

Charles HAMILTON

Born in January 1869 in Learmonth, Charles Hamilton was 44 years when he enlisted in early 1915. The son of a minister, Hamilton had been educated at Ballarat College and completed his law degree at Melbourne University in 1897. He was admitted to practice in 1898. Originally in partnership with Curwen-Walker and Hamilton in Ballarat, he became a sole practitioner for a short period, before joining Woolcot, Drysdale and Hamilton in Geelong in 1913. He was also the member for Windermere in the State Parliament from October 1902 to May 1904, when his seat was abolished.

Hamilton departed with the 23rd Battalion in October 1915 on the *Ulysses*, but was ill upon arrival in Egypt. Later, he was promoted to lieutenant and became part of the 60th Battalion. He arrived in France in June 1916 and took part in the battles at Fromelles in late July and early August. Hamilton was wounded during this fighting, but returned to his unit later in August.

By November 1916, arthritis in his knees was proving so crippling that he was hospitalised and sent to England to recover. The prognosis for the arthritis was an ongoing condition and Hamilton was considered unable to continue in active service. He remained in England until a transport was found to send him home to Australia in 1917.

He returned to legal practice as a sole practitioner in Melbourne and died in 1934.



The 'Cobbers' statue which stands in St Kilda road, commemorating the battle at Fromelles.