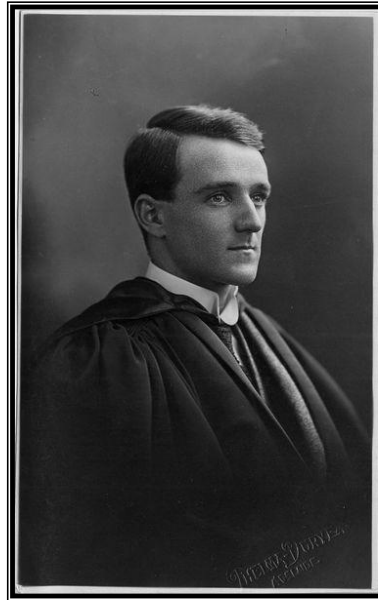




Lieut. Ralph John Dart



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: B Grade (1913)

Degree obtained: BE (1915)

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 Ralph John Dart. 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=72512>




Ralph John DART

Place of birth	Burra, South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Engineer
Address	Mundoora, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	24
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Evelyn Dart, Mundoora, South Australia
Enlistment date	22 July 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	5th Pioneer Battalion, Reinforcement 4
AWM Embarkation Roll number	14/17/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A55 <i>Itria</i> on 14 August 1916
Miscellaneous details (Nominal Roll)	Name does not appear on Nominal Roll

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3488615>

2/ frontman

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 21454 Name DART, Ralph John
Unit 4/5th Pioneer
Joined on 22/7/1915

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Ralph John Dart</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of <u>Burrea</u> in or near the Town of <u>Burrea</u> in the County of <u>Stirling</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>N.B.</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>24 1/2 yrs.</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Engineer</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. <u>No.</u>
7. Are you married?	7. <u>No.</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	8. <u>MOTHER) MRS. EVELYN DART</u> <u>MUNDOORA</u> <u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA.</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No.</u>
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?	10. <u>No.</u>
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	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <u>Yes.</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>No.</u>
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 in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day?	14. <u>Yes.</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15. <u>Yes.</u>

Ralph John Dart 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 22/7/1915

R. J. Dart
Signature of Person Enlisted.

wo 37269

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/321824>

DART, Ralph John

Service Numbers: Not yet discovered

Enlisted: 9 July 1915

Last Rank: Lieutenant

Last Unit: 5th Pioneer Battalion

Born: Burra, 6 December 1890

Home Town: Not yet discovered

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Engineer

Died: Circumstances of death not yet discovered

Cemetery: Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia
Cremation

Memorials: Mundoora*, Port Broughton War Memorial*

World War 1 Service

9 Jul 1915: Enlisted

14 Aug 1916: Involvement 5th Pioneer Battalion

14 Aug 1916: Embarked 5th Pioneer Battalion, HMAT Itria, Adelaide

11 Nov 1918: Involvement Lieutenant, 5th Pioneer Battalion

Biography

Early Life

Ralph John Dart was born at Aberdeen near Burra on 6 December 1890, the son of Henry John Dart and Evelyn Tresize of Mundoora near Pt Broughton. (SA Birth Registration 470/458). Ralph's father was a School Teacher. Ralph had six sisters, Laura (b. 1888), Ella (b 1889), Hilda Betsy (b 1892), Bertha Erica (1894), Evelyn Muriel (b 1895) and Gladys Dora (b 1901).

Schooling

The first mention of Ralph's schooling appeared in the papers when he was appointed a monitor at the Sutherlands School (12 kms east of Eudunda). Ralph passed eight subjects at the School of Mines Preparatory School in 1906. He then attended St Peter's College, where he passed his Junior Examinations in 1907 and Senior Examinations in 1908.

University

Ralph commenced tertiary studies in 1909. He passed Second Grade Plane Geometry at the Art Examinations in June 1909 followed by examinations at the School of Mines, the Education Department and the Adelaide University in December 1909. Ralph was awarded a Diploma in Applied Science (Electrical Engineering) in December 1914 and a Bachelor of Engineering in April 1915.

University Sport

Football

Ralph played football for the Adelaide University B Grade (University II) in 1913.

Rowing

Ralph rowed in the Adelaide University Schools Annual Competition in 1910, 1912 and 1913. He was cox for the Engineering Crew in 1910 & 1913.

World War I

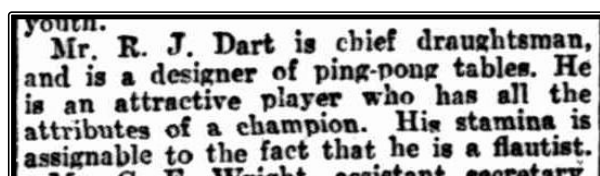
Shortly after graduation Ralph enlisted on 22 July 1915 in the 4/5th Pioneers. His mother Evelyn was listed as his next of Kin. Ralph was 24 years 7 months, 5' 3½", 156 lbs, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and dark hair. On the 14th August 1916 he embarked for overseas service on board the A 53 'Itria'. On the 30th October 1916 he marched into Australian Detls. No 3 Camp, Parkhouse. During February and March 1917, Ralph qualified 1st Class at the 8th Rifle Course held at the School of Musketry, Tidworth.

On the 20th April 1917 he proceeded overseas to France. On 24th June 1917 he was appointed a Lieutenant. In April 1918 he received a slight gunshot wound on the nose but remained on duty. From the 20th May 1918 Ralph was a Lewis gun Officer. He returned from service in France in February 1919.

In July/August 1919 Ralph was granted leave with pay to work as an Electrical Engineer at British Westinghouse Coy Ltd, Manchester. Ralph returned to Australia on the 'Nestor' on 1 November 1919.

Career

In December 1919 Ralph advertised for employment as and Electrical and Mechanical Engineer. By June 1922 Ralph was living at Wattle Street, Fullarton and had purchased an Austin car. On the 15th March 1924, Ralph's mother Evelyn died at the Orroroo Hospital; her last abode had been at Carrieton, SA. By July 1925 Ralph was the chief draughtsman at the Municipal Tramway Trust (South Australia). In the article below he was described as a designer of ping pong tables and a flautist.



Ralph attended the 'Waterloo Dinner' (Engineers Reunion) in Adelaide in June 1928 and in November 1928 he was involved in discussions on the Glenelg Tramways proposal.

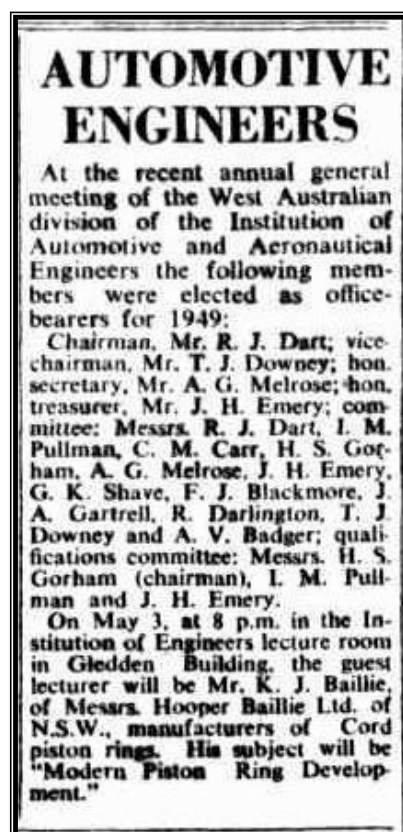


By May 1931 Ralph was working for the Adelaide Branch of the Vacuum Oil Co Ltd and had become a keen golfer. He was a member at Glenelg and played in the AIF Golf competitions in 1934-1936. Ralph's father Henry John Dart died in 1936 leaving an Estate valued at £3,780; he had been living at Wayville. In July 1937 Ralph was living at Clark Street, Wayville and was fined 15/ with 7/6 costs for traffic offences.

In November 1937 Ralph travelled from Adelaide to Kalgoorlie on the Mail Plane. Ralph moved to the Perth branch of Vacuum Oil Co Pty Ltd. In February 1946 he was on the Skymaster Amana which flew directly from Ceduna to Perth. In January 1947 Ralph travelled from Freemantle to the Eastern States onboard the Duntroon.

During World War II Ralph joined the RAAF (SN 252040) he was a Squadron Leader at the 6 Aircraft Depot. His next of kin was listed his sister, Erica.

In April 1949 Ralph was elected Chairman of the West Australian division of the Institution of Automotive and Aeronautical Engineers. He was a Vice-Chairman in 1950. From Electoral Roll records it is known that Ralph lived at 109 William Street, in the Sub-Division of Perth in 1949 and at 32 Mount Street in the Sub-Division of West Perth in 1954.



In November 1950 Ralph and Mr A Walker drove a Vacuum Co Petrol tanker from Melbourne to Perth.

Semi-Trailer Petrol Tanker

VACUUM CO.'s NEW MODEL
OVERLAND JOURNEY TO
PERTH

Norseman, Nov. 21.—A Vacuum Oil semi-trailer petrol tanker, the first to cross Australia, arrived in Norseman to-day from Melbourne on its way to Perth. The tanker has a capacity of 24,000 gallons consisting of four compartments each of 600 gallons.

The tanker is still in its rough state and has yet to undergo a few minor adjustments and painting. The tanker was made in Melbourne and is connected to an American International chassis. It is the first of a new design, being shorter and wider than the most modern now operating in Perth. Vacuum brakes run throughout the semi-trailer, and the tanker is mounted on dual wheels both front and back.

Mr. R. J. Dart, engineer, and Mr. A. Walker, mechanic, of the Vacuum Co. in Western Australia, are in charge of the tanker, which was brought overland because of shipping difficulties. It was urgently needed in Perth before Christmas. Mr. Dart said that others of a similar type may yet have to be driven overland to Perth.

In February 1951 Ralph appeared as a witness at the Air Court of Inquiry into the Amana airplane crash.

Ralph John Dart, of Mounts Bay-road, Perth, transport engineer in Perth for the Vacuum Oil Co., explained by means of exhibits the refuelling of aircraft from a petrol tanker. He said that he had never found any water in the tanker when he had examined it, though he had been told that some of his employees had found water occasionally.

Ralph played pennant Bowls and by December 1951 he was President of the Perth Bowling Club and in January 1954 he was the club secretary.

In July 1953 (aged 63) Ralph was the Transport Engineer at Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd.

No records have been found of Ralph having married.

He moved back to South Australia in retirement.

Death

Ralph passed away on the 6th May 1962, he was cremated and his ashes are interred at Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide. His last abode had been at Wayville.

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

Sources and Acknowledgements:

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>
RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>
The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>
Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>
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 – Ralph John Dart)
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>
State Records of SA, File GRG26_5_4_3_537_img001.jeg
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?serviceId=R&veteranId=1045045>
WA Electoral Rolls - Ancestry.com.au