

## Charles Merton STODART



Charles Stodart was born in Mansfield in 1887. His father had been a grazier but retired to Toorak. Charles Stodart attended Geelong College and later Melbourne University. He played cricket and football with the University teams.

He was admitted to practice in May 1914 and practised as a solicitor in Mansfield before the War. He enlisted on 8 June 1915 and left Australia in September 1915 a member of the 2nd Field Artillery. He journeyed first to Egypt and then later onto France in March 1916. Stodart was sent to artillery training school in England in October 1916, where he also qualified for commission as an officer in the First Artillery Brigade.

Returning to France, he took part in the battles at Ypres in July 1917 and was wounded. After a hospital stay in England, he again returned to France in January 1918. He received his Military Cross in September 1918 “*for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to*

*duty. Prior to an attack, he made a difficult reconnaissance... he acted as the observation officer... telephoning back valuable information”.*

He was promoted to trainee Staff Captain in July 1918 and became an adjutant at the Field Artillery headquarters in October 1918. He returned to Australia in April 1919 and resumed his legal practice in Mansfield. He returned to Melbourne in the mid 1920s and joined Cornwall and Anderson, solicitors, who became Cornwall, Anderson and Stodart and then, in 1930, Cornwall Stodart which still exists today. Charles Stodart died at the relatively young age of 40 in April 1928.