

Richard Meudell LIVING



Richard Meudell Living was born in Malmsbury in 1889. His father, Edwin, was a banker, who had been 'held up' by Ned Kelly himself when he was a teller at the Jerilderie branch of the Bank of NSW in 1879. Richard was educated at Caulfield Grammar and attained his Bachelor of Laws from Melbourne University. He was admitted to practice in March 1915 and he enlisted just a few weeks after that in April.

He had five years experience with the junior cadets and so underwent officer training at Broadmeadows and was appointed as a 2nd lieutenant in July 1915. He embarked on 29 December 1915 with the 6th Infantry Battalion Reinforcements.

He served in Egypt and in the Sinai desert early in 1916. He was sent to France and was at the bloody battle of Fromelles on July 19. Late in 1916, he was evacuated to England as 'sick'. He served in the Judge Advocate General's branch, undertaking court martial work in England for some months, but was deemed unfit for duty due to defective vision and was returned to Australia on a hospital ship before the armistice in 1918.

After the war, he continued with court martial work and eventually became a major. He also returned to practice in Wangaratta, being principal at a firm called Murdoch & Living. He married Frances Holmes in 1920 and they had three children, including a son who died in combat in World War Two. In the 1950's he and his wife moved to Queensland where he became a jail chaplain and was a missionary to the aboriginal people. He died in 1969.