

Basic Detail Report

V00046060

Title

Pair of wooden ice skates

Date

1930s

Medium

Metal, wood, leather, fabric

Name

Ice skates

History

Rob Davids was the eldest son of three children. He was 13 years old when he migrated to Australia with his family from Holland on the liner JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT. His brother Eric was 10 and Huibert was five. The Davids docked at Pyrmont 7 in September 1952. Rob's father, David Davids was Jewish and in 1942 he divorced his wife to protect her from Nazi persecution and was smuggled across the English Channel in a small fishing boat (IJM209). There he worked for the Dutch government in exile for the duration of the war. He was a so-called 'Engeland vaarder' and received the Bronze Cross in the Order of Oranje Nassau from Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina. In Rob Davids was 13 years old when he migrated from Holland to Australia with his family on the Nederland liner JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT. Rob was the eldest son of three children; his brother Eric was 10 and Huibert was five. The Davids family docked at No 7 Wharf Pyrmont in September 1952. Rob's father David Davids was Jewish. In 1942 David divorced his wife Maria van Rijn to protect her from Nazi persecution and was smuggled across the English Channel in a small fishing boat. There he worked for the Dutch government in exile for the duration of the war. David was a so-called 'Engeland vaarder' and received the Bronze Cross in the Order of Oranje-Nassau from Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina. Rob and his brother stayed with their mother in Holland during the German occupation, moving from place to place. During the war, Maria was forced to fend for herself and moved several times after the Germans requisitioned her home. In 1942 the family lived in Sant Poort near Harlaam. Rob later discovered that his mother was hiding Jews in her garage. As a child he recalls tailing German troops as they marched through the streets, and listening to a British news station on a secret radio concealed in a cupboard at home. After liberation, David returned to Holland and remarried Maria. The family lived for a period on a farm in north Holland, before migrating to East Surrey in the UK. In 1949, seeking a better life, the family migrated to Jakarta, Indonesia where David tried to establish a small business machines company. When the business failed to take off and political turmoil escalated in the lead up to Indonesian independence, he migrated to Sydney, Australia. Maria and her three children returned to Holland, packed up the house, and followed David out in 1952. Rob did not want to go and has vivid memories of farewelling his grandparents from the wharf in Amsterdam. In Sydney David established

NSW Business Machines with an office on the third floor of the Strand Arcade. He sold copying machines by OCE and Retoce. Rob remembers spending a few Christmas holidays helping with the business. Later on David started RUF Accounting Systems which sold double entry accounting systems using carbon paper.