

Clayton Edginton DAVIS

Born in September 1891, at Elsternwick, Clayton Davis was the son of Arthur Herbert Davis, barrister. Clayton Davis attended Melbourne Grammar and Melbourne University and completed his degree in 1914. Davis enlisted in April 1915 and received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant with the 29th Battalion. He left Australia in November 1915 and journeyed to Europe via Egypt. He arrived in time to take part in the battle at Fromelles in July 1916, where he was wounded; he recovered from these injuries to be wounded again during battles on the Somme in September 1916. He was also present at the fighting at Polygon Wood in 1917. It was in late July and early August 1918, in the space of a little over two weeks, that he was recommended twice for the Military Cross. He received one recommended Military Cross and a Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his work at Vauvillers. Davis had been knocked unconscious by a shot to the neck and, on regaining consciousness, took charge of several companies and led a counter attack. After recovering from these injuries, he rejoined his battalion as a captain in October 1918. Davis returned to Australia in February 1919.

He was admitted to practice in 1920 and worked as a barrister in Melbourne throughout the 1920s. He received briefs in several high profile cases which required appearances before the High Court. In 1928, he was admitted to practice as a solicitor in New South Wales and took over a legal practice at Jerilderie. He married at this time. He was active in Jerilderie community affairs, and was the inaugural president of the Returned Services League.

He sought active service during World War Two and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Initially with a training battalion, he saw service with the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion in the latter part of the war.

Post World War Two he settled in Sydney and was president of the War Pensions Tribunal. He died in 1957 at Cooma.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Clayton Davis is 3rd from left seated in the front row, the officers of the 29th & 32nd Battalion at the time of their amalgamation at the end of 1918.