



Major Frederick Neill Le Messurier

Distinguished Service Medal & Mentioned in Despatches



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1910 - 1912

(Inter-Varsity 1910 1911 1912)

AUFC Club President 1928 - 1936

Cricket Club: 1908/09 - 1914/15

(Inter-Varsity 1910)

Sports Awards: Blues for Football 1910 & Cricket 1915

Degrees: MBBS (1913 - First Class Honours) & MD (1920)

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 Frederick Neill Le Messurier. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

World War 1



Frederick Neill LE MESSURIER

Date of birth	12 January 1891
Occupation	Resident Medical Officer, Adelaide Hospital
Address	Mill Terrace, North Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	23
Next of kin	A Le Messurier, Mill Terrace, North Adelaide, South Australia
Enlistment date	7 October 1914
Rank on enlistment	Captain
Unit name	Stationary Hospital 1
AWM Embarkation Roll number	26/70/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A55 <i>Kyarra</i> on 5 December 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Major
Unit from Nominal Roll	Australian Army Medical Corps
Promotions	Major
	Unit: No 12 Field Ambulance
	Promotion date: 14 November 1916
Recommendations (Medals and Awards) DSO	
	Recommendation date: 26 February 1918
	Mention in Despatches
	Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette' No. 31089, 31 December 1918; 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 61, 23 May 1919.
	Recommendation date: 28 February 1918
	Mention in Despatches
	Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette' No. 30706 (28 May

1918); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 165 (24 October 1918).

DSO

'Work near Hamel on 8-10 August 1918.'

Recommendation date: 12 August 1918

Mention in Despatches

Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette' No. 31089 (31 December 1918); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 61 (23 May 1919).

Returned to Australia 20 December 1918

Distinguished Service Order

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was continuously in the front line during both stages of an attack, assisting in collecting and arranging for the prompt disposal of the wounded to the rear. He behaved splendidly and by his untiring efforts and a complete disregard of his own safety he greatly assisted the brigade throughout.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 31

Date: 4 March 1919

Medals: Distinguished Service Order, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Fate

Medals

Other details

LE MESSURIER, Frederick Neill



Major
Australian Army Medical Corps

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Born 12 January 1891

Son of Alfred LE MESSURIER and Jane nee NEILL

Of Mill Terrace, North Adelaide, SA

Occupation prior to enlistment Resident Medical Officer Adelaide Hospital

Enlisted 07 October 1914

Mentioned in despatches

Awarded Distinguished Service Order

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was continuously in the front line during both stages of an attack, assisting in collecting and arranging for the prompt disposal of the wounded to the rear. He behaved splendidly and by his untiring efforts and a complete disregard of his own safety he greatly assisted the brigade throughout.'

Returned to Australia 20 December 1918



"Blood, Sweat and Fears"

ISBN: 978-0-64692-750-3

Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australia
who served in WW1

Service Record – World War I

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8203275>

THIS IMAGE IS REPRODUCED FROM A DAMAGED PAGE
WITH A PORTION OF THE INFORMATION MISSING.



4 MB
C.M. Form A. 22.
(Revised 1.5.13.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Application for a Commission in the 1st Austn Stationary Hospital

No.	PARTICULARS.
1.	Surname <i>PAY BOOK</i> ... <i>LE MESSURIER</i> To be in block letters. Other names (in full) ... <i>FREDERICK NEILL</i>
2.	Educational Qualifications (Certificate to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.) <i>M. B. B.S. (Austl.)</i>
3.	Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated) (Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 66.) If serving, present rank and corps to be stated. <i>Private, Corporal, Sergeant, Colour-Sergeant, Subaltern in St. Peter's College Cadets 05-08.</i> <i>Captain AAFC. No. 792R</i>
4.	Present Civil Employment ... <i>Resident Medical Officer at Aust. Hospital</i>
5.	Date of Birth and Age ... (Certificate of Birth or Statutory Declaration to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.) Date of Birth. <i>January 12th 1891</i> Age. <i>23 Years 9 Months</i>
6.	If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.) <i>British subject</i>
7.	Married or Single ... <i>Single</i>
8.	Postal Address ... <i>Wile Ice, North Adelaide S. A. 13/</i>
9.	Next of Kin ... <i>A. Le Messurier, Wile Ice, North Adelaide</i>

Date, *October 22nd 1914* (Signature of Applicant) *F. A. Le Messurier*

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 Board, in accordance with the "Instructions for the Physical Examination of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Military Forces of the Commonwealth," 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, *Levis Wilkes Jeffries* do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height *5'6"* Weight *10st. 12 lb*
Chest Measurement *38"* Eyesight *R 6/6 L 6/12*

Signature of the Examining Medical Officer *Levis Wilkes Jeffries Capt*

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 *Captain* in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

1. (a) That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment and provision on the Estimates for the current year, or (b) That such appointment, although not within the authorized establishment and provision on the Estimates for the current year, will be within the number of supernumerary officers permitted under C.M. Regulation 56.
2. (a) That the provisions of C.M. Reg. 60 have been fully complied with, or (b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or (c) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 139 have been fully complied with.

On appointment the candidate will be posted to *1st Austn Stationary Hospital* Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date Commanding Regt. or Corps.

RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.

Recommended, candidate considered suitable.

Date Commanding C.M. Forces Military District.

* Sub-para (a) to be struck out if (b) applies, and vice versa. † 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 to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same day.

Biography

Early Life

Frederick Neill Le Messurier (preferred name Freddy, nicknamed "*Freddo the Frog*") was born on 12 January 1891 at Semaphore, Adelaide, the fifth surviving child of South Australian-born parents Alfred Le Messurier (1856 - 1927), a prominent timber merchant and agent, and his wife, Jane Sinclair, née Neill (1856 - 1908). His siblings included Ernest Warwick (1881 - 1884), Daisy Maud (1884 - 1970), Alfred Roy (1886 - 1946 see further information on him below) and Dorothy Janie (1888 - 1973). Freddy also had a half-brother, David Hugh (1912 - 1976) from Alfred's second marriage to Lillian Chewings (1877 - 1965) who married in 1910 following his first wife Jane's death two years earlier.

Freddy's grandfather, Captain Peter (Pierre) Le Messurier (1815 - 1876), had earlier arrived in Australia as Master of the Ship "Rebecca" about 1852. Peter and his wife Elizabeth "Betsy" (1818 - 1871) originated from the English Channel Island of Guernsey situated just off the coast of Normandy, France. All seven of their children, including Freddy's father Alfred, were born after they had settled at Port Adelaide.



Peter Le Messurier

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922)

Mon 6 Mar 1876 / Page 3

The shipping at Port Adelaide half-masted their flags on Saturday as a token of respect for the late Mr. Peter LeMessurier, who had died on the previous day after a painful illness. Mr. LeMessurier, who was a native of Guernsey, came to the colony as master of the Rebecca brig about 24 years ago, and has since carried on business as marine surveyor, and Customs and shipping agent at Port Adelaide. Mr. LeMessurier took active part in public matters; but his genial nature secured for him the esteem of all to whom he was known. He leaves a family of seven children, whose mother died a few years since.

Education

Freddy attended St Peter's College. He thrived at school, developing into a talented all-round student who excelled in all aspects of school life. Freddy was a Lieutenant in the cadets, a school Prefect in 1907 and 1908 and Captain of the school in 1908. He was Dux of the school in his final year

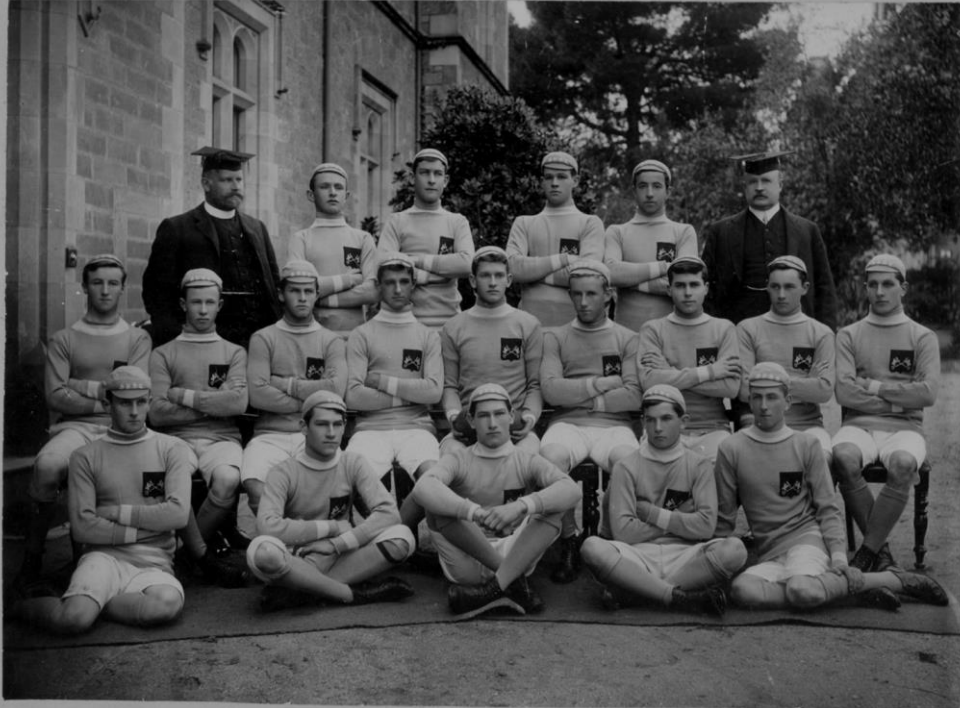
He was also an outstanding all-round sportsman at SPSC. As an athlete he won the broad jump at the SPSC Sports Day held on the Adelaide Oval on 14 August 1908 with a jump of 19 ft. 1½ in.

Freddy had been a prominent cricketer at SPSC, playing in Intercollegiate games against PAC in 1906 – 1908, the last as Captain. He was also Captain of the football team.

Inter-Collegiate Football 1907.

S.P.S.C. 6 Goals 10 Behinds.

P.A.C. 7 Goals 5 Behinds.



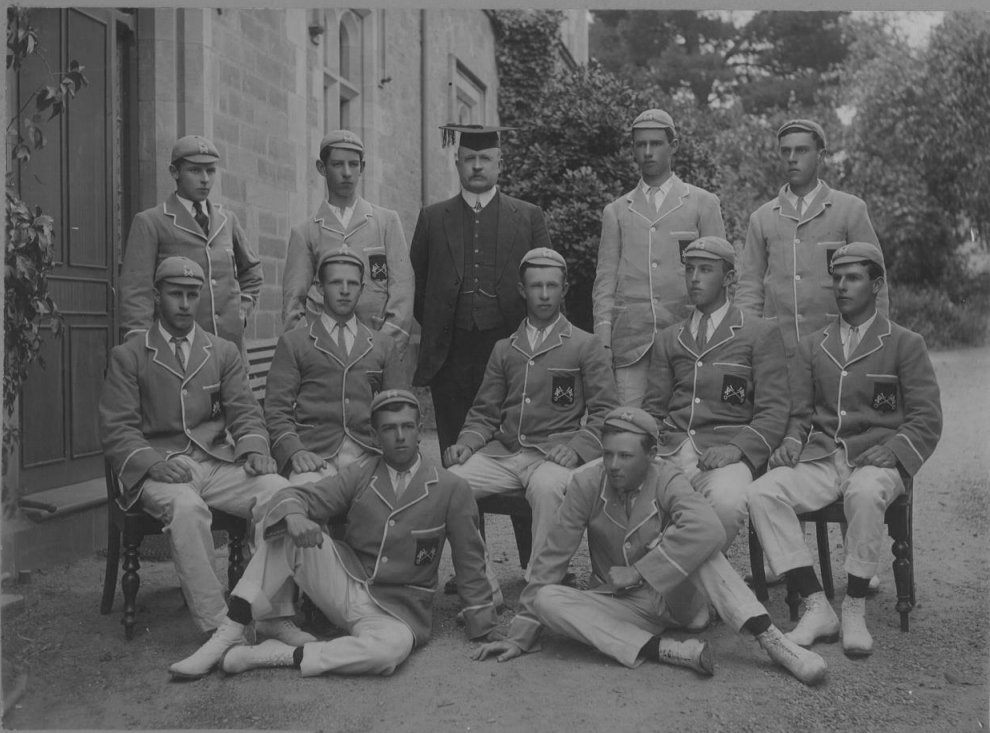
E. ZIEGLER,

40 Elizabeth St, Norwood.

Rev. H. Girdlestone (Head Master)	F. F. Eadie	F. A. Strickland	R. F. Angus	L. P. Sweet	T. A. Caterer, Esq.
S. Ockley	F. N. LeMessurier	J. S. Robertson	R. G. McKail (Vice-Capt.)	W. R. Warren (Captain)	O. J. Murphy
G. Taylor	C. Williams	C. B. Chewings	W. G. Forrest	F. H. Hollis	E. G. Hollis
E. B. James	W. E. Jervis				

Inter-Collegiate Cricket, 1908.

St. Peter's College Team.



E. ZIEGLER,

40 Elizabeth St, Norwood.

R. H. Marten	A. G. Moyes	T. A. Caterer, Esq.	L. A. Hayward	J. T. Creswell
R. Badger	O. S. Symon (Vice-Captain)	F. N. LeMessurier (Captain)	J. T. Murray	F. N. Drew
	M. Stevenson	K. Goode		

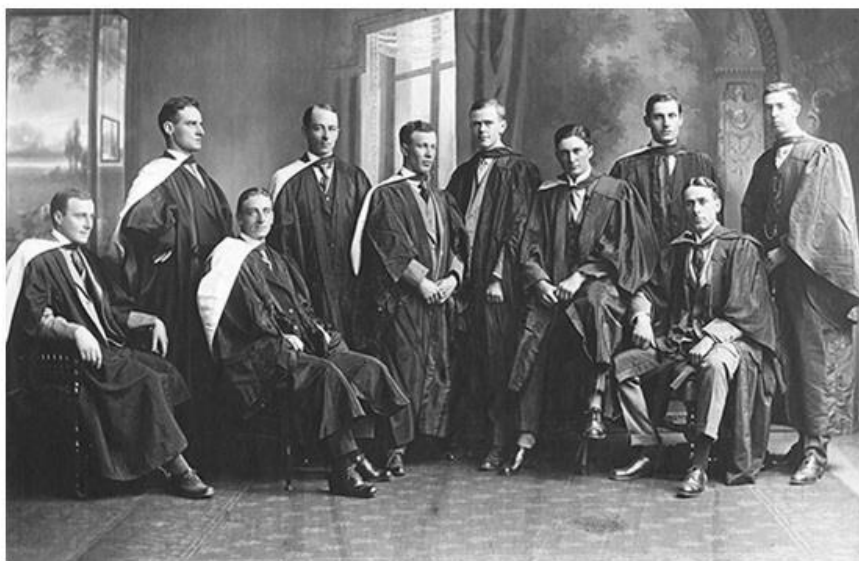
University of Adelaide – Medical Studies

Freddy studied Medicine at the University of Adelaide, graduating with first-class honours (M.B., B.S., 1913; M.D., 1920). He shared top place with another student. He then became a Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Adelaide Hospital following graduation.

Second Year Medical Students – labelled "The 'ruffians' of 1909"



Adelaide University Medical Graduates 1913



FN Le Messurier – Standing Third from Left

***Standing : Walter John Westcott Close, Laurance Llewellyn Davey, Frederick Neill Le Messurier,
John Christian Mayo, Harry Carew Nott, Sydney Ernest Holder and Joseph Stanley Verco
Seated : Reginald Blockley Lucas, Harold John Penny and Harold Powell***

Sporting life - Adelaide University Football Club (AUFC)¹

Freddy Le Messurier was selected to play League football for North Adelaide in 1908 at the age of 17 whilst still at school, joining his older brother Alfred Roy (Teddy) Le Messurier.

Freddy played for North from 1908 till 1910 (see below in section on North Adelaide Football Club). However, as a Medical student he elected to join many other students playing in the SANFL to play with Adelaide University Football Club in the newly formed South Australia Amateur Football League which began its competition in 1911. There were five teams, Glenferrie, Marlborough, St. Bartholomew, St. Francis Xavier and University. At this time the University club was endeavoring to enter the League competition, so that it was essential to play outstandingly well in the newly formed Amateur League to press its claims.

Freddy's decision to leave North Adelaide and play with his fellow students at University was seen as a logical one as he was playing cricket at University and many of these team mates were also talented footballers. He took on the responsible role of Club Secretary in University's first season in 1911.

University finished the inaugural season undefeated Premiers, which was hardly surprising given that the team contained eleven former senior League players, of whom four had represented the State. University's performance in its first year was indeed meritorious as it was undefeated (except by Melbourne University).

Freddy Le Messurier, who was later to become President of the Adelaide University Football Club for many seasons, was then made vice-captain.

The finals were played on a knockout basis, with first versus third and second versus fourth. A decided advantage was that all the finals were played at University Oval!

Freddy had the honour of playing in the inaugural Final in 1911 which University won easily 14.15 to 5.11, with J.W. Londrigan, Le Messurier and C.F. Drew best for University, with H.B. Willsmore kicking five goals.

During this season a combined Amateur League team played the Gawler Association and won 14.12 to 4.4, with quite a few of Freddy's University Football Club team mates joining him in the side. These included C.F. Drew (captain), J. W. Londrigan, F. Seymour-Smith, K.N. Steele, H.B. Willsmore and A.C. Wilton. Several of these players can be seen in the 1910 Inter-Varsity cricket team photo in this biography.

The University side, having won the first Amateur League Premiership in 1911 repeated the feat in the 1912 Grand Final with Freddy Le Messurier leading the Club to victory. After this magnificent start to the Amateur League competition, the club decided at the AGM that:

"it would be to the benefit of all concerned if those men who had left the SA League to play for University two years ago should again take their places in the ranks of their respective League teams".

The team was thus weakened by the loss of Freddy Le Messurier, E.B. Jones, H.B. Willsmore, K.N. Steele, S.W. Jeffries, F. Seymour-Smith and A.C. Wilton.

Freddy was awarded a Blue for Football in 1910 which resulted from a strong performance in the Inter-varsity against Melbourne in Adelaide that year. He also played in the Intervarsity matches against Melbourne in 1911 and 1912 (Captain).

There is a strong family connection with the Le Messurier family at AUFC, with Freddy's great grandsons played for the club. Ben Lewis played 125 games, mostly in the Division 1 team, between 2008 and 2016 and James Lewis representing the club between 2001 and 2003 and 2008 and 2010 for 101 games. James was runner-up for the Division 1 Best and Fairest in 2002.

¹ **75th Year Anniversary 1906 – 1981** Adelaide University Football Club, authored by David Bartlett and David Bradshaw

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.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) Sat 30 Sep 1911 Page 34



UNIVERSITY TEAM: PREMIERS, 1911

Back Row: G. E. Pitcher, E. Schmidt, J. Symon, W. Radley, E. L. Baylis, A. E. Rann, E. G. Cane, A. C. Wilton, N. Steele, H. B. Willmore, E. J. B. Hurley, S. D. Ronald, and L. A. Hayward. Middle Row: J. J. Forrester, S. W. Jeffries, C. F. Drew, H. W. D. Stoddart, F. S. LeMessurier, E. B. Jones, and F. Margitich. Front Row: G. D. McDonald, A. Williams, F. Seymour-Smith, B. Coleman (Umpire), W. J. K. Phillips, Williams, and W. W. Cooper.

AUFC Administration

As far as research can determine, the office of President of the Adelaide University Football Club was initiated around 1928, when Dr. F.N. Le Messurier was the first person to be elected to the position. Before this time, the President of the Sports Association was asked to perform these duties at important functions, namely dinners. However, with the club now entering two teams, in Amateur League (1928 was the first season the Amateur League had expanded to two grades) it was probably felt that an experienced person was necessary to lead the club's administration.

Dr. Le Messurier served the club admirably as President until 1936. During this time, the Adelaide University Football Club continued to be the most successful club in the Amateur League; The Blacks were Premiers in 1929 and 1932 and runners-up in 1930, 1933 and 1934 during his tenure.

Sporting Life – North Adelaide Football Club

Freddy Le Messurier was selected to play League football for North Adelaide in 1908 at the tender age of 17, whilst still at St Peter's College, joining his older brother Alfred Roy (Teddy) Le Messurier. Freddy played for North from 1908 till 1910, winning the Best and Fairest in 1909 and 1910 and then electing to play with Adelaide University in 1911.

Freddy returned to North Adelaide for the 1913 and 1914 seasons as mentioned above, playing a total of 41 League games and kicking 24 goals. In 1914 he was vice-captain of the team, taking over from his brother and wearing the number 2 jumper. This season would be the end of his career when it was cut short as he left for Gallipoli on the Western Front.

Teddy played for North in 1908 and 1909 and also 1911 - 1913, in a 47-game career. Teddy was vice-captain in 1911 and 1913 and represented the State in an interstate carnival in Melbourne in 1908.

The impact that Freddy had on the organisations and sporting clubs that he was associated with, and indeed the Military, can best be shown by the article in the *The Mail* on 26 November 1914 just prior to him leaving for Gallipoli on 5 December 1914.

“NORTH ADELAIDE FOOTBALL CLUB - FAREWELL TO FRED LE MESSURIER

A farewell evening was tendered by the North Adelaide Football Club on Saturday to their popular player Dr. F.N. Le Messurier, who is leaving for the front with the Australian Stationary Hospital.

After the loyal toast, the chairman of committees, Mr. J. F. Bennett, on behalf of the members of the club, presented Dr. Le Messurier with a Surgeon's hypodermic case, and referred to the high esteem in which he was held by the club. He felt sure that the same bulldog tenacity shown by him on the football field would be equally prominent when he was alleviating the wounded on the battlefield, either, friend or foe, and if the occasion arose he would not hesitate to forsake the scalpel for the sword. He wished him a safe voyage, a successful campaign, and a triumphant return.”

Source: 26 Nov 1914, The Mail (Adelaide, SA: 1912 – 1954)

Adelaide University Cricket Club

Freddy Le Messurier had been a prominent cricketer at SPSC and continued his strong performances in this sport at University. In 1910 he was selected in the AUCC first ever Inter-Varsity cricket team which travelled to Sydney, captained by C.E. Dolling, later to become a prominent first-class cricketer and administrator. This match was won by Sydney University. See the photo of this team below.

Freddy was awarded a Blue for Cricket in 1915.

AUCC Inter-Varsity Team 1910



Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 28 December 1910, page 8

INTER-VARSITY MATCH. SYDNEY DEFEATS ADELAIDE.

SYDNEY, December 27.
 Teams representative of the Adelaide and Sydney Universities respectively commenced a match on Saturday. The home team was not strong in its composition, but it defeated the visitors by 6 wickets. Scores:—

ADELAIDE.	
First Innings.	
Drew, c. Tozer, b. McIntosh	92
Wilton, b. Maasie	50
Campbell, c. Tozer, b. Stack	18
Le Messurier, l.b.w., b. Stack	13
Dolling, c. Lamrock, b. Maasie	56
Davies, b. Maasie	1
Rankin, c. and b. French	9
Osborne, l.b.w., b. French	0
Penny, b. Stack	17
Seppelt, c. Maasie, b. Stack	0
Jones, not out	31
Sundries	30
Total	317
Bowling.—Stack, 4 for 72; Maasie, 3 for 32; French, 2 for 37; McIntosh, 1 for 26.	
Second Innings.	
Davies, c. Stack, b. Maasie	0
Campbell, c. Uitz, b. Lamrock	9
Osborne, b. Maasie	4
Dolling, c. French, b. Maasie	30
Drew, c. and b. Maasie	23
Wilton, c. Maasie, b. French	7
Le Messurier, b. Maasie	0
Jones, b. Lamrock	36
Rankin, b. McIntosh	12
Penny, c. James, b. Macintosh	0
Seppelt, not out	0
Sundries	8
Total	129
Bowling.—Maasie, 5 for 46; Stack, 0 for 25; Lamrock, 2 for 22; French, 1 for 18; Broughton, 0 for 9; Macintosh, 2 for 1.	

SYDNEY.	
First Innings.	
Tozer, c. Davies, b. Wilton	110
Fisher, c. Campbell, b. Seppelt ..	18
Lamrock, b. Osborne	5
McIntosh, c. Jones, b. Osborne ..	8
Broughton, b. Wilton	28
Stack, b. Jones	73
James, b. Wilton	4
Inglis, b. Wilton	2
Maasie, b. Wilton	3
Uitz, not out	31
French, c. Drew, b. Jones	0
Sundries	14
Total	295
Bowling.—Wilton, 5 for 51; Jones, 2 for 97; Seppelt, 1 for 54; Osborne, 2 for 58; Penny, 0 for 21.	
Second Innings.	
Tozer, c. Campbell, b. Osborne ..	42
Fisher, c. and b. Seppelt	32
Lamrock, c. Campbell, b. Osborne ..	3
Macintosh, c. Le Messurier, b. Jones	23
Broughton, not out	23
Stack, not out	20
Sundries	13
Total for four wickets	156
Bowling.—Osborne, 2 for 24; Seppelt, 1 for 30; Jones, 1 for 50; Le Messurier, 0 for 2; Wilton, 0 for 42; Davies, 0 for 5. Sydney won by 6 wickets.	

World War I

On 7 October 1914, at age 23, Dr F.N. Le Messurier received his commission as a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force. Assigned to the 1st Australian Stationary Hospital (1st ASH), which had been raised in Adelaide, Fred embarked on 5th December 1914 for service overseas from Melbourne onboard the troopship, *HMAT Kyarra* to join up with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces (MEF) in Egypt. The 1st ASH was initially based in Egypt where preparation was underway for the attack on Gallipoli. After the landing on Anzac Cove, the 1st ASH was responsible for treating those who were wounded or ill and repatriated back to Egypt. During the last half 1915 the 1st ASH was transferred to the Gallipoli Peninsula where they witnessed the War first-hand. After the evacuation of the MEF from Gallipoli, from December 1915 until September 1916 Fred was based again in Egypt.

Ismailia (Egypt) Railway Station 1916



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P10997.026

Australian officers and nurses at Ismailia railway station. Identified are Lieutenant Meldrum, Captain Le Messurier, Sister Eleanore Marie Renard, Sister Mary Heenan, Sister Edith May Menhennett.

In September 1916 Fred departed Alexandria for England. Following a promotion to Major and deployment to the 13th Field Ambulance in France he then joined up with the 12th Field Ambulance on the Western Front in March 1917.

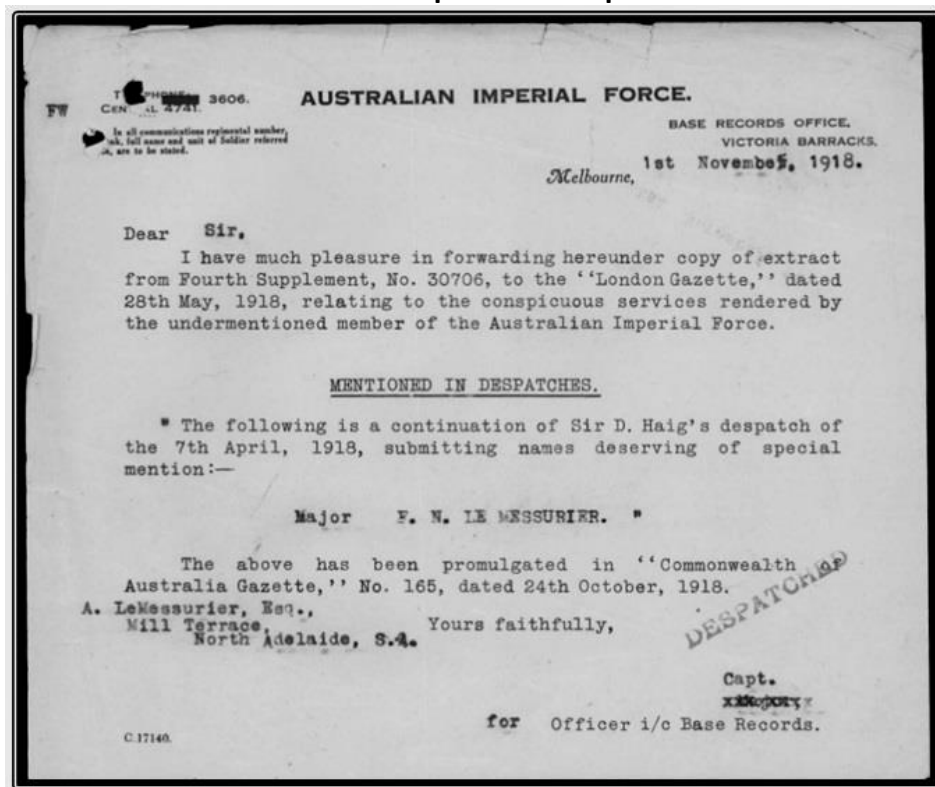
He was well known in Adelaide and had a high profile as indicated by the following press article in *The Journal* (Adelaide, SA: 1912 - 1923) in a page 1 article on 22 July 2015:

"There is no more popular and better-known footballer at the front than Captain F.N. Le Messurier. He is the son of Mr A. Le Messurier of North Adelaide and, before going to the war with the 1st Australian Stationary Hospital, was vice-captain of the North Adelaide club."

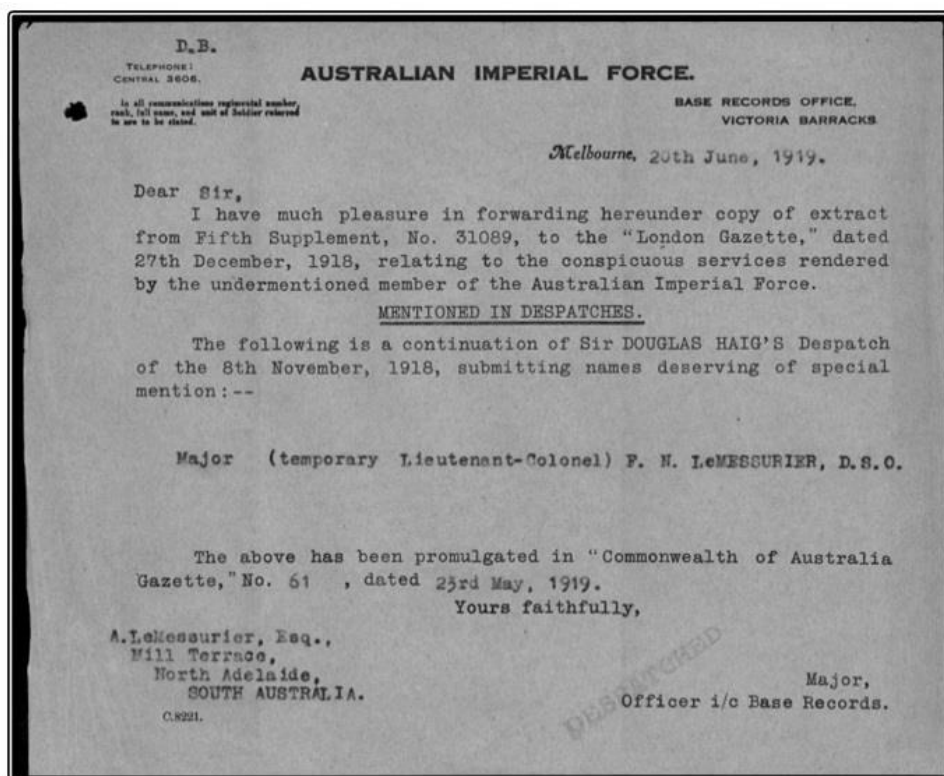
As with many soldiers in the theatre of war, Dr Le Messurier had various ailments that required hospitalisation. These included pleurisy in June 2015 and influenza in July 1915. In addition, he was admitted to hospital for appendicitis in September 1915 and for similar symptoms on 2 January 2016 and had an appendectomy on 4 January 2016.

Freddy was twice mentioned in Despatches. The first time was in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of 7 April 1918 which submitted names worthy of special mention and a further one by Sir Douglas on 8 November 1918. See the relevant correspondence below.

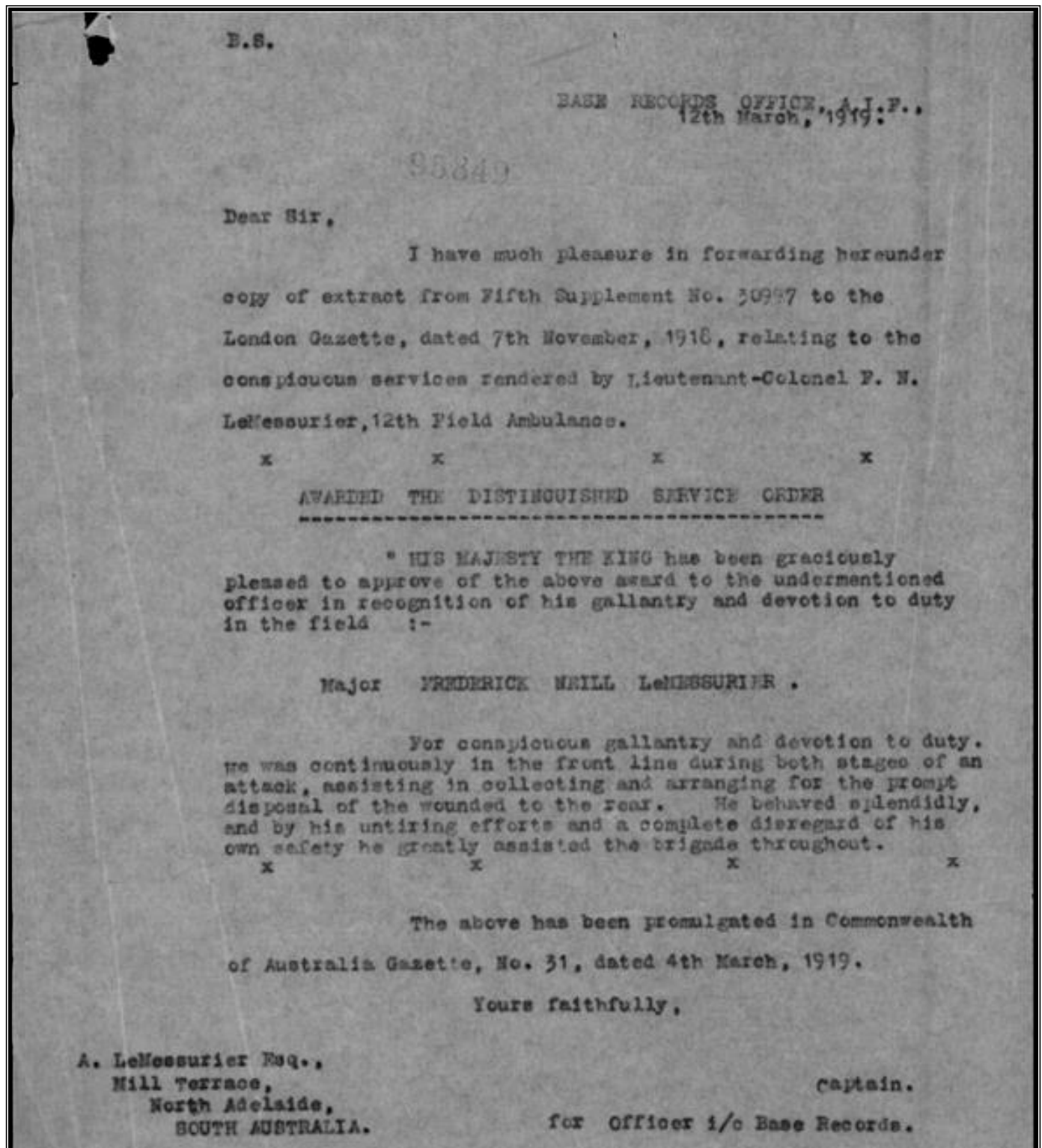
Mention in Despatches - 7 April 1918



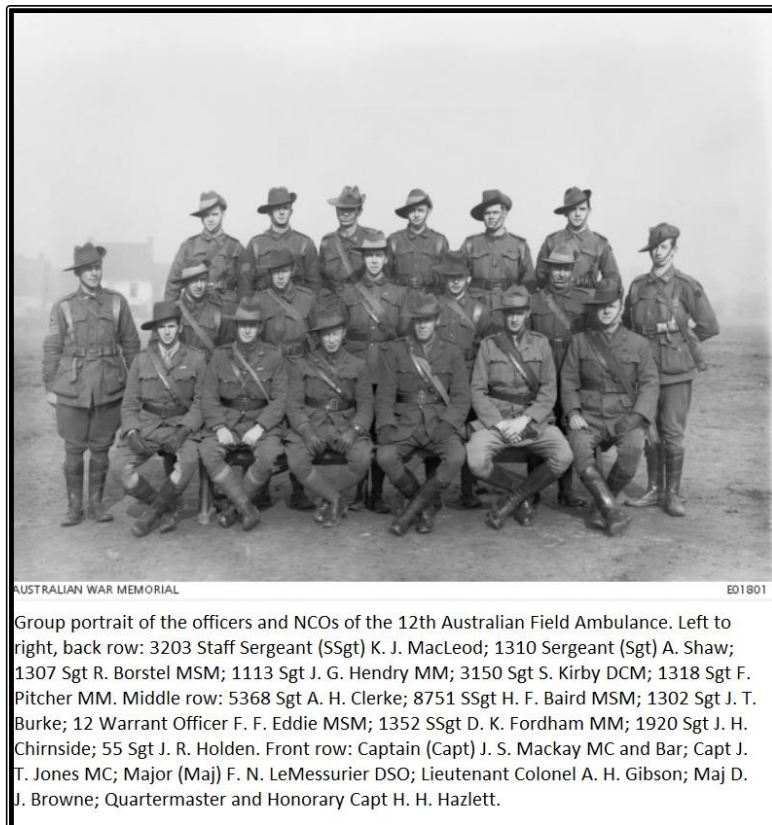
Mention in Despatches - 8 November 1918



Major Le Messurier's heroic efforts were very conspicuous from 8 to 10 August 1918, when east of Hamel, France, he evacuated wounded soldiers while under fire. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. See the documentation below.



The next month Freddy was promoted to temporary Lieutenant Colonel and placed in command of the 12th Field Ambulance. See photo below Dr F.N. Le Messurier third from left in the front row.

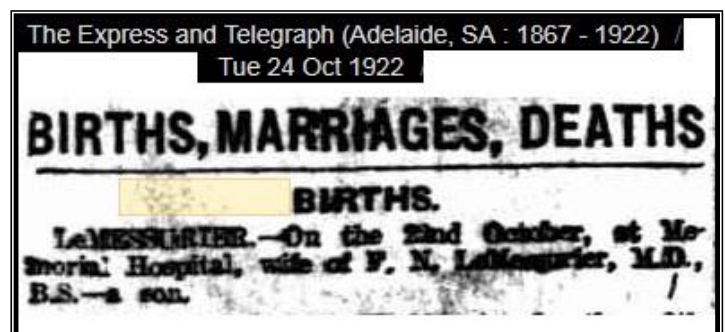
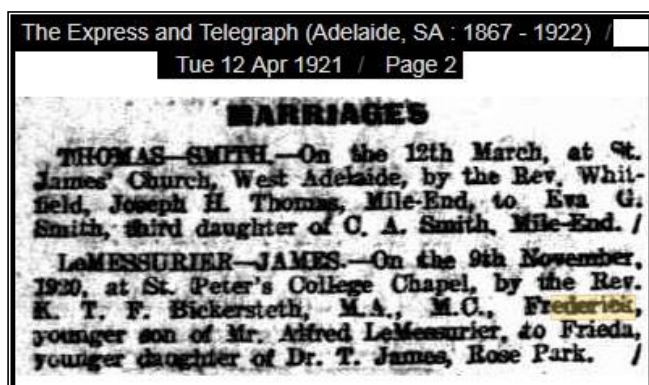


Group portrait of the officers and NCOs of the 12th Australian Field Ambulance

Lieutenant Colonel F.N. Le Messurier departed England on the *Orontes* on 20 December 1918 and arrived back in Melbourne on 13 February 1919. He then returned to Adelaide on the *Karoola* whereupon his A.I.F. appointment was terminated on 17 April 1919 as hostility had ceased.

Marriage and Family

Freddy married Frieda Gwendoline James on 9 November 1920 in the chapel of St Peter's College with Anglican rites. The Le Messuriers had a son, John Frederick Le Messurier, who was born 22nd October 1922



World War II

In World War II, Dr Le Messurier mobilized in 1940. In December 1941 he was appointed Officer in Command of the 105th Australian General Hospital, Adelaide. He was promoted to temporary Colonel in October 1942. His task was to establish the unit and supervise the construction of what later became the Repatriation General Hospital, Springbank (Daw Park).

On 27 May 1941 the Adelaide News reported on his appointment in the following article:

"COMMANDER CHOSEN FOR MILITARY HOSPITAL

F. N. Le Messurier, D.S.O., a leading North Terrace specialist, has been appointed to command the unit staffing the new military base hospital at Colonel Light Gardens.

Arrangements for staffing the hospital were announced today, when it was stated that there were vacancies for between 50 and 60 experienced men.

Medical authorities are ready for the selection and training of NCO's and medical orderlies. Old soldiers up to 55, who served in the Australian Army Medical Corps in the last War will be given preference of enlistment. Men who have applied for overseas service with the A.I.F. in the present War, but are graded as Class 2 (unfit for overseas for medical reasons) may also enlist in the hospital unit."

Source: The News (Adelaide, SA: 1923 – 1954)



His personal contacts, including members of his family who were prominent timber merchants, were useful in obtaining building materials for the hospital, beyond those provided under the contract. His effective management style resulted in the successful completion of the project. Dr Le Messurier remained in command of the hospital until 1946.

In an attempt to make the Repatriation Hospital self-sufficient and to provide a form of therapy, staff and patients grew food and raised animals. Among his other innovative achievements were the enclosure of sunrooms for the wards and the construction of a bowling-green, bathing-box and canteen.

The Adelaide News reported on a post World War II get-together at the Repatriation Hospital, where two prominent Adelaide University cricketers and footballers, who had spent time in charge of the hospital during the War, were the main dignitaries.

"Reunion at Daws Road

Colonel F. N. Le Messurier and Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Sangster, former commanding officers of Daws Road Military Hospital, will receive the guests at a reunion of former staff members of the hospital on Friday week. The function will be in the S.P.F. hall in the grounds of the hospital and will take the form of a buffet lea and social evening."

Source: 18 Feb 1947 Adelaide News (Adelaide, SA: 1923 – 1954)

Medical Career (refer also to published biographies below)

After the end of World War I, Dr Le Messurier accepted a post as a Resident Medical Officer at the Children's Hospital, Melbourne, and developed an interest in Paediatrics. In 1922 he joined the staff of Mareeba Babies' Hospital, Adelaide, and later became an honorary Medical Officer. Ward 6A was named after him. He was honorary assistant-physician from 1924 and honorary physician (1926 to 1947) at the Adelaide Children's Hospital; a member of the hospital's board, and he served as Deputy President from 1947 to 1958.

Specializing as a Paediatrician, he took particular interest in parent education, infant feeding and the management of pre-school children.

Freddy retained a connection with St Peter's College as its school doctor (1927 to 1961). At the University of Adelaide, he lectured from 1935 on the medical diseases of children and was an occasional demonstrator in Anatomy. He was on the committee of the Babies Hospital Association in the 1930's.

Death

Freddy died on 19 May 1966 at age 75 in Calvary Hospital at North Adelaide. Freddy's wife, Freida died on 18 November 1964, aged 73 years.

Epitaph

Dr F. N. Le Messurier was a stocky man, widely known as Freddy and sometimes irreverently as '*Freddo the Frog*'. He was a multi-talented man with a keen sense of humour; he inspired confidence and could be considerate and kind. Freddy was a strong disciplinarian, sometimes prone to the details and reluctant to delegate. Despite this trait, he was fair, reasonable and popular amongst his colleagues.

Biography Compiled by David Bartlett (AUFC/AUCC)

With additional information and photographs added by Rob O'Shannassy (AUCC)

References

Australian Dictionary of Biography article, *Le Messurier, Frederick Neill (Freddy) (1891–1966)*, by Brian Wimborne in Volume 15, Melbourne University Press

This research used Select Bibliography including:

- *The Adelaide Children's Hospital, 1876-1976* by M. Barbalet (Adelaide, 1975)
- *Le Messuriers of Port Adelaide*, by J. Tregenza (Adelaide, 1991)
- *St Peter's College Magazine*, May, Aug, Dec 1908, 1909, Dec 1961
- *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1 Oct 1966
- *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 21 May 1966
- **North Adelaide Football Club** - History Committee

In addition:

- *75th Year Anniversary 1906 – 1981 Adelaide University Football Club*, authored by David Bartlett and David Bradshaw

Websites consulted included:

- National Archives Australia web sites re World War service records
- National Library of Australia – Trove digitized newspapers

Photographs

Australian War Memorial Photograph Collection

Adelaide University Archives - Adelaide University Cricket Club Intervarsity Team Photo Collection

Published Biographies

Blood, Sweat and Fears, Medical Practitioners and Medical Students or Served in World War 1; Christopher Verco, Annette Summers, Tony Swain & Michael Jelly. (Army Health Services Historical Group)

LE MESSURIER Frederick Neill

DSO MD

1891 - 1966



Frederick Neill Le Messurier was born on the 12th January 1891, the youngest son of Alfred and Jane, nee Sinclair. The Le Messurier family came from Guernsey; Captain Peter Le Messurier and his wife Betsy came to South Australia in 1853 and he established a business as shipowner, agent and merchant. The business was expanded in coastal shipping by his sons Alfred and Ernest. Le Messurier was educated at St Peter's College, where he excelled both academically and in sporting prowess. He played for the North Adelaide Football Club during his last year. He was in the cadet corps rising to the rank of subaltern; he was the School captain in his last year and the top student. He was awarded a Blue for football in 1910. He studied medicine at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 1913 with first class honours.

Le Messurier joined 1 ASH as a captain on 7th October 1914. He was 5ft 6ins tall and weighed 150lbs. He travelled on the *Kyarra* to Egypt and subsequently to Lemnos (where he underwent an appendicectomy), Gallipoli and France. He was promoted to major in August 1916 and posted to 1AGH. Subsequent postings included 3 AAH, 13 FdAmb, 12 FdAmb and 48 Bn. He was Mentioned in Despatches of 7th April 1918. He was awarded the DSO which was gazetted on 7th November 1918, in recognition of his "*conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was continuously in the front line during both stages of an attack, assisting in collecting and arranging the prompt disposal of the wounded to the rear. He behaved splendidly, and by his untiring efforts and the complete disregard of his own safety he greatly assisted the brigade throughout.*" He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and again Mentioned in Despatches on 8th November 1918. He returned to Australia in December 1918 with his appointment terminated on the 14th February 1919. He was issued with the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal with Oak Leaves.

He took up a resident medical officer post at the Adelaide Children's Hospital on return and a lifelong

interest in paediatrics developed. He married Frieda Gwendoline James in the chapel of his old school in 1920 and they had one son. After a short period in general practice, in 1922 he was appointed to the post of Honorary Physician to the Mareeba Babies Hospital and in 1923 was joined by Dr Cyril Pitcher and Dr Helen Mayo. He subsequently was appointed an honorary assistant physician, and in 1926 honorary physician to the Adelaide Children's Hospital. He was the lecturer in medical diseases of children and a member of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Adelaide for many years. He introduced lactic acid milk feeding of infants to Adelaide after a trip to St Louis (USA) in the mid-1920s. He practised as a specialist paediatrician and was the first to do so in Adelaide. He took a great interest in his old school and was the school doctor from 1927 until 1961. He served again in WW2 and was promoted to colonel and appointed commanding officer of 105 (Adelaide) Military Hospital in 1941 and remained in command until 1946. His task was to establish the unit and supervise the construction of what later became The Repatriation General Hospital on Daws Road. His personal contacts, including members of his family, were useful in obtaining building materials for the hospital. To make the hospital self sufficient and to provide a form of therapy staff and patients grew food and raised animals. Among his other achievements were the enclosures of eight sunrooms for the wards, the construction of a bowling green, bathing box and canteen. Gifted with a keen sense of humour, he inspired confidence, and could be considerate and kind. Frederick Neill Le Messurier died in Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide on the 20th May 1966, survived by his only son.

Sources:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=8203275>
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/le-messurier-alfred-roy-10812/text19179>,
McKay DG Frederick Neill Le Messurier; MJA 1Oct66 p666
Photo from Le Messurier Family.

Le Messurier, Frederick Neill (Freddy) (1891–1966)

by Brian Wimborne

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 15, (MUP), 2000

This is a shared entry with Alfred Roy Le Messurier

Alfred Roy Le Messurier (1886–1946), company director, and Frederick Neill Le Messurier (1891–1966), paediatrician, were born on 19 February 1886 and 12 January 1891 at Semaphore, Adelaide, third and fifth surviving children of South Australian-born parents Alfred Le Messurier, agent, and his wife, Jane Sinclair, née Neill. Both boys were educated at the Collegiate School of St Peter. At 16 Roy entered his father's shipping agency, A. & E. Le Messurier, where he specialized in importing timber from Tasmania for local furniture-makers and developed it into a significant enterprise. He later joined Thorold Wilhelm Gunnersen, a Melbourne-based importer of Baltic and North American softwoods. In 1915 they formed Gunnersen Le Messurier Ltd, an indent agency arranging direct sales from suppliers to South Australian clients for an agreed commission. Until 1920 the company had no premises; as managing director, Le Messurier operated from the offices of the family firm. At St Bede's Anglican Church, Semaphore, on 17 April 1912 he had married Margaret Galway Saunders.

Despite World War I, Gunnersen Le Messurier grew steadily. Demand for timber from South Australia's fledgling car industry, as well as the cooperage, building and furniture trades, provided scope for Le Messurier who, by 1921, was the main shareholder in his father's company. He imported quality timbers, such as Tasmanian oak, blackwood, sassafras, King Billy pine and beech. To supply Baltic pine to Melbourne, he helped to found (1925) Alstergren Pty Ltd, brokers and agents.

In July 1926 Le Messurier bought shares in Mathias & Co., furniture-makers, and in Lloyd's Timber Mills Ltd; both became important clients of Gunnersen Le Messurier Ltd. That year he backed a new retail timber merchant, Wadlow Ltd. Le Messurier also funded promising young timbermen and was described by an associate as 'the best picker of men he had ever met'. In 1927 he helped Norman Moore to buy Rosenfeld & Co. (South Australia) Ltd and a few months later assisted in the establishment of Cullity Timbers Ltd, Perth. He invested in South Australian and Western Australian salvage companies, and founded Moore Le Messurier Pty Ltd in Sydney in 1932.

On his father's death in 1927, Le Messurier had succeeded him as chairman, a position he retained for life. By the age of 41 he was a formidable figure in the timber industry. Although the sale of Tasmanian wood was the main source of Gunnersen Le Messurier's prosperity in the late 1930s, the import of North American oregon and hemlock, and New Zealand white pine, kauri pine and rimu also proved profitable. During World War II, when American hemlock was unavailable, Le Messurier investigated the use of locally grown *Pinus radiata*. With plywood, too, in short supply, he helped to establish Tasmanian Plywood Mills and Westralian Plywoods.

Outside office hours, Le Messurier led a comfortable but unostentatious life. He liked to mix work with relaxation and many of his business associates were his closest friends. As a young man he had enjoyed cricket and lacrosse; in addition, he played football for Port Adelaide and North Adelaide, and was vice-captain of the latter team in 1911 and 1913. In 1908 he had represented South Australia at an interstate Australian Rules football carnival held in Melbourne. Survived by his wife, and by three of his five sons, he died of cancer on 5 October 1946 at his Fitzroy home and was buried in Cheltenham cemetery; his estate was sworn for probate at £61,254. At St Mark's College, University of Adelaide, a bursary and a room are named after him.

Unlike his elder brother who was not scholastically minded, Frederick was a fine all-round student at St Peter's. A lieutenant in the cadets, a member of the debating society, a prefect (1907-08) and school captain (1908), he represented the school in athletics and skippered its football and cricket teams. He was Farrell scholar in 1905 and Young exhibitor in 1908. Le Messurier played for the North Adelaide Football Club in 1908-10 and 1913-14. Studying medicine at the University of Adelaide, he graduated with first-class honours (M.B., B.S., 1913; M.D., 1920) and became a resident medical officer at the (Royal) Adelaide Hospital.

On 7 October 1914 Le Messurier was appointed captain, Australian Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force. He served at Gallipoli and in Egypt before joining the 12th Field Ambulance on the Western Front in March 1917. East of Hamel, France, on 8-10 August 1918 he evacuated wounded soldiers while under fire and won the Distinguished Service Order. Next month he was promoted temporary lieutenant colonel and placed in command of the field ambulance. Mentioned in dispatches, he returned to Adelaide where his A.I.F. appointment terminated on 17 April 1919.

Le Messurier accepted a post as a resident medical officer at the Children's Hospital, Melbourne, and developed an interest in paediatrics. At the chapel of his old school on 9 November 1920 he married Frieda Gwendoline James with Anglican rites. In 1922 he joined the staff of Mareeba Babies' Hospital, Adelaide, and later became an honorary medical officer. Ward 6A was to be named after him. He was honorary assistant-physician (from 1924) and honorary physician (1926-47) at Adelaide Children's Hospital; a member of the hospital's board, he served as deputy-president in 1947-58.

In the mid-1920s Le Messurier had observed the use of lactic-acid milk feeding at Washington University, St Louis, United States of America, a process which involved scalding cows' milk and adding a solution of glucose and lactic acid to make the milk more sterile and digestible for infants. He introduced the practice in South Australia and popularized it. Specializing as a paediatrician, he took particular interest in parent education, infant feeding and the management of pre-school children. He retained a connexion with St Peter's as its school doctor (1927-61). At the University of Adelaide he lectured (from 1935) on the medical diseases of children and was an occasional demonstrator in anatomy.

Mobilized in 1940, Le Messurier began full-time duty in command of the 105th Australian General Hospital, Adelaide, in December 1941. He was promoted temporary colonel in October 1942. His task was to establish the unit and supervise the construction of what later became the Repatriation General Hospital, Springbank (Daw Park). His personal contacts, including members of his family, were useful in obtaining building materials for the hospital, beyond those provided under contract, and his efforts and sense of purpose led to the successful completion of the project. He remained in command of the hospital until 1946. In an attempt to make the R.G.H. self-sufficient and to provide a form of therapy, staff and patients grew food and raised animals. Among his other achievements were the enclosure of eight sunrooms for the wards, and the construction of a bowling-green, bathing-box and canteen.

Le Messurier was a stocky man, widely known as Freddy and sometimes irreverently as 'Freddo the Frog'. Gifted with a keen sense of humour, he inspired confidence, and could be considerate and kind. Yet, he remained a strong disciplinarian, obsessed with detail and reluctant to delegate. Some thought him difficult and 'stuffed up with his own importance'. Despite being considered petty and pernickety, he was usually fair, reasonable and popular. Survived by his only son, Le Messurier died on 20 May 1966 in Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide, and was cremated. His estate was sworn for probate at \$94,994.

Select Bibliography

- M. Barbalet, *The Adelaide Children's Hospital, 1876-1976* (Adel, 1975)
- J. Tregenza, *Le Messuriers of Port Adelaide* (Adel, 1991)
- P. Last, *The Repat* (Adel, 1994)
- University of Adelaide, *Calendar*, 1914, 1921, 1926
- *St Peter's College Magazine*, May, Aug, Dec 1908, 1909, Dec 1961
- *Australian Timber Journal*, Oct 1946
- *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1 Oct 1966
- *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 21 May 1966
- University of Adelaide, staff records
- private information.

Citation details

Brian Wimborne, 'Le Messurier, Frederick Neill (Freddy) (1891-1966)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/le-messurier-frederick-neill-freddy-11399/text19179>, published first in hardcopy 2000, accessed online 16 August 2017.

North Adelaide Football Club 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914 - 41 Games



Dr. Frederick "Freddy" Le Messurier played his first season with North Adelaide while still Captain of St. Peter's College in 1908.

A courageous rover he was Best and Fairest in 1909 and 1910.

"Freddy" was studying at Adelaide University, and along with other players, he turned out with Uni. in 1911 to help their application to enter the S.A.F.L. Despite winning 2 straight Premierships they were still denied entry. Fred was later club President from 1928 - 1936.

Returning to North he took the mantle of Vice-Captain in 1914 from his elder brother Roy, who had previously played for South Australia.

Fred's courage and determination were no more evident that when he was heavily concussed early in a match against Sturt. Described with "his head whirling around", he resumed to be best on ground.

Dr. "Freddy" Le Messurier played **41** games with North before leaving for Gallipoli and the Western Front in 1914.

He was appointed as Captain and later a Lieutenant Colonel of the Australian Army Medical Corp and won the D.S.O. for evacuating wounded under fire in France.

A brilliant and highly credentialed medical practitioner, after the war Dr. Fred was appointed Resident M.O. at the R.A.H., and later held the same position at the Children's' Hospital in Melbourne.

In the next war WW2, he was made Commander in Charge of the Australian General Hospital in Adelaide and was directly responsible for the construction of the Repatriation Hospital at Daw Park.

With a keen sense of humour, Dr. Fred graciously accepted the nickname bestowed on him by his peers – "Freddo the Frog".

Courtesy of North Adelaide football Club History Group

LeMessurier, Frederick Neill v.1