The Record of our Men.
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To all who are in any way connected with the Melbourne University Engineering School there comes a feeling of pride when the war record of its graduates, undergraduates, past-students, and staff is mentioned. In this article it is proposed to deal with the subject in general rather than to bear in particular on the doings of individuals. The record is indeed a worthy one, for practically every man who enlisted is deserving of mention for the particular work required of him. Of all our men on active service 41 will never answer the roll call again in Australia; one and all of these gallant fellows fell upon the field of battle—not one succumbed through illness—truly a marvellous record of the healthy and pure life of our men. Duty has known of no nobler form than this supreme sacrifice for the purpose of safeguarding life and liberty to their kith and kin. Elsewhere in these pages figure the photographs of our heroes, and the accompanying text sets out in some detail their individual record.

It must be remembered that the loss of trained engineers is a calamity to any nation, for to-day it is recognised that engineering is at the basis of the material comfort of modern life; and it is gratifying that scholarships for two of our fallen have been established by their respective families—the Robert Bage and the John Melvin Memorial Scholarships—each with a capital value of £1000. The interest arising from these amounts will enable future struggling engineer students to complete their training, and thus to take the first step on the professional ladder. This form of personal memorial, whilst perpetuating the names of Bage and Melvin, helps to maintain the succession of trained engineers to carry on the work of the country.

In all some 237 engineer graduates, undergraduates, and past-students are known to have enlisted for active service abroad. Enlistments were continuous right from start to finish of the war, and it is well known that if the armistice had not been signed in November, 1918, many more of our younger generation of students would have enlisted at the end of that University year. During the war the number of students in the Engineering School was always small, and the figure dropped down to some 40 per cent. of
that for the commencement of the year 1914. The school, October, 1919, has now trebled its minimum figures, and has well passed its pre-war maximum; fortunately, this is largely due to a return of the undergraduate soldiers to complete courses which were broken by their response to the call of their country for men.

Foremost of the graduates was Colonel Monash—now recognised as Australia's first soldier, Lieut.-General Sir John Monash—whose photograph we are glad to be able to use as the frontispiece. It was on the very day of the declaration of war by the British Empire against the militarism of Germany that he unreservedly placed his services at the disposal of the Defence Department to use in whatsoever capacity it thought fit. Immediately he was appointed Chief Censor, and after the despatch of the First Expeditionary Force from the shores of Australia he was selected by the Government to command the Second Expeditionary Force as its brigadier. His career in Egypt, Gallipoli, and France till he was appointed as head of the Australian Army Corps is well known, and the brilliant way in which he dealt with the position before Amiens was such as to turn the German advance into a steady retreat. Since the armistice he has been Director-General of Demobilisation for the whole of the Australian forces abroad. The secret of success of our Lieut.-General is without doubt his great power of organisation, for he was prepared for every contingency, always having a well-thought-out plan on which he could act, and he never spared himself; further, his life-long training as engineer and soldier, in turn occupying every rank from private to lieut.-general, must have been invaluable.

The writer well recalls the day in August, 1914, when the first batch of recruits passed along Sydney road to go under canvas, there were to be found amongst them some of our students giving up their courses of study in response to the call of country. Since then our men steadily volunteered; only a few have been rejected for active service.

Those of our numbers who were abroad joined up with the forces being formed locally—one with the Canadians, another with a troop of Britishers in the United States Army, still another with the famous French Field Artillery, and a number of others with various divisions of the British Army—every man was a volunteer.

As regards theatres of war, we were well represented in six—Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, France, Belgium, and Italy.

In the Palestine campaign we had one of our graduates amongst the generals, Brigadier General W. Grant. He was decorated with
the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and bar, and was given the Egyptian Order of the Nile for his fine performance with the Light Horse, which body played such an important part throughout the whole campaign.

Two of our graduates were with the British Navy in its North Sea vigil, serving on board our Australian warships, Australia and Sydney, one as Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander and the other as Engineer-Lieutenant.

Our men were to be found in very different arms, and the following list will serve to indicate some of the directions of their service:

**Australian Imperial Forces.**
- Engineers—Field Companies, Signalling Corps, Pioneers.
- Mining Corps—Tunnelling Companies.
- Flying Corps—Instructors and Pilots, Observers, Air Mechanics and Riggers.
- Light Horse.
- Desert Mounted Corps.
- Troop and Bridging Train.
- Artillery—Field Batteries, Heavy Batteries.
- Infantry—Many of the Battalions, Machine-gun Sections, Education Section.
- Army Medical—Field Ambulance.
- Army Service Corps—Motor Transport.

**British Imperial Forces.**
- Royal Engineers—Instructional Staff, Field.
- Royal Field Artillery.
- Royal Garrison Artillery.
- Royal Flying Corps—Instructors and Pilots.
- Imperial Camel Corps.
- Infantry—Northumberland and County of London Regiments, Machine-gun Companies.
- Royal Army Medical Corps—Ambulance.

**Canadian Imperial Forces.**
- Infantry—Royal Canadian Battalion.

**French Forces.**
- Artillery—Field, "75."
- Flying Corps—Pilot.

**United States of America.**
- Infantry.
The military honours gained by our men are numerous, and are summarised below:

1. G.C.M.G.—Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.
4. O.B.E.—Officer of the Order of the British Empire.
5. D.S.O. and bar—The Distinguished Service Order.
7. D.S.O.—The Distinguished Service Order.
11. Croix-de-Guerre, with three stars.
12. Croix-de-Guerre (one with deux palmes).
13. Egyptian Order of the Nile (3rd Class).
15. V.D.
16. Grand Officer Legion d’Honneur (France).
17. Grand Officer de l’Ordre de la Couronne (France).
18. Distinguished Service Medal (America).

In addition to the foregoing list it is but right to add that three of our number, whilst on duty, became prisoners of war to Germany; two of them were Lieutenants who were brought down whilst flying behind the German lines, and the third was severely wounded in action, and was one out of fifteen who were the sole survivors of a battalion. In such circumstances it was an honour to become a prisoner of war.

Many of our men were wounded, and it is no uncommon thing to find them carrying pieces of shrapnel and bullets, which cannot be removed. One of our graduates, a lieutenant, was badly wounded in the thigh whilst flying at an altitude of 20,000 feet, but fortunately, after a compulsory spinning nose dive of two miles, he was able to right his machine with his unwounded leg, and return to safety behind our lines. Again, many were mentioned in despatches. No satisfactory record of those who were wounded or who are mentioned in despatches is known to the writer.
A list of rank which was finally held by our men will serve to further show the stuff they are made of, especially when it is remembered that the great bulk of the 237 enlistments were, in the first instance, into the ranks as privates. In every case it has been sheer ability that has enabled man after man to rise to the status named in the following list:

1. Lieutenant-General.
1. Brigadier-General.
2. Lieutenant-Colonels.
10. Majors.
29. Captains.
78. Lieutenants.
17. Sergeants.
20. Corporals.
17. Sappers.
19. Privates.
33. Rank unknown.

Thus over half our men held commissioned rank, a worthy percentage.

Some 22 of our men volunteered for active service, but were rejected as medically unfit.

In addition to those who served in fighting units we had 16 men who aided as munition workers in one capacity or another, some serving in the manufacture of munitions and guns, others connected with aeroplanes, others working in the National Physical Laboratory, and one in X-ray Medical Hospital work.

The record will hardly be complete unless mention be made of the work done by the staff of the Engineering School. Throughout the war period the spirit of patriotism was with them as with our fighting men. All war work undertaken by them was done in an honorary capacity, and if anyone were called upon to do work demanding time away from his ordinary duties, then the others voluntarily shouldered amongst themselves the extra duties. Such war work was of a very varied nature, consisting of service on Defence Department committees, such as the Federal Munitions Committee, Bomb Committee, Arsenal Committee, Aeroplane Construction Committee, Federal Committee for the despatch of munition workers to Great Britain, and the Motor Standardisation Committee. Hand grenades were manufactured at the School, where there was also undertaken the putting in order of wireless plant,
testing of steel, timber, and other materials. The staff dealt with
the confidential design and construction of an automatic fuse setter,
and of a compression machine for the manufacture of coppers
required for testing the strength of explosive charges. Inventions
were constantly submitted for critical examination and report, and
a report was prepared on timbers for artillery work. Also one
member was called upon to join in the delegation to visit
India on arsenal matters for the Commonwealth Government.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that it is hoped to erect some
suitable memorial within the University to commemorate the work
of our soldiers, and the present proposal is to erect a stained-glass
window at the southern end of Wilson Hall, and an organ at its
northern end. To adequately carry out these proposals it is antici-
pated that not less than £5000 will be necessary.
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