

Mervyn Bournes HIGGINS

Mervyn Higgins was born on 8 November 1887. His father was Henry Bournes Higgins, barrister, politician and judge of the Australian High Court, as well as the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. After attending Melbourne Grammar and then Melbourne University, Mervyn Higgins completed his degree at Bailliol College, Oxford. He was in the Oxford rowing team that defeated Cambridge in 1910.

Returning to Australia in 1913, Higgins was called to the Bar and had rooms in Selborne Chambers.

Higgins enlisted at the end of 1914 and was commissioned as an officer in the Australian Light Horse in early 1915. Higgins served in Gallipoli and was one of the few officers that survived the battles at the Nek.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, at the end of 1915, Higgins was back again in Egypt. He assisted in reorganising the Light Horse as well as acting in Board of Inquiries. He was killed at Magdhaba, Egypt on 23 December 1916 with a bullet to the head and was buried at Kanatara War Memorial Cemetery.

His parents never recovered from the death of their son, with H B Higgins writing: *"My grief has condemned me to hard labour for the rest of my life."* Mervyn Higgins is also remembered on the Bar Council memorial board to be found inside the Supreme Court Library. He was a well liked figure amongst his peers and the soldiers that served with him. Like Desmond Gavan Duffy, he had worked as an Associate to his father on the High Court.



Mervyn Higgins in Egypt, second from the right.