

## John Buchanan SAWERS

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Born in Sydney in March 1881, John Sawers attended Melbourne University and completed his law degree in 1902. After admission to practice in 1907, John Sawers joined Donald Morrison in practice at Kyabram.

Sawers enlisted at Melbourne Town Hall in July 1916. He was 35 at the time and became a private in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at Royal Park. He left Australia in October 1916 for England, before going to France in March 1917, where he had been promoted to lance corporal.

He transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion in July 1917 and was wounded during the Battle of Menin Road on 20 September 1917. The gunshot wound to his scalp and severe concussion meant that he was sent to England to convalesce.

He returned to France in February 1918. It was probably at this time he received a parcel from the ANZAC club at Williamstown, to whom he wrote to thank for a comforts parcel.

The letter was published in the *Williamstown Advertiser* on 13 April 1918. In the letter he thanked the club for the parcel and wrote "*The English have done their best for the Australian wounded, but that is just the time when Australia, and Australia only appeals to one, and your parcels do more than you probably will realise to fill the gap*".

In May 1918, he returned to England for officer training and did not return to France until after the War as a lieutenant, returning to Australia in mid 1919.

After his return he resumed his practice at Kyabram with Morrison and they later open another office at Shepparton. The firm Morrison and Sawers continues today. John Sawers died in September 1946.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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The Nestor preparing to leave Melbourne on 2 October 1916, Sawers should be one of these men. A huge crowd is in attendance to farewell the troops.