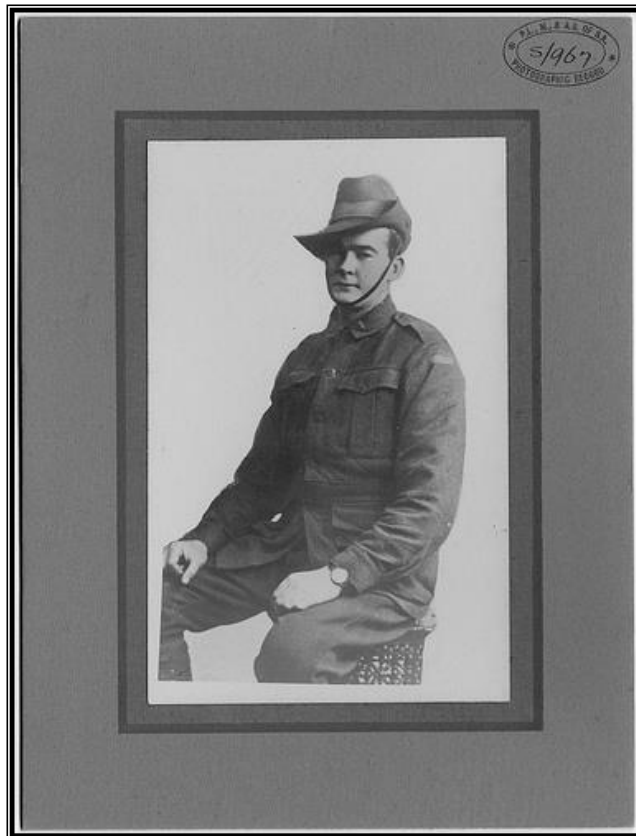




Sgt. John Mitchell Sinclair



30th July 1918



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1913 - 14

Law Student / Articled Clerk 1912 -1914

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of John Mitchell "Jack" Sinclair. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.




John Mitchell SINCLAIR

Regimental number	619
Place of birth	Alberton, South Australia
School	Kyre College and Adelaide University, South Australia
Religion	Baptist
Occupation	Law student
Address	c/o J H Sinclair, Grange, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Father, J H Sinclair, Grange, South Australia
Previous military service	Served for 6 years in the Junior and Senior Cadets.
Enlistment date	27 August 1914
Place of enlistment	Morphettville, South Australia
Rank on enlistment	Corporal
Unit name	<u>10th Battalion, E Company</u>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/27/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board Transport A11 <i>Ascanius</i> on 20 October 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Sergeant
Unit from Nominal Roll	10th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 30 July 1918
Place of death or wounding	Merris
Age at death	24
Age at death from cemetery records	24

Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	<p>Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France</p> <p>Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.</p> <p>The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.</p> <p>On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.</p> <p>After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.</p>
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	60
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Commemorated on Supreme Court Roll of Honour, Adelaide, South Australia. Inscription ('Those Who Fell') reads: 'Ante diem periit sed miles sed pro patria' ['He died before his time, but as a soldier, and for his country.' From the poem 'Clifton College' by Henry Newbolt]. Parents: James and Helena SINCLAIR
Other details	<p>War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front</p> <p>Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal</p>
Sources	<u>NAA: B2455, SINCLAIR John Mitchell</u>

National Archives of Australia - Service Records

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8085574>

D 48361 **AN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

619. Name SINCLAIR J.M.
Unit 40th Infantry Bn
Joined on 27th August 1914 40th Bn

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Sinclair John Mitchell
2. In the Parish of Alberlou in or
near what Parish or Town were you born? S-A.
3. British
4. 20 yrs 2 months
5. Law Student
6. He articulated to
7. Messrs. Hobb & Kelly, Solicitors
8. Mr. Sinclair J.H. S.M.
Grange S-A.
9. No
10. No
11. 6 yrs Cadets
12. yes
13. No
14. _____

3. Sinclair John Mitchell do solemnly declare that the above answers made to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service in support of my wife and children.

Date 25 Aug. J.M. Sinclair
Signature of person enlisted.

76.14.—C.10220. *This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

Biography

Early Life

Jack Mitchell (Jack) Sinclair was born of the 7th July 1894 at Alberton, South Australia, the son of James Hugh Craige Sinclair (1857-1943) and Helen Close (1866-1948).

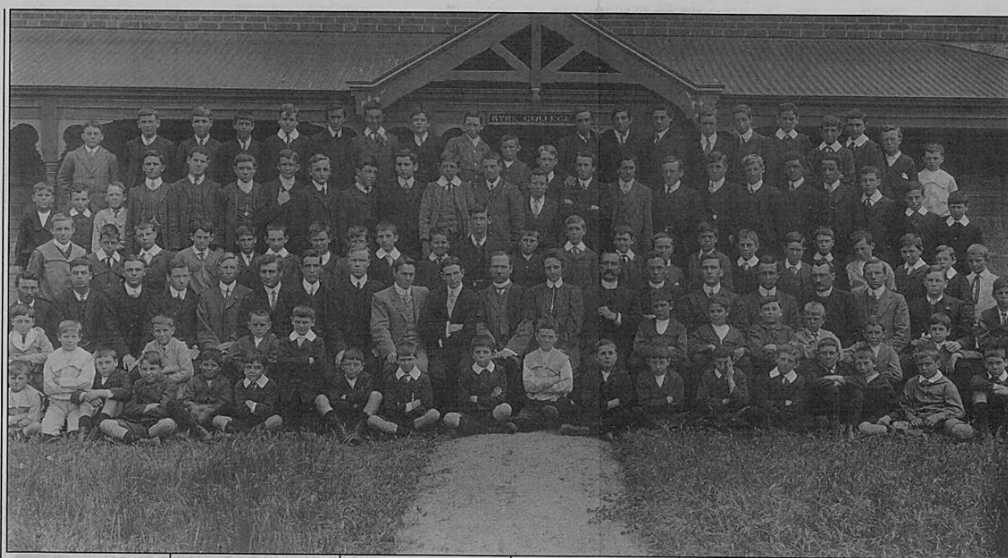
Jack's father, James, was the Assistant Crown Solicitor and later a stipendiary magistrate in Port Pirie and at Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Jack was the eldest of five children. His siblings were Thomas Walter (b 1896), Grace Nellie (b 1894), James Hugh (b 1900), and Jean Lily (b 1902)

Education

Jack attended Kyre College (which became Scotch after WWI) until 1910. He played football in the Second 18 and according to the school magazine performed well in various other athletic events including the 150 yards run and the 80 yards walk. Jack also received a prize in 1909 for his academic achievements. He attended Kyre College at the same time were Howard Florey and Victor Richardson. He passed Latin in the special Senior Examinations in March 1911 while still at Kaye College.

1909 - Kyre College Staff and Students



KYRE COLLEGE STAFF
AND STUDENTS,
November 1, 1909

Top Row (left to right) -
V.Y. Richardson,
C.W.H. Fuller, L.E. Raymond,
R.D.K. Hood, L.K. Swann,
H.T. Johnson, L.H. Lewin,
H.H. Finlayson,
H.G. Nicholson, H.F. Zachorn,
C.A.W. Russell, P.S. Messent,
L.V. Ragless,
A.G.H. Sandow, L.S. Bell,
G.D.L. Prince, J.C. Maslin,
F.A. Messent, C.F. Evans,
E.F. Skewes, W.V.T. Peck.

Second Row -
C.B. Chinner, B.K. Simpson,
C.W. Exton, A.R. Withers,
M.F. Sanson, K.G. Seryngour,
J.M. Sinclair, C.C. Charlton,
H.A. Wyllie, J.T. Ashton,
E.R. Goode, A.M. Brice,
S.P.L. Prince, J.F. Dunstan,
G.W. Stump, E.A. Ridgeway,
R.J. Stevenson,
J.H. Strangman, W.K. Steward,
A.E. Lipman, H.W. Kernot.

Third Row -
E.B. White, M.G.D. Basey,
C.E. Riley, F.J. Maslin,
E.R. Scott,
M.M. Wanchope, G.D. Mudie,
P.C. Giles, A.J.L. Sutherland,
T.W. Sinclair, R.N. Oakes,
R.H. Knowles, A.L. Duffield,
H.L. Evans, H.K. Bakewell,
H.S. Smith, E.E. Tolley,
E.J. Withers, E. Osbourne,
A. Tennant, E.B. Withers,
S.A.R. Tonkin, J.L. Tolley.

Fourth Row -
E.E.C. Tuck, S.R. Smith,
F.N. Pannell, W.S. Brennan,
B.H. Passow, P.H. Mahar,
J.G. Murray,
Mr F.J.H. Steward,
Mr A. B. Ellis,
Mr E.N. Marshall,
Mr D.H. Hollidge, M.A.,
Miss E.D. Proud, B.A.,
Mr A.R.D.W. Leonard,
P.C. Anderson, W.E. Pannell,
A.C. Nelson, J.C. Cattermole,
G.A. Crossing,
L.W.M. Shakespeare,
D.T. Hood.

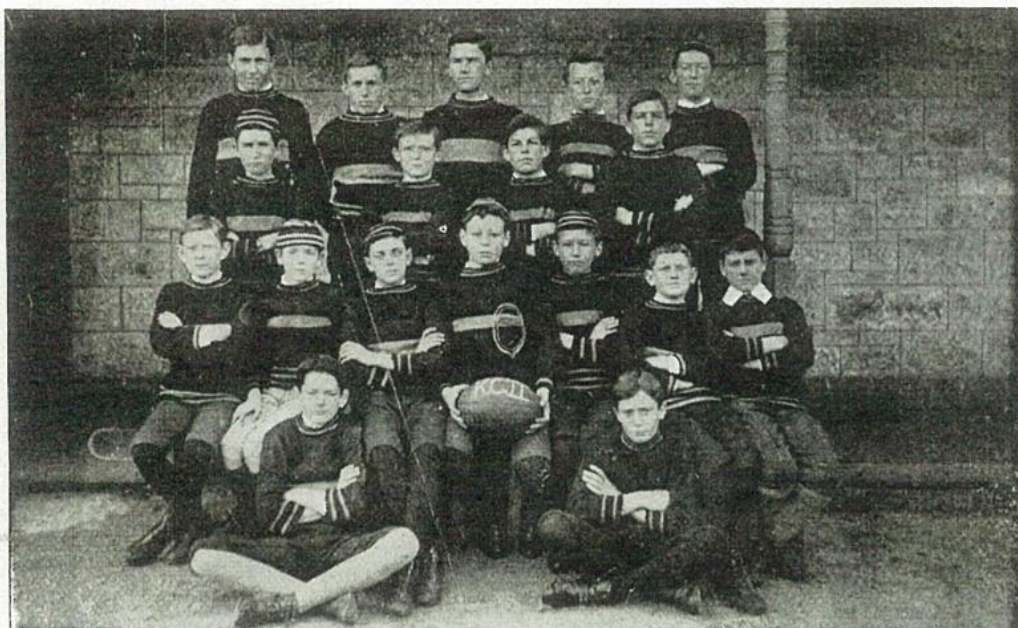
Front Row -
H.W. Florey, D.A. Peck,
A.E. Knapman, W. Winnall,
R.J. Lege,
H.H. Hittmann, R.G. Hitchcox,
R.D. Bakewell, G.G. Hittmann,
W.H.G. Leschen, C.E. James,
E.A. Bowen, K.D. Davison,
D.H. Smith, D.J. Bower,
E. Parton, H.F. Hustler,
R.F. Fairbrother,
L.R. Lindsay, J.H. Swan,
K.S. Messent, L.A.P. Spiller,
C. Duryea, A. Dick,
S.R. Warman, D.S. Smith,
J.M.R. Stuart, J. Winnall.

KYRE COLLEGE: FORERUNNER OF SCOTCH.

Our picture of Kyre students in 1909 includes many who were to make a name for themselves in the years ahead. Included in the photo are, for example: (Top row) Victor Richardson, H.H. Finlayson, H.G. Nicholson, Sir Philip Messent and E. Foster Skewes. (Second Row) F.E. Williams and C.W. Stump. (Third Row) Dempster Mudie and A.J.L. Sutherland. (Fourth Row) G.A. Crossing. (Front Row) Lord Howard Florey, R.D. Bakewell and H.F. Hustler.

These names are taken from the History of Kyre College by Eric Marshall and others which is housed in the Drawing Room of the Barr Smith Mansion, Torrens Park.

PTO
for STAFF 1911
→



1910 Kyre College Second 18 Football
(Jack Sinclair Back Row First on Left)

In a newspaper report of the Prince Alfred College speech day in December 1912, Jack was included as an old boy of PAC who had passed examinations toward a LLB, however Jack's name does not appear in the PAC Chronicles in their WWI Roll of Honour. It is therefore unclear if or when Jack attended Prince Alfred College. Jack's Adelaide University Registration card (below), records that he matriculated in August 1911. Jack was actively involved in Kyre College Old Boys activities while at University.

Adelaide University

Jack studied law at Adelaide University from 1911 to 1914. He was articled to Noel Webb (of the firm Webb & Kelly) in 1914 and had completed many subjects towards the Final Certificate in Law.

Adelaide University Registration Card – JM Sinclair

NAME AND ADDRESS <i>Sinclair, John Mitchell</i>		COURSE <i>Law</i>		DATE OF BIRTH <i>7/4/94</i>	DATE OF MATRICULATION <i>19/8/1911</i>	ENTRANCE FEE <i>B 4367 12.2.0</i>		REGISTERED NO. <i>2302</i>		GRADE <i>Grad.</i>	
SENIOR <i>1910 Hon. Sec. Adelaide Univ. Soc. Sec. Treas.</i>											
<i>1911 Hon. Sec. Adelaide Univ. Soc. Sec. Treas.</i>											
STATUS GRANTED <i>Articled to R. A. Webb</i>						ON WAR MEMORIAL					
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAM.	RESULT	REMARKS	
1911	<i>Latin</i>	<i>B4367</i>	<i>14.</i>	<i>B4362</i>	<i>14.</i>	<i>B4377</i>	<i>14.</i>	<i>B4377</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>Logic</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>71</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>Psychology</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>71</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>Contracts</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>71</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
1912	<i>Writings</i>	<i>B6334</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B7022</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B7020</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B7790</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>Property I</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>Logic</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
1913	<i>Psychology</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>History of Law & Logic</i>	<i>B5614</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B9193</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B9209</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B1029</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>Evidence & Procedure</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
1914	<i>Property II</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>7-16</i>		<i>72</i>	<i>N.Y.F.</i>	
	<i>International Law</i>	<i>B1001</i>	<i>7-16</i>	<i>B1076</i>	<i>7-16</i>						
	<i>Latin</i>		<i>14.</i>		<i>14.</i>						

Died Great War.
(Admitted)
Example of Essay 1st Class
Entered

Adelaide University Sport

Football

An athletic individual of 6 feet in height, Jack played football for the AUFC B team in 1913 and 1914.

Rowing

Jack also rowed for the Adelaide University Boat Club.

War Service

Jack enlisted on the 27th August 1914 with Service Number 619. He was 20 years and 2 months old, 6' tall and 174 lbs with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. He embarked on the HMAT 'Ascanius' on the 20 October 1914 and disembarked in Egypt.

He sent a letter back to his father dated the 22nd February 1915, from Cairo, Egypt, describing his visits to the Museum, Zoo, Bazaars and a Mosque.

WAR DAY BY DAY. (1915, March 24). *Daily Herald* (Adelaide, SA : 1910 – 1924

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article124927032>

<p>WAR DAY BY DAY</p> <p>LIFE IN CAIRO</p> <p>WHAT AUSTRALIANS HAVE SEEN</p> <p>AN ADELAIDE SOLDIER'S IMPRESSIONS.</p> <p>Interesting sidelights of life in Cairo, as witnessed by the Australian troops in Egypt, are shown in a letter just received by Mr. J. H. Sinclair, S.M., from his son, Mr. Jack Sinclair, who went with the first expeditionary force. It is dated February 21, and reads:—</p> <p>Through the Cairo Museum.</p> <p>"We have not yet left Egypt, and are still stationed at our quarters at Mena. The weather continues to be hot and very cold at nights. After next week we finish our course of training and become veterans, when I believe there is only three or four hours' drill a day to do until we go to the front. On Saturday (February 20) I went through the museum at Cairo. It was very interesting, but would have been more so if there had been a catalogue. The only one available was in French, and therefore we had to be content with merely seeing the different objects apart from their history. There are rows upon rows of mummy cases, and it is wonderful the state of preservation some of them are still in. On the outside of each case there is carved the likeness of the deceased. The bottom part of the museum is mainly devoted to Egyptian statuary and sarcophagi, and very wonderful the tremendous stone carvings are. It is a wonder to me how they got some of the statues there without</p>	<p>breaking them; they are so huge and cumbersome. The jewel room is very fine. It contains specimens of beaten gold work and gem setting, ancient crowns and rings, &c., of the early Egyptians; there are also collections of various weapons used by the aforesaid Egyptians. However, it seems to me that it is a museum that would be more appreciated by an archaeologist than the ordinary individual who has no data or anything to go on. One thing in particular amused me. The ancient monarchs when they had carvings made of themselves always modestly placed themselves sitting between two gods or some other modest fancy with a long list of their own doings.</p> <p>A Trip to the Zoo.</p> <p>"Yesterday we had leave again, and in the morning I went to the Zoo. I managed to get away safely. This is supposed to be one of the finest zoos in the world. It is laid out beautifully. There are flowers and trees on every side, and all the cages and surroundings are most scrupulously clean. The birds struck me as being very good, especially those from Central Africa. The plumage of these birds is very vivid, and their grace of movement is a pleasure to see. You can also see all species of the hungry-looking vulture which infest the desert. The bears and tigers are particularly fine. They look as if they could render a very good account of themselves if put to the test. There are plenty of hyenas to be seen. They are sleek, but hungry looking, and there are tracks of hyenas near the Sphinx, just a little way from where we are camped. I suppose they are the same as those in the Zoo. Ostriches, crocodiles, snakes, rhinos, and oke, all of which may be seen in our own Zoo, are there.</p>
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Right in the centre there is a beautiful grotto constructed of rocks. It is very pretty. They charge to go inside, but it is well worth seeing. There is water trickling from the rocks over ferns and flowers growing over the surface of the rocks, making little cascades. The passage through leads to the top eventually, where you can see a good portion of the Zoo.

Inspecting the Bazaars.

"In the afternoon we took a guide and went over the Muski—that is the Turkish and Albanian quarter—seeing the different bazaars. There are a silver bazaar, gold bazaar, scent bazaar, brasswork, slipper, and a number of others which we went through. We saw them making spices and scent. They put the stuff they make it from, leaves of flowers, and spices, into a stone jar and grind it with a stone pestle. It seems very primitive, but the best scents are made in this way. They are very expensive. It costs 3/ for a bottle of otto de rose about an inch long. The vendor of the articles sits at the door of his booth with his legs crossed, and if you wish to buy you have to spend an hour or two bargaining with him. The peculiar part about the different shops, or rather open booths, as they really are, is that they only go in for one article. If it is a scent shop you cannot get anything else there. If it is a gold shop only gold is obtainable, and it is the same all through. The brass bazaar was about the best. There were really marvellous examples of brasswork. It is all done by hand. We saw them making the various dishes, bowls, &c. Beautiful work is put in the articles which are sold.

Visit to the Mosque.

"We went into the Mosque. There you have to put slippers on over your boots to be allowed to go in. There was really nothing much to see inside this particular Mosque, except the pulpit for the priest and the devotees praying. They walk in with their boots off, kneel down, touch the ground with their foreheads three times, and then stand up and offer their prayer. They all face the same way, and at the conclusion go through the same ceremony as at starting, and they face due east while praying. The mullioned windows were pretty good inside the Mosque. We did not stay inside for long, but went along farther and saw them constructing gold rings and bangles and setting precious stones. We saw the slipper bazaar and a number of others, and then returned to Cairo. The Muski is a pretty large place, and I was very glad that I went over. It is entirely different from the dirty native quarters. In the evening we went out to Heliopolis, where the second contingent is camped. I met Dan Dowling, and we went to the Kursel, that is the theatre, and it was a show far ahead of any I have seen in Adelaide. It was a variety show, the juggling and conjuring feats of which were very good. I looked up Major Riestly and Ted Derrington at Heliopolis, but they were not in. I have not been too well lately. I have a bit of a cold, but I think it will pass off soon. I sincerely trust all are well at home."

Letter from JM Sinclair to his Father

Jack left Egypt on the 2nd March 1915 onboard the 'Ionian' and was with the 10th Battalion's landing at Gallipoli sometime in the period 25th/29th April 1915. Jack's service record states that on the 2nd May 1915 Jack was wounded in action receiving a gunshot wound to the right ankle. A later letter from Jack's father to the University of Adelaide states that Jack was wounded on the 'day of the landing' at Gallipoli, 25 April 1915.

The first convoy of 600 badly wounded soldiers reached Malta on 4 May 1915, on HT Clan McGillivray. The men were under the medical care of Captain V Benjafield Australian Medical Corps (AMC). Of these, 160 severe cases were admitted to Valletta Hospital; the remainder went to Tigné Hospital to be treated as convalescents. Jack was with the group who went to the Tigné Hospital and he was later transferred to the St George Hospital, Malta. While in Malta Jack wrote to his father, expressing the hope that if Italy entered the war it would be over before very much longer. Jack was also mentioned in a letter from a South Australian soldier which was published in July 1915 (both below).

On the 1st August 1915 Jack left Malta and returned to Alexandria, Egypt onboard the 'HS Karoa', then returned to Gallipoli via the 'Oxonian' and rejoined his unit at Gallipoli on the 7th August 1915. Jack was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on the 1st September 1915. In mid October Jack had his first offence recorded on his service record. He was severely reprimanded for not obeying orders.

IN MALTA HOSPITAL.

Writing to his father (Mr. J. H. Sinclair, S.M.) from Malta Barracks, on May 22, Corporal Jack Sinclair states: "As you will notice, I am still at Malta and am practically all right, except, perhaps, that my foot is still slightly swollen. There has been a constant stream of wounded coming in here from the Dardanelles. My impression is that our fellows are not having as good a time as the newspapers consider. Some wounded of the 1st Contingent who came in on Saturday are out of the 2nd Brigade, and were transferred from the middle of the Peninsula, where our Australian and New Zealand and Indian troops landed, to the foot, where the hill commanding the Narrows is, so they are in a position to give news. They are securely entrenched and are in comparative safety now, he says. Of course, there inevitably must be a few casualties there, but not to be compared with those on the first day when we landed. The troops at the foot must be having a very rough time. Just about all the 2nd Brigade that is left is in Malta wounded. I cannot understand why the Australian casualties are not published, and the numbers of English casualties in the Dardanelles clearly cannot be there in view even of the number of wounded that are here, apart from those at Alexandria. We are having a splendid time here. The inhabitants have laid themselves out to treat us well. The Governor takes a great personal interest in the welfare of the wounded, and it is an everyday sight to see him (a field-marshal of the English army and a baron) talking to the wounded men and enquiring how they are progressing. There are concerts (and good concerts) held here about three times a week, motor car drives organised, and cigars, fruit, flowers, and clothing given to us. It is like a paradise after the dirty natives and unsympathetic Europeans of Cairo whom I saw. The other night the non-coms. of our crowd gave a smoke social to the N.C.'s of Malta. The Governor presided, and it was a great success. We all had a pleasant evening. I shall be leaving here in a few days for the front again, all being well. It was rotten luck being wounded as far as promotion goes. I understand most of the N.C.O.'s left are lieutenants now. Don't worry about me. I think if Italy enters the war the chances are that it will be over before very much longer."

THE TRENCHES IN TURKEY.

"Dear Everybody." Thus writes a South Australian soldier from the Dardanelles to his people at home. The letter is headed "The Trenches, Turkey," and the following extracts are taken:—"To-day I received 15 letters, the first communication I have had for three months. Some of the letters were dated February, but I was very pleased to receive them all. The newspapers stated to have been sent have doubtless been 'commandeered' for some of the other lads, but I don't mind I have been under fire three times, and have lost a good many fine comrades. . . . Jack Sinclair has been sent to the hospital wounded. At present I am writing this in the trenches. I found them far more comfortable than anticipated. One is quite safe in them. In fact, this is quite a pleasant place, the climate being like South Australia. You would all laugh if you could see us now. We are all "unshorn and unshaven," but all the time jokes and gags are buzzing round. Some of the chaps are cultivating the French style with their face growth. Some days here are comparatively quiet. To-day I have been watching the fleet bombard some of the forts. Everything is intensely interesting. I shall have to send this letter without an envelope. Of course, we are miles from the Y.M.C.A. camp, and I cannot get an envelope of any kind. To make matters worse, I have mislaid the key of my writing desk! Well, ball up!"

Letter from an un-named SA soldier which mentions Jack Sinclair

In a letter from Jack to his parents dated the 30th October 1915 Jack details some close shaves he has had while in action in the Dardanelles (see below). By the 20th November 1915 it was illness not injury which took Jack out of the fighting. He was admitted to the 3rd Field Ambulance then to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Jack was then taken by the Hospital Ship 'Delta' to the British Red Cross No 19 General Hospital at Alexandra, Egypt. Jack did not recover from his bout of pneumonia until late in January 1916 and he remained in Egypt until 9th May 1915.

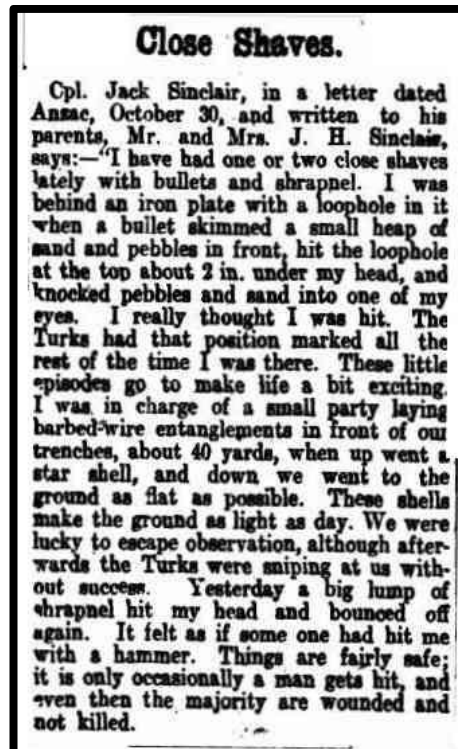
On the 9th May 1915 Jack embarked from Alexandrina, Egypt and disembarked at Marseilles, France. By the 20th May 1915 Jack was in Estaples, in northern France.

His Service Record over the four years records several bouts of influenza and other common illnesses such as trench foot and venereal diseases. He was hospitalised at least six times. He also had an interesting record regarding reprimands for being late to parade, insubordination and drunkenness and being demoted from temporary Sergeant to Corporal (September 1916).

On the 26th October 1916 Jack was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In mid November 1916 Jack suffered from severe trench foot in the trenches in Belgium and he was first sent to hospital in Rouen, France, then via Le Havre, France to England. Having recovered from trench foot he was granted some furlough then served at Brigade headquarters, Perham Downs.

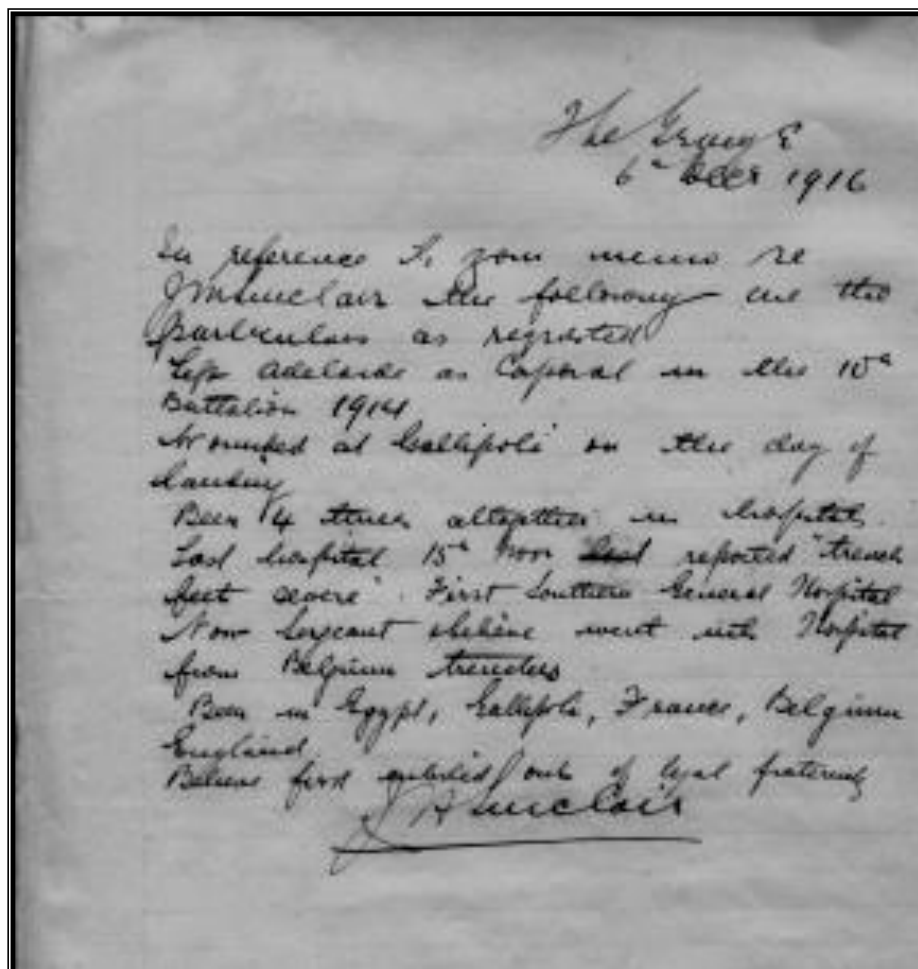
Close Shaves. (1915, December 21). *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59987778>



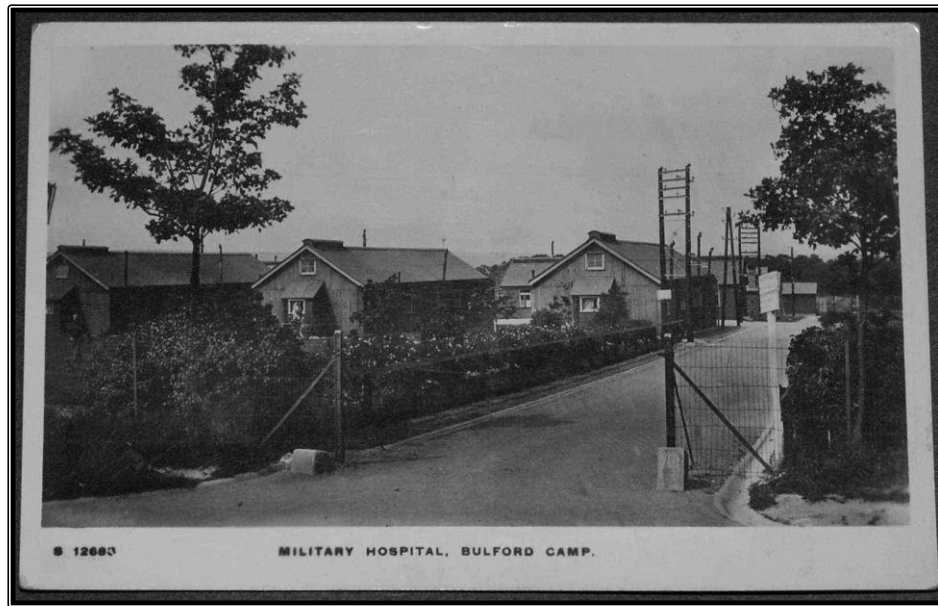
Letter from Jack Sinclair to his parents

December 1916



Letter from Jack's father to the University of Adelaide providing details of Jack's service

In early 1917 Jack spent 49 days at the Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire receiving treatment for VD.



Jack remained in England until October 1917. He was based at Perham (Wiltshire) then at Wareham (Dorset). From the 25th March 1917 to the 19th September Jack was with the 70th Battalion. During that time he was severely reprimanded for failing to appear at early morning parade. Jack then transferred back to the 10th Battalion and was based at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, where he was twice reprimanded, once for missing parade and once for being late for parade.

Jack left England, via Southampton on the 9th October 1917 landing at Havre. Shortly after his arrival in France he was again in hospital receiving treatment for VD. He was out of hospital by mid November 1917. Jack was considered but not accepted for the Brigade Mining Coy.

On the 6th May 1918 Jack was admitted to the 3rd Field Ambulance with tonsillitis. He was transferred to the 15th Casualty Clearing Station then to the 25th General Hospital. Jack then contracted influenza and he did not return to his unit until the 5th July 1918.

Death

John Mitchell (Jack) Sinclair was killed in action at Merris, France on 30 July 1918, aged 24 having served for almost four years. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers Bretonneux Memorial (Australian National Memorial - France).



Villers Bretonneux Memorial

LATE SERGEANT JACK SINCLAIR.
Sergeant Jack Sinclair, eldest son of Mr. J. H. Sinclair, S.M., and Mrs. Sinclair, of Seaview road, Grange, was killed in action in France on July 30. In the Port Adelaide Police Court on Saturday Mr. J. W. Channon, on behalf of the officers of the court and the local justices of the peace, expressed regret at the sad news, and sympathised with Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair and their family. No one had done more for recruiting than the esteemed magistrate, who, he felt sure, would find consolation in the fact that his son had died the death of a hero rather than lived the life of a shirker. It was the first break in the link of the family chain. Sub-Inspector Fraser, on behalf of the police, also expressed sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair. Sergeant Sinclair was only 24 years of age. Like his father, he followed the legal profession, in which he gave promise of an excellent career, having been articled to Messrs. Webb & Kelly. He was practically out of his time when war broke out, and enlisted with the original 10th Battalion, his period of active service being nearly four years. He participated in the historic landing of the Australians on the Gallipoli Peninsula, where he saw much fighting until he was wounded, in consequence of which he was sent to hospital at Malta. On his recovery he was sent back to his regiment, with which he went to France. There he again went through much fighting, eventually making the supreme sacrifice. His brother (Private Tom Sinclair) is also in France.

Expression of sympathy on the death of Sgt Jack Sinclair

THE AUSTRALIANS

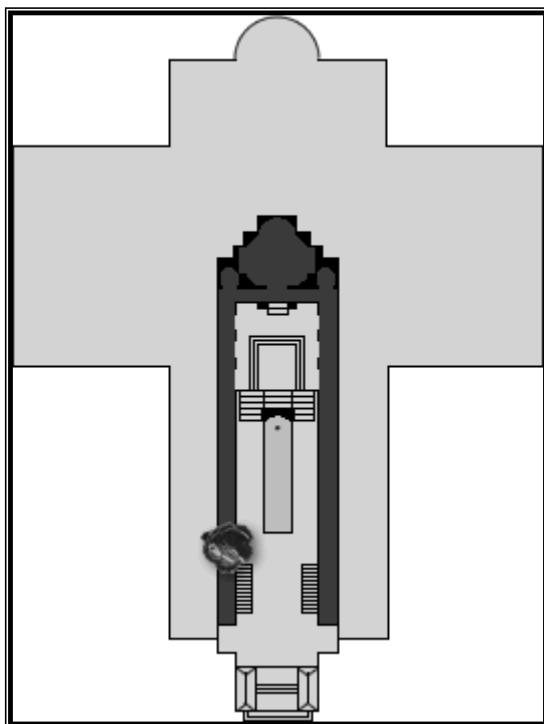
BIOGRAPHICAL

THE LATE SGT. JACK SINCLAIR.



Letters of sympathy have poured in on Mr. J. H. Sinclair, S.M., and Mrs. Sinclair, at the Grange, in connection with the loss of their eldest son, Sgt. Jack Sinclair, who was killed in action in France. No better tribute could be paid to the deceased soldier than the following letter, received from a returned comrade:—"It was with deep regret that I learnt the other day of your recent and sad loss. I had the honour of being one of his friends. We were together on the peninsula, and afterwards in France, both in the same company. I knew his sterling worth, I have fought alongside him. Beloved by all, he knew no danger, nor did he fear death. I had a letter from him a few weeks ago, asking me to call on you. I intended doing so, but will now wait for a few weeks. Jack always enjoyed a joke, and he had no enemy in the world. Straightforward and manly, he was never responsible for a mean action, he didn't know the meaning of it, and above all, at all times he played the game." The deceased soldier was born at Alberton on July 7, 1894. He was educated at Kyre College, and afterwards articled to Mr. Noel Webb. He was one of the first to enlist, and left Australia with the original 10th Battalion. He had already passed in several subjects for the LL.B. degree. Application was made for his articles to go on, and this was readily granted, so that had he returned, he would have been able to begin practising at the Bar almost immediately. He was a valuable member of the Ministry of the Union Parliament, a member of the Henley Beach Literary Society, and attended the Grange Baptist Sunday School. He was an athlete of no mean order. He was wounded in an ankle at Gallipoli, and sent to a hospital at Malta. In three months' time he returned and remained on Gallipoli until the evacuation. When the Australians were afterwards sent on to France, he went with them, and was in the battle of the Somme. Altogether he was in the hospital six times for wounds or illness contracted in the trenches. On one such occasion he was sent to England, where he was engaged for six months in drilling recruits before his return to France.

John Mitchell Sinclair's name is located at panel **60** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).



Thomas Walter Sinclair

Jack's brother, Thomas Walter Sinclair also served in the 10th Battalion, AIF. Fortunately for the Sinclair family, Tom returned from his WWI service.

SINCLAIR, Thomas Walter



Service No: 7590
Lance Corporal
10th Battalion

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Born: 20 May 1896 at Alberton
Son of James Hugh & Helena SINCLAIR nee CLOSE
Of Seaview Rd, Grange, South Australia
Occupation prior to enlisting: Architect
Enlisted: 27 December 1916
Embarkation: 15 May 1917
Age: 20 years
Served in France
Returned to Australia: 4 September 1919 per 'Takeda'
Discharged: 4 October 1919
Died: 1959
Buried: Cheltenham Cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia

State Records of SA GRG 26/5/4/966



Profile by: Beth Filmer (AUFC/AUCC ANZAC Memorial Committee)

Sources and Acknowledgements

National Archives of Australia - WW1 Service Records

The AIF Project - University of New South Wales

Virtual War Memorial Australia

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/272492>

Ancestry.com - Public Family Trees

David Saies (Scotch (formerly Kyre) College Old Collegiates Association)

Andrew Cook (Adelaide University Archives)

National Library of Australia - Trove (Digital Newspapers) Tagged – JM (Jack) Sinclair

Military Hospitals, Malta during the Great War (1914-1918)

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The First World War Poetry Digital Archive

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<http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/se-sj.html>

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Janne Filmer & Rob O'Shannassy (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researchers)