**COLONEL ERNEST ALBERT LE SOUEF**

Born in Elwood Melbourne on Sept 13 1869, Ernest was the second son of Albert Alexander Cochrane Le Souef and Caroline Cotton.

Educated in Australia, Ernest attended Carlton and Brighton Colleges in Melbourne and then went on to attend the University of Melbourne and held a Bachelor of Veterinary Science.

Married to Ellen Grace Hagenauer in Victoria in1899, they had a family of five children.

Ernest was involved in the establishment of the Perth Zoo and was also a founding member of the Cannington Mounted Rifles.

He was involved with the Military in his capacity as a vet and in 1912 was appointed the rank of Major. He became the President of the board set up to purchase horses for the army.

In March 1916 he was enlisted in the Army and sent to Egypt.

By June he was temporarily attached to a remount unit at Heliopolis but was stricken with enteritis and sent to the 3rd General Hospital at Abbassia. After a short stay he was then sent to join the 2nd Light Horse Brigade at Etmaler.

On Aug 9 1916, Ernest had a high expolsive shell go off beside him. He was admitted to hospital suffering shell shock. Admitted to the 26th Casualty Clearing Station at Port Said, he was transferred to the General Hospital in Cairo. Here he stayed for a month. His Army records read that “he gets depressed, is mentally vague, and has several times got lost in familiar country. He has lost weight and is still losing weight. ”

Over the coming months Ernest was admitted to various hospitals in Abbassia, Ghezireh and Sulkeley suffering “debility” until on Oct 10 1916 he rejoined the 2nd LHB at Hill 70 (Romani) but a month later found him again at the Australian General Hospital at Abbassia diagnosed as suffering neurasthenia.

Here Ernest stayed until January 1917 when he was assessed and found not suitable for active war service and he was to be returned to Australia for six months.

He boarded the “Euripides” in Suez on February 21 1917 and sailed for home. From the docks at Fremantle Ernest was admitted to the No 8 Australian General Hospital in Fremantle where on the 12th April, he was reassessed as “still suffering from tremor, and sleeplessness. Due to his neurasthenia and his gastric condition, he is not likely to stand the strain of active service. Recommend discharge as permanently unfit. No incapacity. Fit for service in Australia.”

Ernest stayed on in the Military until 1930 when he left with the rank of Colonel.

Post war Ernest lectured at the University of W A from 1919-1926 and was responsible for setting up a museum at the zoo for university students to use for their studies. He retired from his University days in 1932.

His next employment was with the Agricultural Bank where he acted as the veterinary advisor to the Margaret river District until he finally retired in 1937.

Having bought the property “Glenellie” in Margaret River, it was here that Ernest, whilst on a visit, suffered a stroke and died on Nov 27 1937. He is buried in the Margaret River Cemetery.