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**200 years of migration to England**

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Record of  
Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Monash,  
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., V.D.

THE story of General Monash's rapid rise to the highest commanding position in the Australian Forces will go down to posterity as one of the most remarkable developments of military genius. He is the first civilian soldier to have secured this coveted position. More than this, he is the first Jewish soldier to have risen to the rank of Lieut.-General.

This could never have been accomplished had it not been for his sound business and organising ability, supplemented by his military knowledge. His strength lay in these two attributes, and he leaves the army as one of its most successful and most popular officers.

Born in Melbourne on June 27th, 1865, of the family of an old Australian colonist, Sir John Monash was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, of which he was Dux in the year 1881, also taking in the same year the Matriculation Exhibition in Mathematics, and first-class honours in Modern Languages.

In March 1882, entering the Melbourne University, he took the Arts Course and obtained his degree of B.A. Continuing, he took the engineering course, qualifying for the B.C.E. degree, and later secured his M.C.E. degree. In the final year of his study in engineering at the University, he secured the "Argus" Scholarship in Engineering with first-class honours.

For the time being this terminated his studies, and from 1885 until 1892 he practiced as a civil engineer. First of all he officiated as Assistant Engineer at the construction of the new Prince's Bridge, Melbourne, and was later employed in a similar capacity on the Falls Railway Bridge, and the Queen's Bridge, Melbourne. In 1887 he was appointed Engineer for the construction

of the Outer Circle Railway, Melbourne, continuing as such until its completion in 1891. Following this, he acted in the capacity of Assistant Engineer to the Melbourne Harbour Trust. He continued to fulfil his duties in this connexion until 1893, when he commenced in private practice as a consulting engineer. During the last two years of his connexion with the Melbourne Harbour Trust, however, Sir John took the Law Course at the Melbourne University, obtaining the LL.B. degree.

He practiced as consulting Engineer in general railway, bridge and hydraulic engineering from 1893 until 1914, taking up in 1900 as a speciality, Reinforced Concrete Construction, which he introduced into the Southern Australian States, executing works for the Government and the municipalities to the value of over a million pounds sterling. During this period he was much in demand as an expert witness in litigation connected with drainage and water supply questions, also in actions for infringement of letters patent and in arbitration cases, frequently acting also as arbitrator.

He was admitted as Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, in 1895, and in 1902 was admitted to full membership of this institution.

He became a member of the Council of the Victorian Institute of Engineers in 1905 and officiated as President during 1911, 12 and 13.

Sir John Monash's business career accounts very largely for his success as a soldier. It is only possible to give a brief résumé of the many and varied positions which he has held.

In 1884, he entered the Victoria Militia, receiving a commission as Lieutenant in the Victorian Garrison Artillery in the year 1887, rising through all grades to the command of the North Melbourne Artillery in 1901.

In 1908 he was appointed to the Intelligence Corps as Lieut.-Colonel and promoted Colonel in command of 13th Infantry Brigade in 1913. In 1901 he won the first Gold Medal for military writings in the Commonwealth Journal.

At the outbreak of the European war, he was appointed Chief Censor for Australia, and was later appointed to command the Fourth Infantry Brigade of the A.I.F. He was in command of the second Australian convoy of 22 ships, landing in Egypt in January 1915. He commanded the Fourth

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K.C.B. on January 1st, 1919, being seven times mentioned in despatches. He was created Grand Officer, Ordre de le Couronne (Belgium) on the 18th October, 1918. On November 18th, 1918, he was created Grand Officer, Legion d'Honneur, France. During November 1918 he was awarded the Belgian Croix de guerre, and also the French Croix de guerre avec Palme. In December 1918, he was appointed Director-General of Demobilisation and Repatriation, A.I.F., and took up his quarters in London. On 1st January, 1919, he was created G.C.M.G. In January 1919, the President of the United States of America conferred upon him the American Distinguished Service Medal. The London degree of D.C.L., Oxford and Cambridge were conferred on him in June and July 1919. On his return to Australia, he was received with every mark of honour and fêted as one of Australia's most distinguished soldiers.