

## Frederick Beaumont PHILLIPS

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Frederick Phillips was born on 20 January 1890 in Ballarat. He attended Wesley College and completed his law degree at Melbourne University in 1914. He was admitted to practice in 1915. He originally worked as an assistant censor during the War and was permitted to enlist in July 1917, overcoming concerns about his short stature (a little over 5 feet tall) and damaged leg.

Originally, in the Australian Medical Corps, he arrived in England, in August 1917 as a part of the Sea Transport Section, and later transferred to Records. Phillips then transferred to the Australian Flying Corps in January 1918 and trained as an Observer. His training finished just as the war ended in 1918.

After the War, he became a magistrate and then a judge in Papua New Guinea. He was awarded a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for his work in Rabaul in 1938. He returned to Australia and completed his Master of Laws at Melbourne University in 1940.

During World War Two, he volunteered for service with the Australian Air Force, with the rank of acting group captain. Don Charlwood, in his book *Journey into Night*, writes memorably of Phillips lecturing him in Air Force Law during his training at this time.

After the Second World War, he returned to Papua New Guinea and was appointed Chief Justice in 1954. Appointed a Knight of the British Empire in 1956, he retired to Melbourne in January 1957 and died later that year.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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