



# **Pte. Norman Victor Mengersen**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club (1914 & 1915), Intervarsity (1914)**

**Cricket Club 1914/15 & 1915/16 (B Grade)**

**Sports Awards Blue – Football (1914)**

**Diploma of Commerce (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 Norman Victor Mengersen who was one of the earliest students from Adelaide University to enlist. 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=206498>




### Norman Victor MENDERSEN

Regimental number	4163
Place of birth	Palmer South Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Palmer, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	19
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Amelia Mengersen, Palmer, South Australia
Enlistment date	18 November 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	1 December 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	27th Battalion, 10th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/44/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board RMS <i>Mongolia</i> on 9 March 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	25th Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 25 August 1917
Family/military connections	Brothers: 554 Pte Charles Herman MENDERSEN MM, Australian Motor Transport Section, returned to Australia, 23 December 1919; [1609] Lt Herman Edgar MENDERSEN 25th Bn, died of wounds, 22 September 1917; 4560 Sergeant Irwin Oscar MENDERSEN DCM, 50th Bn, returned to Australia, 4 July 1919;
Other details	War service: Western Front Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

# Service Record

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=801347>

25th Bn. H6

**A** 35069 **ALIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

### ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 9453 Name MENGERSEN Norman Victor  
4163 Unit B Coy 2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F. 10/2/15  
 Joined on 18.12.15 1-12-15

1st Rein.

#### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name ?	1. <u>Norman Victor Mengersen</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of <u>Palmer</u> in the County of <u>South Australia</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>NB</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>19 1/2 yrs</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>clerk</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 Mrs Amelia Mengersen</u> <u>Palmer</u> <u>South Australia</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 Incurable 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>2nd Prince Alfred College Cadets</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, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— <small>Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service?</small>	14. _____
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15. <u>Yes</u>

Norman Victor Mengersen 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 NOV 18 1915

N. Mengersen  
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.  
 † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

wo 55270

## RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/54836>

### MENGERSEN, Norman Victor

**Service Numbers:** 4163, 4163A

**Enlisted:** 18 November 1915, Adelaide, South Australia

**Last Rank:** Private

**Last Unit:** 25th Infantry Battalion

**Born:** Palmer, South Australia, March 1896

**Home Town:** Palmer, Mid Murray, South Australia

**Schooling:** Prince Alfred College, Adelaide

**Occupation:** Clerk

**Died:** Natural causes, Adelaide, South Australia, 4 November 1927

**Cemetery:** Mitcham Anglican Cemetery

**Memorials:** Palmer M\*, University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll Mitchell Bldg\*

### World War 1 Service

- 18 Nov 1915:** Enlisted AIF WW1, Private, SN 4163, Adelaide, South Australia
- 9 Mar 1916:** Embarked AIF WW1, Private, SN 4163, 27th Infantry Battalion, RMS Mongolia, Adelaide
- 9 Mar 1916:** Involvement AIF WW1, Private, SN 4163, 27th Infantry Battalion, Enlistment/Embarkation WW1
- 27 Dec 1916:** Transferred AIF WW1, Private, 25th Infantry Battalion
- 4 May 1917:** Wounded AIF WW1, Private, SN 4163, 25th Infantry Battalion, Bullecourt (Second), GSW (thigh)
- 8 Nov 1917:** Discharged AIF WW1, Private, SN 4163A, 25th Infantry Battalion

### Norman Victor Mengersen

Norman was originally assigned to 27th Bn. He was transferred to 5th DAC in April 1916 and promoted to Bombardier the following month. In November 1916 he was transferred to 25th Bn, reverting to the rank of private. He was wounded in action in May 1917 (GSW to right thigh) .

Two of Norman's brothers also enlisted :

Lieut. Herman Edgar Mengersen 25th Bn KIA September 1917

Cpl. Irwin Oscar Mengersen DCM 50th Bn

Submitted 6 June 2017 by Christopher Haslam

(Profiler's Note – Norman's eldest brother Carl Hermann Ferdinand also served enlisting as 'Charles Herman' Mengersen, SN 554).

## Biography

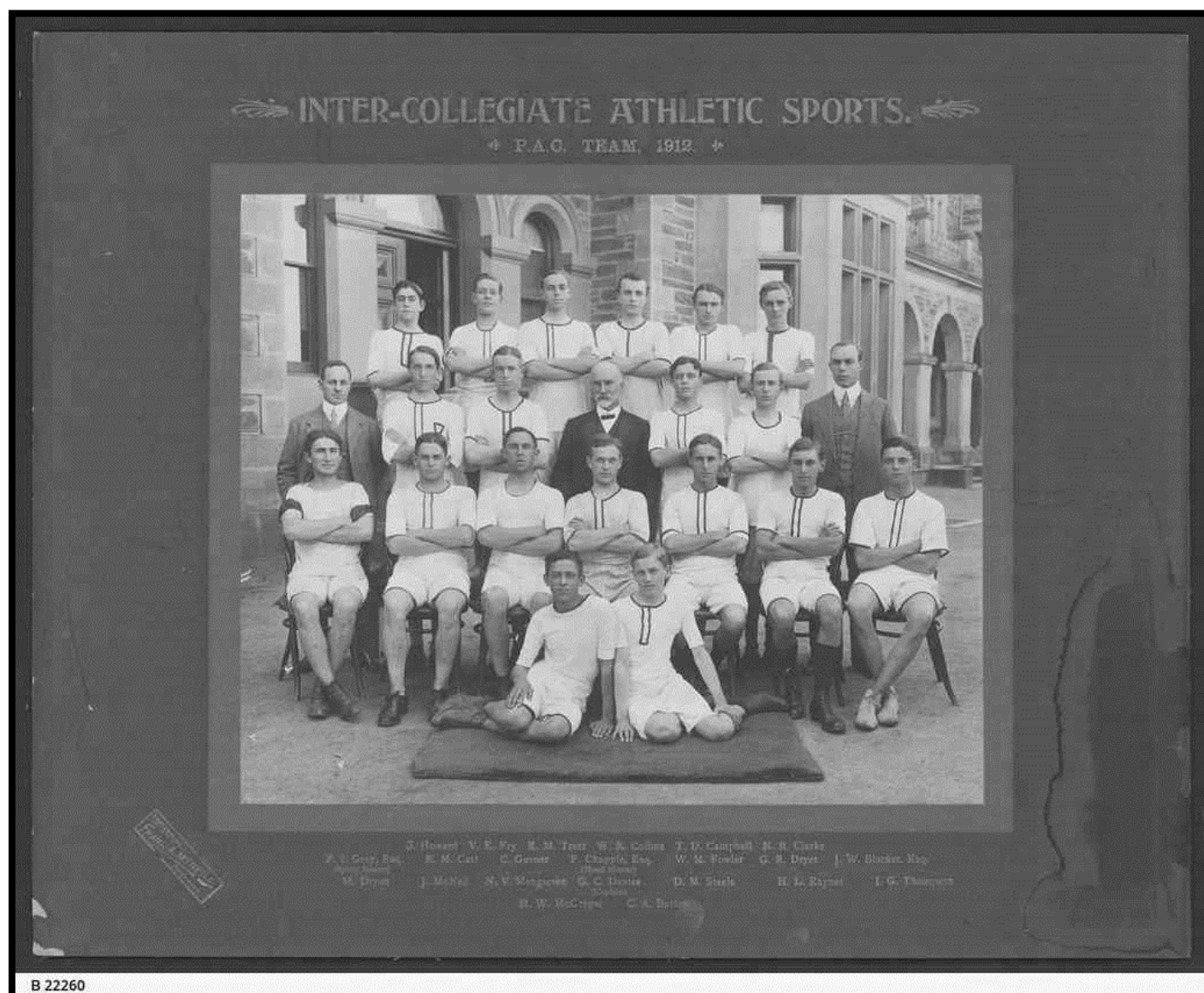
### Early Life

Norman Victor Mengersen was born March 1896 at Palmer, South Australia, to Henry Conrad Mengersen and Emilie Mueller. His siblings were Carl Hermann Ferdinand (b1887), Walther Henry (b1888), Laura Adele (b1890), Wilhelm (b1892), Hermann Edgar (b1893), Irwin Oscar (b1898) and Mercia Emilie (b1901). Norman's father was Clerk of the Tungkillo District Council.

### Schooling

Norman attended Prince Alfred College. He passed his Primary (1910), Senior (1911) and Senior Commercial (1912 & 1913) Examinations. Norman competed in the PAC Sports in 1911-1913, Inter-Collegiate Sports (1912, 1913) and played Inter-Collegiate Football in 1911-1913 (Vice-Captain in 1912 & 1913), Amateur League Football 1913, B Grade Cricket 1911/12-13/14, Intercollegiate Cricket in 1913 and was a School Prefect in 1912 & 1913. While at PAC, Norman spent two years in the Cadets.

### ***1912 Inter-Collegiate Sports – PAC Team***



***N.V. Mengersen – Seated on Chair – Third from Left***

# INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL TEAM, 1913.



BACK ROW.—L. A. Mander, A. H. White, J. W. Blacket, Esq., C. E. Cockram, K. D. Bell.  
MIDDLE ROW.—F. I. Grey, Esq. (Sports Master), H. W. Stempel, E. M. Davidson, H. W.  
Chinner, A. H. Temby, T. L. Chinner, F. Chapple, Esq. (Head Master).  
FRONT ROW.—L. M. Humphrey, G. R. Dreyer, N. V. Mengersen (Vice-Captain), E. M. Trott  
(Captain), H. L. Rayner, W. M. Fowler, C. Gurner.  
SITTING.—R. E. Jolly, A. S. Chipper.

***N.V. Mengersen – Seated on Chair – Third from Left***

## Prince Alfred College Prefects.

1913.



G. E. Poyles  
M. V. Mengersen  
E. M. Trott  
W. E. Collins  
C. Gurner  
F. Chapple, Esq.  
(Dread Nipper)  
D. D. Maguire  
H. L. Rayner  
L. A. Mander  
G. C. Davies

***N.V. Mengersen – Seated at Far Left***

## 1913 Inter-Collegiate Cricket – PAC Team



### University

In his final year at PAC Norman had been awarded the John Creswell Scholarship which provided for study towards a Diploma in Commerce (tenable for 5 years). He commenced studying at Adelaide University in 1914 and was undertaking the Commercial Course. It appears that Norman was also working as his occupation on enlistment was 'clerk'.

### University Sport

#### *Cricket*

Norman played cricket for the University in the B Grade in the 1914/15 & 1915/16 seasons.

#### *Football*

Norman played football for Adelaide University in the Amateur League (A Grade) in 1914 and 1915. He represented the University at the 1914 Intervarsity match and was awarded a Blue for football in 1914.

## 1914 Intersarsity Football Team



### World War I

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1915 Norman enlisted (SN 4163) as a Private, he was 19 8/12, 5'7", 148 lbs, with a medium complexion, brown eyes and dark hair. His mother was listed as his next of kin (her name was recorded as Amelia). He embarked on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1916 with the 27th Infantry Battalion, onboard the RMS Mongolia.

Norman served with the 5th Australian Divisional Ammunition Column and was promoted to the position of Bombardier at Ferry Post East, Egypt. In June 1916, he proceeded from Alexandrina to Marseilles, France and transferred to the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a Private. On 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1917 Norman received a gun shot in the thigh and was transferred to hospital in England. He was initially considered to be suffering from shell shock in addition to his leg wound, however Norman was later diagnosed as epileptic (with one of his fits being witnessed by a Doctor at the hospital). Norman's Disability Statement of Case noted that he had suffered from fits in 1912 (aged 16 years).

Norman returned to Australia on the 'Benella' on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1917 and was discharged as medically unfit for service on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1917.

Three of Norman's brothers also served; Carl Hermann Ferdinand (who enlisted as 'Charles Herman Mengersen, SN 554), Herman Edgar (SN 1609) and Irwin Oscar (SN 4560). Tragically Herman Edgar Mengersen died of wounds at Nonne Boschen, Belgium on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1917, aged 23 years and is buried at the Menin Road South Military Cemetery.

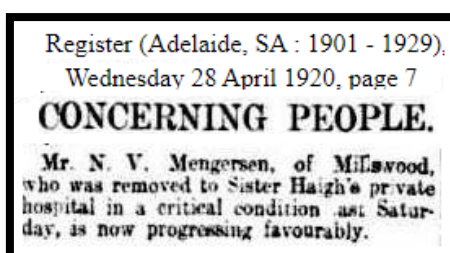


## After the War

After his enlistment late in 1915, Norman had put his studies for 1916 on hold. On his return from the War in late 1917, after being medically discharged, he resumed his studies in 1918 and his Diploma in Commerce was granted on 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1919.

NAME AND ADDRESS <i>Mengersen, Norman Victor</i>		DATE OF BIRTH <i>1913</i>		DATE OF MATRICULATION <i>1913</i>		REGISTER NO. <i>1431</i>		GRADE <i>Non 9</i>		
COURSE <i>Comm</i>		DATE OF BIRTH <i>1913</i>		DATE OF MATRICULATION <i>1913</i>		REGISTER NO. <i>1431</i>		GRADE <i>Non 9</i>		
SENIOR		ON WAR MEMORIAL								
STATUS GRANTED										
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1914	Accountancy I								N 14 P I	
	Geography								N 14 P II	
	Banking & Exchange								N 15 P I	
1915	Accountancy II								N 15 P II	
	Commercial Law								N 15 P II	
	Economics I								N 18 P I	
1918	Economics II								N 18 P II	
1919	Commercial Practice								N 19 P I	
<i>a Dip granted 17 Dec 1919</i>										
<i>Time demanded?</i>										

Norman remained involved with PAC, acting as a Steward at the Inter-Collegiate Sports on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1920, however on the following Saturday Norman was reported to have been critically ill, but by the Wednesday he was progressing favourably.



Norman became engaged to Irene, the only daughter of Mrs and the late Reg Harvey. The couple married on 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1921. Norman was 25 and Irene 21 years of age. (SA Marriage 288/815)

**MENGERSEN—HARVEY.**  
The engagement is announced of Irene, the only daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Reg Harvey, of Thornber Street, Unley Park, to Norman, the third eldest surviving son of Mrs. and Mr. H. C. Mengersen, of Palmer.

**MENGERSEN—HARVEY.**—On the 17th September, at St. Paul's Church, Adelaide, by the Rev. Canon Bleby, Norman Victor, third son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Mengersen, of Palmer, to Irene Surrey, only daughter of Mrs. and the late Reginald Harvey, of Hawthorn.

In 1924 Mr and Mrs N. Mengersen attended the "Red and White" Dance at The Palais on North Terrace.

Norman worked as an Accountant at Gawler Place, Adelaide in 1924 and was appointed to be Liquidator of several of companies.

In January 1925 he had a telephone connected at Durdin Road, Lower Mitcham. In March 1925 Norman competed in a tennis tournament. In 1926 Norman invested in the Eagle Investment Company Limited. He was also an applicant in the formation of Pingin Pastoralists Limited.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 9 June 1926, page 11

### New Company Registered

Recent registrations of companies in South Australia include:—

Eagle Investment Company Limited: capital, £25,000, divided into 5,000 shares of £1 each.

Objects—To carry on business as capitalists and financiers, and to carry on all kinds of financial, commercial, trading, and other operations.

Shareholders—William Barclay Rogers, engineer, Glenunga; George Harold Holland, solicitor, Adelaide; Norman Victor Mengersen, accountant, Glenelg; Claude Albert Wallace, law clerk, Adelaide; Gwendolen Helen Ure, solicitor, Adelaide.

Above shareholders are to act as first directors until others are appointed. Registered office—Grenfell Buildings, Grenfell street, Adelaide. Incorporated, June 5, 1926.

National Library of Australia

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)

Thursday 7 October 1926, page 16

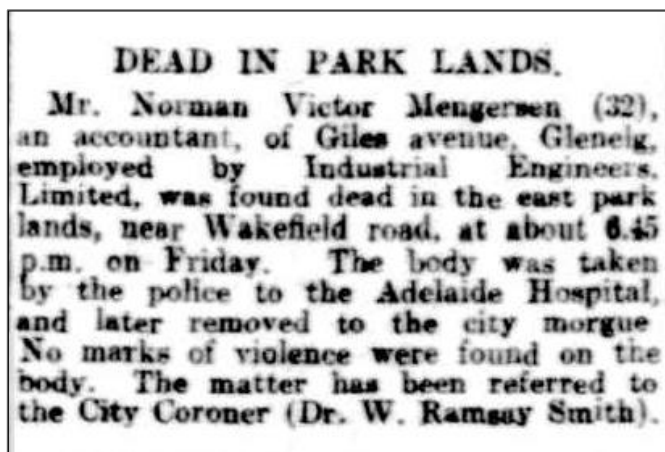
### REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES.

Pingin Pastoralists, Limited. Capital:—£50,000 divided into 50,000 shares of £1 each. Objects:—To adopt an agreement dated September 23, 1926, and made between John Howard, Limited, of the one part, and Claude Albert Wallace, on behalf of the company, of the other part, and to carry on the business of pastoralists, graziers, farmers, and to carry on any other business, whether manufacturing or otherwise, which may seem to the company capable of being conveniently carried on in connection therewith. Applicants for formation of company:—Howard William Payne, Fittle, pastoralist, 1; James Thomas Hallion, Prospect, gentleman, 1; Norman Victor Mengersen, Glenelg, company secretary, 1; Thomas James Ragless, sheep farmer, 1; Joseph James Moyle, Adelaide, surveyor, 1. First directors:—H. W. Payne, J. T. Hallion, N. V. Mengersen, T. J. Ragless, and J. J. Moyle. Registered office:—Bowman Buildings, King William street, Adelaide. Incorporated October 5, 1926.

By 1927 Norman and Irene were living at Giles Avenue Glenelg and Norman was the accountant for Industrial Engineers Ltd. .

## Death

Tragically on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1927 Norman was found unconscious in the East Parklands, he was taken to the Adelaide Hospital by the police but was declared dead on arrival. Norman was 31 years old and left Irene, a widow. His funeral was held privately at Mitcham Church of England Cemetery. His estate was later valued for probate at £500.



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

## Sources and Acknowledgements:

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 – Norman Victor Mengersen)

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

SA State Library – Prince Alfred College Chronicles

Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee Researcher