

# Jewish Anzacs from Russia: a century of memory

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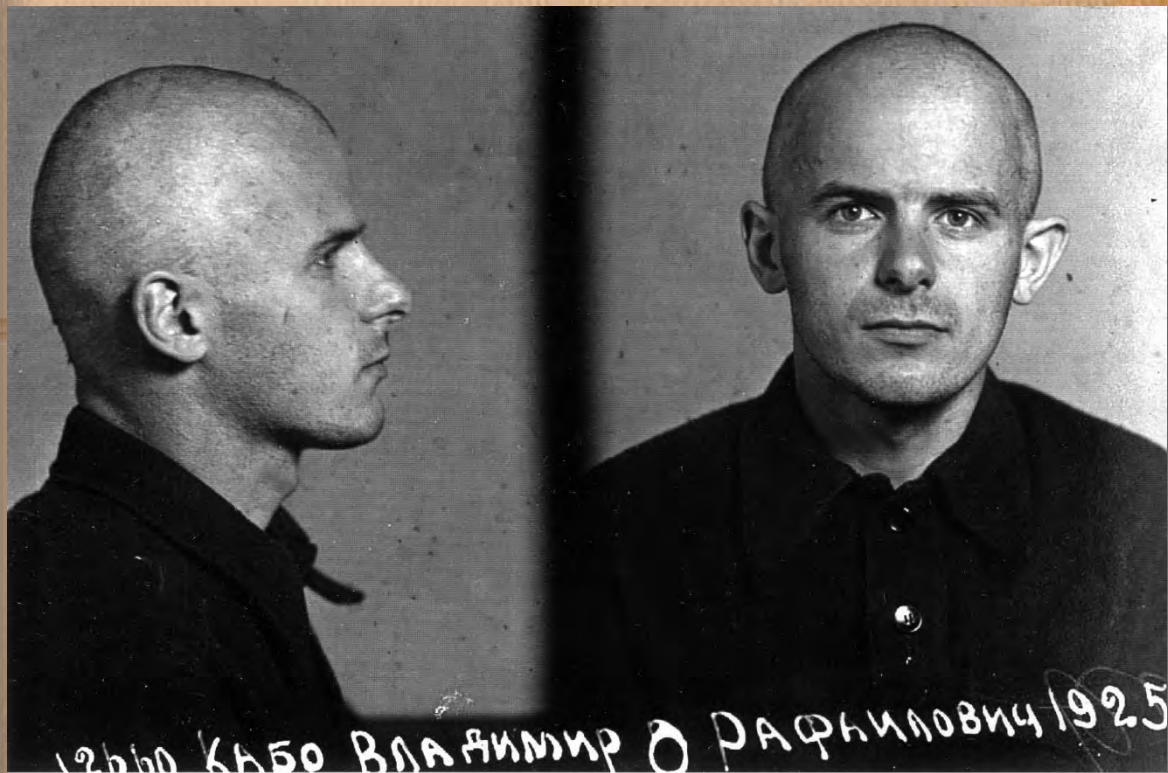
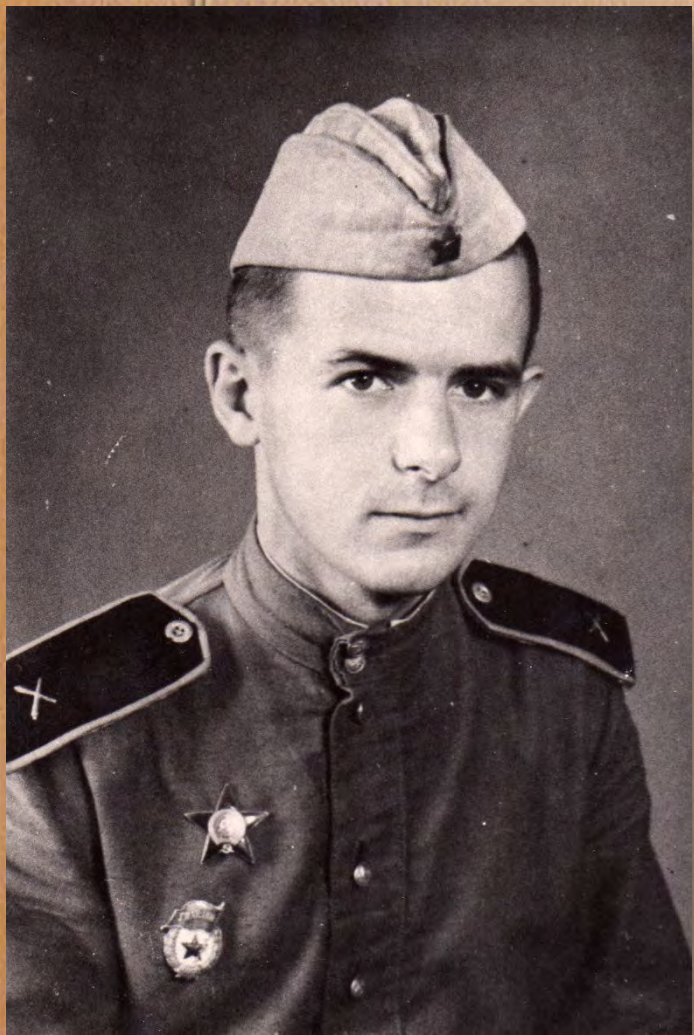
Dr. Elena Govor













*The*  
**ROAD**  
*to*  
**AUSTRALIA**  
**MEMOIRS**



Vladimir Kabo









## Владимир Кабо

Об авторе | About the author

Библиография | Bibliography

Книги | Books online

Статьи | Articles online

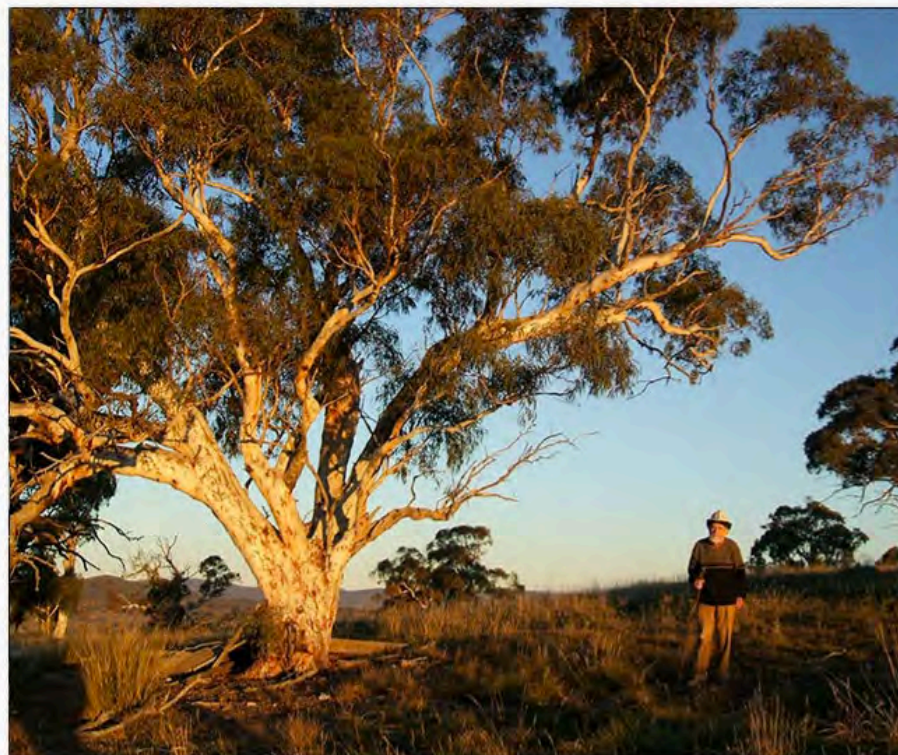
Исследования, рецензии,  
некрологи | Studies, reviews, in  
memoriam



Designed by Elena Govor and Raphael Kabo.

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## Vladimir Kabo | Владимир Кабо



1925-2009

Australian Aborigines,  
traditional societies and  
religion

Аборигены Австралии,  
первобытное общество,  
традиционные религии

[vladimirkabo.com](http://vladimirkabo.com)



# AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

## BOOK OF HONOUR

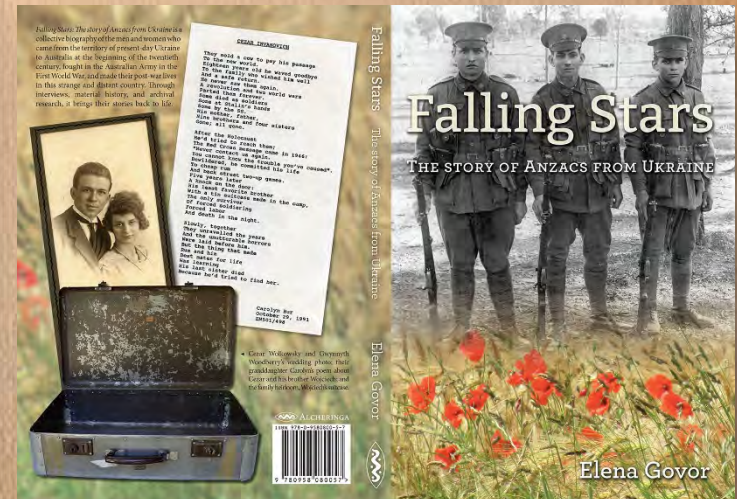
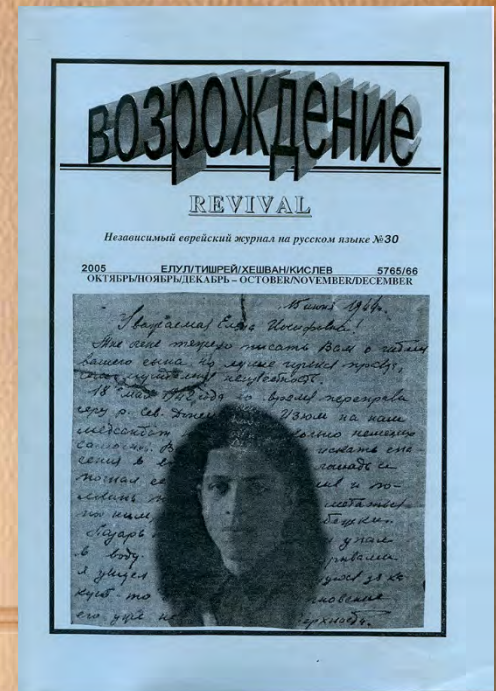
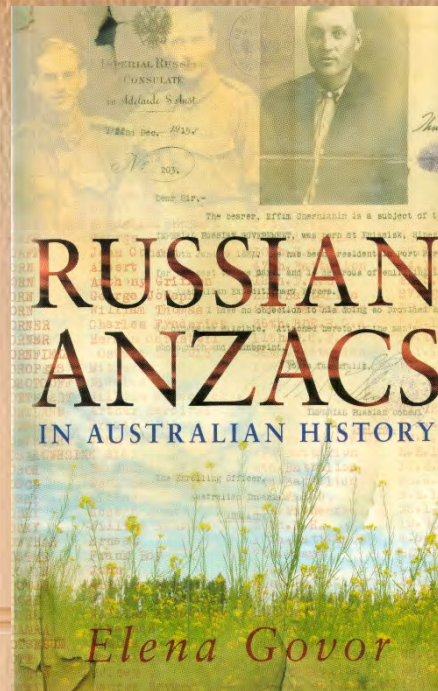
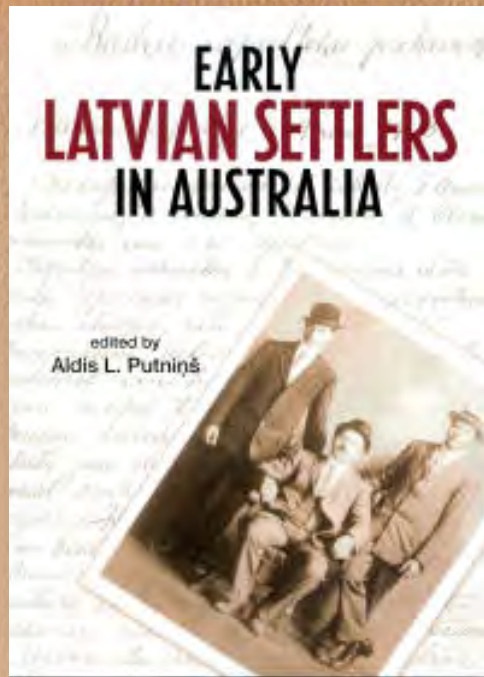
The Great War



1914-1918

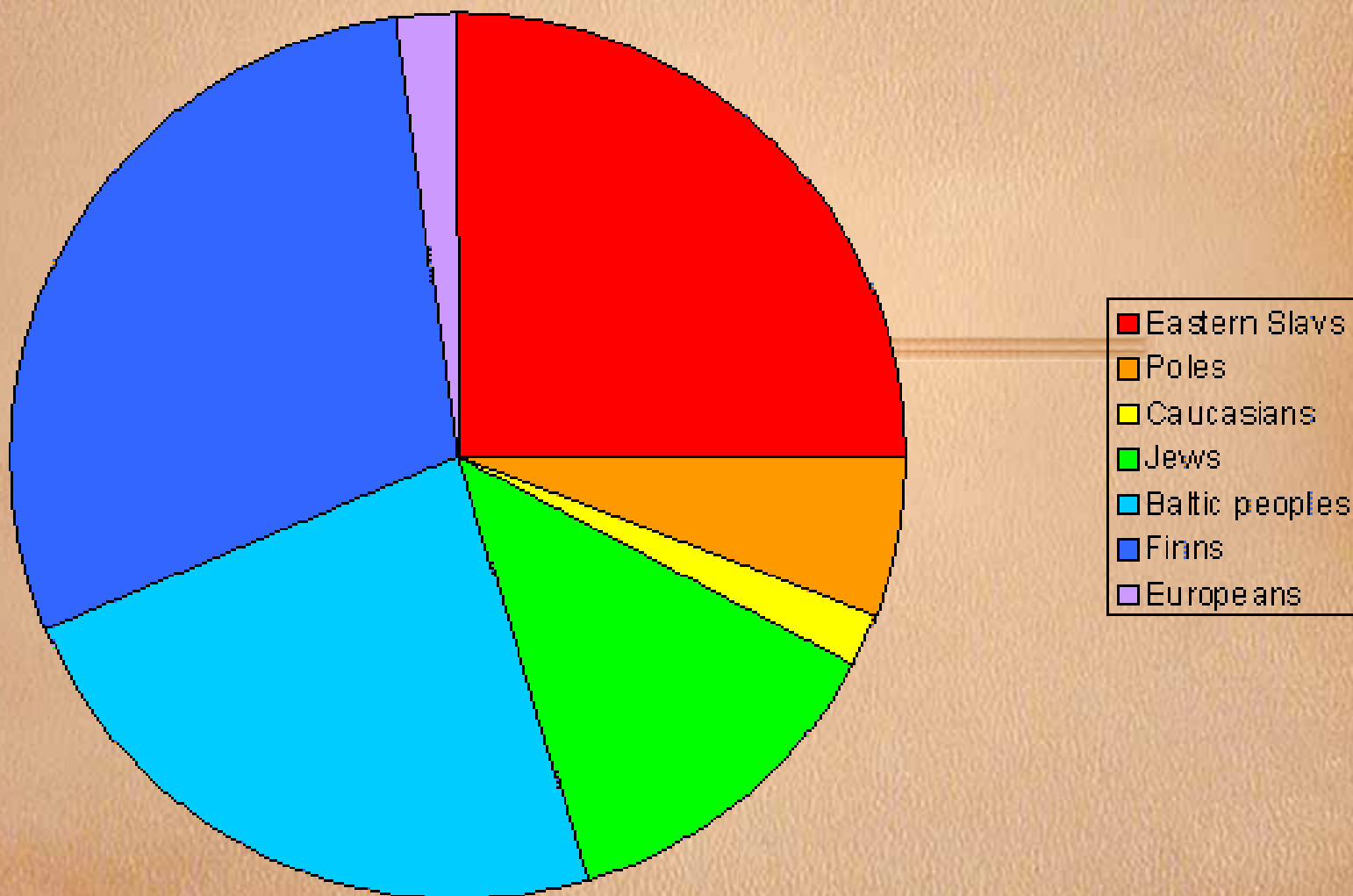
Compiled by  
HAROLD BOAS, (Hon. Lt.)  
(Late Australian Y.M.C.A. Jewish Representative with the A.I.F.)  
Perth, Western Australia, 1923.







# Ethnic composition of Russian Anzacs







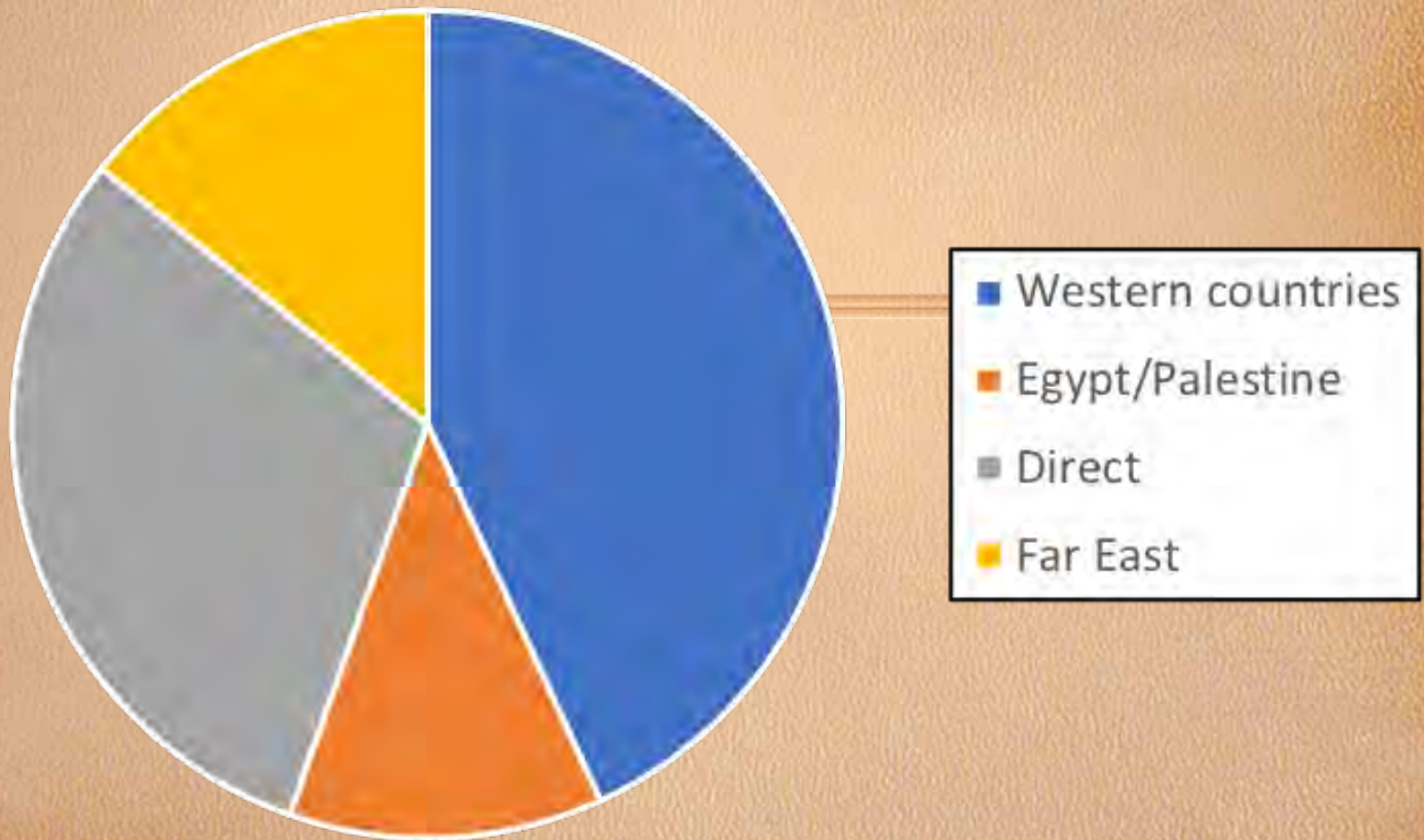
Louis Brodsky, in uniform, with his twin sons, Alex and Isidore







# Patterns of immigration





Born Warsaw, Poland

Came to London as a  
baby

Educated at Norwood  
orphanage school and at  
Regent St Polytechnic



LESNIE, F. Herschon, Pte.,  
17th Battalion.

Frank Bernard Hershorn Lesnie



Born Vilnius or Rishon Le-Zion

Grew up in Rishon Le-Zion

Came to Perth in 1913

Worked as a gardener

---

Ishai Belkind





Born Chechelnyk,  
Podolia, Ukraine

Came to Australia age  
18

Awarded Military  
Medal for bravery

Died in 1919 of Spanish  
flu



BREITMAN. G., Pte., 3rd Bn.

George (Gersh) Breitman



Born Melitopol, Ukraine

Grew up in Harbin

Came to Brisbane aged 18

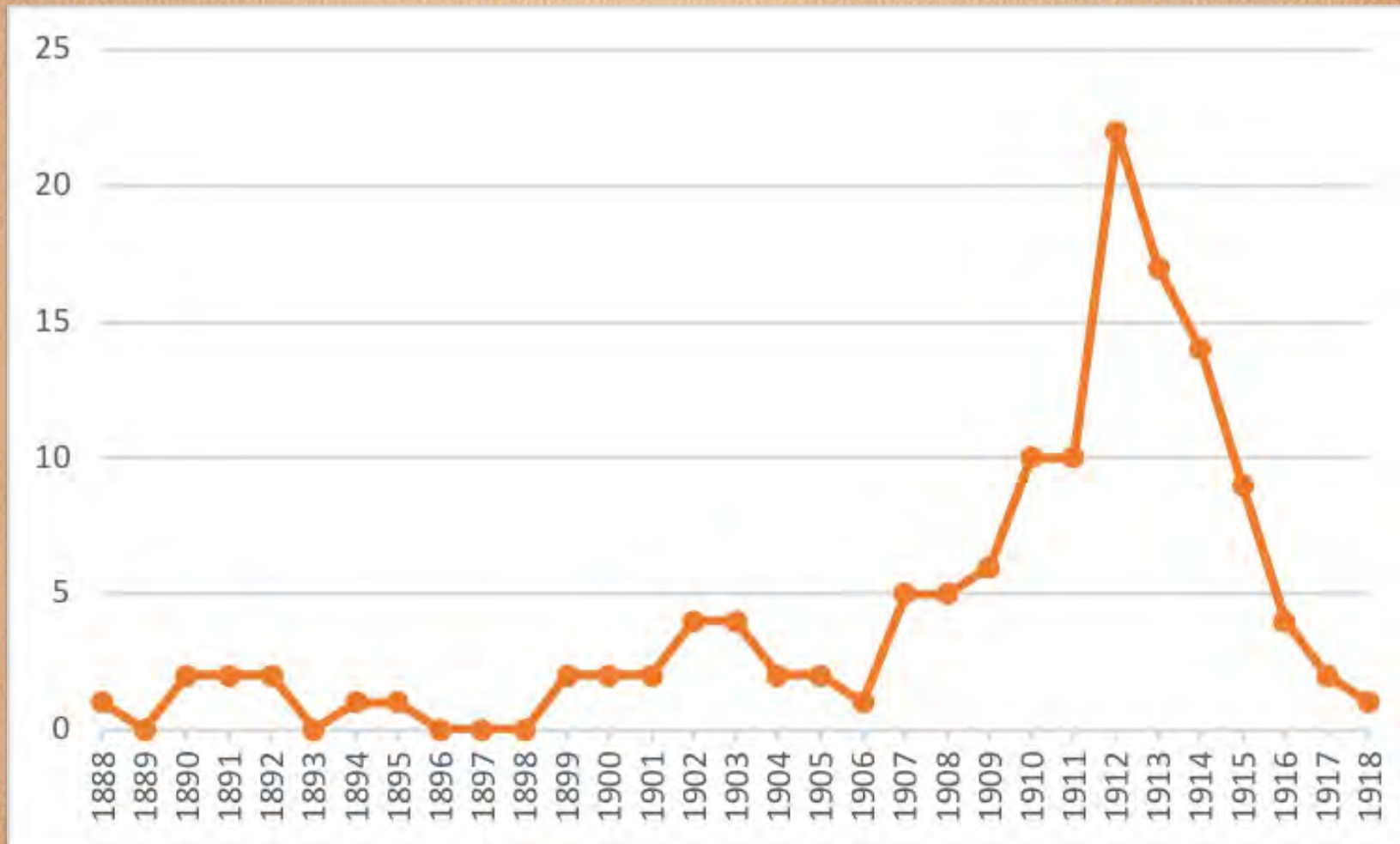
Enlisted in the AIF as Christian,  
stockman



George (Samuil) Ferber



# Arrivals by year





Born Yuzovo, Ukraine

Came Perth aged 10

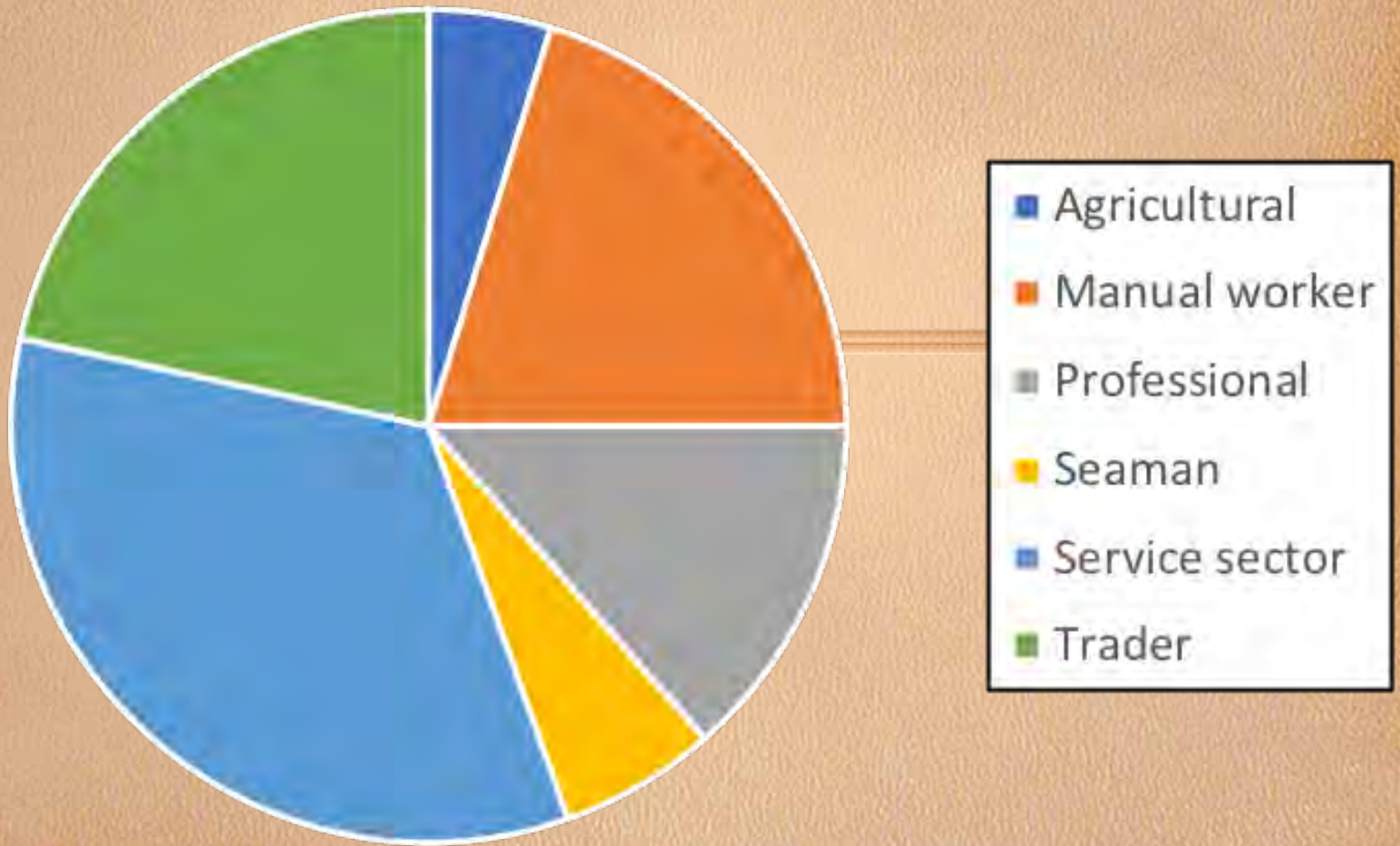
Grew up in Kalgoorlie and  
Broken Hill



Edward Lakovsky



# Occupations





# David Minor



.....on Enlistment.

.....months.

.....inches.

.....inches.

6/18

## DISTINCTIVE MARKS

Right forearm chinaman.  
Head pierced by sword.  
S.D.M Born in Vilna 1894  
Right upper arms. Sailing ship.  
Left forearm Pierced Heart.  
Faith Hope & Charity.  
No previous illness  
Saw no back sugar hand.





Born Belgorod, Kursk  
Province

Educated Belgorod High  
School

Came to Palestine, Rehovot  
in 1892

Came to Western Australia  
in 1902

Eliazar (Lazar) Margolin





Born Telshai, now Lithuania

Received theological  
education in Rome

Came to Australia in 1892

Paul Ephraim Zundolovich



Born Warsaw, Poland

Came London as a baby

Educated at Norwood  
orphanage school and at  
Regent St Polytechnic



LESNIE, F. Herschon, Pte.,  
17th Battalion.

Frank Bernard Hershorn Lesnie



Born Liady, Belarus

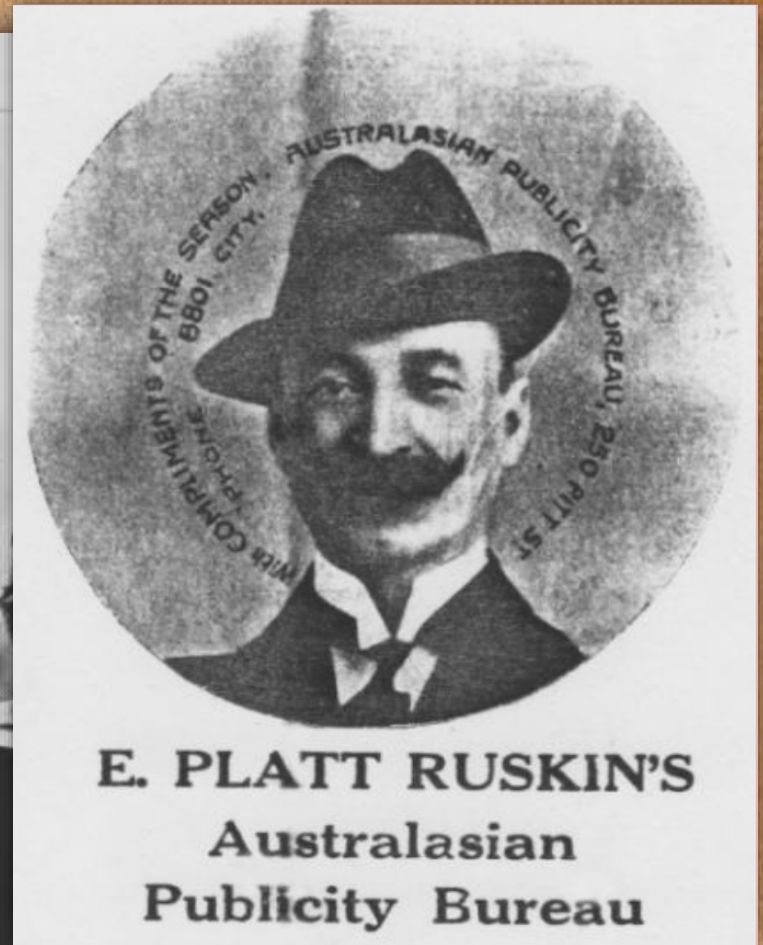
Came Melbourne 1912

Studied at the  
Melbourne University



Samuel Ettingove





Haim Samoilovich Platkin





*Ellis Silas. Roll Call*



PRECIS OF SERVICE OF NO. 350 Pte. A. J.De.T. MARKOWICZ. 3/Bn.

For the information of the Medal Board.

20.10.15	Embarked for active service.
5. 4.15	Proceeded to join M. E. F.
13. 5.15	To detention Gallipoli.
18. 5.15	Embarked Gallipoli for R. T. A.
10. 6.15	Embarked Suez for R. T. A. Disciplinary reasons.
22. 7.15	Discharged. S. N. L. R.

*no crimes  
Doubtful name*

ELIGIBLE FOR ISSUE

*E. R.*



Norman Myer  
(left) with his  
mates





## *Ex-AIF Man Of 80 Interned In Syria*

### **ANZAC HARRY**

**A**N old Digger of the 1914-18 war is still on deck in Belrut (Syria). He is known as Anzac Harry, and keeps a pub.

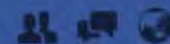
He will not tell his other name, but will give proof of his being with a Light Horse Regiment during the campaign in this country in 1917-18. A full-length photo of himself at that time, complete with "kangaroo feathers," is displayed in his bar.

He settled here after the war, opened this bar, which he called "Blighty Corner," and catered for the English people who had settled here.

Now named the Australian Bar, it is one place where all troops can be assured of a "fair go." On his cards advertising his cafe he has the words, "Meals like Mother cooks."—J.A., A.I.F., Syria.





**Kevin Rudd** ✓

@MrKRudd

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20 June · 🌐

If you travel to the [Australian War Memorial](#) in Canberra you will find the name Eliazar Margolin on the memorial wall - a Russian ANZAC.

He was one of around 1000 Russians who fought alongside Australia in WW1. I visited an exhibition in St Petersburg honouring their service.



18k Views

[Search for posts on this Page](#)[Invite friends to like this Page](#)**ABOUT**

🕒 Former Prime Minister of Australia. Proud father of 3 great kids with my wife Thérèse. Proud grandfather of Josie & McLean. Born and raised in country QLD.

<http://www.kevinrudd.com/>**LIKED BY THIS PAGE****Australian Labo...**[Like](#)**DonateLife** ✓[Like](#)[Chat \(14\)](#)





We found every Russian born Anzac!  
2005, AWM



# RUSSIAN ANZACS

Q Search

## SEARCH BY SURNAME

A B C D E  
F G H I J  
K L M N O  
P R S T U  
V W X Y Z

## SEARCH BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

Belarusian  
Estonian  
Finnish  
Georgian  
German  
Jewish  
Latvian  
Lithuanian  
Ossetian  
Polish  
Russian  
Tatar  
Ukrainian  
Western European

## FILTER

All servicemen  
Servicemen on the  
AWM Roll of Honour  
Servicemen at Gallipoli  
Awarded servicemen  
Rejected applicants

## New book released April 2017

*Falling Stars: The story of Anzacs from Ukraine* is a collective biography of the men and women who came from the territory of present-day Ukraine to Australia at the beginning of the twentieth century, fought in the Australian Army in the First World War, and made their post-war lives in this strange and distant country. Through interviews, material history, and archival research, it brings their stories back to life.

Elena Govor, *Falling Stars: The story of Anzacs from Ukraine*, Canberra, Alcheringa Press, 2017, 239 p., ill.

The book is available from the following stockists:

- **Online**
  - [Alcheringa Press](#) (publisher's online store)
  - [Amazon.com](#)
  - [Amazon.co.uk](#)
  - [Regimental Books](#) (Australia)
- **Canberra**
  - [National Library of Australia bookstore](#)
  - [Australian War Memorial shop](#)
  - [Paperchain Books](#)
- **Sydney**
  - [Abbey Books](#)
  - [Gleebooks](#)
- Watch a [YouTube interview with Elena about her new book](#) (Interviewed by UkeTube).
- Listen to an [interview with Elena on SBS Radio](#).

Watch this space for more news about the new book!



During the First World War over a thousand Russian-born servicemen enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). They were the largest national group in the AIF after British, New Zealand and Canadian born servicemen. Besides ethnic Russians, these Anzacs included members of a score of different ethnic groups born within the borders of the Russian Empire. Their story is told in my book:

Elena Govor, *Russian Anzacs in Australian History*, Sydney, UNSW Press in association with NAA, 2005, 310 p., 44 ill.

- The book is available from [UNSW Press](#), [Amazon](#), and Australian bookshops.
- [Reviews](#)
- [Preview at Google Books](#)
- [Audiovisual materials about the Russian Anzacs](#)

This site provides additional information about each of the Russian Anzacs, as well as statistical and other data. There is a page for each of these servicemen, containing biographical and service details, as well as links to further materials such as archival documents, newspaper articles, photographs, and quotes from books. In many cases these sources have been digitised and are available to view online.

This site was updated in 2014, and from early 2015 all old versions of the site will redirect to this main page. We apologise for any broken links, and advise to update old links to the new address (<http://russiananzacs.net>).

**New!** [A map which shows the locations associated with the lives of the Russian Anzacs.](#)



Russiananzacs.net

Centenary of the First World War



# RUSSIAN ANZACS

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## SEARCH BY SURNAME

A B C D E  
F G H I J  
K L M N O  
P R S T U  
V W X Y Z

## SEARCH BY ETHNIC ORIGIN


Belarusian  
Estonian  
Finnish  
Georgian  
German  
Jewish  
Latvian  
Lithuanian  
Ossetian  
Polish  
Russian  
Tatar  
Ukrainian  
Western European



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
All servicemen  
Servicemen on the  
AWM Roll of Honour  
Servicemen at Gallipoli  
Awarded servicemen  
Rejected applicants


## Jewish Anzacs


This list includes names of all Jewish servicemen from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.



 [Abrahamovitch, Henry George](#)


  [Amstead, James](#)


  [Barfield, Leopold Powell Warschaur](#)


 [Barzel, Abraham](#)


 [Belfort, Alexander Eisy](#)


  [Belkind, Ishai](#)


 [Bell, Isaac](#)

 [Benjamin, David](#)

 [Bloom, Samuel](#)

 [Borszcer, David](#)


 [Bortzell, Samuel](#)



 [Bowson, Abraham](#)



    [Breitman, George](#)


  [Britain, Samuel](#)

  [Brodsky, Louis](#)

 [Broon, Hyman](#)

  [Buchner, Hyman](#)

  [Cantor, Adolph Conrad](#)

 [Caplan, Joe](#)



# SEARCH BY SURNAME

A B C D E  
F G H I J  
K L M N O  
P R S T U  
V W X Y Z

## SEARCH BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

Belarusian  
Estonian  
Finnish  
Georgian  
German  
Jewish  
Latvian  
Lithuanian  
Ossetian  
Polish  
Russian  
Tatar  
Ukrainian  
Western European

## FILTER

All servicemen  
Servicemen on the  
AWM Roll of Honour  
Servicemen at Gallipoli  
Awarded servicemen  
Rejected applicants

# George Breitman

Alias Gersh; Breatman

Born 1896

Place Chechelnik, Podolia, Ukraine

Ethnic origin Jewish

Religion Jewish

Mother Udi Weksler

Arrived at Australia  
on ca 1914

Residence before enlistment Sydney

Occupation Labourer

## Service

service number 4965

enlisted 31.08.1915

POE Holdsworth, NSW

unit 3rd Battalion

rank Private

place Western Front, 1916-1919

casualties WIA 1917, 1918

awards 13.04.17 awarded Military Medal for bravery in the field (LG 26.04.1917)

final fate Died of pneumonia 19.04.1919, Andover, Hampshire, England

cemetery 40 Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Middlesex, England

Naturalisation Served as Russian subject

## Materials

[Digitised service records](#) (NAA) (Breitman)

[Digitised embarkation roll entry](#) (AWM)

[Digitised recommendation for award](#) (AWM) (Breitman)

[Digitised Roll of Honour circular](#) (AWM) (Breitman)

'Taking the votes of members of the 3rd Battalion on the second Conscription Referendum at Halinghen near Samer.' [801440 801441](#) (AWM)

[Gersh Breitman](#) in Anzac Diversity, educational resource (AWM)

## Blog article

[Russian](#)

[English](#)

## Newspaper articles

[Pte. G. Breitman](#), Jewish Herald, Victoria, 13 June 1919, p. 12

## From Russian Anzacs in Australian History:

George (Gersh) Breitman was [...] from the Ukraine, [...] he was Jewish and came from an area (Chechelnik in Podolia) where large Jewish communities still kept to their traditional way of life. In Australia he had worked as a labourer. Breitman 'showed himself fearless and quick to act' during the advance at Ligny on 2 March, 'by rushing out from his post to assist 2nd Lieut. Boileau who had attacked four Germans in the open', as his commander wrote. 'By his prompt action this man no doubt saved his officer's life and materially assisted in the capture of the four enemy.' Breitman was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery.



AWM memorial panel 35



George Breitman, MM  
Australian jersey book of honour, Perth 1923



George Breitman  
Willesden Jewish Cemetery





# Materials

*Formed copy*

**AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.**

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE**

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 4965 Name BREITMAN, G.  
 Unit 15th REINFORCEMENTS 4th Reinforcements  
3rd BATTALION 3rd Battalion Liverpool  
 Joined on 27/3/19

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? George Breitman
- In the Parish of 3010 near the Town of Shephard in the County of Pavotah
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (If the latter, papers to be shown.) Russian
- What is your age? 19 yrs
- What is your trade or calling? Salmoner
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No
- Are you married? No
- Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Moche, Ude, Webster, City of Batta Province of Paderaja, N. C. 4. 25. 1919
- Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
- Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No
- Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge No
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? No
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
- Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day? Yes
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? Yes

I, George Breitman do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

\* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children three-fifths

Date 27/3/19 Signature of person enlisted. Breitman, G.

\*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.

(NAA) (Breitman)

Jewish Herald (Vic. : 1879 - 1920), Friday 13 June 1919, page 12

Il entry

on for a

circular

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AWM)

Diversi

PTE. G. BREITMAN.

It has again been the painful duty of the Australian Jewish Chaplain to perform yet another burial in the United Kingdom of an Australian Jewish lad who had paid the full price for the great cause. No. 4965, Private G. Breitman, of the 3rd Battalion, unfortunately succumbed to pneumonia supervening influenza at the Tidworth Military Hospital on the 18th of this month, and was buried on the 24th April, with full military honours, at the Willesden Jewish Cemetery. The service was conducted by Captain the Rev. J. Danglow, Australian Jewish Chaplain, assisted by Major the Rev. S. Lipson, Jewish Chaplain, Southern Command. There was also present Lieut. Harold Boas, and the following Australian Jewish men acted as pall-bearers:—Corporal A. R. Solomon, Sydney; Corporal B. P. Salom, Adelaide; Driver W. Zeeng, Melbourne; Gunner W. Friedlander, Brisbane; Private H. Cooper, Sydney, besides a full military firing party.

A very impressive service was concluded by the sounding of the "Last Post" by Corporal J. Walters, of Western Australia. The military arrangements were in the hands of Staff-Sgt. Rosenthal (of Adelaide), of the Graves Registration Department, assisted by Sgt. Laurie Isaacs (of Melbourne), in charge of A.I.F. Jewish records. Mr. Hyman Gornwiltz, a friend of the deceased, was present to represent the family. This makes the fourth of Australia's Jewish soldier-sons, who he buried in this particular cemetery.

Pte. G. Breitman. - Jewish Herald, Victoria, 13 June 1919, p. 12