

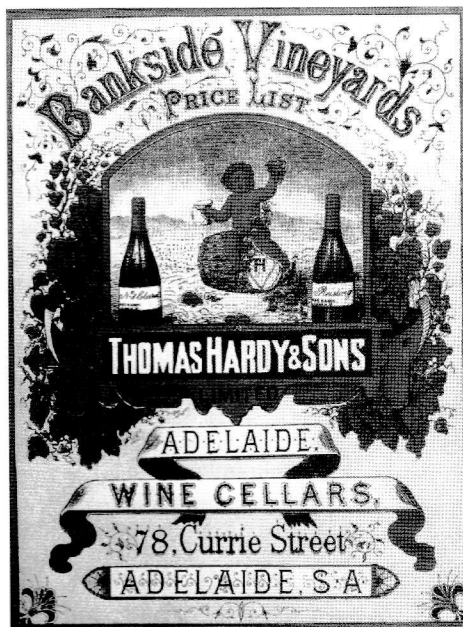
## Thomas Hardy (1830-1912)

There was a time when Thomas Hardy of Bankside Vineyards, Underdale, was known far and wide as South Australia's most experienced vigneron. Along with colleagues such as Dr. A.C. Kelly of Morphett Vale, he was a tireless promoter of Australia's fruit and vine industries.

He was born at Gittisham, Devon, England, on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1830, the son of James Hardy and his wife Eliza (née Anstis). He arrived in Adelaide on the *British Empire* in August 1850 and worked for a year on the farm of John Reynell (q.v.) at Reynella before going to a cattle property at Yankalilla. He subsequently drove a mob of cattle to the Victorian goldfields and on his return to South Australia in 1853 bought 15 acres on the banks of the River Torrens, just west of Adelaide. The property was named Bankside and Hardy planted Shiraz and Grenache vines and two acres of fruit trees. He made his first wine in 1857 and two years later visited England with samples of his wines. He bought or leased more land during the 1860s, some of it in what is now Hardy's Road, Torrensville. In addition to wine grapes, he also planted olives, citrus, almonds and table grapes at Bankside.

Thomas Hardy married his cousin Johanna Hardy on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1852 and they had four daughters and three sons. Johanna died in 1868 and on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1871 Hardy married her sister Eliza. His sons James, Thomas and Robert all joined the family business.

By 1865 Hardy was producing 14,000 gallons of wine each vintage and within ten years this had increased to 53,000 gallons, made from his own grapes and from those purchased from about forty other growers. With limited expansion possible at Bankside, he acquired the nearby Tintara Vineyards in 1876 and two years later purchased a disused flour mill at McLaren Vale (now the Dridan Fine Arts Gallery). He soon turned the fortunes of Tintara around and by 1901 had 540 acres under vine. His sons entered the business, which was known as Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd., and they had wine stores and offices at Mile End and in Currie Street, Adelaide. Much of the expansion was due to the buoyant wine market to England through agents such as P.B. Burgoyne & Co. and W.W. Pownall & Co.



Hardy was an active figure in the wine world, lecturing and writing widely on the wine industry and olive growing. He was Chairman of the wine committee of the South Australian display at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London in 1886, was a member of the Phylloxera Board in 1889 and was President of the Wine Growers' Association in 1891. He toured the wine-growing regions of Europe, America and South Africa, and examined the workings of the Covent Garden fruit market in London. In addition to this busy schedule, he regularly judged displays at local horticultural shows.

He was Vice-President of the South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society and of the Chamber of Manufactures, Chairman of the West Torrens Education Board of Advice and a Justice of the Peace. He wrote regular articles in the local press and the *Garden & Field Journal*, often signing himself 'T.H.' or 'Bankside'. He published two books, *Notes on Vineyards in America and Europe* (1885) and *A Vigneron Abroad, Trip to South Africa* (1899).

In his later life Hardy remained active but was beset by sadness and disappointment. His old Bankside winery was destroyed by fire in October 1905, and two of his sons died, James in 1904 and Thomas in 1911.

Thomas Hardy died at his Bankside home on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1912 and was buried at Hindmarsh Cemetery. An obituary stated that he was 'generally regarded as the father of the wine industry in South Australia' and in 1936 a memorial to him was unveiled in the main street of McLaren Vale.

## Christopher Rawson Penfold (1811-1870) and Mary Penfold (1816-1895)

The Penfold wine company had its origins at Magill in 1844. The vineyard was started by Dr. Christopher Penfold but the real growth of the business was due to the efforts of his wife Mary. Christopher tended his patients and Mary tended the vines.

Christopher Rawson Penfold was born at Steyning, Sussex, England, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1811, the son of Reverend John Penfold and his wife Charlotte Jane (née Brooks). He trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and practised at Brighton from 1838 until 1844. On 26<sup>th</sup> May 1835 he married Mary Holt and they had one daughter, Georgina, born in 1843.

The Penfolds arrived in South Australia on the *Taglioni* in June 1844 and four weeks later purchased William Ferguson's 'Makgill Farm' of 442 acres for £1,200. The Penfolds moved into the existing stone cottage, which became known as 'The Grange' and subsequently gave its name to their vineyard and, in the 1950s, to a dry red wine which was destined to become one of Australia's most famous wines.

Like a great deal of wine industry history, the story of the planting of the vineyard is enveloped in legends --- stories of vines brought out from Europe and Dr. Penfold's belief in the medicinal benefits of wine. They may be quite true, but they cannot be supported by any written records. However, we do know that the first Penfold vines were planted in September 1845, probably using cuttings obtained locally. South Australia had a developing wine industry by the mid-1840s and cuttings were readily available from local nurseries and vinegrowers. The vines were planted and tended by Mary Penfold and the family's domestic servant Ellen Timbrell. The East Torrens District Council rates assessment for the Penfold property in 1856 states that it comprised '293½ acres, stone house 5 rooms, 2½ acres of garden'. The latter would have included the vineyard.



Dr. Penfold established a medical practice at Magill and was active in local government, serving as the first Chairman of the Burnside District Council in 1856-57. The family attended St. George's Church at Magill. Dr. Penfold was in poor health for some years prior to his death at 'The Grange' on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1870. He was buried in St. George's churchyard. He was well-respected in the community and on the day of his funeral flags were flown at half-mast and commercial premises closed their doors as a mark of respect.

Following Christopher Penfold's death, the wine business operated as M. Penfold & Company, The Grange Vineyards, Magill. Georgina's husband, Thomas Francis Hyland, became involved in the business after their marriage in 1862 and later managed its wine sales in the eastern colonies. The Grange Vineyards was managed from 1869 to 1905 by Joseph Gillard Jr., whose family owned Sylvania Vineyards at Norwood and Clarendon Vineyard. By 1879 Penfolds had 60 acres of vineyards and had built substantial wine cellars. In 1881 Joseph Gillard became a one-third owner of the Penfold company. Mary Penfold retired in 1884 and Gillard in 1905.

Mary Penfold lived to see Penfolds become one of Australia's largest winemakers, winning many awards for its wines both in Australia and overseas. She died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1895 at her daughter's home in Melbourne and was buried in St. George's churchyard next to her husband. The Penfolds' cottage is preserved as part of the Magill vineyard and can be visited on tours of the winery.

## John Reynell (1809-1873)

John Reynell, grazier and pioneer winemaker, was born at Ilfracombe, Devon, England, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1809, the son of Henry Reynell and his wife Lydia (née Fagg). His father died in 1823, aged 46, leaving the family in difficult circumstances. At the age of sixteen John went to Egypt to work in a counting house owned by his cousin Charles Joyce, returned to England in 1828 and then spent some time involved in the wheat trade in America and Europe. He worked again in Alexandria for Messrs. Joyce, Thurburn & Co. before emigrating to South Australia.

He and his younger brother Samuel arrived in Adelaide on the *Surrey* in October 1838. On 31<sup>st</sup> January 1839 he married Mary Anne Lucas, whom he had met on the voyage from England. It was, according to a descendant, a marriage based on 'a very firm foundation of true friendship'. They went to live at Hurtle Vale, probably on the property that Mary's father had bought in March 1839. The land that was to become Reynella Farm was bought in July 1840 and John Reynell grew wheat and potatoes, and grazed sheep and cattle on it.

In 1841 he planted his first vines, using cuttings imported from Tasmania. He made his first small batch of wine in 1843 but in the same year was declared bankrupt when his pastoral pursuits failed during the economic recession. He 'lost £4,000 of capital, five years of time, and had my health much subverted'. He was treated leniently by his creditors and received a loan of £250 as a lease over part of Reynella Farm from his brother Henry in Calcutta. In 1844 Reynell planted half an acre of vines with cuttings from George Anstey's vineyard at Highercombe. This was followed with about four acres planted with Shiraz and Grenache vines from William Macarthur of Camden, New South Wales, and in 1847 ten acres with cuttings from E.J. Peake's Clarendon Vineyard. It is generally believed that the Old Cave cellar was dug at this time.



John Reynell's notebooks contain a good record of his winemaking over the years. During the 1850s vintages averaged about 450-500 gallons, depending on the season. The grape varieties he was growing included Malbec, Gouais, Verdelho, Constantia, Rousillon, Pedro Ximines and Cabernet. By 1866 he was producing 2,500 gallons of wine each vintage.

In 1852, like many others, Reynell went to the Victorian goldfields and had some success, finding 64 ounces of gold. In 1854 he sold 40 acres of land for the township of Reynella and this improved his financial circumstances. He was a foundation member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia, served as President of the Adelaide Vignerons' Club and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1850.

In the 1850s John Reynell began exporting wines to Victoria, England and New Zealand. He found that shipping wine to England in hogsheads was a risky affair as often it did not arrive in a sound condition. Things improved, however, and by 1867 he was selling wine to two Adelaide wine-merchants, W.P. Auld & Co. and a former employee, Thomas Hardy (q.v.).

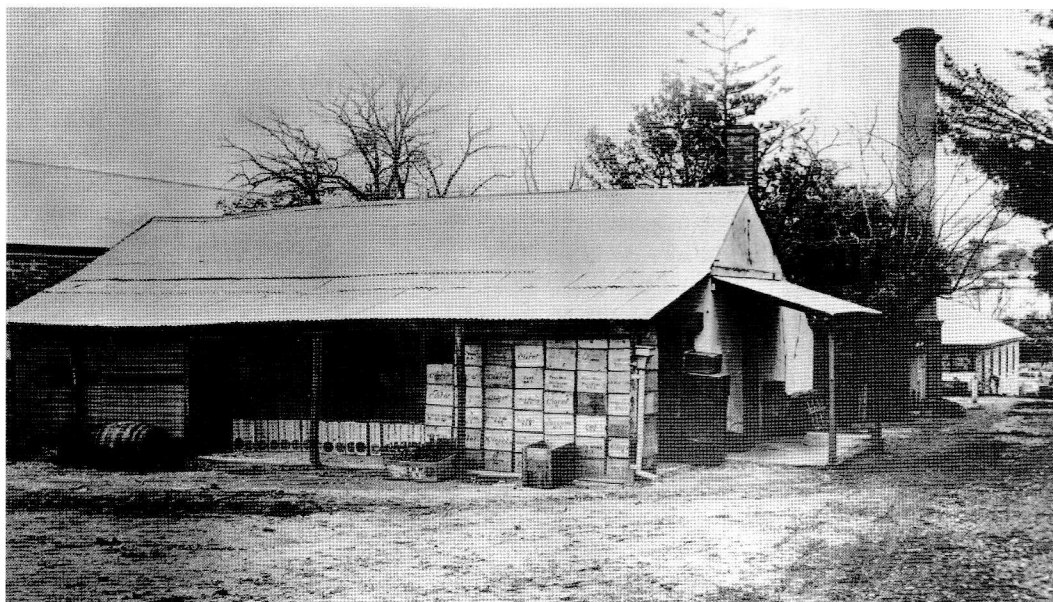
The Reynells had three children, Lucy, Lydia and Walter. Lucy married pastoralist Ross Thompson Reid and Lydia lived with Walter, caring for his family after his wife died. Walter worked extensively on pastoral properties in the far north and was later Managing Director of Elder Smith & Co., retiring in 1910 to manage the wine business, Walter Reynell & Sons Ltd.

Mary Reynell died at Reynella Farm on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1867 and John Reynell, writing to his son, spoke of 'nearly thirty years of companionship and friendship'. Reynell remained actively involved in marketing his wines and travelled extensively in that capacity over the next four years. He died at Reynella Farm on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1873.

## Joseph Ernst Seppelt (1813-1868)

Joseph Ernst Seppelt was born in 1813 at Wüstewaltersdorf, Lower Silesia. After a liberal education in music and the arts, he toured Germany and Italy where he learned the commercial and technical aspects of tobacco, snuff and liqueur production in order to head the family business. When this declined in the 1840s, he decided to emigrate to Australia.

He sailed from Hamburg in the *Cesar Helene* on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1849, with his wife Johanna Charlotte Clementine (née Held) and their three children, Benno, Hugo and Ottilie. The Seppelts were accompanied by thirteen families from their neighbourhood and a group of young men who had worked in their factory. They disembarked at Stode and took the *Emmey* to Melbourne, arriving there in January 1850. Joseph Seppelt was naturalized in January 1851. After a brief time at Klemzig, he purchased 158 acres of land in the Barossa Valley, north-west of Tanunda, in February 1852. He named the property Seppeltsfield and later this name was also applied to the surrounding district.



Following an unsuccessful attempt to grow tobacco, he planted corn, wheat and a small vineyard. Family tradition states that he made his first wine in his wife's dairy and in 1867 built the first section of a wine cellar using pisé construction. The structure apparently subsumed the dairy but the story does not tell us where Charlotte made her butter after this. The business expanded rapidly and Seppelt concentrated on the production of table wines, liqueurs and cordials. Early price lists and labels reveal that he marked his products 'J.E. Seppelt, manufacturer of cordials, liqueurs, bitters, syrups, etc., Seppeltsfield'.

In 1887 the first substantial winery building was constructed by Seppelt and his son Benno. Based on a gravity feed system, it was a three-storey bluestone building situated on a sloping site. It had a single gable roof and was about 30 feet wide and 60 feet long. It has remained in almost continual use since its construction and is one of the Seppeltsfield landmarks.

Joseph Seppelt did not live long enough to see the business prosper, as he died at Seppeltsfield on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1868 and was buried at Greenoch Cemetery. Charlotte died a little over two years after her husband, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1870. Their son Oscar Benno Pedro Seppelt (known as Benno) assumed control of the family wine-making business. He was educated at Tanunda and possessed considerable natural ability and a determination to succeed. Assisted by his able wife Sophie (née Schroeder), he undertook a substantial programme of expansion over the next twenty years, increasing the acreage of vines under cultivation, enlarging the cellars and building a new distillery. By the 1890s Seppelts was one of the largest winemakers in South Australia.



## Samuel Smith (1812-1889)

Samuel Smith, the founder of Yalumba Wines, was born in Wareham, Dorset, England, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1812. He married Mary Osborne on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1835 and was engaged in the brewing business prior to emigrating to South Australia with his wife and their five children. They arrived at Port Adelaide in the *China* in 1847 and after a period at Klemzig they moved to Angaston, where Smith worked as a gardener for the Angas family at Tarrawatta.

In 1849 he purchased 30 acres near Angaston and established a vineyard and orchard. He named the property 'Yalumba', an Aboriginal word meaning 'all the country around'. Three years later he and his son Sidney went to the Victorian goldfields and the tale is told that on his sixteenth shaft he was lucky and returned to Adelaide £300 richer than he had left four months earlier. He invested the money in more land, a plough, two horses and a harness.

Samuel Smith planted his first vines in 1852 and at the Angaston Agricultural and Horticultural Show in 1856 he was awarded second prize for his collection of grapes. By 1862 he had 14 acres of Shiraz vines, seven of which were in full bearing. In the 1863 vintage he produced 60 hogsheads of wine from his own grapes and from some bought from his neighbours. His wines were soon gaining recognition at wine shows, the awards including a silver medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1878.



The Yalumba vineyards were expanded considerably over the next two decades. In 1868 Smith had 20 acres planted and in 1887 this had grown to 76 acres. The varieties grown were Frontignac, Albillo, Dolcetto, Tokay, Mataro and Muscatel. During the 1870s the average vintage was about 20,000 gallons, a fair proportion of which was made from grapes bought in. The wines were fortified styles for the most part, the fortifying spirit being distilled on the premises.

Smith was a prominent member of the Angaston Congregational Church and served for many years as superintendent of the Sunday school. His first wife died in 1872 and on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1875 he married a widow, Frances Bayly (née Goodwin). Sidney Smith joined his father in the Yalumba fruit-growing and winemaking business and, on his father's retirement in 1888, took over the management of the firm. Samuel Smith died at Angaston on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1889, survived by his second wife, four daughters and a son. He was buried at Angaston Cemetery.

Yalumba grew rapidly in the 1890s under Sidney's management. By 1891 he had 110 acres of vines planted and by 1902 had increased the cellar storage to 400,000 gallons. In the 1903 vintage 180,000 gallons of wine were produced, no doubt far beyond Samuel's wildest dreams half a century earlier.

## Winners of the Victoria Cross and the George Cross: Arthur Seaforth Blackburn, V.C., C.M.G. (1892-1960)

Arthur Seaforth Blackburn was born on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1892 at Woodville, South Australia, the son of Reverend Thomas Blackburn and his wife Margaret Harriette Stewart (née Browne). Educated at Pulteney Grammar School, St. Peter's College and the University of Adelaide (LL.B. 1913), he was admitted to the Bar in December 1913 and was practising as a solicitor with an Adelaide legal firm when he was one of the first to join the Australian Imperial Force in August 1914.

Blackburn embarked with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in October for further training in Egypt. He landed at Gallipoli on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and was one of two scouts who reached and passed slightly beyond the crest at Scrubby Knoll. He is credited by the official Australian war historian, C.E.W. Bean, as having reached a point further inland than any other Australian soldier in the campaign. Blackburn was commissioned second lieutenant in August and served at Gallipoli until the withdrawal. In February 1916 he was promoted lieutenant and moved with his battalion to France. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, at Pozières, he was directed with fifty men to force the enemy from a strongpoint. With dogged determination, he captured their trench after personally leading four separate parties of bombers, many of whom became casualties. In the face of fierce opposition, he captured 300 yards of trench. Then, after crawling forward with a sergeant to reconnoitre, he attacked and seized another 100 yards of trench, establishing communication with the battalion on his left. On 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916, 'for most conspicuous bravery', he became the first South Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He was evacuated sick in September and was invested with his medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace in October.

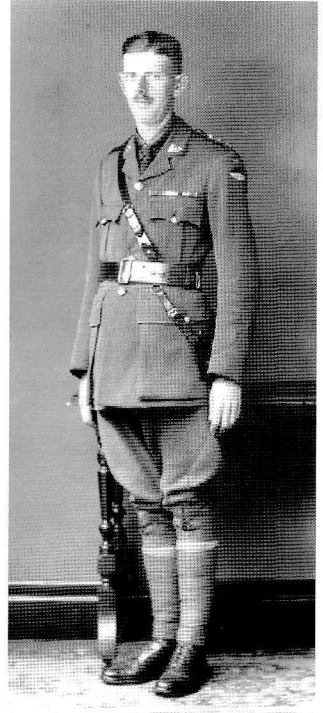
Blackburn was invalided to Australia and on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1917 he married Rose Ada Kelly. He was discharged from the A.I.F. shortly afterwards on medical grounds and returned to legal practice, taking an active part in the pro-conscription campaign. He was elected the Nationalist member for Sturt in the House of Assembly in 1918 but did not seek re-election in 1921. He was a founding member of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League in South Australia and was President of the State branch from 1917 to 1921, and again from 1946 to 1949. He was appointed Adelaide City Coroner in September 1933, holding the post until 1947.

Blackburn joined the Citizen Military Forces in October 1925 as a lieutenant. When World War II broke out, he was promoted lieutenant-colonel in command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Light Horse (Machine-Gun) Regiment. In July 1940 he was seconded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> A.I.F. and given command of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Machine-Gun Battalion, which he led in the Syrian campaign in 1941. As the senior Australian officer present, he accepted the surrender of Damascus in June and after the French capitulation he presided over the Allied Control Commission for Syria.

In February 1942 he was promoted temporary brigadier and appointed to command 'Black Force', a small Australian force hastily landed in Java with orders to assist the Dutch against the rapid Japanese advance. On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1942 Blackburn, despite some reluctance, joined the Dutch in surrendering and was a prisoner until liberated in September 1945 in Mukden, Manchuria. In 1946 he was appointed C.B.E. (Military) for distinguished service in Java.

After the war Arthur Blackburn served as a Conciliation Commissioner in the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, as a member of the Australian National Airlines Commission and as Chairman of Trustees of the Services Canteen Trust Fund. For these and other community services he was appointed C.M.G. in 1955.

He died on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1960 and was buried with full military honours at West Terrace Cemetery.



## Phillip Davey, V.C., M.M. (1896-1953)

Phillip Davey and his brothers Claude and Richard enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force for service in the First World War. They were remarkable in that each of them was decorated, receiving the Military Medal for bravery. Two other brothers also served and, of the five, four were in the famous South Australian 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Phillip Davey was born on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1896 at Unley, South Australia, the son of carpenter William Davey and his wife Elizabeth (née O'Neill). He attended the Flinders Street Model School and Goodwood Public School and was working as a horse-driver when he joined the A.I.F. in December 1914. As he was only nineteen, his mother had to give permission for him to enlist.

He embarked with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion's 2<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements at Melbourne in February 1915 and proceeded to Egypt. In these early months he displayed a youthful wildness that would eventually be tempered in battle to make him an outstanding frontline soldier. On 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 he took part in the landing at Anzac Cove, his battalion being in the brigade that was the first to go ashore. He fought in the Gallipoli campaign until evacuated with enteric fever to Egypt and thence to Australia to recover. Davey departed for service once again with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion's 18<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements in June 1916 and after a period in camp in England he rejoined his battalion in the Ypres sector, Belgium, in October. Shortly afterwards the battalion moved down to the Somme in France where it went into the trenches through the notorious winter. Like many others in the constant wet and cold, Davey contracted 'trench foot' and spent a month away recuperating.

During 1917 the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion took part in the Battle of Bullecourt and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres, where Davey, now promoted lance-corporal, was badly gassed on 6<sup>th</sup> October. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1918, at Warneton, Belgium, in the Messines sector, he won his Military Medal for rescuing a badly wounded comrade while under heavy fire. In the early months of 1918 the divisions of the Australian Corps were dispersed to help meet and hold the final German offensive. Davey's division was operating mainly in the Flanders region. On 24<sup>th</sup> April 1918 he was promoted corporal.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, near Merris, France, Phillip Davey took part in a diversionary attack. During the action his platoon commander was killed and other survivors took shelter behind a bank in the face of almost point-blank German machine-gun fire. Taking the initiative, Davey attacked the gun position with hand-grenades. When his supply was used up, he crossed the fire-swept ground to get more. The Germans meanwhile reinforced their machine-gun post. Davey launched another single-handed assault, this time capturing the gun and killing all of the crew. He then turned the machine-gun on the enemy, repelling their determined counter-attacks until he was wounded. For this outstanding action he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Davey's wounds were severe and he was evacuated to hospital in England for prolonged treatment, after which he returned to Australia, where he was discharged in February 1919.

After the war Davey worked for the signal and telegraph branch of the South Australian Railways and on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1928 he married Eugene Agnes Tomlinson. Like many returned soldiers, especially those who had been wounded or who had suffered gas poisoning, he had long periods of poor health, including bronchitis and emphysema. Phillip Davey died at the Repatriation General Hospital, Springbank, on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1953 and was buried with full military honours in the A.I.F. Garden of Memorial at West Terrace Cemetery. His Victoria Cross is displayed in the Hall of Valour at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



## Reginald Roy Inwood, V.C. (1890-1971)

Roy Inwood was born on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1890 at North Adelaide, South Australia, the son of labourer Edward Inwood and his wife Mary Ann (née Minney). He was educated at North Adelaide Public School and Broken Hill Model School, after which he worked as a miner in British and North Mines, Broken Hill. He was the eldest of three brothers who served in World War I. Sergeant Robert Inwood was killed at Pozières while he was with Captain (later Brigadier) Arthur Blackburn (q.v.) when he earned his Victoria Cross, and Private Harold Inwood was wounded in France.

Roy Inwood enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in August 1914 and was assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On his departure from Broken Hill there were ugly scenes at the Sulphide Street railway station as socialists and anti-conscriptionists jeered at recruits. Inwood served at Gallipoli until November 1915 when he was promoted lance-corporal. By April 1916 the battalion was in France and Inwood was promoted temporary corporal, but soon after was reduced to private, owing to absence without leave.

In the Battle of Menin Road, Belgium, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917, the battalion attacked at Polygon Wood. Alone, Inwood captured an enemy post, killing several and taking nine prisoners. The unit consolidated its position but it was suspected that the enemy was grouping for a concerted attack. Volunteering for a night patrol, Inwood moved forward 600 yards and, with coolness and sound judgement, brought back valuable information on the enemy's movements. In the early morning of 21<sup>st</sup> September he went out again and bombed a machine-gun nest that had caused several casualties. He killed all but one of the crew and brought back the survivor and the gun. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty'. The citation records that he went out alone but the official history, the unit history and Inwood's own statement all confirm that he was briefly assisted by another soldier. He was promoted corporal in October 1917 and later sergeant. He served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion until May 1918 and was demobilized in December.



When he returned to Broken Hill he had not forgotten the antagonistic farewell he had been given four years earlier. In a public speech shortly before he was demobbed, he declared, 'When I left here in 1914 I was stoned by mongrels at the train. When I came back those mongrels were the first to shake me by the hand. What shall I say next? [Laughter] I am proud of my comrades who stuck to me. . . If the boys stick together like they did in France there will be no Bolshevism in this town. [Applause] . . . I would like to be at one end of the street with a machine-gun and have them at the other end.'

Inwood now found Broken Hill an uncomfortable place. Restless and jobless, he moved to Adelaide and on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1918 married a widow, Mabel Alice Collins (née Weber). The following year he was fined for assaulting a policeman. He was divorced in 1921. After spending some time working as a miner in Tasmania and in a eucalyptus distillery on Kangaroo Island, he returned to South Australia and was employed by the Adelaide City Council as a labourer from 1928 to 1955. During the Second World War he served as a warrant officer. He married Evelyn Owens in 1927 and later married Louise Elizabeth Gates on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1942. He had no children.

Inwood retained his pride in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion and always marched with them on Anzac Day. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1971, was given a military funeral and was buried at West Terrace Cemetery. The battalion's Other Ranks Mess at the Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, is named the Roy Inwood Club and his V.C. hangs in the Adelaide City Council Chambers. He was described as having 'the rough corners still on him' and it was said of this rugged, well-built man that 'his V.C. had not done him much good'.



## Joergen Christian Jensen, V.C. (1891-1922)

Joergen Christian Jensen was born at Loegstoer, Denmark, on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1891, the son of farmer and wool-merchant Joergen Christian Jensen and his wife Christiane. After leaving home and spending a period of time in England, he travelled to Australia, arriving in Melbourne in March 1909. He is known to have worked as a labourer at Morgan and Port Pirie, and in September 1914 he became an Australian citizen.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in Adelaide in March 1915 and embarked with the 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion for Gallipoli, where he served until the evacuation. He moved to the Western Front with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in March 1916 and was wounded at the Battle of Pozzières in August, after which he was evacuated to England. On recovery, he was posted to the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the sister battalion of the 10<sup>th</sup>, in France.

In April 1917 the Allies planned an attack on the Hindenburg Line. There were several so-called 'outpost villages' in front of the line and the 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division was assigned the task of taking one of them, Noreuil. The 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion (S.A.) and 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion (W.A.) were to lead the attack, with the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion holding the line on the right and the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion in reserve.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April the troops headed for the village in two waves, under cover of an Allied barrage that was regarded as too thin and too slow. Nearer the village they came under fire from enemy machine-guns, against which the leading wave advanced, firing from the hip. Casualties were high but most of the wave penetrated and surrounded the enemy positions, silencing them with rifle-grenades and bombs.

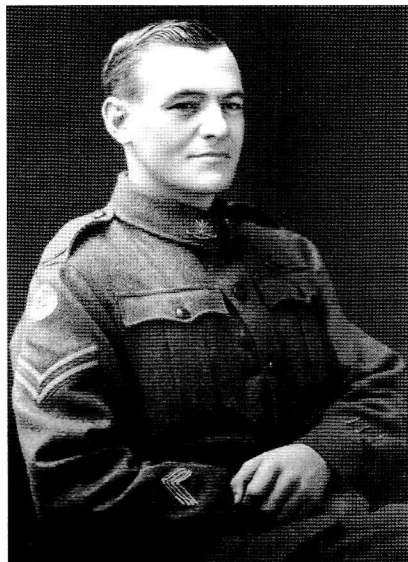
The advance was temporarily checked, however, by a German forward machine-gun post which caused heavy casualties. Private Jensen, with five comrades, assaulted the barricade behind which there were about 45 of the enemy. One of his party, Private William O'Connor, a stockman of Naryilco, Queensland, shot the machine-gunner and for his part in the action was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Jensen rushed into the post and threw a bomb. Still holding a bomb in his other hand, he took another from his pocket, removed the pin with his teeth and threatened the remaining enemy. They surrendered when told that they were surrounded. Jensen then told one of his prisoners to go to a nearby enemy post with an order that they surrender also. They did, but in the meantime came under fire from other attacking Allied troops. Observing this, Jensen stood on the barricade waving his helmet, exposing himself to the enemy, to prevent further fire on his prisoners. Noreuil was captured later that day.

The whole episode was notable for the extraordinary bravery and determination exhibited by Jensen and for this he was awarded the Victoria Cross. King George V presented it to him at Buckingham Palace in July 1917.

After Noreuil he served briefly with the 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion in England before returning to France in October 1917. Following the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux he was severely wounded while on patrol in May 1918 and, after slow recovery in England, was sent home and discharged from the A.I.F. in December 1918. At the time of the action at Noreuil he held the rank of private but was eventually promoted through the ranks, becoming temporary sergeant.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 1921 he married Katy Herman (née Arthur) in Adelaide. There were no children by the marriage. He became a bottle-oh, and his horse-drawn dray, with 'Jensen V.C.' emblazoned on the side, was well known.

In May 1922 he was admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital from his home in Sturt Street, Adelaide, and died on the 31<sup>st</sup> of an illness related to his stressful wartime experiences. He was buried with full honours in the A.I.F. section of West Terrace Cemetery.



## John Leak, V.C. (1892-1972)

John Leak was born in 1892 at Portsmouth, England, the son of miner John Leak. He emigrated to Australia before World War I, becoming a teamster at Rockhampton, Queensland.

Leak enlisted as a private in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, in January 1915 and embarked with its 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, joining his unit at Gallipoli on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. He served at Gallipoli for ten weeks before being evacuated sick. He rejoined his battalion in Egypt before it and the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division moved to France at the end of March 1916. The division moved into the front line in the Armentières sector in April.

The Somme offensive, which included the objective of Pozières on the Amiens-Bapaume highway, began on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Despite heavy losses on the first day, the British eventually advanced their line to a position in front of Pozières. Three attempts to capture this vital village failed and the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division was called in to make a fourth attempt, supported on either flank by British divisions. The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion spearheaded the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division's attack and moved towards Pozières on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The main defence here was a formidable double trench system, and an extremely fierce fight developed, with the attacking troops being held off.

The next day Leak was one of a party ordered to capture a German strong-point that was holding up the battalion's advance. His party became pinned down by machine-gun fire in an old German trench, their grenades outranged by the Germans' superior bombs. Leak dashed from cover and, under heavy fire, ran towards the enemy post, hurling three grenades to great effect. On reaching the enemy trench, he leapt in and bayoneted the three remaining Germans. Later in this engagement his party was driven back. Leak was the last to withdraw at each stage, hurling bombs to cover his comrades' retreat. By the time reinforcements arrived, his courage and energy had done much to weaken the enemy's defence and the post was taken again. For conspicuous bravery at Pozières he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

On 21<sup>st</sup> August 1916, at Mouquet Farm, Leak was wounded and was subsequently evacuated to England. He spent twelve months convalescing, during which time he was presented with his medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace in November 1916.

In October 1917 he rejoined his unit in Belgium but, suffering battle exhaustion, he was absent from duty without leave in the first week of November. He was arraigned and charged, found guilty and sentenced to two years imprisonment. The sentence, however, was suspended the same day and he rejoined his battalion in December 1917. Leak continued to serve in the line and was severely gassed at Hollebeke, Belgium, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1918. He was unable to resume duty until June. Later in life he was to suffer from bronchitis and emphysema.

John Leak married Beatrice May Chapman on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1918 in Cardiff, Wales. In February 1919 he embarked for Australia and was discharged from the A.I.F. in May. After two years in Queensland, he moved to New South Wales for two-and-a-half years. Further moves took him to South Australia and then to Esperance in Western Australia, where he became a mechanic and garage proprietor. He married again on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1927, to Ada Victoria Bood-Smith. In 1943 he and his family were market-gardening on a small block of land in South Australia. After retirement he settled at Crafers, a well-respected member of the community.

Unlike most V.C. recipients, Leak did not participate in Anzac Day marches and did not go to England in 1956 for the V.C. centenary. He finally received some publicity as 'the forgotten V.C.' in 1966 when a bogus V.C. with his details was put up for sale in Melbourne. Survived by four sons and three daughters, he died on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1972 and was buried at Stirling Cemetery.



## Arthur Percy Sullivan, V.C. (1896-1937)

Arthur Percy Sullivan was born on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1896 at Prospect, South Australia, the son of storekeeper Arthur Monks Sullivan and his wife Eliza (née Dobbs). He was educated at Crystal Brook Public School and Gladstone High School before joining the National Bank of Australasia at Gladstone in 1913. He was transferred to Broken Hill, New South Wales, and then to Maitland, South Australia.

Sullivan enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force in April 1918 and embarked in July as a general reinforcement. He disembarked in England in September and transferred to the artillery but was still in training when the war ended. At this time a number of A.I.F. soldiers who were awaiting repatriation to Australia joined a volunteer force raised to relieve British and Allied troops in Russia. Promoted acting corporal in May 1919, Sullivan was officially discharged from the A.I.F. in June and joined the British North Russia Relief Force. This landed at Archangel in June and July and relieved most of the original 1918 expeditionary force, which included nine A.I.F. members. Sullivan served with the 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, in Sadleir-Jackson's brigade, which moved 150 miles down the Dvina River.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August the force attacked on the Dvina front in order to demoralize the Bolsheviks and so give time for an unhindered evacuation of North Russia. During the attack, which was a complete success with minimal British casualties, Sullivan won the Victoria Cross. Engaged in a rearguard covering action, his unit was cut off, and, while fighting their way back to their lines, an officer and three men fell from a narrow plank into a deep swamp on the Sheika River. Without hesitation and under intense fire, Sullivan jumped into the water and rescued all four, bringing them out singly. But for his action, his comrades would undoubtedly have drowned. The men were on the point of exhaustion and the enemy was less than 100 yards away. The evacuation was completed by late September and the relief force was demobilized in England.

Sullivan was discharged from the Royal Fusiliers in February 1920 after 257 days service. He had left for Australia in November 1919 without waiting to be decorated by the King. He was presented with the V.C. in Adelaide on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1920 during the Australian tour of the Prince of Wales, who smiled at Sullivan and said: 'Aren't you the man who ran away from father?'

Known as 'the shy V.C.', Sullivan was a popular personality. After the war he rejoined the National Bank staff, first at Maitland and then at Orroroo. On 5<sup>th</sup> December 1928 he married Dorothy Frances Veale and they had three children, including twins. In 1929 he was transferred to the bank's head office in Sydney and in July 1934 was appointed manager of the branch at Casino, New South Wales.

In January 1937 Sullivan re-enlisted in the Australian Military Forces as a member of the military contingent to the coronation of King George VI. The contingent sailed to England on the R.M.S. *Oronsay* and Sullivan took with him the ashes of a personal friend, British V.C. recipient Sergeant Arthur Evans, who had died in Australia the previous year. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1937, a few days after handing over these remains, Sullivan was returning to his quarters at Wellington Barracks, London, when, having just obliged some passers-by with his autograph, he accidentally slipped and struck his head heavily against a kerb in Birdcage Walk. He died shortly afterwards in hospital. After a military funeral, his ashes were returned to Australia and placed in the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney. In 1939 a memorial plaque, provided by his comrades of the contingent, was erected on the gates of Wellington Barracks. His wife died in 1980, leaving his V.C. to the Australian War Memorial, where it is displayed in the Hall of Valour.



## Lawrence Carthage Weathers, V.C. (1890-1918)

Lawrence Carthage Weathers was born on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1890 at Te Kopuru, near Dargaville, New Zealand, the son of labourer John Joseph Weathers and his wife Ellen Frances (née McCormack), both of whom came from Adelaide. At the age of seven he sailed with his parents to South Australia and the family settled in the mid-north, where Lawrence attended Snowtown Public School.

By 1913 he had become an undertaker and may have sensed, even if he did not fully understand, where the paths of glory lead. On 10<sup>th</sup> September 1913 he married a 23-year-old, Melbourne-born domestic servant, Annie Elizabeth Watson, at her father's home in Unley. The young couple lived at nearby Parkside and had one child.

In June 1915 the news came that Lawrence's elder brother, Private Thomas Francis Weathers, 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, had died from wounds at Gallipoli. In February 1916 Lawrence enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and in June embarked for England with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. After further training on Salisbury Plain, he was sent to the Western Front in November, with units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. Sickness confined him to hospital from January to April 1917. On the night of 10<sup>th</sup> June 1917 during an action at Messines, Belgium, he was severely wounded and was away from his battalion until December. Promoted lance-corporal in March 1918, he was gassed in May at Bois L'Abbé in the Villers-Bretonneux sector, France, but rejoined his unit within a month.

Following the capture of Mont St. Quentin by the Allies, the duty of clearing a small area criss-crossed with barbed-wire entanglements north of Péronne fell to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. The major objective was Scutari trench. The unit went forward at 5.35 on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918. Fierce fighting ensued in several trenches but the advance was halted by scything fire from the enemy, who were concentrated in a fork of two trenches and hemmed in by flanking units of the battalion. From the vanguard Weathers attacked the enemy garrison alone and killed its leader. Returning to his lines to replenish his stock of bombs, he then went back into the fray with three others and was given cover by a comrade's Lewis gun. Weathers seemed oblivious to danger as he scaled the German parapet and hurled his bombs into the trench below. His valour and determination resulted in the successful capture of the final objective and by 7 a.m. all resistance had ceased. Weathers and his companions took three machine-guns and 180 prisoners back to the Australian lines.

With his uniform caked in mud and blood streaming down his cheeks, which bore five days' stubble, Weathers looked quite 'a card' to his mates when he returned with souvenired German binoculars and pistols festooning him like a Christmas tree. The strain and the release of nerves showed in his chatter of how he had 'put the wind up' the enemy. He was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Weathers was promoted temporary corporal on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1918 (his fifth wedding anniversary). He received a short respite from action before moving with his battalion to attack the Hindenburg Line between Rosnoy and Bony. At dawn on the 29<sup>th</sup> the engagement commenced. Weathers was wounded in the head by shell-fire and died before dusk, never knowing of his V.C., which was gazetted on Christmas Eve. He was buried at Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuille, France.





## Thomas Currie Derrick, V.C., D.C.M. (1914-1945)

'Diver' Derrick was one of the finest fighting soldiers of the Second World War. His actions won him the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the two highest awards open to other ranks in the British armed forces. He also performed deeds that watchers thought would win two more V.C.s. He was recommended for the Military Medal and was one of the few soldiers promoted to officer rank in the same battalion. Brave and skilful in battle, he had brilliant tactical judgement and great concern for his men. He died while checking that they were safe.

Thomas Derrick was born on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1914 at Medindie, South Australia, the son of labourer David Derrick and his wife Ada (née Whitcombe). The Derricks were battlers. Tom often walked barefoot to school, first to Sturt Street Public School, then to Lefevre Peninsula School. Keen on boxing, football, cricket and gambling, he became one of Port Adelaide's larrikins, pinching fruit and skylarking about. He left school at the age of fourteen, took what jobs he could get in the Depression and early in 1931 rode a bike 140 miles to Berri to find work. He had long spells in Berri's 'susso' camp (for the unemployed), once living on grapes for a week, but eventually talked his way into work on a vineyard at Winkie. He stayed for nine years.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 1939 he married Clarence Violet (Beryl) Leslie in the presbytery of St. Laurence's Catholic Church, North Adelaide. World War II began within months. He enlisted on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1940 and was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/48<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which would become the most decorated Australian unit of the war. It embarked for the Middle East in November 1940 and by April 1941 was in action at Tobruk, Libya. Described as 'resourceful, brave, aware and humane', Derrick showed outstanding skill and aggression in patrolling, and was promoted corporal.

At Tel el Eisa, Egypt, on 10-11<sup>th</sup> July 1942 Derrick charged German positions through a barrage of grenades, destroyed three machine-gun posts and captured over 100 prisoners. He then destroyed two tanks while helping to beat off a counter-attack. He won the D.C.M. and was promoted sergeant. At El Alamein in October he destroyed three more machine-gun posts during a week of violent battle, which only 41 of his battalion survived. His mates thought that he should have won the V.C. on that occasion.

A year later the 2<sup>nd</sup>/48<sup>th</sup> was in New Guinea, facing strong Japanese defences at Sattelberg, above Finschhafen. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 1943 Derrick's platoon was below an almost vertical cliff of thick jungle, hiding machine-guns. Above that was an open 100-yard slope, criss-crossed by Japanese fire. Covered by his mates, Derrick scrambled hands and feet up the cliff, hurling grenades and clearing out enemy posts. He then charged up the slope. The climb was barely possible, yet on the way 'Diver' destroyed ten machine-gun posts and forced the Japanese from a seemingly impregnable position. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.

In August 1944 Derrick was posted to officer training and in November was commissioned lieutenant in his old battalion. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1945 it landed at Tarakan, Borneo, and on 22<sup>nd</sup> May Derrick's platoon attacked a small hill, code-named Freda, thick with enemy defences. Observers said that Derrick deserved another V.C. That night he lay on the jungle track to rest. At about 3 a.m. a Japanese light machine-gun fired a burst down the track. 'Diver' sat up to see that his men were all right, the gun fired again and five bullets caught him in an arc from his left hip to his right chest. He lay back quietly and after a time called to a mate, 'I've had it. That's that. Write to Beryl.' He refused to be evacuated, continuing to direct operations until mid-morning. His mates then carried him back, his grin and his courage never deserting him. He died on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1945 and was buried in Labuan War Cemetery. Sir Ivor Hele's portrait of him is held by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, and he is commemorated by the Derrick Memorial Reserve at Glanville, South Australia.



## George Gosse, G.C. (1912-1964)

George Gosse was born on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1912 at Harvey, Western Australia, the son of farmer William Hay Gosse and his wife Muriel (née Davidson). His grandfather was the explorer William Christie Gosse (q.v.). His father was awarded the Military Cross in World War I and was killed in action in 1918; his mother died two years later.

Educated at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, Gosse entered the Royal Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay, in 1926. A member of his family described him as 'so like his father, gay, feckless, fearless and gregarious'. From January 1930 he served in the cruisers H.M.A.S. *Australia* and H.M.A.S. *Canberra* and in May was promoted midshipman. In July 1931 he sailed for England for further sea-training and courses with the Royal Navy, and the following year he joined the Royal Navy College, Greenwich. However, the attractions of London, the company of young Adelaideans on 'Grand Tours' and a passion for sports cars all contributed to his failing the examination for lieutenant and he was sent home. His appointment was terminated in October 1933.

Gosse 'knocked about', resisting the temptation of serious employment. On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1938 he married Diana Skottowe and in October 1940 he enlisted as an ordinary seaman in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was commissioned sub-lieutenant in April 1941 and in December he joined H.M.I.S. *Hooghly* at Calcutta, India, as mine disposal officer. Official reports noted his reliability, keenness and ingenuity. Always cheerful under difficulties, he got on well with officers and men, and exhibited 'a daring character and a good knowledge of mines, in which he is very interested'. He was made provisional lieutenant in February 1942.

From late 1944 Gosse served at Brixham, Devon, England, the base for the Royal Navy's diving operations in Europe.

Sporting a bold, black beard, he had soft green eyes and a softer voice, and was somewhat of a law unto himself. Yet he was inventive and had a fascination with things mechanical. Although he had qualified as a shallow-water diver, he lacked practice and had reservations about going down but, aware of developments in German mines, he improvised tools and practised their use under difficult conditions. Senior officers noted that he had a marked ability in handling men and appeared to have no fears, always investigating an unusual object himself before sending his men down.

In command of Naval Party 1571, Gosse arrived at Bremen, Germany, in April 1945 and directed a search for mines laid by the retreating Germans in the waters of the Übersee Hafen. On 8<sup>th</sup> May 'a D-type mine with additional fittings' was found. Known as the 'Oyster', it was pressure-operated, with acoustic and magnetic sensors in its detonation train. At about 6 p.m. the next day Gosse dived to the mine. Even with a torch he could not see in the mud and proceeded to work by touch.

Using his improvised tools, Gosse removed the primer release and then extracted the primer, 'about eighteen inches down a two-inch pipe'. He had interrupted the detonation train and the mine was safe. While he was preparing to surface there was a small explosion and later examination showed that water entering through the mine's primer tube had operated a water pressure mechanism designed to trigger the detonator if the mine was raised. Gosse rendered safe two more 'Oyster' mines at Bremen and in 1946 he was awarded the George Cross. Having been promoted acting lieutenant-commander in September 1945, he was demobilized in March 1946.

Back in Adelaide, Gosse invented many household gadgets and fittings but lost interest once he had met the challenges of concept and design. For the most part his work was unspectacular. He was President of the Sporting Car Club of South Australia (1946-1948) and in 1953 was chosen as a member of the coronation contingent which went to England in H.M.A.S. *Sydney*.

George Gosse died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1964 and was cremated.



## William Henry Kibby, V.C. (1903-1942)

Bill Kibby won one of four Victoria Crosses awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/48<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the most decorated Australian unit of the Second World War. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1903 at Winlaton, Durham, England, the son of draper's assistant John Robert Kibby and his wife Mary Isabella (née Birnie). In 1914 the family emigrated to Adelaide, where Bill went to Mitcham Public School and then did various jobs until finding work designing and fixing plaster decorations at the Perfection Fibrous Plaster Works in Edwardstown. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 1926 he married Mabel Sarah Bidmead Morgan at her parents' house in Glenelg. They lived in nearby Helmsdale and had two daughters.

Short and strong, Kibby loved being outdoors. He sailed with Glenelg's Sea Rescue Squadron and took his family on walks and picnics and to watch him play golf on public courses. He had considerable artistic talent, which found expression in his plaster designs, watercolours and drawings. He took art classes briefly at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries and would paint and sketch while the family listened to radio theatre. In 1936 he joined the 48<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, an artillery militia unit.

In June 1940 Kibby enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/48<sup>th</sup> Battalion and in November sailed to the Middle East as a sergeant. In Palestine he fell into a slit trench, fracturing his leg, and was convalescent for over a year, during which time he made at least forty delicately-worked watercolours and drawings. In February 1942 he rejoined the 2<sup>nd</sup>/48<sup>th</sup> in Syria, was detached to special duties from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> May, and thereafter remained with the battalion until his death.

At El Alamein Kibby showed extraordinary and persistent courage throughout late October 1942. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> his platoon was ordered to destroy a nest of machine-guns and mortars on Miteiriya Ridge. Calling 'Follow me', Kibby charged forward with a Tommy gun, killing three enemy soldiers, capturing twelve and clearing the nest. Two nights later he repaired signal wires at least five times under heavy fire. For this feat his captain intended to recommend him for the Distinguished Conduct Medal, but was himself killed. At Trig 29 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, while under heavy artillery fire and repeated tank and infantry attack, Kibby moved boldly into the open, directing his men's fire and co-ordinating their defence. Several times he went out under fire and mended the platoon line communications, thus allowing mortar concentrations to be directed effectively against the enemy's attack.

On the night of 30<sup>th</sup> October Kibby's platoon fought through the German lines at Ring Contour 25, but came under intense machine-gun and mortar fire as it attempted to reach the coast. Most of the men were killed or wounded. After re-organizing the survivors, Kibby went forward alone and attacked machine-guns firing directly at him from a few yards away, silencing gun after gun with grenades until a burst of gunfire killed him. His V.C. citation states, 'He left behind him an example and a memory of a soldier who fearlessly and unselfishly fought to the end to carry out his duty.'

The position he died to win was given up and the Germans buried Kibby and other platoon dead in a common grave. After retaking the ground and searching for ten days, his mates found the grave and re-buried their comrades in line. 'We couldn't say much', one recalled early in 1943, 'but I guess we all knew . . . that if it hadn't been for Bill Kibby we might have been lying there with them.' In January 1944 Kibby was re-interred in El Alamein War Cemetery.

He is commemorated by a club at Woodside Army Camp, a road in Elizabeth and an avenue in Glenelg North, where a plaque honouring him was unveiled in 1995. A wartime public appeal raised money to buy a house in Helmsdale for his widow. She never remarried and never ceased to mourn a gentle and artistic man, a man his daughters recall as never raising his voice, a father whose quiet smile stayed with them forever.



## Lionel Colin Matthews, G.C., M.C. (1912-1944)

Lionel Matthews was born on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1912 at Stepney, South Australia, the son of plumber Edgar Roy Matthews and his wife Ann Elizabeth (née Jeffery). He attended East Adelaide Primary School and Norwood High School, after which he worked as a salesman in a department store. He was a powerful swimmer, a lifesaver and an amateur boxer. On 26<sup>th</sup> December 1935 he married Lorna Myrtle Lane at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Kensington.

For six years Matthews was a member of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve and trained as a signalman, first in Adelaide and later in Melbourne. In April 1939 he enlisted in the Militia Forces, was allotted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Signals and was promoted lieutenant in January 1940. Transferring to the Australian Imperial Force, he sailed for Singapore in February 1941 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Division Signals. With a well-trimmed military moustache, Matthews was known affectionately as 'The Duke' because of his strong resemblance to the Duke of Gloucester. He was athletically built, stood well over six feet, had a ready smile and liked to dress well.

In Malaya Matthews and his section moved to Malacca with the 2/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, for whom they provided communications with divisional headquarters. For his courageous conduct during operations at Gemas and later in Singapore Matthews was awarded the Military Cross. He was promoted captain in January 1942 and after the fall of Singapore he became a prisoner-of-war in Changi prison.

In July 1942 the Japanese shipped 1,496 Australians, including Captain Matthews, to Sandakan in British North Borneo. Soon after arrival Matthews was instrumental in laying the foundations of an elaborate intelligence organization. Contact was made with Dr. J.P. Taylor, an Australian in charge of the government hospital at Sandakan, and with civilian internees imprisoned on Berhala Island. Matthews and his second-in-command, Lieutenant R.G. Wells, made contact with friendly Asian locals, who supplied them with a revolver, maps, radio parts and information. Contact was also made with the British North Borneo Constabulary, who were used to guard the civilian internees.

By September 1942 the intelligence network had been consolidated and extended, all information being reported to Matthews and collated for future use. He made contact with Philippino guerrillas operating in the Sulu Archipelago and successfully arranged escape parties of Australian prisoners. In January 1943 the civilian internees were transferred to Kuching and unofficial control of the constabulary passed to Matthews. He developed a contingency plan to overthrow Japanese control in the event of an Allied landing in Borneo and at his direction work began on the construction of a radio transmitter.

In July 1943 four Chinese members of the organization were betrayed to the Japanese. Under torture they admitted supplying radio parts, Matthews' name was mentioned and his plans were uncovered. Many officers and men were arrested, including Matthews and Wells. Interrogations were carried out in Kuching gaol and the men were subjected to brutal beatings, torture and starvation. Matthews, among others, was sentenced to death. Declining a blindfold, he was executed by firing squad on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1944 and was buried at Kuching. In 1946 his body was re-interred at the Labuan War Cemetery.

Throughout, Matthews provided encouragement to his fellow accused and steadfastly refused to make admissions which would implicate or endanger the lives of his associates. In recognition of his gallantry, he was posthumously awarded the George Cross. Captain Matthews' portrait hangs in the Army Communications Training Centre, Simpson Barracks, Melbourne. The Royal Australian Corps of Signals has commemorated him in the Lionel Matthews Merit Award for outstanding students on courses for other ranks, conducted at the Centre.





## Peter John Badcoe, V.C. (1934-1967)

Peter John Badcoe was born on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1934 at Malvern, South Australia, the son of public servant Leslie Allen Badcoe and his wife Gladys Mary Ann May (née Overton). He was educated at Adelaide Technical High School. On 12<sup>th</sup> July 1952 he entered the Australian Regular Army as a cadet at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Victoria, and graduated as a second lieutenant in December 1952. He was posted to the 14<sup>th</sup> National Service Training Battalion (1953 and 1955-57) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment (1953-55 and 1957-58). On 26<sup>th</sup> May 1956 he married Denise Maureen MacMahon in the Methodist Church, Manly, Sydney, and they had three daughters.

Promoted temporary captain in December 1958, he served at Army Headquarters as a staff officer until posted to Malaya with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Field Battery from September 1961 to November 1963. During this service he visited South Vietnam for two weeks in November 1962. From November 1963 until August 1965 he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment in Australia before applying to join the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam. After attending the adviser's course at the Intelligence Centre and at Canungra, he was promoted provisional major and arrived in Vietnam in August 1966.

Short in stature, with a roundish face, receding hair-line and wearing heavy-rimmed spectacles, Badcoe was not the usual image of a hero. A non-drinker and non-smoker, away from soldiering he was a quiet family man with a dry sense of humour. He showed boundless enthusiasm in field exercises and in his off-duty discourses on martial matters. He served as a sub-sector adviser in the Nam Hoa district of Thua Thien province until December 1966 when he became operations adviser for the whole province. He was in action during his first week at Nam Hoa and the legend of his



determination and aggressive spirit began to grow. However, it was as operations adviser that Peter Badcoe performed the three feats of heroism that together earned him the Victoria Cross.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1967, in the rice-covered coastal plains of Phu Thu district, Badcoe ran across almost 600 metres of fire-swept ground to assist a platoon of the South Vietnamese Popular Forces. Rallying the small unit, he led it in a frontal attack against a machine-gun post and shot the gun crew. His actions and shouts of encouragement inspired the unit, which inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. He retrieved the body of an American adviser and returned under fire to evacuate the wounded. Less than two weeks later, on 7<sup>th</sup> March, Badcoe organized a relieving company into platoons which he led in a dash, again across open, fire-swept ground, to prevent the fall of Quang Dien district headquarters, which was being attacked by a strong enemy force. The fierce assault forced the enemy to withdraw.

One month later, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1967, Badcoe learnt that South Vietnamese forces were in difficulty near the hamlet of An Thuan, just north of Hue. Knowing that air support would be unavailable to the South Vietnamese without advisers being present, he proceeded to the scene in a jeep. He took charge and rallied the South Vietnamese, who had fallen back in the face of withering fire. Setting an example, he pushed forward, and the South Vietnamese began to follow until stopped by a hail of fire. Refusing to fall back, Badcoe made several attempts with grenades to silence the machine-gun, which was having a devastating effect. At one stage he was pulled out of the line of fire by his sergeant but, rising to throw another grenade, he was shot and killed.

Peter Badcoe was buried in the Terendak Military Cemetery, Malacca, Malaysia. Six months later he was awarded the second of four Victoria Crosses awarded to Australian troops in Vietnam. His V.C. and other medals are on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

## Further Reading

All books and articles listed below are available either at the State Library of South Australia or the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide. An asterisk indicates that the person is also represented in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volumes 1-15 (Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1966-2000). In many cases, private or business record groups relating to the person or the family are held by the State Library of South Australia.

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### George French Angas\*

- J. Tregenza: *George French Angas: Artist, Traveller and Naturalist 1822-1886* (Art Gallery Board of South Australia, Adelaide, 1982)

### Sir Henry Ayers\*

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### John Stokes Bagshaw\*

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## Corrigenda

(Line numbering includes headings.)

Page	xiv	Line	38	For 'Teritory', read 'Territory'.
Page	3	Lines	14-16	Delete 'In his pivotal role . . . Managing Director.'
Page	50	Line	35	For '3,000', read '500'.
Page	58	Line	33	For 'Bail', read 'Ball'.
		Line	34	For 'Dulcif', read 'Dulcify'.
Page	69	Line	23	For 'December', read 'November'.
Page	110	Line	10	Delete 'On 10 <sup>th</sup> December 1849 he married Elizabeth McConnell.'
Page	121	Line	9	For 'Gawler Place', read 'Freeman Street (now part of Gawler Place)'.
		Line	14	Delete '(now part of Gawler Place)'.
Page	122	Line	14	For 'Kensington', read 'Kensington and Norwood'.
		Line	37	(ditto)
Page	123	Line	9	For 'Fanny', read 'Fannie'.
Page	144	Line	27	Delete 'Scientific'.
Page	148	Line	45	For 'Edward Tayler', read 'Lloyd Tayler'.

Which Premier of South Australia challenged a fellow Member of Parliament to a duel in Victoria Square?

Who was the first woman police constable in the British Empire?

Who invented the stump-jump plough, the stripper, the pedal wirelless?

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