

Francis Plumley DERHAM

Francis Plumley Derham was born on 15 May 1885, he completed his law studies at Melbourne University and was admitted to practice in 1906. After qualifying he enlisted with the Australian Field Artillery and at the outbreak of War in 1914 he held the rank of captain.

Derham joined the Australian Army in October 1915 and departed on the HMAT *Wiltshire* shortly afterwards, bound for Egypt. He left Egypt in March 1916 for France. He was placed in command of the 4th Field Artillery in October 1916 and later in charge of various Australian Field Batteries, as well as commanding the 3rd Divisional Ammunition Column in 1917. He received a Distinguished Service Order in 1917 and was mentioned in despatches several times.

He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for his actions during some of the last battles of the War in 1918, on the Somme, at battles of Villers-Bretonneux and at Hamel. The English translation of the citation goes on to say "*Throughout all this period he has rendered most valuable services and his keenness, foresight and command contributed largely to the success of the artillery operations*". Given his role with the artillery, Lt Col Derham would have had command of a number of the men who served from the Victorian legal profession.

After his return to Australia, in 1919, Derham remained active in military affairs and was appointed a major general at the outbreak of World War Two, although he did not see active service.

He held the position of President of the Law Institute of Victoria twice in 1935 & 1949 and was founder of the firm Moule, Hamilton & Derham. He appeared at the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for employers groups as well as holding a number of directorships and board positions. He died in 22 October 1957.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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