



T/Capt Ronald Gilbert Horwood

Military Medal



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1915

Student: School of Mines

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 Ronald Gilbert Horwood. 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=143637>



Ronald Gilbert HORWOOD

Regimental number	834
Date of birth	--/09/1896
Place of birth	Broken Hill New South Wales
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Student
Address	Broken Hill, New South Wales
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	18
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Carrie Horwood, Broken Hill, New South Wales
Enlistment date	18 March 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	27th Battalion, D 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
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	Commissioned
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	27th Battalion

Promotions

2nd Lieutenant
Unit: INF27
Promotion date: 16 August 1916

Lieutenant
Unit: INF27
Promotion date: 18 January 1917

Temporary CAPT
Unit: INF27
Promotion date: 21 October 1918

Recommendations (Medals and Awards) Military Medal

'During the attack on 4-5 August 1916 with eight men held on to isolated position for several hours under heavy shell fire.'
Recommendation date: 16 August 1916

Fate Returned to Australia 31 March 1919

Medals Military Medal

'During the attack on POZIERES RIDGE on 4th/5th August, 1916, with 8 men held on to an isolated position in advanced captured trenches for several hours under heavy shell fire.'
Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 184
Date: 14 December 1916

Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1582686>

Form W. 3121/2

Army Form W. 3121.

7th. Aust. Infantry Brigade. 2nd. Australian Division. 1st. A. & N. Z. A. Corps. 16th. August, 1916. Date of Recommendation.

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)
	27th. Battalion A. I. F.	387	Private Isaac Leonard McLEAN.	Played a mouth-organ during advance over NO MAN'S LAND. Attacked party of 1 Officer and 8 men with bombs, killed the Officer, wounded and took prisoner the remainder. Later he performed Scout duty with great skill and daring.	G.O.C. 7th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.	Milit- ary Medal.	
	27th. Battalion A. I. F.	834	Sergeant Ronald Gilbert HOPKWOOD	During the attack on POZIERES RIDGE on 4/5th August 1916, with 8 men held on to an isolated position in advanced captured trenches for several hours under heavy shell-fire.	G.O.C. 7th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.	Milit- ary Medal.	

Dep 4192

Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1273146>

Collection ID P08858.019



Studio portrait of Capt. Ronald Gilbert Horwood MM (left) and Capt. Clarence Everard Pellew, both 27th Battalion.

In 1919 Capt Pellew was member of the AIF Cricket Eleven, which toured the United Kingdom. He later became a member of the Australian cricket team, playing 10 tests from 1920 to 1921.

(One of a collection of portraits, mostly of officers of the 27th Battalion, sent to 'Mum' (presumably Mrs Cotching) during and after the First World War at Cotching, Son & Co's 'The Farm' on Ealing Common near London, where servicemen stayed whilst on leave)

Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1273146>

Collection ID P08858.021

Outdoor group portrait of 27 Battalion officers at Berteaucourt, Somme 1918.



Back row, from left: Lt Moore; Lieutenant R G Horwood MM; Captain Harwood 2nd Division captain; Lieutenant-Colonel Chalmers; (CO) M. Cochet French officer (interpreter).

Front row: Chaplin Major Gallop; Captain Burton; Captain Schramm; Lieutenant C C J McCann MC.

(One of a collection of portraits, mostly of officers of the 27th Battalion, sent to 'Mum' (presumably Mrs Cotching) during and after the First World War at Cotching, Son & Co's 'The Farm' on Ealing Common near London, where servicemen stayed whilst on leave)

Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1273146>

Collection ID

P08858.003

Studio portrait of three officers of the 27th Battalion.



From Left: Lieutenant Ronald Gilbert Horwood MM; Captain Wilfred Stanley Hosking MC (later 2nd Lt and DSO) and unidentified officer.

(Inscription reads "to Mum from 3 of the Boys. 20/9/18" One of a collection of portraits, mostly of officer of the 27th Battalion, sent to 'Mum' (presumably Mrs Cotching) during and after the First World War at Cotching, Son & Co's 'The Farm' on Ealing Common near London, where servicemen stayed while on leave)

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/351819>

HORWOOD, Ronald Gilbert

Service Number: 834

Enlisted: 18 March 1915, Keswick, South Australia

Last Rank: Captain

Last Unit: 27th Infantry Battalion

Born: Broken Hill, New South Wales, 18 August 1896

Home Town: Broken Hill, Broken Hill Municipality, New South Wales

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Student

Died: Natural Causes, Adelaide, South Australia, 23 July 1969, aged 72 years

Cemetery: Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia

Memorials:

World War 1 Service

18 Mar 1915: Enlisted AIF WW1, Keswick, South Australia

31 May 1915: Involvement AIF WW1, Private, SN 834, 27th Infantry Battalion

31 May 1915: Embarked AIF WW1, Private, SN 834, 27th Infantry Battalion, HMAT Geelong, Adelaide

11 Nov 1918: Involvement AIF WW1, Captain, SN 834, 27th Infantry Battalion


IN BROKEN HILL. CAPTAIN RONALD HORWOOD.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Horwood have received a cable notifying that their son Ronald has been promoted to the rank of captain, and that he is on leave at Nice. Captain Horwood left Australia with the 27th Battalion in May of 1915 as a private. He was then 20 years of age. After serving at Gallipoli he was transferred to France, his division being the first of the Australians to reach France. He gained the Military Medal and his lieutenancy after the Pozières battle." - from the Broken Hill Barrier Miner 06 Nov 1918 nla.gov.au

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5831522>

27th Bn.


AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.

No. 834 Name HORWOOD Ronald Gilbert
Unit Base Infantry
Joined on 18/3/15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ...	1. <u>Ronald Gilbert Horwood</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...	2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of <u>Broken Hill</u> in the County of <u>New South Wales</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>18 1/2 yrs</u>
5. What is your trade or calling? ...	5. <u>Student</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 M^{rs} Carrie Horwood</u> <u>Broken Hill</u> <u>New South Wales</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 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?	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>78th Inf C Comp 8 month Hill Training</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 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?	14. <u>yes</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against Smallpox and Enteric Fever? ...	15. <u>yes</u>

Ronald Gilbert Horwood 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 12-3-15 R.G. Horwood
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.

Biography

Early Life

Ronald Gilbert Horwood was born on the 18 August 1896 in Broken Hill, NSW. He was the third child of Edward James Horwood and Caroline Wood.

Schooling

Ronald attended St Peter's College, Adelaide. In 1913 and 1914 he represented St Peters in Intercollegiate Football and Cricket matches. He competed in the College Sports and in intercollegiate sports versus PAC in 1914 and represented St Peter's in the South Australian Cricket Association B Grade. In December 1914 Ronald passed his Senior Examinations.

St Peters' Intercollegiate Cricket Team December 1913

(Defeated Prince Alfred College for the 5th successive year)



School of Mines

Ronald was a student at the School of Mines for the first term of 1915.

University Sport

After leaving school in 1914, Ronald played cricket for the University A team in the second half of the 1914/15 season. He would no doubt have played football for University had not he enlisted.

World War I

Ronald enlisted as a Private in the "D" Coy Base Depot on the 18th March 1915. He was described as 5'9¼", 157 lbs, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. At only 18½ years of age Ronald required his parents' permission to enlist, the letter from his father is below.

Victor Macdonald
Feb 25/15

My dear Ronald

We are not altogether taken by surprise at your asking our permission to enlist for the war -

Recruits are being regularly called for and, as you say, many more will yet be needed, and you show the right spirit in proposing to join them, in doing which you have our consent -

The question should be decided definitely as soon as possible as you will be unsettled in your present work in the meantime. You will let us know

With united love from
us all I am
Your loving father
L. F. Horwood

Let me know what
cash you are in need
of and when?

Have just noticed that
you speak of finishing at the
end of the term and will
leave it to you whether you
wait till then or not -

On 6th April 1915 Ronald was made an Acting Corporal in the 27th Battalion and he embarked on the HMAT Geelong on 31 May 1915. Ronald was present at a gathering of Old St Peter's Boys at the Heliopolis on the 24th July 1915.

Sgt R Bruce Oulter
HELIOPOLIS HOUSE HOTEL
HELIOPOLIS (MORRIS)
772 D Coy
27th Batt
24/7/15

St Peter's Old Collegians
Meeting
Sergeant & Roberts
Keeper R. F. Horwood.

Pte Gell Hills
Plt. R. Saunders
Troop R. Roach
Paul C. Beaumont.
Pte J. B. Jones
A. J. H. Jones
Sgt. May. W. Marshall
Pte. Stanley
that is, mostly.
P. W. Knapman Lieut G. A. H.

Al Dean Lieut 9th A.L.H.
G. H. P. Aldridge 3rd A.L.H.
L. M. Langstone Sgt 9th A.L.H.
L. R. Piddew Cpl 27th Batt
O. C. Piddew Lieut 27th Batt
P. H. Andrews 7th A.M.C.
Sgt. E. J. Piddew 27th Batt
A. W. Knapman 27th Batt
A. W. Knapman 27th Batt

THIS IS A FAC SIMILE OF THE SIGNATURES OF SOME OF OUR GALLANT
OLD ST. PETER'S BOYS NOW AT THE FRONT, AT A SMOKE SOCIAL HELD
AT HELIOPOLIS ON THE 24th JULY, 1915.

He served on the Gallipoli Peninsula from 30 October 1915 to 10 January 1916. During this period Ronald was promoted to Corporal on 21st October 1915.

After a brief period in Alexandrina, Egypt, Ronald embarked for service in France, arriving there in April 1916. Ronald was rapidly promoted becoming a Temporary Sergeant (30/6/1916), Second Lieutenant (16/8/1916) and a Lieutenant (18/1/1917). While a 2nd Lieutenant, during the attack on Pozieres Ridge, France on 4/5th August 1916, Ronald with six men held on to an isolated position in advance captured trenches for several hours under heavy shellfire. For this action he was awarded the Military Medal. In later 1916/ early 1917 Ronald suffered from a sprained right knee, the result of exercising.

In January 1918, the picture below was published in the Chronicle under the heading "With the Fighting 27th", Lieutenant R.G. Horwood, MM is second from the right.



Ronald's knee injury clearly did not cause him long term problems; in February 1918 he won the 120 yards hurdles race at the 27th Battalion Sports and captained 27th Battalion to an easy victory in a football match against the 28th Battalion (Western Australia).

Shortly before the cessation of hostilities Ronald was promoted to Adjutant (6/10/1918) and to Temporary Captain (21/10/1919). Ronald returned to Australia on the "Khyber" in May 1919 and was formally discharged on the 25th August 1919.

Back in Australia

In July 1919, shortly after returning to Adelaide, Ronald captained the 27th in a winning football match against the 10th Battalion. Ronald was named among the best players. Before playing against that game, Ronald also had played two league matches for the North Adelaide Football Club, however a serious injury incurred in that Services game restricted him from then on and he never played league football again. Despite the handicap, Ronald still fronted for the 27th in the return match against the 10th Battalion on the 24th April 1920.

27th Battalion Football Team 1920

<http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+280/1/21/224>



The following individuals have been identified: Percy Gordon Bice (2nd row, 2nd from left); Clarence Everard Pellew (test cricketer, 2nd row, 6th from left); Wilfred Stanley Hosking (2nd row, 7th from left); Stanley Stuart Woods (far right, back row); Ronald Gilbert Horwood (back row, 4th from right); and Alfred McLaren Moore (Norwood player, back row, 7th from left).

(This photo was published in 'The Observer', Saturday 1 May 1920, page 23, under the heading 'Anzac Day - celebrating the anniversary', and with the caption 'The 27th Battalion team, which won from the 10th Battalion by 6 goals 9 behinds to 4 goals 10 behinds'. An article about the game appeared in 'The Mail', Saturday 17 April 1920, page 3)



Ronald Gilbert Horwood

834

27th Infantry Battalion, AIF. Awarded the Military Medal
Born 18/08/1896 (Broken Hill, New South Wales)
Died 23/07/1969 (Walkerville, South Australia)
2 Games 0 Goals (1919)

Born in Broken Hill on 18th August 1896 he boarded at Saint Peter's College. At Saints he represented the school in the both first XVII Football team and first XI Cricket team. Horwood left Australia with the 27th Battalion in May of 1915 as a private. He first served at Gallipoli where he promoted to the rank of Corporal. After serving at Gallipoli he was transferred to France, his division being the first of the Australians to reach France. His bravery and actions saw him rise through the ranks, being promoted to Second Lieutenant in August 1916. He was awarded the Military Medal after the Battle of Pozieres.

On February 13th "somewhere in France" The 27th Battalion from South Australia took on the 28th Battalion from Western Australia in a football match, played in drizzling rain. The game was one sided, unlike previous clashes, and the 27th won 5 goals 9 Behinds to the 28th score of 6 Behinds. Horwood, by now a Lieutenant, captained the 27th Battalion team.

After returning from the war he finally got to play league football for North Adelaide, before captaining the side of the 27th Battalion against the 10th Battalion on July 19th on the Adelaide Oval. His North teammate Clem Dayman was Vice Captain. The 27th won the game convincingly (10-5 to 4-5) with Dayman being named best on ground. Unfortunately Horwood was injured badly in this game and didn't play league football again.

He married Barbara Clare South on 22nd December 1920 at the Presbyterian Church at Mount Pleasant, and then took up farming at Blinman in the Flinders Ranges where he stayed until the early 1940s when he took up the position of managing the property Rosebank at Mount Pleasant. He retired to the city, living at Church Terrace Walkerville, and died there on 23rd July 1969. He is buried at Centennial Park Cemetery.

ENLISTMENT DETAILS	PLAYING RECORD
Height - 5ft 9 1/4 inch Weight - 157 lbs	League Career
Religion - Church of England	1919
Address at time of enlistment	Games
Broken Hill	2 Games
Occupation - Student	Goals
Age at enlistment	0 Goals
18 years 6 Months	Debut
Date of enlistment	Port Adelaide 28/06/1919
18 th March 1915	(Round 9 - Alberton Oval)
Returned to Australia	Final Game
31 st March 1919	West Torrens 12/07/1919
Next of Kin	(Round 10 - Adelaide Oval)
Mother, Mrs Carrie Horwood, Broken Hill (NSW)	Guernsey #
	24

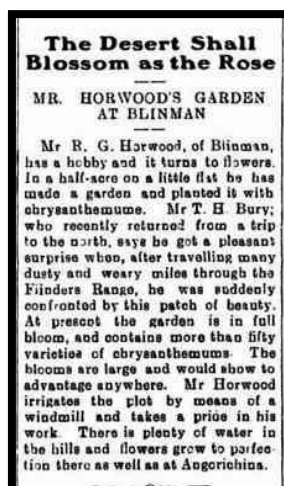
Red, White and Kimbri - North Adelaide footballers and the Great War

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In 1920 Ronald took over management of a property in the Flinders Ranges, near Blinman, SA. On the 22nd December 1920 Ronald married Barbara Clare South and their only son, Ronald Edward was born in 1922.

Ron and his neighbour Mr J Lee gave 68½ acres of land at Blinman to the Tubercular Soldiers' Aid Society in about 1927. The Angorichina Hostel was built on the land to give tubercular soldiers accommodation when they travelled north to avoid the winter cold. He was also actively involved in fundraising for the Hostel. Ron remained a good sportsman and horseman. In 1931 he won the Committee Handicap and was second in the Shot Putt at the athletics sports held on the new sports grounds at South Blinman and he rode in events at the Blinman Race Gymkhana Club Sports.

Another passion of Ron's was his garden which was irrigated and in full bloom by 1933.



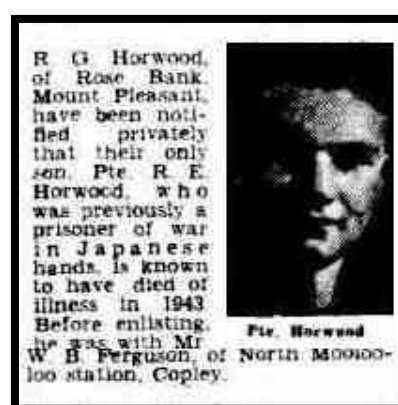
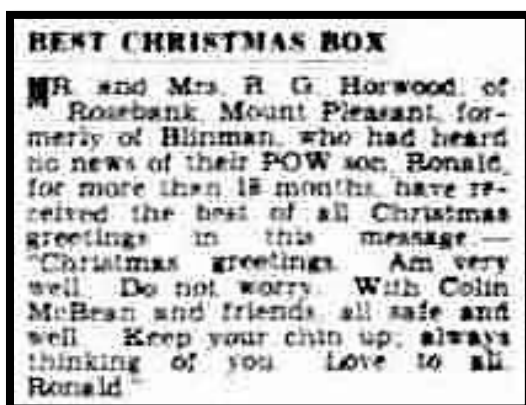
In 1940 Ron disposed of his "Glen View" station property, having accepted the management of a pastoral property near Mount Pleasant. The property was known as "Rosebank" and was owned by Mr Melrose. While at Mt Pleasant Ron was involved with the local Gymkhana and the Adelaide Hunt Club.

World War II

Ron enlisted and was a Lieutenant, in the 10th (Lower & Mid North) Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps, Australian Military Forces (SN S76766).

World War II must have been a difficult period for Ron and Barbara. Their only son, Ronald Edward Horwood enlisted as a Private (SX10287) in the 8 Division Ammunition Sub Park AASC on the 5th October 1940. His service record states that he was born on 27 Jun 1920, suggesting Ronald was 20 years of age on enlistment. However, Ronald was born in 1922 thus was only 18 years of age.

In September 1943 Ron and Barbara were advised privately that their son was a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, he had been captured in Singapore. Then in December 1944, after 18 months silence, Ronald's parents received a card from him with Christmas greetings and stating that he was well. Tragically, however, in October 1945 Ron and Barbara received news that their son had died of illness in Thailand on the 9th of July 1943, aged just 21. Ronald Edward Horwood is buried at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Mueang Kanchanaburi, Kanchanaburi, Thailand.



In 1944 Ron passed Advanced Practical Wool Classing at the School of Mines and helped Mt Pleasant revive its Show after a lapse of 3 years due to the war.

After World War II

Ron continued as Manager of "Rosebank" for many years. Mr Melrose died in the late 1940s and some of the fine cattle herd had to be disposed of, but Ron continued to manage the property for the new owner, a nephew of Mr Melrose. In 1948 Ron elected to the newly formed State committee of the Australian Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society. Ron was still involved with the Adelaide Hunt Club in 1950.

Later Years

At some stage prior to 1967 Ron and Barbara retired and moved to Walkerville, SA. Walkerville is listed as their last abode when Barbara died on 30th December 1967. Ron died on 23 July 1969 while visiting Mount Pleasant.

HORWOOD, Ronald Gilbert	
Found in 'Death Registrations' Database	
Surname:	HORWOOD
First Names:	Ronald Gilbert
Death Date:	23-Jul-1969
Age:	72
Gender:	M
Marital Status:	W
Place of Death:	Mount Pleasant
Residence:	Walkerville
Relative:	Barbara Clare HORWOOD [DW]
District:	Angaston
Book/Page:	72A/5136

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/>

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

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 – Ronald Gilbert Horwood)

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

<http://www.bayanne.info/Shetland/getperson.php?personID=I260168&tree=ID1>

SA Centennial Park <https://www.centennialpark.org/>

Billion Graves <https://billiongraves.com/>

School of Mines – Roll of Honor, Brookman Hall, Adelaide

St Peter's School Magazines

North Adelaide Football Club History Committee - Red, White and Khaki – North Adelaide footballers and the Great War

Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher