

Frank Gladstone MENZIES

Frank Gladstone Menzies was born on 3 January 1892, the second eldest of five children. His younger brother was Robert Menzies, who later became Prime Minister.

Educated at Grenville College in Ballarat, Frank Menzies was appointed a clerk in the Victorian Department of Lands and Survey in 1909; and he began to attend evening classes at Melbourne University in 1910. He did not complete his Bachelor of Laws degree until his return from the War in 1920. In 1913 he transferred as a clerk to the Crown Law department.

Menzies enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in October 1915 and accepted commission as an officer in January 1916. Menzies left Australia in with the 24th Battalion in March 1916, reaching France in June.

He was appointed an Aide, at Headquarters, and most of this subsequent service was in regimental and staff duties. In 1917 he was promoted to captain, but in March 1918 he was gassed, severely enough that he was sent to England to recuperate. He resumed his duties in France, again at Headquarters, in June 1918. He returned to Australia in early 1919.

Upon return to Australia, Menzies began work again at the Crown Solicitor's Office, completed his degree and was admitted to practice in 1920. Menzies spent the rest of his professional career with the Crown Solicitor's office, eventually rising to Victorian Crown Solicitor. Early in his career he made appearances in the Court of Petty Sessions, later instructing in significant cases including matters before the High Court of Australia.

Awarded a CBE (Companion of the British Empire) in 1951, Menzies retired as Crown Solicitor at the end of 1954. He continued to be active in community service after his retirement and died in August 1978.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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