

Frederick George WOODS

Frederick George Woods was born in Williamstown in 1881 to local councillor (later Mayor of Williamstown) Frederick Woods and Henrietta Duff. He attained his law degree from Melbourne University in about 1904. He worked for Mallesons from 1909, and was admitted to practice in 1913.

He was already active in the military, being made captain in the 5th Australian Infantry Regiment in 1907. In 1908, he had a serious accident on his bicycle involving tram tracks. His injuries were such that 'his chances of recovery [were] slight' but recover he did and, by the time of his enlistment in 1916, he was the Lieutenant Colonel of the Seymour Training Camp. Here a very grand dinner was held to bid him farewell in May 1916. He was wished a "jolly good scrap" by Minister for Defence, Albert Gardiner and Woods embarked in June to lead the 37th Battalion.

He was presented to King George V in England, and reached France in November 1916, but was hospitalised only 8 weeks later with "neurasthenia". He spent much time in and out of hospitals with neurasthenia or 'shell shock' and was evacuated to England in April 1917. He was seconded to command the 10th Training Battalion in June 1917. In January 1918, he suffered from a hernia, which, in conjunction with the neurasthenia, rendered him unfit for service, and he was repatriated to Australia.

Upon returning to Australia, he went back to his job at Mallesons as a conveyancing specialist, but undertook the bulk of their petty sessions work. He became partner in the firm in 1953, and died in 1958, aged 77.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01085

Lieutenant Colonel Frederick George Woods and Major Eric William Stutchbury MC and bar, both smoking pipes, with some of the German Maxim 08 machine guns captured by the 55th Battalion in the attack near Ypres by the 5th Division on 26 September 1917.