

RAYMOND DOOLEY



I was born at Wangaratta on the 28th February, 1896. At that time, my father was Headmaster at St. James School and we stayed there until 1906.

In 1907, we moved to Wycheproof and I stayed at school there until 1909 when I then obtained a State Scholarship which took me to Wesley College. I was there until September, 1912 when I joined the Home Service Department of the Commonwealth Public Service (later this became Department of Works and Railways).

In 1912, I joined the Compulsory Military Service, 58th Essendon Rifles Machine Gun Section, and became a Corporal. My mother and I stayed at Moonee Ponds until April, 1915 when we moved to Ivanhoe.

On the 19th July, 1915, I joined the A.I.F. and with representatives from each State, attended a Machine Gun School at Randwick, New South Wales. On the 29th August, 1915, I was promoted to Corporal.

I left Australia on the 11th November, 1915 on the S.S. "Ascanius" and went to Egypt. While I was in Egypt, I was allotted to Deversoir, Serapium, Tel-el-Kebir and Ferry Post.

On 1st April, 1916, I was promoted to Sergeant and posted to a Vickers Machine Gun School at Ismalia where I was Distinguished and also, I understand I was the first Australian soldier there. On the 11th May, 1916, I was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant with the 8th Brigade Machine Gun Company and also appointed Commander of 2 Vickers Machine Gun Sections. We went to France on the S.S. "Tunisea" and transferred to Hazelbrook. We were then placed on the front line at Flerbaux and Fromelles. On the 19th July, 1916, I was blown up at Fromelles with some members of my section, and I obtained a heart infection.