



Captain Ralph Alderton Baker



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: A Grade (1911)

Cricket Club: 1909/10 - 1912/13

Degree: MB BS (1912)

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 Ralph Alderton Baker. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=11563>




Ralph Alderton BAKER

Place of birth	Adelaide, South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Medical practitioner
Address	Ardrossan, South Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	27
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs C B Baker, c/o W W Baker, Egmont Terrace, Lower Mitcham, South Australia
Enlistment date	16 May 1916
Rank on enlistment	Captain
Unit name	Medical Officers
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board RSM <i>Malwa</i> on 22 July 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	Australian Army Medical Corps
Fate	Returned to Australia 4 March 1919

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3009955>

Captain

AUSTRALIAN  **MILITARY FORCES.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 1495 Name Ralph Alderton Baker
Unit A.A.M.C.
Joined on May 16th 1916.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>R A Baker.</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of <u>Bedford</u> in the County of <u>S. Aus</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>Natural born</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>27 1/2 yrs.</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Medical Practitioner</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you married?	7. <u>Yes.</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	8. <u>Wife Mrs. C. B. Baker</u> <u>40-10-10 Baker St.</u> <u>Dequerville Terrace, Sydney, N.S.W.</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy?	10. <u>No</u>
11. 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	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <u>Yes.</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>No</u>
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day?	14. <u>Yes.</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15. <u>Yes.</u>

Ralph Alderton Baker do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me 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 for the support of my wife * †
wife and children

Date 21. 6. 16 R A Baker
Signature of Person Enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Published Biography

Excerpt from *Blood Sweat and Fears: Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australian who served in World War 1*. Verco, Summers, Swain and Jelly 2014.

BAKER Ralph Alderton

MB BS

1889 - 1943



Ralph Alderton Baker was born on the 18th of May 1889 at Medindie, South Australia. He was educated at St Peter's College and studied medicine at the University of Adelaide graduating MB BS in 1912. He then gained experience as a House Surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital for 12 months in 1913. He proceeded to Ardrossan on the York Peninsula as a General Practitioner. Ralph married Emma Maud Cora Burfitt Riley prior to enlistment in the AIF.

Baker enlisted in the AIF on 16th May 1916 with the rank of Captain in the AAMC. He was 27 years old 5ft 7ins tall and weighed 150lbs. He had fair hair, blue eyes and no previous Military experience. His wife of Dequetteville Terrace, Adelaide was named as next of kin with WW Baker, Egmont Terrace Lower Mitcham as an alternative address. Baker embarked from Sydney for Egypt in HMAT *Katuna* on 26th June 1916. He was attached to the 1 LH Training Regiment in Egypt. His time there was as a RMO to Regiments, the 14 AGH, and in the 1 and 3 LH FdAmb. He also had detached duty in the 1 LH FdAmb of the British Army in September 1918 as a temporary captain. He saw duty at Mustapha, Abbassia, Moascar and the Medical School. It was during this latter part of the war that he contracted malaria and was admitted to

the 14th AGH then to the HT *Kantara* and finally on board *Port Sydney* on the 5th March 1919 departed Egypt for Melbourne. From Melbourne he was transferred to 4MD Adelaide on 22nd April 1919 where his appointment was terminated on 12th June 1919. Ralph Baker was issued the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Baker had three daughters between 1920 and 1924, born in Adelaide and in Barmera. Baker, living in Kensington Gardens, subsequently divorced his wife who was living on South Terrace, Adelaide on the grounds of her habitual drunkenness and neglect of domestic duties. He later married Johanna from NSW. He enlisted again in the Army during WW2 from Maryborough, Queensland on 18th August 1942 and his wife Johanna Baker was named as next of kin. Ralph Alderton Baker died in Maryborough Queensland on the 9th August 1943.

Sources:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=3009955>.
The Advertiser of 11th December 1935
Courier Mail Brisbane 11th August 1945
Ancestry.com

Additional Biography

Early Life

Ralph Alderton (Dick) Baker was born 18 May 1889 at Medindie, SA, the son of Wallace William Baker and Amy Eliza Baker (née Griffiths), of Medindie, SA. His siblings were Robert John (Bob - born 1886), Wallace Westerfield (West - born 1891), Gwendoline May Susanna (1892) and Alan Boyton (born 1894 and registered as Allan Boyton).

Schooling

Dick was educated at St Peters College from 1898 to 1905. He passed his Primary Examinations in October 1902 and Junior Examinations in December 1903. In December 1905 he passed the Senior Examination in Arithmetic and Algebra and the Higher Public Examinations in German and Inorganic Chemistry.

In 1906 Dick and his brother Bob were both members of the North Adelaide Variety Company, and in November they sang in a concert at Cheltenham in aid of the Church of England Mission Hall.

Pre-University

It is unclear why Dick left full-time schooling at the end of 1905 however it is possible that he commenced working. We do however know that he was involved in studying and in cricket and swimming during 1906 and 1907.

In December 1906 Dick came equal ninth in the Senior Examination in English Literature, having studied at the Tutorial College run by the Principal Mr G.G. Newman BA (Lond.) in Victoria Square, Adelaide.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)
Sat 29 Dec 1906 / Page 3 / Advertising

EDUCATION

TUTORIAL COLLEGE,

1906.

ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS SURPASSED,

101

P A S S E S

JUNIOR—40 Passes. Fourteen more than last year.

SENIOR—22 Passes. Ten more than last year. Ninth in Honours Eng. Lit.; fourth in Honours Greek.

PRELIM. PHARM.

March—1st (with credit), 2nd, and 3rd places. September—1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

All the Passes for the year.

METHODIST MINISTERIAL PRELIM.—1st place on the list.

Successful Correspondence Students from Beaconsfield (Tasmania), Onetree Hill, Wandarrah, Willunga, Victor Harbour, Light's Pass, Wokurna, Moonta, Port Pirie, Strathalbyn.

Classes for March Exams. Start on January 2. Send for New 1907 Prospectus to

G. G. NEWMAN, B.A.,
302's Victoria square, Adelaide.

Dick competed in the Old Boys Institute (OBI) annual amateur swimming competitions in March 1907, winning the "Working Boys' Championship 9 under 18, four lengths). In December 1907, Dick passed Shorthand (advanced) Theory at the School of Mines and Industries.

In the 1907/08 season, Dick played cricket in the Australian Natives' Association (ANA Association) for St Peters playing alongside his brothers Bob and Wallace.

Dick came third in a heat of the 100 yards Amateur Handicap event at the South Australian Swimming Association sports at the Glenelg baths in February 1908 and in March 1909 he was second in the Old Scholars race at the St Peter's College Swimming Sports. Dick swam for the Seagull Swimming Club of Kent Town and was among the club's principal prize winners.

Adelaide University

Having by 1908 gained the required entrance standards, Dick enrolled in medicine at the University of Adelaide. While at Adelaide University he was a member of the Medical Students' Society and usually performed a musical item at the Societies' Annual Dinner. Dick passed first year physics for MB BS in a supplementary examination in March 1909 again under the tuition of Mr G.G. Newman.

The photograph below is of second year medical students from 1909 and is labelled as including R.A. Baker, unfortunately, Dick's position in the photograph is not exactly known. However, Dick's WWI Service Record states that he had fair hair which would narrow the options down. If the photo has been labelled correctly left to right he is the student circled. Dick graduated MB BS in 1912.

Second Year Medical Students - "The 'ruffians' of 1909"



Included are: Professor Watson, A.E. Williams, S. Holder, L.G. Tassie, H.C. Nott, J. Gardner, K. Godfrey, G.H. Burnell, H.J. Penny, F.N. Le Messurier, R.A. Baker, F.E. Osborn, H.C.C. Rennie

Adelaide University Sport

Football

Dick played football for the AUFC in the newly formed SA Amateur League in 1911. Playing in the match against Glenferrie Dick was amongst the best players with University winning by 5 goals and six points.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)
/ Mon 22 May 1911

AMATEUR LEAGUE.

UNIVERSITY VERSUS GLENFERRIE.

University played their first game against Glenferrie at the University Oval on Saturday. The turf was in perfect condition, in spite of the heavy rains which had fallen, and a good game was witnessed. It was recognised that Glenferrie had a hard tussle before them. University took charge, and soon had the ball amongst the forwards, and Baylis raised the flag. The students showed good combined play, and utterly outclassed Glenferrie, who failed to score in the first quarter. In the second quarter the students again had the upper hand, their centre and back lines proving far too strong. At half-time they had scored 5 goals 6 behinds to 1 goal 1 behind. After the adjournment Glenferrie, with a slight rearrangement of places, showed a marked improvement, and with a smart piece of play Wald notched a goal. The blue and whites maintained their lead, and with combination, good marking, and passing outclassed the students, who only scored once to their opponents' 3 goals 1 behind. The play during the last quarter showed plenty of dash, and Glenferrie showed no slackening in their attack, but the University defence—LeMessurier, Wilshire, and Murphy particularly—was too strong for them to make up the deficiency. The bell rang with the board showing—

University, 10 goals 12 behinds.
Glenferrie, 5 goals 6 behinds.

W. Plunkett had charge of the game. The best players were:—University—LeMessurier, Wilshire, Baker, Kain, Smith, Davies, and F. Williams. Glenferrie—Baker, Miller, Yeatman, Wald, Cuming, Chapman. Goal-kickers:—University—Coust (4), Baylis (3), Smith, Steele, and LeMessurier; Glenferrie—Chapman (2), Baker, Clutterbuck, and Wald.

In the next game University defeated Marlborough comfortably with Dick kicking a goal.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)
Monday 29 May 1911, page 13

UNIVERSITY V. MARLBOROUGH.

University and Marlborough played their first match this season on the Hawthorn Oval. The ground was uneven in places, and consequently fumbling was frequent. University were without the services of Stadlart, Steele, and LeMessurier. Drew acted as captain. Some clean football was enjoyed by the spectators, and at one time it looked as though Marlborough were going to defeat University. Londrigan played a brilliant and consistent game, and Bonnar, on the wing for Marlborough, gave a most attractive display. The final scores were:—University, 8 goals 12 behinds; Marlborough, 3 goals 8 behinds. Goal-kickers:—University—Jore and Baylis (each 2), and Baker, Coust, Kain, and Wilton (each 1). Marlborough — Grantley, Medlyn, and Redwood (each 1). Best players—University—Wilshire, Davies, Jones, and Kain. Marlborough—Maple, Bogus, Dowling, Frindorf, and Dewar.

Cricket

Dick played B grade Cricket for the Adelaide University Cricket Club during the 1909/10-1912/13 seasons. During the University vacation in 1910 he played in a match between University and a Renmark team. The University team was made up of a number of students who were in the Riverland fruit picking. Dick would later reside in the Riverland as a medical practitioner.

Renmark Pioneer (SA : 1892 - 1913), Friday 14 January 1910, page 2

Cricket.	
University Students v. Renmark.	
<p>Advantage was taken of the presence of numbers of University students in Renmark for the fruit harvesting to arrange a cricket match between them and a representative Renmark team. The match was played on the Recreation Ground on Wednesday, the 6th inst., and resulted in a one inning's victory for the local team. The knowledge that Dolling, the well-known Interstate player and former Prince Alfred College champion batsman, would be playing for the students, added interest to the match. Dolling, unfortunately, is just recovering from a severe bout of pneumonia, which has forced him to discontinue his medical studies, and he failed to score in the match, being bowled by Morres first ball in the first innings and being caught in his second innings, in the long field, by Fleming, after he made two or three very pretty strokes for seven runs. All the wickets were taken for Renmark by Logue and Morres, the last named securing 14 for 46 in the two innings. The weather was oppressively hot, but not sufficiently so to prevent the attendance of several lady spectators, amongst whom were noticed the Misses Robertson of Chowilla, and the Misses Clark and Cutlack. Appended are the scores:—</p>	
UNIVERSITY.	
First Innings.	
Penny, b Morres	3
Jones, b Morres	27
Dolling, b Morres	0
Rennie, c, b Logue	10
Godfrey, b Morres	13
Kneebone, b Morres	0
Moulden, run out	2
Baker, b Morres	7
Tassie, not out	0
Corry, b Morres	2
Black, stpd, b Morres	0
Sundries	4
Total	68
Bowling—Morres 8 for 29, Logue 1 for 30.	
Second Innings.	
Jones, b Morres	4
Moulden, b Morres	4
Rennie, run out	2
Penny, c, b Logue	15
Baker, c, b Logue	6
Dolling, c, b Morres	7
Black, b Logue	0
Corry, b Morres	7
Godfrey, not out	0
Tassie, b Morres	0
Kneebone, b Morres	0
Sundries	13
Total	58
Bowling—Morres 6 for 26, Logue 3 for 32.	

Late in the 1909/10 season Dick played for University against his old school. St Peter's College needed to beat University to win the premiership. It was interesting to note that Dick and Harry Nott (two old SPSC boys) were absent on the second day of the game.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)
Mon 21 Mar 1910 / Page 12

<p>Sturt were beaten by East Torrens, and S.P.S.C. scoring a win over University, won the premiership.</p>	
UNIVERSITY VERSUS S.P.S.C.	
Won by St. Peter's College by 133 runs.	
S.P.S.C.	
First innings	281
UNIVERSITY.	
I. W. Davies, c. Pellew, b. Murray	40
H. Powell, c. Woodley, b. Murray	8
R. Pavia, b. Murray	0
K. Goode, c. Pellew, b. Davidson	13
J. W. Blacket, b. Davidson	10
H. W. D. Stoddart, b. Moyes	34
O. J. Murphy, c. Symon, b. Pellew	21
L. Phillips, not out	10
G. Gardner, c. Marten, b. Murray	3
H. C. Nott, absent	0
R. Baker, absent	0
Sundries	7
Total	151

In a match in March 1912 playing for University B Grade, after dismissing a strong P.A.C. team cheaply, the University team collapsed to be all out for 42 with Dick at number 11, the second highest scorer with only 6 runs.

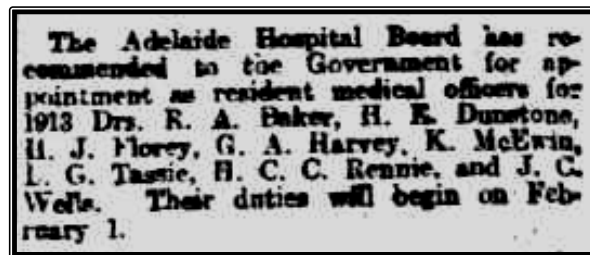
The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1889-1931)	
Mon 11 Mar 1912 / Page 12	
B GRADE.	
UNIVERSITY VERSUS P.A.C.	
Prince Alfred College.	
W. N. Fowler, c. Williams, b. Powell	6
H. L. Rayner, c. Pender, b. Ashby	2
D. M. Steele, c. Mills, b. Powell	5
R. H. Berriman, c. Pender, b. Ashby	0
J. N. Davies, b. Ashby	1
J. McNeil, b. Ashby	0
D. D. Magarey, c. Williams, b. Powell	0
A. K. Ashby, c. Baker, b. Powell	0
J. E. Plush, not out	10
G. R. Dreyer, c. Mills, b. Powell	0
H. T. Edwards, c. Mills, b. Ashby	28
Sundries	3
Total	55
Bowling.—I. E. Ashby, five for 28; H. Powell, five for 20; Hurley, none for 1.	
University.	
L. Hurley, c. and b. Steele	0
R. Pender, b. Steele	0
S. S. Mills, c. Magarey, b. Steele	6
H. Powell, c. McNeill, b. Steele	0
I. E. Ashby, c. Rayner, b. Ashby	0
J. W. Blackett, c. Steele, b. Ashby	15
A. Williams, c. and b. Steele	2
F. Williams, c. Steele, b. Ashby	1
I. Pender, b. Ashby	0
P. H. Beare, not out	1
R. Baker, c. and b. Steele	6
Sundries	11
Total	42
Bowling.—D. M. Steele, six for 17; A. K. Ashby, four for 15.	

The 1911/12 season statistics show that Dick only played a couple of matches that season.

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA: 1867-1922)	
/ Thu 25 Apr 1912	
<p>The averages for the University B's season have been compiled as follows:—Batting—Powell, innings 8, highest score 100, not out 0, runs 183, average 22.8; Strachan, 4, 30, 1, 64, 21.2; Goodc, 8, 63, 0, 150, 18.7; Stoddart, 4, 36, 0, 71, 17.7; Ashby, 9, 111, 0, 129, 14.3; Blackett, 11, 24, 1, 129, 12.9; A. Williams, 8, 14, 3, 60, 10; Pavia, 4, 25, 0, 36, 9; Mills, 7, 17, 0, 60, 8.5; Moulden, 5, 19, 0, 35, 7; Jose, 8, 28, 1, 47, 6.7; Pender, 4, 16, 1, 19, 6.3; Hurley, 4, 8, 1, 17, 5.6; F. Williams, 6, 9, 1, 23, 4.6; Nott, 6, 7, 0, 20, 2.3. Also batted—Penny, 3, 15, 0; Christ, 2, 4, 7, 56; Potts, 0, 17, 0, 0, 0; Beare, 1, 0, 0; R. Baker, 6, 17; Howard, 12, 3, 0. Bowling—A. A. Moulden, overs 38, maidens 7, runs 90, wickets 8, average 11.25; I. E. Ashby, 173, 33, 490, 33, 13.61; R. Pavia, 25, 5, 111, 7, 15.85; H. Powell, 104, 30, 300, 16, 18.75; L. Hurley, 18, 4, 52, 2, 26; A. Williams, 72, 14, 273, 8, 34.12. Also bowled—G. M. Potts, five for 145; H. J. Penny, two for 69; R. Baker, four for 45; I. E. Jose, one for 63.</p>	

Early Medical Career

After graduating in 1912 Ralph was appointed as a resident medical officer at the Adelaide Hospital for 12 months. Also among the medical graduates that year was Hilda Florey, older sister of Howard Florey.



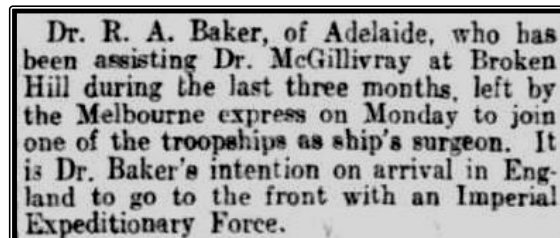
The Adelaide Hospital Board has recommended to the Government for appointment as resident medical officers for 1913 Drs. R. A. Baker, H. R. Dunstone, H. J. Florey, G. A. Harvey, K. McEwin, L. G. Tassie, H. C. C. Rennie, and J. C. Wells. Their duties will begin on February 1.

Sadly for the Baker family, Dick's only sister Gwendoline drowned at Largs Bay in June 1913. She was said to have been suffering from depression.

In May 1914, Dick was acting medical officer for the Port Adelaide Council. Later in July, August and September 1914, he was assisting Dr McGillivray at Broken Hill.

World War I

A number of newspaper articles state that Dick left Broken Hill at the end of September 1914 and travelled to Melbourne where he intended to travel to England as a ship's surgeon on a troop ship and to go to the front with an Imperial Expeditionary Force.

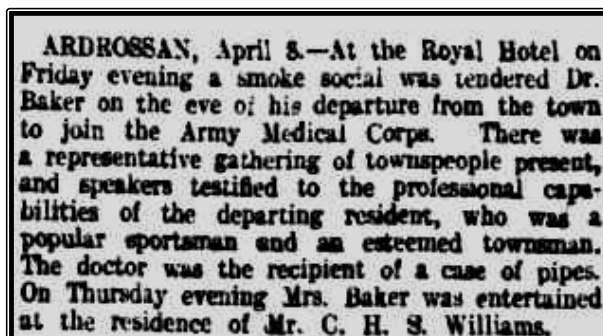


Dr. R. A. Baker, of Adelaide, who has been assisting Dr. McGillivray at Broken Hill during the last three months, left by the Melbourne express on Monday to join one of the troopships as ship's surgeon. It is Dr. Baker's intention on arrival in England to go to the front with an Imperial Expeditionary Force.

It appears that Dick changed his mind and returned to South Australia. During November and December 1914 he was again acting medical officer for the Port Adelaide Council (note: some newspaper reports say Robert Baker and others say R.A. Baker). In February 1915 he appears to have been locum tenens for Dr Cowen at Angaston, SA and later that month for Dr Erichsen at Pinnaroo, SA.

Dick married Emma Maud Cora Burfitt (Cora) Riley (born 6 February 1890 and registered as Emma Maud Cora Burford Riley), the daughter of Daniel Riley at St Pauls's Church, Adelaide on the 30th March 1915.

In July 1915, Dick was practicing at Ardrossan on Yorke Peninsula, SA. He departed from Ardrossan in April 1916 and enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps on the 16th May 1916.



ARDROSSAN, April 8.—At the Royal Hotel on Friday evening a smoke social was tendered Dr. Baker on the eve of his departure from the town to join the Army Medical Corps. There was a representative gathering of townspeople present, and speakers testified to the professional capabilities of the departing resident, who was a popular sportsman and an esteemed townsman. The doctor was the recipient of a case of pipes. On Thursday evening Mrs. Baker was entertained at the residence of Mr. C. H. S. Williams.

For details of Dick's WWI service please refer to the excerpt from Blood Sweat and Fears: Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australian who Served in World War 1. Verco, Summers, Swain and Jelly 2014.

All three of Dick's brothers served overseas in WWI.

Alan enlisted in November 1914, aged 20 years and 9 months; he rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the 10th Battalion. Alan served at Gallipoli and in France. He suffered a broken ankle in February 1918. Alan returned to Australia in March 1919.

West enlisted on the 25th May 1915, at Adelaide, SA and embarked from Adelaide on the RMS Mongolia on 9th March 1916. Tragically he was killed in action on 22nd August 1916, at Mouquet Farm, Pozieres, France.

Bob enlisted in January 1916 (SN 209), he was 29 years old. He was a Private (Air Mechanic) in the Australian Flying Corps. He returned to Australia in April 1919 having been declared medically unfit for service.

Sadly before the surviving boys were back from the war, their mother had died in September 1918 as a result of injuries received in a motor vehicle accident.

CROSS-ROADS FATALITY
"Accidental Death."

The evidence given on Wednesday at the inquest concerning the death of Amy Eliza Baker, wife of Mr. W. W. Baker, of Egmont-terrace, Hawthorn, which resulted from injuries received in a motor accident at Cross-roads, Unley, on September 19, showed that Mr. Baker endeavored to avoid a collision between his car and another car driven by Miss Adelaide May Mathias, of Edwardstown. He was unable to do so, and he also ran into a post near the watertable. Mrs. Baker was thrown into the gutter, and besides sustaining a fractured thigh, suffered severely from shock. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT W. WEST BAKER.

Lieutenant W. West Baker, who was killed in France on August 22, was the son of Mr. W. W. Baker, of Egmont-terrace, Lower Mitcham. He was educated at Pulteney-street school, and prior to enlisting he completed his studies for and passed the accountants' examination. Lieutenant Baker was held in high esteem, and his great industry and natural capability indi-



Lieutenant W. W. Baker.

cated that his would have been a successful career. He was recognised as a fine athlete, and was well known in rowing circles, having piloted an oar for the Mercantiles in championship races for several years. His loss will be keenly felt by a large circle of friends and much sympathy will be extended towards his parents, who have three more sons at the front.

The grave of Dick's brother was unknown until 1936 when it was found following exhumation work. The identification was possible when his watch was found. The watch was returned to his family and West's body was respectfully transferred to the Longueval War Cemetery, France.

JHE.

16 JUN 1936

S.C.1

Dear Sir,

With further reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late 2nd. Lieutenant W.W. Baker, 10th. Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice that during the course of recent exhumation work in the vicinity of Pozieres the Imperial War Graves Commission was successful in recovering the remains of this officer, which have since been interred with every measure of care and reverence in Grave 22, Row "B", Plot 1 of London Cemetery Extension, High Wood, Longueval, France, where a permanent headstone of uniform design will shortly be erected and engraved with his full regimental particulars and date of death, together with any verse or epitaph previously selected in the form of a personal inscription.

I am also forwarding under separate registered cover a watch engraved "W.W. Baker 12-6-15 which was found at the time. This memento, though now greatly impaired through long exposure, will doubtless be valued on account of its former intimate association with the deceased, and I trust same comes safely to hand.

Yours faithfully,

(T. ROBINSON)
Officer i/c Base Records.

Wallace W. Baker, Esq.,
Egmont Terrace,
LOWER MITCHAM, S.A.

Post WWI Career and Family Life

After returning to Australia from WWI, Dick practiced as a locum tenens for various doctors including three weeks in Moonta in August 1919 then at Millicent where he had to deal with an influenza epidemic. In November 1919 he was at Riverton.

Dick and Cora had their first child, a daughter, Natalie, on the 28th January 1920, at Quambi (a private hospital on South Terrace, Adelaide).

In August and September 1920, Dick was practicing at Whyalla and Iron Knob. Dick was then appointed a Pensions' Review examiner for the Repatriation Department. In that capacity he was in Port Pirie in February 1921, Naracoorte in June 1921 and Pt Elliott in August 1921.

By November 1921, Dick had commenced a practice at Barmera, SA. In that same month, Dick registered a 22.5 Ford.

Dick had to contend with a serious epidemic of infantile diarrhoea in the Barmera area in January 1923.

On the 18th June 1923, Dick and Cora's second daughter, Helen was born at Quambi Hospital,

Dick lead the community singing at the gathering of the Upper Murray Old Collegians' Association in July 1923 and in October 1923, he was appointed the health officer for the Cobdogla Irrigation area.

In January 1923 Miss Natalie Baker (aged 3) presented wristlet watches to the 'most impressive' boy and girl at a concert to raise money for the local kindergarten.

Tragically for the family, baby Helen passed away on the 18th February 1924, aged just 8 months.

By April 1924, Dick was playing golf at the Barmera Golf Club and in May that year he was appointed medical officer at the Barmera Hospital in succession to Dr L.A. Hayward.

On the 8th August 1924, Dick and Cora's third daughter, Mary Irene was born at Barmera.

Dick became the Patron of the Barmera Cricket Club in September 1924.

On the 14th October a wind storm of cyclonic force struck Barmera and many houses were destroyed or badly damaged. Dick and Cora's home was destroyed. The newspaper article below indicates that Dick and the children got out of the house unharmed but that Cora was slightly injured, however according to a family member, Dr. Ralph Alderton Baker and his newborn third child, Mary, were in Adelaide when the tornado hit. The house was occupied at the time by his wife, Emma Cora Burfitt Baker (nee Riley) and their first born child Natalie who was then four years old.

Dr. Baker's house, Pascoe Terrace after the 1924 tornado



Houses and Cubicles Destroyed.

Many Families Homeless.

BARMERA, October 14.

At about 6.30 to-night a wind storm of cyclonic force struck Barmera, and, in the space of a few minutes, the place was in a state of chaos.

Trees were uprooted, houses demolished, tanks carried hundreds of yards, and damage to the extent of several thousand pounds was done.

The five-roomed dwelling, occupied by Dr. R. A. Baker was razed to the ground, even the walls (cement and bricks) collapsing under the force of the gale. The doctor and his children had just time to get out, but Mrs. Baker was slightly injured, and was taken to the hospital for treatment. The Church of Christ, a large weatherboard structure, was also levelled to the ground, and the roof of the chemist's shop was lifted off and deposited on Mr. L. R. Appleton's restaurant near by. Mr. T. Kilgariff's picture theatre, a galvanized iron building (100 ft. x 40 ft.), has canted over to one side several feet, and portion of the back of the building was blown away. Portion of the roof of the business premises of Mr. R. A. Forde, was also carried away.

In November 1924, Dick transferred from Barmera to Berri. In his farewell from Barmera, Dick was described as a keen sportsman and one of the most prominent members of the Barmera Golf Club.

DR. BAKER TO COME TO BERRI.

Berri, November 5.

In the course of his remarks at a farewell social on Saturday evening Dr. Baker would transfer from Barmera to Berri. After his (Dr. Hayward's) departure Dr. Baker would come to Berri for a week. He would then be relieved by Dr. Josske for about three weeks, at the end of which period Dr. Josske would go to Barmera and Dr. Baker would return to Berri to take up residence permanently.

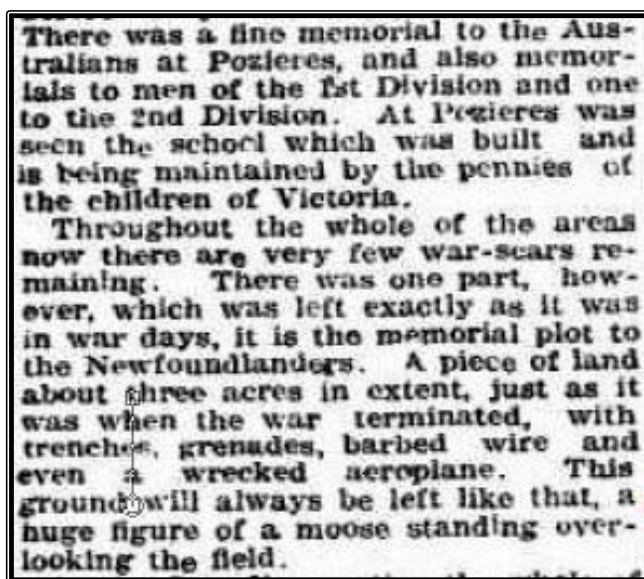
Dr. Hayward said the Berri folk could place every confidence in Dr. Baker, whom they would find an excellent doctor and a jolly good fellow and sportsman. He hoped they would give Dr. Baker the same measure of support as they had given him. In Dr. Josske, he was glad to say, he had secured for Barmera a man with experience, and a specialist in eye and X-Ray work.

The family holidayed in Adelaide in January 1925 and again in October 1925. In January 1926, Dick was the Dispatch Steward at the Berri Regatta. Dick and the local health inspector had to act promptly when a member of the post office staff at Berri contracted Diphtheria. In July 1926 the Baker's holidayed at Victor Harbor for a fortnight. In August 1926, Dick became Captain of the Berri Golf Club and he was also involved in the administration of the Upper Murray Football Association. In April 1928 Dick had to contend with an outbreak of ptomaine poisoning (food poisoning) at Berri. Dick was a judge at the Berri Spring Races in September 1928.

On the 28th February 1929 Dick and Cora left for overseas onboard the 'Chitral' which departed from Outer Harbour. The couple visited Colombo and Candy (Sri Lanka), the Suez Canal, Cairo, Luxor, Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, Italy, France (where he visited some of the WWI cemeteries) and England. Dick undertook medical work at Tottenham, UK and a post graduate course in medicine at Vienna Austria. Dick was very concerned by the conditions in Austria at the country was in great economic distress causing widespread poverty and disease caused by malnutrition.

The Baker's departed from London, England on 9th August 1929 and arrived at Freemantle on the 10th September 1929. Dick resumed his practice at Berri in late September 1929.

On his return, Dick gave a number of talks about his trip and his talk to the Monash RSA (RSL) was reported at length in the *Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record* (for the whole article see "AN A.I.F. MEDICO'S VISIT TO EUROPE" *Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record* (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942) 29 November 1929: 7. Web. 1 May 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article109387886>)



Dick became the Patron of the Berri Cricket Club and in the early 1930's he was Captain of the Berri Golf Club.

Dick spent a week in Melbourne in April 1930 and a few weeks there in August/September 1931. In 1932, Dick was a Vice-president of the Berri Football Club. Dick was actively involved in the Monash RSL and he competed in the Berri Club Championships (golf) in 1934.

In November 1934, Dick sailed by the 'Nieuw Zeeland' on a return trip to Java and Singapore. He was the ships surgeon for the trip and was away for about 10 weeks. On his return from the trip Dick gave a talk on his travels to the Monash RSL which can be read at: "DUTCH EAST INDIES" *Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record* (Renmark, SA : 1913 - 1942) 28 February 1935: 12. Web. 1 May 2018 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article110274806>

Dick sold his practice in Berri and moved back to Adelaide in September 1935. A sale of household furniture was held at the Berri Institute on the 23rd August 1935 and a farewell was held at the Monash RSL in his honour.

FAREWELL TO DR. R. A. BAKER

Monash Diggers Say "Good-Bye"

The large attendance of Diggers from all parts of the district, including representatives from Berri, Barmera, Glossop, Renmark and Winkle, at the farewell smoke social tendered to Dr. R. A. Baker reflected the very high esteem in which he is held throughout the district. The Monash sub-branch of the R.S.A., of which Dr. Baker is vice-president, organized the evening, which will leave pleasant memories of happy associations in the minds of those privileged to take part.

Mr. C. R. McIvor, the president, in expressing the pleasure at having such a large gathering and extending a welcome to all the visitors, referred to the loss sustained by the sub-branch in the departure of the guest of the evening. Dr. Baker was held in very high regard by everybody and amongst the "diggers" especially was extremely popular. He was keen on the work of the League and had maintained an active interest in the Monash sub-branch, as well as attending surrounding

sub-branches on their special occasions. Dr. Baker, by his skill and ability in his profession had maintained the confidence of the settlement and his departure from their midst could not but be felt. On behalf of the members of the Monash sub-branch R.S.A., a presentation of a pen and pencil suitably inscribed was made to Dr. Baker.

In accepting the presentation, Dr. Baker expressed himself as being overwhelmed at the feelings of the "Diggers". He paid tribute to the work in the district of Dr. Harris and Dr. Sutton, with whom he had always been in close contact. In R.S.A. circles there was continually work to be done in maintaining the objects of the League, and he regretted deeply that he was not here long enough to occupy the president's chair. His best wishes were for the future of the sub-branch.

During the evening Dr. G. D. Harris, of Renmark, made reference to the departure of Dr. Baker and spoke of the love and genuine interest shown by him towards the Diggers. Dr. Sutton of Barmera, who was also leaving the district, spoke of his happy associations with Dr. Baker.

Sadly, Dick sued for an "undefended" divorce in December 1935 against Cora on the ground of "habitual drunkenness and neglect of domestic duties". Ralph was residing at Myall Avenue, Kensington Gardens at the time of his divorce.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)
Wed 11 Dec 1935 / Page 16 / Undefended Divorces

Ralph Alderton Baker, legally qualified medical practitioner, of Myall avenue, Kensington Gardens, against Emma Maud Cora Burditt Baker, of South terrace, Adelaide, on the ground of habitual drunkenness and neglect of domestic duties. Mr. K. Ward appeared for Dr. Baker.

Dick moved to Queensland and in May/June 1936 he was caring for the patients of Dr A.G. Bennett. He remarried in 1936 in Queensland to Johanna Emma Wilhelmina Kaulbach. The Electoral Rolls of 1937 show Dick's address to be 13 Wills Street, Townsville. In December 1917 Dick was appointed Repatriation Doctor for Townsville.

On the 11th April 1938, Dick's father, Wallace William Baker, passed away aged 79 years. W.W. Baker was buried at the North Road Cemetery.

DEATH
BAKER.—On April 11, at private hospital, Wallace William Baker, of 24 Egmont terrace, Hawthorn, loving father of Bob, Dick, and Alan. Aged 79 years.

Dick was involved with the RSL and the golf club at Townsville. In March 1939 he visited Berri and called in on many old friends. In August 1939, Dick left Townsville. He was given a farewell by the Townsville RSL.

A representative gathering of Diggers met in the R.S.I.L.A. Memorial Hall, Sturt Street, to bid farewell to Dr. R. A. Baker, who leaves this week for the South. The chair was occupied by the President of the R.S.I.L.A. (Mr. H. A. Weller) who extolled the many virtues of Dr. Baker and his great help to many Diggers in his capacity of Repatriation Doctor in Townsville. On behalf of those present he wished Dr. Baker all health, happiness and prosperity in his future life and assured him Townsville Diggers deeply regretted his departure and fully realised the loss they would sustain. Dr. Baker briefly thanked the gathering for their good wishes.

World War II

Dick then practised at Maryborough, Queensland and in July 1940 he was appointed the medical referee for the purposes of the provision of Workers' Compensation.

On the 27th April 1940, Dick was staying at a Montpelier Guest House, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane when he was the victim of the theft of a pair of shoes and £1/8/.

In June 1941 Dick was appointed the Medical Officer of the R.S.V.D. Corps at Maryborough. He was living at Sussex Street, Maryborough.

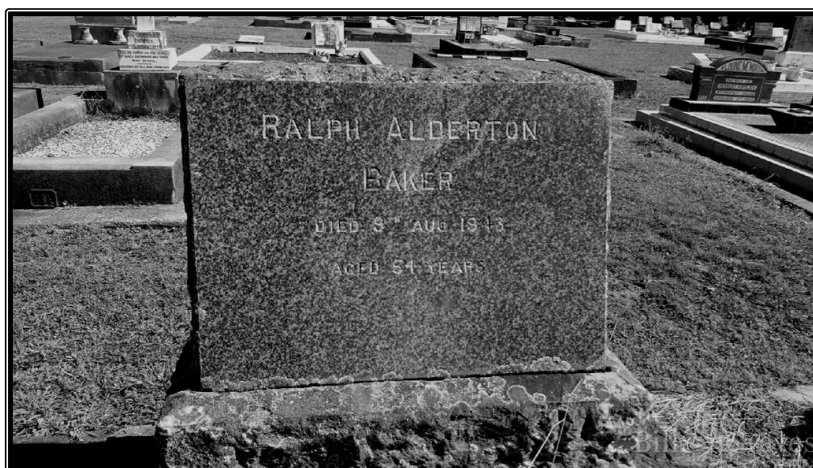
Dick enlisted for World War II in 1942 (Service Number - Q210283). His wife Johanna was recorded as his next-of-kin. His WWII Service Record is not yet digitised.

While at Maryborough he was the doctor for the Maryborough Rugby League team.

Sadly Dick was involved in a court case in January 1943 after one of his patients drowned her two young children.

Death

Ralph Alderton (Dick) Baker passed away at Maryborough, Qld on the 9th August 1943, aged 53 (or 54 years per his headstone). His funeral was conducted at St Paul's Church of England, and he was buried at the Maryborough Cemetery. He left an estate values at realty £1,301 and personal £10,677.



OBITUARY

DR. R. A. BAKER.—In the death of Dr Ralph Alderton Baker, on Monday last, Maryborough lost a well-known and much respected medical man. The deceased was born at Medindie in South Australia. He was educated at St Peter's College, Adelaide, where he took his degree. Soon afterwards he responded to the call of his country and enlisted in the Light Horse about 1915, and served in Palestine with the forces until the conclusion of the Great War. He recommenced practice in South Australia, and after some years he visited Europe for further studies in London and Vienna. In 1936 he came to Queensland, practising 3½ years in Townsville and 2½ years in Maryborough. He was intensely interested in his profession and was a keen student. After returning from the Great War he closely identified himself with the R.S.M.A. in South Australia, though owing to ill health he was unable to take an active part in the association at Maryborough. He was a great reader and was deeply interested in international affairs. The late Dr Baker is survived by his wife who is residing in Maryborough, and by two daughters by his first marriage—Natalie, on the nursing staff at Brisbane, but at present in Maryborough, and Mary Irene who is nursing in Adelaide. He is also survived by two brothers who live in Adelaide. Another brother was killed in Europe during the First World War.

Legacy

Dick's eldest daughter, Natalie was on the nursing staff at Brisbane and became engaged to Dr Wilfred John Simmonds, the son of Dr and Mrs J Lloyd Simmonds of Toowong, Qld in September 1946. The couple were married at St David's Church, Burnside, Adelaide on the 11th December 1946. Natalie's sister Mary was one of her attendants. The week after their wedding the couple left for England where Wilfred was to undertake a post-graduate course at Oxford.

Dick's youngest daughter, Mary, was at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and later in Sydney. She became engaged to Mr Colin Ross (son the late Mr JC Ross) of Newcastle on the eve of sailing for England on the 'Maloja' in July 1951. Mary was to spend a year in England and on the continent before returning to Australia to marry.

Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Sources and Acknowledgements

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Kym Beilby & Rob O'Shannassy (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researchers)