



Capt. Nigel Basil Gresley Abbott



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1915/16 B Grade

Other Sports: Rifle, Athletics, Tennis & Lacrosse
Sports Awards (Blue - Rifle & Lacrosse)
MB BS (1916)

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 Nigel Basil Gesley Abbott. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC ANZAC MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



Nigel Basil Gesley ABBOTT

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Date of birth | 4 May 1891 |
| Place of birth | San Francisco, California, USA |
| Religion | Church of England |
| Occupation | Medical practitioner |
| Address | Adelaide, South Australia |
| Marital status | Single |
| Age at embarkation | 25 |
| Height | 5' 11.5" |
| Weight | 156 lbs |
| Next of kin | Father, Dr C T Abbott, Woodside, South Australia |
| Previous military service | Nil |
| Enlistment date | 7 July 1916 |
| Rank on enlistment | Captain |
| Unit name | <u>Medical Officers</u> |
| Embarkation details | Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A41 <i>Bakara</i> on 4 November 1916 |
| Rank from Nominal Roll | Captain |
| Unit from Nominal Roll | Australian Army Medical Corps |
| Fate | Returned to Australia 30 October 1919 |
| Discharge date | 29 January 1920 |
| Other details | <p>War service: taken on strength, No 2 Stationary Hospital, Mahamdeya, 8 December 1916; transferred to 5th Light Horse Field Ambulance, El Arish, 26 June 1917. Transferred to and taken on strength of 6th Light Horse Regiment, Esdud, 18 December 1917.</p> <p>Detached to Medical School, Moascar, 3 March 1918; rejoined 6th Light Horse Regiment in the field, 16 March 1918.</p> <p>Admitted to 31st General Hospital, Abbassia, 13 November 1918; discharged, 27 November 1918 (pyrexia, not yet diagnosed; no further details); rejoined unit, Wadi Hanun, 29 November 1918. Ceased to be attached to 6th Light Horse Regiment, and marched out to 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance, 15 January 1919.</p> <p>Embarked Port Said for England, 24 February 1919. Granted leave, 17 March-4 October 1919 (Non-Military Employment): with pay only, 17 March-17 June 1919; with pay and subs, 4 July-4 October 1919: to attend Cheltenham Hospital for medical training. Married Bessie Drury ALCOCK, aged 28, at Holy Trinity Established Church, Lyons Tower, Hertford, 21 June 1919. Granted leave, 6-20 October, 1919; leave extended to 31 October 1919. Commenced return to Australia on board HT 'Wahehe', 30 October 1919; discharged, 29 January 1920.</p> <p>Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal</p> |

AUSTRALIAN

MILITARY FORCES.

Application for a Commission in the

A.T.F.

| No. | PARTICULARS | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | SURNAME ... Other Names (in full) ... | ABBOTT. MIGEL BASIL GRESLEY. |
| 2. | Educational Qualifications ... (Certificate to be attached for notation at District Headquarters.) | M.B..B.S. |
| 3. | Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated) ... (Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 46.) Present rank and corps to be stated. | Capt-aa in Reserve |
| 4. | Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as Second Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 132) ... | |
| 5. | Present Civil Employment ... | Medical Practitioner |
| 6. | Date of Birth, and Age ... (Certificate of Birth or Statutory Declaration to be attached for notation at District Headquarters.) | Date of Birth May 4 th 1891 Age 25 Years 3 Months |
| 7. | If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ... (In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.) | British Subject |
| 8. | Married or Single ... | Single |
| 9. | Postal Address ... | Woodside Nominates Wife Mrs B M Abbott |
| 10. | Next of Kin ... | Chas J. Abbott M.D. Woodside Father |

Date 7-8-16

(Signature of Applicant)

NOTE—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory character reference, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II, and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.

A.I.F. FORM 527 RECEIVED

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

I, Clive Britten Burden do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height 5 ft 10 1/2"

Weight 114 1/2

Chest Measurement 37-39 1/2

Eyesight 5/6

Signature of the Examining Medical Officer.

Clive D. Burden Capt

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.
(Not required in the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)

I recommend that the candidate above-named be appointed a Captain in the Corps under my command, and I certify—

1. That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year.
2. †(a) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or
- †(b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 132 have been fully complied with.
- (c) That all candidates higher in order of merit, by competitive examination, have been absorbed.

On appointment the candidate will be posted to H. H. S. Russell Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date 9 AUG 1916

Commanding

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER, 4th Com. D.

RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.

Recommended, candidate considered suitable

Date 4/9/16

Commandant 4 Military District.

A. G.

† Sub-para. not applicable to be struck out.

N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of form.

Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.

Transferred to

D

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE

No.

Rank

Capt

Name

ABBOTT. N.B.G

Unit

a. a. m. b.

LIST.

Casualty

*Relg. to Aust. for Warlike embarked 30/10/19. } Duty #44
C.I.B.L. 3/5/19 did Lon. 1/1/19. Rec. B.R. 7/1/19.
16/4/19 D.*

Returned to Australia per A. _____
Disembarked _____ M. D.

DATE

Form B 103 revised

PURPORT.

11 NOV 1918

N. O. K. Advised Returning to Australia, Form *RAH*

War History Index

29.1.20

Appointment Terminated (4 M.D.)



ABBOTT Nigel Basil Gresley

MB BS



1891 - 1978



Nigel Basil Gresley Abbott was born in San Francisco on the 4th May 1891 the son of Dr Charles T Abbott, of Tasmania, and Susanna Evelyn, nee Beitsch. His father had left Australia in 1883 and returned to Sandy Bay, Tasmania after the 18th May 1906 San Francisco earthquake. He reported that his wife was in poor health and his sons were still in trauma from the shock of the event. He later received a Letter from Congress on behalf of the President and Congress of America for his contribution to the relief of the population after the disaster. Later the family moved to SA to live in Woodside. Abbott studied and graduated from Adelaide University in 1916 with MB BS, under the New Regulations. Abbott's father moved to Clunes, Victoria after Abbott's enlistment in the AAMC.

Abbott enlisted in the AIF in July 1916 with the rank of Captain. He was 25 years old and single, 5ft 10ins tall, weighing 11st 2 lbs. He was described as being of medium complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair. His prior medical experience was 3 months as an Acting House Surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital and 8 days as a House Surgeon at Broken Hill. He indicated that his previous military experience was that as in 1909 a lieutenant on probation in the Commonwealth Military Cadet Corps. He stated he was proficient in Latin and French and could ride. He was recommended for General Duties. He departed from Port Adelaide on the 4th November 1916 in *HMAT A41 Bakara* for Egypt where, on arrival, he was appointed to the 2nd ASH. Over the next 2 years he moved between the 2nd, 5th and 6th Field Ambulances, the Medical School at Moascan, Ismailia and lastly the 31st General Hospital at Abbassia near

Cairo. He embarked from Port Said in *Ormonde* for London on 24th February 1919 on duty for further post graduate study. On 21st June 1919 Abbott, married Bessie Drury Alcock aged 25 years at the Holy Trinity Church Lyons Tower, Hertford. Together with a large contingent of the AAMC he sailed from England in *HMAT Wahene* on 14th December 1919 to Melbourne with his appointment terminated in Adelaide on 29th January 1920. Abbott was issued with the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war, at the home of his father Dr C T Abbott at Clunes his wife Bessie, on the 29th February 1920, gave birth to a son. He came to the attention of the newspapers in 1936 when he opposed the Hobart council in building the new Southport Bush Nursing Hospital. The family then returned to Hobart where he began a long and successful career as a private medical practitioner. He was also the Hobart city medical officer and the chief port quarantine officer. He was the founder of the College of General Practitioners in Tasmania. His younger sibling Charles Abbott MP was Attorney General of South Australia from 1944 to 1946. Nigel Basil Gresley Abbott died in Hobart on 30th October 1978.

Sources:

Photo edited, AWM D0953.
Family notes in Adelaide
Ancestry.com
The Mercury Hobart 11 August 1936
The Mercury Hobart 1 Nov 1978
Biographical Register 1788-1939
<http://ncb.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/A%20Biographical%20Register%2017881939%20Vol%201%20A-K.pdf>

From: Blood, Sweat and Fears, Medical Practitioners and Medical Students or Served in World War 1; Christopher Verco, Annette Summers, Tony Swain & Michael Jelly. (Army Health Services Historical Group)



Dr Nigel Basil Gresley Abbott

BIRTH 4 MAY 1891 • San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA

DEATH 1965 • Tasmania, Australia

LIFESTORY

FACTS

GALLERY

Facts

SHOW ▼

Name and gender ▼

- 1891**
(AGE)
Birth
4 May 1891 • San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA
- 1919**
28
Marriage
21 June 1919 • Holy Trinity Church, Lyons Tower, Hertford England
Bessie Drury Alcock (1890–1990)
- 1920**
28
Birth of Son Nigel Drury Gresley Abbott (1920–2011)
29 Mar 1920 • Clunes, Victoria
- 1922**
30
Birth of Daughter Yvonne Patricia Abbott (1922–)
25 Jan 1922 • 'Tasmania', 'Australia' [married]
- 1923**
32
Birth of Son Ian Drury Lempriere Abbott (1923–1995)
6 May 1923 • Geeveston, Tasmania, Australia
- 1924**
33
Birth of Daughter Audrey Betty Abbott (1924–)
18 Sep 1924 • Geeveston, Tasmania, Australia
- 1926**
35
Death of Father Charles Thomas Abbott (1858–1926)
14 Oct 1926 • George St, Payneham, South Australia, Australia
- 1934**
43
Death of Mother Susanna Evelyn Beitsch (1862–1934)
16 August 1934 • George St, Payneham, South Australia, Australia
- 1960**
69
Death of Brother Sir Charles Arthur Hillas Lempriere Abbott (1889–1960)
14 September 1960 • Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville South Australia
- 1965**
74
Death
1965 • Tasmania, Australia

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees

Family

Parents



Charles Thomas Abbott
1858–1926



Susanna Evelyn Beitsch
1862–1934

Siblings ▼

Spouse & Children



Bessie Drury Alcock
1890–1990



Nigel Drury Gresley Abbott
1920–2011



Yvonne Patricia Abbott
1922–



Ian Drury Lempriere Abbott
1923–1995



Audrey Betty Abbott 1924–

Biography

Nigel Basil Gresley Abbott was born 4th May 1891 in San Francisco. The family returned to their family home in Sandy Bay, Tasmania after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Shortly after returning from the USA, the family moved to Adelaide and Nigel completed his education at St Peters College (SPSC).



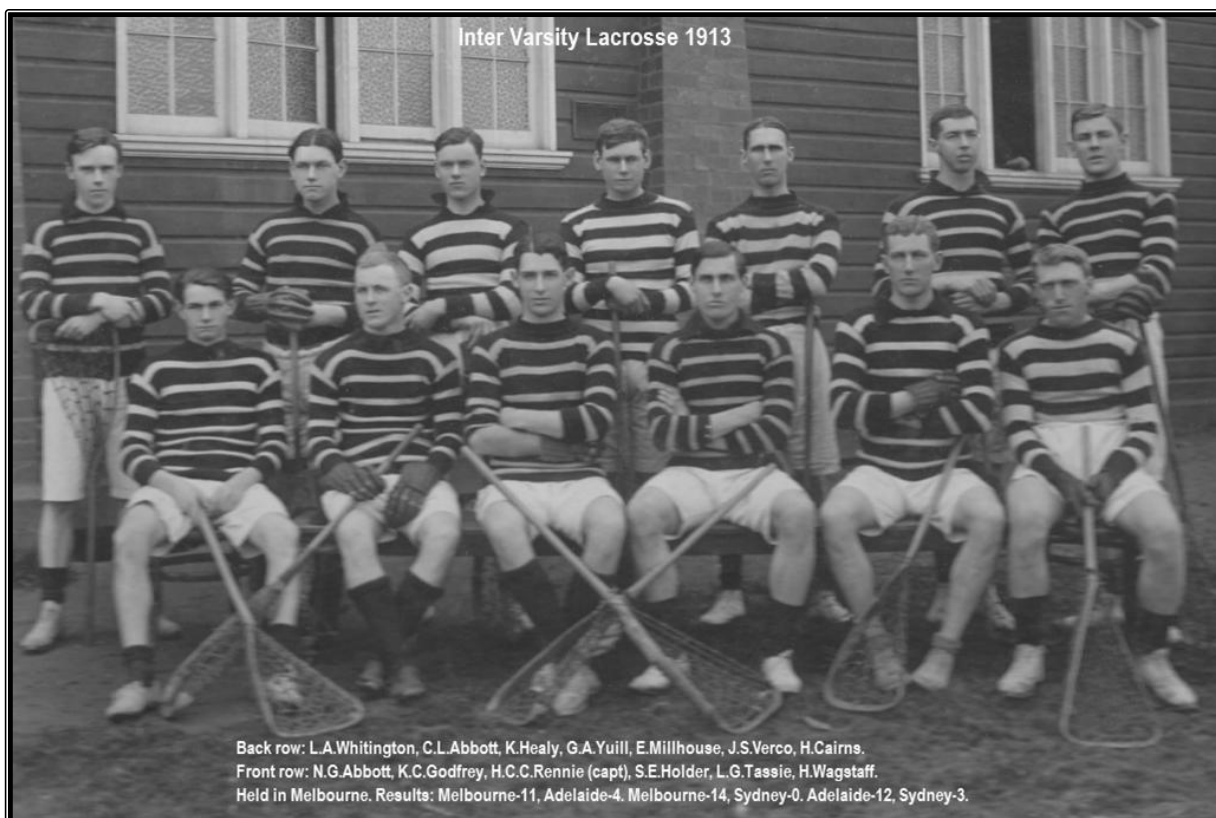
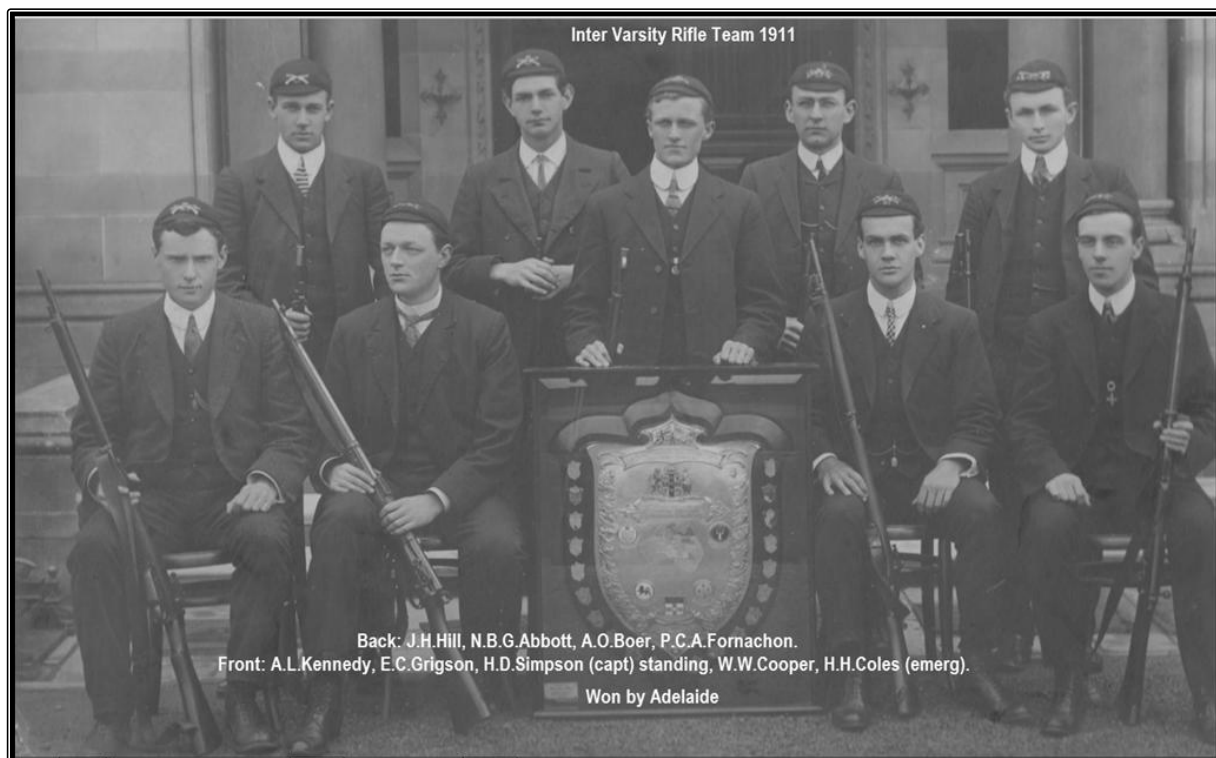
He completed his Senior Public Examinations there from 1908 - 1910 including Elementary Biology which was taken at the University of Adelaide.

While at St. Peters College he proved to be a fine tennis player and in 1909 was a member of the intercollegiate team that defeated Prince Alfred College. In 1910 he was captain of the First Tennis Team. He was also a member of the St Peters College Cadet Corps.



He enrolled in Medicine at the University of Adelaide in 1911 and graduated MB.BS. in 1916. While at University Nigel was a member of the Rifle, Lacrosse and Tennis Clubs and in the 1915/16 cricket season showed his versatility by playing some games for the Cricket Club. His older brother Charles Arthur Lempriere Abbott also had attended Adelaide University studying Arts and Law. Charles rowed for the University.

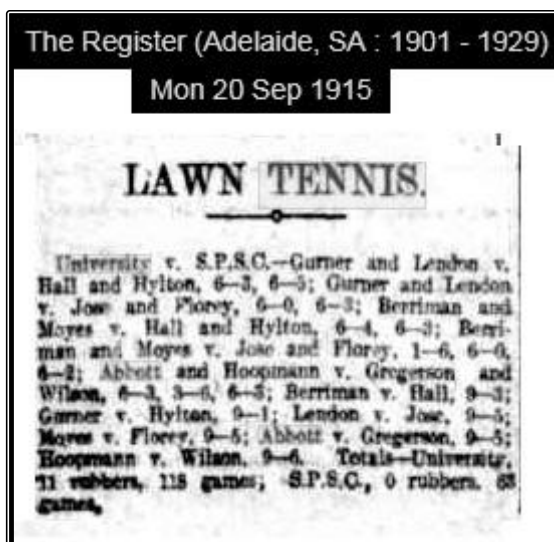
Nigel Abbott was awarded Blues for Rifle and Lacrosse. He played tennis for the C and B Grade teams in 1911 to 1914 however in 1915 he was elevated at times to the top side which played in the SA Lawn tennis association Pennant Competition.



At the IntersVarsity Athletics Carnival held in Adelaide in 1914, Nigel finished second in the Shot-Put with an effort of 30ft 8 in.



In 1915 Nigel played tennis until Christmas. In September he played for University against his old school. In the Saint Peters College Team was the young Howard Florey who would also later study medicine 1917 - 1921) and win the 1921 Rhodes Scholarship and later the Nobel Prize in Medicine with Fleming and Chain for the discovery, clinical development of Penicillin. In the New Year he decided to try his hand at cricket. It may have been that the Cricket Club was finding it hard to find enough players to make up their two sides. Many players from the Club had enlisted throughout 1915 and it would not be surprising that some of his fellow medical students who also played cricket recruited him.



Sat 15 Jan 1916

CRICKET

TO-DAY'S TEAMS

The seventh and final set of the first round of the A and B grade association matches will be commenced to-day. Following are the teams:—

A Grade.

University v. West Torrens (University Oval).
—F. H. Beare, A. Lamb, C. North, J. K. Nichols,
C. E. Pellew, C. Richards, W. B. Shazany, B.
T. Taylor, H. C. Thrush, E. W. Weatherill,
H. B. Willsmore. Emergencies—R. H. Berriman,
B. F. Moore.

B Grade.

University v. West Torrens (Hindmarsh Oval).
—University—G. H. Black, A. R. Bean, A. B.
Russell, L. A. Wilson, N. B. Bennett, R. H.
Berriman, B. F. Moore, N. B. G. Abbott, S.
O'Neill, J. Power, N. V. Mangerson, G. P. Rayner.

WEST TORRENS VERSUS UNIVERSITY.

WEST TORRENS.

First innings 204

UNIVERSITY.

Abbott, b. Reed 7
O'Neill, l.b.w., b. Reed 0
Wilson, c. Walters, b. Knight 7
Russell, stpd. Cook, b. Knight 20
Bennett, c. Rosman, b. Knight 20
Moore, stpd. Cook, b. Knight 2
Power, b. Knight 0
Ganes, stpd. Cook, b. Knight 0
Bean, b. Davies 0
Black, not out 1
Sundries 8

Total 65

Bowling.—Reed two for 6, Knight six for 31,
Walters none for 16, Davies one for 1.

Second Innings.

Abbott, c. Hamilton, b. Rosman 16
Wilson, run out 2
Russell, b. Davies 4
Bennett, c. Hele, b. Danielson 14
Moore, st. Cook, b. Rosman 0
Power, run out 2
Ganes, b. Rosman 0
Bean, b. Rosman 2
Black, not out 2
Sundries 2

Total 44

Bowling.—Davies one for 13, Hele none for 15,
Danielson one for 8, Rosman four for 6.

UNIVERSITY V. GLENELG.

UNIVERSITY.

Abbott, b. Isaacs 5
Virgint, c. Durdin, b. Isaacs 8
Russell, b. Haddrick 15
Bennett, c. Durdin, b. Isaacs 11
Wilson, b. Durdin 14
Richards, b. Durdin 12
Black, b. Slater 17
Gault, not out 14
Wallmann, b. Durdin 4
Bean, b. Durdin 0
Lyne, b. Slater 0
Extra 1

Total 101

Bowling.—Durdin, 4 for 30; Isaacs, 3 for 27;
Slater, 3 for 16; Haddrick, 1 for 27.

GLENELG.

C. Le Messurier, b. Russell 0
E. Slater, c. Richards, b. Bean 62
E. G. Haddrick, not out 51
H. W. Durdin, not out 3
Sundries 2

Total for 3 wickets 118

The War and Family Legacy

(Much of Nigel's War involvement is provided above)

Nigel had been an Australian Army Medical Corps Reservist after graduation and in August 1916 applied for a Commission to Serve overseas. Captain Abbott for two years served mainly with the Field Ambulance. After the War, Nigel returned to Tasmania and practiced as a General Practitioner and was Medical Officer for the City of Hobart.

Nigel and wife Bessie had six children. The two eldest sons served in World War 2. The eldest son, Nigel Drury Gresley Abbott returned to Adelaide to study medicine graduating MB.BS. in 1944. He returned to Tasmania also and became a politician and held the seat of Denison for the Liberals from 1964 - 1972. He served in WW2 and in Vietnam with the Australian Army Medical Corps.

Surname: ABBOTT

Given Names: Nigel Drury Gresley

Title and Honours: Dr, HON 15 April 1991

Qualifications: MB, BS, LLB

Date and Place of Birth: 29 March 1920 - Clunes, Victoria

Marriage: 27 August 1948 - (Jocelyn Butler)

Date of Death: 13 November 2011

House of Assembly: 2 May 1964

Electorate: Denison

Party: Liberal

Positions Held: Minister 1969-72

Date of Departure: 22 April 1972

Reason for Departure: Defeated.

Comments: Resigned from Government to stand as independent after failing to get road safety measures through. Served in Vietnam as Head of a Military Aid Mission for three months in 1968. Examiner, 23 May 1968.

House of Assembly Long Room Picture: 562

House of Assembly Long Room Picture Number indicates each Member's position in the photographic record.

Source: Parliament of Tasmania Members Biographical Database, Tasmanian Parliamentary Library.

Additional Reference Material:

A Handbook of Australian Government and Politics, 1890-1964 [by] Colin A. Hughes and B. D. Graham. Canberra, ANU Press, 1968.

Biographical Register of the Tasmanian Parliament, 1851-1960 / Scott Bennett and Barbara Bennett. Canberra : ANU, 1980.



Other Son Ian Drury Lempriere Abbott joined the RAAF and served as a Flying Officer in WW2.

Nigel's older brother Charles (B.A. 1911, LL.B. 1914) entered politics, became SA Attorney General and later a Supreme Court Judge.



Charles Lempriere Abbott [B 14646] SL:SA

Charles' sons, Charles Anthony Lempriere (LL.B. 1947) and Derek Athol Lempriere (LL.B. 1950) followed into the legal profession. Both served in WW2. Derek, a State Amateur footballer played for the Blacks and later was vice-captain to Len Fitzgerald with Sturt in the SANFL.

Derek's son, Hugh also a Lawyer (LLB 1983 ?) at Adelaide University and played football and cricket for the Blacks.

Sources and Acknowledgements:

- *Blood, Sweat and Fears, Medical Practitioners and Medical Students or Served in World War 1; Christopher Verco, Annette Summers, Tony Swain & Michael Jelly. (Army Health Services Historical Group)*
- *Photographs and additional information from the National Library of Australia - Trove (Digital Newspapers)*
- *National Archives of Australia - WW1 Service Records*
- *Adelaide University Archives - Intervarsity Team Photo*
- *Ancestry.Com - Public Family Trees*
- *State Library of SA*
- *The AIF Project - University of NSW*