



Capt. Francis Edgar Williams



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: A Grade (1911-15)

and

Cricket Club: B Grade (1911-15)

Sports Awards: Blue - Football (1911)

Adelaide University: BA, Hons (1914), MA, Hons (1928)

Oxford: Dip Anthropology (1921), BSc (1934), DSc (1941)

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 Francis Edgar Williams. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1806833>

Certified True Copy.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. B. 1150. Name WILLIAMS Francis Edgar *2nd Lieut*
8th Light
Traing Bde.
 Unit _____
 Joined on Pay and service from 4th June 1915.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

<p>1. What is your Name? ...</p> <p>2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...</p> <p>3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...</p> <p>4. What is your age? ...</p> <p>5. What is your trade or calling? ...</p> <p>6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ...</p> <p>7. Are you married? ...</p> <p>8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...</p> <p>9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ...</p> <p>10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Insubordinate 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? ...</p> <p>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 ...</p> <p>12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ...</p> <p>13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ...</p> <p>14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mothers)— Do you declare that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? ...</p> <p>15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ...</p>	<p>1. <u>Francis Edgar Williams</u></p> <p>2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of <u>Unley</u> in the County of <u>South Aus</u></p> <p>3. <u>N.B.</u></p> <p>4. <u>22 1/2 yrs</u></p> <p>5. <u>Student</u></p> <p>6. <u>No</u></p> <p>7. <u>No</u></p> <p>8. <u>Arthur J. Annie Williams</u> <u>High St. Unley Park</u> <u>South Aus</u></p> <p>9. <u>No</u></p> <p>10. <u>No</u></p> <p>11. <u>No</u></p> <p>12. <u>yes</u></p> <p>13. <u>No</u></p> <p>14. _____</p> <p>15. <u>yes</u></p>
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3. Francis Edgar Williams 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.

I, Francis Edgar Williams do further agree to not more 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 31.5.15 F. E. Williams
 Signature of person enlisting.

* 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.

2.27.13.—C.20.



VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL AUSTRALIA

WILLIAMS, Francis Edgar



Service Numbers: V146974, VX136033

Enlisted: 31 May 1915, Keswick, South Australia

Last Rank: Captain

Last Unit: Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit

Born: Unley, South Australia, 9 February 1893

Home Town: Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua, Papua New Guinea

Schooling: Kyre College and Adelaide University

Occupation: Student

Died: Accidental (plane crash), New Guinea, 12 May 1943, aged 50 years

Cemetery: Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea

Memorials: Adelaide University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll, Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Unley Town Hall WW1 Honour Board

World War 1 Service

31 May 1915: **Enlisted** AIF WW1, Private, Keswick, South Australia

16 Dec 1915: **Promoted** AIF WW1, Second Lieutenant

7 Feb 1916: **Involvement** AIF WW1, Second Lieutenant, 32nd Infantry Battalion, Enlistment/Embarkation WW1

7 Feb 1916: **Embarked** AIF WW1, Second Lieutenant, 32nd Infantry Battalion, HMAT Miltiades, Adelaide

25 Nov 1916: **Promoted** AIF WW1, Lieutenant, 32nd Infantry Battalion

15 Jan 1918: **Involvement** AIF WW1, Captain, Dunsterforce

28 Feb 1919: **Promoted** AIF WW1, Captain, Hon. Capt.

12 May 1919: **Discharged** AIF WW1, Captain, 32nd Infantry Battalion

World War 2 Service

18 Feb 1941: **Enlisted** Citizen Military Forces (CMF) / Militia - WW2, Lieutenant, SN V146974, Melbourne, Victoria

8 Mar 1943: **Involvement** 2nd AIF WW 2, Captain, SN VX136033, Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit

12 May 1943: **Involvement** 2nd AIF WW 2, Captain, SN VX136033, Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit

The AIF Project (University of NSW) - <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=324773>



Francis Edgar WILLIAMS

Place of birth	Unley South Australia
Religion	Baptist
Occupation	Student
Address	Unley Park, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Father, David Williams, High Street, Unley Park, South Australia
Enlistment date	8 June 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	32nd Battalion, 3rd Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/49/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A28 <i>Miltiades</i> on 7 February 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	32nd Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 28 February 1919
Date of death	12 May 1943

Published Biography

10/19/2017 Biography - Francis Edgar Williams - Australian Dictionary of Biography

http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/williams-francis-edgar-9109_1/2

Williams, Francis Edgar (1893–1943) by Michael W. Young

Francis Edgar Williams (1893-1943), anthropologist and public servant, was born on 9 February 1893 at Malvern, Adelaide, son of David Williams, architect, and his wife Annie, née Good. Educated at Kyre College, a Baptist school, and the University of Adelaide (B.A., 1914), he graduated with first-class honours and several awards. Although selected as a Rhodes Scholar in 1915, Williams enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, serving for two years as a lieutenant in France and subsequently as a captain with Dunsterforce in Persia.

After the war Williams took up his scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, where in 1921 he studied under R. R. Marett and gained a diploma in anthropology with distinction. In 1922 he was appointed assistant government anthropologist in the Territory of Papua, then firmly governed by (Sir) Hubert Murray. Williams was promoted to government anthropologist in 1928, a post he held for the rest of his life.

In December 1926 he had married Constance Laura Denness, a kindergarten teacher from Vancouver, Canada.

During his distinguished anthropological career Williams undertook a remarkable amount of field-work. Of his nineteen years in the Territory, he spent more than five living in Papuan villages. Murray suspected that he was 'quite indifferent to discomforts', though Williams admitted to a 'sheer dislike of long isolation'. He completed major studies of seven distinct and widely separated cultures: Vailala (Purari Delta, 1922-23), Orokaiva (Northern Division, 1923-25); Keraki (Morehead River, 1926-32); Koiari (Central Division, 1929-31); Elema (Gulf Division, 1923-37), Foi (Southern Highlands, 1938-39), and Keveri (Eastern Division, 1940). He also made shorter studies of at least a dozen other societies.

Of the many reports he wrote for the Papuan government, four were published as monographs by Oxford University Press: Orokaiva Magic (1928); Orokaiva Society (1930) for which in 1928 he had been awarded an M.A. honours degree by the University of Adelaide; Papuans of the Trans-Fly (1936) which gained him a B.Sc. from Oxford (1934); and Drama of Oroko (1940) for which he received an Oxford D.Sc. (1941). Among his other honours were the Wellcome gold medal for anthropological research (1933), the Cilento medal (1935) and a Rockefeller fellowship (1933-34). In 1939 he was elected president of the anthropology section of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

A careful and thorough ethnographer, Williams nevertheless admitted to being an indifferent linguist who rarely made the effort to learn vernaculars. His writing style was clear, candid, unpretentious, and at times wryly self-deprecating. While not a major theorist, he was a searching and rigorous one, who made some strikingly original theoretical observations. His analyses of certain systems of kinship and marriage, for example, foreshadowed exchange theory and the structuralism of Claude Lévi-Strauss.

While accepting in part the reigning doctrine of British functionalism, he had the practical experience to judge its limitations. For him, a culture was not an 'integrated system', but 'always ... to some extent a hotch-potch and a sorry tangle'. In his isolation from the academy Williams developed his own approach and addressed those issues he saw to be salient in the cultures he studied, rather than those which his academic colleagues (notably Bronislaw Malinowski and A. R. Radcliffe-Brown) deemed to be important. The result was a body of published work unusual in its ethnographic range, integrity and pragmatic focus, albeit one unjustly neglected by his peers.

Although his published work has lasting scientific value, it was as an applied anthropologist concerned with 'native welfare' that Williams was employed; his salary was provided from a native benefits fund raised by taxing Papuans. An essential qualification for the job was the ability to get on with Murray whose large ego brooked no opposition. Williams was companionable, modest, yet forthright, and Murray respected him. Both were benevolently paternalistic in their attitude to Papuan welfare, but Murray did not take kindly to unsolicited advice, and Williams's innumerable recommendations were usually ignored.

With Murray's warm approval, Williams founded and edited a monthly newspaper in simple English, the *Papuan Villager* (1929-42): designed to promote 'native education', its sententious content and patronizing tone made it more a vehicle for colonial propaganda. Williams advocated the 'blending of cultures': the best of traditional arts and ceremonies with the most progressive elements of European culture, such that the Papuan remained recognizably himself. An impossibly fine line had to be drawn, for Williams abhorred crude 'Europeanization'. Christianity, he allowed, had to be part of the blending process. A rationalist himself, he was, nonetheless, largely sympathetic toward the work of the missions, while deploring the destructive effects of over-zealous missionaries.

He attempted to interpret Papuan cultures so that they might be appreciated and even admired by Europeans for their rich artistic and ceremonial achievements. The hevehe ceremonies of Oroko in particular impressed him deeply and he argued powerfully (but to little avail) for their preservation. His greatest coup, perhaps, was to prevent the suppression of the 'bull-roarer cult' in the Gulf of Papua.

He supported land reform, but—surprisingly for an anthropologist—was against communalism, believing that the sooner Papuans became individualistic peasant proprietors the better. He promoted the idea of village self-government, yet held no hopes of more general political developments in Papua: 'There is always the need for sober Toryism in our guardianship of the native'.

In May 1941, when the Pacific War was imminent, Williams was made responsible for air-raid precautions in Port Moresby. Soon afterwards he enlisted in Brisbane where he served with military intelligence, compiling manuals for the Allied Geographical Section. In early 1943 he returned to Papua to serve as a liaison officer with the rank of captain in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit. On 12 May 1943 he was killed in a plane crash in the Owen Stanley Range.

Survived by his wife and son, he was buried in a military cemetery at Bomana.

Citation and Sources:

10/19/2017 Biography - Francis Edgar Williams - Australian Dictionary of Biography

http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/williams-francis-edgar-9109_2/2_E_Schwimmer (ed), *Francis Edgar Williams* (Brisb, 1976)

T. Austin, *Technical Training and Development in Papua 1894-1941* (Canb, 1977) *Oceania*, 14, no 2, Dec 1943, p 91

D. J. F. Griffiths, *The Career of F. E. Williams, Government Anthropologist of Papua, 1922-43* (M.A. thesis, Australian National University, 1977)

***Williams papers, 1921-43* (National Archives of Papua New Guinea). Citation details**

Michael W. Young, 'Williams, Francis Edgar (1893-1943)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/williams-francis-edgar-9109/text16063>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 19 October 2017.

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View the front pages for Volume 12

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For further details on FE Williams – refer to the National Archives of Australia

Francis Edgar Williams, anthropologist of Papua – Fact sheet 235

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs235.aspx>

The fact sheet contains a brief biography on Francis' life and links to the records held in a number of Australia archives relating to F.E. Williams.

Records holdings on F E Williams

Records relating to F. E. Williams held by the National Archives and the Australian War Memorial include records on his appointment as Assistant Government Anthropologist (and later Government Anthropologist) for Papua, papers written by him about the native peoples of Papua, and files of his wartime Army service.

See also:

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F.E._Williams

Unley WWI Honour Board <http://unleyww1.weebly.com/w.html>

Books and Paters written by F.E. Williams (National Library of Australia)
[https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=francis+edgar+williams&type=all&limit%5B%5D=&submit=Find&filter\[\]=author-cluster:%22Williams%2C%20Francis%20Edgar%2C%201893-1943%22](https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=francis+edgar+williams&type=all&limit%5B%5D=&submit=Find&filter[]=author-cluster:%22Williams%2C%20Francis%20Edgar%2C%201893-1943%22)

Additional Biography

Early Life

Francis Edgar Williams was born of the 9th of February 1893, the son of David Williams and Annie Good. Francis was one of six children. His siblings were Irene Florence (b 1885), Mabel Evangeline (b 1886), Leslie Good (b 1889), Arthur Evan (b 1890) and Edith Beatrice (b 1896).

His father, David Williams was an architect with the firm Williams & Good, Waymouth Street, Adelaide. The family were living at High Street, Unley Park when Francis enlisted in 1915.

Schooling

Francis completed all his later primary and secondary education at Kyre College (the forerunner of Scotch College) from 1903 to 1910. After having an outstanding academic career where he topped every year but one, in his final year he was awarded the Tennyson Medal and won a government bursary to study at the University of Adelaide.

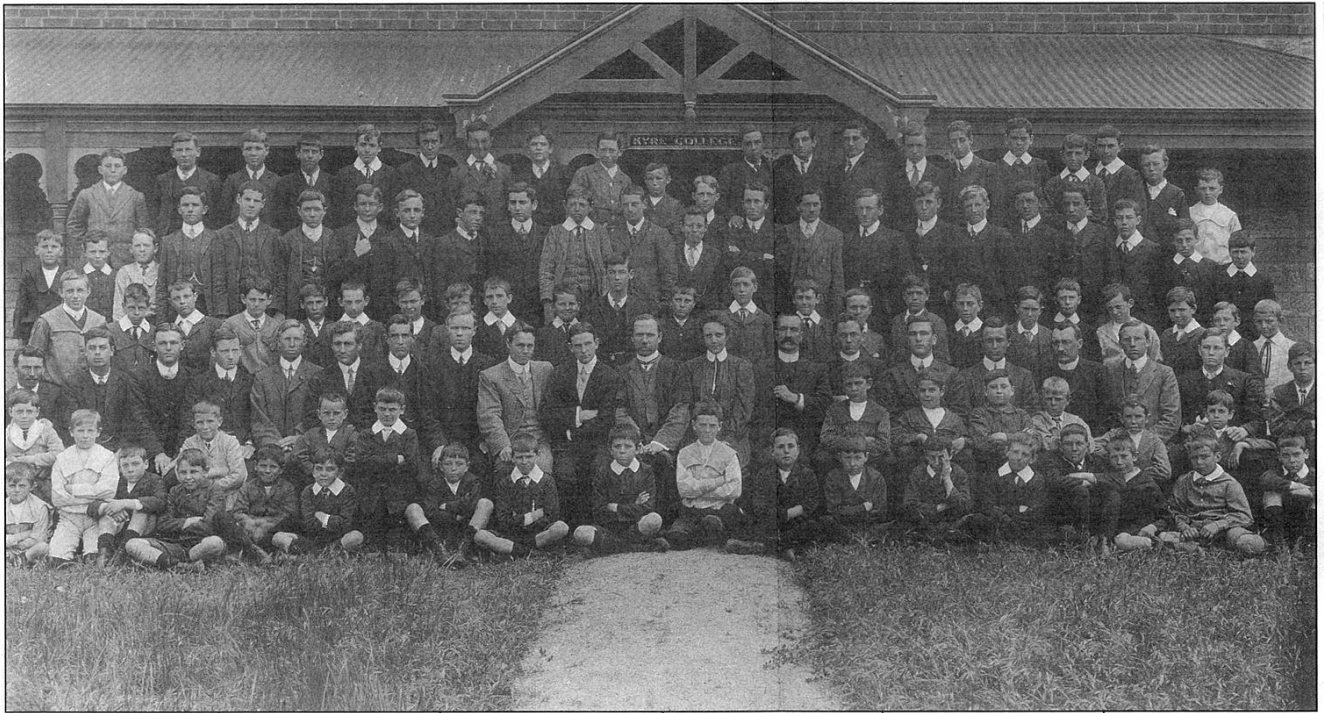
At Kyre College he participated in football (1910 Captain of 1st XVIII), cricket, athletics and gymnastics. He won the cup at the Kyre College sports in 1910. In 1911 he was awarded the Andrew Scott prize for Latin with Colin Gore Stewart. In 1912, Francis was on the committee of the Kyre College Old Boys' Association.

1909



F.E. Williams

Kyre College – Staff and Students – 1 November 1909



KYRE COLLEGE STAFF
AND STUDENTS,
November 1, 1909

Top Row (left to right) -
V.Y. Richardson,
C.W.H. Fuller, L.E. Raymond,
R.D.K. Hood, L.K. Swann,
H.T. Johnson, L.H. Lewin,
H.H. Finlayson,
H.G. Nicholson, H.F. Zschorn,
C.A.W. Russell, P.S. Messent,
L.V. Ragless,
A.G.H. Sandow, L.S. Bell,
G.D.L. Prince, J.C. Maslin,
F.A. Messent, C.F. Evans,
E.F. Skewes, W.V.T. Peek.

Second Row -
C.B. Chinner, B.K. Simpson,
C.W. Exton, A.R. Withers,
M.F. Samson, K.G. Scrymgour,
J.M. Sinclair, C.G. Charlton,
H.A. Wyllie, J.T. Ashton,
E.R. Goode, A.M. Brice,
S.P.L. Prince, J.F. Dunstan,
G.H. Rofe, F.E. Williams,
C.W. Stump, E.A. Ridgeway,
R.J. Stevenson,
J.H. Strangman, W.K. Steward,
A.E. Lipman, H.W. Kernot.

Third Row -
E.B. White, M.G.D. Basey,
C.E. Riley, F.J. Maslin,
E.R. Scott,
M.M. Wauchope, G.D. Mudie,
P.C. Giles, A.J.L. Sutherland,
T.W. Sinclair, R.N. Oakes,
R.H. Knowles, A.L. Duffield,
H.L. Evans, H.K. Bakewell,
H.S. Smith, E.E. Tolley,
E.J. Withers, E. Osbourne,
A. Tennant, E.B. Withers,
S.A.R. Tonkin, J.L. Tolley.

Fourth Row -
B.E.C. Tuck, S.R. Smith,
F.N. Pannell, W.S. Brennan,
B.H. Passow, P.H. Mahar,
J.G. Murray,
Mr F.J.H. Steward,
Mr A. B. Ellis,
Mr E.N. Marshall,
Mr D.H. Hollidge, M.A.,
Miss E.D. Proud, B.A.,
Mr A.R.D.W. Leonard,
P.C. Anderson, W.E. Pannell,
A.C. Nelson, J.C. Cattermole,
G.A. Crossing,
L.W.M. Shakespeare,
D.T. Hood.

Front Row -
H.W. Florey, D.A. Peek,
A.E. Knapman, W. Winnall,
R.J. Legoe,
H.H. Hittmann, R.G. Hitchcox,
R.D. Bakewell, G.G. Hittmann,
W.H.G. Leschen, C.E. James,
E.A. Bowen, K.D. Davison,
D.H. Smith, D.J. Bower,
E. Parton, H.F. Hustler,
R.F. Fairbrother,
L.R. Lindsay, J.H. Swan,
K.S. Messent, L.A.P. Spiller,
C. Duryea, A. Dick,
S.R. Warman, D.S. Smith,
J.M.R. Stuart, J. Winnall.

FE Williams - Second Row from Back – Eighth from Right

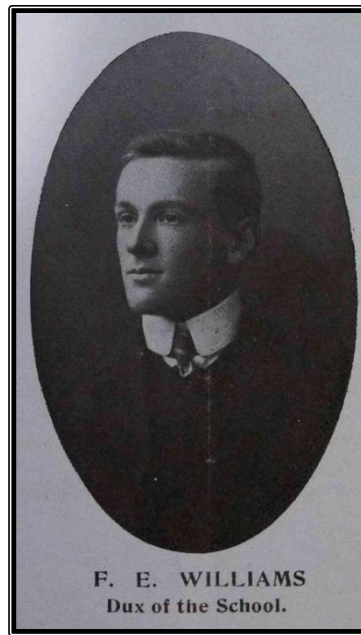
“The Kyrian” – Kyre College Magazine – “First Eighteen” Football Team 1910



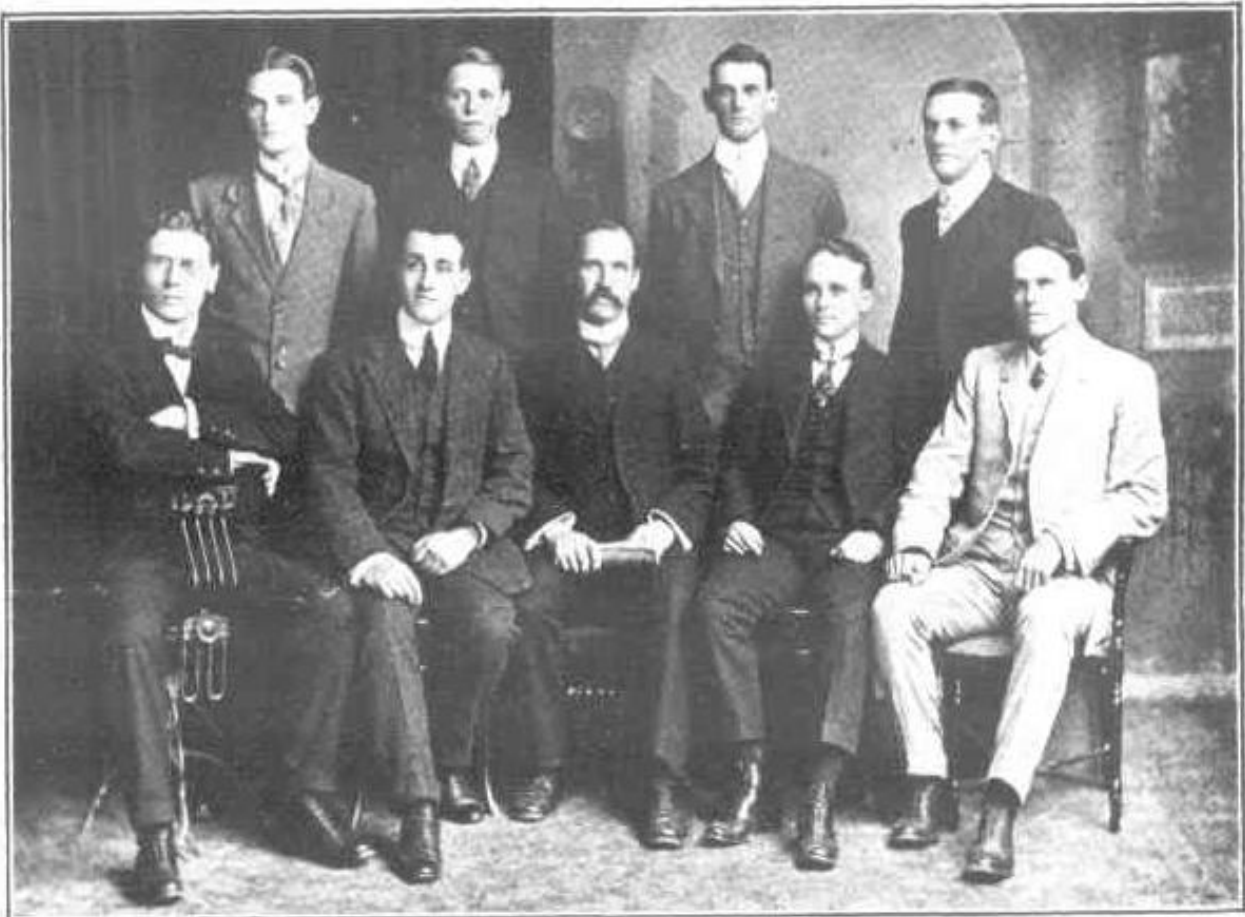
FIRST EIGHTEEN.

F.E. Williams – Captain – Middle Row – Holding Football

"The Kyrian" – Kyre College Magazine



Kyre College Old Boys' Association Committee
Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) 16 October 1912



KYRE COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

Standing—E. N. Marshall, E. R. Goode, A. M. Brice, F. E. Williams. Sitting—F. V. Fearn (Treas.),
H. Dwyer (Vice-Pres.), D. H. Holledge, M.A. (Pres.), F. K. Gould (Sec.), A. B. Ellis, B.A.

F.E. Williams – Back Row – Far Right

Adelaide University (1911 - 1914)

Francis again had a first-class academic record at Adelaide University, graduating in 1914 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (1st Class Honours Classics). He was awarded the Roby Fletcher Prize (1913), the David Murray Scholarship (1914) and the 1915 Rhodes Scholarship.

University Sport

Cricket

Francis played for the Adelaide University Cricket Club (B Grade 1911-15).

Boat

While at University he was also a member of the Rowing Club.

Football

Francis played for the Adelaide University Football Club (A Grade 1911-1915). He was the club secretary in 1913 and club vice-captain in 1915. He played Intervarsity football in 1911, 1912, 1913 (v-c) and 1914. In his first year with the Club, he was a member of the 1911 Premiership Team. Francis was awarded a Blue for Football in 1911.

Adelaide University Football Team – Premiers - 1911



F.E. Williams -front row second on right

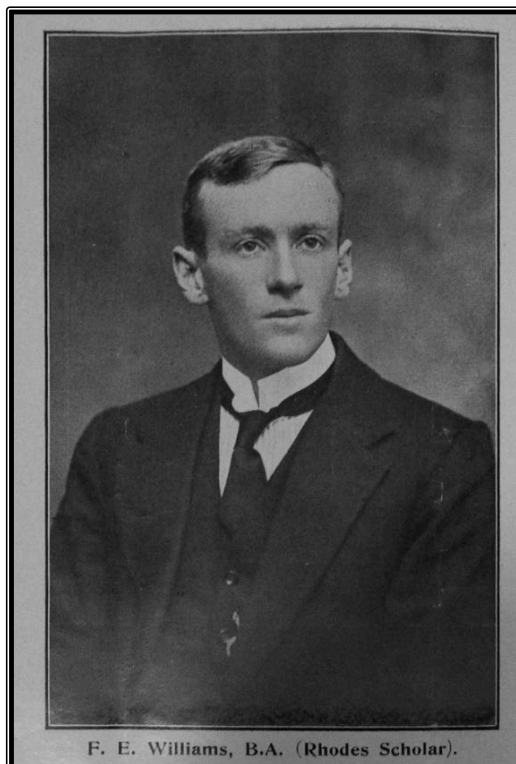
1914 Intersarsity Football Team



BACK ROW: T.B. Sard, W.J. Phillips, A.E. Williams, L.B. Laurie, C.R. Cole, W.J. Price, A.H. Limb, E.G. Dorsch,
L. Carthew, J.D. Northley, C. Gurner.
MIDDLE ROW: N.V. Mengerson, C.E. Pellew, L.A. Hayward (Vice-Captain), J.W. Blacket (Captain), D.M. Steele, W.A. Rollison.
FRONT ROW: L.G. Holmes, F.E. Williams, H.C. Thrush, W.O. Jose.

F.E. Williams - front row second from left

"The Kyrian" – Kyre College Magazine - 1915



F. E. Williams, B.A. (Rhodes Scholar).

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.

MR. F. E. WILLIAMS.

A meeting of the Rhodes Selection Committee was held at Government House on Monday to consider the applications and interview the candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship for 1915. The full committee met—His Excellency the Governor (Chairman), the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), Mr. Justice Murray, Professor Stirling, Professor Darnley Naylor, and Mr. J. R. Fowler, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. C. R. Hodge). Two applications only were received, and after the committee had interviewed the candidates, Francis Edgar Williams was selected as the Rhodes Scholar for next year.



MR. F. E. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams, who is a son of Mr. David Williams, of Williams & Good, architects, was born on February 9, 1893, and the following are some particulars of his career:—Education.—1903-1910, at Kyre College; top throughout, except one year; 1905, primary in six subjects; 1906, junior in seven subjects, three credits; 1908, senior in eight subjects, six credits, second prize of £5; 1910, higher in five subjects, three credits, Tennyson medal, Government bursary; 1911-1914, at University—1911, English literary, and first year Latin and Greek (all first division), shared Andrew Scott prize; 1912, Second year Latin and Greek (both first division), ethics (third division); 1913, psychology and logic (both first division), Roby Fletcher prize; 1914, hona. classics finals (first class), David Murray scholarship. Athletics.—1909 and 1910 College Championship; 1910, Sports Cup. Gymnastics.—1910, top of school and gold medal. Football.—1910, captain of school team; 1911-1914, with University first eighteen. Blue gained in 1911. Cricket.—1909, 1910, college eleven; 1912, University B. team. Rowing.—1914, July, Senior Schools Races; December 5, University eight., in dash eights, &c. 1908, 1909, vice-captain college football team; 1910, captain of same; 1912, Treasurer of Arts Association; 1914, Vice-President of same; 1913, Sub-Treasurer of A.U. Sports Association; 1913, Secretary of A.U. Football Club.

Francis put his studies on hold and on the 8th of June 1915, he enlisted in the AIF at Keswick, SA. He was 22 years and three months old, 5'6" tall, 157 lbs, with a fair complexion, grey eyes and fair hair. His mother was listed as his next-of-kin. Francis had no previous military experience. As his occupation was initially recorded as labourer, it is possible that Francis was working to accumulate funds before commencing his studies under the Rhodes Scholarship.

After undertaking some basic training in SA, and becoming a Certified Sergeant, Francis was sent to Officers School from the 1st of September 1915, and he gained a Commission on the 16th of December 1915. He became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3/32nd Battalion. On his application for a Commission (below) his father was named as his next-of-kin.

C.M. Form A. 22.
(Revised 1.2.14.)

AUSTRALIAN

MILITARY FORCES.

Application for a Commission in the

A.I.F.

No.	Particulars.
1.	Name ——— } To be in block letters. Other names, (in full) ——— } WILLIAMS FRANCIS EDGAR
2.	Educational Qualifications ——— (Certificates to be attached for notation at District Headquarters.) B.A. Degree (1st Class Honours Classics) Rhodes Scholar 1914.
3.	Military Qualifications (Previous Military Service, if any, to be stated). (Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 10.) Present rank and corps to be stated. Enlisted in A.I.F. June 8, 1915 Certif. Sgt.; Certif. 8th Officers' Schl.; V.G. Certif. Randwick (As Sgt. A. Group Base) Manukong.
4.	Date on which applicant appeared at a competitive examination for post appointment, as 2nd Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 12f) ——— Sept. 29, 1915 (8th Officers' School)
5.	Present Civil Employment ———
6.	Date of Birth, and Age ——— (Candidates to be entering the Permanent Forces, to be accompanied by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.) Date of Birth ——— Age ——— Feb. 9, 1893 22. Years 10 Months
7.	If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ——— (In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.) British Subject
8.	Married or Single ——— Single
9.	Postal Address ——— High St. Unley Pk.
10.	Next of Kin ——— David Williams of Williams & Sons Architects.

Date **Dec 8, 1915.**

(Signature of Applicant)

F. E. Williams

NOTE.—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

In the case of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; each Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

McC Edward, Surgeon-General & Civil Surgeon do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height **5 ft. 6 1/2 in.**

Weight **155 lb.**

Chest Measurement **36-39 1/2**

Foot **10 1/2**

Signature of the Examining Medical Officer
McC Edward

Signature of the Commanding Officer
McC Edward

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

(Not required in the cases of candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)

I recommend that the candidate above named be appointed a ——— in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

- That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year.
- That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 30 have been fully complied with, or

- That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 100 have been fully complied with.

That the candidate is qualified for appointment, by competitive examination, to the post of ———.

That the candidate will be posted to ——— Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date

Commanding

Regt. or Corps.

RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.

Recommendation, candidate considered suitable.

Date

13/12/15

Signature of the District Commandant
McC Edward

Col.

Signature of the Commandant
McC Edward

Signature of the Military District
McC Edward

* Full-page, not applicable to be struck out.

N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form.
 Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.

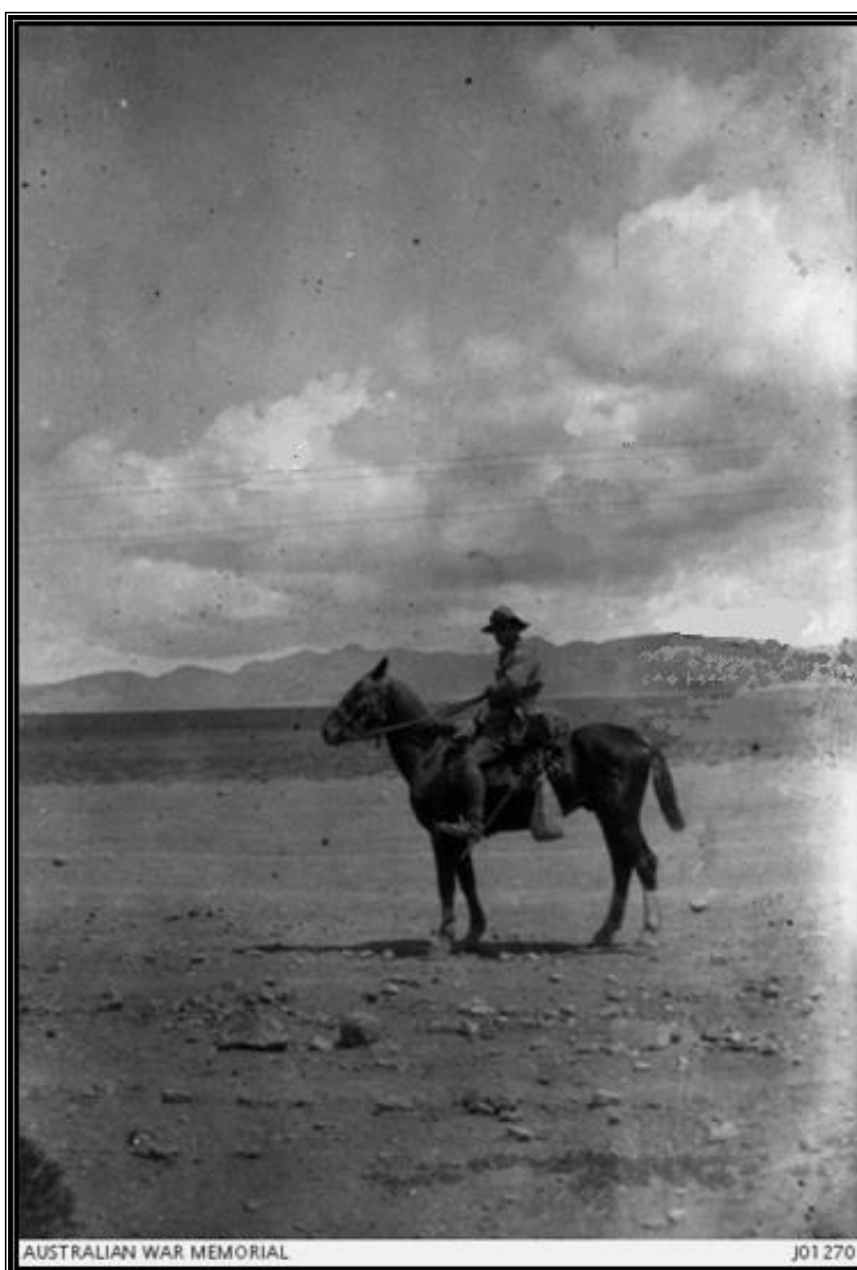
N.S. 1025 1/10

Francis departed from Adelaide, Australia on the 7th of February 1916, onboard the *HMAT Miltiades*, and disembarked on the 11th of March 1916 at Suez. There he joined the 8th Training Battalion and had a brief spell in the Hospital at Cairo due to illness.

On the 6th of June 1916, he departed from Alexandrina, Egypt onboard the *HMT Francania* disembarking at Plymouth, England on the 16th of June 1916. He was sent to the Musketry School at Tidsworth. On the 29th of August 1916, Francis arrived at Estaples, France.

Francis was promoted to Lieutenant in the 32nd Battalion on the 25th of November 1916. He was on special leave in France from the 28th of June 1917 to the 3rd of July 1917. On the 29th of July 1917, he was appointed a Musketry officer. From the 10th to the 28th of October, Francis was on leave in the UK. After a further period in France, he was sent back to England on duty in January 1918.

Having been selected for special duty, Francis was appointed a temporary Captain in the Imperial Army on the 15th of January 1918. He embarked from Southampton on the 29th of January 1918 and disembarked at Basrah, Persia (now known as Basra, an Iraqi city located on the Shatt al-Arab between Kuwait and Iran) on the 2nd of March 1918. On the 19th of March 1918 he joined the Dunsterforce.



Portrait of Captain Francis Edgar Williams, originally 32nd Battalion and now part of the Dunsterforce, riding a chestnut horse named 'Toby' through the countryside of the Persian Plateau.

The Dunsterforce was created at the end of 1917, as “the likelihood of Russia making a separate peace treaty gave rise to fears as to the security of Persia, Afghanistan and hence the north west frontier of India. Consequently, a mission was established under Major General Lionel Charles Dunsterville CB, CSI which became known as Dunsterforce, comprising of around 500 men and a small number of vehicles. The aim of Dunsterforce was to organize and train local groups of Georgians and Armenians to counter Turkish operations in the Caucasus”.¹



F.E. Williams - Left

Group of three Dunsterforces Officers

Identified from left to right: Captain Francis Edgar Williams, originally 32nd Battalion; Captain Eric George Scott-Olsen, MC, originally 55th Battalion, and Captain Richard Henry Hooper, MC, originally 58th Battalion.

On the 21st of September 1918, Francis was wounded slightly but remained on duty. He then spent some time in hospital at Bijar (Iran) in October 1918 with enteritis.

On the 5th of January 1919, he embarked at Basrah, onboard the *HMAT Ascanius*, bound for Australia. He relinquished the temporary rank of Captain with the Imperial Army and was promoted to Honorary Captain in the AIF on the 28th of February 1919.

¹ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C188269>

After a short stopover in India, the *HMAT Ascanius* departed the sub-continent on the 28th of February 1919 and returned to Australia on the 28th of March 1919. His appointment with the AIF was terminated on the 12th of March 1919.

Further details of Francis' WWI activities are detailed in the newspaper article and the typed document from his service record below.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 18 March 1919

AUSTRALIANS IN PERSIA.

Having been told that the work they would be asked to do was of such a character that all who engaged in it would probably lose their lives, a party of 100 commissioned officers and 250 sergeants at the request of the War Office, left England early in 1918 for a destination which was kept a secret until the eve of their departure. The party included 18 Australian officers and 20 Australian sergeants, among whom were Captain McVilly, M.C., the well-known carman of Tasmania, and Captain F. E. Williams, the South Australian Rhodes scholar for 1915, who is a son of Mr. D. Williams, of the firm of Williams & Good, architects. Captain Savage, D.S.O., of Melbourne, who was also a member of the party, and has returned to Australia, stated recently that when their task was explained to them they learned that they were to be used to block the way of the Germans through Persia to India. After describing the difficulties met with on their journey through Persia, Captain Savage stated that eventually they secured a line of country over 1,000 miles long, and the roads and passes which blocked the way to India. They were under Major-General Dunsterville (the original of Kipling's "Stalky"), and they lived on the country, which was swept by famine. Their food consisted mainly of rice and sheep. One of the first tasks General Dunsterville's force had to accomplish besides policing villages and organising food supplies for starving villages, was the organisation of working parties of natives. Villagers were paid for their labor in repairing old roads and making new ones. By putting the roads in order it became possible to bring up sufficient troops for the dash through to Baku. When that bold stroke was undertaken it was hoped that, with the arrival of a stiffening of British infantry, a strong local army could be organised in the Caucasus. The force which reached Baku travelled by boat from Resht to that port. It included the English infantry brigade, and took charge of the oil wells. Though outnumbered sixteen to one, it repulsed every attack made upon it, but finally evacuated the town. The Armenians and Bolsheviks in Baku would not help the British, and even fired on the force when it was leaving. "On the whole, I think our venture was a success," said Captain Savage. "We succeeded in blocking the enemy's way to India, despite all the obstacles we met with."

25 APR 1923

DESPATCHED

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

PARTICULARS OF SERVICE IN THE A.I.F. IN CONNECTION WITH

Hon. Captain Francis Edgar WILLIAMS. Spec. Serv. List.
(late 32nd Bn.)

ISSUED TO DEPARTMENT OF REPATRIATION. ADELAIDE. S.A.

Reference G.23/4369/R.463 dated 15.4.23.

8. 6.15	Enlisted in the A.I.F.
16.12.15	Appointed 2nd Lieutenant.
7. 2.16	Embarked for Active Service Abroad.
11. 3.16	Disembarked at Suva.
26. 3.16	Attached to 5th Tng. Bn. Zietoun.
5. 4.16	Admitted to 2nd A.I.B. Tel-el-Kebir. F.S.O.
7. 4.16	Transferred to 3rd Aux. Bpl. Heliopolis.
14. 4.16	Dischd. from Bspl. for duty.
6. 6.16	Embarked at Alexandria.
16. 6.16	Disembarked at Plymouth.
29. 7.16	Attached ex 5th Tng. Bn. to Musk. Sch. for duty.
29. 8.16	Marched out to 32nd Bn. ex 5th Tng. Bn.
29. 8.16	Marched into 5th A.I.B.D. Staples ex U.K.
4. 9.16	Taken on strength of 32nd Bn. - Field.
10. 9.16	On Command at Eng. School.
17. 9.16	Rejoined Batin. ex School.
25.11.16	TO BE LIEUTENANT.
28. 6.17	Granted special leave, France.
3. 7.17	Rejoined 32nd Bn. ex leave.
29. 7.17	Appointed Musketry Officer.
10.11.17	On leave to U.K.
20.11.17	Rejoined 32nd Bn. from leave.
13. 1.18	Detached to A.I.F. Hqs.
16. 1.18	To England on duty, and appointed Temp.
	Captain in the Imperial Army.
21. 1.18	Selected for Special duty with Imperial Army.
29. 1.18	Embarked at Southampton.
2. 3.18	Disembarked at Basrah.
19. 3.18	Joined Dunster Force - Field.
21. 9.18	WOUNDED slightly - remaining at duty.
25.10.18	Admitted to Milt. Hospl. Hijar. - Enteritis.
	Date of discharge from Hospl. not available.
5. 1.19	Embarked at Basrah for Australia.
26. 4.19	Relinquished temp. rank of Captain in the
	Imperial Army, on ceasing to be specially
	employed, and granted rank of Hon. Capt. in A.I.F.
26. 2.19	Left India for return to Australia.
26. 3.19	Disembarked at Adelaide ex "Aconius"
12. 5.19	Appointment terminated in the A.I.F. at Adelaide

Post War Career and Family Life

After WWI, Francis returned to England where he took up his Rhodes Scholarship and gained a Diploma in Anthropology with distinction from Balliol College, Oxford in 1921. While he was a student at Oxford, Francis made three trips to the Continent including travelling to Austria and Germany.

Francis returned to Australia onboard the *RMS Ormonde* on the 30th of January 1922.

His impressions were recorded in the newspaper article below:

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 1 February 1922

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN ABROAD

Impressions of a Rhodes Scholar

Mr. F. E. Williams, who was appointed Rhodes Scholar for South Australia for 1915, but did not take up his residence at Oxford until after he had spent about three and a half years in war service in France and Persia, returned home by the R.M.S. Ormonde on Monday. He is a son of Mr. David Williams, of the firm of Messrs. Williams & Good, architects, of Adelaide, and is 28 years of age. In the fighting for his country he attained to the rank of captain. He has had a highly successful academical career, and, after a month's holiday with his parents, he will proceed to Papua as the Commonwealth Government Assistant Anthropologist. In the course of a chat on Tuesday he stated that he had spent three vacations on the Continent. In August and September last he visited Germany and Austria. It was the custom for two or three students to make the trips together, and in his case he had always had an enjoyable time. As a matter of fact, the Germans and the Austrians had almost gone out of their way to be pleasant. They appeared to like the Englishman rather well, but they detested the Frenchman. Distress was not noticed in Germany or Austria unless it was looked for particularly, and the position was the

same in England. He was in Vienna for a week, and things then were as quiet as possible among the people, although they had become ruffled later. Germany had all the appearances of prosperity, and there did not seem to be as much unemployment or as many loafers there as in England. There was a marked difference between the railway services of Germany and Austria, the former being much the better and far more efficient. The same remark applied to other departments of the two countries. In conversation about the war, men there who had been in it did not show any bitterness towards the English who had seen service. Of course, they never thought nor admitted that they had been in the wrong. The Germans he had met considered that they had been persecuted by the Allies, and not that the Fatherland had been responsible for the war.

—South Australians at Oxford.—

Referring to South Australians at Oxford, Mr. Williams stated that Messrs. Cairns and Rischbieth had started what was termed the British Universities' Australian Association. It was a commendable little organization, but it was struggling for existence. Its object was to get together Oxford and Cambridge men who had returned to Australia. They could be of material assistance to Rhodes Scholars and others about to go to the universities in the old country. It was hoped that some sort of clubs would be formed in the various States. Several old Rhodes scholars were evincing keen interest in the matter. The Rhodes scholars generally were a good, hearty lot of fellows. Of Australians of one sort or another, there were at present about 70 at Oxford. They always did well. Probably they took matters more seriously than did the home students.

—Appreciation of the Rhodes' Bequest.—

As one who had benefited by the Rhodes' bequest, and recognise his indebtedness, Mr. Williams was warm in his appreciation of the value and desirableness of the scholarships. Questioned concerning the adequacy or otherwise of the grant to enable a candidate to pay his way in England, he remarked that, while luxuries could not be included in the every-day life of the student, the grant, with the subsidy provided on account of the war, was at least sufficient to meet all needs if reasonable care and economy were exercised. No young fellow should hesitate to accept the scholarship on the present basis, he added. It was a really splendid thing for Australasians to have the opportunity not only to go to an English university, but especially to live for a while in the old country, which was in itself a wonderful education. People who did not go outside of Australia must be more or less parochial. A trip abroad opened one's eyes very much. The Rhodes Scholars in particular owed much to the great benefactor who had made it possible for them to study in England. Words failed to adequately express the thanks of the beneficiaries. The Colonial Club at Oxford, formed by Australians, South Africans, Canadians, and New Zealanders, had been discussing a scheme wherefor subscriptions should be provided by old Rhodes Scholars to enable an English graduate to be sent away periodically to gain practical dominion experience. That was really being considered as a mark of appreciation of what the late Cecil Rhodes had done for the Rhodes scholars.

—The Papuan Appointment.—

Mr. Williams explained that he was to be assistant to Dr. Strong in Papua. His job would be to study the natives, their manner of living, and their customs. The real aim of the work was to help in the administration of the country. The Anthropological Department would not have any administrative work to do, but it would seek to find out as much as possible about the Papuans in such directions as would be calculated to help the administration in dealing with them in the most successful manner. Mr. Williams is a keen and energetic young man of marked ability and pleasing temperament, and his appointment by the Federal Government would seem to have been happily made for the class of study to be undertaken.

Francis then travelled to Papua New Guinea in 1922, where he worked as an anthropologist for the Australian Government, until the invasion of PNG by the Japanese during World War II.

In December 1926 Francis married Constance Laura Denness, a kindergarten teacher from Vancouver, Canada.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 14 January 1927

AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

From Canada comes this announcement which is of much interest to the many friends of the late Mr. G. J. Denness, late of Adelaide, and one-time publisher of The Evening Journal:—

Mrs. George James Denness announces the marriage of her daughter, Constance Laura Akeroyd, to Mr. Francis Edgar Williams on Friday, December the third, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, Vancouver, B.C.

Mrs. Williams (then Miss Denness) was in Adelaide with her parents about two years ago. She is a very charming girl, tall and willowy, a Dante Rossetti type, most artistic, and plays the violin beautifully.

Francis continued to study and gained his Honours Degree of Master of Arts from Adelaide University in December 1928.

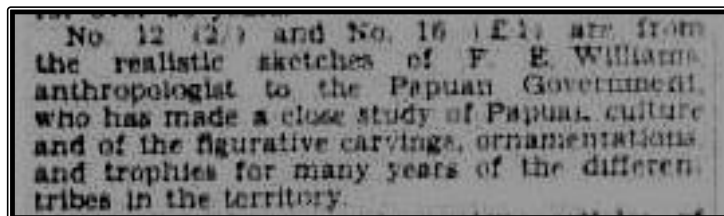
Francis and his wife and son (Francis John Denness Williams) were back in South Australia In February 1930 to visit Francis' parents.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954), 27 February 1930



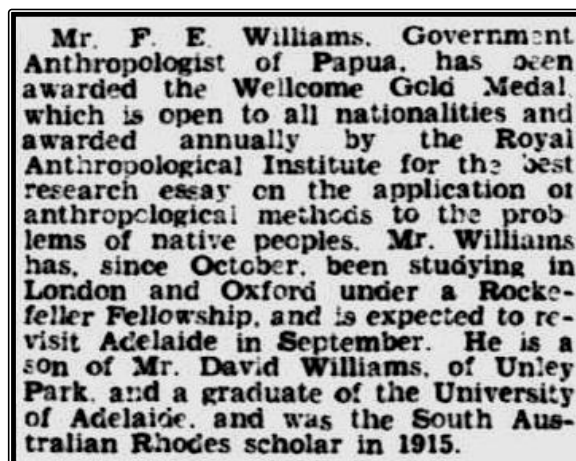
Francis became the editor of a monthly paper for the people of PNG and the author of a number of books. In 1932 Francis was involved in the design of a new series of stamps for the Territory of Papua. Two of his sketches were used and he also designed the borders used on eleven stamps.

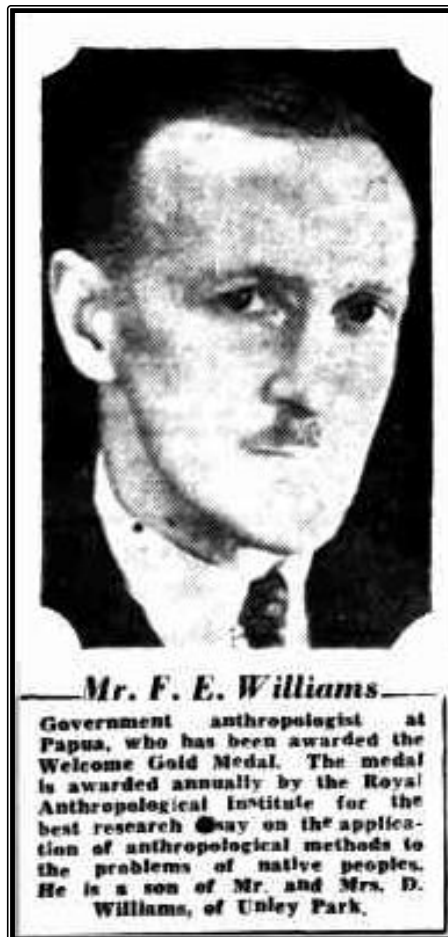
The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954, 10 December 1932



Francis was awarded the Rockefeller Scholarship and in August 1933 and he boarded the *Largs Bay* bound for London and Oxford. His wife and son accompanied him on the trip and his son remained in the United Kingdom to attend school. In July 1934, Francis was awarded the Wellcome Gold medal.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 10 July 1934





"No attempt is being made to Europeanise the natives of Papua," the Government Anthropologist (Mr. F. E. Williams) reported on his arrival in the Mongolia today. "But there is a desire to make English the chief language, and research in applied anthropology is being undertaken to assist good government and guide administrative officers in the study of natives."



Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams is staying with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. D. Williams, of High street, Unley Park. A Rockefeller foundation scholarship took him to Oxford where he secured his Bachelor of Science degree for a book thesis, "Papuan of the Trans-Fly," which will be published shortly by the Oxford Press.

He is a Master of Arts of Adelaide University, and secured a Rhodes scholarship, but the war interrupted his studies.

Francis was in Adelaide in September 1934 to see his parents before returning to PNG. In February 1935, he was awarded the Cilento Bronze medal, awarded annually to the scientist deemed to have accomplished the best practical work for the furtherance of tropical hygiene and native welfare in Australasia. Coincidentally, the donor Sir Raphael Cilento was doing medicine at Adelaide University the same time Francis was completing his degree. They were the same age.

The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 21 February 1935



In 1935, Francis was involved in several flights to observe the unexplored areas of PNG from the air and in 1936, he was selected to represent Australia at a conference on anthropology and native education run by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in Honolulu from the 30th of June to the 7th of August.

Francis and Constance travelled from PNG to Brisbane together on the *Montoro* and Constance visited relations in Adelaide while Francis attended the conference. While in Brisbane, Constance talked to the local newspaper about her involvement in the work undertaken by her husband and her own studies in anthropology. An article by Constance about her life in PNG was published in the *Adelaide News* in May 1938. Both articles are below.

VISITORS FROM NEW GUINEA

Country Full of Interest

"Life in New Guinea is apt to become tedious to many women whose husbands are working there, but for those who have their own jobs, it is a country full of interest," says Mrs. F. E. Williams, who passed through Brisbane in the Montoro yesterday, with her husband, the Government Anthropologist, whose headquarters are at Port Moresby.

Mrs. Williams has always been interested in anthropology, and her life in New Guinea has given her wide opportunities of studying native life in the surrounding islands with her husband. Apart from her own studies, she is kept busy assisting her husband in many different ways, for besides typing the manuscripts for his books and pamphlets, and helping to collect the necessary material and

information, she also has accompanied her husband on his trips.

Several years ago the travellers visited England, where they have left their son to continue his studies. While they were in Europe Mr. Williams published his latest book, "Papuanians of

the Trans-Fly," which deals with the natives in that district.

Their travels have taken them to many unusual places among the islands, the most interesting group which Mrs. Williams has visited being the Trobriand Islands, south-east of Papua. On the main island stands a circle of huge pillars of limestone, which is thought to be a burial ground. The present natives know nothing of the circumstances under which the circle of stones was raised. "Its history remains shrouded in the past, and is waiting for some one to unravel it," said Mrs. Williams. "Although we were interested, we could find out nothing more about it."

On many occasions Mrs. Williams was unable to accompany her husband, because of the fever, which is so easily contracted.

Mr. Williams is now on his way to a conference in Honolulu, and while he is away Mrs. Williams will visit her relatives in Adelaide, which is her home town. They expect to return to New Guinea at the end of September.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), 23 May 1938

"THERE are no roads where my home is," said Mrs. F. E. Williams, wife of the Government anthropologist for Papua, who has arrived with her husband in Adelaide. They have been living at Port Moresby, and are here on a vacation.

Mrs. Williams has made her home in Port Moresby for the past 12 years, and quite enjoys her unusual life.

Her husband, in the course of his work, often goes for long research expeditions into the Papuan bush, and Mrs. Williams gets into serviceable outdoor garments, packs up food supplies, and goes along, too. She is often away from her home for six months at a time.

"Our luggage, camp equipment, and food supplies are always carried by native bearers," she said, "and we must make an impressive procession as we start off on our expeditions."

WHEN they are right out in the bush they sometimes succeed in shooting some wild game. Then Mrs. Williams brings out a camp oven, which she always takes on these outback treks.

"It is rather like a little witch pot on legs," she explained. "I get quite good results from it, too. I follow to a certain extent the native method of cooking. A hole is dug in the ground and filled with hot coals. When it is well heated most of the coals are taken out, the witch pot, containing the meat to be baked, is put into the hole, and the other coals are heaped on top of the lid. After having been left there for several hours the meat is cooked as well as it would be in a modern oven."

WORKMANLIKE shorts and shirts are worn on research expeditions. "The shirts must have long sleeves to ward off the mosquitoes," Mrs. Williams said.

Talking of her home in Port Moresby, Mrs. Williams said that she and her fellow-housekeepers had many difficulties to contend with. Among other things there were cockroaches, which ate your silk stockings, borers which burrowed right through books from cover to cover if they were not being continually taken out of their shelves, and lack of fresh water.

"There is no system for water conservation in Port Moresby," Mrs. Williams said. "Each house is, however, equipped with three 1,200-gallon tanks, which have to supply water for everything. We limit ourselves to six gallons a day."

Mrs. Williams spoke of a friend who is doing great work in Gemo Island, Papua. She is Miss Constance Fairhall, a young woman who is running a leper and tuberculosis island. She is alone on the island with 10 leper and 10 tubercular cases, and sometimes finds it difficult to obtain amusement for them.

She would, Mrs. Williams said, be very grateful for gifts of school books and magazines from interested people.

World War II

In the early stages of WWII, Francis acted as a liaison officer between the government and the military. Then in 1941, he returned to Australia on four months leave and he visited his mother in Adelaide.

Sadly, Francis' father, David, passed away on the 29th of August 1940, aged 84 and his mother, Annie passed away on the 9th of July 1942.

On the 18th of February 1942, Francis enlisted in the Australian Military Forces (AMF) as a Lieutenant (Service Number V146974). He was in Melbourne, Victoria at the time of his enlistment. He worked with Australian Military Intelligence in Victoria until November 1942 when he transferred to Australian Military Intelligence LHQ, where he was attached to the Allied Geographical Unit.

On the 8th of March 1943, in Brisbane, Francis enlisted (Service Number VX136033). Constance was in Sydney but later moved to Brisbane. Francis became a Captain in the Australian New Guinea Administration Unit. He returned to PNG.

Special Qualifications or Experience—						
REPORT		Record of all casualties regarding promotions (acting, temporary, local or substantive), appointments, transfers, postings, attachments, etc., forfeiture of pay, wounds, accidents, admission to and discharge from Hospital, Casualty, Clearing Stations, etc., Date of disembarkation and embarkation from a theatre of war (including furlough, etc.).	Date of Casualty	Place of Casualty	Authority W 3010 B 3009 or other document	Initials of Officer certifying or other document to correctness of entries
Date	From whom received					
9.3.42	A.H.Q.	Taken on Strength A.H.Q. G. Buch				
		State of Vic Intel in appnt as I.O.	18.2.42	3rd D.	RO 9/2030/42	-6.
20.3.42		Appointed from Ref D. W.P.D.	18.2.42		79/2030/42	100
20.7.42	L.H.Q.	Sick leave from	27.6.42		RO 2/8908/42	B
20.7.42		Regained unit from sick leave	6.7.42		RO 2/8908/42	B
12.9.42		Rationed & Quartered at Officers Mess				
		"Guaranteed" 18.2.42 to 14.6.42	18.2.42		RO 2/10042/42	100
4.9.42	"	M/I from Gen Staff, Vic Lef B Area & T.O.S.	31.8.42	Amst	RO 12204/42	100
		L.H.Q. G. Buch in appnt as G.P.O. III.				
19.11.42	H.L.H.	Transferred from Gen Staff Intel Corps	30.4.42		H.L.H. 29/12/42	100
		3.M.D. to Aust Intel Corps L.H.Q.			CH 2/10042/42	100
19.11.42	H.L.H.	Promoted (Temp) Captain attached	19.11.42		84/12/42	100
		11th Regt. M.C.				
31.3.43	A.G. 48	Is. from Aust Intel Corps L.H.Q.	10.3.43	Aust	RO 2/10042/42	100
		to Aust New Guinea Admin. Unit.				
23.9.42	L.H.Q.	S.O.S. L.H.Q. G. Buch State of Vic Intel & M/I	16.8.42		RO 54/13765/42	100
		to Adv. L.H.Q. (B.S.M.C.)				
22.3.43	L.H.Q.	Deplaned at Townsville from New Guinea	11.3.43		MS 16/1/43	100
12.6.43	2 Echelon	Pres. rep. Missing now rep. killed	12.5.43		MS 105/4353/43	100
		accidentally result of plane crash shortly				
1.6.43	v	Missing in Action in flight from			MS 105/4353/43	100
		Wardie Drome to Do Bodura while	12.5.43			
		travelling under order				
25.5.43	A.N.G.A.	Rep. Missing in Action (Passenger on plane	12.5.43		RO 4/1/43	100
		rep. missing) & Means to X List				
21.4.43	2nd Lf 45	Told to accept for service in A.I.F.	8.3.43		RO 2/8544/43	100
		Allocated New Recs No. VX 136033				
		ANGRA REF RO 1/4/43. NOW REPORTED ACCIDENTALLY				
		KILLED AS RESULT OF AIR CRASH 12/5/43	12/5/43		RO 4/12/43	100
		M/I FROM ALLIED GEOGRAPHIC SECTION	15/3/43		RO 4/12/43	100


Death

On the 12th of May 1943, Francis was a passenger on a flight from Wards Drome (near Port Moresby) to Do Bodura (on the north coast of PNG) under orders. He was reported as missing in action and later confirmed killed in action as a result of an airplane accident. Francis was 50 years old. He was buried at the Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 15 June 1943

Private Casualty Advices

News has been received in Adelaide of the death in New Guinea as the result of an aircraft accident of Capt. F. E. Williams, of the Australia and New Guinea Administrative unit, formerly Government anthropologist in the Territory of Papua.



Capt. Williams was born at Malvern in 1893. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. David Williams, of the firm of Williams and Good, architects. He was educated at Kyre College and the Adelaide University, and was a Rhodes Scholar for 1914.

Before going to Oxford he served in France as a lieutenant in the 32nd Battalion, and afterwards in Persia with the Dunster Force. In 1921 he became Government anthropologist in Papua and held that office until the invasion of the country by the Japanese. He wrote a number of books about the Papuans, and these were recently accepted by the University of Oxford as a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Science. He married Miss Constance Deunness, of Vancouver, B.C., who is now in Brisbane. Their only son is being educated in England.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 25 June 1943

GREAT LOSS TO SCIENCE

JACK Ashton was telling me yesterday how deeply all old boys of Kyre College mourned the loss of their former schoolmate, Dr. F. E. Williams, who was killed in an aircraft accident in New Guinea recently. "Toby, as we all affectionately knew him," he said, "was a great scout, and deservedly popular with everyone. When he was in Adelaide a few months ago, a dozen or more of us foregathered with him at an informal luncheon party, and found him still the same loveable and unassuming friend of our school days."

Legacy

Francis' wife, Constance Laura Akroyd Denness was born in Adelaide in 1893. She was one of the three daughters of George James Denness and Louisa Margaret Darby. George was associated with the newspapers 'The Register' and 'The Evening Journal' while in Adelaide. In about 1908, George and the family moved to Vancouver, BC, Canada. The family visited Adelaide on a world tour in January 1912 and again in about 1925.

During WWII, Constance was a secretary and she was living at the Women's College, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane in 1943 when Francis passed away.

Constance and Francis' son, Francis John Denness Williams, gained a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in 1951.

In 1954, Constance was living at Inverallan Avenue, Pymble, NSW (inner northern Sydney). Constance and Francis' son Francis John Denness Williams (student) was living with his mother. By 1958, Constance was at 57 Junction Road, Wahroonga, NSW but Francis John Denness Williams is not at that address.

Constance was still living at 57 Junction Road, Wahroonga according to the 1963 Electoral Roll. Also at the address was Francis John Denness Williams (Stamp Dealer).

Constance passed away in New South Wales in 1965 aged 72.

The 1968 Electoral Roll records Francis John Denness Williams as still living at 57 Junction Road, Wahroonga and he made an enquiry to the Central Army Records Office from that address in June 1970.

Francis John Denness Williams passed away in 1972.

Profile by Beth Filmer and Rob O'Shannassy AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee

Sources

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>

RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>
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Kyre College Photographs from 'The Kyrian', with thanks to Scotch College Old Collegians

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