

Major James Charles Power Strachan



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: B Grade (1911/12-1912/13)

Blue: Athletics (1911)

Degree: MB BS (1914)

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 James Charles

Power Strachan. It is compilation of information and

photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AUFC/AUCC WW1 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The AIF Project

https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=290387



James Charles Power STRACHAN

Place of birth North Adelaide South Australia

Religion Church of England
Occupation Medical practitioner

Address North Adelaide, South Australia

Marital status Single
Age at embarkation 25

Next of kin Father, R Strachan, 172 Childers Street, North Adelaide, South Australia

Enlistment date 8 February 1915

Rank on enlistment Captain

Unit name Medical Officers

Rank from Nominal Roll Major

Unit from Nominal Roll Australian Army Medical Corps
Fate Effective abroad (still overseas)

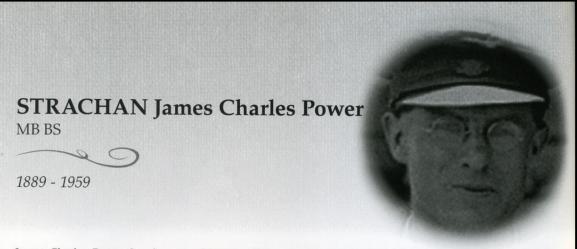
Service Record

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8092689

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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



James Charles Power Strachan was born on 10th November 1889 in North Adelaide, the second son of a merchant, Roland Strachan, and his wife Edith Maud, nee Tuckett. He was educated at St Peter's College and served in the school cadets from 1906 to 1908, rising to the rank of 2nd lieutenant, before entering the University of Adelaide where he studied medicine. He graduated in 1914.

Strachan applied for a commission in the AIF on the 3rd March 1915. He was 25 years, single, 6ft tall, weighed 160lbs, and his father, of 172 Childers St, North Adelaide, was his next of kin. Strachan was sent to Egypt with reinforcements for 1 AGH, but immediately on arrival transferred to B Section of 7 FdAmb. He went to Gallipoli in September, where his unit relieved 4 FdAmb at Walden Grove. He spent some weeks detached to 1 LHFA. He was evacuated to Egypt in November with influenza but rejoined 7 FdAmb at the beginning of December. After several brief attachments to infantry Bns, he went to France with 7 FdAmb in March 1916. During the early stages of the Somme offensive, Strachan was briefly attached to 3 ACCS, but in August he was posted as RMO of 26 Bn. He was with the Bn through the series of unsuccessful attacks on Mouquet Farm. A month later he was evacuated with trench fever. He returned to the Bn in October as it moved back to the Somme from Ypres, and in time for the Battle of Flers and the attack on The Maze in November. Strachan again fell ill in Jan 1917, this time with mumps. After a variety of short term postings in the rear echelons, he was promoted major and posted to 16 FdAmb in 6 Div. After the losses of Bullecourt and Messines. the formation of 6 Div was abandoned, and Strachan was sent to 14 FdAmb which had lost three officers during the attacks on Polygon Wood. He remained with the unit until after the successful capture of Villers-Bretonneux on April 25th 1918. He was then recalled to England and posted to 1 ADH at Bulford on the Salisbury Plain, where he married Eleanor Marjory Isabel Tapp from Bath, Somerset in June

1918. Strachan obtained leave to attend a course at the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin after the Armistice. His appointment in the AIF was terminated at the 4th MD on the 13th February 1920. He was issued with the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Strachan's older brother Captain William Leighton Strachan (6 Bn), aged 27 years, was killed on Bolton's Ridge on the 25th April 1915, a short time after the landing at Anzac Cove.

Strachan returned to Australia in October 1919 with his wife and first child, David Edgar who had been born in Salisbury in June. The family moved to Creswick, Victoria in 1920, where he set up practice. Strachan and his wife featured many times in the social pages of the newspaper. James Charles Power Strachan died in Creswick in 1959. He was survived by his wife and son. Strachan's son David Strachan, a celebrated Australian painter, was killed in a car accident in 1970.

Sources:

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=8092689 Likeman R., "Gallipoli Doctors" Slouch Hat Publications, 2010. The Adelaide Advertiser 12 October 1904 The Adelaide Advertiser 16 March 1909 The Register Adelaide 12 February 1915 The Advertiser Adelaide 5 December 1934 Ancestry.com

The Effect of the War on the Price of Drugs

The scarcity of some of the more important drugs since the commencement of the war, on account of our dependence upon Germany for the production of many of them, has resulted in a very considerable inconvenience and in the establishment of fabulously high prices.

MJA, 17 June 1916, p. 489

Additional Biography

Early Life

James Charles Power Strachan was born on the 19th of November 1889, the son of Roland Strachan and Edith Maud Tuckett, at North Adelaide.

Schooling

James attended Queen's School, North Adelaide from at least 1901 to 1905. His name mainly appeared in the newspapers of the time for his athletic efforts at the Queen's School Sports and he won the 120 yards hurdles in 1905. While still at Queen's School, James passed the Arts and Science Examination in Intermediate Solid Geometry.

Approx 1902 - Queen's School, North Adelaide



J.C.P. Strachan – believed to be Second to back row – Third from right
(the short boy in lighter clothing is part of the third to back row)

The above photograph was named by A.M. Moulden and D.B. Ross with students identified as 1-56, however the positions of the boys is uncertain, and James has been placed by establishing the position and numbers of known students. (State Library of SA)

In 1906, James began attending St Peter's College, Adelaide. In December 1906, he was awarded the second Bowman (Science) scholarship. He completed his Higher Public Examinations in 1908.

On arrival at the school, he immediately had an impact on the College's athletics team. He came third in the mile and second in the 440 yards flat handicap at the St Peter's Sports in 1906 and later that year he won the mile at the Inter-Collegiate Sports against Prince Alfred College. He won the mile at both sports contests in 1907 and 1908, completing the mile at the Inter-Collegiate Sports in a record 4 minutes 58.25 seconds.

In 1908, James was second in the St Peter's College Cup. James also competed in SA Amateur Athletics competitions from 1908. In a list comparing the School Boy One Mile Champions at 'Great Public Schools' in England and Australia, James was ranked fourth best after Arnold (NSW), Garrod (Eng) and Fleming (Vic). James' Inter-Collegiate One Mile record was not broken until 1928.

James was a member of the Cadets from 1906-08 and was appointed a Lieutenant on probation in May 1908.

Adelaide University

James commenced studying medicine at Adelaide University in 1909 and gained his MB BS in 1914.

University Sport

Cricket

James played cricket for the Adelaide University B Grade in the 1911/12 and 1912/13 seasons.

Tennis

James competed in the 1910 Adelaide University tennis tournament and played in the 1911 Inter-Varsity Tennis championships in Melbourne in 1911.



Athletics

James competed in the Adelaide University Sports from 1909-1914. He was third in the University Cup in 1909 having placed in both the high jump and broad jump and was selected for the 1909 Inter-Varsity team.

James continued to compete in the Old Scholars events at the Inter-Collegiate Sports during his University days.

In 1910 James represented the University at both the Athletics and Tennis Inter-Varsity competitions. He came second in the ½ mile at the School of Mines Sports in June 1910.

At the 1911 Inter-Varsity, James came second in the ½ mile and second in the High Jump. He was awarded a Blue for Athletics that year. In the University Cup he came second having placed second in the 440 yards flat and the high jump.



1911 – Intervarsity

J.C.P. Strachan - Second Place

In 1912 James won the ½ mile event at the Inter-Varsity, held in Melbourne.

INTER-VARSPTY SPORTS.

The half-mile championship in connection with the inter Variety sports at Melhourne on Wednesday was soon by J. C. P. Strachen (not R. Penderu.

James was on the committee which organised the 1912 University Sports and he was one of the handicappers for the event. He may have been injured prior to or during the event as for the first time since he came to University he was not listed in the place getters.

In 1913, James attended the Inter-varsity in Sydney. The newspaper article announcing the team tells us that James had been Secretary of the University Athletic Club. James had a good reputation at middle distances and came second in the ½ mile.

AMATEUR ATHLETICS

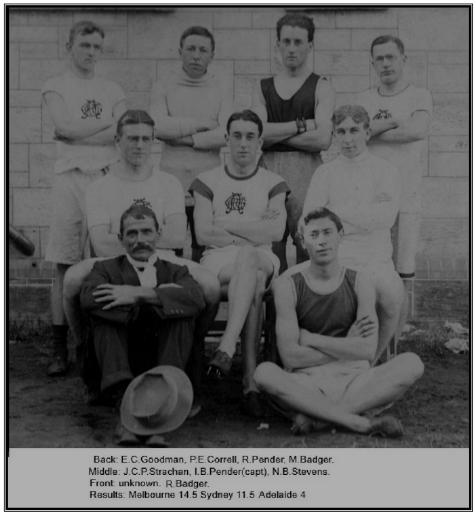
The Adelaide University sent a strong athletic team to Sydney by Wednesday's express to compete in the interstate university annual sports carnival next week. The team is captained by Ian Pender, and includes J. C. P. Strachan, M. Badger, N. P. Stevens, P. E. Correl, Roy Pender, and R. C. Goodman. Ian B. Pender and J. C. P. Strachan have been delegated to represent the South Australian Amateur Athletic Association at the interstate conference to be conducted by the Amateur Athletic Union of Australasia at the end of the month. Pender is one of the S.A.A.A. Secretaries, and Strachan an ex-Secretary of the University Athletic Club.

May 1913 - Inter-Varsity Athletics



J.C.P. Strachan – Centre Row – At Left

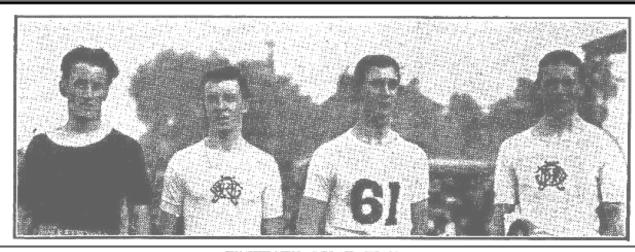
1913 - Adelaide University - Inter-Varsity Athletics Team



Results: Melbourne 14.5 Sydney 11.5 Adelaide 4

James competed in the SA Amateur Athletics Association five-mile cross country championships in 1913 and in the Relay event at the Y.M.C.A Harriers' Club competition in September 1913. He won the half-mile event at the SA Amateur Athletics Association meet in October 1913 in record time which held up for eight years.

1913 - Adelaide University Relay Team



UNIVERSITY RELAY TEAM,

R. Pender, H. A. Wyllie, R. H. Othams, J. C. P. Strachan. Winners of the two-mile relay race, on the Adelaide Oval on Saturday. There were seven teams in the contest, which was arranged by the Y.M.C.A. Harriers' Club.

1914 – Adelaide University – Inter-Varsity Athletics Team



Back: N.C.Goss, E.D.Meldrum, H.R.Othams, R.Pender, N.G.Abbott.
Middle: L.H.Wallman, J.C.P. Strachan, I.B.Pender, C.E.Pellew, N.B.Stevens.
Front: C.Gurner, M.Badger, R.L. Grant.
Won by Adelaide.

Adelaide won the Inter-Varsity Sports in 1914 at Adelaide University Oval, with James contributing points for winning the half-mile. James was a member of the committee who organised the Inter-varsity.





Standing: J. P. Webb, L. H. Wallmann Sitting—J. C. P. Strachan, I. B. Pender, H. A. Wyllie, R. L. F. Grant.

World War I

On the 4th of March 1915, James enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps. His WWI story is well documented in the 'Blood, Sweat and Fears' biography above. James is also mentioned in two further books 'Australian Doctors on the Western Front' and 'Gallipoli Doctors: The Australian Doctors at War Series Volume 1' both by Robert Likeman,CSM

While in the UK on war service, James married Margery Tapp of Bath, the daughter of Arthur E.C. Tapp and Flora Helen Rose (née Palmer). The couple's eldest child, a son (David), was born on the 25th of June 1919 at Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. James, Margery and David returned to Australia in November 1919.

STRACHAN—TAPP.—On the 17th June, at St. Saviour's, Bath, England, Major J. C. P. Strachan, younger surviving son of Roland and E. M. Strachan, North Adelaide, to Margery, daughter of Arthur E. C. Tapp, Bath.

Career and Family Life

After a short time in Adelaide, James purchased the practice of Dr T.A. Wilson at Creswick, Victoria (8 kilometres north of Ballarat) in July 1920 and he was appointed health officer for Creswick. James played cricket as Creswick. They lived at 'Glencairn', Cambridge St, Creswick until at least 1949.

James and Margery's second son, Michael John Strachan, was born at Mrs Surridge's private hospital, Creswick on the 21st of December 1921 and their first daughter Veronica Mary Helen Strachan was born in the same hospital on the 26th of December 1923. Their second daughter, Margery Ann, (known as Ann – her date of birth has not yet been discovered).

Sadly, for the family, James' father Roland Strachan passed away in Victoria on the 19th of September 1925 and his mother had passed away by July 1932. James donated a shadowless lamp for the operating theatre to the Creswick Hospital in memory of his mother.

By 1933, James was playing tennis at Creswick and in 1938 he was president of the Creswick tennis club.

In 1936, Margery took their elder son, David aged 16 on a trip to the UK.

In August 1937, James attended a reunion for WWI doctors at was held in Adelaide.

World War II

James enlisted as a Major in the AAMC on the 28th of May 1940 (SN V84314). His WWII Service Record is listed at the National Archives of Australia under the name of James Charles Pamer Strachan. His WWII record is not yet open to the public, however James was given a farewell from Creswick which suggests that he at least served away from his district, if not overseas.

Post WWII

June 1946 - Prominent Citizens of Creswick



Sisters Vander Wey, N. Williams, Matron S. F. McKay, Dr. Strachan, Sisters M. White, and J. Gall, of Creswick Hospital. James and Margery's son Michael John Strachan also became a Doctor. He was working in Kuwait, Persian Gulf, from August 1948. He became engaged to Pamela Mary Reid, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Reid of St Ann's, Mount Lofty in December 1949. Pamela flew to Kuwait in March 1949 and the couple were married there. They visited Australia in September/October 1951. Michael and Pamela were back in Adelaide in 1952 with their son, David and were living at Lockleys, SA. They then returned to Kuwait in early January 1953.

In April 1952, James sold his practice to Dr M.G.W. Ingram. James laid the foundation stone for the Creswick RSL Memorial Hall on the 4th of October 1952.



James and Margery's second daughter, Ann completed her nurses' training at Royal Melbourne Hospital in November 1952. She became engaged to John Neil Barter, the son of Mr. John Barter of Highett and Mrs. Mary Barter of Sandringham in March 1953.

By 1954 James and Margery were living at Hall St, Creswick.

Death

James Charles Power Strachan passed away in August 1959 at Creswick. His funeral notice was published in 'The Age', Melbourne on the 28th of August 1959.

David Edgar Strachan was a well-known Australian artist; he died as a result of a car accident on the 23rd of November 1970, aged 51. His biography is below after the list of sources for this profile. Appendix 1

Margery (Eleanor Margery Isabel) Strachan passed away at Creswick in 1982, she was 88 years of age. Margery had been still living in the family home at 100 Hall St, Creswick in 1980.

Dr Michael John Strachan died in Adelaide on the 14th of November 1990 aged 69.

Veronica Mary Helen Strachan died on the 4th of September 2002, aged 69 at Canberra, ACT.

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/150648 https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/609395

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/

https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/handle/2440/63845 https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/handle/2440/63844 https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/handle/2440/39418

The National Library of Australia http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – J C P Strachan and JCP Strachan)

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

Ancestry.com.au

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

http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/families/files/STRACHAN-WL-Gen.pdf

There is a photograph of James at https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/item/386766

but it is not available digitally.

Victoria BDM https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/

State Library of South Australia

http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+29751

Australian Dictionary of Biography

http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/strachan-david-edgar-11786

http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/multiple/display/30928-creswick-rsl-memorial-hall/photo/1

Australian Doctors on the Western Front By Robert Likeman CSM

Appendix 1

Biography - David Edgar Strachan

by Barry Pearce

http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/strachan-david-edgar-11786

David Edgar Strachan (1919-1970), painter and printmaker, was born on 25 June 1919 at Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, eldest of four children of Major James Charles Power Strachan, Australian Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force, and his wife Eleanor Margery Isobel, née Tapp, who came from Bath. The family moved to Adelaide in 1920 and to Creswick, Victoria, in the following year. David was sent to Creswick State and Geelong Church of England Grammar schools. By the age of 16 he wanted to be an artist. Accompanying his mother to London in 1936, he enrolled at the Slade School of Fine Art, where he met Godfrey Miller. In 1937 he attended the Académie de la Grande Chaumière, Paris, and painted at Cassis on the Mediterranean Sea. He returned to Australia in April 1938 and studied at the George Bell School, Melbourne.

Strachan's earliest known paintings, such as 'Mother and Child' and 'Victorian Family' (both 1940), had an eerie, staged look which was to become characteristic of much of his work. His growing interest in classicism blended with a fascination for the dream-state and became reinforced in his work after he moved to Sydney in 1941. There he was befriended by Jean Bellette and her husband Paul Haefliger, who were to be driving forces behind the Sydney Art Group (founded 1945). He lived on the top floor of the Haefligers' house at Double Bay, and together the three artists drew from models whom the Haefligers hired. In this period Strachan painted and exhibited some of his most poetic works—mainly figurative and landscape subjects, and still-lifes of haunting beauty. His flowers, bowls of fruit,

birds, and angelic figures glimmered out of the darkness as things not of this world, evoked faintly, like mythological personages in a gently spoken narrative. He 'spent an erratic war' painting camouflage at Bankstown aerodrome with other artists, among them (Sir) William Dobell, and dancing minor roles with Hélène Kirsova's ballet company.

In 1948 Strachan settled in Paris. His paintings, included by Peter Bellew in an exhibition at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, had been well-received by French critics two years earlier. In 1950 he began tentative experiments in etching. These led to the formation of the Stramur-Presse, a business venture which published etchings and lithographs of leading French and English artists. His most important project was a series of twenty-two colour etchings illustrating Alister Kershaw's book of poems, *Accent & Hazard* (Paris, 1951).

Strachan continued to exhibit in Australia and maintained a lively social life with Australian friends. From Paris, he went for weekend painting trips with Moya Dyring in her car and, after 1957, visited the Haefligers on Majorca. He lived in London in 1955-57. His paintings became progressively less soft in effect, his palette brightened, and his forms, especially the still-lifes, became spikier. In the late 1950s his attention drifted towards the study of Hindu philosophers and Jungian psychology. For most of 1957-58 he was enrolled at the C. G. Jung-Institut, Zürich, Switzerland. In 1959 he worked in Silvio Daneo's silkworm factory at Bricherasio, Italy.

In May 1960 Strachan returned to Sydney. He lived at Woolloomooloo before buying a house at Paddington in 1963. Having learned in Paris, he was a remarkable cook, and introduced his friends 'to a style of kitchen-based living among scrubbed wooden furniture, tiles, handsome pots and pans, massed herbs and vegetables, fine cuisine, witty conversation, books and music'. Over the ensuing years he involved himself energetically with the art scene, exhibiting, teaching (1960-65) at East Sydney Technical College, fund-raising for memorials for Thea Proctor and Dyring, and as the last president (1965) of the Society of Artists.

His paintings were out of harmony with the prevailing fashion for abstraction, but he won the Wynne prize for landscape painting in 1961 and 1964 (shared). Perhaps the most moving works of Strachan's last ten years were the mining landscapes, including those he painted near Hill End, leading up to his vast canvas, 'Lewers Freehold Mine'. This was a history picture, depicting the mine as it might have appeared in 1874. He presented it to the Creswick Historical Museum in 1970 in memory of his father.

Strachan died from injuries received in a motorcar accident on 23 November 1970 on the Hume Highway near Yass and was cremated. His family preserved the interior of his Sydney home much as he had left it, with the atmosphere of dusty, lived-in antiquity that he loved so much. As an artist, his closest affinity was probably with the French Symbolist Odilon Redon. Strachan's work is represented in public and private collections throughout Australia.



David Strachan