

Pte. Thomas Ashhurst



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1919 - 1922

Other Sports: Tennis & Rowing

Student Teacher 1916 - 1917 (Goodwood Public School)

University Student: 1917 (Arts), 1919 - 21 (Science)

Rhodes Scholar: (1922 - Magdalen College, Oxford)

Reading for Honours Science - School of Chemistry 1922

B.Sc. (Hons.) (Oxon.) 1924

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 Thomas Ashhurst. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The AIF Project

https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=8222



Thomas ASHHURST

Regimental number 62957

Place of birth Adelaide, South Australia

Religion Church of England
Occupation Student teacher

Address Bridgewater, South Australia

Marital status Single Age at embarkation 19

Next of kin Father, T Ashhurst, Bridgewater, South Australia

Previous military service 74th Infantry Enlistment date 19 April 1918

Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name <u>1-6 (SA) Reinforcements</u>

AWM Embarkation Roll

number

23/111/4

Embarkation details Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board SS Gaika on 6

August 1918

Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll Australian Army Veterinary Corps
Fate Returned to Australia 25 March 1919

Service Records

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3036905

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australian	MILITARY FORCES.					
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.						
Attestation Paper of Persons No. 62037 Name Surname ASHHO in full Christian Name To Unit 4th Gen.R	Fts-S-U.K. H3 B					
Questions to be put to the Person You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be to the put to the Person You will be to the put to the Person You will be to the put to the Person You will be to the put to the Person You will be to the Person	it you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set					
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3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. Natural Borns.					
4. What is your Age 7 (Date of birth to be stated)	5. Student Leacher.					
5. What is your Trade or Calling? 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. No					
7. Are you married, single, or widower t	7. Ringle					
S. Who is your next of kin (Address and relationship to be stated) The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will.	Budgivaler. Rauth Australia					
the state of	, Bridgewaler.					
9. What is your permanent address in Australia t	SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	10. Union Cadeko, 4428, Campa Caryon 7428 Have you ever suffered from— 13a. (i.) Consumption or Tubercular Dis- NO					
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service!	No (ii.) Fits of any kind?					
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service† If so, on what grounds†	12. (iii.) Rheumatism or Asthma?					
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— De you understand that no separation dilevance will be issued.	13. (iv.) Mental or Nervous Disease?					
in respect of your cowies beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day! 14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox }	(v.) Has any member of your family suffered from any of the above diseases? If so, state particulars					
and enterio fever! /	***************************************					
by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the And I further agree to allot not less than three fifths	do solemnly declare that the above answers made hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth. of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service					
for the support of my wife. +	10					
Date 1.0 APR 1919	Thomas Ashhu All					
This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarri	ed men or widowers without children under 16 years of age. children three-fifths must be allosted. D.249/4.17.—C.1214.—1014.					
1 x mo Mine men on protecting on one mile man A muse me						

I have been informed that if I make any false statement I commit an offence against the Defence Act 1903-1917, and War Precautions Act 1914-1916, 41 (c).

Thomas Ashhust. Recruit.

3

Description of Chances Ashhust. on Enlistment.

Age 19 years 4 months.

Height 5 feet 7/2 inches.

Weight 125: lbs.

Chest Measurement 31. 34 /2 inches.

Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue Brown P

Hair # Fair P

Religious Denomination & 6, 6,

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz.:—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date 19 Arm 1918

Place ADELAIDE.

Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him 4th Gen. Rft. "S"U.K.

Date J.8. 18

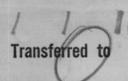
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Commanding 4th Gen. Rft. "S"U.K.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

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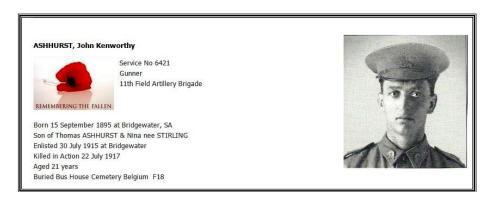
Biography

Thomas Ashhurst was born 5th December, 1898 in Bridgewater in the Adelaide Hills to Thomas Ashhurst Senior and Nina (Christina) Henschke. He had 7 siblings, an older brother John and six sisters.

He completed his early schooling at Bridgewater Public School and then completed his Junior Public Examinations at Mount Barker District High School and then passed his Senior and Higher Public Examinations at Adelaide High School. Thomas joined the Education Department and was posted to Goodwood Primary School. In January 1917 he gained a promotion from 3rd to 4th Grade Junior Teacher. At the same time he was also enrolled in the Arts Faculty at Adelaide University to gain further teaching qualifications. Studying privately, Thomas also passed the Senior Public Chemistry Examination.

War Service

His teaching career was put on hold when in April 1918 he volunteered for service in WW1. The motivation for his enlistment may have been that his older brother John (21 years) had served, but had been killed at Ypres, Belgium in July 1917. In Adelaide John had played football for North Adelaide and had worked for the Druggist and Chemist Manufacturing firm, F H Faulding & Co.



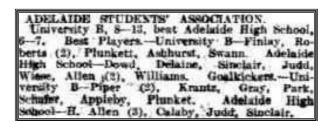
Twenty year old, Private Ashhurst after undergoing training in Australia, embarked for Europe in August 1918 and was assigned to the 9th Infantry Battalion, stationed at Fovant Camp, Wiltshire, England. After recovering from a period of sickness at Hurdcott Training Camp Hospital, he was transferred to the artillery as a gunner. In January 1919 (after the Armistice 11/11/18) he was transferred to Abancourt France. A month later he was moved to his final posting with the Australian Veterinary Corps Hospital at Calais from where he was repatriated (via the port of Le Havre) to Australia on the ship *Port Denison*. He arrived home in May 1919 and was discharged in August.

To have lost one son in the Great War, Thomas's parents would have been greatly relieved that the War had ended before their son was sent to France.

After the War

On his return to Adelaide, Thomas re-enrolled at the University, this time to study for a science degree. At the same time, he had also approached Luther Scammell, the managing director of Faulding, to enquire if he could take over his late brother's job. Obviously recognising Thomas's underlying motivation to change from a promising career in teaching to chemistry, he was offered a position in the Faulding laboratories by Mr Scammell. He would work there part-time and during vacations and he ably combined this with his University studies for the next three years. From 1919 - 1921 Thomas produced outstanding results progressing towards his science degree, finishing with first class results (equal top) in the third year Chemistry subjects.

In addition to his studies, Thomas was a keen sportsman, having played cricket, football and tennis while growing up in Bridgewater and for Adelaide High School. At University he continued these interests and played B Grade football, tennis (Captain of Metropolitan Association Team) for the Blacks and rowed bow for the "Junior Engineering" crew.



The Mail (Adelaide, SA: 1912 - 1954) 6 May 1922

His outstanding work ethic, academic record, participation in sport, recent War service and other voluntary community and committee involvements made him an outstanding nomination for the 1922 Rhodes Scholarship for which he was deservedly selected.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA: 1895 - 1954) / Sat 17 Dec 1921 Page 32 / THE RHODES SCHOLAR.

THE RHODES SCHOLAR.

MR. THOMAS ASHRURST SELECTED. There was a full attendance of the Rhodes Scholarship Committee at a meeting held at Government House on Monday morning, under the chairmanship of his Excellence the Governor, for the purpose



Mr. Thomas Ashhurst.

of selecting the South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1922 and subsequently it was announced that Mr. Thomas Ashburst, son of Mr. Thomas Ashburst, of Bridgewater, had been chosen from among ax candi-dates. He will go into residence at Ox-ford in October next.

Mr. Ashhurst was born at Bridgewater on December 5, 1998, and is taking the science course at the Adelaide University, which be entered in 1919. The successful candidate has had a distinguished career, both at the school and on the snorts fields. In 1910 and 1911 he was dux of the Bridge

water Public School, and after securing his qualifying certificate he went to the Mount Backer District High School, and in 1913 he passed, with credit, the Junior Public examination. Then he studied at the Adeleide High School, and in 1915 and 1916 respectively passed in subjects for the Senior Public and Higher Public examinations. Joining the Education Department, he studied privately afterwards, and in 1917 secured third position (first class) in the examination in the Principles of Teaching (departmental), and also passed in chemistry for the Senior Public examination. In 1919 he attended the Adelaide University for five months, piesed in physiography (first class), chemistry (the deam), chemistry (first class), chemistry (become class), dementary botany (third class), mathematics I (exemption). In 1920 he secured a first class pass (second position) in elementary organic chemistry (theoretical), third-class chemistry (part ii, theoretical), third-class chemistry (part ii, practical). He a so attended lectures in physics ii and mathalic as laid down in ayllatus. At the recent University examinations he secured first class (top position), third year, with honors in the chemistry course, consisting of lirest class, top position of chemistry iii. (pheoretical), first class, top position, chemistry iii. (practical).

Mr. Ashborst plays tennis, cricket, and football, and has also taken part in row-

mistry iii. (practical).

Mr. Ashbuwat plays tennia, cricket, and football, and has also taken part in rowing contests, and engaged in boxing and swimming. His record in regard to leader-ship in sports bodies is as follows:—Captain of the Bridgewater school cricket team, 1910 and 1911; captain Bridgewater Boy' Football team, 1914; raptain Cotton-wills Tennia Clob, B team, 1917 and 1918; captain University tennia team (metro-politan association), and member of committee Adelaide High School Old Scholars' ball, 1929; member of committee Adelaide High School old scholars' ball, 1921; assistant and minute secretary, Adelaide High School Old Scholars' Association, 1921; sub-treasurer Adelaide University tennia tournament, 1921; hon. Association, 1921; sub-treasurer Adelaste University terms tournment, 1921; hon, treasurer and hon secretary Adelaide Uni-

viewed for 1922; assister of Bridgewater institute committee, 1921; selected as head supervisor for the public examinations; leadership in church work.

An interesting feature in connection with Mr. Ashburst's career was mentioned by Mr. L. R. Scammell, of Mesers. Faulding & Co. He mid Mr. Ashburst's brother joined the staff of the firm as a boy, and went through all the departments, in which he showed great ability. He lost his life at the trout. Mr. Thomas Ashburst also went to the war, and on his return he asked Mesars. Faulding & Co. if they would take him in his brother's place, to the extent of the time he bad to apare from his studies at the University. This the firm agreed to, and for the past 24 years he has been working in the firm's laboratory in he spars time and during all the University vacations.

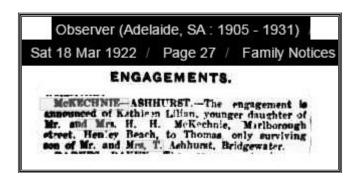
The 1922 Rhodes Scholar, after attending farewell functions put on by the Bridgewater community and the Adelaide University Football Club, departed in August 1922 on the ship RMS Orvieto bound for England and Magdalen College, Oxford. There he would Read Honours Science in the School of Chemistry. At Oxford, Thomas continued his participation in sporting activities and played rugby and competed in athletics competitions (running).

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA: 1895 - 1954)

Sat 12 Aug 1922

BRIDGEWATER, August 1.—Residents crowded the institute on the occasion of a complimentary farewell social to Mr. T. Ashhurst, Rhodes scholar for 1922, prior to his departure for England. The chairman of the school committee (Mr. J. H. Ackland) presided, Congratulatory speeches were made by Means, J. Steer, J. Bitmead, A. J. Rudd, and A. H. Rudd, and the guest was presented with a travelling rug. Mr. E. Hadbone, on behalf of the committee presented to the committee presented to the committee of mead, A. J. Rudd, and A. H. Rudd, and the guest was presented with a travelling rug. Mr. E. Stadbone, on behalf of the committee, presented to the head-master of the school a framed photograph of the Rhodes scholar, to be hung in the school-room. Sorgy and duets were rendered by Misses Chaplin (3) Mrs. M. Steer and Mr. E. Radbone. Miss Lyons and Mrs. E. Leishman were accommissions. panists.

Prior to his departure to Oxford, Thomas announced his engagement to Kathleen McKechnie of Henley Beach.



In 1924, after graduating from Oxford with a B.Sc. (Honours in Chemistry) he secured employment with Burt, Boulton and Haywood Ltd., timber merchants, creosoters, tar distillers, and paint manufacturers. During the War they had also become heavily involved with the manufacturer of dyes because the prime source of supply for the English textile industry previously had been from Germany. They were a very large company and had operations in Europe, Canada and the United State and businesses ambitions to expand throughout the Commonwealth. In 1926 Thomas was sent back to Australia to set up a factory in Sydney. He must have been an impressive employee to be given such a responsibility after only such a short time with the firm.



News (Adelaide, SA: 1923 - 1954) / Mon 26 Apr 1926 / Page 8 / TAR DISTILLERY

TAR DISTILLERY

New Australian Industry

Forerunner of a chain of works throughout the Commonwealth, the first factory to be used in, connection with a new Australian industry will be opened in about three weeks at Balmain, Sydney, by, Burt, Boulton, & Haywood, Limited, of Salisbury House, London, timber merchants, creosoters, tar distillers, and paint manufacturers.

The making of bituminous dressings and bindings for city and country roads will be followed at a later stage by tar distilling in all its forms. Messrs. Burt, Boulton, & Haywood, Limited, own seven large plants in the United Kingdom, and have factories in France, Belgium, Spain, Canada, the United States of America, and Nigeria, and are also interested in the British Australian Timber Company, Limited, of Sydney.

Operations of the British company include wood preservation, the manufacture of paints, enamels and distempers, the furnishing of material for railways, bridges, telegraphs, road surfaces, and house construction.

Mr. Thomas Ashhurst, who has been appointed general manager of the Australian works, was born at Mount Lofty, South Australia. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces, when a student at the Adelaide University, and after the war was selected as a Rhodes Scholar. Obtaining his degree of chemistry, with honours, at Oxford, he took up post-graduate research work, in the course of which he discovered an improved process, of considerable commercial importance, for the making of indigo dye. Prior to his new appointment he occupied the position of assistant technical manager at the principal London works of, Burt, Boulton & Haywood.

He married Miss Kathleen McKechnie, youngest daughter of Mr. S. H. MlcKechnie, of Henley Beach.

Discussing future plans Mr. Ashhurst said: "The first undertaking will be the preparation, of spraymulsion, an emulsified form of bitumen, which can be applied cold, to damp or dry roads as a dressing or binder. The opening of our factory coincides with the road development schemes of the Federal Government, and the State Roads Boards. The machinery for the Balmain works includes a Premier colloid mill, which is serving 50 different industries in Britain alone."

Back in Australia

Prior to returning home, he married Kathleen on the 4th November 1925 at Greenwich, London. Settling back in Australia, the young couple settled at Five Dock, a suburb of Sydney on the Parramatta River not far from Balmain where in 1926, Burt, Boulton and Haywood set up their Australian factory. Thomas Ashhurst was appointed the General Manager and as a Director on the company board.

Under his management, the company grew to become a huge, diversified business expanding into the manufacture of industrial chemicals and medicinal preparations, building materials and engineering and construction. They won tenders for building bridges and hydro-electric power stations. Thomas remained at the company for the rest of his working life.

Thomas and Kathleen lived at Five Dock in their house named "Cherwell" named after the region in Oxfordshire which obviously reflected his fond memories of the place near Oxford University. The family suffered an early tragedy in 1931 with their first born son, Thomas Lawson Ashhurst, dying at home as an infant of only four months. They would go on and raise another two sons and a daughter. Thomas and Kathleen would remain at the family home for all their whole lives.

Both Thomas and Kathleen were keen golfers and played regularly at the nearby Concord Golf Club. They would often team up in the mixed foursome competitions and Thomas would play in the regular Concord weekend competitions and annual A.I.F. golf tournaments. A left hander he participated in one tournament restricted to "southpaws". He must have been a reasonable golfer shooting 79 "of the stick" for a net 65 (14 handicap). He finished in second place to famed Australian Rugby League player and coach, Ray Norman. Although shooting the same score, Norman won because he had a two shot higher handicap.



Thomas passed away at the age 67 in 1966, so unfortunately did not have a long retirement and further time on the golf course. Kathleen lived a further 20 years, dying at the age of 88 in 1986. She remained living at "Cherwell" for the majority of those years.

Profile Compiled by: Rob O'Shannassy (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Sources and Acknowledgments:

•	National Librar	v of Australia - ˈ	Trove (Did	gital Newspapers)	
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- National Archives of Australia WW1 Service Records
- The A.I.F. Project University of NSW, Canberra
- WW1 Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians

The author, o	also worked for F H Fauldin	g and Co Ltd	Managing Direc	ctor at the time	e of his appointme	nt in 1986 was?
William Faul	ding Scammell, grandson o	f Luther Rober	t Scammell.			