

## SIR WALTER CROCKER KBE



**Soldier, Diplomat, SA Lieutenant Governor**

**Born:** Broken Hill NSW, 25 March 1902

**Died:** Adelaide 14 November 2002

**Attended ATHS:** 1917-18

### **Career**

He was educated at the University of Adelaide, Balliol College, Oxford and Stanford University in the United States.

Sir Walter gained his early experience during the 1930s in the Nigerian Colonial Service, going on to work for the League of Nations in the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, from 1934 to 1940. He served in World War II with the British Army, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel.

. In 1946, he was invited to be the first chief of the Africa Section in the UN's Secretariat in New York, where he served until 1949. That year he became founding professor at the Australian National University in Canberra.

From 1952 to 1970 Sir Walter served Australia with distinction for 18 consecutive years at ambassadorial level in a variety of countries including India, Indonesia, Canada, Nepal, Belgium & The Netherlands, Kenya, Ethiopia & Uganda and Italy. Even as a senior diplomat his independence of mind kept breaking through. On the domestic front, he attacked the extent to which overseas interests had been allowed to gain control of Australia's mineral resources.

Following his retirement from the diplomatic service in 1970, Sir Walter returned home to Adelaide where he served as a member of the Council of Adelaide University from 1971-1978. In 1973 he was appointed Lieutenant-governor of South Australia, a position he held until 1982. Sir Walter was a prolific writer publishing numerous magazine articles, lectures and books during his illustrious career.

### **Awards:**

Croix de Guerre avec palme (France)

Ordre royal du Lion (Belgium)

Grand Officer Order of Malta

Cavaliere di Gr Croce dell Órdine al Merito (Italy)

In 1978 he was appointed Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)