***Biography for Arthur George Edmondson***

GNR Arthur George Edmondson was born in 1894 in Redfern, New South Wales, Australia.(1) Shortly after his birth, they moved to Petersham, Marrickville, New South Wales.(2) He later attended many educational facilities such as Cleveland Street Public School and Sydney Technical High School.(3) Edmondson’s Father was also known to be the head of the Petersham Branch of The Government Savings Bank.(4) Edmondson’s mother likely stayed at home, possibly taking on domestic or manufacturing work, as was common during this time.(5)

When Edmondson left high school, he took the occupation of a clerk in The Government Savings Bank of NSW. The duties of a clerk included typing and sending documents, answering the phone and entering data.(6) He had also served in the 13th Battery Australian Field Artillery which was a Royal Australian Artillery formed in NSW during September 1915 before going on to serve in World War 1.(7) Edmondson also had a younger brother, Leslie John Edmondson, who enlisted on April 4, 1916 and had the occupation of a clerk, which meant they would have been close companions and had a strong relationship with each other. He also served in the 5th field artillery brigade but was ranked a driver during the war. He embarked on the HMAT A29 Suevic in Melbourne on June 21, 1917. (8)

Edmondson enlisted on the 14th of September 1915 and left for war two months later in November. Edmondson was a Gunner who had the role of using explosive shells to collapse trenches and lightly protected shelters. He participated in the 5th field artillery brigade, of which he was part of the brigade ammunition column which are people who transport ammunition from shell dumps behind the lines to gun positions.(9) Shortly after serving as a Gunner, he was promoted as a Lieutenant. He was also unfortunately gassed at The Battle of Passchendaele which took place in Ypres which was known for the appalling conditions such as the mud and unceasing rain, madness and senseless slaughter on the western front which accounted for 38000 Australian casualties.(10) On October 23,1917 he was evacuated to The United Kingdom due to Edmondson being gassed.

When Edmondson returned to Australia through the Balmoral Castle and disembarked in NSW on the 29th of March 1918, he then resumed the role to the commonwealth bank as his father who was the head of Petersham Branch of Government Savings Bank had retired.(11) He was later discharged from the AIF on September 23, 1918. Edmondson was awarded with a British War Medal, a silver medal given to officers and men of the British imperial forces who entered a theater of war between August 5 1914 to November 11, 1918 and a Victory medal which commemorated the victory of the allied forces over the central powers.(12) He later got married to Irene Mary Duane in 1933 and the couple had no children. It was known from the source from the Sunday times Labor Daily that Edmondson was fined, “Arthur George Edmondson, 38, was fined 3 pounds in default six by Mr Laidlaw at the Central Police Court.” This happened due to him being charged with negligent driving. Edmondson also admitted he had whisky and he felt nervous when being stopped. (13)

Overall, GNR Arthur George Edmondson had an honorable life and military service despite nearly being killed in The Battle of Passchendaele. Before his death, he continued to play the role of a bank manager in the Commonwealth Government Savings bank in Petersham.(14) In 1977, Edmondson moved to Coorparoo, Queensland, where he passed away.(15)

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Endnotes

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