

The Register (Adelaide, S.A.) 4-7-1917

TEE AUSTRALIANS BIOGRAPHICAL ,
LATE FLIGHT-LIEUT. R. V. FRANKLIN.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R Franklin, of Saddleworth, have been advised, that their youngest son, Flight-Lieut. Rodney Vernon Franklin, of the Royal Flying Corps, was accidentally killed in Egypt on June 24. He was born at Mount Barker, and was in his twenty-first year. Educated at the Saddleworth Public and Riverton High Schools, he completed his education at the Gawler School of Mines, where he secured high honours in technical subjects. He was connected with Martin's engineering works at Gawler. From boyhood he had taken a keen interest in military affairs, and was the first leader of the Owl Scout Patrol. Entering the cadets at Gawler, he passed his officer's examination prior to the outbreak of war, and when the call came was one of the first to enlist from the Saddleworth district. He was attached to the famous 10th Battalion as a lance- corporal and soon after landing in Egypt, gained his second stripe. He was also recommended for a commission in the British Army during his stay in Egypt. After, splendid service on Gallipoli the deceased was sent to England ill, and spent three months in a hospital After regaining his health he was appointed to the King's Own Regiment, with the rank of Lieutenant. This honour was the outcome of the recommendation made in Egypt early in the year. After several months' service with his regiment in England, he secured a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps, and, aided by his special technical knowledge, soon mastered the art of aviation, and won his 'wings' in July, 1916. He immediately left for France, and had an exceptionally exciting and successful career during his stay there. He was wounded on two occasions while flying in the air, and for particularly meritorious work he was awarded the Croix de Guerre, and was recommended for the Military Cross. His health gave way early in December, 1916, and he spent about three weeks in a hospital in France, and was then ordered to England. He was granted three months' sick leave, and decided to visit his home in Australia. He arrived at Saddleworth in March, and spent a few weeks with his parents there. He left again for the front on April 5, and upon his arrival in Egypt was ordered to report for duty there with the Royal Flying Corps. His death on June 24 brought to an end a highly creditable and promising career. He excelled in manly field sports and his sunny, genial nature and upright character secured for him a host of friends wherever he went. On the evening of Violet Day an impressive service in memory of the deceased was held at St. George's Church Gawler, which he had formerly attended.

Winner (Melbourne) 18-7-1917

FLIGHT- LIEUT. R. V. FRANKLIN

Another gallant South Australian sportsman to make the great sacrifice is Flight- Lieutenant Rodney Vernon Franklin. He was well known in tennis and football, circles at Gawler, where, after attending the School of Mines, he was employed at Martin's engineering works. He was only 21 years of age when accidentally killed in Egypt on June 24. He took an active interest in military matters from early boyhood. While as a cadet he gained his commission, and, when the war broke out, enlisted as a lance corporal in the 10th Battalion. After the landing at Gallipoli he contracted fever, and, on his returning from the peninsula from a spell in hospital at Alexandria, he was wounded. He again contracted fever, and was sent to England. When he regained his health he joined the King's Own Regiment as a lieutenant, an honour which was the result of recommendations made by his superiors in Egypt on account of his meritorious service. A few months later he secured a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps, and won his 'wings' 12 months ago. Going to France, he was soon in the thick of aerial hostilities, and it was not long before he was awarded the Croix de Guerre. He was also recommended for the Military Cross. He was wounded twice in warfare in the air. His health gave way in December last, and, after a spell in hospital in France, he came to South Australia to spend sick leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs C. R. Franklin, of Saddleworth. He left again for the front on April 5

Chronicle 14-7-1917

THE LATE FLIGHT-

LIEUTENANT R. V. FRANKLIN.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Franklin have received news that their youngest son, Flight-Lieutenant Rodney Vernon Franklin, of the Royal Flying Corps, was accidentally killed in Egypt on June 24.

He was born at Mount Barker and was in his twenty-first year. Educated at the Saddleworth Public and Riverton High Schools, he completed his education at the Gawler School of Mines, where he secured high honours in technical subjects. He was connected with Martin's engineering works at Gawler, and was a member of St. George's Choir, Gawler, St. George's Tennis Club and Football Club, and a member of the Foresters' Lodge, Auburn. From boyhood he had taken an interest in military affairs, and was the first leader of the Owl Scout Patrol. Entering the cadets at Gawler he passed his officers' examination prior to the outbreak of war. He was one of the first to enlist. He was attached to the 10th Battalion, as a lance-corporal and soon after landing in Egypt was promoted to corporal. He was also recommended for a commission in the British army during his stay in Egypt. After the landing he contracted influenza and was ordered to Alexandria, where he spent some time in the hospital. He returned to duty, and during his second stay on the peninsula was slightly wounded. Early in August he contracted fever and was ordered to England, where he spent about three months. After regaining his health he was appointed to the King's Own Regiment with the rank of lieutenant. This honour was the outcome of the recommendation made in Egypt early in his career.

Out of 26 candidates who stood for the qualifying examination he was placed fourth on the list and was awarded a special mention. After several months' service with his regiment in England he secured a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps, and, aided by his technical knowledge, soon mastered the art of aviation and won his "wings" in July, 1916. He immediately left for France and had an exceptionally successful career during his stay there. He was wounded on two occasions whilst up in the air, and for a particularly meritorious piece of work he was awarded the Croix de Guerre and was recommended for the Military Cross. His health gave way early in December, 1916, and he spent about three weeks in a hospital in France and was then ordered to England. He was granted three months' sick leave and decided to visit his home in Australia. He arrived here in March and spent a few weeks with his parents at Saddleworth. He left again for the front on April 5. His death on June 24 brought to an end a highly promising career. His sunny, upright nature secured for him a host of friends.

Bunyip (Gawler, S.A.) 15-11-1918

THE FRENCH MISSION AT GAWLER

Part of this story reads as follows:

A very impressive service was the presenting of the French Croix de Guerre by Gen. Pau to Mr. C R. Franklin awarded to his-deceased son, Lieut. R. V. Franklin, M.C.. who met his death on June 24th 1917. Lieut. Rodney Vernon Franklin was a member of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment of the Royal Flying Corps and was serving his apprenticeship as an Engineer at Messrs. James Martin and Co.'s engineering works, Gawler, when he enlisted from this centre in August 1914, at the age of 18 years. He served in France under Major-General Geichen, and was awarded the Military Cross for his good work generally. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre in November, 1916, for his exploits in the air, he being the principal in a stunt at Vimy, where it has been stated about 2,000 Huns were scattered by machine-gun fire. Lieut. Franklin's machine was riddled with holes from the German guns before he could return, but he manipulated his machine so as to get back behind the British lines and land his- observer, who was wounded in action. A French General, who witnessed the young officer's good work, recommended him for the French decoration, which is understood to be equal to the British Victoria Cross. He was in the landing at Gallipoli, was consequently an Anzac, and entitled to the Gallipoli Star. He met an untimely death on June 24, 1917, through testing a new type of aeroplane He had just been given command of a flight squadron, and had been recommended for a Captaincy. Unfortunately the General's address could not be understood by his hearers, but his kindly face which reflected the dignity of his duty and the impressiveness of the ceremony, was an inspiration to the people. Interpreted, he said that he had a sacred duty to perform, and was honoured to pay homage to a brave Australian soldier who had not only done his full duty, but had made the supreme sacrifice for love of his country. He had enlisted as a private, and had won his rank of Lieutenant on the fields of bravery, and both -the British and French

Governments had decorated this gallant soldier. He had done his duty to the French nation, and was worthy of the distinction that was only given to the brave of the army. The parents should be proud of their son, who had done so much for both countries, and the citizens of Gawler should remember the bravery and the nobleness of this son of Gawler who was worthy of the admiration of all citizens, and one who would make noble forever the city of the honouring. (Loud applause).

Gen. Pau then handed the Cross to Mr. Franklin, and reverently kissed the hand of the deceased soldier's mother. Mr. Franklin was proud to receive the award from a distinguished soldier of such a glorious country. He only, regretted that the General had not been able to pin it on the breast of his son. He would rather be the father of such a son— though he lay in a soldier's grave— than the father of one of the slackers who stayed at home. (Applause.).

Cheers were given for Gen. Pau. And as the members of the Mission proceeded to the cars to proceed to Roseworthy College, they were showered by the Cheer-up ladies with roses and posies of tricolour make-up and were presented with baskets of locally grown oranges. The visit, combined with the glorious news at night of the capitulation of the enemy, will ever remain in the memory of the people.