

John Bede Dalley

John Bede Dalley matriculated from University College, Oxford, on 1 November 1895. He was called to the Bar in England on 18 November 1901 and entered the Inner Temple. Returning to New South Wales in 1902, he was admitted the New South Wales Bar on 10 February 1902 on the motion of the Attorney General Bernard Wise KC. He practised for several years at Wigram Chambers. He indulged in politics and ran unsuccessfully for the federal seat of Wentworth in 1903.

A fall from a horse made Dalley deaf and precluded him from practising law. He took up journalism and in 1906-07 edited the Bathurst *National Advocate*. In 1907 he became a sub-editor on the *Bulletin* and was a leader-writer from 1911

Several times rejected for active service because of his deafness, Dalley pleaded with the government for entry into the Australian Imperial Force. He was commissioned second lieutenant in the Australian Field Artillery in March 1915 and, promoted lieutenant when he enlisted 15 November 1915 in the AIF. He embarked from Melbourne aboard *Port Macquarie* on 16 November 1915 and disembarked at Suez 18 December 1915. He served with the 2nd and 5th Divisional Field Artillery until invalided to Australia as medically unfit in May 1916 after a bout of typhoid. He left again with the 3rd Reinforcements of the 9th Field Artillery Brigade on 30 September 1916 aboard *Aeneas*. He served with the 6th Field Artillery Brigade and Brigade I Ammunition Column in France but was hospitalized on a number of occasions until he was invalided home in August 1918. He defended many 'diggers' at courts-martial and contributed to *Aussie*, an AIF monthly published in the field.

On his return to Sydney, he re-joined the *Bulletin*. Later, he edited the Melbourne *Punch*, then spent several years in London as representative of the Melbourne *Herald*. He was a talented writer and published a number of novels but died while rock fishing in September 1935.

Further Information Clement Semmler in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*