

**LIEUT.-COLONEL E. MARGOLIN, D.S.O.**  
**TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.**

Sir,—The success of the A.L.F. was due in a large measure to the spirit of comradeship, tolerance, and mutual co-operation which its leaders laboured unceasingly to foster. It seems to me, therefore, lamentable that aspersions should now, without knowledge or inquiry, be cast by a senior officer upon a man having a distinguished record, and who is not present to defend himself. Colonel Margolin has been described, during a recent Senate debate, as "an illiterate Polish Jew." To all who know him, the implied calumny is ridiculous. This officer served with great distinction directly under me during the first three years of the war. He is a gallant, cultured gentleman, of fine physique, and engaging personality, ardently loyal to Australian soldiers and ideals. He ably commanded the 16th Battalion during the closing months on Gallipoli. During the dark days of September and October, 1915, it was his courage and determination which upheld the moral of his battalion amid dire sickness and horrible environment. He served subsequently and until the armistice in the Palestine campaign, and is at the present time commanding officer of the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.—

Yours, &c.,

**JOHN MONASH.**

JOHN MONASH

May 6.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—Referring to Brigadier-General Elliott's criticism of Lieut.-Colonel Margolin, as a member of the old 16th Battalion, I would like to express my strong disapproval of his remarks regarding this very gallant officer. I am sure I shall be voicing the opinions of all my comrades of the 16th Battalion and of many others who had the honour to come into personal contact with "Margie"—Lieut.-Colonel Margolin. This officer embarked with the "old 16th," and saw the Gallipoli campaign right through; and, though wounded on at least one occasion, stuck to his post when many of his brother officers were being evacuated for lesser wounds. He was, undoubtedly, a Jew, as was another highly honoured comrade of ours—General Monash—and his knowledge of Turkish and Russian languages made him a very valuable asset to the 4th Brigade on Gallipoli. He was, at all times, all for his men, and was consistently fighting with headquarters for their comfort and welfare, in one instance taking the risk of court-martial sooner than order his men, who were absolutely incapable of further effort, back into the line. He was a thorough soldier, a gentleman, and a good Australia, and it was chiefly due to Colonel Pope and Major Margolin that "the old 16th" had such a fine record.

that "the old 16th" had such a fine record—second to none—for comradeship. It was with great pleasure I read the remarks of Brigadier-General Drake-Brockman in defence of the major, and all members of the "16th" are very grateful to him. Senator Elliott showed a deplorable lack of fair play in condemning one of his former comrades, as, on his own admission, he "did not know the officer, and had been misled." Before making a charge of this nature in future, he would be well advised to ascertain the true facts. I presume, as a senator, he would have no difficulty in obtaining access to the files in base records.—  
Yours, &c.,

May 6.

**LATE 16TH BTN., A.I.F.**

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