

MAJ

FRANCIS BEDE HERITAGE

Francis was born on 21st September 1877 at River Don, Tasmania, the son of George Thomas Henry Heritage and his wife Eleanor Boyce, nee Hadfield. He was commissioned Lt on 26th Jan 1897 in the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment and was promoted captain in June 1899. He joined the 1st Tasmanian Mounted Infantry as a Lt in Oct 1899 and remained with them as they went to South Africa for participation in the Boer war, returning to Tasmania in December 1900.



With Launceston Voluntary Artillery, 1902 (Francis lying Prone).



In Sydney 1908, Francis 2nd from Rt, Back Row, with GG and Minister for Defence

After returning home from a trip to the UK for advanced instruction at the School of Musketry at Hythe, he moved to NSW and was promoted Major in July 1909. In Sept he was appointed commandant and chief instructor at the school of musketry, Randwick.

On 11th August 1914 he joined the AN&MEF as brigade major. He acted as Military Secretary from 1 October and acting Deputy Administrator from 28th October. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged from the AN&MEF on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days with the AN&MEF. For his service in New Guinea, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French President.

Shortly after returning, on 16th October he married Rita Austen Hill at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

He was promoted Lt Col in December and was appointed Director of Military Training at Army HQ, Melbourne. On 27th December 1916 he was appointed to the AIF with the same rank and left Australia on 10th Feb 1917 aboard the OSTERLEY, arriving in Plymouth on 11th April 1917 before moving to France on the 20th and being attached to the 4th Division General Staff.

On 27th August 1917 he was appointed 2IC 1st ANZAC Corps School and then Commandant on 19th Feb 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01644

As Commandant, Aust Corps School 1918. (Third from Rt, Front Row)



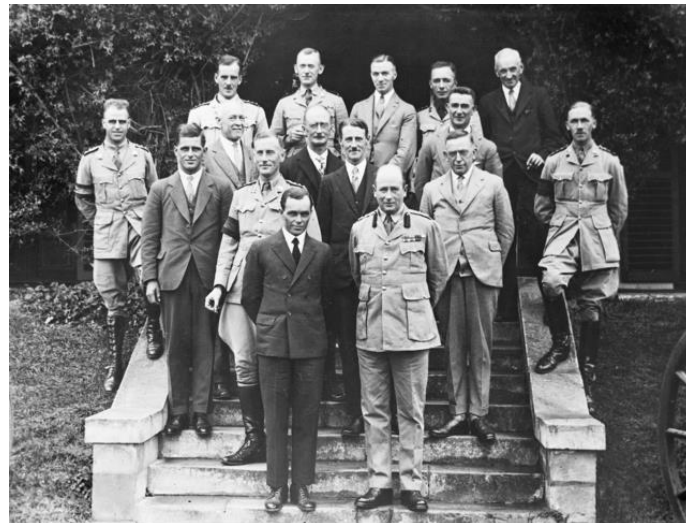
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01691

With Gen Rosenthal, Picardie, Somme, 22 Feb 1918.

Francis suffered several bouts of rheumatism and was finally admitted to the Mount Royal Nursing Home Bath on 8th March 1918 and returned to Australia on 12th May 1918. His appointment to the AIF was terminated on 10th August 1918.

He pursued a successful military career after the war initially resuming duties at Army HQ, Melbourne before being promoted colonel and moved to Sydney, returning to the School Of Musketry, Randwick, this time as Commandant. He served on the staff of the Prince of Wales, during his visit to Australia and was appointed MVO. In 1922 he became Commandant, Royal Military College, and was largely credited with stopping the disbandment of the College. He was appointed CBE in 1924.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H18931

As Commandant 15th March 1929.

He was promoted brigadier and in 1933 he was posted to AHQ as Quartermaster General.

In 1934 he underwent an operation for acute appendicitis and died on 9th July 1934 from peritonitis. He was buried with full military honours at the Melbourne General Cemetery. Three of his brothers,

Keith, Austin, and Robert also served in the AIF. Keith was with Francis in the AN&MEF and was killed at Pozieres.