

## Osborne Henry DOUGLAS

Osborne Douglas was born in Launceston, Tasmania. His father was Sir Ade Douglas, a well known lawyer and politician.

Douglas was a talented cricketer and played first class cricket for Tasmania between 1898 and 1905, being noted for his 'very good left hand defensive bat'.

After completing his law degree at the University of Tasmania, Osborne Douglas moved to Melbourne and then later bought into a practice with Alex Proudfoot at Nhill. Douglas was active in Nhill civic affairs and was captain of the local cricket club, as well as the shire solicitor.

Osborne Douglas enlisted in early 1916 as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> reinforcements of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. He embarked on board the *Nestor* in October 1916 and arrived in France in early 1917. He received gunshot



wounds to his fingers in May 1917 during the second battle for Bullecourt, and subsequently spent time in hospital in both France and England. Promoted to a lance-corporal, Douglas rejoined his Battalion in France.

He was killed in action near Albert in April 1918 during the German Spring Offensive. There is no Red Cross record or other account of his death. His record simply states 'Killed in action'. He was 38 years old. Initially, he was buried in the Albert Road Cemetery, not far from where he was killed. However, in 1920, his mother, Lady Ida Douglas received word that he had been exhumed and re-interred at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery. She was assured that "*This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence and in the presence of a Chaplain*".

The obituary in the *Nhill Free Press*, Friday 17 May 1918 noted that "*the flags were lowered to half mast*

*yesterday as a mark of respect for the gallant soldier who gave his life for his king and Empire, and one who leaves behind a record worthy of emulation.*" The obituary also notes that his two brothers were still on active service at the front.

