

Harry McLeod DUIGAN

Harry Duigan was the son of a barrister; he was born in 1875, and was thus 39 years of age when he enlisted.

He had completed his law degree at Melbourne University, where he was also a member of the University's field athlete team. He was admitted to practice in 1901 and had offices in Molesworth Chambers at 450 Little Collins street, Melbourne.

Duigan enlisted in October 1915, and was commissioned immediately as an officer with the rank of major with the 29th Battalion. Duigan left Australia in November 1915, but was sent ashore at Colombo to recover from illness. He rejoined his battalion in Egypt and then journeyed to France.

He was present at the battle of Fromelles, in July 1916, and received a promotion to lieutenant colonel with temporary command of the 60th Battalion. This battalion was largely wiped out, at Fromelles, with 757 casualties. He spent the rest of 1916 helping to rebuild the 60th Battalion. By February 1917, he had been sent to London to recuperate from illness, in particular he was suffering from kidney disease. By April 1917 it must have been apparent that he was not going to recover and returned to Australia with a medical discharge.

After the War, he returned to legal practice, and died in August 1931 at the Caulfield Military Hospital.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Officers of the 60th Battalion, Harry Duigan is sitting in the middle of the front row.