



T/Sgt. Ross Batty



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: A Grade (1915)

Diploma of Commerce (1920)

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 Ross Battye. 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=16562>



Ross BATTYE

Regimental number	2377
Religion	Baptist
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Hindmarsh, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Jessie Dow Battye, Hindmarsh Place, Hindmarsh, South Australia
Previous military service	76th Infantry
Enlistment date	21 August 1916
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	50th Battalion, 5th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/67/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A73 <i>Commonwealth</i> on 21 September 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	27th Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 5 March 1919

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3057757>

DENTAL "A" CLASS
 AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
 56831
ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD
 No. 237 Name BATTYE
 Unit 5/50 Infantry
 Joined on AUG 21 1916
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.
 1. What is your Name? Ross Battye
 2. In the Parish of Hindmarsh
 near the Town of Hindmarsh
 in the County of South Australia
 3. Natural Son
 4. 15 years
 5. Police
 6. No
 7. No
 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Mother, BARGE, JESSIE - Dow - Mrs
HINDMARSH PLACE, HINDMARSH
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 9. No
 10. No
 11. Japan Sent Cadets 76^A
76^A sent Overseas Forces 76^A
153 days A.I. & Home Service (Army
Pay books) Still serving
 12. yes
 13. Defined A.I. (chest at base)
 14. no
 15. yes
 I, Ross Battye 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
 Date AUG 21 1916
 Signature of Person Enlisted. Ross Battye
 * 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.

RSL Virtual War Memorial

WWI

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/21760>

BATTYE, Ross

Service Number: 2377

Enlisted: 25 August 1916, Adelaide South Australia Australia

Last Rank: Sergeant

Last Unit: 27th Infantry Battalion

Born: Hindmarsh, 3 September 1895

Home Town: Hindmarsh, Charles Sturt, South Australia

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Clerk

Died: Adelaide, SA, 4 March 1961, aged 65 years, cause of death not yet discovered

Cemetery: AIF Cemetery, West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide
Section: KO, Road: 13A, Site No: 48

Memorials: Hindmarsh Baptist Church Roll of Honour*, KadinaHB03*, University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll Mitchell Bldg*

WWII

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/572439>

BATTYE, Ross

Service Number: S806

Enlisted: 1 August 1940, Keswick, SA

Last Rank: Lieutenant

Born: West Hindmarsh, SA, 3 September 1895

Home Town: Underdale, South Australia

World War 2 Service

1 Aug 1940: Involvement Lieutenant, SN S806

1 Aug 1940: Enlisted Keswick, SA

15 May 1944: Discharged

Biography

Early Life

Ross Battye was born on the 3rd of September 1895 at West Hindmarsh, the son of Harry Taylor Battye (b 9 July 1859, Robe, SA) and Jessie Dow Taylor.

Ross's siblings were Charles Ezra (b 1882), George Harry (b 1884), Leslie Arthur (b 1886, d 1886) and Elsie May (b 1887). The family name was sometimes incorrectly recorded as Batty in South Australian Birth, Death and Marriages records.

Harry Taylor Battye was for many years associated with the wool department of Strachan, Cheadle & Co and when the company was taken over by Dalgety & Co Ltd, his services were retained and he was employed by Dalgety for about 25 years until he retired in about 1928.

The Battye Family



L-R: Ross Battye (1895-1961), Harry Taylor Battye (1884-1935), Charles Ezra Battye (1882-1929), Jessie Dow Battye nee Taylor (1860-1944) and George Harry Battye (1884-1950)

Schooling

In January 1909, Ross passed the Education Department Monitors' Examination. At that time he was at school at Hindmarsh. He went on to pass his Primary Examinations in Geography, English History, Latin and Drawing in October 1909 at the Hindmarsh School.

Ross passed the Civil Service examinations for a Junior Clerkship in October 1910. He attended Muirden College in 1910 and came seventh in the General Honours list for candidate Under 17 years of age in the Junior Commercial Examinations of December 1910.

In March 1911, Ross was equal sixth in the Railway Examining Board examinations however he did not take up a position in the Railways but continued to study at Muirden College in 1911. In October 1911 he won the College Championship and the High Jump at the Muirden College Picnic and Sports.

Ross commenced studying at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, in 1912 and in July 1912 he played football in the Inter-collegiate match against St Peter's College, playing in the backlines.

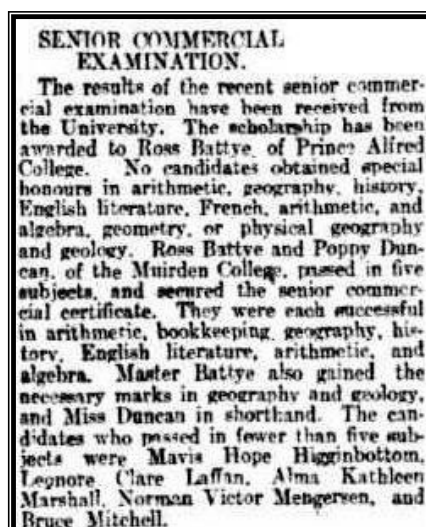
1912 PAC Intercollegiate Football Team



R Battye – Back Row - Right

In December 1912, Ross was won the Commercial Sixth Form prize and he passed Mechanical Drawing – Elementary at the School of Mines

Ross passed the Senior Commercial Examinations in arithmetic, bookkeeping, geography, history, English literature and algebra and gained the senior commercial certificate.



University

Ross commenced studying toward the Diploma in Commerce at Adelaide University in 1913. He passed commercial law and business practice that year. He passed Commercial Geography in December 1914.

Ross registered a 4½ James motor cycle in December 1915. He was living at Hindmarsh Place, Hindmarsh.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)
Wed 1 Dec 1915 / Page 5 / The Motoring World.

Registrations.

The following are the latest registrations which have been made with the Registrar of Motors in South Australia:—

—Motor Cycles.—

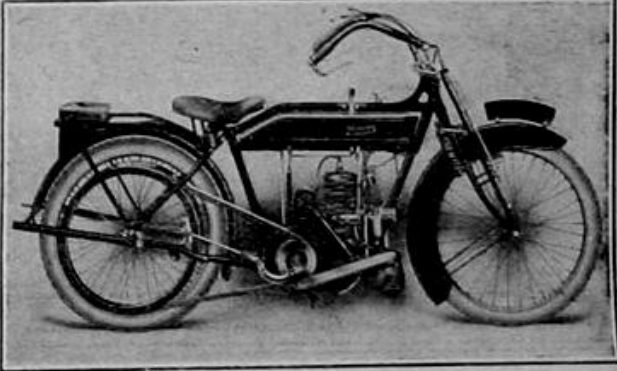
7433, S. Britton-Jones, Shipster street, Torrens-ville, 5-6 Bex.
7434, J. J. Collier, Young street, Wayville, 3½ New Hudson.
7435, Hartley Wayland, Yankalilla, ½ Douglas.
7436, George Clay, Henley Beach road, 3½ Triumph.
7437, Melrose Thomson, Edmond street, Unley, 2½ Douglas.
7438, J. W. Hawke, Petersburg, 3½ Burg.
7439, Sidney Harrison, St. Vincent street, Port Adelaide, 3½ L.M.C.
7440, Ross Battye, Hindmarsh place, Hindmarsh, 4½ James.

* * *

JAMES.

Engine	2½ h.p. two-stroke, 225 c.c.
Ignition	Bosch magneto.
Carburetter	Senspray.
Change Speed	Counter-shaft two-speed, 5½ and 10 to 1.
Transmission	Chain and belt.
Dimensions	Height of saddle from ground, 28in. Ground clearance, 5in.
Lubrication	Forced feed to main bearings and oil in petrol.
Other Features	Druid forks, enclosed driving chain.
Price	35 guineas.

JAMES CYCLE CO., LTD., Greet, Birmingham.



James Motor Cycle c 1915 (similar to Ross' 4½ HP model)

Sport

Football

Ross played A Grade football for Adelaide University in the Amateur League in 1915.

The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)
Sat 15 May 1915 / Page 24 / TO-DAY'S TEAMS.

—Amateur League.—

Kingswood v. University (University Oval, 2.15 sharp).—Kingswood (from)—Daw, Dreyer, Russell, Bagot, McLeay, Fearn, Selth, Laschke, Pitman, Short, Riley, Crisp, Shakespeare, Kingsborough, Flehr, Pounsett, Bowden, Matters, Gould, Muller. **University—**Bawden, Battye, Carthew, Colman, Goodman, Gurner, Kneebone, North, Pellew (captain), Phillips, Rayner (2), Strempel, Shanaay, Stoute, Stevens, Thrush, Williams; emergencies, Yates and Laurie.

He was selected as an emergency for the 13th and 16th Platoons in a match against the 14th and 15th Platoons in a Senior Cadets match at East End Park in August 1915.

Tennis

In the 1914/15 and 15/16 seasons, Ross played Lawn Tennis for the Hindmarsh Baptist Church in the United Church Association. At the opening of the tennis courts in September 1914 he was listed as captain of the club.



Athletics

In January 1915 Ross competed at the Semaphore Sports in the Novice Handicap race.

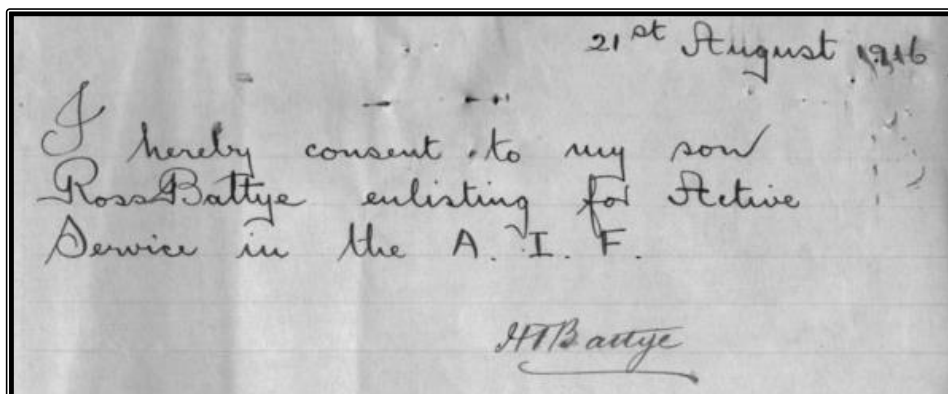
World War I

Ross enlisted on the 29th November 1915 when he was a 20 year old bookkeeper. He had been a Senior Cadet for three years and in the Citizens Forces for 1½ years. He was 5'6", 120lbs with a medium complexion, blue eyes and dark hair. He served in the Army Pay Corps in Adelaide until the 20th August 1916. He was in the Home Service due to his studies and his chest measurements (31-32½").

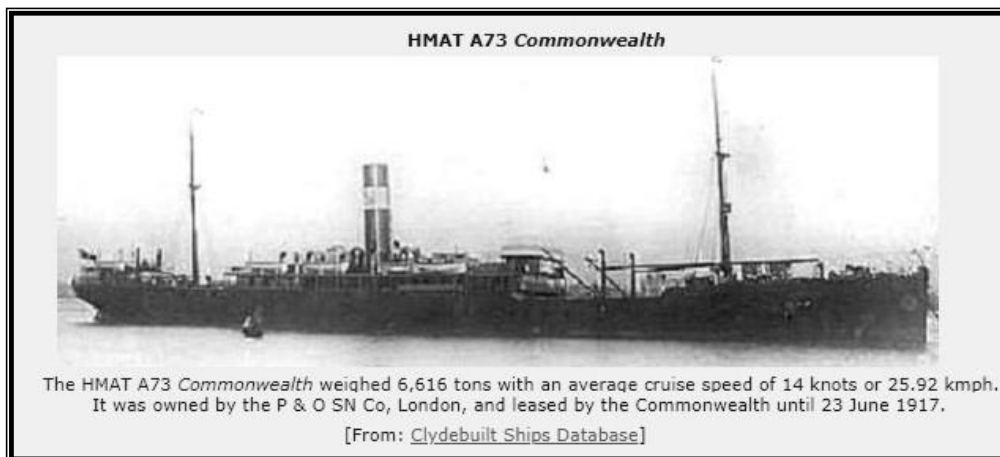


1916 – R Battye

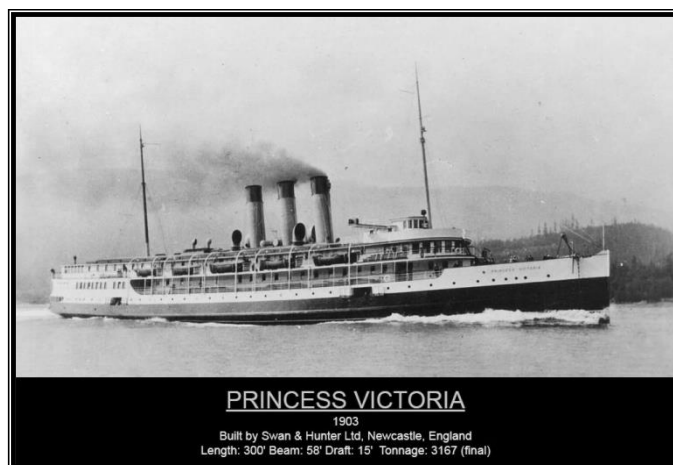
On the 21st August 1916 Ross enlisted in the AIF. He was now 20 years and 11 months old and a clerk, 5'6½" and 125lbs. His chest now measured 31-34". He received his father's consent to enlist.



Ross embarked on the 'Commonwealth', from Sydney on the 19th September 1916 and disembarked on the 14th November 1916 at Plymouth, UK.

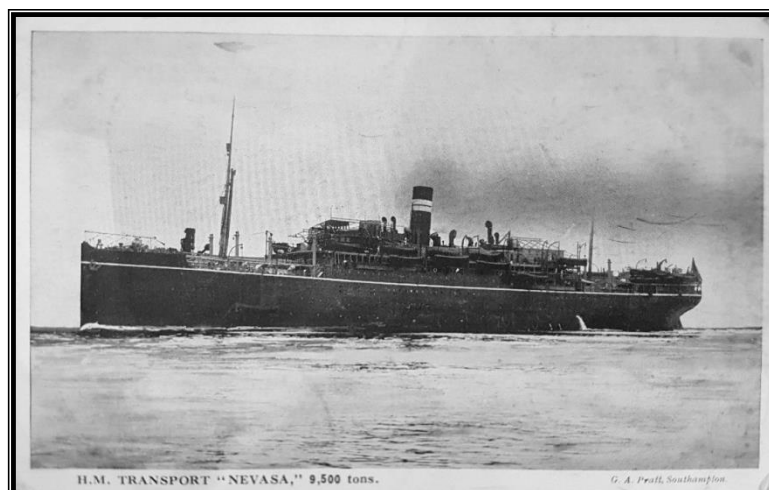


He joined the 13th Training Bn. On the 17th December 1916 he was transferred from the 50th Battalion to the 27th Battalion. On the 28th December 1916, he departed for France on the S/S "Princess Victoria" via Folkestone.



He served in France and Belgium. In January 1918 Ross was on leave in England and in March 1918 he had a week of leave in Paris. In May 1918 Ross was ill and in the Base Hospital at Rouen. On 19th January 1919 he was attached to the Australian Army Pay Corps in the UK (ex France).

On 4th March 1919 Ross was promoted to T/Sergeant and commenced Return to Australia (RTA) duty on the 'Nevasa'. He disembarked on the 18th April 1919.



On the 3rd June 1919 he was discharged at the 4th Military District (Adelaide). He had served abroad for 2 years and 217 days.

Ross's brother, George Harry Battye, enlisted on the 1st November 1915 and served in the 11th Field Ambulance (Service Number 12589).



G.H. Battye

Post WWI University

Ross returned to his studies at Adelaide University after WWI. He passed Accountancy in December 1919 and Economics and Commercial History in December 1920. Ross gained his Diploma in Commerce in 1920 and his brother George gained the same Diploma in 1924.

Career and Family Life

Ross recommenced playing tennis for Hindmarsh Baptist in the United Church Association.

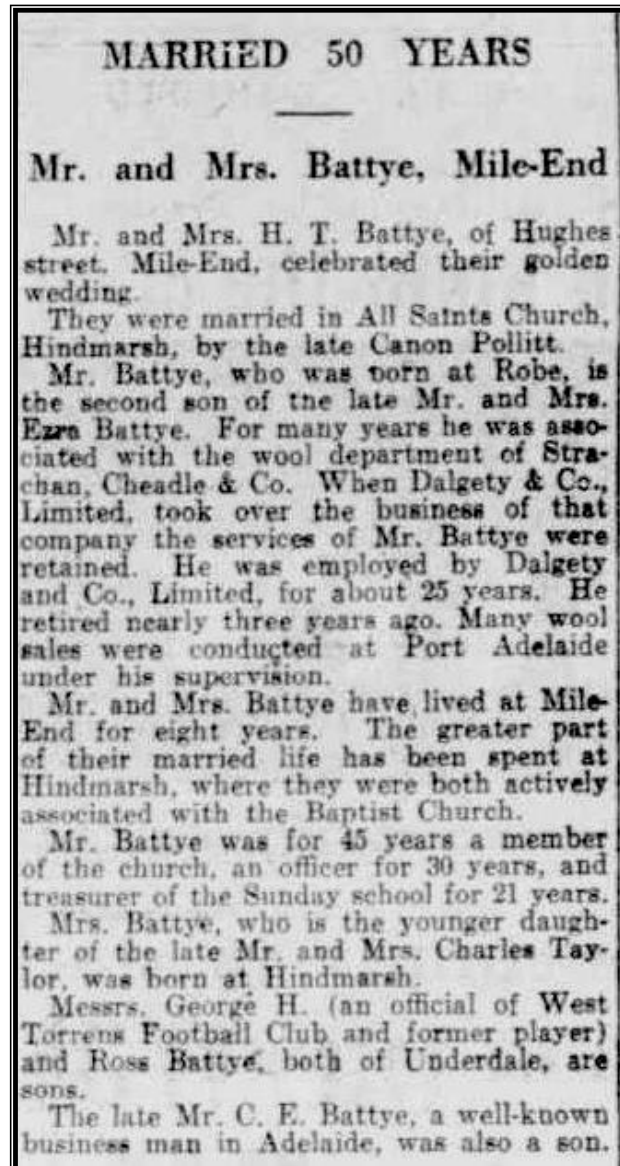
On the 30th November 1920, Ross Battye married Hazel Ethel Nicholls at Holder Memorial Church, Mile End. The couple had a son, Gavin Ross Battye, who was born on the 23rd November 1922 at Memorial Hospital, North Adelaide.

Ross became an accountant and he was the secretary of many companies, and by 1929 he frequently acted as a liquidator and auditor. Ross resided at 8 Howard Street, Underdale and practiced at Currie Street, Adelaide.

In February 1929, Ross's eldest brother, Charles Ezra Battye, died suddenly, aged 46, leaving a widow and two daughters.

On the 22nd July 1930, Ross and Hazel had a second son. A notice of the birth of this child appeared in the 'Chronicle' on the 31st July 1930. He was born at 'Quambi', a private hospital on South Terrace, Adelaide. Sadly, it is likely that

this son died at a very young age as his brother, Gavin, is later referred to as the only son of Mr & Mrs Ross Battye. In March 1931, Ross's parents celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



In 1935, Ross was practicing at Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

On the 27th December 1935 Ross's father, Harry Taylor Battye, died aged 77 years at his home at 74 Hughes Street, Mile End.

By 1936, Ross was secretary of the United Church Tennis Association and in 1937 he was predicting a record season for the association. He was secretary again in 1937 and 1938.

In 1936, Ross and Hazel's son, Gavin passed his Intermediate Examinations. He was a student at Adelaide High School. Gavin then attended Prince Alfred College from 1937 to 1939. He represented PAC at tennis.

In October 1938 Ross and Hazel won the Family Mixed Doubles Handicap at the East Torrens annual tennis tournament and Gavin won the Boys' Open Singles Handicap.

World War II

In 1940, Gavin commenced studying Engineering at Adelaide University. In April 1941, Ross and Gavin won the Men's doubles handicap at the Murray Bridge Lawn Tennis tournament.

Ross enlisted for Home Service on the 1st August 1940 and served until 15th May 1944. He was a Lieutenant in the 25/33rd Garrison Battalion and served at No 14A Compound, 14th Australian Prisoner of War and Internment Camp Loveday Group.

1943 - Barmera, South Australia – Officers of 25/33rd Garrison Battalion



*Ross Battye (Front row - on left)
Captain PW Christie (SX9825), Major JH Richardson (SX 27202), Lieut AR Cross (S213168)
Lieut Ross Battye (S805), Lieut WB Carr, MC DCM (S34393) and Lieut W Mutton (S212982)*

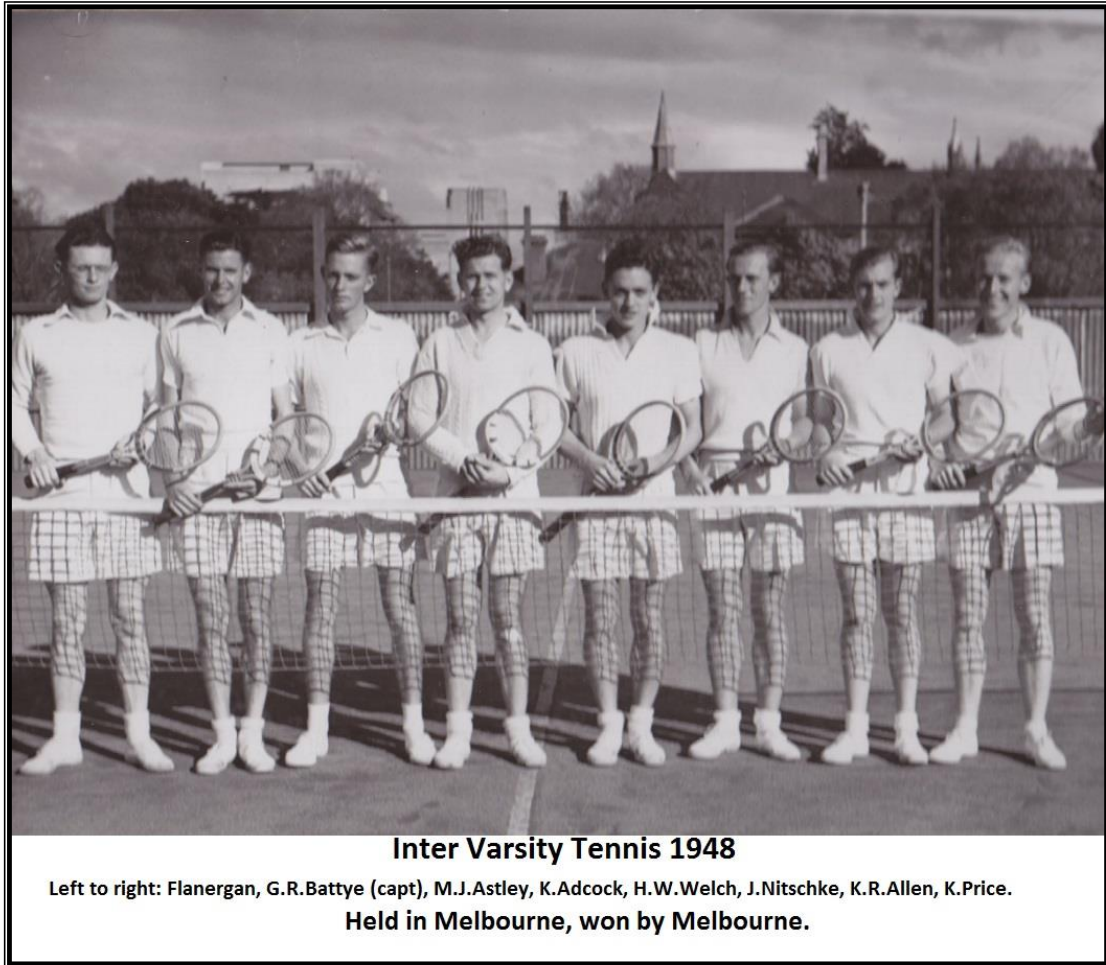
In early April 1943, Gavin became engaged to Mary Julia Paech, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Len Paech, of Underdale and the couple married on the 23rd October 1943. Gavin Ross Battye enlisted for service in WWII (SN SX19313) on the 28th April 1943 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He was discharged on the 22nd January 1946.

Ross's mother, Jessie Dow Battye, passed away in August 1944; she was buried at the Hindmarsh Cemetery.

Ross and Hazel celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary in November 1945.

Post WWII

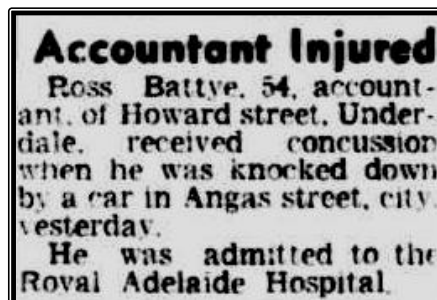
After WWII, Gavin returned to Adelaide University and in 1949 he graduated as a Bachelor of Engineering. He represented Adelaide University at Intervarsity Tennis in 1947 and 1948. He was awarded a Blue for Tennis in 1947 and was the Intervarsity Tennis captain in 1948.



Gavin and Mary had a son, Peter Leonard Battye on the 22nd February 1947.

Gavin became the assistant design engineer for the South Australian, Engineering and Water Supply Department in May 1951 and was one of the officials, selected in October 1951, to travel to the USA to gain experience to be used in the construction of the new South Para Reservoir.

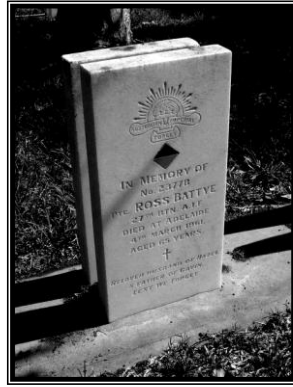
Ross was knocked down by a car in Angas Street, on the 30th June 1952 and was admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital with concussion.



Ross was co-author of the book 'Auditing' by R. C. Dalton and Ross Battye which was published in Melbourne by Pitman in 1958.

Death

Ross Battye passed away on the 4th March 1961, aged 66 years. He was buried at the West Terrace Cemetery on the 6th March 1961.



Hazel Ethel Battye (B 1889), passed away on the 13th July 1992 (aged 92), she was cremated at Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide and her ashes are interred East Area Rose Bed E45 63. Her last abode had been at Marleston, SA.

Gavin Ross Battye passed away on the 12th April 2011, aged 87. His ashes were interred at Centennial Park Cemetery. His last abode was at Grange.

Peter Leonard Battye gained a BE from Adelaide University in 1969.

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

Sources

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>
RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>
The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>
Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C56880>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C56880?image=2>
The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>
The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>
(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Ross Battye)
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>
Ancestry.com.au
State Library of South Australia <http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/>
State Records of SASRSA ref: GRG26/5/4/905
(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/state-records-sa/15088846217/in/pool-slsaww1>)
Prince Alfred College Chronicle (1912 & 2011)
National Library of Australia
<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/836217>
Centennial Park Cemetery <http://www.centennialpark.org/memorial-search/>

George Harry Battye
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/139171>
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3057739>
State Records of SA, File GRG26_5_4_42_904_img001.jpg.
Gavin Ross Battye
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/590342>
(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Gavin Ross Battye)

Battye, Ross v.1