



Investigating service records



Army personnel and civilians working on Australian Army service records in London, 1916. AWM H03961

The service records of those who have served for Australia in the First World War are held by the National Archives of Australia. They have been digitised and can be viewed online:

<https://www.naa.gov.au/>

1. Compare the service records of [Richard Martin](#), [Alfred Hearps](#), and [Gilbert Williams](#).
 - a. Create a list showing the information that can be found in service records.

2. Closely examine the enlistment forms for the men. These are usually the first page of a service record.
 - a. Discuss the meaning of “natural born British subject” and “naturalized British subject”.
 - b. What response did the men give to section 3: “Are you a natural born British subject or a naturalized British subject”?
 - c. How do you think Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians felt about declaring themselves British subjects during the early 1900s?
 - d. What other information is collected on an enlistment form? Why do you think the Australian Imperial Force would want this information?
 - e. Can you find any mention of Aboriginality in the men’s service records, and if so, by whom?

3. Read the case study of the **Dickerson brothers**, and follow the links in the document to the brothers’ service records.
 - a. Identify which parts of the service records have been used to create the case study. For example, where can you find the brothers’ ages, occupations, and details of any wounds?




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Service Records: Richard Martin:

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3000716

5,000-7/18.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1359 Name { Surname MARTIN.
in full { Christian Name Richard.

Unit 15th Batta Trans to 47th Battalion.

Joined on 17.12.14.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.
You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Richard Martin.</u>
2. In or near what Town were you born?	2. In or near the Town of <u>Dunedin</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>Yes.</u>
4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated)	4. <u>22yrs 11mths</u>
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Labourer.</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom and for what period?	6. <u>No.</u>
7. Are you married, single, or widower?	7. <u>No.</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) <small>The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will.</small>	8. <u>(Brother) M.A.Martin.</u> <u>Cleveland, Queensland.</u>
9. What is your permanent address in Australia?	9.
10. 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	10. <u>5years Light Horse.</u>
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	11. <u>Yes.</u>
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	12.
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day?	13.
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever?	14.

3, Richard Martin. 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} ~~three-fifths~~ of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife*† and children.

Date 17.12.14. (Sgd) R.Martin.
Signature of Person Enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY 25 OCT 1918 *for R. Martin*




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Service Records: Alfred Hearps:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4749959>

D. Coy.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

OFFICER AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Enlistment Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 409 Name Hearps Alfred John
Z1243 Unit 12th Bn 3rd Infly Bgde.
 Joined on 20. 8. 14.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Hearps Alfred John
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... 2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of Forth in the County of Scotland
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... 3. Natural Born
4. What is your age? ... 4. Twenty yrs.
5. What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Clerk.
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... 6. No.
7. Are you married? ... 7. No.
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... 8. Hearps Alfred (Father)
Shannon Hill
Wat Morgan
Dunoon land
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... 9. No.
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible 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? ... 10. No. G.P.O. Sydney N.S.W.
437/22/1.
11. 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 ... 11. Senior cadets. 90th Bn 2nd Town.
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 12. Yes.
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... 13. No.
14. (For married men and widowers with children)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? ... 14. _____

3. Alfred John Hearps 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.*

Date 22/8/1914. A. J. Hearps
Signature of person enlisted.


D.877/8.14.—G.10293. *This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.



Service Records: Gilbert Williams:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1807866&S=1>

THE ENLISTMENT SCHEDULE 4/2/17 50/100

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.

No. _____ Name WILLIAMS GILBERT

511272 Unit _____

Joined on APR 3 1917

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your name? ...	1. <u>WILLIAMS GILBERT</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...	2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of <u>Gonellie</u> in the County of <u>New South Wales</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...	3. <u>Yes Natural Born</u>
4. What is your age? ...	4. <u>25 years 5 months</u>
5. What is your trade or calling? ...	5. <u>Bushman</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ...	6. <u>no</u>
7. Are you married? ...	7. <u>Widower WILLIAMS (1 Child)</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... <small>The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will.</small>	8. (son) <u>Mrs Quail</u> <u>Yancarrow</u> <u>New South Wales</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>no</u>
10. 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?	10. <u>no</u>
11. 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.	11. <u>no</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <u>yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>no</u>
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mothers) Do you understand that no Gratuity Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day? ... <small>Do not understand that the Gratuity Allowance will be added to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 10/- per day.</small>	14. <u>yes</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15. <u>yes</u>

Gilbert Williams 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~~ three-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my ~~wife and children~~ wife and children.

Date 3 April 1917 Gilbert Williams Signature of Person Enlisted.

His Mark Witness C. H. Martin

wo 60686

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.