

## Walter St George SPROULE

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Walter Sproule was born in 1879 in Ballarat, part of a large family of eight children. (One sister Florence served with the Australian Army Nursing Service during the War and another sister Bertha Smith, was the influential president of the Country Women's Association in the 1940s, his brother James Sproule served with the Australian and British Armies during World War One). Walter Sproule was educated at Kew High School and Trinity College at Melbourne University. He completed his MA and LLB in 1901 and was admitted to practice in 1904.

Sproule worked as a barrister before the War. He applied for a commission as an officer in the Australian Army in November 1916 and sailed with the 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion in July 1917 as an honorary captain. Upon arrival in England he undertook further officer training and arrived in France in December 1917, in time for the winter campaign at Messines.

In May 1918 he was attached to the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He remained in France until the end of the war. In January 1919 he was attached permanently to Court Martials Duty until his return to Australia in May 1919.

Upon his return he resumed his career at the Bar. He was appointed a Crown Prosecutor in 1926 and was made a Kings Counsel in 1937. During World War Two he was an acting judge of General Sessions. Thereafter he appears to have semi-retired to his holiday home down at Flinders. Always a keen and proficient tennis player, he was a council member of the Lawn Tennis Australia and wrote newspaper columns on tennis matters.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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