

Francis de Courcy MANN



Francis Mann was born in 1882, in Ballarat, where his father Thomas was a solicitor. He attended St Patrick's College Ballarat and Melbourne University. He went into practice in the town of Murtoa near Horsham and was active in the sporting clubs of that town. Shortly before the war, he went into practice with his father at his Ballarat firm of Pearson & Mann.

Mann enlisted in August 1915 and was appointed lieutenant in May 1916, embarking for Europe in June. Initially he was at Hayling Island, which hosted a musketry school, and proceeded to France in November 1916. In February 1917, he was wounded in action by a shrapnel splinter but remained on duty at the front for another 12 months, and became a captain in the 38th Battalion. In January 1918, he was seconded to command the No.3 Company of the Australian Infantry Base Depot at Le Havre but, by May of that year, he was hospitalised for chronic nasal infections. After this, he was deemed fit only for sedentary duties and remained in England until after the war. In October of 1919, he "assumes appointment as legal advisor".

Mann returned to Australia and to Ballarat. In July 1920, he was elected the president of the Ballarat and districts Returned Soldier's League. He was also involved in the Ballarat Turf Club and other sporting clubs. He continued to practice with his father until 1940, and thereafter on his own. He died in 1959 aged 77.



Portrait of F D Mann, Seymour, c 26 September 1915

Group portrait of officers of the 37th Battalion before the Battalion left for France in November 1916.