



## **Capt. Harry Roy Pomroy**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: B Grade (1914), B & A Grade (1915)**

**Degree: MB BS (1918)**

## **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 Harry Roy Pomroy. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

***(Those men who enlisted, but either because of cessation of hostilities or other reasons did not serve overseas are still included in the list of AUFC & AUCC players recognised as serving their Country. Our men who enlisted later in 1918 were not to know that Germany would surrender on 11th November 1918 and so their courage and commitment to serve should still be recognised.)***

## Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8017949>

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**RECORD OF OFFICERS' SERVICES.**

Rank and Name Pomroy, Harry Roy

Staff or Unit AME

Date of Appointment and Gazette 24/1/18 6th 9/19 1mo 4 9/19 To Lt Capt 191

Promotion (date and Gazette) \_\_\_\_\_

Left Australia in Transport \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 191

Record subsequent to embarkation:—

9.9.20 Form of Commission As Officer B. R. M. 5/1/23

**WAR HISTORY INDEX**

Returned to Australia (Date, Transport, and any other details):—

Gazetted from A.I.F. 17.1.20 Appointment terminated 2

AME 30/4/20 N.O. 126/20

D. 697/9.17.—C. 2661.—5M.



## Published Biography

Blood Sweat and Fears: Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australian who Served in World War 1,  
C Verco, A Summers, T Swain & M Jelly. July 2014

### POMROY Harry Roy

MB BS FRCS

1895 - 1943



Harry Roy Pomroy was born in Moonta on 3rd March 1895. He was the son of Mr H Pomroy of Wallaroo Mines, South Australia. He was educated at Wallaroo Mines District High School and gained a scholarship to Adelaide High School in 1910. He was seventh in the Higher Public Examination in 1912 thereby gaining a bursary for the university which included a £40 per annum maintenance allowance. He studied medicine at the University of Adelaide graduating MB BS in 1918.

Pomroy enlisted in the AIF on 26th November 1918 in Adelaide and proceeded to 5MD. He had influenza in the Western Australia quarantine station in December 1918. He returned to 4MD on the *Marathon* on 24th December 1919. His appointment in the AIF was terminated on 17th January 1920.

His post-war address was given as Cowell, South Australia. He later spent three years in England to gain his FRCS which he achieved in 1925. He was appointed assistant honorary surgeon and, after the retirement of Henry Simpson Newland, honorary surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital. He enlisted again in WW2 at Wayville, South Australia rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Harry Roy Pomroy died in 105 Military Hospital Adelaide on 10th March 1943 aged 48 years. He was survived by his wife Elisabeth and son Andrew.

#### Sources:

National Archives of Australia  
<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8017949>  
Kadina and Wallaroo Times 24th December 1912  
The Register 11th August 1928  
The Advertiser 11th March 1943  
Photo: Adelaide University Archives; Medical Graduates 1918.

#### Call for Civilian Medical Practitioners

The war Office notifies as follows:

Civilian medical practitioners desiring to serve at home or abroad as surgeons with the army should communicate with the Secretary, War Office London SW.

Gentlemen accepted for such service will be granted the temporary rank of lieutenant in the army and must fulfil the following conditions:

1. They must be registered practitioners
2. They must engage for a period of twelve calendar months or until their services are no longer required, whichever shall first happen.
3. Their pay to be 24s a day, inclusive of all money allowances except travelling allowances and expenses when travelling on duty.
4. They will be granted free passages to and from any country abroad to which they may be sent.
5. They must devote their whole time to military service.
6. They will receive a gratuity of £60 at the termination of their engagement if they have rendered satisfactory service.
7. They should not exceed 35 years of age, but in exceptional circumstances gentlemen between 35 and 40 may be accepted.
8. They must furnish:
  - (a) A medical certificate showing that they are in good health, of sound constitution, and fit for hard physical work.
  - (b) A statement of any previous service with the army.
  - (c) A recommendation as to character from a person of position and responsibility.
  - (d) A certificate as to age.

BMJ, 8 August 1914, p. 318

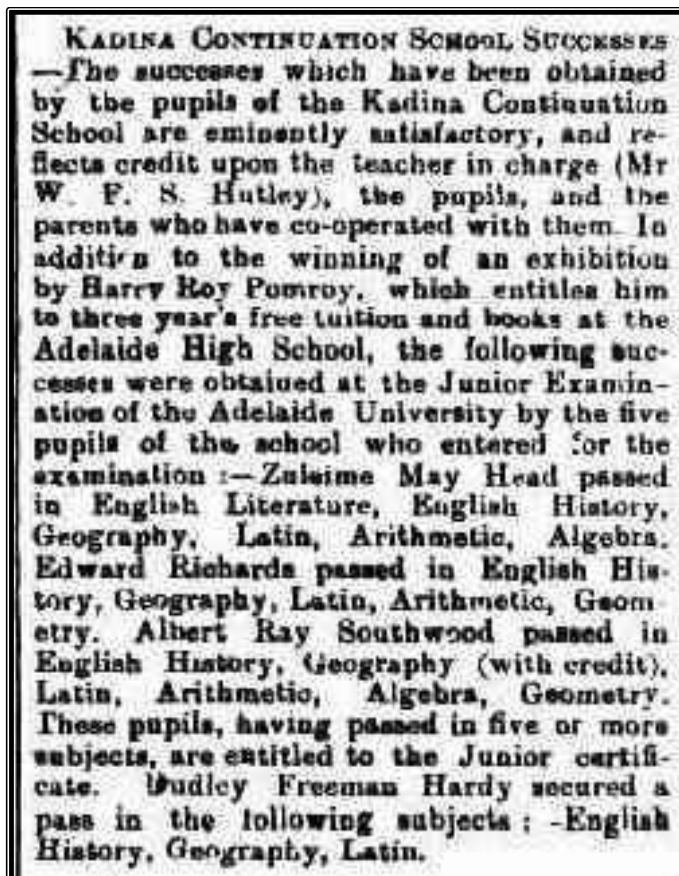
## Additional Biography

### Early Life

Harry Roy Pomroy was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1895 at Cross Road, Moonta, the son of Harry Pomroy and Hester Ann Osborne.

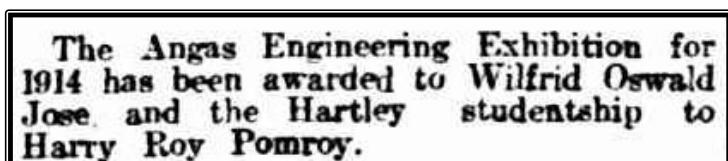
### Schooling

Harry was educated at Wallaroo Mines District High School and the Kadina Continuation School winning an exhibition to Adelaide High School in January 1909.



While at Adelaide High School Harry passed a further four Primary Examinations in October 1909, followed by Senior Examinations in 1910 and in 1911 when he passed Latin, Trigonometry, Inorganic Chemistry, German, Arithmetic and Algebra, and Physics; obtaining credits in the four last named subjects. He was placed eighteenth on the General Honours List.

In 1912 Harry was seventh on the General Honours list and first in chemistry and second in geometry and trigonometry. In 1913 Harry was a School Prefect and he topped the General Honours List and qualified to study medicine at Adelaide University and was awarded the Hartley Scholarship.



Harry played tennis and football for Adelaide High School (1911-1913). He played football in Past versus Present teams and went to Melbourne in 1912 to play against the Melbourne High School.



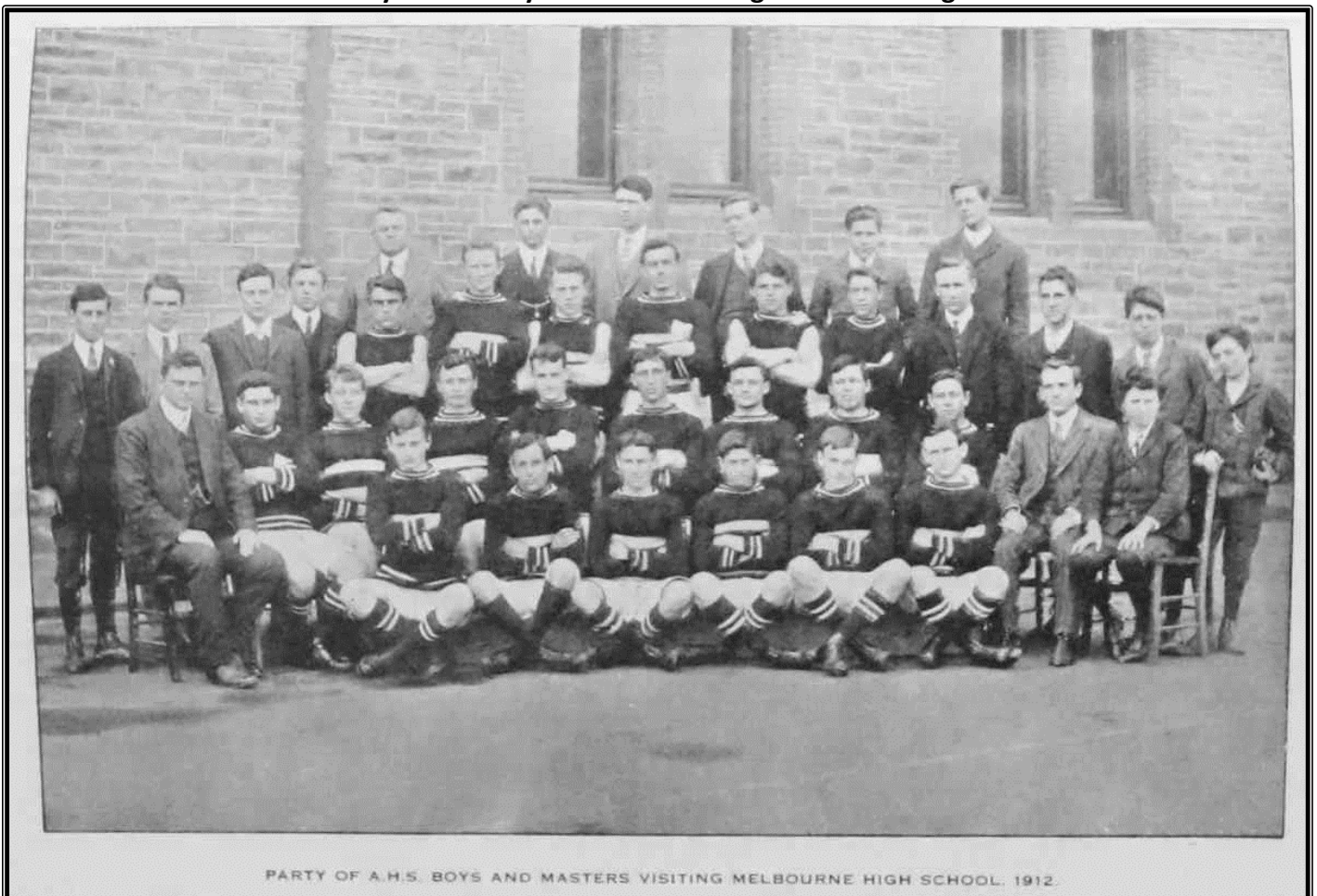
At the Christian Brother's College Annual Sports in November 1913 with other schools also invited to participate, Harry came second in the 100 yards Inter-Collegiate Championship race.

### 1911 - AHS Tennis Team



*H.R Pomroy – Seated – Far Left*

### 1912 – Party of AHS Boys and Staff Visiting Melbourne High School



*H.R. Pomroy – Second row from Front – Fourth from Right*

## 1913 - AHS – School Prefects



***H.R. Pomroy – Front Row – Far Right***

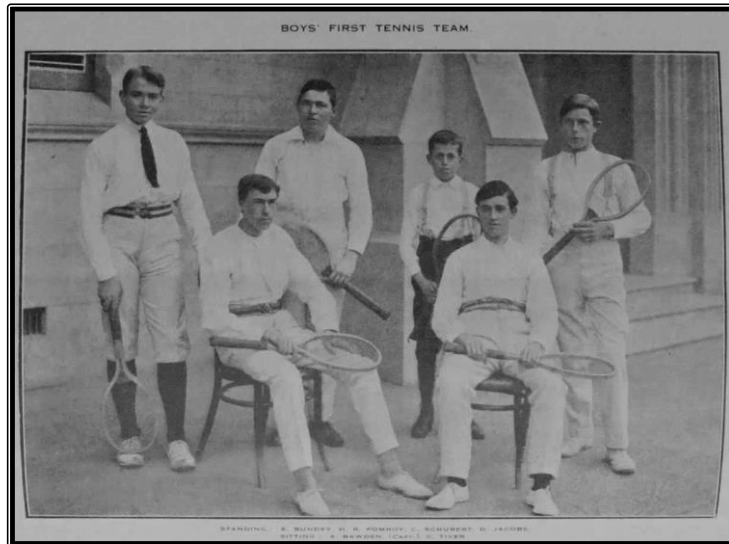
## 1913 – AHS Football Team



***H.R. Pomroy – Middle Row – Third from Right***

(Original naming does not include the name of the boy standing at the far right of the middle row)

## 1913 – AHS – First Tennis Team

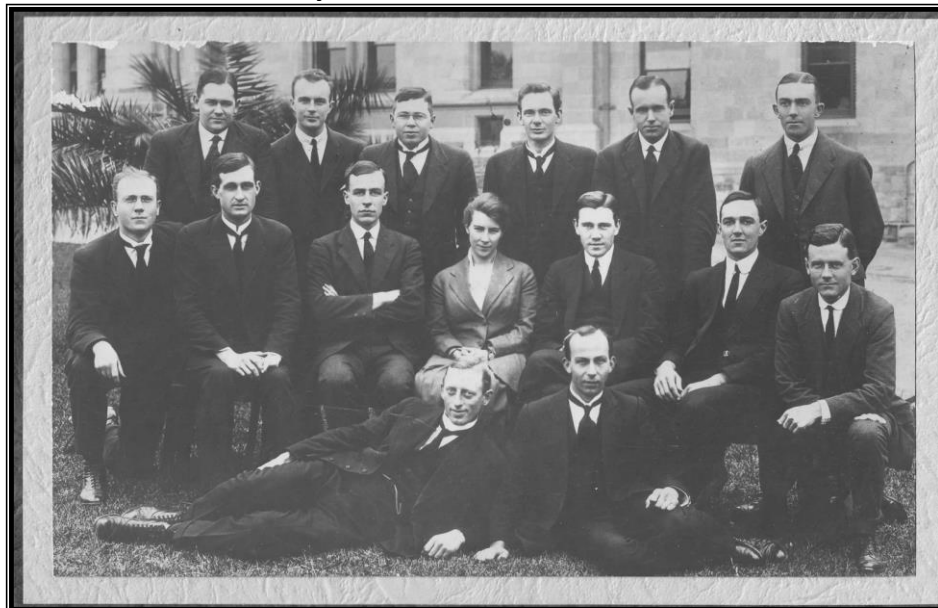


*H.R. Pomroy – Standing – Second from Left*

## Adelaide University

Harry commenced studying medicine at Adelaide University in 1914 and graduated MB BS in 1918.

### Faculty of Medicine Graduates, 1918



*Standing – Left to Right- J. McNeil, W.K. Collins, H.R. Pomroy, R. Cilento, C. Gurner, K.W. Bollen,  
Sitting – Left to Right J. Keipert, B. Shanasy (non-graduate), L.A. Wilson,  
P. McGlew, D.R. Wallmann, P.S. Messent, R.L.T. Grant,  
Front (left to right): W. Webb (non-graduate), L.W. Linn*

## University Sport

### Athletics

Harry competed in the 135 yards flat race that the Adelaide University Sports in May 1914, coming in 11<sup>th</sup> place in a field of 14.

### Football

Harry played football for the Adelaide University Football Club in 1914 and 1915. He predominantly played in the B Grade in the Adelaide Students' Association but in 1915 he did play some A Grade matches in the Amateur League. In 1914 Harry was a member of the premiership winning Adelaide University B team. Harry's surname was frequently in the papers as Pomeroy instead of Pomroy.



## 1914 - Adelaide Student's Association Premiers – Adelaide University B Grade



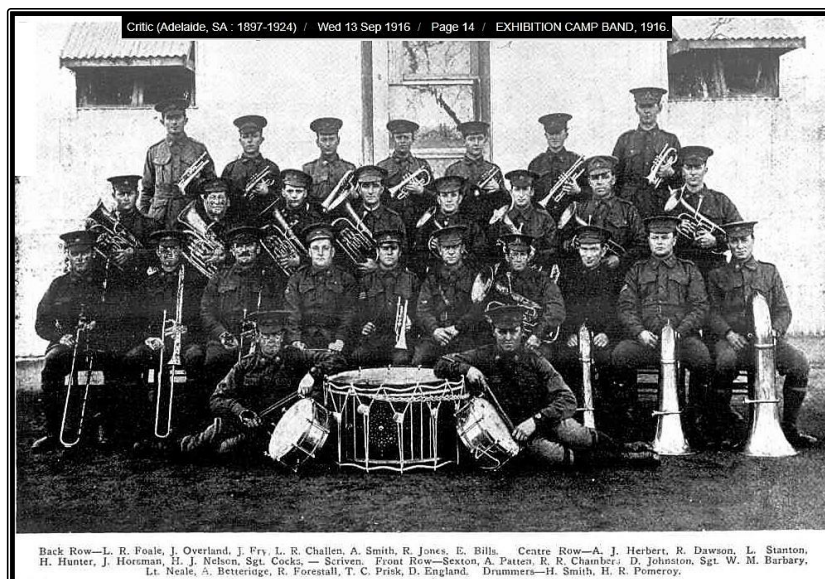
*H.R. Pomroy – Back Row - Fourth from Right*

*(Note – only 10 of the 12 men in the back row are named in the newspaper article)*

## World War I

Harry enlisted on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 by which time hostilities had ceased, however doctors were still needed to provide for the health of returning soldiers.

Although he had chosen to complete his medical studies, Harry (a drummer) was a member of the Exhibition Camp Military Band which frequently performed at parades and concerts during the War Years.



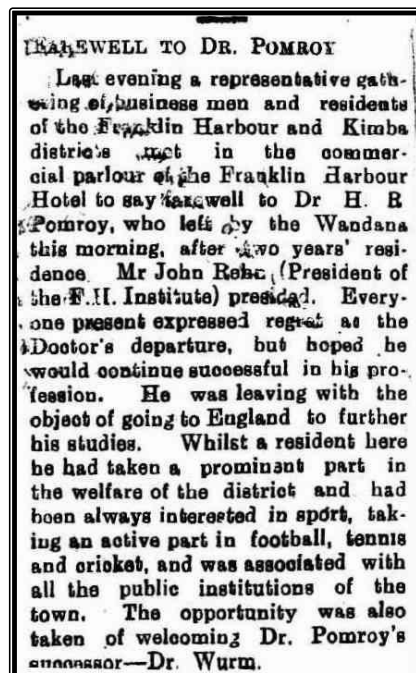
*H.R. Pomroy – Front - right of drum*

By December 1918, Harry had been posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Military District (Western Australia) where he served for over a year. While there he contracted influenza and was quarantined. He then returned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Military District (South Australia). His appointment was terminated on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1920.

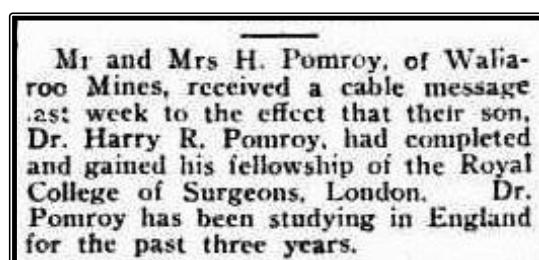
## Post War Career and Family Life

After his war service Harry commenced private practice at Cowell on Eyre Peninsula, SA and was soon back on the tennis courts, playing in a tournament in April 1920. He practiced medicine at the Jervois County Hospital. Harry became involved in local activities and was on the committee of the Franklin Harbour Institute. He was honorary surgeon for the Franklin Harbour A.H. & F. Society and in October 1921 he became the president of the Cowell Cricket Club. Harry donated a medal to the Franklin Harbour Football Association for presentation to the best all round player.

In February 1922, Harry left Eyre Peninsula to undertake further studies in the United Kingdom.



In February 1924, Harry's sister, Mrs R James, received word that Harry had successfully passed the first exam for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (F.R.C.S.). In July 1927, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pomroy, of Wallaroo Mines, were advised that Harry had gained his F.R.C.S. (London).



In October 1925 Harry was appointed resident surgeon at the Poplars Hospital for Accidents, London. Harry was in Vienna in early 1927 when he advised his parents that he had booked a passage on the *Hobsons Bay* which was expected to reach Australia in early March that year. His brother, Richard O. Pomroy, B.E., who had been in the UK for some years working with Vickers Ltd and Glovers Ltd, Manchester, was leaving for Australia in February 1927. Harry was back in South Australia by the middle of March and payed a visit to Cowell. Harry's F.R.C.S. was formally recognised by the South Australian Medical Board in August 1928.

Sadly for Harry, his father passed away in December 1928, aged only 64. Harry (Snr) was at the time of his death was an underground official at the Moonta and Wallaroo Mining Company and a lecturer at the Moonta School of Mines. From 1905 until about 1926, he was the chief underground surveyor for that company. He left a widow, three sons and seven daughters.

In January 1929 Harry was appointed an honorary demonstrator in anatomy at the Adelaide University Faculty of Medicine and in February 1929 he took over as acting medical officer of the venereal clinic (male section) of Adelaide Hospital. Harry was appointed honorary assistant surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital in December 1931 and in March 1933 he was one of the South Australian surgeons attending the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons conference in Sydney.

### 1935 – Teaching Staff – Adelaide University Faculty of Medicine



*H.R. Pomroy – Third Row – Eleventh from Left*

Front row: H. M. Jay, H. Gilbert, J. Brook Lewis, Helen M. Mayo, Sir Henry Newland, Professor A. Killen Macbeth, Professor T. Harvey Johnston, Professor J. B. Cleland, C. T. Ch. de Crespigny (Dean), Professor H. J. Wilkinson, Professor J. G. Wood, Professor Kerr Grant, R. S. Rogers, A. M. Cudmore, W. Anstey Giles, W. Ray, Edgar Brown, C. S. Mead.

Second row: F. J. B. Miller, F. H. Beare, R. T. Binns, H. M. Birch, J. R. S. G. Beard, R. F. Matters, R. E. Magarey, H. C. Nott, E. F. Gartrell, I. B. Jose, W. T. Cooke, A. T. Britten Jones, M. T. Cockburn, A. E. Platt, Mary T. Burnell (nee Angel).

Third row: A. E. Shepherd, E. A. Matison, R. A. Laughton, A. L. Dawkins, R. M. Glynn, A. H. Lendon, K. S. Hetzel, P. Santo Messent, F. H. Makin, G. H. Ramsbottom, H. R. Pomroy, A. D. Lamphee, C. O. F. Rieger, W. C. T. Upton, H. E. Pellew, N. S. Gunning, S. R. Burston, I. A. Hamilton.

Fourth row: W. Sangster, B. H. Swift, D. L. Barlow, H. M. Fisher, W. A. Pryor, W. J. W. Close, R. N. Reilly, A. J. Hakendorf, E. Couper Black, L. A. Wilson, R. G. Ch. de Crespigny, Laura M. A. Green, J. G. Sleeman, M. L. Mitchell, M. Schneider.

Fifth row: G. H. B. Black, L. O. Betts, G. H. Solomon, R. S. Burdon, R. L. T. Grant, B. S. Muecke, E. Angas Johnson, J. Andrews, J. C. Mayo, A. G. Schroeder, A. F. Hobbs



*H.R. Pomroy  
(from above photo)*



Harry travelled to the UK in April 1936 to undertake further studies. While in the UK he became engaged to Miss Elizabeth Nelson Rowland of Oxford (born 7<sup>th</sup> November 1906). His engagement was announced in October and the couple married before departing from London on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1936 onboard the *Mongolia* of the P & O Steam Navigation Company. Harry and Elizabeth arrived in Adelaide on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1936.

**T**HE young Scottish bride whom Dr. H. R. Pomroy has brought home in the *Mongolia* was an attractive figure on the ship when it berthed at Outer Harbor. Tall and vivacious, she has red-gold hair caught into a small knot at the back, a fresh complexion, and blue eyes. She was wearing an ensemble of navy silk with white spots, and a small white and navy halo hat.

"I am looking forward to making my home in Adelaide," she said, "but I am disappointed at not seeing some of the sunshine I have heard so much about, on my first morning."

Mrs. Pomroy was born at Hamilton, trained as a nurse at Glasgow, spent a year and a half in India, and then became secretary to one of the university professors at Oxford, where she lived for seven years. It was there that she met her husband last year, when he arrived to take part in the B.M.A. conference, and was married to him in November.

They will live at Dr. Pomroy's home at North-East road, Walkerville. Before her marriage Mrs. Pomroy was Miss Elizabeth Nelson Rolland.

Mrs. Pomroy has a great admiration for Australian girls, many of whom she met at Oxford after her engagement. She thinks they dress as smartly as any women in the world, and can easily hold their own among Englishwomen.



Harry and Elizabeth Pomroy – At Left

Harry and Elizabeth's son (Andrew) was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1937.

Harry was appointed lecturer in operative surgery at the Adelaide University Medical School in March 1938 following the resignation from the position of Sir Henry Newland.

In September 1938 Harry was rebuked by Mr Justice Napier for failing to attend the court when subpoenaed to do so.

## KING'S WRIT MUST BE OBEYED

### Judge Rebukes Doctor For Ignoring Subpoena

Remarking that, so far as the general body of medical men were concerned, he was sure that they would, as they had done in the past, be prepared to give their evidence so as to meet the court in a reasonable way, Mr Justice Napier, in the Supreme Court yesterday, reprimanded a doctor for having failed to comply with a subpoena served on him on behalf of the plaintiff in an action for damages.

The action was one in which Arthur Ettwell Cottrell, electrician, of Wellington street, Glandore, claimed £1,350 damages from Herbert Renatus Thiele, farmer, of Pata, in respect of injuries suffered in a collision on February 3, 1937.

Mr. Eric Millhouse, who appeared with Mr. V. R. Millhouse for Cottrell, called Dr. Harry Roy Pomroy, of Smith street, Walkerville. When the witness had taken the oath, his Honor said:—"Your name was called yesterday in the morning and I was informed that you had been served with a subpoena to give evidence. Your name was called at 2.30 p.m. and you were not in attendance. In consequence the court was obliged to adjourn before the sitting was finished. Have you any explanation for your non-attendance?"

Mr. R. F. Newman (for the witness)—With your Honor's permission, I would like to offer an explanation of what transpired yesterday.

Dr. Pomroy was a specialist and honorary doctor at the Adelaide Hospital, Mr. Newman said, before outlining the hours which Dr. Pomroy spent daily at that institution. The plaintiff had come before him in his honorary capacity. About September 13 the doctor was served with a subpoena at his rooms. Because of his experience in such matters, he informed the young woman who served the subpoena that he wanted payment before he would go into court, and she said, "That will be all right."

#### Received Letter And A Shilling

"Having done his honorary work at the hospital, I do not think that your Honor will regard that as an unreasonable request," said Mr. Newman. "He was told that the case was coming off last Thursday and put off his appointments. On Wednesday he was told that the case would probably come off on Friday. He again put off his appointments until after 4 p.m. on Friday. Then the plaintiff's solicitor wrote the doctor a letter which was probably left at his rooms on Saturday morning."

"At that time," Mr. Newman continued, "the doctor was attending to the funeral arrangements of a close friend who had died and he was at his rooms only for a moment. On Monday he again was at his rooms only for a short time. He did not open this letter dated September 17 until between 3 and 4 o'clock yesterday. The letter stated that he would be called at 11.30 to give evidence. Of course, it was impossible for him to be there."

Mr. Newman said that on Tuesday afternoon Dr. Pomroy received a mes-

for him to be there.

Mr. Newman said that on Tuesday afternoon Dr. Pomroy received a message from his nurse to ring the solicitors. He was busy and did not do so. A boy came to his rooms when he was seeing a patient and was told to wait. The boy did not wait. About 5 p.m. the doctor received a letter and a shilling. He immediately consulted Mr. Newman to discover what his position was in a matter of the kind. He wanted to know whether he had to attend court when a shilling was offered to him.

His Honor—What do you say a medical man is entitled to?

Mr. Newman—One and a half guineas.

"The subpoena is the King's writ and must be obeyed," said His Honor. "If there is a right to payment in advance and a professional man insists on being paid by people who may not have the means of paying and be thus denied justice, so far as this court is concerned, the professional man concerned will attend this court and obey the court."

Mr. Newman said that there had been some criticism by the medical profession of the disregard by the legal profession of the time of medical men in giving evidence.

His Honor replied that he had presided over the court for 15 years and his experience was to the contrary. There was no justification for such criticism.

Mr. Newman then offered an apology to the court. He said that Dr. Pomroy still insisted that he should receive remuneration, if he was called before the court.

His Honor said that he would accept the explanation and apology, but in the future Dr. Pomroy would be well advised to show some little consideration for the convenience of other people, if he expected others to show him similar consideration.

Cottrell alleged that, as a result of Thiele's negligent driving of a motor car on South road at Edwardstown, he had been thrown off his bicycle, and had suffered a fracture of the right thigh bone and knee-cap, and other injuries, resulting in a permanent stiffening of the leg.

Thiele denied that he had been negligent, and alleged that the accident had been caused, or contributed to, by Cottrell's negligence. He counter-claimed £88 damages for repairs to and depreciation of his car, and for certain travelling expenses.

Mr. A. S. Blackburn appeared for Thiele.

His Honor intimated that he would give judgment today.

## World War II

Harry enlisted for WWII on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was living at Fitzroy at the date of his enlistment. Harry's WWII record is not yet open to the public.

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/584678>

**Service Numbers:** S1473, SX25165

**Enlisted:** 1 November 1940, Wayville, SA

**Last Rank:** Lieutenant Colonel

**Last Unit:** Not yet discovered

**Born:** Moonta, SA, 3 March 1895

**Home Town:** Fitzroy, Prospect, South Australia

**Died:** Illness, Australia, 10 March 1943, aged 48 years

**Cemetery:** Not yet discovered

**Memorials:**

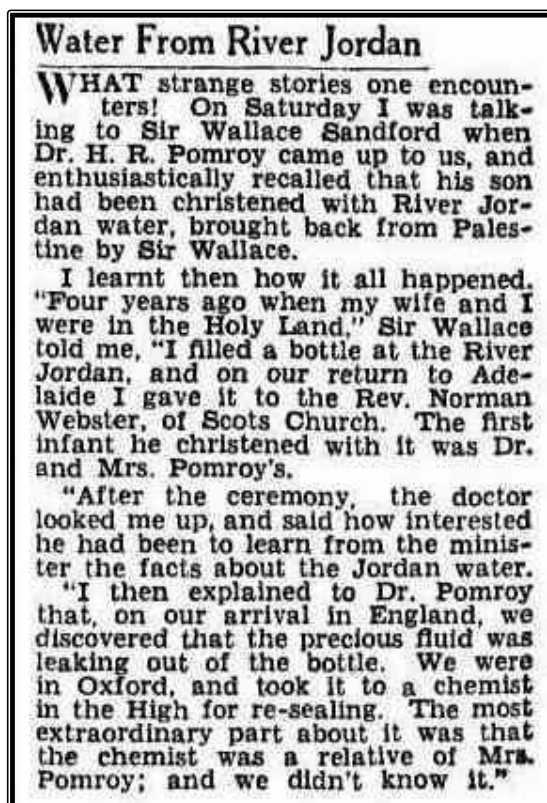
## World War 2 Service

**1 Nov 1940:** Involvement Lieutenant Colonel, SN S1473

**1 Nov 1940:** Involvement Lieutenant Colonel, SN SX25165

**1 Nov 1940:** Enlisted Wayville, SA

In February 1941 a story appeared in the newspaper concerning Andrew's christening in water from the River Jordan.

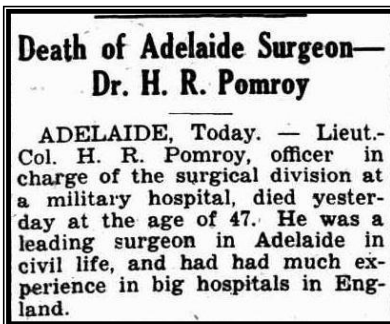


On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1941, Harry and Elizabeth's second son, Harry was born. Tragically, young Harry lived only two days. He passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1941 and was buried at the West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.



## Death

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 1943 at a Military Hospital near Adelaide, Lieut-Col. Harry Roy Pomroy, A.A.M.A., A.I.F. passed away aged 48 years leaving his wife Elizabeth and son Andrew. Harry is buried at Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



## Legacy

Harry's widow, Elizabeth Nelson Pomroy, enlisted (SN VF516855) at the 3 Australian AWS Rec Dep Victoria, giving her next-of-kin as Gladys Osborn. Her WWII record is not yet open to the public. After serving in the Australian Women's Army Service, "up north", Elizabeth moved to Melbourne and in May 1945 she was preparing to travel to the UK with her son Andrew. Elizabeth and Andrew arrived at Liverpool, UK on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1945 onboard the *M.V. Waipara* and resided at 32 Kippen Road, Possilpark, Glasgow, Scotland. They returned to Australia onboard the *S.S. Asturias* in June 1947, they disembarked in Melbourne and gave 13 Edwin Ave, Collinswood, SA as their address.

Harry and Elizabeth's son, Andrew Frederick Pomroy, attended Adelaide High School from at least 1950 to December 1954 and won the Sir Hugh Cairns Memorial Prize and was planning to commence studying medicine at Adelaide University in 1955.



In October 1954, aged 46 Elizabeth departed from Sydney and arrived in Southampton, England onboard the *Largs Bay*, her occupation was a nurse. Elizabeth is likely to be the Elizabeth N. Pomroy whose death was registered in December 1961 at Lambeth, London (England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, Volume 5c page 1254).

No records have been located to indicate that Andrew graduated from either Adelaide University or have records been located that indicate that Andrew followed his mother to the UK. As the bulk of newspapers for South Australia are not digitised beyond December 1954, nothing further has been located to tell Andrew's story.

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***Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer***

## **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/>  
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=6388700&isAv=N>  
Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>  
The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2440/47155>  
The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>  
(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Harry Roy Pomroy)  
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>  
Blood Sweat and Fears: Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australian who Served in World War 1, C Verco, A Summers, T Swain & M Jelly. July 1914  
State Library of South Australia  
<http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/>  
Adelaide High School Magazines  
Ancestry.com.au  
Passenger Records, BDM  
*England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007