

LAURICE HEDLEY (LAURIE) MADDERN



Laurie was born Laurice Hedley Maddern on 11 July 1896 to parents Alexander Maddern and Mary Venning. The Madderns were prominent builders in the Adelaide area for many years, building some of the very prestigious homes and buildings still standing around the city today. The family lived at 3 Prescott Terrace in a beautiful two storey home that Alexander had built and which still looks over the Terrace today. Across the road lived the Metters family of Metters stove fame. Laurie married Gwen Metters known as "Queenie" in November 1922.

Laurie attended Price Alfred College in Adelaide and there he excelled in accountancy. He began his working life as a junior accountant and cashier but then on 14 April 1916 at almost 20 years of age, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces. He and his troop embarked on the ship "Ulysses" for Plymouth via Melbourne in October 1916 and after various training and courses in England sailed to France to meet the enemy. Laurie spent

most of his time during the war as a Gunner, his last unit being the 6th Field Artillery Brigade. On 23 August 1919 Laurie returned to Australia on the "Ajana". When WWII began, Laurie enlisted once again and this time served his time as a Sergeant with RAAF in Melbo

Form B. 103.		<i>115 Farjeon Oct 60</i>	Regimental Number... 28568	
NOMD Casualty Form—Active Service.				
Regiment or Corps... <i>142 B 10 Regt</i>		Rank ... <i>Cpl</i>		
Surname MADDERN Christian Name... <i>Lawrence Hedley</i>		Religion... <i>Baptist</i>		
Age on Enlistment 19 years 9 months.		Enlisted (a) 11-11-16. Terms of Service (a) 9 Months Service reckons from (a) 11-11-16		
Date of promotion to present rank		Date of appointment to lance rank		
Extended { Re-engaged { <i>Recruit</i> } Qualification (b) ... <i>(4 Br 1917)</i>		or Corps Trade and Rate.		
Signature of Officer.				
Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.		
	O.C. Troops.	A38 "Ulysses"	Embarked ... Malbourne Disembarked ... Plymouth.	25/10/16 (ER. 8975) 28/12/16,
31-12-16	Res Bde Darblin Inf Ls from Australia			England 29-12-16 5/24 P.P.L.R 7289 <i>11F B23</i>
2.5.17	H. S. I. Depots in US Attended a course at the S. I. Signalling School Plymouth from 8 March to April 21st 1917			7 qualified with class Extract Eng. 21-4-17 2/7 F 15/5/17 8.4
8/8/17	Corde Nbrs A.I.F. En Promoted ER/Br. on Depots in U.S. from date of RBAA			20 8/1 1917 3/8 1917 9
24/8/17	" "	ER Rec. Promoted ER/Cpl	14/8/17	20 20/8 1917 9/8 1917 9
0.4.18	RBA. <i>Grid</i>	Proceeded O seas to Via	Shapton	15454
Nom Roll France ex Heytesbury		22-4-18	DO	34/4/66 6/5/18

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

[P.T.O.]

[M1101] W6135/M768 1000m 8/16a 253 G & S Forms/B.103/4. E.354.

My Diary of Important Events
So far:

Diary entry in the front of Laurie's wartime photo album

Upon his return to Australia, Laurie decided he would like to look into the Soldier Settler Scheme in the Riverland. His future in-laws, the Metters owned "Murray View" a lovely property at Waikerie and the river life appealed. He was allocated Block 657 at Monash in the Berri Irrigation Area, 11 acres of part limestone rubble and part sandy loam soil. It was considered good vine growing ground, however after a time, Laurie realised it was covered in too much stone and purchased Mr Shaunessy's Block 650 and two other blocks. The many stones on the property were of some use, Laurie's brother Alex used a number of cart loads to build his home some miles over towards Berri in Toorak Valley.

By 1921 the block had been planted with 10 acres of grapevines including Doradillos, Sultanas and Currents along with a 1 acre paddock of Lucerne. A 10,000 gallon underground tank for irrigation was in place, 22 chains of vermin proof fencing and 18 chains of Government layed channelling. It wasn't a very large block and the addition of the other purchased property would have proved worthwhile. Laurie ended up owning Blocks 657 and 658 side by side near the Monash township and 650 and 651 further north of his home properties.

Laurie and Queenie were most unlucky in the loss of four children before finally having Yvette. She was a local girl for most of her early life, marrying Sydney “Syd” Burgess and living on a property near Berri. Syd and his son were ingenious in their business acumen, designing, building and selling early grape harvesters, forklifts and other equipment.

Laurie was a very active member of the Lone Gum and Monash community and was trustee of the Methodist Church, Treasurer of both Monash and Lone Gum RSL and the Monash Memorial Hall. He was Captain of the Monash Tennis Club and Secretary of the Lone Gum and Monash Agricultural Bureau. In the early 1940's, the Monash Welcome Home Committee was established and Laurie was voted as Treasurer. These positions he held for many years and was a valued and esteemed member of his local community. His wife Queenie was also very involved in the community as President and Treasurer of Red Cross, Vice President of Girl Guides and Chair of the CWA.

Over his years in Berri, Laurie owned and ran a number of businesses under the title of LH Maddern & Co. These included a furniture shop, P&O Travel Agency, Royal Insurance, a Neptune Fuel round and the office for the Murray Pioneer newspaper. He also conducted daily weather recordings for the Bureau of Meteorology and compiled the Riverland weekend sports results for the Advertiser.

It was whilst travelling on one of his travel agency's P&O Cruises that Laurie sadly passed away whilst travelling with Queenie on a cruise. He died on 1st July 1961, aged just 64, whilst travelling under the Golden Gate Bridge. He was cremated in San Francisco and brought home by Queenie to be interred at Berri Cemetery.



Drying apricots Maddern property

