



Sgt. Edward Waldemar Timcke



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: B Grade (1914)

Cricket Club: B Grade (1912/13 & 1913/14)

Degree: BA (1920)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind this 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 Edward Waldemar Timcke. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=301637>



Edward Waldemar TIMCKE

Regimental number	35193
Place of birth	Payneham South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Albert Street, Payneham, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	26
Next of kin	Father, Heinrich Edward F Timcke, Albert Street, Payneham, South Australia
Enlistment date	2 October 1916
Rank on enlistment	Gunner
Unit name	Field Artillery Brigade, Reinforcement 27
AWM Embarkation Roll number	13/128/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A15 <i>Port Sydney</i> on 9 November 1917
Rank from Nominal Roll	Sergeant
Unit from Nominal Roll	7th Field Artillery Brigade
Fate	Returned to Australia 22 September 1919

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8391073>

3,000-7

A 209788

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

MENTAL CLASS

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ALCY

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. **Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

Name **TIMCKE EDWARD WALDERMAR**

Unit **F.A. (Infantry) Reinforcements South Australia**

Joined on **OCT 2 - 1916**

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestment

1. What is your Name? **Edward Waldemar Timcke**

2. In the Parish of **Payneham** in or near the Town of **Payneham** in the County of **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) **Natural Born**

4. What is your Age? **26-5 1/2 years**

5. What is your Trade or Calling? **Clerk**

6. Have 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) TIMCKE 104 AUGUSTA PAYNEHAM SOUTH 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 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 **yes 1 year 6 mths Senior Cadet 3 years 10 1/2 A. I. R**

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? **yes Eyesight**

14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the support of Widowed mother) Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day? **yes**

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

Edward Waldemar Timcke 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 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 **OCT 2 - 1916**

E. W. Timcke
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.

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/97125>

TIMCKE , Edward Waldemar

Service Number: 35193

Enlisted: 2 October 1916

Last Rank: Sergeant

Last Unit: 7th Field Artillery Brigade

Born: Payneham, South Australia, Australia, May 1890

Home Town: Payneham, South Australia

Schooling: University of Adelaide

Occupation: Meteorological Assistant at the Bureau of Meteorology

Died: Old Age, Glen, Victoria, Australia, 1982

Cemetery: Not yet discovered

Memorials:

World War 1 Service

9 Nov 1915: Involvement Gunner, SN 35193, Field Artillery Brigades

9 Nov 1915: Embarked Gunner, SN 35193, Field Artillery Brigades, HMAT Port Sydney, Melbourne

2 Oct 1916: Enlisted AIF WW1, Gunner, SN 35193, 7th Field Artillery Brigade

11 Nov 1918: Involvement Sergeant, SN 35193

Biography - RSL Virtual War Memorial

Edward Waldemar Timcke, SGT, (1890-1982)

Edward Waldemar Timcke, or Tim, as he was more commonly known, was born in May 1892 (sic) in Payneham, South Australia. He was the son of Heinrich Edward F Timcke (name has German origin) and Ida Augusta Timcke. He was a brother to 6 (*sic actually 5*) siblings who are listed below:

- Hedwig Dora Timcke (1883)
- Karl Friedrich Timcke (1885) (Fought in World war 1) (Fate: Returned)
- Hermann Georg Timcke (1887)
- Adeline Anna Timcke (1888)
- Philip Geoffrey Timcke (1899) (Fought in World War 1) (Fate: Returned)

(source: http://search.ancestry.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gl=34&gss=sfs28_ms_f-34&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsln=timcke&gsln_x=1&msfng=Heinrich%20Edward%20Friedrich%20&msfns=TIMCKE&msmng=Ida%20augusta&cp=0&MSAV=1&uidh=28h)

Published Biography – Encyclopaedia of Australian Science

Timcke, Edward Waldemar (Tim)



Edward Waldemar Timcke OBE

(Courtesy of Bureau of Meteorology)

Born

2 April 1890

Payneham, South Australia, Australia

Died

18 July 1982

Occupation

Meteorologist and Science administrator

Summary

Edward Waldemar Timcke, commonly known as Tim, was Director of the Bureau of Meteorology from 1950 to 1955. He joined the Bureau in 1911 after completing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) at the University of Adelaide. Timcke was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Details

Edward Waldemar Timcke (Tim) joined the Bureau in Adelaide in about 1911 as a meteorological assistant. After service in France in World War I, he returned to the Sydney office of the Bureau in 1919 and moved to Melbourne in 1929. He was a candidate for the post of Director of Meteorology when Warren was appointed. He then served as deputy to Warren through and after World War II and represented him at several international meetings. As Director, he presided over a period of consolidation and staff reductions brought on by general government cutbacks in the Public Service. He was, however, able to expand the Bureau's upper air networks and establish observing stations at Heard and Macquarie Islands. *A Hundred Years of Science and Service*, Bureau of Meteorology, 2001.

Events

1911 - 1928

Career position - Joined the Bureau of Meteorology in Adelaide (*sic* - Tim was in Sydney from at least 1921)

1929 - 1937

Career position - Senior Meteorologist (Research) in Melbourne

1938

Career position - Member of the Far East Regional Commission (Meteorology)

1938

Career position - Member of the International Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology

1938 - 1941

Career position - Supervising Meteorologist (Aviation)

1942 - 1949

Career position - Assistant Director of the Bureau of Meteorology

1950 - 1955

Career position - Director of the Bureau of Meteorology

Published resources

Books

- Day, David, *Weather watchers: 100 years of the Bureau of Meteorology*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Vic., 2007, 530 pp.

Online Resources

- 'Timcke, Edward Waldemar (1890-1982)', *Trove*, National Library of Australia, 2009, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.party-1475930>.

See also

- Federation and Meteorology*, 2001, http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/fam/index_t.html.

Biography - Year Book of Australia, 2001



***Edward W. (Tim) Timcke OBE (1950–55)** joined the Bureau in Adelaide in about 1911 as a meteorological assistant. After service in France in World War I, he returned to the Sydney office of the Bureau in 1919 and moved to Melbourne in 1929. He was a candidate for the post of Director of Meteorology when Warren was appointed. He then served as deputy to Warren through and after World War II and represented him at several international meetings. As Director, he presided over a period of consolidation and staff reductions brought on by general government cutbacks in the Public Service. He was, however, able to expand the Bureau's upper air networks and establish observing stations at Heard and Macquarie Islands.*

Published Biography - Memories of the Bureau of Meteorology 1946 to 1962

<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/fam/0962.html>

A Very Special Family: Memories of the Bureau of Meteorology 1946 to 1962

Author

W. J. Gibbs, Director, 1962-1978, Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne

Chapter 3: The Timcke Years, 1950 to 1955

Edward Waldemar (Tim) Timcke was a thin man who stood over two metres in height. As well as the sharp contrast in physical appearance between Timcke and Warren there were also distinct differences in their attitudes and personalities. Warren was brisk, decisive and adventurous. Timcke was deliberate, extremely cautious and for him decision-making required long and careful consideration. He was an ideal deputy to Warren in that he was hard-

working, conscientious and loyal. During Warren's frequent absences overseas, or when Warren was at home ill, Timcke acted as Director of Meteorology.

Acting as Director must have been difficult for a man such as Tim because he took great care in making decisions, particularly when those decisions related to Warren's attitudes on how the Bureau should be managed and to Warren's plans for the future. Tim's cautious nature would have made it difficult for him to make decisions in Warren's absence.

Born in Adelaide on 2 April 1890, E. W. Timcke (two years younger than H. N. Warren) saw active service with the AIF in France in World War I. I have heard that in France during the war he assisted E. Gold of the UK's Meteorological Office in making meteorological observations near the front in relation to the use of poison gas.

Tim had joined in the Bureau's Divisional Office in Adelaide in about 1911 as a meteorological assistant. As was usual at that time, more senior staff would have instructed him in making meteorological observations. An item in *AMM* No 8 of March 1955 reports that after World War I Tim worked for six months in the UK Meteorological Office.

On his return to Australia in 1919 he recommenced work in the Bureau in the Sydney Divisional Office. In 1929 he moved to the Bureau's Central Office where he worked in the Aviation Section. As recalled by Cornish (1996), who joined the Bureau in 1929, Timcke and John Hogan (1896–1970), assisted by various younger members of Bureau staff, made regular pilot balloon flights, the results of which were passed to aviators flying the Melbourne-Sydney, Melbourne-Launceston and Melbourne-Adelaide air routes in the 1930s. Cornish recalls that when he joined the Bureau pilot balloons were filled with hydrogen in that room (Timcke's office) because outside the window was the spiral metal staircase leading to the platform on the roof from which the upper air observations were made. Two or three hydrogen cylinders were kept in that room. So much for the safety procedures in balloon filling at that time!

Further chapters are at <http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/fam/0996.html>

[A Period of Consolidation](#)

[Aviation Services](#)

[Services for the General Public](#)

[Rockets and Atomic Weapons](#)

[Instruments and Observations](#)

[Climate and Statistics](#)

[International Activities](#)

[Training](#)

[Publications](#)

[Research](#)

[Central Analysis and Development](#)

[CSIRO](#)

[The Universities](#)

<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/fam/0996.html>

Achievements of the Timcke Years

Although E. W. Timcke was less adventurous and not as visionary as Warren, his period as custodian of the Bureau must be regarded as fruitful. The observational network was expanded significantly with the addition of radar wind-finding stations. Meteorological stations at Heard and Macquarie Islands were maintained, and a meteorological station was established at the new base of Mawson on the Antarctic continent. There was a significant boost in the training of meteorologists (including cadets), observers and technicians and a significant increase in the scientific awareness of the Bureau's professionals.

During a period of Government restraint on staff numbers and expenditure Edward Waldemar Timcke maintained a dignified and dedicated position as Director of Meteorology. His management of the Bureau during a period when

there was the pressure of secrecy in supplying meteorological service for the conduct of tests of nuclear weapons in Australia by the AWRE and management stringency was a significant consolidation of the position he had inherited from H. N. Warren.



Figure 24 E. W. Timcke and Ralph Holmes at a Bureau social function in the 1970s.

Additional Biography

Early Life

Edward Waldemar Timcke (Tim) was born on the 2nd of April 1890, the son of Heinrich Edward Friedrich Timcke and Ida Augusta Schroder at Payneham, Adelaide, SA (SA Birth Registration 456/170). He had five siblings, Hedwig Dora Timcke (b1883), Karl Friedrich Timcke (b1885), Hermann Georg Timcke (b1887), Adeline Anna Timcke (b1888) and Philip Geoffrey Timcke (b1899). Tim's father ran a dairy and milk delivery business and the family lived at Payneham.

Schooling

Tim attended the East Adelaide Public School and passed his Primary Examinations in November 1903. As a result of his high marks, he was awarded an exhibition and completed the remainder of his schooling at the Pupil Teacher School (became Adelaide High School in 1908).

Tim passed his Junior Examinations in December 1904 and was on the honours list for Arithmetic and Algebra. He passed his Senior Examinations in December 1905 and his Higher Public Examinations in December 1906.

Early Career

Tim was appointed a pupil teacher (second grade) at Nailsworth Public School in November 1907. He continued his education, seeking addition knowledge and in December 1909, he passed the Junior Examinations in Greek and in February 1910, he passed the Adelaide School of Art Examination in First Grade Plane Geometry. Tim resigned from the Education Department in September 1910 and at that time, he was described as a student.

In April 1916, Tim was living at Albert Street, Payneham, when he registered a Bradbury motorbike.

In July 1916, Tim was involved in taking photographs of "the sun, shadows and buildings", during the eclipse.

Adelaide University

Tim commenced studying toward a Bachelor of Arts (BA) at Adelaide University in 1910. Concurrent with his part-time University studies, Tim was appointed an assistant at the Meteorological Department in South Australia on the 11th of August 1911. Tim was second to A.G. Akeroyd in an examination held in March 1915, for the appointment of a divisional officer in the Meteorological Department. In June 1915, Tim became the Meteorological Branch's representative on the committee of the South Australian branch of the Australian Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

Tim had been awarded an evening scholarship to study at Adelaide University in 1913. In 1914, he was on the committee of the University Arts Association. In April 1915, Tim advertised for a coach to assist him learn first year German for his BA. On his return from World War I, Tim completed his studies and was awarded his BA (in absentia) in December 1920.

University Sport

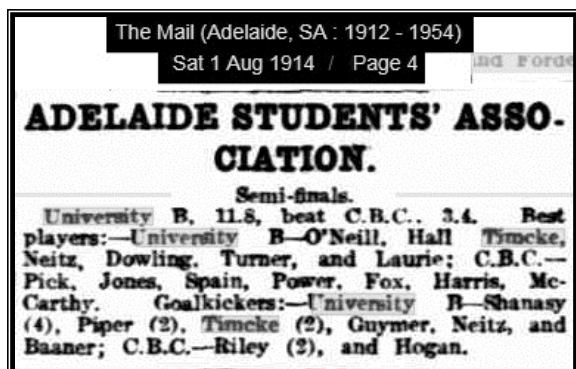
Cricket

Tim played B Grade cricket for Adelaide University in the 1912/13 and 1913/14 seasons.

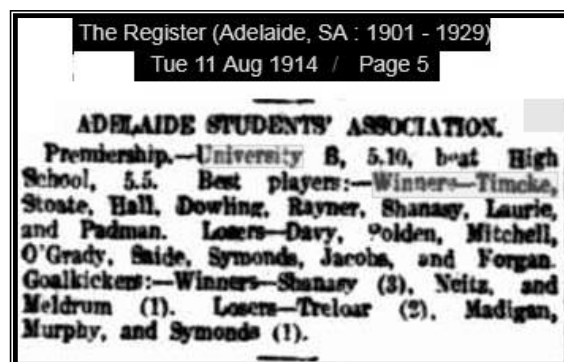
The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)						
Fri 11 Apr 1913 / Page 1						
Season's Averages.						
ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY B.						
—Batting.—						
	Im.	R.	H.S.	N.O.	Avg.	
H. H. Swift	4	107	57*	1	35.6	
C. R. Cole	4	68	47*	2	34.0	
A. M. Moulden	13	334	132	2	30.5	
A. V. Davenport .. .	6	112	45	1	22.4	
M. Badger	8	148	67	—	18.3	
R. R. Pavia	12	201	73*	1	17.7	
A. Limb	3	52	24	—	17.3	
E. P. Howard	14	216	46	1	16.4	
W. J. Price	10	164	59	—	16.4	
L. Hurley	8	97	58*	2	16.2	
G. S. Marshall	7	103	44	—	14.7	
C. Richards	5	70	50	—	14.0	
E. Timcke	6	40	28	2	10.0	
J. C. P. Strachan .. .	4	20	16	1	9.6	
S. S. Mills	7	67	44	—	9.5	
P. C. A. Fornachon ..	8	71	33	1	8.8	
F. H. Beare	8	52	22	2	8.7	
—Bowling.—						
	O.	R.	W.	Avg.		
R. R. Pavia	92	369	30	12.3		
G. S. Marshall .. .	26	123	10	12.3		
Ashby	25	94	7	13.4		
E. P. Howard	100	435	31	15.6		
A. M. Moulden	50	241	13	18.5		
P. C. A. Fornachon ..	47	349	18	19.4		
L. Hurley	34	171	7	24.4		
Also bowled—Price, 2 for 37; Richards, 3 for 56.						

Football

Not surprisingly because of his height (nearly 6ft 5in - 195cm), Tim was a great addition to the Adelaide University Football Club's B Grade team in 1914. Playing in the Adelaide Students Association, he was often among the goal scorers and best players during the season, however he was the most outstanding player for the Blacks in the finals during August and September. In the Semi-Final against CBC (1st August) he scored two goals and was in the best players. In the Grand Final (8th August) he was the best player for the AUFC. The minor premiers, Adelaide High School who had beaten the Blacks during the year, were able challenge Adelaide University to a re-match ("Challenge Final).



Semi-Final v CBC



Grand-Final v Adelaide High School

Over a month later (September 12th) when the Challenge Final was played the Blacks were victorious again with Tim named best player again.



Challenge Final v Adelaide High School

Adelaide University B Football Team – Premiers 1914



E.W. Timcke – Back Row – Sixth from Left

(Note: there are 12 men in the back row but only 10 are named)

Tim has been identified by comparison with other photographs, his height and by the known position of Pomroy – fourth from Right in the Back Row.

World War I

On the 2nd of October 1916, Tim enlisted with Service Number 35193. He was 26 years and five months old and he listed his mother as his next-of-kin, this was later changed to show his father as next-of-kin. Tim had previously been rejected for service because of poor eyesight. He had served one year in the Senior Cadets and three years in the 10th Australian Infantry Regiment (a reserve regiment). Tim was 6' 4¾", 168 lbs, with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair.

On the 16th of August 1917, Tim completed the Non-Commissioned Officers course at Maribyrnong and qualified for the rank of Corporal. He embarked onboard the *HMAT A15 Port Sydney* from Melbourne on the 9th of November 1917 and arrived in the Suez on 12th of December 1917. He then departed from Alexandrina, Egypt on the 18th of December arriving at Taranto, Italy on the 22nd of December and then disembarked at Southampton, England on the 4th of January 1918.

Tim was with the 27th Reinforcements of the Australian Field Artillery at Heytesbury, UK, before proceeding overseas to France in March 1918. Tim was a Gunner and was appointed a Temporary Sergeant on 27th of February 1919 (after the cessation of hostilities). His position of Temporary Sergeant was later renamed ER Sergeant under AIF order 1492 of 31/12/18.

On the 21st of March, Tim commenced three months leave with pay and sustenance to attend the British Meteorological Office, South Kensington, London. His leave was then extended for a further two months to the 21st of August 1919.

On the 22nd of September 1919, Tim departed from the UK on the *HMAT A15 Port Sydney* and disembarked in Adelaide on the 10th of November 1919. Tim was discharged on the 11th of December 1919.



Bureau of Meteorology WWI Honour Roll
E.W. Timcke (Bottom Row – Right)

Tim received the Victory Medal and British War Medal (1914 – 1918)



Victory Medal



British War Medal 1914 - 1918

Career and Family Life

After he was discharged in Adelaide, Tim moved to Sydney before February 1920. The Encyclopaedia of Australian Science above, states that he commenced in Sydney in 1919 while a newspaper article published in February 1928 states that he had been in Sydney for eight years and a further article published in 1935 states that Tim transferred to Sydney in 1920.

In January 1921 Tim was Assistant State Meteorologist (NSW) and was forecasting the weather while the State Meteorologist was on annual leave. Tim was acting State Meteorologist again in May 1923.



In May 1925, Tim made a special trip to Adelaide by air, to gather atmospheric observations. His plans and some initial observations are recorded in the newspaper articles below.

AIR SURVEY.

Meteorologist's Flight.

LEAVING TO-DAY.

Mr. E. W. Timcke, assistant State Meteorologist, will leave Mascot aerodrome this morning on a flight to Adelaide for the purpose of making certain atmospheric observations and records.

Among the recording instruments he will take with him are a psychrometer, a pair of thermometers, which will give readings of the temperature, the humidity of the air, and a meteograph, which was originally designed for high kite ascent, but which has been adapted to obtain certain records of air pressure, air temperature, and humidity. The lastnamed is a self-recording instrument, and is generally utilised for the purpose of gaining some knowledge of the structure of the atmosphere through which an aeroplane is passing, of obtaining reasons for the so-called "bumpiness" and other irregularities, which airmen experience.

Mr. D. J. Mares, State Meteorologist, has arranged for ground observations to be taken at Goulburn, Wagga, and Wentworth, at the same time as the aeroplane passes over those places.

Mr. Timcke is timed to leave Mascot at 11.15 o'clock this morning, in an Australian aerial service mail and passenger machine, taking with him Mr. A. E. Rudder, governing director of Rudder's, Ltd. Mr. Timcke expects to return to Sydney by the same route on Tuesday next.

MISSED THE RAIN

Timcke in the Clouds

WEATHER MAN RETURNS

One of the first things Mr. E. W. Timcke, Assistant Meteorologist at the Sydney Weather Bureau, said when he climbed down from the Adelaide mail plane at Mascot to-day was:—

"I hear you've had some rain—some heavy rain—on Sunday."

He said it wistfully. There was a touch of pathetic deprecation in his tone. He was obviously hurt.

He had been away all the week-end, flying from Sydney to Adelaide, collecting meteorological data in the clouds—and by sheer fate this very week-end must be selected for one of the severest rain-storms for years.

"There was as much as 16 inches along the coast," he was informed. He bore up under it.

Another man might have gone under.

Mr. Timcke just shrugged and smiled viciously.

However, he enjoyed the trip. He had been collecting valuable records of temperature, humidity, and pressure at different heights with a psychrometer and a meteorograph—the last a sinister-looking apparatus in an aluminium case like a lubricating-oil tin—but as far as he could see he had not discovered anything that would startle the weather experts.

The clouds were just what he expected them to be.

He really had no meteorological impressions, but after all, you can't have impressions of meteorology any more than you can have impressions of dynes and square roots and things.

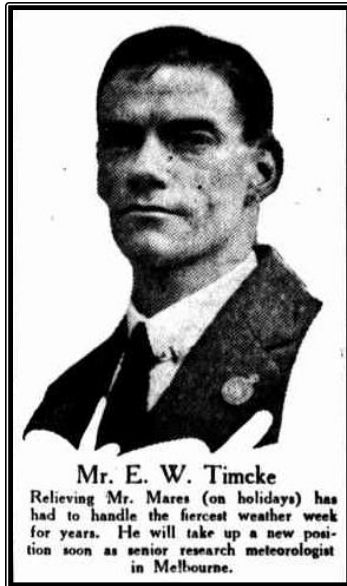
But Mr. Timcke said he was sure that the data he had collected, when it was all tabulated and compared, would be of value to the Weather Bureau, and of particular interest to pilots in their struggles with the upper air.

The mail also brought back Mr. Rudder, of Rudder's Transport Service, after a hurried visit to Adelaide.

Sadly, for Tim, on the 5th of February 1926, his father (known as Edward), passed away at the family residence at 2 Albert Street, Payneham, SA, in his 73rd year.

Tim was living at Prince Alfred Street, Mosman, NSW in December 1927, but in February 1928, it was announced that he would leave Sydney to take up the role of senior research meteorologist at the Central Weather Bureau in Melbourne. Prior to leaving for Melbourne, Tim served a further period as acting State Meteorologist while Mr Mares was on leave.

Mr. E. W. Timcke, assistant meteorologist for New South Wales, will leave Sydney shortly to take up the position of senior research meteorologist at the Central Weather Bureau in Melbourne. Prior to taking up the position of assistant to the State meteorologist, Mr. D. J. Mares, eight years ago, Mr. Timcke was attached to the Adelaide Weather Bureau.



E.W. Timcke (August 1928)

On the 27th of December 1930, Tim married Miss Jessie Mitchell, the elder daughter of ex-Metropolitan Superintendent, Mr. G.A. Mitchell and Mrs Mitchell of Kensington (south-east Sydney). The couple were married at St Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, Sydney. After the wedding they motored down to Melbourne to their future home.

WEDDINGS.

TIMCKE—MITCHELL.

The wedding of Miss Jessie Mitchell, elder daughter of Mr. George Mitchell and Mrs Mitchell, of Kensington, to Mr. E. W. Timcke, third son of Mrs. Ida Timcke, of Adelaide, took place on December 27 at St. Stephen's Church, Phillip-street, Sydney. The Rev. D. P. MacDonald officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of ivory romaine, with tight-fitting bodice and long flared skirt. Her tulle veil was caught with a wreath of orange blossom, and she carried a sheaf bouquet of carnations and frangipanni. Miss May Mitchell was the bridesmaid and wore a frock of floral chiffon with a large crinoline hat to tone. Her bouquet was of gladioli and tiger lilies. Mr. Herman Timcke was the best man.

The reception was held at the Waldorf, where the bride's mother received the guests in a brown satin frock with hat to tone and autumn tinted bouquet. The bride left the reception wearing an ensemble of navy and white.

Sadly, for Tim, his mother passed away on the 24th of January 1931 aged 70 years. In 1931, Tim and Jessie were living at 17 Stevenson Street, Kew, Victoria.

On the 12th of December 1934, Tim and Jessie's son, Alan Edward Timcke was born.

TIMCKE.—December 12. at St. George's Hospital. Kew, Victoria, to Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Timcke—a son.

Tim travelled by air mail to Batavia in the Dutch East Indies (now Jakarta, Indonesia) and Singapore in June 1935, on behalf of the Central Meteorological Bureau to discuss meteorological issues and other communication interest. He returned by Qantas Empire Airways to Darwin where he spent some days looking over the new meteorological station before returning to Melbourne. While Tim was overseas, Jessie and two-year-old Alan visited Jessie's parents in Sydney.

WEATHER NEWS FOR AIR PLANES
Arrangement Between Dutch and Australian Services
 ———
DARWIN, July 2.
 A fuller provision of weather information for air mail planes flying between Australia and Singapore will result from the conference of meteorologists held recently in the Dutch East Indies, according to Mr. E. W. Timcke, of the Central Meteorological Bureau, Melbourne, who arrived at Darwin from the Dutch East Indies by the Qantas Empire Airways plane this evening.

Mr. Timcke, who left Australia by air mail some weeks ago, said that he had been to Batavia and Singapore at the invitation of the Netherlands Dutch East Indies Government to discuss with Dutch officials the meteorological service and other communication interests. Plans were discussed for the gathering and dissemination of weather data, principally affecting aviation, but details were not completed. An extension of the present services would, however, result, and would be available for the British and Dutch services. A daily reporting system at Batavia would be one of the resulting benefits.

Mr. Timcke will spend some days at Darwin looking over the new meteorological station established by the Commonwealth Government at the Darwin aerodrome.

WEATHER FORECASTS
Big Improvements Are Expected
 Much improvement in weather forecasts for aviation purposes is expected to result from the conference of meteorological experts from Australia, the Dutch East Indies, and the Malay States which was held recently in Batavia.

Mr. E. W. Timcke, of the Commonwealth Weather Bureau, Melbourne, who returned yesterday by the Qantas Empire Airways, R.M.A. Canberra, said that in the Empire air service between Sydney and London there was only one weak link so far as meteorological services were concerned, and that was the section between Darwin and India. All other countries, including Australia, had extensive systems in operation, and it was with a view to improving the weather services over the weak section that the conference was held. As a result of the discussions considerable improvements would result.



E. W. Timcke

By 1937 the Timcke family had moved to 9 Faircroft Avenue, Glen Iris, Victoria.

Tim was involved in an important conference held in Wellington, NZ in late 1937 which had a bearing on the proposed Australia-New Zealand air service. He was also involved in the conference held in Melbourne in December 1938 prior to the commencement of the Tasman Air Service in 1939.

In 1938, Tim was a member of the Far East Regional Commission (Meteorology) and a member of the International Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology and from 1938 – 1941 his position was Supervising Meteorologist (Aviation). In 1942 Tim became Assistant Director of the Bureau of Meteorology a position he held until 1949.

World War II

After the outbreak of WWII, the Weather Bureau was moved from the Department of the Interior to the RAAF and Tim was appointed a Squadron Leader in the RAAF in May 1941. Tim's WWII record is not yet available to the public. The staff who moved to the RAAF became the nucleus of the RAAF Meteorological Service and provided instructors and units for the Army and Navy.

By 1943, the Timcke family were living at 15 Faircroft Avenue, Glen Iris and the Electoral Roll records show Tim and Jessie living at that property until at least 1980.

Post-WWII

In 1946, Tim was described in a newspaper article as Wing-Commander E.W. Timcke, acting director of RAAF Meteorological Services.

In 1950, Tim took over as Director of the Bureau of Meteorology and in August 1951 he celebrated 40 years of service.

1951



E.W. Timcke

FOR 40 years tomorrow's weather has been a daily
jig-saw puzzle for Mr. E. W. Timcke.

WEATHER IS HIS BUSINESS



"... and it said in the paper this morning it was going to be fine, so I wore my new frock and it's ruined and I think that the Weather Bureau should know better..."

"I'm sorry, Madam, we only predict the weather. We don't make it," the patient young man interrupted. He put down the phone and went back to his charts and lists of teletyped figures.

Scores of times a day the forecaster on duty at the Weather Bureau listens to complaints, answers questions and tries to make the public conversant with the continual worry of "what's the weather going to be."

If it's any consolation for those who are caught in the caprices of Melbourne in winter, Mr. E. W. Timcke

doesn't take any chances, he always carries a coat.

Mr. Timcke is in a better position than most to know what the weather will be, because he is Acting Director of Meteorological Services for Australia.

Yet, every morning before he ventures his six foot six inch frame out of his home he takes a look, then takes his overcoat.

For forty years now he has been concerned daily with the weather. From the time he joined the public service in 1911 and passed a qualifying exam, for meteorological service, he has lived weather.

Now from behind his desk in Carlton he administers probably one of the most important Government duties in Australia.

Before 1907, weather forecasting in Australia was a State affair under the direction of the State astrologers. Probably it was this association which conjured up for many people the illusion of weather men peering through telescopes watching for a telltale wind or a passing cloud.

Fortunately for ships, aircraft, the man on the land, and the man on the street, weather forecasting today has had most of the hit and miss methods eliminated.

It wasn't until the introduction of the electric telegraph that the

science of the meteorologist really got under way. Basis for accurate or near accurate forecasting is securing a pattern of weather behavior over a large area, and having access to all reports simultaneously.

Today, there is a network of teleprinters and telegraph lines, which 24 hours of the day bring results from country centres and capital cities to bureaux in each State. From these are graphed the charts which the Press publishes daily, and which become files for the future.

The growth of aviation on a large commercial scale put weather news high up the list of essentials in the community, and emphasised the importance of the forecasters.



MR. TIMCKE points out that at major aerodromes in Australia there is a round-the-clock weather watch. With aircraft arriving and departing in every hour, the weather man must be continually busy. Aircraft, because of their speed and range, cannot afford chance diversions through storm or low cloud.

Before any pilot takes his craft aloft he has a weather report for the route he will follow.

Mr. Timcke modestly claims that the work of his staff of 600 is in no small way responsible for the safety of thousands of passengers and millions of pounds of aircraft each year. And for that the country pays about £500,000 annually.

Back in 1911, when the then young Timcke first met up with Weather, there were only about 20 employees for the bureau throughout Australia.

Later, after service in France during World War I, he gained additional experience with the British Meteorological Services before returning to Australia.

This friendly man does not talk much about his own wartime experiences, but is proud of the part the bureau played in World War II. They were the nucleus for the R.A.A.F. Met. Service, and supplied instructors and units for the Navy and Army.

Because of war the bureau received a terrific impetus, which is still being felt in daily and research meteorological services.

Weather is dependent on many factors, but the three basic requirements for the forecaster are temperature, pressure, and humidity. From these he is able to construct the pattern of weather both present and anticipated.

That is where the need for as many observation stations as can be installed becomes urgent.

Mr. Timcke points out that a considerable improvement in the accuracy of his department's forecasting has been made possible through the installation of Australia's Antarctic stations on Heard and Macquarie Islands.

And coupled with this is a continual exchange of information with other southern Asian and Pacific countries.

Part of the success of interception of broadcasts from other nations is attributable to the World Meteorological Organisation, a section of the United Nations. Through the W.M.O. a standard of recording and transmitting weather information has been set.

Weather probably plays a more important part in our daily lives than any other aspect of nature. It can cause distress, tragedy, or, providing it is fine on the weekend, happiness.

Mr. Timcke's staff answer hundreds of private inquiries each week. They range from engineers wanting to know if conditions are ideal for outside construction to women anxious for their race meeting frocks.

On the more serious side is the advice the bureau provides to

farmers and water conservation authorities. But paramount is the service to aviation.

Shipping makes a call on the bureau and in return provides information from mid-ocean.



WHEN Mr. Timcke joined the bureau, apart from the entry examination there were no high academic standards set for training in meteorology. Now the bureau selects science graduates, particularly those strong in maths and physics.

Graduates join as cadets and are trained for nine months. Then they start work with the bureau under supervision. After 12 months they are competent to take over charting.

Like most natural functions, weather occurs in cycles. Perhaps not in perfect pattern shape, but with overlapping conditions. It is this background which the weatherman must acquire.

In the Melbourne office of the bureau there is a complete file of all charts ever made, and they are not just for casual reference, but are being continually referred to by the forecaster on duty. Forecasts are mostly accurate, but as with most things we take for granted, the bureau only has to be wrong on a Melbourne Cup Day to incur the scorn of the public.

They don't go in for long-range forecasts, but believe that eventually it may be possible to do the job accurately.

Meanwhile, think kindly of the weather man. His work is scientifically founded and constantly revised. But don't forget that even Mr. Timcke sometimes gets caught in the rain.

—NORMAN DUNBAR.

WEATHER SPECIALIST. Mr. Timcke, at his office desk. **RIGHT:** There's never anything certain about wind and temperature, so, like most office workers at knock-off time, he makes a double check through the window of his office.



Tim made regular visits to other states as part of his role as Director of the Commonwealth Meteorological Branch, including trips to Perth in October 1951 and July 1952. Tim also travelled to the UK in 1951, returning from Southampton on the 11th of May 1951 aboard the *Dominion Monarch* to Melbourne. This appears to have been a work-related trip as Jessie did not travel with Tim.

Tim was in Adelaide in August 1952 and announced that a new weather station to 'assist jet aircraft flying at great heights' was planned for Adelaide. In June 1953, Tim was a recipient of a Coronation Medal from the Queen.

In January 1954, Tim led the Australian team at the South-West Pacific Regional Association of the World Meteorological Organisation Conference which was held in Melbourne and included representatives from 12 nations.

In 1954, Tim and Jessie travelled to the UK and toured in Scotland and England. They returned from London on the 26th of October 1954 onboard the *Arcadia*. They arrived at Freemantle, WA, on the 19th of November 1954.

Tim retired on the 1st of April 1955, aged 65 years. The following article on Tim's wife, Jessie, was published in 'The Argus', the week after Tim's retirement. Tim was awarded the OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire, Civil Division) in the Queen's Birthday honours list in June 1955.

Whether or not, you have to have weather

By BETTY ROBERTS

MELBOURNE weather may take 40 petulant fits a day, giving us tropical temperatures and South Pole blizzards in one breath, but there is one suburban family who never discuss it in their home.

Ask Mrs. E. W. Timcke, wife of the Commonwealth Director of Meteorology, who retired last week, why, and she will tell you, "For the same reason as a business man's family never talks about the office—he's with it all day long.

"My son may say 'What's the weather going to do today?' and I'll tell him to take a coat," she says. "But that's as far as it goes."

bumps.

"Anyway, the less you know about the weather the better," he says consolingly, pouring a cup of tea, "when it comes you've got to take it whatever it's like."

This doesn't mean Mrs. Timcke hasn't been interested in her husband's work. She has been, vitally.

"When I first met my husband I wondered how on earth he spent the whole day looking at the weather," she says, "but it doesn't take you long to know that weather is something more than a few drops of rain. It's something international. The daily forecasts are only a minor part of the work."



● Mrs. E. W. Timcke

The Timckes don't even have the tiniest weather gadget in their Glen Iris home.

Not that this worries Mrs. Timcke, who goes her own way making forecasts by walking to her front window, looking to the west, and settling for sunshine or squalls, as the case may be.

"No, I don't glance at the daily weather maps, either," she admits, shaking her head of wavy grey hair, "unless I'm going on a plane trip, or something of that sort."

On these occasions Mrs. Timcke doesn't claim any advantage in being a weather wife.

Her husband always cherishes the weather at the last minute, comes back to the office and tells her she must have a good trip even if he knows cyclones are going to make the craft turn catherine wheels.

Later he says: "I expected you'd have a few

In 25 years of married life Mrs. Timcke has learned a lot about the weather. Even last year her knowledge was widened when she accompanied her husband to Geneva where he attended a meteorological conference.

"One of the first things I had to learn," she confided, "was to walk into a room and ignore the sarcastic comments on the weather. If you get yourself into an argument you're in trouble."

"You see, you seem to get a proprietary interest in it and if you meet these comments with a smile it's the best way out of things."

"Anyway, they say that the radio activity of the atom bomb is replacing the weather as an opening topic of conversation," she laughed.

As a weather wife, Mrs. Timcke has definitely been in the good books of the rain gods — it was fine for her wedding, she has never

struck bad conditions on a holiday, and on a winter tour of England and Scotland last year, she and her husband struck rain only once — at Aberdeen.

She likes to think of it as a recompense for her husband's hard work rather than luck.

A keen golfer, Mrs. Timcke is happy when she is on the green, and also loves spending a day a week with her pet charity, the Commission Shop.

For her there is only one thing wrong with Melbourne — its winter grey-

ness — she would prefer a bit more sunniness like that of her home town, Sydney.

"My forecast for this Easter weekend?" she repeated, an astute expression creeping into her blue eyes, "W-e-l-l, say I give you the Bureau's number."

A woman who has experienced to the full the barometer of human emotions, who has met people of all kinds in all places, Mrs. Timcke wouldn't change places with any other woman in the world — hail, rain, or shine.

Tim and Jessie continued to live at Glen Iris in retirement. Tim took up Lawn Bowls and in February 1982, it was reported that 'E. W. "Tim" Timcke, was beaten by Alan Robinson in the final of the South, Camberwell singles championship. It was Robinson's second South Camberwell title. He had won it in 1977 and also was the Ouyen champion in 1953. He was given a real run for his money last weekend by "Tim" Timcke. The scores were tied 18 -18 at the 25th end, after which Robinson gained a vital break with a maximum of four shots.' Remarkably, Tim was 91 years old at the time of the event.

Death

Tim passed away at Glen Iris on the 18th of July 1982, Victoria, aged 92 years. Jessie passed away at Glen Iris on the 24th of August 1989.

Legacy

Tim and Jessie's son, Alan Edward Timcke became a surveyor. His story is told in the Institute of Surveyors Victoria, Magazine (Traverse 314, August 2017) below. The firm Timcke & McIntosh Surveyors, operated from 15 Faircroft Avenue, Glen Iris (Tim & Jessie's former home).

www.surveying.org.au/docs/traverse/TRA314.pdf



CITATION FOR FELLOW

Institution of Surveyors Victoria
 Alan Edward Timcke LS
 Director, Timcke McIntosh Surveyors

Alan commenced his surveying career with the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission (SR&WSC) as a chairman in 1953 under the direction of Mr Syd Saunders. Three years later in 1956 he commenced his articles under the watchful eye of Mr Arnold Windsor, located at Kerang and in the serenity of Bonnie Doon.

During his period of articles Alan was involved in title surveys, engineering and construction surveys across various survey zones administered by the SR&WSC. In addition, like many other surveyors going through the Articles system, Alan spent six months at the then Titles Office learning all the tricks of the trade from a vast array of experienced surveyors. This wealth of training led to Alan passing all of his Board exams and he was granted his certificate of Competency on 21st June 1963. Alan was admitted as an Associate Member of the Institution in August 1963.

Following his elevation to a licensed surveyor within the SR&WSC, Alan continued to work on title and engineering surveys as development in the irrigation sector was rapidly expanding in the northern areas of the state. However, in 1965 Alan spent six months with the then Dandenong Valley Authority showcasing his talents and skills as a surveyor in a smaller water authority.

In September 1965 Alan was elevated to a Member of the Institution.

When you sight the information on Alan's applications to become an Associate and Member, it refers to his training and a couple of things stand out. He was a member of the C.M.F. in the Royal Australian Survey Corps and his training included 1st Order Tellurometer traversing, topographical surveying and photogrammetric control and machines. Alan is well known for his love of tellurometers and using them to measure extraordinary long lines for coordinating map control. Younger surveyors, technicians and chairmen working under him, would endure long days carrying the heavy gear up to the top of Pyramid Hill, Mt Hope, etc., to take a range of measurements to places far away. To this day Alan has a tellurometer in the ceiling of his house in Glen Iris, waiting for a chance to be used again. Compare this to carrying a GNSS receiver up there today.

Alan took over as Superintending Surveyor at the Kerang and Mildura offices in the 1970s and stayed in that position until the late 1980s when he was transferred to Armadale to run the southern region. By this stage the SR&WSC had changed to the Rural Water Commission and/or Corporation. During his time at Kerang, Alan was a well-known professional in the surveying industry and he endured a period of significant change and challenges for the water industry. Various salinity schemes were being put in place during the late 1970s to late 1980s and Alan was involved in doing the fieldwork as well dealing with office duties. Alan could be seen on Lake Tyrell in temperatures of +30 wearing a tie and holding a staff. He maintained he was protecting his skin from the sun, which certainly was the case in that part of the world.

Fortunately for Alan in the Kerang office he had an experienced team of operators from licensed surveyors, survey technicians and survey assistants all eager to please the "boss". Some would sneak into the vehicle Alan was going to use that day and turn the music up as loud as possible, driving him to near insanity. When a new Libe was purchased, a concrete slab was poured into the tray to give it stability. It surely worked!

Occasionally new technology was introduced, although Alan shied away from this and has done so successfully to this day. He does have a mobile phone and can send the occasional email but talking to people is far better. Barbara Timcke makes an excellent secretary for all of these new bits and pieces.

On leaving the Rural Water Corporation in 1995, Alan commenced his own private surveying business Timcke McIntosh, with a Scottish pipe playing surveying colleague Doug McIntosh. Alan and Doug rarely agreed on the same procedure for a project but in all that achieved a significant amount. They continue to practice to this day, although Alan says he is slowing down and finds it a little difficult to climb fences these days. No wonder, as he is in his mid-80s and still working. The Government is proud of him.

Alan also proved to be an effective teacher of surveying in the water sector and also the TAFE sector in Shepparton. He taught for a number of years at the Certificate III and IV levels, particularly in survey practice and surveying computations. Just to prove that blackboards do not always get cleaned, there is one at TAFE still showing a variety of computations for students. Alan always taught from first principles so that students

knew exactly where results came from, and not just from pressing a button.

During all his time as a surveying professional Alan has been a keen member of the Institution of Surveyors and has served at committee level for a number of occasions. He is currently a Director of the Board, although he is thinking of retiring this year.

Alan has served on the committee and Board of ISV from the late 1960s to early 1970s and again from 2006 to this current day. Not too many members can lay a claim to this devotion to a professional body. Alan held the portfolio of SSI/ SSSI from 2006 to 2011 and the Sustainability/ Governance portfolio from 2015 to the present day, so he has not just been making up the numbers. Anyone who has served with Alan will acknowledge his committee wisdom and wordsmith skills.

Whilst Alan has been a significant contributor to the surveying profession, particularly in the water industry and in the Royal Australian Army this citation is about his significant contribution to the surveying industry by way of his involvement in the Institution of Surveyors. Not too many surveyors have served effectively on both committee and the Board as much as Alan and for this he must be commended.

In recent times Alan has served as both member and Vice President and has presided over many committee meetings in the absence of the President. His attention to detail and discussion is often looked upon by others in envy, as meetings are run according to the correct procedure. Often Alan would be seen tutoring the incumbent president to bring the meeting to order or make suggestions on where a particular topic was heading. Meetings rarely ran over time and generally finished before time under his instruction and leadership, due to his stopping of frivolous conversations that would have gone on and on.

Alan's contribution to surveying, to the Institution of Surveyors, to teaching and learning of the profession make him a worthy recipient of Fellowship of the Institution.

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