

The Late Corporal W. A. Spurling.

In the ever increasing casualty list appears the name of the late Corporal William Alfred Spurling, who responded to the call of the Empire and gave his young life after two years of faithful service. He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Spurling, late of this district, now of Purnong, River Murray. He was born at Warnacabeal, Victoria, and came with his parents and sister to reside in South Australia when about two years of age. The family settled at Redhill, and later removed to Beaufort, where the deceased soldier spent the whole of his schooldays, under the direction of Miss Steinweidel, and earned the high esteem of his teacher for being a bright and intelligent scholar. On leaving school, he was for some time in the employ of Messrs W. Underwood, G. Belling and A. Baum. About seven years ago he left this district to take up farming pursuits on the Murray, where he remained until the out-break of the war, when he determined to join the colours. He went to Victoria for a few months, and soon after returning enlisted at the Exhibition Camp, Adelaide. He was subsequently transferred to Mitcham. He enlisted on August 16, 1915. In the following January he left for Egypt, arriving there on February 11. He left Australia as private and was promoted to Corporal on the battlefield. From Egypt he proceeded to France. He fought continuously for over 12 months, and took part in many severe battles and endured great hardships in the cold winter. On August 16, 1916, he was slightly wounded, through being buried in the trenches by the bursting of a shell. He was, however, soon able to return to the line, where he re-

to return to the line, where he remained until he was wounded in a bayonet charge on April 2nd. He was severely wounded in the head and shoulders, receiving a bullet in the head and four shell pellets near his lungs. After undergoing three operations three pellets were extracted, but it is not yet known if the remaining one was the cause of his death. He was treated in the 1st General Hospital in London, where he made the supreme sacrifice on August 16, 1917, at the early age of 24½ years. His death came as a great shock, as he was expected to shortly return home. Corporal Spurling was a devoted son and brother, as well as being popular and well liked by a large circle of friends both in this district and from where he enlisted, and his early sacrifice is deeply regretted. Four sisters and three brothers remain. Eight cousins of the deceased soldier are on active service in France, namely, Gunner Roy Dohse, Private Fred Zerk, Private Bert Mason, Private Walter Butler, Lieutenant Leslie Butler D.C.M., Sergeant Joe Butler, Privates Jack and Ted Spurling, all of whom, with the exception of the latter two, are grandsons of Mrs J. Dohse, of Whitwarta.

Girl (to her partner): "So I trod on your toe, Mr Briggs?"
 Polite Briggs: "Not at all, I assure you! Pardon me for having a toe."

The Victoria Cross was instituted by Queen Victoria on January 29th, 1856. The first hero to win it was Rear-Admiral C. B. Lucas.