

AWM4

**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Bases & Depots

Item number: 33/3/1

Title: HQ Australian Base Depots, France

July - August 1918



AWM4-33/3/1

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Headquarters Australian Base Depots. France.

FOR

July (part) - August 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Mumford Capt.
Staff Officer to Command A.B.O.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H.A. Towns
Colonel*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lezarde Valley, Havre.	12th. July 1918.		<p><u>ORGANISATION.</u> Under authority D.A.G. A.I.F. 21/199, 9/7/18 Australian Base Depots, France viz. Australian General Base Depot, Australian Infantry Base Depot, 1st. Australian Convalescent Depot and Australian Base Depot Camp Hospital were organised and placed under the administrative command of the Commandant Australian Base Depots, France, who at the same time is the Commanding officer of the Australian General Base Depot</p> <p><u>ESTABLISHMENTS.</u> The establishments of the Headquarters Aust. Base Depots, and the staffs of the Base Depots are as set out in appendix "A" attached.</p> <p><u>COMMANDANT.</u> Colonel, C.H.DAVIS D.S.O. V.D. was appointed Commandant Aust. Base Depots, France on 12/7/18.</p>	
	11th. Aug. 1918		<p><u>STAFF.</u> Staff Officer to Commdt. Capt. R.M.MARKS Officer i/c. Police Lieut. L.H.REYNOLDS R.S.M. No.1039. W.O. A.G.DUNN H.Q. office staff and H.Q. Police staff 39 other ranks.</p>	
	31st. Aug. 1918.		<p><u>BASE NEWSPAPER.</u> On the 4th. August there appeared the first issue of the "DIGGER" a weekly newspaper for the Australian Base Depots, France, issued under authority of the Commandant. The paper has given general satisfaction to the troops and great credit is due to the Editorial Staff Pte. W.R.M. Dimond and Pte. E.A. Doyle for their very fine efforts in this direction. Though still in it's infancy great strides have been made since the first issue of this paper, the success of which is already assured. Amongst others letters of appreciation have been received from Gen. Sir. W.R. Birdwood G.O.C. A.I.F., Gen. T.H. Dodds D.A.G. A.I.F. and the official War Correspondent, Capt. C.W. Bean. The first four issues of this paper are attached hereto.</p> <p><u>AMUSEMENTS.</u> Since the Australian Base Depots, in France have been combined by the establishment of these Headquarters more extensive efforts have been made to provide amusement for Australian troops passing through the Depots Havre Bases. with excellent results. On the fourth anniversary of the war a sports day was held on the Depot sports ground and provided a very enjoyable afternoon. The sports went with a swing, all events being keenly contested. A full account of the day will be found in the second issue of the "Digger". Valuable work has been done by the Convalescent Camp Band and the Depot Orchestra. A feature of the weekly routine is a recital by the Band every Sunday afternoon. This is always well patronised by the troops and attracts many visitors to the camps. The Y.M.C.A. have been responsible for the organisation and production of Picture shows which are held nightly in both the Infantry and General Base Depots. There are also three or four concerts per week held in the cinema huts after the pictures. The "Yellow Dandies" Concert party has been formed in the Convalescent Depot and have given several most enjoyable entertainments.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
			<p><u>AMUSEMENTS. Contd.</u> The "Anzac Coves" concert party have only recently completed a very successful tour through the various camps and hospitals in this area. Some excellent entertainments were given by this troupe in these Depots. A full report of the weekly concert programme is to be found in the various issues of the "Digger".</p>	
			<p><i>[Signature]</i> Colonel Commandant Aust. Base Depots France</p>	

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY of the WAR

Looking back on four Years of History

The fourth of August and « incidentally » the fourth anniversary of that all-absorbing—subject—the war. These anniversary days are steadily creeping on unfortunately, until one sometimes has to stop and wonder how many more of them there will be before the world can truthfully say « Thank God for a peaceful old age ».

Comparing these anniversary days, what a variety of thought and of emotion to different people they have invoked, what a variety of aims and ambitions to different countries they recall, what history they represent to the world. I will not attempt to give the details of the progress— or otherwise— of the war as it affects the different fighting powers, because not only space forbids such digression, but really I think most people interested in this publication are well acquainted with such details. Besides writing to « diggers » as one of their fellow-comrades. I know that war news in such form does not appeal to them in a paper such as this is. However, it would not be amiss to just pause and consider briefly the outlook of the Allies as indicated by each succeeding year.

The opening day, 4th August, 1914, found the allies in a fever of excitement and uncertainty, in a maze of conflicting emotions, the pent up expectation of something to be dreaded, of something to be anticipated. After one year had passed people began to realise that there actually was a war on. At first the Allies were confident, in fact too confident, perhaps and left far too many loopholes for the enemy. They seemed to convince themselves that England and her allies could not fail. Now they have succeeded in convincing themselves that England MUST not fail, and instead of trusting blindly in a belief of success engendered by England's past glories, they now exercise a grim determination, and unswerving loyalty to make that success not only possible, but certain.

One might compare England and her allies to brothers at school; the younger one depending upon the prestige of the elder for his own success and happiness, instead of launching out independently, not forgetting that some day his brother will have left the school and that he will then have to prove himself worthy of the position to which his brother had helped him.

By the end of the second year, the Allies had completely awakened and plainly showed their wide awake policy by their many different spheres of action. Submarines and aerial warfare were pro-

Foreword - Our Commandant

Yes! I think we should have a newspaper; and it should be a nice, bright, cheery rag, teeming with the humor that is, I think, a marked characteristic of nearly all Australians. It must not be « stodgy », or profane, or bad tempered, or merely a channel for conveying uncharitable or abusive statements concerning some of our fellow-men to others of them. We are a strong, just, and law-abiding people, we Australians: none are more so in all the world. And being so far away from our own fair land we are naturally clannish. But, being strong, we must be fair-minded; being law-abiding we must be decent and honest in ourselves and with our neighbours.

There are many little items of news, personal news and news from Australia, that can be collected in these Depots, which, if published, would be of interest to many of us. There is also much literary talent lurking amongst us, and it is time that some of it should be publicly expressed.

We must try then to make the Digger a success. Let wit and humour keep pace with its editorial pen: let good nature, good judgment and good taste rule its contributors. And I feel that its success will be ensured. May the very best of luck attend it and all men and things Australian in this fair country.

C.H. DAVIS,

COLONEL.

Commandant, Australian Base Depots (France)

minent features of this period and from the fact that the submarine menace has greatly diminished, and also that daily the allied air force make great progress in every direction, they have been features well worthy of the unsparing energy put into them.

Another year shows yet another well established member of the Allies—America. America had said that she would do things, and certainly she is « going some ». Australians! we heartily congratulate our allies—the Americans on the brilliant record they have established for themselves. Not only in the war zone have the allied activities been at fever heat. The question of Food, which has been such a serious one throughout the war, has been more than satisfactorily dealt with, and one must admit that it is a subject in

which it is difficult to please everyone.

One other question is now being seriously considered—and not before it is time—the alien question. With the confidence that we have in the British Government, we can rest assured that the question will be satisfactorily dealt with.

Still, Australian soldiers are not so interested in such a resume of the war, too many of them have « soldiered on » throughout these years, and the question which appeals to them mostly is, « When will the war end? »

On this the fourth anniversary of the world struggle the Australians share in the universal wish for a speedy and successful termination.

Education Scheme

In connection with the scheme by which members of the Australian Imperial Force are to be educated during the period of the war, and when awaiting demobilisation either in the United Kingdom or Australia, the following statement shows the position at present.

The Director of the A.I.F. Education Scheme has given the following information of the progress being made:

(1) The Australian Universities, Government Departments and Institutes have been written to that their recognition of the plans being made may be secured.

Certain concessions have been asked for the students.

(2) The British Universities are also being approached, that help may be given in such Departments as new laboratories and apparatus, etc.

(3) The « Khaki University of Canada » has placed its experience at the disposal of the A.I.F. Director of Education.

(4) At present the A.I.F. Board of Education is collecting information from various sources; specially State pamphlets on such subjects as « Land Settlements »; it is also publishing a booklet for distribution amongst the troops, and registering all applications from prospective students and teachers. Those in charge tell us the applications cover a wide range of subjects, but they hope to send no one away empty.

(5) If the A.I.F. follow the experience of the « Khaki University of Canada, a great deal of the work will be done by correspondence.

(6) The A.I.F. Board of Education hope to start almost at once on class-work and lectures in Camps, Depots and Hospitals, etc. Greater opportunities for systematic work will come naturally with demobilisation.

THE DIGGER

Published weekly by soldiers of Australian Imperial Force stationed at the Bases, Le Havre.

Editorial Staff and Management
PTE W.R.M. DIMOND, PTE E.A. DOYLE,
SGT J.F. O'DONNELL

Rates: One penny per copy, quarterly, one shilling.

Contributions must be lodged with the Editor by Wednesday of each week.

No responsibility will be accepted for manuscripts except the article be marked « Return ».

Postal address: Editor, «The Digger», A. G. B. D. via Base Post Office, Le Havre, France.

LOOK WHO'S HERE

Synchronous with the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war, «The Digger»—the first weekly newspaper to be published in the interests of Australian soldiers at Havre—makes its appearance to-day. It is a soldiers paper for soldiers, and if Abraham Lincoln were alive he would probably say: «A paper by the Diggers, of the Diggers, for the Diggers.»

The idea of publishing a newspaper, to record the social events of the Australian Bases, is not a new one, and it is only through the consideration of Colonel C.H. Davis, who recently assumed command of the A.I.F. Bases France, that the actual publication of «The Digger» became possible. There can be no excuse for adding one more newspaper to the already long list of soldiers papers, but we claim, this paper is quite typical and new, inasmuch as it is to be a newspaper—literally. Australia's hand has stretched to all parts of the world, and in every country where troops are, or have been, a newspaper has appeared.

Although «The Digger» is a newspaper, there will be plenty of space for the good Australian yarns and jokes. These stories are quite famous, and there are few Englishmen who do not remember an «Aussieosity». Here in France—the greatest of Australian bases—where thousands of men pass through, there has been no newspaper, in which social events might be recorded. It is not the intention to have a policy other than to encourage sport and amusement, but «The Digger» is essentially Australian, and will take a strong stand against anything not Australian in character.

It is left to you to make your paper a success. Contribute what you can. If you cannot write your story send along the idea. We will write it. News items, humorous stories, skits, in fact, anything of interest is wanted. What amuses you, will amuse others. Do not keep the joke to yourself.

A Yankee Officer had made his first capture. «Say, Guy, (he certainly looked it). Do you honestly think you can win the war?» Old Gerry, in broken English, «Yah, yah, Got mit uns.» «Guess that ain't much» replied Sam «We've got the Aussies».

AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

Quite an outstanding feature of the social life at the Bases are the musical treats provided by the Australian orchestra. Interviewed in his den at the rear of the Lismore Cinema. Conductor Arthur Edwards, who, by the way, is a well-known West Australian musician, gave a short history of its conception and growth.

Originally a 3rd and 4th Div. Base Depot orchestra, in the old days when each Division had its own Base, the present company is the result of the Enterprise of Lt-Col F.M. O'Donnell, who was C.O. of the 3rd A.D.B.D. and the generosity of the Australian Y.M.C.A. who provided the necessary instruments and music.

When Col O'Donnell was appointed Commandant of the A.G.B.D. the orchestra filled many a dull evening at the Y.M.C.A., Officers' Mess, and Sergeants' Mess. A former R.S.M. of the Depot often rose to dizzy heights over the company, and generally caused much amusement by thanking «the orchestra» for the «convivial» evening they had provided. Many difficulties were encountered in the way of keeping the orchestra together owing to the insistent demand for reinforcements.

TOLD IN BRIEF

News has just been received from Australia stating that Signaller Thomas Skeyhill, the blind Anzac lecturer, recovered his sight under somewhat remarkable circumstances in the United States. Skeyhill was rendered stone blind by the explosion of a shell at Gallipoli. The Washington correspondent of the New-York «World» states that Skeyhill, who was on a lecturing tour in America, underwent a slight operation upon the vertebrae at the neck, and recovered his sight, after an attack of pains in the head. Skeyhill, who was a member of the 8th Battalion, is famous as war poet and lecturer.

Cpl. A.J. Hampson, of the Railway Unit, who lost the Bendigo seat in the House of Representatives was here recently. It may be of interest to know that Cpl Hampson will be nominated for Bendigo when the elections come round again.

Congratulations to R.S.M. Sid Davies, A. G. B. D., on his recent promotion. The new W. O. hails from the 'arbour city, and sheer merit and hard work gained him his new position. Few sergeants major have shown the tact and courtesy Mr. Davies has shown in dealing with recalcitrant diggers, and even the greatest Clink bird has only the best to say of him. Good luck to him.

C.S.M.'s Worrall, and A.W. Honey, A.G.B.D., recently put the crowns on their sleeves. Every member of their companies wish them success. No better compliment could be paid them.

AROUND THE DIGGINGS

CHURCH-SERVICES

Sunday August 4th 1918

Church of England.

7 p.m. Evensong. Special Litany of Intercession by special authority of the Archbishops for use throughout the Empire. Preacher, Chaplain Cue.

Continuous Intercessions will be offered during the whole day.

A.I.B.D. Chapel.

7 p.m. Evensong with Sermon.

Roman Catholic.

9-30 a.m. in Y. M. C. A. Cinema. A.I.B.D. Mass. Requiem for the boys who have fallen in justice cause. Sermon «Our Deathless Dead» by Chaplain Major Goodman.

Methodist, and O.P.D.

Evening Services.

A.G.B.D. and Con. Camp in Geelong Hall at 7 p.m. proceeded by Depot Orchestra from 7 p.m.

A.I.B.D. Great open air service at 6 p.m. in the «Dell» assisted by R.G.A. Band (if possible) St. Lenards Entertainers. Chaplain, J. Gault will conduct especial service of the fourth anniversary of the war subject, «The Crosses in Flanders, and the Cross of Christ».

Salvation Army.

Evening service, 6-30 p.m.

Topic «A tall man's hiding place». Staff Captain Renshaw.

Y.M.C.A. PROGRAMME
A.G.B.D. AND CON. CAMP.

Monday. Mr. Judd's Grand Boxing tournament in Gymnasium.

Tuesday. At 7 p.m. Lismore Cinema. Concert by Miss Hill's party.

Wednesday. At 7 p.m. Geelong Hut. Song Service.

Thursday. At 7 p.m. Lismore Cinema. Concert by 5th Div. Concert party.

Friday. Pictures only at Lismore Cinema.

Saturday. «Yellow Dandies» Lismore Cinema at 7 p.m.

Pictures each evening from 5-30 p.m. to 7 p.m. each evening in Cinema.

Special. A new Lena Ashwell party is advised for Monday August 12th.

ORCHESTRA

Monday, 6-45 p.m. Y. M. C. A. A. I. B. D.

Tuesday, 7-30 p.m., Sergeants Mess. A. I. B. D.

Wednesday, 5 p.m., Crystal Palace, Havre.

Thursday, vacant.

Friday, 7 p.m., Geelong Hut A.G.B.D.

Saturday, 6-45 p.m., «Yellow Dandies» and orchestra at Cinema. A.G.B.D.

A. I. B. D.

Monday. Popular song service, with orchestra.

Tuesday. A.I.B.D. concert party.

Wednesday. Vacant.

Thursday. St-Leonards Entertainers. Pictures each evening.

The man that has no music in his soul,
Is fit for stratagems, treason, and spoils,
Let no such man be trusted.

SHAKESPEARE.

STAND EASY

The monocle is still popular. As the English Johnny Captain stretched himself in his hut (a cow shed) he knocked his head against a beam. « Oh, ---- it. My tally glass has broken ». The official monocle had fallen with the bump. He had a box full by way of reserve. This same officer who was all monocle, cane, and expansive breeches, visited the Australian officers mess one night and « Ah ah » and « haw hawed » with no success. Billjim officers were once Diggers coves blokes, coots, or Aussies, and it was too much for them. About twelve secured monocles, or rather identification discs, and brown paper discs, and « hawed » to some order. The officer has not been, seen since.

Diggers have a weird sense of humour. « Our 'arbour » and « the Yarra » suffer terribly at the mess tables at the Bases. Van Diemens Land also comes in for much barracking. A long Queenslander the other day annoyed many natives of the tired Island by saying that the apple crop had failed, because the Cerberus had backed out of Port Philip Bay ran into the little country and shook the fruit off the trees. Another Billjim said « Thats how Germany will win the war. She will rush the whole of her fleet out, make a blanky rush at England, and turn the blanky place upside down ».

The Cafe Debits were too much for at least one Australian on leave in Sunny France. Result ; arrives home wearing a large straw hat, turned up at the side, with the Australian badge and chin strap, and a large notice on his back. « My Summer issue ».

It was a fearful night in London. Searchlights were racing across the clouds, and the roar of cannon and bomb was continuous. The streets were clear of people, except for an occasional Digger calming the fears of a London. « Tab » in the doorway of a large building. Amid the din of explosives an Aussie just on leave with his tin hat slung on his back, walked down the centre of the road, with both hands in his pocket whistling. He was not alarmed. It was home to him.

Lord Kitchener once interviewed a monocled Major. « Is it necessary for you to wear that glass ? » asked the Hero of Khartoum. « Well, » said the Major « I should think it was, you know. I can't bally well see without it ». « Hard luck, » rejoined Kitch « I wanted a staff Colonel to proceed to India on secret business. Good eyesight is essential ». Monocles went down 75 per cent in the Army afterwards.

A Scotty and an Aussie were arguing in a Canteen. The scotty was leading on points when the Aussie touching the Highlander gently on the shoulder said « Look here, if you want to continue arguing, you must get an interpreter ».

Is this a record ? A Sapper before leaving the Base for England bought a tin of pork and beans at the canteen.

Scene Orderly Room.

Colonel. (After reading the Charge) Who makes this allegation ?

The M. P. I'm the allegator, Sir.

Our Letter Box

Julius. — Can't pass it. Idea good, but it made the censor cry terribly.

J. J. S.—Billy Hughes weighs 7 stone, but he's got a ton of cheek.

Plain Sapper.—« The Digger » will last as long as the war—the first 10 years will be 'orrible.

Billjim. — No good, but try again.

Myrtle.—We cannot say why « The Digger » is in the hands of the « D's ». But its success will be Dinkum.

B.S.B.—Skit on flirtation was swept into the W.P.B. after our religious editor made a violent kick at the office cat.

Thelma.—We can't arrange marriages. Holts have no agencies outside Melbourne.

W.S.—Don't go. Verse rotten.

P.H.D.—Very sorry for you, indeed, try something else.

Sapper.—The issue of this paper is limited to Coves, Aussies, Yanks, Tommies, Waacs, Wrens and Chaplains.

R.A.—We cannot answer legal questions, but as there are two soldiers and one waac would suggest the judgment of Solomon.

B.M.—Sketch not so bad, try again.

X.Y.Z.—The Yarra runs from Woolloomooloo, past Croajingalong, takes a sudden turn at Jika and rushes past Bloomfontein. It enters Footscray many years later. For further information apply to our contemporary « The Aussie ».

MULGA BILL'S LETTER

Somewhere in France 4th Aug. 1918
Dear ole Cobbers,

Just to let yer know I'm swingin the lead at the Base. It ain't a bad place but dead slow and if yer ain't a pal of the ordinary corporal yer can't get no leave but I got out-er camp the other day in a funny sorter way. The Pardree took us fer a walk.

Streuth ! Harsked me ter go fer a walk in the woods-me, Mulga Bill what only looked at trees with a kinder speculatif eye to sorter reckon up how many palins and sleepers she'd cut, and the ole Pardree arsked me if i'd like ter ramble among 'em.

Well ; diggers, it was this way. I was standin down near the Salvo on Sunday feelin dead fed up. Me favurit Wack had slipped me up and gorn orf with a dinky di Sargent from the staff an i was ready to stouch someone when up comes the parson bloke. Now, I aint got much time for sky pilots as a rule, too many wowsers among em in civvy life, but I seen things over ere, so when I seen all the blokes fallin in I jest follers. Well, we marches up on the ill among the trees and sits down and the pardrees give out smokes and starts guessin comperishuns an then they arsk if the diggers has got any poetry. A few comes to light in a shy sorter way an spruked it. Some of it was bonzer and some of it was deadly. One bloke ad a bit about a cold footed lance corporal at orseferry Road that wasn't bad.

Well, I got a shock ; I thort the pardree would er started prayin and singin im an suchlike but they never and everybody was sorter cobbers with everybody else and I began to be be glad I come after all. Well ; the pardree with the future in frunt of im Gorlt ; I tinks

is 'andle works orf some of his well nown stunts -- ! : , Wen I raise my right hand youl cheer-er ; wen I raises me left you gotter clap and wen up goes both of em you clap an cheer. We didnt arf make some noise.

Then we come ome an I began to think ow te parsons ad played the game with the boys and I reckons they oughter ave a fair spin.

Now I figure out that its Gospel truth that this blokes talkin an ther must be somethin in parsons after all. I think so dont you ?

Me best wishes. Keep yer ead down.

Yours, MULGA BILL.

WE WANT TO KNOW

Why bridge, poker and hazards, are so popular amongst many officers, and men. Lord Nelson never allowed these things at Trafalgar, so we understand.

Why the lady friend of an R.Q.M.S. did not return immediately her leave ended.

Why the Colonel's wash basin was not delivered to time. Don't-knowsky !

Why certain C.S.M's would if possible soak their bread in a certain liquid (No, not T) and why they persist in wetting the end of their cue when playing billiards.

Why a certain R.S.M. finds more pleasure in khaki clad ladies than others. Probably it is because they have Moore time on their hands.

Why spurs are so popular amongst the A. G. B. D. Staff. Members of the A.M.C. and Infantry Base batmen have not yet fallen victims to the craze.

Who were the Americans who befriended two « lonely » soldiers in Paris Alpine climbing is great sport.

Why a very Jolly sergeant major paid five francs to a motor driver in Paris to take away a lady who refused to leave him otherwise. Some times too good an acquaintance can be made on the great wheel.

Why certain returns were late, necessitating a special trip to — during the period when leave was cut out. Some chaps are artful « dogs ».

Why so many Aussies are attracted by certain ladies at the Crystal Palace. Keep pegging lads — Bruce's Spider did.

Why a certain Sergeant persists in calling on the girl who has jilted him. Letters go easier through the post, and yet when he knocks at the door she pokes a letter, with the courteous refusal to come outside, under the door.

Why so many of the boys go gay when their « Waacs » are in hospital, or on leave. And why do others desert the ladies in khaki when they are transferred to another hostel. Don't get Scotty please.

Why a certain Digger wanted so much information about the restaurants at...? There are places far superior to the rouge and blanc.

Why a certain café in the town is monopolised by two Gunners. A whisper says that the souvenirs collected by these two are quite worthy of the great war and well worth exhibition in Young and Jacksons. Despite his Scotch instincts one of them is negotiating to buy the Debit.

SPORT

The usual weekly novice boxing and wrestling tourney was held in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, Australian Convalescent Camp, on Monday last. There was a splendid attendance of officers and men. Enthusiasm ran high. Several of the bouts were highly exciting. What these novices lack in science they atone amply for in zeal. The following are the results:

BOXING

Sapper Woods and Private Ireland — featherweights — made their three round bout a most strenuous affair. They showered wallops from every angle. Woods walloped the hardest and most often, and won.

Privates Connolly and Ross, a pair of lat hy welterweights, fought like wildcats. Connolly's long left and following right cross were a constant source of annoyance to Ross. The latter did best at short range work. At the finish both lads were all in. A draw was a popular verdict.

Privates Mc Quillian, and Stevenson (welterweights) provided a splendid set to. Mc Quillian knocked his man clean out in the 3rd round. It was Stevenson's maiden effort in the « magic square ». He did very well against a sturdy hard hitting lad, who improves each time he enters the ring.

Driver Stubbs, and Private Mc Intyre (Middleweights) made the grievous mistake of assaulting the atmosphere instead of each other. Mc Intyre gave a remarkably clever impersonation of a ballet dancer indulging in shadow boxing. Stubbs beat up the wind repeatedly. The gloves were a new set. Evidently the pair « didn't want to dirty 'em ». Padre Robertson declared « the affair » no fight.

The tit-bit of the evening was a special six round bout between Private Moran, and Private Hallam. Moran had won many contests in Blighty. Hallam annexed the lightweight crown at the recent corps championships. The contest was rather one-sided, although it was quite relieved of the monotony usually associated with a one-sided affair, by the grim bull dog pertinacity of Hallam. Up against a much classier boy he never ceased trying for a second. Moran hit his game opponent with every punch known and patented since that remote period when Cain put the knock out on his brother Abel. Hallam took them all, and like Oliver Twist asked for more. Unlike the workhouse officials Moran was not niggardly with the « gruel ». He ladled it out unsparingly. Hallam was well beaten but not disgraced. Moran is a cool, shifty customer, who will beat far more than will beat him.

WRESTLING

The wrestling bouts brought to light some clever exponents of the catch-as-catch-can style. Sergeant Billy Meeske, the famous all-round athlete, has this branch of physical training under his fostering wing.

The results were as follows.

Private Bryant defeated Private Rhodes.

Private Watson defeated Private Christiansen.

Private Palmer defeated Private Dunnigan.

TOMORROW NIGHT'S PROGRAMME

*Thiering and Lewis to Meet Again.
In 15 round Contest.*

Unlimited stoush will be the order of the night at the Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium, Con. Camp, tomorrow, August 5th. A splendid programme of International bouts has been arranged. Private Thiering, and Driver Jack Lewis R. F. A. are to go 15 rounds. These boys fought a splendid battle a few weeks back. Private Roy Miner is to meet the clever Belgian Boy « Marty ». Private Fred Delaney is opposed to a well known performer in Driver Buswell, R. F. A. Charley Moran will box-on with Driver Poole R. F. A. Moran is the lad who made such a good showing against Hallam. Private Brady, whose fine battle against the Canadian Martin will be remembered, will also be seen in action.

The show will start punctually at 7 p. m. Admission by ticket only. Sergeant Billy Meeske, will act as referee, unassisted by judges.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

TIME	EVENTS
P.M.	
1.30	Long Jump.
1.45	Hundred yards, 1st heat.
1.50	Hundred yards, 2nd heat.
1.55	Sack Race (75 yards).
2.10	Tug-O-War (8 man teams open.) (1st Pull.)
2.25	Siamese Race (75 yards).
2.35	Inter Base Relay Race (Open)
2.50	High Jump.
3.00	Tug-O-War (2nd Pull).
3.15	W. A. A. C. Race
3.30	Gymnastic Display.
3.40	Hundred Yards Final.
3.50	Officers Race (150 yards).
4.00	Tug-O-War Final).
4.15	Bandsmen's Race (75 yards).
4.25	Egg and Spoon Race (50 yds. op.)
4.40	Inter Base Road Race (1 mile).

When Leave Was Stopped

(Apologies to Rudyard Kipling.)

Won't you give me leave to Havre?

Colonel o' Mine.

To get leave I'd almost starve,

Colonel o' Mine.

I'll be good, so have no fear,

And I'll simply shun the beer,

If you let me out of here

Colonel o' Mine.

I'll obey the dear M. P.'s

Colonel o' Mine.

And will do just as they please,

Colonel o' Mine.

If they say « you leave this town »,

I'll buzz off, without a frown,

I won't try to let them down,

Colonel o' Mine.

Yes! I'll walk around the town,

Colonel o' Mine.

And I'll put all nonsense down,

Colonel o' Mine.

If I see a fight or row,

Then I'll stop it, that I vow,

Won't you let me go in now?

Colonel o' Mine.

THE YELLOW DANDIES

The Yellow Dandies, the concert party of the Convalescent Depot, is in its infancy, and naturally experiencing many difficulties in the initial stages of development. The party is planning good work, and the future performance in the Lismore Y.M.C.A. should prove attractive. Rome was not built in a day, and we will do well to remember this. The Dandies should receive every encouragement. The management will be glad to meet those who have musical and artistic talents or who specialise in novelty vaudeville acts.

The party has lost a talented artist in Pte Jack Mossfield, who is rejoining his unit. He was fifteen years with Fuller-Brenan circuit. Here's good luck to Jack from his many friends in the Bases, and may he delight the hearts of Australian audiences for many years yet.

The Editorial Staff thank all contributors and the many friends the paper has made. Manuscripts in excess of our space have been received but will appear in following issues.

The paper is printed by a French printery where no English is understood. We think this is rather remarkable and adds to the paper's value as a fine souvenir.

Alleged Air Raid

We hear on good authority that there has been an air raid. We are only going on heresay as the « Digger » staff never woke, having just previously left the Palace, wherein are uttered the magic words: « Encore vin blanc. »

The diggers got the wind up. Oh! no, but we hear that the time of the last man into the trench was 13 3/5 by luminous ingersoll stop watch. (Good stopper.) One of the boys in the Con. Camp is sure on the fire picquet. He even beat the band out. Another Cove (an A.M.C. orderly) lit out in a trance, and got as far as Montivilliers before he woke up. He was in his little short shirt too.

In the case of future alleged raids it is suggested that Orderly Sergeants give fifteen minutes notice to their sleeping charges to permit of orderly shaving and procedure to trenches.

Our musical critic considers that the Australian orchestra has never played so well as at present. Several well known Sydney and Melbourne musicians are in the band.

During Sick Parade.

The M. O. Well.

The Arch Swinger. I had pains in my ankles, a day ago, and then in the knees. Then in my hips and in the small of the back.

The M. O. What happened then.

The A. S. The pains shifted to my shoulders and neck.

The M. O. Hell! The pains should be out of the top of your head by this. Medicine and duty.

AUSTRALIA'S OWN

Fighting men that make history

Australia's bid for nationhood dates from the inception of the State Parliaments, but the term « Australia — a Nation » was hardly a fact until her gallant sons proved to the world, that they knew freedom and could fight for it. If the writer were an Australian, he would be accused of booming his own comrades — even though he may have a perfect right to do so — but this is written by an Anglo-Australian who can claim the liberty of paying the Australians a compliment.

In St-Paul's Cathedral, London, there is a tablet to the memory of 5000 men from « all the British Colonies », who made the greatest sacrifice in the South African war, and in this war the Australian losses alone number over 50,000 in dead — an appalling number for a young country, but it shows that free men are prepared to pay for the right to rule themselves.

Although, when abroad, the Australian is subject to Imperial control, he maintains his distinctiveness, and the Australian character, as a fighter, has become famous. It is a pleasing compliment to hear the American reference to our continent « Our brave Ally in the Pacific ». There is no necessity to draw comparisons, but no nation of five million people engaged in this war has played a part in every sphere of operations. In Egypt, Gallipoli, Salonika, Palestine, Mesopotamia, France and Belgium; the Commonwealth has been represented in all branches of the service, and even made history outside these countries. There are the successful operations in the Pacific, and the work of our little but modern fleet, in the North Sea and other waters. But it would be invidious at this time to go on pointing out Australia's great war activities. It is well, however, to remind ourselves of the magnificent way in which the nation was born. There have been political differences but the fighting power has not been reduced.

But the war will end, successfully and soon, and then Australia will come to her own. It is difficult to prophesy, but one cannot see failure in a nation that has fought so bravely in this war, and the Government is being trusted to expedite schemes for repatriation and to hasten the soldiers' return. Educational proposals are moving, and the diggers should profit while awaiting demobilisation. It is the duty of every Australian to play his part after the war, as he played it for the past four years. He has profited by the experience of travel and study; his mind is clear on greater problems, which, perhaps, he never thought of

when he offered his services to his country. Australia's name is made, and as admirers of progressive nations — such as our American Ally, who came into the war swift and sure — it behoves every Australian to play his part in the great task of the building of a nation, in the same effective manner as he has fought on the field of honour.

MUSINGS

By "TIMOTHEUS"

He thought he saw a strange old bird
Upon a tram top get
He looked again and saw it was
A digger sober yet!
«Come down» he cried, the digger said,
«Pray take a cigarette!»

He thought he saw a cheap-jack stand,
His wares arranged in front;
He looked again and saw it was
A padre on a «stunt»
«We'll leave before the end» he said,
His words were plain and blunt.

He thought he saw Methuselah,
With eyes and face serene,
He looked again and then he saw
The reinforcement clear (unallotted)
«Move on please dad» was all he said,
Your baby son's now here.

He thought he saw a tall giraffe
That looked distinctly wild
He looked again and saw it was
The Adjutant so mild,
«Hand up your book» the Sergeant said
Your hair's too long my child.

CONCERTS and AUDIENCES

The question is often asked, do Australians make good audiences? For the most part, we understand that artists answer with an emphatic affirmative, and again for the most part, we find ourselves in hearty agreement with this view. But the query suggests an interesting line of thought. What does one mean by the question? What exactly contributes the difference between a good and a bad audience?

The general impression would seem to be, that an evening's entertainment depends for its success or failure, not on the hearers, but on the performers. The history of the stage gives a denial to this

comfortable conclusion, and refuses to absolve the audience from its proper responsibility. The result of an entertainment, we are told, depends as much on the disposition of the hearers, as on the quality of the artists. Players, who afterwards become the princes of their art, and sure dwellers on the temple of fame, have on their first appearances almost left the stage in despair, not — mark you — on account of the hostility of the stalls, but because of their apathy.

The practice on a « first night » performance of distributing seats profusely amongst a number whose applause is sure, is not only good business, it is good psychology. Now, how do we, Australians come out when weighed in this balance? Certainly the Digger is never hostile, and when the item is distinctly good, he indicates his approval in a very thorough fashion; his thirst for encores of the best being apparently insatiable. This unrestrained enthusiasm of ours is one of the happy memories which Lena Ashwell parties always associate with their visit to Australian camps. But the supreme test of ourselves as hearers, is not how we applaud an acknowledged prima-donna but rather, how we receive a genuine forger. Do we help him to do his best, and so convert into a thoroughly acceptable number what might have been a painfully uncertain one.

The difference between a critical, and a sympathetic audience spells nothing less than this; hence our share of responsibility for the quality of the entertainments provided at the Base.

SUCCESSFUL

Only a few have been left to face the day,
Mangled and torn, 'neath the cold wan sky
Soulless, silent, so sad and still they lie
Yet 'twas, a very successful raid, they say
They say the loud tongued criers of bitter truth
What know they, of broken hearts . . . of those who grieve
Only the cold stern faces, while brave men leave
Life, and love's strong, glorious youth,
Up from the red rent, sodden field . . . a cry
Rings to the sky . . . Ah! victory
We . . . the lowly dead, have pressed, and trod
The winepress today of the grapes of God
We the sacrifice and ours to pay
The price of success on the field today.

G. Elliot Perryman.

Commencing with this issue a mailing list will be conducted. Tell any of the staff the name and address and number of copies to be sent. You can sign up for three months or pay weekly. « The Digger » will be a newsy supplement to your letter home.

Two brisk salesmen who disposed of over 900 copies of the DIGGER last week, are Buglers Auburn and Finch. They can use their wind for more than the bugle. They're a couple of live wires.

THE DIGGER

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GERMANY - PAGAN OR CHRISTIAN?

Because Christianity blocks the road to the Germans' dream of world Empire Germany is « throwing back » to its pagan ancestry, throwing back to the great old days when the Goths and Vandals and Attila, the Scourge of God, swept down for world empire on the races of Europe.

Germany is reverting to type, going back from Christ to Odin. Her great leaders are dreaming of a world religion of might, of valour, of daring deeds, a gospel of Napoleonism with which Christianity cannot live. Young Germany in the Army and Universities is enthusiastic for these pagan ideals. It complains that christianity has too much power. Its teaching of unselfishness and care for the weak is wholly subversive of Young Germany's ideals.

Nietzsche claims to have cleared away the rubbish of 1200 years of Christianity, and here is a specimen of their new religion.

« Ye have heard how in old times it was said « Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth » but I say unto you, Blessed are the valiant for they shall make the earth their throne. Ye have heard men say blessed are the peacemakers ; but I say unto you, blessed are the warmakers for they shall be called, if not the children of Jehovah, the children of Odin, who is greater than Jehovah. » (Germany and England pp 113-17).

If this is an accurate representation it helps one to understand the immoral conduct of this war, and the precepts of General Bernhardt, the greatest authority in Germany on military tactics, who said.

« France must be so completely crushed that she shall never come in our path again. Treaties are only binding, while it is in the interest of the State to keep them ».

« The State is above morality. Whatever is necessary is moral. The blessings of war must be emphasised ; courts of arbitration and efforts to abolish war are not only foolish but immoral ».

Thus the Huns have definitely proclaimed paganism as a rule of action. Odin is the Kaiser's God on whom he calls. The moral power of the Allied Forces is that it fights for Christianity against the loathsome, merciless tyranny of cultured-paganism as espoused by Germany, and is not a war between Christian nations as many suppose.

SOME "MANIA"

Everyone knows the Australian Y. M. C. A. map, and how unjust are the proportionate sizes shown as regards Australia and Tasmania. A native from the little isle corrected the impression an English clergyman had received from the map and the following verse is the result of his awakened enthusiasm.

Have you heard of klepto-mania ?
That's camouflage for thief.
Have you heard of Dipsomania, ?
Well, that means drink in brief.

Have you heard of Megalomania ?
That's what the Kaiser had
When he sunk the Lusitania
To make the devil glad.

But there's another mania
That has no bit of hell,
And that other kind of mania
Makes music like a bell.

Yes, another sweeter mania
That holds my heart in fee
A grander fairer mania
That's kissed by the spray o' th' Sea.

It's my Homeland,
My Sealand,
My Heartland,
My Free-land,
My mania
TASMANIA.

VOILA ! ZE LANGUAGE

Even after many years in France, our genial French friends still have a difficulty in understanding the « Australian language ». Overheard recently — one Poilu explaining, in broken English, his troubles.

« Ah ! Ze Aussie, ze gallant Anzac, la ! I no compree him. I go ze leave to Le Havre with him. I ask him what he want with there. He say he very fond ze tart. I take him ze shop and buy ze bagful. He roar with ze laugh. He explain he mean ze girl. I take him to my home, and give him ze introduce to my cousaine. La, la, he steal her heart like ze flash. She steal his too. He gives her ze ring. But ze tart, ze tart, voila, voila ! I no compree ».

SUNG TO THE TUNE

« They Called it Ireland »

Just a tiny bit of shrapnel fell from out the sky one day,
And it smacked an Aussie soldier as in a deep shell hole he lay ;
When the stretcher bearers found him, muddy, spent ; but filled
[with glee.

He yelled « Oh ! ain't I lucky ; this is a cert--Blighty »,
So they sprinkled him with iodine, they always do you know,
It's the only thing that saves us, it routs the septile foe.
They relieved him of his silver while he cursed to beat the band.
But they carried him to safety through that awful No Man's Land.

J.O.D.

An Anzac Padre is very anxious to have a copy of the famous « Dardanelles Driviller ». It is possible that someone round the Bases has a copy in his possession. If that person will get in touch with the Editor, on behalf of the Padre, an arrangement may be arrived at for obtaining a copy of the paper.

SILENT WORKERS

By « JACARANDA »

I think someone should write an appreciation of the many silent workers the Australian soldier has, whose names are hardly known, and yet they give their energy, time, money, and kind sympathy to many a weary Anzac, in a multiplicity of ways. These little sacrifices flash unconsciously into our lives when so far away from home. On the Line of Communications we are fortunate in possessing these good people. I have read of the good some of them have been doing and though I am timid at mentioning names, I feel that in mentioning Mrs Fitzpatrick, and her sister Miss Armitage, whose labours have been multitudinous, I am not detracting from the noble and unselfish work of our Australian ladies in the Y.M.C.A. Salvation Army, Red Cross, and other organisations. We appreciate them all.

When the moon a golden ray o'erspreads
An enchanted night in the haunted silence slugs,
Fades the moonlight golden ray, and the bird has ceased to sing,
Ah ! it was no nightingale, but my heart remembering.

Our Letter Box

Nip. Unsuitable, but we quite understand your wrath when you were the only Australian in an English hospital, the Matron read the rules and regulations over to you twice a day. K. J. We cannot give the names of the Officers who always arrive late at the concert parties ; the diggers who tramp out during an item, or the N. C. O's who hurry out before the Canteen closes. G. M. Yes, « The Digger » can be posted home. Ex-Rosedale, Victoria.. No ! The boat you saw resting on Mount Ararat was not the one in which B3 Aussies were taken home. The Ararat Ark is credited with that achievement, but it is quite wrong. O.S. Sorry we cannot use it, as it would be libellous to ask.

« For the name of the man,
With the smiling face,
Who invents many stories,
To spread around the Base.

Gunner writes to say that the earliest Diggers were the men who fought at the famous Eureka riots Ballarat in 1852, and although defeated in battle secured a rectification of the many anomalies existing in the then mining laws of Australia. The Base Postman states Victorian letters up to June 6th are beginning to arrive at the Base.

« Democrat » : Our deferred pay is being paid by our own Government.

THE DINKUM OIL

A friend of mine, becoming annoyed at the oft repeated question, « When is the war going to end » settled the umptieth enquirer thus.

Actual evidence, I have none,
But my aunt's sister's charwoman's son,
Heard a policeman on the beat,
Tell a housemaid in the street,
That he knew someone who had a friend,
Who said he knew when the war would
[end !

FIXTURES

MONDAY. A new Lena Ashwell concert party.

TUESDAY. Anzac Coves. Australian Orchestra.

WEDNESDAY. Song Service.

THURSDAY. Australian Concert Party.

FRIDAY. Miss Johnsons Entertainers.

SATURDAY. Yellow Dandies.

Pictures each evening at 5-30 p.m. also in Y.M.C.A. A.I.B.D., Concert parties for the A.I.B.D. have not been definitely arranged at time of going to Press.

Australian orchestra will perform as follows: MONDAY. Sergeants Mess. A. G.B.D., at 7-30 p.m., FRIDAY. Detention Hospital 5-45 p.m. Sergeants Mess Con. Camp, 7-30 p.m., Each SUNDAY at 6 p.m. in Geelong Y.M.C.A. Hut.

NOTES

The Anzac Coves arrived in Havre last Wednesday accompanied by a band of 31 performers. Their headquarters are at No 4 Con. Camp. They will remain in Havre for a fortnight.

This fine party (A.L.B.D.) gave a great entertainment in the Lismore cinema on Thursday night last. The large building was packed, and each item was loudly applauded. It was such a fine all round show that it would not be fair to mention names.

The Base Orchestra is having a busy time at present. Apart from the many engagements at the Australian bases the Orchestra each week visits Hospitals, Y.M.C.A.'s and various Messes outside. Sgt Edwards, the conductor, would be pleased to meet any musicians in the Base. It is recognised that an efficient orchestra will be of inestimable value during the winter months.

Overheard in the Y.M.C.A. (Lismore hut) when Bert Downs, the clever Bassoon player appeared with his instrument at a recent orchestral concert. « Hi, Bill, look at the bloke with a Light Trench mortar over there ».

Colonel Davis is an expert pianist, and composer; hence his enthusiasm for the musical side of the entertainments for the troops.

Klimo of the Dandies is identical with the well-known performer of that name, who has worked the big time throughout Australia for the past fifteen years.

Geo. Dawes is an ex-chorister in J.C. Williamsons productions. He has also earned a crust with the Bill Anderson Dramatic Co.

Arch Davies has been listened to in barns, boozers, and other high-brow resorts. Incidentally he has worked the Fuller circuit and suburban « pops ».

Compaan can do more on one wheel than most cyclists can do on two. He is a seasoned showman. They call him the « One Wheel Wonder ». — and he is too.

Gnr Hagan was manager at the Empire, Brisbane for four years. There is nothing else against him.

The Yellow Dandies are busy on a new program. Klimo and his merry men have something good in store. They have been showing round the different camps, hospitals, etc. They are developing into « some » show.

DISTINCTIVE

A Digger was proudly promenading his young lady round the camp and explaining the different badges, etc. They passed a farrier wearing a horseshoe. « And what is he? » asked the fair one. « Oh! that's our mascot » said Digger. « And (pointing to the Armourer) « who is that? » « That's the regimental dentist ». « Well » said she, « I can account for the pincers, but what is the hammer for? » « That's what they chloroform 'em with ». The Physical Jerks Instructor hove in sight. « That's the Regimental Tailor; notice the scissors on his arm? » His friend thought for a while and then, pointing to her escort's Bandsman badge said sweetly, « Then I suppose you're the regimental « liar ».

PASS ! DIGGERS.

A bunch of Officers were returning to camp the other night and were accosted in the usual way by a sentry who yelled, Halt! who goes there? The reply was « Officers ». The quick rejoinder was, « Diggers? ». On receiving the affirmative the sentry cried, « Pass! Diggers ».

STAND EASY

According to « Over Here » eating both jam and butter at the same time is economy. Our American contemporary points out that by so doing the same piece of bread does for both.

M. O. (to Capt Mc Somebody) « I hope you're following my instructions carefully « Mac » — the pills three times a day, and a drop of whiskey at bedtime ».

« Mac » — « Well, I may be a bit behind with the pills but I'm about six weeks in front with the whiskey ».

It is stated that Harry Lauder has parliamentary ambitions. He will not be able to add further comedy to politics but on « Economy » he should star.

The Yanks say they are « out to CAN the Kaiser ». What joy to visit the canteen for a can of potted Kaiser and half-a-pound of Little Willie.

Dancing is as popular at the Red Cross Hut as it ever was in Aussie, but iron shod feet and the light fantastic toe, are so foreign to each other that a pair of soldier waltzers look like a cross between a Siamese Race and a couple of Indians doing a war dance.

Extract from a French paper: — « Two Regiments of Australians marched through this village this morning. So far nothing has been reported missing ».

A couple of Yanks were impressed with the posters « Enlist and see the World ». Over here they were engaged in trench digging, and during « smoke-oh » one said to the other, « When we enlisted to see the world we didn't figure on digging clear through to gain our objective ».

WE WANT TO KNOW

What weight was the female «burden» a certain R.S.M. carried across the duck-boards near the A.I.B.D. on a recent Sunday.

Who was the W.O. whose leave clashed with his « Waacs ». Rumour says he went to Scotland and the lady stopped in England, but rumours are rumours, you know.

Is it true that Sgt Buckley has given up cricket to take on poultry farming? If not what he intends to do with his « Ducks ».

The name of the Sergeant, who told his Waac he could waltz to Heaven with her, and did he get moody when she said « Do you reverse ».

If Bill Allen, the Field Baker, knows anything about cats and kittens.

The name of the Sergeant who tried to post a letter in a weighing machine, and if he got his penny back.

Who is the Digger who, when taking part in the Sword Dance demonstration was described by one of the ladies as « the boy with the dimpled knees », and if this is a valuable asset.

Why Rammy joined the Havre Repertory Coy, and when is he going to give a show to the Diggers.

Why many N.C.O.'s are continually seeking fresh fields of conquest? Judging by many photographic collections the V.A.D.'s are much in evidence.

When a certain C.S.M. persists in mimicking the jackass when he sings. Is it any wonder the new piano had to be tuned.

Who was the Staff Sgt who needed eyes in the back of his head in order to find the fly-catcher adhering to his seat?

Who is the R. S. M. who makes his life happy by frequent indulgence in repartee. Was his latest to an applicant for boots, « Go out in the garden and eat worms » or « gather grass and be a goat? »

Who was the Officer posing as a sprinter at the Sports? We hear that he ran a good race against himself and his pacers.

When the gang of thieves operating in the Con. Camp is going to have the decency to quit rattling pockets and pinching clobber?

Why did two of the A.G.B.D. staff return from Paris before the termination of their leave? Was it shell shock, or shock due to the « shelling out » of centimes, and much larger money.

Recruit: « This 'ere cardigan in full of moths ». Q.M.S. (irritably) « Well, what did you expect to find in it — a rare collection of butter-flies? »

Some are born great, some achieve greatness — and some grate upon you.

The Turkish Government pays its soldiers one shilling and a halfpenny per month, and gives the families a separation allowance of five shillings a month. Did anyone hear the Turks say they were « fed up? »

The Majah: Its bally odd how one's clothes react on one's mentality. « When I am in uniform I am all soldier: when I am in a business suit I am all business. What? »

C.O.: « Yes? and I suppose when you take a bath your mind is an utter blank »

SPORT

BOXING

« A good fight will always draw a good house » is an ancient fistic proverb. A peep into Y.M.C.A. Gym on Monday night last amply proved the truth of the old ring saying. The large building was packed to the roof with lovers of what poor old « Cocker Tweedie » used to call the « Hart of 'it, stop and bloomin' well git away ». The magnet that drew all these atoms of humanity was a return contest over a 15 round journey between « Flinger » Thiering, 13th Battrn, and Driver Jack Lewis, R.F.A. These boys had previously met over the ten round route. On that occasion Lewis had received the decision. The verdict is what sporting writers diplomatically term « a mixed reception ».

For days afterwards partisans waged wordy war-fare re the respective merits of the boxers. With characteristic energy, Mr Judd, to whose able management the success of these shows, is mainly due, got busy on the job of bringing the boys together again. Both, like the immortal « Barkis being willin » it was not a hard task. A select little bunch of four and six round bouts was arranged to pad out the programme. The result was a magnificent nights amusement.

Promptly at 7 p. m. the ball was set rolling. The first pair were Trooper Pipe (Canada) and Private Roy Miner (Australia). The Canadian put up a game fight but was outclassed by his agile opponent. Miner's left hand work was very fine. There were times when poor Pipe must have thought that the audience were hurling boxing gloves at him. During the third round a merciful second skyed the wipe ; Miner the winner.

The second contest was a daisy. The scrappers were Private Charley Moran (Australia) and Driver Poole (R.F.A.) Moran is the boy I referred to in last weeks boxing notes. Poole is regarded as a real good boy, and has a long list of victories to his credit. It was a dandy little scrap. Poole boxed nicely but he appeared to lack devil. Moran on the other hand was chock full of that elusive commodity. Poole relied on a quick light left jab varied occasionally by a solid right cross. He scored several times in each round with the jab, but he failed to connect with the right. Moran on the other hand introduced a lot of variety into his work. He mixed his punches nicely, and scored cleanly, with left rips to the stomach and jaw. He also tilted Poole's head back with a stinging right uppercut. Moran showed better footwork and was also the more cunning boxer. The verdict, Moran the winner, was the only one possible. It might be added that Poole was the heavier lad and he certainly looked it in the ring.

We had a brief respite from the festive uppercut and merry mix up while « Compaan, the great » gave his one wheel specialty turn. Then came the big fight. Lewis was first into the ring. The trim built English boy had a fine reception from the great crowd. A roar of welcome greeted the spectacle of the bobbing head of the popular « Flinger » as he worked his way through the crowd to the ring-side. There is no doubt « Flinger » is wonderfully popular with the boys. Once

in the ring little time was wasted. An American, Pte Hartt, acted as third man in the ring. He was assisted by Padre Robertson, and Sergeant Billy Meeske who acted as judges. Bang went the gong and the battle was on. Thiering started off to make a fight of it. For a couple of rounds he had Lewis backing round the ring. In the fourth spasm Lewis boxed nicely and made his opponent miss a lot. The pace was a cracker, Thiering was scoring with a left rip to the stomach. He would body swerve Lewis straight left and then slam his own left into Jacks midriff. Two or three times the Englishmans mouth opened and his face was contorted with pain. Thiering was hitting very hard. In the seventh and eighth Lewis did much better. Thiering had grown a bit careless and started to throw punches about on the loose. A warning whisper from his corner aided by a beautiful uppercut from Lewis brought him to his bearing. « Make him come to you, don't lead » — was Thiering's instructions from his adviser as he crossed over for the ninth round. Thiering did as he was bid, and it worked like a charm. From that period on he was the better boxer of the pair. Round after round spun by. It was wonderful. « It is the pace that kills » we are told, but these perfectly conditioned athletes never slacked up for a minute. In the last three rounds the weight of Thiering's punch began to tell a tale. On two occasions Lewis was in « queer street » for a few seconds. The last round was fought as fast as the first, and the decision, a draw, had a good reception. It is the writers opinion that Thiering won. He landed more clean punches than his opponent. He hit harder and oftener. He was not as neat in his work as Lewis, but he was much more effective. Over the latter stages of the fight Thiering shone out as the better boxer. There was never a great margin between the boys but what there was Thiering had it, and should have been declared the winner.

The smoke of the big battle having cleared away Private Brady (Australia) and Private Swinnerton (England) took the ring. The Tommy looked a giant alongside Brady, and was altogether too strong and husky for the Australian. It was a scuffling and rambling sort of bout. Brady smothered a lot, and Swinnerton walloped away at a bulwark of arms, and gloves. For a man reputed to have done a lot of boxing at London halls. Swinnerton's showing was not impressive. Privates Delaney (Australia) and Driver Buswell (R.F.A.) wound up the bill with a real old time slam. Each man has seen long and honorable service in the ring. Though verging on the sere and yellow period of fistic life they cast discretion to the winds and punched each other good, hard and often. Each is decorated with that unappreciated ornament, « a thick ear » while Buswell's nasal organ has stood the stress and storm of many bashings. Delaney dropped his man with a sweet right cross in the fourth round. Again in the sixth he had him in a bad way. Delaney the winner. The singing of the National Anthem brought a fine nights sport to a close.

The classy female in the « Dandies » is putting it across. Was that an Officer at the stage door last night or was it a new arrival trying to get the good oil?

INTERBASE SPORTS

Everything in the garden was «lively» at the above sports last Sunday afternoon. Old King Sol was in his most beneficent mood and reserved his warmest smiles for the occasion. There was a big attendance of Diggers ; Mademoiselles and Tommies. The various events were worked off speedily and methodically. The broad jumping of Hopt of the Con. Camp was a magnificent display and remarkable sprinting was done by Crowley of the same Depot. Specially trained on the American plan Hopt could add 20 inches to his splendid effort. Crowley is the Beau Ideal of a sprinter.

Mr. Judd's clever pupils gave a sparkling display of rapid fire gymnastics rounding off a classy exhibition with a wand drill stunt. Sgt Meeske and Pte Kean provided a tumbling speciality in which Fred Klimo of the Yellow Dandies clown. This kept up a simmer of laughter.

The presence of Lieut Snow in the Officers Race must have scared competitors. Only three faced the ordeal and Mr Snow won with ease. Two stocky Waces and a slim and shifty one comprised the competitors for the Waac Race and the latter won, in the language of the classics, « pulling up ».

A specially trained team of Guardsmen had to cry « Enough » to a hefty bunch of Artillery boys in the tug-of-war.

Results :

Broad Jump, Pte Kopt, 21 ft 7 ins.
High Jump ; Cpl Whitmore and Pte Evans ; tie, 5ft 3ins.
100 yds dash ; Pte Crowley.
Sack Race ; Pte Miles.
Mile Race ; Gnr Gleeson ; R.F.A.
Egg and Spoon ; Pte Roe.
Relay Race ; Crowley, Hopt, Watson, Edgar.

« OVER-HERE » published by members of the American Expeditionary Forces in Havre in this weeks issue says « Hearty congratulations and best wishes to « The Digger » new Australian Base paper ! May it have few knockers, and almost as many subscribers as « Over-here ».

Our sporting editor is known as Jim Donald, who has many friends in Queensland. Not only did he write boxing stories for the Brisbane Daily Mail, but he trained and managed the classy boxer Joe Russell.

To « JOHN BULL ». The Australians here feel rather relieved, after reading your paragraph « Not fair to Tommy » in the columns devoted to Tommy and Jack, in your issue of the 3rd inst, to know that Australia ceased to be a colony in the year 1900.

Sport will be held on A.I.B.D. D.O.R. Verandah. Admission by tram ticket (used). The great draw will be the juggling exhibition by Sgt Batty who will juggle with a split pea and a tub.

A special heading and cartoon for this issue has been held up in Paris. It's a promise for next week.

The printers of this paper do not comprise English. This fact enhances its value as a unique souvenir.

PUBLISHED
WITH
AUTHORITY

THE DIGGER

AUSTRALIAN
BASES
FRANCE

WEEKLY EDITION

VOL. 1 No. 3.

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A. I. F. EDUCATION SCHEME EXPLAINED

The A. I. F. Director of Education (Bishop Long) has forwarded the following article explaining the new A. I. F. Education Scheme. Captain Thomson, who is assisting Bishop Long, is the writer.

The war has now lasted four years and the end is not yet. There are many reasons for that, but the one great outstanding reason is that we were not prepared for war, as were our enemies: Our organisation had to be built up piecemeal, in the midst of strain and stress and difficulty and our lesson had to be learned by bitter experience — all this to reduce the handicaps that the preparation and organisation of our enemies had given them. That handicap has now vanished but it has taken years to remove it. Some day the war will end and end in our favour. But the problems of peace will be just as difficult as have been the problems of war — probably more difficult. As a nation we cannot afford to start reconstructing our civil life under the same handicap as faced us at the beginning of the war. Nor can we afford to waste two or three years laying plans and organising *after* peace has arrived. The plans must be laid and the organization completed as far as possible by the time the war ends. Only in that way can we start on level terms with the rest of the world and only in that way can we save millions of money and untold trouble and misery for our nation. To explain what has been done and what will be done is the purpose of this article.

The necessity for a Department of Education in connection with the armed nations fighting this war has been realised on all sides. The Germans have theirs. The Canadians have had a « Khaki University » for over a year. The B.E.F. and the New Zealand troops have theirs. And they find, as we have found, that the following facts justify and more than justify the expense and the trouble.

1. In a war lasting over years troops get stale. They are cut off from books, cut off from papers, cut off from most of the things that make life worth living. Some of them have Cinemas and some Pierrot Shows. That is good but not good enough. Something further is wanted to counteract the inevitable tendency to rust — something else to distract one sometimes from the war. That means the provision of books and of lectures and libraries while units are not actually in the front line.

2. At odd times men are sick or wound-

ed or go to Training Battalions. There are periods lasting often into months when time can be found for reading and study. Such cases as these occur — fruit-growers want to see London markets, stock-breeders want to learn something about veterinary science, commercial men want to take courses in accountancy, third year dental students want to complete their course, farmers want to learn something about motor engines and irrigation plants, all of us want to learn the real facts about Australia's relation to the rest of the world in trade and industry. All these are things that can be carried out by an A.I.F. Education Department.

3. Between the conclusion of active fighting and the landing in Australia there will be a gap. The size of that gap no one at present can say. There may be an armistice lasting for months or there may not. After that there are hundreds of thousands of soldiers to be transported to all parts of the world — and few ships to do it. And these few ships will also have to feed all those that remain behind just as they are doing today — only the surplus ships will be available for transport of troops. During all this period — say a year or more — the A.I.F. will not be fighting. They will not be doing much drilling. They must in their own interests do something. The obvious thing is that each man should do what will best fit him for his occupation after the war — in Australia. What that will be each man must choose — and say. What course of study he wishes to follow — he must say. If he is going on the land he can be taught intensive farming, the principles of irrigation, care and feeding of stock — a dozen other things. If he is a tradesman he can be helped — he can brush up what he has forgotten. He can see the best engineering works in England. He can take short courses at Technical Schools at Manchester or Glasgow. If he is in the public service, with his promotion dependent on passing certain examinations he can be trained and take those examinations *before* he gets back to Australia. Perhaps he is half way through a professional course — law, medicine, dentistry, accountancy — he will be able to finish before he gets back to Australia and thus save invaluable time. Again all of us want to know something about Economics, the History of Australia, political institutions, trade unions, Public Health, the glories of English and Australian litera-

(continued page 2).

A DIGGER'S PASTIME

A soldiers days are days of work,
His nights are nights of scratching,
For while he works the egg that lurks
Upon his shirt is hatching;
And through the silent hours of night
One hears in quick succession,
A grunt, a scratch then « ... em ! »
Or some similar expression.

A soldiers life is always rough,
And largely one of pleasure,
But still he has one noble sport
To occupy his leisure;
He always has a chat or two
Adhering to his garments,
And better sport no man could wish
Than hunting out those varmints.

A soldiers training serves to whet
His sporting inclinations,
On which the Hun's persuasiveness
Imposes some privations;
But not frustrated, he still boasts
Of record breaking catches,
In lesser sport, yet interesting
For when he cannot kill he scratches.

A soldier grumbles at his work,
Complains about his ration,
But one amusement he has got
Which mounts nigh to a passion;
Although his days are mostly spent
Grousing at this and that,
He's happy when he pounces on
The elusive, itching chat.

With apologies to « Mac ».

R. A.

« The Digger » Has been congratulated on its success from all quarters. Among the many messages was one from the London representative of the Melbourne « Herald ». The record sale of the first two issues will, it is expected, be eclipsed in the future when the display heading and cartoons appear. The paper is being purchased freely by English soldiers, interested in Australian affairs, and many French people.

With apologies to the Shade of Omar

From an estaminet one dusk of day
I watched the Mam'selles passing o'er the way
And shortly afterwards was heard to say,
« Deux Picquants garçon, toute suite s'il vous plait ».

Come fill the cup. How oft must I repeat
Deux Picquants ? Bring the bottle here toute suite
And now champagne, How much ? Vingt francs ! That's steep
But carry on, this Mam'oiselles a dinkum treat.

There with a lump of love in that Café
We drank beaucoup, and did in all my pay,
And then when I was broke, from o'er the way
A froggy bloke comes up HER PIANCE.

A. D. I.

THE DIGGER

Published weekly by soldiers of Australian Imperial Force stationed at the Bases, Le Havre.

Editorial Staff and Management
PTE W.R.M. DIMOND, PTE E.A. DOYLE,
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Where We Stand

Considerable interest has been manifested by speculative parties as to the attitude of the « Digger » regarding matters of vital importance to the personnel of the A. I. F. and the existing relationship toward the different branches of the service.

This paper has no political aspirations that will cramp its broad policy, neither is it an organ through which disciplinary matters may be aired or discussed. Orders are orders and are given from the right authorities to those effected. At the same time we will be glad to hear of matters that should receive attention and will be ever ready to assist in the interests of the troops.

At any time notices of a military character may appear in our columns at the express desire of Commandants but the object will be to impart information in newsy style that will reach the troops perhaps more effectively than by any other medium.

The paper to be popular (and we much desire that pleasant state of affairs) must provide the right kind of reading and literary entertainment, and cater to the various types found in so large a community as the permanent and transient members forming our three Depots.

You know what appeals to you and your particular friends. Further, there are those among the readers of this issue who possess literary talents, either humorous or serious, and to you we appeal for assistance in the regular production of a classy, snappy and breezy paper that will encourage interest and entertain all who read its pages.

" SHURE ! "

An Irishman in a Digger Battalion was taken prisoner. When walking behind Gerry's first lines he kept on muttering, « The Diggers gave you blokes a hiding on the Somme ». He kept this up until he reached a Fritz Captain, who understood English; and demanded that our Irish hero cease. The Captain said « Now, if you sign this paper, you'll become a German ». Larry, thought for a moment, then signed. When he lifted his pen from the paper he sat back and cheerfully said « Be jabbers ! Those diggers licked Hell out of us Germans on the Somme ».

EDUCATION SCHEME (continued)

ture — classes in all these will be organised as and when opportunities offer. It is obvious how great is the scope and how unlimited the opportunities of an Education Scheme such as this. It is the direct opportunity of all members of the A.I.F. to get in touch with all that is best in the Science and Art of the Old World. But far more important than that it is the opportunity of all members of the A.I.F. to impress their views and ideas and wishes on the future of Australia. So far as possible Australian talent will be employed in teaching Australians. So far as possible the Education will be self-education — in classes and in Study Groups. And the members of the A.I.F. who return to Australia will be the real rulers of Australia. It will be theirs to make or mar Australia, theirs to keep politics clean — or the reverse, theirs to show what they can do with that unique thing in the World's history — a Continent for a people and a people for a Continent.

There will shortly be issued to all members of the A.I.F. a card (in duplicate) to be filled up and returned. Portion of this card will be devoted to Repatriation and is necessary to enable adequate arrangements to be made in Australia for demobilisation. The second portion of the card is devoted to Educational Inquiries and is to find out just what every man in the A.I.F. wants to fit him best for his life after the war. That information is necessary to enable plans to be laid, universities and schools and technical colleges in England and Australia approached, teachers obtained, engineering and other firms interviewed, books and libraries purchased. No one likes filling in forms but it is the basis of all organisation that is worth anything. It is « up to » everyone in the A.I.F. to see that these forms are filled up as completely and as accurately as possible. The Education Department of the A.I.F. is actually a part of the A.I.F. It is a military branch just as the medical services. It is out to help every man in the A.I.F. — and to help him in the way he asks. But it is necessary to know just what each man does want. Most of this will appear on the completed cards — but all sorts of other questions will want answering. For that reason part of the A.I.F. Education Office will simply be an Inquiry Bureau. If you want to know anything about classes, examinations, schools or universities, land settlement or demobilisation proposals in Australia — anything at all about education or repatriation — write, if in France to the « Education Office, Australian Corps Headquarters », or if in England to « Education Office, Australian Administrative Headquarters, Horseferry Road, London ». You will get the answer by post as soon as the information can be obtained.

And the only other thing is — give this venture your support. Make it better than the Canadian or any other scheme. It is really your job — for it will be just what you make it.

First Digger : (during heated altercation) You umpteenth reinforcement make me tired.

Second ditto : Well you're only an echo off an Anzac's cooee anyway.

C. O'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

(1) The colonel is thy only boss. Thou shalt have no Colonels but he.

(2) Thou shalt not take unto thyself any graven image, of Officers in the Depot, nor Staff Officers who own the earth. Thou shalt rise and salute them or thy C. O. will deliver unto thee the Field Punishment of the First and Second Degree. To those who saluteth will be blessed with stripes and much leave.

(3) Thou shalt not take the name of thy Adjutant in vain for the C. O. will hold the one who doeth such, Guilty.

(4) Thou shalt not rest on the Sabbath. Six days shalt thou labour and on the seventh thou shalt do all manner of things, thou and thy Officers, thy Sgt Major and the Sanitary Fatigue.

(5) Honour thy Army Staff that thy days may be long in the Con. Depot.

(6) Thou shalt kill only Huns, slugs, chats and rats and whomsoever molesteth thee.

(7) Thou shalt not steal. If thou doest thou shalt use every care lest thou art discovered. Beware of the D.R.S.M. who patroleth the lines at K-night.

(8) Thou shalt not bear false witness in the Orderly Room.

(9) Thou shalt not covet the Sgts Mess their beers and wines for one day thou shalt have some in thy own canteen.

(10) Shouldst thou desire to become a « swinger », swings will be provided.

Advertisements will be received — humorous and otherwise. No charge will be made, the cost will be booked up to Billy.

We will be pleased to receive notifications of coming events. Information re the early termination of the war, and its probable date, will be welcomed.

It wasn't the « writing on the wall » nor the « writing on the sand » but the « writing in the air » that made a hit at Padre Gault's service in the Dell last Sunday. To the soldier who successfully read the writing a packet of fags was flung to him.

It is good to have money and the things that money will buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money won't buy.

It was at a mission service near an Australian Camp in England. The missionary had reached the height of his eloquence and exclaimed « What did St John say ? » Without answering his own question he repeated it a second time, and a seasoned warrior in the middle of the hall said « I'll float, clobber, what did he blanky well say ? »

C.S.M Jack Harding is the latest promotion at the A.G.B.D. Formerly of the 2nd and 7th Field Ambulances, the new Depot Orderly Room Sergeant Major is very popular, and things should run smoothly under his calm calculative rule.

Our Letter Box

I.X.L... We are fortunate in being able to supply the information asked. Australians are enlisting in sufficient numbers to satisfy requirements according to figures decided upon by Sir Samuel Griffiths, the Chief Justice of the Commonwealth. Joe... Verse unsuitable, but go on trying. J.B.W... We would gladly give you the information asked for re the proposed date of the Allied arrival in Berlin, but our war strategist is busy discussing matrimonial problems with the social editor. B.B... complains of the fighting propensities of the wasp. We know of no more effective settler than a tent peg mallet. J.K.S... The « Ode to the Brave » dived into the W.P.B. There were no casualties during this painful operation. A.A... It is not true that Tasmania is negotiating for a separate peace with Turkey.

Gunner... Yes ! any complaints whatever can be sent to the « Digger ». Sport... The sporting skit that you sent in was one of three Noah wrote. Anzac... The cook denies that he was responsible for so many keeping awake all one night recently. He said he would not do what was suggested for the world. M.A... We cannot accept advertisements from soldiers desirous of meeting WAACS with a view to matrimony.

“AUSSIE” to the UNINITIATED

Aussie is a fair sized lump of sand, mud and rock in the Southern Seas. You can pick up gold from the seashore, grow anything in the mud, and sit on the sand and think. A good many Australians bathe, and a few go to Church. The national animal is the Kangaroo, he is jumping to a conclusion. No, Miss, this is not the bird they get the feathers from. The national flower is not the hop plant, as many suppose, but the Wattle, (not the wat'l-er-have). The national insect is the bullant, being the husband of the cowant.

A large portion of this lovely country is termed « the bush ». This is where shearers, and their adjectives come from. The three chief cities are Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide. Sydney is better than Melbourne, and Melbourne is no better than Sydney, and Adelaide is better than either. The most universal thing is the « Shout ». The Aussie girls are similar to the American girls — they get married — but unlike many of the American womenfolk, they stay married.

War and Peace

Dark clamorous days, and flashing guns, loud tongued,
Hurling their deadly missiles far and wide
O'er stricken towns, and far sweet countryside;
While brave men die, and homes are wrecked and wronged.

Brave men sleeping mid the storm and stress,
Dreaming of home with smiles upon their lips,
While o'er the field an angel gently steps
Gathering the souls just entering into rest.

THE YELLOW DANDIES

A show that rocked a crowded house with laughter, and provided a musical festival was put over by the Dandies of the Con Camp on Saturday evening, August 10th. Right from the jump the programme went with a swing, and worked like a charm.

The versatility of the bunch and the vaudeville specialities made up a « live wire » programme keyed up to a high voltage.

The Australian Orchestra under the direction of Sergeant Edwards played the show and created an atmosphere associated with « big time » houses back home.

In comedy and clowning Fred Klimo starred. His parodies went big, likewise the concerted topical numbers in which he had the tag line.

Reg Best warbled at his best on « Nirvana and Best and Bickford pleased with « Watchman ; What of the Night ». Geo Dawes' monologue made folks sit up and take notice. Dave Oliver and chorus scored with « Won't you tell me the lady's name ». The old favorite « Harvest Moon » by Will Mc Ewan and chorus in a dainty pose made a hit.

Billy Merson had nothing on Arch Davies who did « The Good ship, Yacki. Hicki, Doola ». Arch sailed his good ship on a sea of pleased expressions.

Mademoiselle Ted Milne « Wanted to be somebody's baby » S-He made good, and put the chorus « love-sick ». « No Man's Land » closed the first half. It was a humorous sketch in familiar surroundings, but out among the whizbangs and « nouef-deux », Coalboxes, and pineapples, Klimo confidentially told his « Cobber » that No Man's land was the Waac's camp.

Meeske, Klimo, and Kean revelled in an acrobatic tumbling riot. The act was clever, spectacular, and funny.

Compaan with his magic wheel introduced a novel stunt « Climbin. the golden stairs » and skipping into space from a table top. Well, the crowd stopped, looked — then raised the roof.

Will Freame and a silver baton spun his way into the hearts of the audience. With a couple of balls of fire on his baton and « lights out » he did the human fireworks act.

« The Manager's Troubles » by the company was a laugh maker throughout.

The curtain dropped, the boys sang the National Anthem and went out talking about a big show and high prices they had paid to see much worse productions.

A crowded audience encored repeatedly the many fine items produced at the Lena Ashwell concert in the Lismore Cinema on Monday night last. There was not one dull moment during the two hours entertainment and once more this party learned how spontaneous Australian enthusiasm is for the real thing.

On Sunday the 4th. inst. a collection was taken up at the Church of England A.G.B.D. in aid of the British Prisoners of War fund and realised the sum of 211 francs 25 cs. A similar collection was taken at the Methodist, Presbyterian, and O.P.D. churches and from these the fund was augmented by the sum of 52 fr. 15 cs.

FIXTURES

A. G. B. D. and Con Camp
Lismore Cinema

Monday. St Leonards Entertainers.
Tuesday. Pictures.

Wednesday. Anzac Coves. Australian Orchestra.

Thursday. Sons of Guns, with Orchestra.

Friday. Austral Concert Party.

Saturday. Yellow Dandies. Australian Orchestra.

A. I. B. D., Cinema

Monday. Australian Orchestra

Tuesday. Austral Concert Party.

Wednesday. Service Padre Gault.

Thursday. Miss Hill's Concert Party.

Friday. Lecture, « Gallipoli ».

Saturday. Gymnastic Display.

AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

In addition to fixtures mentioned above.

Wednesday. 5.45 p.m. Detention Hospital.

7.30 p.m. Sergeants Mess A.I.B.D.

Friday. 7.30 p.m. Officers Mess. A.I.B.D.

Sunday. 6 p.m. Geelong Hut.

When the boys go home — we said « when » — their many friends will want to know something of their French. Anzacs who returned from Egypt introduced « Mafiesh » Piastre, Mafiesh feluce and Imshi Yallah ». In view of this Egyptian vocabulary it is a safe bet that the boys from France will rush into an estaminet (and a decent bar at that) and ask for « deux œufs » or « vin rouge » and « at the toot silver plate ». That might happen from force of habit, but the fat Mademoiselle behind the pump handles wont discourage us with the famous « 8 o'clock, finis ».

SPORT

Another of those novice boxing and wrestling programmes which have become such a popular feature in the scheme of entertainments was run off at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium, Con Camp on Monday evening last. There was « lashins » of that elusive quantity known to the multitude as « stoush ». These eager novices run the full gamut of « fistiana ». They stray blithely from straight lefts to a berents and switch to punches, « loop-the-loops » and other weird varieties of the art fistic served up as a side dish : A six round bout between Charley Moran and a Tommy named Jackson was to have been the « tit-bit » of the evening. Unfortunately Jackson, like the distressed lady in the « Bellowdrama » « took the wrong turning ». In the language of the classics 'e didn't turn up.

A rather significant happening was the appearance at the ringside of one Mike Honeyman, armed with shoes and tights. Mike expressed an earnest desire to mingle in fistic discourse with our own disciple of the art, young Moran, as a substitute for the errant Jackson. Michael happens to be a most expert mit juggler. In fact he is accounted the fastest and trickiest boxer in the old United Kingdom. On the other hand Moran has only recently emerged from the novice stage. Personally the writer

has no doubt that one day Moran will be one of that select band of glovemen who revolve on the Championship axis. That time, however, is not yet. Fortunately Charley's mentor is too old a fistic bird to be caught with chaff of the Honeyman variety so Mike and his friends were deprived of the little coup they had planned. « The best laid schemes of mice and mere boxers gang aft agly. »

WRESTLING

Dummingan and Bryant, middle-weights, were a well matched pair. They wrestled two strenuous periods to a draw.

Palmer and Christianson put up an exciting go. Palmer knew too much for his rugged opponent and won handily.

BOXING

The first pair in the ring were Jones and Galliard. Jones was the better boxer of the two and made his stocky opponent miss a lot, but he marred his chance by working entirely on the defensive. Galliard was always the aggressor and slogged his way to victory.

Pascoe and Laker, nippy featherweights put up a splendid "set to". Both boys are shifty, hard hitting boxers and gave of their best. Pascoe had the better style and at the end of a delightful bout had a slight margin of-points in his favour Pascoe winner.

Then, came an amusing bout, Woods and Denereay were the contestants Woods was giving away inches in height, reach, and lumps of weight, but it didn't prevent him hopping all over Denereay. The little chap pasted his opponent with everything barring the waterbottles and chairs. He tired a bit towards the finish, but had won well, when the final gong tapped out its message of rest. The decision — a draw — came as a surprise.

Stevenson and Forbes now occupied the arena. They put up a determined hard hitting affair. It was nip and tuck until just about twenty seconds before the final bell. Forbes then whipped out a dandy right to the chin and Stevo bumped the boards hard. He is now acquainted with all the stars in the Firmament. Forbes winner.

Dunn and Connolly are a pair of vastly improved boxers. They gave a really fine exhibition of left hand hitting. Their blocking and stopping was also distinctly good. It was a real nice bout to watch Connolly got the decision but a draw would have been a better verdict.

NOTES

Tomorrow evening there will be another boxing and wrestling stunt at the Gymnasium. Good fights are the rule. These shows are free. The fun is usually fast and furious.

Jim Monaghan, a good middleweight boxer, has happened along. He is to be matched against a suitable Tommy opponent in the near future.

Chinese educators and statesmen see in athletics one of the greatest forces yet found for the nationalizing of China. The eastern republic is slow, but must eventually find its feet.

J. O. D.

APRÈS LA GUERRE

When we return to civie life,
Let's hope it won't be long,
We shan't forget the risk we took
When on the continong.
And when we start a-telling,
Just what we all passed through,
We're sure to get our lingo mixed
With lots of parley voo.

But when we're back as civies,
What yarns we'll have to tell
And every little girlie
We'll call Mademoiselle,
For please we'll say Sil-voo-play,
When sick we'll be malad
We'll ask our best girl if Ce soir
With me she'll promenade.

Hotel and bar will be unknown,
Estaminets we'll say.
For Bock and Cognac we shall ask
And francs we'll want to pay,
We won't be drunk but zig-zag,
Then home we'll start to go ;
It starts to rain — that's plurer,
And there's beaucoup d'eau.

What's going to be we'll surely see,
That is, appre le guerre.
Australia will be all en fête
And likewise Angleterre ;
We'll all begin to celebrate
With cafe au lait and bierre,
Rosbif we'll eat with panarche,
Haricot and pomme de terre.

We'll tell of Allemands we've killed
And what we used to do,
We'll tell our friends we're tres bien,
And Comment allez vous ;
I could go on forever,
But that's va bon for me,
So now I think I'll say « Napoo »,
It's eight o'clock. Fini.

C. C. R.

Things you don't See or Hear

A good French barber.

A decent Cafe and « Dinkum » « eats » on the bill.

W.A.A.C. M. Ps.

Any place of interest within bounds.

Lights Out at « Lights Out ».

Officers during Air raids.

Water on a hot day.

Three cheers for Mr. Maconachie.

The orchestra playing at Troops Mess.

Too many Paris leave passes.

Letters for Egypt posted in France from June 22 to July 4 and July 11 to 15 may be considered as lost at sea, as well as correspondence for countries east of Suez posted from June 23 to July 15th.

WE WANT TO KNOW

Who were the three Sergeants who with three French ladies sat behind a huge wall to their sorrow. One don't always sit on grass, does one ?

The A.M.C. man who fell asleep in the Paris Omnibus instead of the train that would have landed him safely to camp.

Who was the love-sick Sergeant who in his hurry to go on leave made a fearful mix up of parade states and despatched a copy of the « Digger » to an official who would have been more pleased to know the number of men in camp.

Who was the aspirant for cooking honours who washed the dishes in the soup. We can't say whether the soup was issued or not.

What the famous « mystery » pudding, at the Con Camp, is composed of.

Who is the N.C.O. who had a waac on the jaw resulting in the loss of a tooth. Anyhow that is nothing to get moody over.

Who is the C.Q.M.S. in the A.I.B.D. to whom a waac gave a wrong name. It was a bit of a hard stroke, don't you think.

If a certain R. Q. M. S. knows how to enjoy « a pleasant Sunday afternoon » and incidentally if his French is perfect by now, and if afternoon tea tastes better in view of select company at his festive board.

What the Sgt said when his Waac wrote that fateful letter and what tale he told her when they met on the beach ?

Why members of the Q. M. Staffs are so popular with the Waac mot or drivers ?

Why a certain soldier only had one dance at the Lyric last Monday ? Considering his love for dancing such an occurrence should be chalked up.

Who the officer is who enjoys the concerts so much, In fact one said he only « Dug » in at the concert to hear this three starrer laugh.

Why the wood near the camp is so patronised by khaki couples? French scenery makes one sentimental.

Who is the records clerk, who like Woodrow Wilson, flings notes all round the camp, and claims to be the busiest military clerk on record.

If a certain C. S. M. in the Con Camp is so partial to shampoos, and shaves that he has his own tonsorial artist.

Overheard in the infantry lines, Ist Digger, « Say 'erb, what do you think of these ere Crematoriums ? « 'Erb (ex-cow cocky) « Don't believe in 'em We allus sent our cream to the butter factories at 'ome ».

The bright snappy opening of the Australians (A.I.B.D. concert party) at the Lismore Cinema, Thursday night, put the artistic bunch and the audience on good terms with each other. Martin Keith is the clever producer. He handled a similar job in Australia in Geo Willoughby's production. It was a great show.

The « XX^e Siècle Imprimerie » publishers of « The Digger » are purely French and no English is understood. This paper, therefore, is a unique souvenir. Send one home.

THE RIGHT TO MARRY

Reception Accorded Anzac Brides

Recent Australian newspapers publish long stories on the arrival of the first batches of soldiers brides in Australia. The arrival of these women seems to have caused a good deal of humour, and an attempt was made to treat the incident as a joke. Quite a number have forgotten the natural right of a man to select his own bride where he likes. When a shipload arrived recently the Melbourne « Age » stated that the journey ended in lovers meetings for the majority. It was said that two women sought in vain for a familiar face. One had travelled first class, and one had come third class, but at some point of the journey they had discovered that they were both seeking the same husband. « And would you believe it, » a sympathiser said, « he is not here to meet either of them ! » To the mere outsider it seemed that he had chosen the only possible course in the circumstances.

However amusing it might be to read of the incident, the action of such a cad should not have been spread broadcast to the general belittling of the English girls who have married Anzacs. There must have been hostile crowds at the pier, for the « Age » to say : — « As the boat slowly followed the tug to the berth, candour compels the admission that watchers on the pier expressed themselves in unmistakable language. Why should Australians marry such women, when far superior girls are here already ? Look at that one there ; see the paint and powder : isn't she a get-up ? Look there, did you ever see such a fright ? And the eye roved from end to end of the ship looking for some justification for the left handed compliment the Anzacs had paid the girls they left behind them ».

« Slowly the girls came down, and even jealous criticism can find little to say beyond, She thinks she's Christmas with her roseleaf complexion, but, (with savage satisfaction) a couple of summers here will finish that. The girls who landed yesterday spoke volumes for the discrimination of some Anzacs. Their complexions guiltless of artifice, were perfect ; their beauty enviable ; their taste in dress was so good that the only bit of spiteful comment possible was « they wear short skirts as well as our girls. » Rumour had it, however, that not every batch of brides that had arrived were up to yesterday's sample. The girls did not get the same welcome as the last batch was reported to have met. It seems that smouldering wrath was fanned into a blaze among a number of

local factory girls, who determined to avenge their wrongs upon their supplanters, and when the immigrant brides reached the end of the pier they found a bevy of girls armed with sticks and stones, prepared to give them 'a true Australian welcome'. A regular fight ensued although the historians did not relate which side came off victorious. « But the hair that could have been picked up afterwards was a caution » said a policeman. « None of us dared to interfere, and after all weren't there plenty of good girls in Australia without going to England to look for them ? »

APPRECIATION

« Thank you so much for kindly sending me a copy of your depot journal « The Digger », which I am very glad to see established, as I feel sure that regimental papers do much good among our troops, while the publication itself is naturally of interest to all concerned.

With kind regards and good wishes for the success of your paper.

Yours etc...

(Sgd) W.R. BIRDWOOD

Australians in England and France fail to see humour in such statements. There may be some guilty of having paid their girls in Australia « a left handed compliment » but nothing is said of the girls who sent the reinforcements white feathers, when they wore civie clothes, but, got tired of waiting for them to return, and married even colder feet. There is an unmistakeable hostile attitude towards the soldiers brides in many newspaper articles written. It is a thousand pities that such a foolish attempt should be made to pander to the mistaken sensibilities of the like of the Port Melbourne factory girls, who warmly welcomed the newcomers with sticks.

The majority of those who are protesting against the marriages on this side, have no claim on any soldier, and the girl whose soldier boy marries an English girl is well rid of him. It would be interesting to know how the majority of the Australian girls, of whom many could not remain true in Australia, would have acted if they had gone on a stunt such as this, and met thousands of Englishmen in similar circumstances. Some Australian newspapers will do well if they adopt a higher tone towards the good English ladies, who have befriended many Anzacs, and use the same « candour », which very effectively helps to make a miserable welcome to the soldiers wives, to justifying the natural right of Australian soldiers to select their brides where they like.

WELL, I'M !-!-!-!



The Hon. W. M. Hughes announced his willingness to interview the Diggers or consider their letters regarding grievances.

THE DIGGER

Published weekly by soldiers of Australian Imperial Force stationed at the Bases, Le Havre.

Editorial Staff and Management

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To Protect Soldiers' Rights

The Soldiers and Citizens Political Party has been formed in New South Wales. The objective of the party is to secure the organised co-operation of all returned soldiers and sailors, **DISTINCT FROM ANY PARTY AT PRESENT IN EXISTENCE**, for the purpose of protecting the interest of comrades on active service, returned men and their relatives, and to provide a purer form of non-class Government for the people of Australia.

A comprehensive platform has been drawn up. The first plank of the platform is « Betterment of the conditions under which returned soldiers will have to live. The next is to secure an amendment of the Pensions Act so that the full pension for totally incapacitated single men shall not be less than a living wage. Other planks of the platform relating to the war are : — To secure co-operation to utilise, in the assistance of Britain and her Allies, the utmost resources of the Commonwealth. To destroy pro-Germanism at home and abroad. To support candidates likely to conserve the interest of soldiers and their dependents. To keep the soldier sentiment from being exploited by any political party in existence. To use that sentiment for the development and protection of Australia. To examine by civil court, before their release, all interned persons to decide. — Whether they have been rightfully interned ; adequate punishment ; should be deported ; should be disfranchised for life, or for any period. Leave passes of aliens to be abolished. Combined wealth of interned enemy aliens to be used for the upkeep of concentration camps. Persons of enemy birth to be removed from the Commission of the Peace (whether interned or not) ; made ineligible for Parliament, for shire or municipal councils, for any boards or trusts, or for public employ in any capacity. Home defense and universal training. Introduction of the passport and registration system for all but British subjects. Disloyalists of the British race to be disfranchised for life.

Referring to the new party the Sydney « Sunday Mirror » says : — « That there are possibilities in the new party if recognised by some of the men who have been given the far sight. While there has not been any direct attempt to discourage the enterprise, there have been indirect efforts to buy into the new political formation, with the object, of course,

se, of acquiring the controlling interest, in time to swing the vote at the first of the elections in which it may be employed. In the new body there are men just about as wily as any in the lines of the professional politicians of the moment, and it is stated by these that any swinging of the vote of the Soldiers and Citizens' Political Party will be arranged from within, and will be in accordance with article 2 of the brief platform framed to enable it to carry on.

The new party is properly constituted. It is not social but political and must not be confused with any other returned soldiers' institute. Membership is not restricted to soldiers and sailors, but also includes citizens in sympathy with the objects of the party. »

While the primary object of the party is to protect the interests of returned soldiers, a full and comprehensive policy for the development of the Commonwealth has been drawn up.

WAR—AS I FOUND IT

I, to a first line trench, had gone,
The guns began to cough ;
The Sergeant shouted « Carry-on »
And I was carried off.

With nasty noises in my head,
At last I wakened up ;
Instead of trenches, safe in bed,
A sweet nurse with a cup.

« Drink this, and go to sleep again ».
I said « If this is war,
Just noise, a hospital and sleep,
I think I'll have some more ».
F. E. W.

PRISONERS IN GERMANY

Padre Merrington has made available the following important statement in connection with the new conditions which are arising in the prisoner-of-war camps in Germany.

« When Germany forms a new Prisoners' camp she is supposed immediately to inform England, and also to notify the camp that, pending supplies from England, it can draw emergency parcels from the British Red Cross Prisoners of War Emergency Depot in Rotterdam. Lately she neglected to do either, and as very few soldiers appear to know of the Rotterdam Depot, much suffering has been caused. England now learns of the formation of new camps merely through personal letters which perhaps take five or more weeks to arrive. She then has to communicate with the Hague, which in turn orders the despatch of parcels through Rotterdam. This delay could be avoided to a great extent if soldiers knew that the proper procedure in a new camp is at once to form a Help Committee which can requisition aid from the Rotterdam Depot. It is impossible for the Depot to deal with individuals and the emergency stores are sent out at the request of the British Help Committees. If they send a requisition to Rotterdam at the same time as the individuals write to England, the Camp would probably receive food from three weeks to a month earlier ».

ABOUT ABORIGINES

Apologies to " Square Dinkum "

The Australian aboriginal lives in the bush. He is black. Opinions differ as to his origin, but many people consider he sprang from the soil. He looks it. He is a man of simple habits, his simplest habit being his clothes. He dresses in a suit of fresh air on week-day and doesn't change on Sundays. However, under the civilising influence of the white man, he rapidly retrogresses into perforated dungaree trousers, a gaudy shirt, an old slouch hat, and acquires a fondness for beer. The aborigine in the bush inhabits a one storied residence, known as a « wurlie ». The chief domestic troubles are fleas, for like the whites he is much troubled by these insects. The black man has, of course, by superior knowledge evolved a much larger and more educated class of flea. The aboriginal shines as a black tracker. Notwithstanding that he is generally tracking the white man, he is known as the black tracker. At one time he spent much time and labour following the steps of the white malefactor, but now through education, he simply goes to the nearest pub and waits. The aborigine has a very simple and effective way of making love. He beckons with his finger to the lubra of his choice, and she immediately loves honours and obeys. But, if a rival beckons the lubra in an opposite direction, the two smitten nigs retire to a secluded spot, armed with waddies, boomerangs, and other interesting implements. The man who returns gets the girl. The one who doesn't is buried up a tree in the usual way. It is a short and simple transaction.

RICE !

Sing a song of sixpence,
A stomach full of rice,
Boiled, less milk or sugar,
Don't yer think its nice.

Bread for resurrection
Each day the judgment day
Following the entree
Hear the diggers' say.

« Where do they get the rice from
China or Japan,
Why don't they put it in the list
'Retired' or 'also ran' »

Sing a song of sixpence
A tin dish full of rice
Never ask a digger,
If he thinks its nice.

Rice today for dinner,
Rice tomorrow too
Rice for ever after.
Whats a man to do ?

Buy a pair of chopsticks,
Like the chow that took
Half cooked rice for breakfast,
After — « slung his 'ook. »

Rice will fatten, digger !
Boiled, or baked or raw,
Eat it brother with a zest
It will help to win the war.

F. E. W.

FRENCH PLEASURE RESORT

With the advent of Summer the inhabitants of that widely known centre, the A.G.B.D., are naturally on the look out for a good health and pleasure resort, and it is evident that one of the most popular, and which probably holds premier position in this locality is undoubtedly that fascinating and alluring resort known as the « Bull Ring ». It may be true that in pre-war days this delightful resort was practically unheard of, but since the outbreak of hostilities it has had an ever increasing throng of pleasure seekers.

For the information of the masses, who have not visited this charming locality it may be said that there are numerous attractions and the natural advantages should meet the most varied needs of tourists.

Situated as it is high above the level of the sea it offers splendid facilities for viewing the glorious surrounding scenery, and possesses unlimited scope for lovers of mountain climbing. Visitors to this ideal spot assert that for those who have never been able to perspire, or who have sleepless nights for want of exercise, will find this resort unexcelled.

Every day one is impressed with the enormous crowd of folk seeking exercise and pleasure moving along the hard roads. (Specially prepared to tire the feet of the vigorous in search for that tired feeling, for which he longs) and his heart is gladdened as the perspiration rolls down his face. Having climbed the heights he is regaled with a sunbath and listens to a lecture on « how to strafe the Hun ». This done he descends the winding paths, having accomplished his object, and weary, tired and hungry, he wanders back to his apartments to rest and sleep. It is « tres bon » and somewhere in the distance he hears the Con camp band playing « So-mo-a ».

GEOGRAPHY

From a Diggers's Diary

BLIGHTY. Leave destination.
PETTICOAT LANE. Ju-nited States.
STRAND. Bounded by Commonwealth Bank, pretty faces, and mafeesh feluce.
PARIS. So near, but yet so far.
IRELAND. Land of Sein Fein, and Aussies on peaceful leave.
SCOTLAND. Where the loss of one days leave in getting there is counterbalanced in Edinburgh.
BERLIN. Out of sight, and out of Bounds.
FRANCE. For geographical description consult staff officers for maps of interesting places, and railroad agents about superior travel arrangements, for long journeys.
BELGIUM. Scattered. Remnants running Estaminets; the balance in Havre.
TURKEY. Only on the map for historical reference. N.B. Harems are now mothers sewing circles.
DIXIELAND. Any field cook house.
AMERICA. Now in France - baseball, fords, and all.
AUSSIE. Nothing wrong with Aussie, except that it gets further away every day. Distance; coming this way, about 70 days Going; four years to date.
 Why we never see a smile from the man who lost part of his personal charm? « Smile! Bill, and show your gratitude. »

Our Letter Box

Waac.... We cannot say if any of the 47,000 are here. Write to Jone Bull. Dinkum Digger.... Your rash statements are typical of a badly injured virtue, especially when quite unlike the great literary men you love, you shrink behind the stone wall of anonymity. B. Buster.... Serry we cannot publish your statement re definition of an interesting subject, until we have secured confirmation from the Wac's camp. R. T. (A. S. C.) Your suggestion that certain Yellow Dandies should pad the calves of their legs has been forwarded to proper authorities. Your Waac's suggestion that their stockings should be packed with onions, has been turned down out of consideration for the orchestr, and the interesting ladies and gentlemen who sit in the front row. Aussie.... Story on patriotic songs played out. J.J.S.... Our scriptural editor is never seen in public, B. B.... Certainly. Anybody can contribute to the Digger. Only Joe.... Your story unsuitable, but there is nothing like trying. Bertie.... We cannot say why so many interesting places are out of bounds in Havre. Apparently there must be some justification for the authorities to take the action. Swinger.... If the Mademoiselles can't teach you French, there is no hope, unless you learn the movements. Lilydale.... Original stories are essential. If the Digger reproduces stories the fact will be stated distinctly. De not paraphrase another's writings.

AUSTRALIAN WIVES IN ENGLAND

« Senator Pearce has announced that from August 1st separation allowances are payable in the unit d kingdom to dependents of the A.I.T. resident there. » Commonwealth Cable.

The above announcement appearing in the British-Australasian should lift a load of uncertainty from the minds of the troops who married in Blighty on little more than their pay — and other Australians who have dependents in England.

The press has been commenting on the necessity in many cases of dependents of members of the A.I.F. in England to seek assistance from charitable sources. The High Commissioner (Mr. Fisher) was handed a sum representing a charitable fund for distribution in special cases of destitution. When these facts were fully revealed Australia resented the indignity imposed upon the British wives of our soldiers.

Now that the matter has been satisfactorily adjusted dependents and wives will receive monetary assistance from the proper source.

CUPID'S ARROW OF 1918

A quick little, slick little
 Shot well sent
 From an Aussie gun by an
 Aussie gent.
 A bubble of oil,
 A swirl of sea —
 Regards to « Bill » of
 Germany.

WE WANT TO KNOW

Who was the Q.M.S. who tore his riding breeches on a nail, and whether he had an entry made in his paybook when he was issued with a new pair?

Whether it is etiquette to issue Mademoiselles with « liquid air » from the Sergeants' Mess?

How many drinks one must have for him to mistake flies for a hat rack?

Who is the N.C.O. who exposed the moody one and his Waac, and if he and his lady soldier patronise the American Y.M.C.A.?

Why a certain C.S.M. had his « mo » removed? Was it for « camelflange »?

When the cook is going to buy an identification disc for his dog, and muzzle him, vide orders.

Who was the digger who loaned his Waac 30 francs, and why she does not meet him now? Farewell — a long, farewell — to all thy money! in a certain cafe where they got interesting souvenirs? The Mademoiselles are now said to be dying of broken hearts. Heartless Aussies!

Why so many diggers returned disappointed from the recent Sports? The anticipated presence of several thousand female operatives were « Frogs », a host of dog, and the Con. Camp Band.

What the Sergeant told his Waac when he handed back the money he had been minding for her? It required « some » courage to explain to a member of the opposite sex, why you could not meet her again, when a week before, you were swearing devotion.

Who the Sergeant is who swopped girls with the Yank for the dance at the Lyric? Observers say nobody lost on the deal.

Why three Australians took two Waacs to a dance? The third man was the wallflower and he wandered about singing « Nobody knows; nobody cares ».

Why two « respectable » artillerymen should return from Paris a day before their leave ended. One is full of the wonders of Polly Burgess and the other talks of Paris by night.

Why a « mild » Corporal should threaten to crime half a dozen men over the loss of a bicycle he had carefully mislaid himself. Mademoiselles are a nuisance sometimes.

Why a military medalist should wear the 6th Army color on one arm and the 12th on the other. Perhaps he would like to wear the Y.M.C.A. colors on his head.

Musketry Inst (O.T.B.) Here! What's the weight of our rifle? Bill (awaiting return to Batt) Between Canteen Corner and Ploeg Street anywhere from a ton to a ton and a half.

Handcuffs were used at A.I.B.D., to put « the wind up » a couple of youngsters straying round the lines. The Handcuff Kings did not include the key in the joke and Jack Knives, bayonets, and tin openers had to be forcibly applied to free the offending youngsters.

SPORT

SGT J.F. O'DONNELL
Late Brisbane "Daily Mail"

A real good program was the general verdict as the diggers filed out of the Gym last Monday evening. For two hours they sat and watched a band of enthusiastic novices distributing buckets full of uppercuts, hooks, jolts and other ingredients of the « Art Fistic ». The whole-souled effort in which these boys (just out of hospital) fight out their three round bouts speaks volumes for the value of boxing as a physical training stunt. It's safe to assume that the lads, who, on entering the Con Camp, make the novice boxing classes their objective are, when their brief period of convalescence is over, as fit as the proverbial fiddle. A couple of exhibition bouts padded out a most interesting novice program.

BOXING

Pte Pascoe and Pte Brady, the latter a stocky little Inskilling Fusilier, were the first pair in the ring. These boys put up a real good go. Brady is a 'dour' little slogger but the other chap's advantages in height and reach made the little fellow's task a hard one. They fought the three rounds at top speed. Pascoe was the better boxer while Brady was the more willing of the pair. The verdict 'a draw' pleased the crowd. Personally, I thought Pascoe had a shade the best of matters.

That lively little battler Sap Woods had a tough morsel to chew in L/Cpl Lusty (Inskillings). Woods was fast and tricky but the Irishman carried a sleeping draught in his right glove if he could have landed properly. At the end of a splendid bout Woods copped the decision.

The go between Ptes Hayes and Brinkworth was short and sweet. Hayes swung at Brinkworth and missed. The latter gladiator then took a punch at Hayes and didn't miss. Hayes retired with a cut forehead. Should recommend golf to young Hayes as a most interesting pastime.

The next bout was a scream. Cpl Fleming tall and lathy opposed Dvr Breton, short and stumpy. If ever a man was imbued with a single idea, that man is the Corporal. His one desire was to knock Breton's head in amongst the audience. The Corp's style would not recommend itself to supporters of the Jem Mace, or in fact, any other known school of boxing. His methods are original. As a ringman he is a combination of Charles Chaplain and the late lamented Mr. Chidley. Each of the gentlemen had original ideas, so has the corporal. Breton played up to his opponent in great style while the great crowd rocked with laughter. Weird and wonderful punches flew here, there and everywhere. The Corporal's wandering wallops now and again brought up against his opponents dial. Accidents will happen you know. Breton took two spills on the floor, while Fleming struck a Julius Knightish attitude. There was a dead silence as the judges slips were collected. When Lieut. Snow solemnly declared Cpl Flemnig winner a roar of delight made the rafters ring. The Cpl

is easily the most popular boxer in the Depot.

Ptes Dann and Connolly fought a return battle. These chaps are very well matched. Last week Connolly was declared winner. This time a draw was the verdict. Tall active fellows, with a quick left hand and a fair knowledge of blocks and stops, these chaps are decidedly useful with the mitts.

Charlie Moran boxed a neat exhibition with Dvrs Smart and Kelly.

Ptes Jim Monaghan and Barker, clever middleweights gave a fine rapid fire exhibition. These chaps are to be matched against English boxers in the near future.

WRESTLING

Sgt Billy Meeske and a clever pupil named Palmer gave a delightful exhibition of catch-as-catch-can wrestling. Palmer is a credit to the popular wrestling instructor. His improvement is most noticeable.

DISPLAY IN GYMNASIUM

Last Tuesday night the Gym was packed with a seething mass of « Soldiermanity ». The attraction was a display given by Instructor Judd and his band of clever pupils. When interest was at its height and the show was running like a well oiled machine a most unfortunate accident marred the proceedings. While attempting a most difficult feat on the horizontal bar the dapper little instructor's grip slipped and he went hurtling through space. There was an involuntary « Ugh ! » of horror changed to a sigh of relief when it was noticed that apparently all was well. Although in great pain Mr Judd smilingly carried on for a time. It was however, a Spartan effort and eventually he had to cry « Enough ». Medical examination revealed that the muscle fibres of the neck were torn. Though not serious Mr Judd's injury is exceedingly painful. At the time of writing it was anticipated that the popular Gymnast would be confined to his bed for at least a week. Although the Mentor's absence robbed the show of a lot of its interest, several splendid items having to be cut out, it must be conceded that the boys carried on remarkably well. Sgt Meeske and Pte Geo Kean rushed into the breach with a splendid little comedy acrobatic turn. It went big. Kean's « dummieing » throughout the show was a feature of the evening. The roman rings brought to light a clever performer in Pte Bert Hamilton. On the horizontal bar Sgt Frank Mullers was masterly. His showing was up to the best professional standard. Very graceful was the work on the « vaulting horse » with its attendant « tiger leap. » Cpl Gladstone gained great applause by his magnificent diving over the obstacle. His last spring carried him over a height of 6 ft 2 ins. Russian Dancing and Wand drill were interesting items. The Pyramid building was clever. The P. T. instructors were invaluable in this stunt.

A number of ladies graced the show with their presence. A dance followed and hundreds of iron shod feet swung in the dreamy mazes of the waltz. Sgt Edwards and his fine orchestra provided the music that cheers the « Aussie » breast throughout the evening.

FIXTURES

In the A. G. B. D. and Con Camp the following fixtures are scheduled :

MONDAY, «Austral».

TUESDAY, Y. M. Ladies Party.

WEDNESDAY, «Six months on Anzac», Chap/Col Merrington.

THURSDAY, Lecture, «The Kaiser and his Ancestors», Miss Williamson, History Lectress at Eginburgh University.

FRIDAY, (if possible to arrange later) Havre Repertory Co., in «She Stoops to Conquer».

The A. I. B. D. bill is : MONDAY, Song Service. TUESDAY, Con Camp Band. WEDNESDAY, «Austral». FRIDAY, «Yellow Dandies». The Anzac Coves will appear on either THURSDAY or SATURDAY.

Orchestra will be busy this week. MONDAY ; A. G. B. D. Sgts Mess with Anzac Coves ; TUESDAY, Detention Hospital and in the evening at A. I. B. D. Sgts Mess ; WEDNESDAY, Crystal Palace ; FRIDAY, at A. I. B. D. in conjunction with Yellow Dandies and on SATURDAY with the Dandies at A. G. B. D. Cinema ; SUNDAY, 6 p. m., in Geelong Hut.

NOTES

The «Anzac Coves» have been twice to see us at Lismore Cinema. The artistic bunch were warmly received on each occasion. The shows they have given at the Bases have upheld the splendid reputation this party has earned. We're publishing a newsy story about the «Coves» in next issue.

Sgt Arthur Edwards, conductor of the Australian Orchestra is anxious to meet all experienced musicians marching into the Bases.

Capt. Neech, A. I. B. D. is arranging an entertainment to take place soon. He will be assisted by our Orchestra. The program will consist chiefly of his own musical compositions and sketches. Capt. Neech made a big hit with his recent baritone song «Australia».

Lieut Mc. Lennan is here. He's one of the old hands and is now with the Yellow Dandies. He was with J.C. Williamson's Co.

«The Melodious Rag» written and composed by Sapper McGlynn and Dave Oliver is included in the Dandies program this week. The raggy melody makes you want to hear 't some more.

The A.I.B.D. concert Party derive the name «Austral» from the Revuette «A night on the Austral» with which they toured the South of England. A complete scenic setting of the pleasure yacht «Austral» was a big feature of the show then.

Alan R. Bailey the popular Basso of the party is really a New Zealander. In 1912 he won the open championship against all comers. Arundel Orchard of the Sydney Philharmonic adjudicated.

In Arthur Douglas the boys recognise an old favorite. Apart from his long sojourn on the Rickards and Fuller circuits, he has toured Aussie under the direction of the Caledonian Society.

Jack Marks, the comedian, will be better known to patrons of Vaudeville on the Melbourne side as Al Rayton. A hard working comedian is Johnnie. He has scarcely time to breathe during the show. He has quickly become a favorite.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.DAG
AIF
21/199

Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
Care H.Q., Fifth Army.
9th July 1918.

Admin. Headqrs., A.I.F.,
L o n d o n.

For publication in A.I.F. Orders please -

"Australian Base units in France - Organisation and establishment of" -

1. The Australian Base Units in France, viz -

Australian General Base Depot.
Australian Infantry Base Depot,
1st Australian Convalescent Depot,
Australian Base Depots Camp Hospital,

have been organized and are placed under the administrative command of an officer to be appointed Commandant, Australian Base Depots, France.

2. The Commandant, Australian Base Depots - France will perform the duties of C.O., Australian General Base Depot in addition to the duties of the former appointment.

3. The Commandant, Australian Base Depots will have a staff to assist him in his duties to be known as Headquarters, Australian Base Depots - France.

His duties will comprise the supervision and control of all matters of administration and discipline of the Australian Base Units except the despatch of reinforcements on which the O.C., Reinforcements, will communicate direct with the Base Depots concerned and vice versa.

4. The establishment of H.Q., Australian Base Depots - France and the other units abovementioned are issued herewith as Appendix A.

5. The Australian Base Depots Camp Hospital will be attached to the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot and will be under the command of the O.C., 1st Australian Convalescent Depot.

6. All promotions to fill vacancies in these units will be temporary.

(Signed) T.H.D.

Brig-General.

D.A.G., A.I.F.

A P P E N D I X A.ESTABLISHMENTS.Headquarters - Australian Base Depots - France.

<u>D e t a i l</u>	<u>Offi- cers.</u>	<u>W.Os.</u>	<u>S/Sgts. & Sgts.</u>	<u>Rank & File</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Commandant (Colonel or Lieut-Colonel who al- so commands A.G.B.D.)	1	-	-	-	1	(a) Includes Cook 1 Cook's asst. 1
Staff Officer (Lieut. or Capt.)	1	-	-	-	1	(b) Includes 1 Cpl.Clerk (H.Q.Office)
O.C., Camp Police (Lieut. or Capt.)	1	-	-	-	1	1 Pte.Clerk (H.Q.Office)
✓ Regtl.Sergt.Major.	-	1	1	-	1	1 Pte.Clerk to O.C.Camp Police
✓ Provost Sergt.	-	-	1	-	1	
✓ Provost Corporals.	-	-	-	3	3	
✓ Military Police	-	-	-	30(a)	30	
✓ Clerks	-	-	-	3(b)	3	
✓ Batmen	-	-	-	2	2	
Total	3	1	1	38	43	

Note - The whole of the above establishment will be "B" class except the Military Police who should be "B" class but "A" class men may be retained until suitable "B" class men are available to replace them.

Australian General Base Depot.

<u>D e t a i l</u>	<u>Offi- cers</u>	<u>W.Os.</u>	<u>S/Sgts. & Sgts.</u>	<u>Rank & File</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>Commanding Officer</u>	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	<u>1</u>	
Adjutant	1	-	-	-	1	
Quartermaster	1	-	-	-	1	
Subalterns	4(a)	-	-	-	4	
Regtl. Sergt. Major	-	1	-	-	1	
Regtl. Quartermaster	-	1	-	-	1	
Sergt.	-	5(b)	-	-	5	
Coy. Sergts. Major	-	-	4(a)	-	4	
Coy. Quartermaster	-	-	5(b)	-	5	
Sergts.	-	-	-	15(d)	15	
Corporals	-	-	-	56(e)	56	
Privates	-	-	-	10(f)	10	
Batmen	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Total (excluding Attached)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>103</u>	
Attached -						
A.A.M.C.	1	-	1(g)	5(h)	7	
A.A. Pay Corps	-	-	1(i)	-	1	
<u>Total (including Attached)</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>111</u>	

- (a) 1 for each Coy.
 (b) 1 for each Coy., and 1 for Depot Orderly Room.
 (c) Depot Orderly Room, 1; Depot Orderly Sergt, 1; Drafts conducting, 1; Sergt. Cook, 1; Train rationing, 1 - Total 5.
 (d) Coy. Orderly Cpls. 4; Depot Orderly Room 1; Q.M. Ration Store, 1; Q.M. Clothing Store, 1; Officers' Mess, 1; Sergts' Mess, 1; Dining Halls, 1; Sanitation, 1; Pioneer, 1; Clerk to Q.M., 1; Tailor, 1; Shoemaker, 1; - Total 15.
 (e) Depot Orderly room 5; Q.M. Stores - ration store 2, Equipment store 1, Bulk store 1, Officers' mess (including cook) 5; Sergts' mess (including cook) 5, Dining Halls 4, Sanitation, 6; Carpenter 1; Shoemaker 1; Tailor 1; Pioneers 3; Butcher 1; Bath house 1; Drying room 1; Barbers 2; Incinerator 1; Destructor 1; Cooks 10; Company Clerks 4; - Total 56.
 (f) Includes batmen for reinforcement officers &c.
 (g) Staff Sergeant Dispenser.
 (h) Includes 1 Corporal Clerk, 2 Privates (dressers) and 2 Privates (hospital attendants);
 (i) Pay Sergeant.

Note:- The whole of the above personnel will be "B" Class. "A" class men may be employed as Cooks until suitable "B" class men are available to replace them.

AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BASE DEPOT.

D e t a i l	Offi- cers.	W.Os.	S/Sgts. & Sgts.	Rank & File.	Total	Remarks
Lieut-Colonel	1	-	-	-	1	
Adjutant	1	-	-	-	1	
Quartermaster	1	-	-	-	1	
Subalterns	5(a)	-	-	-	5	
Regtl.Sergt.Major	-	1	-	-	1	
Regtl.Quartermaster Sergt.	-	1	-	-	1	
Coy.Sergts.Major	-	5(a)	-	-	5	
Orderly Room Sergt.	-	-	1	-	1	
Coy.Quartermaster Sergts.	-	5(a)	5(a)	-	5	
Sergts.	-	-	20(b)	-	20	
Corporals	-	-	-	16(c)	16	
Privates	-	-	-	77(d)	77	
Batmen	-	-	-	28(e)	28	
Total (Excluding Attached)	8	7	26	121	162	
Attached -						
A.A.M.C.	1	-	1(f)	5(g)	7	
A.A.Pay Corps	-	-	1(h)	-	1	
Total (including attached)	9	7	28	126	170	

(a) 1 each Coy.

(b) Q.M.store,1; Sergt.Cook,1; Train conducting,1;Train ration-
ing 1; Depot Orderly Sergt 1; Platoon Sergts.13 per Coy.) 15;
Total 20.(c) Orderly room 2; Q.M.Store 2; Dining halls 1; Officers' mess 1;
Sergts' mess 1; Sanitation 1; Shoemaker 1; Tailor 1; Pioneer 1;
Coy.Orderly Corpls 5; - Total 16.(d) Orderly room 5; Q.M.Stores - Clothing store 2; bulk store 2;
Ration store 1; Officers' mess 5; Sergts' mess 5; Dining halls
8; Sanitation 8; Carpenter 1; Shoemakers 3; Tailor 1; Pioneers
3; Butchers 2; Bath house 2; Drying room 1; Barbers 2;
Incinerator 2; Destructor 1; Cooks 13; Coy.Clerks (2 per Coy)
10 - Total 77.

(e) Includes batmen for reinforcement officers.

(f) Staff Sergeant Dispenser.

(g) Includes 1 Corpl.Clerk, 2 dressers and 2 hospital attendants.

(h) Pay Sergeant.

Note - The whole of the above personnel will be "B" class."A"
Class men may be employed as cooks until suitable "B"
Class men are available.to replace them.

D E t a i l	Offi- cers.	W.Os.	S/Sgts. & Sgts.	Rank & file.	Total	Remarks
Commanding Officer - Lt-Col.(A.A.M.C.)	1	-	-	-	1	
Adjutant	1	-	-	-	1	
Quartermaster	1	-	-	-	1	
Lieutenants	6(a)	-	-	-	6	
Regtl.Sergt.Majors.	-	3(b)	-	-	3	
Regtl.Quartermaster Sergts.	-	3(c)	-	-	3	
Coy.Sergt.Majors	-	7(d)	-	-	7	
Physical Training Instructors	-	-	10	-	10	
Sergts.	-	-	3(e)	-	3	
Corporals.	-	-	-	10(f)	10	
Privates	-	-	-	50(g)	50	
Batmen	-	-	-	8	8	
<u>A.A.M.C.Personnel:-</u>						
Officers	6	-	-	-	6	
S/Sgt.Dispenser	-	-	1	-	1	
Clerks	-	-	-	2(h)	2	
Privates	-	-	-	4(i)	4	
Special duty	-	-	-	8 (j)	8	
Total (excluding attached)	15	13	14	82	124	
<u>Attached -</u>						
<u>A.A.M.C.</u>						
Aust.Base Depots	-	-	1	9(k)	10	
Camp Hospital						
7 Dental units	7	-	14	7	28	
Total (including attached)	22	13	29	98	162	

- (a) One for each Coy.
 (b) One for Depot H.Q. and for each Division of 1000 men.
 (c) One for Q.M.Store and each Division of 1000 men.
 (d) One for Depot Orderly Room, 1 for each Coy.
 (e) Orderly Room 1; Sergt.Cook 1; Ration store 1; - Total 3.
 (f) Tailor 1; Shoemaker 1; Pioneer 1; Orderly Room 1; Clerk for each Division of 1000 men 2; Sanitary 1; Dining halls 1; Officers' Mess 1; Sergts' mess 1; - Total 10.
 (g) Orderly Room 5; Q.M.Store 4; Officers' mess 3; Sergts' mess 5; Sanitary duties 4; Barbers 2; Butcher 1; Cooks 10; Dining halls 6; Incinerator 1; Destructor 1; Coy.Clerks 6; Pioneers 2; - Total 50.
 (h) Includes 1 Corpl.
 (i) Includes 2 dressers, 2 hospital attendants.
 (j) Includes 2 Corpls.
 (k) Includes 1 Corpl.

Note - The whole of the above personnel will be "B" Class except Medical Officers and Physical Training Instructors. P.T. Instructors will be relieved and rejoin their Units every 4 months. "A" Class men may be employed as Cooks until suitable "B" Class men are available to relieve them.