

## Fred Russell Beauchamp MARTIN

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Russell Martin was born in 1887, the son of a newspaperman in Horsham.

He was educated at Wesley and then Queens College Melbourne, where he graduated in law, being admitted to practice in 1911. He was a rising barrister at Selborne Chambers when, in early 1916, he commenced the “dungaree stage of soldiering”.

In June 1916 Martin embarked with the 38th Infantry Battalion to France where, at Messines, in mid 1917, he was wounded by shrapnel and sent to England to recuperate. In late 1917, at Ypres, his “conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty” earned him a Military Cross. He remained on active duty until the end of the war, becoming a musketry officer on the day of the Armistice.

Russell Martin returned to practice upon his return to Australia, in 1919, and was a specialist in common law and taxation law. In one of two appearances before the Privy Council he was junior counsel to Owen Dixon KC. His practice thrived and in 1934, at just 45 years old, he was appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Victoria. He served on the Bench from 1934 until 1957.

After his retirement from the Bench, he was appointed Commissioner of a Royal Commission that inquired into off course betting in 1958. He lived in Hawthorn until his death in 1981, aged 94. He was survived by two of his three sons.

