

Maurice Leo CUSSEN

Maurice Cussen was born in 1890, one of six sons of Sir Leo Cussen, the Supreme Court judge. He completed his education at Xavier College and then Melbourne University. His Bachelor of Laws degree was conferred in December 1915.

He enlisted in October 1915, and in January 1916 departed Australia bound for France as a member of the 4th Field Artillery Brigade.

Cussen was plagued with ill health during his time in France. On the voyage to France he suffered from asthma, which would happen again in 1918, and he had several bouts of influenza, leading to hospitalisation during 1916 & 1917.

Originally a gunner, Cussen was sent to officer training in England in October 1917 and was made a lieutenant in early 1918. Back in France in April 1918, and now part of the 5th Field Artillery, he became ill again. Later, he was attached to the 2nd Ammunition Column. At the end of the war Cussen was again in hospital, before returning to Australia in 1919.

He was admitted to practice in April 1919 and became an associate to Justice Hood in September 1919. Maurice Cussen practiced at the Bar for the next 20 years, often as a Crown Prosecutor. He was appointed to the Court of General Sessions and later became Chairman of General Sessions before retiring in 1964. Maurice Cussen died in 1979.

