

Joseph Lamaro

Joseph Lamaro was of Spanish heritage. He was employed as a clerk in the Education Department prior to enlistment on 31 January 1916. His early attempt to enlist was delayed because of defective eyesight. He embarked as a signaller on 5 June 1916 with the 13th Reinforcements for the 18th Battalion aboard *Kyarra*. He joined the unit in Ypres sector in October and served with it as a signaller during the final stages of the Battle of the Somme. He became popular with his fellow soldiers due to his ability to give entertaining talks on books and historical figures.

He was invalided suffering from illness to London General Hospital, Wandsworth, on 22 February 1917, then No.1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, on 1 April. He returned to Australia via Weymouth, arriving on 25 October.

Lamaro was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1922 and read with Dr H V Evatt. He entered state parliament in 1927 as the ALP member for Enmore and served as minister for justice and later attorney general during the turbulent 18 months of the Lang Government. Lamaro's parliamentary career ended in electoral defeat in 1934. He had his name removed from the roll of barristers and became a solicitor but then was re-admitted to the bar in November 1941 and became a Crown prosecutor in October 1943. He became a District Court judge and chairman of Quarter Sessions on 1 December 1947. His health was never good and he died on 22 May 1955 while on circuit duty.

Lamaro was one of a group of friends who became barristers and later judges which also included William Sheahan and Thomas O'Mara

Further details H T E Holt *A Court Rises* The Law Foundation of New South Wales. North Sydney 1976

Australian Dictionary of Biography by W G McMinn