

Corbin, Cecil
1871-1944
MB BS
General Practitioner and Army Surgeon

The History Committee is grateful to [Stephen Gow](#) for providing much information.

Blood Sweat and Fears Vol 1 p 72 is the most readily available biography.

Cecil Corbin, one of eight children of Thomas Corbin, medical practitioner and Laura Hardy, was born in Riverton, South Australia.

Studying Medicine at the University of Adelaide, he graduated in 1894 and as a house surgeon was involved in the 'Adelaide Hospital Row'¹ of 1898 which led to his (patently unfair) dismissal from that institution.

In 1901 Cecil married Ethel Glen in Mt Gambier and they went on to have five children. He is on record as working in the Onkaparinga area and for a time in Fremantle, Western Australia and in 1904 he joined his brother John in taking over his father's practice on King William Street, Adelaide.

Cecil journeyed to England in 1914 for health reasons but with the outbreak of war, having been a member for some years of the militia in South Australia, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and served in France. At the end of 1915 he was invalided out of active service and repatriated to Australia. Here he continued in the Army as an instructor at an officers' school, being promoted to Major in 1916.

By 1918 he was practicing in Hyde Park and North Terrace, Adelaide and became Chairman of the Royal British Nurses Association, campaigning for more trained nurses. He was also an office bearer of the South Australian Crèche and an active supporter of the Home for Incurables.

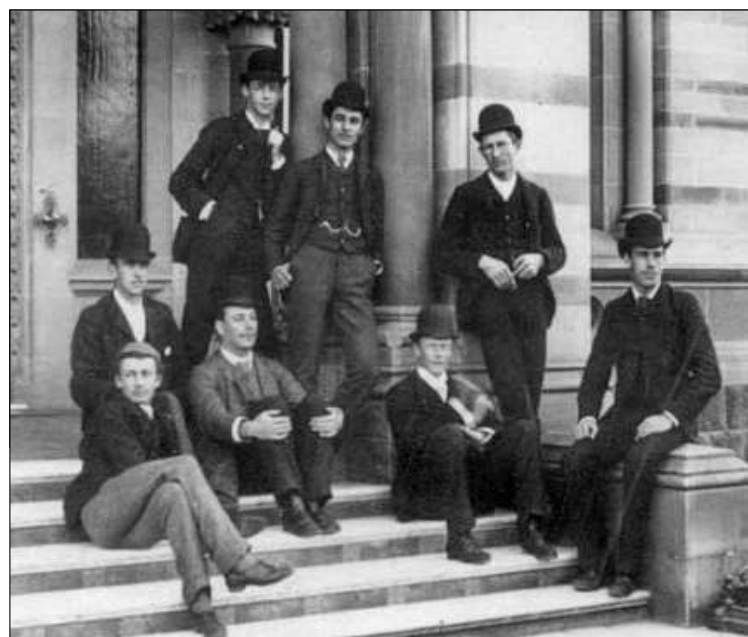
[Virtual War Museum Australia](#)

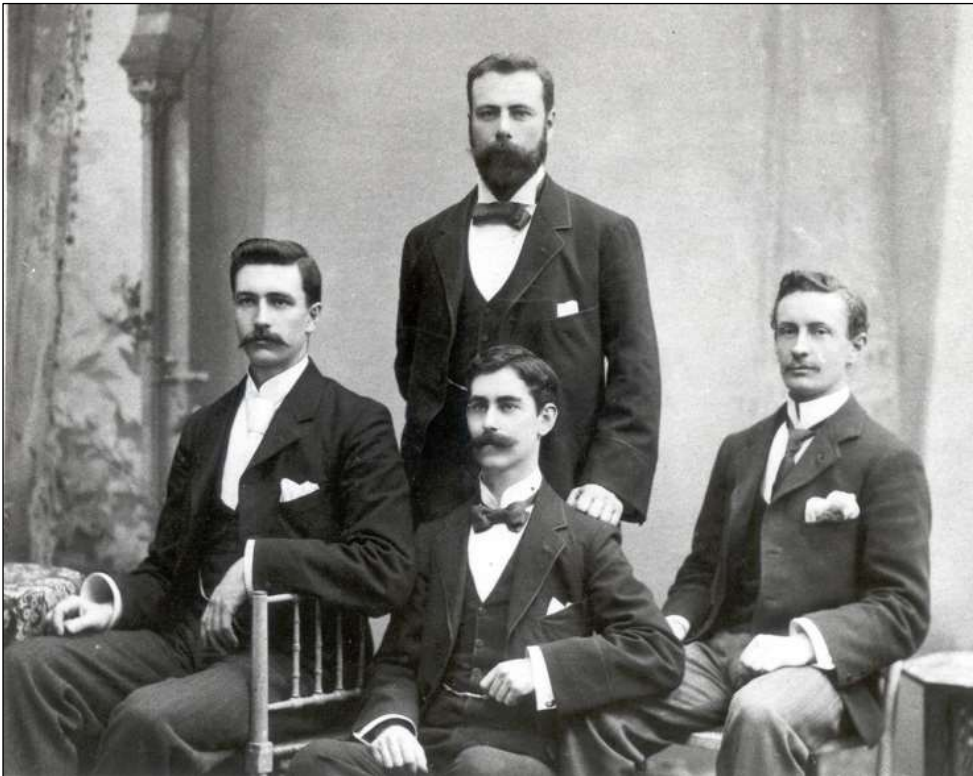
[Other Family](#)

[Genealogy](#)

[Old Prospectors](#)

Right – Second year Medical students 1890: A E J Russell, J B Gunson, J J Sangster, A Goode, C Corbin, E E Moule, H D Irwin, A M Cudmore, A E J Russell.





Left – Resident Medical Officers at the Adelaide Hospital: J A Bonnin (1895), E E Moule (1893), H B Letcher and C Corbin (1894)

Cecil was a keen lacrosse player while a medical student. Below are photographs of teams of [1890](#) (far right, top row) and [1893](#) (4th from right, front row)



¹ Cecil had the misfortune to be a resident medical officer at the Royal Adelaide at the time of the famous [Hospital Row](#). In retrospect it seems likely that the young house surgeons fired bullets for the Old Guard, particularly [Professor Archibald Watson](#) and they suffered the consequences. There are many facets to this saga and one extract from Margaret Glass' book on [Premier Kingston](#), which can be read here gives an insight into the mess.