

## John Leo Gavan DUFFY

John Leo Gavan Duffy, known as Leo, was the son of John Gavan Duffy, a solicitor and politician. He was also a cousin to Charles, Frank and Desmond Gavan Duffy who in turn were sons of Sir Frank Gavan Duffy, a judge of the Australian High Court.

Leo Gavan Duffy was born in March 1889 and attended Christian Brothers College and later Melbourne University. While at university, he helped found the Student's Representative Council and was a champion pole-vaulter.

He was completing his articles when the war broke out. He had already enlisted with the field artillery in April 1916, when he was admitted to practice, in May 1916, in his uniform, having obtained special leave to attend the ceremony. He received his commission as second lieutenant in December 1916, shortly before his departure for the war.

He arrived in England in February 1916, and after further training, he landed in France in August 1917. He was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battery as part of the First Field Artillery Brigade. Shortly after being promoted to lieutenant, early in 1918, he was ill with bronchitis. After he was declared fit for service, he succumbed to the skin disease, scabies. He rejoined the artillery when fit again and served with them until the end of the war.

In early 1919 he took leave in Nice and Paris in France, before he returned to Australia, in August 1919. Upon his return, he worked as a solicitor, first, with Gillott, Moir and Ahern and later in his own practice at Camperdown. He had married Ruth Madden, a niece of the former Chief Justice Sir John Madden in 1923, at St Patricks Cathedral. Another of his cousins, Rev Guy Gavan Duffy, performed the marriage ceremony. Leo Gavan Duffy died in May 1925 as the result of a car accident near Port Fairy.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Men waiting to board the *Orontes* in December 1916, the same day and boat that Leo Gavan Duffy departed for the front.