

Gunner of Renown



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

Brigadier George Ingram STEVENSON, DSO

(1882-1958)

George Stevenson served in the Boer War with the Prince of Wales Light Horse (British unit) and the 4th Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse, and was awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps. Enlisting subsequently in the (volunteer) Garrison Artillery in Victoria, he was commissioned in the Australian Field Artillery on 20 September 1909 and became captain in 1912. He had qualified as a chartered accountant in 1909 and went into practice in 1911.

Shortly after the outbreak of WWI he joined the AIF and was posted to the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) as a captain. He embarked in October 1914 with the 6th Battery, landed on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, and in May was promoted to major and appointed battery commander. In action on 14 November, he directed the fire of one of his guns while its shells just cleared his head. Mentioned in dispatches, he was appointed CMG for his Gallipoli service.

In March 1916, Stevenson was promoted lieutenant colonel to command the 21st Howitzer Brigade: he was mentioned in dispatches for consistent good work as a brigade commander and for meritorious service at Pozieres. Given charge of the 2nd FAB in January 1917, he commanded the artillery group at Lagnicourt Valley on 15 April 1917 at the time of the German breakthrough. The guns of all four batteries of the brigade had to be abandoned, but their breech blocks and dial sights were removed by the retreating Australians. He later commanded the re-equipped brigade at the third battle of Ypres and was again mentioned in dispatches for his skill and coolness.

Appointed in August to command the 3rd (Army) FAB, by September 1918 – during the attack on the Hindenburg outpost line – he had charge of the Left Artillery Group consisting of four artillery brigades. Stevenson was awarded the DSO in September 1918, the citation reading; 'This officer has commanded his brigade in the most able and efficient manner during the whole operations carried out by this [Australian] Corps since coming on the Amiens front. His brigade has been continuously in action and has constantly moved from one part of the front to the other. He frequently commanded large groups of brigades of artillery for active offensive operations and on occasions under most trying conditions ... His fearless courage under shell-fire has been the means of maintaining high morale that exists in his brigade'.

Embarking for Australia on Anzac leave in October 1918, Stevenson was discharged from the AIF in February 1919. He was reappointed in May as Officer Commanding Troops on transports and returned to Australia in January 1920. In July, he temporarily commanded the

8th FAB and was then given charge of the 22nd FAB. In 1922–27, he was CRA 3rd Division, with the rank of colonel, and in 1931–35 commanded the 10th Infantry Brigade.

After demobilisation Stevenson resumed work as an accountant. He died in East Melbourne on 11 July 1958 and was cremated. His son, Major General John Dennis Stevenson, AO, CBE, served in Korea and Vietnam.

Source: E. J. H. Howard, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, M.U.P., Vol.12, p.80-81.

For more information follow this link: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stevenson-george-ingram-8655>