

Eugene GORMAN

Born at Goornong, near Bendigo, in 1891, Eugene Gorman originally attended school in Bendigo, before completing his schooling at St. Joseph's College in Sydney. After completing his legal studies at Melbourne University and his articles with a Bendigo firm, Gorman was admitted to practice in 1914.

He enlisted for military service in September 1915 and received his commission as an officer in May 1916 with the 22nd Battalion. He left Australia for England in October 1916 and arrived in France in December 1916. He received a promotion to lieutenant in April 1917, and during the fighting for Ypres, in May 1917, he was wounded and received the military cross. His military cross citation reads *"He displayed the utmost courage and ability in leading his company during an attack, and although severely wounded he remained at his post until his party were relieved after a most exhausting and dangerous turn of duty"*.

Gorman was wounded so severely he was sent to England to recuperate and did not return to France until July 1917. He was wounded again in fighting in March 1918 and, in July 1918, was struck down with influenza. After he recovered from the 'flu he joined a training battalion in October 1918. In January 1919, he was made a captain and adjutant. He did not return to Australia until September 1919.

Gorman married Marthe Vallee, a Frenchwoman he had met during the War, in Melbourne in 1920. He returned to the Bar, after his return to Australia, and was made a Kings Counsel in 1929. He had an interest in politics and stood unsuccessfully for the Legislative Council in 1931.

During the Second World War, he again offered his services, first with the Australian Comforts Funds and then later as a Brigadier in charge of Australian Army administration. Although officially retired from the Bar, he took a number of briefs during the 1950s, including the Petrov Commission. He remained active in his retirement, involved in various business and community activities. He was appointed a Knight of the British Empire in 1966, and died in 1973.



Eugene Gorman is in the middle of this group portrait of officers of the 22nd Battalion.