



## **Lieut. Collier Robert Cudmore**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: Intervarsity 1904**

**Degree BA (Oxford 1910) BA (Adelaide 1932)**

## ***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 Collier Robert Cudmore. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

## RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/378664>

### CUDMORE, Collier Robert

**Service Numbers:** Officer , Commissioned Officer no SN

**Enlisted:** 11 August 1915

**Last Rank:** Major

**Last Unit:** Unspecified British Units

**Born:** Wentworth, New South Wales, Australia , 4 June 1885

**Home Town:** Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia

**Schooling:** St Peter's College, University of Adelaide, and Magdalen College, Oxford

**Occupation:** Lawyer, Politician

**Died:** Natural Causes, North Adelaide, South Australia, 16 May 1971, aged 85 years

**Cemetery:** Not yet discovered

**Memorials:** Adelaide HB26 - Supreme Court\*\*\*, Adelaide Rowing Club Honour Board WW 1 and WW 2, North Adelaide HB8\* North Adelaide Cycling Club

### World War 1 Service

**11 Aug 1915:** Enlisted British Army, SN Officer , Unspecified British Units

**8 Aug 1918:** Involvement British Army, Major, SN Commissioned Officer no SN, Unspecified British Units, "The Last Hundred Days"

## Biography – Australian Dictionary of Biography

[adb.anu.edu.au](http://adb.anu.edu.au)



### Biography - Sir Collier Robert Cudmore

by P. A. Howell

*Sir Collier Robert Cudmore (1885-1971), lawyer and politician, was born on 4 June 1885 at Avoca station, near Wentworth, New South Wales, second son of Daniel Henry Cudmore, pastoralist, and his second wife Martha Earle, née McCracken. Educated in Adelaide at the Collegiate School of St Peter and the University of Adelaide, and in England at Magdalen College, Oxford (B.A., 1909), Robert won a gold medal in rowing as a member of the British four at the 1908 Olympic Games. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, London, in 1910, and, after returning home, to the South Australian Bar next year. Cudmore joined the Adelaide Club and the Liberal Union, serving as a branch secretary and as a member (from 1912) of that party's State executive. With (Sir) Stanley Murray, he established the firm Murray & Cudmore, in which he was to practise as a solicitor until 1955.*

*Commissioned in the Royal Field Artillery Special Reserve in France on 11 August 1915, Cudmore commanded a battery and was twice severely wounded; thereafter he wore a back-brace and used a walking-stick. His brother Milo was killed in action in 1916. Invalided home in 1919, Cudmore was a member of the State Repatriation Board, an administrator (1919-36) of the Soldiers' Fund, and deputy-chairman (1936-44) of the South Australian Sailors and Soldiers' Distress Fund. On 27 April 1922 in St Peter's college chapel he married Phyllis Miriam Wigg (d.1964). He was a member (1926-43) of the Anglican diocesan synod, a governor (1932-57) of his old school, and patron of the Adelaide City and University boat clubs. A director of North British & Mercantile Insurance Co. Ltd, Esperance Land Co. Ltd, and Elder, Smith & Co. Ltd, in 1947-56 he organized Elder's takeovers of De Garis, Sons & Co. Ltd, Commonwealth Wool & Produce Co. Ltd, Nenco Ltd and Moreheads Ltd. As vice-president of the South Australian Liberal Federation, he promoted its fusion with the Country Party in 1932 to form the Liberal and Country League. He was its president in 1934-36.*

*In 1933 Cudmore had been elected to the Legislative Council as a member for Adelaide Central District No.2. An able speaker and committee-man, he led his party in the Upper House from 1939 until his retirement in 1959. He defended the council's role as a house of review, and insisted that L.C.L. councillors convene separately and refrain from attending party meetings with their colleagues in the Legislative Assembly. He has been seen as a reactionary because of his opposition in 1945-46 to (Sir) Thomas Playford's nationalization of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd when he once called Playford a 'Bolshevik'. Cudmore's antagonism may have owed something to his professional and family links with Murray, the company's chairman. Yet, Cudmore also mistrusted any large increase in the public debt when resources were required for postwar reconstruction. He was later to praise Playford's action.*

*A liberal conservative, steeped in the writings of Aristotle, Burke, Brougham and Adam Smith, Cudmore sponsored bills of his own and hundreds of his amendments were passed. From 1933 he had campaigned for a parliamentary public accounts committee, more liberal lottery and gaming legislation, and later hours for hotel trading. These proposals were anathema to Playford, but they became law soon after Labor won office in 1965. While demanding stiffer penalties for those who sexually abused children, Cudmore was too radical for many of his contemporaries in expressing approval of a properly controlled 'red light' district. He secured pensions for Supreme Court judges, better traffic laws, compulsory tuberculosis examinations, protection of circus animals, more humane methods for slaughtering livestock, and the introduction of racing and trotting meetings on Anzac Day. Although critical of soldier-settler and organized marketing schemes, of state capitalism and H. V. Evatt's plans for the Federal parliament's aggrandizement, Cudmore also insisted that the 'rights' of private property should be 'necessarily circumscribed in the interests of others'.*

*As a council-member (1933-53) of the University of Adelaide, Cudmore obtained changes to allow the appointment of a salaried vice-chancellor, and one who was not already a member of the university; he also gained pensions for the staff. He championed John Henry Newman's ideas on university education and fought for adequate funding of the humanities, especially history, quoting the dictum of the American patriot Patrick Henry: 'I know of no way of judging the future but by the past'.*

*During World War II Cudmore had been a battalion commander in the Volunteer Defence Corps and chairman of the Australian War Service League which proposed conscription of 'Manpower, Womanpower, Wealth and all other Resources' to promote 'equality of sacrifice'. He was knighted in 1958. While he cherished relics of the 'gracious living' of the late nineteenth century, he was a spender, not an accumulator, of wealth. Sir Collier was confined to a wheelchair in his last years. Survived by his son and daughter, he died on 16 May 1971 in North Adelaide and was cremated*

## **"Who's Who in Australia 1938", Xth edition, Edited by Joseph A. Alexander**

**CUDMORE, Hon. Collier Robert, B.A.** (Oxon.), M.L.C. (S.A.): son of Daniel Henry Cudmore, late of Avoca Station, Wentworth, N.S.W., & Victor Harbor, S.A.; b. June 13, 1885, Avoca Station, near Wentworth; *ed.* St. Peter's Coll., Adelaide, Adelaide Univ. & Oxford; called to Bar Inner Temple, London, 1910; practising as Barrister & Solicitor, Adelaide, since 1912, member of firm of Symon Murray & Cudmore; rowed twice for Oxford v. Cambridge, 1908 & 1909, represented Eng. successfully in Olympic Fours 1908; served Gt. War, Royal Field Arty., twice severely wounded; was five yrs. Pres. Impl. Services' sub-branch R.S.S.I.L.A., & Vice-Pres. of S.A. State Bd.; deputy chrmn. S.A. Sailors & Soldiers' Distress Fund; member Synod of C. of E.; a governor of St. Peter's Coll.; M.L.C., S.A. (unopposed) for Central District No. 2; *m.* Ap., 1922, Phyllis, d. Dr. A. E. Wigg, 1 s., 1 d.; *recreations*, rowing, golf; *address*, 31 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town, S.A.; *clubs*, Adelaide (Adelaide), Junior Naval & Military (London), Leander & Vincents (Oxford).

### **Early Life**

Collier Robert Cudmore was born on 4 June 1885 at Avoca station, near Wentworth, New South Wales, second son of Daniel Henry Cudmore, pastoralist, and his second wife Martha Earle, née McCracken.



***Members of the Cudmore family who owned "Adare" at Victor Harbor.***

***Back Row, l-r: Roland, Henry, Mary (Minnie), Paul.***

***Front Row, l-r: Collier, Martha, Daniel H, Danny (on footstool), Milo.***

### **Schooling**

Collier attended St Peter's College where he won a Form Prize in 1898. In 1900 Collier was a Corporal in Cadet Corp. Collier passed his Junior Examinations in 1900 followed by Senior Examinations in 1901 & 1902 and the Higher Public Examinations in 1903.

In 1903 Collier competed in the St Peter's Sports and was fourth in the Half Mile Handicap, he also competed in Intercollegiate rowing against Geelong Grammar and Intercollegiate Football against PAC in 1902 and 1903. He was third in the Half Mile in the 1903 Intercollegiate Sports and rowed for St Peters in the SA Association Regatta.



# ANNUAL FOOTBALL MATCH, 1902. S.P.S.C. v. P.A.C.

Won by S.P.S.C. by 9 goals 7 behinds to P.A.C. 7 goals 4 behinds.

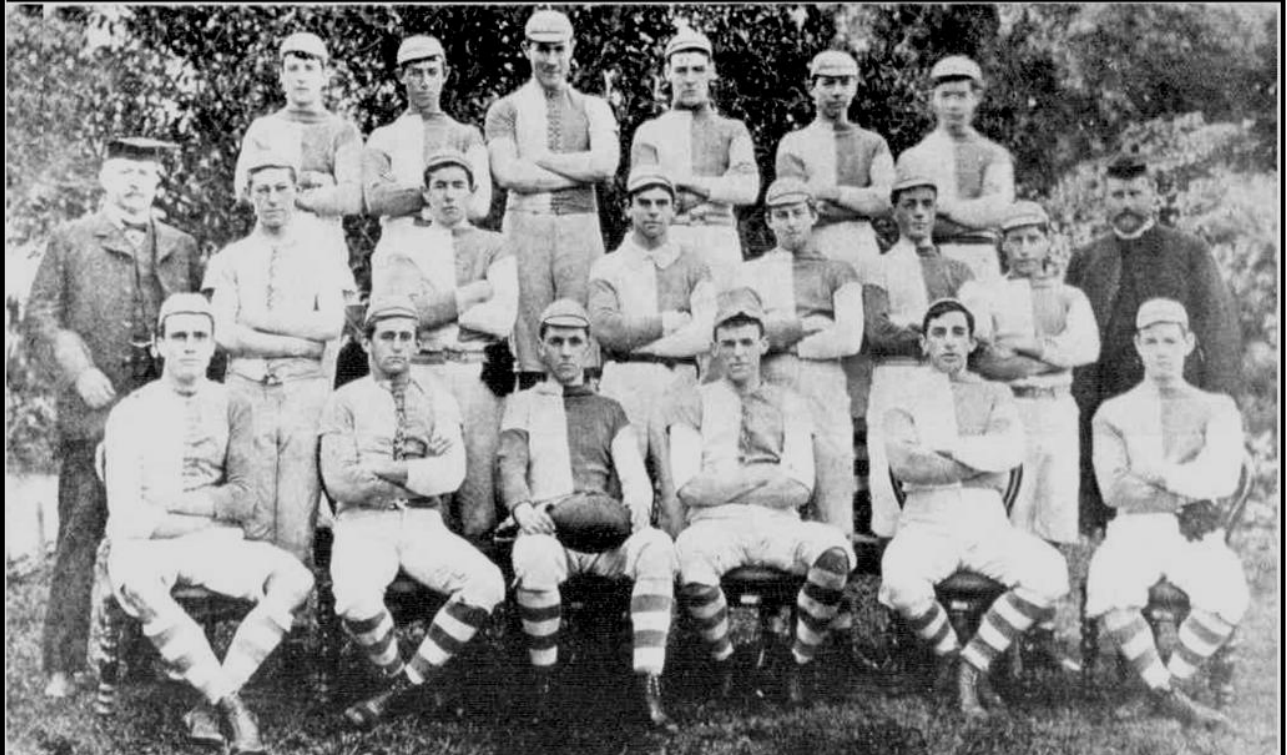


THE GRESHAM STUDIO,

5, King William Street, Adelaide.

C. F. Sage	H. James	C. F. Murray	G. W. Scholesfield
Rev. H. Giffelston	L. G. Toms	C. G. Milne	C. R. Cudmore
R. S. McDonald	L. A. Lewis	W. R. Reynell	G. S. Reinecke
T. A. Catter	W. F. Dempster	C. G. Gwynne	H. M. Mulrhead
J. W. Flood	G. C. Campbell	R. J. Moffatt	A. G. Lovelock
(Captain)			

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904) / Sat 18 Jul 1903 / Page 22 / INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL. ST. PETER'S COLLEGE V. PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE



**St. Peters' College Intercollegiate Football Team 1903**  
**Collier Robert Cudmore (seated 2nd on right)**

## Adelaide University

Collier commenced studying at toward a BA at Adelaide University in 1904 and passed examinations toward his degree in both 1904 & 1905. Collier then proceeded to England to study at Magdalen College, Oxford. In December 1932 Collier was awarded a Bachelor of Arts from Adelaide University (Ad eundem gradum, recognising his BA from Oxford).

## Adelaide University Sport

### Football

Collier represented the Adelaide University in their first Intervarsity Football match against Melbourne University in 1904.

### 1904 INTER-VARSITY TEAM



BACK ROW: D. Cowan, R.J. Verco, C.R. Doudy, H.M. Muirhead, C.P. Latty, R.J. Plummer, T.H. Donnelly.  
MIDDLE ROW: R. Goode, W.R. Reynell, P.M. Newland, D. Dawson (Captain), L. Cowan, S. Catchlove, C.R. Cudmore.  
FRONT ROW: W. Angwin, W.V. Drew, C.L. Jessop (Secretary), J.D. Moore.

### 1904 Intervarsity Football Team

*C.R. Cudmore- Middle Row – Far Right*

### Boat

Collier rowed for the Adelaide University Boat Club in 1904 and 1905 and represented Adelaide University at the Intervarsity competitions in 1904 & 1905. The 1905 teams weights and positions are recorded below.

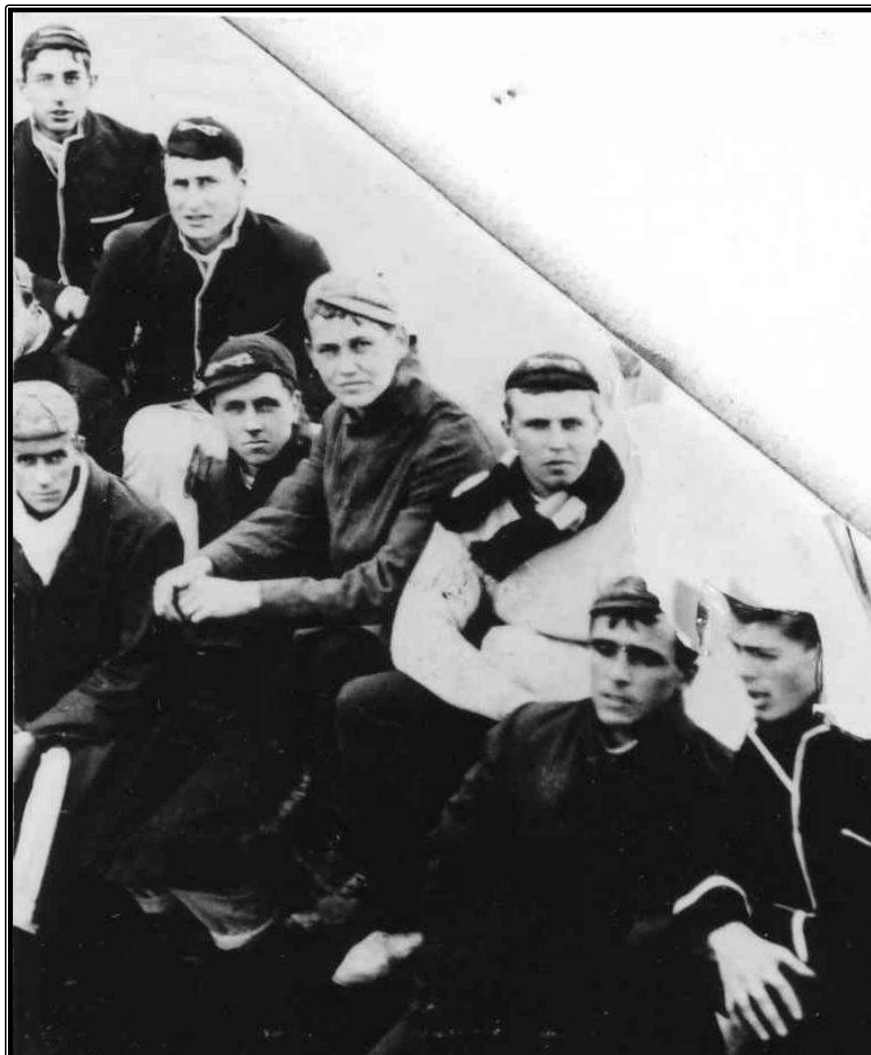
Adelaide.	
C. L. Jessop,	10 st. 3 lb. (bow).
H. M. Muirhead,	11 st. 10 lb. (2).
C. R. Cudmore,	11 st. 13 lb. (3).
W. R. Reynell,	13 st. 4 lb. (4).
R. L. Davidson,	13 st. 1 lb. (5).
B. L. Gardiner,	12 st. 4 lb. (6).
J. R. Muirhead,	11 st. 12 lb. (7).
J. R. Fullarton,	10 st. 5 lb. (stroke).
N. J. Hargrave,	9 st. 8 lb. (cox.).
Coach, W. H. Gosse.	



***1905 Adelaide University Boat Club - Intervarsity Crew***



***D.R. Cudmore – Position 3 – Third from Right***



***1905 Adelaide University Boat Club - Intervarsity Crew  
C.R. Cudmore Top Left Hand Corner  
(Identified by Profiler - based in comparison with 1904 IV Football photo)***



## Magdalen College, Oxford

Collier attended Magdalen College, Oxford, England from 1906. He gained his B.A. in 1910 and was called to the English Bar at the Inner Temple in April 1910. In 1907 Collier and his brother Paul spent 5 weeks touring on the Continent.

While at Magdalen, Collier continued to row and with great success. He twice represented Oxford in the annual Oxford v Cambridge boat race (1908 & 1909) assisting Oxford to a win in 1908. He was awarded a Blue for rowing in April 1908. Collier won a gold medal for Britain in fours in the 1908 Olympics.

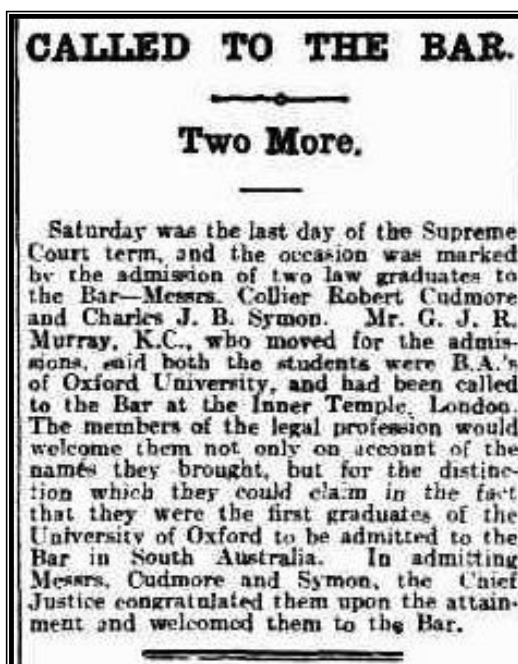
**ROWING.**  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AT OLYMPIC GAMES.**  
At the world's games at Olympia the British Empire not only won the lion's share of the prizes, but proved victorious in all the aquatic events. At Ryde her representatives were successful in all three yachting competitions, and at Henley they won all four of the boat races. The Leander eight beat the famous Belgium crew, and the fours was won by a crew, one of whom was a South Australian, Collier R. Cudmore (son of Mr. D. H. Cudmore, of Adare, Victor Harbour). This young oarsman is proving a credit to the training of the Rev. H. Girdlestone, of St. Peter's College. After competing here in both college and university interstate crews, on his arrival at Oxford in 1906 he helped his college (Magdalen) to gain the head of the river, and with the college eight at Henley made the best time against the Belgians, who won. He also took part in the Henley regatta in 1907, as one of an Oxford four which won two events—the Wyfold Challenge Cup and the Visitors' Challenge Cup—in which they defeated the London Rowing Club, the Reading and Kingston Rowing Clubs, three other boats from Oxford, and seven from Cambridge. Cudmore, having gained his blue, rowed No. 2 for Oxford in the University Race (Putney to Mortlake) in April last. Shortly afterwards he was chosen to row in the Olympic contests, in which his crew won the fours.



1909 - C.R. Cudmore

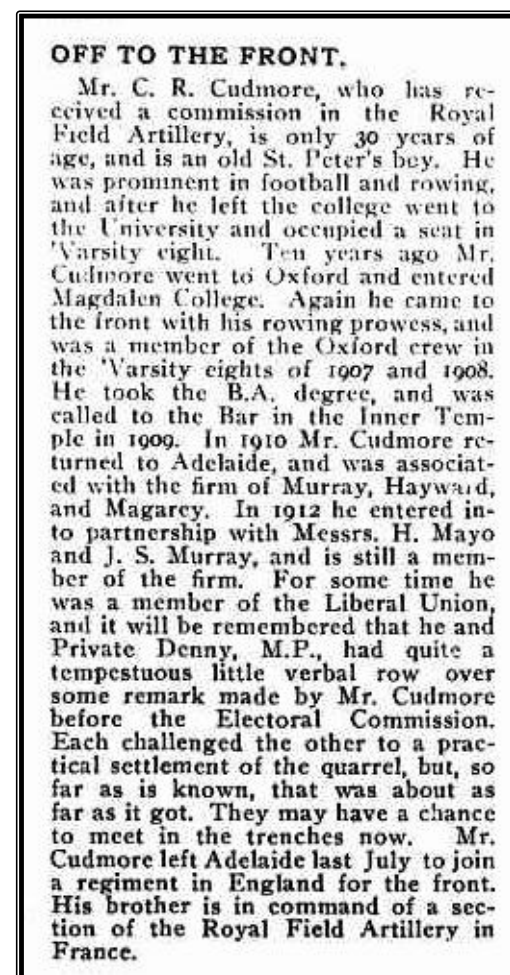
## Back in Australia

Collier returned to Australia in 1911 and was coach of the Adelaide University Intervarsity Boat Crew for the 1911 race. He then rowed for the Adelaide Rowing Club in the pre War era. In July 1911 he was called to the Bar in South Australia.



## World War I

In June 1915 Collier left Australia for Britain where he gained a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery.



Tragically in April 1916, Collier's brother Milo (also a Lieutenant the Royal Artillery) was killed in action.

News has been received in Adelaide from Lieutenant Collier R. Cudmore, of the Royal Field Artillery, that his brother, Lieutenant Milo Massey Cudmore, also of the Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action in France on March 27. He was a son of the late Mr. Daniel H. Cudmore, of Ayoca Station, New South Wales, and Mrs. Cudmore, of Adare, Victor Harbor. He was also a grandson of the late Mr. Peter McCracken, of Melbourne. The late Lieutenant Cudmore, who was 27 years of age, was educated at St. Peter's College and at Magdalene College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree. When war broke out he left a North Queensland station for England, where he obtained a commission in the Royal Field Artillery. He had been in the trenches since February 15, 1915, first with a field battery and latterly in command of a battery of trench mortars. In August last he was wounded in the left arm during the attack on Loos. For his conduct on this occasion he was mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the Military Cross.

Collier was severely wounded in the 1916 offensive and in August 1917 he was in London where he was met by Lieut. Reginald H Reid (Royal Field Artillery, Ulster Division of the 36<sup>th</sup>) who commented that Collier had a bad time with "a leg" and was now getting about again and hoped to return to France shortly. However it appears that he did not rejoin his old division until August of 1918. Collier was again wounded and was invalided from the service returning to Adelaide in April 1919.

#### **Adelaidean Arrived.**

Lieut. Collier Cudmore is home again. Feeling "topping" after being badly wounded, and in hospital for some time, his recovery has been wonderful. His mother, who went overseas when the news came of his being wounded, returned with him, and a large circle of relatives and friends are immensely glad to get them both safely home again.



*Collier Cudmore's WW1 Medals: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory Medal.*

**RSLVWM**



## Post War Life

Collier was engaged to Phyllis Miriam Wigg in May 1921 and the couple married in June 1922. They had two children, Patricia Mary (22 April 1923) and Michael Collier (18 August 1925).

Collier maintained his interest in rowing and was an umpire for the 1922 University Boat race and a Judge for the Olympic rowing trials in 1924. He was Chairman of the St Peter's Old Collegiate Association for six years in the 1920s. Collier's views on an appropriate war memorial for South Australia are expressed below in his own words.

### ANZAC HIGHWAY AND THE WAR MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Sir—Is it too late even now to make Anzac Highway a beautiful road as a portion of our State War Memorial?

A certain proportion of the returned soldiers insist on having as a memorial some form of stone erection in the city, while others, including myself, have from the first advocated an avenue or park with possibly a stone arch at one end.

The party in favour of the sculptural memorial have gained the day with the War Memorial Committee, and we have seen drawings of the proposed monument. I am sure I am not the only person, returned soldier or otherwise, who, on first looking at the accepted design, felt horror and surprise.

I cannot criticise the design in detail as I have not met any one who pretends to understand it; but if the appalling looking angel I have seen depicted is to be South Australia's only National War Memorial I consider it will be a tragedy. Can patriotic inspiration be derived from such a thing? Undoubtedly some people want the North terrace effort whatever it is like, so let them have it; but is all the money to be spent on it while the other, and I believe equally popular, idea is shelved by christening the Glenelg road "Anzac Highway" and planting a few pine trees?

I have no idea who was responsible for the planting of Norfolk Island pine trees, but one has only to look at those growing in the vicinity of St. Leonards Railway Station to realize what Anzac Highway will look like in 20 years' time. Norfolk Island pines do well in a garden where the surrounding ground is constantly worked, but otherwise grow very unevenly, while in the Adelaide climate the success of plane trees has been proved. The objection will be raised that plane trees are nothing in the winter and dirty in the autumn; my reply is that the winter here is short and the road used much more in summer when the trees are a picture. The leaves from the trees in King William road cause little trouble, and it is a distinct benefit to let the sun on to a road in the winter.

The straight stretch of road from Everard's Bridge to Morphettville surely offers a unique opportunity for a beautiful avenue, and in the avenue below the Botanical Gardens, from Hackney road into the Botanic Park, and again in Frome road, we have wonderful examples of what can be done by intelligent planting. Perhaps also now that the Port road is open as an example, our local authorities will realize the advantages, even the necessity, in these days, of a two-way track.

It will, of course, be said that the present expensive track is in the centre, but we hear every day of bridges being widened, &c., and all these things could and should be done with a view to eventually having a two-way track with a line of trees and perhaps other plants between. If the present bitumen is simply widened the road will always have an untidy dusty space on each side (like Dequetteville terrace at present), and the traffic will remain dangerous and difficult to regulate.

If there is not sufficient money available to do the whole two-way track at once, let a mile—or even half a mile—be done each year; any plan that will ensure an impressive and beautiful road in the end. If a triple line of plane trees were planted for the whole five miles flanking a well-kept two-way track with a simple yet dignified archway at Everard's Bridge (like the old arch erected near the Chop-up Hut during the war) every resident in the State and every visitor to Adelaide would see the avenue, and I have no doubt whatever that its beauty would remind him, or her, of the war and its sacrifices far more forcibly and imperishably than will the proposed monument on North terrace. Any one who has seen the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens at Victor Harbour and compared them with the stone monument erected at the cross roads in any and almost every town in Australia must appreciate the difference.

All I ask is that a fair proportion of the available money saved from the extraordinary effort designed for North terrace, and used to crystallize a plan and form the nucleus of a fund for a really worthy Anzac Highway. In this way all shades of opinion will be satisfied.

I am, Sir, &c.,

C. R. CUDMORE.

31 Dequetteville terrace, Kent Town.



VICTORIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ARRIVES IN ADELAIDE TODAY—Mr. R. G. Menzies, K.C., was a passenger on the express from Melbourne. The photograph shows Mr. Menzies and those who met him at the station. Left to Right—Mr. G. McLeay (chairman of the campaign committee of the Liberal Federation), the Hon. H. Tassie (Chief Secretary), Mr. Menzies, Messrs. S. W. Jeffries, M.P., K. C. Wilson (chairman of committees of the Political Reform League), W. B. Page (secretary of the Liberal Federation), and C. R. Cudmore (member of the executive).

### 1930 - C.R. Cudmore – Far Right

In 1933 Collier was elected to the Legislative Council and he led his party in the Upper House from 1939 until his retirement in 1959. He gave his maiden speech in July 1933.

## MR. CUDMORE'S MAIDEN SPEECH

"We are gratified that the King has seen fit to extend by one year the term of office as Governor of Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven," said Mr. C. R. Cudmore in his maiden speech in the Legislative Council this afternoon.

He was moving the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Mr. Cudmore said that it was good for the State as a whole that the present Government had been elected, not only with the will to do what was necessary for the State's recovery, but with the majority necessary to carry out the policy.

"I am not committed to every item of the Government's policy," he continued, "but it is so sane that it should be welcomed. No Government has taken office with as clear an appreciation of the difficulties they have to face as the present one."

"Trade conditions are better than they were 12 months ago, and the rise in the price of wool makes me hopeful that they will be better still."

"We are not yet out of the wood, but I think we are through the darkest part of it. We should keep to the straight and narrow path of economy and not be allowed to think all our troubles are over."

"There is far too much loose talk about the restoration of cuts. That is all right for the Commonwealth Government with its surplus, but not for the States, whose Budgets have not been balanced."

During WWII Collier served as a Major in the R.S.L. Defence Corps. Patricia served in the RAAF during WWII. Michael served as an Able Seaman during WWII.



1941

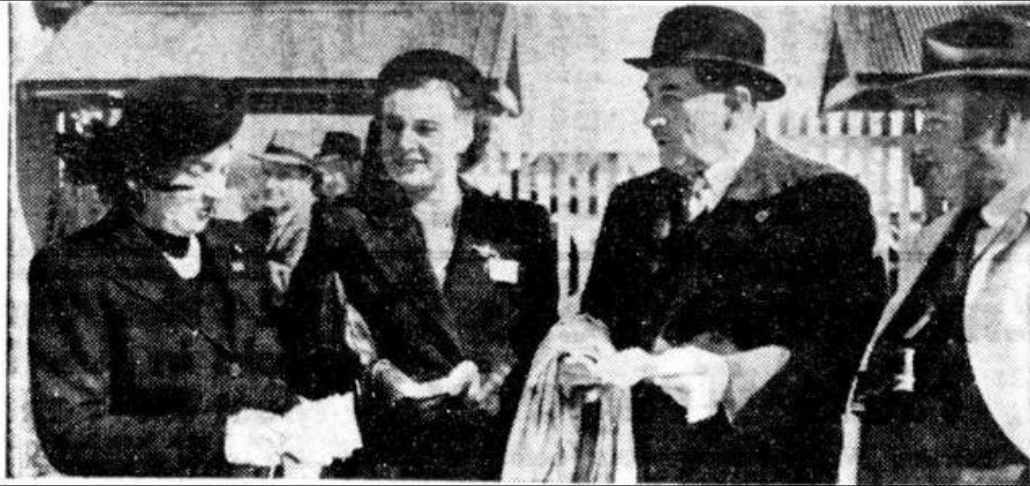


**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE and Members of Parliament played a bowls match at Woodville yesterday. TOP—Opposing team captains were Mr. O. R. Redman, J.P. (left) and the Chief Secretary (Mr. McEwin). ABOVE—Watching their captains playing are (from left) Messrs. E. Anthoney, M.P., A. R. Chaffer, J.P., C. R. Cudmore, M.P., and A. E. Johns, J.P. The Justices won.**

1948 – M.P. v J.P. at Bowls – C.R. Cudmore – Second from Right



## Melbourne Visitor at Races



*Mr. C. Trenchard (right), from Melbourne, accompanied Mrs. Collier Cudmore, her daughter, Patricia, and Mr. Cudmore, M.L.C., to Goodwood Handicap meeting at Morphettville.*

**1948- C.R. Cudmore – Second from Right**



**1950**

### Later Years

Collier was knighted in 1958 and retired from parliament in 1959. Sadly Collier's wife Phyllis passed away in 1964. Collier passed away in 1971, aged 86.

Michael followed his father to St Peter's College and to Magdalen College, Oxford, he was admitted to the Bar in South Australia in 1950 and married Judith Elizabeth Taylor in 1953.

## **Sources and Acknowledgements**

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>  
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Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>  
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 – Collier Robert Cudmore)  
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>  
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<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cudmore-sir-collier-robert-9873>  
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