

Pte. Arthur Vernon Davenport



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1911/12 -1913/14 B Grade

Other Sports: Tennis

Student: Law (Law Clerk) 1911 - 1915

Graduated: Final Certificate in Law (1916 in Absentia*)

Provisionally Admitted to the Bar (Dec 1916 in Absentia*)

* On Active Service

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 Arthur Vernon Davenport. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



ARTHUR VERNON DAVENPORT

Regimental number 4719

Place of birth Adelaide, South Australia

Religion Church of England

Occupation Clerk

Address Park Terrace, Eastwood, South Australia

Marital status Single

Age at embarkation 22

Next of kin Father, Mr S A Davenport, Park Terrace, Eastwood, South Australia

Enlistment date 17 May 1915

Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name <u>Australian General Hospital 3, Reinforcement 1</u>

AWM Embarkation Roll

number

26/67/2

Embarkation details Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT

A62 Wandilla on 15 June 1915

Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll 12th Field Artillery Brigade

Fate Returned to Australia 14 December 1918

Service Record

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.									
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.									
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.									
No. 4/19 Name DAVENPORT arthur Vernous									
Unit "E" COMPANY, BASE INFANTRY. 1"Reft 3" 45H									
13th FARde Joined on 17-5-15 12th F.A. Bde."									
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.									
1. What is your Name 1 18 14 2 1. avthur Vernow Wavenfro									
2. In the Parish of in or									
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born to near the Town of South Cust									
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)									
4. What is your age? 4. 21 Tayvy,									
5. What is your trade or calling! 5. how bleve									
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period! 6.									
7. Are you married 1									
8. Who is your next of kin t (Address to be stated) Eastwood Jouth dust									
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power! 9. SY Annel Wo									
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible 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 1									
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 I If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge									
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? 12.									
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service! If so, on what grounds! 13.									
14. (For marked men, widowers with children, and soldiers scho are the hole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no Soparation Allowance will be issued to younger marked men during your term of myrice?									
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enterio fever to 15.									
3, County Very November to solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby foluntarily 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 be than three fifths the pay payable to me from time to time during my service									
for the supported my vife and children.									
Date WANT F 13 NOV 29 Bill Signature of person entisted.									
*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widovers without children under 18 years of age. DETITION—Com. †Two fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.									
Land Land									

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Unit in which served,		Period of	service in each rank.		
	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	From-	То-	Remarks	
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I have examined the above detail and find them correct in every respect.

orget to send any change BASE RECORDS, MELBOURNE,

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

In all communications regimental number, rank, full name, and unit of Soldier referred to are to be stated.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE, VICTORIA BARRACKS.

MELBOURNE,

23rd May 1918.

Dear Sir, has been reported

to advise you that

Bdr. A.V. Davenport.

admitted to City of London Military Hospital , England, 25/4/18, suffering from gunshto-wound abdominal wall,

His postal address will be-

No 4719 Bombardies A.V. Davenport.

12th Army wield Ambulance Prigade. (late 3rd A.G.H)

Australian Imperial Force,

Abroad.

In the absence of further reports it is to be assumed that satisfactory progress is being maintained, but anything later received will be promptly transmitted, it being clearly understood that if no further advice is forwarded this department has no more information to supply.

Yours faithfully,

mhean Major,

Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D.1171/1.18.-C.445.-25M.

EXTRAGT.

272/3/8746.

B. R. M 14/621.

29th Nov. 1916.

ALLOTTOR.

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4719 Bdr. A. V. Davenport 51st Bty. 13th FAB.

Mrs. F.G. Davenport, Park Terrace. Eastwood. S A.

4/6 per diem from 1/1/17.

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Arthur Vernon Davenport Biography

Early Years

Arthur Vernon Davenport was born on 23 July 1893 in Adelaide, South Australia, to Florence Grace (nee Goode), age 27, and Samuel Alfred Davenport, age 31.

Arthur's Grandfather Robert, originally from Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, immigrated to Australia in 1843 shortly after the death of his Mother. He was 27 years of age and with him were his older brother George (Francis) and younger brother Samuel (later Sir Samuel Davenport). George known as "Francis" (his father was George also and an agent for the South Australia Company) had been to South Australia earlier in 1840 and commenced a survey of land in the Adelaide Hills which was to become known as Macclesfield. Francis had returned to England after the death of his mother but he too died from Typhus shortly after returning to South Australia in 1843. Robert and Samuel completed the survey and acquired property in the area. Later Robert acquired land in the Clare Valley at Barunga Gap where Arthur's father Samuel Alfred was born.

Arthur's father Samuel Alfred Davenport married Florence Goode in 1891 and settled in Park Terrace, Eastwood. At the turn of the Century the family spent time in England staying at Croydon, Surrey. A census in 1901 showed young Arthur as 7 years old.

His father had become a successful stockbroker and was a member of the firm Davenport, Smith & Roberts who had offices in Cowra Chambers in Grenfell Street, Adelaide. He was also a company director of several speculative mining companies. Arthur was enrolled at Saint Peter's College to complete his education.

Arthur's great uncle Sir Samuel Davenport (1818-1906), landowner, parliamentarian (a member of the original Legislative Council that passed South Australia's first Constitution) was also a member of the University of Adelaide Council from 1889 to 1897. It was logical that Arthur would be the first of the Davenport family to attend the University.

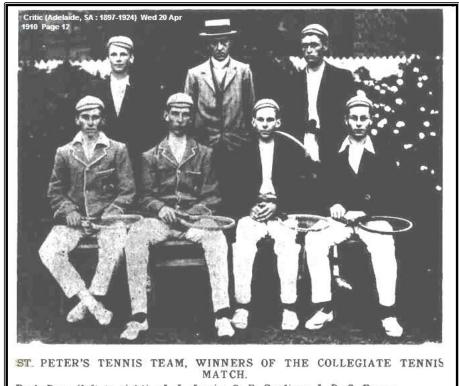


Sir Samuel Davenport (1818-1906)

Education and Sport

At Saint Peter's College Arthur completed his Junior and Senior Public Examinations by 1909 and in 1910 sat for the University of Adelaide Higher Public Examinations in three subjects. He was also a keen sportsman playing football (1910 Intercollegiate v PAC), a member of the rowing teams and represented the school in tennis. He also competed in the State Junior Titles in 1910 making the semi-finals.

1910 St Peter's Tennis Team



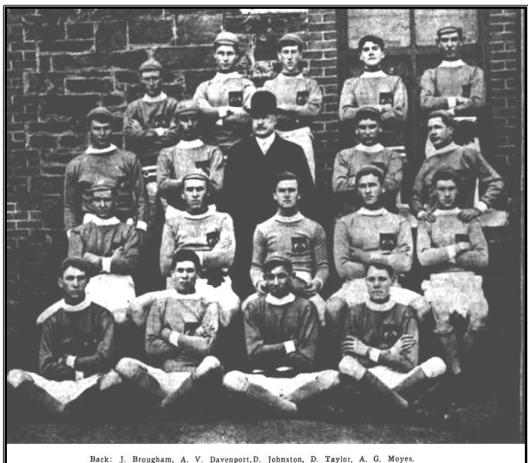
Back Row (left to right)—J. L. Lewis, G. F. Gardiner, J. R. S. Evans.

Front Row (left to right)—B. H. Swift. A. G. Moyes (Capt.), G. K. Henderson,

The Critic photo.

A. V. Daverport

1910 St Peter's Football Team



Back: J. Brougham, A. V. Davenport, D. Johnston, D. Taylor, A. G. Moyes.
Standing: J. C. Murray, I. B. Jose, Mr. Caterer, M. Woodley, M. Badger.
Sitting: F. P. Atwell, J. T. Murray (Vice-Captain), D. J. Miller (Captain), H.
L. Davidson, L. B. Gliddon.
Front: D. Stevens, K. Murray, E. N. Twopeny, S. J. Sibley.

Adelaide University - Law and Sport

In 1911 Arthur Davenport was an articled law clerk in the office of the eminent Adelaide lawyer William James Isbister C.B.E., K.C. who was also at the time a member of The Council of the University of Adelaide (a position he would hold for 40 years 1905 -1945). Instead of opting to study full time for a law degree, he had chosen the other option which was to be articled in his first year and complete a combination of four years of "hands on" experience in a law firm and a prescribed course of subjects and examinations. At the end of his articles and examinations he would receive his "Final Certificate in Law" from the University.

His main sports at Adelaide University were tennis and cricket.

Cricket

Arthur was only a B Grade cricketer and had not played in the 1st X1 at school. However, he was a regular member of the team from the end of the 1911/12 season until the 1913/14 season and completion of his university studies.

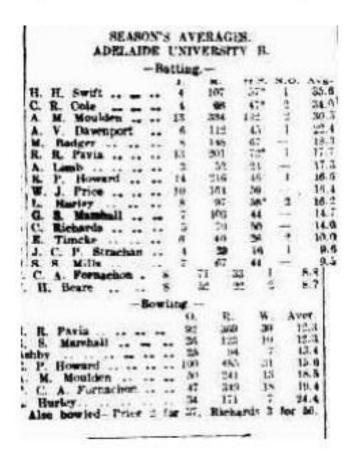
University B Grade v Glenelg - January 1912

Observer (Adelaide, SA: 1905 - 1931), Saturday 27 January 1912, page 19

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UNIVERSITY V. CLENELC.
                   UNIVERSITY.
                 -First Innings -
8. Mills, b. Rehn ..
R. Pavia, c. Bradshaw, b. Rehn
A. Davenport, b. Rehn
S. Williams, c. Bradshaw, b. Hutton
J. Strachan, b. Jenkins
O. Plotze, run out ..
   Smith, c. Jenkins, b. Pontifex
T. Brooks, c. and b. Pontifex
   Yuill, b. Jenkins .. ..
   Marshall, not out .. .. .
J. Yates, b. Pontifex .. .. ..
    Extras .. .. .. .. .. .. ..
                     -Bowling. -
        Rehn, 3 for 36.
        Hutton, 1 for 30.
        Pontifex, 3 for 14.
        Jenkins, 2 for 10.
                    CLENELG.
                 -First Innings.
H. G. Hutton, c. Davenport, b. Pavia
   W. Campbell, not out .. .. ..
   G. Jenkins, b. Pavia ..
       Prockter, c. J. Yulll, b. Davenport
W. F. McMulien, b. Davenport .. .. ..
    Extras .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..
        Total for a wickets .. .. .. ..
                    -Bowling.-
        Pavia, 3 for 48.
        Davenport, 2 for 21,
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Player Statistics 1912/13 Season

Journal (Adelaide, SA: 1912 - 1923), Monday 7 April 1913, page 2



Tennis

Arthur competed for the Adelaide University team in the SA Lawn Tennis Association inter-club competitions and also played in the State Championships doubles competition.

Other Sport

He was also a keen golfer and played regularly in competitions at the North Adelaide golf Club. Although he had played football at St Peter's College, during the colder months he preferred spending his time on the golf course. His father Samuel was also a very fine golfer, playing at the Adelaide Golf Club at Seaton (later "Royal Adelaide Golf Club"). Previously in 1905, Samuel had been a founding committee member of the North Adelaide Golf Club at Montefiore Park.

World War 1

By the end of 1914 Arthur had completed his course work at the University and his fourth years of articles would have to be completed early in 1915.

On the 17th May, shortly after the Gallipoli landing, he made the choice to enlist alongside others from his university contemporaries from the sporting teams and law faculty.

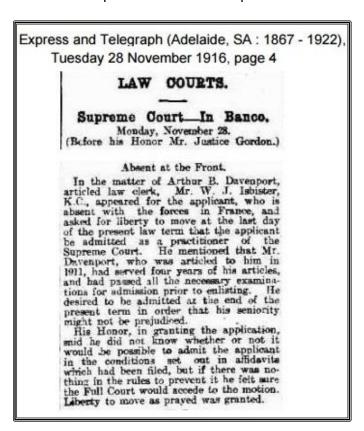
Arthur was assigned initially to the Australian Medical Corps, 1st Reinforcements, 3rd General Hospital with the rank of Private. While serving in France he was given training with the 13th Field Artillery Brigade and promoted to the rank of Temporary Bombardier. He was then transferred early in 1917 to the 12th Field Artillery Brigade and on to the Western Front.



Heavy artillery in the boggy conditions on the western front

In April 1918 he suffered an abdominal gunshot wound and was evacuated to the UK. In October 1918, after successful surgery and a period of convalescence, he returned to France. Fortunately the Armistice came soon enough on November 11th and in January 1919 he received his orders to return home to Australia.

While on active service in France, Mr. Isbister had in his absence moved that Arthur Vernon Davenport be admitted as a practitioner in the Supreme Court.



THE SWORD AND THE WIG.

One of the soldiers who have recently returned to Adelaide from the front after three and a half years' service is Mr. A. V. Davenport, one of the rising young lawyers of the State. He was provisionally admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court in the middle of December, 1916, under a condition that he had to sign the roll within three months of his return to South Australia. Mr. Davenport the other day signed the roll and took the cath of office. He was sincerely congratulated by the Chief Justice. Sir George Murray said the young lawyer had now the satisfaction of knowing that he had served his country, and he wished him well in his profession.

The Critic 26 March 1919

On his return to Adelaide and with little time for recuperation, he was well set to embark again on a legal career that had been on hold for 3 years.

After World War 1

One of Arthur's first activities was to become involved in Athletics. He had acted as Chairman of a meeting of the South Australian Amateur Athletic Association while a member of their Council in September of 1919 and in May 1920 was an Assistant Hon. Secretary.

In March 1920, he and a fellow WW1 volunteer Robert Shannon Davey formed a partnership and began a practice from offices at 22 Waymouth Street in the City. Their activities consisted largely of estate matters and foreign consulate work.

Register (Adelaide, SA: 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 9 March 1920, page 6

A NEW LEGAL FIRM Another firm of solicitors is announced Adelaide, Mesera. to start practice in Robert S. Davey and Arthur V. Davenport having gone into partnership under the & Davenport. Davey young lawyers spent a considerable period on active service in the recent war. Davey, who is a son of Mr. Arsold E Davey, of St. Peters, served from 1915 to 1919, and was connected with the field artillery and flying corps (balloon section). Mr. Davenport was during four years on active service with the Australian Field Artillery. The offices of the firm are al 22 Waymouth street.

Journal (Adelaide, SA: 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 11 January 1922, page 1

A notification has been received by Mr. A. V. Davesport, that he has been appointed Vice-Consul for Finland in South Australia. Mr. Davesport is a member of the firm of Davey & Davesport, solicitors, of Waymouth street, Adelaide. Mr. Davesport has already assumed the duties pertaining to the Vice-Consulate. Mr. R. S. Davey in Consul for Peru.

The partnership lasted only two years with Davey opting for a more rural lifestyle after purchasing a sheep grazing property at Mt Pleasant. Already by 1925 Arthur had formed a new partnership with Irvine Dale Wald who had served his articles in the same firm as Davenport and been admitted to the Supreme Court in July 1923. The firm Davenport and Wald was located in the Executor Trustee Building at 22 Grenfell St Adelaide. Arthur's brother Howard worked for the Excecutor Trustee & Agency Company at the same address. Together they handled some large estates. By 1939, Arthur was a sole practitioner and operating from the Exchange Building, 26 Pirie Street.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1931 - 1954), Thursday 30 November 1939, page 6

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALFRED ALEXANDER SMITH late of "Holmby" Clare Retired Surgeon deceased NOTICE is hereby given that the Deputy Master of the Supreme Court of South Australia has pursuant to "The Trustee Act, 1936" directed that ALL CREDITORS and OTHER PERSONS having CLAIMS AGAINST the ESTATE of the abovenamed ALFRED ALEXANDER SMITH deceased PROBATE of whose WILL was granted to EXECUTOR TRUSTEE AND AGENCY COMPANY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMITED are to SEND FULL PARTICULARS of THEIR CLAIMS to EXECUTOR TRUSTEE AND AGENCY COMPANY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMITED at No 22 Grentell street Adelaide on or before 31st DECEMBER 1938 otherwise they will be excluded from the distribution of the ESTATE.

DATED the 30th day of November 1939

A. V DAVENPORT

Exchange Buildings.

26 Pire street, Adelaide.

Boliciter for the abovenamed executor.

Marriage and Family

Arthur Davenport had married Gladys "Rita" Toms on 17th February 1923.

Critic (Adelaide, SA: 1897-1924), Wednesday 21 February 1923, page 25

WEDDING.

DAVENPORT-TOMS.

A quiet wedding was celebrated at St. Matthew's Church, Marryatville, on Saturday afternoon, when Miss Rita Toms, youngest daughter of the late Mr. S. Toms and Mrs. Toms, of "Parkwynd," Portrush Road, Marryat-ville, was married to Mr. Arthur Davenport, only son of the late A. Davenport and Mrs. Davenport, of Park Terrace, Parkside. The key. k. W. G. Dempster officiated, and M1. John Dempster presided at the organ. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Charles Toms, wore a charming frock of pale grey georgetts, embroidered with dull silver thread on the edge of the floating side panels and on the belt. With this was worn a silver grey straw hat, drenched grey feathers on the brim. She carried a bouquet of pale pink and pale blue blossoms.

Arthur and Rita lived at 73 Tusmore Avenue, Tusmore until the early 1940s after which they moved to 12 Northumberland Street, Heathpool. Their marriage lasted 27 years until the untimely death of Rita in October 1950 at the age of 59.

Arthur and Rita had three children.

Surname	Given Names	Date of Birth	Gender	Father	Mother	Birth Residence	District	Book/Page
DAVENPORT	John	05-May-1928	М	Arthur Vernon DAVENPORT	Gladys Rita TOMS	Adelaide	Adelaide	211A/563
DAVENPORT	Hilaire	01-Dec-1923	F	Arthur Vernon DAVENPORT	Gladys Rita TOMS	Adelaide	Adelaide	126A/262
DAVENPORT	Elizabeth Anne	11-Dec-1926	F	Arthur Vernon DAVENPORT	Gladys Rita TOMS	Adelaide	Adelaide	185A/417
						Ge	enealc	gy SA

After Rita's death, the Heathpool property was auctioned in July 1952 and Arthur would move to Bridgewater where he would reside at for his remaining life.



Two years after Rita's death, Arthur married a second time to Miss Margaret Murray.

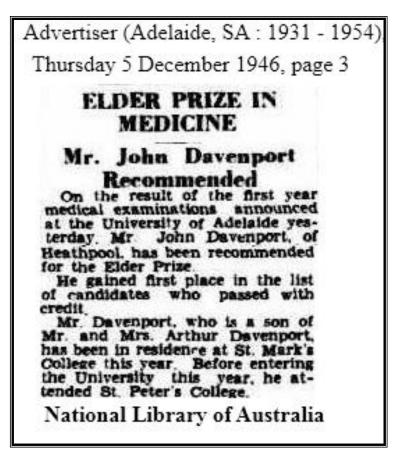


Arthur had continued to play golf at the North Adelaide Golf Club throughout his life and also later at the Mount Lofty Golf Links. He and Rita were avid bridge players with the "Duplicate Bridge Club" and mixed in wide Adelaide social circles.

Arthur Vernon Davenport died on 16 July 1964 in South Australia at the age of 69 and was interned at the Anglican North Road Cemetery, Nailsworth with his wife Rita, Mother, Father and two of his siblings who had died in infancy.

Family Legacy

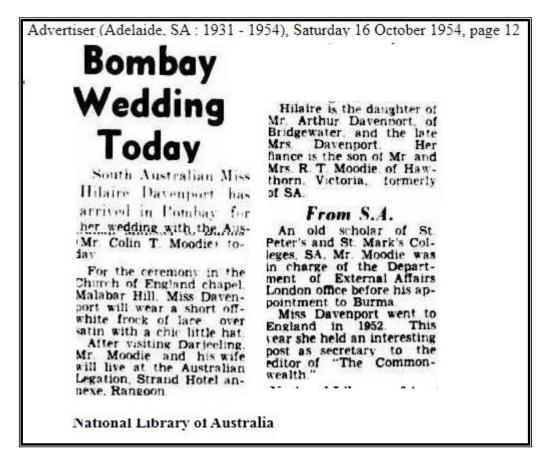
Arthur and Rita's son John attended St Peter's College and then studied medicine at Adelaide University. In his first year he was awarded the Elder Prize. He graduated MBBS in 1952. In his final year he won the Charles Gosse Medal for Ophthalmology.



Their two daughters both attended Presbyterian Girls' College.

Elizabeth married Harold Quigley in 1952.

Hilaire married Colin Moodie in 1954. She had been working as secretary to the editor of the British publication "The Commonwealth".



Profile Prepared by:

Rob O'Shannassy

AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial committee

Sources and Acknowledgments:

- National Library of Australia Trove (Digital Newspapers)
- National Archives of Australia WW1 Service Records
- Virtual War Memorial Australia Photograph of Arthur Vernon Davenport
- Adelaide University Archives University Calendars
- Ancestry.com
- Geneaology SA
- Sir Samuel Davenport (1818-1906) (Photograph State Library of SA B5575)