

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.

I was admitted to the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station with Shell Concussion and then transferred to the 14th General Hospital at Boulogne. On the 27th July, 1916, I was transferred to the 14th London General Hospital in London until I was discharged on the 2nd October, 1916. I was transferred to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on Salisbury Plains where I was promoted to Lieutenant. On the 25th October, 1916, I was appointed Assistant Quartermaster.

On the 27th June, 1917, I was appointed Adjutant of No. 1 Command Depot. At that time, we had 4,000 troops but when I left in 1918, we had 11,000 troops.

On the 7th January, 1918, my name was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered. On the 6th June, 1918, I was awarded as a Member of the Order of the British Empire which I received at Buckingham Palace on the 22nd October.

I embarked for Australia on the 9th March, 1919 on the H.S. "Kashmir" as Adjutant of the ship and disembarked at Melbourne on the 13th April, 1919. I retired from the Army on the 28th June, 1919.

I resumed with the Department of Works and Railways and became Senior Clerk of the Works Branch.

In the meantime, I built a house at 3 Rotherwood Rd, Ivanhoe and married Irene Florence Eiseman and have had three daughters Joan born 1925, Jacqueline born 1929 and Alison born 1935.

I resigned from the Department of Works and Railways in March, 1926 and became Manager of G.L. Chilvers, Secretary and Accountant. I left on the 1st July, 1935 and formed my own business. I conducted as Secretary many businesses including:-