

Memorandum

on the case of

Lieutenant William Slade Vincent, M.C.

late The King's Own Royal Regiment.

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Record of Service.

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Appointed to a commission as Second Lieutenant, The Royal Lancaster Regiment (Special Reserve) ..... 4th December, 1915.

Promoted Lieutenant ..... 1st July, 1917.

Re-appointed to a commission as Second Lieutenant, The Royal Lancaster Regiment, (Regular Army) with seniority from 4th October, 1917 ..... 18th December, 1917.

Awarded Military Cross (London Gazette dated 26th November, 1917).

Assumed duty with Royal Flying Corps .... 18th February, 1918.

Restored to Establishment ..... 27th January, 1919.  
Promoted Lieutenant ..... 4th April, 1919.

Retired on Retired Pay on account of ill-health contracted on active service. ... 30th December, 1919.  
(London Gazette dated 9th January, 1920).

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The following is a report from the Police Department of Western Australia:-

William Slade Vincent is well known here and first came under Police notice at Fremantle on 9th July, 1930 when he was apprehended on a charge of drunkenness. The next heard of this man was at Kalgoorlie on 30th December, 1930, when he was arrested on two charges of false pretences. On this occasion he was discharged on his entering into sureties to come up for sentence if called upon, and to make the necessary restitution. Two months later, viz. 28th February, 1931, he was brought before the Kalgoorlie Police Court and it dealt with him for failing to comply with terms of the above recognizance, and he was accordingly sentenced to six months hard labour on each charge, one charge being concurrent.

/Vincent

Vincent served his sentence at Fremantle Gaol and after his discharge frequented the city streets and hotel bars and on 14th July, 1931, he was again apprehended on a charge of drunkenness and was cautioned and had to pay 6d. costs.

He then established contact with a local criminal named Albert Skelton who has a bad record including that of garroting, evil fame, etc. He eventually went to live at Skelton's place in Hulbert Street, South Fremantle. By his conduct generally and his association with Skelton, he was now under a certain amount of Police surveillance and as he apparently had no visible means of support, he was arrested under Section 65, Sub-Section 1, Police Act (Idle and Disorderly persons) on 3rd September, 1931.

At the time of his arrest he had just attempted to cash a valueless cheque on a local publican, there representing himself as a mine owner from Kalgoorlie assuming the name of "James C. Scott". During his remand another complaint was received from a local store-keeper where he had attempted to obtain goods and did in fact obtain 10/- pending the clearance of the cheque at the bank. Both cheques were returned from the bank "No account". Vincent was charged on 17th September, 1931, with attempted false pretences and false pretences, receiving 3 months hard labour on each, concurrent.

The charge of vagrancy was then withdrawn on his conviction as above.

On his discharge from Gaol he went to the Peninsular and Oriental Hotel, and impressed the landlord there that he was expecting money, and that he had just come down from Carnarvon, and was waiting on his money coming through. He was cautioned personally by a police officer and he later left this district, which would be about the beginning of December, 1931.

As from the foregoing, Vincent is now a member of the criminal class and picks his friends from amongst them. He has been continually advised by an official of the Police Department, to alter his mode of life and associates, but he seems to have lost all grip on himself now, whatever he may have been in the past.

Friends of his own social class here have washed their hands of him, and on his last appearance before the Court, requested the police not to communicate with them on any future occasion, as they had done all they could for him on previous occasions.