



Pte. Cyril Richard Cole



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1912-1914

Cricket Club: 1912-1915

Sports Awards: Blue Football 1914

Degree: Bachelor of Science (1914)

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 Cyril Richard Cole. 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=57323>

Cyril Richard COLE

Regimental number	74
Date of birth	27 January 1894
Place of birth	Mintaro, South Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Assistant forester
Address	Tennyson Street, Medindie, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21
Next of kin	Father, Albert John Cole, Tennyson Street, Medindie, South Australia
Enlistment date	20 July 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	32nd Battalion, A Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/49/1
Embarkation details	<p>Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A2 Geelong on 18 November 1915</p> <p>The 32nd Bn (Headquarters, Signallers, A, B, C, and D Companies) embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on two ships, HMAT A2 'Geelong', on 18 November 1915, and HMAT A13 'Katuna', on 24 November 1915. The Embarkation Roll does not distinguish between these ships, and it is therefore not possible from the Embarkation Roll to ascertain on which ship an individual embarked.</p>
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	32nd Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 13 April 1919
Date of death	1 October 1989

Virtual War Memorial Australia

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/359801>

Biography

Served in both WW1 & WW2

WW1 Service

32 Battalion

Rank - Private

13 April 1919 - Returned to Australia on board HMAT Wyreema

Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Son of Albert John and Margaret Ellen Cole (nee Mortimer) of Mintaro, South Australia

WW2 Service

2/1 Forestry Company

Service number VX11406

Rank - Lt. Colonel

Enlisted 9 April 1940 at Caulfield, Victoria

Discharged 2 December 1944

Medals: 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Australian Service Medal

Awarded OBE in 1944. Husband of Suzanne Cole of Canberra, A.C.T


Photo -Courtesy Faithe Jones

Service Record

WWI - Record amalgamated with WWII record at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=6210544>

Original 32 Batta

A 135205 **ITALIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 74 Name Cole, Cyril Richard
Unit K. Group. Base Infl. **A** COY.
Joined on 20 July 1915. **32nd BATTALION, A.I.F.**

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Cyril Richard Cole

2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...
In the Parish of ... in or
near the Town of Mounts
in the County of St Aust.

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... NB

4. What is your age? ... 24

5. What is your trade or calling? ... Asst Forester

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No

7. Are you married? ... No

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...
Father, Mr Albert John Cole
Livingston Street
Wendebie St Aust

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No

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? ... No

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 ... No

12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes

13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No

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 after embarkation during your term of service? ... Yes

15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes

Cyril Richard Cole 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 and children

Date 16 7-15 C.R. Cole
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.

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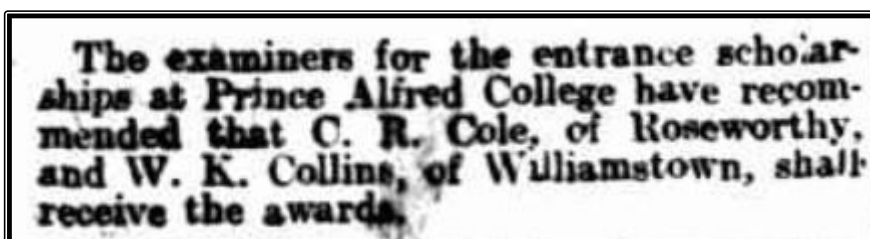
Biography

Early Life

Cyril Richard Cole was born on 27 January 1894 at Mintaro, South Australia, the youngest son of Albert John Cole and Margaret Ellen Cole (nee Mortimer). *See Appendix 1 - Family Trees*

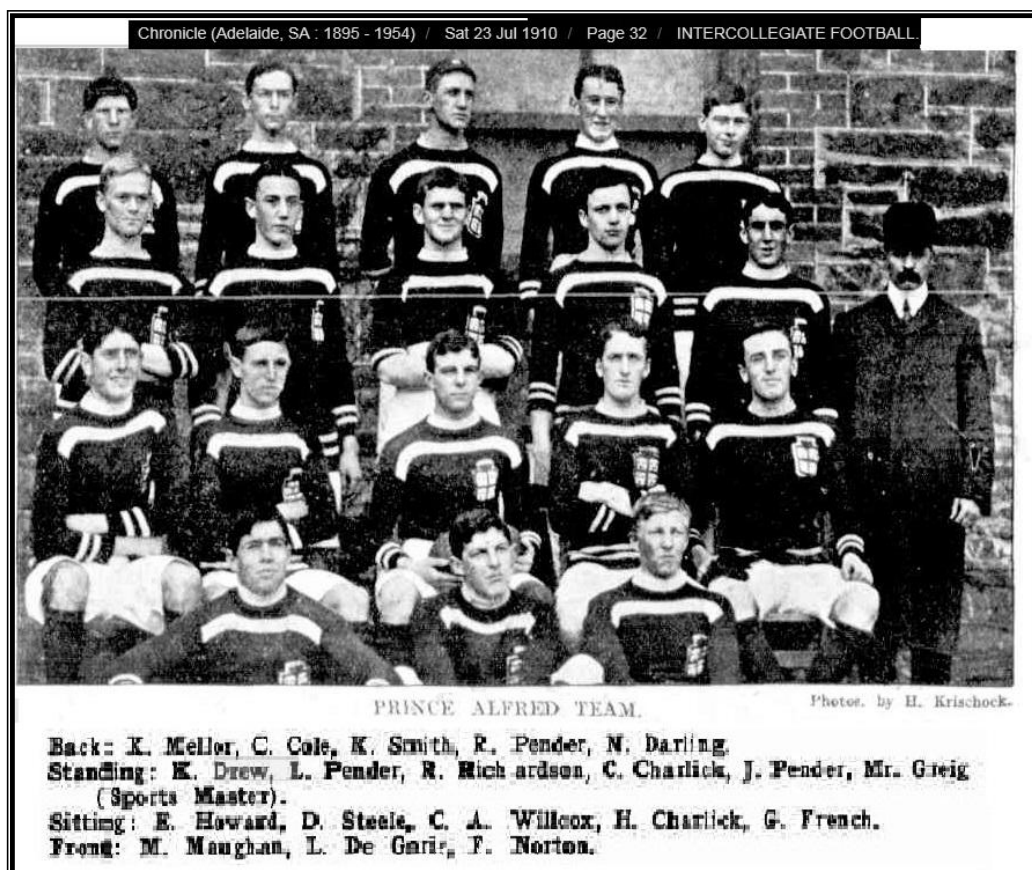
Education

Cyril attended the Riverton Public School where he passed the Primary Examinations in October 1908. He then attended Gawler High School where he passed his Junior Examinations in five subjects in December 1909. He played cricket for the school in 1908 and 1909. Then, having been awarded a scholarship in February 1910, he attended Prince Alfred College (PAC) in 1910 and 1911.



Cyril played football and cricket for PAC. He played for PAC in a football match against Wesley College (Melbourne) in July 1910 was a member of the PAC football team which toured to Melbourne in August 1911 playing matches against Melbourne Grammar School, Wesley College and Scotch College. He played for PAC Intercollegiate Cricket team in their matches against St Peter's in 1910 and 1911. Cyril also played for the College in the South Australian Cricket Association B Grade competition in the 1910/11 and 1911/12 seasons.

PAC Football Team v Wesley College – 1910

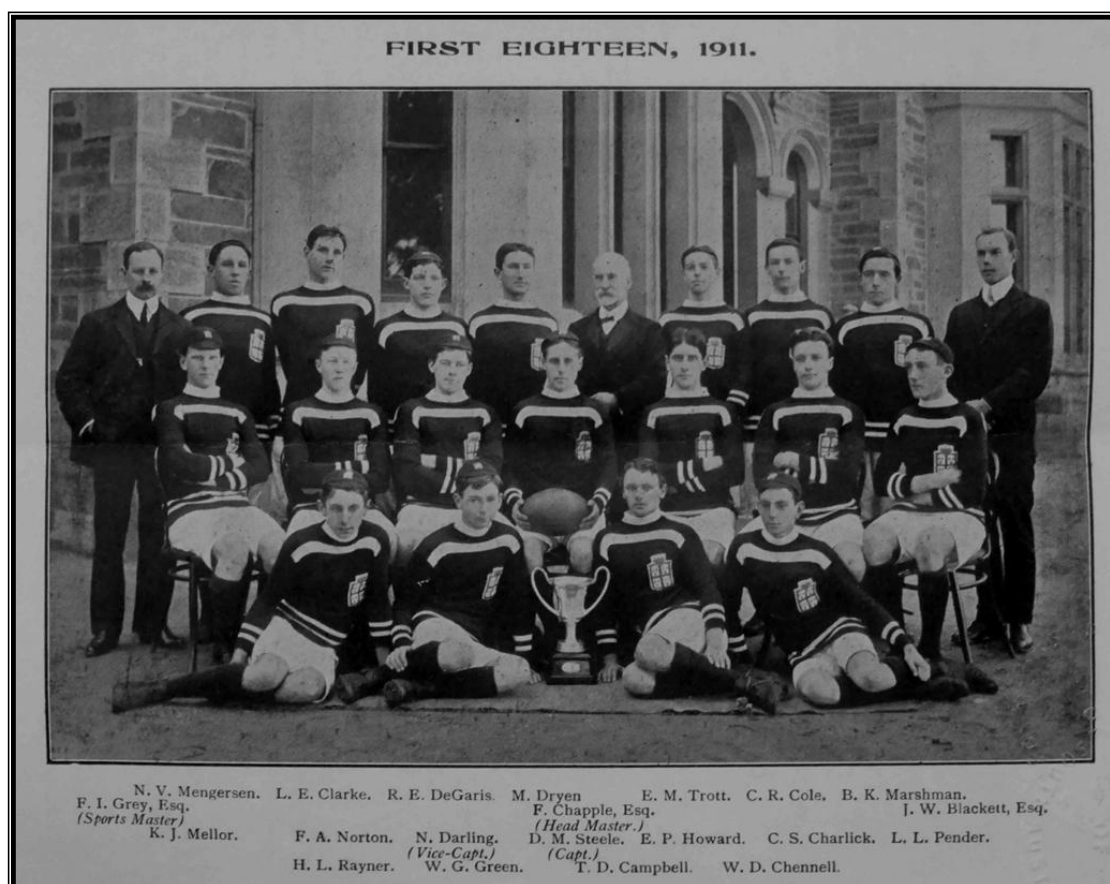


CR Cole – Back Row – Second from Left

PAC Cricket Team v St Peter's College – 1910



CR Cole – Back Row – Third from Left



CR Cole – Back Row – Third from Right

Cyril maintained a connection to his old school and represented PAC Old Scholars in a football match against the Present Players in 1913 and against St Peter's Old Scholars in 1914.

PAC Old Scholars Football Team - 1913



CR Cole – Centre Row – Far Right

Adelaide University

In 1985 Cyril was interviewed by Rob Linn and he stated that he became involved in forestry through his family's instigation and the advice of two great figures of Australian forestry, Walter Gill and Norman W. Jolly.

Cyril attended Adelaide University and was part of the first group to study forestry commencing his studies in 1912 and graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) in 1914. He also undertook a subject in surveying for forestry students at the School of Mines in 1914.



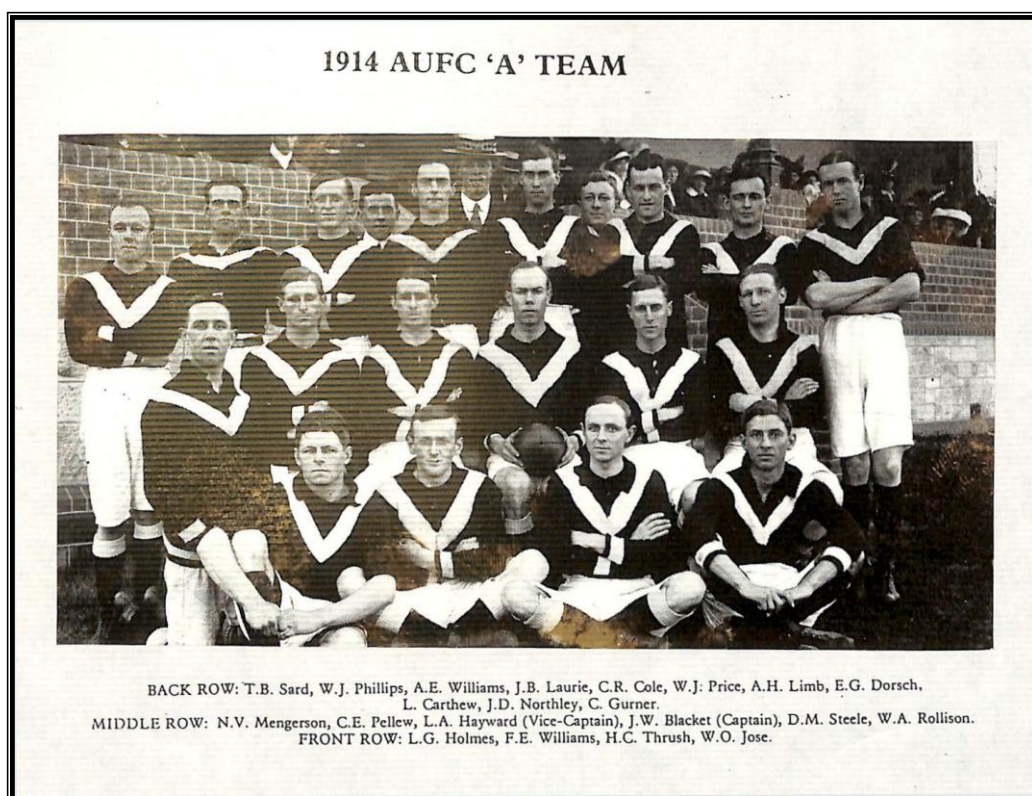
1914 Graduation - BSc in Forestry

Adelaide University Sports

Football

Cyril played A Grade football for the University from 1912 to 1914 and played Intervarsity Football against Melbourne University in both 1912 and 1914. He was known as a half-back and in an item in 'The Express and Telegraph' in September 1912 he was described as one of the team's best back men. He was a member of the University team which won the Amateur League Premiership in 1912 and were runners up in both 1913 and 1914. Cyril was awarded a Blue for Football in 1914.

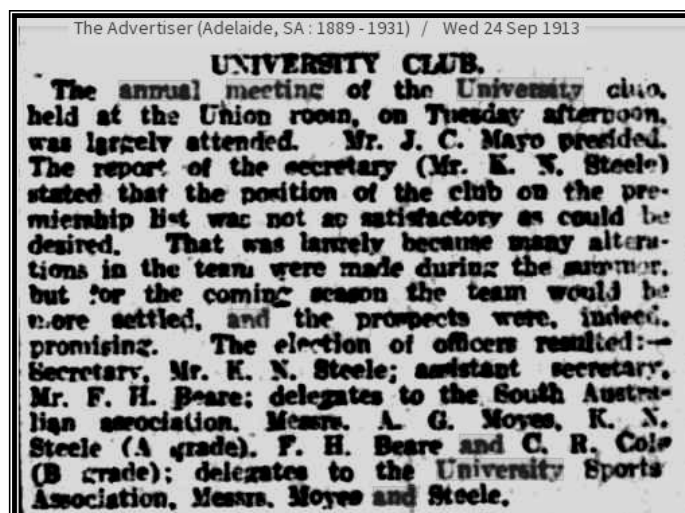
1914 AUFC 'A' Team



CR Cole – Back Row – Fifth from Left

Cricket

Cyril played B Grade cricket for the University of Adelaide from the second half of the 1911/1912 season through to the first half of the 1914/15 season. He was the B Grade teams delegate to the SACA for the 1913/14 season.



Athletics

Cyril competed in the Adelaide University Sports in 1914 coming second in the Shot Put competition.

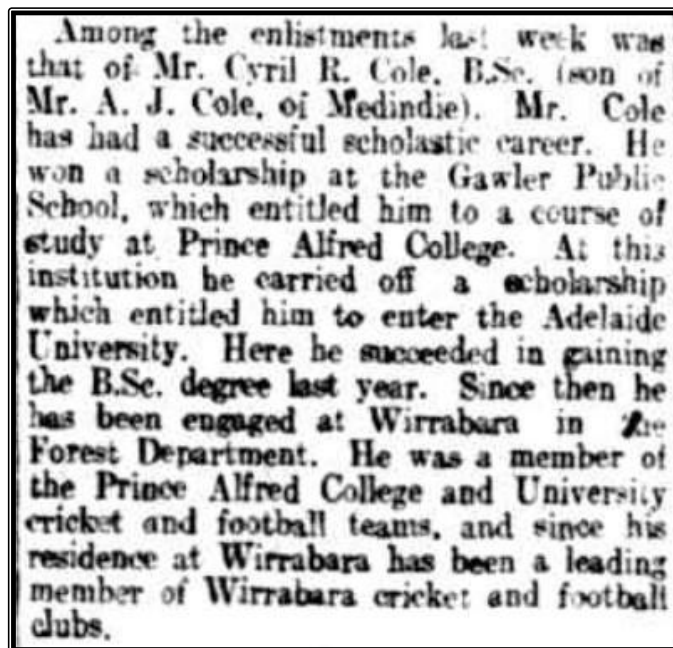
Early Career

After graduation Cyril worked for the Woods and Forests Department as an Assistant Forester at Wirrabara Forest in the mid north of South Australia. He played cricket for the Wirrabara Cricket Team in the Flinders Association and football for the Wirrabara Football Team in the Northern Areas Football Association. In May 1915 Cyril registered a 2 ¾ Minerva motor cycle.

World War I

"THE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN."

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 30 July 1915



Cyril enlisted in the 32nd Battalion, A Company on 20 July 1915 and was described as 5 foot 9 ½ inches, with medium complexion, hazel eyes and dark hair. He embarked for Europe on board HMAT A2 *Geelong* on 18 November 1915.

He arrived at the Suez Canal on the 18th December 1915 and remained in Africa until 17th June 1916. A newspaper article published in 1919 stated that "he saw considerable service in the campaign which saved the Suez Canal from the Turks". Cyril then travelled from Alexandrina, Egypt to Marseilles, France, arriving in France on the 23rd June 1916 and going on to serve on the Western Front. In February 1917 he was in hospital with Influenza.

In October 1917 a letter from Cyril was published in 'The Journal' under the heading "Forest Work at the Front" (see below).

The 32nd Battalion was in a rest area for Christmas 1917 and they won the Inter-Battalion Australian Rules match. As Cyril's name is mentioned in the article as "the old Adelaide University half-back" it is reasonable to assume he played in the match (see newspaper article below).¹

Cyril left Havre, France and disembarked at Plymouth, England in February 1919. He returned to Australia on the 13th April 1919 onboard the "Wyreema" which had embarked from Liverpool.

Cyril was given a welcome home when he returned to Wirrabara Forest in July 1919.

¹ Cyril Richard COLE is not to be confused with the Capt CR Cole who was awarded a Military Cross in November 1918.

FOREST WORK AT THE FRONT.

IN FRANCE.

The following is a part of a letter sent by Mr. C. R. Cole, B.Sc., of Adelaide, who was formerly a student of forestry at the University. It is most instructive and interesting:—

There is a little in the way of forestry news which one might send from here. It has been only during the last couple of months that our chaps have been in an area where trees grow, and I can assure you it is a relief to the eye to be able to see other than shellholes and broken tree stumps. The Canadian Forestry Corps has its headquarters not far from here, and there is an English Forestry Unit at work quite close to our camp here. The former unit has cut down a lot of poplars, which are growing in swamps a couple of miles away, and have floated the timber to a landing place as close to the railway as possible. I can imagine this as being work after their own hearts, and a means of transport with which they are quite familiar. At the shore, the timber was hauled ashore by means of a winch. When these chaps finished their work here they left behind them a few rafts and canoes, and I have enjoyed a lot of fun with them. The swimming is excellent, and duck shooting is indulged in a little. The scenery is splendid. The English unit, however, is of more interest to me. A sawmill was erected in the wood in a couple of days (with German labour), and two steam engines (Clayton & Shuttleworth), and two motor engines (De Dion) installed. The plant is fairly mobile, and travels about a good deal from one end of the British front to the other. You can probably imagine the huge demand there is for timber in a war such as this is, and the mill here, in common with many others, is working at high pressure to get timber through while the weather is fine. Three shifts are worked here, the large number of "Fritzers" available making this easy, and the mill can be heard working day and night.

—Elm and Beech Woods—

In the wood which is being operated on are oaks, elms, beeches, ash, and poplar. At the request of the French people, the oaks are not cut down, and are ring-marked with a black band. We usually mark those trees which are to come down. Here they mark those to remain. Most of the ash-trees are left, also, unless required for some special purpose. I might say these are whipped out if there is half a chance; but there is a French forester looking after this particular area. The poplars are left, too, from choice, since the timber is not of very good quality. They are therefore cutting elms and beech here, the latter being the more popular. The Fritzers, I must say, cut the trees very low indeed (of course, they have to, as

Fritzers, I must say, cut the trees very low indeed (of course, they have to, as bayonets are pleasant things to have poked into one's anatomy; but this, of course, is rarely necessary. The methods of extracting the logs are various and interesting. The Decanville Framway is splendid, and uses a good deal. By decent judgment in utilizing inclines, the logs can usually be transported without much effort. Horses are used also. To-day I saw horses harnessed to a Decanville truck which was being pulled along a macadamized road without a track at all. Horse-pulled sledges are used as well. The logs which are too big for the largest saw are split with gunpowder. This is rather a loss, as you can imagine, as the split is not going to be too clean always. The introduction of a larger saw would be an improvement, I am sure, as logs have to be handled much more if not severed at the first cut. The logs are rolled on to the platform exactly the same as at our mills, but hooks are used in handling the logs, instead of crowbars, as we do. You know the implement no doubt—a pole with movable hooked arm. The Canadians introduced them here, but I do not remember having seen them in South Australia. They would certainly be a paying investment at our mills, as they facilitate the handling of logs a great deal. The big saws, which have the hardest work, are cooled by water dripping on them from overhead, running down the protecting board above the saw. Three sides having been cut off the logs, they are passed along on rollers to the smaller saw, where planks or whatever is required are cut to requisite size. The motor engines are used to drive the smaller saws, although I believe they are about equal in power (20 h.p.) to the big steam engines. An automatic 3-gear feed arrangement is used to pull the logs on to the saw, and is operated by a clutch. The device is certainly labour saving. The platforms can also be operated by means of a handle. At this mill, timber for roads, trench revetments, mining props, &c., is being turned out, and stacked near the railway for seasoning. Waste stuff is used for fuel, though it is rather green, and not too good for the interior of the engines. The small stuff from the trees is corded up (for firewood eventually), and there are huge stacks of waste stuff stacked to dry for firewood for the winter.

General Items.

WITH THE 32ND BATTALION.

The following account of Christmas and New Year with the 32nd Battalion has been sent by the Sports Officer (Lieut. J. H. Watts):—Every man in the 32nd Battalion is agreed that this Christmas and New Year has been the happiest period yet spent by the battalion since leaving South Australia. We were fortunate to have been in a "rest area" during the festive season, within a few miles from the sea coast, where the khaki was the only reminder that the great war was still in progress. Thanks to the generosity of the various clubs, who so constantly and magnificently remember us, we sat down to a most excellent Christmas dinner, comprising fish, beef, poultry, pork, and plum pudding, to say nothing of a variety of drinks and cigarettes—"some" dinner. New Year's Eve will always remain a never-to-be-forgotten night, when all hands saw the new year in, dancing to the strains of the brigade band in the village square. The whole brigade, being billeted in the same town, made it possible to organize and carry out inter-battalion contests in football, transport, and athletic events, in all of which the 32nd battalion more than held its own. Brigade headquarters very generously provided a fine silver cup for competition, and we are proud to be the first battalion to have won it. The 32nd were placed first by the judges for their transport, company cookers, and company drill. We also captured first place at football (Australian rules), as well as winning the tug-of-war, platoon race, high jump, half-mile, relay race, and heavyweight boxing, besides numerous seconds. The battalion's aggregate comprised 10 firsts and nine seconds out of a total of 29 events—a record of which we are justly proud. One cannot let such happenings pass without mentioning a number of contestants and helpers well known to all South Australians, such as Lieut. F. E. Williams, the Rhodes Scholar; Lieut. E. Brady, the old Fremantle footballer; Cyril Cole, the old Adelaide University half-back; Joe Manning, of Norwood fame; Tommy McKenzie, one of the earlier Magarey medalists; Capt. Woods, the Melbourne University full-back; and numerous other footballers. In the athletic events Capt. Woods, our M.O., astonished all by carrying 14½ st. to victory over 6 ft. high in high jump, while Lieut. Williams gained first place in the cross-country three-miles' team race. The boxing contests we were represented by Sgt. "Tommy" McGovern, well-known to S.A. racing men, who was beaten in the final of the 9 st. 9 lb. division, while Pte. Bell won the heavyweight contest for us. There never has

weight contest for us. There never has been a brighter period in the history of this battalion than the present, and this is undoubtedly due entirely to the strong personality and enthusiasm of our commanding officer (Lieut.-Col. C. S. Davies, D.S.O.), who has won the confidence and affection of every officer and man under his command. As a fighting and sporting unit the 32nd Battalion is one of which every South Australian and Western Australian may be justly proud. It would gladden the hearts of our relations and friends were they able to see us at the present time. The battalion has never been better fed or clothed than now, and the happiness and health of the men are always our commanding officer's chief concern. Their smartness in dress and when on parade has been commented on more than once by those in higher authority, and the enthusiasm and keenness of all ranks in their work are a constant compliment to Lieut.-Col. Davies, who, though little known in South and Western Australia, is none the less loved by the 32nd. On every occasion possible the funds provided by the various clubs are used to the greatest advantage for the comforts so much appreciated by a soldier. Lieut.-Col. Davies regrets to hear that in a number of cases donations have not been acknowledged. This is owing to the fact that the names of the donors have not been made available to the battalion. If the Secretaries of the various clubs interested care to send a short letter of advice to the commanding officer it will afford him the greatest of pleasure to acknowledge them, and tell such clubs how very much their magnificent efforts are appreciated in the battalion.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 5 July 1919

—At Wirrabara Forest on Monday evening a largely attended social was tendered to Pte. C. R. Cole, who has just returned from France. Mr. F. R. Field presided. A programme of songs, readings, and recitations was submitted, and the local band played selections. A gold medal was presented to the guest from the residents. A dance followed. Pte. Cole was assistant forester there in the early days of the war. He enlisted, and saw considerable service in the campaign which saved the Suez Canal from the Turk. Later he went to France, and took an active part in the last phase of the war.—

Career & Family Life between the Wars

Cyril married Suzanne Jeanne Emma Pradé (born 25th August 1900, Paris, France) on 25th October 1919. He must have travelled back to France for the wedding and shortly after returned with his new wife to Australia.



Suzanne Jeanne Emma Pradé as a young girl

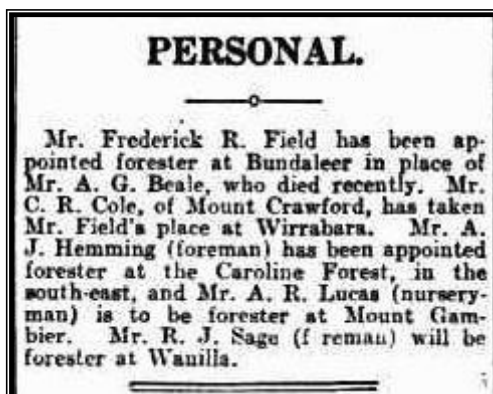
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
 LIBERTÉ — ÉGALITÉ — FRATERNITÉ
 VILLE DE PARIS, and
 (XII^e Arrondissement.
 899614
 M. of Goble, Cyril R.
 (Australia)
 Pradé Suzanne J.
 et Paris XII^e
 25.10.1919
BULLETIN DE MARIAGE
 Du 25 Octobre 1919
 MARIAGE
 Entre : Cyril Roschard Goble
 né le 27 janvier 1894 à Mintaro
 Arrondissement d. Département d'Australie du Sud
 Profession forestier demeure 66 rue Michel Bizot
 Voul de Fils de Albert John
 et de Margaret Ellen Moorlimer
 Et Suzanne Jeanne Emma Pradé
 née le 25 Août 1899 à Aua Loilas
 Arrondissement d. Département d'Loire
 Profession Couturière demeure 66 rue Michel Bizot
 Veuve de Fille de Louis Alfred
 et de Appoline Adélaïde Salle
 Délivré à Paris, le 11 novembre 1919
 L'Officier de l'État civil.
 [Signature]
 [Stamp: SERVICE MILITAIRE, Année 1919]

After service in Europe during the First World War, Cyril returned to his role as assistant forester at Wirrabara Forest and after a reclassification in February 1920 was receiving a salary of £288 per annum.

Cyril's next appointment was at Mount Crawford and it is likely that he was working there when his first child, a son, Raymond (Ray) Alfred Cole was born in Adelaide on the 28th November 1920. Cyril gave his location as Williamstown (near Mt Crawford) when he signed for his WWI medals in May and August 1921 and August 1922.

Cyril returned to Wirrabara as forester in 1923.

The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923) 27 June 1923



While at Wirrabara he was actively involved in the community. He played cricket and football, was a member of the RSSILA (Returned Sailor's & Soldier's Imperial League now the RSL) and the Wirrabara Fire Fighting Committee. He also played bowls and tennis and was a member of the Literary Society. In October 1926 he was a member of the Wirrabara Football Club team which won the Flinders Association Premiership.

"THE WIRRABARA FOOTBALL CLUB—FLINDERS ASSOCIATION PREMIERS"

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931) 23 October 1926



CR Cole – Back Row – Second from Left

In March 1926 Cyril was transferred from Wirrabara to Mount Burr Forest near Glencoe in the South East of South Australia. The little hall at the Wirrabara Forest was not large enough to accommodate the crowd who attended the Cole's farewell. Cyril was also given farewells by the RSA (now RSL) and the Wirrabara Cricket Club.

The Areas' Express (Booyoolie, SA : 1877 - 1948) - 9 March 1928

Farewell.

The little Hall at the Wirrabara forest was not large enough to accommodate the crowd that attended to bid good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Cole, who are leaving for Glencoe near Mount Gambier. Mr. Cole, during his residence in the district as Head Forester has been extremely popular in all grades of sport, and will be sadly missed in the cricket, football and tennis fields in addition to the Literary Society. At the farewell eulogistic speeches were made by Messrs. Alex Curtis (tennis), A. R. Morcorn (school), J. H. Jenner (public), R. H. Stolz (Literary), F. Allchin (Mill employees), Messrs W. Dansie, McLeod and others also spoke. On behalf of the residents, the chairman handed the guests a handsome set of cutlery.

On Friday the Wirrabara branch of the R.S.A., at a smoke social bid good-bye to Mr. Cole and presented him with a silver pencil, and on Saturday the Cricket Club presented him with a silver preserve dish. Mr. and Mrs. Cole left on Sunday morning by car for their new home, where Mr. Cole is to occupy a similar Forestry position.

While at Glencoe, Cyril played B Grade Cricket Glencoe in the Mount Gambier District Association in the 1928/20 season and he won the clubs batting trophy for that season.

On the 28th February 1929 Cyril and Suzanne's second child, a daughter (Marcelle Ellen) was born at Mount Gambier.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) 28 February 1929

COLE.—On the 18th February, at Mount Gambier, to the wife of C. R. Cole, Glencoe West—a daughter (Marcelle Ellen).

In April 1929 Cyril left South Australia to work as a Forestry Officer in Canberra. Cyril and Suzanne were farewelled from Glencoe by the RSSILA and the community.

FORESTRY AT CANBERRA

South Australian Officer

MR. C. R. COLE APPOINTED

Mr. C. R. Cole, B.Sc., who last week began his duties as forestry officer at Canberra, was connected with the Woods and Forests Department of South Australia for 15 years.

He obtained his bachelor of science degree in forestry at Adelaide University in 1914, and was appointed assistant



MR. C. R. COLE, B.Sc.

who has been appointed forestry officer at Canberra.

forester at Wirrabara. When war broke out he enlisted in the 32nd Battalion, and served for more than four years at the war.

After his return he received the appointment of forester at Wirrabara, and was subsequently transferred to the Glencoe section of Mount Burr forest reserve.

Before leaving this State for Canberra he received presentations from the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League and the Glencoe West residents. He also received the gold medal, won for the highest batting average in the Glencoe Cricket Club, which competes in the Mount Gambier Cricket Association.

His wife was presented with gifts from the local tennis and croquet clubs.

On moving to Canberra the Coles built a house at 11 Arthur Circle, Forrest.

Cyril became involved with both the Manuka Football Club and the Manuka Cricket Club. A later article published in 1972 stated that Cyril had done “just about everything for Manuka (Football Club) but play”. He was President in 1932, treasurer in 1934 and 1935, President again in 1939 and 1940, and played an important role in rehabilitating the club after the war (WWII). In 1972 he was still a member of the club’s played provident fund committee was a Life Member of the club (1952). He had always watched the clubs first and seconds play every season while he was in Canberra. He also took up golf, playing at the Royal Canberra Golf Club.

Cyril’s father passed away in September 1933.

By 1937 Cyril was in charge of Forestry for the Department of the Interior.

World War II

Cyril enlisted in 2/1 Forestry Company on the 9th April 1940 and served until 2 December 1944 obtaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. His service is described in the Wikipedia Article “Australian Forestry Group UK” extracts from the article appear below.

“In 1939, the British Government requested that Australia raise three, 200-man strong companies of foresters to join a force of twenty units drawn from Canada and further three from New Zealand to support the British Expeditionary Force in France and the Australian Government readily agreed. However, in line with a request from the French Government, all of their officers were to be members of either the Commonwealth or State government forest services or employed in the sawmilling industry so that the wasteful cutting and damage experienced in World War 1 was not repeated.

Two forestry companies were quickly raised in 1940 as part of the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE). The first Forestry Company (2/1) was in Sydney with men from NSW, Queensland and South Australia led by Captain Cyril Richard Cole, a professional forester from the Australian Capital Territory, while a second Forestry Company (2/2) was raised in Melbourne under the command of Captain Andrew Leonard (Ben) Benallack from the Forests Commission Victoria with soldiers recruited from Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. All units included men who had served in the war of 1914–18.

The two Forestry Companies sailed from Fremantle on the Stratheden on 30 May 1940 destined for the Suez Canal but were diverted to England via Cape Town after France fell to Germany and the subsequent Dunkirk evacuation. The troops landed in July and undertook further military training in at Alton, southern England. They were immediately positioned to guard against invasion while the Battle of Britain was in full fury overhead.

Prior to the War, Britain had sourced much of its timber from Scandinavian countries but then had to rely on its own forests to meet its timber needs. So as the threat of invasion receded the men from the two Forestry Companies were deployed to Northumberland during September 1940. The 2/1 Forestry Company went to Seahouses, south of Berwick-upon-Tweed while the 2/2 moved to Hexham west of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Whereas the Canadians came self-contained and brought logging equipment and sawmill machinery with them, the Australian and New Zealand companies had to be equipped in Britain. Equipment was in short supply and was not what they were used to. Until crawler-tractors were available, converted agricultural tractors had to serve for logging operations. There were no chainsaws, just axes and crosscut saws. Also the winter of 1940–41 was particularly cold and hard on the men. Many had not seen snow before. Another shock was the British requirement to cut trees flush at ground level rather than at two or three feet which meant sometimes kneeling in the snow and mud using clumsy knee pads.

As the need for forestry companies persisted the 2/3 Forestry Company of 150 men was formed in Melbourne in March–April 1941 under the Command of Major Mervyn Alexander Rankin, a forester from the South Australian Woods and Forests Department. Some additional reinforcements were recruited as well as staff for a group HQ. The 2/3 Forestry Company sailed from Sydney on 4 June 1941 in the Themistocles and the Largs Bay arrived in the UK in August 1941.

In July of that year, the Australian Forestry Group was established to command all three units. It was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Richard Cole, a veteran of WW1, throughout its existence. A medical officer was attached to the group to supervise the foresters' medical treatment. All three companies were relocated to Dumfriesshire in Scotland during 1941.



Australian Officers of the Forestry and Railway Companies at Alton, Hampshire.

Left to right: Captain Cyril Richard Cole, 2/1 Forestry Company; Captain George Robert Verner Smith, Adj, Railways Company; Captain Arthur Rodney Lockwood, 2/3 Railway Construction Company, Lieutenant Colonel Keith Aird Fraser, Railways Company; Captain Andrew Leonard Benallack, 2/2 Forestry Company; Major Percy Stanley Robinson, 2/2 Railways Company. 1940

The Australian Forestry Group moved to Sussex in mid-1943 but shortly afterwards the group departed the UK for Australia and by the time they left the UK, the Australians had produced 30 million super feet (90 000 m3) of sawn timber.

The foresters had closer and more frequent interactions with British civilians than the AIF infantry units. They were initially billeted with civilians in private homes, and later usually accommodated in camps located near villages. The foresters were granted local leave most days, which allowed them to drink in pubs after completing their work. By the time the Forestry Group returned to Australia, 120 of its men had married British women and 40 children had been born. The Group departed the UK for Australia on 22 September 1943, but the wives of the men who had married in the UK were unable to accompany them until August 1944 due to a lack of shipping.

The Australian soldiers returned via America and were given the unique honour of marching in a ticker-tape parade, with fixed bayonets, down Broadway in New York on 1 October 1943, said to be the only occasion that armed foreign troops had marched through an American city since Independence. Following their return to Australia in November, the forestry companies, undertook jungle warfare training at Canungra and received some new equipment and were later deployed to the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea.

In PNG the Forestry Companies operated different machinery in several locations but continued to harvest logs and produce much needed sawn timber including durable material for wharfs and jetties. They worked alongside New Zealand and American forestry companies. Local people, as well as some Japanese POWs, provided labour.

At the cessation of hostilities in 1945 all three Australian forestry companies were progressively disbanded but some men remained as late as 1946 to help with reconstruction.

Nine men from the Forestry Companies were honoured including Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Richard Cole with an Order of the British Empire (OBE) but six men died in accidents or from illness."

Cyril was in PNG from 27 May 1944 and returned to Australia on 21 November 1944.

Further details relating to the 2/2nd Forestry Company RAE can be found in the article by Gordon Freegard at <https://pickeringbrookheritagegroup.com/soldiers7.html>

Officers of the Australian Forestry Company in uniform, at Alton, Hampshire - 1940



CR Cole – Standing – Third from Left

Standing, left to right: Lieutenant John Hector McMahon Reid, NX12200, 1st Forestry Company RAE; Lieutenant Genton-Smith, 2nd Forestry Company; Captain Cyril Richard Cole, VX11406, 1st Forestry Company; Captain Andrew Leonard Benallack, VX11407, 2nd Forestry Company; Captain Long, Army Medical Corps (possibly VX102755 Captain William John Long). Seated, left to right: Lieutenant James John Ker Edwards, NX122272, 1st Forestry Company; Lieutenant Edmond Henry Cecil Russell, VX11769, 2nd Forestry Company; Lieutenant Alan Cecil Walker, TX2056, 2nd Forestry Company.

Australian Forestry Company headquarters, Dumfries, Scotland – 1942



Commander Royal Engineers (C.R.E.) Lieutenant Colonel Cyril Richard Cole, with Captain H.R. Hopkins and Lieutenant Alfred Poole

Honours

In the United Kingdom New Years Honours of 1944, Cyril became an Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of valuable services in connexion with forestry work in the United Kingdom.

NAME **COLE, Cyril Richard**

Award **O. B. E.** Reg.No. **VX 11406** Rank **LT/COL** Service **A. M. F.**

Recommended by Governor-General on

O-R

Promulgated in *London Gazette* on

1/1/44.

G. H. File **A. M. F. A to Z.**

Promulgated in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on

6/1/44.

Citation (G. H. File **-**) **There are no Citations for O-R for ½ yearly awards to the British Empire.**

Insignia received from London **27/9/44.** **PN LONDON.** **18/9/45.** G. H. File **L/30.**

Insignia presented by **The Governor-General**

At **Government House, Canberra** On **17/4/45.** G. H. File **CANBERRA/2.**

Address of recipient on presentation date **11 Arthur Circle, FORREST,
CANBERRA, A. C. T.**

Remarks

Other Awards

2276.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1068969

The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995) - 1 January 1944

O.B.E. (MILITARY DIVISION)
In recognition of valuable services
in connection with the forestry work
in the United Kingdom—Lt.-Col. Cyril
Richard Cole, of Canberra.

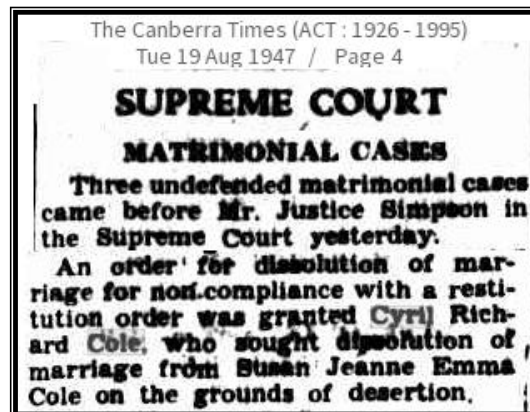
Cyril and Suzanne's son, Raymond Arthur Cole also served in WWII. He enlisted in NSW on the 20th September 1942 and served until 30 June 1946. His final rank was Sapper with the 60 Field Park Coy..

Career and Family Life Post WWII

On his discharge after WWI Cyril resumed his role as officer-in-charge of the forests of the Australian Capital Territory, a post he held until his retirement in 1959. He was the Chief Fire Controller for Canberra in 1948 and later the Chairman of the A.C.T. Bush Fire Council until Sep 1958.

Cyril's mother passed away in 1946. In May 1946 Marcelle Cole (later Greene) was one of the debutantes presented to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester at the Church of England Ball held at Albert Hall, Canberra.

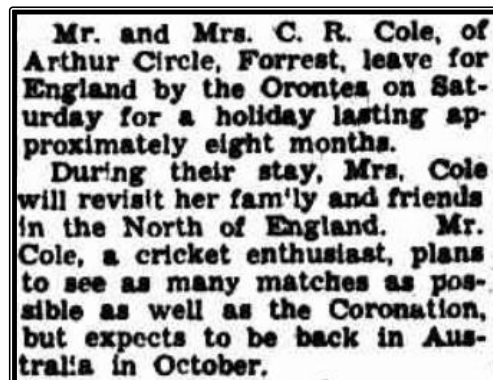
In August 1947 Cyril and Suzanne were divorced and Cyril later married Violet in July 1948.



Cyril continued his involvement with the Manuka Football Club and in 1948 he was acting president of the National Football League. In 1949 Cyril was the President of the Canberra Services Club.

In February 1953 Cyril and Violet left for England for a holiday which was to last eight months and include a visit to Violet's family in the north of England.

The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995) - 11 February 1953



3 March 1953



Cyril Cole riding in a rickshaw in Colombo

Cyril continued to play golf and often competed in the AIF Cup (for returned WWI servicemen) at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. In 1959, he was runner-up for the cup.

1959 was also the year that Cyril retired after 45 years of service to his country as a public servant (forestry) and soldier (WWI and WWII).

In October 1965, Cyril was awarded the ANFC Merit Award in honour of his 37 years of service to football in the ACT.

The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995) - 25 October 1965

Football Merit award

A man who has given Australian Rules football in Canberra outstanding service for the past 37 years was presented with an ANFC Merit award by the president of the ANFC, Mr P. Mitchell, at the Manuka Football Club on Saturday night.

Mr Cyril Cole, who has been, among other things, president of the Manuka club on five occasions, was selected for the award, which is presented annually in the various football districts under the control of the ANFC.

Mr Mitchell, who visited Canberra to attend the official opening of the Eastlake Football Club rooms and to make the presentation, said Mr Cole already had given more service to football than most would give in a lifetime.

He was an outstanding amateur footballer in South Australia, where he won a University Blue before moving to Canberra.

Beside his affiliations with the Manuka Football Club, Mr Cole also served on the CANFL as vice-president and several times managed touring Canberra teams.

He is still actively connected with the Manuka club.

— PETER LYONS.

The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995) 6 September 1972 published a piece entitled "THIS HISTORY IS HARD TO PIECE TOGETHER" which documented Cyril's efforts, at the age of 78, to write the history of the first 20 years of the Manuka Football Club. Cyril said "I am handicapped by the complete absence of any official records, either at league or club level covering the earlier years of the club's existence". The article went on to say that "incomplete records mean that people who take it on themselves to become Australian rules historians face tedious hours of searching the files of The Canberra Times in a library".

In July 1977 Cyril and Violet left Canberra and moved to Sydney. The couple were given a farewell luncheon at the Manuka Football Club on the 9th July 1977.

The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995) / Sat 2 Jul 1977 / Page 20 / Advertising

MANUKA FOOTBALL CLUB

Members and friends of the above club are invited to attend a farewell luncheon on Saturday 9th July, 77 at 12.30pm to be held in the Club Auditorium in honour of Mr and Mrs Cyril Cole. Members wishing to attend should advise the Secretary-Manager prior to 7th July 77.
Signed John L. Allan, Secretary-Manager.

Sadly for Cyril, Violet passed away on the 10th September 1978, aged 86, at that time the couple had been living at Dee Way Parade, Dee Why, Sydney. She is buried at the Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens, Sydney.

In his retirement Cyril worked as a bookkeeper until he reached the age of 84.

1988



PRG 1710/8/75 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

Cyril Richard Cole (aged 94) with a young boy, presumably a grandson

Death

Cyril passed away on 1 October 1989, aged 95 years and is buried Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens, Sydney.



Suzanne Jeanne Emma Pradé - Died 1 Nov 1965 in Newmarket, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Appendix 1

Family Tree (Albert John Cole - Father)

Albert John Cole
BIRTH 28 JUN 1865 • Kapunda, South Australia, Australia
DEATH 1955

cole Family Tree

1865
(AGE)

Birth
28 Jun 1865 • Kapunda, South Australia, Australia

1868
2

Birth of Half-Sister Edith May COLE (1868–1955)
1 MAR 1868 • Kapunda SA

1870
4

Birth of Half-Brother James COLE (1870–1953)
02 Apr 1870 • Kapunda, South Australia, Australia

1873
8

Birth of Half-Sister Annie Ameinia Cole (1873–1874)
8 DEC 1873 • Kapunda SA

1874
9

Death of Half-Sister Annie Ameinia Cole (1873–1874)
26 AUG 1874 • Kapunda SA

1875
10

Birth of Half-Brother Harry Jessop Cole (1875–1948)
11 Jul 1875 • Freeling, South Australia, Australia

1876
11

Birth of Half-Sister Jessie COLE (1876–1961)
20 SEP 1876 • Kapunda SA

1878
13

Birth of Half-Brother Walter Percival COLE (1878–1913)
4 JUL 1878 • Freeling SA

1882
16

Birth of Half-Sister Daisy Olive COLE (1882–1959)
17 FEB 1882 • Freeling SA

1888
23

Marriage
1888 • Mintaro, South Australia
1 Source

1889
23

Birth of Son Norman Percy COLE (1889–1973)
3 FEB 1889 • Mintaro SA

1894
28

Birth of Son Cyril Richard Cole (1894–)
27 January 1894 • Mintaro S A

1913
48

Death of Half-Brother Walter Percival COLE (1878–1913)
13 NOV 1913 • Adelaide SA

1924
58

Death of Mother Mary Elizabeth Fountain (1840–1924)
28 Feb 1924 • Anglo Avenue, Parkside, Adelaide, South Australia

1933
68

Death of Half-Brother Albert John (Bert) COLE (1865–1933)
16 SEP 1933 • Adelaide SA

1938
72

Death of Half-Brother William James Cooper COLE (1858–1938)
13 Mar 1938 • Houghton, South Australia, Australia

1943
78

Death of Half-Sister Emily Typhena Cole (1862–1943)
16 Jul 1943 • Jarrahdale, Western Australia, Australia

1946
81

Death of Wife Margaret Ellen MORTIMER (1864–1946)
15 SEP 1946 • Adelaide SA

1948
82

Death of Half-Brother Harry Jessop Cole (1875–1948)
Jun 13 1948 • Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia,

Family
Parents

Unknown Father

Mary Elizabeth Fountain
1840–1924

Siblings


Spouse & Children

Margaret Ellen MORTIMER
1864–1946

Norman Percy COLE
1889–1973

Cyril Richard Cole
1894–

Family Tree (Cyril Richard Cole)



Cyril Richard Cole
BIRTH 27 JANUARY 1894 • Mintaro S A
DEATH Unknown

1894


(AGE)

27

Birth
 27 January 1894 • Mintaro S A
 1 Source

1919

25

Marriage
 25 Oct 1919 • Paris
 **Sazanne J Prade**
 1 Source

1920

26

Birth of Son Raymond Alfred Cole (1920–)
 20 November 1920 • Adelaide S A

1929

35

Birth of Daughter Marcelle Ellen Cole (1929–)
 18 February 1929 • Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia

1946

52

Death of Mother Margaret Ellen MORTIMER (1864–1946)
 15 SEP 1946 • Adelaide SA

1955

61


Death of Father Albert John Cole (1865–1955)
 1955


1973

78


Death of Brother Norman Percy COLE (1889–1973)
 Jan 2 1973

Family
Parents


 **Albert John Cole**
 1865–1955


 **Margaret Ellen MORTIMER**
 1864–1946

Siblings

 **Sazanne J Prade**

Spouse & Children

 **Raymond Alfred Cole**
 1920–

 **Marcelle Ellen Cole**
 1929–

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

Sources and Acknowledgements:

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>

Virtual War Memorial Australia

- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/359801> and <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/613220>

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/R1572348>

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 – Cyril Richard Cole) and

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/36503976?q&versionId=47067915>

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

State Library of South Australia <https://www.slsa.sa.gov.au>

- Prince Alfred College Chronicles
- Photograph <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8/5>
- Photograph <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8/6>
- Photograph <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8/29>
- Photograph <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8/74>
- Photograph <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8/75>

Note: many other photographs donated by the Cole Family are available digitally from the SLSA Collection
Adelaide University Football Club 75th Anniversary Book

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Forestry_Group_UK

Wiki tree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cole-16346>

Legislation.gov.au <https://www.legislation.gov.au/file/1944GN02>

Heaven Address <http://www.heavenaddress.co.uk/Col-Cyril-Richard-Cole/1163262/>

ACT Memorial <http://www.memorial.act.gov.au/search/person/cole-raymond-alfred>

Photo of Suzanne Jeanne Emma Pradé (Wiki Tree) - supplied by Marcelle Greene from George Cole's papers.

Original held be family

Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher