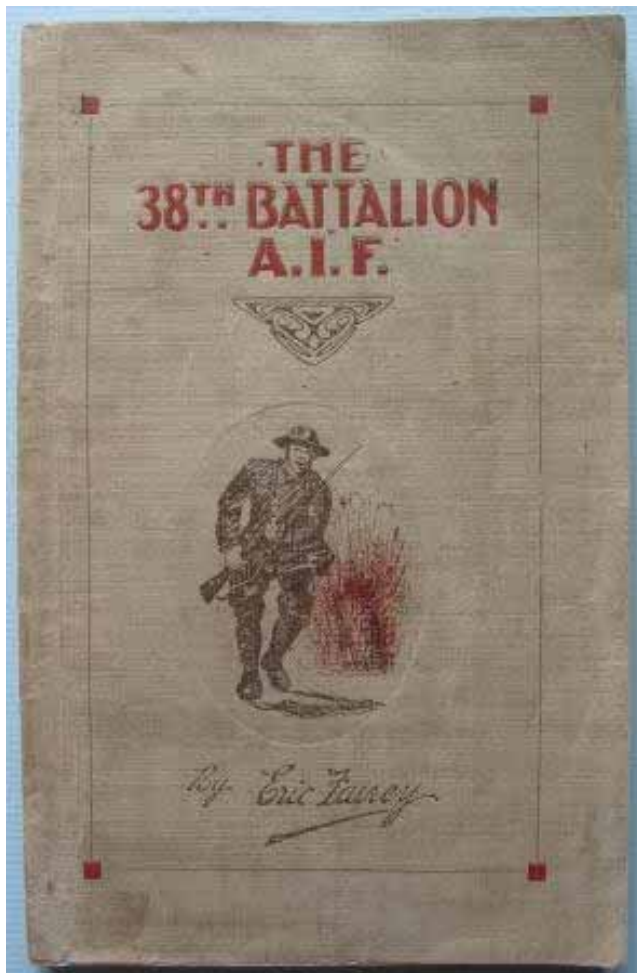


Alan Newcombe HYETT



Alan Hyett was born in Bendigo in 1890. He attended Gravel Hill State School and then St Andrews College at Bendigo with Murdoch Mackay. Hyett and Mackay started their law degrees on the same day at Melbourne University and were residents together at Ormond College. He was admitted to practice on the 1st of August 1913. He joined his father's practice after admission and together they opened the firm of Hyett and Hyett.

In March 1914 Alan Hyett set off on an overseas jaunt, and was still in Europe when war was declared. He hurried home to Australia, but did not enlist until January 1916. His brother Reginald Hyett had joined the AIF in 1915 and another brother served in the medical corps.

Alan Hyett joined the 38th Battalion and left Australia in June 1916 as a sergeant. The 38th Battalion was raised in 1916 in Bendigo and consisted largely of men of Bendigo and the surrounding district.

Once in France, in January 1917, Hyett was promoted to lieutenant. He was attached to the 3rd Divisional Headquarters as the burial officer at the end of May 1917. Alan Hyett was killed,

along with 19 other men, by an exploding shell at Ploogstreet Wood on the 2nd June 1917 in the preparation for the battle of Messines. Private Stephen McCormack of Bendigo, who served under him, gave this account of Hyett as a man *"I can say this much, because I know him he was absolutely the best officer I ever had anything to do with, under shell fire or not. It was all the same to him, he would do his duty. The boy was a credit to his father and mother. I will never forget him as long as I live. Neither will anybody else who knew him."*

Shortly after his death on 12 June 1917, tribute was paid to Alan Hyett in Court by his fellow practitioners. *"Their hearts were extremely sorrowful and they could not help expressing their deepest sympathy... and regret at the fact that such a brilliant young life had been taken away. When young men with brains and ability and gentlemanly conduct such as their young friend Alan Hyett...gave up their lives... they were reminded with dreadful reality of the grave and serious consequences of the war."*