



Cpl. William Robert Hunt



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club - 1913/14 - 1914/15 (B Grade)

Degree LLB (1919)

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 Robert Hunt. 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=147307>




William Robert HUNT

Regimental number	2570
Place of birth	Mt Gambier South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Articled law clerk
Address	14 Capper Street, Kent Town, Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	24
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Elizabeth Sarah Hunt, Kalangadoo, South East, South Australia
Enlistment date	31 May 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	12th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/29/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT <i>Morea</i> on 26 August 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	52nd Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 5 July 1916

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7023720>

A 27973 **LIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.

No. 2570 Name HUNT William Robert.
44 Unit 6th Light Bn 52nd Battalion
 Joined on 31/5/15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? ... 1. William Robert Hunt.
- In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... 2. In the Parish of _____ in or
near the Town of Mt. Gambier
in the County of SA Australia
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown) ... 3. N.B.
- What is your age? ... 4. 23 1/2 years.
- What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Artillery Clerk.
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so where, to whom, and for what period? ... 6. Angus Parsons, Adelaide 15 months 6 yrs.
- Are you married? ... 7. No.
- Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... 8. (Mother) Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Hunt, Kalangadoo, South East SA Aust.
- Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... 9. No.
- 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. 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 ... 11. Vol. Cadets. 4 yrs.
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 12. Up.
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's service? If so, on what grounds? ... 13. No.
- (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. _____
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against Smallpox and Enteric Fever? ... 15. Up.

I, William Robert Hunt. 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 allow 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 19.5.15 W.R. Hunt.
 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.

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/322576>

HUNT, William Robert

Service Number: 2570

Last Rank: Corporal

Last Unit: 52nd Infantry Battalion

Occupation: Articled Law Clerk

Memorials: Adelaide HB26 - Supreme Court***, University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll Mitchell Bldg*

World War 1 Service

26 Aug 1915: Involvement Private, SN 2570, 12th Infantry Battalion

26 Aug 1915: Embarked Private, SN 2570, 12th Infantry Battalion, RMS Morea, Adelaide

11 Nov 1918: Involvement Corporal, SN 2570, 52nd Infantry Battalion

Biography

Early Life

William Robert Hunt was born on the 11th July 1891 to Thomas Hunt and Elizabeth Sarah Davies at Mount Gambier, SA. The Hunt family were farmers near Kalangadoo (31 kms north of Mt Gambier in the South East of South Australia).

Schooling

In 1907 William attended the Mt Gambier Continuation School and passed his Primary Examinations in five subjects. In November 1907, when he was studying for his Junior Examinations he was awarded the Vansittard Scholarship to St. Peter's College. He attended St Peter's from 1908-1910, passing his Junior Examinations in 1909 and his Senior Examinations (Latin, Arithmetic and Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Physics and Inorganic Chemistry. He competed in the St Peter's Sports in 1910 and was third in Senior Obstacle Race. He was a Cadet for four years.

Adelaide University

From 1911 to 1915 and 1917-1919 William studied Law at Adelaide University. He was an articled clerk to Mr Angus Parsons. He graduated LLB in 1918.

University Sport

William played cricket for the University in the 1913/14 and 1914/15 seasons in the B Grade Team. He was listed as a reserve for the A Grade team on one occasion. This was when some players were in army camp and it was possible that there could be problems with availability.

World War I

William enlisted as a Private in the G Group Base Infantry on 31st May 1915, at that time he was an articled clerk and was described as 5' 6½", 141 lbs., with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He was among the nineteen AUCC players listed below, who were among the A and B Grade teams early volunteers to serve.

Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924)
Wednesday 28 July 1915, page 6

CHANGING THE BAT FOR THE GUN.

No branch of sport has made a finer response to the Empire's call than cricket, and the following list of the members of the A and B grade clubs of the South Australian Cricket Association will give some idea of the readiness with which they have flocked to the colors:—

Port Adelaide.—A. Grade, J. McDonald and H. J. Harden. B Grade.—A. Dowd, E. D. Oldfield, and H. Coffen.

S.P.S.C.—A Grade—G. C. Campbell, R. G. Horwood, and F. N. Le Messurier. B Grade—P. H. Auld, W. H. Craven, R. B. Coulter, L. H. M. Hargrave, C. C. Hayward, W. O. Jose, H. Marten, L. R. Pellew, C. Symon, R. N. Twopeny, J. Creswell, H. O. Hopkins, and N. W. Woodley.

East Torrens.—A Grade—J. D. Ryan, A. P. James, and W. Hearn. B Grade—P. H. Auld, E. C. Curtin, W. S. Stirling, and M. Gore.

Sturt.—A Grade—R. B. Selth. B Grade—H. Wray, O. V. Richardson, E. Mitchell, C. L. Brealey, D. Doolittle, and H. Scrymgour.

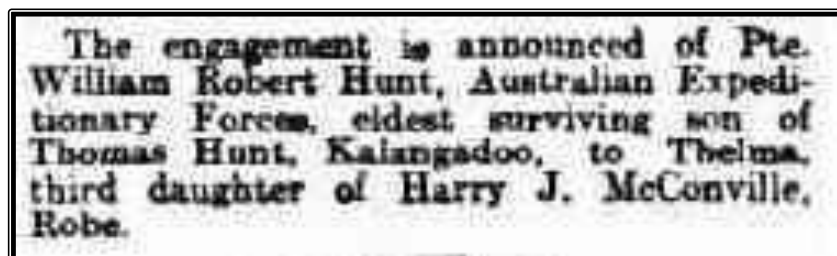
North Adelaide.—A Grade—H. M. Beresford, B. Thomson, and V. H. Robley. B Grade—W. Beresford, J. Barry, and K. Hocking.

University.—A Grade—K. N. Steele, A. G. Moyes, C. E. Pellew, F. N. Le Messurier, J. W. Blacket, W. A. Jose, R. G. Horwood, C. F. Drew, E. B. Jones, L. G. Caust and G. F. Davies. B Grade—W. J. Price, F. E. Williams, W. R. Hunt, L. C. E. Lindon, K. B. Goode, L. A. Hayward, N. R. Bennett and P. C. Beaumont.

Prince Alfred College.—B Grade—W. M. Fowler.

Adelaide.—A Grade—D. T. Du Ricu, C. Packham, G. Whiting, L. Irwin, G. S. Down, E. Kitson, Hon. J. Mulholland, L. S. Waye, and C. Gordon Campbell. B Grade—H. H. Elms.

In July 1915, prior to his departure overseas, William became engaged to Thelma McConville.



William left Australia on the 26th August 1915, onboard the RMS Morea, and disembarked on the 11th December 1915 at Mudros, a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos, before being transferred to Alexandrina, Egypt on 6th January 1916. On the 1st March 1916 William was transferred to the 52nd Battalion and he was promoted to Corporal on 14th April 1916.

On the 13th May 1916 William had to have his appendix removed and was sent back to Australia. He was discharged 16th August 1916 as medically unfit for duty.

His name appears on the Mt Gambier District High School Roll of Honour.

Family

On 23rd October 1920, William Robert Hunt (aged 29) married Thelma Loretto McConville (age 26), the daughter of Henry James Mc Conville at Manresa House, Norwood. In 1922 William and Thelma had a daughter (Elizabeth) but sadly she died in June 1922. On the 28th September 1923, William and Thelma's second daughter, Christobel Margaret was born.

Career

Murray Bridge

Having passed his final exams, William was admitted to the Bar in April 1919. By August 1920, William had commenced to practice law at Murray Bridge and became involved in the Murray Bridge RSL. In June 1923, William moved his chambers to Seventh Street, Murray Bridge. By July 1925, William was on the Board of the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. William practiced in Murray Bridge until April 1928 when he moved to set up practice in Mt Gambier.



The photograph above was published in the *Chronicle* in August 1927. The author believes that W.R. Hunt is in the Second Row from the top, sixth from the left.

An article published in *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser* on 27th April 1928 (below) provides a summary of William's life to that date.

Mount Gambier

From 1st October 1930 to 30th September 1937, W.R. Hunt was in partnership with J.H.H. Davison at Mt Gambier. When Davison retired William carried on the business under the name of Davison and Hunt until 8th August 1938 when he was joined by K.A. Laught and the firm became known as Davison, Hunt and Laught. In April 1940 the firm moved to Bay Road, Mt Gambier

PERSONAL.

Mr. W. R. Hunt, who is shortly leaving Murray Bridge for Mount Gambier, was born at the latter town. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. and the late Mr. T. Hunt, of "Heathmere," Kalangadoo. Attending the school at Kalangadoo and Mount Gambier, he won the Vansittart scholarship, entitling him three years as a boarder at St. Peter's College. After leaving college he entered the University as a law student. His articles were served with Mr. H. Angus Parsons (now Mr. Justice Angus Parsons). Whilst serving articles in 1915, Mr. Hunt enlisted in the A.I.F., and served overseas with the 12th and 52nd Infantry Battalions. On his return to South Australia he completed his University law course, and was admitted to the bar. In 1920 Mr. Hunt entered into practice as a barrister and solicitor at Murray Bridge, and since that date has practised his profession in that town and Tailem Bend. During his residence at the river township he has creditably filled many public offices, among them being secretary to the Murray Bridge sub-branch of the R.S.A.; is at present, and has been for nearly three years the chairman of the board of management of the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. He has also identified himself with the Progress Association Racing Club, and Royal Society of St. George, and held the office of vice-president of the Golf Club. Mr. Hunt claimed tennis and golf as his recreation.

In Mt Gambier, William played golf, bowls and bridge. He became involved in the Mount Gambier Tourist Promotion Association, was Arbiter of the South-Eastern Football Association, President of the Australian Natives' Association and on the committee of the Mt Gambier Commercial Club.

C. STAUDE WINS SHOW GROUND GOLF TITLE.



Finalists in the A Grade Championship of the Showground Golf Club—W. R. Hunt (Umpire), M. Riddell (caddy), C. Rogers (runner-up), C. H. Staude (winner), and E. Rowe (caddy).

Sladdin Photo.



"Executive officers of the Mount Gambier Branch of the A.N.A."
Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954) 17 October 1935



THE Mount Gambier sub-branch of the RSL, with 780 members, is, with the exception of Mount Remarkable, the oldest in South Australia. Gathered round the piano in the clubrooms are (standing, from left) Mr. W. H. Cook (post president), Rev. W. L. Collins (vice-president and Tobruk padre), Messrs. W. R. Hunt (post president), F. G. Burdon (treasurer) and T. Messer (secretary). Seated are Messrs. A. C. Hamilton (committeeman) and at the piano G. Adams (president).

World War II

In August 1942 William and Thelma's daughter Christobel joined the W.A.A.F., and in May 1943 she became engaged to Thomas Morey Yates, the son of Don Yates.

Tragically, William's wife Thelma died 2nd August 1943.

On the 10th June 1944, William re-married, quietly at the St Peter's Chapel; his bride was Mrs Jean Bradley of Western Australia.

William was ill for a lengthy period in July 1945 but was well again by late August 1945 when he addressed the Civic Victory Parade in celebration of the end of WWII. In October William opened the Mil Lei Memorial Park, Mt Gambier, possibly the first memorial to honour those who served in WWII.

Post WWII

Mrs Jean Hunt was actively involved in the R.S.L. Auxiliary and became its President in 1951. William continued to be involved in all his previous activities including golf, the RSL, ANA and the Commercial Club.

In July 1952 William suffered a heart attack however he was back representing people in the Courts in September 1952. William was still appearing in court in December 1954, aged 63. (digitised newspapers for SA are not yet available beyond 31 December 1954).

Death

William Robert Hunt died on the 7th September 1958, aged 67, and is buried at the Mount Gambier (Lake Terrace) Cemetery

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

Sources

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/>

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 – William Robert Hunt)

<https://billiongraves.com/grave/William-Robert-Hunt/22092622#/>

WWI - Photograph courtesy of "Kalangadoo Remembers" – Judy Savage