

RASH STATEMENTS

**SENATOR (GENERAL) ELLIOTT
REBUKED.**

MAJOR MARGOLIN ATTACKED.

**AN UNEDIFYING SENATE
DEBATE.**

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

During the discussion on the Defence Act in the Senate to-night, Senator (General) Elliott again referred to the manner in which brilliant officers of the A.I.F. had been superseded in France. He stated that Captain Jacka, V.C., had on one occasion been superseded in command of the 14th Battalion by an illiterate Polish Jew who could not correctly spell the name of the officer he had superseded, and who stayed behind in a safe position whilst the officers and men of the 14th went into action at Messines Ridge. The general staff had shown no knowledge of the temperament of the Australian rank and file when they appointed such an officer to command, and his coming to

cer to command, and his coming to the 14th Battalion had almost caused a mutiny.

Senator Drake-Brockman said Senator Elliott's remarks called for a refutation. It was very evident Senator Elliott referred to Major Margolin, who certainly was a Jew born in Russia, but who came to Australia 20 years ago, and had gone with the 16th Battalion to Gallipoli, where his conspicuous bravery and ability had gained him the D.S.O. Major Margolin had served as his (Senator Brockman's) second in command in France, and a more gallant soldier had never served in the A.I.F. Unfortunately, just after he took over command of the 14th Battalion, Major Margolin had sprained his knee whilst crossing shell broken ground at Messines, and that was why he was not able to go forward with his men. This man, who Senator Elliott had styled an illiterate Jew, certainly spoke broken English, but he spoke fluently French, German, Russian, Arabic, and Yiddish. So highly was he thought of by the British War Office that he was asked for from the

Once that he was asked for from the A.L.F. to command the proposed London Jewish battalion, and subsequently he commanded the 39th and 38th Royal Fusiliers. To-day he was holding the highly responsible office of Governor of Jerusalem.

Senator Henderson said that he had known Major Margolin for the past 15 years, and if the statements made by Senator Elliott concerning that officer were an indication of the general accuracy of Senator Elliott's speeches in the Senate he was afraid that in future members would considerably discountenance that Senator's statements.

Senator Elliott replied that after listening to the remarks of Senator Drake-Brockman he was forced to the conclusion he (Senator Elliott) had been misinformed by members of the 14th Battalion. Personally he had never met Major Margolin.

Senator E. D. Millar: Don't you think you should make more sure of your facts before you make such statements in this Chamber?

Seven Years with Hard Labor.—In the Criminal Court yesterday after-

the Criminal Court yesterday afternoon Arthur Shepherd, a young man, acknowledged a charge directed against him stating that he had, at Claremont, committed an unnatural offence. Mr. Justice Burnside, in passing sentence, said: "The circumstances of the case are some of the most revolting I have ever heard of, and you thoroughly deserve the maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment. You will be gaoled for seven years with hard labor."