



# THE Simpson PRIZE

A COMPETITION FOR  
YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS

2015 Winner  
Northern Territory

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*"Whatever happens', Australia is part of the Empire right to the full. When the Empire is at war, so is Australia at war. All our resources are in the Empire and for the preservation and security of the Empire."* - Prime Minister Joseph Cook, 1914.<sup>1</sup>

To the extent of giving up their lives is how far an Australian would go to protect what they love. To the extent of defending our nation, our history and our Mother Country. All Australians would go to the absolute lengths to prove their loyalty and their pride in what they believe in. For Australians love and are devoted to their beloved country and its people. The men and women of Australia signed up in order to aid their country. For our Australians enlisted to stand up to our country's enemies for the sake of their homeland.

Australia was previously a colony of Britain and a young member of the British Empire. She was tied to Britain due to being a part of the commonwealth, and because of this, Australia was obligated to help the Mother Country if she were in trouble. When war erupted in 1914, Australia was an automatic ally of Britain and expected to participate with the Allies in the war.

When the Great War broke out, Australia was a young nation and had only been independent for about 13 years. When Britain asked for help in the Great War, that proposition had given Australia a chance to show the 'Mother country' that she could be helpful as well as reliable. Australia's desire to prove themselves was created by our soldiers when enlisting for war in saying that *"...going to have a try for the war... I think it is the greatest opportunity for a chap to make a man of himself..."*<sup>2</sup>

Men enlisted for their nation, to protect their wives, as boys enlisted for their mothers. Australians in large numbers enlisted for their fathers, brothers, sisters and cousins. Mates enlisted with the friends they grew up with, and with their mates from work, even from school. They fought because they wanted to protect the Australian Nation, their friends, their 'loved ones' and coincidentally the 'Mother Country'. Enlisting and going to fight to assist in the support of Britain in defending their country was making their values and beliefs become a reality, in that *"one can be spared for the defence of Australia and Australia's fate"*<sup>3</sup>. Even boys, barely the age of fifteen, *"being prompted by a sense of duty and spirit of adventure"*<sup>4</sup> enlisted to show their respect and honour the country they grew up in.

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<sup>1</sup> 2008 Tour - Premier's Anzac Student Tour - The Department of Education. 2014. *2008 Tour - Premier's Anzac Student Tour - The Department of Education*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/anzac/detcms/navigation/previous-tours/2008-tour/>. [Accessed 03 August 2014].

<sup>2</sup> Lieutenant DG Armstrong. ND. [ONLINE] Available at: [http://www.dva.gov.au/commems\\_oawg/commemorations/education/Documents/Gallipoli\\_Anzacs\\_Unit1.pdf](http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/education/Documents/Gallipoli_Anzacs_Unit1.pdf). Accessed date [21<sup>st</sup> July 2014]

<sup>3</sup> Source 4 Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/> . [Accessed 18 July 14].

<sup>4</sup> Source 4 Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/> . [Accessed 18 July 14].

Enlistment was an opportunity to display their gratitude to the country they love and see the smiles of their family, friends, and neighbours. For these school boy cadets were told that they were “*our soldiers of the future!*”<sup>5</sup> and this influence was given through schools, communities and by word of mouth. This educated them in developing their own beliefs on what it means to fight for Australia.

These young soldiers wanted to keep walking down the streets of Australia and to be seen as the pride of the Australian nation, by being a part of the courageous Australian military, naval and air defence forces, protecting our country inland and overseas. To not enlist was seen as cowardice. To not go war as a man, you would be frowned upon by those within your community, As Anita Ryall revealed (when interview by Australians at War) that “...it was very evident that some of the women whose brothers or sons or husbands went to the war if there was any young men living nearby they would send them white feathers”<sup>6</sup>. Though the Australians who enlisted were brave. They were brave for many knew that they will fight and likely fall for the sake of Australia, as they knew that their “*first duty is to the country in which we live*”<sup>7</sup> in. Through the recruitment of our Australian men and women in World War One, our nation’s people came to acknowledge and encourage their valour, humour and kindness. For the sake of the Mother Country, our ancestors were able to display their pride in not only their nation but themselves. They enlisted to make sure that they could protect the people of our nation and sustain their future, defining what means to be Australian.

The Australian government needed to convince its citizens about the benefits of war for their nation and the ‘Mother Country’. As former Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, declared that “*Australians will stand beside our own to help and defend her to our last man and our last shilling*”<sup>8</sup>. For these speeches and alike propaganda would rally the Australian citizens into wanting to be a part of the cause in helping Great Britain. To show their support for their countrymen, many wanted to wear the military uniform and fire their rifle when yelling “Australia” in the face of our Allies enemies. Since they knew “*that our security and our independence depend on the victory of the British arms*”<sup>9</sup>, and believed that “*the British Empire stands for the progress of civilisation*”<sup>10</sup>. For those who were hesitant, the government would expend their powers to produce propaganda using prominent slogans

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<sup>5</sup> Hill, A., 2001. *Soldier Boy: The True Story of Jim Martin The Youngest Anzac*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia: Penguin Books Australia Ltd. [Accessed 21 August 2014].

<sup>6</sup> Australians at War. 2014. *Anita Ryall*. [ONLINE] Available at: [http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au/throughmyeyes/w1\\_cuf.html](http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au/throughmyeyes/w1_cuf.html). [Accessed 11 October 2014].

<sup>7</sup> Source 6 Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/> . [Accessed 18 July 14].

<sup>8</sup> In office - Andrew Fisher - Australia's PMs - Australia's Prime Ministers. 2014. In office - Andrew Fisher - Australia's PMs - Australia's Prime Ministers. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/primeministers/fisher/in-office.aspx>. [Accessed 20 July 2014].

<sup>9</sup> Source 6, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/> . [Accessed 18 July 14].

<sup>10</sup> Source 6, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/> . [Accessed 18 July 14].

announcing; *“AUSTRALIAN’S! THE EMPIRE NEEDS YOU”*<sup>11</sup> and *“Your King and Country Need You! ENLIST NOW!”*<sup>12</sup> Posters like these were on display to sway and men to register what they think should happen under the certain circumstances in which were illustrated, and in many cases use this to compel men into joining with the use accusing words or phrases to guilt trip them to help Australia assist Britain in the war.

In 1914, Australia had just fewer than 5 million people and most of this population consisted of British people or people of British heritage. Due to this heritage, there are Australians who did it out of loyalty, duty, and their prolonged devotion to the United Kingdom. Australians like to Lance Corporal Mulvey, who described, *“I know no more than that I have sworn “to obey the King’s commands and fight his enemies wherever I am required” ... and being prompted by a sense of duty...I can hardly do anything else but volunteer”*<sup>13</sup> and there were others who enlisted in hopes of being posted to fight in their native country. As an Australian soldier states; *“I would not have joined this contingent if I had known they were not going to England. I would have ... then joined the army at home ...”*<sup>14</sup> declaring that his wish is to defend the ‘Mother Country’.

Enlistment gave young Australian soldiers an opportunity to escape financial crisis and unemployment by defending their nation. They were often referred as “Six-Bob-A-Day Tourists”<sup>15</sup>. A soldier reveals; *“You may think it funny of me turning up such a great job but...Philpott had only about 3 days work left for us ...so I thought I would join the army...”*<sup>16</sup> This is one of many cases akin to fellow Australians to where enlisting to fight in supporting the British was the only option to not becoming penniless.

Enlistment was also an opportunity for indigenous Australians to receive equality and acceptance amongst the rest of Australia, by going to war to fight for Britain. As Gary Oakley (of the Australian War Memorial) states that, *“In the defence force, no one sees your colour, they still don’t”*<sup>17</sup>. So,

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<sup>11</sup> Examples of Propaganda from WW1 | Australia's imperishable record ... Australians! The empire needs you. 2014. Examples of Propaganda from WW1 | Australia's imperishable record ... Australians! The empire needs you. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.ww1propaganda.com/ww1-poster/australias-imperishable-record-australians-empire-needs-you> . [Accessed 11 October 2014].

<sup>12</sup> Examples of Propaganda from WW1 | Your king and country need you. Enlist now.. 2014. *Examples of Propaganda from WW1 | Your king and country need you. Enlist now..* [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.ww1propaganda.com/ww1-poster/your-king-and-country-need-you-enlist-now>. [Accessed 11 October 2014].

<sup>13</sup> Source 4, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>. [Accessed 18 July 14].

<sup>14</sup> Source 5, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>. [Accessed 18 July 14].

<sup>15</sup> Chapter 2, page 9, Broadbent, H, 1990. The Boys Who Came Home. 1st ed. Sydney: ABC Books

<sup>16</sup> Source 1, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>. [Accessed 18 July 14].

<sup>17</sup> REBECCA FRANKS. 2014. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island war heroes ‘vanished’ from the Anzac legend. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/city-east/aboriginal-and-torres->

when bearing arms with fellow soldiers for the Australian nation they received equality amongst those in their battalion. Though after the war, after fighting, dying and dutifully serving Australia, the aboriginals whose honourable efforts as Australian soldiers were not recognised by the public.

Like many soldiers who enlisted to defend their country and the ‘Mother Country’ , my ancestor, Lance Corporal, Joseph James Giles battled against the Turks with his battalion, to fight and finally fall at the age of 28 on a stained beach along with 13 other ranks in his battalion<sup>18</sup> for the defence of Britain.

When war commenced in 1914, many Australians enlisted because they “...were so tied to Britain that when she was in trouble it was just automatic, a feeling of ‘this is your duty’”<sup>19</sup>. Though our ancestral Australians enlisted for the sake of Australia and its people. To display their loyalty and show Britain what they have made of themselves and their nation. Through sacrifice and courage displayed by our Australians who enlisted in the Great War, was to defend their ideals and their beliefs along with the Mother Country’s Australia. Our Australia.

Lest We Forget...

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[strait-island-war-heroes-vanished-from-the-anzac-legend/story-fngr8h22-1226889223896?nk=61e10456e0702a56b2f72984fbc2e63](http://strait-island-war-heroes-vanished-from-the-anzac-legend/story-fngr8h22-1226889223896?nk=61e10456e0702a56b2f72984fbc2e63). [Accessed 20 July 14].

<sup>18</sup> Jeremy Frost. *Stephen and Joseph Giles*. PDF. 2014. Pg. 1-3

<sup>19</sup> Chapter 1, page 1, Broadbent, H, 1990. *The Boys Who Came Home*. 1st ed. Sydney: ABC Books.

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<sup>4</sup> Lieutenant DG Armstrong, Available online: [http://www.dva.gov.au/commems\\_oawg/commemorations/education/Documents/Gallipoli\\_Anzacs\\_Unit1.pdf](http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/education/Documents/Gallipoli_Anzacs_Unit1.pdf). Accessed date [21<sup>st</sup> July 2014]

<sup>5</sup> Source 6, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>

<sup>6</sup> Source 6, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ww1propaganda.com/world-war-1-posters/australian-ww1-propaganda-posters>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/homefront/homefront.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/primeministers/fisher/in-office.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> Source 1, Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>

<sup>11</sup> Chapter 2, page 9, Broadbent, H, 1990. *The Boys Who Came Home*. 1st ed. Sydney: ABC Books.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/city-east/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-island-war-heroes-vanished-from-the-anzac-legend/story-fngr8h22-1226889223896?nk=61e10456e0702a56b2f72984fbc2e63> – the quote Gary

<sup>13</sup> Chapter 1, page 1, Broadbent, H, 1990. *The Boys Who Came Home*. 1st ed. Sydney: ABC Books.

<sup>14</sup> Hill, A., 2001. *Soldier Boy: The True Story of Jim Martin The Youngest Anzac*. 1st ed. 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia: Penguin Books Australia Ltd..... Hill, A., 2001. *Soldier Boy: The True Story of Jim Martin The Youngest Anzac*. Chapter 3. Pg.22.

<sup>15</sup> Source 4 Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>

<sup>16</sup> Source 4 Australian War Memorial Website < <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>

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