

Richard Ernest TREBILCOCK

Richard Trebilcock was born on 30 June 1880 at Ballarat. He undertook studies at Geelong College and completed his law degree at Melbourne University. Trebilcock was admitted to practice in 1904 and later joined Connelly, Tatchell and Dunlop, a firm of solicitors at Kerang.

Before becoming a solicitor Trebilcock took part, as taxidermist and photographer, on a naturalist field trip to Siberia in 1903. The State Library of Victoria has many of his photographs he took on this trip in their collection.

Trebilcock was active in the Citizen Forces before the War, but did not join the AIF until early in 1916 and completed studies at Duntroon. He was commissioned as a captain in June 1916 and left with the 38th Battalion for service on the Western Front. He arrived in France, in November 1916, after further training in England.

The first major battle for the 38th Battalion was at Messines in June 1917 and in the *Official History of Australia in the War* (Vol.IV), Captain Trebilcock was reported as taking an active part in the fighting. He was awarded the Military Cross in August 1917 for "*conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his company with great dash to its objective, greatly inspiring the men by his disregard of danger and his cheerfulness under heavy fire*".

Trebilcock was later wounded in October 1917 during the fighting at Passchendaele, seriously enough that he was sent to England to recuperate. He returned to France early in 1918. He was back in England again by May 1918, seriously ill with poisoning and returned to Australia in October 1918 aboard the Hospital Transport *Sardinia*. He was discharged from the Army in February 1919. After the War, Trebilcock returned to legal practice in Kerang and died in 1976.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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