



821 PLAYFAIR Thomas Alfred



Son of Edmund Playfair Esq Kioto Botany St Waverley born October 13 1891
Entered 1903 Left 1906 (B1) Junior Ath Shield 1904 1st XV Colours 1st XI
Great War 1914-18 (Major DSO Mentioned in Despatches) Commercial Sydney
Pine Hill Avenue Double Bay

Nom Roll Maj DSO 4 Div Arty RTA 21/5/19

Brigadier 1940 OBE

Service Record Militia 1909-14 Lt Arty Joined Lt 1Bty 1FAB 18/8/14 Embarked
18/10/14 MEF Gallipoli 4/4/15 WIA Gallipoli 30/5/15 WIA 15/8/15 change to Aus
28/8/15 Re-embarked 7FAB 11/5/16 France Maj 21/1/17 3DAHQ 18/4/17 DSO
1/6/17 7FAB 12/6/17 Art Scl 23/12/17 TOS 4DivHQ 15/3/18 OBE (Albert,
Dernancourt, Villers Bretonneux 15/3 – 5/11/18) Bde Maj 31/3/18 mid R [three
times] Returned 25/1/19 Terminated 3/6/19

BEAN describes the action on 19 May during which Lt TAJ Playfair was wounded [II
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mid : "Lieut. Playfair was forward observing officer from the 28 April until 19 May
[1915], ... [with Lieut. Siddall]. These officers were also forward observing officers
for the Navy and carried out their duties with exceptional zeal and ability under very
trying conditions and in positions of very great danger. Lieut. Playfair was wounded
... on 19 May. Lieut. Siddall ... was killed."

mid : "This Officer has commanded the 26 Battery, 7 FA Brigade, since it was raised
in April, 1915, and took it into the line at the beginning of this year.

Throughout the period of training in England, Capt. Playfair displayed exceptional
ability and devotion to duty. His energy and soldierly qualities enabled him to instil
into his command a high spirit of discipline and exceptional enthusiasm. Since going
into the line this Officer has handled his Battery remarkably well, and has done
excellent work in support of our raids, and in repelling hostile attacks."

DSO : "For conspicuous good work and devotion to duty during the period from
August 1914 to date, which includes the undermentioned service :-

- (a) As Section Cmdr. 1 Bty AFA during its initial training in EGYPT and later during the operations on GALLIPOLI.
- (b) As Battery Cmdr. 26 Battery, 3 Aust. Div. during its organisation, and the period in FRANCE, including the Battles of MESSINES, and PASSCHENDAELE.
- (c) As Brigade-Major 4 Aust. Div. Arty., from March 1918, during the Battles of DERNANCOURT and VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and operations subsequent to and the breaking of the HINDENBURG LINE (Sept 29 – 30 1918)."



OBE : "For conspicuous devotion to duty and most efficient service at Brigade Major, 4 Australian Divisional Artillery, from 15 March 1918 up to the present date. Throughout his service under my command – which includes the trying and anxious period and actions at ALBERT, DERNANCOURT, and VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and almost continuous subsequent and strenuous fighting up to our final withdrawal on the 5 November 1918 – the work of this Officer has been marked by consistent application, cheerful and sustained energy and proved ability.

His service has been invaluable to me and to this Divisional Artillery and has largely ensured the smooth action of the numerous RHA, RFA and Australian Field Artillery Brigades which have from time to time been affiliated with us and under the direct tactical control of my Headquarters.

This Officer was mentioned in SIR DOUGLAS HAIG's Despatch of the 8 November 1918, vide LONDON GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT No. 31077 dated 20 December 1918, and AIF LIST No. 427 of 1 January 1919."
WW II CO 2 Div RAA Australia