

## John Ulton Brice BEARD

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John Beard was born in Stanmore, Sydney in 1882. He was educated at King's School and Sydney University. He was admitted to practice as a solicitor in NSW in May 1909, and barrister and solicitor in Victoria on 1 March 1910. He was practising in Tocumwal before enlisting for war service in Melbourne in January 1916.

Beard joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion after completing various training deployments including Officer training at Duntroon. He embarked for England on HMAT *Ballarat* on 19 February 1917 with the rank of lance corporal. Having reached England in April 1917, Beard was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital with pleurisy in May 1917. He was then posted to Southern Command Bombing School in Lyndhurst, qualifying as an instructor / assistant instructor in July 1917.

Beard was retained at Durrington Training School until he was marched out to Administrative Headquarters, in October 1917, working in Records until October 1918, having been promoted to Extra Regimental Staff Sergeant (ER/S/Sgt). After a bout of illness, Beard was repatriated to Australia on the HT *Berrima* in January 1919.

In June 1919, Beard was welcomed home with a social event at Tocumwal, along with six other returning servicemen, all receiving gold medals on behalf of the residents. Beard then continued in his legal practice in the area, having offices in both Tocumwal and Cobram. In 1924 Beard moved to Narrandera, where he practiced law and was greatly involved in the local political and social life of the area. He died on 12 October 1933. The flag at Council Chambers was flown at half-mast as a mark of respect upon Beard's passing.

