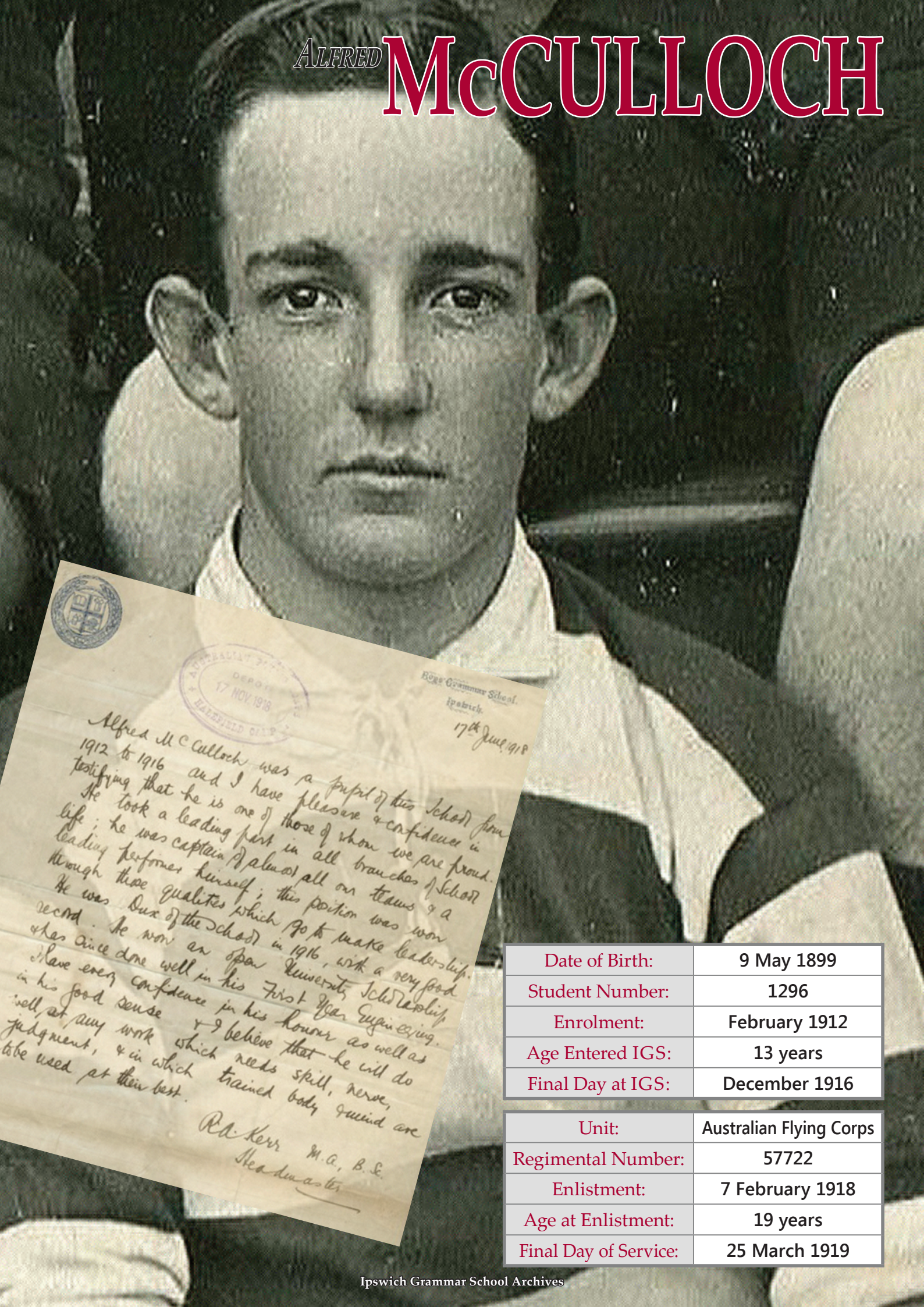




ALFRED

McCULLOCH





 ROSS Grammar School,
 Ipswich.
 17th June 1918

Alfred McCulloch was a pupil of this School from 1912 to 1916 and I have pleasure & confidence in testifying that he is one of those of whom we are proud. He took a leading part in all branches of School life; he was captain of almost all our teams & a leading performer himself; this position was won through those qualities which go to make leadership. He was Oux of the school in 1916, with a very good record. He won an Open University Scholarship. He has since done well in his honours as well as in his good sense & I believe that he will do well at any work which needs skill, nerve, judgment, & in which trained body & mind are to be used at their best.

R.D. Kerr M.A., B.Sc.
 Headmaster

Date of Birth:	9 May 1899
Student Number:	1296
Enrolment:	February 1912
Age Entered IGS:	13 years
Final Day at IGS:	December 1916

Unit:	Australian Flying Corps
Regimental Number:	57722
Enlistment:	7 February 1918
Age at Enlistment:	19 years
Final Day of Service:	25 March 1919



State Library of Queensland

Alf 'Jigger' McCulloch, was a member of the IGS premiership winning rugby team of 1915. He was a quiet achiever, who always gave his very best to his endeavours. This resulted in his earning academic prizes in English, European History, Algebra, Geometry Trigonometry, Mechanics, and Physics. In 1916, he was Dux, a member of both the School Club and School Magazine Committee, Captain of Cricket, Tennis and the First XV. His personal reference from Headmaster Kerr [seen opposite] extolled his greatest qualities when he wrote:

"I [Kerr] have every confidence in his honour as well as his good sense and I believe that he will do well at any work which needs skill, nerve, judgment, and in which trained body and mind to be used at their best."

Upon leaving IGS, McCulloch continued his education at UQ, studying Engineering. It was not long, though, until he enlisted. The June 1918 School Magazine recounts: *"Naturally, our eyes are turned to the camps and battlefields, where so many Old Boys have gone to fight the Empire's battles. The number of those who represent us is now very large, and the School is proud to believe that its Old Boys have done their share in winning for Australia a name and fame which is glorious throughout the world."*

Strange to think, that so many of our boys left our shores to 'do their bit'. Their letters never stopped flowing back to the school, where they had 'battled as boys'. Arthur Bell (another member of the 1915 team) wrote about his travels, and mentioned that a Sunday walk led him to cross paths with 'Jigger'. Even in lands far from Ipswich, the solidarity of our boys was ever present. This solidarity would be sorely needed by McCulloch, as he was about to play his part on the Western Front.



University of Queensland

Soon after joining the fray, McCulloch's abilities were tested when he was transferred to the Australian Flying Corps. Another of our Old Boy soldiers, Walde Fischer, recounted seeing the planes on the Front - only months before he was killed in action:

"The sky about them is full of shrapnel bursts – little white woolly patches and just like a flock of sheep for all the world. We see hundreds of them a week, ours and others, and often I have witnessed fierce and thrilling fights in the air. Three nights ago, one of ours was brought down just above us. A squadron of ours was returning from a raid and right above them, thousands of feet up, flew six Huns, intent on revenge. One of our machines was crippled and flew with less speed than the others, and her five enemy planes attacked. Ours wheeled

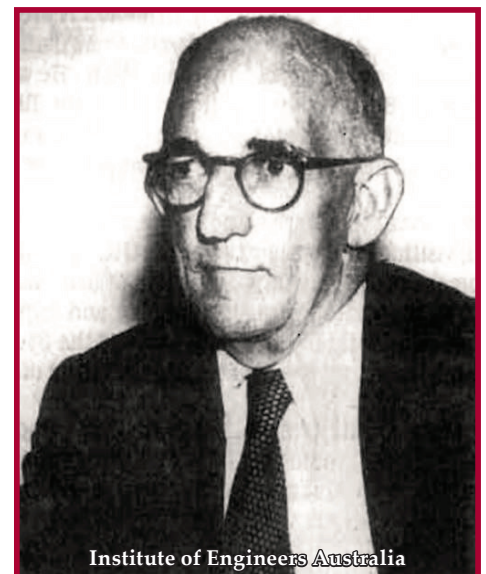
and dived and banked and fired, and the five drew off – defeated. But two speedy enemy planes had come up from a flank.

Slowly our plane turned and fired on the one, but at the moment of turning the other dived straight at her, pouring in heavy fire. A thick streak of smoke, thicker, thicker and then a sudden burst of flame, and our machine fell – game to the last. For the pilot kept her right side up and she descended in our lines. But of the two airman all that we found were a few buttons of the tunics.

But they were brave and doubly brave..."

In later life, McCulloch would go on to win fame in his chosen field of Engineering. He was, to quote Church (2013), *"instrumental in the development of industry in Queensland. He graduated from UQ in 1922 as a mechanical and electrical engineer, becoming Master of Engineering in 1927. He worked with the City Electric Light Company until his retirement in 1967."*

McCulloch, just as many IGS Old Boys had before him, went on to serve his country well. He fought with courage and conviction. He didn't allow his fear of defeat, defeat him. He stood his ground, and fought for Australia, just as he had fought, and won, wearing the 'Red and White'.



Institute of Engineers Australia