



# **Captain Donald Yates**

**(Military Cross)**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: 1915**

**Blue: Boat 1913**

**Degree: BSc 1915, BE 1919**

## ***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 Donald Yates. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

## World War 1 Service



### Donald YATES

Date of birth	27 February 1893
Place of birth	Mount Barker South Australia
Occupation	Mining engineer
Address	Ward Street, North Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs Nora Yates, Ward Street, North Adelaide, South Australia
Enlistment date	29 November 1915
Rank on enlistment	Lieutenant
Unit name	Tunnelling Company 4, Headquarters 1
AWM Embarkation Roll number	16/10/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A69 <i>Warilda</i> on 22 May 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	4th Tunnelling Company
Promotions	2nd Lieutenant  Unit: MIN Tun Coy Promotion date: 5 April 1916 Lieutenant  Unit: MIN 1 Tun Coy Promotion date: 1 January 1917 Captain  Unit: MIN 1 Tun Coy Promotion date: 10 September 1918
Fate	Returned to Australia 18 July 1919
Medals	Military Cross 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great courage and initiative on several occasions in organizing parties to rescue men who had been buried.' Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 169 Date: 4 October 1917
Other details	Medals: Military Cross, British War Medal, Victory Medal

# World War 1 Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3453969>

7/19/15

officer

229-1-889

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD**

No. 4615 Name YATES Donald  
 Unit B Coy 2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.  
 Joined on 29 11 15

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? Donald Yates
2. In the Parish of St Barker in or near the Town of St Barker 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.) IV B
4. What is your age? 22 1/2 yrs
5. What is your trade or calling? Engineer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? NO
7. Are you married? YES
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to Wife Mrs. North Yates Ward St. Adelaide S. Aust.)
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 4 1/2 years St Peters Padelet
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? NO
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—  
Do you understand that on Separation Allowance will be granted to you only when you are the sole support of your wife and children? Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? Yes

Donald Yates do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to abstain from the use of two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife & 3 children

Date NOV 1915 D. Yates  
 Signature of Person Enlisted.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 15 years of age.  
 † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children two-fifths must be allotted.

## Biography

### Early Life

Donald (Don) Yates was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1893 at Mt Barker, SA, the son of Thomas Yates and Annie Cleggett (SA Birth Registration 332/517). Don's father, Thomas, was a well-known auctioneer. He was a stock dealer in the firm, Richardson and Yates, at Mt Barker. In June 1899 he became a partner with John Livingstone (auctioneer and parliamentarian) at Mt Gambier. In 1903, the business was sold to Elder, Smith & Co Ltd and Thomas continued as the Manager of the firm at Mt Gambier. In July 1908, Thomas was promoted to a head office position at Elder, Smith & Co. Ltd. in Adelaide, SA.

Don's younger siblings were Bessie (b 31 March 1902), Mollie (b 1907) and Colin (b 6 March 1909). The family were based at Mt Gambier .

### Education

Don commenced his education at Mt Gambier, and he passed the Primary Examinations in October 1903. He also completed his Junior Examinations in December 1904 and December 1905. In December 1906, Don completed the Junior Commercial Examinations, however some of his examination papers went missing and it was not until May 1907, having resat the examinations in a special sitting, that Don was awarded passes in Commercial Arithmetic, Book-keeping, English literature, Commercial Correspondence and Commercial Geography.

#### *Border Watch, 8 May 1907*

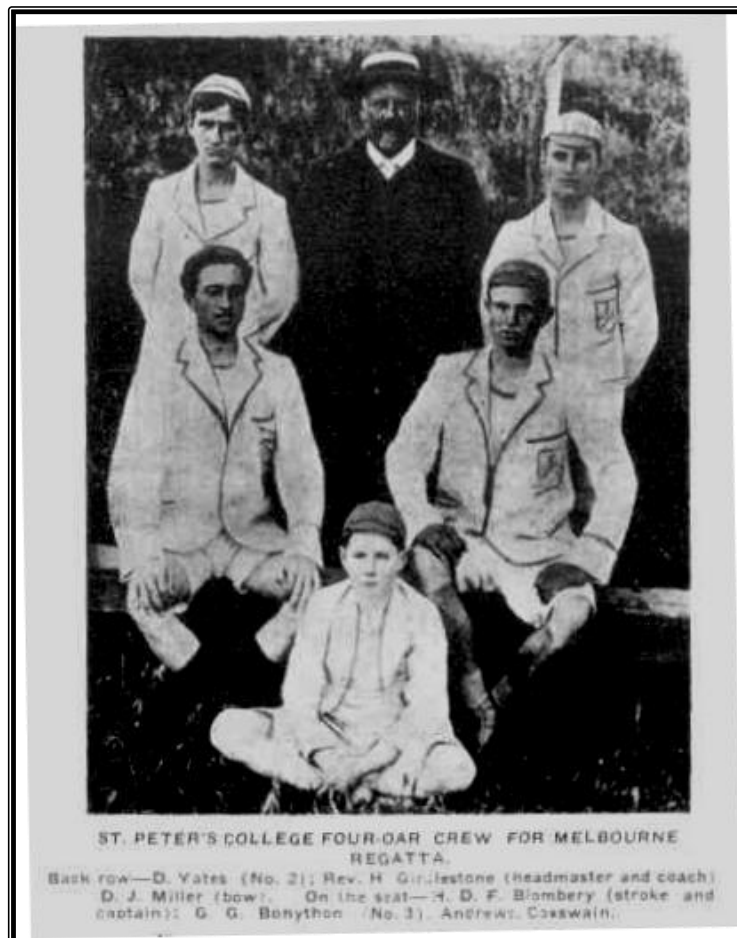
**JUNIOR COMMERCIAL EXAMINATION.**—After the last junior commercial examination in connection with the Adelaide University some of the papers filled in by Master Donald Yates, a pupil of the Mount Gambier Grammar School (Mr. J. M. Carozzi, principal), were mislaid, it is presumed in the Adelaide office of the University. The authorities intended to mark Master Yates as "absent" for the missing papers, which, of course, would mean that he would be "plucked" for the examinations. Master Yates and his teacher objected, and after some correspondence the University authorities agreed to give the competitor a special sitting. This was done, and the results have come to hand. Master Yates has won with flying colors. He passed in five compulsory subjects — Commercial arithmetic, book-keeping, English literature, commercial correspondence, and commercial geography.

In December 1907, Don passed four Senior Examinations and was probably still at Mt Gambier at that stage. Don then attended the Hahndorf College where he passed six Senior Public examinations in December 1908. Don went on to complete his secondary education at St Peters College (SPSC), Adelaide (1909-1911).

In his Higher Public Examinations, he achieved high honours in 1910 and was awarded the Angas Engineering Exhibition which he deferred for one year. He stayed an additional year at SPSC to complete 5 subjects, achieving honours in 4 of them. In 1912, he took up the Exhibition to attend Adelaide University.

While at St Peter's, Don was a Senior Cadet for 4 years and his main sports were rowing and athletics. Donald was outstanding in both and was stroke for the 1st Eight which won the Henley-on Yarra event in Melbourne in November 1911. In athletics, he won the Half-Mile and was third in the Mile event at the St Peter's Sports in 1911.

### October 1910 – St Peter's Crew



*D Yates – Back Row – Left*

### 1911 - St Peter's Crew

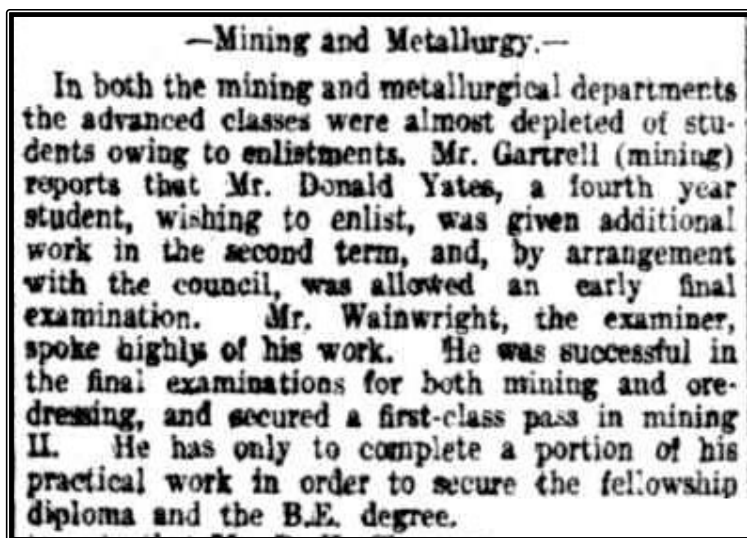


*D Yates – Back Row - Centre*



## Adelaide University

Don attended Adelaide University and The School of Mines from 1912 to 1915, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1915 and completing the required subjects to qualify for a Fellowship in Mining Engineering from the School of Mines (Conferred 1919).



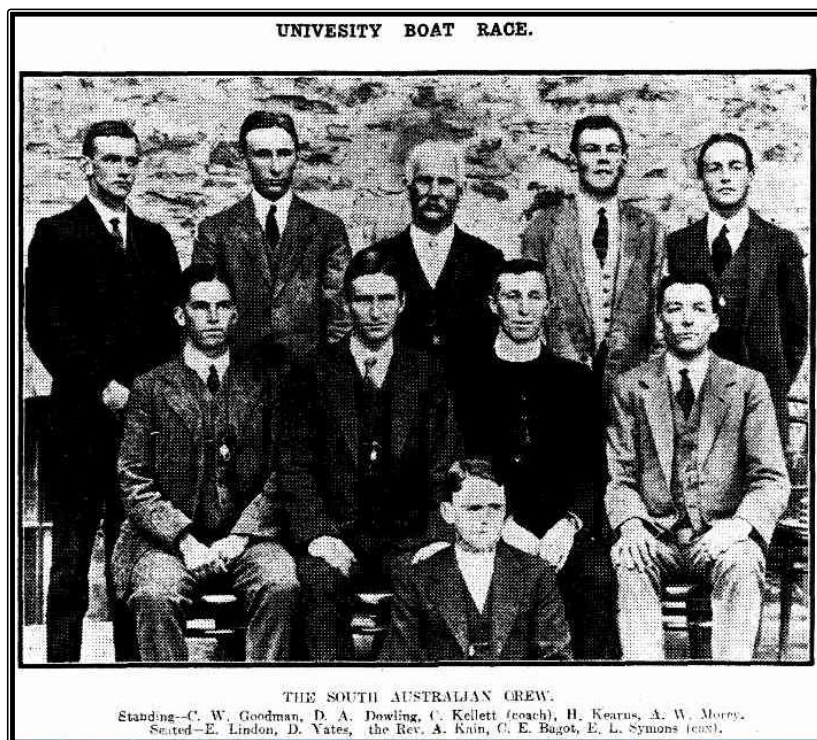
After the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, he returned to complete his Bachelor of Engineering 1919 (BSc 1915 - Surrendered).

## University Sport

### Boat

Don continued with his rowing and was an active member of the Adelaide University Boat Club from 1912 – 1915. He was stroke for the 1913 Intervarsity Eight and Stroke and Captain of the 1914 Intervarsity Eight. Don was awarded a Blue for Boat in 1913.

*The Express and Telegraph - 4 June 1914*



*D Yates – Seated – Second from Left*

## 1914 – Adelaide University – Intervarsity Crew



### A Good Record.

Among the many fine standards of recruiting set by various clubs and associations, few can surpass the splendid example of the 1914 Adelaide Inter-Varsity Boat Crew. Their record is given below, and speaks for itself. Stroke—D. Yates (Captain), now in camp. 7—L. C. Lindon, now in the A.M.C., attached to No. 1 General Hospital at Lemnos. 5—C. E. Bagot, had completed his first year engineering course when he enlisted in the 3rd Light Horse. Died of wounds received in action at Gallipoli on November 9th. 4—D. A. Dowling, attached to the Army Medical Corps at Lemnos. 3—H. W. Cairns, also in the A.M.C. attached to No. 2 General Hospital at Lemnos, in charge of the X Rays department. 2—V. W. Morey, the well-known Rhodes Scholar, who is a first lieutenant in the 11th Royal Scots Fusiliers, and has received the coveted Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in France, where he was wounded. 1—C. W. Goodman (Vice-Captain and Honorary Secretary, first lieutenant in the Australian Engineers now attached to the staff at Kewick Military Headquarters. Emergency—C. S. Kneebone, now in camp. The only two members of the crew who have not enlisted are Coxswain E. L. Symons, who must first complete his medical course, before being allowed to accept a commission, and the Rev. A. E. Kain, a well-known footballer, who has not yet been able to don khaki.

### *D Yates – Stroke – Second from Right*

#### Football

Although he is not recorded as playing First Eighteen football at SPSC, a Yates is listed as playing football for the AUFC B Team in 1915. After examination of the list of students for 1915, he is the only Yates in the entire faculty lists (either students proceeding to a degree or the non-graduating type or associates). Having been an athlete and rower, it is probably not surprising that he may have been recruited to cover the loss of players who had already enlisted.

#### Marriage

Don became engaged to Norah Crowe of North Adelaide in April 1915 and the couple married on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1916.

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954) / Sat 3 Apr 1915

#### ENGAGEMENTS.

##### YATES—CROWE.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Don Yates, elder son of Mr. T. Yates, of North Adelaide, and Miss Norah Crowe, third daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Crowe, of North Adelaide.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) / Thu 15 Jun 1916 / Page 8

#### MARRIAGES.

YATES—CROWE.—On the 29th April, at St. Chads, Cremorne, by Rev. Curtis, Norah, third daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Crowe, of North Adelaide, to Lieut. Donald Yates, 5th Tunnelling Corps, A.I.F., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Yates, North Adelaide.

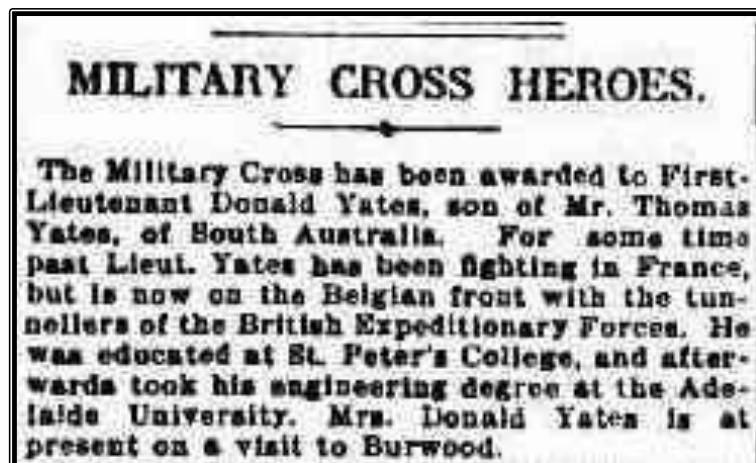


## World War I

Don enlisted aged 22 years and eight months on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 1915. He was initially described as an engineering student and his next-of-kin was his mother. When he married Norah Crowe, his record was altered to show her as his next-of-kin. His occupation was also updated at some stage to Mining Engineer in his service records. Don was 5'9½", 175 lbs, with a fair complexion, hazel eyes and dark brown hair.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1916, Don received a commission in the Tunnelling Company after having served for 4 months in the AIF and attended the Engineers Officer School. He embarked as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 4<sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Company onboard the *HMAT Warilda* from Sydney on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1916. After a month in England, he proceeded overseas to France on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1916. He was taken on the strength of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tunnelling Company on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1916. He served in France and Belgium.

Don was promoted to Lieutenant on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1917. By June 1917, Don had been awarded the Military Cross. "He displayed great courage and initiative on several occasions in organising parties to rescue men who had been buried" (London Gazette, 15 June 1917).



In June 1918, Norah left Australia en route for England to join her husband.

Don was appointed a Temporary Captain on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1918.

While still in Belgium, Don was reported to have contracted influenza on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1919. He appeared to be doing well but on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1919, Don was admitted to the 55<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station (British), which was said to be at Charleroi, Belgium at that date<sup>1</sup>. He was dangerously ill with severe pneumonia and on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1919, he was transferred to the London General Hospital with severe pneumonia. Fortunately, he recovered from his illness and was promoted to Captain on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1919. A later medical report also states that Don had mumps while overseas.

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1919, Don was awarded a period of leave to study at the Royal College of Mines for three months. The study leave was cancelled from the 7<sup>th</sup> of July and Don was placed on leave until recalled.

Don departed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1919, with his wife, Norah, onboard the *Orsova* and arrived back in Australia on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1919. His appointment was terminated on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1919.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/locations-of-british-casualty-clearing-stations/>

## Post WWI Career and Family Life

By early 1920, Don and Norah had moved to Newcastle, NSW where he was the open-hearth superintendent for Broken Hill Proprietary Ltd (BHP). While in Newcastle, Don played golf and Norah holidayed in New Zealand on at least two occasions. The couple had two children, a daughter, Mary (b 16<sup>th</sup> October 1920, Newcastle) and a son, Thomas Morey Yates (b 27 Dec 1923, Mayfield NSW). His Christian name "Morey" was likely to honour the memory of his father's St Peter's College and University friend, Alan Morey MC, who had been with the Royal Flying Corps and was killed during the War.

In April 1927, they left Newcastle for Port Pirie, SA where Donald had received an appointment with Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty Ltd. At Port Pirie, Don became coach of the local rowing club. The Port Pirie crew won the state junior eights under his coaching in February 1928. The Yates family lived at Senate Road, Port Pirie West. During the early to mid 1930's Norah and the children usually took a house at Glenelg for the summer holidays.

***Observer - 25 February 1928***



***D Yates – third from right***

**WILL THERE BE  
ANOTHER WAR?**

---

**Mr. Yates Has "Horrible  
Suspicion"**

---

*Deplores Disbanding of  
Citizen Forces*

**"T**HERE will be more wars.  
I have a horrible suspicion  
that we are not very far from  
one."

These words were spoken by Mr.  
D. Yates (acting general superinten-  
dent of the Smelters) in proposing  
the toast "The Army and Navy" at  
the Ninth Light Horse farewell social  
to Inspector Johns.

Mr. Yates, who served with a tun-  
nelling company during the war, said

---

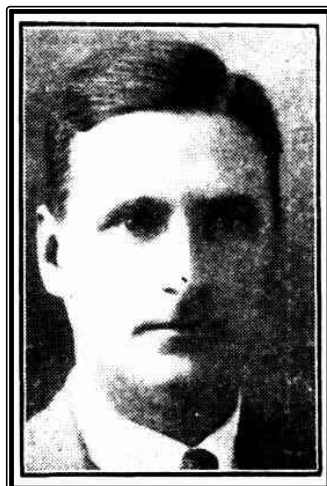
that it was gratifying to learn that  
the local section had received more  
applications for enrolment than it  
could accept. It was pleasing to know  
there were young men who could  
see that their duty lay in that direc-  
tion.

A country not prepared with  
an army and navy was more  
likely to be embroiled in trouble,  
said Mr. Yates. It was a great  
pity that Australia's citizen army  
had been disbanded except for  
volunteers.

It was pleasing that there were so  
many in this district. He hoped that  
headquarters would be transferred to  
Pirie. That move should increase the  
strength of the cavalry here.

By November 1934, Don was acting General Manager of the Port Pirie Smelters and in January 1935, he was appointed General Superintendent of the Smelters.

November 1934



D Yates

In February 1936, Don became the Chairman of the Pirie Football Association.

His entry in the Who's Who: South Australian Centenary, 1936 is below.



Norah Yates and her children had a holiday in England in 1936. They left Australia onboard the *Moldava* on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1936 and returned in late August 1936.

#### **News - 29 August 1936**



#### **Mary, Norah and Tom Yates**

Mary Yates attended Primary School in Port Pirie, but later was a boarding house student at Walford House, where she passed her Leaving Examinations in 1937. She was head of the boarding house at Walford in 1938 and passed her Leaving Honours Examinations that year. In 1939, Mary commenced studying medicine at Adelaide University. She was a representative on the University Women's Union.

In February 1937, Don became president of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Don was also on the Pirie Hospital Board.

Norah took Mary and Tom on a holiday to New Zealand in February 1938.

***Recorder - 16 March 1938***



***Norah Yates***

Don and Norah attended Melbourne Cup week in 1938 and in March 1939, Don met the Governor General (Lord Gowrie) when he visited Port Pirie.

***The Advertiser - 2 March 1939***



***From left—The Mayor of Port Pirie (Mr. W.H. Threadgold),  
The General Superintendent of the B.H. Associated Smelters Pty. Ltd. (Mr. D. Yates) and Lord Gowrie.***





*Mrs. P. Colley, Capt. D. Yates and Mr. J. O. Geddes, of Port Pirie.*

## World War II

The Yates family spent the Christmas of 1939 in Adelaide and then Don returned to Port Pirie while Norah, Mary and Tom holidayed at Encounter Bay.

Tom Yates attended St Peter's College, Adelaide and was bow for the schools four in 1940. In May 1941, when only 17, Tom gained an A class pilot's licence in nine days of training.

News - 28 May 1941

### Boy, 17, Gets Pilot's Licence in Nine Days

PORT PIRIE, Wednesday.—Fast aviation training by Tom Yates, 17-year-old son of Mr. Donald Yates, general superintendent of Broken Hill Associated Smelters, won him an A class pilot's licence in nine days.

He took his first step in training on May 18 under instructor D. L. Secombe, of the Spencer's Gulf Aero Club, and after periods aggregating six hours 40 minutes he took a plane into the air solo on Monday. He completed his 10 hours' flying with honors.

Tom intends to enlist with the R.A.A.F.

In August 1941, Mary moved to Victoria to work in a chemistry laboratory in the explosives and ammunition section. She returned to her medical studies in 1942. Mary completed fourth year medicine but does not appear to have graduated.

Lt. Colonel Donald Yates was the Officer Commanding the Volunteer Defence Corps, Northern Division during the early years of WWII. In September 1942, he was accepted for the AIF (Service Number SX22227). His WWII record has not yet been digitised. A newspaper report from the Port Pirie 'Recorder' gives details of his activities at Port Pirie from 1927 to 1942 (see below). The report stated that Don would revert to his former rank on enlistment. He was once again Captain Donald Yates of the Royal Engineers. Don and Norah moved to North Adelaide.

Don was awarded a knighthood the CMG (Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George) in the New-Years Honours List of 1943, and by May 1943, Don had been promoted to Major.

### **The Advertiser - 1 January 1943**

**Capt. Donald Yates, CMG** is general superintendent of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary, Ltd., at Port Pirie, and is recognised as one of the leading metallurgists in Australia. At present he is serving in the Royal Engineers on the Council of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. During 1937 he was president of the institute. In the recruiting campaign in 1939 he raised and trained an outstanding company from Port Pirie, using his experience in the last war, when he won the Military Cross. Capt. Yates is 49, and a son of Mr. Tom Yates (formerly manager of the stock department of Elder, Smith & Co., Limited, Adelaide), and Mrs. Yates, of Young street, North Unley. Capt. Yates was born at Mount Barker and educated at Hahndorf College, St. Peter's College, and the Adelaide University. He is a Bachelor of Engineering (Adelaide), Fellow of the South Australian School of Mines, member of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (London), and member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954) / Mon 4 Jan 1943

## **NEW YEAR HONOR FOR PIRIEAN**

### **Capt. D. Yates, C.M.G.**

The honor of Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George was conferred at the New Year on Capt. Donald Yates, M.C., former general superintendent of Broken Hill Associated Smelters in Pirie.

Capt. Yates left Pirie on September 16 last year to enter the Royal Engineers, with which he was associated in the last war. He re-entered army life after three years of trying.



**CAPT. D. YATES, C.M.G., M.C.**

At intervals since the war started he had made application to join up again, but he was not listened to until late last year.

In the 1914-18 war he rose to the position of captain, and at its close he was deputy commander of the Royal Engineers. Recently, at the head of the Volunteer Defence Corps in the North, he was raised to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, but he relinquished that when he re-entered the service.

Capt. Yates joined the Smelters staff in 1927 as assistant general superintendent, and in 1935 he succeeded Mr. O. H. Woodward (now manager of North Mine, Broken Hill) as superintendent. For two years he was chairman of the Smelters Picnic and Sports Committee, was chairman and independent delegate on Pirie Football Association, and twice served on the executive of Pirie sub-branch of Returned Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's League. With his wife he took a prominent part during this war in Red Cross activities in this town. He was also on the management committee of Thumbs-Up Club.

He won the Military Cross in the last war, and is in his fiftieth year.

## AFTER THREE YEARS' TRYING

### Smelters Superintendent To Enter Army

### STAFF SAYS FAREWELL TO MR. YATES

**A**FTER three years of endeavoring to enter active service for his second war, Lieut.-Col. D. Yates (Officer Commanding the Volunteer Defence Corps in the Northern Division) will leave today to report in Adelaide.

He was the recipient of two presentations at the Smelters yesterday, with best wishes from the staff.

Mr. Yates will report on Tuesday. At intervals, since the war started he had made overtures to enter the army service, and acceptance was notified only recently. In the 1914-18 war he rose to the position of captain, and at its close was Deputy Commander Royal Engineers.

Recently, at the head of the V.D.C., he was raised to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. When he enters the service tomorrow he will for the

time being revert to his former rank. He told "The Recorder" yesterday that he hoped to be able to enter the A.I.F.

At the close of the day yesterday members of the staff met in the office of the superintendent to say farewell to the old chief. Dr. G. K. Williams, who has taken over control of the Works after having been assistant to Mr. Yates, was in the chair.

The chairman referred to the intense spirit of loyalty which had prompted the guest so repeatedly to offer his services to his country. A veteran of the last war, he knew what he had to face. His colleagues at the Smelters extended to him best wishes for the future.

On behalf of the staff Dr. Williams presented Mr. Yates with a wristlet watch.

The chairman's expressions of goodwill were echoed by Messrs. R. N. Lewis (for the engineering staff), R. A. Burgoyne (accountancy staff), and C. G. Pain (metallurgical staff).

### SUCCEEDED AT LAST

In response Mr. Yates thanked the staffs for their thoughtful gesture. It was true that he had been trying for some time to re-enter the army, and at last the authorities had listened to him.

Expressing thanks on behalf of the Picnic and Sports Association for all that he had done for that body over a long period of years Mr. A. Sjostrom (vice-chairman) in the absence of Mr. L. H. Giles (chairman) asked Mr. Yates to accept a case of pipes and a tobacco pouch. Mr. Sjostrom remarked that the committee would have been delighted to place some tobacco in the pouch, but it was difficult to obtain.

Mr. Yates extended his thanks also to the picnic committee, with which body he had had some pleasant times. He hoped to have some more of them.

The former superintendent will leave for Adelaide on this evening's train.

Mr. Yates joined the Smelters staff as assistant general superintendent in 1927 and, when Mr. O. H. Woodward went to Broken Hill in 1935 became superintendent. He took an active part in several Pirie interests.

For two years he was chairman of the Smelters Picnic Committee. He was also an independent delegate to Pirie Football Association and chairman for a term. He twice served on the executive of Pirie branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Imperial League.

Mr. Yates has been a management committee member of Thumbs-Up Club since its inception. He has also been active in Red Cross work.



**MR. D. YATES,**  
former Superintendent of Broken  
Hill Associated Smelters, who  
will leave for Adelaide today to  
re-enter the Army.

Tom Yates became a Pilot Officer in the RAAF, Service Number 417288 and later a Flight Lieutenant. He became engaged to Christobel Margaret Hunt, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Hunt of Mount Gambier in May 1943. The couple, however, do not appear to have married.

In November 1943, Mary became engaged to Capt. Hector Malcolm Allan, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Allan of Bowral, NSW and they married quietly at St Peter's College Chapel in early December 1943. More commonly known as Malcolm, Hector Malcolm Allan's RAAF record is under the name Hector Roy Allan and it appears his full name was Hector Roy Malcolm Allan.

Sadly, for the Yates family, Don's father Tom Yates passed away on the 36<sup>th</sup> of April 1945, aged 79 years.

## Post WWII

After WWII, Don and Norah moved to Cockle Creek outside of Newcastle, NSW, where Don became manager of the Sulphide Corporation Ltd from early 1946. In 1948, he was appointed a director of the Hunter River Steamship Co. Ltd.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1951, Don's mother, Annie Yates (nee Cleggett) passed away.

Tom Yates commenced studying medicine at Adelaide University after WWII. In February 1950, he became engaged to Christina, (Dorothy Christine), the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Mitchell, of Tusmore, SA. They married on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1950 at St Matthew's Church, Marryatville. Tom's parents come over from NSW for the wedding. The couple had a daughter, Prudence Dorothy Yates, who was born in January 1952. Tom gained his MBBS from Adelaide University in 1952.

Mary and Malcolm Allan were living in Watervale, SA from 1946 to 1950, where Malcolm managed his own vineyard. They had a daughter (Penny) and a son. In June 1950, they moved to the Coonawarra, SA where Malcolm was manager of Chateau Comaum (later purchased by Wynn's). They then moved to Blackwood, SA and Malcolm had a position with the Department of Agriculture.

Don attended the 1952 ANZAC Day march at Newcastle on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1952.

### *The Newcastle Sun (NSW : 1918 - 1954) - 25 April 1952*



*D Yates - Right*

Donald and Norah were still living in Newcastle in June 1954, when Norah came to South Australia to visit her sister. Mary and Malcolm were living at Blackwood, SA, at the time.

As most Australian newspapers are only available digitally to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1954, no further details are known of Don's life until his death in 1960.

We could presume that Don retired, and he and Norah moved back to Adelaide.

## Death

Donald Yates passed away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1960, aged 67. He was cremated and his ashes are at the RSL Wall 116, Niche H012, Centennial Park Cemetery Adelaide.

Norah Yates passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1968, her last abode was at North Unley. Her ashes are interred with Donald's at Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Mary and Malcolm Allan moved to Western Australia and in 1958. Malcolm was a principal at Pinjarra (86 kms north of Perth, WA). By 1963 they were at Subiaco, WA. Malcolm passed away in 1966 and Mary in 2009.

Thomas Morey Yates went on to practice medicine at Mildura, Victoria. He passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1976, aged 52. He was cremated at Centennial Park Cemetery Adelaide.

---

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

## Reference Sources

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

RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>  
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/283315>

The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>

The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>

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

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Donald Yates)

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

Ancestry.com.au

State Library of South Australia <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm>

St Peter's College Magazine (1911)

Donald Yates MC BE FSASM - "Who's Who" South Australia Centenary, 1936 (Amalgamated Publishing Co.)

Centennial Park Cemetery Adelaide <http://www.centennialpark.org/>