

THE 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 Raverton 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.

