

Harold William RIGGALL



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Born on 24 January 1882, Harold Riggall was the son of William Riggall, the founder of Blake and Riggall. Harold appears to have completed his articles with his father's firm and was admitted to practice in August 1910. Something of an athlete he also had one game in the Victorian Football League for Melbourne in 1900.

Riggall married Elsie Mary Appleton in 1912, and they had a son, William, in 1913.

Having served in the Civilian Forces before the War, Riggall was commissioned as a captain with the Field Artillery in January and left Australia in February 1915. Said to be one of the first Australian artilleryman to land at Gallipoli. Riggall was present at the Gallipoli peninsula for most of 1915.

Following Gallipoli Riggall went to France in June 1916 and served with the 21st Field Artillery, he was promoted to major in early 1918 and later lieutenant colonel. He was present at and often commanding Australian artillery positions in many of its main engagements. He was involved in the fighting at Villers-Bretonneux and Mont St Quentin. He

received a Distinguished Service Order for his 'distinguished and gallant service and devotion to duty' for his work from February to September 1917 on the Western Front at Ypres and was mentioned in despatches in December 1918; he was awarded a Cross of St Michael & St George (CMG) after the War.

He returned to Australia in April 1919, and to Blake and Riggall as a solicitor and partner. He and his wife featured prominently in the social pages and often hosted parties at their Toorak home "Somercotes".

Harold Riggall died in January 1930 at the relatively early age of 47, leaving behind Elsie and their son William, who was then 16. At his death his obituary began with 'Death of a Distinguished Soldier' and a contemporary newspaper account of the time suggested that he had 'never entirely recovered from illnesses contracted during the war.'