

## Rupert Nathaniel LEVI

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Rupert Levi was born to a prominent and wealthy Jewish family in 1887 in St Kilda. He was the grandson of Nathaniel Levi, a member of the Victorian Parliament. He attained a Bachelor of Law from the University of Melbourne in 1910 and was admitted to practice in 1911.

Prior to his enlistment, he had been involved in the Melbourne University Rifles and the militia, being a lieutenant in the 50th Infantry Battalion, based in St Kilda.

He applied for a commission in January 1916 and embarked as a lieutenant with the 23rd Infantry Battalion on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1916. He was in France by June but his war was to be an extraordinarily short war. On July 6<sup>th</sup> 1916 his commanding officer wrote to Brigadier General Gellibrand that Levi was “not fit to command Australian soldiers in the field” and recommended that he be returned to Australia. Shortly after this, on 23 July, he was “accidentally injured”, but not seriously. He was transferred to AIF headquarters in London, but his services were “no longer required” and he shipped back to Australia in September. His appointment with the AIF was

terminated in December 1916.

Levi returned to his parents’ home and featured prominently in the social pages, accompanying them to various theatrical occasions, balls and garden parties. He was also often in the golfing pages. He continued to work as a solicitor.

1944 was a momentous year in Rupert Levi’s life. His mother passed away in January and his father in October. In November he was appointed a commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking affidavits, and in December, at age 57, he married 39 year old Marjorie Bernhard Smith. He died in 1959, aged 72.