

Dixon HEARDER

Dixon Hearder was born in September 1879. He completed his legal training in Western Australia and had been practicing as a barrister for 12 years when he enlisted in early 1915.

Hearder was part of the second reinforcements for the 11th Battalion and was commissioned as an officer. He embarked from Fremantle on the *Itonus* in February 1915. He served at Gallipoli, but was evacuated in July 1915, sick. He was transferred to England to recover, and after a lengthy stay in England, he rejoined the 11th Battalion in France in August 1916 having been promoted to major. The 11th Battalion was engaged in heavy fighting at the Somme and shell explosions twice buried Hearder, in November and December 1916.

Late in 1916, he was again ill, this time with influenza, and returned to England to recuperate. He returned to France in 1917, but was again taken ill. At this time, some disquiet was felt about his service record and he was struck off strength and returned to Australia in August 1917.

He settled in Melbourne, arguing for the 'Yes' vote in the conscription referendum in 1917. In 1919, he was admitted to practice in Victoria and returned to the Bar. He appeared in a number of cases. In 1932 he was made Chairman of the Licences Reduction Board, a post he held into the early 1950s.

The Australian War Memorial holds some of his personal papers about the voyage to the Middle East and the Gallipoli campaign.



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