

Ralph Eldridge Roebuck UPTON

Born in Adelaide on 8 June 1885, Ralph Upton completed his law degree at Melbourne University and was admitted to practice on 10 March 1909.

He appears to have been in England at the outbreak of the War as the London Gazette of July 1916 listed him as an Officer Cadet from the Inns of Court. He joined the Royal Hampshire Regiment as a second lieutenant on 15 July 1916.

This regiment saw some hard fighting in France during 1917 and 1918. In fact their losses were so great that Lt Upton was placed in an Entrenching Battalion. These battalions were made up of various regiments and after they had been decimated in the fighting in 1917. It is at this time with the Entrenching Battalion that

Ralph Upton received his Military Cross for *"conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in leading his platoon, and more especially in collecting men of other units and leading them into heavy fire to fill a gap in the line. Throughout the day he continued, by his courage, to set a magnificent example to all troops, until he fell severely wounded"*.

After the War Upton returned to Australia and practised in rural New South Wales, at Orange. He was admitted to practice in New South Wales in 1924. He died in 1981.

