

Edward James HAMILTON

Born into a legal family in 1881 at East Melbourne, Hamilton was the son of EB Hamilton, a judge of the County Court, and the grandson of James Wilberforce Stephen, a judge of the Supreme Court. Edward Hamilton was educated at Melbourne Grammar and Melbourne University. He completed his degree in 1905 and was admitted to practice in 1906.

At the outbreak of the War, he was in practice at Bunyip and Drouin and had just entered a partnership with Backhouse and Skinner at Foster and Yarram. The practice became Backhouse, Skinner and Hamilton.

Edward Hamilton enlisted, like his partner, Evelyn Skinner, in January 1917, after essentially winding up the partnership. Hamilton enlisted as a private in the 13th Light Horse. He was employed as a driver during his time in camp at Broadmeadows.

He left Melbourne in November 1917 and arrived at Southampton on 24 January 1918, exactly a year after enlistment.

He proceeded to France in May 1918, promptly became ill, and was in hospital for most of June 1918. He did not rejoin his unit until July 1918, just in time for the Light Horse's participation in the fighting around Mont St Quentin in August 1918.

Hamilton returned to Australia via America, under his own expense, in early 1919 and was discharged from the Army on his return. Instead of returning to practice in Gippsland, Hamilton worked as a solicitor at Malleson, Stewart, Stawell and Nankivell. When a promised partnership did not eventuate he went into practice with the Trumbles (father and son). He later joined Malleson's in 1930 and became a partner. In 1931 he was made president of the Law Institute of Victoria. He died in 1945.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E02979

The 13th Australian Light Horse moving up past Gressaire Wood to participate in the attack that morning near Bray by the 9th Infantry Brigade. 22 August 1918