

Francis Hugh MURPHY



Francis 'Frank' Hugh Murphy was born circa 1883 in Sale to a prominent Catholic family. He was the youngest of seven brothers, all of whom were doctors or lawyers. He attended Gippsland College, Sale and enrolled at the University of Melbourne in 1901. He was articled to his brother, Luke Murphy, who had a practice in Bendigo, although Frank went on to become a solicitor in Melbourne. He was regarded as *"one of the most promising of the young Melbourne lawyers. Although in practice for only a few years, his professional knowledge of the law, combined with the gift of eloquent speech, had gained for him an important place amongst the members of his profession."*

He enlisted in July of 1915 and embarked in March 1916 on board the *Malwa* as an acting sergeant with the 24th Battalion. He was on the Western Front by mid August 1916 and on 19 August he was promoted to lance corporal. However, on the evening of 22 August, at Pozieres, a shell exploded in the hole occupied by Murphy. He had both of his legs blown off. He was carried out to the dressing station

and eyewitness accounts have him conscious and calm. His legs were amputated but he died overnight.

Many remembered him very fondly, his fortitude and "pluck" being a particularly outstanding personal quality. His commanding officer wrote to his brother that he *"considered him quite the oasis in this military life, his thought and conversation were always so elevated."*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Portrait Image from University of Melbourne, <http://history.law.unimelb.edu.au>.

AWM Image - Colonel James addressing troops of the 24th Battalion around the memorial erected in memory of members killed at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm.