

ASPINALL, William Robert



State Archives and Records Authority of NSW Ref. R3575 Photograph of William Robert Aspinall doctor [date on photograph 10 November 1915]

William Robert Aspinall was born at Brighton-le-Sands, NSW, in 1893, the youngest child of Arthur Ashworth and Helen (nee Strahorn). Arthur and Helen had five children, Jessie Strahorn b.1880, Archibald John b.1883, Arthur Martel b.1885, Andrew Eric b.1889, and William. Arthur was a co-founder and the first Principal of, The Scots College, Sydney in 1893, and remained Principal until retirement in 1913.

William attended The Scots College and entered HAC in 1910, aged 17. William then went on to the University of Sydney where he graduated with a Master of Surgery in 1915, and completed his residency at Sydney Hospital.

All five Aspinall children became doctors. Jessie was the first female junior medical resident officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

William enlisted on 25 January 1916, a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC). William embarked from Sydney aboard *HMAT Malakuta A57* on 16 March 1916.

Serving in France, William received a Military Cross 'for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed the utmost courage and devotion in tending the wounded under heavy fire, assisting them to places of safety until they could be evacuated. He showed the greatest gallantry throughout.'

William was Killed in Action 20 July 1917, at Ypres, Belgium, aged 24, and is buried in Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Belgium.

All four Aspinall brothers served in the AAMC in World War One, with three of them returning to Australia.