

MEMBERS WHO SERVED

First World War



Serving their country

119 Commonwealth members of parliament are identified as having served during the First World War.¹

Australia had been a nation for only 13 years when the War began; and the Commonwealth Parliament was half the size it is today (the House of Representatives had 75 members and the Senate 36—all of whom were men).

The average age of those elected to Parliament at the time was 45.3 years.

Initially entry requirements for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) were strict: volunteers needed to be aged 18-35 and physically fit.² Around 33% of all volunteers were rejected during the first year of the war. However, this changed as enlistments declined and casualties increased; from mid-1915 the maximum age was increased to 45 and minimum physical requirements were lowered (and relaxed further in 1916).

As historian Bill Gammage has remarked, volunteers for the AIF had 'a thousand personal and particular reasons for enlistment': for some, a sense of adventure, for others, the lure of employment, and, for many, an unquestioned sense of duty to fight for King and country. However, the 'few who were already MPs when war broke out seem to have felt a pressure from the wider society that was unique to them, and their circumstances, although the advanced age of many politicians limited the number who could seriously consider enlisting.

These pressures were more sharply felt as the casualties mounted and sustaining a volunteer force became increasingly difficult. Unable to convince the Parliament to legislate for conscription, in 1916 Prime Minister Hughes sought a public mandate to

expand the government's powers for conscription, from the narrow purposes of home defence to the additional role of overseas service. After the referendum was narrowly defeated, Hughes and other conscriptionists left the Labor Party and merged with the Commonwealth Liberal Party to form a new Nationalist Party government. With volunteer enlistment continuing to lag, he put a second referendum to the Australian people in December 1917. Again the nation voted no. However, the issue was hugely divisive and, as historian Joan Beaumont has remarked:

Suffice to say that they were debates which were fought out not simply in Parliament but in streets and public venues throughout the nation. The discussions had an emotional intensity and intellectual sophistication which we scarcely see in political debate today. At issue was not simply whether conscription was needed militarily. There was a deep clash of principles about the obligations of citizenship, the equality of sacrifice in times of national crisis, and the exercise of power by the Australian State. All of this was fuelled by an explosive mix of anxieties: about the demographic implications of denuding the country of its fittest and best men, about military compulsion paving the way for industrial conscription, and about soldiers being replaced in the workforce by women or cheap Asian labour. Civil libertarians meanwhile questioned the morality of the state's compelling individuals to kill and the heavy-handed use of the War Precautions Act by the Hughes Government. The debate was also infused with a noxious sectarianism as Catholics, who constituted 22 per cent of the Australian population and were mostly working class and of Irish extraction, were radicalised by declining standards of living and the ruthless suppression by the British of the Easter uprising in Dublin.



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PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

1. This figure does not include reservists or members in the AIF not in active service (not appearing on the Australian War Memorial's Embarkation Roll database).
2. 'Enlistment Standards: First World War', Australian War Memorial website.
3. Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian soldiers in the Great War*, Penguin, Ringwood, 1974 (1985 edn), p. 10.
4. Martin Lumb, Scott Bennett and John Moremon, 'Commonwealth Members of Parliament who have served in war', Parliamentary Library Research Brief, March 2007, p. 7.
5. Joan Beaumont, *Going to war 1914-18: the view from the Australian Parliament*, Parliamentary Library lecture, 19 March 2014.
• Hurley, Frank, 1914-1918, Australian troops resting during World War I, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn6298449
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MEMBERS WHO SERVED

First World War

Charles Abbott

MP (Gwydir, NSW), CP, 1925–1929 • 1931–1937

Joseph Abbott

MP (New England, NSW), CP, 1940–1949

Percy Abbott

MP (New England)/Senator (NSW), LIB/NAT/CP, 1913–1919 • 1925–1929

Stanley Amour

Senator (NSW), ALP N-C, 1938–1965

Charles Anderson

MP (Hume, NSW), CP, 1949–1951 • 1955–1961

Hubert Anthony

MP (Richmond, NSW), CP, 1937–1957

James Arkins

Senator (NSW), UAP, 1935–1937

Arthur Beck

MP (Denison, Tas.), UAP, 1940–1943

Frederick Beerworth

Senator (SA), ALP, 1946–1951

George Bell

MP (Darwin, Tas.), NAT/UAP, 1919–1922 • 1925–1943

Archibald Blacklow

MP (Franklin, Tas.), UAP, 1931–1934

Adair Blain

MP (Northern Territory, NT), IND, 1934–1949

William Bolton

Senator (Vic.), NAT, 1917–1923

William Bostock

MP (Indi, Vic.), LIB, 1949–1958

George Bowden

MP (Gippsland, Vic.), CP, 1943–1961

Charles Brand

Senator (Vic.), UAP/LIB, 1935–1947

Wilfred Brimblecombe

MP (Maranoa, Qld), CP, 1951–1966

Geoffrey Brown

MP (McMillan, Vic.), LIB, 1949–1955

Stanley Bruce

MP (Flinders, VIC), NAT/UAP, 1918–1929 • 1931–1933

Reginald Burchell

MP (Fremantle, WA), ALP/NAT, 1913–1922

Archie Cameron

MP (Barker, SA), CP/LIB/LCL, 1934–1956

Cyril Cameron

Senator (Tas.), PROT, 1901–1903 • 1907–1913

Donald Charles Cameron

MP (Brisbane/Lilley, Qld), NAT/UAP, 1919–1931 • 1934–1937

George Cann

MP (Nepean, NSW), ALP, 1910–1913

Richard Casey

MP (Corio/La Trobe, Vic.), UAP/LIB, 1931–1940 • 1949–1960

John (Jack) Chamberlain

Senator (Tas.), LIB, 1951–1953

John Clasby

MP (East Sydney, NSW), UAP, 1931–1932

Percy Coleman

MP (Reid, NSW), ALP, 1922–1931

Herbert Collett

Senator (WA), NAT/UAP, 1933–1947

Walter Cooper

Senator (Qld), NAT/CP, 1928–1932 • 1935–1968

Edwin Corboy

MP (Swan, WA), ALP, 1918–1919

Charles Cox

Senator (NSW), NAT/UAP, 1920–1938

John Critchley

Senator (SA), ALP, 1947–1959

Richard Crouch

MP (Corio/Corangamite, Vic.), PROT/ALP, 1901–1910 • 1929–1931

Charles Davidson

MP (Capricornia/Dawson, Qld), LIB-CP/CP, 1946–1963

John Dedman

MP (Corio, Vic.), ALP, 1940–1949

Edmund Drake-Brockman

Senator (WA), NAT, 1920–1926

Walter Duncan

Senator (NSW), NAT, 1920–1931

John Duncan-Hughes

MP (Boothby/Wakefield); Senator (SA), LIB/NAT/UAP, 1922–1928 • 1931–1938 • 1940–1943

James Dunn

Senator (NSW), ALP/LANG-LAB, 1929–1935

Harold (Pompey) Elliott

Senator (Vic.), NAT, 1920–1931

James Fairbairn

MP (Flinders, Vic.), UAP, 1933–1940

John Eldridge

MP (Martin, NSW), ALP/LANG-LAB, 1929–1931

Alexander Finlay

Senator (SA), ALP, 1944–1953

Archibald Fiske

MP (Ballarat, Vic.), UAP, 1934–1937

William Fleming

MP (Robertson, NSW), LIB/NAT/NAT&FARMERS/CP, 1913–1922

Hattil (Harry) Foll

Senator (Qld), NAT/UAP, 1917–1947

George Foster

Senator (Tas.), NAT, 1920–1925

Josiah Francis

MP (Moreton, Qld), NAT/UAP/LIB, 1922–1955

Alexander Fraser

Senator (Vic.), LIB, 1946

John Gellibrand

MP (Denison, Tas.), NAT, 1925–1928

William Gibbs

Senator (NSW), ALP, 1925

Thomas Glasgow

Senator (Qld), NAT, 1920–1932

Roland Green

MP (Richmond, NSW), CP, 1922–1937

Henry Gullett

MP (Henty, Vic.), NAT/UAP, 1925–1940

Leonard Hamilton

MP (Swan/Canning, WA), CP, 1946–1961

Alfred Hampson

MP (Bendigo, Vic.), ALP, 1915–1917

Charles Hardy

Senator (NSW), CP, 1932–1938

John Harris

Senator (WA), ALP, 1947–1951 • 1953–1959

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Parties and Organisations

AIF	Australian Imperial Force	LANG LAB	Lang Labor Party
ALP	Australian Labor Party	LCL	Liberal Country League
ALP N-C	Australian Labor Party (Non Communist)	LIB	Liberal Party of Australia
CP	Australian Country Party	LIB-CP	Liberal Country Party
FLP	Federal Labor Party	NAT	Nationalist Party
FSU	Farmers and Settlers Union	NAT&FARMERS	Nationalist and Farmers
FT	Free Trade	PROT	Protectionist Party
IND	Independent	ST CP	State Country Party
IND UAP	Independent United Australia Party	UAP	United Australia Party
		UCP	United Country Party



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• Hurley, Frank, 1914-1918, Australian troops resting during World War I, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn6298449
• W.A.S Dunlop, 1914, Australian Imperial Force's 2nd Infantry Brigade marching through Bourke Street, Melbourne, Friday, 25th September 1914, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn4982243
• Hurley, Frank, 1917, Composite of parts of photographs entitled Australian wounded on the Merin Road, near Birr Cross Road on September 20th, 1917 and (Infantrymen of the 1st Australian Division during a rest in the dugouts at Ypres, 1917), bordered by clouds, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn3085948
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Eric F Harrison

MP (Bendigo, Vic.), UAP • 1931–1937

Eric J Harrison

MP (Wentworth, NSW), UAP/LIB, 1931–1956

Charles Hawker

MP (Wakefield, SA), NAT/UAP, 1929–1938

Alexander Hay

MP (New England, NSW), NAT&FARMERS/CP/IND, 1919–1922

Leslie Haylen

MP (Parkes, NSW), ALP, 1943–1963

Edward Heitmann

MP (Kalgoorlie, WA), NAT, 1917–1919

Albion Hendrickson

Senator (Vic.), ALP, 1947–1971

Neville Howse

MP (Calare, NSW), NAT, 1922–1929

Arthur Hutchin

MP (Denison, Tas.), UAP, 1931–1934

William Johnson

MP (Robertson, NSW), ALP, 1910–1913

Roy Kendall

Senator (Qld), LIB, 1949–1965

Wilfred Kent Hughes

MP (Chisholm, Vic.), LIB, 1949–1970

Edwin Kerby

MP (Ballarat, Vic.), NAT, 1919–1920

Charles Lamp

Senator (Tas.), ALP, 1938–1950

Charles Latham

Senator (WA), CP, 1942–1943

Hugh Leslie

MP (Moore, WA), CP, 1949–1958 • 1961–1963

John Lister

MP (Corio, Vic.), NAT, 1917–1929

John McCallum

Senator (NSW), LIB, 1949–1962

James McCay

MP (Corinella, Vic.), PROT, 1901–1906

Allan MacDonald

Senator (WA), LIB/UAP, 1935–1947

Allan McDonald

MP (Corangamite, Vic.), UAP/LIB, 1940–1953

David Charles McGrath

MP (Ballarat, Vic.), ALP/UAP, 1913–1919 • 1920–1934

Sydney McHugh

MP (Wakefield, SA), ALP, 1938–1940

John McLeay

MP (Boothby, SA), LIB/LCL, 1949–1966

Donald McLeod

MP (Wannon, Vic.), ALP, 1940–1949 • 1951–1955

Walter McNicoll

MP (Werriwa, NSW), CP, 1931–1934

Walter Marks

MP (Wentworth, NSW), NAT/IND, 1919–1931

Charles Marr

MP (Parkes, NSW), NAT/UAP, 1919–1929 • 1931–1943

Edward Mattner

Senator (SA), LIB, 1944–1946 • 1949–1968

Arthur Morgan

MP (Darling Downs, Qld), NAT, 1929–1931

Theophilus Nicholls

Senator (SA), ALP, 1944–1968

Lewis Nott

MP (Herbert, QLD • Australian Capital Territory, ACT), NAT/IND, 1925–1928 • 1949–1951

James O'Loghlin

Senator (SA), ALP, 1907 • 1913–1920 • 1923–1925

Alfred Ozanne

MP, (Corio, Vic.), ALP, 1910–1913 • 1914–1917

Earle Page

MP (Cowper, NSW), FSU/CP, 1919–1961

Edmund Piesse

Senator (WA), CP, 1949–1952

Reginald Pollard

MP (Ballarat/Lalor, Vic.), ALP, 1937–1966

George Rankin

MP (Bendigo)/Senator (Vic.), ST CP/UCP/CP, 1937–1949 • 1949–1956

Albert Reid

Senator (NSW), CP, 1949–1962

Edward Riley

MP (Cook, NSW), ALP/FLP, 1922–1934

James Rowell

Senator (SA), NAT, 1917–1923

Rupert Ryan

MP (Flinders, Vic.), UAP/LIB, 1940–1952

Granville Ryrie

MP (North Sydney, Werringah NSW), LIB/NAT, 1911–1927

Burford Sampson

Senator (Tas.), NAT/UAP/LIB, 1925–1938 • 1941–1947

Charles Sandford

Senator (Vic.), ALP, 1947–1956 • 1957–1966

Thomas Scholfield

MP (Wannon, Vic.), UAP, 1931–1940

Harrie Seward

Senator (WA), CP, 1951–1958

Wilfred Simmonds

Senator (Qld), LIB, 1949–1951

Miles Smith

Senator (WA), FT, 1901–1906

William Spooner

Senator (NSW), LIB, 1949–1965

Geoffrey Street

MP (Corangamite, Vic.), UAP, 1934–1940

William Thompson

Senator (Qld), NAT, 1922–1932

Thomas Treloar

MP (Gwydir, NSW), CP, 1949–1953

Robert Wardlaw

Senator (Tas.), LIB, 1953–1962

David Watkins

MP (Newcastle, NSW), FLP/ALP, 1935–1958

Thomas White

MP (Balaclava, Vic.), NAT/UAP/LIB, 1929–1951

Arnold (Arthur) Wienholt

MP (Moreton, Qld), NAT/CP, 1919–1922

John Wilson

MP (Corangamite, Vic.), FT/ANTI-SOC, 1903–1910

Robert Wordsworth

Senator (Tas.), LIB, 1949–1959

George Yates

MP (Adelaide, SA), ALP, 1914–1919 • 1922–1931

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Parties and Organisations

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FT	Free Trade	PROT	Protectionist Party
IND	Independent	ST CP	State Country Party
IND UAP	Independent United Australia Party	UAP	United Australia Party
		UCP	United Country Party



PERCY PHIPPS ABBOTT

1869 - 1940



MP (New England) • Senator (NSW) • LIB/NAT/CP, 1913–1919; 1925–1929

Born in 1869 in Hobart, Tasmania, Percy Abbott, a solicitor by profession, served as alderman and mayor of Glen Innes Municipal Council before entering federal politics as the Liberal Member for New England in 1913.

Abbott had a long and distinguished history of military service dating back to 1898 when he joined the 4th NSW Infantry Regiment. Transferring to the Light Horse in 1903, he rose through the officer ranks, becoming commander of the 5th Light Horse in 1913.

Appointed a lieutenant colonel in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in March 1915, Abbott was deployed to Egypt in command of the 12th Light Horse, and then to Gallipoli where he commanded the 10th Light Horse. In October 1915, ill with enteric fever, Abbott was evacuated to England. There, regaining his health, he commanded Australian staging camps. In 1917 he served with the 63rd and 30th battalions in France, being mentioned in despatches and appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George. Abbott returned to Australia in April 1918 and was subsequently released from the AIF due to ill health. However, he continued to command the 12th Light Horse (later the New England Light Horse) until 1929.

On his return from the war, Abbott returned to the House of Representatives but retired at the 1919 election. After an unsuccessful campaign in 1922, he became a Senator for NSW in 1925.

Following the war, Abbott returned to legal practice and actively supported welfare efforts for returned soldiers in the Glen Innes and Tamworth districts. In 1939-40 he commanded Tamworth's civil defence.



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Sources:

- The Australian Dictionary of Biography
- The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate (online edition)
- The Parliamentary Handbook, Parliament of Australia
- Nathan Church, Hannah Gobbett, Martin Lumb and Rob Lundie, Commonwealth Members of Parliament who have served in war: Colonial wars and the First World War, Parliamentary Library Research Paper, September 2014

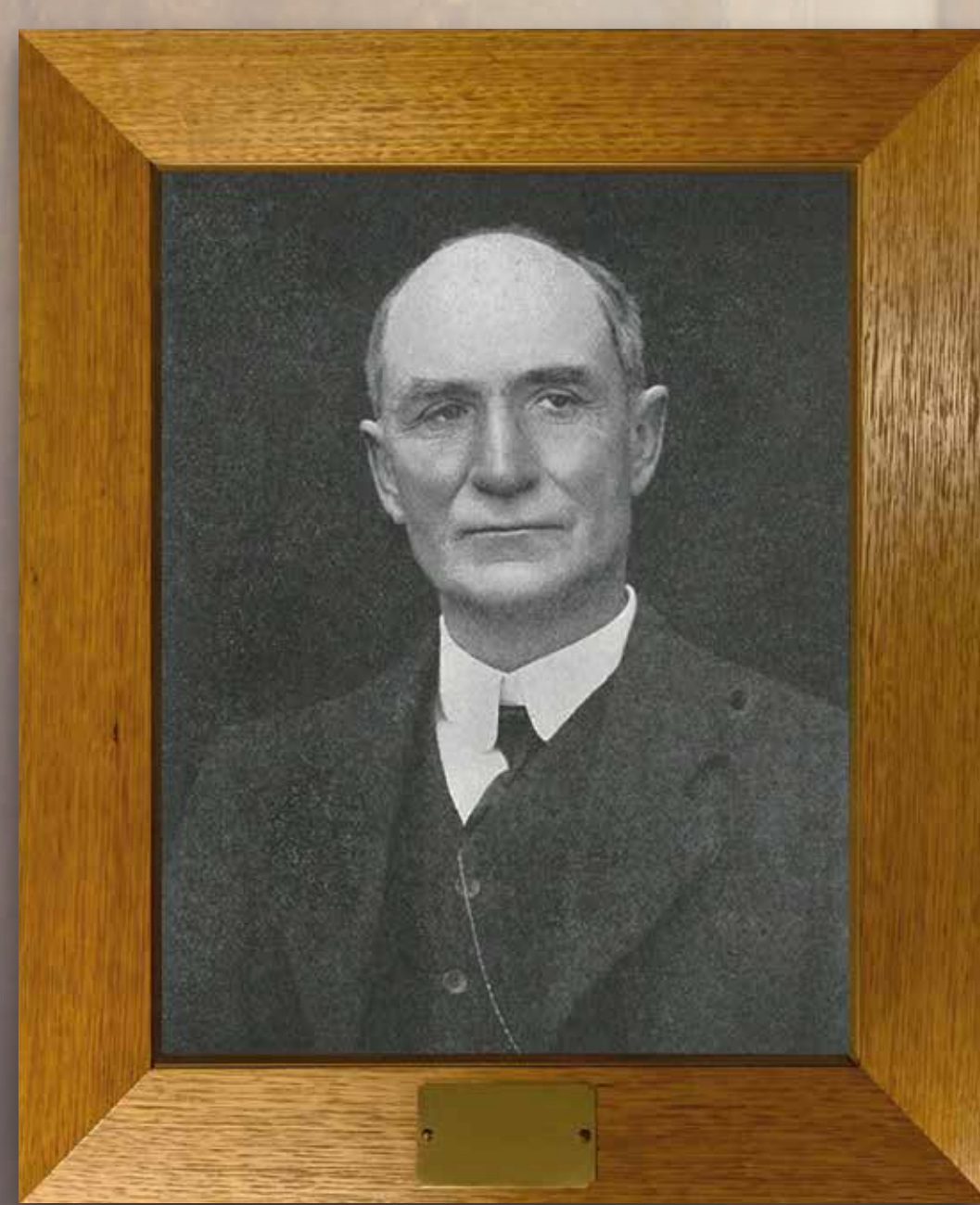


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- W.A.S Dunlop, 1914. Australian Imperial Force's 2nd Infantry Brigade marching through Bourke Street, Melbourne, Friday, 25th September 1914, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn4982243
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JAMES VINCENT O'LOGHLIN

1852 - 1925



Senator (SA) • ALP, 1907 • 1913–1920 • 1923–1925

Born in 1852 in the South Australian town of Gumeracha, James O'Loughlin worked as a farmer, goods carrier and journalist before being elected in 1888 to the Legislative Council for the Northern District in South Australia. O'Loughlin served as Chief Secretary and Minister for Defence in the South Australian Kingston Government 1896–1899, before losing his seat in 1902.

After an unsuccessful campaign for the Senate in 1901, O'Loughlin was elected by the South Australian Parliament to fill a casual vacancy (which arose when the High Court declared void the 1906 election of Joseph Vardon). However, the High Court subsequently upheld Vardon's petition for a fresh election, and O'Loughlin lost the seat. He then returned to state politics, serving as member for Flinders in the House of Assembly from 1910–1912, before finally being elected to the Senate in May 1913, holding his seat in the 1914 double dissolution.

O'Loughlin's involvement in the military was similarly longstanding, dating from his enlistment in the Terowie Volunteer Corps in 1883. In 1895 he was appointed captain in the South Australian Militia, and, post federation, served as major in the 10th Australian Infantry Regiment. He later raised and commanded the Irish Corps, 10th Regiment (1901–1910), before retiring as a lieutenant-colonel in 1909.

In August 1915, aged 62, O'Loughlin enlisted for overseas service, reportedly declaring to his fellow Senator and Minister for Defence, George Pearce, that if 'you cannot put me in the firing line, put me as near to it as you can'. He was the only sitting senator to serve overseas in the war. Appointed a temporary lieutenant colonel in the Australian Imperial Force, O'Loughlin commanded troopships disembarking in Egypt in April and September 1916. On his return to Australia in 1917, opposed to conscription and appalled to discover the acrimony the issue had caused within his party, O'Loughlin declared 'there is more war here in Australia than there is at the front, and... it is being conducted more bitterly'.

O'Loughlin remained in the Senate throughout his military service, speaking regularly on defence and agricultural issues, but was defeated in the 1919 election. Re-elected to the Senate in 1923, he died in Adelaide from tuberculosis in 1925.



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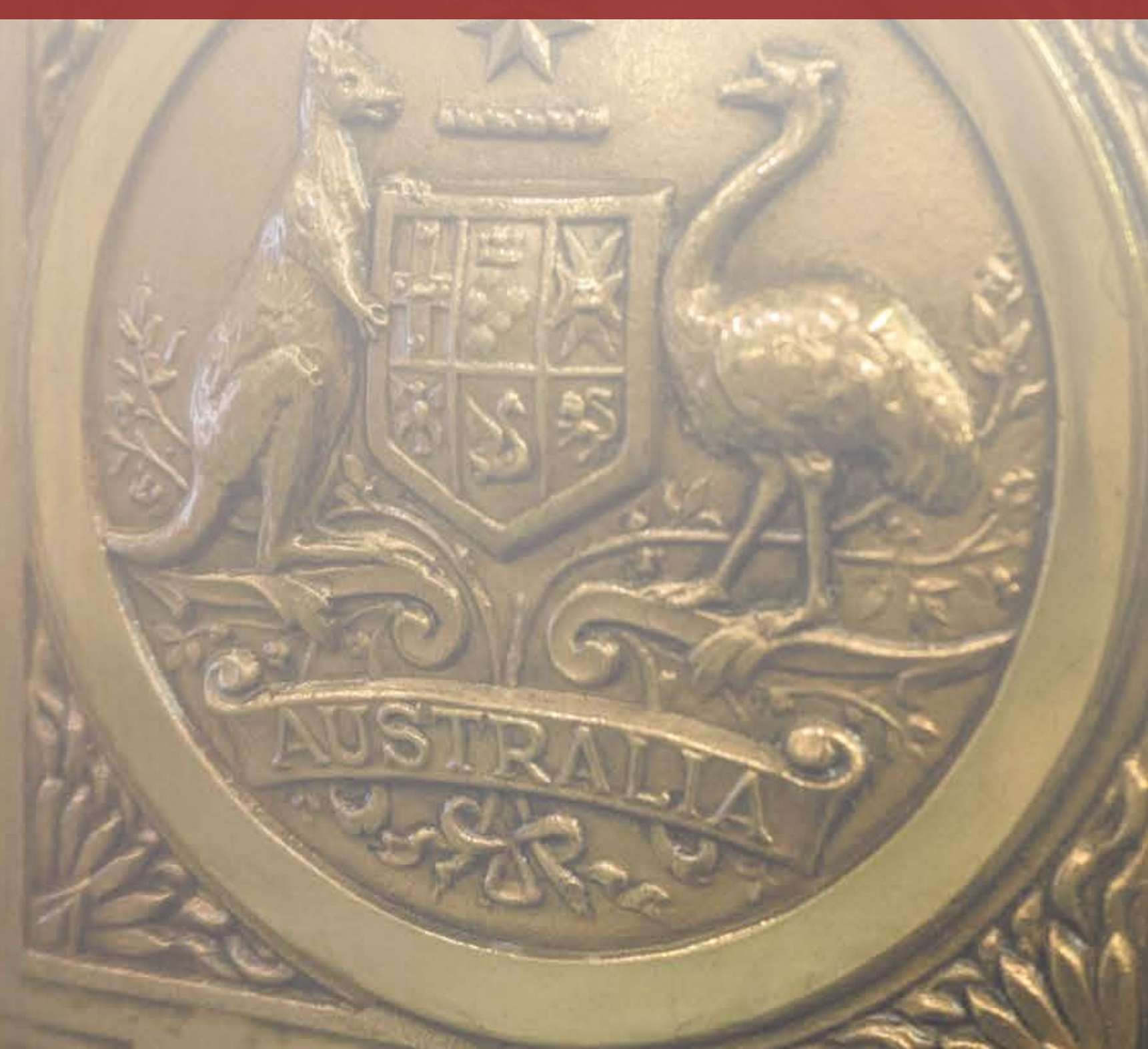


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HATTIL (HARRY) SPENCER FOLL

1890 - 1977



Senator (QLD) • NAT/UAP, 1917–1947

Born in 1890 in London, England Hattil (Harry) Foll emigrated to Queensland in 1909, where he worked as a station-hand, bookkeeper, journalist and clerk with the Queensland Commissioner for Railways.

Harry Foll enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in August 1914, sailing to Egypt with the 3rd Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. He landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and was wounded in the head and leg in May 1915 at Shrapnel Gully. Rejoining his unit in July, Foll was invalided from Gallipoli in August. He returned to Australia and was discharged as medically unfit in February 1916.

Foll found employment as private secretary to John Adamson (Queensland MP and secretary for railways) and held office in the Returned Soldiers' and Patriots' National Political League. In May 1917 he was elected as a Senator for Queensland for the Nationalists at the age of 26, holding the record for the youngest senator until Bill O'Chee in 1990.

Foll remained in the Senate until 1947. During his time in Parliament he represented the interests of returned servicemen and rural and remote communities alongside many other issues. He served as a member of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee and on the committees of Public Works and Public Accounts. In 1937 he joined the Lyons ministry as Minister for Repatriation and Minister in Charge of War Service Homes, and subsequently held several other portfolios including health, information and the interior. After the outbreak of the Second World War, Foll delivered in November 1939 a ministerial statement on the war setting out arrangements for control of the defence forces and announcing the creation of a War Cabinet and an Economic Cabinet.

In 1942, while on the backbench after John Curtin replaced Robert Menzies as Prime Minister, Foll served as a captain in the Volunteer Defence Corps.

Foll lost endorsement from the Queensland People's (Liberal) Party to Annabelle Rankin prior to the 1946 election and left the Senate at the end of his term in June 1947. Upon his retirement from politics, Foll bought a sheep grazing property near Armidale, NSW where he lived until his retirement to Port Macquarie in 1957. After his death in 1977, the *Port Macquarie News* described Foll as the 'last surviving member of the 1917 Federal Parliament and a highly respected resident of Port Macquarie for the past 20 years'.



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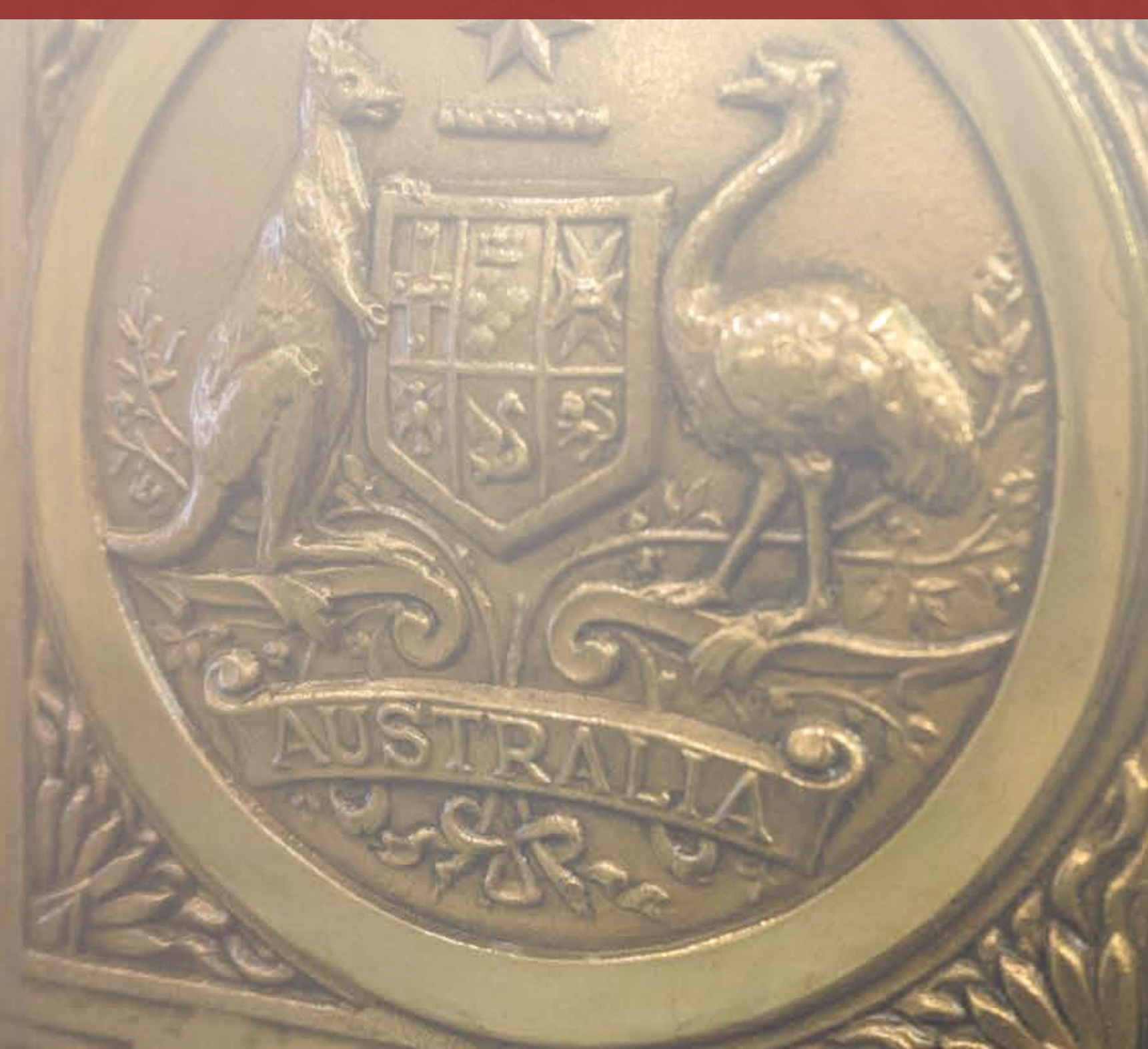


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JAMES ROWELL

1851 - 1940



Senator (SA) • NAT, 1917–1923

Born in 1851 in the English town of Cottenham (Cambridgeshire), James Rowell was an experienced military officer. He joined the Reedbeds Mounted Company in 1877 and by 1895 had risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the colonial militia. In 1897, he commanded the South Australian Contingent to Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee celebrations in London. Between May 1900 and August 1901, he commanded the 4th Imperial Bushmen's Contingent in the Second Boer War: for his service in South Africa, Rowell was mentioned in despatches, appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath, awarded the Queen's Medal, and promoted to full colonel. On his return, Rowell commanded both the South Australian Mounted Brigade (from 1901) and the 10th Australian Infantry Regiment (from 1904) until his retirement from active service in 1910.

Restored from the retired list following the outbreak of the First World War, Rowell briefly served as Military Commandant of South Australia in 1916, before making several voyages on transport ships between Australia, England and Egypt as commander of the Australian Imperial Force reinforcements.

Long active in local government in South Australia, Rowell served for twelve years as the chairman of the West Torrens District Council, and was a vice president of the Local Government Association and a member of the Central Board of Health.

In 1910 Rowell stood (unsuccessfully) for election to the state seat of Adelaide in the House of Assembly. Appointed in May 1917 to a short term casual vacancy in the Senate, he was elected in his own right in the 1917 general election. Defeated at the 1922 election, Rowell's focus while in parliament was on primary industry, the Murray River Scheme, and support for returned servicemen and their families, including those who had fought in the Boer War and received no assistance on their return.

In addition to his life of political and military service, Rowell was a highly skilled horticulturalist. He was a member of the South Australian Board of Agriculture and a councillor (and for a time, President) of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia.



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- "Death of Col. James Rowell" The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1931-1954) 8 Jul 1940: 12. Web. 31 Mar 2015. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47202355>



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WILLIAM KINSEY BOLTON

1860 - 1941



Senator (VIC) • NAT, 1917–1923

Born in 1860 in the English town of Lostock Gralam (Cheshire), William Bolton immigrated to Australia with his family in 1868. He worked as a builder in Gippsland, later becoming an inspector of works in the Victorian Department of Public Works in the districts of Bendigo and Ballarat.

Bolton's involvement in military service began early when he joined the Southern Rifles in 1878. Commissioned as a lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, Victoria, in 1891, Bolton rose through the ranks to become lieutenant-colonel and (in 1912) to command the 70th Regiment. Bolton enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in August 1914, initially being placed in command of the Queenscliff Force before mobilising the 8th Battalion and sailing for Egypt in October. He and his troops landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and later at Cape Helles on 6 May 1915.

Bolton fought in the Second Battle of Krithia (6–8 May) before taking command of the 2nd Infantry Brigade for a brief period that was cut short by poor health. He was invalided back to Australia in 1915. Bolton was described by Bean as 'a soft-hearted commander very solicitous for his men'. A hill and ridge were named in his honour at Gallipoli. Bolton went on to command the Ballarat Training Depot and then the Defended Ports of Victoria before retiring from military service in 1920.

In 1918 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George.

Bolton was a founder and first National President of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League in 1916. Encouraged by Prime Minister Billy Hughes, Bolton stood for Parliament in 1917 as a Nationalist and was elected to the Senate for Victoria. During his time as a Senator, Bolton retained a strong interest in defence and military issues, including the challenges facing returned servicemen. Losing his seat at the 1922 election, Bolton was unsuccessful in his attempt to win the seat of Henty in the 1929 federal election. On leaving politics, he worked as a partner in a building firm.



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Sources:

- The Australian Dictionary of Biography
- The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate (online edition)
- The Parliamentary Handbook, Parliament of Australia
- Nathan Church, Hannah Gobbett, Martin Lumb and Rob Lundie, Commonwealth Members of Parliament who have served in war: Colonial wars and the First World War, Parliamentary Library Research Paper, September 2014

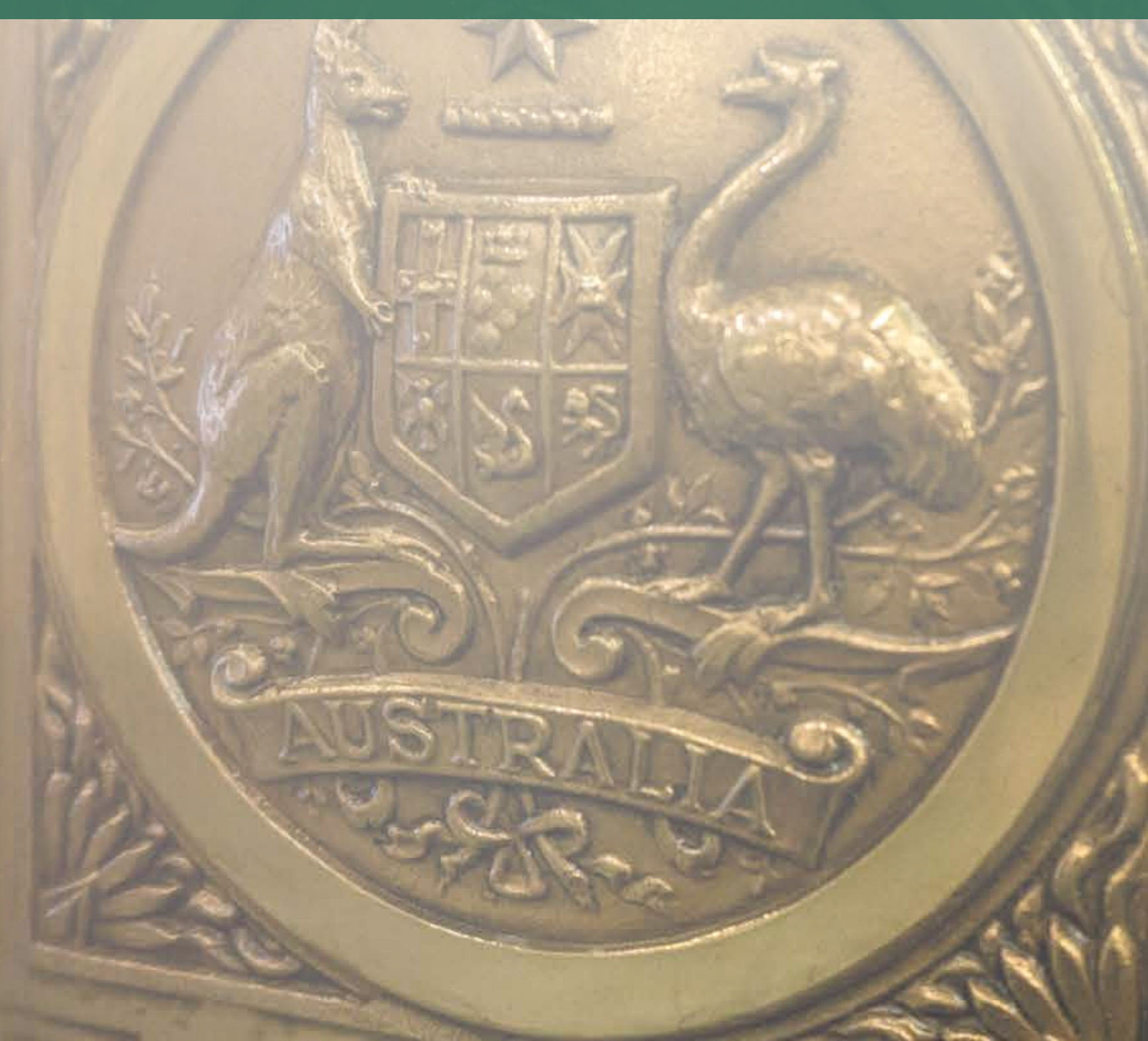


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WILLIAM MONTGOMERIE FLEMING

1874 - 1961



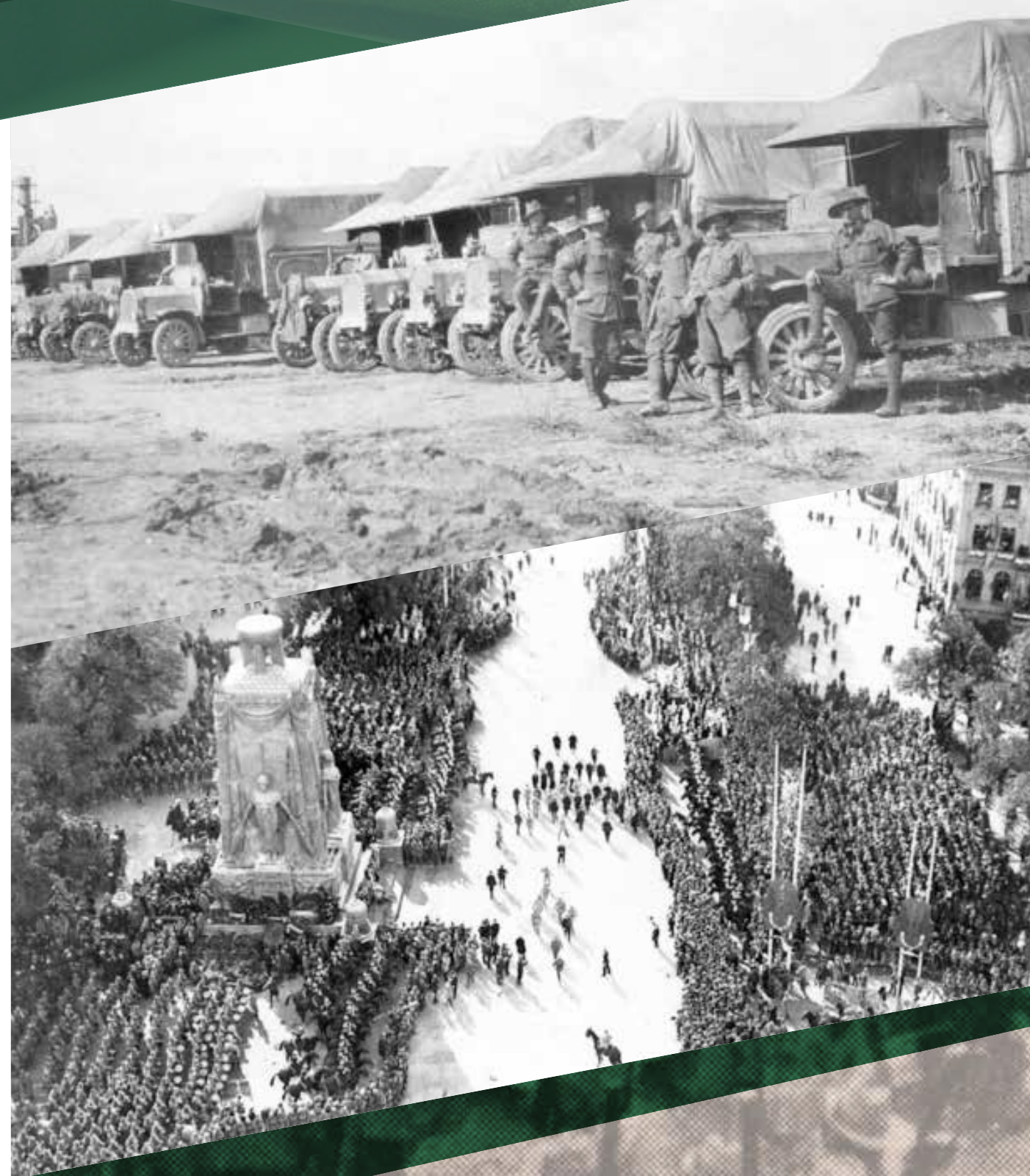
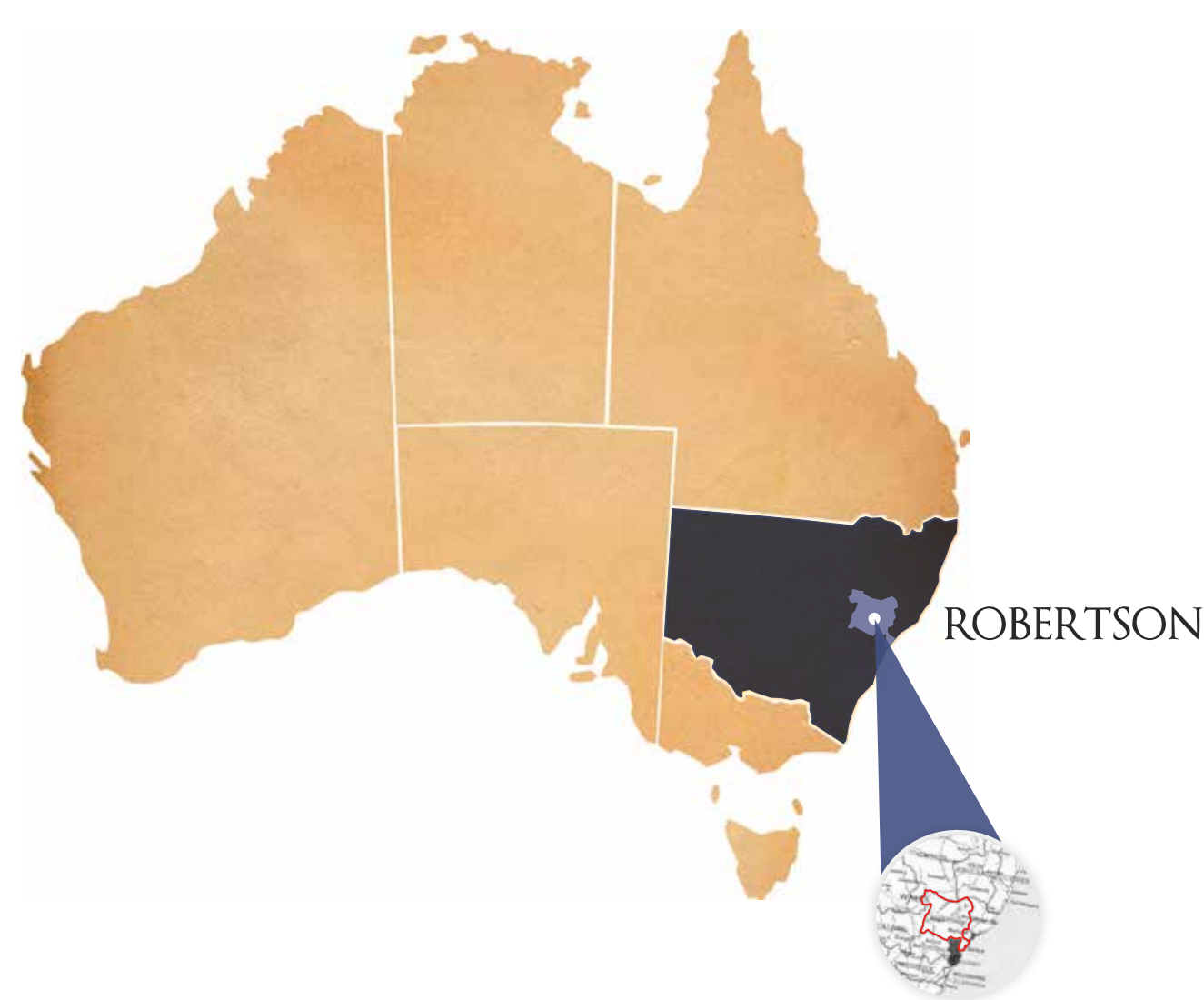
MP (Robertson, NSW) • LIB/NAT/NAT&FARMERS/CP, 1913–1922

Born in 1874 at Avon Plains in the Wimmera district of Victoria, William Fleming was a grazier and journalist before he began his political career as the Member for the NSW Legislative Assembly seat of Robertson (Upper Hunter) in 1901. At age 27, and nicknamed 'the Kid', he was then the youngest member of the Legislative Assembly.

Fleming resigned his state seat in 1910 to stand for federal Parliament. In 1913, he won the seat of Robertson from the sitting Labor Party member WJ Johnson. Feeling duty-bound to serve in the war after Johnson was killed fighting in France, Fleming enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 6 October 1916 while still a member of the House of Representatives. He served as a driver in the Australian Army Service Corps Training Depot in England, transporting reinforcements across to France. Fleming was promoted to sergeant but, having been gassed at Péronne in France, he was demobilised in December 1918.

Fleming returned to Australia and to the federal Parliament, serving as the Member for Robertson until his defeat at the 1922 election. Offered the treasury portfolio by Prime Minister Billy Hughes in 1921, he famously retorted 'I would not work under [him] if he would give me Sydney'. Fleming stood unsuccessfully as a candidate in three elections for the House of Representatives and once for the Senate.

Following his retirement Fleming returned to writing, authoring a number of children's story books and writing for a number of newspapers including the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Bulletin* and *Pastoral Review*. He also made radio broadcasts and his novel *Broad Acres* (1939) was serialised by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Fleming died in 1961 at Terrigal, NSW.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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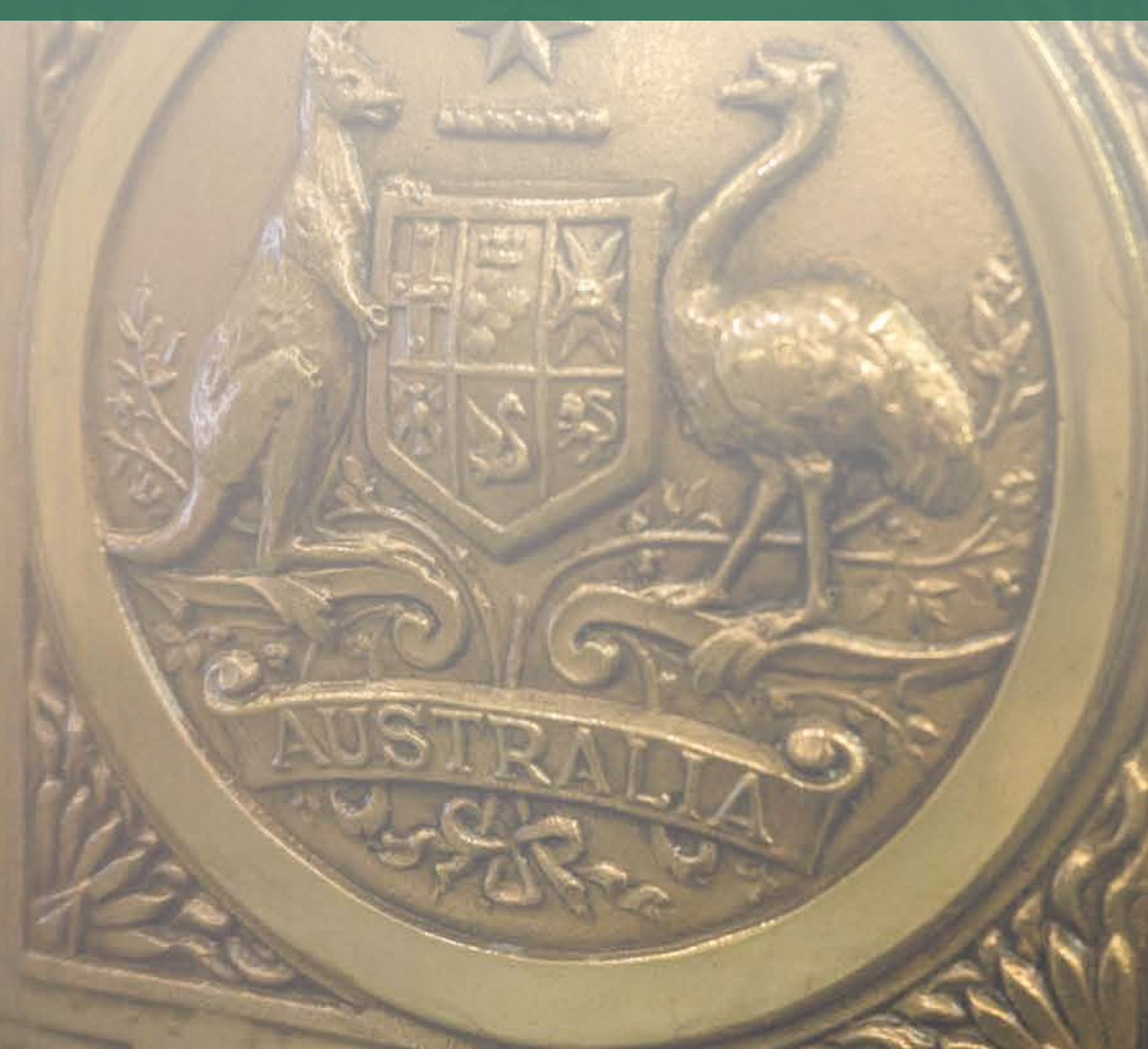


PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

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GEORGE EDWIN YATES

1871 - 1959



MP (Adelaide, SA) • ALP, 1914–1919 • 1922–1931

Born in Staffordshire, England, George Yates was elected to the House of Representatives at a 1914 by-election for the seat of Adelaide.

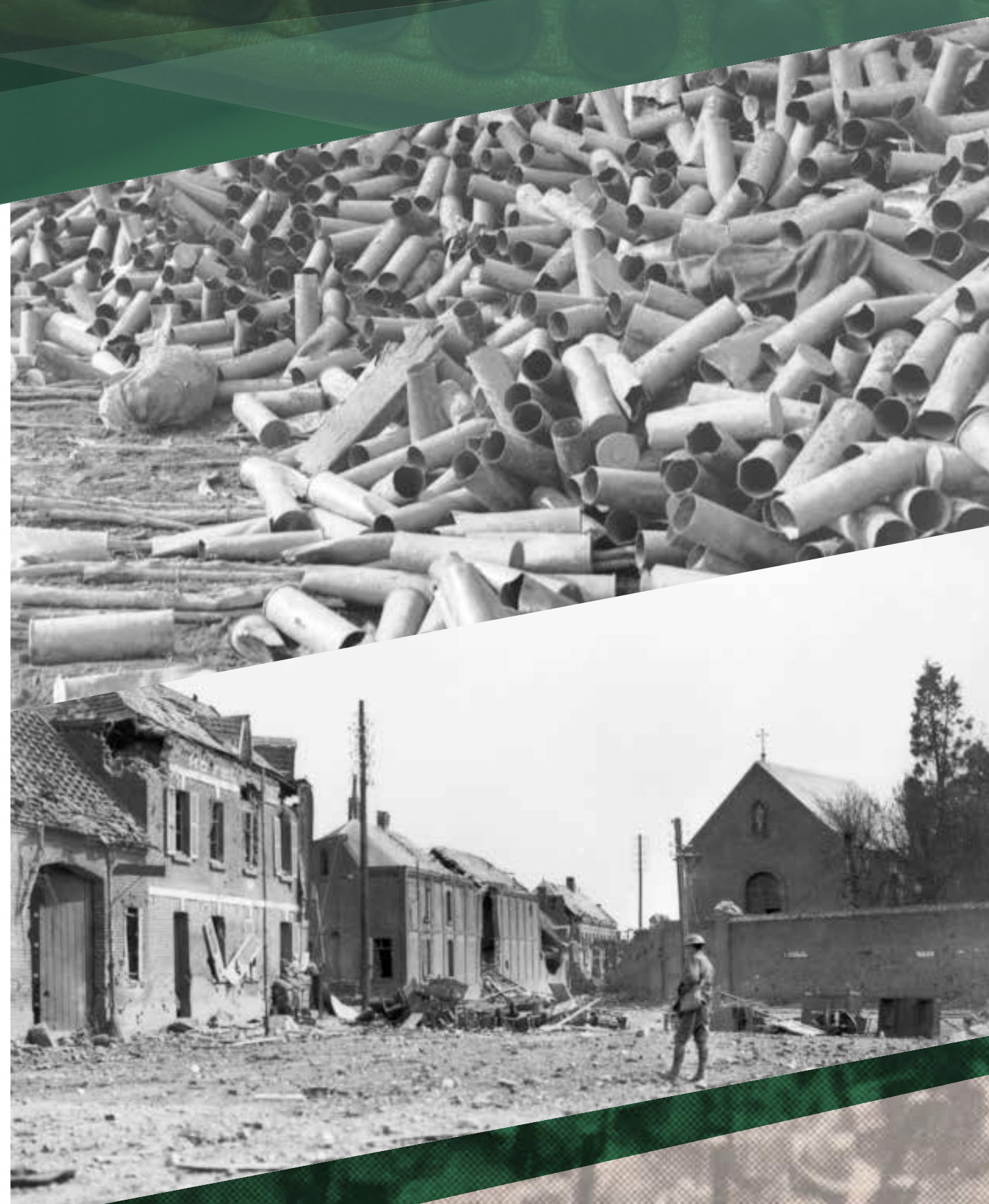
Yates enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in October 1916 at the age of 45 (his attestation sheet giving his age as 40 years and his occupation as labourer). On 26 November 1917, he embarked as a gunner in the Field Artillery Brigade, arriving in France in time for the 1918 offensive. He joined as a reinforcement to the 13th Field Artillery Brigade, and saw service in the battles of Villers-Bretonneux, Morlancourt and Hamel.

Yates fell ill in 1918 and was evacuated before the War's end by ship to Australia. Frustrated at the quarantine rules applied to South Australian troops, Yates (still an MP at that time) lead discussions involving the troops quarantined on the troop ships, and, at times, threatened to go ashore. He was court-martialled and found guilty of 'conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline', in that he had encouraged the troops to mutiny. He was sentenced to 60 days detention. Yates retained his parliamentary seat, as the conviction did not fall foul of section 44(ii) of the Australian Constitution, which disqualifies a person convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year's imprisonment, while that person is awaiting or serving their sentence.

Yates was discharged on the 'cessation of hostilities' in 1919.

Nevertheless, his political career was damaged. Yates complained of a whispering campaign about his war record and he lost his seat by 344 votes at the 1919 election. In 1920, Assistant Minister for Defence Granville Ryrie made a statement in the House suggesting that Yates had not taken part in 'the big offensive on the 8th August, 1918'. Yates would later remark that this was 'one of the most serious reflections possible to put on a man—an inference that he had not carried out the services required of a soldier'. A subsequent inquiry found this was incorrect, and Ryrie expressed 'profound regret' for 'putting Mr Yates under a cloud and casting aspersions on his service'. A Select Committee inquired into the matter in 1923, and Yates was awarded compensation of £200 for damage to reputation.

Yates returned to office at the 1922 election, where he remained until his defeat at the election of 1931.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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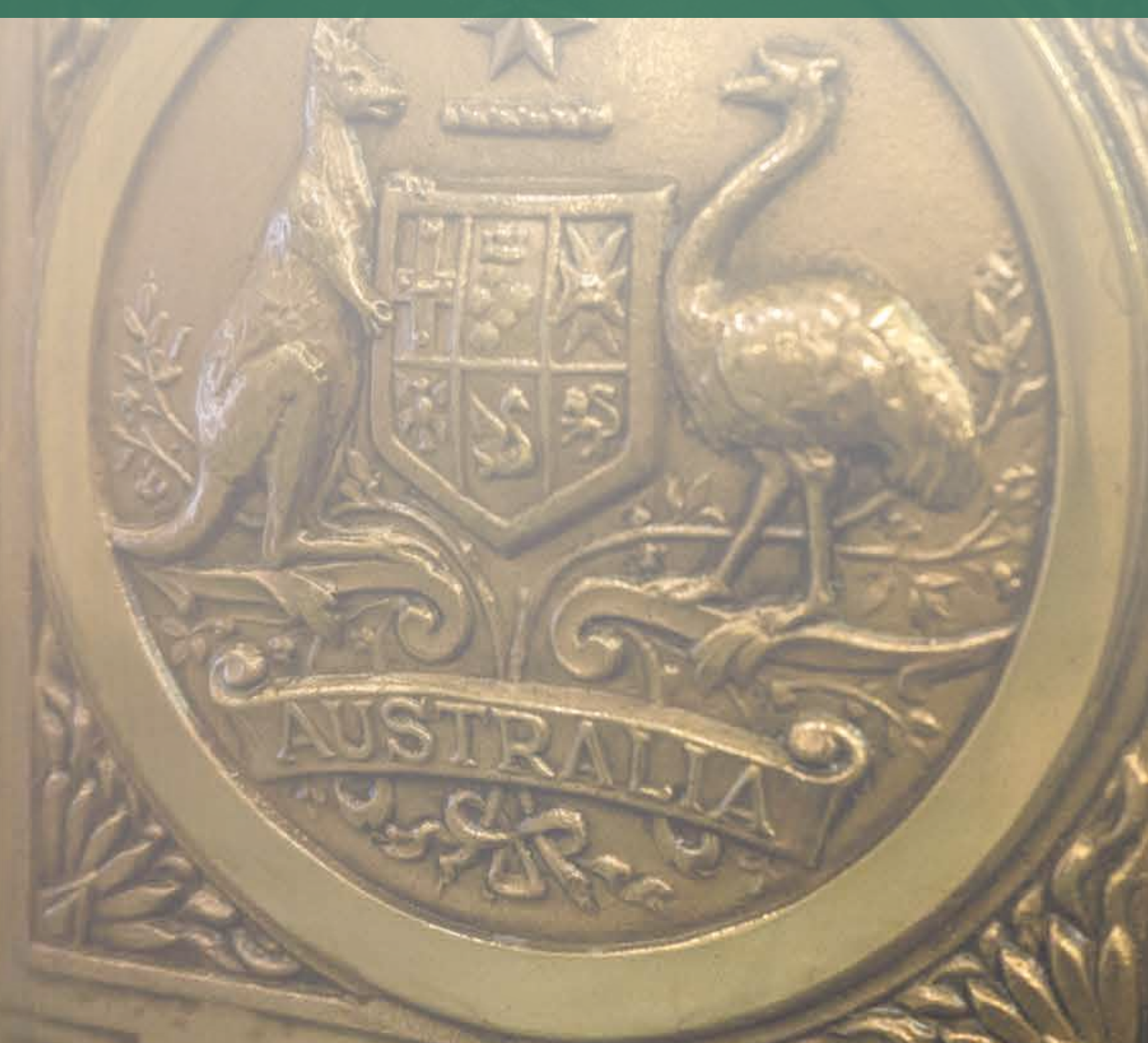


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SIR GRANVILLE DE LAUNE RYRIE

1865 - 1937



MP (North Sydney/Warringah, NSW) • LIB/NAT, 1911–1927

Born in 1865 in the New South Wales town of Michelago, Sir Granville Ryrie was a grazier and amateur boxing champion before joining the 1st Australian Horse in 1898. Ryrie served in the Boer War with the 6th (NSW) Imperial Bushmen and was severely wounded at Wonderfontein in 1900. On his return to Australia, Ryrie returned to his occupation as grazier while continuing to serve in the 1st Australian Horse (in 1903 renamed the 3rd Light Horse Regiment). In 1904 he became commanding officer and was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

In 1906, Ryrie won the seat of Queanbeyan in the NSW Legislative Assembly, resigning in 1910 to contest (unsuccessfully) the federal seat of Werriwa. However, in 1911 he was elected to the House of Representatives as the member for North Sydney.

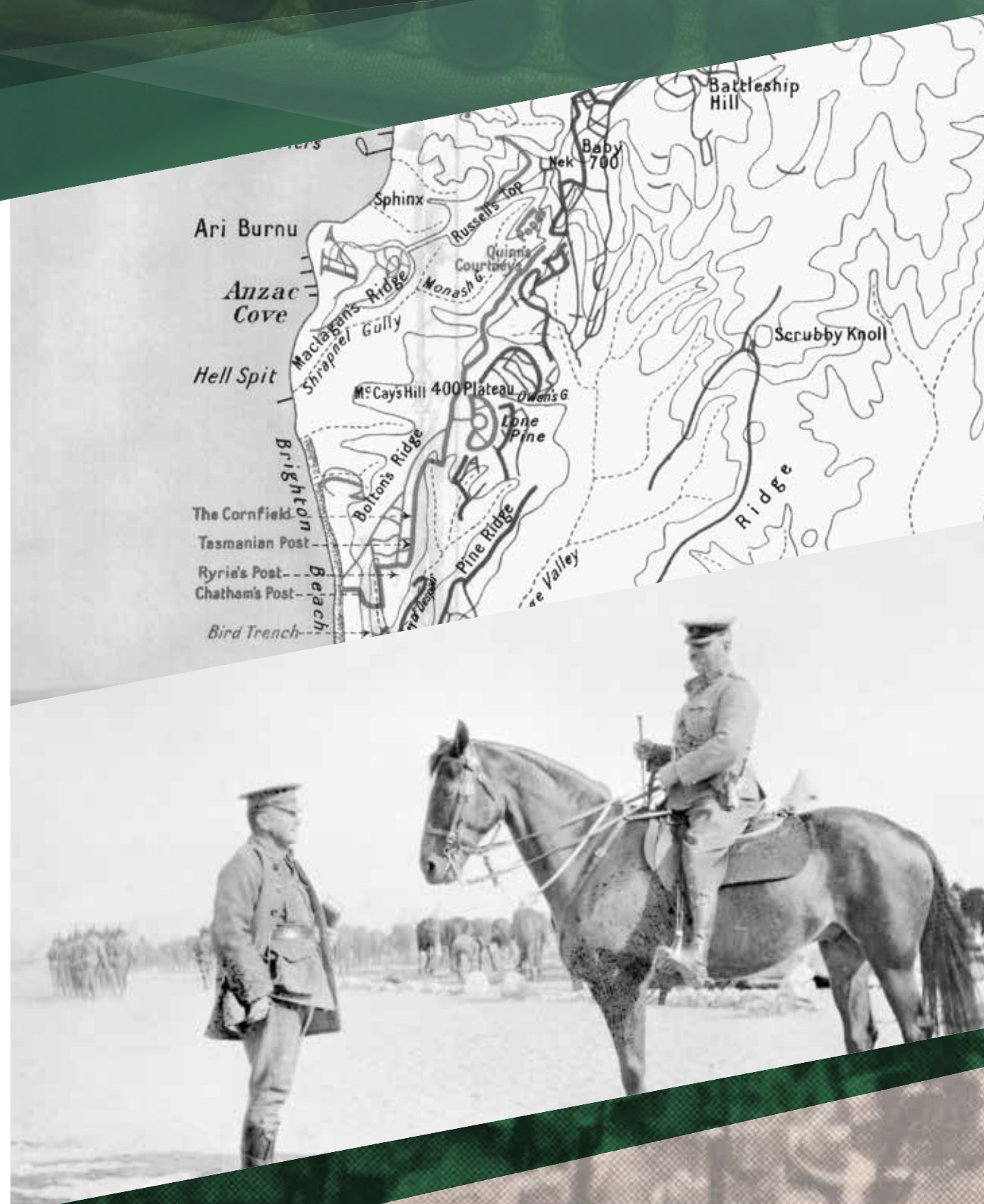
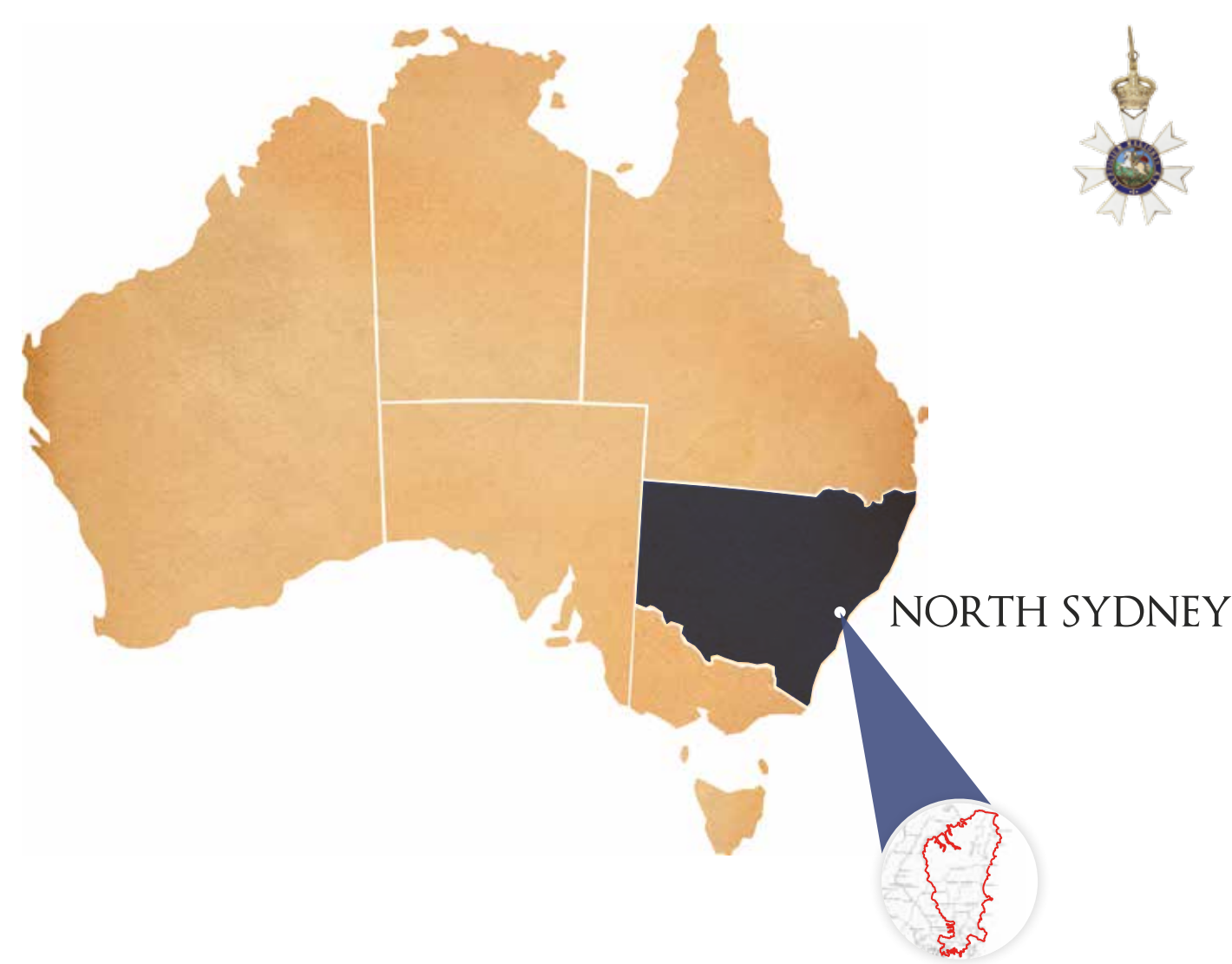
On the day that war was declared, Ryrie wrote to his wife explaining that, 'after thinking for 11 hours', he felt he had to volunteer. Acknowledging he was 'worried to death', and willing to 'do almost anything' not to leave his family, Ryrie explained that:

I couldn't look men in the face again, especially some of my political opponents whom I have accused of disloyalty, if I didn't offer to go. I simply cannot hold back...if the Empire is at war—I do not care what the cause of the quarrel may be or who created it—we, as an integral part of the British Empire, are at war and must take our own part in it.

In September 1914, at age 50, Ryrie was appointed brigadier general in command of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, landing in Gallipoli in May 1915. He suffered a shrapnel wound to the neck on 30 September and was again wounded on 9 November, having resumed his command after the earlier injury only two days prior. In 1916, he moved to the Sinai but was on leave attending the Empire Parliamentary Conference while his troops fought the battle of Romani. On his return, he led the brigade in a successful series of battles, including Gaza and Beersheeba, leading to the capture of Palestine. He was mentioned in despatches five times and appointed Knight Commander of St Michael and St George (KCMG) in October 1919.

Upon the departure of Major General Chauvel, Ryrie was promoted and succeeded him as commander of the Australian Imperial Force in Egypt in 1919. The author of the official history of the Sinai and Palestine campaigns would later remark that he 'was, in camp and in action, the trusted father of his men'.

Ryrie remained a member of parliament throughout the war and returned to Parliament in 1919, serving as Assistant Minister for Defence 1920–21 in the last Hughes Government. In June 1920 he returned to military duties and in 1921 became commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, though on leave until July 1924. He retired in 1927 to take up the post of High Commissioner in London, representing Australia at the League of Nations. He returned to Australia in 1932 and retired from public life.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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ALFRED THOMAS OZANNE

1877 - 1961



MP (Corio, VIC) • ALP, 1910–1913 • 1914–1917

Born in 1877 in Melbourne, Victoria, Alfred Ozanne was an accountant and municipal officer with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works before entering politics. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1910 as the member for Corio, Ozanne retained his seat despite a challenge in the Court of Disputed Returns by rival candidate Richard Couch. Defeated at the 1913 general election, he regained his seat in 1914 following the double dissolution.

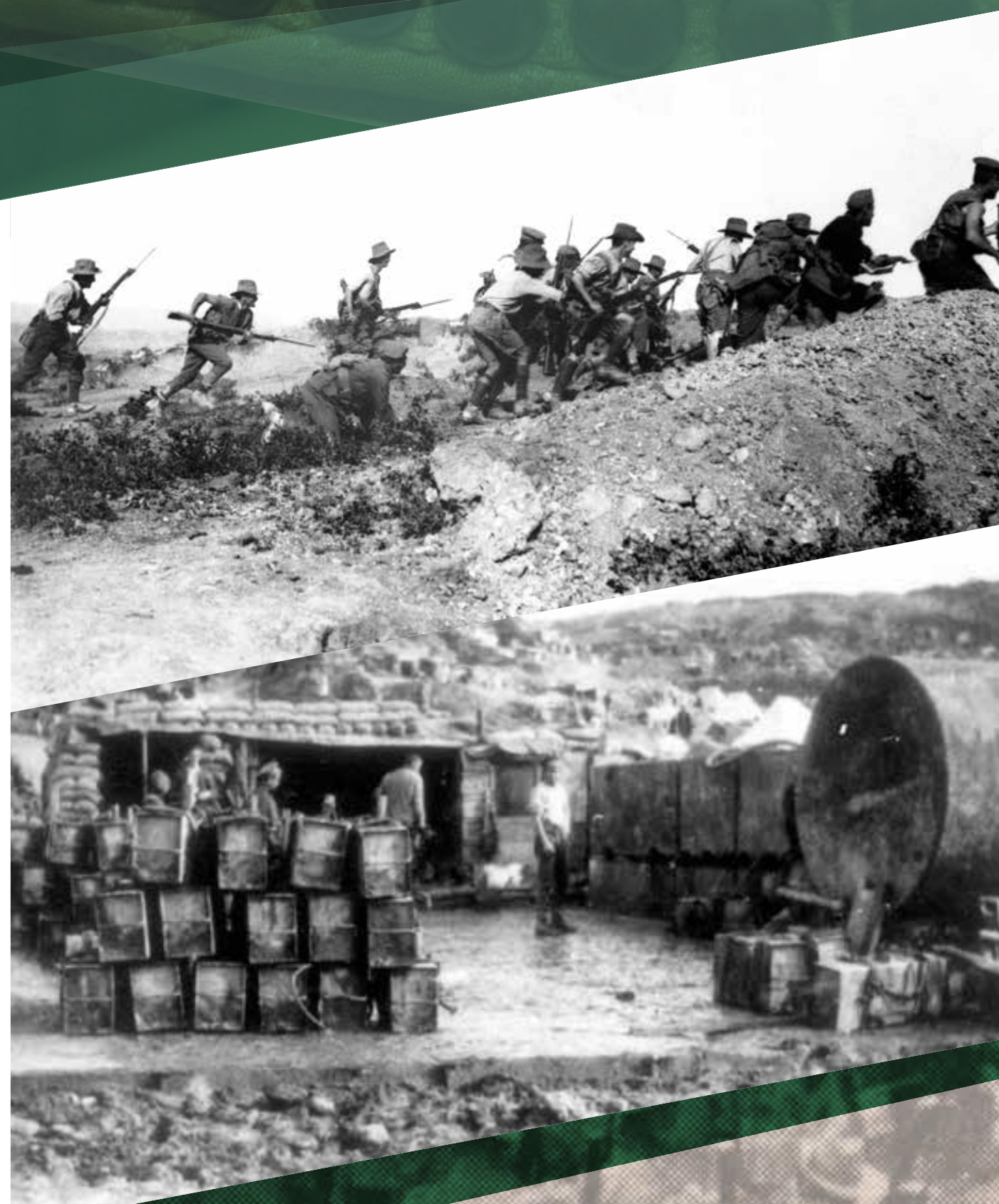
Ozanne had five years' service in volunteer regiments (reaching the rank of sergeant) when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in January 1916 following the death of his brother at Gallipoli. (Sensitive to criticism, he explained his delay in volunteering was due to his slow recovery from typhoid fever.) At a farewell dinner in Queen's Hall in Melbourne Parliament House, Ozanne 'made a stirring appeal to the manhood of Australia to respond to the call of duty', saying:

If they asked him, 'What did you do as a legislator responsible for Australia's part in the war? Did you stay in your soft cushioned seat, drawing your salary, and asking others to give up their lives so that you might stay here in safety?' he wanted to be in a position to say, 'No; when my country asked me to do my duty I heard the call, and I went.' (Cheers.)

Ozanne embarked from Melbourne in June 1916 as company quartermaster sergeant in the 22nd Company, Australian Army Service Corps. Before leaving England for the front, he developed a severe ear infection requiring hospitalisation. He was erroneously listed as 'Absent Without Leave' from his regiment and charged with desertion—charges that were subsequently struck out following an investigation. Discharged on medical grounds, Ozanne was not able to return to Australia until March 1917, missing the campaign for the 1917 election in which he stood for his old seat.

In his absence, rumours circulated that he was a deserter and questions were raised in the local press. A heated pamphlet campaign ensued, strengthened by the release shortly before the polls by Defence Minister Pearce of a cable stating that Ozanne had been absent without leave, but neglecting to explain that the charges were made in error. He was defeated in the election by fellow First World War soldier John Lister. Ozanne's libel action against the *Geelong Advertiser* in 1920 was unsuccessful. Attempts to have a Royal Commission inquire into the affair were defeated on party lines.

After his return to Australia, Ozanne farmed near Geelong until his death in 1961.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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DAVID CHARLES McGRATH

1872 - 1934



MP (Ballarat, VIC) • ALP/UAP, 1913–1919 • 1920–1934

Born in 1872 in the Victorian town of Newtown, David McGrath worked in his family's stores in Allendale and Pitfield Plains (Victoria) and developed a keen interest in politics. An active member of the Australian Natives Association, McGrath successfully contested the Victorian Legislative Assembly seat of Grenville in 1904. He worked to expand support for the ALP in country areas, taking a strong interest in the mining industry.

Following Alfred Deakin's retirement as member for Ballarat (as it was then spelt), McGrath won the seat for Labor in May 1913; however, in October of that year was suspended for the remainder of the Parliamentary session as he refused to apologise to the Speaker, Sir Elliot Johnson, for a number of allegations made in the Chamber. Re-elected in 1914, McGrath pushed the government to improve soldiers' conditions in the war.

McGrath enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in March 1916 at the age of 43 years, embarking from Melbourne on HMAT *Persic*. He served as a staff sergeant with the 1st Divisional Train, Army Service Corps, and was promoted to warrant officer. After being transferred to No.1 Company, 1st Army Service Corps at the Australian Base Depot Havre (France) in 1917, he became seriously ill; in April 1918 returned to Australia where he was discharged as medically unfit.

While still at war, McGrath was returned as member for Ballarat in absentia at the May 1917 election. Although narrowly defeated at the 1919 election, the results of his seat were declared void on appeal; and a by-election subsequently returned him to Parliament in July 1920. He continued to advocate in Parliament for soldiers' and returned servicemen rights. McGrath was Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker during the Scullin Government (1929–1931).

McGrath left the Labor Party in 1931 and joined the Lyon's United Australia Party, where he remained until his death in 1934 (while in office). He was buried with military and Masonic honours.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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JOHN HENRY LISTER

1875 - 1935



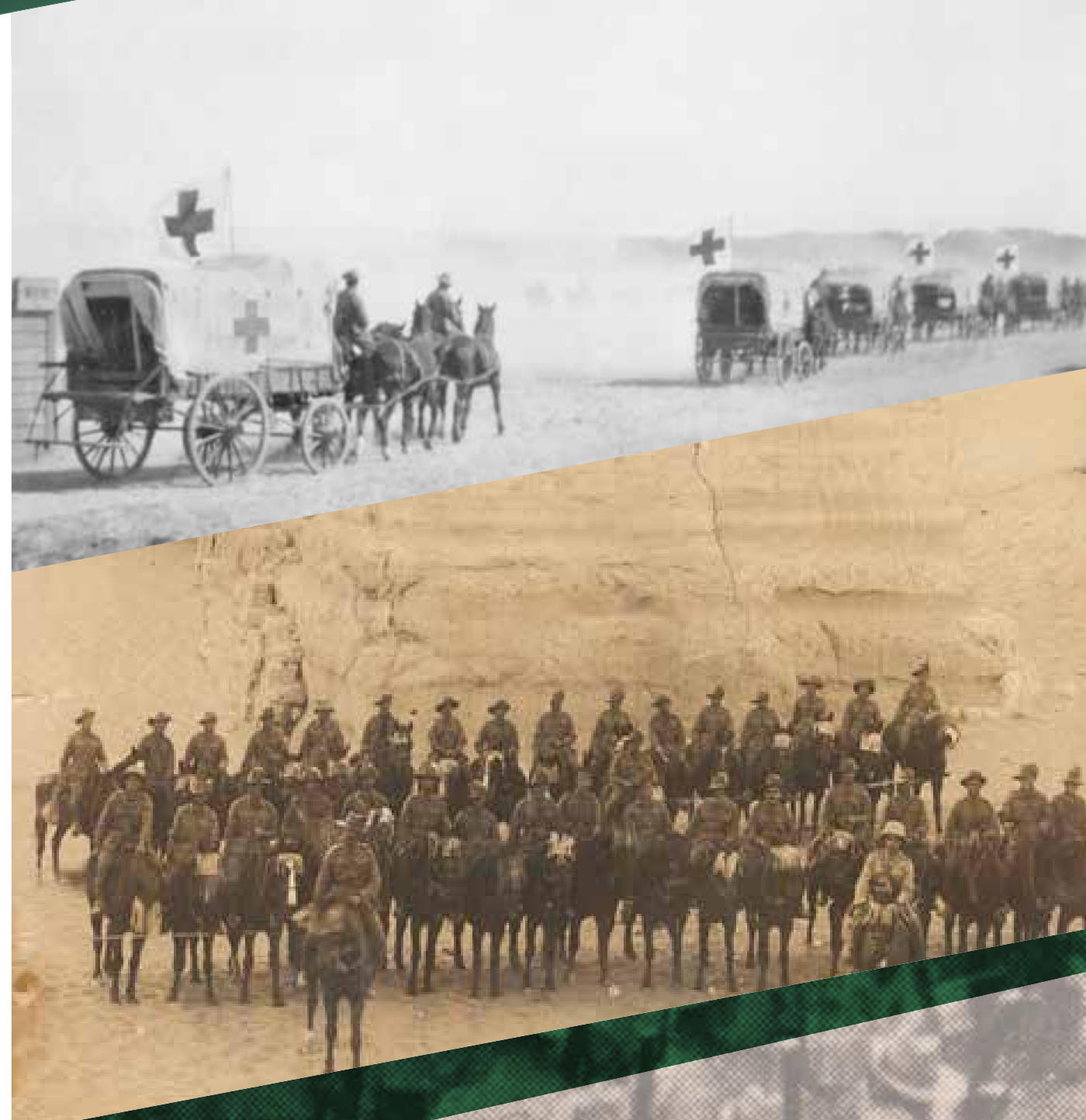
MP (Corio, VIC) • NAT, 1917–1929

Born in 1875 in Lincolnshire, England, John Lister migrated to Australia with his parents in 1889. He worked as a farmer in the Wutul district of Queensland before enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force at Enoggera in November 1914 at the age of 39. Lister served as a driver in the 2nd Light Horse Brigade Field Ambulance at Gallipoli, Egypt and the Sinai. Lister became ill with pneumonia and pleurisy and was invalided back to Australia in August 1916 where he was discharged as medically unfit.

Once home, he went recruiting in Victoria before being asked to stand for the seat of Corio as a Nationalist candidate at the 1917 elections. (Lister had been a member of the ALP, but left the party in 1916 over the issue of conscription.) Lister defeated sitting member Alfred Ozanne whose chances of re-election were undermined by an anonymous campaign claiming that he was a deserter. In contrast, Lister's campaign drew strongly on his background as a primary producer and his experience as a returned serviceman. He declared (once elected) that the 'present Parliament was confronted with the greatest problems any Parliament of the world was confronted with and the eyes of all the soldiers were upon it'.

Lister remained in politics until his defeat in 1929. In 1931, he unsuccessfully ran for the seat of Corio as an independent United Australia candidate.

Upon his departure from politics, Lister moved to Toowoomba, where he died in 1935. Speaking in the condolence motion in the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Joseph Lyons noted 'the zeal with which he applied himself to his duties as the representative of the electors of Corio'; and John Curtin remarked that his colleagues 'had many occasions to observe his high conception of what was due by him to this Parliament as one of its members'.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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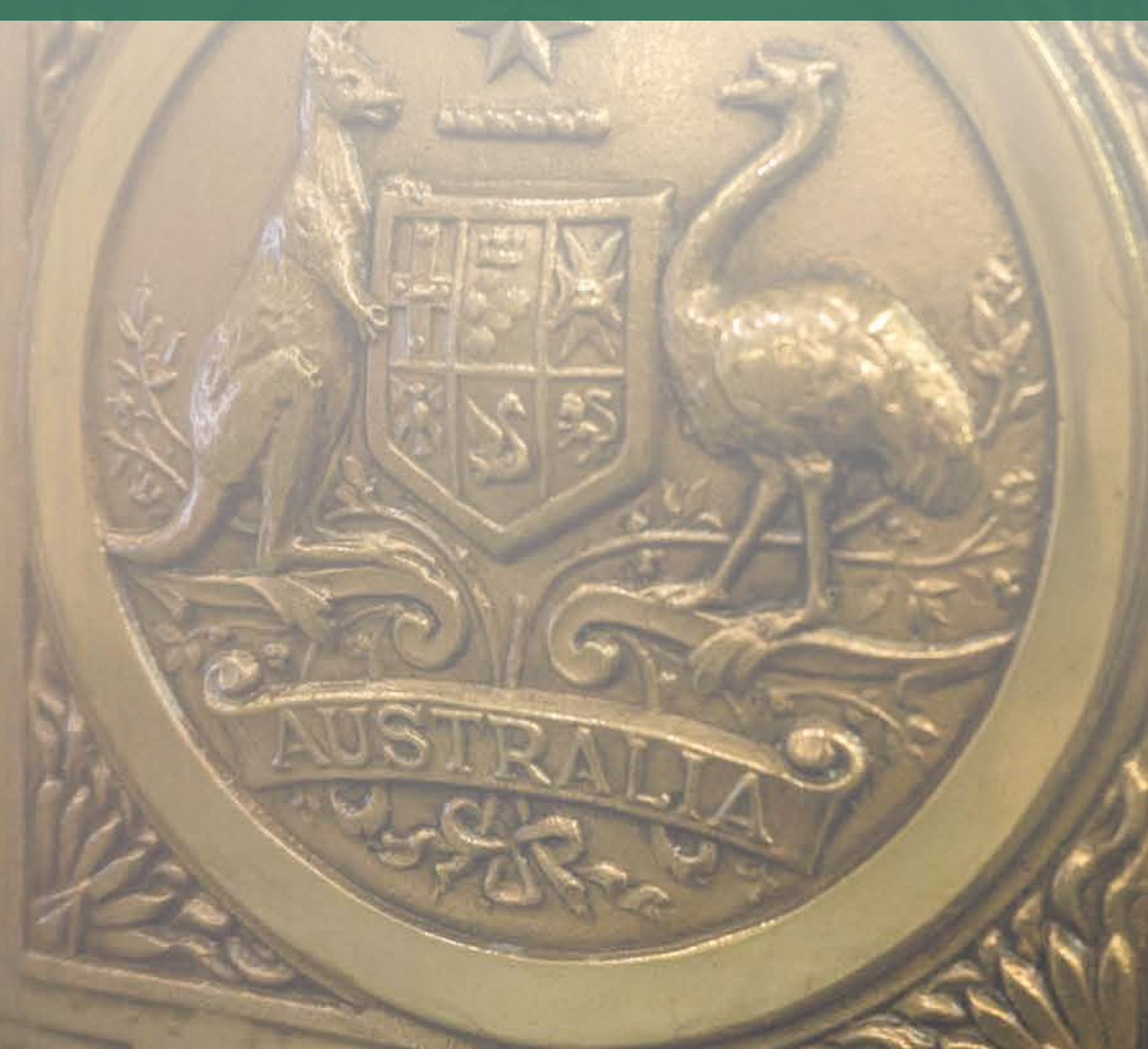


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EDWIN (TED) WILKIE CORBOY

1896 - 1950



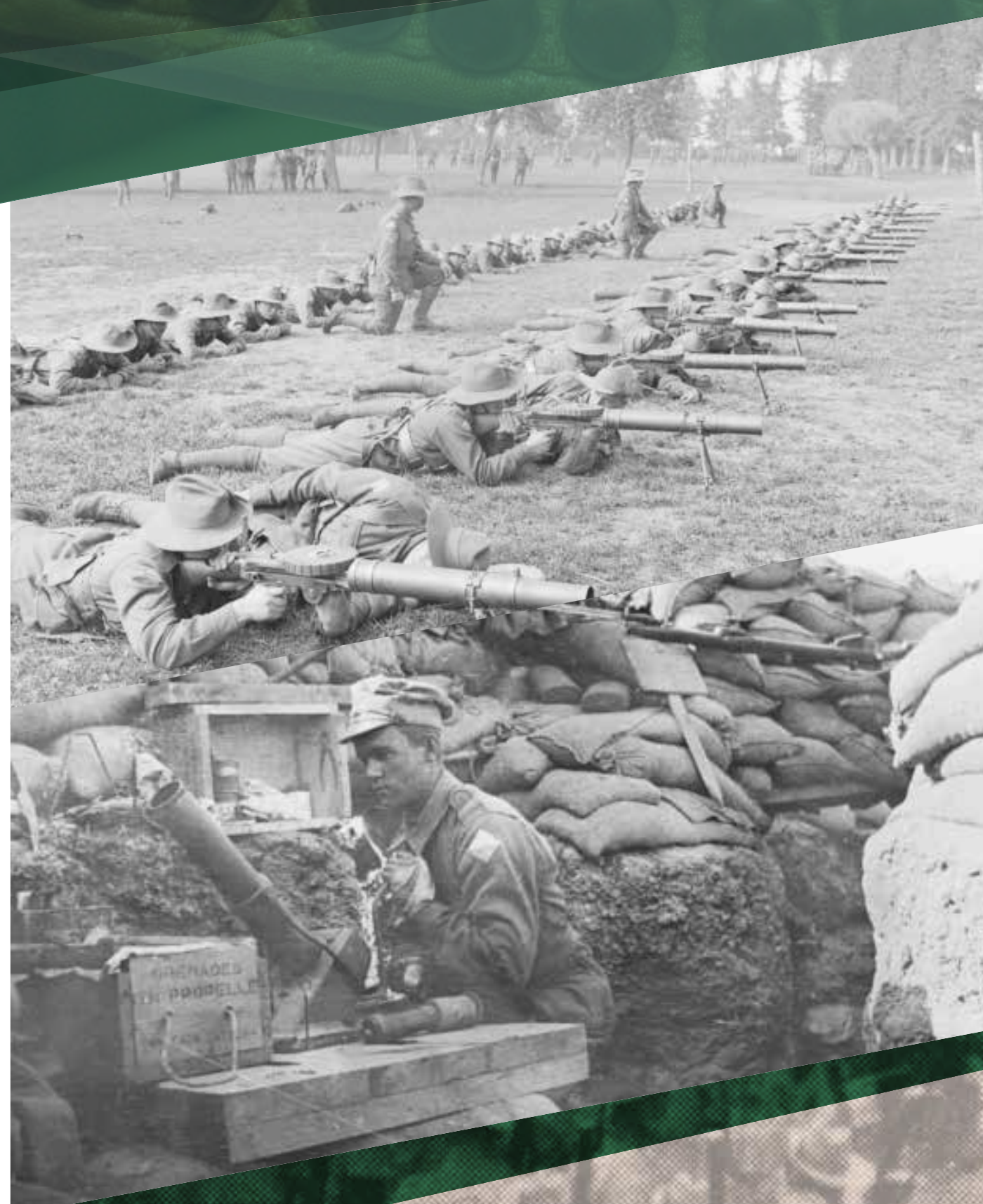
MP (Swan, WA) • ALP, 1918–1919

Born in 1896, in Melbourne, Ted Corboy moved to Western Australia at a young age. He worked as a junior accounts clerk in the Water Supply Department. Rejected at his first attempt to enlist in August 1914, he joined the Australian Imperial Force in June 1915, embarking from Fremantle on HMAT *Anchises* in September 1915. He served as a private and on occasions as an acting corporal in the 28th Battalion at Gallipoli from October 1915 until the evacuation in December 1915. In 1916, he served with the 70th Battalion in France where he was wounded twice—at Pozières and at Flers. Returning to duty, Corboy was invalided back to England and then to Australia due to an injury resulting from a gas attack. Discharged in December 1917, he joined the Lands Department as a clerk.

Corby was elected to the House of Representatives for the Labor Party in the seat of Swan in a by-election in 1918. Aged 22 years 2 months, he became the youngest member elected to the federal Parliament, a record that stood until the election of the Member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, in 2010. During his short term in the federal Parliament, Corboy was a strong advocate for the interests of returned servicemen. In June 1919, he was censured by the central executive of the Victorian branch of the ALP for supporting a 'resolution for the deportation of all interned aliens as being inconsistent with the principles of liberty and justice and foreign to the spirit of the Labor party'.

Defeated at the 1919 federal election on preference votes, Corboy entered Western Australian politics in 1921 as the state member for Yilgarn and Yilgarn-Coolgardie. He remained a member of the Western Australian Parliament until 1933 when he lost ALP preselection.

Corboy enlisted again in the Second World War and served in the Intelligence Section, 3rd Australian Corps. He returned to work in the public service after his discharge in 1945. Reporting Corboy's death in 1950, the *Perth Daily News* described him as 'one of the most colourful figures in Australian politics'.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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STANLEY MELBOURNE BRUCE

1883 - 1967



MP (Flinders, VIC), NAT/UAP, 1918–1929 • 1931–1933

Born in 1883, in Melbourne, Victoria, Stanley Bruce—Australia's 8th Prime Minister—was one of two First World War veterans to become Prime Minister (the other being Earle Page who first entered Parliament in 1919).

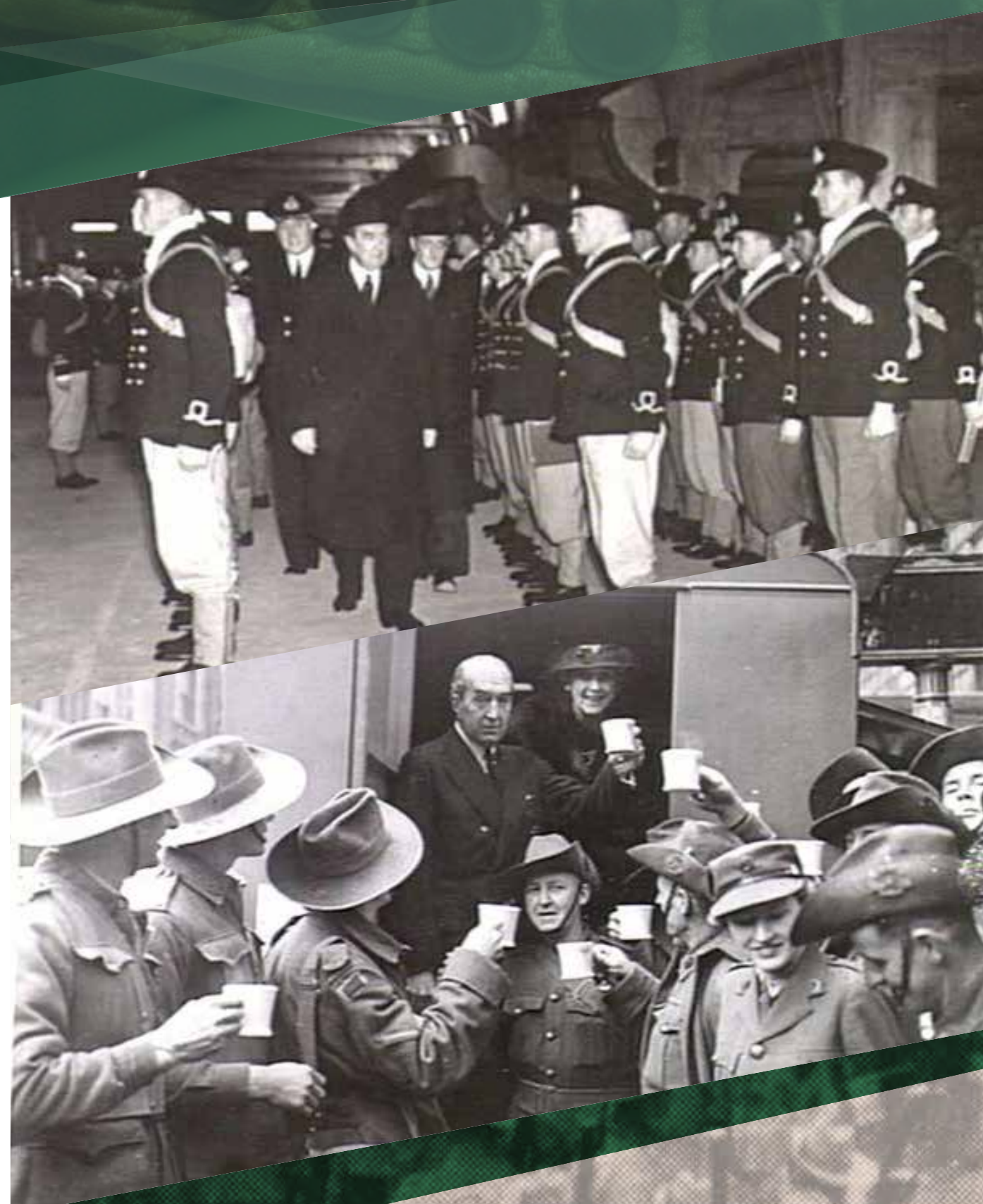
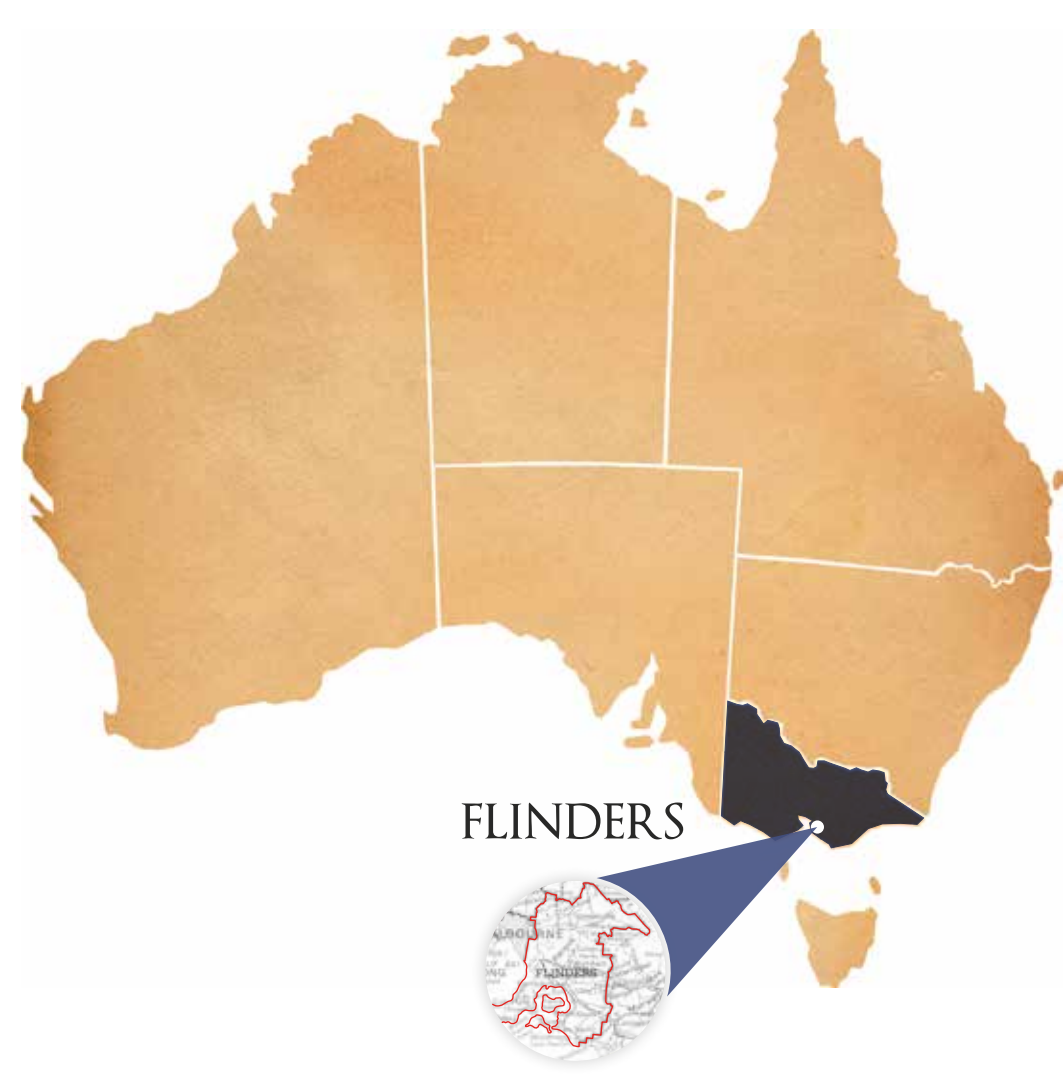
A graduate of Cambridge, Bruce studied law and was admitted to the Bar in England before joining the London office of his family's firm as Acting Chairman. In January 1915 Bruce was commissioned in the Worcester Regiment and quickly seconded to the Royal Fusiliers as a temporary captain. He was part of the Gallipoli campaign and was wounded at Cape Helles on 3 June 1915. Bruce received the Military Cross for his efforts at Suvla Bay. In October 1915, Bruce was again wounded and this time invalided back to England. He would later receive the French Croix de Guerre avec Palme for his battalion's role in supporting French troops.

Bruce returned to his family firm, and travelled back to Australia in early 1917 to take over as General Manager (his brother having left to join the British forces). He was discharged from the military in June 1917.

Bruce was elected to Parliament as a Nationalist in a by-election for the seat of Flinders in May 1918 and was re-elected in 1919 despite having been abroad for six months. (Bruce would cease splitting his time between the firm's offices in England and Australia only when he became Treasurer in December 1921.) Bruce was commissioned as Prime Minister on February 1923 after forming a coalition with the Country Party. He was Prime Minister until the landslide Labor victory at the 1929 election. At this election, Bruce became the first sitting Prime Minister to lose his seat.

Bruce returned to Parliament in 1931 and held the seat of Flinders until his resignation in October 1933 to become the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, a position he held until 1945. He then served as chairman of the World Food Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the newly created United Nations from 1946–51. His last public office was as the first Chancellor of the Australian National University, a post he held until 1961.

Bruce remained in the United Kingdom until his death in 1967 and rarely returned to Australia. He was the only Australian ever raised to the peerage, and was created Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, an honour he received in 1947.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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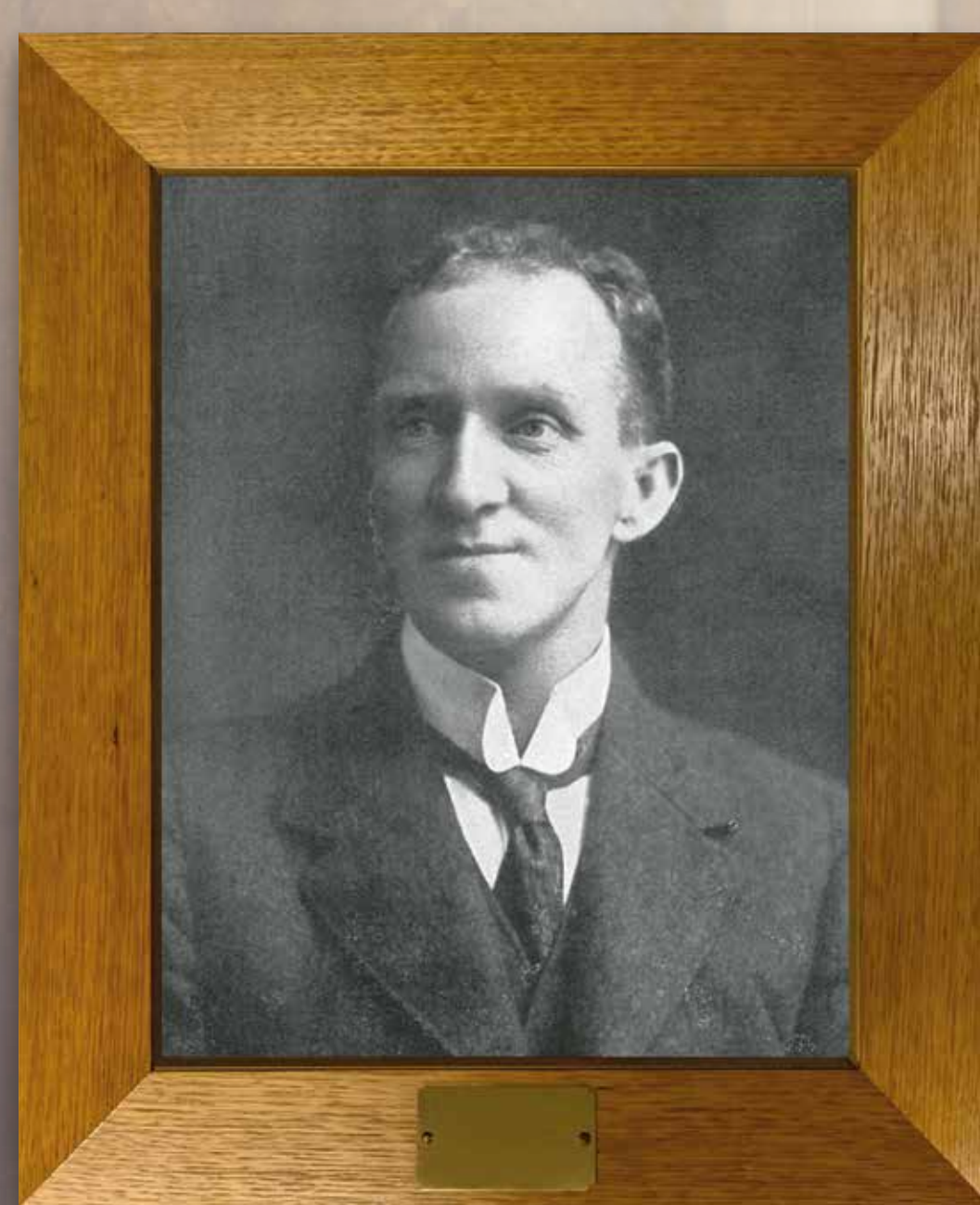


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DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

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EDWARD ERNEST HEITMANN

1878 - 1934



MP (Kalgoorlie, WA) • NAT, 1917–1919

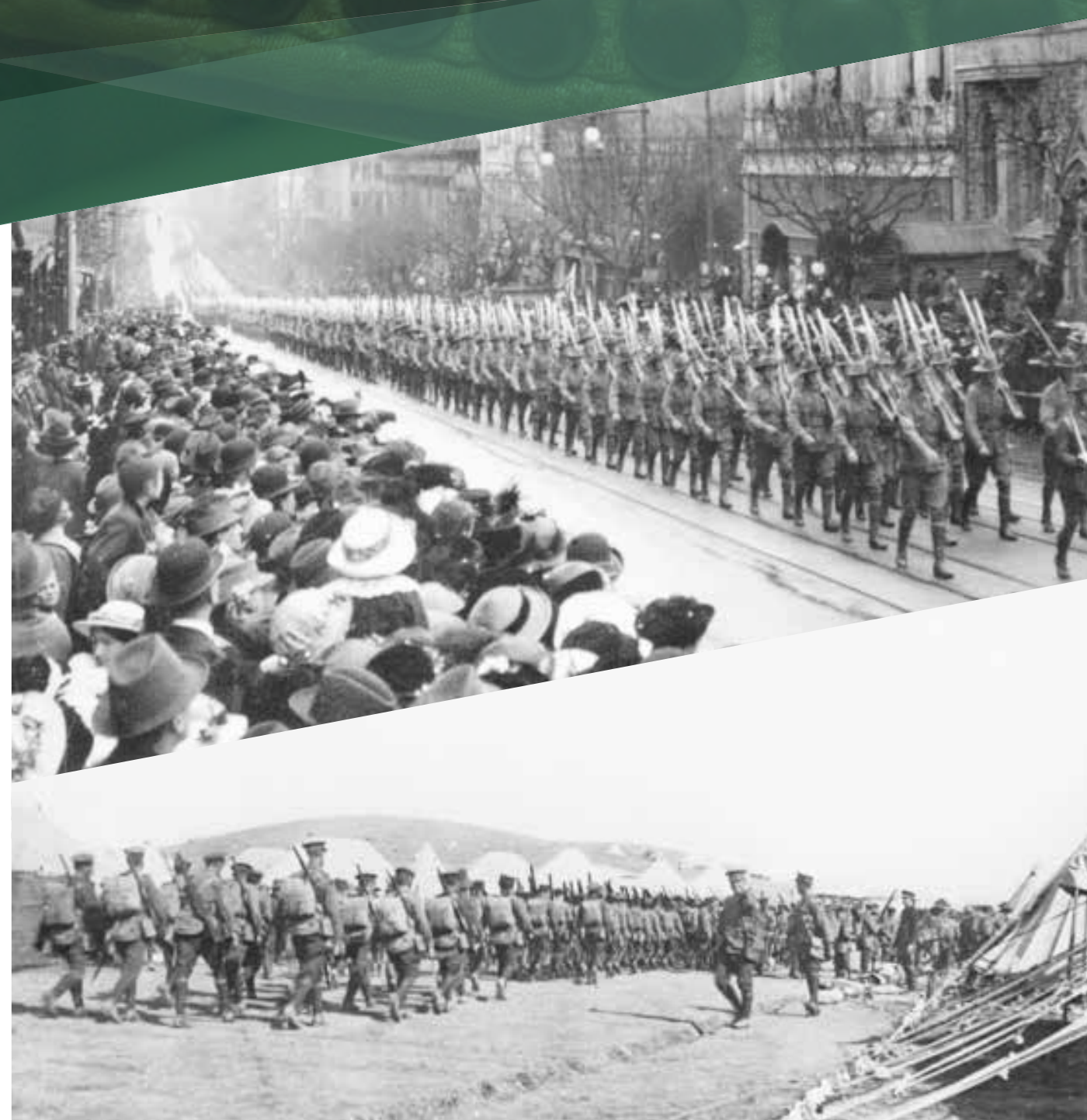
Born in 1878 in the Victorian town of Bendigo, Edward Heitmann began mining at an early age, qualifying as an engine driver and eventually moving to Western Australia to work on the Murchison goldfields. Active in the labour movement, Heitmann became the organising Secretary of the Australian Workers Union and, in 1913, the editor of the *Kalgoorlie Express*.

Heitmann served in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for the seats of Geraldton (1904 to 1913) and Cue (1914 to 1917) as a member of the Labor Party. He resigned from the Legislative Assembly to successfully contest the federal seat of Kalgoorlie in May 1917 as a Nationalist, and was subsequently expelled from the Western Australian Labor Party for his pro-conscription views.

Following his election to federal Parliament, Edward Heitmann enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in April 1918 as a private in the 10th General (Victorian) Reinforcements at the age of 39 years. The South Australian *Daily Herald* greeted his enlistment with the ungracious headline: 'AT LAST: "NATIONAL" CONSCRIPTIONIST REALISES HIS DUTY'. However, according to the *Graphic of Australia* (a Melbourne newspaper) this was his fourth attempt to be found fit for service and, 'as a married man with a family of five children, has set a fine example in his determined effort to get into khaki ... His example might well shame some of the slackers who are at present disgracing good British names, into visiting the recruiting office.' The West Australian Minister for Industries lamented that although 'Mr. Heitmann has heard the call of the Empire, the State can ill-afford to lose the services of one who has been so vigorous in his advocacy of this State's claims and so persistent in watching Western Australian interests in the East'.

Heitmann was appointed Controller of Transport during the demobilization of the AIF. He embarked for overseas service on HMAT *Barambah* on 31 August 1918, writing in a letter to the Goldfields National Labour Party: 'I glory in the honour of being the representative of a people who have given an expression of their love of Australia and loyalty to the British Empire, as have the majority of the people of the Kalgoorlie Division'. However, hostilities ended before Heitmann could see active service, and he returned to Australia five months later.

Defeated at the 1919 federal election, Heitmann worked in advertising, farmed and ran an unsuccessful campaign for the Victorian state election for the seat of Eaglehawk. He died in 1934.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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- W.A.S Dunlop, 1914. Australian Imperial Force's 2nd Infantry Brigade marching through Bourke Street, Melbourne, Friday, 25th September 1914, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn4982243
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REGINALD JOHN BURCHELL

1883 - 1955



MP (Fremantle, WA) • ALP/NAT, 1913–1922

Born in 1883 in Adelaide, Reginald Burchell moved to Western Australia (as a teenager) where he worked as a railwayman and served for a time in the local militia.

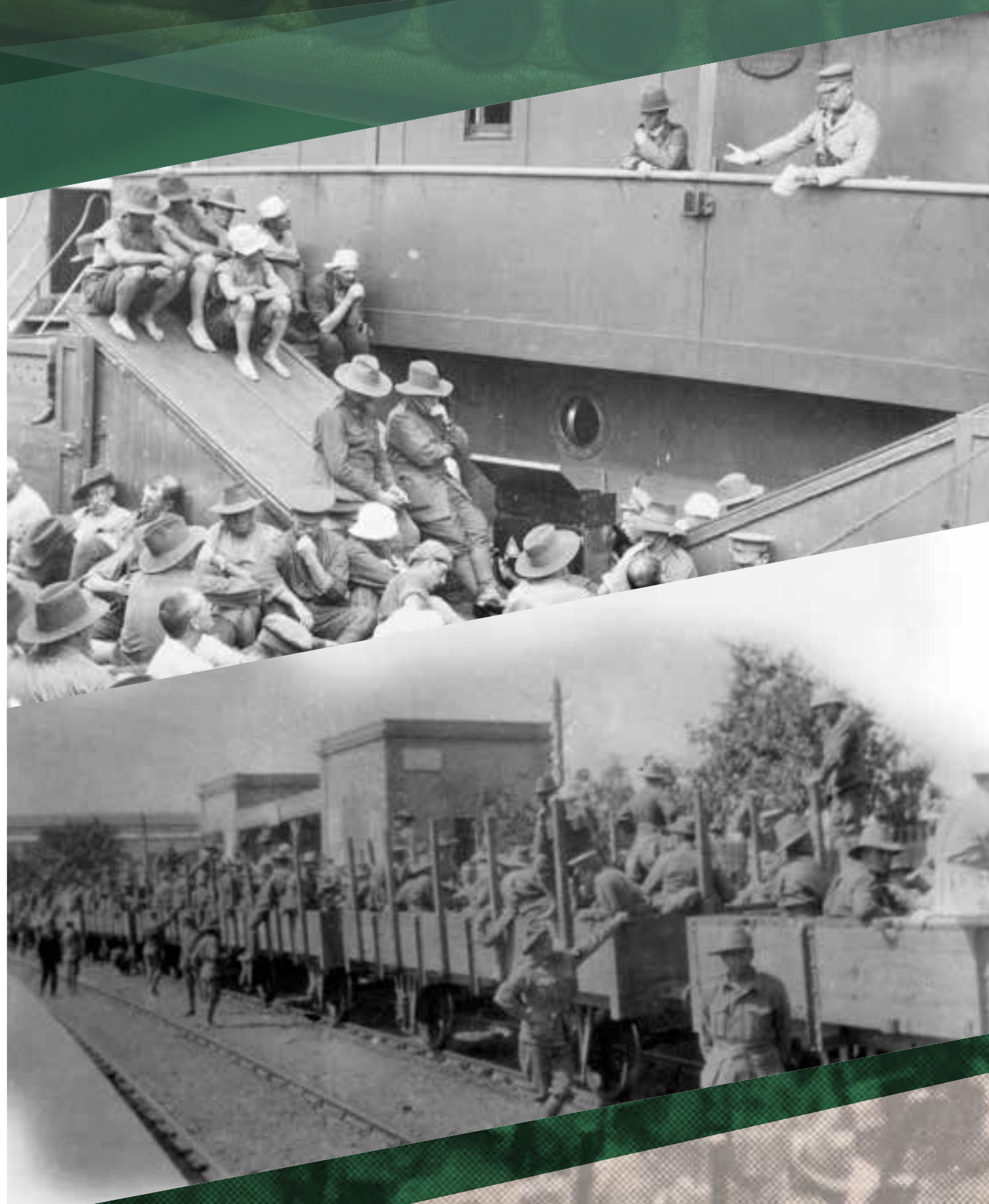
Having stood unsuccessfully for the WA Legislative Assembly seat of Claremont in 1911, Burchell was elected to the House of Representatives in 1913 as a member of the Labor Party. Expelled from that party due to his position on conscription, Burchell retained his Fremantle seat as a Nationalist at the 1917 election and again in 1919, remaining in the federal parliament until his retirement from politics in 1922.

Burchell enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in January 1917, embarking for France in May 1917 where he served as a lieutenant with the 4th Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company.

In 1918 Burchell was awarded the Military Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in controlling railway operations' involved in the evacuation of wounded, troops and rolling stock from the Etricourt-Roisel-Chaulnes sections (*London Gazette*, 26 July 1918). The citation notes that Burchell 'was continuously on duty for three days and nights and his care and watchfulness in handling the traffic with limited facilities rendered possible a successful evacuation, and saved engines and rolling stock from falling into the enemy's hands'.

Burchell continued to serve in the AIF until June 1919, reaching the rank of acting lieutenant colonel.

After leaving Parliament, Burchell worked as a manager with various companies including Hoadleys Chocolates, the MGM Film Company and Radio Interest Ltd. He retired in 1945 and died in Mosman, NSW, in 1955.



Parliamentary Library 2015

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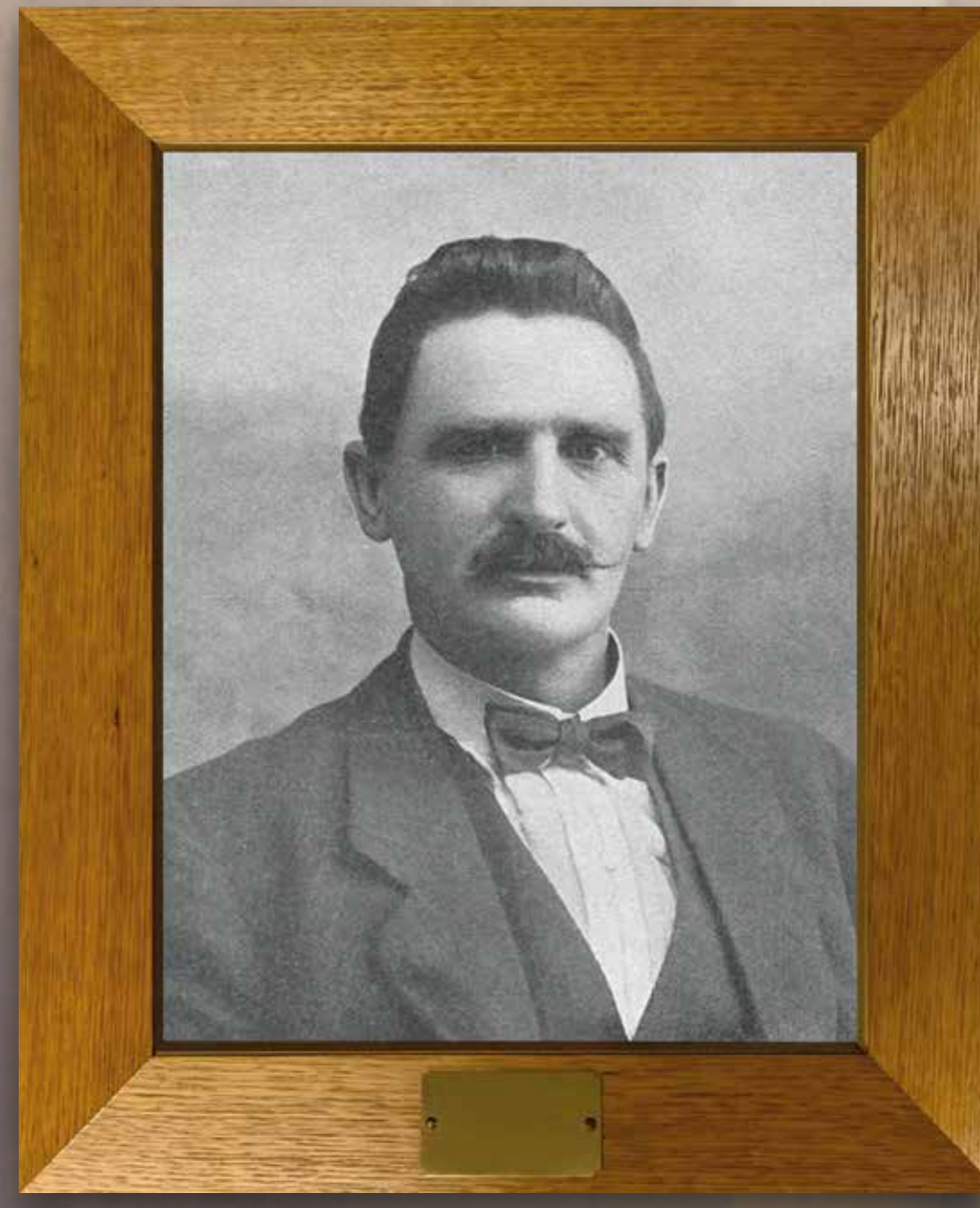


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- W.A.S Dunlop, 1914, Australian Imperial Force's 2nd Infantry Brigade marching through Bourke Street, Melbourne, Friday, 25th September 1914, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn4982243
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ALFRED JOHN HAMPSON

1864 - 1924

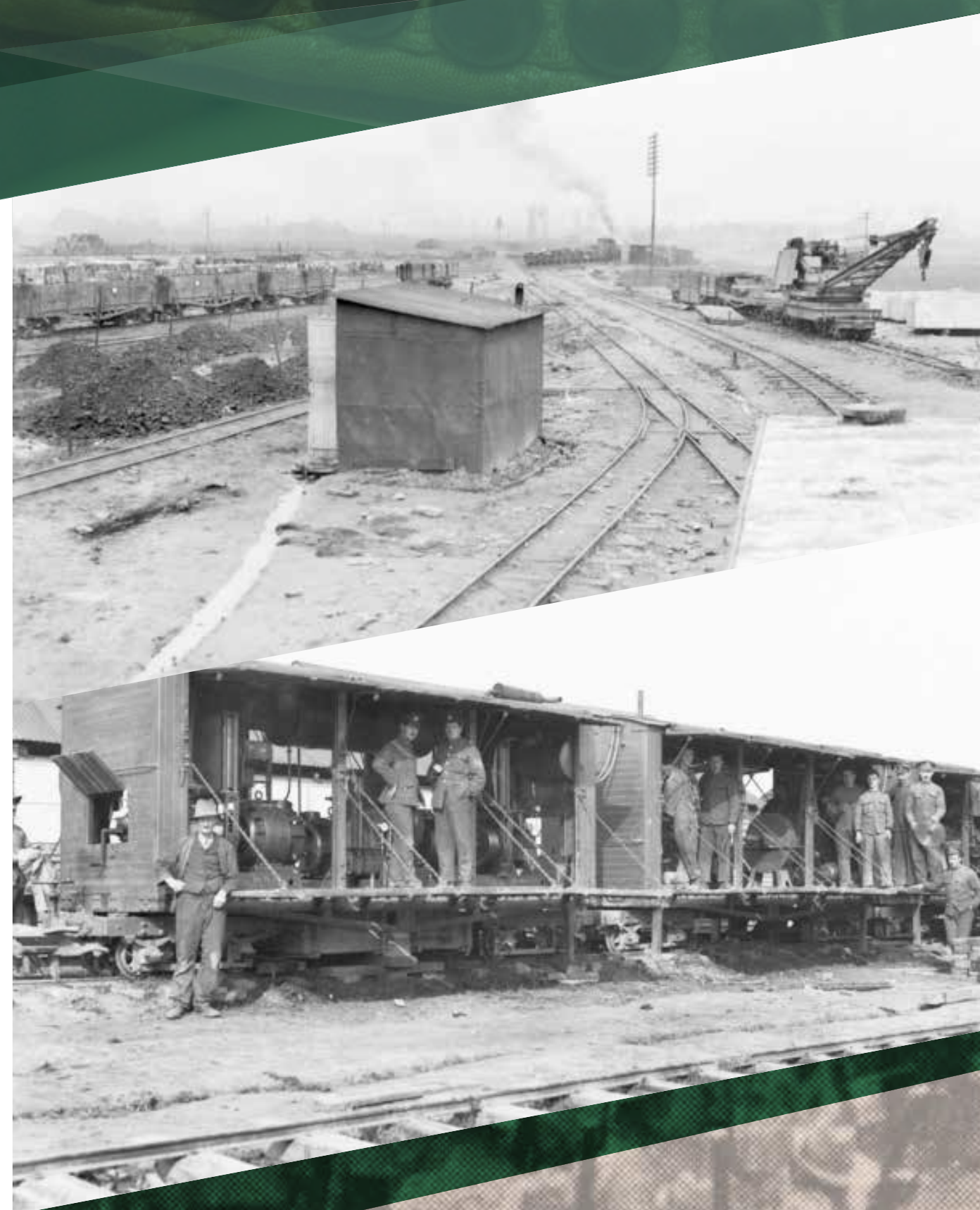


MP (Bendigo, VIC) • ALP, 1915–1917

Born in 1864 in the Victorian town of Bendigo, eucalyptus and soap manufacturer Alfred Hampson entered Victorian state politics in 1911 as the Labor member for Bendigo East. He succeeded after six earlier attempts to enter parliament (four times at state level and twice at the Commonwealth level), and remained a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly until he won the federal seat of Bendigo at a by-election in 1915.

Hampson remained a member of the Labor Party when the party split over the issue of conscription. However, at the May 1917 federal election, he was challenged and defeated by Prime Minister Billy Hughes who had left the ALP to join the new Nationalist Party. Hampson enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in October 1917 (giving his year of birth as 1868 and his trade as 'fireman'). Embarking on HMAT *Port Sydney* in November 1917, he served in the 2nd Australian Light Railway Operating Company in France. Hampson again stood for Parliament against Hughes in 1919 despite being in France during the election campaign. He was unsuccessful despite the 'excellent work... being put in for him in the electorate by prominent Parliamentarians and Laborites'. Hughes would hold the seat of Bendigo until 1922 when he moved to stand successfully for the seat of North Sydney.

Returning to Australia in October 1919, Hampson was appointed an inspector for the Victorian Closer Settlement Board until his death in 1924. (The Closer Settlement Board was established in 1918 to increase the numbers working the land by acquiring large land holdings and dividing them into small farms. It was responsible for administering soldier settlement schemes and settlement of assisted migrants.)



Parliamentary Library 2015

Sources:

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