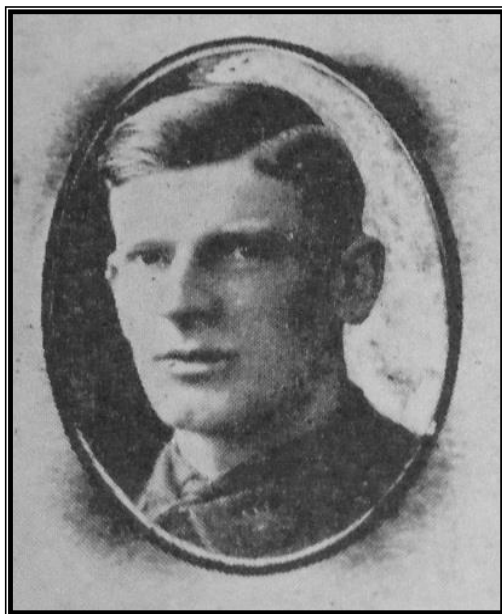




Sapper Frank Roland Potts



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: B Grade (1915)

Cricket Club: B Grade (1915/16)

Degree: BSc (1922)

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 Frank Roland Potts. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=244201>



Frank Ronald POTTS

Regimental number	14101
Place of birth	Fremantle Western Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	University student
Address	Mount Gambier, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Father, William Andrew Potts, Robsart Hill, Parkside, South Australia
Previous military service	20th AASC
Enlistment date	3 January 1916
Rank on enlistment	Sapper
Unit name	13th Field Company Engineers, Reinforcement 2
AWM Embarkation Roll number	14/32/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board SS <i>Hawkes Bay</i> on 20 April 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Sapper
Unit from Nominal Roll	13th Field Company Engineers
Fate	Returned to Australia 12 March 1918

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8016883>

TRANSFERRED TO *11-408*

A 58921 **RAILIAN** *Reynolds* **MILITARY FORCES** *13th Field Coy. Engrs* *2nd. Reinf s*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. *254* *14101* Name *POTTS Frank Roland* *13 Field Coy. Engineers*

2 Reinforcements *COY 2ND DEPOT BATTALION*

Joined on *3 JAN 1916* *6.1.16*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... *Frank Roland Potts*
2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of *Fremantle* in the County of *Western Australia*
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? ... *19 1/2*
5. What is your trade or calling? ... *University Student*
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) ... *Father William Andrew Potts, Mount Gambier, South A. S.A.*
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 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? ... *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 ... *Two Years Senior Cadets 18th 2/12/15 Army Service Corps, Still serving.*
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 smallpox and enteric fever? ... *Yes*

Frank Roland Potts 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* + *three-fifths* of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my *wife and children*

Date *7th December 1915* *3 JAN 1916* *Frank R. Potts* 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 53270

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/90464>

POTTS, Frank Ronald

Service Number: 14101

Enlisted: Not yet discovered

Last Rank: Sapper

Last Unit: 13th Field Company Engineers

Born: Not yet discovered

Home Town: Not yet discovered

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Student

Memorials: Mount Gambier PHR 1 RSL Pictorial Honour Roll*

World War 1 Service

20 Apr 1916: Embarked Sapper, SN 14101, 13th Field Company Engineers, SS Hawkes Bay, Sydney

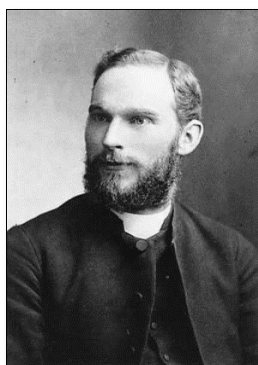
20 Apr 1916: Involvement Sapper, SN 14101, 13th Field Company Engineers

***Note** – These are the records of Frank Roland Potts – but appear on the National Archive of Australia, RSL Virtual War Memorial and AIF Project under the incorrect name of Frank Ronald Potts.*

Biography

Early Life

Frank Roland Potts was born on the 7th of December 1895 in Fremantle, Western Australia to William Andrew Potts and Louisa Bates. William was a Methodist minister, and he served the church in Western Australia, South Australia and the United Kingdom.



William



Louisa

William and Louisa had nine children Hubert (b 1887 – d 1887), Ethylwyn (b 1889 – d 1973), Gilbert MacDonald (b 1890 – d 1969), William Andrew (b 1891 [WA] – d 1946), Frederick Arnold (registered as Frederic Arnold (sic) and known as Eric, b 1892 [WA] – d 1980), Eleanor (Nellie b 1893 – d 1960), Louisa Stanway (b 1895 – d 1895), Frank Roland (b 1895 [WA] – d 1976), Harry Lincoln (b 1897 [Ironbridge, Shropshire] – d 1977).

Note – Frank's middle name is frequently misspelt as Rowland.

Frank's father was the Minister at the Maughan Methodist Church in the City of Adelaide for 8 years and Frank and his brothers were members of the Endeavour Groups.

Schooling

Frank attended Adelaide High School (AHS) from at least 1908 to 1910. He passed his Primary Examinations conducted at AHS in October 1908 (aged 12). He won an Education Department exhibition which enabled him study for his Junior and Senior Examinations there.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) / Fri 25 Dec 1908

There are many clever families in South Australia, but few whose members have so distinguished themselves as the sons and daughters of the Rev. W. A. Potts, formerly of the Methodist Central Mission. He has two daughters and five sons, and of these five members show up prominently in the reports of the work done at various scholastic institutions during the educational year which has just closed. Miss Winnie Potts, who was dux of the Methodist Ladies' College two years ago, has just passed in four subjects in the Arts course at the Adelaide University. Mr. Gilbert MacDonald Potts, who won one of the Education Department's Scholarships at the University last year, as well as the Old Collegians' Scholarship at Prince Alfred College, was placed first division in the first years Arts course in Latin, Greek, and Chemistry, being awarded the Andrew Scott prize for Latin, and the Barr Smith prize for Greek. Mr. Frederic Arnold Potts two years ago won an entrance scholarship to the preparatory school at the School of Mines. Coming top last year he was awarded a scholarship at that institution. At the recent examination this year he was again top, and was awarded a third scholarship. Mr. William Andrew Potts is dux of Prince Alfred College this year, and also won the Angas Engineering Exhibition (£60 annually for three years) at the Adelaide University, as well as the Old Collegians' Scholarship at Prince Alfred College. The fourth son, Frank Rowland Potts, who is 13 years old this month, has just been awarded one of the Education Department Exhibitions, which gives him the advantage of three years' free education and books, as well as exemption from examination fees. This is tenable at the High School, Adelaide.

He passed Junior Examinations 1909 and Senior Examinations in 1910 and in February 1911 Frank was awarded the Elder Entrance Scholarship Senior to attend Prince Alfred College (PAC). His older brothers also had attended PAC.

Frank passed the Senior Examinations in 1911 and Higher Public Examinations in 1911. His results made him eligible for a Government Bursary to attend Adelaide University and he was awarded the Longbottom Scholarship.

While Frank was considered a good athlete, he does not appear to have represented PAC at Intercollegiate competitions.

Adelaide University

Following in the footsteps of two of his elder brothers, Gilbert Macdonald (BA 1911) and William Andrew (BSc 1912, BE 1913), Frank commenced studying at Adelaide University in 1913. He passed subjects toward his Bachelor of Science in 1913-1915 and via a supplementary examination in early 1916.

University Sport

While visiting his parents at Mount Gambier in the 1913/14 University holidays, Frank played cricket for Uniteds versus Christ Church.

Football

Frank played B Grade Football for the Adelaide University in 1915 scoring 6 goals in two matches in June.

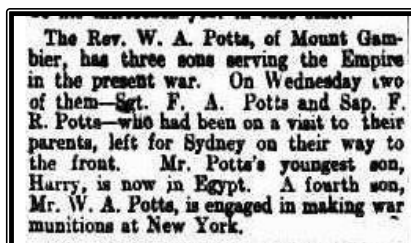
Cricket

Frank played B Grade Cricket for Adelaide University in February 1916, perhaps covering absences due to University holidays.

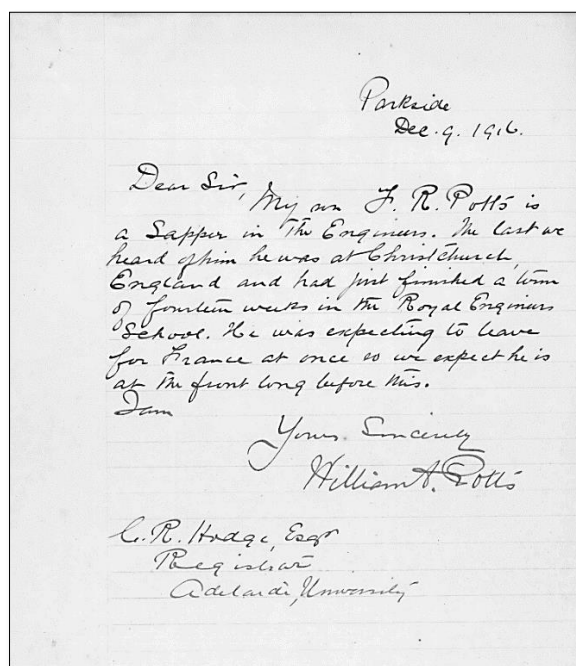
World War I

Frank enlisted on the 13th of January 1915 at Adelaide while still enrolled at Adelaide University. He joined the 13th Engineers as a Sapper with SN 14101. He had completed two years in the Senior Cadets and 2½ years in Army Service Corps. Frank was described as 5'9½", 128 lbs, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair.

Frank and his brother Frederick Arnold (Eric) Potts (SN 14111, 13th Engineers) visited their parents at Mt Gambier in March 1916 before heading to Sydney. They both embarked on the *HMAT S.S. Hawkes Bay* on the 20th of April 1916.

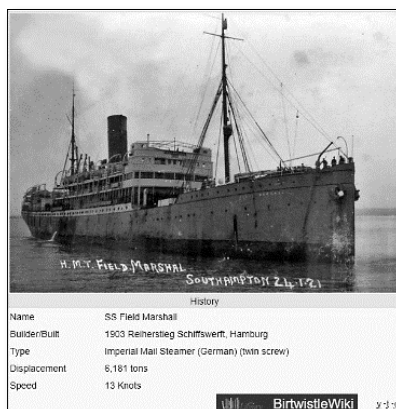


In December 1916, William Potts confirmed that his son, Frank had enlisted and was undergoing training at the Royal Engineers School. The Registrar of Adelaide University, Mr C. R. Hodge, had contacted parents of students to establish who were serving. From this the University established a Roll of Honour.



On the 24th of May 1916, Frank disembarked at Tel-el-Kebir, 110 km north-north-east of Cairo, Egypt and left a few days later from Alexandrina for England. After 14 weeks training in England at the Royal Engineers School, Frank proceeded to France on the 12th of November 1916.

Frank served in France and Belgium and on the 28th of September 1917, Frank received a serious gunshot wound to the left arm. On the 11th of November 1917 he left France for Hospital in England. He was at the Military Hospital at Eastbourne then at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. "Medically Unfit" for further duty, Frank left the UK on 19th March 1918 and returned to Australia 22 May 1918 onboard the *H.M.T. SS Field Marshall*.



Career and Further Study

On returning from the War Frank took up a position at Prince Alfred College, which he held until December 1920. The report of the PAC Speech Day in 1920 said that "During his two years' service he has done good work, especially as officer commanding the cadet corps." Frank had returned to his studies in 1919 and was awarded his BSc in April 1922.

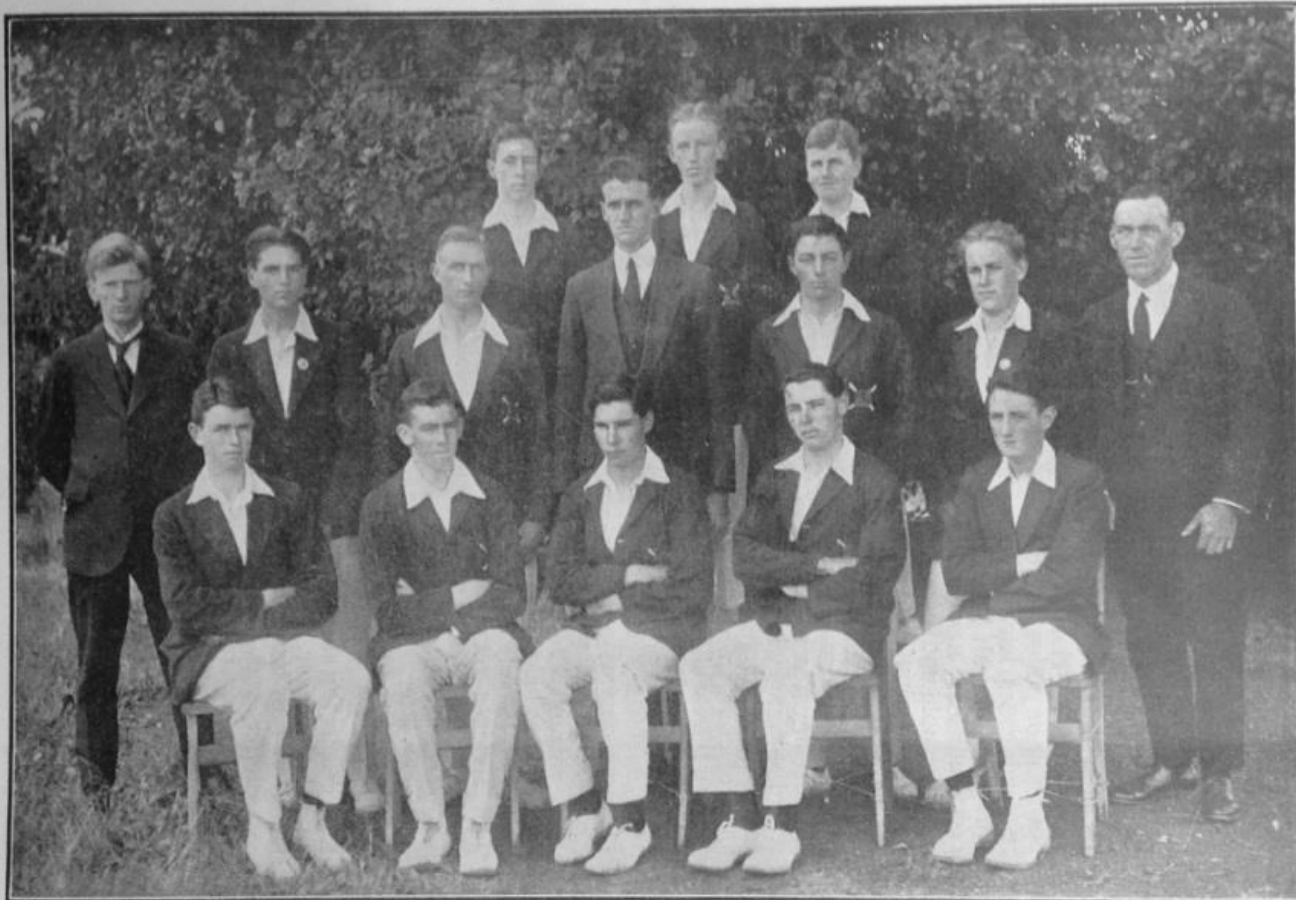
NAME AND ADDRESS	Potts, Frank Roland, Lusmore Avenue, Heathpool, Parkside			REGISTER NO.	2443
COURSE	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF MATRICULATION	Gort. Bursary 1913.		GRADE
B.C. Hons.	7/12/95	27/3/13			1st Lead
SENIOR 1911 Math & Alg., Geom, Trig, Latin, Gen, Eng Physics, Chem,					
Higher 1912 Alg & Trig, Geom & Trig, Ap Maths, Physics, Chem					
STATUS GRANTED Exemption in Pure Maths 1st year 1st Exam.					

YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1913	Pure Maths 2 nd yr	11810	1/4	11835	1/4	12046	1/4	N 13	P III	
	Applied Maths.	-	1/5	-	1/5	-	1/5	N 13	F	
	Chemistry 1st yr	-	2/4	-	2/4	-	2/4	N 13	F	
	Physics 1st yr	-	1/5	-	1/5	-	1/5	N 13	P III	
	Physiography	-	7/	-	7/	-	7/	N 13	F	
1914	Pure Maths 3 rd yr	B12267	1/5	B12277	1/5	B12463	1/5	N 14	F	
	Applied Mathematics	-	1/5	-	1/5	-	1/5	N 14	P III	
	Physics 2 nd yr	-	4/4	-	4/4	-	4/4	N 14	P III	
	Physiography	-	7/	-	7/	-	7/	N 14	P III	
1915	Physics 3 rd yr	B12671	2/5	B12684	2/5	12521	2/5	N 15	F	
	Botany - Comp.	-	2/5	-	2/5	-	2/5	N 15	F	
	Chemistry 3 rd yr	-	-	-	-	-	-	N 15	P III	
	Pure Maths 3 rd yr	-	-	-	-	-	-	N 15	P III	

NAME AND ADDRESS	Potts, Frank Roland, B.Sc., Scotch College, Mikhams Parkside									
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1916	Physics III									
	Comp Botany									
1918	Physics II									
1919	Physics III									
1920	Physics III									
1922	Physics III									
1922	French I									
ON WAR MEMORIAL										
13 Sc. Degree April 1922										

Adelaide University Student Card showing his academic record 1913 to 1922

In 1921 he had an appointment at Scotch College, Adelaide which he held until May 1922. He assisted with the Scotch College cricket team and was in command of the senior cadets' unit. He played Lawn Tennis in



SCOTCH COLLEGE CRICKET TEAM, 1921.

Top Row—H. L. Bruce, G. D. Hollidge, C. G. Lyon.

Second Row—F. R. Potts, Esq., N. E. Bagshaw, A. L. Carmichael, R. S. Lee, Esq., A. R. Treasure, E. R. Heath, H. B. Willmore, Esq.

Third Row—J. D. Loutit, D. I. McArthur, E. K. Nairn, J. M. Nairn, F. B. Pearson.

In early 1922, Frank married Elsie Louisa Hartlett, the daughter of Rev and Mrs A Hartett, and in May 1922 they moved to Ballarat, Victoria so that Frank could take up a position as mathematical and science master at Ballarat College. Frank taught at Ballarat College until August 1925.

Mr F. R. Potts, B.Sc., late of Scotch College, Adelaide, has been appointed Mathematical and science master at Ballarat College, and will commence duties on the re-opening of the school on 6th June. He is a son of the Rev. W. A. Potts, and has had a distinguished school and University career. He is a good athlete, and is keenly interested in all school games. He served for nearly three years in the war with the 13th Field Engineers, and was wounded at Ypres.

Frank and Elsie had three sons while in rural Victoria, Robert "Bob" Murray (born 6th of October 1922), Frank Hartlett (born 14th of December 1923) and David Andrew (born 27th of February 1925).

From August 1925, Frank was the English and Mathematics Master at Longerenong College, near Horsham, Victoria.

Frank's mother, Louisa passed away on the 16th of November 1927.



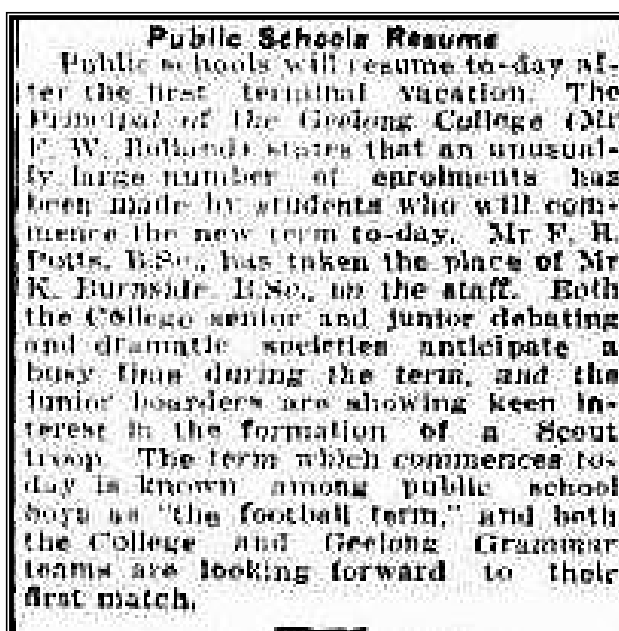
1927 – Rev William Andrew Potts and his children

Back Row: Gilbert, Nellie, Rev WA Potts, William

Front Row: Harry, Eric, Frank

(Ethelwyn is missing and two children died in infancy)

In June 1927, Frank commenced teaching at Geelong College and in 1928 the family were living at 3 High Street Geelong.



From Geelong College, Frank moved to Wesley College in about 1931. The family moved to 126 Kooyong Rd, Caulfield (Electoral Rolls 1931) and from 1933 they were at 323 Glen Eira Road, Caulfield.

Frank and Elsie's fourth son, John Roland, was born on the 2nd of July 1933 but tragically for the family he passed away on the 15th of July 1933 aged just 12 days.

In January 1936 Frank wrote the following article on Wesley boys currently playing cricket for Victoria:

Wesley Boys In Cricket

By F. R. POTTS

IN the Victorian team at present touring the northern States there are four former Wesley Collegians. Keith Rigg, the vice-captain, was an outstanding batsman in public school cricket about a dozen years ago. C. Welch, who has been the most successful bowler for Victoria in Shield cricket this season, learnt to play the game at Wesley. The two younger members, Ross Gregory and Barry Scott, were school mates in the 1933 and 1934 championship teams.

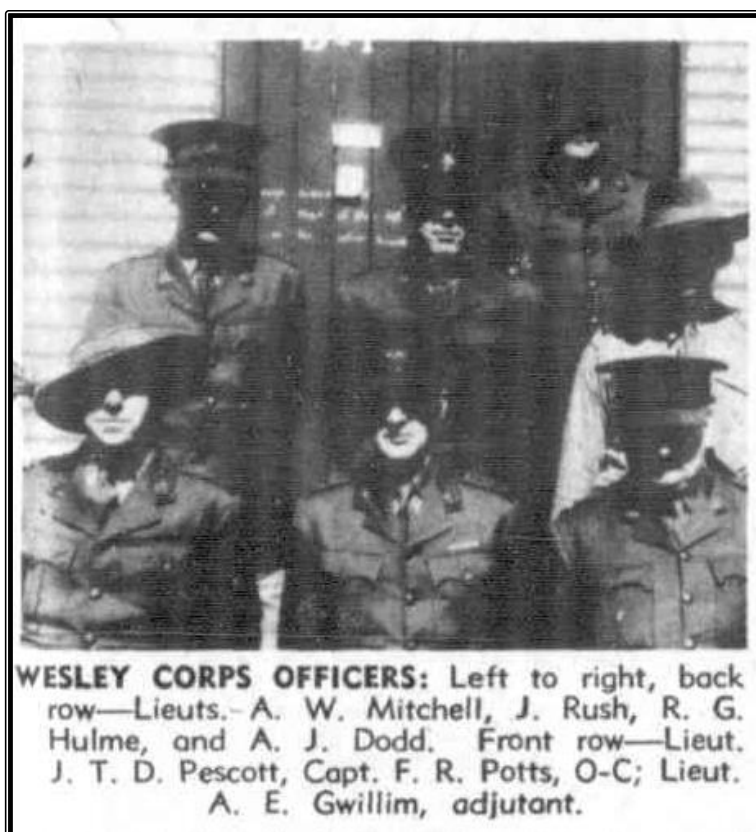
In addition, Ian Johnson, who has not yet left school, represented Victoria against Tasmania with all-round success, while two Wesley masters, V. K. Brown and H. J. Kroger, are also members of the Victorian second eleven.

Indeed, a strong eleven could be chosen from old Wesley boys and masters, including the following—K. Rigg, R. Gregory, H. Oakley, V. K. Brown, F. Fontaine, E. A. Williams, I. W. Johnson, H. J. Kroger, C. Welch, Barry Scott and P. Wallace or K. O. Evans.

Emergencies could be selected from P. L. Williams (Wesley's successful coach and University blue), J. Rush (another Varsity blue), E. McCutcheon, of Collingwood, and Lev. of Melbourne.

The eleven chosen includes several class batsmen, good all rounders, a first wicketkeeper, variety in bowling.

In 1939 Frank's name often appeared in the newspapers as the solver of Bridge problems, while in 1940 he was Vice-President of the Nature Club at Wesley College. Frank was an officer for the Wesley Cadet Corp (1941 Capt., 1947 Major).




F.R. Potts – Front Row - Middle

Sadly, for the Potts family, their father died on the 27th of February 1939.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954) / Thu 2 Mar 1939

Death Of Rev. W. A. Potts

The Rev. William Andrew Potts, who died at Brighton on Monday, was born in Shropshire in 1860, and entered the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in England in 1879. He came to South Australia for health reasons in 1883, and from then until 1900 ministered at Clarendon, Kangaroo Island, Quorn, Magill, Moonta and Gumeracha. After eight years at Maughan Church, during which the Central Mission work began, he took charge of the Norwood, Mount Gambier, Parkside, and Kent Town circuits. Conference President in 1920, he edited the denominational paper, the "Australian Christian Commonwealth" in 1928-29. After a ministry in the Kingston-on-Thames circuit from 1929 to 1934, Mr Potts returned to South Australia and lived in retirement at Brighton. At the West terrace Crematorium funeral service yesterday, the Rev. John Pearce officiated.



Rev. W. A. Potts

Surviving relatives are a widow, four sons—Messrs. G. M. and Eric Potts (Adelaide), W. A. Potts (Sydney), and Frank Potts (Western Australia)—and two daughters, Misses Winifred and Nell Potts (Adelaide).

By 1942 Frank and Elsie had moved to 272 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield and they lived at that address until at least 1954. In 1944 Frank wrote his views on mathematics in response to a newspaper article.

UTILITY OF MATHEMATICS

Sir: Your article "Fallacious Ideas on Mathematics" (19/5/44) while interesting as a contribution to educational reform does not present a true picture in so far as Australian universities are concerned. To enter the University of Melbourne only a general education is necessary. English is compulsory. Two subjects chosen from the languages, British history, European history, Greek and Roman history, and economics are necessary, also a branch of mathematics or a science subject. Science subjects include physics, chemistry, geology, geography, botany, animal biology, and agricultural science, and mathematics subjects include "general mathematics," especially adapted to meet the needs of the student of little mathematical ability. Therefore not "thousands" nor even one valuable University graduate need be lost each year because of failure to pass matriculation mathematics. The latest statistics which are published in the University handbook show that only 21% failed in mathematics III and 24% in mathematics I, while 32% failed in geography, 32% in physics, 35% in chemistry, 38% in British history, 40% in economics, and 68% in German. Mr Brownlie thus is very much astray when he says that there are more failures in mathematics than in any other subjects.

Mathematicians do not claim that proficiency in mathematics is an indication of superior intelligence. Nor can one generalise about linguists, economists, nor those of literary and scientific aptitudes. Matriculation mathematics do not demand extensive knowledge, but are designed to train the student to think logically and develop the powers of reasoning, at the same time to provide a foundation for practical mathematics as applied to science and the many branches of engineering.

F. R. POTTS (Wesley College).

From at least 1968, Frank and Elsie were living at 35 Douglas St, Ashwood, Victoria. In the period 1955 to 1969 Frank authored or co-authored a series of books on Mathematics (see list after Sources at the end of the document).

Death

Frank Roland Potts passed away on the 13th of March 1976 aged 80 years.

Robert Murray Potts (VX130345) served as a Gunner in WWII. He married Joan Alice Morris and had two daughters Ann & Heather. He passed away in 2011.

Frank Hartlett Potts became a chemist, served in WWII. He passed away in 2003.

David Andrew Potts served in WWII; he married Mary in 1953 and was a technician. David passed away in 1992.

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/>
Australian 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 – Frank Roland Potts)
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>
All Australia Memorial SA Edition Section B via <http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/>
Ancestry.com.au
https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/SS_Field_Marshall
Scotch College Magazine 1931
Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee Researcher

Books by F. R. Potts:

[Intermediate mathematics and leaving mathematics A \(general mathematics\) / by F.R. Potts](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book: 1955]
[Sub-intermediate and intermediate arithmetic: third and fourth years / by F.R. Potts](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book: 1956]
[Sub-intermediate mathematics \(third year\) / by F.R. Potts](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book: 2 versions: 1955-1957]
[Mathematics I for leaving certificate / by F.R. Potts and G.R. Clark](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book: 1958]
[Introductory exercises in mathematics \(1st and 2nd years\). by F.R. Potts, G.R. Clark, I. O. Maroske](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book : 2 versions : 1959-1960]
[Introductory exercises in mathematics / by F. R. Potts, G. R. Clark, I. O. Maroske](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book : 1964]
[Enquiring into mathematics : a textbook for form IV / \[by\] F. R. Potts \[and\] D. H. MacBryde](#)
Potts, F. R. (Frank Roland) [Book : 1969]