

The late Philip Masel, O.B.E., E.D.

Australian Jewry and the Commonwealth of Australia in general and Western Australian Jewry in particular suffered a great loss with the sudden death of the late Philip Masel at sea on his way home from a holiday with his wife on 27th February last.

Philip Masel was born in Perth, Western Australia, on 25th May, 1908, the youngest son of four of the late Mr. and Mrs. Esor Masel. His father was a devoted Communal worker and office bearer of the Perth Hebrew Congregation and the founder of Worths, one of Perth's leading merchandise stores of which Philip was General Manager at the time of his death.

In his early communal life he took a full part in the Religious, Social, Cultural and Sporting activities of the Perth Hebrew Congregation—specially those of its youth.



THE LATE PHILIP MASEL, O.B.E., E.D.

He wrote a History of the Congregation at the request of the Board.

He was also founder and co-editor of *The Judean*, a West Australian monthly journal of Jewish affairs.

He was a Founding Member of the Liberal Judaism Movement which evolved into the present Temple David Congregation in which he participated with its services and activities. In this capacity he wrote the history of the first and second decades of the Congregation.

He was not a Zionist and was opposed to Political Zionism in the early stages of the creation of the State of Israel and, with others, founded and published "The Australian Jewish Outlook" which formulated the theory of "Australians of the Jewish Faith" as distinct from other National identities.

He had a distinguished military career, having joined the C.M.F. in 1938 and particularly in World War II when he served with the 2/28th Battalion at Tobruk, Alamein and Borneo. After the war he was appointed Officer Commanding the 13th Infantry Brigade with the rank of Brigadier. He was granted the Freedom of the City of Perth on behalf of the Royal West Australian Regiment.

He was actively associated with many major organisations and was a Past President of Perth Legacy and took interest in the War Widows' Guild, the Boy Scouts' Association, was a member of the A.B.C. Talks' Advisory Committee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee, and the Arts' Advisory Council.

He organised and commanded the opening and closing ceremonies of the Empire Games held in Perth in 1962.

He was a writer of distinction and in his earlier years was active in sports as a member of Cricket, Tennis, Golf and Bowling Clubs.

As a tribute to his literary abilities he was appointed by the Commonwealth Government Commissioner for this State on the Australian Broadcasting Commission and was in his second term of office at the time of his death.

For his public and wartime services he was made an O.B.E. in 1952.

He was also awarded the honour of E.D. (Efficiency Decoration) granted by the Commonwealth Government for twenty years' service in the Armed Services.

He was a liberal, progressive and intellectual personality, well esteemed by all who knew him in his business, cultural and military activities.

—H.B.