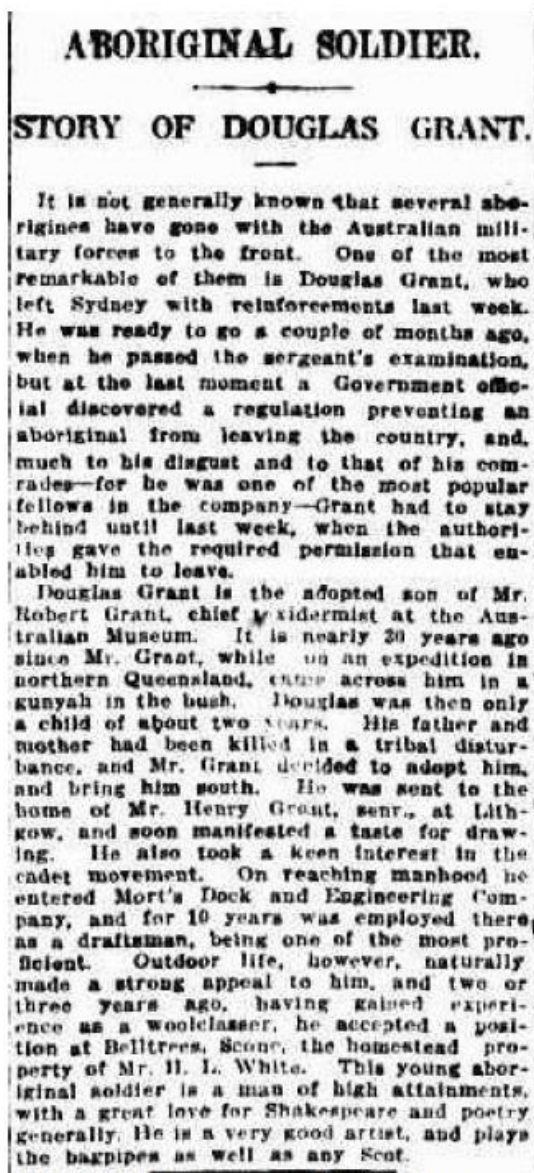


# Story of Douglas Grant

Below is a newspaper report on Aboriginal soldier Douglas Grant who was at first prevented from leaving Australia to fight in World War 1 on the grounds that he was Aboriginal.

A text version is at the right.



National Library of Australia



Page prepared by Anzac Websites:

[www.anzacwebsites.com](http://www.anzacwebsites.com)

## ABORIGINAL SOLDIER.

### STORY OF DOUGLAS GRANT.

It is not generally known that several aborigines have gone with the Australian military forces to the front. One of the most remarkable of them is Douglas Grant, who left Sydney with reinforcements last week. He was ready to go a couple of months ago, when he passed the sergeant's examination, but at the last moment a Government official discovered a regulation preventing an aboriginal from leaving the country, and, much to his disgust and to that of his comrades - for he was one of the most popular fellows in the company - Grant had to stay behind until last week, when the authorities gave the required permission that enabled him to leave.

Douglas Grant is the adopted son of Mr Robert Grant, chief taxidermist at the Australian Museum. It is nearly 30 years ago since Mr. Grant, while on an expedition in northern Queensland, came across him in a gunyah in the bush. Douglas was then only a child of about two years. His father and mother had been killed in a tribal disturbance, and Mr. Grant decided to adopt him, and bring him south. He was sent to the home of Mr Henry Grant, senr., at Lithgow, and soon manifested a taste for drawing. He also took a Keen interest in the cadet movement. On reaching manhood he entered Mort's Dock and Engineering Company, and for 10 years was employed there as a draftsman, being one of the most proficient. Outdoor life, however, naturally made a strong appeal to him, and two or three years ago, having gained experience as a woolclasser, he accepted a position at Belltrees, Scone, the homestead property of Mr H. L. White. This young aboriginal soldier is a man of high attainments, with a great love for Shakespeare and poetry generally. He is a very good artist, and plays the bagpipes as well as any Scot.

#### SOURCE:

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 2 September 1916, page 20.

The image of the story and the original text were obtained from

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15675738> using Trove: [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)