

Geoffrey Matthews DEANS

Born in July 1887, in the gold mining town of Talbot, Geoffrey Deans attended a state school and received a scholarship to attend Melbourne University. He completed his degree in 1910 and was admitted to practice in 1911. He had completed some of his articles with ES Herring at Maryborough and commenced his own practice at Nhill after admission.

Deans enlisted at the very end of 1916 and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in early 1917. Deans joined the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and left Australia in August 1917. Upon arrival in England, he completed his pilot training and became a Flying Officer, arriving in France with the 3rd Squadron of the AFC in August 1918. Deans would have flown in the last months of the War, undertaking bombing raids and reconnaissance flights and providing cover for infantry. Deans did not return to Australia until July 1919.

He resumed his legal practice at Kaniva, in the Western District, and married the girl he was engaged to, before he left for the War, in 1920. In the early 1930s, he was struck off the roll of legal practitioners, for misappropriation of funds, was charged, and acquitted in early 1933. He continued to act as a solicitor at Kaniva well into the 1960s. He died in 1974, at 86 years of age, at Kaniva.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Group Portrait of officers of 3rd Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, France October 1918. Deans is the 8th man, back row, left to right.