

Lt. Alan Wilson Morey

**Awarded
The Military Cross**



**Played with the Adelaide University Cricket Club
1912 - 1913 B Grade
A.U.S.A Committee Secretary 1913
Medical Student
1914 Rhodes Scholar**

Lt. Alan Wilson Morey MC

Alan Morey was born on the 1st March 1893 at 215 Hunter St, Newcastle, NSW, son of Henry Augustus Morey (1859-1907), bank manager, and Mary Morey, nee Collier (1867-1926). He was educated at Queen's College and St Peter's College. He was an all-round sportsman and gained a Government Bursary to enable him to study medicine at the University of Adelaide from 1912. At the end of his first and second years he achieved the first place in the medical examinations and won a (tied) Elder Scholarship for outstanding performance in 1912. He was awarded to a Rhodes scholarship in 1913. Magdalen accepted him as a Commoner to read Medicine. Morey, his brother and his mother left Adelaide on 14 July 1914, travelled to England and arrived in London on the 20th August 1914.

Morey paid a brief visit to Oxford before joining the recently formed 11th (Service) Bn, the Royal Scots (Lothian Regt) as a second lieutenant in September 1914. He went to France on the 11th May 1915. He was Mentioned in Despatches in France in 1915. During the Battle of Loos, on the 25th September 1915, Morey was severely wounded in the shoulder and on 4 November 1915 he was awarded the Military Cross, *'for conspicuous gallantry and devotion during the fighting on September 25, 1915 at Loos, in France. He volunteered to cross the open space between the opposing lines to obtain information, and although he was wounded and therefore should have sent a written report, he went for some distance personally to report to the brigadier before his wound was dressed.'* He spent a long period convalescing in England, at Chatsworth.

Morey then joined the Royal Flying Corps; he learnt to fly on a Maurice Farnham Biplane at the Military School, Shoreham, and received his wings on the 29th April without the aid of two sticks. He was transferred to the general list of officers on 29 June 1916 and in August 1917 received compensation of £250 for his injury. Nevertheless, once his rehabilitation was complete, he continued with his training, and on completion volunteered to serve in France. He was posted to 60 Squadron RFC, on 5 December 1917. Morey and eleven other aircraft took off at 12.10 hours on the 24th January 1918 on an offensive patrol over Menin and Roulers, during which seven enemy two-seaters were sighted, engaged, and driven back eastwards. During the combat, at about 1250 hours, when the patrol was at a height

of 8-12,000 feet to the south-west of Becelaere, an Albatros Scout dived down out of the sun on Lieutenant Clark's aircraft from behind - and fired about ten rounds. Clark's combat report then reads: ***"He then turned over my back towards the right. Lieutenant Morey, who was on my right, did a left- hand bank towards the Hun, and immediately collided with him. I saw Lieutenant Morey's wing come off and they both crashed"***. Morey was due to be promoted from lieutenant to captain on the following day.

Alan Wilson Morey was aged 24, and he was the only South Australian Rhodes Scholar to die in WW1. His death was confirmed on 25th March 1918, when the Germans dropped a message over the British lines.. He has no known grave. His name is on the Arras Flying Service Memorial, the AWM aviation section and the Memorial Hall and the Memorial plaque in the entrance to the large quadrangle at St Peter's College.

from: ***Blood, Sweat and Fears***

Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australia who served in WW1. Christopher Verco, Annette Summers, Toney Swain, Michael Jelly: Army Health Services Historical Group. July 2014



Lt. Alan Wilson Morey MC

THE RHODES SCHOLAR.

MR. A. W. MOREY SELECTED.

After a three-hours' sitting at Government House on Friday, the Rhodes scholar selection committee appointed Mr. Alan Wilson Morey, son of Mrs. H. A. Morey, of Buxton-street, North Adelaide, as the South Australian Rhodes scholar. Mr. Morey is 20 years of age, and was chosen from seven applicants.

Mr. Morey was born on March 1, 1893. He received his earliest education at King's School, and then at Tormore House (North Adelaide), and at Queen's School (North Adelaide), entering St. Peter's College in 1907, through winning an entrance scholarship in the previous year while at Queen's School. In that year (1906) he passed the Primary examination in eight subjects. In the following year he gained first place in the Junior examination, securing credits in all the eight subjects in which he passed. He obtained the May Scholarship that year, and in 1908 he passed the Senior examination, gaining fifth place on the list with passes in seven subjects (three credits), and annexing the Farrell Scholarship. In 1909 he gained fifth position on the list of passes for the Higher Public examination, with one credit, and won the



Mr. A. W. Morey.

Farr scripture prize. In the following year he also passed in five subjects in the Higher Public, and gained the Cadet essay prize, and in 1911 he was first in the pass list for the Higher Public, with five subjects, all of which he got through with credit. That year he was at the head of the school, and he obtained

of the school, and he obtained the Young exhibition prize and the Oll Collegians' scholarship. He also won a Government bursary, the Hartley studentship, and the Greek Testament prize. Going on to the University he entered upon a course in medicine, and in 1912, gained first place in the first class in his first year of M.B., and divided the Elder scholarship. At the recent examinations he passed in his second year of the bachelor of medicine course, and was recommended for the Elder scholarship. Thus Mr. Morey has had a brilliant scholastic course. One of the qualifications of the Rhodes Scholar is his fondness for and success in many outdoor sports, and Mr. Morey has divided his spare time among many sports, which have included rowing, cricket, tennis, football, boxing, swimming, rifle shooting, lacrosse, and the gymnasium. He was a member of the winning crew at the St. Peter's College regatta in 1911, and in 1912 he was cox-wain for the University eights at the autumn and Christmas regatta, and also stroke for the junior medical crew (runners-up) at the University regatta. He also rowed No. 2 in the maiden four oars at the Christmas regatta. In 1912 he rowed No. 2 in the A.U.B.C. junior eights, and took part in other races, being bow in the inter-University crew. Playing lacrosse in 1913, he was a member of the University B team that won the premiership. Though he has not gained much distinction as a tennis player, he was chosen to practise for the inter-University team last year. Taking up rifle shooting at St. Peter's College, he was rated as first-class in the cadet classification in 1910-11. At the University in 1912 he was at the head of the junior classification in the annual marksmanship course, and in 1913 he shot in the Inter-University contest and in the Imperial match. In cricket he did not figure prominently, but in the 1911-12 season he was chosen in the inter-collegiate practice team. At college in 1911 he captained the third eighteen in the football field. For three years he was a voluntary cadet, and for two years a non-commissioned officer, taking part in the N.C.O. camp, open to South Australian cadets, among whom he gained third position by examination. The positions he has filled by virtue of popularity have been:—1911, head prefect at S.P.S.C., secretary for the annual ball; 1912, representative from first year to Medical Society; 1913, sports secretary at Adelaide University, representative from A.U.S.A. to sports grounds committee, chairman of the rifle club committee, hon. secretary for annual ball and annual procession and concert, member of the University Club committee (students' representative council committee, and a member of all sub-committees of A.U.S.A. for 1913).

LIEUTENANT A. W. MOREY

FALL FROM AÉROPLANE.

SERIOUSLY INJURED.

LONDON, June 21.

Lieutenant A. W. Morey, the last Adelaide Rhodes scholar, who belongs to the Royal Flying Corps, was flying at Gosport on Tuesday when his machine collapsed, and fell from a height of 500 ft. He was seriously injured, and is now in hospital.

Our cablegrams from London on November 5 last announced that the Military Cross for conspicuous service had been awarded to a South Australian, Lieutenant A. W. Morey, who then belonged to the 11th Battalion of the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment). Lieutenant Morey, who formerly resided in Buxton-street, North Adelaide, was chosen in December, 1913, as a Rhodes Scholar to proceed to Oxford University. His commission in the Royal Scots dated from October 22, 1914. Mr. Morey was born on March 1, 1893, and had a most successful scholastic career.

He began his education at King's School and proceeded to Tormore House, thence to Queen's School, where, in 1907, he won first place in the junior examination. In that year he gained an entrance scholarship to St. Peter's College. In the same year he won the May Scholarship, and followed it up in 1908 by securing the Farrell Scholarship. In 1911 Mr. Morey was first in the higher public examinations, and in 1912 he was first in the first class in his first year as M.B., and he tied for the Elder Scholarship, as he also did the next year. As regards fondness for sports (one of Mr. Rhodes' stipulations), Mr. Morey was successful in nearly every pastime he took up. He was most prominent in rowing and shooting.

The deed for which Lieutenant Morey received the Military Cross was thus officially described:—"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion during the fighting on September 25, 1915, at Loos, in France. He volunteered to cross the open space between the opposing lines to obtain information, and although he was wounded and therefore should have sent a written report, he went for some distance personally to report to the brigadier before his wound was dressed."



Mr. A. W. Morey.

A LION IN THE AIR.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT MOREY,
M.C.

"BRAVER OFFICER NEVER LIVED."

Letters from his commanding officer (Major B. F. Moore) and Senior Chaplain T. W. Wallace Smythe have been received by the mother of the late Lieutenant A. W. Morey, M.C. (South Australia) Rhodes Scholar of 1913, who lost his life in France on January 24 last. Major Moore said that Lieutenant Morey was on patrol duty when the patrol was attacked by an Albatross scout from above and behind. He turned to attack the enemy and struck the German machine just behind the pilot. Both aeroplanes crashed to the ground. Major Moore said he felt the loss for many reasons. A braver officer never lived; he was a lion in the air, always going straight "into the thick of it," and he was a splendid example to the officers of the squadron. He volunteered to go to France though he was partly crippled. There was no reason for him to volunteer; just his own dauntless spirit called him. He was naturally immensely popular, and whenever his name was mentioned, one heard the remark, "He's a jolly good fellow, and a stout one, too." At the time of his death he was on the point of being promoted to flight-lieutenant. His influence had put courage into his comrades.

Senior-Chaplain Smythe stated that one of the pilots was in danger of a Hun diving on him, when Lieutenant Morey flew at the enemy and collided with him. The two machines fell in the enemy lines. Only a week or two previously Lieutenant Morey had returned from a patrol with his flying coat and tunic riddled by bullets.



Alan Morey (bow) 1913 Intervarsity - Melbourne

University Ball.

The annual ball of the Adelaide University Sports Association will take place in the Elder Hall on June 11. His Excellency the Governor has signified his willingness to attend. Intending debutantes are reminded that they should hand in their names to the Hon. Secretaries (Messrs. A. W. Morey and C. E. Pellew) as soon as possible.

Adelaide Newspapers

Morey was "well- known to everyone in Fiji" according to the Fiji Times newspaper, because he was the nephew of C R Morey of Suva, and must have spent time in Fiji at some stage

WW1 Service History

Alan Wilson Morey 11th Battalion, The Royal Scots
(Lothian Regiment),



The following Information Adapted from The Great War Forum Blog: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=841&page=2>

Lt Morey was an Adelaide University Rhodes Scholar (1914), and he and his family arrived in England in 1914 for him to take up his place at Madalan College Oxford where he had been accepted to read Medicine. Fate

would have it that he never had the opportunity to practice as he was killed in action in 1918.

He enlisted on May 11th, 1915. He was a Temp. Lt. The battalion was in the line after landing in France in May 1915 up until the madness at Loos in September. The 11th Royal Scots relieved 8th Royal Scots in the trenches behind Festubert on June 30th 1915. It was not involved in any notable battle but remained in action and learning the ropes of trench warfare and the control of no-man's land. By the beginning of September, 11 and 12 RS occupied a sector of trenches east of Vermelles from where they would advance into the murder of Loos on 25th September. Ewing's History offers no further specific detail of 11RS actions or locations between May and September.

Military Cross

He was awarded the MC in November 1915 for an action that took place on September 25th, 1915 and transferred out of the regiment to join the RFC in June 1916. The action of 11 Battalion Royal Scots on 25th September 1915 is very worthy of note and, no doubt, Lt. Morey deserved his decoration. The action that day was part of what is generally known as the Battle of Loos. It took place over one of the dreariest, most ugly parts of France - a mining and industrial wasteland that is still depressing countryside even today. The ground is as flat as a pancake except for the slag heaps and mine-heads that afforded the Germans visual control over the entire field. The 11 Bn. was part of the reserve force of 27th Brigade, 9th Division, of General Gough's I Corps. They held part of the

north, or left, of the line. Attacking ahead of them was 26 and 28 Brigade, with 2nd Division to their left. The objectives were Auchy and Douvrin, with the caveat that, if Auchy was not taken, then 9th Division was to form a defensive line facing north-east on Haisnes. The 25th September saw early success which 11 Battalion was required to follow up. However, they came under heavy shellfire and were delayed by the flood of wounded choking the communication trenches leading forward. The attack of 28th Brigade collapsed and this delayed 11 Bn. even more, as a result of which it was late in arriving at the front line. As soon as they advanced, the Bn. came under heavy fire from rifle and machine gun. The Bn. was checked at the village of Cite St.Elise but, under the leadership of Lt.Col. Dundas, it rallied and moved forward so that, by 1100 hours it managed to form a single line with 12 Bn. and reach Pekin Trench, just south of Haisnes. Although they had been fighting forward for nearly five hours, the exhausted men again attacked without benefit of any artillery support and even managed to get into the outskirts of Haisnes. This was accomplished by dint of small sections working forward in mutual support in a series of short, sharp charges (*I sense that a lieutenant would be very likely to have commanded such an adventurous and daring group*) but, eventually, the exposed position and strong German defence sent them to ground. Here they waited in the drenching rain. Cold, soaked, and with rifles clogged by mud, the survivors of 11 Bn. soon found themselves in a desperate position as the Germans began to advance from Haisnes. They were

unsupported on either flank but, by cool rear-guard action, they managed to fight their way back to Fosse Alley Trench and inflicted such heavy losses upon their attackers that they temporarily checked the German advance by nightfall. The 11 Royal Scots continued to fight gallantly throughout the following day as the Germans piled more and more pressure on the collapsing British front. By the time the Battle of Loos was considered over on 28th September, the 11 Battalion Royal Scots had lost five Officers killed, including the C.O., and three wounded and three hundred and seventy Other Ranks killed, wounded and missing. There is no doubt that Lt. Morey was a very brave young man.

Military Cross Citation

"Temporary Lieutenant Alan Wilson Morey, 11th Battalion, The Royal Scots ..(Lothian Regiment).For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the action of 25th September,1915. He volunteered to go across the open between the opposing lines to obtain information, and, although wounded in the shoulder, both sent in a written report and went along way to make a personal report to his Brigadier, before having his wound dressed"

After a long period of convalescing in England,Morey then decided to join the Royal Flying Corps. He gets a mention in the London Gazette as follows:

Gazette Issue 29629 published on the 20 June 1916. Page 7 of 64

ESTABLISHMENTS-ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

Mil. Wing.—The undermentioned appts. are

made: —

1st June 1916

Temp. Lt. A. W. Morey, R. Scots, and to
be transfd. to the Gen. List.

Lt. Alan Wilson Morey Royal Flying Corps

The following information adapted from The Great War
Forum Blog: [http://1914-
1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=124
622](http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=124622)

Morey obtained his "Wings" 29th April 1916.



A training accident on the 20th June 1916 where his
aircraft collapsed falling 300 - 500ft saw him badly injured
and he lost a leg as a consequence of this action. Never the

less after rehabilitation he returned to flying and volunteered to serve in France..reported as follows:

RFC pilot Alan Wilson MOREY 60 Squadron was killed in action when he collided with German flyer Lt. Martin Möbius of Jasta 7.

The Royal Flying Corps Communiques for 1917/18 (as edited by Chas Bowyer) for the 24th January 1918 - Communique No: 124 - 2nd Lt F Clark of 60 squadron was attacked by an Albatros scout. Lt A W Morey, also of 60 squadron, made a left hand bank towards the enemy aircraft and collided with it. Both machines crashed.

The collision is also confirmed in Trevor Henshaw's "The Sky Their Battlefield". In brief, whilst flying on an offensive patrol in his SE5a No: B4897, Lt A W Morey collided with an enemy aircraft at 12:10pm 24th January 1918, south west of Becelaere at 12,000 feet. No mention is made in the book of Lt Morey's earlier crash or the loss of his leg. Lt Morey's death also gets a mention in Chris Hobson's "Airmen Died in the Great War", the only extra he held the MC at the time of his death and is listed on the Arras Memorial as he had no known grave.

The historian Stew Taylor wrote in his appendices to Jacobs' diary (as edited by Stephen Lawson and published in C & C Vol. 25 No. 4, 1994 p. 90) that: "At 1210 hrs, 24 Jan. 1918 Capt. J.B. Crompton and Capt. F.O., Soden led a ten machine offensive patrol of 60 Sqdn SE5a's. Capt.

Crompton returned with a loose high tension terminal and Capt. Soden continued to lead the control. About 1250 hrs an EA collided at 12,000 ft with Lt. A W Morey in SE5a B4897 over the German side of the lines. Both aircraft crashed southeast of Houthulst Forest."

The family states during his combat with Ltn. Möbius he rammed the German resulting in both of their deaths.

The same book describes a couple of incidents involving Morey in SE5a B510 - a combat on 18.12.17 and him being wounded in combat on 29.12.17, the authors (Sturtivant and Page) may have got the info from the Cross and Cockade 60 Sqn articles of many years ago.