

23rd December, 1932

Dr. F. R. E. Mauldon,
Senior Lecturer in Economics,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.

Dear Dr. Mauldon,

The honorary archivist of Sydney University War Memorial, who has been compiling records of the war services of our University men, has drawn my attention to a file of correspondence relating to your application for the special honorary life membership of the Union. I find that the application forwarded by you in the prescribed form in 1920 was approved and a badge issued to you, but then very surprisingly the approval was revoked and the newly granted membership cancelled. This must have been a disappointing and painful experience for you, and it is a very regrettable thing to find upon our records. For after careful investigation of the case it is clear to me beyond all doubt that the President of that year was grievously mistaken in revoking the grant, and the original approval was entirely in order. The reason for revocation, that the nature of Y.M.C.A. service was non-military and therefore conditions of membership were not fulfilled, was totally in error. There are other University men whose war service was of the same nature as yours - and very noble and self-sacrificing service it was - and whose names were enrolled in this membership list without question. Moreover the revocation, as well as being wrong in principle, was quite ultra vires, as such a serious step is the prerogative of the Board of Directors only. I am astonished, and in candour, I must say also somewhat ashamed, to find that such an ungracious act as the recall of your membership privileges was committed in the name of the Union. If you will permit me at this late hour to rectify an error which is not to the credit of the Union, I should esteem it a privilege to approve your application for special honorary life membership and to forward you the badge granted to all such life members. Your original application is still in our files and need not be renewed: I but await your permission to enrol you as you should have been enrolled a dozen years ago.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. Robinson,

PRESIDENT