



Major E. H. VOSS

[1893 – 1966]



When a Lieutenant, Eric Voss was President of the Club in 1939 – 1940

Eric Houlton Voss was born in Gulgong NSW, on 13 June 1893, to Ethyl and Harold Voss. After completing his education, he gained employment with Stotts Business College and this was the commencement of a long period of employment with that organisation, in New South Wales and Queensland. By 1919, he was the manager of the Sydney branch and by 1927 he was managing the Brisbane branch, where he remained until his retirement. Following retirement, Eric had financial difficulties - he lost his superannuation in a failed business venture with his son-in-law and struggled to obtain a service pension, as the Repatriation Department did not initially recognise his disabilities as being related to active service.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

On 18 June 1921, Eric married Gwendolen Eager at St Clement's Anglican Church in Mosman NSW and they later had a daughter, Frances.

Eric had served three years in the Senior Cadets, reaching the rank of Provisional Lieutenant before enlisting in the 1st AIF on 8 December 1914, at Marrickville NSW. He was appointed to the Australian Army Service Corps with the rank of Driver.

He embarked from Sydney for Egypt, on HMAT Port Macquarie, on 21 December 1914. He saw service in Egypt and Gallipoli until 25 December 1915 and was then returned to Egypt where he was transferred to the 7th Company AASC, on 7 March 1916.

Driver Voss was appointed a Lance Corporal on 20 August 1916 and promoted temporary Corporal on 10 January 1917. On 6 February 1917, he was transferred to 5th Officers' Cadet Battalion at Trinity College in Cambridge UK and on 29 September 1917, he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant.

On 15 October 1917 Voss proceeded to France where he was posted to 15th Infantry Battalion 1st AIF. He was promoted Lieutenant on 14 April 1918.

He returned to Australia in September 1919. His AIF appointment was terminated on 9 January 1920.

Lieutenant Voss was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

1 January 1927 Eric Voss was appointed a Lieutenant in the CMF, in 2nd Military District Reserve of Officers and he transferred to 1st Military District on 13 September 1927.

On 8 April 1941, Lieutenant Voss was appointed from the Reserve of Officers to 14 Garrison Battalion and was seconded to 14 Garrison Brigade. On 26 June 1941, he was promoted Temporary Captain and was confirmed in that rank on 20 May 1942. He was promoted to Temporary Major on 20 May 1942. On 23 October 1944, he was appointed as Rehabilitation Officer and allocated for duty to 2 Australian Army Rehabilitation Unit.

On 12 December 1946 Major Voss ceased full time duty and was confirmed in the rank of Major.

On 17 January 1946, Major Voss was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant Colonel and was appointed OC Qld Lines of Communication Area Discharge Department (Rehabilitation Unit).

On 30 January 1947, he relinquished the rank of Temporary Lieutenant Colonel and was transferred to the Reserve of Officers. This was the end of his military career.

Major Voss served on the club committee from 1938 to 1939. On 17 January 1940, the President, Flying Officer Grant, was called up for war-time duties and resigned. Eric was elected to replace him and he continued as President in 1941. He was then Immediate Past President in 1942 and 1943.

Major Voss was a long-time resident of Corinda Queensland. He died, at age 74, of a cerebral haemorrhage and pneumonia, in the Repatriation General Hospital at Greenslopes Queensland on 16 January 1967. He was survived by his wife, Gwendolen and daughter, Frances.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- NAA Service Record