

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Bases & Depots

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November 1918



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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

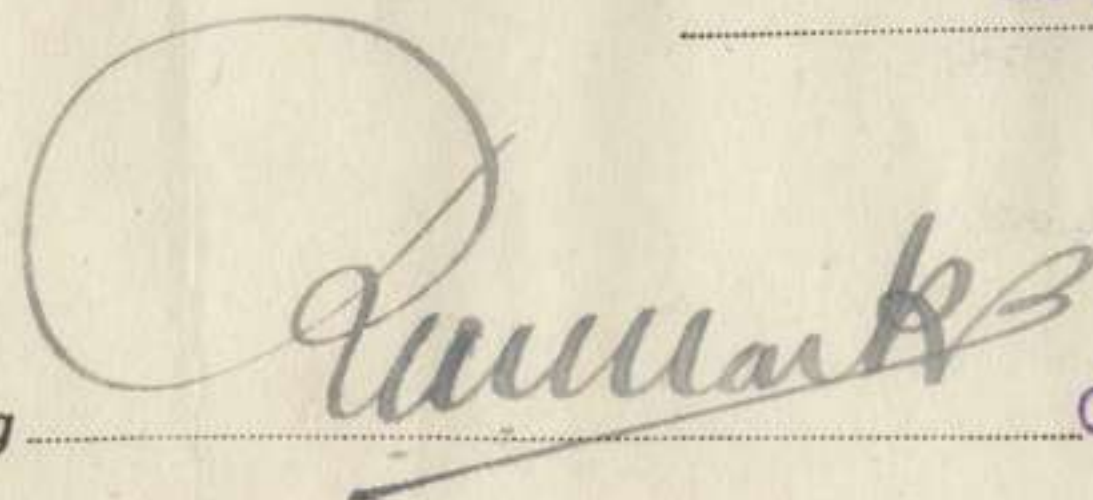
OF

HEADQUARTERS. AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS. FRANCE.

FOR

NOVEMBER. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling



Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding



Colonel.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

424

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lezarde Valley, HAVRE.			<p><u>LEAVE:</u> Colonel C.H. Davis, B.S.O., V.D., Commandant, Australian Base Depots, France, proceeded to Paris on leave.</p> <p><u>ARMISTICE:</u> The outstanding feature of the month was the signing of the Armistice, news of which was communicated to the troops immediately on receipt from Headquarters. It is gratifying to note that the behaviour of the Australian troops in Havre on this occasion was excellent. A detailed account of the Armistice celebrations will be found in the columns of the "Digger."</p> <p><u>EDUCATION:</u> Organising work in connection with the Educational Scheme is now well in hand and classes and lectures are held daily, the attendances being up to expectations. A series of articles recounting the scope of the scheme is appearing in the Base journal, and Lieuts. Clemes and Smith (Education Officers at the Base) are receiving encouraging support from all quarters.</p> <p><u>DRAFTS:</u> There has been great movement of troops through the Bases during the month, consisting of large drafts from England proceeding to join their various units and "B" class personnel and 1915 men who are in process of being drafted to England for early return to Australia.</p> <p><u>INFLUENZA:</u> The epidemic of influenza having abated, restrictions on leave to Havre are now not only removed but greater privileges are being granted to the troops in these Depots. For example, a certain percentage of passes are being allowed from 1000 hrs. to 1830 hrs. in addition to the customary afternoon and evening passes. This scheme was devised to cope with the difficulties of transport which would have arisen if a greater number of evening passes had been granted and obviates the possibility of overcrowding of the late trams and trains.</p> <p><u>CONCERT PARTY:</u> The Base Concert Party is now in full swing. The shows in the different Depots have been much appreciated by the troops and a short season of two nights and a matinee at the Grand Theatre, Havre, yielded magnificent results.</p> <p><u>"THE DIGGER":</u> The Base journal continues to grow in popularity and contains full details of the various amusements and sports carried out in these Depots.</p>	


Colonel
Commandant, Australian Base Depots, France

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THE DIGGER

AUSTRALIAN
BASES
FRANCE

WEEKLY EDITION

VOL. 1 No. 14.

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 1918

PRICE ONE PENNY

When Wilhelm sued for Peace

King Billjim dictates his terms
DIGGERLAND REPLACES DEUTSCHLAND

When Wilhelm II, King of all the Huns, decided that the mailed fist had brought him a big G, he wired to Billjim, chief of the Diggers, thus :

"Fed up. Want Armistice"

Billjim replied briefly and to the point. It ran as follows, -- « It must be unconditional — the whole of Hunland must be thrown open to the Diggers. » Wilhelm accepted. Billjim, and his tribe of some hundreds of thousands crossed the Rhine, and after many rejoicings reached the Spree. They Entered Unter den Linden, and met the chiefs of the Hunland. The conference was brief. Hardly had the fallen Wilhelm croaked out a few words of his country's ruin and trouble when Smith of Our 'arbour moved the adjournment of the conference to Young and Jacksons, on the famous Yarra.

The Historical Arrival

The day of history — the one long anticipated — had arrived. It was a Spring morning and thousands flocked to Queenscliff and Port Melbourne to wait the arrival of the great white ship that was conveying the plenipotentiaries. It had been announced that the State ship contained Wilhelm, of Prussia, Ludendorff and Hindenburg of the Goosesteppers, Hollweg, Hertling and Prince Max of the advanced Junkers. Von Tirpitz was coming, but according to wireless a fierce argument took place in the fo'castle on the merits of submarining. It was alleged that Tirpitz would float in water. The experiment failed. When near the coast of India the Kron Prinz heaved a sigh of love. He was informed that the Oriental country of his dreams was but a mile away, and he was told to swim, but when the boat had left him behind several miles somebody in authority remarked that the coast he was heading for was exactly 1000 1/4 miles away. The great white ship passed the Heads. The crowd roared, and from the deck Billjim bowed his acknowledgments. Nothing else was seen, but someone declared they could hear the strains of music coming from the saloon, and the words were « Mademoiselle from Armentieres ». A few hours later the ship was alongside. The crowd gathered and cheered, and a Pitt Street « gent », who had waited patiently since the outbreak of war to see His Majesty somewhere, even in Heaven, or the other place, called out « Where's Bill? » « In irons, swinger! » shouted Billjim from the Deck.

Diggerland!

Then it transpired that when Billjim and his followers left Hunland for the South the diggers had been left in complete control. There was a Digger in every town as burgomaster. They used the State cars and carriages, sailed about in Wilhelm's yacht, held levees at Court, sacked all the Counts, Dukes, and Princes, made the remnants of the Hun army goose-step on every meal parade, swanked in the castles of the former great, and revised and edited the Hun language. The aged philisophers and professors of literature compiled a new dictionary, and the Hunnish children for the first time learnt such words as « Struth, Blimie, Blazes, Big Gs (meaning failure) Plurry, Blinkin, Blooming, » and many others. Even a new national game was instituted, and children at school were seen to gather in a ring, watch « something » spinning in the air, and marvel at the wonders of the new game. « Heads! » the kipper yelled, but in another minute, « Donner und blitzen! Micks are right! »

The Landing

The crowd gathered round the pier. Billjim was wearing the distinction and rank of a first class Lance Corporal. And so he led them forth down the gang way — the last of the Hunnish War Lords. Returned soldiers laughed and were amused, but the « heroes », who « couldn't » go hooted and boo-ooed, called the Huns « Bosches », and drew their fingers across their throats in develish prediction of the fate of the captives. Billjim headed the procession. There were 2000 Diggers with him. Politicians, Lord Mayors, Social Leaders, Religious Cranks, Quakers, and Red Ragers were jostled aside. Billy Hughes sang the « Hymn of Hate » from a kerosene tin, while Sir Alex. Peacock burst into two hours spe!! of laughing over Billjim's monocle. On they went through the city streets, the spurs of Wilhelm, Ludendorff, and Hindenburg clanging on the roadway. They stopped at Young and Jacksons, mounted the stairs, and guarded by 200 Diggers, the conference began. Billy Hughes, Holman, Joe Cook, and Willie Watt demanded admission, but Billjim replied, « We captured them, so we are the plenipotentiaries of State. »

The Verdict

The crowd waited in feverish anxiety. What was to be their fate? An hour later

Billjim appeared at the top window, and read the following proclamation.

« The conference has agreed that Deutschland become Diggerland; the Digger garrison become the leaders of the new country; but as to the captives it has been decided that their disposition is to be as follows. — Wilhelm, to be handed over to the « ladies » who recently « weicomed » the Anzac brides; Ludendorff and Hindenburg to live at Yass Canberra to play with soldier ants; Hollweg, Hertling and Prince Max to act as batmen in the shearing sheds of New South Wales and Queensland. »

Two Years Later

Two years later Diggerland was still Diggerland; the remnants of Wilhelm — a small piece of a Blucher boot — was handed over to the Digger War Museum; Ludendorff and Hindenburg died of lageritis; and Hollweg, Hertling and Prince Max could swear with the fluency of the wildest outback boundary rider.

THE SNIPER

Item from Brigade Intelligence : —
"Enemy's snipers causing numerous casualties"
Item from same source (three days later) : —
"Enemy's snipers quiet".

Three hundred yards finds his outpost
Over the crater's crown;
Three hundred more and your shot will flick
His front lines straggling brown,
But you must watch till the eye grows blurred
Ere you mark the quarry down.
Yes! you may wait from the dawn till night.
Ere his square head rests on your rifle sight.
For Jerry's a bloke
Who can't see the joke
And Jerry's a bloke that's slim;
And we all know well.
Though he strafes like Hell,
He don't like you strafing him.
And this is the job of the sniper,
(Who fashions his own little "show")
He's O. C. of the "stunt",
And he harries his front
As far as a bullet may go.
Be wary — and "get" the unwary
(A motto that's fixed and true)
Don't lean on the parapet dreaming
And thinking of Kate or Sue.
Or some sniping Hoch, ever waiting,
Will loosen a trigger on you.
And, cobber of mine you may say good night
Once your tin hat rests on his rifle sight.
For Jerry's a bloke
Who likes a joke,
Provided the joke's his own;
But show you can meet him
And easily beat him,
Then — Jerry leaves sniping alone.
And that is the work of the sniper,
(Who fashions his own little show)
He's O. C. of the stunt,
And he bosses the front,
As far as a bullet may go.

G. A. Hunter,
A. Coy.

The Commonwealth Defence Department is utilising Australian wood for aeroplane construction.



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

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THE SOUL OF A NATION

These days in which we live are the greatest in all history. Never before has the world witnessed such forces let loose in the tragic grips of War. In the inevitable changes that such an upheaval necessarily brings in its train, men get a grip of moral values in a way that the mind never previously contemplated.

Religion feels its effect and to an extent accommodates itself to a new environment. Diplomacy is rudely thrown out of the old groove of centuries. The interchange of methods between different peoples necessarily brings adjustments of varied outlook and ideals. And thus it is amid all the changes and vicissitudes of war, men and nations find their souls and know themselves as they never did heretofore.

One of the outstanding features of the present world-wide convulsion is the advance that woman has made as a co-equal and co-operator with man. Never before has woman's sphere and moral value been so universally recognised. In the factory and workshops, in the field and farm, on the railway and buses, in the army and navy; in various ways woman has played an extensive and unexpected part. Now man's mind has turned in the direction of giving her equal rights and privileges in the domain of Government. It is a moral impulse that prompts men to elevate womankind to the highest posts of national responsibility.

Some nations rely more on materialism than moral values; but in the final analysis, that which sustains and elevates, that which leads to self-sacrifice and ultimately gathers within its influence all those whose soul is not shrivelled and debased with brutality and force, is the one whose soul is sustained by the passion of liberty. It wins the heart of all who love their fellows and strive for their uplifting.

In finding out what the soul of a nation really is, one must look for the way that justice and liberty are striven for; must keenly observe the effort to break through all the traditions and

self-interests of the past and grope in the present towards those ideals which make for progress, peace and purity.

It must be gratifying for Australians to observe that they placed women in a position to influence their public life on an equal footing with man years ago, and now amid the clash of a world in arms, the old world is following this example from the new.

The development of a nation's soul may be observed in the future among those people who not only make their womenfolk equal in government but place them on an equality industrially.

These great changes are matters of slow development. With ages of prejudice and long years of custom some epoch-making event seems necessary to suddenly crystalize the ideal and realize it in effect.

The soul of a nation is shown in what it can endure for an ideal, the activity which it exhibits against wrong and the cheerful effort it continually and consciously makes for right.

AUSTRALIAN DANDIES

Last Saturday the Australian Dandies again scored in what might be termed a request-revival programme with, of course, a liberal infusion of new numbers. The dramatic and humorous sketches have certainly caught on with the crowd. When it comes to the production of a programme strong in comedy, art and good music, an Australian soldier audience is entirely satisfied. It would seem that the Dandies under George Dawes are working along these lines. Lieut Harper rendered some choice numbers from his splendid repertoire and pleased immensely. Rendered with a rich tenor voice his songs were cheered and applauded. Claude McGlynn made his final appearance as violin soloist. During the week he left for the « Anzac Coves ». Mac has been of great musical assistance in the Bases. In the Australian Orchestra, and with the Dandies he was an acquisition. He has also written and composed some song numbers which have been sung with success by the party.

Order your Xmas Number now

The Christmas number of « The Digger » is to be an elaborate souvenir edition of 16 pages including a handsome cover design. There will be a limited number for sale so get in early. The Digger may be mailed anywhere in the world. *Order yours now.* The price is 50 centimes or mailed 60 centimes. Leave your name and address at the Digger office and the names of any friends you wish the Xmas number mailed to. If you are not within calling distance write care of Australian Base Depots Havre, enclosing the amount for number required and you'll get your copy as soon as it leaves the press.

This is dinkum. An Australian family, who had not heard of their soldier boy for nearly two years began a week of prayer. On the third day a cable reached the old man; « Forward £50. Urgent. Bill. »



Ex Democrat. Your polite criticism in reference to matters of local interest will be shown to the people concerned. Thank you, for your interest and support. H. H. No; with a capital N. A Digger tells a secret, —

« Across the duckboards they go each night,

For little brown ladies so merry and bright,

And the diggers fall victims, as well they might

For who can resist, or attempt to fight Against having a Waac, in the woods at night!

So the Waac's and the diggers down Le Havre way,

Though they can't do much on their army pay,

Have a jolly good time in their own small way.

And they don't give a — what some folks say.

They make love while at war or work or play,

The Waacs, we all love them, God bless them, Hurray! »

Curtain. F. B. Deleted by censor. J. J. waxes patriotic, —

« Rise up! ye men with a conscience; Rise up! at your country's call;

Fight for your King and your Homeland; Fight! — and if need be — Fall!! »

We are saving it for the next war. Skipper. It fell with a resounding crash in the W. P. B. Sapper McDuff. Never knew there was any other way of starving a nation except by hunger. Iron Ration. In the words of our critic it « limps and staggers. » M. A. S. « The Man from the Snowy River » applied to « Our Move to the Somme, » don't go. However here goes for just one spasm,

« At last we reached the battlefield, We were a jolly lot ;

Advanced the line, a mile or two, And never fired a shot. »

Wouldn't be a bad old war if that were always true. D.M. Repatriation is a serious matter. We cannot accept any other view.

CON CAMP BAND

The 1st Australian Convalescent Depot Band has now reached a stage when to style it as a good band would not be flattery. Formed when the Con. Camp opened it has safely weathered the storm which every band has to encounter in its infancy. The success of the band has been assured by its bandmaster, Bobbie Condon, an old Coldstream Guards' Cornet player, who gives the boys the « Roger » touch with great affect. Unlike their Base comrades they have not the irksome duty of taking drafts to town, their duties being in the Depot. Each week band concerts are provided in hospitals, W.A.A.C. hostels, and other depots, by our men. The bandsmen are delighted with the continued support and encouragement given by Colonel Burston, C. O. Con Camp, and Capt Middleton, adjutant.

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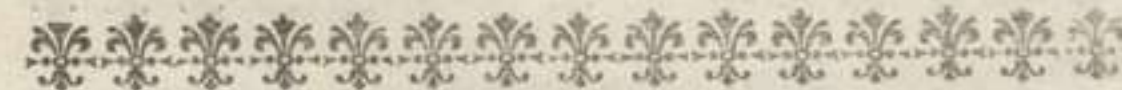
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OUR FRENCH ALLY AN APPRECIATION By "JACARANDA"

In the midst of journalists galore I feel somewhat diffident about approaching the subject of our French Allies feeling that some abler pen than mine should be induced to put a few paramount ideas before the readers of "The Digger". You may ask what has given rise to any question on the matter and I may tell you at the outset that I am not prone to judge without considering all the facts, and I know that many of our boys get a totally wrong impression of this magnificent nation, merely from the fact that they do not come in contact with the best French people.

I have been pained to hear the absurd expressions regarding France and its people, which some of our men give after being twenty-four hours on French soil. This would not be so objectionable if not committed to paper but I often find that these same men write to their homes in far-off Australia in sonorous phrases, expressing opinions which are formed through the chance acquaintance these soldiers make in some second class estaminet or in the street. I put it to you! Is this a sensible method of judging? I think not. Think, for a moment, what the French nation have borne bravely and well for four years of war. Their country has been ravished, their manhood bled incessantly and horrors of war brought vividly home to every member of it. The guns at the front were heard by thousands who were not even in the war zone. Did they flinch in their determination to oust the Bosche and set their fair land free? No certainly not. They were courageous, steadfast and resolute and the spirit of self-sacrifice went collaterally as it were to the security of the nation.

Fancy the German hordes with Paris almost in their grasp in September 1914, and think of the battle which was the turning point in the war for us, the Battle of the Marne 1914, when Marechal Joffre and General Gallieni out-generalled the best brains of the German Army. It was then the tide turned and in Milton's words: — "Me thinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep and shaking her invincible locks". The time since then is like a nightmare, reverses, trials, the bitterness of the European winters, '15, '16, and '17 and — shall we say '18 later — I do not think so — and the great Russian collapse of 1917, only collaborating to make the French relentless in their élan to go on and win.

What was the culminating point in March last when France produced the greatest genius, since the days of Napoleon, in the person of Marechal Foch, "Le Vainqueur", I need not tell here, as everyone knows the result to-day, — Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria subdued, and Germany on her last legs. The Allies' triumph in the cause of freedom is at hand.

France knows and values what England has done both here and in the Orient. The wonder of peace-times in conquering the Holy Land, which General Allenby has done so brilliantly (Aus-

tralian were conspicuous there), is not under-valued and the equally magnificent part which the Australians have taken in this and in France is echoed throughout the land. To show how much this has been appreciated I quote the words of a French General of 77 summers who said, 'If I were not a Frenchman I would certainly be an Australian'. In reply to this I said my dealings with the French had been an education, in fact I retain the most vivid impression of a people who made you love your country more because they love their France so intensely.

In conclusion I only want to draw attention to the fact that we are appreciated by the best judges in France, the generals and the statesmen, and owing to the conditions of active service it is to be regretted that we are not able to see the home life of these fine people whose hospitality is even greater than the Australians' and whose hearts are much like our own. The greatest thing now is that we see the beginning of the end of the struggle and that justice will be firmly planted amongst the peoples as we are accustomed to it in the land of the Southern Cross. I feel that this is not an imagination with prospects of illimitable and wonderful effects but a real possibility.

Vive la France!! Vive l'Australie!!

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After being in abeyance for many months it is intended to expedite the manufacture of medals to be issued to the nearest female relative of the Australian soldiers who have fallen.

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THE NIGHTMARE

The newspapers arrived in a great bundle. They were eagerly bought by the crowd of diggers lying in wait. The good news from the front, and the prospect of Peace were alike of great interest. Soon, nearly every man in the tent was reading the paper. After a while, the crumpled news sheets were being laid down as the diggers finished their reading. The great authority on war and peace was already beginning to sum things up. He had been attached to the Q. M. store, and knew a thing or two. In addition he had the gift of (musical pause here) expression. He was the digger orator.

« I'll tell you what it is, boys, » he said, « this peace business is not so simple as you may think. There's a whole lot of things to be considered besides stopping the fight with the Huns. There's making the peace that'll last! And then, there's the fixing up of Europe as President Wilson has suggested, and in countries that have been invaded must be restored and compensated! »

The diggers were smoking languidly. One or two seemed to be contemplating a move. One man said, « You'll represent us at the Peace Conference, Dig! »

« Yes, » continued the orator, « there's Belgium and Montenegro and Serbia and Roumania. I've been reading the Sunday papers, and I can tell you that there's a lot more people in the world than some of us thought, and some of these have been done out of their rights by Austria, and Germany; and they will get them when peace is declared! »

The two who were restless got up, yawned, and sauntered out with their hands in their pockets. One or two more followed suit.

« The sooner it comes the better for mine, » fell casually from one of the diminished group in the tent.

A quiet, keen chap, with eyes like bright beads, was lying on his back with his hands under his head. He said, « I'll bet you can't give us their names, Bert! »

« Right », said the speaker, « There's the Belgians, Serbians, Montenegrins, and Rumanians. »

« Yes, you mentioned them before, old son, » said the critic drily, « Go on! »

« Wait till I get the paper out, » said the orator, amid cries of « You've lost the bet! »

« Oh yes; the people of Alsace-Lorraine, the Czecho-Slovaks, and the Yugo Slavs, » said the orator, slowly.

« Then what about the Armenians? » asked the digger critic.

« Yes. »

« And the Poles, Ruthonians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians, not to mention the Tyrolese. »

« Ah! » said he orator, reduced to a slight pallor, and monosyllables.

« Then what about the Luxumburgers, and the Russians, and the Finns? »

« Yes. »

« The Jews, the Syrians, the Arabs, and the Greeks? »

« Ah! »

« And Italia Irredenta? »

« Struth! »

« And a crowd more, » quietly added the critic.

The remaining diggers had revived. They were sitting up and taking notice. A laugh went all-round.

« You're right Bert, its a big joke — »
« You'd better get away for that Peace Conference! » And the orator remained alone.

In the small hours of the night the digger critic was awakened by a voice. He pricked up his ears. His mate, Bert, was groaning in his sleep. He flashed his electric torch on to the face of the recumbent orator. He saw that his lips were moving. Pleasantly his voice gurgled out dreamily, — « There's the Belgians, and Serbians, and Montenegrins, and Roumanians, the Czecho-Slovaks, and Poles; and the Jews, and.... and.... Struth!! » His hand went wearily to his brow. Then he spoke again, — « Have you all got your issue? Better have a few iron rations in case! »

The awakening digger smiled, as he pressed his torch into merciful darkness. « Strike me; a nightmare for Bert. » Then he added « And the next nightmare for the world. Oh well, my troubles! »
E. N. Merrington.

CHRISTMAS STORY COMPETITION

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY
NOV. 15th. IS CLOSING DATE

The following open literary competition has been arranged in connection with the Christmas 'Digger'.

For the best Xmas story of 2,000 ..
words 20 fr.
Best humorous story of 500 words .. 15 fr.
Best original poem 15 fr.
Best original joke 10 fr.

The closing date for manuscripts is November 15th.

Seal, sign, and deliver or post your contribution to « The Editor, 'The Digger', Australian Base Depots, France.

Endorse envelopes « Christmas Story Competition. » Also state clearly if you desire manuscripts to be returned.

The right to use any contribution other than prize winners is reserved.

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ENGLISH SPOKEN

ANY PARCEL CAN BE SENT HOME

In the days that have flown there was one noted M. O. whom the boys nicknamed « Fritz ». It was popularly believed that the old chap was marking every Digger that lined in front of him a great big « A » while he was saying « How are you? » Frequently the old man could read the suppressed curses on the dinkums face, and as the door was being closed old Fritz would say, « Same to you lad. » Oh! he was a « nice » man.

PADRE ROBERTSON IN THE RING



Break !!

REPATRIATION

What New South Wales is Doing

New South Wales is the oldest state in the Commonwealth. It is 148 years since Captain Cook landed on its shores. The area is one-tenth of Australia, comprising 198,638,000 acres of land. Of this total 576,000 acres at Yass Canberra and 17,920 at Jervis Bay have been carved out and handed over to the Commonwealth for Federal purposes. It is 683 miles by 756. The State is twelve times the size of Tasmania, and one-third the size of Western Australia. On this vast and fertile area there is a population of nearly 2,000,000 people. The room for human activity is practically illimitable. It is in these wide spaces in a temperate zone that New South Wales invites her soldier sons to consider the prospect she offers for the foundation of a healthy occupation and a happy home.

The object of the scheme is to make it possible for any man, of ordinary intelligence and industry, to establish himself as a land holder and citizen of the State, and to, at least, make for himself a good home and good living with the certainty of being able to do so upon such a permanent basis as will ensure the independence of his successors in future generations. At present it is necessary upon the arrival of a soldier in New South Wales to register himself as a land seeker. It is essential that he possess an honourable discharge. All information will then be supplied of blocks available or about to be made available and one free railway pass will be issued for the inspection of the land. Any person who enlisted for service abroad or was retained in the Commonwealth through circumstances not within his own control may apply for a certificate of qualification to receive assistance under the terms of the Soldiers Settlement Act. To obtain this certificate is the first

thing necessary in connection with the application for land. An application must be accompanied by a soldier's discharge. (It is hoped that all the other States will follow the method adopted by Queensland and give soldiers while on service or awaiting demobilisation abroad an opportunity to make application for land through a relative or duly accredited agent. At present applications for land in New South Wales must be sent to « The Director of Soldier Settlements, Lands Department, Bridge street, Sydney, N.S.W. Ed D. »)

The terms a homestead are : —

- (1) A lease in perpetuity.
- (2) Transfer after 5 years residence.
- (3) Survey fee payable in ten instalments.
- (4) Rent 2½ per cent of the capital value for the first 25 years, and new appraisement each succeeding 25 years.

A returned soldier's special holding is a perpetual lease for which a grant (title) will be issued after 5 years if all conditions during that period have been fulfilled. Conditions for survey fee, etc, are the same as for a homestead farm. Conditions for suburban holdings are similar to those for a returned soldier's special holding. Residence must begin within 6 months after confirmation of application.

The scheme of group settlement is one under which the New South Wales Government provides the land, the improvements, and the equipment of the farms. Experts will train the men. A soldier must make a holding under the group settlement his only place of abode for 5 years.

A soldier may buy a farm privately by obtaining the approval of the Minister for Lands. The settler pays the first instalment. The balance of the purchase money is found by the Government and repayable by easy annual instalments.

Arrangements are being made for ex-service men requiring irrigated blocks. Under the co-operative group system a three months trial is given to determine the applicants suitability or otherwise. Under the direction of the manager each man must put forth his best individual effort by working not less than 48 hours per week. Within twelve months a block upon which a lot of preparatory work has been performed by the group will be allotted to him.

During the period of preliminary and probationary work each man married, or single, will be provided with absolutely necessary equipment. An allowance will be made of 5/- per day for six days per week, 12/- per week sustenance allowance, 4/- per week for a wife, and 4/- per week for each child under 16 years of age. These payments will be made as part of the money to be advanced by the Crown upon the blocks. A nursery will be established and wherever possible stud stock for farms, poultry runs, trees for orchards, etc, will be conducted by the Government for the assistance to the soldier settler. These activities will be under expert supervision. Thus New South Wales, on her extensive and fertile lands is putting forth efforts to help her soldiers back to healthful, lucrative and independent civil life.

What Victoria is doing in regard to repatriation will be dealt with in next week's issue of « The Digger. »

The "Wattle Birds"
OPENING DATE ANNOUNCED

Tomorrow evening the Wattle Birds, the new concert part of the Australian Base Depots, will give their initial performance.

The party has been for some days settling down to work. The preliminary organisation necessary in any new venture has been satisfactorily arranged, and, in addition to the work involved, the management have been on the look-out for artists. In this direction they have been able to add a clever « comedienne » and dancer to the company in John Earle, who will be remembered by vaudeville fans in Australia. He was with a show in the forward area for some time. He originally went to Australia under twelve weeks engagement, but stayed two years with the McIntosh and Fuller-Brennan circuits. Ben Fuller, writing in the Sydney « Evening News » says « John Earle, a man I was paying £25 a week, enlisted some time ago for six bob a day. They are the men we want at the war, and after the war. The rest don't count. »

Arrangements have been completed for the opening performance tomorrow night. Energetic rehearsing has taken place during the week, and it is expected that the show will be a great success. Seats will be reserved for visitors, if application is made up to 12 noon, Monday. There will be Pictures from 5-30 p.m. to 6-45 p.m. The Australian Orchestra will begin immediately after the pictures, and the curtain will rise punctually at 7 p.m.

Already very many applications have been received for the services of the Wattlebirds to perform at the various camps. It is requested that the Y.M.C.A. Red Cross, and other organisations desiring the services of the party will make written application to Staff Captain R.M. Marks, Australian Base Depots, France, a week in advance of the date they desire the performance to take place.

BE DINKUM

Gunner sighs, — « I've been wondering. It is said of a Colonel that when addressing troops of his command he opened by saying, 'men of the infantry; soldiers of the light horse; gentlemen of the artillery, and ladies of the A. M. C.' Whether that is true or not I will leave it to the members of the units named to decide amongst themselves, but I want to know what branch of the service some men I have seen on leave recently belong to. Some wear stripes, others do not. The ordinary uniform is foresaken. They swank in officers' strides, and wear gauntlets, while the latest fashions in canes are all patronised. I have even seen lace-up leggings, and nickled spurs. Who are these men? Are they dinkums? »

In connection with the opening week of the Wattlebirds a specially designed souvenir programme was to have been arranged, but the Italian lithographic artist, in whose hands the job was placed, was sought out by the germ that has put us all « out of bounds. » However, the temporary programme is tastefully designed and is a worthy substitute.

Australians win two out of five Contests

BOXING AT LEZARDE VALLEY CLUB

JIM MONAGHAN BEATEN

Five Aussies were performing at the show promoted by the Lezarde Valley Boxing Club last Thursday evening. Originally six of our boys figured on the bill, but Bonnett fell sick and his match was cancelled. The Aussies won two and lost three events. Owing to the contests taking place late in the week it is impossible to give a detailed description. Cpl Pearce, A.I.F. shaded that consistent performer Pte Roberts, London Rgt, over a six round route. Pearce was very aggressive. He slowed up the agile Roberts with well timed uppercuts and cross-jabs to the face. Roberts worked his customary left hook, and crossed the right effectively at times. Pearce the winner.

Young Gurney, A.I.F. was altogether too combative a customer for a long and lathy boy named Stokes. Gurney was top dog all through. He won well.

Considerable interest attached to the meeting of Pte Jim Monaghan, A.I.F. and Sgt Bell Cockaine, Rifle Brigade. The Sgt, who has been juggling boxing gloves for many a long year, proved too wily and resourceful a bird for Monaghan. The Australian got in the way of a haymaker near the end the first round. A right swing landed high up near the ear. Jim went down wallop. Had the punch landed on the chin, he might have been out yet. The gong saved the situation. Monaghan was over cautious after this experience. As the younger, stronger, and better conditioned man his job was to hustle and bustle the vete-

ran. By standing off and boxing, Jim played Cockaine's game. At the end of the six rounds Cockaine had a margin of points in his favour and was given the verdict.

Pte Brady A.I.F., has sufficient fistic ability to lick two Dvr Bells, that is, when boxing in the Gym. When performing in the magic square, however, Brady fails to reproduce his track form. His showing against Bell was very disappointing indeed. After he had scrambled through four rounds Bell was rightly declared the winner.

Dvr Clack, R.F.A., made short work of Pte Marsh, A.I.F. Early in the second round a right swing caught Marsh on the jaw, and down he went. He got up, and though barely able to keep his legs he gamely forced the issue. Clack came away and was reluctant to hit. Then just as the towel came sailing in, he jolted a beautiful short right to the chin and Marsh was out.

There were a couple of bouts between Tommies. It was a fine night's amusement. Sgt Carroll, and his staff of helpers, handled matters in a most efficient manner. Rev A.T. Naylor acted as referee; Captains Roddy and Jones were judges, and Sgt-Major Shaw, R. B. was M.C. His announcement that « Turkey had thrown up the sponge » was the sensation of the evening. The friendly rivalry between our boys and the Tommies is a feature of these shows, and the rivalry has a good effect on the work done in the ring. The boys are keener and give of their best.

NOVICES AT THE GYM

In the novice bouts a sturdy youth named Burwood outboxed one Batty over three rounds. They were well matched, but Burwood was too strong and consistent. In Pte Thompson, young Gurney bumped a snag. Gurney is a good little scrapper, but the other chap made him go all out to just snatch a decision. A draw might have been a more accurate summing up, but there was nothing much in it. It was a great little bout and Thompson will be heard from in the near future.

Ptes Houston and Ferguson bounced round like « Kangars ». Ferguson knew more than the other chap, but Houston, like « Barkis » was « willim ». A nice left hook stopped Houston in the second spasm. He bounced to his feet only to run right into another of the same variety. Down he went again and a merciful second, « skied the wipe. »

Ptes Buhl and Gordon fought a very even battle. Buhl was the cleverer, but the other chap packs a dangerous wallop, and was the stronger of the pair. The decision was a draw - just about sized up matters.

The long and the short of it clashed when Ptes Hibbert and Shirley commenced hostilities. Hibbert's long left conceived a positive affection for the middle of

Shirley's rubicund countenance. He hit the stumpy one on an average of twenty times a minute. If now and again one of his gloves strayed from the straight and narrow path Shirley's face obligingly went out to meet it. For two rounds Shirley strove valiantly to get in one good solid wallop on the long fellow, then he retired with « Bellows sadly to mend. »

Pte Bonnett and Cpl Pearce boxed out a good fast clip over the three rounds. Both men were in fine condition, and their bout was a neat little contest, and a draw was recorded. Padre Robertson was in his usual place as referee. Lieut Snow, M. C., and Sgt-Major Ratten, time-keeper.

Sgt J.F. O'DONNELL.

WRESTLING

The first bout was between two lightweights, Ptes Tyrrell and Jones. It was a smart exhibition of wrestling. Jones won. Pte Southgate and Sgt Harper, also of the lightweight class, followed. Harper obtained first fall in 1 minute 17 2/5 seconds by a cross buttock. The remainder of the contest was wrestled strenuously without any further result. Harper the winner. In the middleweight contest Pte Williams defeated Pte Geyer. The only fall was secured by Williams in 1 minute 16 seconds with an arm hold.

FIXTURES

WRESTLING AND BOXING

Con. Camp. Gymnasium

MONDAY. — Con Camp Gym. 5 p. m.

Geelong Library Club

Geelong Literary Club meets each Thursday at the Geelong Y.M.C.A. between 5 and 6 p. m.

It is regretted that the fixtures for the Cinemas in each Base cannot be obtained in time for publication in *The Digger*. These fixtures are arranged at the Y.M.C.A. headquarters, Havre, and up to late on Friday evenings are not complete.

However it is possible to announce that the Wattle Birds will give their opening performance in the Lismore Cinema on Monday evening at 7 p. m. They will appear at the A.I.B.D. on Tuesday. The Australian Dandies will appear at the A.I.B.D. on Friday, and the Lismore Cinema on Saturday. The Australian Orchestra is attached to the Wattles Birds.

CON CAMP SPORT

On Wednesday last the P.B.'s of the Con Camp played the officers. The weather was ideal, and the band played selections. The officers made a better showing than was generally anticipated. Padre Robertson, (camouflaged for the occasion) kept the goal with the devotion of a St Peter. His cricket hits were faultless. Capt Clarke was a tower of strength to his side. With legs bandaged and protected with a barricade of wood, he was geared its sympathy. What he lacked in force was made up in even brain work. The advice from the spectators was frequent and free. The digger yelling out in stentorian tones telling « Roy » what to do was appreciated by the Colonel. The dentist extracted his side from many a difficult situation, and the Sanitary Inspector had his « Argus » eyes everywhere. Lieut Snow can cut out 100 yards in about evens. He can run if he can't play hockey. The game was much enjoyed. The P.B. got a goal in the first half, and the officers evened up the scores, Capt Field scoring. The result was a draw.

Against the Waacs.

A mixed game between the Waacs camp and the Con Camp took place on Monday 27th October. The game was fast. Miss Richards' selection of hockey players was without doubt the finest set of exponents of the game that has represented the Waacs Camp. They put up a great showing. The final scores were, Con Camp 8 goals, Waacs 2 goals.

Indoor Sport

In the Gym for the past week the company teams have been practising for the Baseball competition which start next week. Enthusiasts are looking forward to some fine games.

Football.

The football results are as follows.— Rugby, 26/10/18, No 2 Camp 14 points, beat No 1 Camp, Nil; 29/10/18, No 2 Camp, 18 points, beat No 1 Camp, Nil. Australian Rules, 28/10/18, No 2 Camp 7 goals 9 points, beat No 1 Camp, 4 goals 9 points.

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WILL EUROPE BECOME REPUBLICAN

The Peoples' Victory
LEAGUE OF NATIONS IDEAL

The world is in the melting pot. Religion, politics, morals, kingdoms, kaisers, princelings and thrones are all in a state of flux.

The tremendous issues to be settled, first on the battlefield, and then translated to terms at the peace table are so vast and complicated, so deep fundamentally, that never before during the history of man have these grave matters assumed such magnitude. Five hundred and eighty million people in Europe, America, and Australia are directly concerned in the settlement of peace terms. Seven hundred and seventy millions in Asia are deeply interested in the issues, if not so directly involved.

What is the underlying principle that has produced such a world wide convulsion? President Wilson stated it with unmistakable clarity when he said the issue is, — « Shall peoples be ruled, and dominated even in their own will and choice. » This is the claim on behalf of democratic liberty.

On account of the wide freedom enjoyed by every Australian citizen, without distinction of sex, this seems a remarkably simple proposition, and easy of resolution. It is not so to millions of our fellow men.

The custom of centuries has been to centralise in the hands of a few « the will to war ». The power so long retained in this way is now being challenged, and the claim is made at the bar of international justice, that a free people exercising a free will shall have the inalienable right to determine the method of government, and control the vital issues of peace and war.

It is shifting the responsibility from those who hold the power, but are not responsible or responsive to the peoples will.

The doctrine of the « Divine Right » of kings has been dethroned for ever by the Sacrifices and victories of this war. The right, human and Divine, will now rest and remain on the broad foundation of people who will have the power of self determination.

This extension of privilege carries an equal measure of obligation. It is the law of compensation, of cause and effect.

The responsibility follows the power. It can only be exercised by an educated and intelligent democracy.

Thus it is, to those, who apply themselves to knowledge and scientific industry and to eschew sloth, does the future belong.

The tremendous co-operative effect

and expense of war, if turned to industry in times of peace would create a newer and a better world. Not only scientifically and industrially will the world be better, but the triumph of a moral right is an imperishable gain to mankind. That it cost upwards of 10,000,000 of the flower of the white races the world must for ever regret; but there could be no compromise between a selfish autocratic military force, and justice.

That sense of impartial justice must be cultivated and protected. It has been fought for and won. Now it must be held. It is the ark of safety against future war, a city of refuge against the repetition of the horror.

It will find its highest expression in a League of Nations, a family of free peoples, whose ideal will be to make peace permanent and banish war for ever from the earth.



The last resource

2nd: Divvy (to 3rd Divvy cobbler) Have you got a fag?
3rd: Divvy: "No, Dig."
2nd: Well, I've got a butt, so give us a match.
3rd: Haven't got a match either.
2nd: Say! Have you got the price of a booze?
3rd: No! I'm stiff.
2nd: (disgusted) Then give us a kick of your football.

CARRY ON

I love not these long fields of France
Through which I tramp to make romance,
For some slim youth who, years ahead,
Will whistle love where I lie dead.

I hate the cold grey rain and snow,
The broken mists that come and go;
The ceaseless death and ruin flung
Mid chatter of a half-guessed tongue.

O! God, to see the sun again
Rise red above the Bathurst plain!
To scent the wattle in the night
Where Cootamundra lambs run white.

N'importe! A man is born to die.
Blithely I fall beneath this sky;
Australian dust to Europe's sod,
To make a path for man to God.

Peace waits her hour with joys to bring,
The marching bugles yet shall ring;
And, blood-redeemed, a world shall rise
Made clean in our red sacrifice.

E. A. B.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION CLOSING

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION AT ONCE
NOV. 15th. IS CLOSING DATE

The following open literary competition has been arranged in connection with the Christmas "Digger".

For the best Xmas story of 2,000... words..... 20 fr.
Best humorous story of 500 words... 15 fr.
Best original poem..... 15 fr.
Best original joke..... 10 fr.

The closing date for manuscripts is November 15th.

Seal, sign, and deliver or post your contribution to « The Editor, 'The Digger', Australian Base Depots, France.

Endorse envelopes « Christmas Story Competition. » Also state clearly if you desire manuscripts to be returned.

The right to use any contribution other than prize winners is reserved.

ESPERANTO

The diggers were conversing in the « Digger » tongue when Billjim said to his cobbler. Blime! Joe, Ow do yer git on with this blarsted French? « No——bon! » replied Joe. « I don't know why everybody doesn't speak the one language like the English. » « Cripes! » says Bill, « they chin Scotch and Irish, and Welsh, and Cousin Jack, and Cockney, and Billingsgate and Geordie, and lor' knows what in Blighty. They've got me rattled. I compree the French much better. Wee Wee! »

An Anzac was overheard explaining the colored chevrons on his right arm to a mademoiselle. « Vous see, red for ready ;; and blue for the others who blue in afterwards! Compree! » The Mademoiselle, « Ah wee! Compree! »



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

Editorial Staff and Management
PTE W.R.M. DIMOND, PTE E.A. DOYLE,
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. B. D. via Base Post Office, Le Harre, France.

COMPETITION

The formation of the new concert party — the Wattlebirds — has resulted in a strong spirit of competition between the concert parties at the Base. Now that the winter months are arriving, and there is a dearth of outside talent, the Base will have to rely almost entirely on the local parties. It is only during the last few weeks, under the able directorship of George Dawes, that the Australian Dandies have reached such a high standard. Originally it was proposed in these columns that one grand party be formed. That article was written on the then existing circumstances, and the difficulties in the way of the one party scheme resulted in the formation of a new party under another clever producer Martin Keith. The result has been a spirit of competition and the entertainments will benefit. The diggers can rest assured that with the splendid encouragement given by the Commandant, Col C. H. Davis, D. S. O. V. D., they will be well entertained during the long nights of winter.

Order your Christmas Digger

The Christmas edition of the « Digger » will be the best souvenir that one could desire from the standpoint of a lasting and historic record of the features of the Australian Base Depots.

The « Digger » will contain 16 bright pages including an elaborate cover design. A limited number only will be published so order your copy now. The price is 50 centimes. If mailed anywhere in the world to yourself or friends the price is 60 centimes. Call or write to the « Digger », Aust. Base Depots, France.

With a total capital of £200,000 the Yarra Falls Spinning Co. Pty. Ltd., has been formed for the purpose of starting a wool-scouring, combing and spinning works on the River Yarra at Abbotsford, Melbourne. As the result of protracted negotiations the leading English textile firm of Messrs Whitehead, Hill and Bates, of Saltaire, near Bradford, has agreed to join in the project to a substantial extent.

REPATRIATION

THE VICTORIAN SCHEME

Although Victoria is one of the smallest States in the Commonwealth, its area is about the size of Great Britain. Comparatively the State has more railways than any other portion of Australia. Very little agricultural land is more than 15 miles from a railroad. The genial climate resembles that of California and Southern Europe. There is one of the finest systems of irrigation in the Commonwealth, and the State is a large exporter of wool, grain, butter, meat, and fruit. Melbourne, the capital, is the eighth city in the British Empire.

Victoria offers to the returned soldier valuable and generous assistance to those who intend following a life of liberty, and making a home without having to pay one third of the weekly earnings to a landlord, which is frequently the lot of the city worker. Victoria's offer is to those who have served, or enlisted to serve outside the Commonwealth, either in the Australian or British forces, and have been honourably discharged. It also offers the same facilities to any member of the British forces, who go to Victoria to live; and also to (a) discharged soldiers who have been permitted to occupy land in anticipation of the Act, and (b) to dependents who make application during the period of the war or within two years after its termination.

Application.

Every applicant for land must obtain a certificate of suitability from the « Qualification Committee » and the application will then be dealt with by a « Discharged Soldiers Settlement Inquiry Board. »

Land

Under the Act power is taken to reserve sites for buildings and dwellings for discharged soldiers by voluntary effort. Also to set apart Crown lands for disposal to discharged soldiers exclusively. The Government can also acquire either by agreement or by compulsion blocks of private land as required. The Government will do a lot of preliminary work for the settler, and the cost will be added to the capital value and treated as an advance. The payments will extend over a period varying from 20 to 40 years.

The Total Advances

The total advances will not exceed £500, but when any part of the made, has been paid a further amount may be loaned. Advances will be made, as work progresses, for materials, implements, live stock, trees, etc. Advances up to £250 may be made to assist soldiers in share farming with other persons. Interest will not exceed 3½ per cent for the first year, 4 per cent for the second year, and advancing by 1/2 per cent until the ordinary rate is reached. The Minister may direct that no instalment of purchase money, interest or rent, shall be payable for the first three years, and may extend the term of the lease accordingly.

The above are the main features of Victoria's offer to not only her own soldiers but ex-service men from Great Britain. Doubtless, in a very short ti-

me as Peace draws near, a lot of preliminary work may be done at this end for the soldier settler. As an example, it may be cited that M. Alphonse Mathey, President of the Burgundy Wine Association which is the largest wine producing organisation in France, said that he and those associated with him would gladly welcome Australian soldiers in their vineyards and would afford them technical instruction in wine making. This unique opportunity for gaining valuable knowledge should not be missed.

Irrigated Land Available.

The State Water Commission is making available for qualified discharged soldiers about 20 blocks of irrigable land, ranging from two to six acres near Tatura. The land forms portion of the old Tatura experimental farm and is very valuable. It is commanded by irrigation channels. The average price will be about £25 per acre. It was thought that these holdings would be suitable for discharged soldiers, who may find part occupation in the neighborhood. The land practically forms portion of the Tatura township, and as this is the centre of an extensive farming district, it is expected that a large amount of remunerative farm work will be available for soldiers.

The irrigation blocks at Merebin are being dealt with under the supervision of the State Rivers and Water Commission. Mr Cattinach is arranging for an officer to visit Merebin with a view of discussing with the new soldier settlers their requirements in the way of advances.

The Cohuna Irrigation Association is willing to assist soldier settlers who may be placed on the Cohuna settlement. At Koondrook, Murrabit, Rochester, and Merebin the settlers have assisted and in many cases actually undertaking the cultivation of a large portion of the land allotted to the soldiers, with the result that the way was made easy for the soldier to make good.

Land Purchased.

Victoria has purchased 50,000 acres at a cost of £711,000 in the following districts for soldier settlers,—

Manifold Estate, Camperdown, 2,200 acres, making blocks ranging from 80 to 112 acres.

520 acres near Lake Corangamite, suitable for onions, potatoes, or dairying. Twelve blocks, £24 per acre.

452 acres, Coleraine district Five blocks, £17/10/—per acre,

102 acres, Koo-wee-rup. Two blocks, £22/10/—per acre.

108 acres, Koo-wee-rup. Two blocks, £21 per acre.

102 acres, Koo-wee-rup. Two blocks, £18 per acre.

1693 acres, Larra Estate. Seventeen dairy farms, £17/3/9 per acre.

87 acres Koo-wee-rup. Two blocks, £21/10/—per acre.

11,100 acres, near Myrtleford.

Next week a review of what Tasmania is doing in regard to repatriation will be published.

Woodbine to Digger, « What are you going to put on the Kaiser's coffin, Digger? »

Dig, « The lid. »

ENGLISH DISPENSARY
AU PILON D'OR

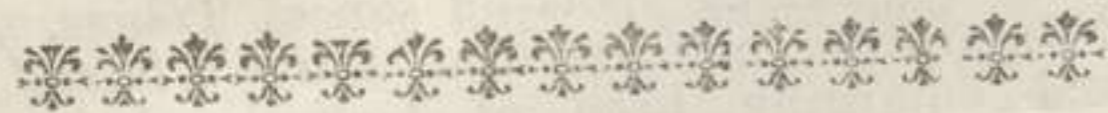
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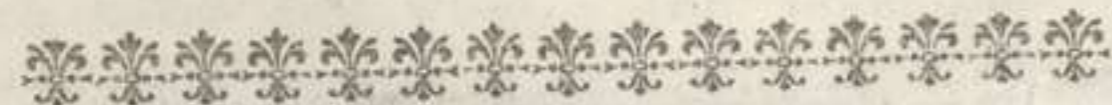
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WATTLE BIRDS OPEN

DISTINCTIVE SHOW A SUCCESS
CROWDED HOUSE CHEERS

For some weeks interest has centred in the first appearance of the « Wattle Birds », the concert party of the Australian Base Depots, and last Monday night found a crowded house packed to the walls and even the rafters. It was a regular « opening night » house, and just as expected. The spacious Lismore Cinema was filled about five minutes after the doors opened.

Promptly at the time announced — 6.45 p.m. — the Australian Orchestra, under the baton of Sgt Arthur Edwards who by the way is responsible for the orchestration of the programme, struck up a bright overture, and at 7 o'clock the curtain rose on the company, who jumped into the opening chorus.

The rise of the curtain revealed an extremely dainty scenic effect. The scenes have been specially designed for the party and exquisitely painted by Pte G. Bernard. The party work under a portico, the pillars of which are of salmon pink, and shade to the merest suggestion of shell pink. Supporting two electric light globes are two bronzed statues. The back cloth is a lake by night, and on its opposite bank, a fine chateau is seen in strong relief and brilliantly lit.

The entire scenic effect set to advantage a novel costume scheme comprising check suits of a Norfolk design and of salmon pink stocks as neck wear. The party wore a nifty shoe, and the only criticism for the entire display may be referred to the green waist band. Had it been possible to obtain the desired color the effect would have been splendid throughout.

Martin Keith is to be congratulated on his production. The snappy dialogue and bright comedy ran evenly and cleverly through the programme, and linked up the items in such a way as to keep the audience constantly attentive. Alan Bailey, the stage manager, bore the brunt of the work, and had to assume a double role. However his work was brilliant. In light comedy and as descriptive soloist he scored. Lieut J. Mc Lennan appeared as a startling Brunette, and had the advantage of an excellent « make-up » and voice to sustain his female impersonation.

Jack Sullivan, otherwise John Earle, may be credited with a novelty triumph. In the first half an eccentric dance number supported by the company in « Finnigan's Ball », and in the second with some hats and tennis balls provided a skilful hat and ball juggling stunt, and a riot of fun. Moody and Samios were the only other turn, and in magic pleased. Lyrics and ballads were rendered by Ben Davis, W. Smales, R. E. White, and J. Leslie Moten, the numbers being prettily harmonised by the company. R. Monahan as a patter comedian has an original way of putting across good lines and getting results. Reg Finch, as bell-boy, handled his job in great shape.

The show lasted an hour and 50 minutes, and at its conclusion the audience cheered involuntarily as an expression of a genuinely pleased crowd.



Sapper. Passed out... G.H. Pas bon. Have another try... J.H.P. Unsuitable is the word. It would be better to make certain of your facts ... Ex-D. Your statements have been absolutely proved to be incorrect. You have formed a wrong impression or have been misled ... C.B.X. A further dissertation on Anzac Brides, —

« But Billjin's not to blame,
If he gives a girl his name,
For old Dan Cupid is abroad
Playing the same old game
With the sentimental digger,
And the charming English girl,
And things move fast in war-time
The world is all awlirl.
The digger is young and careless,
Hearts are not made of stone;
The Bible says « It is not good
For man to live alone.
He gets his charge of loneliness
There mid the din and strife,
So good luck to the digger,
Who finds an English wife.
I'm sorry for the little girl,
Who waited all in vain ;
But I don't condemn the digger
Although he caused her pain ;
For this I tell you straight,
A thing I ought to hide —
If it wasn't for the wife at home,
I'd have an Anzac Bride. »

What a « nice » man ! Imagine the rush if polygamy were permitted.. Judas complains that he can never get a dance at the Red Cross Hut because there are not sufficient ladies. To use an old proverb, « Some people want flowers on their graves ! »... A digger's farewell,

« We're off in the morning old lady,
We're finished with playing at drill,
And now comes a chance to get out of
France,
We've put the half nelson on Bill. »
Rather premature ; what !

ANZAC BRIDES

Australian-Engineers of the 12 th and 13th Companies recently held a debate, somewhere in « the forward area », on the Anzac bride question. The 12th Coy representatives took the affirmative side. — « That Australians could marry English girls », and the 31th Coy took the negative. The « Yes » won by an overwhelming majority practically every man agreeing that the Australians could marry whom they liked.

A digger wrote a letter home to his brother in Aussie. Among the news he was describing the orders which had to be obeyed when going to « gas ». He wrote, « The Sgt-Major says, don't forget your housewives. » Mother, who was listening to the letter being read, said « I'll write to Senator Pearce. The boys have quite enough temptation without a Sergeant making them worse. »

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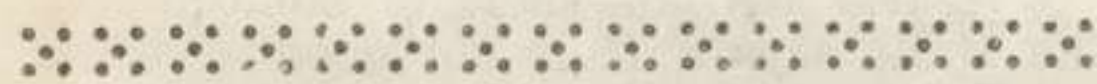
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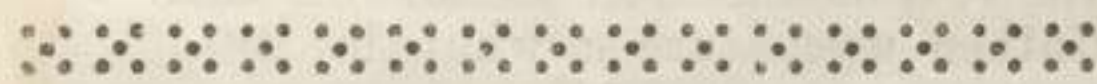
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Le Havre

AUSTRALIAN DANDIES

Geo. DAWES' SUCCESS

Novel Production a Winner

Again last Saturday night the Dandies appeared in a strong production. The entire change in scenic effects, and the splendid opening set showed the party off in a new light. The Dandies have been growing in quality and favour until last Saturday's performance crowned the untiring and capable efforts of George Dawes, who is responsible for the production.

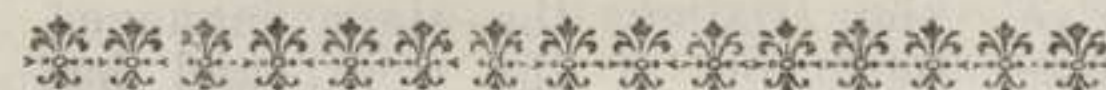
« A Night in a Cabaret » was staged in excellent taste, and the surroundings were conducive to the best work of the artists. Ted Milne, and Bruce Hopkins, in a dance number, scored. The comedy was taken care of again by Con Conway in his clever, versatile way.

Walker and Freame's turn in wire-walking and juggling with Fred Klimo clowning was a fine achievement. Joan of Arc was repeated, and Ted Beachcroft had the support of a dainty tableau. Jack Trehearne was again a success as Joan of Arc.

A clever little dramatic sketch, in which Geo Dawes, Frank Jarbo, and Joe Hurley were the characters, pleased. Hurley also gave an impersonation of Denver in « The Silver King. »

The show closed with a laughable farce, « Hard to Kill. » Con Conway, an irate oyster man, tried the killing, while Geo Dawes made love to Jack Trehearne, an extremely pretty girl. However, the house folded up when Conway's trench mortar went off, and the ardent lover extracted the pieces of shell from his vest, and carried on with the « business. »

The crowded house gave evidence of the success of the performance by their generous applause. Colonel Burston, made his way through the stage door, and congratulated the company.



THE BLIGHTY SHOP

(Mlle BOUSSEKEY)

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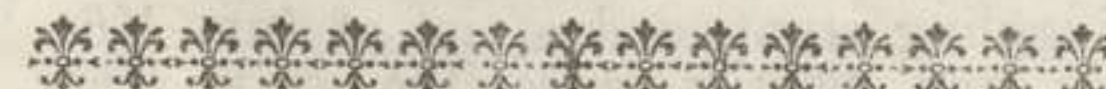
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ENGLISH SPOKEN

ANY PARCEL CAN BE SENT HOME



« In Australia » and « The Boys of the Old Battalion », the popular Australian songs written and composed by Captain G.C. Neech, 9th Battalion, A. I. F., which are being sung with great success in France and England, can be obtained by application to « The Editor, 'The Digger' Australian Base Depots, France. » Price 2/- or 2 frs 60 cents each. Copies forwarded from this office are specially autographed by Captain Neech.

FACT

Thus à contemporary. —The Church in Belgum decided to renovate its properties, and employed a painter to touch up a large painting. On presenting his bill the committee in charge refused payment unless details were specified. He presented the items as follows :—To correcting Ten Commandments, 7/6; embellishing Pontius Pilate and putting new ribbon on his bonnet, 2/3; putting new tail on rooster of St Peter and mending his comb, 1/9; replenishing and gilding left wing of Guardian Angel, 6/8; washing servant of High Priest and putting carmine on his cheek, 9/-; renewing heaven, adjusting stars and cleaning up the moon, 14/-; touching up Purgatory, restoring lost souls, 12/; brightening up Flames of hell, putting a new tail on the devil, and doing odd jobs for the damned, 16/-; rebordering robes et Herod and adjusting his wig, 3/9; cleaning Balaam's ass and putting on his shoe, 3/-; taking spots off son of Tobias, 2/6; putting new stone on David's sling and enlarging head of Goliath, 13/-; extending Saul's legs, 2/-; decorating Noah's Ark and putting head on Shem, 3/8; mending the shirt of the Prodigal Son and cleaning his ears, 6/6. Total, £5/3/7. The account was paid instantly.

NURSES and LEAVE

Sir Peter McBride, the Agent-General for Victoria, having submitted an enquiry to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia in regard to the possibility of leave, without pay, being granted to Australian nurses on active service prior to their return to Australia after Peace is declared, is now in receipt of a reply from Mr Hughes in which he states that he is of opinion that there should be no difficulty in such an arrangement being made be the Medical Authorities, but it will, of course, be necessary for individual application to be made in each case to the Matron in Chief who would then consider it in the light of existing circumstances.

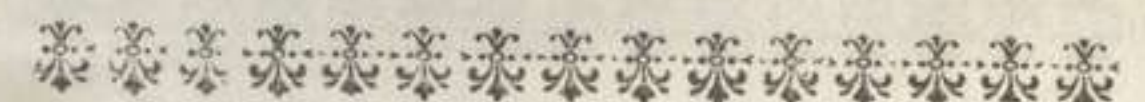


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HIGH GRADE WORK

PROMPT EXECUTION

SPORT (continued)

tricked the opposition, but had no luck at goal. At the conclusion three of the best were given for the Waacs. A word of thanks is due to the Con Camp Band for their delightful play during the afternoon.

C1 Coy played N° 18 Camp (Rifle Bgde) last Thursday, and after a fast game retired beaten by 4 to 1. On Saturday last the return match took place on the Con Camp ground, and after an exciting game the result was a draw 1 goal all.

COLONEL'S INSPECTION

A big draft was moving off in the wee small hours of the morning, and the Colonel was giving the boys a careful inspection. « Here ! » said the Colonel, in commanding tones, to one shivering digger, « One pace forward. You go to the Q. M. and get a better tunic. » « N° 2 ! One pace forward ; you need a better hat. » « And you ! N° 3, get another pair of strides. » And many others were sent « toot sweet » for changes. The language of the Q. M. was violent. It was blowing a hurricane. The diggers got their exchanges, but there was one who « rung himself in » for an exchange. « Well ! » said the Q. M. in his hardest tones. « What did the Colonel say you needed ? » The digger (meekly) « A pair of underpants ! » The glare in the Q. M.'s eye and the sparks off his tongue, made the digger bump the door in his anxiety to get out, and he took the whole of the steps at a bound.

BONEY'S TRIUMPH

Boney worked in the cook house behind the lines. He knew that every pony with his nose in the feed bag never suffered from slack flanks. Boney growled like blazes at the work, but as he had put on a stone in weight with the smell of « bully-de-beif » and Maconachie's Scotch stew, he suffered the situation, but not in silence. He was dozing in the dead of night by the cook house fire when « Gor stone the crows » he nearly died of nervous shock. It wasn't a meinenwerfer, or a 9.2 or a sixty pounder, a nose cap or a bomb ; but there before his blinkin blooming eyes stood two squareheads, dressed in hospital blue. Boney was a diplomat as well as a cook and a soldier. He greeted the Jerriers in a friendly tone, and opened the conversation with « tray bon. » He said « Gott mitt us » and the visitors grinned. He invited the fritzes to have something to eat, and at the same time concealed the butcher's carver up his greasy jacket. Boney won their confidence, and they were convinced that Boney was a Kamarad. But Boney was a wily old dog. He ducked out of the cook joint, gave « the office » to the guard, and soon the two fritzes were in the clink as escaped prisoners of war. Boney's chest has expanded two inches, and his head one. He is now awaiting a message from the King. He expects the V. C. and a bar. He's certain of the latter. There were no casualties, but Boney was the envy of the cook shq. He is now resting in the Con Camp.

What's troubling you laddie?



Bx or a Board?

THE SALVATION ARMY AT WAR

When General Booth adopted a soldiers uniform and titles in his great religious organisation little did he know that when Armageddon was being fought his followers would be actively participating in the spiritual and material needs of the citizen soldier. Here at the Base as well as in the line many a weary digger's heart has been rejoiced by that tender touch of christian sympathy and cheer which tries to unfold the good in all. There is a touch of homeliness about the Salvation Army atmosphere which the Aussie says is « dinkum ».

Money running into four figures was spent on the Rouelles Hut alone, and in the Recreation room. Writing tables, billiard table, library, with a good stock of books and magazines add to the comfort of « the boys ». The canteen hut is also run with huge success. All the diggers testify that they get a fair spin at the « Salvo » canteen. The « counter attacks » on the « army » front line are terrific. The empty shells (eggs) lying round are evidence of the bombardment, and incidentally a compliment to the cook. The daily average of « shells » over the top, is 1400. There may be an occasional one that needs a gas mask or contains part of a chicken run but these « duds » are very rare. Some diggers can absorb eight of these Salvation Army « shells » without deleterious effect. This, of course, does not refer to the « duds ». A « dud » is deadly at a mile, and screams like a meinenwerfer. If you hear a digger crowing, you can bet where he had supper. The long queue waiting every evening is the best compliment that « Adjutant Miss Tilbury. » could receive from the grateful diggers.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS

SOLDIERS' GRAVES VISITED

Under a sombre sky, and along the avenues of trees delicately tinted with gold, representatives of the Allied armies in the Havre district, last Thursday afternoon — the feast of All Souls — marched to the reserve allotments, in the Cimetiere St Marie, where hundreds of soldiers from all the Allied armies have been buried. There were representatives of the British, French, Belgian, American, and Australian forces.

Lieut Reynolds, Australian Base Depots, represented the Commandant, Colonel C. H. Davis, D. S. O. V. D., and the C. O.'s of the A. I. B. D. and 1st Australian Convalescent Camp were represented by Lieut-Colonel E. N. Merrington, and Major Withington, respectively. The band of the Con Depot was also in attendance.

First of all the graves of the heroes of the Marne were visited, then the Yser, and the others in their order of sequence. The ceremonies throughout the afternoon were most impressive. The Mayor of Havre gave an address in French, and the Australian Band played appropriate music including the « Dead March in Saul ». A party of French buglers played the « Last Post », and on each grave French civilians planted carnations in full bloom.

It is interesting to recall that on October 24th last in was 300 years since Sir Walter Raleigh was executed. In the present period of tremendous sacrifice for a country, it is worth remembering that this great patriot wrote, that a man was « Not worthy to live at all who, for fear of danger or death, shunneth his country's service, or his own honour, since death is inevitable and the fame of virtue immortal. »

The cost of carrying wheat from Australia to England has risen from 19/6 per ton, in 1914, to 150/- per ton, in 1918.

£300,000,000 has been added to the Public Debt of Australia (Commonwealth and the States) since the war began. An additional £40,000,000 is now being borrowed in Australia.

The Prime Minister, Mr Hughes, has arranged that an expert from America be sent to Australia regarding the construction of concrete ships. The Cabinet promptly endorsed the action.

A Devotional Hall is also part of the Salvation Army's activity. The foundation of it all is the conviction that the christian religion and life is best for man. It is this spiritual impulse that makes for patience, self-sacrifice, and that milk of human kindness that is satisfying and soothing amid the hardness and stress of war. Staff Captain Earnshaw is a devoted and popular pastor, always welcomed at the Camp Hospital, and is filling a very important niche in the life at the Base, by being a friend to all and a father to those in need. The Diggers recognise that the Salvation Army is out to serve.

NOVICES BATTLING FOR POSITION

Next Big Night Monday Week

STRENUOUS FIGHTS RECORDED

Novice boxers and wrestlers held the floor at the Con Camp Gym last Monday evening. The form displayed was well up to the excellent standard already achieved. Lieut Galvin has taken over Lieut Snow's job as M. C. The tall young sporting officer has gone to Blighty on P. T. work. Lieut Galvin is a worthy successor. A few years ago he was in the front rank of swimmers in his native State - South Australia, and takes a keen interest in all sports. He is in charge of the boxing department of P. T. work. The show went without a hitch, and the results were as follows.

Ptes Burwood and Ferguson were the first on. Burwood has come along with giant strides. A few weeks ago he was an almost hopeless novice. He was so raw that we were unable to put him on even at a novice show. He stuck to it, however, and now he has won his first two victories in the roped arena. His latest victim is Ferguson. The latter had knocked out a human kangaroo named Houston at the previous week's display. Burwood gave his man no peace, and worried him like a terrier. Left jabs crossed his countenance and right crosses rested lovingly on his jaw. He fought back gamely, but Burwood was too constant a visitor, and Ferguson retired in the third spasm hopelessly beaten.

Ptes Thompson and Grant provided a dandy scrap. Each is a little better than the average novice, while Thompson is a shade better glove juggler, than the namesake of America's great general. The first round saw Grant forcing matters. Thompson was coy and stepped about looking for an opening. Grant packed a dream pill in his right mit, and Thompson was wise to the fact. The second found Thompson fiercely attacking with Grant boxing well as he retreated before the onslaught. Thompson's best punch was a vicious right cross which frequently landed. Grant came again in the third round, and landed good and solid a few times. Thompson then started to meet him half way with a well timed left prop on the nose. At the end of a splendid bout Thompson gained the referee's eye.

Along came Ptes Gurney and Marsh. In the first round it looked a cakewalk for Gurney. He worked a left under and over punch to the body and chin, and had Marsh all at sea. So often did he hit him with the punch that a man would have contracted lock jaw counting « em ». In the second round Marsh pulled himself together, and waded fiercely in. He steadied Gurney with left smashes to the head, and caused the pompodoured youth to smother up. When Gurney smothers he is like a coiled rattle snake, always dangerous. Suddenly, he unwound and smote Marsh, not hip and thigh but body and brow. The third round was waged at a fierce bat. Marsh had a slight advantage on the period. Gurney's brilliant work in the first round

helped materially to earn him the referee's decision.

Ptes Lee and Brady provided a solid slam for three rounds. Brady boxed much better than he did at the Lezarde Valley Club Show. Sturdy little Lee, however, kept up a continuous bombardment, and although at the end of the bout there was nothing in it as regards actual scoring his aggressiveness gained him the verdict.

Pte Thiering and Cpl Pearce gave a fine exhibition. Thiering boxed with all his dash, and showed that he is still indeed a force to be reckoned with. He will figure on the bill at our next big night. Pearce is in fine condition, and boxed nicely on the defensive. He is to fight a return battle with Pte Roberts (London Rgt) on next Monday night week.

Sgt Meeske and Pte Revill put on a really fine and decidedly interesting display of ju jitsu work. All the various locks, stops, falls, and grips, etc, were gone through in a speedy realistic manner. It was a bright and snappy interlude, and was most acceptable.

Our next big boxing night will be on Monday week. Sgt Meeske is to wrestle Sgt Smith. There will be six international boxing events to pad out the programme. All our best boys will be on show.

Sgt J. F. O'DONNELL.

WRESTLING

A most interesting and clever bout was witnessed in the lightweights between Ptes Noisette and Tyrrell. They sparred and pawed one another right throughout the contest. The decision was a draw.

Middewights Pte McHugh and Spr McIntosh, R. E., showed a great deal of skill in their bout. With a lightning and sensational cross buttock McHugh brought the Sapper to the mat. They both struggled around the mat, for 5 min 59 seconds, without either securing an advantage. When everybody expected the decision would be a draw, McIntosh smartly locked his opponent's arm with an arm roll, and secured a fall, thus winning the contest.

CON CAMP SPORT BILLIARDS

The challenge issued by the Sgts of the Con Camp to the officers for a four a-side billiard tourney was accepted, and duly took place in the Sgts' lounge last week. The play throughout the tourney was close and exciting, and the officers were distinctly unlucky to lose thirteen of the sixteen games played. C. S. M. Ratten carried off the honours, being the only unbeaten player, and also making the highest break in the series of games, a most cleverly compiled and faultless 48. It is hoped to have a return match at an early date. The teams were, Officers; Lt-Col. Burston, D. S. O., Major Withington, Capt Field, and Lieut Galvin. Sgts; C. S. M. Ratten, (Captain) Sgts Caklands, Brittain, and Watson.

FIXTURES

WRESTLING AND BOXING

Con. Camp. Gymnasium

MONDAY. — Con Camp Gym. 5 p. m.

Geelong Library Club

Geelong Library Club meets each Thursday at the Geelong Y.M.C.A. between 5 and 6 p. m.

The Wattlebirds

MONDAY. — Lismore Cinema.

WEDNESDAY. — A. I. B. D.

FRIDAY. — 39th. Gen Hos.

The Dandies.

FRIDAY. — A. I. B. D.

SATURDAY — Lismore Cinema.

HOCKEY TEAM DINNER

Having won the Camp Hockey Championship the members of the C1 team were last Saturday week entertained at dinner at the Hotel d'Espagne. In the enforced absence of Lieuts Marlow and Galvin genial C. S. M. Ratten presided, and in a witty little speech congratulated the champions on their splendid achievement. After the King had been duly honoured the Company was entertained by Cpl Pearce, Ptes Easton, Jenkins, and Ellis. The evening was most enjoyable.

WAACS AT HOCKEY

The Con Camp turned out en masse last Monday to see the ever popular Waacs play the Con team, and were well rewarded with a good afternoon's sport. At the last moment it was agreed to mix the teams, and this proved a wise move from a sporting point of view. The game was brimful of excitement, and the diggers were whole heartedly with the delectable sex, no matter on which side they played. Early in the game Miss Papprell (V.A.D.) got away solo, and after neatly tricking the defence drove the ball like a « wizz-bang » at Padre Robertson's citadel. A hasty look round convinced our sporting Padre that there was no dug-out handy, and he doubtless muttered a benediction as the ball flashed just outside the goal. Miss Scott played a five game back, and on one occasion the ball after being « Waaced » by the popular administrator mysteriously disappeared, and she spun round like a teetotum looking for the elusive sphere. A mere detail such as a lost ball did not worry the assembled diggers, who vociferously exhorted Miss Scott to continue the game as the Sgt's shins were still handy! In the second half, after having all the worst of the game, the Whites broke away and Mason zenked through the only goal of the match. Miss Richards was the best player on the field; Miss Papprell and Miss Goodworth, time and again,

(continued page 5.)

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424

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THE DIGGER

AUSTRALIAN
BASES
FRANCE

WEEKLY EDITION

VOL. 1 No. 16.

SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER 1918

PRICE ONE PENNY

LE HAVRE EN FÊTE

Memorable Scenes in City

THOUSANDS CHEER AUSTRALIANS & SING

"Australia will be there"

The end was expected. Rumours had been flying about for days. Allied victories followed in quick succession, and for the first time in the history of this fearful business, called the Great Adventure, the people were gradually lifted from the veil of uncertainty and doubt. Each day brought fresh news, and last Thursday night the city was thrilled with a rumour, which appeared almost inspired, that the end had arrived. The news flashed from one to the other. The city began to rejoice. Allied soldiers were stopped in the streets, and were idolised by the excited but loveable people of France, who had begun to rejoice over the glorious events. The news was a little premature, and like all rumours there was little or no foundation. But the good news was to come, the Germans were given until 11 a.m. Monday to sign the conditions of armistice, which were to bind her down for ever and preserve the peace of the world.

Between 9 and 10 a.m. official reports dispatched to the various camps announced the end. There was no mistaking the news this time. The soldiers rejoiced, and shaking hands was general. Sirens from dozens of factories and steamers heralded the wonderful news, cannon boomed, and church bells rang joyfully. It was a wonderful morning. After midday the troops flocked to the city. Along the road, through Harfleur to Le Havre, the ever increasing throngs of civilian and soldiers surged citywards until the population had probably doubled its prewar standard.

Every type of vehicle was pressed into the service of conveying the crowds of happy people, converging towards the heart of Havre. The trams were literally thronged. Service wagons, motor cars, char-a-bancs, drays, and almost every type of conveyance was used. The day was dull, but the bright spirits did not require sunshine to buoy them up. Once in the City the scenes were wonderful and historical. Thousands of flags were displayed, and each street was a veritable tunnel of tricolour. French and American flags predominated, but in such a remarkable display of flags this predominance was hardly noticeable. The crowds paraded the boulevards, waving flags, singing and cheering. So great was the crowd that all traffic was suspended, and the business premises closed down.

When the evening arrived, the sce-

nes of fervent joy reached their highest pitch. There was no longer any fear of Gothas, and the city blazed forth in all its light. Groups of Ameri-

THE NATION'S THANKS

King George's Impressive Message

"EMPIRE MORE CLOSELY UNITED"

His Majesty, King GEORGE V, has sent the following impressive message of gratitude to the Commonwealth of Australia, and the other Dominions:

At the moment when the armistice is signed bringing, I trust, a final end to the hostilities which have convulsed the whole world for more than four years, I desire to send a message of greeting and heartfelt gratitude to my over-sea peoples, whose wonderful efforts and sacrifices have contributed so greatly to secure the victory which now is won.

Together we have borne this tremendous burden in a fight for justice and liberty. Together we can now rejoice at the realisation of those great aims for which we entered the struggle. The whole Empire pledged its word not to sheathe the sword until our end had been achieved. That pledge is now redeemed.

The outbreak of war found the whole Empire one. I rejoice to think that the end of the struggle finds the empire still more closely united by the common resolve to hold firm through all vicissitudes by community of suffering and sacrifice, by dangers and triumphs shared together.

The hour is one of solemn thanks giving and of gratitude to God, Whose Divine providence has preserved us through all the perils and crowned our arms with victory. Let us bear our triumph in the same spirit of fortitude and self-control with which we have borne our dangers.—

George R.I.

cans, British, French, Belgian, and Australian troops sang, shouted and cheered. They danced about the roadway, women gladly taking their arms

shouting « Vive la France ! » « Vivent les Allies ! » Kisses were freely given in the streets. There was great laughter when a Tommy was seen sitting on a mule, facing the tail, and swaying with « beaucoup zig-zag », while the French tricolour was sticking up from the pommel of the saddle. Another feeling was engendered as a crowd of German prisoners marched along the roadway under an armed escort. « They were not proud ». Their feelings were portrayed by the their look of abject despair. The happy faces of the Belgian orphans in their home supplied by America, was inspiring.

The Rue de Paris and Boulevard de Strassburg were thronged with people. Perhaps the greatest scenes were witnessed when the Australian Band from the 1st Convalescent Camp appeared. As the Australians with their national flags and those of France paraded the streets the outburst of cheering and enthusiasm was remarkable. Followed by thousands joining arms, the rows of people stretched from footpath to footpath. Women, children, civilians, and soldiers and sailors of the Allies marched and sang. Women eagerly sought the hands of the soldiers, and little children would take their arms and cheer with delight. Colored flares illuminated the streets. « Australia will be there », was played time and again, the French people singing with the Australians, and in response to the shouts « Vive la France ! » would cry « Vive l'Australie ! » It was a historical national day for Australia, and in his limited English, an elderly Frenchman kept shouting, « Australians, very good people ! » The singing of the Marseillaise was most inspiring and glorious.

The celebrations continued until midnight. Amid the electric light, the pale moonbeams, the red flares, and the exploding fireworks; the artistic, emotional, courteous, loveable, passionate, musical, humanitarian, and democratic French lived up to their guiding principle of « Liberté — Elegance — Fraternelle ». It was the hour of rejoicing, when the brute force which had menaced them for so long was smashed.

ON RECEIVING A SPRIG OF WATTLE BLOSSOM FROM HOME

In the morning mists when the stars grow dim
Against the rising day,
All the hushed bush lists to the matin hymn
Of a singer far away.
O'er river gums and lone plain tree
Each fluted note breathes melody.

The warbling sweet of the magpie's song
Floats from the wattle tree,
Through the lazy heat of the noontide strong,
The perfume comes to me.
The scent, and the song of the birds and creek
Come back as I press the bloom to my cheek.

G. A. Hunter,
A. Coy.



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APRES LA GUERRE

Free Passage for Finances

Under the Commonwealth scheme of repatriation, free passages to Australia are provided for widows and orphans of deceased soldiers, wives and children of soldiers married abroad, and to fiancées of soldiers and Australians, who have served in the present war either in the military or naval forces, in any part of the King's Dominions. Widows and children are entitled to gifts of furniture to enable them to re-establish their homes. Soldiers not incapacitated will be loaned money to purchase furniture and establish homes. Free passages from Australia may on certain conditions be granted to the wives and children of deceased soldiers.

Owing to shortage of jam supplies, it is intended to facilitate the export of tin plates by the Italian and French Governments to Australia, so that supplies to the Army may be forwarded from the Commonwealth.

Referring to the new Federal loan of £4,750,000, which was issued in London recently the acting Prime Minister, Mr Watt, said, « This loan was floated by the British Treasury on the understanding that it would be the last of the kind which the Commonwealth would seek in London during the war. »

Order your Christmas Digger

The Christmas edition of the « Digger » will be the best souvenir that one could desire from the standpoint of a lasting and historic record of the features of the Australian Base Depots.

The « Digger » will contain 16 bright pages including an elaborate cover design. A limited number only will be published so order your copy now. The price is 50 centimes. If mailed anywhere in the world to yourself or friends the price is 60 centimes. Call or write to the « Digger », Aust. Base Depots, France.

On the night of the celebrations.
1st Dig, « When are we goin' 'ome ? »
2nd Dig, « Wot do yer want to go 'ome for ? I live there. »

THE MEMORABLE HOUR

Some Thoughts on the signing of the Armistice between the Allied Nations and Germany. (Arising out of an incident which occurred somewhere in France at 11 o'clock—French time—on the morning of the 11th November, 1918). — *After Macauley.*

The hour approached—ay, the very second—the time anxiously looked forward to by millions of God's creatures here on earth—a moment which it is not for every generation to enjoy, such as the world had not witnessed since the immortal day of Waterloo, over a hundred years ago, an hour which marked the triumph of Mercy, Justice and Right over the hideous and abortional doctrine of the will of brute force to oppress and even torture weaker peoples, and when the principles of genuine humanity and morality overcame the hypocritical and egotistical philosophical school of German « Kultur », which had permeated its loathsome beastly principles into the innermost soul of an immense nation for ages past; an hour for which La Belle France had waited for nigh on fifty years : to be consecrated in every cathedral and church in the land — yea, even among those roofless ruins of sacred edifices in poor scarred and war-blasted Belgium and France—by the ringing of bells and solemn ritual, to be fittingly observed by the Civil Authorities in decorous and appropriate fashion.

Surely, methinks, such a moment would be suitably noted in the particular camp where, for the nonce, one happened to be quartered. But, no, the shrewdest eye failed to detect preparation for due observance of this epochal incident. But hark ! what sound was that ? At last the expected happens. A solitary bugler advances hesitatingly, applies his instrument to his lips—and lo ! rang forth in clarion tones—defaulters !!!

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION CLOSING

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION AT ONCE
CLOSING THIS WEEK

The following open literary competition has been arranged in connection with the Christmas « Digger ».

For the best Xmas story of 2,000 words 20 fr.
Best humorous story of 500 words 15 fr.
Best original poem 15 fr.
Best original joke 10 fr.

The closing date for manuscripts is November 24 th.

Seal, sign, and deliver or post your contribution to « The Editor, 'The Digger', Australian Base Depots, France

Endorse envelopes « Christmas Story Competition. » Also state clearly if you desire manuscripts to be returned.

The right to use any contribution other than prize winners is reserved.

William Henry Davey, a returned soldier, who had been operated on four times, was fined £5 or 14 days, for carrying a loaded revolver and using obscene language in Melbourne. Davey said « he carried the revolver to protect himself against the Bolsheviks of Collins Street ! »



Gunner, We cannot possibly take any notice of complaints when the writer withholds his name. Con C. Anyone who complains about the Gym being reserved on one occasion, when the camp caters so well along sporting lines, wants to go to a Sunday school picnic, certainly not a war. P.T. Our « poet laureate » would not pass your poetic brain wave. A verse like this is what the diggers call a G.

The Old Glass Bottle.

'Twas only an old glass bottle
Was washed up by the sea.
'Twas only an old glass bottle
Came rolling in to me.
In this old glass bottle was a letter
These words were written on,
Who ever finds this old glass bottle
Will find the beer all gone.

It is easy to realise where the contents went. Cynicus. The joke misses. Malvern. Understand R. Cameron rode Trafalgar in Comedy King's Melbourne Cup. Unable to get definite information. Gunner S. Here goes, but we warn readers that the armistice has been signed,

Three shells burst ! See how run.
We all run over the field so fast,
We're all determined we won't be last,
We feel upset, but not downcast,

As three more burst !
Three shells burst ! See how we run,
As gas alert they see us fly,
They ask us not the reason why,
As faster still they pass us by,

As three more burst !
Three shells burst ! See how we run,
Yet all the same we'll teach the Hun,
We don't do sprints like this for fun,
For back we trot and shoot our gun,
As three shells burst.

X.Y.Z. Cannot pass. Try again. Boss.
It wobbles alright, and is still wobbling. 303. Too late. Let us have a dissertation on peace.

IN HOSPITAL

Did I dream of the voices of guns, and the shriek of the shells,
The whine of the bullets, and stench of the unburied dead ;
The groans of the tortured, who lay in those miniature hells
The spirit of horror that haunted that valley of dread ?

Or dreaming am I, that I lie in this couch at my ease,
Hearing no sound save the wash of the waves on the shore,
The song of the birds and the sigh of the wind in the trees,
And is that an angel that stands there in white at the door ?

Such contrasts as these cannot, surely, exist in one sphere,
Can madness and sancity blend as a unified whole ?
Whether dreaming or waking, sufficient that I lay here,
To the music of nature, communing with nature's own soul.

D M.

The light battle cruiser H.M.A.S. Adelaide was launched in the presence of 10,000 people in Sydney recently.

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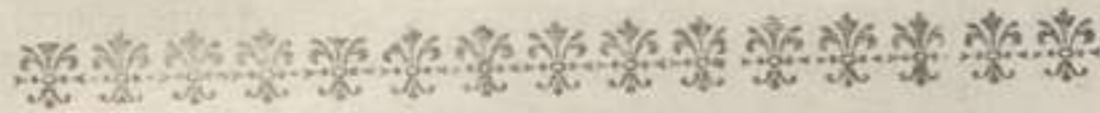
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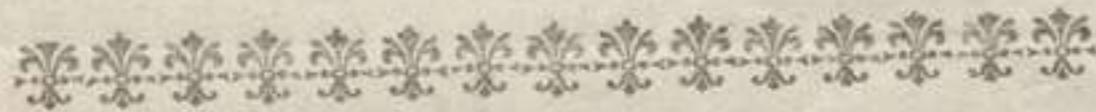
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REPATRIATION

What Tasmania Offers

A review, of what the Commonwealth of Australia is doing for the soldier, must of necessity include that picturesque and healthful island of Tasmania, familiarly known to the diggers as Tassy. The little land was discovered 276 years ago by Abel Janszoon Tasman, and was first named New South Wales, which included all Victoria, New South Wales, part of Queensland and South Australia. It was subsequently named Van Diemen's Land, and afterwards Tasmania.

Tassy then possessed the luxury of two independent governments. One was known as the district of Buckingham and the other Cornwall. No serious attempt at settlement was made until a century ago when Hobart was known as Sullivan's Cove. Since then the reputation of the tight little island for climate, timber, mineral wealth, fruit, and natural advantage on account of water power has steadily grown. It is to this little Britain of the South, that Tassy liberally offers to her soldier sons, and naval and military men of the United Kingdom, some of her fertile and picturesque soil on easy terms. The soldier needs an honourable discharge. He is entitled to the privileges offered if he enlisted in the A.I.F., and was prevented from going abroad through no fault of his own. It applies to British troops, if they come to Tassy to settle on our land. No free grants of land will be made to any but discharged soldiers, who have, prior to their becoming such, resided in Tasmania for two years.

The Minister may acquire private land, in any part of the State, or set apart Crown Land for discharged soldiers exclusively. Land may be offered by sale or lease. One Hundred acres of land may be selected, and larger areas of second and third class land. The application must be made to the President of the Board, giving particulars of service, experience, capital, and assistance required. Assistance may be given in clearing, fencing, draining, irrigating and general improvements. Advances up to £300 may be given for the erection of buildings. Assistance may be given for purchase of implements, stock, seed, etc. Repayment is distributed over fourteen years. The interest payable on the loan is determined by the Minister. Security is by a first mortgage on the property.

Other concessions are as follows, -

- (1) Remission of survey fees.
- (2) No rates, or taxes for the first four years if land be purchased.
- (3) If leased, no rent for the first year. This may be extended. No rates or taxes for the first 4 years.
- (4) A soldier taking land on lease may obtain the same advances as one purchasing land.

In addition, the advantages, which are offered generally, apply to the Tasmanian artisan soldier, as well as to the settler. The assistance to those partially disabled, either through illness, or loss of limb, is the same in Tassy as in the other States. The help for those desiring to commence business (to widows

and children and orphans is conceived on generous lines.

These concessions are offered by Tasmania, and, in addition, the mineral wealth of the island is great. The big tin mine of Mt. Bischof has been successfully worked for 50 years. The price for electric power for industry, supplied from the Great Lakes in the heart of the Island, is among the cheapest in the world.

Nature has stored for ever this inexhaustable source of wealth, while the varying fortunes dependent upon coal or oil, remain in this southern island unaffected. Tasmania with its unequalled climate, for health and fruit culture, its rich stores of mineral wealth, its never failing supply of timber, and its incomparable water advantages for industry cordially welcomes her soldier sons back, and also invites the British Tommy to come.

THE RULING PASSION

It is well known that the diggers' sporting event is a "two-up". It is played under every conceivable disability. Not all the force of the army iron discipline can arrest the all conquering spirit of a "leading" em. The passion for tossing two bright pennies, and betting whether they turn heads or micks, is as strong as the law of brevity. A digger was coming back from a "schook" and was late. A Jack pinched him, and next day, on the mat at the Orderly Room, the Adjutant slathered it into dig's trembling hide about the enormity of being A.W.L. in the army. The dinkum felt as if "We'd lost the war", the longer the adjutant talked. However the officer finished his wordy barrage with the exhortation, "Be a sport my man - be a sport, and play the game". Digger waited until the end, and quickly jumped at the supposed offer and said, "Orl right, Sir! I'll toss you, whether you make it fourteen days or nothings!"



THE BLIGHTY SHOP

(Mile BOUSSEKEY)

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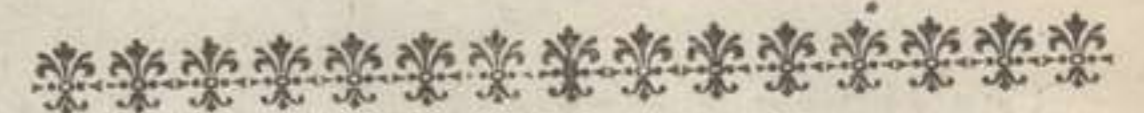
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"In Australia" and "The Boys of the Old Battalion" the popular Australian songs written and composed by Captain G. C. Neech, 9th Battalion, A. I. F., which are being sung with great success in France and England, can be obtained by application to "The Editor, 'The Digger' Australian Base Depots, France." Price 2/- or 2 fr. 60 cents each. Copies forwarded from this office are specially autographed by Captain Neech.

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THE WATTLE BIRDS

The Wattle Birds have been showing to various audiences during the last few days. Their opening programme has proved a great success, and established the party in favour.

Ben Davis sings, « If I could turn the clock back. » He has a most pleasing voice, and uses it artistically. The subtle harmony of the company punctuates his number beautifully. Ben is a strong acquisition to the Wattle Birds.

Martin Keith, producer, has been in bad health for some time, and he displayed remarkable grit and determination in carrying on with the arduous task of rehearsing a new party when his health was in such condition. During the week he was compelled to take to his bed for a few days.

Wattle Bird bookings may be arranged through Staff Captain R.M. Marks, Staff Officer, Australian Base Depots, via Base P.O. Le Havre. In order that every arrangement may be made to fulfil requests it is desired that application be made a week ahead of the date of performance.

Alan Bailey's « Shipmates o' Mine » is a big success. The number is introduced as a song scena. It never fails to score.

Harry H. Bennett has linked up with the Wattle Birds. He is a West Australian and possesses a fine tenor voice. He was in great demand in Blighty where he was with the Weymouth Humouresques and the Fovant Follies.

Les Moten sings Glorious Devon in this program and does his job in a finished manner. He has a strong, rich baritone voice that wins.

In spite of the fact that Martin Keith the producer is under the weather the company are working hard on a new and entirely novel and original program. If it meets with the success that has attended their first attempt, then we are in for a treat.

AN INQUIRING MIND

Dinkum belonged to the Intelligence Department, and when in search of information he called on the hair-dresser, or as some facetiously but rudely call him « The wool chopper. » The man on the intelligence stunt asked the tonsorial artist, « How are things? » The barber said, « He was just 'scraping along. » He next tried the boot-maker, but with no better success. The mender of soles said, « He was just « pegging » away. » He tried the butcher, and the man with the carver declared, « He was just making things 'meet'. » Going to the ration store all the information he gathered from the provider of « scran » was that « He was giving things a « weigh ». In desperation the Intelligence guy hurried down to the Waccery and the Waac's said they were just making a bare existence. That was the limit. The information was not considered of military value.

AUSTRALIAN DANDIES

Geo Dawes is now in full charge of the Dandies. He is both producer and manager.

Walker and Freame's wire-walking, juggling, and baton twirling act is scoring as a novelty. With Fred Klimo clowning the whole turn is clever and laugh producing.

There were times last Saturday night when the audience was waiting for something. The Cabaret Revue lacked the snap that was present on the previous week.

Billy Meeske and Geo Keane provided a tumbling speciality at last week's show introducing some new novelties.

For variety the Dandies have excellent facilities for putting over a regular vaudeville show. There are plenty of versatile people in the company, and with such material there is every reason that the best results should be obtained. The show collectively may be classed as a strong combination, and now that the Dandies have launched out in Revues, sketches, etc, the combined effort must be paramount in the finished article—that is, a revue that opens at high speed, and gains velocity throughout, finishing in a revuesical riot.

PENDING DEMOBILISATION

It is desired that all men in the A.I.F. will take notice that Lieut. A. W. Clemes has been appointed to take charge of the Educational Scheme for soldiers during demobilisation at the A.G.B.D. and the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot, and 2nd Lieut. C. P. Smith has received a similar appointment for the A.I.B.D. Lieut. Smith can be seen at the Lecture Room H. Q. building, A.I.B.D. between 9-30 a.m. and 12 noon, and Lieut Clemes at the Quiet Room, Geelong Y.M.C.A., at the same time. Every effort is being put forward for the soldiers' advancement on their return to Australia. Make your application early.

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The Education Scheme

THE GIFT OF YOUTH

The advantage that youth has in battle, including those phases of leadership where strenuous work is required, has been most obvious in this war. Australian soldiers of whatever age have done their utmost, but her younger men were able to and did use reserve power that they would have found denied to them had they been 10 or 15 years older.

It is not, however, as widely recognised as it should be that the facts have their lesson for civil life. Youth, generally speaking, does not know its own strength, or fully realise its potentialities. It was because they were faced with a tremendous emergency that the younger men did such great work in this war. And if anyone of them realises the great work to be done in Australia, he will prepare to make as large a success of his civil life as he has made on the field of Mars. Once realising the possibilities, he will eagerly seek for opportunities to achieve results. And in this respect, the opportunities now offering through the Education Scheme cannot be overestimated.

I am not underrating, by any means, the benefit that will be derived by the older men from this scheme; but I am penning this epistle thus because I know that far too many of the younger men—although the majority of them are keen for it—are slow in mapping out a career for themselves. Let it be said to any one of them:—It is imperative to your interests, to fix your objective in civil life, and to systematically work to gain the goal. Enter eagerly the portals opened by the A.I.F. Education Scheme. And afterwards—well, we all know there are no greater opportunities for advancement than in Australia when once we have prepared ourselves to take advantage of them. No matter how inferior your education now; this is the time to improve it. And you will find the Education Officers as keen for your advancement as you could be yourself.

Australians all—the co-operation of students is vital—it is up to you to make this scheme a greater success than even any Australian feat of arms. And though we will advance all along the line, there will be no casualty, but everywhere an improvement of moral, mental, and physical power.

GLENIFFER.

INCOME TAX

Before the war £3,245,000 was the total income tax paid per year in Australia. For the financial year ending June 1918, a total of £10,500,000 was paid. It is anticipated that for the present year ending next June, the revenue from this source will be more than those two figures together. For 1917-18 the Commonwealth's share was £6,500,000, and the States £4,000,000.

The price of onins reached £24 per ton in Sydney during August. They rose £6/10/- per ton in a few days. The price is the highest reached for years.

MAC OF MUNGALLALA

Mac wasn't Scotch. His father's country, he would insist, was none other than Ireland. But whatever his nationality he was a credit to it. Tall, gaunt, with extremities larger than those of any other man, he was staunch and had a kindly gleam in his eye, unless you called him Scotch. I remember well my first impression of Mac. We had had our initial equipment issued, and the razor did not appeal to my friend. « Look », he said to the officer, « You're calling this a razor. Let me tell you even my girl would not be pleased with it. I'd like to know her opinion of you, after she has tried to cut her corns with it. I know what I am talking about, and (crescendo) it would not cut scrub. » What had been issued had been issued, and that was the end of it.

Mac soon became a master of gun-drill, and even his legs did not seem uncomely as he swung into the limber. He was also a perfect sentry though he insisted upon his individuality even here. When he arrived in Egypt he was on sentry-go at Zeitoun, and, being in a jovial mood, gave the charge to the relief of his own style. « In Egypt », he explained, « we make footprints on the sands of time. Just march along and you can't miss the feet, because mine are larger than any other footprints you will find. »

The Colonel had made a raid on the guard the previous night, and Mac thought it wise to issue a caution. « Beware of every suspicious person, » he said, especially the Colonel. « General advice followed. The newcomer was to turn his head smartly to right and left so that he could see most of the horizon, but he was to take care not to wrench his neck too far for fear it would screw off. March up and down like a wild beast behind the bars, » he concluded, « for you are now at war, and you know what King Henry V said before Harfleur : -

In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility ;
But when the blast of war blows in
our ears
Then imitate the action of the tiger ;
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood
... Lend the eye a terrible aspect !

After arduous months in all sorts of places, we found ourselves in the winter of 1916 down on the Somme. I can still see Mac in his little humpy of Montauban, warming his large hands and feet at the brazier. One week Mac had a particularly hard time. On two successive days casualties occurred in his team, but he came back apparently little the worse except that his nerves were shaken. Later Mac was informed that there was a parcel for him. This was cheering news.

As is the commendable habit of some men, Mac unpacked the parcel with the same care with which it had been packed. He looked intently at each tin. He saw the wattles growing again, the odour of the eucalyptus pervaded him, the lambs were gamboling among the flock. His face was that of one recei-

ving a benediction, and conferring one too. But he woke suddenly from his reverie. « What's this ? » he exclaimed, as he stared at the inscription. The manufacturers had assured the reader that the commodity had been « specially prepared for pic-nics. » Mac sighed, « Well, » he declared, « if that's not the dizzy limit. »

I don't know whether it was the team casualties, or the inscription on the tin that unsettled Mac, but he paraded to the regimental doctor next day. The medico treated the case lightly, but Mac knew he was unwell, got his opinion officially confirmed, and was evacuated.

That was the last I saw of Mac until the year 1940. I was travelling — I won't tell you where — when I found Mac comfortably settled in a huge bungalow. The law in the State did proscribe plurality of wives, and I found that Mac had actually married 20. And, strange to say, they were all in the same house ! Froggies, Beligues, Jippo's and Blightites. It so happened that when I called, they were at dinner. And they were 200 of Mac's progeny sitting down at the enormous table ! The whole crowd was obviously happy, and the wives agreed, and therein I was confirmed in my opinion that Mac was a perfect diplomat.

How pleased was I that Mac recognised me at once ! « Good on you Mac, » I said warmly. « I always thought there should be many more like you in the world. » The host replied modestly enough. « Well, » said he simply, « I just had to do it. I knew I had to make up for Hogan. Barwood, Neate, yourself, and a dozen other confirmed bachelors in the battery. And so you see I have ! »

I thoroughly enjoyed the re-union, and the tales Mac was telling his children of what he did in the great war, but was rather startled at what I heard at the close of the meal. Mac called for reports ! Every wife at a signal, rose, stood at attention, and one after another addressing Mac, solemnly said, - « No complaints ; family all groomed, watered and fed, sir ! »

Well, I never thought Mac would have so thoroughly assimilated the military methods of over twenty years ago, but he varied it by giving each wife and kid a kiss and telling them to « Carry On ». They did. A.B.L.

Digger, leaning up against the Cinema hut in the Con Camp, to clobber who had just been told that Germany had « chucked it » « I wonder what in the 'ell the eads will do with all us blokes now. » Cobber, « I dunno ! »

A large motor wagon conveying German prisoners dashed over the crossroads in the Base. It was Monday, and the diggers couldn't refuse the Fritzes a satirical cheer, but the Germans responded by cheering vociferously and one of them wrapped himself in the Union Jack.

Last week the staff at the officers mess A.I.B.D., gave a hearty send off to Pte Thomas Boyle, 1st Pioneers, (head cook) who married a French lady from Montivilliers.

VICTORY

Vive la France !

Vivent les Alliés !

Victory ! The word sends a thrill through the heart of millions of our Allies, and our own people, who have stood the strain and stress of devastating war for over four years.

The joy of the French people, who have suffered so severely, is more easily imagined than explained. An emotional, artistic and loveable people, who have borne the sting of a German dictated peace for nearly 50 years, which tore two fair provinces from her side, and mulched her in a war indemnity of £200,000,000 sterling — to be paid in gold — is about to be rectified. Never again will that clank of an enemy sword, that rattling in the scabbard, have the same sinister meaning to the free peoples of the world.

The worship of predatory military power is broken, and the relief to the world is tremendous. To the French people it is even greater. The restoration of Alsace-Lorraine, and the triumph of democracy are inexpressibly gratifying to beloved France. We can join hands with these, our friends, and share their joy. The exaltation of victory was eloquently expressed by their first Commoner, Georges Clemenceau, now 77 years of age, who is familiarly nicknamed « The Tiger » « Gentlemen », he declared, « with victory comes hope, the greatest hope opens her wings and our duty is to see to it that this hope for which the best blood of France has been spilled, will become through us, through our Government, through our Chambers, through the whole French people, a reality. »

The contest, between the interests and national aspirations of the Slav and Teuton, has been decided in favour of the Slav. The map of Europe will be changed. Poland, Bohemia, the Slavs of Southern Austria, and Serbia will realize their dreams of self-government. The Dardanelles, for which so much British blood was spilt during the Crimean War, and which during this struggle was responsible for some costly efforts, will be a free waterway. In President Wilson's Peace Conditions No 12 reads, « Non-Turkish nationalities in the Ottoman Empire assured of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles to be permanently free to all ships. »

Italy, who came into the struggle in 1915, will regain some territory in islands and mainland at the expense of Austria. Belgium, who has come through the fiery ordeal triumphant, regains her sovereignty though her citizens have been battered and ravished. Resting in a sense of security; her sovereignty guaranteed by the great powers of Europe, and signed on behalf of Prussia by Von Bulow, this little nationality was invaded, outraged, and pillaged; then offered compensation and reparation, if she would consent to allow German troops to march through the land two weeks after war commenced. Belgium could have chosen the easy way like Luxemburg, but stoutly refused, and to-day complete victory means restoration and compensation, and

a sovereignty that cannot be torn as a scrap of paper ruthlessly thrust aside.

The moral triumph of Belgium shines bright through the gloom, and the tears and sorrow of four unforgettable years are being brushed away by the laughter of victory. Roumania, Greece, and Japan all participate in the triumph.

Britain and her Dominions have stood the heaviest weight in the struggle. On sea and land the sacrifice has been severe. It was British money, men, and ships that kept the Allies undaunted and undefeated until the Great Democracy of the West swung in to help in defeating Prussian ideals and hopes. The great concession in allowing their vast army to be controlled by Marshal Foch will ever stand to their credit and sound judgment. To do this, meant much for America, but infinitely more to Great Britain.

Australians can join to the full in the rejoicings. Her part is unique in history. Never previously has any country sent over 300,000 men such a distance by sea from their homeland to fight its battles on foreign soil. The Australians are the most highly paid soldiers who helped to gain the great victory. None have more worthily proved themselves in the struggle. Australians are wonderfully proud of their achievement.

Amid the rejoicings we remember those, who have made the great sacrifice. We revere their names and cherish their memory. Their deeds will live as an inspiration to their fellows, a warning to their enemies, and a revered treasure to children yet unborn.

With all our Allies our hearts rejoice in the spirit which Marshal Foch uttered when he said, — « There are, like myself, thousands and thousands of fond parents who have lost all they loved, the sons on whom their hope was set. But we have no right to self-pity. Our country—our beloved patrie—is all that matters. Let us accept the sacrifice. The whole of humanity is at stake. Liberty must first triumph. Afterwards we may weep. »

SPORT

Owing to the abnormal and rather exciting state of affairs during the past week, the boxing and wrestling competitions, which were to have taken place at the Con Camp Gym and the Lezarde Valley Club, have been postponed until the diggers have quite recovered from their celebrations and festivities. Even though a majority of the men in the Depot are anxious to rejoin their units as soon as possible, the roll of boxers and wrestlers is still as large as usual. It is pleasing to see how seriously the men take their training, and how they put their heart into the work, and now that hostilities « with arms » have ceased, it is to be hoped that « hostilities with the Gloves » will be even more prominent than in the past.

To-morrow night, the 18th inst, our novices will battle with the Tommies, and some good fights are expected.

Our big night will take place on Monday week, the 25th inst, when aussie stars, — Cpl Pearce, Jim Monaghan, Thiering, Roy Miner, Gurney, Lee and Bonnett, will uphold the name of Australia and Australians against some prominent English Boxers ; — and our champion wrestler, Billy Meeske, will wrestle an Englishman, one Smith. Several humorous items are also included in the evening's programme, and the entertainment will be an event in the history of the Depot.

CON CAMP SPORT

Baseball

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.
A1	6	4	1	1	4½
B1	5	»	5	»	»
C1	5	2	3	»	2
A2	6	3	2	1	3½
B2	7	4	3	»	5
C2	7	4	2	1	4½

B2 won the championship.

HOCKEY

The Con Camp played N° 18 Camp last Saturday, and a fast and interesting game ended in a draw of 1 goal each.

THE WAACS DANCE

Diggers were strongly in evidence at the Waac's Victory Dance held last Monday night at Rouelles. The hall was decorated with flags and streamers. It was a great night as every digger, who was present, testified.

A digger asked the price of sugar at a Froggy joint, and was told that it was three francs a kilo. « Too dear ! » said Dig, « I'll take my rice without sugar, and kiss my Waac for sweetening. » Next day he called and spent three francs on sugar.

FIXTURES

WRESTLING AND BOXING

Con. Camp. Gymnasium

MONDAY. — Con Camp Gym. 5 p. m.

Geelong Library Club

Geelong Library Club meets each Thursday at the Geelong Y.M.C.A. between 5 and 6 p. m.

The Wattlebirds

TUESDAY — Lyric Theatre - Havre.

SATURDAY — Crystal Palace - Havre.

Other bookings for the week were incomplete when we went to press.

The Dandies.

FRIDAY. — A. I. B. D.

SATURDAY. — Lismore Cinéma.



THE DIGGER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY WITH
AUTHORITY



AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS
FRANCE

Vol. 1 No. 17.

SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER 1918

PRICE ONE PENNY

TRADE WITH GERMANY

AUSTRALIA AFTER THE WAR

To thousands of people who go to their daily work in shop, factory, mine, railway, ocean and land transport, office, and all the varied avenues of employment that go to make up a nation's activities; quite a large proportion never fully realise how important the trade and commerce of their country affects their material interests; determines the quality and quantity of the clothes they wear, the food they eat, and the class of dwelling in which they live.

In Australia this applies in a greater degree than to many nations that do not possess the external trade of our country. This can be seen at a glance by shearers; coal, iron, copper, silver, and goldminers; by dairymen and butter producers; wool and wheat growers, and all men connected with the primary trades in regard to meat, leather, and horses. All these are directly concerned with shipping, railway and road transport.

The trades indirectly interested are all those secondary occupations, consisting of food distributors and retailers, butchers, bakers, dairymen, saddlers, shoemakers, landlords, tailors, fruiterers; even the public entertainers, pades, and publicans who are all influenced financially by this social and economic activity which we know as trade. The figures given here represent some of the blood which flows through the arteries of trade, giving vitality to all concerned in the shape of wages and payments, which, in turn, are reflected on the table of the home as well as in the clothes which the wife and children wear.

Our trade, that is Australian trade, was affected during the first year of war by that tremendous upheaval. It was also affected to a greater extent by a dry season which meant a fall in the value of our exports of £13,500,000 compared with the previous year. Our total trade, that is exports and imports, was worth about £150,000,000 per annum. Half of that amount represented the goods and products of Australian manufacture and growth which were sold to people overseas.

The other half was what we purchased abroad. Our trade with Germany prior to the war was worth £10,000,000 per annum. We did more trade with Germany than with any other foreign coun-

try except the United States of America. We did eight times the amount of trade with Germany that we did with France. Our trade with nearly every foreign country was increasing yearly except with France. Our trade with the Mother Country was even declining.

In reality, it was our increased buying from Germany and the United States that was displacing British Manufactured goods and which created the difference in value of imports from Britain.

Special Order of the Day

by

MARSHAL FOCH

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ALLIED ARMIES

G. Q. G. A., 12th November, 1918.

Officers, non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers of the allied Armies,

After bringing the enemy's attack to a stand by your stubborn defence, you attacked him without respite for several months, with inexhaustible energy and unwavering faith.

You have won the greatest battle in history and have saved the most sacred of all causes, the Liberty of the World.

Well may you be proud!

You have covered your standards with immortal glory, and the gratitude of posterity will ever be yours.

(Signed) F. FOCH,
Marshal of France,

Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies.

Since the States federated, Britain lost relatively ten per cent of our trade. It had fallen from 61 per cent down to 51 per cent. From the United States and Germany, we obtained 25 per cent of our imports. The class of goods we imported from Germany was similar to what we formerly obtained from Great Britain.

These facts are interesting to Australians, because they must determine

"OUTPOST LINES"

No neatly turned sonnet
With genius writ on it,
No Laureates song can I find;
No ode to fair Celia,
Or Nance or Amelia,
But still, gentle reader, be kind.

One scarce knows a minute
Without a shell in it,
Besides, there's the chats and the mud.
Now, who could write verses
On things that one curses?
Keep down! Here's another! - a dud!!

You'll not be exacting,
And own 'tis distracting,
When metre and rythm get jammed,
Through guns always drumming,
And if - what's that numming?
Lights out! A Taube up! Well I'm...!

G. A. Hunter.
A Company, Con Camp.

in the future upon what terms Germany and her Allies can trade in our markets. Will it be on an equality with our Allies, or will we place a penal tax on goods of German manufacture entering our ports? This question raises very grave issues. The war has ceased, and an armistice has been signed upon the principles enumerated by President Wilson. One of these is vitally concerned with this question of trade. On behalf of the United States the President said; — "....and more specifically, there can be no special selfish economic combinations within the League of Nations, as no employment of any form of economic boycott or exclusion; except as the power of economic penalty by exclusion; from the markets of the world, may be vested in the League of Nations itself, as a means of discipline and control.... Special alliances and economic rivalries have been the prolific source in the modern world of plans and passions that produced war. It would be an insincere as well as an insecure peace that did not exclude them in definite and binding terms."

Australia has ever claimed her sovereignty over her external trade relations, and as the peace principles enumerated by President Wilson on behalf of the United States and accepted by the Allies do not provide for a war indemnity; it will be interesting to note the expression of Australian public opinion, if no part of our huge war expenditure (ultimately exceeding £300,000,000) is to be paid by a war indemnity; and, in addition, if no discrimination or disadvantage can be placed on German goods entering Australian ports after the war, except with the consent of the League of Great Nations.



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A POPULAR CO.

Colonel BURSTON Farewelled

Having been appointed to another command, Lieut Colonel R. Burston, D. S.O., is leaving the Con Camp in a few days. At the Armistice Dinner, held by the Sergeants on Tuesday, the opportunity was taken to farewell the Colonel. C.S.M. Boyle said that they all regretted Colonel Burston's departure. Colonel Burston always gave his cordial co-operation in anything that was done in the depot. What he could not do for them was the impossible. He did everything he could. He wished him good health, luck and prosperity. (cheers) On rising, Colonel Burston was cheered again and again. He thanked them for their hearty wishes. He was very sorry to leave a camp which he had started and taken such interest in. The Depot was a happy one, and he was very proud of it. He was fearfully disappointed to go, but, unfortunately, one had no say in such matters. He had given the boys the best time he could, and they had all played the game. (applause). One thing that did give him pleasure was the fact that a very old friend of his (Colonel Nott) was taking his place at the Depot. He (Colonel Burston) knew that the men would give him the support he had received. He thanked them again for the generous manner in which they had drunk his health. (loud applause).

The five members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood arrested in Sydney are being tried in Sydney before Mr Justice Harvey. They are charged under the War Precautions Act, and a quantity of evidence submitted by the Crown consists of letters containing secret information written with invisible ink. One letter is similar to that which was used in evidence against Sir Roger Casement.

Armistice Dinner

Brilliant Gathering
Frenchman's inspiring Speech

« Honour to all of our Australian comrades; honour to your Commander in Chief; and honour to all your families, » declared l'Adjutant Bonneville, 1st Regt, du Genil, (Engineers) amidst loud cheers at the Armistice Dinner given by the Sergeants Mess, 1st Australian Convalescent Camp, on Tuesday, November 19th. It was a brilliant gathering of non commissioned officers. There were over 300 present and the Allied armies were represented by l'Adjutant Bonneville, 1st Regt. du Genil (Engineers), L'Aspirant Lemoine, 329 Regt d'Infanterie, l'Adjutant Leroux, 129 Regt. d'Infanterie, and Sergeant Arquis 129 R.T. France; Sergeant Major Slavko Akchamovich, Depot Serbe, Kleber, Havre, Serbia; and Sgt. Major J.E. Woodworth, Sgts H.T. Petit and Haywood Powell, America.

C.S.M. Boyle presided. Lieut Colonel R. Burston, C.O., Con Camp, and Capt D. Middleton, adjutant, were present. R.S.M. C.H. Downer, represented the British Base Headquarters. The hut was elaborately decorated with flags and bunting. The camp orchestra, conducted by Brad Major, played appropriate music. The various toasts were interspersed with musical numbers by members of the Dandies. After the toast of the King had been honoured, R.Q.M.S. Thomas proposed the toast of « The Allies ». He expressed the hope that as the Allies had successfully pulled together for victory they would pull together in the fight for commerce. To the French, he would say, « we are going back to our country, and every Australian will always think of the French with honour. » (cheers)

L'Adjutant Bonneville responded in French. His speech was interpreted by R.S.M. Downer. He said, « comrades Austrailians, I salute you, and I salute your officers. I salute you all because you have come to fight our battle on French soil. (cheers) The Australian soldier and the French poilu have fought together in the same fight; shared the troubles and hardships of war, and now shared the joys of peace. (loud cheers) My dear friends, I have also to think of your comrades buried in French soil. When you return to your old country take this supreme consolation to your own families, and to the families of your fallen comrades. They will sleep in French graves, which will be kept covered with flowers, and they will rest side by side with their French comrades. Honour to all of our Australian comrades; honour to your Commander in Chief, and honour to all your families. » (loud and prolonged applause).

R.S.M. Downer also responded. Speaking personally, he said, Australians to him were brothers not comrades. They were comrades to the Allies, but to Britain brothers. (hear hear) He trusted it would not be long before the Australians returned to their homes, and to enjoy those goods times, which, he had no doubt, they were having before they left. (cheers).

Other toasts honoured were, « The Day we Celebrate, » « The A.I.F. », and « Our Fallen Comrades. »



G. A. H. « The schoolboys thoughts on « Westward Ho ! » is a fine piece of verse, but not suitable for « The Digger ». Try some other paper. Your other contributions accepted with thanks. B. M. We'll risk it,

Gigantic daughter of the west,
We drink to thee across the flood
For art thou not of British blood -
Australia.

Should war's mad blast
Again be blown. Permit
Not thou the tyrant's powers
To fight thy Mother here alone.
Let thy Broad sides roar with ours -
Australia.

Clickety-Click. Sorrowful and sad performance. G. L. The thrill misses. The diggers are quite patriotic enough. L. L. Cannot pass the horror. Do you ever smile ? 22. Get Blightly leave to think the plot over. E.D. Off you go.

My Old Service Blanket

The service blanket rough and grey,
I viewed with eyes askance ;
My estimate was sadly wrong
On our first acquaintance.
Could it be, I once in silk
Pyjamas loved to swank it,
Rolled on the ground and wrapped
around

In a grey old service blanket.
And all the way from bald Bailleul
To very bad Bethune,
I slept in every hamlet, neath
My blanket and the Moon.
It has lost its pristine freshness
In cabalistic patterns,
Acquired from jam and margarine
And other English rations.

What about the chats ! G. M. It is now scrapping in the W.P.B. with several other rather lurid attempts. O. R. If rumour is correct we will go home via Ostend, Stockholm, Marseilles, Glasgow, New-York, Dublin, Paris, and perhaps, we said « perhaps », Berlin.

THE GREATEST POWER

What is the sweetest of all thought to me,
Through all my varied suffering soldier life;
What is the most inspiring memory ?
That is a dear brave-hearted waiting wife.

When all the place is torn with shot and shell,
And past my fallen comrades I must race;
What is it spurs me onward through that hell?
Again, the vision of her smiling face.

When back somewhere, and on the town leave list,
And faced with those temptations, others fall;
How do I get that power to resist ?
By just a thought of her, my own, my all.
A. W. F.

The Education Officers for the Australian Base Depots are, — Lieut A. W. Clemes, A.G.B.D. and 1st Australian Convalescent Camp, and Lieut C. P. Smith, A.I.B.D. Lieut Clemes invites all soldiers interested to call and see him in the Quiet Room, Y.M.C.A. Hut, Con Camp, between 9-30 a.m. and noon daily. Lieut Smith is available at the Lecture Room, H. Q. building A.I.B.D. during the same hours. The following classes commenced during the week, shorthand, bookkeeping, elementary mathematics, and French.

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Sir DOUGLAS HAIG's Order
 Historical Message to Armies

The following special order of the day was issued last week by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief, British Armies in France :-
 After more than four years of war, the enemy has been forced to ask for an armistice and has accepted the terms dictated by the Allies. Hostilities have been suspended and we may look forward to the early conclusion of a just and honourable peace.

At the moment of the definite triumph of those principles of liberty and right for which we entered the war, I desire to thank all ranks of all services of the British Armies under my command for the noble share they have taken in bringing about this great and glorious result.

My thanks are due to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the fighting forces (including the R. A.F.) who have served under my command in the prolonged struggle which has worn down and broken the strength of our opponents. Winter and summer the fierce strain has never ceased, has never for a moment been relaxed. Long and trying periods of trench fighting, countless raids and minor operations have bridged the gaps between the great battles on the Somme, at Arras, Messines, Ypres, Cambrai, and finally the tremendous conflicts of the present year, now crowned by victory.

In action you have been magnificent, equal to all changes of fortune, facing all dangers and surmounting all difficulties, your gallantry never failing, your courage most resolute, your devotion to duty unquestioning. Out of action, your time has been devoted, with a cheerfulness and energy undiminished by dangers and hardships undergone, to constant training and to the effort to make yourselves still more efficient. On such occasions your consistent good conduct and soldier-like behavior have won for the British Army the esteem and lasting goodwill of the Allied peoples amongst whom you have lived.

To the non-combatant and auxiliary services, including the many thousands of women who by devoted work in so many capacities have assisted in the victory of our arms, I desire to express my deep gratitude for the essential service you have rendered.

No General has been given more loyal and whole-hearted support by all ranks of the Commanders, Staffs, Departments, and Services under him. No General ever yet commanded an Army of which he had greater reason to be proud.

By your efforts and those of the gallant armies of our Allies, the nations of the world have been saved from a great danger. You have fought for the sanctity of your homes, and for the liberties of those who will come after you. Generations of free peoples, both of your own race and of all countries, will thank you for what you have done.

We do not forget those who have fallen, and by their sacrifice have made our triumph possible. The memory of those who fought in the early battles of the war, few indeed in number but unconquerable in spirit, and the thought

of all the brave men who have since died, live in our hearts to-day.

Our task is not yet finished, though the end is in sight. Until such time as the terms of armistice have been complied with and the conclusion of peace allows us to return once more to our homes, I rely confidently upon you to maintain on all occasions the same high standard of discipline, efficiency and good conduct which has always distinguished the British Army.

General Headquarters, 13th November.
 Sgd D. HAIG, F. M.,
 Commander-in-Chief, British Armies in France.

THE WATTLE BIRDS

The Wattle Birds showed to a full house at the Lyric Theatre, Havre, on Tuesday night. Bernard had his scenes in ship-shape order and Bert Grey produced excellent lighting effects in impromptu style as though the whole affair had been rehearsed for weeks. The show was a great success.

R. Monahan still falls from the « frys », and makes a novel entrance. His cross fire patter with Alan Bailey in the « Soldier and the Sub » is a mirth producer.

The new programme of the company is talked of as a « going concern ». It will have to « go some » to beat the first production. However, the management declares it is a treat in store.

Martin Keith, the producer, is again on his feet and taking charge at rehearsals.

The acting Minister for Navy stated recently that he could not entertain at present the proposal to build composite ships. He explained that he wanted to see what labour was available for the construction of steel vessels before he embarked upon a composite ship scheme. He had received an offer from a Sydney firm to build six wooden vessels of 2,800 tons each. The offer would be considered. He had received several offers to construct composite vessels. Considerable difficulty was being experienced in obtaining artisans for ship-building. Inquiries were being made in all centres for suitable tradesmen. The question as to whether mechanics should be allowed to go abroad, either to the front or munition work was receiving his attention. It might be necessary to retain these men for ship-building in Australia. (The labour difficulties will eventually be removed now that the war is over. Ed. D.)

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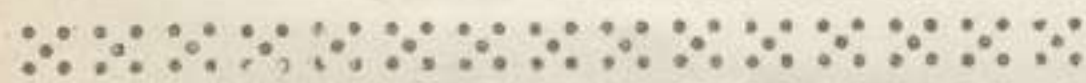
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TO THE TROOPS

" Diggers all "

(The Commandant has deemed it advisable to publish the following statement).

We feel compelled to speak to Australians about a matter which touches us vitally, namely, the conduct of so called « Australians » at this Base. We may well be proud of the conduct of our troops in the line, and our valor, or loyal fighting qualities could not, we think, be questioned anywhere. Of this we are justly proud; but it is of the staining of this fair name that we must speak—that name which has been won by the agony and hearts blood of so many of our comrades. Here, at the Base, all the good work we have done, all the fame and honour we have won, all that we prize and hold dear as honest self-respecting men is defiled and dragged through the mud by so called « Australians. »

And who are the leaders of these « Australians » who take the liberty of defaming us ? Many of them are the riff-raff of the world; of no Australian birth; criminals from all quarters screening themselves under our uniform with the knowledge that it shields, and has shielded them from the supreme penalty in case of desertion; some of them well known to the police of Europe and America. Others of them are unfortunately Australian born, but of the type that in times of peace fill our gaols at home. Most of them are men without honor, loyalty, or any virtue; men who have never fought in the line and never will fight there; and, when they have been in imminent danger of being forced into the line, either desert, or contract venereal disease for the purpose of evading duty; cowards all, that, like the wolves, would only fight in packs or where the odds were so great in their favour that their victims were powerless to resist.

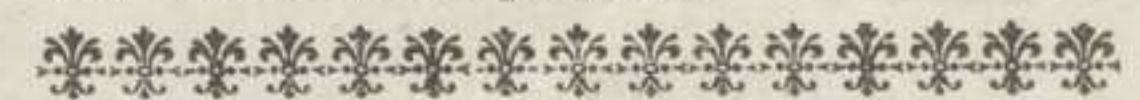
Let us instance some of the deeds committed that have caused this appeal to you. Our first example will be the one which has been the immediate reason for this article. On the 14th. inst a mixed crowd of soldiers amongst whom were many Australians, inmates of the 39th General Hospital, attacked No 1 Compound, which is situated close by; overpowered the weak guards stationed there; broke into the compound and released many prisoners, some of whom were well known criminals. The excuse given for this act was that an Australian soldier had been wrongly imprisoned. As a matter of fact he had been rightly so. He had deliberately and mutinously, and for no apparent reason, refused to obey an order, namely, to turn out on an ordinary inspectional parade. What a fine performance this riot was. How proud we Australians must feel of it. Let us write home and tell our people how nobly we defied authority on this occasion, how bravely we released so many evil doers justly interned, some of whom are well known to be criminals of the worst type. What a fine thing for « soldiers » to do ! And who engineered this fine example of Australian valor ? We believe that more than 90 per cent of the Australians who took part in the outrage know no more about the reason for it

than the man in the Moon. It was arranged, and cleverly arranged, by the wasters, the riff-raff, who, after the affair was over, quietly skulked out of the way, leaving others, and less blameworthy men to take the consequences. And this leadership is done under the guise of comradeship.

« Diggers All ! » is the cry, and the uniform we love is made the tool of men unworthy to wear any uniform except that of a gaol-bird. « Digger » forsooth ! To Hell with such men, we say. Would you, Australians, take the hand of comradeship of men of the following calibre for instance :—A few days ago an elderly French lady and her daughter, aged 17, were walking down a street in Havre at dusk. They were approached by two « Australian soldiers » (?) one of whom snatched the lady's handbag, containing money and other valuables, whilst the other « bravely » struck her a violent blow in the stomach; both afterwards making off as fast as they could. Another example :—A short time ago a Tommy was invited by an Australian « comrade » to visit a certain house in Havre. When entering the house he was met by two other Australian « comrades ». The three « comrades » then promptly and brutally assaulted him, leaving him senseless and minus of over £2 worth of money.

And still another example:—A taxi driver was hailed by two « Australians » on the road to Harfleur one night, and unsuspectingly he accepted them as fares; whereupon, they promptly knocked him senseless, leaving him lying on the roadway minus the only 80 francs he had in his possession. We feel ashamed to admit that space will not permit us to multiply these instances. There are so many of them. But to you, soldiers of Australia, you decent and honest men, we say, « Now ! what is there to do ? Are we to permit these scum of the earth to foul our fair name ? Are we to permit these few wasters (for they are very few) to tempt and lead our young soldiers to commit foolish crimes against authority, and contrary to the loyalty and honour of our manhood ? « Or, will we rise in our wrath and say to them :—« Move hand or foot, or breath a word to again soil the name of the country we love, and we will move heaven and earth to put you where you ought to be ? »

Let us be true to our country, our honour, and ourselves. And there we will leave it at present.



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ENGLISH SPOKEN

ANY PARCEL CAN BE SENT HOME

Owing to pressure on space, the article dealing with South Australia in regard to repatriation has been held over until next week.

Base Celebrity



Capt. G.C. NEECH, Song Composer

MY FIRST STUNT

It was on a never-to-be-forgotten Tuesday. The air seemed surcharged with electricity and my breast was a seething cauldron of hopes and fears commingled. The « stunt » was to begin at 2-30 p.m. and as the fateful hour approached I could feel my heart thumping madly against my ribs as if endeavoring to force itself out of my body. I thought of loved ones at home, and vaguely wondered what they were doing - were they thinking of me, or what? Time seemed interminable; would 2-30 p.m. never come? 2-27! I stood with nerves braced to highest pitch for the momentous struggle in front of me. At last! 2-30 p.m. A sharp command and « over » I went... I was right in the thick of the fight, and how the enemy fought! Backwards and forwards we swayed a seething struggling mass of humanity. Quarter was neither given nor asked! Men went down on either side of me, but with the « spirit of Anzac » strong within, I neither paused nor faltered. A menacing figure loomed in front of me; a swift lunge of my arm, and on again I went. Only a yard or two further and-gathering all my strength I made my supreme effort and with an irresistible rush reached the goal of my ambitions (or, alternately, the prize for which I had striven) and... soft, dreamy, voluptuous the strains of the Blue Danube arose as I led my partner - one of the ten ladies present in the Red Cross Hut - to the centre of the floor for the first dance of the afternoon. (Over 2,000 diggers took part in the « stunt »).

R.G.A. Concert Party at Sgts' Mess

The R.G.A. Concert Party put up a highly successful barrage at the A.G. B.D. Sergeants' Mess on the evening of the 20th November. Not a dud throughout the programme; every shot told. Bdr. Court proved a king of vocalists; Bdr. Meredith and Gnr. Black were immense in their imitations and impersonations; while Dvr. Lemmy and Gnr. Braitwaite slung their weight about in a whimsical manner which was thoroughly appreciated by the audience. Items by S/Sgt. Whitfield, Bdr. Rogers and Gnr. Watts completed the show, which concluded with an amusing sketch entitled « The Medical Board » by Dvr. Lemmy and Bdr. Meredith. At the conclusion R.S.M. Murphy proposed the usual vote of thanks, which was enthusiastically carried amid thunders of applause.

A party consisting of eight to ten Australian soldiers, of whom two might have been Americans, entered a « Delicatessen » shop, Rue Bernardin St.-Pierre, at about 8-20 p.m. on the 11th inst. The proprietor was threatened on being asked to return a 1 kg. weight which they had taken. The men were under the influence of drink. They took numerous articles of food to the total value of 200 francs. Several people witnessed what happened. The French police arrived after the men had left. One of the men was rather small with black hair and without a hat. He struck one of the employees of the firm with a box of preserved marchandise, which he had taken from the shop. Another one was tall and thin with fair hair. A third one was of medium height with curly hair. In a further report it is stated that the proprietor could not say definitely whether the theft was committed by Americans or Australians.

At 8 p.m. on the 17th inst. two Australian soldiers entered a Cafe in the Cours de la Republique and on being refused drinks, one of them got angry snatched up a syphon and emptied it in the face of the proprietor. He also broke a window valued at 60 francs.

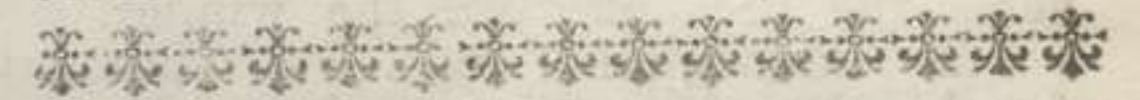


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DIGGER RIDDLES

Why did Joseph's brethren put Joseph in the pit?
Because of his coat of many colors.
What has that to do with putting him in the pit?
Well, if he had been in a dress suit he would have been put in the stalls.
What is the difference between an Aussie soldier and a Hun?
One wins hands down; the other loses hands up.
Why is it rumoured that General Allenby was recalled from Palestine?
Because he had taken his Turkey without.
Why is the Germany army like an egg?
Because when it was broken it ran.
Why is the British army like a tea strainer?
Because « leaves » never come through.



CRYSTAL-PALACE (Y. M. C. A.)
have opened an up-to-date

HAIR DRESSING SALOON

and hot and cold showers for the troops visiting Havre Hair cut, shave, shampoo massage at reasonable prices.

The barber speaks English and doesn't take tips.

AUSTRALIAN DANDIES

Joe Hurley was Ned, Dan and Kate Kelly, Steve Hart, Joe Byrne, Aaron Sherritt, and the whole caste of characters in the « Career of the Kellys, last Saturday night. Joe is a man of parts. « Sam Pan » a concerted chinese number, one of Con Conway's originalities, was put over by Jack Trehearne and the company. The number was appropriately dressed and staged. Bruce Hopkings' « Australia » has had a popular spin. Last Saturday night was another success. Geo Dawes and Frank Jarbo figured in a clever sketch last Saturday. The plot is there but it takes working. The sketch won merited applause. Con Conway still scores in comedy. He has a sack full of fun and dispenses it brightly. Ted Milne is a bright and pleasing pierrot on the stage. Either as a mademoiselle or just a « plain man », Ted is always successful. His dancing is particularly good.

« In Australia » and « The Boys of the Old Battalion » the popular Australian songs written and composed by Captain G. C. Neech, 9th Battalion, A. I. F., which are being sung with great success in France and England, can be obtained by application to « The Editor, 'The Digger' Australian Base Depots, France. » Price 2/- or 2 fr. 60 cents each. Copies forwarded from this office are specially autographed by Captain Neech.

NOVICE BOXING AND WRESTLING

Novices held the boards at the Con Camp Gym on Monday evening last. The form displayed was well up to the usual standard. There were five bouts and a dandy exhibition by Thiering. Batty and Barnett were the first pair to enter the ring. Batty is a product of the gym class. Barnett has done some glove manipulating in Blighty. Batty put up a remarkably good fight against his more experienced opponent. At the end of three rounds, Barnett won.

Ptes Gurney and Grant are old opponents. At their previous meeting, Gurney, who is boxing well at present, handed Grant the dream pill in the first spasm. This time, however, things were different. Grant has made great strides in the art of dodging « thy neighbor's uppercut ». He gave Gurney the fight of his Con Depot boxing existence. Gurney relied mainly on his trusty left hook, which has skittled so many rash and venturesome opponents. Grant was wise, however, and kept jiggling about while he shot hefty right crosses at Gurney's benevolent countenance. He also tilted Gurney's pompooured cranium back with repeated uppercuts. Gurney kept tearing in, and in the third round his grim pertinacity had its reward. Grant tired, and boxed on the defensive. He ran away and Gurney chased him. Now and again Grant would stop, and like the elderly contemptibles retreating from Mons, smote his foeman hard and often. Gurney was declared the winner of a splendid contest.

Roy Miner practised fancy punches on the person of Pte Marsh. The latter was game and tough, but is not in the clever Miner's class. No punch strayed in his direction that he did not collide with some portion of his anatomy. Marsh is a useful boy in his class, but Miner is A1 and Marsh is B-3 ; that explains it.

Ptes Lee and Hoare boxed a very solid hard hitting three rounds. Lee was much the better conditioned man of the pair. Later on, Hoare should be a tough customer and would probably reverse the decision. Lee the winner.

Jim Monaghan and Pte Bonnett fought three rounds to a draw. It was brisk and snappy. Monaghan was the more forceful, and Bonnett a shade the cleverer. A draw about filled the case.

The popular « Flinger » Thiering sparred an exhibition three rounds with Pte Brady. Thiering is always a lively customer and he led Brady a merry dance.

Lieut Galvin carried out the duties of M.C. in faultless style. Sgt Major Ratten held the watch, and Captain (padre) Robertson refereed in his usual efficient manner.

WRESTLING

Sgt Erbacher and Pte Williams, heavyweights, were the first to face each other. Erbacher with a neck hold got Williams on the mat, but could not do anything with him. Williams took a hand and nearly had the Sgt, when two minutes had gone, but it was a wash out. In the second round Erbacher was aggressive, and with a big effort sco-



“I ALLUS HAS WAN AT ELEVEN” Memories of 11 a. m. 11/11/18.

red a fall in 4 min. 55 seconds, thus securing the verdict.

Middleweights Ptes Barbarie and Mc Hugh provided a smart contest. Mc Hugh obtained first fall with a head chancey hold in 1 min 35 secs. Mc Hugh obtained another fall in 3 min 25 secs.

An exciting and clever exhibition was given by Billy Meeske and Spr Mc Intosh (British Engineers). Meeske was too strong and weighty, but the Englishman was quick and clever. A great variety of holds was shown and the crowd thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition.

Many a tall snake yarn is told in the back country of Aussie, but the war is adding variety to the episodes recorded in many a bush pub. Up in Wongeynutlah, Ginger was telling the boys about his exploits in Belgium when he was coursing the Hun. He described a Belgique chicken farm not far from « Wipers » that had been left to look after itself. « It was wire netted like a compound, » said Ginger, « and the chickens were carefully preserved by the boys. They borrowed one per day. A gang would enter the hen run, catch a pullet, puts its neck on a log and lop the head off with a trenching tool. Do you know chaps I never saw anything

like it. After two weeks the chickens would come up and put their necks on the log waiting to be guillotined. » « Fill em up again, good boy Ginger!!

FIXTURES

The Wattlebirds

- MONDAY. — Lismore Cinema, 7 p. m.
- TUESDAY — Sgts' Mess A. G. B.D. (Orchestra only) 7 p. m.
- WEDNESDAY. — A.I.B.D. Cinema. 7. p.m.
- THURSDAY. — No 15th. Camp. Y.M.C.A. 7. p m.

The Dandies.

- WEDNESDAY — 39th General Hospital.
- SATURDAY — Lismore Cinéma. 7 p. m.

WRESTLING AND BOXING

- MONDAY — Grand Challenge Contests, Con Camp Gym. 7 p.m. Admission by ticket only.

Geelong Library Club

Geelong Library Club meets each Thursday at the Geelong Y.M.C.A. between 5 and 6 p. m.

The Con Camp inter-company hockey competition was won by B2 team. The final scores were, B2 3 goals, B1 a goals.