

## Norman John Gerard O'BRYAN

---



Norman O'Bryan was born in 1894 in South Melbourne.

He was educated at St Patrick's and Christian Brothers Colleges. He attained his law degree in 1915 and was articled to Plante & Henty. His father opposed his enlistment until his articles of clerkship were completed, so he finally enlisted in June of 1916, just prior to being admitted to practice in August of that year.

O'Bryan applied for a commission and when he finally embarked for Europe in November 1917, he was a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant with the Australian Field Artillery.

O'Bryan arrived in France in April 1918 and was at Villers-Bretonneux as part of the battle for Amiens on 25 April. In June of 1918, he was promoted to lieutenant and was wounded in September during the battle of the Hindenburg Line, although his wounds were such that he remained on duty.

After the war, O'Bryan signed the Bar Roll in 1920, and read with Leo Cussen. His practice as a barrister flourished and he took silk in 1937, followed in 1939 by an

appointment as an acting judge of the Supreme Court. Shortly thereafter, he became a permanent judge of the Court.

During World War Two, O'Bryan acted as a legal advisor for the army. He was knighted in 1958, and retired from the bench in 1966. He married twice and had six children, one of whom became a Supreme Court judge himself (The Hon. Norman Michael O'Bryan, 1977-1992). Sir Norman O'Bryan died in 1968 aged 73.