

Harold Edward COHEN

Harold Cohen was born in St Kilda on 25 November 1881. He attended Xavier College and the articled clerks' course at Melbourne University in 1900. He won two University prizes, as well as the Supreme Court prize in 1904. He was admitted to practice on 1st March 1904 and then commenced work in the family firm of Pavey, Wilson & Cohen.

In 1901, Cohen was commissioned in the Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Military Forces. He was made a captain in 1905 and then major in 1909. He married Freda Pirani in 1907.

Cohen enlisted in September 1915 at 33 years of age. He was appointed commanding officer of the 6th Army Brigade, Australian Field Artillery Regiment, as lieutenant colonel. He embarked on the *Persic* on 22nd November 1915, and served in the Middle East, England and France until June 1919. Slightly wounded in fighting in late August 1917, at the Third Battle of Ypres, Cohen remained on duty. He was twice mentioned in despatches, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1917 and created a Companion of the Order of St Michael & St George (CMG) in 1918.

After his return to Australia in September 1919, Cohen continued his military service, as commander of the 4th Divisional Artillery from 1921-1926, and in the 2nd Infantry Brigade from 1926-1927. In 1940-41 he served in the Middle East, as honorary Red Cross commissioner. In July 1942, Cohen was made director of amenities, Land Headquarters and was later appointed adjutant-general in February 1943, with the rank of Brigadier.

Cohen also resumed his practice in commercial and constitutional law. He was involved in a broad range of business interests, often holding directorial roles. He also entered into politics. Cohen sat as the member for Melbourne South Province in the Legislative Council in 1929, and, in March 1935, won the seat of Caulfield in the Legislative Assembly. He also held a ministerial role without office from 1932-1935.

Cohen was active in sporting life and society. He was chief commissioner and president

of the Boy Scouts Association, the first president of Legacy in 1924, and held similar roles at the Melbourne Constitutional Club and Rotary. He was also chairman of the Jewish Returned and Ex-Servicemen's Association from 1937-1946. He established the Harold and Freda Cohen prizes at Melbourne University. Cohen died in October 1946 in South Melbourne. He was accorded a military funeral and was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery.

