

Leonard Robert STILLMAN

Born in May 1893 to a legal family, Leonard Stillman attended Hawthorn College and then Melbourne University. He completed his articles with the family firm Abbott, Beckett & Stillman and was admitted to practice in March 1915.

He enlisted for service in June 1915 with the 31st Battalion, he left Melbourne in January 1916 aboard the *Wandilla*. Initially in Egypt, the 31st Battalion arrived in France in late June 1916 and in July were involved in the fighting at Fromelles, during which Stillman was injured. After recovering from his wounds, he returned to frontline duty with the 60th Battalion and a promotion to lieutenant in September 1916. He remained on duty during 1917, acting as intelligence officer, he was mentioned in despatches in November 1917. He also participated in the actions at Polygon Wood for which he received a military cross, at the recommendation of Brigadier "Pompey" Elliott, for his intelligence work.

He was wounded again July 1918 during the fighting at Morlancourt and suffered from influenza in October 1918. He returned to England to marry an English girl, Maisie Longley, who he had met during his first hospitalization back in 1916. They returned to Australia separately in May 1919.

Leonard Stillman returned to Abbott, Beckett, Stillman and Gray during the interwar years, becoming president of the Law Institute of Victoria in 1929, like his father before him.

When war came again, Stillman volunteered for service with the artillery and, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, served in the Middle East and later Darwin, before being discharged in 1943. He returned to legal practice and died in 1972 having received an OBE the previous year.

