



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Wor. Bro. EDWIN MAXWELL DOLLERY, M.C. (1897 - 1973)

Wor. Bro. Edwin Maxwell Dollery was born in Hobart, Tasmania, on 21 April 1897, son of Elias Mark Dollery, civil servant, and his wife, Emma Ann, nee Byfield.

Max, as he was known, was educated at Queen's College from 1906 to 1912 and The Hutchin School in 1913 and 1914, where he excelled as an all-round sportsman. Having served in the cadets, and as an officer in the 93rd Derwent Infantry, Militia, on 3rd June 1916 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force.

He sailed for Britain in August 1916 and joined the 12th Battalion on the Western Front in July 1917. He was commissioned in October that year. Wounded in action in May 1918, he convalesced in England and returned to his battalion in August.

At Proyart, France, later that month he led a party of six across open country in the face of enemy fire and silenced two machine guns. He was awarded the Military Cross. His A.I.F. appointment was terminated in Australia on 21st April 1919.

Entering the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Federal Capital Territory, in February 1920, he graduated the following year.

On 4th January 1922 at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, he married, with Anglican rites, Norma Agnes Best.

He held a succession of posts as adjutant and quartermaster before being sent in 1926 to British Army Units in India to study mechanical transport. This subject was to be his specialisation.

Returning home in 1927, he was promoted to Captain in 1929 and Major in 1938. Dollery spent most of the intervening years on staff and instructional duties connected with motor transport. In 1938, he was posted as assistant director, mechanisation, to Army Headquarters, Melbourne.

Seconded to the AIF in April 1940 as Lieutenant-Colonel and posted to Headquarters, he embarked for the Middle East in August. As Assistant-Director, then Deputy-Director, of ordinance services he was responsible for managing the force's motor transport requirements.

He was appointed O.B.E. in 1942 and arrived back in Australia in February 1943.

Brigadier-in-charge of administration at headquarters, Northern Territory Force from

1943 to 1945, and at headquarters, Queensland Lines of Communication Area, from 1945 to 1946, he subsequently spent a term in Melbourne as deputy quartermaster general.

In September 1947, Dollery went to Hobart as commandant, 6th Military District, where he did much to restore and maintain the city's historic barracks. He was promoted substantive brigadier in 1950 and retired on 21st April 1952.

Dollery's interest in military matters never flagged. He began a collection of military uniforms and artefacts which are now in the Tasmanian Command Collection, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. He promoted the Australian Cadet Corps of which he was honorary colonel (Tasmania) from 1962 to 1967.

Devoted to The Hutchins School, he was a member from 1950 to 1960 and chairman from 1951 to 1954 and again from 1956 to 1958 of the Old Boys Association.

He was chairman of the Kingsborough Commission from 1960 to 1971, member of the Ambulance Board of Southern Tasmania from 1966 to 1971 and the Southern Metropolitan Master Planning Authority in 1971.

Dollery was also a foundation member in 1951, of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association and a contributor to the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

In 1967, he used his organisational skills to help victims of the State's bushfires.

Edwin Maxwell Dollery died on 17th July 1973 at Ashburton, Melbourne. He was survived by one of his two daughters.

MASONIC CAREER

Wor. Bro. Edwin Maxwell Dollery was made a Mason on 17th July 1919 in the Pacific Lodge. He was passed Fellowcraft on 16th October 1919 and raised a Master Mason on 15th February 1920. He affiliated with Hutchins Old Boys Lodge No. 48, Tasmanian Constitution.

He was appointed Senior Grand Deacon in 1959.

He was also a member of Army Lodge No. 478, Victorian Constitution, Holy Sepulchre Chapter No. 228 and King Solomon Quarries Chapter No. 828, Jerusalem.

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Grand Lodge of Tasmania - Membership Records.
