

Dallas SUTHERLAND



Dallas Sutherland was born into an artistic and intellectual family in 1890. His father, Alexander Sutherland, was the Registrar of Melbourne University and a published writer, his uncle was a prominent physicist, his aunt an artist, and a cousin, Margaret Sutherland, a composer and musician. Dallas Sutherland was educated at Carlton College, and showed early promise for winning prizes by winning the best dozen duck eggs as an eight year old in the Dromana Show. He completed his law degree at Melbourne University winning the Alexander Sutherland Prize for English in 1908 (named after his father) and the Wyselaskie Scholarship in 1909. He was also a hockey player of great repute. After completing his studies, he was admitted to practice as a solicitor with a large firm in central Melbourne.

Dallas Sutherland enlisted in July 1915, initially with the 60th Battalion. He later transferred to the 59th Battalion and finally joined the 15th Australian Machine Gun Company in Egypt, all the while as a private. Sutherland arrived in France in June 1916 and, like so many of the Australian troops, found himself engaged in fighting in the trenches of France by July.

Dallas Sutherland was killed on 19 August 1916 during the fighting at Moquet Farm. He had gone with a raiding party to the German trenches to assist with retrieving a machine gun. The raid was successful, but Dallas Sutherland was killed when he turned back to assist a wounded comrade.

After his death in 1916, Sutherland's late father's dear friend, the then 83 year old eminent historian, Henry Gyles Turner, wrote a brief book commemorating the life of Dallas, to give some comfort to his inconsolable mother, Elizabeth. This book is entitled *Dallas Sutherland : killed in France, Saturday 19th August, 1916 aged 26 years : a brief memorial of one who gave his life in the heroic attempt to save that of a comrade-in-arms*. The book includes several accounts of his death written by the men with which he served. All praise his bravery and coolness under fire, and believe he should have received a medal for his actions. Friends continued to put 'in memoriam' notices in the paper well into the 1920s.