



Capt. Richard Gladstones Wilton



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: A Grade (1912)

(AU v PAC 1911)

Cricket Club: B Grade 1910/11

Student: Science

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 Richard Gladstones Wilton. 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=329043>





Richard Gladstone WILTON

Address	Hutt Street, Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs C R Wilton, Hutt Street, Adelaide, South Australia
Enlistment date	29 May 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	10th Battalion, 7th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/27/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A61 <i>Kanowna</i> on 23 June 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	10th Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 26 September 1917

Note: His Service Records and other references often refer to him as Richard Gladstone Wilton which is incorrect. His middle name is "Gladstones" and based on his mother's maiden name.

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8846334>

	AUSTRALIAN		MILITARY FORCES.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.			
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.			
No. <u>Captain</u>	Name { Surname <u>Wilton</u> in full { Christian Name <u>Richard Gladstone</u>	Unit <u>70 ftn 50th ftn</u>	
Joined on _____			
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.			
1. What is your Name? ...	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">PAY BOOK No.</div> ...	1. _____	_____
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...	_____	2. In the Parish of _____ in or	_____
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...	_____	near the Town of _____	_____
4. What is your Age? ...	_____	in the County of _____	_____
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ...	_____	3. _____	_____
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ...	_____	4. _____	_____
7. Are you married? ...	_____	5. _____	_____
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ...	_____	6. _____	_____
The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a will.		7. _____	_____
9. What is your permanent address in Australia? ...	_____	8. <u>Mrs C. H. Wilton, 4111 St. Adelaide St.</u>	_____
10. 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 ...	_____	9. _____	_____
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ...	_____	10. _____	_____
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ...	_____	11. _____	_____
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ...	_____	12. _____	_____
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ...	_____	13. _____	_____
I, <u>Richard Gladstone Wilton</u> , 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.		14. _____	_____
And I further agree to allot not less than $\frac{2}{5}$ of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.		Signature of person enlisted.	
Date _____		_____	

D.5497/16.—C.5397.

* 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.

Biography

Early Life

Richard (Dick) Gladstones Wilton was born on the 30th of October 1892 in Adelaide, SA, the youngest son of Charles Richard Wilton and Annie Isabel Gladstones. His father was a journalist who came to Adelaide, SA from Port Fairy, Victoria, and had become a long-time literary editor of *The Advertiser*. He also authored, under the pen name of "Autolycus", a long-running weekly column in *The Courier* of Mount Barker.



Charles Richard Wilton (1855 – 1927)

Dick's siblings were John Raymond (born 1884, Belfast (Port Fairy) Victoria), Athol Gladstones (born 1886 Belfast (Port Fairy) Victoria - died 1890) Alexander Cockburn (born 1888, Belfast (Port Fairy) Victoria) and Dorothy Kenyon (born 1st of September 1890, Adelaide, SA). During their early years in South Australia, the family lived in Mt Barker.

Schooling

Dick commenced in First Form at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide in 1901 and was in the Lower Third in 1903. Dick passed his Primary Examinations in September 1905, Junior Examinations in December 1906 (coming equal ninth in the state for Geometry) and Senior Examinations in December 1907. In 1908, he was seventh in the lower sixth form (university) at PAC. Dick passed the Higher Public Examinations in December 1909.

Dick was well known at PAC for his swimming and athletics abilities. He won the Under 13 Handicap race at the PAC Aquatic Sports in March 1904. At the PAC Aquatic sports in February 1907, Dick won the Junior Championship (three lengths) and the Open Handicap. Dick was the Senior Champion at Swimming for PAC in 1908. He competed in the College Handicap race at the annual amateur swimming races at the Old Boys' Institute (OBI) Baths in 1905 - 1908. At the PAC Sports in 1908, Dick competed in the 150 yards flat handicap (under 16). At the 1909 PAC Sports he came a dead heat for first in the 120 yards hurdles with R.S. Davey. Dick was also a good gymnast.

In February 1909, Dick played cricket for PAC in the B Grade District Cricket competition.

Adelaide University

Dick commenced studying Applied Science (Engineering) at Adelaide University in 1910. Later newspaper articles state that Dick was a cadet to Professor R.W. Chapman at Adelaide University for his three years at the University.

While at University, Dick was a member of the Senior Cadet Corps. In November 1910, he was a lieutenant on probation and by June 1911, he was a second lieutenant (provisional) with the 10th Infantry Regiment and was later posted to C Company. Finally, he was a second lieutenant in the 78th Infantry (Adelaide Rifles). He resigned from his commission on the 16th of December 1912.

Dick's academic record is shown on his student card (below).

Student Card

NAME AND ADDRESS <i>Wilton, Richard Gladstones. 42 Hull St Adelaide</i>		REGISTER NO. <i>2303</i>								
COURSE <i>App Sc. Mech Eng</i>	DATE OF BIRTH <i>30/10/92</i>	DATE OF MATRICULATION <i>21/8/91</i> <i>Cadet Eng. Lab.</i>								
SENIOR <i>1907 English, Lat, Geom, Alg 08 Lat, Geom, Trig, Physics, Inorg Chem, 1909 Germ, Arith & Alg.</i>		GRADE <i>Grad</i>								
HIGHER <i>1909 Lat, Appd Math & Chem.</i>		<i>MY</i>								
STATUS GRANTED										
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1910	Chemistry 1 st Yr		✓		✓				N10 P	Exempt Chem prac & final exam
	Physics 1 st Yr		✓		✓				N10 P II	
	Pure Mathematics 1 st Yr		✓		✓				N10 P III	
	Mech Eng I SM		✓		✓				N10 P III	
	Drawing I SD		✓		✓					
	Fitting & Turning I SM		✓		✓				N10 P II	
	Woodworking SM		✓		✓				N10 P III	
	Applied Math.									
1911	Maths I 2 nd Year		✓		✓				N11 F	
	Physics II		✓		✓				N11 P II	
	App. Maths.		✓		✓				N11 P II	
	Mech Eng II SM		✓		✓				N11 A	
	Patternmaking									Did not attend

NAME AND ADDRESS <i>Wilton Richard Gladstones</i>		ON WAR MEMORIAL								
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1911	Fitting & Turning II SM		✓						N11 P II	
	Drawing II SM		✓							
1912	Applied Mech III				✓				N12 A	
	Fitting & Turning II				✓					
	Mech. Eng II				✓				N12 A	
	Machine Design I				✓					
	Drawing II				✓					
	Pure Math. 2 nd Yr				✓					
	Physics 2 nd Yr				✓				N12 F	
	Surveying				✓					Enlisted May 1915

University Sport

Cricket

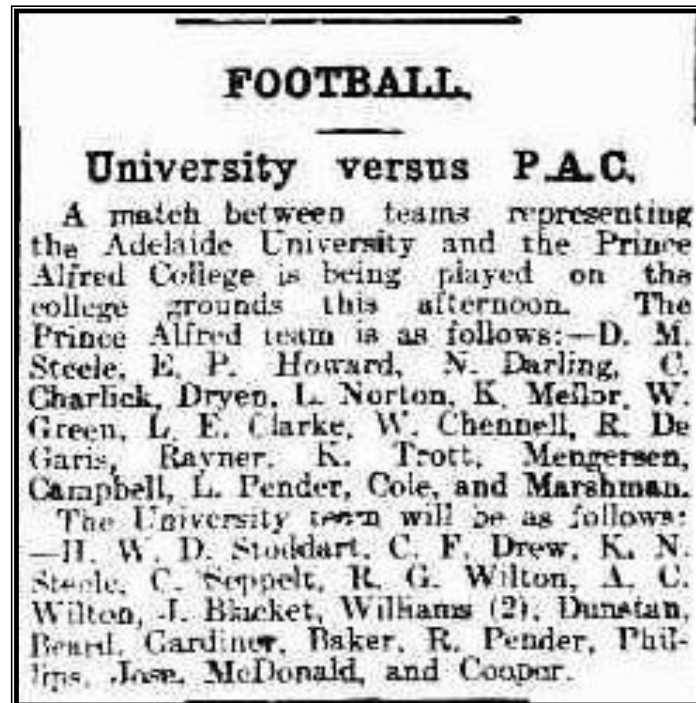
Dick played the occasional B Grade cricket match for Adelaide University between the 1910/11 and 1912/13 seasons. At times he acted as wicketkeeper.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)	
Mon 17 Oct 1910	
UNIVERSITY VERSUS STURT.	
On the University Oval.	
University.	
R. R. Pavia, c. Nesbit, b. Noblet	12
G. Fisher, c. Nesbit, b. Noblet	8
L. W. Davies, c. and b. Noblet	102
O. J. Murphy, b. McKay	11
K. Goode, c. Grove, b. McKay	102
J. W. Blacket, b. McKay	2
W. R. Snow, b. McKay	0
L. G. W. Caust, not out	19
R. G. Wilton, run out	5
J. R. Harder, b. Noblet	0
G. M. Potts, b. Nesbit	0
Sundries	9
Total	271
Bowling. — W. Noblet, four for 28; R. J. McKay four for 84; W. J. Nesbit, one for 40; E. Holt-house, none for 38; R. Grove, none for 48; B. T. R. Bailey, none for 18.	

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931)	
Sat 11 Jan 1913	
B GRADE.	
STURT V. UNIVERSITY (on the University Oval).	
UNIVERSITY.	
Caust, c. Moffatt, b. Sharp	0
Stevens, run out	0
Richards, b. Sharp	4
Tuncke, c. Moffatt, b. Sharp	25
Wilton, run out	4
Fornachon, b. Barrett	9
E. Bean, b. Barrett	7
Bean, b. Barrett	0
McGee, c. Moffatt, b. Swann	1
Moore, not out	9
Black, b. Swann	2
Extras	10
Total	74
—Bowling.—	
James, 0 for 7.	
Sharp, 3 for 29.	
Doolette, 0 for 9.	
Barrett, 3 for 14.	
Swann, 2 for 5.	
STURT.	
Gray, st. Wilton, b. Fornachon	40*
Malley, c. and b. Black	58
Sharp, c. McGee, b. Fornachon	2
Noal, run out	4
Doolette, c. McGee, b. Fornachon	7
Swann, b. Fornachon	2
James, c. Metlee, b. Richards	24
Moffatt, c. Stevens, b. Richards	40
Bleechmore, b. Richards	2
Barrett, st. Wilton, b. Fornachon	12
Parkes, not out	15
Extras	8
Total	213
—Bowling.—	
Caust, 0 for 31.	
Richards, 3 for 56.	
Fornachon, 5 for 83.	
Black, 1 for 27.	
Stevens, 0 for 12.	

Football

Dick played his first game of football for Adelaide University along-side his brother Alec in a match against PAC in June 1911. He then played A Grade football for Adelaide University in the Amateur League in 1912. He may have played in the 1912 match against St Peter's College however as no initials were recorded in the newspaper article, the Wilton who played may have been his brother (Alec).



Rowing

Dick rowed for Adelaide University from November 1910. He was stroke in the Forrester Fours (Maidens) at the summer regatta in December 1910 and stroke in the Torrens Fours at the autumn regatta in March 1911. In December 1911, Dick was bow for University in the Le Hunte Cup.

Pre-War Career

After three years at Adelaide University and not having completed his applied science (engineering) course, Dick joined the Irrigation Department and later transferred to the department of the Hydraulic Engineer. He appears to have first worked at Murray Bridge, as he was listed among the likely players for Murray Bridge in lacrosse match to be played in June 1913. Dick may have later been at Cowell on Eyre Peninsula as a R.G. Wilton was selected to play cricket for Cowell in a match against Mangalo in October 1913.

Immediately prior to WWI, Dick had charge of the Warren waterworks (Williamstown, SA, 16 km south east of Gawler) during their construction.

World War I

Dick enlisted on the 29th of May 1915 and was appointed a second lieutenant (late of the 78th Infantry, Adelaide Rifles) with the 7th reinforcements of the 10th Battalion. His AIF records all show his name as Richard Gladstone Wilton (dropping the s from Gladstones, his mother's maiden name).

Dick embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A61 *Kanowna* on 23 June 1915. On the 31st of August 1915 he was taken on the strength of the 10th Battalion at Gallipoli and fought there for four months before the withdrawal of the Australian troops.

Lieutenant Richard G. Wilton, who left Adelaide with the 7th Reinforcements of the 10th Battalion at the end of June, cabled to his parents on Monday:—"At front, August 20th. Well."

On 26th February 1916, Dick was transferred to the 50th Battalion. He served in Egypt at Ismailia, Tell-el-Kebir, Serapeum and at the Carinya Post.

Seven 50th Battalion Company Commanders holding a meeting at Carinya Post on the front line of the Suez Canal defences, 12 miles out in the Sinai desert from the Canal.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C00076

Known to be pictured are Captain (Capt) Randall Lance Rhodes MC & Bar; Capt Richard Gladstone Wilton; Capt Patrick Howard (?) Auld MC & Bar; Lieutenant (Lt) John Albert Smith; Major Mervyn James Herbert; Capt H Morris MC; and Lt Esson Thomas Rule

Dick left Egypt via Alexandrina on the 5th of June 1916 and landed at Marseilles, France on the 12th of June 1916. At about this time he was promoted to Captain. Dick served on the Western Front until he was wounded in action on the 10th of June 1917 at the Battle of Messines, West Flanders, Belgium. He had wounds to the hand and right eye. He was transferred from France to England on the 5th of July 1917, having lost his right eye and first finger.

Mrs. C. R. Wilton, of Hutt-street, has been informed by the military authorities that her youngest son, Captain R. G. Wilton, of the 50th Battalion, was "admitted to the 3rd General Hospital, Boulogne, on June 12, suffering from gunshot wounds left hand and eye, severe." Captain Wilton this week sent a cable message stating, "Wounds not dangerous."

In December 1916, in response to a request from Charles Hodge (Registrar of the University of Adelaide) for information on Dick's WW1 service, his father responded:-

Andranga 42 Hutt St
Adelaide Dec 6 1916

Charles R. Hodge Esq
Registrar of the University,

Dear Mr Hodge -

In response to your request for particulars concerning my son - Capt Richard Gladstones Wilton - I have pleasure in supplying these facts

Capt Wilton was educated at Prince Alfred College (9 years) & passed the prelim: junior, senior & higher public examinations at the University. & was for three years engineering cadet to Professor Chapman during which he passed the first & second years exams & part of the third year's subjects. He then entered the Irrigation & Reclamation Department of the Public Service whence he was transferred to the Hydraulic Engineer's dept. He was in charge of the work on the Warren Reservoir when he volunteered for the front.

Capt Wilton joined the cadets at Prince Alfred College & advanced from private to color sergeant. He would have rec'd a commⁿ but that he was under age. He became a lieutenant in the Senior Cadets & then was a sub lieutenant in the 10th (Adelaide Rifles) & subsequently in the 78th of which he was adjutant for

(2)

some time. He resigned because he was ordered into the country by the Department.

Immediately war broke out he volunteered for service abroad but as his mother & father were in England and he was the only one living in the house with his sister he asked that he might be permitted to join on their return. After the landing at Gallipoli when many of his old comrades were killed he again volunteered and on May 20 1915 he rec^d a Commission as sub-lieutenant in the 7th Reinforcements of the glorious Tenth. He left for the front on June 24 1915 and was in the trenches on Gallipoli on August 20 1915. Since then he has not had a day's leave. He qualified with 96 per cent of the marks & special commendation for the Machine Gun Corps while in Egypt. He was promoted to a lieutenancy in February and was transferred to the 50th Battalion. He was promoted to a captaincy in May last. He arrived in France in June and has been present in several engagements since. He also holds a position in the Machine Gun Corps.

After spending time in England recovering from his wounds, Dick departed from England on the 26th of September 1917, onboard the *HMAT A30 Borda*, disembarking in Melbourne on the 21st of November 1917. His appointment was terminated on the 6th of December 1917. He was granted a pension of £4/5/ fortnightly, from the 7th of December 1915.

At some stage during the war or on the journey home, Dick met Annie Heath (born 18th March 1880 at Piccadilly, SA), the daughter of Edward Heath and Annie Peters.

Annie had enlisted with the Australian Army Nursing Service on the 2nd of September 1914. She embarked on the 21st of November 1914 onboard the *HMAT A55 Kyarra* and served in Egypt, England and France. She was promoted to temporary Head Sister in July 1916. Annie was diagnosed with an ovarian cyst and operated on in England.



Annie Heath

She returned to Australia on the 26th of September 1917 onboard the *HMAT A30 Borda*, for recovery and was discharged as medically unfit on the 19th of January 1918. Annie was granted a pension of £2/6/6 fortnightly from 27th December 1917.

Dick and Annie married at Christ Church, North Adelaide on the 27th of December 1917.

WILTON—HEATH.—On the 27th December, at Christ Church, by the Rev. G. H. Jose, M.A., Richard Gladstone, youngest son of Charles Richard Wilton, to Annie, third daughter of the late Edward Heath.

Dick's brother, Alec (Dr Alexander Cockburn Wilton) left for WWI in March 1918.

From the 12th of April 1918, Dick was on duty with the 4th Military District Reserve Guard. In April 1918, returning soldiers were given a guard of honour formed by the Base Light Horse, under Captain R. G. Wilton, late of the 50th Battalion, and Lieutenant W. H. Bertwhistle, late of the 27th Battalion. He also led the guard of honour from Mitcham Camp who greeted returning soldiers in September 1918. He oversaw platform arrangements for the parade of returning soldiers in December 1918.

Post War Career and Family Life

On the 25th of November 1918, Dick and Annie's only child, a daughter, Dorothy Clyve Wilton (known as Clyve) was born at "Konetta", North Adelaide. Dick and Annie were living at "Waroonga", Hughes Street, North Unley at the time of Clyve's birth.

WILTON.—On the 25th November, at Konetta, to Capt. and Mrs. R. G. Wilton, "Waroonga," Hughes street, North Unley—a daughter (Dorothy Clyve).

In July 1919, Dick was appointed assistant engineer in the Irrigation and Reclamation Works Department.

Mr. R. G. Wilton, who has been appointed assistant engineer in the Irrigation and Reclamation Works Department, was at Prince Alfred College for ten years, before proceeding to the University, where he was cadet to Professor R. W. Chapman for three years. He then entered the Irrigation Department, and later was transferred to the department of the Hydraulic Engineer. He had charge of the Warren waterworks during their construction. When the war started Mr. Wilton left for Gallipoli as second lieutenant of reinforcements to the 10th Battalion. He afterwards served in France, and was badly wounded at Messines. He was then a captain. Upon his return to Adelaide he re-entered the Hydraulic Engineer's Department. He now goes back to the department in which he first worked. Mr. Wilton is the youngest son of Mr. C. R. Wilton, of Hutt-street, and brother of Dr. Wilton, the newly-appointed professor of mathematics at the Adelaide University.

In January 1920, Dick and Annie left Adelaide for the River Murray town of Barmera, where Dick was involved in the development of the Murray 'prairies'.

In April 1921, Dick and Annie holidayed in Melbourne and in June 1921, Dick visited Adelaide because of his father's ill health. In July 1921, Dick's father travelled to Barmera to recuperate from his severe illness.

In October 1921, Dick and his family moved from Barmera to Chaffey, near Renmark. In the December 1922 Henley on Torrens rowing regatta, Dick was bow for Renmark in the Maiden Clinkers Fours. His weight was reported to be 11 stone 7 lbs. In December 1922, Dick gained his Bronze medallion from the Royal Life Saving Society. In January 1923, Dick was a steward at the Wallaroo rowing regatta, and he competed in the Maiden Fours.

In January 1923, Dick resigned from his position as Senior Assistant Resident Engineer at Chaffey and became a partner in the firm Murdoch, Sampson and Wilton. The firm was to undertake a large project on the shores of Lake Bonney. The family moved to Renmark.

ENGINEER AND CONTRACTOR.
CIVIL SERVANT LAUNCHES OUT.

Mr. R. G. Wilton, who recently resigned his position of Senior Assistant Resident Engineer at Chaffey to become a partner in the firm of Murdoch, Sampson and Wilton, engineers and contractors, commenced work in his new role on December 14. Most of the Chaffey channelling was done by the firm of Murdoch and Sampson, and the greater portion of the Block E. channelling by Mr. Murdoch. The firm as now constituted has a big job in hand on the shores of Lake Bonney, where they are now engaged, in conjunction with the successful tenderer, Mr. Timma, in the excavation of a canal from the lake intake weir to serve the McIntosh (North Lake) irrigation area. Water for this scheme will be drawn from the lake, which will be filled periodically by means of the No. 3 lock weir, and the canal is designed to save a mile of very large concrete rising main. No less than 200 horses are now engaged on this work of which the Renmark firm contributes 90.

Mr. Wilton, who is well-known in local rowing circles will be moving into Renmark with Mrs. Wilton at an early date. He is a brother of Professor Wilton, of the Adelaide University, and son of Mr. C. R. Wilton of The Advertiser. He was educated at Prince Alfred College and the Adelaide University and was a lieutenant in the famous 'Tenth' on Gallipoli and a captain in the 'Fiftieth' in France where he lost an eye. Ten years' service in the Hydraulic and Irrigation Departments preceded his resignation, which was the occasion of a handsome presentation by the staff at Chaffey, and some fine tributes to his professional work by the resident engineer (Mr. Hugh Oldham) and fellow officers.

The firm Murdoch, Sampson and Wilton, sold its dam sinking equipment in July 1923 and in about mid-August the Wilton family moved back to Adelaide. By October 1923, Dick was an assistant engineer at the Adelaide Office of the Irrigation Department.

In October 1925, Dick was appointed Resident Engineer of the Central South-Eastern District for the Hydraulic Engineer's Department.



Dick's father, Charles, passed away in March 1927 leaving a widow, three sons and a daughter. Dick's brother, Raymond, was at this stage the Elder Professor of Mathematics at Adelaide University and, Alec was in general practice at Clarendon. Then in June 1927, after a long illness, Dick's mother Annie Isabel Wilton passed away.

Dick took up golf and in July 1929 he played in the qualifying round of the Public Service golf championship on the Municipal Links.

In June 1930, Dick was a member of the Public Works committee which inspected the Millbrook Reservoir. June 1930.



R.G. Wilton – Far Right

From January 1931, Dick was a member of the Hydraulic Engineer's Department Board (Industrial Board) as an employees' representative.

By 1936, when Clyve made her debut at a dance at the Mount Osmond Golf Club, Dick and Annie were living at 24 Stanley Street, Leabrook.

World War II

In June 1941, Clyve became engaged to Mr John Eliot Excell, the only son of Mr. W.A. Excell of Blackwood, and the late Mrs. Excell. Clyve and John married in December 1941 at Christ Church, South Yarra, Victoria.

In September 1943 Dick was appointed Engineer for Water Supply.

Mr. R. G. Wilton New Water Supply Engineer

Mr. R. G. Wilton has been appointed Engineer for Water Supply in succession to the late Mr. C. G. F. Johnson. Mr. Wilton has been district engineer for the central and South-Eastern water district since 1925.



Born in Adelaide in 1892, Mr. Wilton is the youngest son of the late Mr. C. R. Wilton, who was a member of "The Advertiser" literary staff, and a brother of Professor J. R. Wilton, of the University of Adelaide.

Mr. R. G. Wilton was educated at Prince Alfred College, the University of Adelaide, and the SA School of Mines. He started work on the lower reaches of the River Murray with the old Irrigation Department, and transferred to the Hydraulic Engineer's Department. He went to the last war when engaged on the Warren Reservoir, and on his return in 1919 went to Cobdogla and Chaffey with the Irrigation Commission.

Sadly, for Dick, his elder brother, Raymond, passed away in April 1944. In August 1944, Dick was appointed Deputy Engineer-in-Chief for Water Supply and was to head the department during the absence in America of the Engineer in Chief.

Who's Who in Australia, 1921-1950

WILTON, Richard Gladstones, A.M.I.E.
Aust. Engineer for Water Supply, Adel., S.A., since 1943: son of late C. R. Wilton, Adel., S.A.; b. Oct. 30, 1892, Adel.; ed. Pr. Alfred Coll. & Adel. Univ.; Asst. Engr. Irrigation Works 1919-25; District Engr., Water Supply, Sthern Districts Adel. 1925-43; served 1915-17, 10th Btn., A.I.F. Gallipoli & 50th Btn. France, rank Capt.; lost eye, Messines, 1917; *publication*, Elementary Principles of Pipe Line Flow (Govt. Printer S.A. 1941); *m.* Dec. 27, 1917, Annie, d. late Edward Heath, 1 d.; *recreation*, bowls; *address*, 24 Stanley St., Leabrook, S.A.



NEW BORE AT SLIDING ROCK. A second bore supplying 8,000 gallons an hour for the Leigh Creek coalfield has been struck at Sliding Rock, and almost doubles the water supply of the coalfields. The first bore delivers 10,000 gallons an hour. The Premier (Mr. Playford) is seen inspecting the pump, which is so free that it can be spun into motion with the hands. With the Premier are (left) Mr. H. Tilmouth, foreman at Sliding Rock, and Mr. R. G. Wilton, Deputy Engineer-in-Chief.

R.G. Wilton – Far Right

Dick and Annie became grandparents in July 1943, when their daughter Clyve, gave birth to a daughter (Margaret Wilton Excell). Clyve and John had a second daughter in July 1945 (Shirley Wilton Excell). John and Clyve were living at Hughesdale, Victoria at the time of Shirley's birth.

Death

Richard Gladstones Wilton passed away on the 22nd of June 1946, aged 53. He was cremated at the West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.

DEATH OF MR. R. G. WILTON Was Engineer For Water Supply

Mr. R. G. Wilton, who was deputy Engineer-in-Chief and Engineer for Water Supply, died in a private hospital yesterday morning after a long illness. He had been away from his department for the past three months.

Mr. Wilton, who was born in Adelaide in 1892, was the youngest son of the late Mr. C. R. Wilton, for many years a member of the literary staff of "The Advertiser." He was educated at Prince Alfred College, the School of Mines and the University of Adelaide.

On leaving the University he started work on the lower reaches of the River

Murray with the old Irrigation Department, and later transferred to the Hydraulic Engineer's Department. Mr. Wilton had charge of the Warren Reservoir construction when he enlisted in the 1914-18 war, during which he served with the



Mr. R. G. WILTON

10th Battalion at Gallipoli, and later with the 50th Battalion in France. He was badly wounded at Messines and invalided home.

On his return to South Australia he rejoined the Irrigation Department and was appointed assistant engineer at the Cobdogla and Chaffey works.

In 1925 Mr. Wilton was appointed district engineer for the Central and South-Eastern Water District. This position he held until 1943, when he was appointed Engineer for Water Supply in succession to the late Mr. C. G. F. Johnson.

Mr. Wilton was a brother of the late Professor J. R. Wilton of the University of Adelaide, and of Dr. A. C. Wilton.

He is survived by Mrs. Wilton and one daughter, Mrs. J. E. Excell, of Melbourne.

Warm Tributes

South Australia had lost an outstanding officer by the death of Mr. Wilton, the Premier (Mr. Playford) said last night. His work in connection with water supply in this State had been outstanding.

"Through the death of Mr. Wilton, SA has lost one of its ablest engineers. His loss is a severe one indeed," said the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. H. T. M. Angwin). "In addition to his ability as an engineer, Mr. Wilton was a very fine administrator. His judgment was at all times sound and his foresight keen. He endeared himself to the whole of the staff and had its full confidence and esteem."

Mr. Wilton inherited his father's gift of expression. His reports are an excellent example for those following to study and copy."

Clyve and John had a third daughter, Joan in August 1947 and by 1948 the family were living at Eaglemont, Victoria. Annie made regular trips to stay with the family then in July 1951 she moved to Victoria, she stayed with Clyve and John and then planned to get a flat nearby.

Annie passed away on the 28th of January 1953. She had been living at Eaglehawk, Victoria.

Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee

Sources

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