

James Bennet CALDER

James Calder was born in Invercargill, New Zealand on 5th September 1873. He studied law at Melbourne University (Ormond College). He was admitted to practice in Victoria on 14th August 1901, and worked out of Selborne Chambers. Calder was admitted to the Western Australian Bar on 15th November 1904. On 20th December 1904 Calder entered a partnership with George Frederick Boulton, operating as Boulton and Calder, Barristers and Solicitors, in Fremantle. On 1st June 1909, the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent but Calder continued to practice in Perth.

Calder enlisted on 8th January 1916. He embarked from Fremantle for the Western Front on 12th June 1916, and was placed with the 51st Battalion. From November 1916 until March 1917 he attended cadet training, reaching the rank of second lieutenant.

He rejoined the 51st Battalion in France in April 1917. On 9th June 1917 Calder was wounded in the Second Battle of Ypres, with a gunshot wound to his right thigh. He returned to England to recover and, in August 1917, he rejoined the 51st Battalion in France.

He was wounded for a second time, in the Third Battle of Ypres, on 18th October 1917, suffering a perforated eardrum and otitis, caused by a shell.

After recovery, he again marched back to his Battalion, having been promoted to lieutenant on 13th November 1917. After spending February and March 1918 with the 13th Brigade headquarters, Calder again rejoined the 51st in March 1918. In May 1918 he was admitted to hospital in Rouen with trench fever, and is repatriated to England to recover. By 6th July 1918, Calder was placed with the Australian War Records Section. Calder was de-mobilised from London in October 1919, and disembarked on 13th December 1919 in Fremantle.

Following the dissolution of a second Perth solicitors partnership (Darbyshire and Calder), Calder appeared to have spent some time in London, during the 1920s. He later appeared in the Victorian Electoral rolls from 1936 until 1949 living in Toorak and South Yarra, his profession noted as barrister.

Calder died at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital on 3rd May 1953 aged 79 years.

