

GRICE, Thomas Gerald



University Archives Ref. P1243 Students - Cornstalks, the College's tallest students [Hawkesbury Agricultural College (HAC)]

Students had to be over six feet tall to be classed as 'cornstalks'.

L-R: William Gauld Davies, Thomas Gerald Grice (KIA), WC Morris, HG Barling, CP van de Merwe, Clement Horace Bate, William S Farmer, JM McCormick, Arthur Mainwaring Maxwell (6' 3"), George Osborne Dorward (6' 4 1/2"), Harold Bouchier Dight Barlow (6' 3"), David Keith Forsyth, GS Ridley, St George Arthur Gore, KH Bond, R Squire, Reginald Gordon May, Graham Stuart M Galloway (KIA), Reginald Brieley Hedley.



Australian War Memorial Ref: P08936.003



Photograph © P.R. Lister 23 June 2014

Thomas Gerald Grice studied practical courses at HAC from July to October 1907. At the time he was one of the older students, his student card recording he was aged 23. He had long been involved with the military, having left his Melbourne home and studied at Sandhurst Military

College, Surrey, England, joining The Cameronians (also known as the Scottish Rifles) 2nd Battalion there, and went with them to Egypt. His battalion served in South Africa during the Boer War, where his older brother Richard was killed. The battalion returned to England in 1907 and Grice returned to Australia to study. After leaving HAC he was on a property at Delungra near Inverell, NSW, where they grew wheat and maize and raised sheep. In Sydney in 1911 he married Clarice Hewlett and they took up a property at Inverell. He and Clarice returned to England during the war. Correspondence from his father, Sir John Grice, and published in the College Journal records Thomas joined the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and that shortly after he went into action, received wounds to both legs from machine gun fire. He died two days later from those wounds on 15 June 1916 and was interred at Couin British Cemetery, about 15 kms east of Doullens, France. Commonwealth War Graves record his age as 34, yet his birth was registered in Victoria in 1883.