

Basil Riley

1895 - 1981



Basil Riley was born in Sydney in 1895. He served in the First World War as a Lieutenant in the 201st Siege Battery of the Royal Artillery.

Basil graduated from Sydney University in 1923 and obtained his Fellowship in Edinburgh and his Australian Fellowship in 1956. He trained at the Royal North Shore Hospital of Sydney and was at one time Superintendent of that hospital.

He worked at St James Hospital, Balham, London with Rainsford Mowlem and visited Sir Harold Gillies at the London Clinic prior to the Second World War.

He was appointed surgeon to the staff of the Royal North Shore Hospital and in 1937 spent 18 months in Europe and the United States, deciding to specialise in Plastic Surgery.

During World War II he was Plastic Surgeon to the RAAF at 113 A.G.H., Concord.

He was appointed Surgeon-in-Charge of Plastic Surgery and Faciomaxillary surgery at the Royal North Shore Hospital in August 1946 and later became Honorary Consultant Plastic Surgeon to the same hospital, as well as St George, Ryde, Manly and Hornsby District Hospitals.

He held the rank of Wing Commander and was Consultant Plastic Surgeon to the RAAF at No 3 RAAF Hospital from 1942-1959.

His published work included that on the "Applications of the Dermotome in Plastic Surgery". He ceased practice when he was nearly 80 years of age and died on December 3rd, 1981.

Basil is well remembered by his colleagues for his charming personality, his ready wit and his fondness for interesting stories.

He was always willing and helpful to young doctors who aspired to be Plastic Surgeons.