

Charles Herbert DAVIS

Born in 1872 in Kilmore Victoria, Charles Davis was educated at St Andrew's College and Bendigo Grammar School. Articled to a Bendigo lawyer in 1889, he completed the University of Melbourne's Article Clerks' course between 1890 – 1892.

Admitted to practice in 1895, Davis was commissioned in the local Defence forces between 1896 and 1910 and commanded the guard of honour for the opening of the first Commonwealth parliament in Melbourne in 1901. He was working as a Barrister and Solicitor in Bendigo, when he enlisted in February 1916.

He was appointed as a commanding officer (Lieutenant Colonel) of the 38th Battalion and saw service from the moment he landed in France in December 1916. He won a Distinguished Service

Order (DSO) for his command of the battalion during the battles in the Armentières sector during the months of December 1916, January and February 1917. His Battalion also saw service in the key battles in France. He received three mentions in despatches. Lt Col Davis also undertook Commanding Officer duties of the 10th Infantry Brigade Headquarters in February 1918, returning to command of the 38th Battalion in April 1918. He then took command of the Australian General Base Depot at Rouelles. He was promoted to Colonel on 1 June 1918. Davis returned to England in June 1919 and was attached to AIF headquarters in London, until he returned to Australia in October 1919. His appointment in the AIF ended in November 1919. Davis died in Sydney, in January 1923.



Harfleur, France, 1919. A group of six officers stands on the slope of a hill among a larger group of spectators watching an Anzac Day sports carnival at the Australian Base Depots. Colonel Charles Herbert Davis, has a cigar in his hand.