

Gideon Jervis CRESPIN

Gideon Crespin was born on 3rd November 1874. He was educated at Kew High School and commenced study at Melbourne University in 1892. His father was a well-known Melbourne business figure and Councillor of Collingwood and Kew. He was admitted to practice on 2nd March 1897. Crespin served in the Melbourne University Corps, noting 15 years of various militia service on his enlistment papers. In June 1907 he was made captain of the Australian Garrison Artillery.

Crespin played cricket, most notably in Army v Bar matches. In 1910 he was the solicitor to the Victorian Naval & Military Club and in 1914 he was working as a solicitor as G J Crespin, Cornhill, Melbourne.

Crespin enlisted on 10th September 1914, aged 39 years, as a major in the 14th Field Artillery Brigade initially, and later the 5th Division Artillery. Crespin embarked on the *Shropshire* on 20th October 1914. He served in Gallipoli, although he was hospitalised with dysentery and enteritis. He was sent to England, via Malta, to recover in September 1915. He remained in England until January 1916, when he returned to Tel-el-Kebir. He was transferred to the 5th Division Artillery and remained in Egypt until 20 June 1916, having been made a major in March 1916. Crespin then proceeded to Marseilles and gunnery school, from December 1916 to February 1917. He rejoined his unit, in France, on 22nd July 1917, where actions were being fought in the Third Battle of Ypres. On 31st July 1917, Crespin was wounded by a gunshot injury to the head and face, noted as severe. He was evacuated on 3rd August 1917 to hospital in Rouen, and then shipped to England for treatment and recovery until October 1917. Crespin embarked for Australia on 1st November 1917 on the *Anchises* with medical notes stating for "gunshot wound to head, face and ear, and brain concussion". Crespin was mentioned in despatches on 7th November 1917 for "*distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty in the field during the period 26/2/17 to 20/9/17.*"

Crespin arrived in Australia on 3rd January 1918 and his appointment was terminated in March 1918. By 15th June 1918, Crespin was again appointed temporary major for the troop ship voyage on the *Feldmarschall*, on 19th October 1918. He then embarked on the *Sardinia* for return to Australia with troops, disembarking late December 1918. This appointment was terminated in February 1919.

Crespin resumed his legal practice in 1919-1920, as G Jervis Crespin at 116 Queen St Melbourne. In 1921, he moved his business to Normanby Chambers where his practice was resumed in the offices of Dobson & Middleton.

Crespin was Vice President of the Kew RSL, upon its formation in August 1919. He married Ann Elizabeth Fell, on 18th November 1919, and they had a son in August 1920. Crespin died on 26th May 1924 at the Crespin family home, Sharlands, Kew.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Group portrait of Officers of the Australian Field Artillery in front of the sphinx and pyramids at Giza. Identified, left to right: standing: Captain (Capt) Gideon Jervis Crespin, Officer Commanding 2nd Field Artillery Brigade Ammunition Column (NB Also in this image Lt Robert Clive Crocker, 7th kneeling)