



Colonel Percy Malcolm EDWARDS, DSO, DCM

(1875-1958)

Percy Edwards was born on 5 December 1875 at Collingwood, Melbourne. On leaving East Prahran State School at 15 he joined a firm of Melbourne warehousemen, Robert Reid & Co., with whom he worked for six years.

He served with the Victorian Volunteer Artillery in 1893-97 and, in 1898, joined the field artillery in Perth having moved to Western Australia to become a clerk in the Department of Railways.

On the outbreak of the Boer War Edwards enlisted as a company sergeant major in the 1st Western Australian (Mounted Infantry) Contingent. He served with distinction being awarded the DCM and twice mentioned in dispatches.

Edwards continued his militia service and was commissioned in the 18th Light Horse Regiment in 1908; he served with the 25th Light Horse Regiment in 1912-13 and in October 1913 joined the Australian Field Artillery. He was commissioned lieutenant in the 8th Battery, 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade (FAB), AIF, on 17 October 1914.

Edwards served throughout the Gallipoli campaign and was promoted temporary captain in July 1915 and adjutant of the 2nd FAB in October. Back in Egypt in February, he transferred to the 4th Division Artillery, leaving for France in June. He commanded the 112th Howitzer Battery from March 1916 to January 1917 and temporarily led the battery's parent unit, the 24th FAB. He then transferred to the 11th FAB for the rest of the war except for brief temporary commands. His main service was in the Somme and Passchendaele offensives. Promoted major in July 1916 and temporary lieutenant colonel a year later, he was twice mentioned in dispatches and awarded the DSO in the New Year honours of 1918. He returned home in September 1918 and was demobilized in November.

Little is known of Edwards's civil life after the war. He and his wife lived in Sydney in 1920 and from 1929 to 1942 ran a women's costume manufacturing business in George Street. He rejoined the Militia to commanding the 14th FAB in 1921-25 and was placed on the Retired List as an honorary colonel in 1936. Survived by his wife, he died on 23 July 1958 and was cremated with Anglican rites.

For more information follow the link below.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/edwards-percy-malcolm-6096>