

Henry Joseph WHITING

Known as Harry, Henry Joseph Whiting was born in 1880 to prominent pastoralist and Melbourne solicitor Robert Selman Whiting. He was educated at Cumloden School, St Kilda and Ormond College, Melbourne University, where he obtained his law degree.

He was very keen sportsman, and was an oarsman of great repute, representing Victoria in the Interstate Championships on several occasions and being the stroke in many inter-varsity boat races.

He received a commission in the Yorkshire Regiment ("Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own") from 1915 until 1917.

He returned to Melbourne in 1918, having been declared "medically unfit for further active service, due to fatigue and exposure in the field".

He married Ruth Lumsdaine in December 1919. She was a niece of Banjo Paterson, who walked her down the aisle. Harry and Ruth had three children, and were very active in Melbourne society, often appearing in the society notices, having had gay times at the opera, or the races or similar. In 1925, they were involved in a nationally reported spectacular car accident in which a tyre blew causing the car to roll over and burst into flames. Four people were injured but all survived.

Harry became a partner in his father's law firm, which, under Harry's auspices, became Whiting & Byrne. Today, this law firm is known as Corrs, Chambers Westgarth.

Harry died in 1940 at age 60.

