

# Lieut. Leslie George William Caust



**Played with Adelaide University** 



Football Club: A Grade (1911 & 1912)

(Intervarsity Football 1911 & 1912)

Cricket Club: A & B Grade (1910/11 - 1912/13)

Degree: BA (1921 - Teacher)

# **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 Leslie George William Caust. 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=49209



# **Leslie George William CAUST**

Regimental number 2709

Date of birth --/01/1889

Place of birth Summertown, South Australia

Religion Methodist

Occupation School teacher

Address Summerton, South Australia

Marital status Single

Age at embarkation 26

Next of kin Francis J Caust, Summerton, South Australia

Enlistment date 18 May 1915

Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll 27 May 1915

Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name 10th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement

Embarkation details Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A68 Anchises

on 2 September 1915

Regimental number from Nominal Roll Commissioned

Rank from Nominal Roll Lieutenant

Unit from Nominal Roll PSL

Promotions 2nd Lieutenant

Unit: Gen INF Reinf

Promotion date: 28 October 1916

Lieutenant

Unit: Perm Super List

Promotion date: 1 December 1917

Fate Returned to Australia 3 July 1919

# **Service Record**

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3221662

A R								
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AUSTRALIAN	MILITARY FORCES.							
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.								
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.								
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	rson Enlisting before Attestation.							
	hestie George Wielam Caust							
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3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized)	in the County of							
British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. 1973							
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7. Are you married 1	no no							
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11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia	No							
Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces I If so, state which, and if not now serving,	11.							
state cause of discharge	12 Yes							
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's?	13.							
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to you litter embarkation during your term of service?)  15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox?	yes							
and enterio fever?	15.							
by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the	do solemnly declare that the above answers made hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth.							
And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths three-fifths	of the new neverble to me from time to time during my service							
for the support of my wife and children.	0 010							
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	Signature of person enlisted. ried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.							
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# **Biography**

# **Early Life**

Leslie (Les) George William Caust was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1889 at Summertown, SA. He was the son of Francis (Frank) James Caust and Annette Caust (nee Kennings). Les's father was an undertaker in the Chain of Ponds and Summerton areas of South Australia.

Les had six siblings. They were Louis Victor ( b 1886 ), Edgar Horace ( b 1890 ), Ina Miriam ( b 1893 ), Arnold Francis Harcourt ( b 1896), Reginald Allan (b 1897) and Bessie Alva (b 1900).

### **Schooling**

Les commenced his schooling at Uraidla and was an unpaid monitor at the Uraidla School from 1902-1905. He passed the Education Department Candidates Examination in 1904. He was confirmed as a Pupil Teacher in May 1906 and attended The Pupil Teachers' School in Grote Street, Adelaide in 1906 and 1907 (became Adelaide High School in 1908). In September 1906 he passed the School of Arts examination in First Grade Model Drawing. Les passed the Junior (1908) and Senior Examinations (1909). He was also described in a later AHS Magazine article as a good cricketer.

# **Adelaide High School Magazine 1915**

Pte. L. G. Caust was one of our most successful cricketers. He was at the School in 1906 and 1907. He has been teaching commercial subjects in the Port Pirie High School. Caust has enlisted in the Infantry.

In 1908 and 1909, Les was a pupil teacher at Uraidla. In August 1909 he was promoted from third grade to fourth grade. He played football (captain) and cricket for Summerton and was secretary of the Literary Society.

#### July 1909

FOOTBALLER KICKED. SUMMERTOWN, July 12-A painful accident happened to the captain of the Summertown football team whilst playing against Fifth Creek. after the game started Caust went to pick up the ball, when Gepp, of Fifth Creek, was in the act of kicking it. The result was that Leslie Caust (captain) got the full force of the kick in the mouth, knocking one tooth out, smashing another, and split ting the upper lip open. The sufferer was immediately driven to Dr. Souter's Uraidla, who put three stitches in the lip The accident will keep Caust from his teaching duties for a while.

Sadly for the Caust family, Les's mother, Annette, passed away in July 1909 after a short illness.

# **Adelaide University**

Les studied at the University Training College (Teachers) in 1910-1911 and continued to study toward his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Adelaide until he enlisted for WWI in 1915. After WWI he returned to his studies and gained his BA in 1921.

#### **Adelaide University Sport**

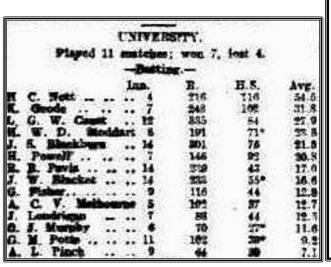
#### Rowing

Les rowed for Arts III in the Adelaide University Schools regatta held in August 1910.

#### Cricket

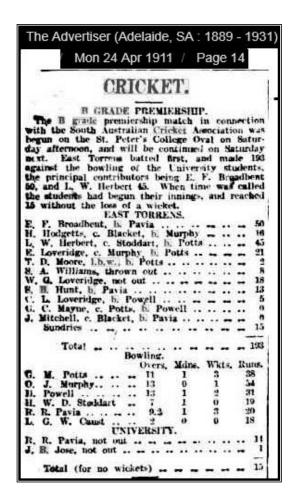
Les played for the Adelaide University Cricket Club in the 1910/11 to 1912/13 seasons. In his first year he played all his games for the B Grade team. A very useful batsman and occasional bowler and wicket keeper, he performed well throughout the season but was always unlikely to gain promotion into the established and talented A grade team. Les finished the season with 335 runs at an average of 27.9. At the end of the second completed round of matches University were on top of their Division 1 and were to play leaders of Division 2 (East Torrens) in the Grand Final.

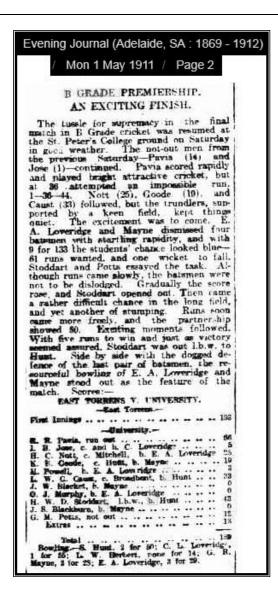
# B Grade Batting Statistics and Premiership Table - AUCC Season 1910/11



Observer (Adelaide, SA: 1905 - 19 Sat 22 Apr 1911 / Page 16 / Sport. C	
The second round of matches in B G was finished on Saturday, and the preship will be fought out on April 22 and on the St. Peter's Codege Ground. Unsity and East Torrens are the two to that will do battle, and an even contenseured if the weather is favourable. cricket committee has signified its inton to be present, besides which a crowd of players and supporters will we the progress of the game. The position the teams at present is:—  —Division L—	d 29 iver- sams The iten- arge
University Sturt Port Adelaide North Adelaide West Tourens West Linden Park West Torrens East —Division II.—	226 213 150 133 119
East Torrens St. Peter's College Prince Alfred College Gilberton Adelaide Glenelg	\$16 242 224 108 58

In the hard fought B Grade Grand Final held in late April 1911 on the St Peter's College Oval, Les was the third highest scorer for University with 33 from a first innings total of 189. Unfortunately the side lost the B Grade grand final narrowly to East Torrens in a very exciting finish.





Les played 8 of the 10 A Grade games in the 1911/12 seasons, however he only made it to the crease on 5 occasions and in 1912/13 seasons he played the first 2 games in A Grade having a single innings and failing to score. At this stage his teaching duties may have interfered with his cricket and his last few games for the Club were in B Grade, without much success.

# A Grade Averages 1911/12 Season

UNIVERSITY					
I I	atting				
A			HS	TI.	Av
A. G. Moyes	. 3		180	288	96.
A. G. Moyes			114	408	49.8
G. C. Campbell .					
C. F. Drew		1	50*		40.
C. E. Dolling	. 8	-	90	304	38
A. C. Wilton	. 10		64*		24.77
H. B. Willsmore .	. 10	1	86	216	24.
H. O. Rankin		-	79	219	21.9
C. R. Davies	. 8		66*		16.16
F. N. LoMessurie	r 8			77	
K. N. Steele	. 6	1	20	59	
L. G. Caust		2	21	35	11.66
E. B. Jones	. 8	2	24*	62	10.33
I B Jose	3_	1	70	7	3.5
Also Batted-N.	E. Se	ppel	t O	and	4*.
	owling				
	0.	30000000	XXX	R.	Av.
K. N. Steele				329	
			17	362	21.29
C. R. Davies	64.5	4	8	223	
A. C. Wilton	161	16		595	
H. B. Willsmore	101			152	
A. G. Moyes	41				
E. B. Jones Also Bowled-N.	111	22	27	211	90.44
Also Bowled-N.	r. Se	pper	, 10	2111	L L
C. E. Dolling, 14	lm	1. 31	N. 4	Ir.i	1. E.
Ashby, 70. 27r.; H.	O. R	ankli	1, 12	o. In	1, ZW.
78r.; H. Powell, 20	. 16r.;	1, 1		58, 0	), 2m.
2lr.					
The Police III					

#### **Football**

Les played A Grade football for the Adelaide University Football Club in 1911 & 1912 (the first two years of the Amateur League). He was a member of the 1911 Premiership side. Les also represented Adelaide University in the Intervarsity matches held in 1911 and 1912.



LGW Caust - Back Row - Seventh from Left

#### **Pre War Career**

In 1912 Les was appointed an Assistant Teacher at Le Fevre Peninsula District High School (Semaphore South), this was followed by Assistant Teacher positions at Adelaide High School (Jan-May 1913) and Port Pirie District High School from May 1913 until May 1915 when Les enlisted for WWI. While at Pt Pirie, the Inspector's comments on Les were "earnest, anxious, intelligent, influential, effective in teaching and discipline, a fine sportsman'.

#### World War I

Les enlisted in the AIF on the  $17^{th}$  May 1915 as part of the  $8^{th}$  Reinforcements of the  $10^{th}$  Battalion. He was 26 years old, 5'10% " and weighed 171lbs. His trade on enlistment was classified as School Teacher.

MR. L. G. W. CAUST.
At the High School yesterday afternoon, Mr L. G. W. Caust, Commercial Expert, who has volunteered for the front, was made the recipient of a wristlet watch, subscribed for by the teachers and children.

The presentation was made by Mr S.
J. Mitchell, S.M. Amongst those present were the members of the Board of Advice and the teachers from the Port Piric School. Afternoon tea was provided by the lady teachers.

Les embarked at Adelaide for overseas on the  $2^{nd}$  September 1915 aboard the *Morea.* . He injured his knee on Lemnos Island off Gallipoli in November 1915 and the knee continued to cause him trouble through the war. He joined the  $43^{rd}$  Battalion on  $20^{th}$  November 1916 and was appointed a Lance Corporal on  $1^{st}$  March 1916 and then Corporal on  $7^{th}$  August 1916.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1916 Leslie was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion and on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917 to Lieutenant. Les was wounded on 25 July 1916 at Pozieres with a gunshot wound to the hand and spent 2 days in hospital before being classified as fit. He was one of the 350 men who were killed, wounded or missing at Pozieres.

Mr. F. J. Caust, of Summertown, was on Tuesday advised by the military authorities that his two some Lance-Corporal L. G. W. Caust and Private A. Caust, had been wounded in action.

Group portrait of officers and non-commissioned officers of 8th Reinforcements of the 10th, 12th and 16th Battalions, at Mitcham camp in 1915 (later Colonel Light Gardens), Adelaide, South Australia.



LGW Caust – Back Row – Second from Left

#### Identified from left to right

Back row: 2568 Corporal (Cpl) Leslie Gordon Shannon from Bagot's Well, SA; 2709 Pte Leslie George William Caust from Somertown, SA (later Lt); 2567 Cpl Alan Kenmore Brooker, from Kent Town, SA; Cpl Mac... (unidentified), 2608 Cpl Roy Reginald Foulkes from Gilles Plains, SA (later Sergeant); and 2631 Cpl Douglas Bertram Bert Crisp from Rosewater, SA. Second row from back: 2606 Sergeant (Sgt) James Finlay from Hyde Park, SA; 2559 Sgt David Jesse Henry Millard from Port Pirie SA; 2603 Cpl George Evans from Stepney, SA; 914 Sgt Leonard Charles Gardner from Murray Bridge, SA (later Company Quartermaster Sergeant); 2593 Sgt James Eric Mayne from North Adelaide (later Company Sergeant Major); and 2664 Sgt Samuel (Sammy) Aynsworth Osborne from Prospect, SA (later awarded the Military Medal).

Third row: 2558 Cpl William Roland (Bill) Brooker, from Kent Town; 2592 Cpl Ernest George Hodge from Alberton SA (later Lt); 2602 Sgt Maurice Leonard (Len) Gurr from North Kensington, SA (killed in action in France between 6-10 April 1917); 2600 Lance Corporall Libby Sibly (Lib) Waye from Willunga, SA; unknown, unknown, and 2632 Sgt Hugh Gordon Garland from Alberton, SA (later Lt and awarded DCM and MM and killed in action in France on 3 May 1918);

Front row: Lt Stewart; Lt Herman Fritz Hubbe from Knightsbridge, SA (later Captain and killed in action in France on 23 July 1916); Lt James (Jim) Churchill Smith from Prospect, SA (later Major and awarded MC and bar and MID); Lt Colin Macpherson Smith from Cockburn, SA (died of wounds at Passchendaele, Belgium on 6 October 1917 (brother of the aviators Ross and Keith Smith)); Lt. Virgil Tucker from Ballarat, Victoria (later Captain and killed in action at Bullecourt, France on 11 April 1917).

#### May 1917

PERSONAL NOTES. Leshe cently received promotion to the rank indicated, was born at Summertown, an is the second son of Mr. Frank J. Caus of that town. He received his primar education at the Uraidla Public School and afterwards at the Adelwide Hier he his passed where Junior examinations with honours. He then had a two years' course at the University, and while there passed the senior examinations with honours. For some time he taught in the high school at Lefevre's Peninsula, and at the time of his enlistment be wa onnected with the Port Pirie High School He enlisted in May, 1915, and left Australia for Egypt on August 26 of that year with the 8th Reinforcements to the Battalion. He left Egypt early in February, 1916, for Gallipoli, but got only as far He left Egypt early in Febru-Lemnos, where he contracted fluid on the knee, and was in a hospital and convalencent there at the time of the evacua-tion of the perinsula. Early in May be left Egypt for France. In the battle of Poiseres he was injured in the head, but kent on fighting for two days, when he Was again and had to retire to the base hos erm, and had to retere to the base hos-pital, where he stayed for only a few days, and was back in the firing line long before his wounds were healed. Early in he was sent to Trinity College for four months to train for his commission, and successfully passed his examination. He has now joined up with his old battation, the 10th. While at the Adelaide University he studied for his B.A. degree, which he had almost completed at the time of He is a good cricketer, his enlistment. footballer, and tennis player. His younger brother, Arnold, was wounded a few hours before him in the same battle, and has now returned to duty.

Les returned to Australia aboard the Zealandic, disembarking in Adelaide on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1919. His appointment in the AIF was terminated on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1919.

Les's brother Arnold was a Private in the 27<sup>th</sup> and later in the 10<sup>th</sup>. He was wounded in 1916 and in August 1918 he was taken to the Beauford War Hospital, Bristol, UK with appendicitis. He returned to Australia on the 'City of York' in February 1919.

#### **Post War Career and Family Life**

On returning to Adelaide, Les was appointed an assistant teacher at Woodville High School and from January 1920 he was appointed an assistant teacher at Norwood High School.

Les married Eva Janet Dunstone in Port Adelaide in 16th December 1919.

Les became a Senior Master at Norwood High School in 1921 and Deputy Head Master in 1929. Having returned to his studies, Les gained his BA in December 1921.

Les and Eva had a daughter Margaret Kennings (born 15 October 1920), a son David Kennings (born 29 November 1922), a daughter Gwenyth Christina (born in 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1926) and a son Leslie James (born 1 June 1930).

After 18½ years of service as a teacher and aged 41 years, Les was appointed a School Inspector in September 1930. He was inspector of the Mid North District and was based at Port Pirie and lived on Balmoral Road, Port Pirie.

Les became a member of the Kingston Park Golf Club while at Port Pirie and his name regularly appeared in the newspapers in relation to golf competitions.

# **January 1935 School Inspectors Annual Conference**

# School Inspectors Meet in Annual Conference Today



THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL INSPECTORS to give consideration to the curriculum and syllabus for the ensuing year was held at the Education Department today. Back Row (left to right)—Miss A. L. Miethke, Messrs. W. V. Leach. E. H. Johnsock, L. G. W. Caust, P. J. Rofe, M. Y. Daly, G. S. McDonald, J. H. Williams, M. J. Gerlach, Dr. A. J. Schulz, Messrs. H. E. Filot, L. H. Jefferles, F. J. Gartrell. Sitting (left to right)—Disses E. M. Simpson, E. Campbell, Dr. C. Davey, Messrs. E. C. Highinotottom, W. T. Martin, E. Allen, A. G. Edquist, W. J. Adey (Director of Education), A. W. Pitt, Dr. C. Fenner, and Mr. H. C. Hosking.

#### LGW Caust – Back Row – Fourth from Left

In August 1938 it was reported that Les was playing much better golf this season at Port Pirie.

L. G. W. Caust is playing much better golf this season. He could not break 90 last season but so far has 86, 84, 87, and on Saturday another 86 to his credit this season.

# September 1938 – Conference of School Inspectors



LGW Caust – Back Row – Third from Left

# January 1940 – Conference of School Inspectors



LGW Caust – Back Row – Fourth from Left

From January 1940 to June 1945, Les was based at Kadina on Yorke Peninsula and he and the family were living at Winter Street, Kadina East. Les became an active member of the Kadina Golf Club.

In 1940 Les and Eva's elder daughter Margaret was studying toward a Bachelor of Arts at Adelaide University. In May 1944 she became engaged to Alec, the eldest son of Mr & Mrs AG Ward of Kadina. They were married in September 1944. They had a son born on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1948.

Les's father, Frank, passed away in June 1942. In mid 1945, Les and the family moved to Toorak Gardens, Adelaide, SA.

Les and Eva's elder son, David Kennings commenced studying medicine at Adelaide University in 1941. He enlisted as a Private on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1941. As his WWII record has not been digitised we do not know any further details of his WWII service. He gained his MB BS from Adelaide University in 1946. In February 1947 he married Frances Therese (Tess) Kinnane of Colonel Light Gardens, SA. The couple had a son born on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1947.

In February 1948, Les and Eva's younger daughter, Gwenyth, married Dr John H Slade, the son of Mr and Mrs JHG Slade of Burke Street, Tusmore. They had a daughter, Christina, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1953.

Les was appointed assistant superintendent of primary schools in December 1948.

In May 1952, Les and Eva's younger son, Leslie became engaged to Patricia Noyes, the daughter of Mr & Mrs AT Noyes of Beulah Park. The couple married in May 1954. Leslie James Caust gained his MB BS from Adelaide University in 1954.

In January 1954, aged 65 years, Les retired and his views on the changes in education were published.

# BETTER DEAL N SCHOOLS

The child was now being considered more in education, Mr. L. G. W. Caust said today.

He said the child's readiness to absorb lessons was considered far more today. The curriculum was continually being altered so children were not forced to work so hard early in their school life.

Thus there were today. About the personality of children themselves, Mr. Caust said: "They're just the same Children in their school life.

Thus there was a the sam smoother development of the child's learning.

Mr. Caust made these three points:

· Schools now had more books so children could get more information for themselves, guidunder

 Parents were taking interest in school more

Mr. Caust has just re-tired as assistant superin-tendent of primary schools after 52 years with the Education Department. • Opportunity classes had given retarded child-ren a real chance to catch up on their lagging sub-jects. Children were not

About the personality of children themselves, Mr. Caust said: "They're just the same. Children don't

#### Death

Tragically, less than a year after his retirement, Leslie George William Caust died in Adelaide, SA on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1954 at his residence at 115 Watson Ave, Toorak Gardens, SA. He was buried at Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide. Eva Janet Caust died in 1965 aged, 75 years.

# Death Of Mr. L. G. W. Caust

Mr. L. G. W. Caust, former Assistant Superintendent of Primary Schools, died on Thursday night at his home in Watson avenue. Toorak Gardens.

The funeral will leave his home at 9.15 a.m. today for Centennial Park Cemetery.

Mr Caust, who was born in 1889, entered the ser-vice of the Education Department as a probationary teacher at Uraidia.

He attended the Teachers' College from 1910 to 1911, and played A grade cricket for Adelaide Uni-

Later he held assistant Lefevre School masterships at High Peninsula Port Pirie High School and Norwood High School where he became a senior master and later deputy headmaster

In 1930 he was appointed an inspector of schools, and in 1949 became Assistant Superintendent of Primary Schools

He retired last January Caust is survived by widow, two sons and two daughters

# **Family Legacy**

Margaret Kennings Ward was awarded an AM for services to education in the Australia Day honours list of 1980. She passed away on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1986. She had been living at Toorak Gardens, Adelaide, SA.

Dr David Kennings Caust passed away on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1968, aged 45. He and Tess were the parents of Martin, Josephine, Catherine, Lesley and Margaret.

Gwenyth Christina Slade became a senior tutor in Economics at Flinders University, South Australia. Her husband Dr John H Slade (MB BS, Adelaide University, 1946) was a specialist in the field of ophthalmology. They lived at Unley Park, Adelaide. Their daughter, Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, was Vice-Chancellor of Bath Spa University from January 2012 to August 2017.

Dr Leslie James Caust moved to Victoria and was a member of the ear, nose and throat unit at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He lived at 635 Walpple Street, Kew, Victoria and passed away in 1999.

## Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer - AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee

# **Sources and Acknowledgements:**

The AIF Project <a href="https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/">https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/</a>

RSL Virtual War Memorial <a href="https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/">https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/</a>

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The National Archives of Australia <a href="http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/">http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/</a>
Australian War Memorial <a href="https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/">https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/</a>

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C203766?image=2

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https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/115776

The Adelaide University <a href="http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/">http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/</a>
The National Library of Australia <a href="http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/">http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/</a>

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Leslie GW Caust)

SA Genealogy <a href="https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html">https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html</a>

Ancestry.com.au

Chronicle (Adelaide), Thursday 21 October 1954

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University of South Australia

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World War 1 from the AHS Magazines.pdf

University of South Australia

http://www.library.unisa.edu.au/condon/teachers/Teachers.asp?TeacherID=7430

Kym Bielby AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher