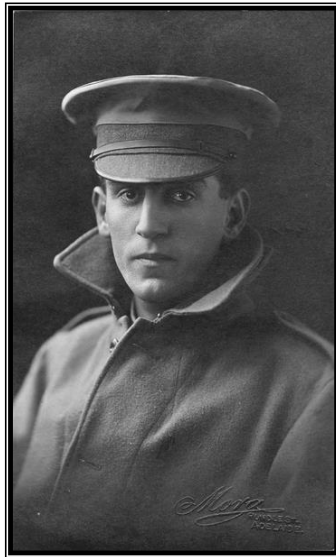




Lieut. George Percival Rayner

(DCM)



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: A Grade (1915)

and

Cricket Club: B Grade (1915/16 & 1919/20)

Degree: B.A. (1920)

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 George Percival Rayner. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=250488>



George Percival RAYNER

Regimental number	990
Date of birth	--/02/1894
Place of birth	Strathfield New South Wales
Religion	Congregational
Occupation	Theological student
Address	15 Partridge Street, Glenelg, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Grace Rayner, same address
Enlistment date	25 November 1915
Rank on enlistment	Sergeant
Unit name	43rd Battalion, D Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/60/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A19 <i>Afric</i> on 9 June 1916
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	Commissioned
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	3rd Machine Gun Battalion
Promotions	2nd Lieutenant Unit: INF43 Promotion date: 18 August 1917 Lieutenant Unit: INF43 Promotion date: 24 November 1917
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Divisional Orders Recommendation date: 3 August 1917
Fate	Returned to Australia 21 March 1919
Medals	Distinguished Conduct Medal 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When detailed to retake a post which had been captured by the enemy, it was found that an enemy machine gun rendered a direct advance impossible. He thereupon carried out a successful counter attack, and, with the assistance of another platoon leader, retook the post. By his coolness and good handling of the situation he inspired his men to persevere with an undertaking which at one moment looked almost impossible. The success of the operation was due to his initiative and presence of mind.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 76
Date: 23 May 1918

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8026356>

FREE PASSAGE
ON LONG LEAVE

39/8

AUSTRALIAN

MILITARY FORCES.
Certified True Copy

W.D. Gordon Lt. Col.
43rd Inf. Battalion A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 990 Name RAYNER George Percival
Unit Base Infantry Coy.
Joined on 25/11/15 43rd Inf. Battalion A.I.F.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... George Percival Rayner

2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... Strathfield
in the County of New South Wales

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? ... 23 yrs

5. What is your trade or calling? ... Theological 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) ... Mother, Mrs Sarah Grace
15 Portbridge Street (Rayner)
Glenelg S.E. Australia

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 ... 1 yr. 18th Badoes Trav to 18th
18th Badoes Trav 1 yr. exempt
Theological Student

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 mothers.)~~
~~Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service?~~ ... —

15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes

George Percival Rayner 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~~ three-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my ~~wife~~ wife and children

Date 25 NOV 1915 Rayner
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

RAYNER, George Percival



Lieutenant
43rd Battalion, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion



Born 20 February 1894 at Strathfield, NSW
Mother: Sarah Grace RAYNER
Of 15 Partridge St, Glenelg, South Australia
Occupation prior to enlisting: Theological Student
Enlisted: 25 November 1915
Embarkation: 9 June 1916
Age: 21 years
Served in France
Wounded in Action: 26 May 1918
Awarded: Distinguished Conduct Medal
Returned to Australia: 4 May 1919 per 'Kildonian Castle'
Appointment terminated: 29 June 1919
Died: 1976

State Records of SA GRG 26/5/4/1383

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/137478>

RAYNER, George Percival

Service Number: 990

Enlisted: Not yet discovered

Last Rank: Sergeant

Last Unit: 43rd Infantry Battalion

World War 1 Service

9 Jun 1916: Embarked Sergeant, SN 990, 43rd Infantry Battalion, HMAT Afric, Adelaide

9 Jun 1916: Involvement Sergeant, SN 990, 43rd Infantry Battalion

Date unknown: Wounded SN 990, 11th Machine Gun Company

Biography

Early Life

George Percival Rayner was born on the 20th or 27th February 1894¹ at Strathfield, NSW, the son of Rev George Lesingham Rayner and Sarah Grace Rayner.

¹ George was born 20th February per ww1sa.gravesecrets.net and born 27th February per P&O records of travel in 1956 via Ancestry.com.au) and a newspaper report in 1923 gave his date of birth as 28th February.

Schooling

George attended Prince Alfred College, Adelaide from 1907. In December 1907 he was awarded fourth prize in the Upper Fourth Form. He passed his Primary Examinations in 1909.

In August 1908 George won the Junior High Jump at the PAC Sports. In 1910 George came second in the 300 yards steeplechase at the PAC Sports and was a member of the PAC athletics team for the Inter-Collegiate Sports against St Peter's College. In 1911 George competed at the PAC swimming competitions.

In April 1914 George came third in the Old Scholars race at the PAC Sports.

Early Career

George commenced working as a clerk. In 1913 he played Lacrosse for Holdfast Bay. In December 1913 he passed three Senior Examinations (Latin, Arithmetic & Algebra and Geometry) followed by a pass in Greek in March 1914. He had studied Greek privately with Miss Langman.

University

George commenced studying for a Bachelor of Arts at Adelaide University in 1914. He was also a student at Parkin College, the Congregational Theological College. George deferred his studies at the end of 1915 to enlist in WW1.

University Sport

Football

George played A & B Grade football for Adelaide University. In 1914, he was a member of the B Grade Premiership Team. The following year he played A Grade in the Amateur League competition alongside his younger brother, Howard Luscombe Rayner.



Cricket

George played B Grade cricket for Adelaide University in the 1914/15 and 1915/16 season and again in 1919/20.

Athletics

George competed in the Adelaide University Sports in 1914 and came second in the High Jump and first in the Running Broad Jump

World War I


George enlisted on 25th November 1915 with the occupation of Theological Student. He had been in the 78th Cadets and the 78th Citizens Forces prior to enlisting. His mother Sarah Grace Rayner of 15 Partridge St, Glenelg, South Australia was listed as his Next-of-Kin. George was 21 years old and described as 5'9", 140 lbs, with a fair complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair.

After attending NCO School and being appointed a Sergeant, George embarked on the 9th of June 1916 with the 43rd Battalion. He was sick and in hospital in England from the 23rd of November 1916 to the 1st of April 1917 when he rejoined his unit in France.

On the 25th of October 1917, George was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal - *'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When detailed to retake a post which had been captured by the enemy, it was found that an enemy machine gun rendered a direct advance impossible. He thereupon carried out a successful counter attack, and, with the assistance of another platoon leader, retook the post. By his coolness and good handling of the situation he inspired his men to persevere with an undertaking which at one moment looked almost impossible. The success of the operation was due to his initiative and presence of mind.'*

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 76 Date: 23 May 1918

On the 20th of November 1917 George was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant. He was transferred to the 11th MG Company. George was wounded in action on 26th May 1918 (gassed) and was sent to England on sick leave. He rejoined his unit on the 8th of August 1918.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION		FORM C.	
			
No.	Surname	Christian Names	Date
	RAYNER (D.C.M)	G. P.	12/8/18
Rank. Lieutenant		Regiment & 11th Machine Gun Company	File No.
C/ /L			
OFFICIAL REPORTS: "Admitted 10th British Red Cross Hospital, Le Treport, France."			
Other Information:			
Inquirer's Name and Address. Rev. G. Rayner, Glenside, SOUTH AUSTRALIA		Relation.	
Instructions: Cable Commissioners.			
Call Again. YES. NO.		Cost of Cable, &c.	

After hostilities had ceased George returned to England in January 1919. He contracted influenza while in England. He returned to Australia on 4th May 1919 per 'Kildonian Castle' and his appointment was terminated on the 29th of June 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Hospital Ship S.S. Kildonan Castle

H11571

George had some hearing loss prior to joining up and this was exacerbated by his active service.

Post War Career and Family Life

On his return from the war George picked up his studies at Parkin College and Adelaide University. In February 1920 he played cricket for the Adelaide University B grade. George was an active member of the Adelaide University Christian Union. He won the Cornish prize at Parkin College in October 1920 and gained his Bachelor of Arts in December 1920.

Parkin College – North Terrace Kent Town



State Library of South Australia

Parkin Theological College [PRG 225/31/4]

Adelaide University Student Card – Academic Record

NAME AND ADDRESS <i>P. Rayner, George Percival, Glenelg.</i>		DATE OF BIRTH <i>2/2/1894</i>		DATE OF MATRICULATION <i>26/3/1914</i>		INSTITUTION <i>Parkin College.</i>		REGISTER NO. <i>2547</i>		GRADE <i>Grad.</i>	
SENIOR <i>1912 Germ., 1913 Lat., Agr. Sc., Chem., 1914, Greek.</i>											
ON WAR MEMORIAL											
STATUS GRANTED											
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS	
1914	English Literature	B11095	1/8/	B11872	1/8/	B12522	1/8/	B12522 1/2	N114 F		
	Latin I	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	- 1/4	N114 P II		
	Greek I	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	- 1/4	N114 P II		
1915	Latin II	12628	1/4/	B14011	1/4/	B14676	1/4/	B14676 1/4	N15 F		
	Greek II	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	- 1/4	N15 P II		
	English Literature	-	1/8/	-	1/8/	-	1/8/	- 1/4	N15 P II		
1919	Ethics	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	- 1/4	N15 F	Exempted 35.11.15	
	Psychology	-	-	4657	1/4/	-	-	5176 1/4	N19 P II	Exempted 1919	
	Logic	-	-	-	1/4/	-	-	- 1/4	N19 P II	Exempted 1919	
1920	Latin II	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 1/4	N19 P II		
	English History of U.K.	5780	1/8/	7571	1/8/	8309	1/8/	8829 1.10	N20 P II		
	Philosophy	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	- 1.10	N20 P II		
	Ethics	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	-	1/4/	- 1.10	N20 P II		
B.A. degree conferred 8th Dec 1920 Fee for Degree 1919 £3.30											

George completed his studies at Parkin College in late 1921 and took charge of the Vardon Memorial Church, King's Park from 1 January 1922.

Mr. G. P. Rayner, B.A., a senior student of Parkin College, who will complete his theological course next month, has accepted a unanimous call from the Vardon Memorial Church, King's Park. Mr. Rayner has been supplying the pulpit at that church for some time. He will take charge of the church from January 1.

ARE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES SUCCESSFUL?

From the Rev. G. P. RAYNER:—Mr. F. Cockington has drawn attention to the apparently damaging effect that theological colleges have upon students for the Christian ministry. He finds support for his statement in the late Rev. Thomas Binney and my father, Rev. George Rayner. But while many people are prepared to assent to the fact of an impaired usefulness, resulting from a theological college education, not all will lay the blame at the door of the college. The function of the college is to make teachers as well as evangelists. The real objective is not conversion but salvation. Conversion is only a phase of salvation. The work of a theological college as primarily educative and presupposes a passion for souls in the theological student. My contention is that the most devout centre of religious learning in the world is not proof against turning men's minds from the simplicity of their first love for Christ. But the fault may be chargeable, not to the college, but to the student, and to the circumstances of the opening of the floodgates of Christian knowledge. If a man loses anything in his transit through Parkin College under Principal Kiek's staff, it will probably be only what was not worth the keeping. For the man who has the root of the matter in him, Parkin College presents rich alluvial soil for this development. I may say from my own experience that I owe a debt to the college that I can never repay. I have emerged from the college with stronger Christian convictions and with more frequent enthusiasm for proclaiming the passage of the Gospel and a more serious determination to win souls to the love of Christ. I fully sympathize with Mr. Cockington's concern; but I think that he has not rightly allocated the cause of the trouble, and that Principal Kiek is to be commended for his efforts to retain his students' evangelical fervour.

George was at the dedication of the Soldiers' Cemetery (West Terrace) in November 1922. George's views on the success of theological colleges were published in December 1922.

In January 1923 George passed his final subjects toward a Bachelor of Divinity at the Melbourne College of Divinity, he was awarded his BD in May 1923.

On the 4th of April 1923 George Percival Rayner (aged 29) married Idalie Mary Alberta Morris (b 16th of December 1891, aged 31), the daughter of Charles Richard Morris at the Vardon Memorial Congregational Church, King's Park, Adelaide.

Congregational.

Mr. Rayner is a son of the Rev. George Rayner (Chairman of the Australasian Congregational Union). He was born on February, 28, 1894, and received his education at Prince Alfred College. After a period of office work he entered Parkin College in 1913, and in the same year passed the senior examination, with a



REV. G. P. RAYNER, B.A., B.D.,
Pastor of Vardon Memorial Church, King's Park.

credit in three subjects. He enlisted in 1916, and was attached to the 43rd Battalion, and during an engagement about August, 1917, he won the D.C.M. He returned from active service in May, 1919. Resuming his studies he graduated B.A. at the Adelaide University in 1921. At Parkin College he won the Peter Wood essay prize and the G. S. Wright prize. He was ordained on December 22, 1921, and began his ministry at Vardon Memorial Church early last year. He has merited the esteem of his congregation by his ability and diligence, being an earnest preacher with a definite message. He recently crowned a distinguished theological career by securing the B.D. degree of the Theological Hall at the Melbourne University. He was married to Miss Idalie Morris, of Victoria avenue, King's Park, on April 4. Mr. Rayner is a military chaplain, and will deliver an address in connection with Anzac Day Celebrations at Elder Park.

From January 1923, George had oversight of the Congregational Church at Happy Valley, in conjunction with his work at Vardon Memorial Church.

From June 1923 to December 1927, George was the minister at the Augustine Congregational Church at Auburn, Victoria. George and Idalie lived at 10 Auburn Grove, Auburn and on the 21st of June 1924 their first child, a son, Christopher Stephen "Steve" Rayner was born.

In August 1924, George spent a month preaching at Albion Heights in Queensland. In July 1925 George assisted his father at the marriage of their sister and daughter, Margaret Grace (Peggy) to Charles Sydney Bates. George and Idalie's second son Augustine Durham (Durham) Rayner was born on the 20th of May 1926.

The family left Victoria in December 1927 and spent two months in South Australia before departing for England. They left Sydney, Australia onboard the Cathay (Peninsula and Orient Steam Navigation Company Ltd) and arrived in Plymouth, England on the 7th of April 1928. Their first place of residence in England was at 1 Walpole Road, Twickenham, London. By April 1929, George had accepted the pastorate of the church at Staines, London a position he still held in 1936. In 1938 the family received a visit from Idalie's sister Miss Ermyn Morris.

In 1933, George was granted a commission as Chaplain in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, Territorial Army. Idalie had a trip back to Australia on her own in 1933. She departed from London on the 7th of July 1933, onboard the Bendigo with Adelaide listed as her destination.

On the 15th of April 1948, George and Idalie left London onboard the Stratheden (P and O), bound for Adelaide. The couple were in Adelaide until at least August 1948 when George gave a speech on "The England I Love" that month. Their residence back in England was at 30 Copthorne Road, Wolverhampton.

George, Idalie and Durham returned to Australia permanently in 1956. They departed from London onboard the Arcadia, (P and O) on the 18th of January. Their residence in England at that time had been, 3 Warminster Road, S.E. Christopher, then aged 22, remained in England.

Back in Australia, George was on the circuit again and preached at Congregational Union Sunday at Victor Harbor in March 1958.

Death

George Percival Rayner died on the 8th of December 1976, aged 82, and was cremated at Centennial Park, Adelaide on the 10th of December 1976.

Idalie Mary A Rayner died in June 1977 at Aylesbury, England, aged 86.

Legacy

Steve Rayner

Christopher Stephen Rayner married Mary in 1945 at Birmingham, Warwickshire, England and died on the 20th of January 2009.

Steve served in the Royal Signals as a young man and worked all his life as an electronic engineer at Lucas Engineering. Dr Mary Rayner pre-deceased her husband. Steve was father to Christopher, Juliet, Hilary, Helen, Suzanne and Charmian and was survived by his brother, Durham, 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. His funeral notice stated '*He will be sadly missed for his love, kindness and mischievous sense of humour. The Funeral is at St. Nicolas Church, Kings Norton at 2.00 p.m. on Friday, January 30 and afterwards at St. Nicolas Place*'.



Steve Rayner

Durham Rayner

Augustine Durham Rayner was an artist under the name of A Durham Rayner, he was a finalist in the Archibald Prize with a portrait of K. Stuart Hetzel, M.D., Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Adelaide.

Some of his art can be viewed at:

<https://www.artrecord.com/index.cfm/artist/3104-rayner-durham/>

and

http://www.hamiltongallery.org/collection/artist-list.asp?Artist_LastName=r&Artist_Name=Durham%20Rayner

Durham Rayner served in the British Army during World War II. In the aftermath of World War II, he began showing signs of declining mental health and required hospitalisation. In 1956 at 30 years of age he moved back to Australia with his parents. Over the ensuing 20 years he received intermittent treatment at the Northfield Mental Hospital and Glenside Hospital.

In 1976 and 1977 when his parents died, he moved into a unit in the Norwood area. At that stage Mr Rayner regularly attended Glenside Hospital for depot medication and experienced a relatively stable period of mental health for the next 10 to 12 years. In 1988, he ceased taking his medication and his mental health appeared to remain relatively stable until the early 2000s. He passed away aged 88, on the 9th of March 2015 at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

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 – George Percival Rayner)

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

State Records of SA GRG 26/5/4/1383

<http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/ra.html>

State Library of South Australia

South Australian Red Cross Information Bureau

<https://sarcib.ww1.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/soldier/george-percival-rayner>

University Archives – Emerging from The Great War – PAC collection

<https://heurstplus.sydney.edu.au/heurst/?db=ExpertNation&a=2&ll=UAdelaide&placeid=59924>

Christopher Rayner

<http://www.bmdsonline.co.uk/birmingham-mail/obituary/christopher-rayner/1647800>

Durham Rayner

www.courts.sa.gov.au/CoronersFindings

Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher