, a country town in SA.



The only woman in Ray Last's year, sitting on his left, became the first Lady Florey

Last's graduation photograph. He sits to the left of Mary Ethel Hayter Reed, the only woman in the year. She later married Howard Florey of the Penicillin fame and was his assistant.

Map of Booleroo Centre



Booleroo Centre is about 53 kilometres from Port Pirie and about 2 hours drive from Adelaide. Country general practitioners then operated on emergencies and performed minor surgery. Last was a popular and largely self taught surgeon, but to become a professional surgeon and obtain a hospital appointment required passing the College of Surgeons exam in England (the FRCS).

Locums in Australia

To earn funds for travel and support he did a series of locums in NSW and Queensland.

Last's first locum was in Bankstown. Dr. Bradfield, the son of the Harbour Bridge engineer, was away to get his FRACP.

The longest time was spent in Augathella in central Queensland.

He was paid 10 Guineas per week.

Two Guineas were added for car and expenses.

Annual wage was about 400 Pounds.

Loaf of bread cost 5 pence.

Petrol was 10-19 pence a gallon

The Matron from Booleroo hospital accompanied him.

She was his anaesthetist. They married in March 1939.

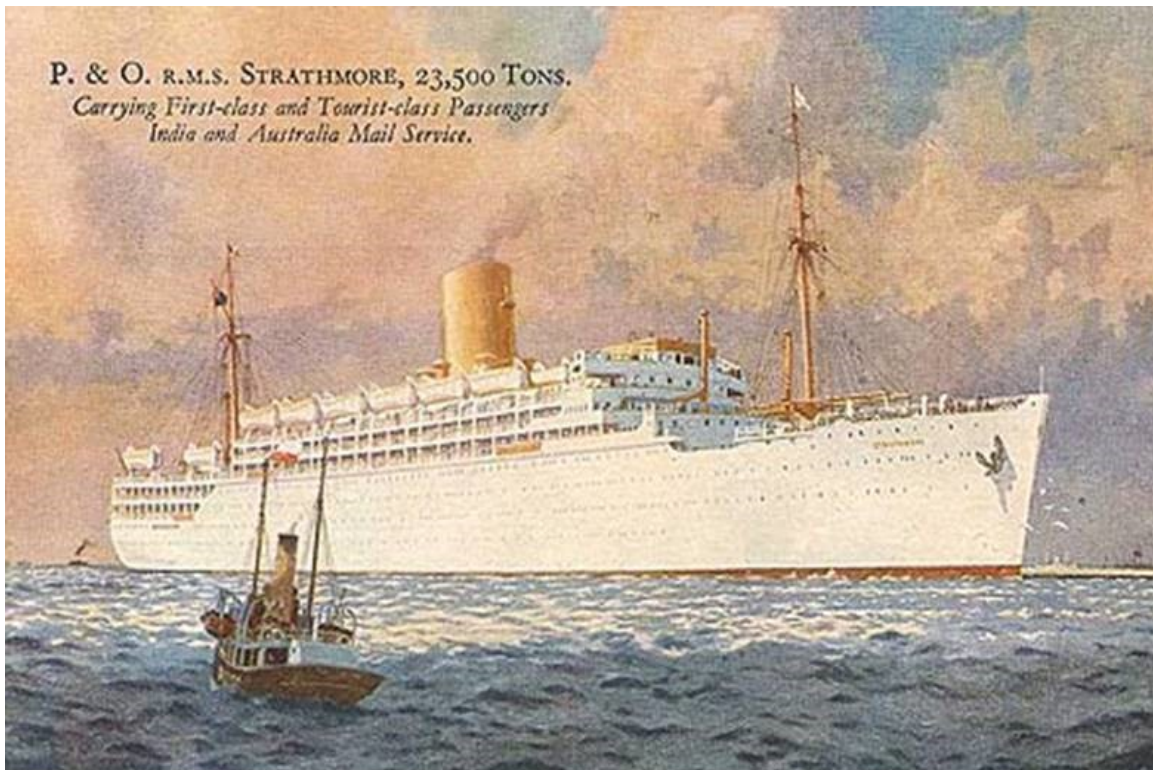
ETHYL CHLORIDE, ETHER AND SCHIMMELBUSCH MASK.



Common anaesthetics then were Ethyl Chloride for induction and Ether for maintenance of anaesthesia. They were both dripped on a cloth mask as above.

His longest locum was in Augathella, a drover and bullock team town. Last described Augathella as a country town where the dance hall had a rough wooden floor, canvas to shield the windows and one could see the stars through the roof.





- The Strathmore was one of several liners taking passengers and new arrivals between England and Australia. Last commented that new passengers embarked at each port and the ship was “full” after she left India.
- They arrived in London on the 20th of July 1939, war was declared on 3rd of September.

Barrage balloons as part of air defense



London bus fell into the Underground



The Barrage balloons were a common feature, and the famous photograph of a bus in the Ballham tube station indicate the degree of damage. Fortunately, Last and his wife worked at Northern Fever Hospital at Winchmore Hill (N21).

NORTHERN FEVER HOSPITAL WINCHMORE HILL

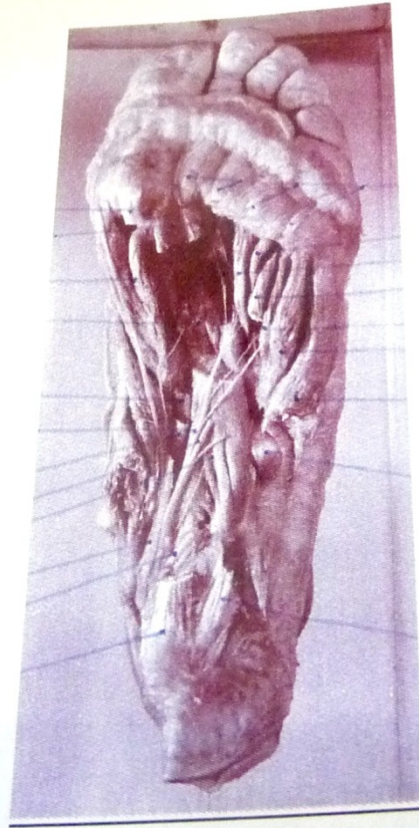


Henry Souttar: Noted and innovative surgeon, Vice President and Examiner of the College, and Last's sponsor.



HENRY SOUTTAR WAS IMPRESSED WITH LAST AND MADE HIM IN CHARGE OF HIS SURGICAL TEAM. THIS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A SENIOR REGISTRAR POST. THEY OPERATED TOGETHER AND IF THERE WAS A SAME PROCEDURE, SOUTTAR PERFORMED THE FIRST AND HELPED LAST WITH THE NEXT.

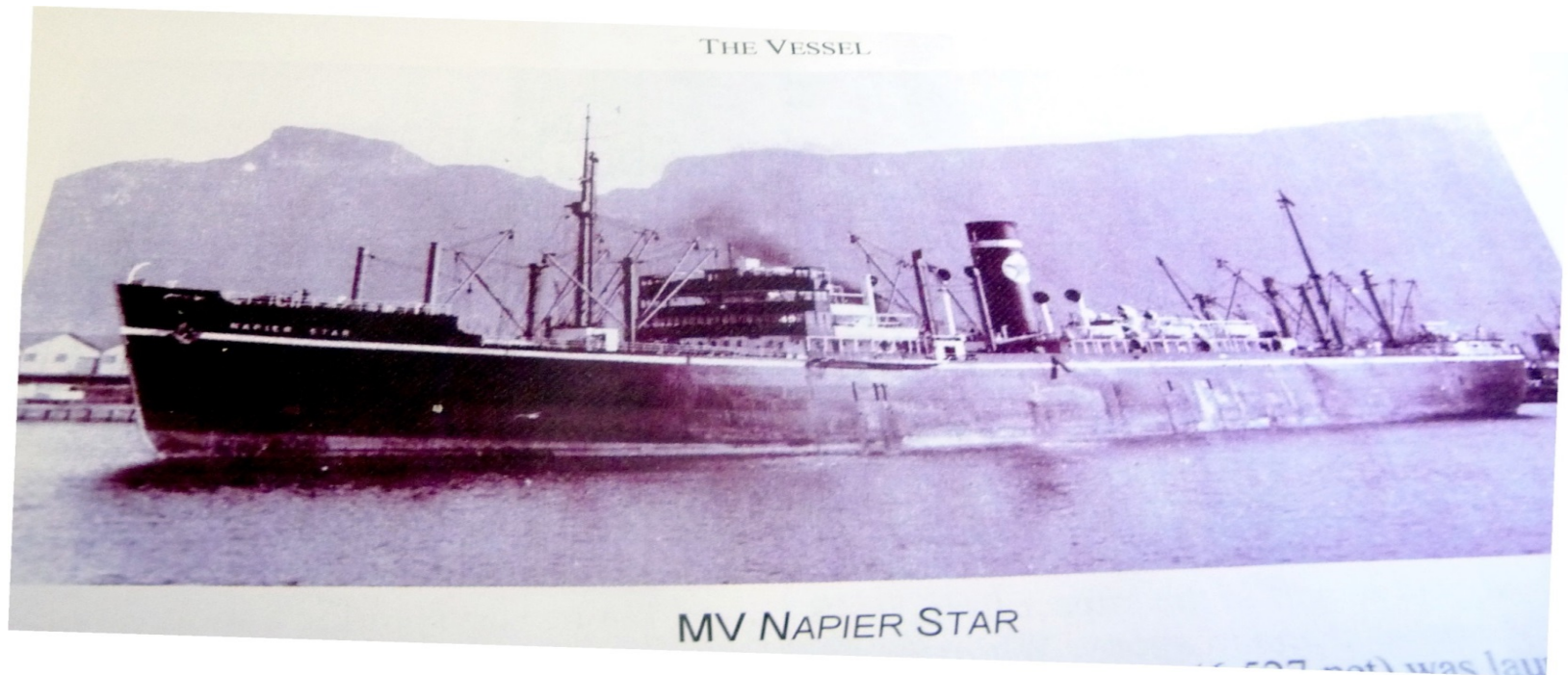
LAST DISSECTED MANY AMPUTATED LIMBS AND PHOTOGRAPHED THEM



RJL retained a packet of labelled photographs of dissections, of which this is one.

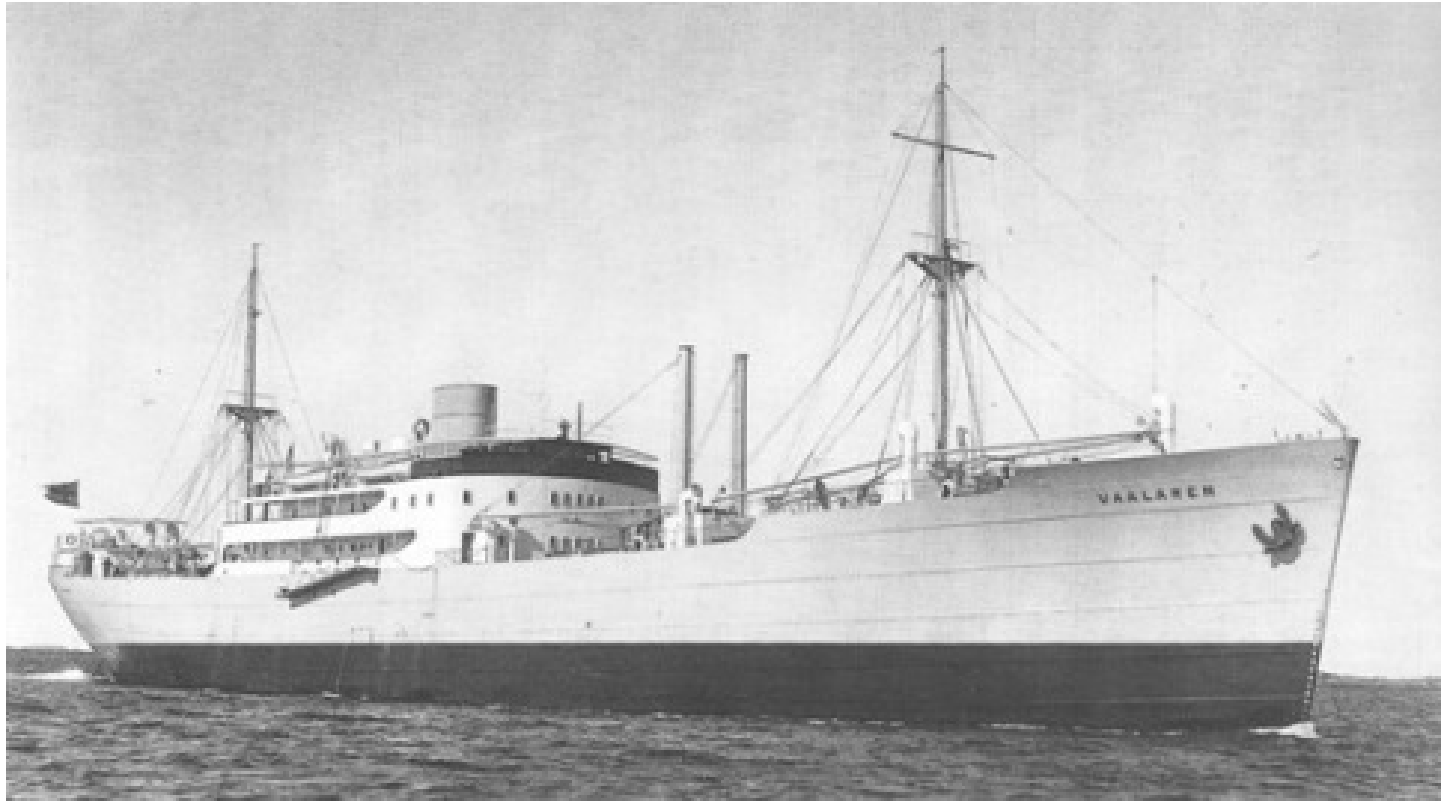
TUESDAY 17th October 1939

LAST TRIED TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA TO ENROLL IN THE AAMC



The Napier Star was sunk by a German submarine some 200 kilometres south of Iceland two days later. A few of the passengers and the Lasts were rescued by the Vaalaren, a Swedish ship and taken to Liverpool.

Swedish Ship Vaalaren



FOREIGN OFFICE
deleted
7 FEB 1941
H

DESCRIPTION - 7 FEB 1941
SIGNALEMENT.

Wife - Femme

Profession }
Profession }

Medical
Practitioner

Home Duties

Place and date
of birth }

Lieu et date
de naissance }

Adelaide
South Australia
26th May, 1903

Murray Town
31st Aug, 1904

Domicile }
Domicile }

Australia

Height }
Taille }

5 ft 7 in. 5 ft 5 in.

Colour of eyes }
Couleur des yeux }

Blue Grey

Colour of hair }
Couleur des cheveux }

Brown Dark brown

Special peculiarities }
Signes particuliers }

CHILDREN - ENFANTS.

Name
Nom

Date of Birth
Date de Naissance

Sex
Sexe

PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER.



SIGNATURE OF BEARER SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE.

[Handwritten signature in green ink]

WIFE FEMME



SIGNATURE OF WIFE ET DE SA FEMME.

[Handwritten signature in green ink]