

## MAJOR TANNANTT WILLIAM EDGEWORTH DAVID

We move on to World War 1. At age 58, David should never have got there, but he made it anyway. Some years after the war, according to W.R. Browne, he was probably still



wearing half of the army clothes, and his greatcoat had gone green. He hung onto clothes; he wasn't a snappy dresser as a rule, he liked to use what was around.

David is associated with the foundation of the Australian Tunnellers Corps. The idea of the Mining Corps originated from a Lieutenant Thomson, a mining engineer from Western Australia. He suggested it, but did not follow it through. David picked it up and went to see (Sir) George Pearce, who was the Minister for Defence and the Acting Prime Minister in August 1915. They had a meeting with E. Skeats, Professor of Geology at Melbourne University, and Hyman Herman, Government Geologist from Victoria, and after receiving approval from the War Office in London, an Australian Tunnelling Battalion was established. David was given a commission as Major, and he worked in the early period particularly with Stanley Hunter, a Victorian geologist, very good with drilling, and James Pollock, Professor of Physics. In the enlistment lists for the corps, which you can see in the Australian War Museum, Pollock's profession is listed as a professor of physics, while David is the only one in the whole corps, even among the sappers, who records his profession as teacher, which is perhaps too humble. But everybody knew him and he was responsible for talking many of his students into joining the corps.

It set out, with a number of problems, in 1916. The miners were confined to the ship for a long time. David writes a nice little story about the first time they got to land, which was at Alexandria, though it's perhaps a little highly coloured, and it was written some years later. 'On the arrival of our troop ship in Alexandria in April 16, a party of some 120 out of our 1200 miners, with the wanderlust strong upon them, broke loose suddenly from our troop ship as she lay at the wharf, rushed the sentries, and went careering like a lot of released school boys up the main street of Alexandria, making for the heart of the city. Some bad sport, perhaps one should rather say, one sound disciplinarian, telephoned to the military police. And in due course the sappers were met by some charabancs driven by genial gentlemen, who offered them a lift. The offer was of course accepted, and presently the vehicle swung into a courtyard, the gates of which were promptly closed, and the sappers then realised that they were prisoners. One hundred and twenty of them were locked up in a building designed for a maximum of 60. The sappers called it the 'boob". The night was very hot and the "boob' threatened to become a veritable Black Hole of Calcutta. In the early dawn, an agonized SOS came from the military police to our ship to say that the sappers were tunnelling under the walls of the boob, and that it was tottering to its foundations, and would we send up a strong-armed party at once to hold and remove the prisoners.'

When the Tunnellers reached France it was soon clear that changes would be needed. The British could see that an independent Australian body might be hard to control, so the battalion was broken up. This is part of the reason that there's so little known about the Australian tunnellers in Australian war history. The three Australian Tunnelling Corps were kept intact, but placed under the control of the directors of mines in the British first and second armies, as all the other tunnelling groups (English, Canadian New Zealand, South African) were. While the authorities were able to place other officers, they didn't know what to do with David. So, for quite a while, he just poked around on his own, as far as one can see, in France and Belgium, among lots of soft, fairly young rocks. He was working essentially in the area around Arras and Vimy, and later up towards the coast.

In September 1916 David had a bad fall down a well near Vimy, when the winding gear failed. When he was being hauled up he said, 'take it slowly, because I missed the geology on the way down'. He does admit, in one letter, it was a bit of bravado—he was very lucky that he wasn't killed. Remarkably he was back at the front in six weeks, although he was now ordered by his general not to go within 1000 yards of the front line, an order he found very hard to obey.

When David arrived in France the British Army had only one geologist, a fairly recent graduate W.B.R. King who later became Professor at Cambridge University. David and he got on well, but it was largely David's influence that managed to persuade the Top Brass that geology had some use for the army, and that you needed to understand the geology particularly in relation to water table changes, if you were going to have dry trenches and safe crossings of difficult ground.

One of the best known operations of the whole First World War, in which David was certainly involved, was the mining and exploding of the tunnels under the German lines along the Messines-to-Wytschaete Ridge. There were 21 tunnels, which were blown up early in the morning on 7 June 1917. It was a major psychological blow as well as a physical blow to the Germans. It's interesting that two of the 21 charges didn't go off at the time. One of them exploded in 1955, and we're still waiting for the final one! I think maybe those explosives aren't too good by now.

A little diversion. David used to write from France to his grandchildren and tell them stories such as one about the cats who lived in their dugout. He drew the sketches for the story and added text in English, French and German, as he was quite good in both these last languages. In fact, in the spare time en route to the Antarctic he taught German to L.A. Cotton. He did complain when he was going to Mexico in 1906 that his French wasn't too good, he was battling with it. In fact, he wrote to his daughter saying he was learning American and that was much easier!

During his time in France, David prepared some important maps, probably the first real environmental geology maps, in which was indicated by colour the degree of difficulty you'd have in putting in trenches and so on. The brighter the colours the better the conditions, so there was an attempt here to go much beyond straight geological maps into environmental-type maps. These maps were published for the army commanders, as David believed they were more informative and quicker to understand than pages of written text would be.

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[www.nla.gov.au/grants/haroldwhite/papers/dbranagan.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/grants/haroldwhite/papers/dbranagan.html)

## **Sir David in the Trenches** by "A Tunneller"

The death of Sir Edgeworth David means a sad loss to the scientific world: yet his loss will be felt to a much greater extent by his old comrades

of the Great War. No doubt, many will recall incidents that show what a gentleman our "Old Prof" was. None can shed a greater light on his character, though, than the following: -

July, 1916, saw portion of the No. One Australian Tunnelling Co. busily engaged in sinking a number of inclined shafts at 123 Trench, Plough Street, portions of the then front line.

Owing to the slimy nature of the surface clays, a previous attempt by another Company to sink a cylindrical shaft had been abandoned. The Australians, by driving on the underlay system, were, however, gradually gaining depth; but up to this time had no means of knowing how far away they were from the Clue.

One fine, hot day, a party of men, commanded by a white-haired Major, landed a small boring plant in 123 Trench and started to bore, so that we might have the required information.

It was a quiet peaceful day, I remember, quite apart from the warmth of the sun, and for some hours work continued without the slightest interruption. In fact, it continued until the 12 o'clock whistle blew, when the white-haired Major decided to give his men a spell, and to let them have their crib.

Having quite a good Dug-Out almost free from inhabitants, I invited the Major to join me in a cup of tea, and instructed my batman (one Jim Flannigan – a once Stawell Gift winner, by the way) to boil the dixey.

Jim was just handing the mug over to the visitor when, without warning, a shell landed and burst just around the corner. The shock caused Jim to flop, and that mug of tea was spilt! We hadn't done a thing to Fritz that day; but he kept on with his game, throwing shells up and down 123 Trench.

Our dug-out was rain-proof, and, bar a direct hit, good protection from shrapnel, but stored away in odd places were such things as gun-cotton, T.N.T., and detonators.

So excusing myself to the Major, I left the dug-out to see what the weather was like outside!

A company of West Kents was (*manning?*) that section of line, and some of the poor beggars found what happened to a man if he got in front of some HE stuff, though not one of our men was hit.

After a while things quietened down, and I returned to see if anything was left of our rum-jars, or if the Major, whom I had last seen sitting on a case that contained them, was still waiting for his tea.

There he was, sitting in the same place; but in his arms was a poor lad of the "West Kents." The boy had been partly buried, and though unwounded was unconscious through shell-shock.

As I entered the Major looked up, and said apologetically: "You must excuse me, Mr -----, for bringing this poor lad in here. I found him in the bay, a few yards away, and thought this would be the safest place for him."

I don't know if that lad ever recovered; but this I am sure of – he never knew that it was Sir Edgeworth David who had rescued him from that little bit of hell, when his own Company had forgotten all about him!

Original source unknown.

### *Articles from The Melbourne Age*

29 August 1934

Death of Sir Edgeworth David

Famous Scientist and Explorer

*State Funeral to be Held*

Sydney, Tuesday – Professor Sir Edgeworth David died to-day in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital after a short illness. He took ill while at the University about a fortnight ago and was taken to the hospital. He showed some improvement, but he suffered a relapse and died to-day.

In recognition of his great services to the country the State Government has decided that a State funeral shall be held. In making this announcement the premier (Mr. Stevens) said he had been in communication with the Prime Minister, who had decided that the Commonwealth Government would join with the New South Wales Government in according a State funeral as a mark reverence by the nation towards its distinguished scientist.

The Premier said the whole community would mourn his death. On behalf of the Government he offered the deepest sympathy to Lady David and members of her family. The late Sir Edgeworth David had been one of the

foremost scientists of the century, and had had a most distinguished scholastic career. Throughout the whole of his life he had endeared himself to his colleagues, students and all who had come in contact with him by the great charm of his personality.

Sir Edgeworth David's Fine Career  
Maitland Coal Field  
Discovery of South Magnetic Pole

Emeritus Professor Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth David lived through a career in science and exploration which established a magnificent tradition in Australia's great development. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1858, at St. Fagan's, near Cardiff, in Wales, he was educated at Magdalen College School and New College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree, and subsequently, in 1911, received the honorary degree of a doctor of science. An honorary D.Sc. was also conferred upon him by the Manchester University in 1919.

At the age of 21 – in 1882 – young David came to Australia to take up an appointment as assistant geological surveyor in the employ of the Government of New South Wales. In 1883 he surveyed the tin fields of the New England district, and in 1886 the coal-bearing strata of the lower Hunter Valley. It was during this latter work that he discovered the hitherto unsuspected existence of important coal seams west and south of Maitland within a large area that was promptly reserved by the Government for coal mining, and which subsequently became the great Maitland field. The significance of this discovery lies in the fact that of late years the centre of the northern coal field has shifted from Newcastle to the Maitland district. Sir Edgeworth David's locating of an outcropping coal seam in a creek near Abermain, which he traced to Cessnock, being the first recognition of this hidden source of economic wealth.

From the time he accepted the Sydney University appointment of Professor of geology and physical geography, in May 1891, David became a scientific leader in Australia. Five years later he was elected president of the Royal Society in Sydney. He joined the coral research committee of the Royal Society of London in the same year, and in 1897 led an expedition to Funafuti, in the Ellice Islands. There he superintended the putting down of a bore 1114 feet to ascertain the actual structure of the coral, and Charles Darwin's theory about reef formation was thus confirmed.

The first of numerous medals received by the late Sir Edgeworth David was the Bigsby medal, conferred upon him in 1899 by the Geological Society of

London, to which he was elected a fellow in the following year. In his spare time at the university from 1898 to 1905 he investigated all the evidence of a glacial period in Australia, and for this and similar work he received the Mueller medal in 1909 from the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1906 he explored for geological purposes the Deccan (India) tableland at the head of the Godaveri River before attending an international geological conference in Mexico as Australian delegate. On his way home the scientist grasped an opportunity to investigate the effects of the San Francisco earthquake.

### **In the Antarctic**

Restless to a degree, and backed apparently by his university and a scientific body of opinion which might well be proud of its support, Professor David's work on the glacial period led him to join Shackleton expedition of 1907, which proved one of the most successful expeditions on record. David intended first only to accompany the expedition to South Victoria Land and return with the good ship Nimrod. On arriving at the base, however, he decided to see the enterprise through, and became scientific leader. Not only did he lead the climbing party in the first ascent of Mount Erebus, but with Dr. (now Sir) Douglas Mawson reached the south magnetic pole on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1909, after three months hazardous travel. Mount Erebus is 13,370 feet above sea level, and contains an active crater 900 feet deep and half a mile wide, but luckily the volcano, though emitting steam explosions, was quiescent. Erebus was reached 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1908. It was a fortunate coincidence that David's party reached the Relief Inlet on the same day as the Nimrod, which was cruising along looking for depots, this circumstance lending historic distinction to the expedition on which Shackleton passed Scott's "farthest south" point.

### **War and Tunnelling**

Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) David in khaki will be remembered by Australian troops who were in vicinity of the Wytshaete-Messines Ridge late in 1917. About the middle of 1915 the Commonwealth decided to send a mining corps to Flanders. David assisted in recruiting and organising this corps, and in February, 1916, accompanied it as major in charge of the technical headquarters staff. On reaching Hazebrouk in May the corps was reorganised as three separate companies, and David was absorbed into general head quarters as chief geologist with the British Army.

He supervised the practical application of geological knowledge to tunnelling, water supply and the locating of "dug-outs". This work he continued until the armistice, being awarded the D.S.O. in 1918. He resumed his civil work at Sydney University on his return in May, 1919. Having been created a C.M.G. in 1910, Professor David was knighted (K.B.E.) in 1920. He retired on pension in 1927, but continued to devote himself to research work.

The late Sir Edgeworth David was in 1914 awarded the Conrad Malte-Brun medal by the Geological Society of France for work done in collaboration with Mr. R. E. Priestley on the geology of Antarctica, and in 1915 received the Wollaston medal from the London society. The Clarke medal was awarded to him in 1917 by the Royal Society of New South Wales, and honorary recognition of his work was made by the geological societies of United States, Belgium and Prague. He was the author of geological notes of the British Antarctic Exploration of 1907-1909, and part author of "The Heart of Antarctica." Last year, following his visit to England, he published a standard work on the geological and mineral resources of Australia.

Those who knew this kindly scientist, with the courage and wanderlust of an adventurous explorer, will mourn his passing. A Welshman, became a great Australian, and if in his Antarctic and war years his devoted family saw little of him, they must have consoled themselves that he was making history for Australia and the world.

### **Sir Douglas Mawson's Tribute**

Adelaide, Tuesday – A high tribute to Sir Edgeworth David was paid to-day by Sir Douglas Mawson, who accompanied him to Antarctica 26 years ago on the first Shackleton expedition.

Sir D. Mawson said he had been closely associated with Sir Edgeworth David throughout a lifetime, and no one could better appreciate his splendid qualities. Everybody who had the privilege to meet him must have realised that his magnetic personality was quite out of the ordinary. He was always deeply absorbed in scientific research, and would put himself to unlimited trouble and discomfort to unravel interesting problems. When in his company in the Antarctic he realised not only the wonderful endurance of his late friend, but the extent to which he would martyr himself to achieve a desired object. For some years past he had been absorbed in preparing for the press a large three-volume work summarising present knowledge of the geology of the Commonwealth. That work had been continued under great physical difficulties. His spirit had risen above such infirmity, and with his mind riveted on the advancement of knowledge he had pressed on to the last with his flag flying full and free.

Sydney Morning Herald  
Wednesday August 29, 1934

### **PROFESSOR DAVID**

### **NOTED SCIENTIST**

### **Death After Brief Illness**

### ***DISTINGUISHED CAREER***

The death occurred yesterday in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital of Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth David, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.Sc., F.R.S., a recognised leader of scientific thought and effort throughout Australia, one of the greatest geologists of his generation, pioneer, explorer, and soldier, who, in his 78 years of life, earned distinction for himself and for the Empire in diverse channels of public and scientific activity.

Unobtrusive, gentle, deeply earnest, Sir Edgeworth David showed throughout his long life that he possessed courage, moral and physical, in great measure, and ardent patriotism. He carried out extremely valuable geological work in the coal and other mineral resources of the State. He practically discovered and surveyed the magnificent Maitland-Cessnock coal measures, which have been worth millions of pounds to New South Wales.

He cheerfully shared the hardships and dangers of Antarctic exploration in the interests of science. He was chief of the scientific staff of Sir Ernest Shackleton's "Farthest South" expedition in 1909, led the climbing party which made the first ascent of Mt. Erebus, and made, with Mawson and McKay, the great sledge journey across the great Antarctic wastes, which resulted in the discovery of the South Magnetic Pole. The pluck, endurance, and physical vigour displayed by a man then 52 years of age moved all his friends to admiration.

Later when the war came, he recruited the Australian mining corps, and served in France, supervising gigantic tunnelling operations. It was characteristic of this white haired veteran that, when he fell down a deep shaft in the Messines sector and was badly shaken, he insisted on continuing his work.

## **WORK HIS RECREATION**

Sir Edgeworth David's devotion to scientific study was remarkable. A man of tremendous energy, he regarded any leave of absence from the Sydney University (where he was Professor of Geology for 33 years) as simply another golden opportunity for further exploration. During the University vacation periods he would embark on geological missions in the more remote parts of Australia. He was forever hunting for clues that might add to the knowledge of the earth's structure. He took the whole continent of Australia as his realm: he was continually exploring geological fields for evidence of the great changes that have been wrought in the earth's surface by volcanic activity and other great convulsions.

From the accumulated knowledge arising from the investigations of Sir Edgeworth David and other great scientists, the horizon of geological history has been pushed back millions of years. Evidence of his enthusiasm for scientific study is supplied by the brief outline of his career contained in "Who's Who in Australia" which records that, when invited to indicate among other things, his principal recreation, he stated it to be geological exploration.

## **CHARMING PERSONALITY**

The death of Sir Edgeworth David is not only an irreparable loss to science, in which he was such a distinguished figure, but it will be sincerely mourned by those who were privileged to ensure his acquaintance, for his charm of personality, no less than his distinguished scholarship, had won him a wide circle of friends and admirers. The University especially will feel the loss of one of its most distinguished and popular figures.

The inexhaustible field of science knows no geographical bounds, and Sir Edgeworth David was almost as well known outside Australia as within it. Few men wore more modestly the graces of learning, and few scientists, certainly in Australia, laboured more fruitfully than he did. He had, moreover, the gift, rarely found in men of science, of being able, at all times, to dress his thoughts and conclusions in such a popular way as to give a fascinating touch to what often looked to be the driest of subjects. His popular treatment of science, in its application to war, in the course of a series of interviews in the "Herald" upon his return from the Front, was a case in point. Not merely was his mind a vast storehouse of knowledge – it might be said of him that he was a walking encyclopaedia – but he was never at a loss, even at the shortest notice, to clothe the dry bones of the seemingly dullest subject with a wealth of language, simple yet beautiful, which brought out science in a new light for thousands of people.

A sincere tribute was paid to Sir Edgeworth David by Professor Skeats, of Melbourne, recently, when in a lecture in Sydney he said that Australia owed much to Sir Edgeworth's indomitable perseverance and geological insight. His detailed knowledge of the geology of all parts of Australia was remarkable,. Every note he made in the bulky and somewhat amorphous old notebook he carried about was inscribed, not only in the notebook, but also in the tablets of his memory, and could be, and was, produced whenever required. His memory was truly remarkable. He was always ready with an apt quotation from the classics and modern literature, and this faculty contributed much to his charm as a conversationalist and as a raconteur. His early classical training and love of literature informed all he wrote and all his speeches. His students were all kindled with something of his enthusiasm and inspired by his Celtic fervour.

## **REMARKABLE SCHOLARSHIP**

Sir Edgeworth David was born at St. Fagans, near Cardiff, Wales, and was the son of the Rev. William David. He was educated at New College, Oxford, Graduating with high honours. He began his geological research career with a paper on the glacial geology of a part of South Wales near

his home. He was appointed to the Geological Survey of New South Wales in 1882, spent nine years on that survey, especially the tinfields of New England and the upper palaeozoic rocks of the Newcastle and Maitland coalfields.

After leaving the Survey, Sir Edgeworth David completed his great monograph on the Maitland coalfield, the extension of which he later discovered and, by prompt action, saved immense coal deposits from being alienated from the Crown. He was also a high authority on the origin of coral atolls, and his successful leadership of the second expedition to Funafuti, in the Ellice Islands, to test Darwin's theory of the origin of coral atolls and his boring into that atoll was followed by the award to him of the Bibsby Medal of the Geological Society of London in 1899, and his election to the Royal Society of London in 1900. He was the only Australian scientist who was twice president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. He was Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney from 1891 to 1924, and Emeritus Professor since 1924. His resignation of the professorship arose from a desire to undertake the important work of writing a "Geology of Australia". Intended as a single book, it was eventually expanded to three volumes, and only this year did the end of the work come into sight. He was still engaged on this task at the time of his death, and, although a certain amount of detail has not been completed, it is not expected that it is of such a character as to delay publication seriously. In 1932, he published the new geological map of Australia, with a book of 160 pages constituting explanatory notes which amount to a synopsis of Australian geology. He was also the author of more than 100 scientific papers and reports received as authoritative all over the world.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

He was president of the Linnean Society of New South Wales in 1893-94; president of the Royal Society of New South Wales in 1895; and again in 1920, when he was created a C.M.G. In 1913 he was appointed chairman of the Antarctic committee of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science for Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition. In 1915 he was awarded the Wollaston Medal for by the Geological Society of London – he was the first Australian recipient – and in 1917 he was awarded the Clarke Memorial Medal by the Royal Society of New South Wales. Another of the almost countless honours bestowed upon him was the awarding of the Conrad Malte-Brun Prize by the Geographical Society of France.

His strong sense of public service found most striking expression in his enlistment for active service in 1915. He was by no means a young man

then, but he bore cheerfully all the hardships of service. His work was quickly recognised by his appointment as Chief Geologist to the British forces on the Western Front, and by his rapid promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He left Sydney with the Mining Battalion to serve in the capacity of geological expert to the Mining Engineers in the A.I.F., and, after service with his unit, was attached to British headquarters for the purpose of advising on geological problems associated with tunnelling operations, water supply, drainage, and other difficulties inseparable from active service. For his services to the Allied armies on the Western Front he was awarded the D.S.O., and was specially mentioned in despatches by Earl (then Sir Douglas) Haig. He was created K.B.E. in 1920.

## **SUDDEN ILLNESS**

Sir Edgeworth David's fatal illness developed suddenly last week. For some time previously he had suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, and although this had caused a general slowing down of physical movement, he had never allowed it to interfere with his scientific work. Despite the fact that he had retired from the active staff of the University of Sydney, he continued daily to attend that institution to carry on certain work at the geology department. His was a familiar figure to travellers by North Shore line trains. On Monday of last week, he travelled to the city in the morning, as was his practice, but he complained later in the day that he had suffered a slight shock when alighting from the train, which had started before he had got properly clear. As it was apparent by the afternoon that he was suffering from a heart attack, Sir Edgeworth David was removed to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He rallied considerably that night, but the improvement was not maintained, and death occurred yesterday morning.

Sir Edgeworth David is survived by Lady David, a son, Dr. William David, of London, and two daughters, Mrs. W. J. McIntyre, of Launceston, and Miss M. David, of Sydney.

At midday yesterday, by direction of the Vice-Chancellor, the tolling bell of the War Memorial Carillon was tolled 76 times, the number being that of Sir Edgeworth David's years, and, with the flag at half-mast over the Great Tower, it signalled for the University the loss sustained. The tolling was timed so that the regular playing of the War Memorial Hymn by the automatic mechanism of the carillon immediately followed.

The members of the Rotary Club, at their weekly luncheon at David Jones' yesterday, stood in silence as a mark of respect for the memory of the late Sir Edgeworth David, whom the president (Dr. Wade) described as "a great

Australian and a great Rotarian". Later, the large assemblage sang the hymn, "Abide With Me".

## **TRIBUTES BY PUBLIC MEN**

### **LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR**

The Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Phillip Street), in a message for the "Sydney Morning Herald", said: -

"I regret exceedingly to hear of the death of Sir Edgeworth David.

"He was not only a man of great scientific achievement and distinction, but he was a man of most lovable personality, and, over and above this, he was a man who influenced everybody by his fine character and high ideals and general outlook on life and on his fellow-men.

"His feats of endurance and bravery on his Antarctic journeys and on active service during the war are known by all.

"His life was an inspiration to all, and the University of Sydney and, in fact, the whole of Australia are the poorer for the loss of so distinguished and so wholly admirable a man.

"All of my sympathy goes to Lady David, who was truly his helpmate, and to the members of his family."

### **MR. LYONS.**

"He was a great Australian, whose work as geologist and explorer was famous throughout the world," said the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons). "He was a splendid example to the people by his wide scientific knowledge and scholarship and his estimable personal qualities, his courage and resource. He contributed much to the development of the mining industry in Australia, particularly as he applied his scientific knowledge in practical ways. He will be remembered also for his work in the Antarctic, and with the Australian army in France."

### **THE PREMIER**

The Premier (Mr. Stevens) said last night that it was rarely that the nation was called upon to mourn the death of such a distinguished man.

Apart from his achievements as a scholar, a scientist, a soldier, and an explorer, through-out the whole of his life he endeared himself to his colleagues, his students, and those who were fortunate enough to come in contact with him, by the great charm of his personality.

### **DR. R. S. WALLACE**

The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Dr. R. S. Wallace) said: "The University has lost one of its keenest students and teachers, and the country has lost one of its most distinguished citizens. He did a great work for the University as professor of geology and some of the most distinguished geologists in the world were his pupils. He was one of the greatest men the university has had on its staff."

### **ROYAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT**

The president of the Royal Society (Dr. R. J. Noble) said: "There has not been a more distinguished or more lovable personality among the members of the Royal Society, of which he was a member for almost 50 years. He always took a most enthusiastic interest in the affairs of the society and we owe much to his activities over a very long period."

### **DR. C. E. W. BEAN**

The Official Historian of the A.I.F. (Dr. C. E. W. Bean) said: "Sir Edgeworth David was a great scientist, a great patriot, and an ideal leader. Would that we had more of his like! The inspiration that he gave to those who served with or under him, at the University, on his expedition, and in the army, was precious beyond words."

### **SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON**

Sir Douglas Mawson said:- "Everybody who met him realised that his magnetic personality was out of the ordinary. He would put himself to unlimited trouble and discomfort to unravel interesting problems. When in the Antarctic I realised not only his wonderful endurance, but the extent to which he would martyr himself to achieve a desired object. With his mind riveted on the advancement of knowledge, he pressed on to the last with his flag flying full and free."

Sydney Morning Herald  
Friday August 31, 1934

### **FUNERAL OF MAJOR T.W.E. DAVID**

Just before the service commenced a little company of tunnellers who had been associated with Sir Edgeworth David in the Mining Corps at the war filed silently past the coffin and laid at the head of it the companies flag with the letter "T" in the centre, and bearing the inscription Tunnellers, A.E.M.M. and B Co. "The coffin-bearers were members of the A.I.F.

Tunnelling Companies' Old Comrades Association, consisting of Major J.B. Shand, Major R.B. Hinder, Captain F.G. Phippard, Lieutenant W. Manton, Lieutenant J. MacD. Royle, Lieutenant J.C. Close, Lieutenant H.V. Searle and Lieutenant J.E. Armstrong."

(above articles Abridged – original article covered several broadsheet pages)