

Richard Achilles Capron
Private 169

Richard Achilles Capron was born in Kilmore in 1877, the son of Achilles Thomas and Elizabeth Capron (nee Tankard). At the time Richard was born his father was the Receiver and Paymaster for Crown Land sales in Kilmore and the Capron family left Kilmore for Ararat in 1880.

Richard was a Commercial Traveller, married Mary Haslingden in NSW in 1903, moved to Perth where he enlisted on September 9, 1914 as a private 169 in the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force. Three days later he was acting as Orderly Room Corporal and on October 21, Richard was transferred to the 10th Regiment, Australian Light Horse and promoted to Lance Sergeant. At about this time his wife moved to Sydney to be with relatives.

After training Richard embarked at Fremantle on board the Mashobra on February 8, 1915 for Gallipoli via Egypt, arriving on May 16, 1915. He was slightly wounded on May 30, and returned to the front lines on June 13. Richard was promoted to Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant on August 1, 1915 on Gallipoli, and just before evacuation he was promoted to acting Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant on October 8, and then Quartermaster (QM) and Hon Lieutenant on November 14.

On returning to Egypt Richard served in the Sinai campaign where he injured his back when a horse fell on him on August 14 1916. As a result Richard ended up in hospital in Abbassia, Egypt. After recovering he was attached to Staff Headquarters and was promoted to QM and Hon Captain on December 10, 1916. He then served with the 10th in the Palestine and Syrian campaigns and on June 10 1918 Richard was promoted to QM and Hon Major.

After the end of the war Richard remained in the Middle East and embarked on the Oxfordshire at Cairo arriving at Sydney on August 17, 1919 and his appointment was terminated on February 1920.

Richard

Hon appointments were only given during war time and also in recognition of his service the British War Office appointed Richard a warrant office in the British Regular Army in September 1917.

After the war Richard continued his occupation as a commercial traveller living in Sydney where his first wife died in 1929. He remarried in Brisbane in 1930 to widow Caroline Violet Brake, and died in Brisbane on April 2, 1953.