

Selwyn Ray DICKSON

Selwyn Dickson was born in Beechworth in 1891. He attended Ballarat College and, in 1907, moved to Scotch College, where his brilliance as a student was recognised with several prizes and awards. He was awarded a residential scholarship at Ormond College, and studied law. He was also awarded the John Madden Exhibition and the Jessie Leggett medal, and attained his LLB in 1912 and an LLM in 1914. He was admitted to the Bar that same year.

Dickson had been a member of the Melbourne University Rifles, and enlisted in the AIF, in November 1915, as a private. He attended Duntroon Officers' School in 1916, attaining the rank of lieutenant, and eventually sailed two years after enlisting, in the *Nestor* on 21 November 1917, with the Sportsmen's Thousand.

He arrived in England in January 1918 and tied for first place in the Officers' School examinations. His foray into action was delayed when, in April, he contracted acute appendicitis, which required an operation and some time convalescing in Scotland. Finally, in July 1918 he departed for France and was attached to the 21st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was stationed at Mont St Quentin in France as a 2nd lieutenant. Early on the morning of 1 September 1918, a shell landed in the trench where Dickson and his men were positioned, killing him and two other soldiers instantly. He was buried near the French town of Peronne.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EQ3104

The 21st Battalion in the attack on Mont St Quentin on 1 September 1918, the very day that Selwyn Dickson was killed.