

Vernon Joseph WHITEHEAD

Vernon Joseph Whitehead was born in 1874.

He undertook his final law exams in November 1901, passing along with Henry Winneke who went on to be a County Court judge. He was admitted to practice in March 1902.

By the time the War began in 1914, 40 year old Whitehead had a successful practice as a barrister and solicitor, often appearing at district courts for the prosecution or the defence, particularly in Williamstown, where he was quite active in the community.

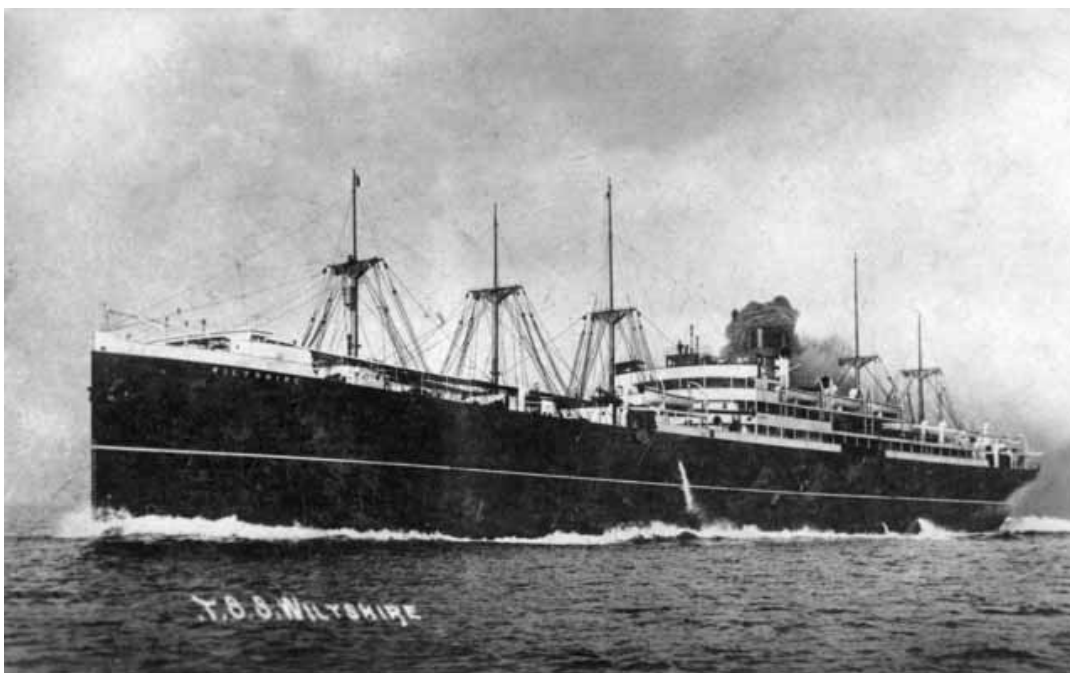
He had been a member of the Australian Garrison Artillery since 1893 and had attained the rank of major. It was at this rank, with the 8th Battalion, that he embarked for Egypt aboard the HMAT *Wiltshire* in April 1915.

He temporarily commanded "B" Company at Gallipoli but was invalided to England with dysentery in August 1915.

He rejoined his company in Etaples, in September 1916, but was on the supernumerary list. He was taken off the list and sent to Belgium, but by November 1916, he was back in England. In January 1917, he was admitted to Queen Alexandra Hospital, London, suffering from delusional insanity.

He returned to Australia aboard a hospital ship, arriving in May 1917.

He returned to his work as a barrister and solicitor, however, appearing in court less frequently. He became active in the Scout movement, and in December 1921 was elected as Chief Scout Commissioner. He died in 1955 aged 84.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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