

O'SULLIVAN, Thomas Real



Thomas Real O'Sullivan back row 5th from left
University Archives Ref: 1912 First XV Rugby Team



Thomas Real O'Sullivan
Australian War Memorial Ref: H05971
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Thomas Real O'Sullivan was the third of six children born to parents Thomas and Roseanna (Rose) of Toowong, Brisbane, Queensland in 1891. Thomas' siblings were Francis Mellin b.1887, Eileen b.1889, Vincent Patrick b.1896, Dora b.1899, and Mary Caroline b.1901. Thomas Snr was a barrister, politician, Attorney General of Qld 1908-1915, and a Justice of the Supreme Court of Qld.

Thomas undertook Special Courses in Farm, Carpentry and Blacksmithing at HAC in 1912. Vincent also entered HAC in 1917 and was also a member of the First XV Rugby team, winning College Colours for Rugby Union.

Thomas was a wool classer when he enlisted as a private in the 41st Battalion, 6th Reinforcement on 23 February 1916.

Thomas was Acting Sergeant by the time of embarkation from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A64 *Demosthenes* on 23 December 1916.

Serving on the Western Front, Thomas was commissioned Second Lieutenant on 1 November 1917, and was Killed In Action on 17 April 1918 aged 24. Thomas is buried at Bonnay Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Francis Mellin O'Sullivan enlisted the same day as Thomas and also served with the 41st Battalion (but the 3rd Reinforcement), returning to Australia on 6 September 1919. Francis was appointed Captain in the Australian Army Legal Corps on 1 November 1931.