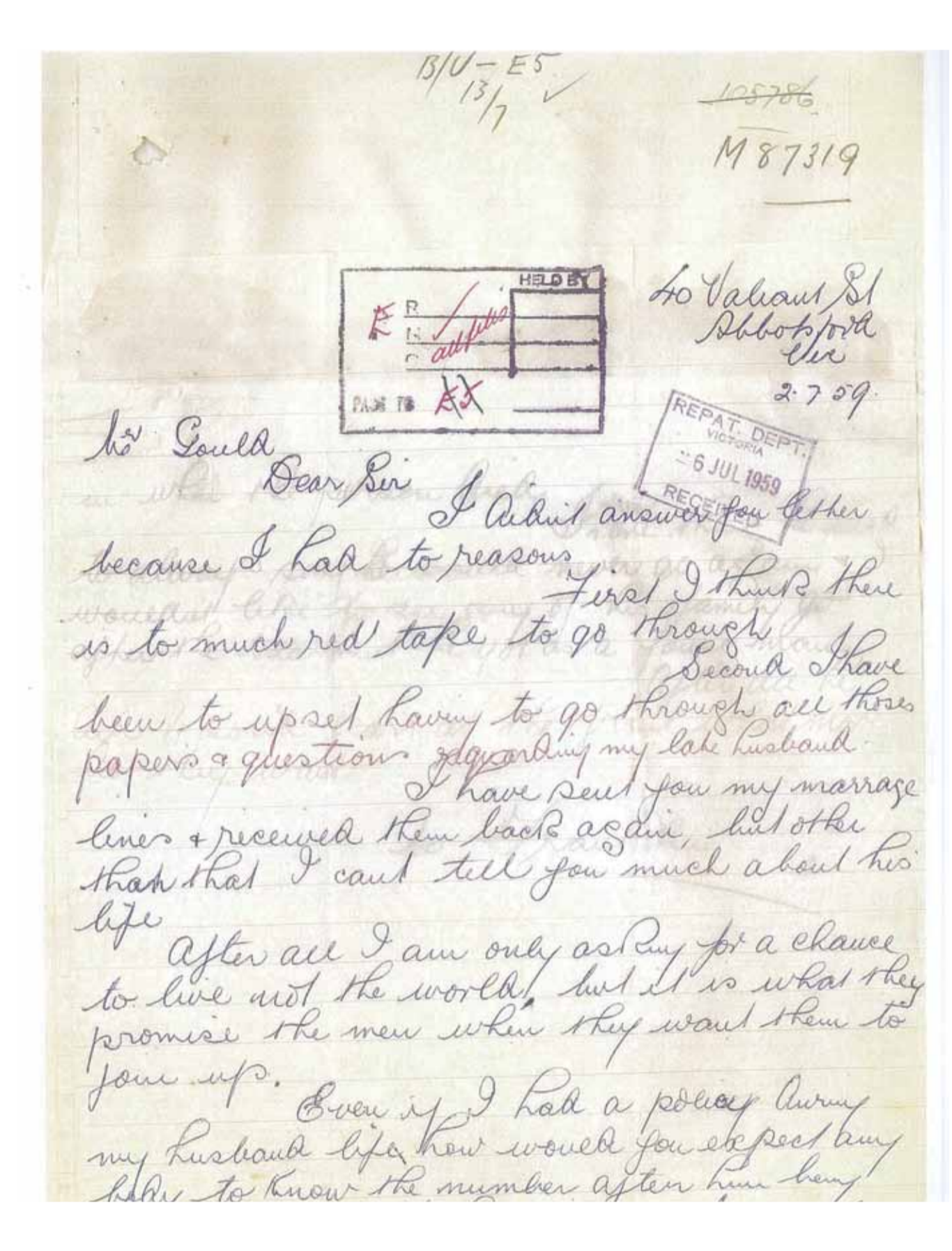


Aboriginal service in the War



Moreland is on the traditional Country of the Wurundjeri willam clan. Aboriginal people have fought in tribal wars, in frontier wars against European colonisers, and in virtually all of Australia's overseas conflicts since then, including World War I.

Until 1949, people were not allowed to serve for Australia if 'not substantially of European origin'. Despite this, around 1,000 Indigenous Australians proudly served in World War I.

Upon returning to Australia, Aboriginal soldiers experienced discrimination. They often did not receive a war pension and few were granted land through the soldier settlement scheme. They were even banned from going into hotels in some places with their mates from the war.

Many fought against this discrimination, including Taungurung man Albert Franklin. In 1928, Mr Franklin returned his war medals in protest. His granddaughter is a Moreland community member.

61. The following shall be exempt from service in time of war, so long as the employment, condition, or status on which the exemption is based continues:—

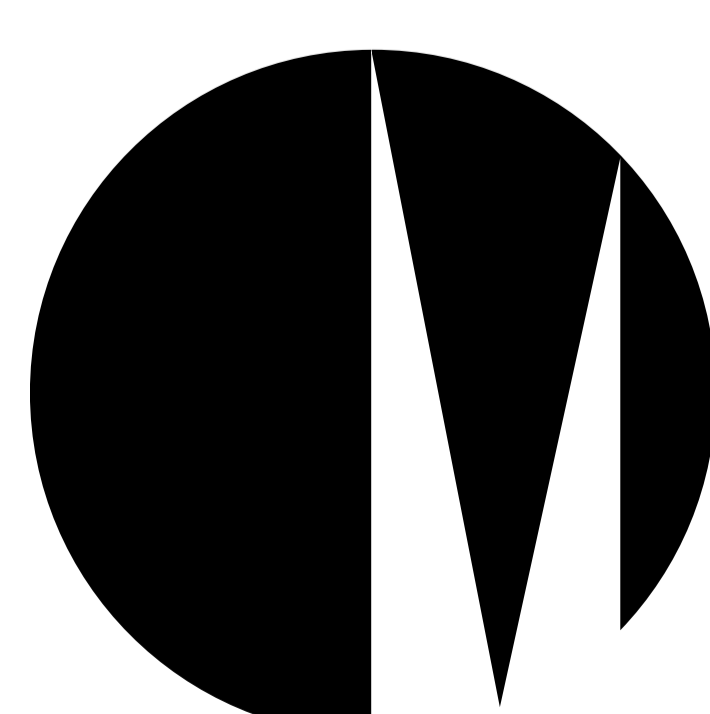
Persons exempt from service. Substituted by No. 37, 1910, s. 7.

- (a) Persons reported by the prescribed medical authorities as unfit for any naval or military service whatever; and
- (b) Members and officers of the Parliament of the Commonwealth or of a State; and
- (c) Judges of Federal or State Courts, and police, stipendiary or special magistrates of the Commonwealth or of a State; and
- (d) Ministers of Religion; and
- (e) Persons employed in the police or prison services of the Commonwealth or of a State; and
- (f) Persons employed in lighthouses; and
- (g) Persons employed as medical practitioners or nurses in public hospitals; and
- (h) Persons who are not substantially of European origin or descent, of which the medical authorities appointed under the Regulations shall be the judges; and

Moreland Remembers World War I



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Moreland City Council



For full exhibition and more information, visit www.moreland.vic.gov.au

Image 1. Studio portrait Driver (Dvr) Albert Franklin, c. 1914. Source: Australian War Memorial, P01696.002

Image 2. Albert Franklin's war medals. Medals were returned to the family in the 1990s. Source: Annette Sax.

Image 3. Excerpt of letter from Albert Franklin's wife to Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 1956. Source: National Archives of Australia B73 M87319/ Annette Sax.

Image 4. Excerpt of The Defence Act (1903) no. 20. Commonwealth of Australia