



Lieut. William Laurence Davies M.C.

Awarded Military Cross



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1909/10 - 1912/13 (A & B Grade)

(Intervarsity: 1910)

Football Club: 1910 & 1911

(Intervarsity: 1910)

Other Sports: Athletics

Sports Awards: Blue for Football (1910)

Teacher when enlisted for WWI

Degree: B.A. (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 William Laurence Davies. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.



William Laurence DAVIES

Date of birth	28 September 1888
Other Names	DAVIES, William Laurence
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Teacher
Address	St Peters, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	27
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Harriet Elizabeth Davies, 78 First Avenue, St Peters, South Australia
Enlistment date	16 August 1915
Rank on enlistment	Lieutenant
Unit name	<u>27th Battalion, 13th Reinforcement</u>
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board A37 <i>Barambah</i> on 27 June 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	27th Battalion
Promotions	Lieutenant
	Unit: 27th Battalion Promotion date: 1 January 1917
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Military Cross For conspicuous gallantry in action in charge of bombing party at Malt Trench North of Warlencourt. Recommendation date: 11 March 1917
Fate	Returned to Australia 20 June 1919
Medals	Military Cross 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took charge of a company, and by his fine example enabled a successful attack to be launched. He continued to command throughout the day, and was largely responsible for the capture of 600 yards of the enemy's trench.' Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 133 Date: 21 August 1917
Other details	War service: Western Front Medals: Military Cross, British War Medal, Victory Medal

National Archives of Australia WWI Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1902530>

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. B 5613 Name DAVIES William Lawrence *Major*
Unit 10/27 Inf *MAJOR COMMANDANT*
Joined on 7.8.15.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? ... William Lawrence Davies
- In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... near the Town of East Adelaide in the County of S. Australia
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... NB
- What is your age? ... 26 1/2 years
- What is your trade or calling? ... School Teacher
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... NO
- Are you married? ... NO
- Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... (Mother) Mrs. Harriet Elizabeth Davies
78 First Avenue
St Peter St.
- Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... NO
- 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
- 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 ... Lieutenant Voluntary Cadets.
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... yes.
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... NO
- (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.
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... yes.

William Lawrence Davies 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*† wife and children

Date 3. 8. 15 W. Lawrence Davies
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.

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES

C.M. Form A. 22.

(Revised 1.7.14.)

Application for a Commission in the *Australia Imperial Forces*

No.	Particulars.			
1.	Surname } To be in block letters. Other names (in full) } <i>DAVIES, WILLIAM LAURENCE</i>			
2.	Educational Qualifications (Certificate to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.) <i>Bachelor of Arts, University of Adelaide Educator of Prince Alfred College.</i>			
3.	Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated).. (Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 66.) Present rank and corps to be stated. <i>6 months 9 days in R. I. F. 2 yrs Lieut in Junior Cadet Corps. Sergeant, 12th Reinforcements, 27th Battalion</i>			
4.	Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 132) <i>February 10 /'16</i>			
5.	Present Civil Employment <i>Before Enlistment, Teacher</i>			
6.	Date of Birth, and Age (Certificate of Birth or Statutory Declaration to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.) <table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>Sept 28/1888</i></td> <td><i>27</i> Years.</td> <td><i>5</i> Months.</td> </tr> </table>	<i>Sept 28/1888</i>	<i>27</i> Years.	<i>5</i> Months.
<i>Sept 28/1888</i>	<i>27</i> Years.	<i>5</i> Months.		
7.	If a British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject (In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.) <i>British Subject</i>			
8.	Married or Single <i>Single</i>			
9.	Postal Address <i>78 First Avenue, East Adelaide</i>			
10.	Next of Kin <i>Mrs Harriet Elizabeth Davies</i>			
Date <i>25/2/16</i> (Signature of Applicant) <i>W Laurence Davies</i>				

NOTE.—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

I, *Perry Balloran* do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height *5-8* Weight *159*
Chest Measurement *32-35* Eyesight *R 6/6 L 6/6*

Signature of the Examining Medical Officer
H. Balloran

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

(Not required in the cases of candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)

I recommend that the candidate above named be appointed a.....in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

1. That such appointment will be within the authorised establishment for the current year.
2. † (a) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or
- † (b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 132 have been fully complied with.
- (c) That all candidates higher in order of merit, by competitive examination, have been absorbed.

On appointment the candidate will be posted to.....Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date Commanding Regt or Corps.
RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.
Recommended, candidate considered suitable.
26 FEB 1916
Date Col.
COMMANDANT 4TH MIL. DISTRICT
Commandant Military District.

† Sub-para. not applicable to be struck out.

N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form.
Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.

Record of Service in the Field, also Reference to Decorations, etc., granted, and dates showing the period in each case.

PARTICULARS	Reference to Orders or other Authority
<p>27.6.16 Embarked, of Ser 4 Adelaide 25.8.16 Disembarked at Plymouth 25/8/16.</p>	<p>OC. Tro Barraback</p>
<p>Qualified as School of Musketry, Tidworth. 1st Class.</p>	<p>Qual. as School of Musketry in O.K. para 957</p>
<p>13.2.17. PROCEEDED OVERSEAS FRANCE,</p>	<p>CR 4330/25/1. 112 10/12/17</p>
<p>21.2.17. Taken on strength 27th Bn in 15th Regt.</p>	<p>115 11/12/17 1/1/18</p>
<p>21.2.17 Taken on the strength 27th Bn from photo</p>	<p>CR 5th List 153</p>
<p>1-1-17 Promoted Lieut 4 to remain seconded. (AIF Under War 144)</p>	<p>112 10/12/17 21-2-17</p>
<p>awarded Military Cross (1st Army R.O. No 20. - 31. 3. 17)</p>	<p>19/2/27 12. 4. 17</p>
<p>13.6.17 App'd. Asst. Adjutant</p>	<p>" 20/4/27 1/1/18</p>
<p>10.8.17 App'd. Assistant " 27th Bn.</p>	<p>R.O. 2 Div 10.8.17</p>
<p>26.8.18 To be Maj. (temp) vice Capt. R.W. Southon M.C.</p>	<p>AIF List 381. 112 10/12/17</p>
<p>8.10.18 App'd. to 1st year senior school Cheeshunt College Cambridge</p>	<p>{ CR 4307/19/17</p>
<p>6.10.18 Proceeded to Cheeshunt College, England, for Education of Officers course (DAG. AIF. 1937)</p>	<p>dated 29/9/18 112 11/5/23 21/10/18</p>
<p>8.10.18 Attached to AIF Educ. Sch. Cambridge for course of Instrn. (28686)</p>	<p>100 120/1 10/1/18</p>
<p>7.2.19.</p>	<p>20.4/19, 8.3.19.</p>
<p>12.5.19.</p>	<p>" 107/44, 4.6.19.</p>
<p>20/1/19 Returned to Australia as temp per "König Friedrich August." + is Struck off Strength</p>	<p>20/1/19 11/1/19 AIF List 488</p>

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regimental Number

Regiment or Corps **27th Battalion A.I.F.**Rank **Lieut** Surname **DAVIES** Christian Name **William Lawrence** M.C.

Religion _____ Age on Enlistment _____ years _____ months.

Enlisted (a) **16.8.15** Terms of Service (a) **War & 4 Mths** Service reckons from (a) **16.8.15**Date of promotion to present rank **3.3.16** Date of appointment to lance rank _____Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b) _____
or Corps Trade and Rate _____

EMBARKED FROM AUSTRALIA

N° 128/401/21 Signature of Officer i/c Records.

Report	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c. during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received			
	O.C. Troops "Baranbah"	Embarked	ADELAIDE	27.6.16
		Embarked ...		
		Disembarked ...	PLYMOUTH	25.8.16
1				
2	1.2.17	A.I.F. Orders	Tobe Lieut and to remain	List 141
		Seconded	England	1.1.17
3	19.2.17	G.O.C. A.I.F. Depots in UK	Proceeded Overseas France	England
4	15.2.17	2. A.I.F. D	ADMITTED FROM ENGLAND	13.2.17
5	20.2.17	do	PROCEEDED TO JOIN UNIT	15.2.17
6	24.2.17	9. B.213 27th Bn	TAKEN ON STRENGTH	20.2.17
7	3/3/17	1st Am. C.	Advanced Military Cross	21.2.17
	1/3/17	A.I.F. Order	Extract from London Gazette.	
		List No. 171.	For conspicuous gallantry to duty.	
			He took charge of a company, & by his	
			fine example enabled a successful attack	
			to be launched. He continued to command	
			throughout the day & was largely responsible for the capture	
			of 600 yards of the enemy trench	

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shoeing Smith, &c.

(908) Wc. 15012/518. 1,000,000. 1/76. P.P.Ltd. Forms B.103/2.

[P.T.O.]

Report	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c. during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received			
8	16/6/17	L.O. 27th Bn	To Paris on Leave	France
9	23/6/17	-do-	Rejoined from leave	16/6/17
10	30/6/17	-do-	Appointed Assistant Adjutant	18/6/17
11	4.8.17	-do-	To ANZAC SECTION on duty	24.7.17
12	4.8.17	-do-	Rejoined from detached	29.7.17
13	18.8.17	-do-	On leave to England	13.8.17
14	1.9.17	do	Rejoined ex leave	25.8.17
15	16.2.18	do	Proceeded on English Leave	12.2.18
16	22.2.18	do	Rejoined from English Leave	28.2.18
17	20/7/18	-do-	Detached to Aus Section, 8th Division	15/7/18
18	27/7/18	-do-	Rejoined Bn from detached	20/7/18
19	10/9/18	A.I.F. Order 381.	Appointed Temp Adjutant	26/8/18
			via Capt. G. D. Southon.	00.69.4504/1918.
20	2/9/18	L.O. 27th Bn.	To England on leave	17/9/18
21	12/10/18	-do-	Rejoined from English Leave	4/10/18
22	12/10/18	-do-	Proceeded to Chestnut College, England.	6/10/18
			for Education of Officers Course.	13.2.19
			Aut. D.O.F. A.I.F. 193/4. dated 25/9/18.	00.77.5223/1918.
23	10.10.18	A.I.F. Education Service	Lieut. Attached to A.I.F. Educ. Sch.	8.10.18
			Cambridge for course of Instrn.	12/10/18
24	3.11.18	A.I.F. Educ. Sch.	Lieut. In/out to Admin. Hdqrs	30.10.18
			for route of serv	29.10.18

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

AM

Base Records Office,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,

Melbourne, 28th May 1918

Dear Madam,

I forward herewith form of Commission issued by the British War Office covering the appointment of your son 2nd Lieutenant W. L. Davies, 22nd Battalion,

as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Regular Forces of the British Army, for retention against the time of his return from active service.

Will you kindly let me know whether same comes safely to hand by signing and returning the attached receipt form.

Mrs H. E. Davies,
78 1st Avenue
ST PETERS S.A.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. LEAN,

Major,

Officer i/c Base Records.

G.17224.

Transferred to

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

D

No. _____

Rank Lieut Name DAVIES. W. L. "MC"

Unit Gen. List

Casualty

Relg to Aust. per H.T. "König Friedrich August" emb 20/6/19. Other Reasons
C.F.B.L. 3324-6308 F. dtd Lon 28/6/19 Rec. B.R. 5/7/19

Returned to Australia per A. _____
Disembarked _____ M.D.

DATE	PURPORT.
18 JUL 1919	W.O.K. Advise returning to Australia. Form 101
21.9.19	Appointment terminated (W.O.)
24-3-20	WAR HISTORY INDEX



Biography

Early Life

William "Laurence" Davies was born on the 28th of September 1888 to William Davies Senior and Harriet Elizabeth (Nee Lee). Laurence as he was known, obviously to avoid confusion with his father, was one of six children. He had four brothers and one sister. When he was born, the family home was at 78 First Avenue East Adelaide (now St Peters). Little is known of his early schooling but it is likely he would have first attended East Adelaide Primary School. The family later moved to the Unley area but retained the original family home as well.

Secondary Education and Teacher Training

From his early teenage years Laurence Davies chose to become a teacher and enrolled at the Pupil Teachers' School located in Grote Street in the City (later became Adelaide High School in 1908 - South Australia's first public secondary school. At the time to become a registered teacher you first had two years as a trainee teacher at a Pupil Teacher School while also undertaking study for the Junior and Senior and Higher Public Examinations. You then completed two years further teacher training as a "junior teacher" at another school under the supervision of an experienced mentor.

Laurence was an excellent student and in January 1903 was reported as having passed The Junior Public Examination nine subjects with credits in Arithmetic & Algebra and Geometry. He finished 25th in the General Honours List. He was still only 14 years of age. That same year he completed his Senior Public Examination and in December was reported to have passed in six subjects with a credit in Algebra and finished 37th in the General honours List.

In the last two years of his teaching training he was appointed to Prince Alfred College where he would both teach and study for the Higher Public Examination and in 1905 he passed four subjects; German, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Physics.

He stayed on as a teacher at PAC and in 1908 completed a further subject in the Senior Public Examination curriculum, a second language (Greek), which gained him the necessary qualification to enter the Adelaide University Teachers' Training College which permitted him to study for a Bachelor of Arts Degree. At the time the Government Education Department had an arrangement with Adelaide University that allowed the most suitable candidates to study without them having to pay fees. The teacher then would be bonded to at a public school at the end of their course.

While at Prince Alfred College Laurence was a Cadet Officer having passed the Commonwealth Cadet Corps Examination in 1907.

The following results of examination of officers of the Commonwealth Cadet Corps for confirmation of probationary appointments as lieutenants are published for information:—R. R. Pavia, 172 marks; W. S. Coombe, 155; T. J. Hartley, 192; G. H. Oswald, 171; R. P. Healy, 177; T. W. Cole, 187; R. Barbour, 189; R. T. Hitchcox, 187; J. W. Blacket, 167; J. A. Melrose, 167; C. A. Richards, 180; R. J. Snell, 205; W. J. McCarthy, 196; H. D. Simpson, 183; W. R. Bayly, 228; W. R. Baker, 187; A. H. Posingham, 210; E. G. Mitton, 174; S. W. Coombe, 165; B. J. Gates, 218; J. Fairweather, 196; H. C. Nott, 200; H. G. Freeman, 224; A. J. Brooks, 202; W. L. Davies, 183; F. Adams, 183; H. H. Rofe, 188; A. L. Davidson, 171; J. L. Rossiter, 220; A. O. Whittington, 181; R. A. West, 212; J. T. Barnes, 214; L. H. Jeffries, 211; J. A. W. Kayser, 163; C. Bronner, 168; A. C. V. Melbourne, 154; W. J. Kinnish, 226—all passed.

He also played 1st XVIII football and Intercollegiate (v SPSC) Football and Cricket (1st & 2nd XI). He was awarded the 2nd XI batting award at the 1905 PAC Speech Day.



1904 PAC Intercollegiate Team - William Laurence Davies (middle row 2nd on right)

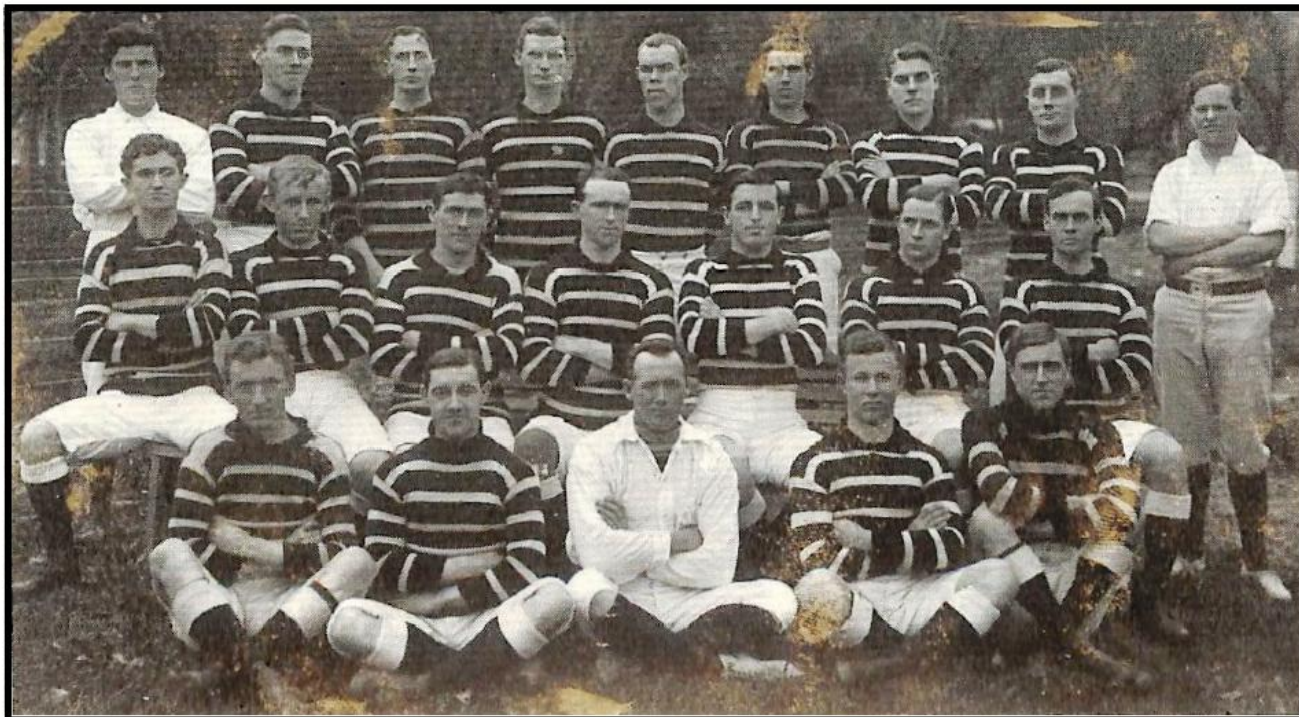
Adelaide University Study and Sports

Enrolling at Adelaide University in 1910 and studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree, it was natural for him to also undertake sporting activities and these included athletics, cricket and football. He first played for the Cricket Club at the end of the 1909/10 season and was a regular member of the A Grade Team until the 1912/13 season. He was a member of the team that played in the inaugural Intervarsity match against Sydney University in Sydney in December 1910.



After playing senior football with Sturt Football Club 2nd XVIII in 1908, he was recruited to play for University in 1910 & 1911. In the 1910 season he was awarded a Blue and after a fine season, which included the Intervarsity match against the Melbourne University team that at the time was playing in the senior Victorian Football League competition.

1910 INTER-VARSITY TEAM



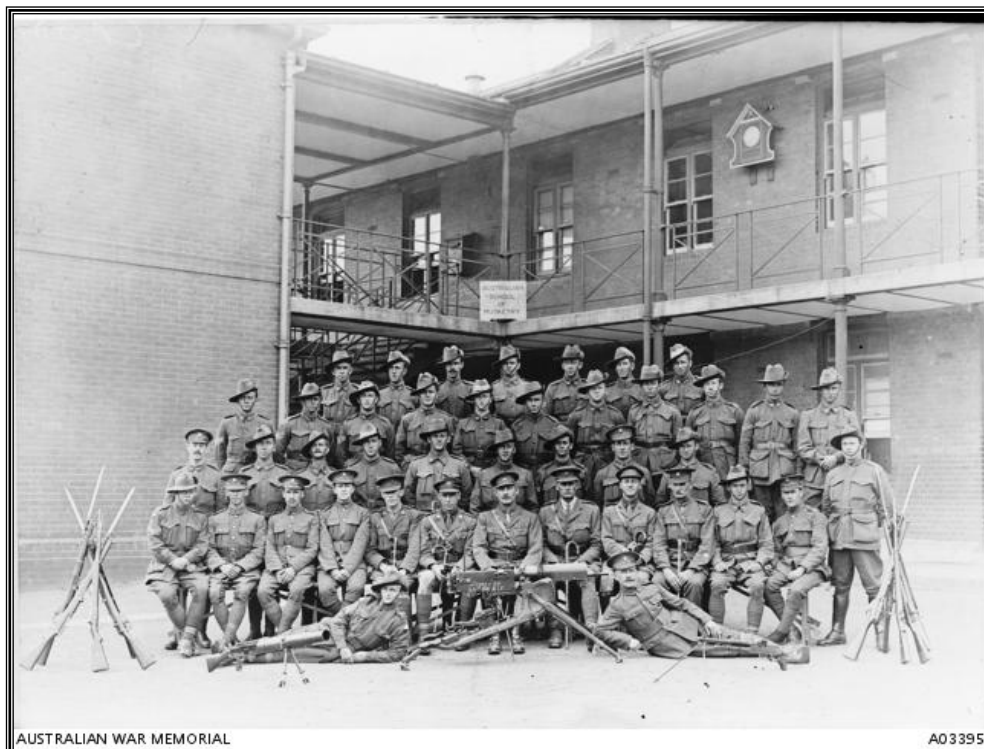
BACK ROW: Boundary Umpire, H.B. Willmore, S.W. Matters, S.W. Jeffries, J.W. Blacket, L.A. Hayward, A.C. Wilton, L.H. Haslam, Boundary Umpire.
MIDDLE ROW: L.W. Davies, O.J. Murphy, E.B. Jones (Vice-Captain), H.W.D. Stoddart (Captain), J.W. Londrigan, C.F. Drew, W.W. Cooper.
FRONT ROW: K.A. McCarthy, F.S. Smith, W. Plunkett (Central Umpire), F.N. Le Messurier, K.N. Steele.

Laurence completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1914 and in early 1915 was appointed to North Adelaide Public School in Tynte Street. His teaching career was then brought to a halt when in August 1915 he chose to enlist and serve his country. Two of his younger brothers George and John had chosen to enlist earlier and this would have impacted on Laurence's decision. A third brother Howard enlisted six months after Laurence. The only brother not to serve was Theodore for reasons that will be clear later.



War Service, the Military Cross and Family Loss

Laurence Davies enlisted on the 7th of August 1915 and was assigned to the AIF 27th Battalion 13th Reinforcements. After six months of officer training he eventually embarked for overseas service on the 27th of June 1916 and arrived at Plymouth England on the 25th of August 1916. On arrival he would have learned that his brother George Francis Davies had been killed in action only 17 days earlier. This sad news may have delayed his deployment to the front and he remained in England undertaking further training and passed 1st Class at the Australian School of Musketry.



Australian School of Musketry - Tidworth, Wiltshire, England.

After completing his training he was then sent to France and within a week of joining his Unit he was engaged in an action near Warlencourt. This was his first ever time under fire and for his gallantry shown was awarded the Military Cross.

7th Aust. Inf.	2nd Aust. 1st A & N ZA C 11/3/17	Army Form W.3121 No:
Action for which Commended		Recommended by Honour or Reward.
27th Bn. Lt. William Lawrence DAVIES.	For conspicuous gallantry in action near WARLENCOURT on 2/8/17. This Officer was in charge of a carrying party (bombs). On reaching MALT TRENCH he found that all the Officers of the assaulting Company were out of action and that the situation was critical. He took charge and by his example and gallantry enabled the second and successful attack to be launched. He continued to command throughout the day and it was largely due to his courage and determination that 600 yards of trench and 28 prisoners were taken. This Officer arrived in FRANCE less than a week before March 2nd and has never previously been under fire.	G.O.C. 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. M.C.
(Sgd). N.M.SMYTH M.C.		3732.

In a tragic twist of fate, a few days after this action and on the date of the recommendation 11/3/17, another of his younger brothers, John Newton Davies, was killed in action. For the rest of the War Laurence saw little action after being appointed as an Assistant and Temporary Adjutant to various commanding officers. In October 1918 he was transferred to an officer training school at Cheshunt College England and shortly after off to Cambridge and the AIF

Education Services Training School. The War over, he remained in England for some time and returned to Australia in June 1919.

Family and Teaching Career

Soon after returning from Europe on the 23rd of December 1919, Laurence Davies married Edith Florence Catt. The marriage lasted 42 years (Laurence's Death) and produced three children (two sons and a daughter).

In 1920 Laurence completed another language subject (French) at Adelaide University and soon returned to teaching and was appointed to a position at Prince Alfred College. Although teaching a variety of subjects during his career he was to later become the Senior English Master. He also had an important role (as Major W. L. Davies) in the organisation and operation of the School Cadet Corps.

Also teaching at Prince Alfred College was Clive Davies (not closely related) who was a member of the first Adelaide University Cricket Club team when they entered the SACA - A Grade competition in 1908/09. Although Laurence played mainly B Grade and Clive A Grade they would have got to know each other well during the seasons 1909/10 - 1912/13 and probably played some A Grade matches together. Clive "Bogga" Davies was later to coach the Adelaide University Cricket Team to its first SACA - A Grade Premiership in the 1925/26 season when the team was captained by PAC old scholar Douglas McKay. The team also included a number of other old PAC boys who all would have been coached at times by the two teachers. Both Laurence and Clive were always very involved with sport at the school, but were best known for their coaching of the cricket teams. Laurence also coached football teams and assisted in the organisation of athletics carnivals. Both their involvement in the PAC sporting activities lasted decades.

Jeff Rogers, a PAC old scholar from the 1940's/1950's who was taught by Laurence and later was a captain of the AUCC - A Grade team, commented that they were universally admired by the students and respected by the other staff. Clive Davies became a rather portly man after giving up playing sport while Laurence was always lean. The students referred to them as "Big Bogga" and "Little Bogga".



"Little Bogga" back row left & "Big Bogga" back row right

Laurence's teaching career was interrupted at the outbreak of World War II when in 1941, as a member of the Citizens Military Forces; he was drafted into a Senior Ordnance position in the Australian Army. His important role with the Cadet Corps at that time was in part taken over by another young teacher and former student of his, Chester Bennett (who would later play, captain and coach the Adelaide University Cricket Team). Davies was welcomed back to Price Alfred College at the end of the war in 1945. He continued his good service to the school until his retirement at the end of the 1954 school year.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)
Saturday 18 December 1954, page 9

"Mr. W. L. Davies retires from the staff after almost thirty six years of devoted service, not only in the class room, but in all sides of school work. An Old Boy of the School, he joined the staff on his return from the First World War, in which he had served with distinction. Prince Alfred College has been fortunate in the masters who have retired after giving many years of outstanding service, and Mr. Davies takes his place worthily with these men. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement and trust that Mrs. Davies and he enjoy their trip abroad in 1955.

One of his sons, Donald Laurence Davies, who also had attended Prince Alfred College, served in the Royal Australian Air Force in WW1 rising to the rank of Flight Sergeant. After the War Donald enrolled at Adelaide University to study engineering. He also continued the family tradition playing both cricket and football for the Blacks.

INTER-UNIVERSITY CRICKET

ADELAIDE — 1949

ADELAIDE TEAM



FRANK ROASE
STUDIO

187 HUTT STREET
ADELAIDE.

Back Row: A. G. Evens, G. G. Gubbins, S. G. Haynes, I. S. Hamilton, K. T. O'Loughlin.

Front Row: D. L. Davies, L. M. Smart, C. Millard (Capt.), Prof. G. V. Portus (President), J. W. Wilkin (Vice-Capt.), A. L. Dowding, D. M. Bednall.

Death

William Laurence Davies died 30th May 1961 aged 61 and was survived by his wife Edith who passed away in 1984 at the age of 93.

.....

Profile Prepared by: Rob O'Shannassy - AUFC/AUCC ANZAC Memorial Committee

Sources and Acknowledgements:

- Copies of Reports and Results: Trove (Digitised newspapers and More): National Library of Australia
- Adelaide University Archives - Historical digital Images
- National Archives of Australia - WW1 digital Service Records
- The AIF Project (University of NSW Canberra) - Summary of Service
- World War I Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians - <http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/>
- Adelaide University Cricket Club Team Photo Collection
- Tony Aldous - Prince Alfred College Archives
- Jeff Rogers - PAC Student, AUCC Player and Captain