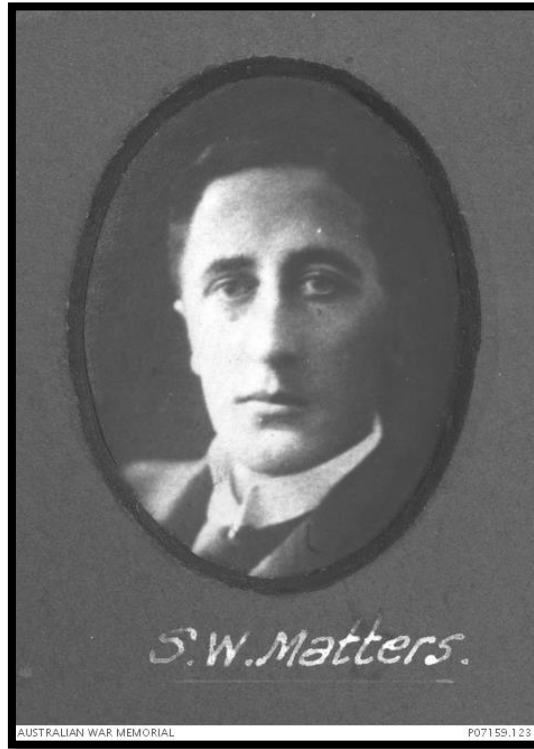




Lieut. Stuart William Matters

(Mention in Despatches)



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1910 Intervarsity

Enrolled in Arts & Science in 1910

School of Mines and Industry

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 Stuart William Matters. 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=191040>

Stuart William MATTERS

Place of birth	Adelaide South Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Surveyor
Address	Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	25
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Jane Beadnall Matters, High Street, Unley Park, South Australia
Enlistment date	1 July 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	11th Field Company Engineers, Section 2
AWM Embarkation Roll number	14/30/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A29 <i>Suevic</i> on 31 May 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	3rd Divisional Engineers
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette' No. 31448 (11 July 1919); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 124 (30 October 1919).
Fate	Returned to Australia 21 June 1919
Other details	Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/273652>

MATTERS, Stuart William

Service Numbers: Not yet discovered

Enlisted: Not yet discovered

Last Rank: Lieutenant

Last Unit: 11th Field Company Engineers

Born: Not yet discovered

Home Town: Not yet discovered

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Surveyor

Memorials: Unley HB01 Town Hall*

World War 1 Service

31 May 1916: Involvement 11th Field Company Engineers

31 May 1916: Embarked 11th Field Company Engineers, HMAT Suevic, Adelaide

11 Nov 1918: Involvement Lieutenant, 11th Field Company Engineers

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8039576>

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2236 Name MATTERS, Stuart William
Unit 11. Group Base Infantry
Joined on July 1st 1915

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Stuart William Matters
2. In the Parish of Halverton in or near the Town of Adelaide in the County of St. Aust.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... N.B.
4. What is your age? ... 25 1/2
5. What is your trade or calling? ... Surveyor
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... (Mother) Mrs. Jane Beadnall Matters, High St., Unley Park, St. Aust.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
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? ... No
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 ... P.A.C. Cadets 18 months.
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? ... Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, Stuart William Matters do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife† wife and children.

Date 2-1-15 Stuart W. Matters
Signature of person enlisted.

D.377/1.15.—C.662. * This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1585160>

Honours and Awards (Recommendation)

Lieutenant Stuart William Matters

Rank Lieutenant
Unit 11th Field Company, Australian Engineers
Conflict/Operation First World War, 1914-1918
Recommendation Mention in despatches
Date of Recommendation 07 February 1919

3rd. Australian Divisional Engineers.	3rd Australian.	AUSTRALIAN.
11th Field Company, A. E.	Major Robert Johnstone DONALDSON, D.S.O.	
-da-	Lieutenant Stuart William MATTERS.	MENTION IN DESPATCHES.
Date Recommendation Passed Forward. Recd. Passed. 7. 2. 19		
Unit. Division. Corps. Army.	Major General. G.O.C. Third Australian Division.	

Biography

Early Life

Stuart William Matters was born on the 11th of January 1889 at Malvern, Adelaide. He was the third of five children of Thomas James Matters second marriage to Jane Beadnell (Nee Waterhouse). His siblings were Clement Waterhouse (1884 - 1961), Arthur Towers (1887 - 1980), Reginald Francis "Rex" (1892 - 1975) and Mary Dorothea

“Mollie” (1899 - 1979). He also had a half-brother and four half-sisters (only two survived infancy) from his father’s first marriage to Emily Novis (1841 – 1881).

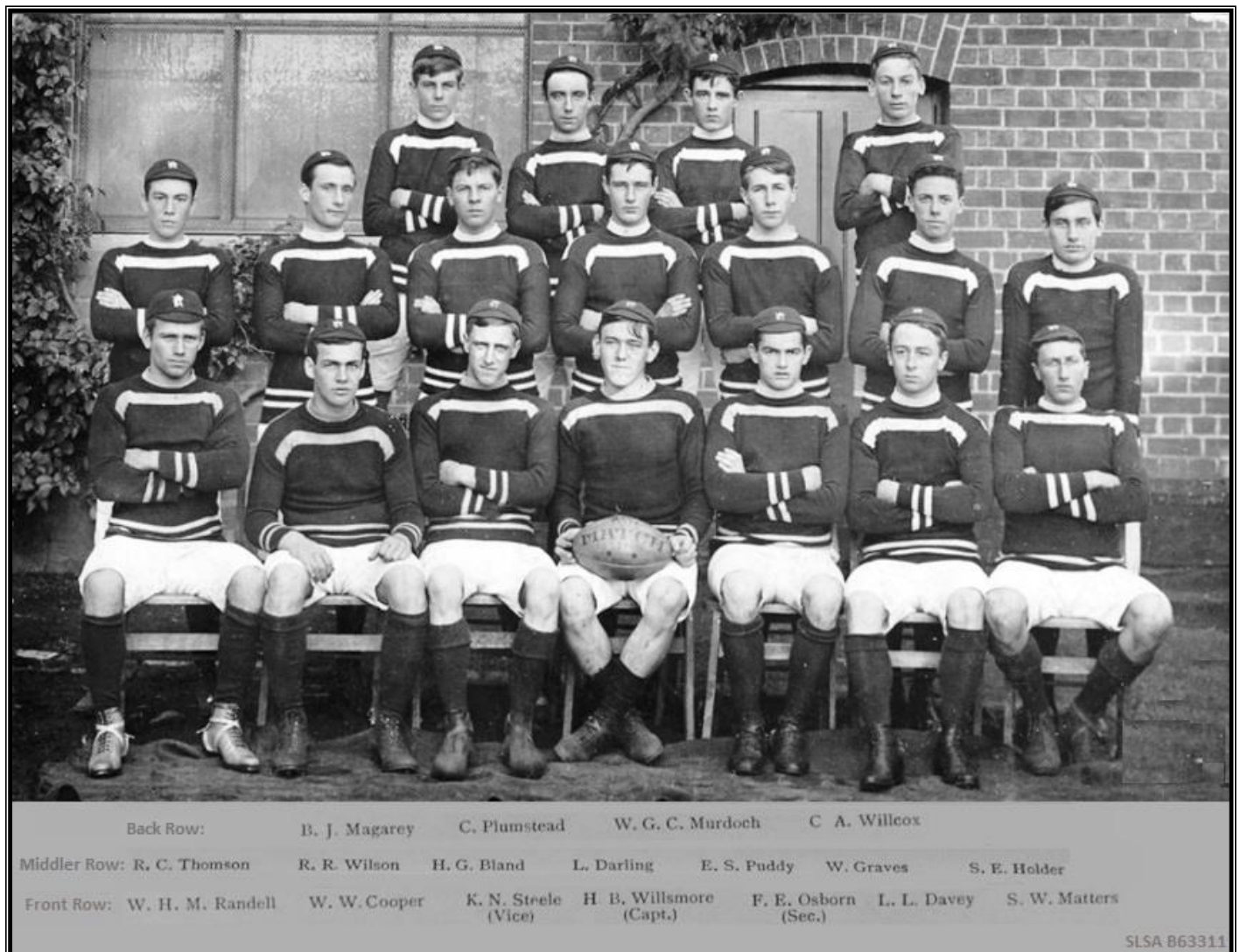
Stuart’s father was a real estate agent and leader of the firm Matters and Co. he became a member of the Adelaide City Council and in 1925 he became president of the Licensed Landbrokers’ and Auctioneers’ Association.

Schooling

Stuart attended Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, from at least 1905. He was in the PAC Cadets for 18 months. Stuart passed his Junior Examinations in 1906.

He was well known at the College for his athletic abilities. In 1906, he competed in Inter-Collegiate events against Scotch College (Melbourne) and St Peter’s College. In the 1907 PAC Sports, Stuart won the High Jump and the College Cup. He also won the High Jump in the Inter-Collegiate competition against St Peter’s (5’6 ½”). Stuart was in the PAC Football team in 1906 & 1907. He played football as an Old Scholar in the match against Present boys in August 1909.

1907 - PAC First Eighteen Football Team



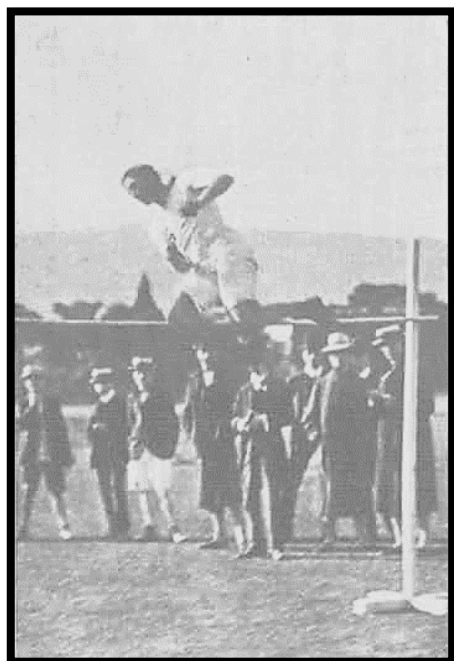
S.W. Matters – Seated – far right

School of Mines

Stuart commenced studying at the School of Mines in 1908. He passed Mathematics 1 and Woodwork in 1908. He also passed Arts Examinations in 1908, Building and Construction I, Drawing II & Fitting & Turning in 1909 and

Electrical Engineering I & Applied Mechanics III in 1910. He was listed as a student at the University of Adelaide (Arts and Science) in 1910 so would have enrolled for a subject as a non-graduating student. There is no record of him passing any subject.

Stuart won the High Jump at the School of Mines Annual Sports in 1908 (State Record 5' 8½"), 1909 and 1910 and the School Cup in 1908 & 1909.



1908



1909



1910

"Calca."—According to the most authentic records Mr. S. W. Matters is the holder of the South Australian amateur running high jump record (5 ft 84 in.), which he established at the Adelaide Oval at the School of Mines sports on May 22, 1908. The professional highest jumper of South Australia is T. Champion, who, at the St. Patrick's Day sports at the Adelaide Oval in 1905, jumped 5 ft. 7½ in. 2. In running high jump at the Warehousemen's Cricket Ground, Melbourne, on December 25, 1891, M. A. Conroy cleared 6 ft. 5 in.

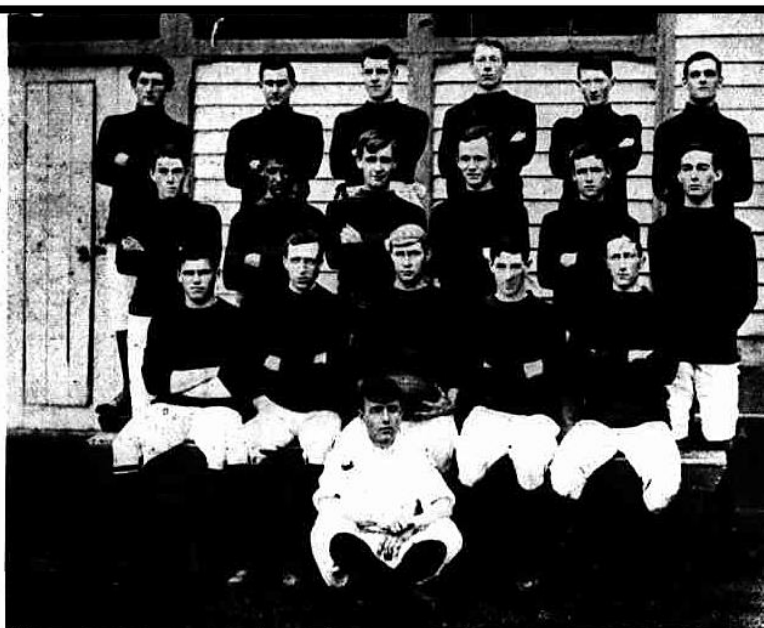
He played football for the School of Mines against Melbourne Church of England Grammar School in 1909.



Critic photo.

MATTERS CAPTURES THE BALL.
School of Mines v. Melbourne Church of
England Grammar School.

Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) / Wed 14 Jul 1909



Critic photo.

**SCHOOL OF MINES v. MELBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR
SCHOOL.**

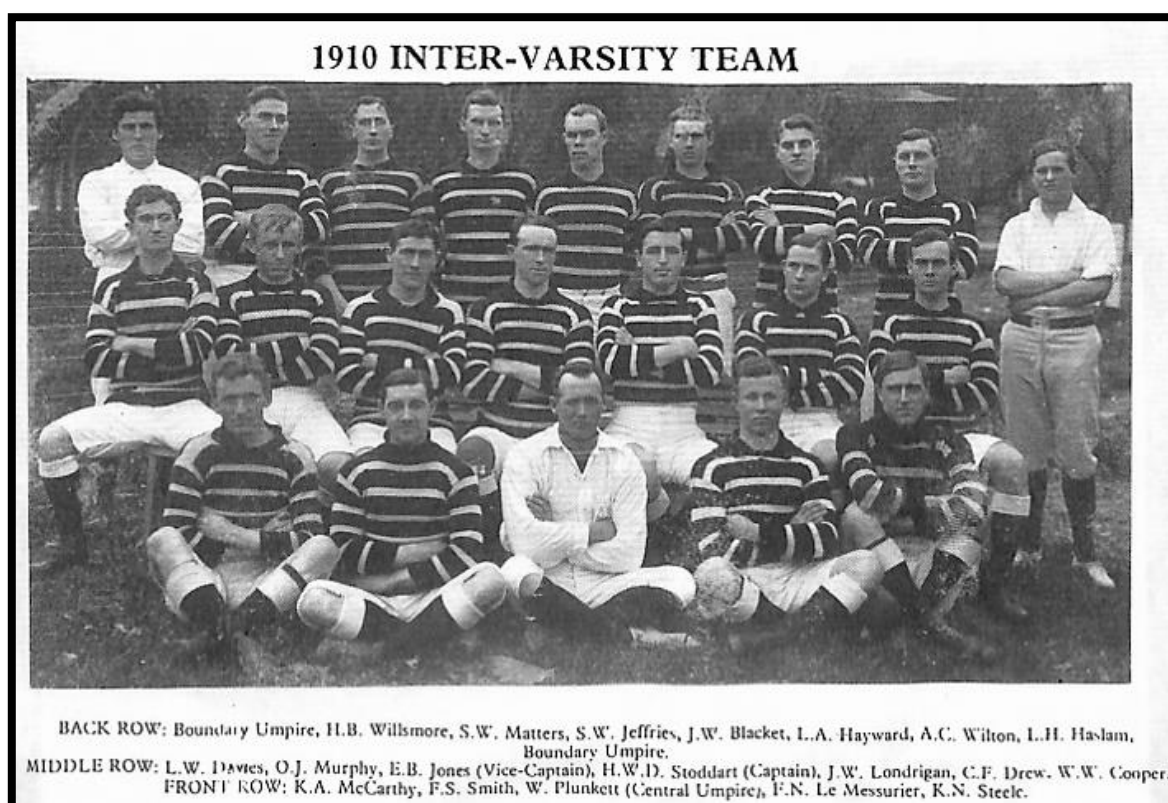
Jubilee Oval, Wednesday, July 7.
Won by School of Mines, 10 goals 21 behinds to 11 goals 11 behinds.

SCHOOL OF MINES TEAM.

Back Row: E. Stacey, W. Lang, W. Angwin, E. Chapman, E. Kavanagh, E. Shapter.
Standing: E. Thompson, McKail, M. Wastell, F. Espie, Pathinson, E. Holder.
Sitting: A. Craigie, F. Rogers (secretary), A. Lindsay (captain), V. Cresdee
(vice-captain), S. Matters. Mr. F Ewers (umpire).

University Sport

In 1910 the Adelaide University did not have a football team in regular competition; however, they did form a side to play an IntersVarsity match against Melbourne University in August 1910. Stuart was a member of the side. Melbourne won 14.10 to 8.11 and Matters scored a goal.



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.

1910 – Adelaide University IntersVarsity Football - SW Matters – Back row – third from left

Career

By October 1912, Stuart was based at Berri and was carrying out preliminary survey work with the laying out of land under the direction of Mr Loveday of Cobdogola. Stuart assisted in setting up the Methodist Sunday School at Berri. He was listed among the members of the Irrigation & Reclamation Department in a 1916 roll of Honour of Civil Service recruits. In 1913 Stuart passed the Senior Public Examinations in Drawing.

World War I

Stuart enlisted on the 1st of July 1915, in the 11th Field Company Engineers, Section 2. He was described as a surveyor, 25 years and six months of age, single, 5'11", 174 lbs, with a fair complexion, grey hair and brown eyes. In March 1916, he was appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant and embarked on the 31st of May 1916 onboard the HMAT Suevic, from Adelaide arriving at Devonport, England on 21st of July 1916. In October 1916 Stuart competed in an ANZAC Sports on Salisbury Plains., coming third in the High Jump.

On 24th of November 1916, Stuart proceeded to France and was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st of January 1917. On the 7th of March 1918 Stuart joined the Army Modelling School, he returned to the field on the 22nd of March 1918. On 24th of April 1918 Stuart was wounded in action (gunshot wound to right foot). After recovering in hospital in England and a period in Training, Stuart returned to France on 19th of July 1918. At the cessation of hostilities Stuart had a brief period of leave in Italy before returning to England. On the 7th of February 1919 Stuart was Mentioned in Despatches. In March and April 1919, he worked with the Ordnance Survey Department and attended the AIF Surveying School. Stuart returned to Australia on 21st of June 1919.

Resuming Career


After the war Stuart returned to the Irrigation Department as a surveyor and in a restructure in March 1920 he was appointed to the dual roles of reclamation engineer and surveyor.

Family Life

On the 16th of June 1920, Stuart married Doris Gordon, the daughter of David John Gordon, M.L.C. at the Stow Methodist Church, Adelaide. A reception was held after the wedding at home of the Gordon family in Victoria Avenue, Unley. Doris was a trained nurse and she had enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in September 1916 and served in France and Italy.

GORDON, Doris
Sister
A A N S
Born 15 December 1890 at Semaphore, SA
Daughter of David John GORDON and Anna Louisa nee PEEL
Of Victoria Avenue, Unley Park, SA
Occupation prior to enlistment Trained Nurse
Enlisted 26 September 1916 at Keswick, SA
Embarked 29 December 1916 per 'Themistocles'
Served in France
Returned to Australia 19 August 1919 per 'Lancashire'
Married 16 June 1920 Stuart William MATTERS
Was Secretary of the Returned Sister's Sub Branch of the R.S.S.L.A.
Wrote a series of Articles for 'The Mail' newspaper in Adelaide entitled 'Grey Women in the Great War', in 1930.
Died 30 September 1966 at Henry Gilbert Hospital, North Adelaide, SA
Aged 75 years
Resided 9 Egmont Terrace, Erindale, SA
Cremated Centennial Park Cemetery

The Mail Saturday 09 December 1933 page 3S
Mrs. Stewart Matters who as Miss Doris Gordon was a sister in the Australian Army Nursing Service -
On Christmas 1916 I was on a boat on my way to France where I was stationed until the end of 1917. Then I was transferred to one of the two big English hospitals in Genoa, Italy to nurse British troops. I remained there until the end of 1918.



Doris' father was a journalist, author and politician who was knighted in 1925 and her mother was actively involved in welfare and charitable activities. Doris' two brothers (Douglas and John) and a cousin (James Lewis) joined the 10th Battalion and were part of the Gallipoli Landing on 25th April 1915. Sadly, James was killed sometime between the 25th and 29th of April 1915. Douglas married Stuart's sister, Mary Dorothea, in April 1924. Doris was actively involved in the Returned Sister's Sub Branch of the R.S.S.L.A..

Stuart and Doris had two daughters, Mary Gordon Matters (1921) and Jeanette Gordon Matters (1924).

Other Interests

Stuart was President of the 11th Field Company Engineers annual reunion committee from at least 1923 – 1929. In conjunction with other family members, he became a shareholder in Wongyarra Estates Limited. Stuart left the Irrigation Department and became a licensed surveyor. By 1928 he had joined his father's firm, Matters & Co. In 1929, Stuart went on a holiday tour of Colombo (Ceylon, now Sri Lanka). Stuart became the Treasurer of the South Australian Institute of Surveyors in 1933.

Sadly, in August 1933, Doris' mother died suddenly. The same year, Stuart had been back studying at the School of Mines and in December he received a pass in Rural Economics.

From 1937, Stuart's name started appearing regularly in the newspapers playing golf at Kooyonga and in the A.I.F. Annual Golf Days. He also took a keen interest in Tennis attending the international tennis tournaments at Memorial Drive with his wife and daughters in January 1938. He competed in the Veteran's Doubles Tennis (Handicap) in January 1939 and the Invitation Doubles in February 1940.

World War II

Stuart enlisted for WWII (SN S70134); however, he does not appear to have served overseas. His WWII service record has not yet been made available. Stuart and Doris gave their elder daughter Mary a 'Rose Dance' for her debut in June 1940. Mary enlisted in the A.A.M.C. and served in Queensland. She held the rank of Lieutenant.

After WWII

In December 1945, Mary became engaged to Major Hugh Collis Barry, the only son of Mr and Mrs D.R. Barry of Wahroonga, N.S.W. Sadly, her grandfather, Sir David Gordon, did not see her marriage as he passed away in February 1946. Mary was a physiotherapist and was stationed at the Holland Park military hospital in Queensland. Mary and Hugh married at St. Augustine's Church, Unley in April 1946.

1946 - A.I.F. Golf Day



S.W. Matters far right

On the 30th of January 1947, Stuart and Doris' younger daughter (Jeanette) married Stephen V.R. Day at St Augustine's Church Unley. Mary and Dr Hugh Barry of Sydney, N.S.W., had at least three children, Robert (1947), Jane and John Collis Barry (by 1952) when they visited Stuart and Doris at Erindale.

Death

Mary passed away on the 30th of September 1966, aged 66 years. Stuart passed away on the 22nd of May 1970, aged 81 years, His last abode was at Erindale. Doris and Stuart were cremated at Centennial Park, Adelaide.

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/>
War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>
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 – Stuart William Matters)
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>
<http://unleyww1.weebly.com/nurses.html>
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00050326.1933.10436286?journalCode=tjss18>
<https://www.centennialpark.org/memorial-search/>