

Gilbert Michie a'BECKETT

Gilbert Michie a'Beckett was born in St Kilda in 1879. He was the son of Sir Thomas a'Beckett, Judge of the Supreme Court. He was educated at Geelong Grammar School, and studied law at Melbourne University. He acted as his father's associate from 1905 until March 1909, when he resigned from that position to go "into Chambers", having been admitted to practice on 1st December 1908.

He was practising law, both in the criminal and civil jurisdictions, before he travelled to Britain, enlisting in the British Army as a second lieutenant, on 19 November 1915. His commission was with the Royal Garrison Artillery Anti Aircraft Brigade. He was subsequently promoted to lieutenant and on 1 July 1917, he went to France, where he was at the Headquarters of the 4th Army Anti Aircraft Defences of the British Expeditionary Force. He was demobilised to Melbourne in April 1919.

After returning to Australia, Gilbert a'Beckett continued to practice as a barrister. The a'Beckett's long tradition as a legal family is succinctly summarised by an article in *The Daily News* (Perth), on Saturday 14 October 1933. In recording Ted a'Beckett's admission to the Bar in Melbourne, the paper notes the 'legal' family record for Australia is held by the a'Becketts of Melbourne "having contributed nine family members to the legal profession" by the 1930s.

Gilbert a'Beckett appears to have increasingly spent time at his Point Nepean Rd residence, 'Outlook'. A'Beckett died at the age of 78, at Sorrento, on 20th January 1957.



Battle of Menin Road Ridge. A 13-pounder 9 cwt anti-aircraft gun of the Royal Field Artillery in action on Pilckem Ridge, 25 September 1917. Source : Imperial War Museum, London ©IWM (Q5996)