

William Farnham MOLESWORTH



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA1 3305

William Farnham Molesworth was born in 1873 in Warrnambool. His father was Hickman Molesworth who was prominent criminal barrister and then a County Court Judge. His grandfather was Sir Robert Molesworth, a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria. William was educated at Kew High School and went on to get his degree from Melbourne University. He was admitted to practice on 3 December 1894.

Molesworth had a thriving practice in Warrnambool as a solicitor from the late 1890's until his enlistment in August of 1915. Upon his enlistment he was trained at Castlemaine and then sailed in January 1916. He arrived in France in June 1916 and he saw action at Armentieres, Pozieres, Dickebusch, Ypres, Delville Wood and Bapaume, mainly in the light mortar artillery.

He wrote in a letter published in the Warrnambool Standard in 1916 *"What can I write of the war? Imagine every conceivable device for killing and causing pain – every instrument invented by mankind for terrifying, suffocating, seeing and directing aim and no mercy, and you have war."*

By mid 1917, however, it was stated in his medical report that the 44 year old Molesworth "looks tired out" and with age and rheumatism he was declared permanently unfit for service and returned to Australia.

He returned to Warrnambool and to his solicitors practice. His health began to fail in the early 1920's and he had to give up work. He died, aged 50, in 1923. His military record states that he "died after discharge, death due to war service".