

Richard Armstrong CROUCH

Richard Armstrong Crouch was born in Ballarat in 1868. He completed his legal studies at Melbourne University and was awarded the Supreme Court Judge's prize in 1891.

After being admitted to practice in 1892, Crouch worked as a solicitor in the city. At the first Federal election in 1901 he entered politics and stayed in Parliament until 1910. At this time he also had a commission with the Australian Infantry, rising to major in 1912, and was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in 1913.

He commanded the 22nd Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces and landed at Gallipoli in September 1915, but by early December, he was back at Mudros in Greece. With continuing ill health, he returned to Australia in 1916, when his appointment in the Army was terminated.

He was active in the conscription debates of 1916 and 1917, speaking against conscription. Crouch returned briefly to politics in the 1920s, but after defeat in 1931, he directed his energies into philanthropy, travel, writing and the Royal Victorian Historical Society. He died in 1949.

