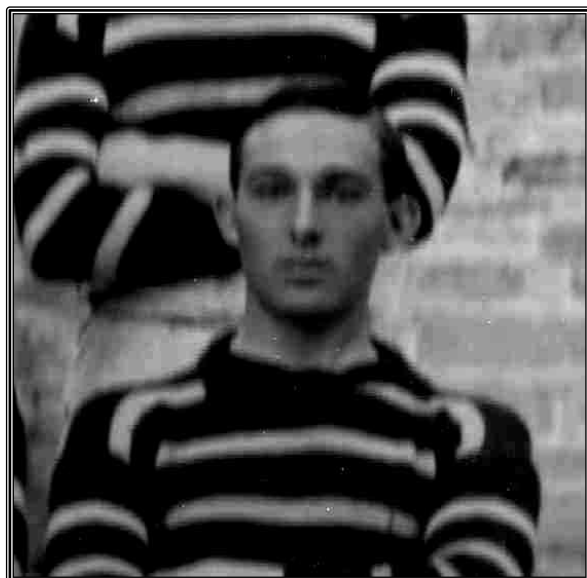




Lieut. Evan Morecott Holder

Recommended for Military Cross



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: Intervarsity 1907 & 1908

Degrees obtained B.Sc. (1909), B.E. (1913)

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 Evan Morecott Holder. 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=140649>



Evan Morecott HOLDER

Regimental number	332
Place of birth	Burra South Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Mining engineer and surveyor
Address	Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	27
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs J M Holder, Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia
Enlistment date	15 February 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	12 February 1915
Rank on enlistment	Corporal
Unit name	27th Battalion, B Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/44/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A2 <i>Geelong</i> on 31 May 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	2nd Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	2nd Pioneer Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Military Cross For excellent work making reconnaissance and leading parties at night. Recommendation date: 20 May 1917
Fate	Returned to Australia 21 July 1918

RSL Virtual Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/334940>

HOLDER, Evan Morecott

Service Number: 332

Last Rank: Corporal

Last Unit: [27th Infantry Battalion](#)


World War 1 Service

31 May 1915: Embarked Corporal, SN 332, [27th Infantry Battalion](#), HMAT Geelong, Adelaide [Report](#)

31 May 1915: Involvement Corporal, SN 332, [27th Infantry Battalion](#)

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5844255>

AUSTRALIAN  **MILITARY FORCES.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.

No. 332 Name HOWDER Evan Moorecott
Unit Engineers
Joined on 15. 2. 15.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Evan Moorecott Holder
2. In the Parish of ... in or
near the Town of Young
in the County Burrumbidgee
3. 18/3
4. 27 years
5. Working Eng. Surveyor
6. No
7. No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...
Mother, Mrs Julia Holder
Sydenham Road
Worwood Creek
9. No
10. No
11. No
12. Yes
13. No
14. No

14. (For married men and widowers with children)—
Do you understand that no Separation Allowance
will be issued to you either before or after
embarkation during your term of service?

Evan Moorecott Holder 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
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 15/2/15 Evan M. Holder
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.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1617784/>

Rank: Lieutenant

Unit: 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion

Conflict / Operation: First World War, 1914-1918

Recommendation: Military Cross

Date of recommendation: 20 May 1917

Schedule No. (to be left blank)		Unit	Regt. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
2nd AUSTRALIAN Pioneer Battalion				2/LIEUT. REGINALD ALFRED SMITH	During attack on 4th division of gais in Hindenburg line from 3 rd to 8 th May he did excellent work. On 3 rd he led his men through heavy barbed wire carrying ammunition to front captured lines. On night 7/8 he was in charge of party that captured strong post at 0.12 a.m. 4 th May A.G. 2. In spite of discouraging casualties he kept the men working well & completed task to satisfaction of G.O.C. in the line.	7th Division 2d Coy C/O 2nd Aust Pioneer Bn	M.C	
				LIEUT EVAN MORECOTT HOLDER	During operations 3 rd to 8 th May he made several reconnaissances of forward work, laid out the tasks and led parties on to them at night. He had to take the men through severe barbed wire several times and always led them with discretion and coolness that did much to minimise loss and keep the men in good heart.		M.C	

Action for which commended

"During Operations 3rd- 8th May he made several reconnaissance of forward work, hand out the tasks and led parties on to them at night. He had to take the men through severe barrages several times and always led them with discretion and coolness that did much to minimise loss and keep the men in good heart."

Biography

Early Life

Evan Morecott Holder was born on 2nd February 1888, the second son and fifth child son of Frederick William Holder and Julia Maria Stephens of Koorunga in the Burra District. Evan's father, (later to become Sir William), was twice the Premier of South Australia and was the first Speaker of the House of Representatives. Later the family moved to 50 Sydenham Road, Norwood.

Schooling

In 1897 Evan was at the Sturt Street School and won a prize for attendance. In 1901, when still at the Sturt Street School, Evan passed his Preliminary Examinations and won an Exhibition to all schools. From 1902 to 1904 Evan attended Adelaide High School (Pupil Teacher School), passing Junior Examinations in 1902, Senior Examinations in 1903 and Higher Examinations in 1904. In 1905 Evan transferred to Prince Alfred's College where he passed his Higher Examinations and appeared on the Special Honours List.

Higher Education

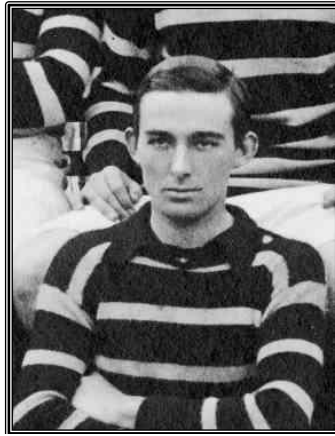
Evan commenced studying for a Bachelor of Science at the Adelaide University in 1906. In addition to passing subjects toward his BSc in 1906, Evan also passed Intermediate Freehand at the Arts Examinations and Building Construction at the School of Mines. Evan's Bachelor of Science was conferred in December 1909. In 1911 Evan was conferred with a Fellowship in the Department of Mining from the School of Mines. In February 1906 he won a scholarship to the School of Mines. And in December 1913 Evan surrendered his B Sc for Bachelor of Engineering.

Adelaide University Sport

Football – Evan played football for the Adelaide University in the Adelaide and Suburban Association and in a match against Geelong College in 1907. Evan was a member of the Adelaide University 1907 and 1908 Intersvarsity Football teams. His younger brother Sydney Ernest Holder was a reserve for the 1908 Intersvarsity match.



EM Holder – Front Row – Second from Left



"The Inter-University Contest." *The Express and Telegraph* (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) 14 August 1908: 1 (4 o'clock).
 Web. 24 May 2017 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article208830594>

1908 Intervarsity Football Team



H. Krischock, photo

THE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM.

which went to Victoria to play a match to-day against Melbourne University.

Back Row (standing): A. C. Wilton, E. B. Jones, E. L. Baylis, D. R. Cowan, R. J. Rudall, H. W. D. Stoddart.

Middle Row (standing) W. B. Angwin, J. Jona, C. E. Dolling, S. W. Jeffries, G. A. Harvey, S. D. Ronald.

Front Row (sitting): E. M. Holder, M. H. Moyes, W. A. V. Drew, T. H. Donnelly, C. F. Drew, S. G. L. Catchlove.

1908 Intervarsity Football Team



E.M Holder – Row seated on chairs – Far Right



Tennis— Evan played Tennis for the University from 1907 to at least October 1910. The absence of initials in the newspaper makes it hard to distinguish between Evan and brother, Sydney, who were both at the University from 1908 to 1913. Evan was on the committee of the Adelaide University Lawn Tennis Club in 1909. Evan also competed in the SA Lawn Tennis Association Annual Tournament in March 1907 where he was beaten in the Semi-Finals of the Men's Doubles Handicap event.

Early Career

After graduation Evan moved to Broken Hill to take up the role of Second Surveyor with the Sulphide Corporation Central Mine.

World War I

Evan enlisted on 15th February 1915. He was described as 5'7", 140 lbs with a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. His occupation was listed as Mining Engineer & Surveyor. He embarked on the 31st May 1915. Evan served at

Gallipoli and in Egypt, England, Belgium and France. He was promoted to Corporal May 1915, Sergeant in March 1916, 2nd Lieutenant on 23rd June 1916 and to Lieutenant on 5th Jan 1917. Evan returned to Australia on the 21st July 1918. In just over three years of overseas service Evan was hospitalised for 11 months suffering from illnesses including frostbite, trench feet, appendicitis, laryngitis and several bouts of influenza. Evan wrote back to his manager at the Central Mine, describing his experiences at Gallipoli.

"BROKEN HILL SOLDIERS" *Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954)* 12 December 1915: 2. Web. 28 May 2017
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45380267>

BROKEN HILL SOLDIERS

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

The following are extracts copied from letters sent to residents in Broken Hill by their friends who are on active service with the Australian Imperial Forces abroad:—

PRIVATE E. M. HOLDER.

Private E. M. Holder, who was second surveyor at the Central mine prior to his enlistment and departure with the 27th Battalion, A.I.F., writes as follows from Gallipoli on October 20 to Mr. James Hebbard (manager):—

"A few lines of remembrance from the peninsula, where your doings in Broken Hill are still of interest, and are talked over when several of us get together, with much appreciation and a little of 'home sickness' when the mails come along with fresh news. It must have been a grand day for Broken Hill in your celebrations of Australia Day. All the letters were very glowing in their description of the efforts put forward by everyone, and the success achieved is very gratifying. I saw a good photo of the scene at the oval with the Citizen Forces of Broken Hill on parade. I was glad to see how well the Central mine came out in the procession. Truly the day will be long remembered in Broken Hill. I am sorry since to hear the state of affairs with regard to work. Surely at this time people should realise the importance of working together for all they are worth, without letting their little private troubles hinder the production of material necessary to provide against our common enemy, who threatens so imminently all that we value and hold dear. Still, I hope the differences have been quickly settled before this reaches you. By that time, unless you hear of our advance to some other position, we will be fairly comfortably housed in winter quarters, which at present are in a state of preparation out of sandbags and timber, which, by the way, is very scarce hereabouts except in the small scrubby growth which covers the hills and is disappearing fast for use as firewood.

"The country is made up, so far as we can see, of huge ridges and gullies, or 'deres,' as the Turk call them. We

are encamped on the slope of one of these ridges, and hold the crest facing the enemy on a hill which towers above us at no great distance. Our stores and supplies have to be brought up from the beach along a very steep winding track protected from the enemy's fire from a high ridge, and a little above the watercourse in the bottom of the dere. In the summer this watercourse has been the main track, and with protection at exposed places by sandbag barricades has been fairly safe. In the winter this will become impassable, and as a new road has been made higher up on the side of the dere, still very steep and winding in and out to conform to the shape of the country for protection against rifle fire. Mules are the chief means of transport, and they are wonderful at this class of work. They were brought from India, and have Indians in charge of them. Early every morning a mule train can be seen winding along the track, one Indian leading, then three mules linked to the other, in single file, then another Indian leading his three mules, and so on. They bring up the water first, then the stores. You will be pleased to hear that my training at the Central mine is standing me in good stead here, as I am very much occupied with survey work, getting plans of trenches and contours, using the prismatic compass, scale, and soft pencil, a piece of old rubber shoe sole, a biscuit box for a drawing board, and pieces of bachelor buttons for drawing pins. We have a limited quantity of good drawing paper and tracing cloth, and a very limited amount of Indian ink. About 1/2 in. depth in a small pill bottle had to do one fair-sized tracing, so it was very careful work. I have been attached to the New Zealand Engineers for a time doing survey work, but am close handy to our 27th Battalion. Please remember me to all friends."

Post-World War 1 Career (1918-1931)

In November 1918 it was reported in the Observer that Evan would be in charge of the Sulphide Corporation Limited potash operations at Port Vincent, SA. Three of the four Holder boys were visiting their mother in Adelaide in August 1919. By 1920 Evan was back in Broken Hill and represented the Central Mine at tennis. In December 1920 he was promoted from Honorary Lieutenant to Lieutenant in the Reserve of Officers, 4th Military District (SA and Broken Hill). Evan continued to play tennis and was commemorated on the Sulphide St Church War Memorial.

Evan worked at Central Mine for 12 years and from 1 July 1925 he was the Chief Surveyor for the Zinc Corporation. In late 1930 a new mineral which had been discovered by Evan Holder and M Mawby was named Sturtite after Charles Sturt the explorer and first white man to visit the Broken Hill region. The family were living at No 10 Zinc Corporation Houses.

Family

On the 9th December 1922, Evan married Emma Isobel Dunn, the daughter of Mrs AC Dunn, Broken Hill, at the Wesley Church in Melbourne. Their daughter Isobel Mary was born on 10 September 1923. Their son, James Morecott Holder was born in May 1926.

Career (1931- mid 1950s)

From May 1931 Evan was appointment as Chief Surveyor at the Wiluna Goldfields in the mid-west region of WA. He was involved in setting up the Wiluna Co-operative Stores and in the Wiluna RSL. In 1935 he was described as the Mine Foremen. In 1937 Evan was President of the Wiluna Golf Club and in 1939 he won the Wiluna Bowls Singles handicap event. During the period of WWII Evan continued his work at the Wiluna Gold Mines and in 1944 he was on the committee to organise the Wiluna War Memorial.

From about 1947 Evan was at the Big Bell Mines Ltd, 24 km north-west of Cue, Western Australia. In June 1948 Evan and Isobel were in Melbourne to attend the marriage of their daughter Dr Isobel Mary Holder (Dr Mary Fisher) to Dr Anthony G Fisher of St Peters, SA. Evan was a member of the Big Bell Hospital Board in 1949. Evan was appointed General Manager of the Big Bell Mines Ltd in 1952 and in 1953 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Murchison Magisterial District. The Big Bell Mine was expected to close in the New Year of 1955

Other Highlights

In March 1954 Evan and Isobel met and spoke to the Queen at a garden party held by the Governor in Perth.

Later Life

A newspaper article in December 1954 stated that the Big Bell mine was to close down in the New Year of 1955 and it appears that Evan, then aged 67 may have retired as his 1958 and 1963 entries on the WA Electoral Rolls show him as being resident in the Fremantle Electoral District in Perth.

Death

Evan died on the 3rd of September 1966, aged 78, and his ashes were scattered at the Karrakatta Cemetery, WA. At the time of his death he was residing in Applecross, a riverside suburb in Perth, WA. His wife Emma Isobel Holder died on 16th January 1989, aged 91.

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

Sources

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>
The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>
The Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/>
The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>
1908 Interschool Football <http://hdl.handle.net/2440/36772>
The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>
(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Evan Morecott Holder)
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, WA (mcb.wa.gov.au)
World War 1 from the AHS Magazines.pdf
Presbyterian Ladies College Magazine (plc.wa.ed.au)