



Lieut. Henry Bedford Duce



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1912/13 (B Grade)

Football Club: 1913 (B & A Grade)

Student: Arts and Science (Teacher)

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 Henry Bedford Duce. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=84419>



Henry Bedford DUCE

Place of birth	London England
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Teacher
Address	Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	28
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs Edith Rosa Duce, 56 Alexander Road, Highbury, London N, England
Enlistment date	1 November 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	32nd Battalion, 11th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/49/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A19 <i>Afric</i> on 7 November 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	32nd Battalion
Fate	Discharged 15 May 1919

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3523739>

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. B8848 Name DUCE Henry Bedford
Unit 2nd Depot Bn. (Rec'd Commission)
Joined on 1. 11. 15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Henry Bedford Duce
2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of London in the County of England
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... WB
4. What is your age? ... 27 1/2 yrs.
5. What is your trade or calling? ... Schoolteacher
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... Yes (1 child)
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Wife Mrs. Edith Rosa Duce School House Long Plain Nth Australia
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No The Plains
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 Portsmouth Road
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 ... see first sheet
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

I, Henry Bedford Duce 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 4th Oct 1915 Henry B Duce
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.

wo 5279

Biography

Early Life

Henry Bedford Duce was born on 17 November 1887 in London, the son of Harry Walker Duce and Ann Elizabeth (Lillian) Duce (nee Rayward). Henry was baptised on the 25th September 1889 at Upper Holloway St Paul, London, England.

Harry Walker Duce was a trained Schoolmaster and in 1891 (England Census) the family lived at 2 Gallia Rd, Highbury, North London and in 1901 they lived at 252 Blackstock Road, Highbury.

Henry's siblings were Frederick Raymond (1884), Allan Russel (1885-1891), Marguerite (1890), Reginald Harrison (1891) and Dora (1892).

1891 Census

207	1	Harry W. Duce	Head	M	44	Schoolmaster	Stoke Newington
		Lillian	Wife	F	42		Hall
		Frederick	Son	M	7		Upper Holloway
		Allan	Son	M	5		St Paul
		Henry	Son	M	4		St Paul
		Marguerite	Daughter	F	1		St Paul
		Reginald	Son	M	0		St Paul
		Dora	Daughter	F	0		St Paul
		Raymond	Son	M	0		St Paul

1901 Census

252	2	H. W. Duce	Head	M	46	Working on the L.S.B.	Stoke Newington
		Lillian	Wife	F	44		Stoke Newington
		Frederick B.	Son	M	17	Working on the L.S.B.	Stoke Newington
		Henry B.	Son	M	13		Stoke Newington
		Marguerite	Daughter	F	11		Stoke Newington
		Reginald	Son	M	10		Stoke Newington
		Dora	Daughter	F	8		Stoke Newington

Schooling

On the 27th October 1897, aged 9 years, Henry commenced at Oldfield Road School (which became Daniel Defoe Secondary School in 1951), Stoke Newington, London.

Early Career

At some stage Henry spent two years in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Territorial Force (part time volunteers).

Like his father, Harry, and his brother, Frederick, Henry trained to be a school master.

In 1911, Harry and Frederick were employed as school masters by the London City Council (LCC) and Henry (aged 22) was a schoolmaster employed by the Metropolitan Asylum Board. The 1911 census also shows that Henry's younger sister, Dora, was a student teacher with the LCC.

Harry, Lillian, Frederick, Henry and Dora were living at 13 Lucerne Rd, Highbury Pk, London when the 1911 census was undertaken.

1911 – Census of England and Wales

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedule 37
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION at Census and last year and upwards		BIRTHPLACE of every parent	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Particulars	Industry or Service with which worker is connected	Place of Birth			
1. Harry Walter Duce	Head	50	Married	28 7 5 2	L.B.C. Schoolmaster	L.B.C.	New York, La. British		
2. Lillian Duce	Wife	47	Married				Sheff	1831	English
3. Frederick Raymond Duce	Son	26	Single		L.B.C. Schoolmaster	L.B.C.	Paddington, London by birth		
4. Henry Bedford Duce	Son	22	Single		Schoolmaster	L.B.C.	Upper Holloway, London (all of us)		
5. Rosa Duce	Daughter	18	Single		Student Teacher	L.B.C.	Highbury, London		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Halls, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

Rooms: 3 2 5

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *A. W. Duce*

Postal Address: 13 Lucerne Rd. Highbury Pk. N.

Life in South Australia

In about 1912 Henry migrated to Adelaide, Australia. In December 1912, Henry was appointed a temporary Assistant at the Thebarton School, Adelaide. He joined the League of the Empire (a British organisation with branches throughout the British Empire, with the aim of inculcating patriotic feelings) by May 1913.

Henry studied Arts & Science as a non graduating student (Teacher) at the University of Adelaide in 1913 and 1914.

On the 26th July 1913, Henry married Edith Rosa Powell, the daughter of Samuel Powell of London, at St Matthew's Church, Norwood, SA. The couple then lived at 'Wistanton', Kensington Road, Rose Park.



In January 1914, Henry was appointed an Assistant at the Wellington Road School, Trinity Gardens.

On the 21st May 1914, Henry and Edith's son, Rowland Powell Duce was born.

Adelaide University Sport

Cricket

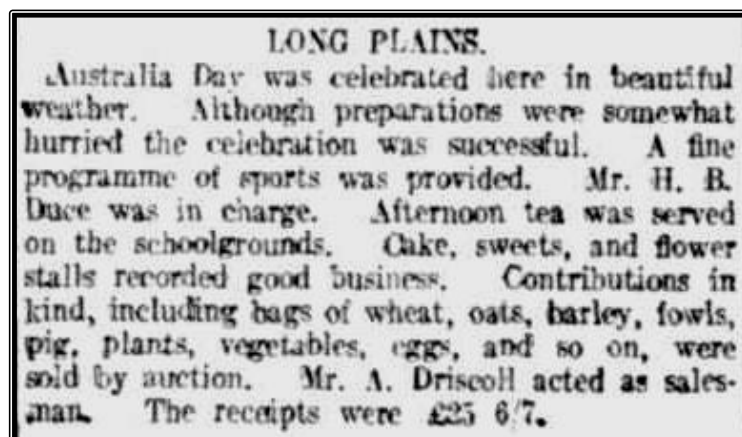
Henry played B Grade cricket for the Adelaide University Cricket Club in the 1912/1913 season.

Football

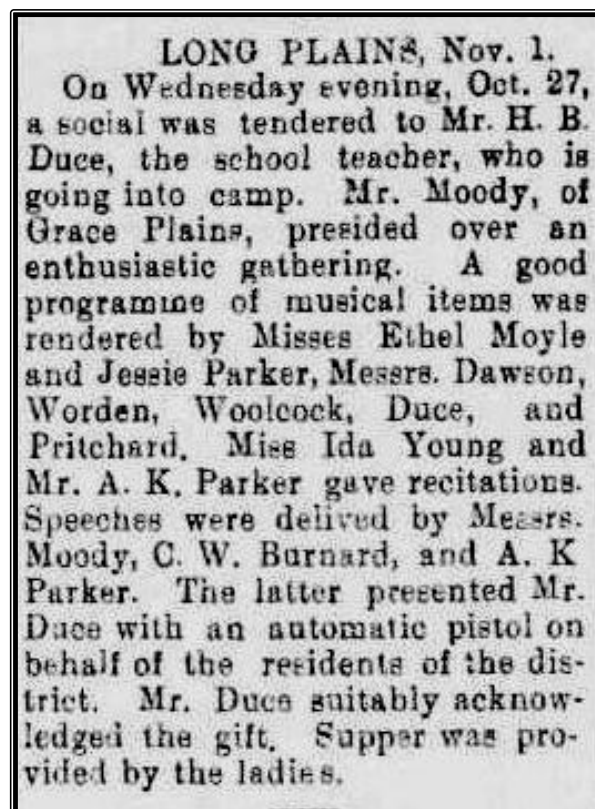
Henry played football for the Adelaide University Football Club in 1913, progressing from the B Grade to the A Grade in that year.

Head Teacher

In March 1915 Henry was appointed Head Teacher at the Long Plains School (73 kms north of Adelaide). He took up the position on the 12th April 1915. In August 1915 he was in charge of the Australia Day celebrations at Long Plains. Henry's wife, Edith, was appointed the teacher of sewing at the Long Plains School in August 1915.



On the 27th October 1915, Henry and Edith were given a farewell from Long Plains, as Henry had enlisted.



World War I

Henry enlisted in the AIF on the 1st November 1915. He was 27 years old, 6' and weighed 177lbs. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. His trade on enlistment was classified as a School Teacher. Edith moved from the School House, Long Plains to 'The Olives', Portrush Road, Glen Osmond, SA.

Henry commenced at Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) School on the 1st January 1916 and was promoted to Sergeant on the 16th June 1916. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 25 July 1916 and slated as a member of the 11th Reinforcements for the 32rd Battalion.



April 1916 – HB Duce



HB Duce

In October 1916 Henry was the officer commanding the training centre and he was at Mount Gambier training recruits.

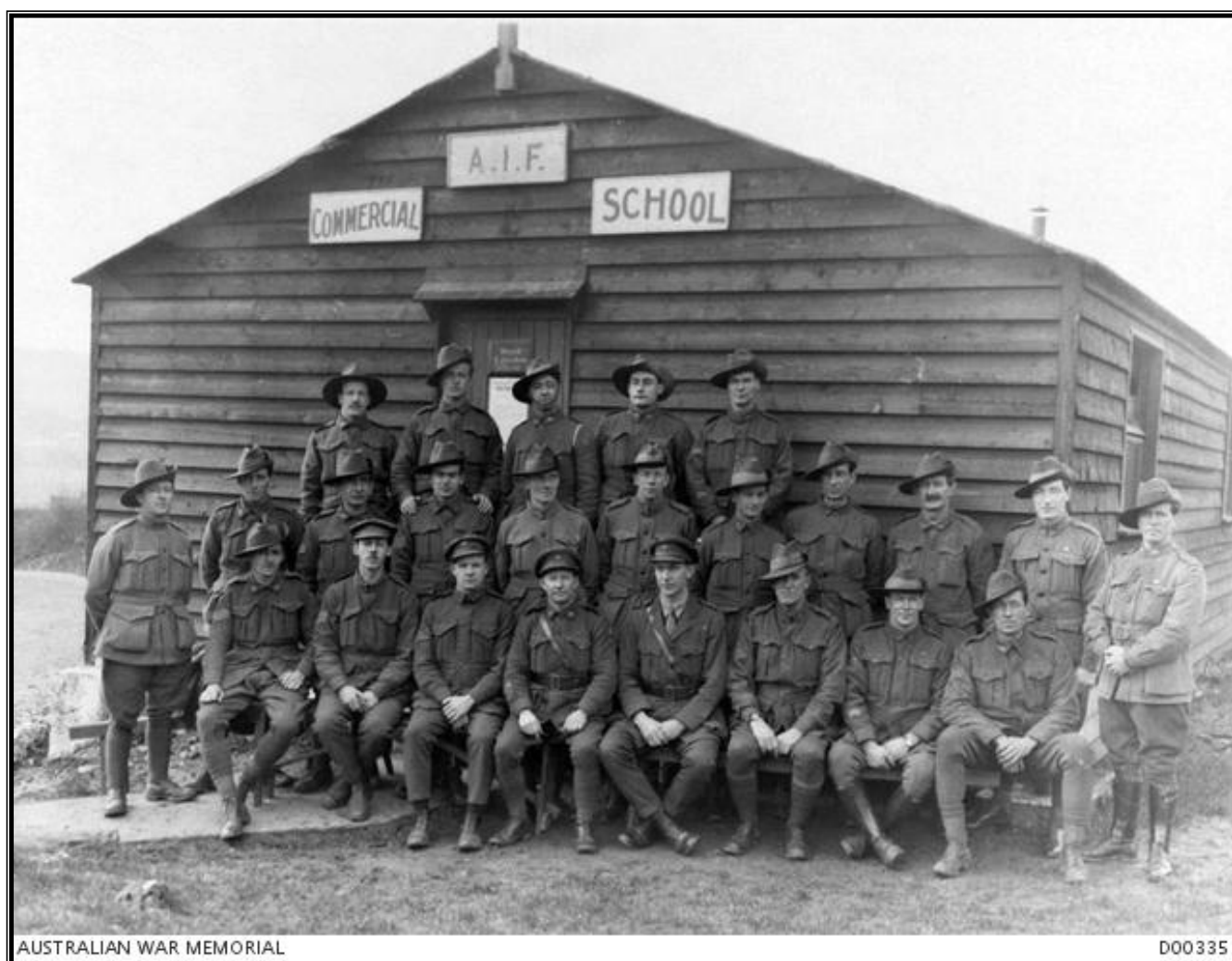
Lieut. H. B. Duce, officer commanding the training centre, came from the city with the Medical Board. He is responsible for the training of the men, and will remain here for a few weeks. The other officers who are with him are Bgts. Kavanagh and P. P. Smith both from the training centres of the A.I.F.

Henry embarked at Adelaide for overseas on the 7th November 1916 aboard the *Afric*. He joined the 32nd Battalion on 8 May 1917. Henry did not take long to get amongst the action as 3 days later on 11 May 1917 he was wounded with gunshot wounds to the shoulder and scrotum and repatriated to hospital back in England.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 10th June 1917. It was not until March 1918 that he was again fit for service and he re-joined his unit in France on 12th April 1918. Again his luck did not hold as he was wounded again 12 days later on 24th April 1918 during the 13th and 15th Brigades famous successful attack on Villers Bretonneux. He was this time treated in the field. He was wounded again on 20th June 1918 with a gunshot wound to the leg and again repatriated back to England.

After recovering he was seconded to the AIF Education School at Cambridge.

**Group portrait of the instruction staff of the Educational Unit at Westham Camp
No. 2 Australian Command Depot.**



Lieutenant H. B. Duce Front Row – Fifth from Left

Back row (left to right): 5165 Corporal (Cpl) E. Satchell, librarian, 7031 Sapper (Spr) J. Cunningham, carpentry instructor; 79958 Driver G. R. Chambers, motor driver assistant, 6019 Cpl H. F. C. Gelly, French instructor; 15734 Cpl W. A. Steel, turner and fitter instructor.

Middle row: 6155 Private (Pte) J. Taylor, office orderly; 264 Spr Reuben Edward Harman (Nominal Roll shows Harmen), clerk; 2392 Sergeant (Sgt) J. Cummings (Nominal Roll shows John Cumming), carpentry instructor; 9442 Sgt W. H. Chrystie, architectural instructor; Sgt F. E. Glauert, visiting lecturer; 5757 Cpl C. V. Howard, repatriation and demobilisation department; 2551 Sgt E. J. A. Beresford, commercial instructor; 50908 Pte F. B. Mullins, assistant librarian; 4800 Cpl T. R. Stafford, telegraph instructor; 2237 Cpl H. R. Hutchings, bookkeeping instructor; 1326 Cpl G. Kiernan, motor driver instructor.

Front row (sitting): 2569 Sgt G. C. Beresford, orderly room sergeant; 7066 Sgt E. S. Rutledge, electrical instructor; 10384 Sgt T. J. Wood, instructor in charge motor school; 606 Warrant Officer A. Boxall-Chapman, assistant to Depot Education Officer;

Lieutenant H. B. Duce, Depot Education Officer; 7043 Sgt C. J. L. Street, general sub instructor; 9842 Sgt Hilton Arthur Clothier MM, woolclassing instructor; 7185 Sgt J. C. Benson, lecturer motor engineering.

**Group portrait of Depot Commandant, officers and administrative staff at the AIF camp
No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Westham.**



HB Duce – Back Row – Far Left

***Back row (left to right): Lieutenant (Lt) H B Duce, Education Service; Lt G Payne, AASC; Lt J Holmberg, 38th Battalion (Bn).
Middle row: Depot Sergeant Major W Whitworth, 17th Battery; Captain (Capt) G C Marshall, AAMC; Lt N L McKinley, 58th Bn; Capt George King MBE, Permanent Supernumerary List (PSL); Capt C R Collins, General List; Lt T Sharwood, AMTS; Lt A F Hopkins, PSL; Company Sergeant Major A B McMillan, 1st Division Signal Company.
Front row: Capt G Frawley, 24th Bn; Capt J McD Hutchens, 32nd Bn; Lieutenant Colonel L O Betts CBE, AAMC; Colonel H B Collett CMG DSO VD, General List; Major E F Playford, PSL; Capt H E Rowell, PSL.***

Henry resigned his appointment in the AIF on 15th May 1919 to enable him to stay in England where he believed there would be better long term prospects for him and his family.

Edith was living at 37 Penzance Street Glenelg in 1919.

Post WWI

After his discharge, Henry took up a position as the Welfare and Educational Superintendent with General Electric Ltd.

Edith (aged 31) and Rowland (aged 5) departed Australia via Sydney and travelled via Melbourne; Durban and Cape Town to London onboard the 'Beltana', arriving on the 20th October 1919.

ESTABLISHMENT CONTROLLED UNDER MUNITIONS OF WAR ACT, 1915.

Contractors to H.M. Admiralty, India Office, War Office,
G.P.O. and the Leading Home & Foreign Railways.

No. 2. O.D.O.R.
No. 6539/242

Telephone
3600 LONDON WALL.
(20 LINES)
Telegrams:
ELECTRICITY, CENT, LONDON.



HEAD OFFICES

67, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, E.C.

Cable Address:
POLYPHASE, LONDON.

Codes Used:
A.B.C.V., A.I., LIEBERS,
WESTERN UNION,
STEVENS ENGINEERING & PRIVATE.

Ref.
HW/H.

6th February 1919.

Lieut. Henry B. Duce.
Senior Educational Officer.
No. 2 Australian Command Depot.
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm my interview with you and shall be glad if you can arrange to secure your discharge in order to begin here on or about April 1st next as Welfare and Educational Superintendent of our Staff. The Salary as arranged will commence at £400 per annum.

Please advise me immediately you are in a position to do so.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Wells
SECRETARY.

On the 10th February 1921, Henry joined the United Grand Lodge of England (Freemason Membership Registers England, 1751-1921).

Henry and Edith's marriage had broken down and Edith filed for a divorce in 1923. The 1925 London, England Electoral Register records Henry as living with his parents at 56 Aberdeen Road, Highbury East.

Henry remarried in September 1927 to Ella Amy Valentine Brewer (b 28 Mar 1897), the daughter of Frederick C Brewer and Ellen M Brewer. The couple were married in the district of Islington, London.

Henry and Ella were living in London in 1928 but by 1929 when their first child, Joan Duce, was born, they were living at Glamorganshire, Wales. The British Phone Books for 1929-1939 show “Henry B Duce, Endsleigh Up Waterloo Rd, Cardiff, phone 7504.” Henry and Ella’s second daughter, Diana Mary Cameron Duce was born in 1931. Tragically, in 1932, Joan Duce passed away aged 3 years. On the 12th March 1934, the couple’s third daughter, Anne Duce was born.

On the 6th March 1935, Henry’s mother, Ann Elizabeth (Lillian) Duce (nee Rayward) passed away, aged 71 years.

In 1939 Henry and Ella were living at Fairways, Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, Wales and Henry was an Assistant District ... (full title is obscured), with the General Electric Co. Henry’s son Rowland was living with his mother, Edith, in Kensington, London, England where Edith was working as a Private Secretary to a Managing Director.

WWII

British Phone Books show that Henry was at Thingehill Ely Rd, Llandaff, phone 596 in 1941 and Fairways The Leys, St. Athan, phone 99 (15 miles from Cardiff) from 1943-1946.

Henry was 51 years old at the outbreak of WWII. On the assumption that Henry was still employed by GEC during WWII, he would have assisted in the war effort as GEC was a major supplier to the military of electrical and engineering products.

On the 12th November 1940, during the period known as ‘The Blitz’, Henry’s former wife, Edith Rosa Duce, became one of the thousands of ‘civilian war dead’ when she was killed while sheltering in the Sloane Square Station (London Underground). She was aged 53 and was buried in the Chelsea Metropolitan Borough.

Post WWII

British Phone Books show that Henry was at 8 Southcourt Road, Cardiff, phone 45197 in 1950 and at Torrens Heol Don, Whitchurch, phone 579 (part of Cardiff) from 1951 to 1961.

Henry’s father, Harry Walker Duce passed away on the 24th January 1954. He had been living at 32 Clarence Road, Bowes Park, London, England.

Death

Henry Bedford Duce passed away in about June 1969, aged 81 years. Prior to his death he was living in Glamorganshire, Wales.

Ella Amy Valentine Duce passed away in about December 1973, aged 75. Prior to her death she was living in Glamorganshire, Wales.

Legacy

Rowland Powell Duce was living at Chelsea, London in 1948 and at Hendon, London in 1955. He became an engineering technical assistant. In late 1957, Rowland married Patricia A I Brietzche at Harrow, Middlesex. He died aged 89 in about February 2004 in the county of East Sussex.

Sources and Acknowledgments

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

RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/309933>

The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3523739>

Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C387819>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C387817>

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 – Henry Bedford Duce)

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/229309500?q&versionId=252080142>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/229309498?q&versionId=252080140>

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

Ancestry.com.au

Second to None: A memorial History of the 32nd Battalion A.I.F 1915-1919: R.R. Freeman, Peacock Publications, 2006

P 32 – photography of HB Duce

http://mallala.nowandthen.net.au/Long_Plains_School

Grave Secrets <http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/dr---dy.html>

Portrait of HB Duce provided to Grave Secrets by Beth Page

The National Archives (UK) <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C8035010>

Edith

<https://www.ancientfaces.com/person/edith-rosa-duce/163952655>

London Underground at War by Nick Cooper

Rowland

https://www.myheritage.com/names/rowland_duce

[www.haine.org.uk/toms_wills/wills_grantees.php?parish=London%20\(SW-inner\)](http://www.haine.org.uk/toms_wills/wills_grantees.php?parish=London%20(SW-inner))

Kyn Beilby AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher