



Pte. William Arthur Pryor



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1919/20

Degree: MB BS 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 William Arthur Pryor. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=246874>




William Arthur PRYOR

Regimental number	8410
Place of birth	Port Augusta South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Student
Address	Port Augusta, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Mary Pryor, Port Augusta, South Australia
Enlistment date	25 August 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	Field Ambulance 3, Reinforcement 13
AWM Embarkation Roll number	26/46/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A30 <i>Borda</i> on 11 January 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	7th Field Ambulance
Fate	Returned to Australia 21 July 1916

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8023487>

A 70081 70082 **LIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 8410 Name PRYOR- William Arthur
 2 Unit 13/3rd Field Amb.
 Joined on 25/8/15.

13th, Rein's
3rd, Fld, Amb

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? William Arthur Pryor
- In the Parish of St. Augustine in or near the Town of Port Augusta in the County of South Australia
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) no
- What is your age? 19 10/12 yrs.
- What is your trade or calling? Student
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? no
- Are you married? no
- Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Nothing W. Mary Pryor Port Augusta South Australia
- Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? no
- 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
- 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 Cadet. Vol. about 5 years ago. No. Senior Cadet. P.B. St. Peter's College. now in constant area
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? yes
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? no
- (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? no
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? yes

William Arthur Pryor 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 and children

Date 24th August 1915 W.A. Pryor
 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 54789

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

PRYOR William Arthur

MB BS

1895 - 1981



William Arthur Pryor (affectionately known as Woppy) was born on 16th October 1895 to William George Pryor and Mary Mowbray nee Richardson in Mundulla, near Port Augusta, South Australia. He was educated privately, at Adelaide High School and St Peter's College. He studied medicine at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 1919. During his school years he served in the Cadets and Senior Cadets.

Pryor joined the AIF on 25th August 1915 whilst he was still a medical student and required his mother's approval to enlist. He was 19 years old, 5ft 9ins tall and weighed 153lbs of fair complexion with hazel eyes and dark brown hair. He had a vaccination scar on his left upper arm. He was initially posted in the reinforcements for 3 FdAmb as a private soldier. He remained at the Mitcham camp until his embarkation on the *Borda* in the Outer Harbour on 11th January 1916. He was transferred on the 9th March 1916 to the 7 FdAmb in Egypt and was transferred to France departing on 12th March 1916 arriving in Marseilles on 19th March. He was detached from that unit on 21st Jun 1916 and was attached to administrative HQ in London whilst waiting for his return to Australia to resume his medical studies. He embarked on the *Karmala* for Australia on 21st July 1916. He was

discharged in 4 MD on the 18th September 1916. He was issued with the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Pryor resumed his medical studies at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 1919. He married Phyllis Angela Field on 22nd September 1921; they divorced in 1936 when they were living in Brighton, South Australia. They had three children William John Pryor, Colin Huston Pryor and Nancy Mowbray Pryor. He moved to Ballarat, Victoria after his divorce where he remarried and became a much respected anaesthetist. He served as a reservist during WW2. He had a farm at Millbrook south east of Ballarat and retired at the age of 75 years. William Arthur Pryor died in Ballarat Victoria in 1981.

Sources:

National Archives of Australia
<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8023487>
The Adelaide Advertiser 14th February 1895
The Adelaide Advertiser 28th November 1919
The Adelaide Advertiser 17th April 1936
Indexes of Birth, Deaths and Marriages
Colleague's personal recollections.
Ancestry.com

Additional Biography

Early Life

William Arthur Pryor was born on the 16th of October 1895 at Mundallio, near Port Augusta, South Australia, the son of William George Pryor and Mary Mowbray Richardson. William's father was a pioneer grazier in the mid-north of South Australia.

Schooling

William attended Adelaide High School and passed his Primary Examinations in 1908 and won an exhibition. From 1909 to 1912, William attended St Peter's College, Adelaide. He passed his Junior Examinations in 1910, Senior Examinations in 1911 and Higher Public Examinations in 1912.

University

William commenced studying science at Adelaide University In 1913 and passed physics and biology examinations that year. In 1914, William transfer to study medicine and won the Elder Prize for First Year medicine in December that year. However, in August 1915, with his mother's permission he enlisted for service in WW1.

University Sport

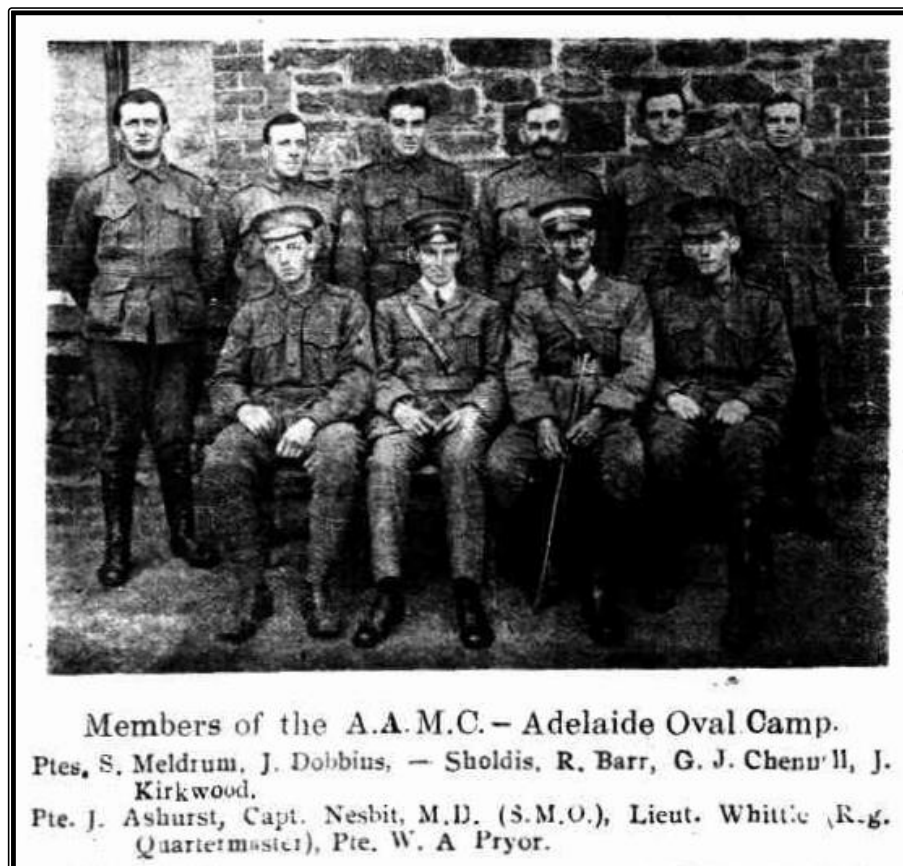
Football

The Adelaide University B Grade football team include a Pryor or Prior in 1914 and 1915 according to newspaper reports. However, in 1914, three men with the surname Pryor attended the University (Eric John, James and William Arthur). At the time of writing this profile (October 2017), insufficient information was available to fully identify the B Grade player.

World War I

On the 25th August 1915, William enlisted and his war service is described in the 'Blood, Swear and Fears' biography above. However due to the need for more doctors, William was sent back to Australia onboard the Karmala, departing from London on 20th July 1916 to resume his medical studies. He was discharged on the 18th September 1916 after arriving in Adelaide.

September 1915 – Adelaide Oval Camp



Pte. W.A. Pryor – Seated – Far Right

Return to University

William returned to his medical studies in 1917 and by 1919 he was working at the Adelaide Hospital. William graduated MB BS in December 1919.

University Sport

Cricket

William played cricket for the Adelaide University B Grade in the 1919/20 season. As most players who served returned from overseas, the SACA resumed official competitions.

Career and Family Life

William took up golf in 1919 and played at the Adelaide Golf Club. He was among the spectators at the Inter-Varsity Cricket match in February 1920 and in July 1920, when living at Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town, he registered a 22.5 Ford.

In August 1921, William was living at Mallala and was appointed officer of health for the district of Dublin, SA.

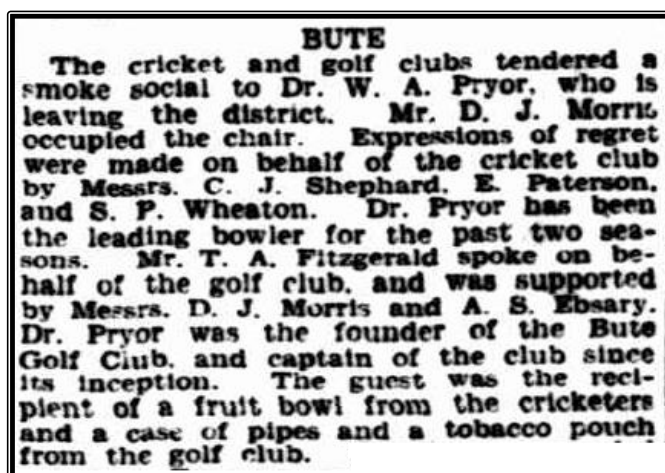
In 1921, William married Phyllis Angela Field at Norwood, SA. In January 1922, the couple left Mallala to reside at Toorak, Melbourne. While living at Toorak Road, South Yarra, Melbourne, their son, William John Pryor was born on the 21st of October 1922.

After about a year in Melbourne, the Pryor's returned to South Australia and William was appointed as officer of health for the district of Angaston in February 1923. William played golf at the Angaston Golf Club and was a Vice-President of the Angaston Federal Lawn Tennis Club.

In 1925, the Pryor's daughter, Nancy Mowbray Pryor was born. In December 1925, William sold his practice at Angaston and commenced a practice at Bute, SA about a month later.

While at Bute, William was instrumental in the creation of the Bute Golf Club and was its Captain until November 1929. He competed in the Championship of the North in 1928 and won the handicap championship. William also competed in Country Championships while at Bute. The Pryor's second son, Colin Hutson Pryor was born in 1928.

William played cricket for Bute and was their leading bowler in the 1927/28 and 1928/29 seasons.



The Pryor's left Bute in November 1929 and William commenced a practice at Payneham Road, Payneham. He was appointed an honorary assistant visiting doctor for the Mareeba Babies' Hospital and was Medical Superintendent of Minda Home from February 1933 to November 1935.

Back in the city, William continued to play golf and in 1932/33, he was the first chairman of the newly formed Adelaide Turf Cricket Association.

In 1936, William and Phyllis divorced and William moved to Victoria where he had a practice at Ballarat. From at least 1937, William was living at 125 Victoria Street, Ballarat. Sadly, for William, his father Mr. William G. Pryor passed away in November 1939. By January 1940, William's mother had moved to Ballarat to live with William.

STATE LOSES A PIONEER

A SOUTH Australian pioneer grazier, and later a pioneer motorist, Mr. William G. Pryor, of Tynte street, North Adelaide, died yesterday, aged 87.

Mr. Pryor was born at Bristol, England, in 1852, and came to Australia four years later. Educated at John L. Young's School, he began work at 16 with Swindon Bros. Two years later he was manager of their Saltia Station, near Port Augusta.

In 1872, he bought his own property, Mundallio, north of Saltia, and lived there until his retirement in 1915. He also owned Wilkatana and Whittata Stations.

At 25, he was a justice of the peace. He was one of the State's first motorists, and in a high front-wheeled International, once journeyed down to Oakbank to see the Great Eastern Steeplechase.

He was a committee member of the Port Augusta Racing Club, and a member of the S.A.J.C., A.R.C., and P.A.R.C.

For many years he was chairman of the District Council of Woolundunga, and a member of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons. He was president of the Adelaide Oval Bowling Club, and a Church of England lay reader for many years.

He has left a son, Dr. W. A. Pryor, of Ballarat (Victoria), and a daughter, Mrs. L. C. Kemp, of Strathalbyn.

A private funeral is being held today.

On the 9th of November 1940, William married Gladys Beryl Toyne (b 1904), a clerk, formerly of Geelong and the daughter of Harbert Toyne and Sarah Josine Hoare. William continued to enjoy golf and played at the Ballarat Golf Club.

World War II

William enlisted (SN V361335) and served in the reserves during WWII. He was on the honorary medical staff of the Ballarat Base Hospital from November 1941 in place of Dr. W.A. Baker on military service. William's eldest son, William John Pryor, was a Medical Student when he enlisted in the AIF (SN SX15925) on the 16th of December 1941. Among other roles, William John Pryor was a hospital orderly in Port Moresby, and rose to the rank of Sergeant. He was discharged on the 12th of March 1946 and returned to his medical studies at Adelaide University. Both William's sons, William John Pryor and Colin Hutson Pryor graduated MB BS from Adelaide University in 1952.

William John Pryor became engaged to Janet Laughton, the elder daughter of the late Mr. Arthur Laughton in March 1942. The couple married at St Peter's College Chapel in February 1946.

Nancy (Nan) Mowbray Pryor became engaged to Peter Robert Freeman, the only son of Mrs. C. C. Freeman, of Brougham Place, North Adelaide in April 1946. They married in November 1946 and made their home at Naracoorte. Nan was studying for an Honours Degree, Bachelor of Arts at the time of her marriage.

On the 25th of August 1952, William Arthur Pryor was admitted as a Fellow (Faculty of Anaesthetists) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

*Admitted Fellowship
25. 8-'52*

Cert No 26

Dr. W. A. Pryor
(William Arthur Pryor)
FACULTY OF ANÆSTHETISTS
ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

EXORDIUM

WHEREAS it is advisable, in the interests of the community, in the interests of Surgeons, and in the interests of those who practise the profession of Anæsthetics that—

1. The high traditions of that profession should be upheld and developed.
2. The intensive study of the science and art of Anæsthesia should be promoted by means of research.
3. Facilities should be provided for the higher education and advanced technical training of Anæsthetists.
4. The standards of anæsthetic practice in hospitals should be elevated.
5. A high moral standard of conduct should be demanded from all who accept the responsibilities of an Anæsthetist in their relations with patients and members of the medical profession.

WE, the undersigned, of our own free will, bind ourselves together for the fulfilment of the aforesaid objects and hereby form ourselves into The Faculty of Anæsthetists within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; and we pledge ourselves to obey all such by-laws, regulations and ordinances as may be adopted from time to time by the Faculty (with the approval of the Council of the College) or by its governing body or duly delegated authority (with the approval of the Council of the College) and we will submit to any penalties including that of expulsion from the Faculty that may be imposed by the governing body (with the approval of the Council of the College) for violation of any of the said by-laws, regulations or ordinances.

AND we resolve that the Constitution of this Faculty shall be as follows:

1. That the name of the proposed Association of Anæsthetists should be the Faculty of Anæsthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.
2. That the objects of the Faculty should be—
 - (a) To cultivate and maintain the highest principles of anæsthetic practice and ethics.
 - (b) To promote the practice of Anæsthesia under proper conditions by securing the improvement of hospitals and hospital methods.
 - (c) To arrange for adequate post-graduate training in Anæsthetics.
 - (d) To promote research in Anæsthesia.
3. That the qualifications for admission to the Faculty shall be such special training in Anæsthetics and such standard of conduct as shall be considered satisfactory to the governing body under the regulations.
4. That the governing body shall be the Board of the Faculty and shall include such representatives of the Council of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons as that Council shall from time to time determine.

Signature.	Address.	Date.
<i>H. J. Daly</i>	143 Macquarie Street,	30.7.51
	Sydney. N.S.W.	
<i>J. W. Lillie</i>	85 Spring Street,	26/7/51
	Melbourne. C.1.	
<i>Donald McKinnon</i>	12 Meadow Street,	25/7/51
	East St. Kilda. S.2.	
<i>W. H. A. Pryor</i>	28 Jolimont Road,	25/7/51
	East Melbourne. C.2.	
<i>G. B. Taylor</i>	194 St. George's Terrace,	9.8.51

In January 1953, William's younger son, Dr Colin Hutson Pryor, married Helen Mitchell at St John the Baptist, Missenden, Buckinghamshire, UK. They were still in the UK when their son, Tom was born in March 1954 and had not made plans to return to Australia at that stage.



Death

William Arthur Pryor died on the 9th of January 1981, aged 75, at Ballarat, Victoria.

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/>

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/144300>

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=6637811&isAv=N>

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=6413739>

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 – William Arthur Pryor)

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

Ancestry.com.au

Victorian Electoral Rolls, Family Tree information

<http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/pr---py.html>

<http://anzca.online-exhibition.net/fellows/home/william-arthur-pryor/>