



Major Leslie Frank Burgess

Military Cross, MiD



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1908/1909

Degree: BSc (1908)

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 Leslie Frank Burgess. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=39245>




Leslie Frank BURGESS

Date of birth	12 February 1888
Place of birth	Malvern, South Australia
School	Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, South Australia
Religion	Congregational
Occupation	Electrical engineer
Address	38 Davenport Terrace, Wayville, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	28
Next of kin	Brother, John Howard Burgess, 20 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, South Australia
Enlistment date	2 November 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	9th Field Company Engineers
AWM Embarkation Roll number	14/28/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A31 <i>Ajana</i> on 5 July 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	3rd Divisional Engineers
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30448, 28 December 1917; 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 57, 18 April 1918. Military Cross Recommendation date: 18 February 1918 Military Cross Recommendation date: 3 March 1918
Fate	Returned to Australia No details entered on Nominal
Medals	Military Cross Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 165 Date: 24 October 1918
Discharge date	--/10/1919
Other details	Medals: Military Cross, British War Medal, Victory Medal. War service: France, Belgium. Slightly wounded in action, but remained on duty, 1917.

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3167930>

AUSTRALIAN		MILITARY FORCES.
------------	---	------------------

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. <u>2411</u>	Name <u>BURGESS L.F.</u>
	Unit <u>9th Field Coy, Engineers</u>
	Joined on <u>2nd November, 1915</u>

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your name?	1. <u>BURGESS, LESLIE FRANK</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of in or near the Town of <u>Adelaide</u> in the County of <u>South Australia</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>Natural born B.S.</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>24 8/12</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Electrical Engineer</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period,	6. <u>Yes, 2 years with the British</u> <u>Woolwich Electric Works, Dept. of Munitions</u>
7. Are you married?	7. <u>No</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	8. <u>BURGESS, JOHN HOWARD (brother)</u> <u>29 Wymouth St</u> <u>Adelaide, South Australia</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as In-correctible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Dis-grace from the Navy?	10. <u>No</u>
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	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>No</u>
14. 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?	14. <u>Yes</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small-pox and enteric fever?	15. <u>Yes</u>

I, Leslie Frank Burgess, 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 allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children three-fifths

Date. Nov 2nd 1915 L.F. Burgess
Signature of person enlisted.

*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

Biography

Early Life

Leslie Frank Burgess was born on the 19th March 1888 at Unley, Adelaide, SA, the son of Martin Burgess and Elizabeth Stacey Burgess (nee Brown). Leslie's father, Martin, was a produce dealer and wood and coal merchant. Martin sadly died in December 1900 at his home at Cross Road, Malvern, when Leslie was 12 years old.

Leslie's eight elder siblings were Elizabeth (b 1869), Thomas Martin (b 1870), Jane Edith (b 1871), Ellen Amy (b 1873), Millicent Brown (b 1875 – d 1875), May (b 1877), John Howard (b 1883) and Annie Frances (b 1884).

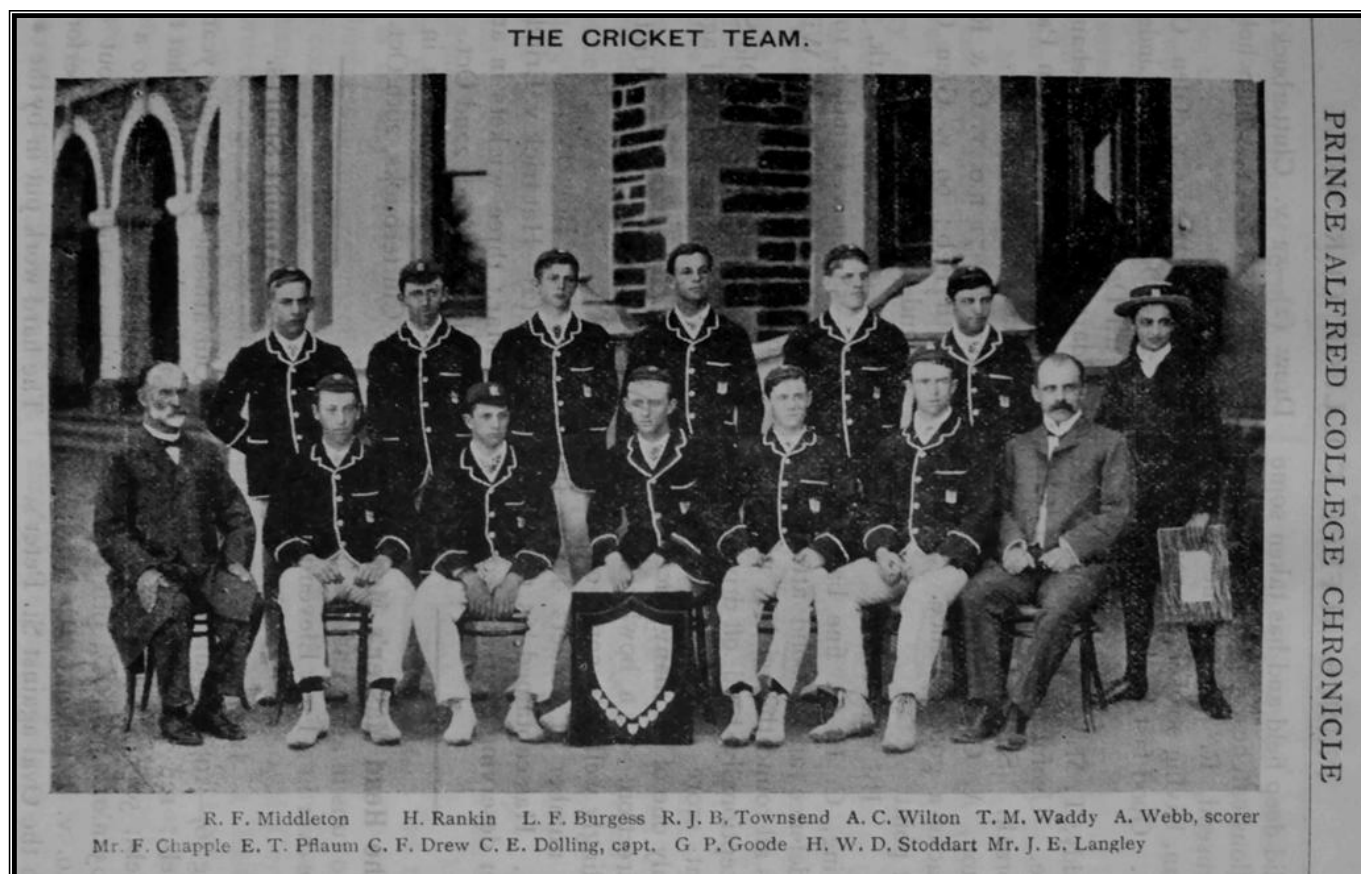
Schooling

Leslie passed his Preliminary Examinations in October 1899. He passed four subjects in the Junior Examinations at Malvern Grammar School in December 1900 and in December 1901 he won a Public Exhibition to attend Prince Alfred College.

Leslie commenced at PAC in 1902 and won the second prize in Fifth Form in December 1902. He sat the Junior Examinations in 1902 and passed seven subjects, 5 with credits and was third in the General Honours List. He was awarded the Elder scholarship at PAC for boys under 16. In December 1903 Leslie passed his Senior Examinations coming equal second in the General Honours List. In his final year at PAC, Leslie passed his Higher Examinations coming sixth on the General Honours List.

While at PAC Leslie played cricket and he represented PAC at the Inter-collegiate cricket match in December 1904.

1904 – Intercollegiate Cricket Team – PAC



LF Burgess – Back Row – Third from Left

University

Leslie commenced studying science at Adelaide University in 1905. He also studied Intermediate Measured Freehand at the School of Design and Fitting and Turning at the School of Mines in 1905. In 1906 he passed Second Grade Plane Geometry at the School of Design and the examination in iron, steel and alloys at the School of Mines. Leslie passed Building and Construction at the School of Mines in 1906. In March 1907 Leslie passed a supplementary examination in German. In 1907 Leslie passed Applied Mathematics at Adelaide University and Electrical Assaying at the School of Mines.

Leslie's Bachelor of Science was conferred in December 1908 and he completed all the examinations necessary for the fellowship in Applied Science from the School of Mines, Department of Electrical Engineering (and diploma of Applied Science from Melbourne University) subject to completion of practical work. The diploma was awarded in April 1909).

While at University, Leslie played in an Old Collegiate Cricket match in December 1905. He played cricket for Stow Ramblers in the 1907/08 and 1908/09 seasons, scoring 117 retired in one match in the latter season.

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922)		
Sat 12 Dec 1908 / Page 3		
CENTURIES.		
H. J. McKay, Sturt B versus Glencig B ..	107	
R. Nottage, Gilberton versus Adelaide	128*	
W. Richardson, Payneham versus Sydenham- road .. .	129	
L. P. Burgess, Stow Rambler versus Stow (ret.) .. .	117	
Toms, Eastbourne versus Hawthorne	105	
Bowen, Eastbourne versus Semaphore	101*	
D. Pritchard, Largs Bay College versus Queen's School	105*	
*Not out.		

He was elected President of the Adelaide University Christian Union in 1907 and treasurer of the Adelaide University Scientific Society in 1908.

Adelaide University Sport

Cricket

It was in the 1908/09 season that Adelaide University was first admitted to the South Australian Cricket Association's A Grade District Cricket Competition. The first team was largely made up of former St Peter's and Prince Alfred College players many of whom were already established players with other clubs. Leslie's schoolmate, Charlie Dolling who had already played for South Australia was the Blacks first captain. The Club did not have a B grade side in the first season so players who were not in the A's had to play for other clubs. An upper order batsman, after Leslie had made a century for Stow Ramblers in December 1908 in the first game of January 1909, he was selected to play his first A Grade game for Adelaide University replacing Dolling who was picked for the SA team playing NSW in Sydney. He played only played three games after debuting in Round 6 against North Adelaide at the "Neutral Ground" next to Adelaide Oval. University Oval was not ready for play in the first season, so all games were played away. These matches were his only A Grade games for the Club. Having graduated in 1908, he was no longer eligible to play in the following season under SACA rules.

Adelaide University v North Adelaide 9th & 16th January 1909

Played at the Neutral Ground (now Adelaide no 2)

UNIVERSITY.				
G. C. Campbell, b. J. S. Rees	1			
J. Homburg, b. Reedman	26			
C. F. Drew, run out	78			
A. C. Wilton, c. b. Rees	24			
F. Burgess, b. Reedman	18			
C. R. Davies, b. Reedman	8			
W. A. V. Drew, b. Reedman	0			
F. E. Osborn, b. Reedman	0			
H. Powell, b. Crick	20			
A. C. Cresdee, not out	10			
J. Blackett, b. Reedman	3			
Leg-byes 3, no-ball 1	1			
Total	192			
Bowling.				
Overs.	Mdns.	Wkts.	Runs.	
J. S. Rees	5	0	1	16
R. B. Rees	18	3	1	54
D. C. Turner	7	2	—	24
J. C. Reedman	19.1	3	0	45
P. Desmazures	7	—	—	23
P. Crick	0	—	1	16
Crick bowled 1 no-ball.				
NORTH ADELAIDE.				
C. B. Jennings, b. Powell	6			
G. T. Bloomfield, not out	35			
H. Cox, not out	11			
Byes	8			
Total (for one wicket)	60			
Bowling.—Davies, none for 43; Powell, one for 0.				
UNIVERSITY.				
First innings				
NORTH ADELAIDE.				
C. B. Jennings, b. Powell	1			
G. T. Bloomfield, c. and b. Osborn	77			
R. Cox, b. Davies	29			
D. L. Giles, b. Osborn	37			
J. C. Reedman, c. Cresdee, b. Davies	24			
J. S. Rees, c. Cresdee, b. Davies	48			
P. Desmazures, not out	78			
D. C. Turner, b. Davies	1			
R. B. Rees c. Homburg, b. Wilton	83			
A. G. McKail, c. V. Drew, b. Cresdee	0			
P. Crick, c. and b. Cresdee	0			
Byes 12, leg byes 2, wides 2, no-ball 1	17			
Total	301			
Bowling.				
O.	M.	W.	R.	
C. R. Davies	28	2	4	121
H. Powell	30	7	1	113
F. E. Osborn	9	—	2	46
Cresdee	8.4	—	2	56
W. A. V. Drew	3	—	—	24
A. C. Wilton	1	—	1	12
Davies, 1 wide, and 1 no-ball; Osborn, 1 wide.				

Early Career

In April 1909 Leslie competed in a University (old PAC scholars) versus PAC Lawn Tennis competition.

After graduation, Leslie commenced working for the Municipal Tramways Trust in South Australia. He applied for the Angas Engineering Scholarship with a thesis on the electrification of the Glenelg Railway line and won the 1910 scholarship (£200 a year for two years).

Mr. L. F. Burgess, B.Sc., was on Friday appointed by the Council of the University of Adelaide Angas scholar for 1910. This distinction carries with it a grant of £200 a year for two years to enable the winner to study engineering in the best European or other centre. A successful candidate may go to whatever institution he choose so long as it is approved by the council. The two previous winners proceeded to America. Mr. Burgess has had a particularly brilliant career ever since he left Prince Alfred College. Formerly the appointment was made as the result of an elementary examination, but this year there was a new departure in the direction of deciding by thesis. The candidates were asked to write a thesis on an engineering subject, and Mr. Burgess dealt with the electrification of the Glenelg Railway line. The successful candidate is in the employment of the Municipal Tramways Trust at one of its converter stations.

In August 1910, Leslie left for the United Kingdom onboard the Oranto. Travelling on the same steamer were Harry Thomson, LLB, the Rhodes Scholar and Mr Gordon Robertson, BA, who was to study at Mansfield College, Oxford. Leslie planned to engage in practical work in electrical engineering while in the UK.

According to his later WWI service record, Leslie was with The British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co Ltd, Manchester, UK for two years.

In May 1911 the University of Adelaide received an invitation from "Galileo Ferraris" to send a representative to an international meeting of engineering students in Turin, Italy. The University Council resolved to invite Mr LF Burgess, BSc, Angus Scholar, now in London, to attend the congress.

Leslie returned to Australia in 1913 and commenced working for British Westinghouse in Adelaide. In March 1914 he competed in the Lawn Tennis Men's Doubles, Class 2 with his old shipmate Harry Thomson. In April 1914, Leslie left Adelaide to take up employment with British Westinghouse in Melbourne, Victoria.

World War I

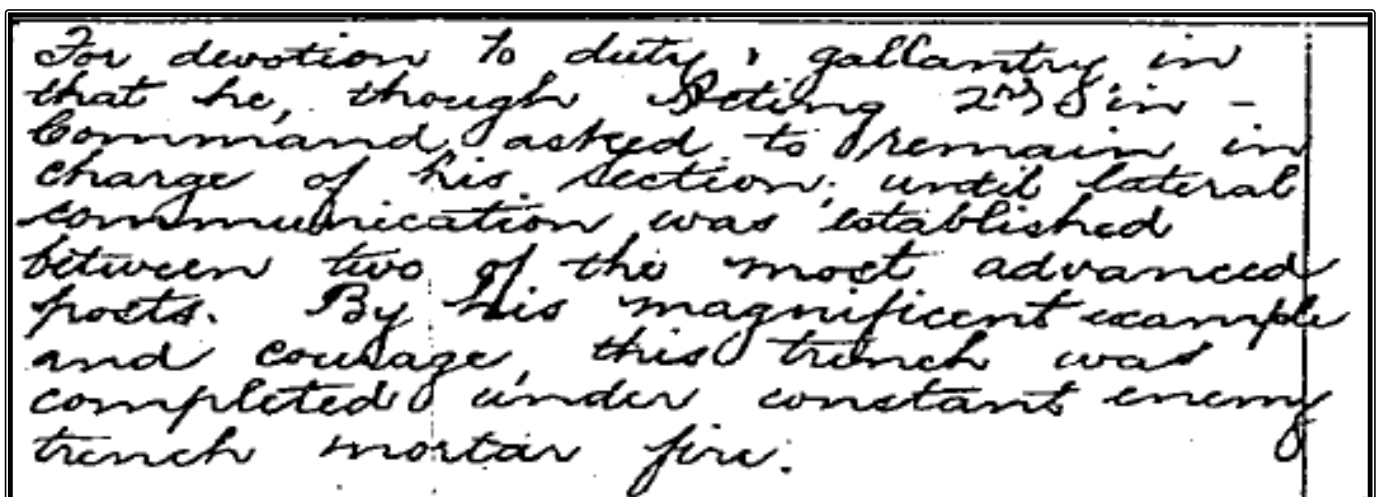
In Melbourne, Leslie joined the City of Melbourne Rifle Club and was a platoon commander.

Leslie enlisted in the AIF on 2nd November 1915 as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 9th Field Company Engineers, a unit of the 3rd Division Engineers. He was 27 years old. His trade on enlistment was classified as an Electrical Engineer. Leslie embarked at Sydney for overseas on the 5 July 1916 aboard the HMAT *Ajana*. He originally reported at Larkhill, England on 3rd September 1916 before proceeding overseas to France to join his unit on 28 November 1916.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 6th January 1917. He was wounded in action on 15th October 1917 but remained on duty.

Leslie was 'Mentioned in Dispatched on 7th November 1917 and then again on 7 April 1918. He was recommended for a Military Cross with it being bestowed on 18 April 1918 and gazetted on 24 October 1918.

Military Cross Citation – "This officer has at all times under the most difficult circumstances, proved himself to be of resource, courage and energy. At Ypres from 1st to 24th October 1917, during the offensive of last year, he organised working parties to carry out the consolidation of captured ground, and it was due to his coolness under heavy enemy shell fire that the work was completed in such a successful manner."



For devotion to duty & gallantry in that he, though being 2nd in command, asked to remain in charge of his section, until lateral communication was established between two of the most advanced posts. By his magnificent example and courage, this trench was completed under constant enemy trench mortar fire.

After the armistice, Leslie stayed in England for a period of further training at the British Westinghouse Electric Company.

He returned to Australia aboard the *Sonoma*, via America, disembarking in Sydney on 9 October 1919. His appointment in the AIF was terminated on 24 November 1919.

LIEUT. L. F. BURGESS, M.C.

Lieut. L. F. Burgess, M.C., is the youngest son of the late Mr. Martin Burgess. He was educated at Prince Alfred College and at the University of Adelaide, obtaining his Bachelor of Science degree in 1908 and the diploma of electrical engineering at the School of Mines in 1910. In that year he was awarded the Angus Engineering Scholarship, and proceeded to England, where he spent three years in the

Manchester works of the British Westinghouse Company. Returning to Australia in 1913, he joined the staff of the British Westinghouse Company in Adelaide, and subsequently in Melbourne, until his enlistment for active service in October, 1915. In the latter half of last year Lieut. Burgess was slightly wounded, but remained on duty, and was also mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches.



LIEUT. L. F. BURGESS, M.C.

Post War Career and Family Life

After returning to civilian life, He married Kathleen Miriam Taylor, the daughter of William Henry Taylor at Stow Memorial Church, Adelaide on the 15th December 1920.

Kathleen had been a nursing sister during WWI.

TAYLOR, Kathleen Miriam

Sister

AANS

Born 1890 Silverton, NSW

Daughter of William Henry TAYLOR and Mary Jane nee SMITH

Of 34 Commercial Road, Hyde Park

Occupation prior to enlistment Nurse at Wakefield Private Hospital

Enlisted 23 September 1916 at Keswick

Embarked 29 December 1916

Served in France

Returned to Australia per 'Kanowna' 20 October 1919

Appointment terminated 30 November 1919

Married 15 December 1920 Leslie Frank BURGESS

Husband died in 1961 in Mosman NSW

Died 09 November 1965 in NSW

Late of Cremorne, NSW

State Records of SA GRG 26/5/4/1521



Kathleen Miriam Taylor
15 December 1920

Leslie was living at 189 Hotham Street, East Melbourne in early 1921, per the Electoral Rolls. Before December 1921, Leslie and Kathleen had moved to Sydney. Their first child, a son, William Frank Burgess was born on the 31st December 1921 at the Glengarry private hospital. Leslie was working for Metropolitan Vickers Electric Company Ltd before March 1924 when the company was involved in a review of civic contracts. Leslie and Kathleen's second son, John Martin Burgess was born at Ryrie Street, Mosman on the 3rd June 1924.

In 1926, Metropolitan Vickers was involved in supplying electrical gear for the electrification of the Illawarra train service in Sydney. Leslie was a member of the NSW Committee of the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association.

June 1926 - NSW Committee of the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association

Standardisation



The New South Wales Committee of the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association, which is concerned with standardisation in Australian manufactures, met in Sydney yesterday. Left to right: Messrs. R. A. Marks (N.S.W. Chamber of Manufactures), R. Bonn (co-opted member), L. F. Burgess (Institute of Engineers, Aust.), P. Healy (Master Builders' Assoc.), A. Turnbull (N.S.W. Chamber of Manufactures), A. H. Perrett (secretary), E. Lindowiel (N.S.W. Chamber of Manufactures, chairman), W. R. Hebblewhite (Engineers' secretary, Headquarters), T. W. Thornley (Metal Trades Employers' Assoc.), C. Parkes (Motor Traders' Assoc.), Prof. F. A. Eastaugh (University), A. F. T. Somerville (N.S.W. Institute of Architects), W. R. Catthoes (Institution of Engineers), Napier Thomson (Metal Trades Employers' Association).

LF Burgess – Third from Left

By September 1926 both Leslie and Kathleen were playing golf at the Mosman Golf Club and in December 1928 Leslie competed in the AIF Golf Cup, the annual Diggers' Golf competition.

When the Electrical Engineers branch of the Institution of Engineers was launched in Sydney in April 1927, Leslie was a member of the branch committee.

When the firms Australian General Electric Co Ltd, Ferguson Pailin Ltd and Metropolitan Vickers Australia Pty Ltd merged to form Australian Electrical Manufacturing Co Limited in September 1930, Leslie was a member of the new company's board of directors.

In July 1931, Leslie was back in Adelaide and he attended the St Peter's College and Prince Alfred College Old Collegiate annual dinner.

Leslie became a director of Associated General Electric Apparatus Co Ltd in October 1931. In April 1932, Leslie became Chairman of the Sydney Division of The Institution of Engineers and he was re-elected to that role in 1933. In a newspaper article on Sydney's traffic problems, published in September 1932, Leslie was described as the managing director of Associated General Electric Apparatus Co.

Leslie was a delegate to a science conference held in Sydney in August 1932 and an engineering conference held in Brisbane in September 1933. In November 1933, Leslie made a submission to the Tariff Board regarding the selling price of British motors in Australia.

In May 1934, Leslie presided at the annual reunion of the 9th Field Company of Engineers at Miss Bishop's Tea Rooms, Sydney.

By July 1935, Leslie was a member of the Electricity Advisory Committee (to the NSW government) and chairman of the newly formed safety sub-committee and in June 1938 he was re-appointed to the committee for three years. Leslie attended a conference of engineers in Adelaide in February 1937.

World War II

Leslie enlisted in the Australian Military Forces (AMF) at Paddington, NSW on the 19th March 1942 with Service Number N390845. He was a Major in the Divisional Engineers Headquarters. He was discharged on the 13th September 1945. Leslie does not appear to have served overseas in WWII.

Leslie and Kathleen's elder son William enlisted (SN NX84534) at Paddington, NSW and their younger son enlisted (SN NX161828) at Puckapunyal, Vic. None of these records have been digitised.

Kathleen was involved in the South Australian Women's Association in Sydney and president of Travellers Aid Society (1940-1949).

Post WWII

In August 1945 Leslie was appointed to the Electric motor advisory panel for the Commonwealth Government. The panel was to advise on the re-establishment of the electric motor industry on a peacetime basis and on the disposal of surplus second-hand motors. In January 1946 he became a member of the electrical authority under the Electricity Development Act which replaced the former electrical advisory committee for NSW.

February 1946



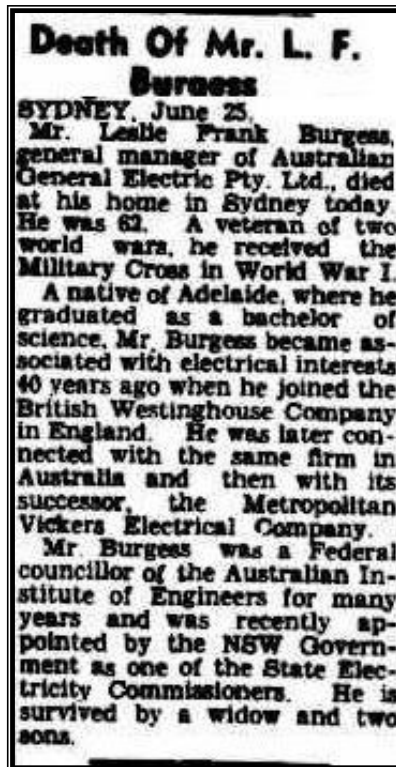
LF Burgess – Standing – Second from Left

In July 1946, Leslie and Kathleen's younger son, John, became engaged to Patricia Braddon, the only daughter of Mrs G Distin Morgan, Brisbane and the late HR Braddon, Sydney.

In January 1947, Leslie was appointed General Manager of Australian General Electric Pty Ltd on the retirement of Mr FB Clapp. Leslie and Kathleen were guests of honour at a cocktail party given by the Tasmanian branch of A.G.E. Co when they visited in March 1950.

Death

Leslie Frank Burgess died at his home at 18 Ryrie St, Mosman on the 25th June 1950, aged 62 after a short illness. His funeral was conducted at St Clements's Church, Mosman and at the Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, NSW.



In about 1954 Kathleen moved to Cremorne Road, Cremorne, Sydney. Kathleen passed away on the 9th November 1965 aged, 75.

William Frank Burgess became an engineer. He passed away on the 15th June 2006 and is buried at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, North Ryde, Ryde City, New South Wales.

John Martin Burgess became an accountant.

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

Sources and Acknowledgements

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>
RSL Virtual War Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/>
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/613569>
The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>
Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1582641>
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 – Leslie Frank Burgess)
SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>
Ancestry.com.au
Cover Photograph All Australia Memorial SA Edition Section B via
<http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/bu-by.html>
Grave Secrets <http://ww1nurses.gravesecrets.net/ta.html>
State Library of South Australia <http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/>
Prince Alfred College Chronicle (1904)
<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1642/25/4>
Kym Beilby - AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher