

Harry ROSS-SODEN

Harry Ross-Soden was born at St Kilda on May 17 1886, he attended Melbourne Grammar and Melbourne University.

During his university studies Ross-Soden represented his college (Trinity), University, his state and eventually his country in rowing. Ross-Soden was part of the first Australian Olympic rowing team and competed at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm.

Ross-Soden enlisted in the AIF in September 1916, after the completion of a court case in which he was the defendant following a traffic accident in Toorak Road, South Yarra in 1913. The case progressed from the Prahran Magistrates Court all the way to the High Court of Australia.

Ross-Soden left Australia as part of the 39th Battalion in February 1917 and arrived in England in April 1917.

During the rest of 1917, he received officer training for service with a machine gun company. Ross-Soden finally arrived in France in April 1918, but almost immediately was placed on sick leave and, returned to England in July 1918, with a stone in his bladder.

Ross-Soden remained in England until the end of the War. After the war ended, he was selected in the AIF rowing team and took part in the Henley Peace Rowing Regatta in July 1919, before returning to Australia, in September of the same year.

He did not return to the Law after the War, instead, becoming a grazier in Deniliquin. He returned to Melbourne in the early 1930s and died at Sandringham in 1944.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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AIF first eight rowing crew, July 1919. Lt. Harry Ross-Soden of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion is the last man on the right.