



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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PREPARED and PRESENTED BY: J. Scullion

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### **ALBERT EDWARD HEATH 1887 – 1955 TIMBER MERCHANT**

Born in Queensland at Maryborough on 9 December 1887, the eldest son of Henry Arthur Heath, a grocer, and Emily Evelyn nee Lockyer, his wife.

His education began at the Albert State School but was interrupted when he was bitten by a snake which affected his heart. He then started work in a furniture factory at five shillings a week.

In 1916, he was Secretary of A.C. Saxons & Sons, Timber Merchants, four years a director and on the death of Saxon in 1926, he became the General Manager. From 1928 to 1933, Heath was President of the Timber Merchants Association, a Council Member of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and the Employers' Federation of New South Wales. He was a Council Member for the Prevention and Relief of Unemployment in 1930 and was Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan Transport Trust from 1930 – 1932. In 1932 he chaired a federal conference on transport.

He was on the Council of the Primary Producers Advisory Council and was an original member of the Executive of the All for Australia League. He resigned in May 1931 in protest against machine politics.

After the abolition of the position of Agent-General by the Stevens Government, Heath was appointed the New South Wales Government's official representative in London on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1934, with the task of restoring British and European confidence in the security of investment in New South Wales.

Heath was a firm admirer of Viscount Bruce and formed a close working relationship with him.

In 1935, Heath was appointed as a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He attended congresses of the International Chamber of Commerce in Vienna in 1933, in Paris in 1935, in Berlin in 1939 and in Montreux in 1947 where he expressed his vigorous opposition to tariffs, quotas and economic nationalism. In Berlin, his views conflicted with Goering's opening address.

In 1937, Heath was appointed Agent-General in London but resigned the next year to become Secretary to the Sydney and Suburban Timber Merchants Association Limited. He then re-organised the industry which he considered a rabble and established associations for each different section. Under his guidance, companies negotiated price fixing agreements and set quotas. He was described as a benevolent dictator of the State timber industry.

Interested in Australian history, Heath and his friend, Australian journalist and biographer of Bro. Governor Lachlan Macquarie, M.H. Ellis, arranged for the maintenance of Governor Macquarie's tomb on the island of Mull. Heath was a member of the Australian Pioneers and Union Clubs, the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and he enjoyed fishing and motoring.

Albert Edward Heath died of myocardial infarction in hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1955.

### MASONIC HISTORY

Albert Edward Heath was the first candidate initiated into Lodge Kensington No. 270, which at that time held their meetings in a large room on the upper storey of a weatherboard cottage in Doncaster Avenue, Kensington. This room measured 24 feet x 23 feet and was positioned above a stable loft and stables.

- He was initiated on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1911.
- Passed as a Fellowcraft on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1911.
- Raised to a Master Mason on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1911.
- Called off on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1914.
- Affiliated with Lodge Avenue 3231 E.C. from Lodge Kensington No. 270 on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1936.
- He ceased membership on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1946.
- Affiliated with Lodge Ionic No. 65 U.G.L. of New South Wales as a Past Master on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1938, remaining a member until his death in December 1955.

### REFERENCES

Australian Diction of Biography – D.B. Webster

A Brief History 1911-1961 – Lodge Kensington No. 270

United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT – membership records

United Grand Lodge of England – membership records