

**AWM4**

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

Bases & Depots

**Item number:** 33/3/6

**Title:** HQ Australian Base Depots, France

January 1919



AWM4-33/3/6



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

424

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

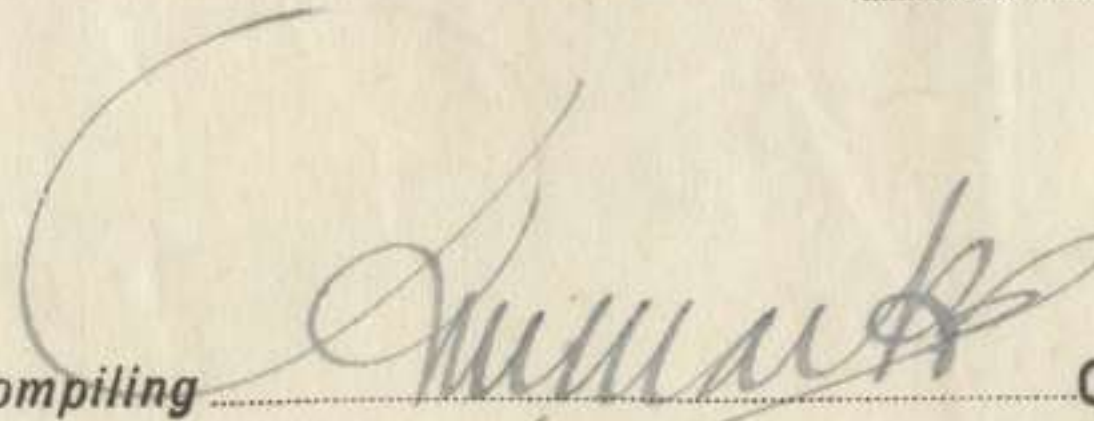
HEADQUARTERS AUST. BASE DEPOTS, FRANCE.

FOR

JANUARY

1919

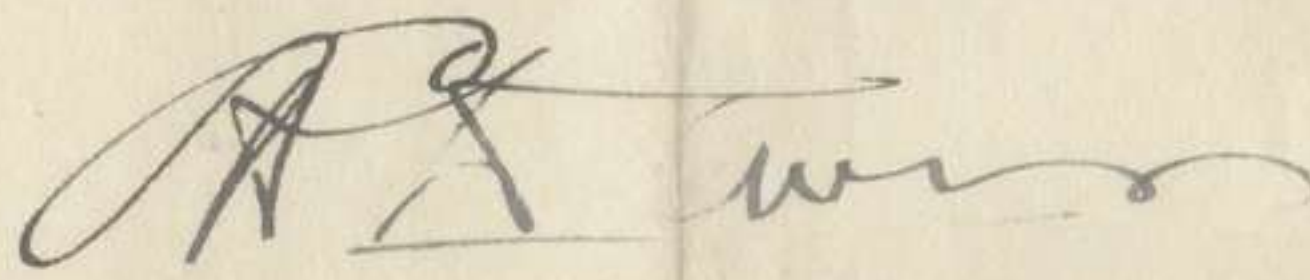
Signature of Officer compiling



CAPTAIN.

STAFF CAPTAIN TO COMMAND AUST. BASE DEPOT.

Signature of Officer Commanding



COLONEL.

COMMANDANT AUST. BASE DEPOTS? FRANCE.



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

424

LEZARDE  
VALLEY,  
HAVRE.

### Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and  
references to  
Appendices

**DRAFTS.** The movement of troops through the Depots has increased during the past month, and the total personnel despatched to England was 165 Officers and 7743 other ranks, made up of the following:- "B" Class, 3 Officers and 615 other ranks; under age 13 other ranks; "1915 Personnel" 1 Officer 97 other ranks; Demobilisation Drafts 161 Officers 7018 other ranks.

**ACCOMMODATION.** Owing to the large number of drafts passing through the Depots are being extended and personnel of the staffs augmented. Huts are being erected and additions made to the various messes. It is expected that the work will be completed at the end of February when the larger and more frequent drafts will be handled very smoothly.

**EDUCATION.** With the construction of a large educational hut in the Depot it is possible to give night classes to the various staffs who were unable, owing to their duties, to attend the day classes. The scheme is now well in operation, and the classes, lectures, etc. are largely attended.

**"THE DIGGER"** It has been possible to give great assistance to the Repatriation and Demobilisation Departments, and also the Education Officers, by using the weekly journal to disseminate important information to the troops. With French and English advertisements it has been possible to maintain an eight page paper. This month Australian cables, (official) were secured for the paper by arrangement with the High Commissioner, and the result has been that the troops have been able to read Australians news weeks in advance of other publications.

**SPORT.** Arrangements are being made to hold grand sports meeting on Anzac Day as it is recognised that it will be the last Anniversary celebrated here. Each week the series of boxing, wrestling, hockey, baseball and other sporting contests have been as usual highly successful and the Australians have always put up a creditable showing against English, and American opponents.

**AMUSEMENTS.** The Wattle Birds and the Australian Dandies continue their successful career. The pantomime Bo Peep produced by the Australian Dandies gave a successful season of two nights and a matinee at the Grand Theatre, Havre, At each performance the theatre was crowded, and a sum of 2000 francs was handed to French charities as a result.

**DISCIPLINE.** The good conduct of the troops continues. Leave has been on a liberal scale, and the conduct generally has been gratifying.

COLONEL.

Commandant Australian Base Depots, France.





# THE DIGGER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY WITH  
... .. AUTHORITY ... ..



AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS  
... .. FRANCE ... ..

VOL. 1 No. 24.

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## IN THE LEZARDE VALLEY

New Year's Eve

Early in the evening the rain was falling heavily.

It seemed either, to be the last feeble protest of four years of chaos, against the now eminent peace prospects; or else the very heavens weeping with joy at the idea of a peaceful New Year.

As the Old Year died slowly out, the showers ceased and 1918 had but an hour to run, with the last hour of its life clear and cool, with here and there stars showing.

Punctually at 12. o'clock, as if by a pre-arranged signal, the old Lezarde Valley, which has so often, in times gone by, rung with the songs of victory, of triumphant armies, and the noise of battle, echoed again with the resounding Australian bushman's « Cooee ».

From my position, one could hear the A. I. B. D. Band playing, the strains echoing through the now still air.

« Good-bye » is sung vigorously, perhaps, with double meaning, as this will be the last time for the majority of the singers to congregate as members of the A. I. F., and the now old « Australia will be there » also gets a good reception.

Then the old-new strains come drifting through the air... « Auld Lang Syne » ... ah! that brings back memories of pals you knew, way back in dear old Aussie; some of whom have already returned, and alas! others are lying under French soil where they fell on the glorious fields of Bullecourt, Pozieres, Villiers-Bretteux, Peronne, and other fields where the boys from « down under » made their names immortal.

Ah! they are missed here and at Home and in the New Year celebrations in our dear Homeland; many hearts will be aching for their loved ones whom they will ne'er see more but they may find some consolation in the words:—

« For the long watch they kept, you shall have sleeping;

You shall live greatly, because they have died. »

The « Cooeeing », singing, and music dies away... it is 1919, the commencement of a new era of Peace to all.

1918 with all its fluctuations, is gone; and, in its stead, reigns the New Year, during which all Australian Troops over here hope to be back home with their dear ones in our « Sunny Southern Land » and to celebrate a better New Year (for us) in our own way next year; so Hail! 1919... roll on 1920.

G. H. F.

## AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Magnificent achievement  
Prisoners 28 000

Melbourne, January 3rd.

The Australian Press publishes an unofficial report from General Sir John Monash of the Australians work in France from March 26th last to October 5th.

The report sets out the main achievements of the Australians.

They took 28,655 prisoners, 332 guns, many thousand machine guns, mortars and vehicles; millions of rounds of ammunition, and also recaptured 116 towns and villages, apart from many fortified farms, mills and woods, releasing 251 square miles of French soil.

The five Australian divisions never numbered more than 100,000 men all told, but they defeated the equivalent of 73 German divisions, equal to more than one third of the whole German army on the western front.

## WHERE SORROW IS

Grief borne in silence best becomes the proud,  
The widow, who for freedom gave her son,  
Yet knows the pride that comes o' duty done.  
She glories that the flag has been his shroud  
And though the house displays no outward sign  
His sacrifice has made of it a shrine.

The streets of sorrow everywhere are found:  
This urban avenue, that country lane  
Have made rich gifts and paid their toll of pain  
And heard afar the muffled drums resound  
Where honor dwells, calm courage must abide—  
The streets of sorrow are the streets of pride

## BO PEEP AT GRAND THEATRE

Arrangements Completed

The Australian Dandies encouraged by their recent success at the Y.M.C.A. Cinema (Lismore) are giving three performances of the charming and tuneful pantomime « Bo Peep » at the Grand Theatre, Havre, this week. Evening performances commencing at 7 o'clock will be given on Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th inst., with a matinee at 2 p.m. on the 16th.

Several new items will be produced for the city performances and every effort is being made to make the production a great success and worthy of Australian talent. The specialities (camel acts, contortionists and wire walkers) will be added to by the inclusion of an artistic muscular posing act. As this will probably be the last New Year season the Aussies will have on this « side » the occasion will be taken to show our appreciation to the French by the singing

## Australian Cables

By special arrangement with the High Commissioner for Australia we are able to publish each week copies of the latest cables from the Commonwealth. They appear for the first time in this issue.

of « Joan of Arc » with tableau effects, and the « Marseillaise » — in French. Doubtless full houses will be the order of the nights as an appreciation of the gigantic efforts by the Australian soldiers.

The prices for admission are as follow: — Boxes 6 and 5 francs, orchestral stalls 5 francs, stalls 4 francs, pit 2 francs, galleries 2, 1 and 50 centimes. A feature of the production is the fact that the beautiful « girls » who take the leading parts and sing in the chorus are soldiers of the A.I.F. In addition to the pantomime a number of vaudeville specialities will be introduced.

Box plan is being arranged by R.Q.M. S. Thomas and on Saturday and Sunday the plan will be at the Q.M. stores, Con Camp. The plan will then be transferred to Y.M.C.A. Hqs., Blvd Strasbourg for Monday and Tuesday mornings. Booking will be at Grand Theatre box office Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday.

## WHO ARE THE ORIGINAL DIGGERS

An argument has arisen between certain members of the A.I.F. and the New Zealand forces as to which body was first called Diggers, and are entitled to the name. The New Zealanders claim that they were the original holders of the title. Those interested are invited to send their opinion for publication in « The Digger ». Letters should be addressed to The Editor, « The Digger » A.B.D. Le Havre.

For the first time Australian films have been shown at the Y.M.C.A. Cinemas and highly appreciated by the Diggers. Altogether 40 reels are ready for the troops to enjoy.

## FEDERAL REVENUE INCREASES

Melbourne, January 3rd.

The Federal Customs Revenue for six months amounts to more than eight millions and shows an increase of £1.408.674 over the corresponding period of last year. The Postal Revenue is £3.076.960, an increase of £320.171.





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

*Editor*

Pte E. A. DOYLE.

*Advertising and Business Manager.*

Pte W. R. M. DIMOND.

*Staff*

Gnr. F. B. TREMEARNE (Literary).

Pte J. C. GOODCHILD (Art).

*Advisory Editor*

Captain R. M. MARKS.

*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 Havre, France.

## AMERICAN SHIPPING

### Remarkable Increase

The merchant fleet of the United States, now amounts to 10,000,000 gross tons, exclusive altogether of ships employed by the army and navy for transport and other work. In 1914 the fleet amounted to 5,400,000 gross tons only. By 1920 the American merchant marine will have as great a tonnage as had the British before the war. On the 4th of July of last year a total of 89 hulls were launched in the United States with a deadweight tonnage of 439,886. The collier Tuckahoe, which was built in the record time of 37 days, is busily engaged in transporting coal along the American sea-board. On the Pacific coast the five vessels built in the fastest time averaged 100 days between keel laying and delivery. On the Great Lakes the average time has been 124½ days, and in the Atlantic coast 209 1/4 days. The building of ships is one thing, but the manning if them is another. At least 200,000 men will be needed to provide crews for the ships completed in America during the year just closed. They are being raised and trained on the same system as are the men for the navy, and will be assigned to the ships by the Shipping Board just as men are assigned by the Admiralty to British warships. This is a great innovation.

## THINGS WE DON'T SEE IN HAVRE

The Sunshine

A race card or book

The spruikers outside the theatres

A tram-car notice « Direct to Football Match. »

Or a car with a notice, « Diggers Only. »

The correct time on any of the public clocks.

Anybody in a hurry

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Diggers Compose New Verses

At a recent « fun stunt » held by Padre Gault at the Lismore Cinema a prize was given for an « Empire verse » to be added to the National Anthem. The following came first : —

Hail! dawn of Freedom's Day.  
War's storm clouds melt away  
Now turn we home.  
Heart's full of high desire  
May it not pause nor tire,  
But light faith's cleansing fire  
Or hearths of home.

Another was : —

Spirit of Hawke and Drake  
Sailing for England's sake  
The world will ring.  
Laring the tempests rage  
Yours is our heritage  
Empire from age to age  
God save the king.

It is impossible to have a « stunt » without the wag. From the « wag's section » came the following : —

God send me home again  
Never to roam again  
God send me home.  
Kate, Mum and Dad I see  
Waving like mad to me  
As I draw near the quay  
God send me home.

And another : —

Please send us home again  
Never to night again  
Not on your life.  
For we will dig well in,  
And when they start again  
We won't join in, amen,  
Not on your life.

A prize sketch on a post card of « the most beautiful place I have seen at a recent stunt. »

There in a hollow, surrounded by little hills and wooded slopes, lay my nation city. In shadows cast by the sun almost on the horizon stood out the old cathedral. — the one prominent feature in a mass of buildings. Its tall towers stood speaking of the visibility and permanence of the name in which they were raised and which shall endure when they have crumbled to dust.

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E. W. M. The malagar joke got the count. Here is your « Digger's Wish. »

You may speak of the sights of London  
You may speak of the sights of Rome,  
But all I want in this great world  
Is the sight of Home, Sweet Home.

1st Relief. No. But would like to hear from you again on less satirical matter. E. H. (A.G.B.D.) tells a story.

### Our Orderly Sergeant

On Sunday night he came home tight  
As happy as could be  
He'd drank too much of certain stuffs  
That's found in 'staminets.

Then followed some other details, but few want reminding of what happened on Armistice night or at the recent bon Noel. A.G.G. lets himself go.

### Dream-hips

Dreamships, dreamships, coming up out of the sea  
Laden with mystical freight are ye?  
I have surfeit of dreams already  
Bring me no more from the sea.

Dreamships, dreamships, coming up out of the sea  
Laden with Oriental pearls are ye?  
I have burden of tears already  
Bring me no more from the sea.

Dreamships, dreamships, coming up out of the sea  
Draped with purple of tyre are ye?  
I have garments of woe already  
Bring me no more from the sea.

What about a transport to Aussie? Sport. Recent letters from Australia give the Melbourne Cup result as follows : — Nightwatch (12 to 1) I. Kennaquhair 2. Gadabout 3. Finmark 4. R. P. Unsuitable. J.J.S. Give the Waacs a rest. Try something else.

## REPATRIATION

### Conferences of States

Melbourne, January 3rd.

With the approval of the State Governments Mr Watt, Acting Prime Minister has convened a conference of the Premiers and Treasurers and Ministers of Works for January 22, chiefly for the purpose of considering how far the respective public works policies fit in with repatriation requirements.

## ALLIED FLEET

### Visit to Australia proposed

Melbourne, January 3rd.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister has received a cable from the British Government stating that the Admiralty views sympathetically Australia's proposal that a British and Allied fleet, including captured warships, should visit Australia to take part in the Peace celebrations. A final decision is promised later.



## Thoughts of a Sentimental Digger

Christmas morn was so delightful and in such contrast to the preceding weeks of incessant wet weather that it inspired sentiments that must find expression, if not to a cobbler then certainly to a Digger.

« Not a bad day, Dig. »

« No, not bad Bill. In fact I've been thinking that Jupiter Pluvius has withheld his obnoxious presence for a day, and thus has shown us his regard for us diggers. I shall surely imbibe inspiration if I stay out here much longer.

« Yes! Your Piquant Column is bound to show the influence of it. What's wrong! »

« Oh! I have an inspiration. Goodbye! »

« Well, go to the Quack. »

And thus left to myself, I cogitate, ruminate and ponder over many pleasant thoughts. My mind wanders from one memory to another until like a wandering, dawdling moth, it alights at last in the object of its choice.

Oh! These thoughts. How pleasant to us out here, far from the scenes of their origin. For early in the morning had not my « cobbler » with a far away look to the hills, said, « Distant, fields look the greenest. »

Yes! Whether we look forward or backward, we see only the green patches. The dry and arid places are lost to view or smothered in the pleasant green sward. As I look back on the pleasant spots in my life, spent in that sunny clime in the antipodes, I call to mind place after place, incident after incident, and pleasure after pleasure.

The beauties of New Zealand crowd upon me. The pleasant drives in Victoria cannot be effaced from the archives of my memory, any more than boating on the beautiful Lake of Wendouree.

The sailing in Brisbane, the manifold pleasures in New South Wales of Woy Woy, Austimer and hundreds of other places, conjure up memories that will awaken similar ones in the minds of my fellows. Yet my mind fixes upon one place and from it will not wander. A bright spot, a homely spot in the heart of paradise — Home. To-day of all days we think of the jewel in our home; mother or wife, to whom we can withdraw from the strife of the world and feel the touch of warmth and sympathy, so quietly displayed that it often passes unnoticed....until, the perspective is reached in these here distant lands.

And here separated from our loved ones for years, as we have been, we can dwell on these happy thoughts of home: the Christmas stocking, the joyous and unrestrained laughter of children as they explore their hidden treasures, and then....the Xmas Dinner.

We feel no shame in showing these feelings which have possessed us; feelings which we, as Diggers are so loath at times to demonstrate, but which at this season, we cannot help thinking and often cannot resist expressing.

« Helloa! Dig. Got your No 9? »

« Don't drag them on, Bill. I'm doing my Imaginary Conversation No 3. »

FINIS.

## RETURNED SOLDIERS

Melbourne, January 3rd.

The newspapers publish appreciative articles describing the work of the automobile clubs in meeting and entertaining returned soldiers.

## MILITARY HORSES

Action to improve breed

Melbourne, January 4th.

With the object of assisting the Defence Department to improve the breed of military horses the Moonee Valley Racing Club has purchased the racing stallion Headwind, the winner of the Standish Handicap. Only approved half-bred mares will be served, in order not to compete with owners of thoroughbred studs. The fees will be nominal.

## THE HUSTLERS

The fine Hustlers Concert Party has disbanded. It was a Tommy show consisting of English professionals. At a final performance given at the Lyric, Havre, last week a crowded house gave the party a magnificent « farewell ». One of the features of the evening was the singing of « Auld Lang Syne » in which all joined hands and sang. This fine party and orchestra has delighted Havre audiences for months. There was always the professional « polish » and « finish » about its programmes, and the entertainment was eagerly sought. It was disbanded owing to demobilisation.

## GYM DISPLAY AND DANCE

The old year was terminated in a most enjoyable manner in the Con Camp gym when a fine display of all round gymnastic work was given by the instructors and then the floor cleared and dancing proceeded apace. The building presented a remarkably pretty spectacle. It was elaborately decorated and the hundreds of fancy dress costumes worn by the dancers completed a picturesque scene. Y.M.C.A. ladies, Waacs, and many French ladies took part in the function. The costumes were varied excellently. The « make ups » were as fine as if the dance had been held under normal conditions at home. It was one of the most successful functions held at the Base.

## AUSTRALIAN DANDIES

Present a Novel and Original Pantomime

## “Little Bo Peep”

Grand Theatre - HAVRE

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY

15th and 16th January a 7p.m.

## GRAND CHARITY MATINEE

THURSDAY 16th January at 2:30p.m.

Enacted Entirely by Members of A.I.F.

Box Plan at Y.M.C.A. Hqrs, Blv Strassbourg

— Popular Prices. —

(See News Item For Details) Geo DAWE Business Manager

## ENTERTAINERS ENTERTAINED

Concert Parties Thanked

At the Geelong Hut, Con Camp, on New Year's night 180 persons accepted the invitation of the Y.M.C.A., to a most enjoyable dinner. All the guests had contributed to the entertainment of the Diggers at the Depots, and included the lady helpers of the Y.M.C.A., members of the Wattle Birds and Australian Dandies and the orchestras associated with them, the A.I.B.D. and Con Camp bands, and the Con Camp Gym team.

Lieut Fred King, Y.M.C.A. leader at the Base, said the reason for the gathering was to entertain those who had entertained, for all the guests had done something to amuse the troops at the base. He certainly thought that at a function of this nature it was right to include the ladies (applause). He wished all present the compliments of the season.

Capt H. Peake said he wished to take this opportunity of thanking the guests for the good they had done in amusing the men generally.

Lieut Judd said this Christmas season had been a particularly happy one to the guests, who knew they were doing something to help other men. Each had endeavored to make the particular party to which he belonged the best, and this friendly rivalry had contributed to bring these bodies to a high stage of efficiency.

Padre Gault said that the feeling he had that night was one of gratitude. The facilities provided for the amusement of the troops here were magnificent. There was scarcely one thing left to be altered to improve them. The great factor that had helped to bring about such an elaborate plan of amusement was the desire to assist of all those personally concerned.

Capt D. F. Middleton, on behalf of the various entertainment parties at the Con Camp, wished the other entertainment parties a happy New Year.

Capt R. M. Marks, representing the Commandant, said that headquarters had encouraged amusements at the Base. It had attained a very high standard and magnificent assistance had been rendered in this direction by the Y.M.C.A.

Lieut. McLennan, officer-in-charge of the Wattle Birds, also spoke, and the function came to a close with the singing of « Auld Lang Syne ».

Colonel C.H. Davis, D.S.O., V.D. Commandant of the Australian Base Depots, has received a letter from M. Morgand, Mayor of Le Havre, expressing appreciation for the gift of 800 francs to French charities, which was forwarded to the mayor as the result of the charity matinee held by the Wattle Birds concert party at the Grand Theatre, Le Havre. The mayor stated that the money would be divided for the war widows and orphans' funds.

Full advantage is being taken at the A.I.B.D. of the opportunities offered by the A.I.F. Education Service. The accommodation is already fully taxed, in fact over-taxed. The most popular subjects are book-keeping and French, the roll calls for which total 55 and 41 respectively.



## ENGLISH DISPENSARY

## AU PILON D'OR

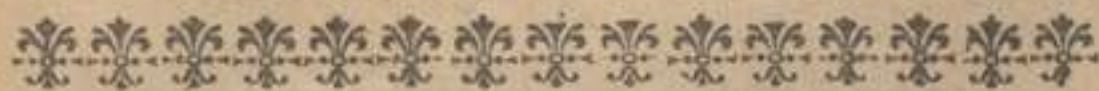
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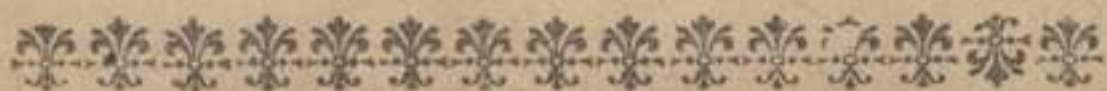
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## RED CROSS FESTIVITIES

This being the first Xmas for five years that justified jubilation no stone was left unturned by the Australian Red Cross to mark such a momentous occasion. The Recreation Hall was artistically decorated with flags, streamers and illuminations. The festivities opened on Xmas Day when every man on taking his seat at dinner found a Christmas box filled with good things from Aussie. At night at the Con Camp gym gifts were distributed from two large Xmas trees. On them was a present for every man in the Con Camp. The Hut on Boxing Night was the scene of great activity—a big « fun stunt » was in progress. Stalls had been erected and gaily decorated. It was one of the most enjoyable nights spent in the Con Camp and at the conclusion three cheers were given for the ladies (Mrs Fitzgerald, and Misses Maxwell and Armitage) who always have worked untiringly to help the Diggers in every way. The « stunt » was very ably managed by Spr Burt assisted by the rest of the staff. Events followed practically every night and on New Year's eve a splendid sight was seen when the Fancy Dress Ball took place. Both halls were crowded to overflowing. The costumes were many and varied. They were reminiscent of the days of similar civil functions. Later in the evening an adjournment was made to the Gym. The ladies of the Y.M.C.A., Red Cross, and Q.M.A.A.C., were in attendance. The supper, arranged by R.Q.M.S. Thomas and Sgt Dickson, was excellent.

The whole of the festivities were under the direction of the Australian Red Cross Commissioner, Capt H.V.E. Calthrop, M.B.E.

## A STORY OF LOVE

To make love is easy, that is if you have got a willing listener, but to get out of a love entanglement requires much tact and diplomacy. It is said that diplomacy is clever lying, but that's beside the point. Who hasn't laid all his worldly goods and chattels at the feet of some fair damsel only to grab them up and go for his blanky life a month later. Way back in Aussie to mention the name of France was to suggest a nightmare of war. Pleasure! spare the mark, nobody assumed there was any such thing in France. But some have lived and learned and in muddy Le Havre think of the Aussies who have been prepared to share their worldly estates including skating rinks, peanut farms, rocking horse selections, tiger and lion runs, elephant ranches, etc, for just that wee word « yes » from a cute eyed mademoiselle or a soft eyed Waac from Angleterre, and then applied for a transfer to some other spot in the glorious country generally named « somewhere » to escape. Enthusiasm of one week finishes the next, and an A.I.B.D. resident is proud of his reason for « skying the wiper » with his Waac « because if he failed to show up of an evening she expected a written excuse from the Commanding Officer. »

## BACK TO «DOWN UNDER»

The Australians are hurrying home, and each week sees shiploads of soldiers and civilians leaving Great Britain for the sunny South. For the past three winters these Australians have been dreaming of the blue skies and sunshine of their own land : and home-sick longings for the scent of the gum bough and the wattle blossom have often found expression in grumbling at the fogs, the grey skies, and bare trees around them.

To all Australians sunshine means life, and the six long winter months of the North land are horrors, to be borne with the best grace possible, but horrors none the less.

The time has come when they are free from war duties, and free to return to the land of fantastic flowers and brilliant birds. In a few weeks the golden beaches and the combing breakers of the blue Pacific will be once more among the realities, and the wet, unending pavements of London will have faded into the land of memory. Soon they will be enjoying the material pleasures of grilled chops for breakfast and appeasing their fruit hunger on late peaches, grapes, and luscious water melons, with all thoughts of coupons far behind.

\*\*\*

And yet, now that the time has come to go, the time for which they have been longing all these sad years, their feelings are not unmixed.

At the hour of farewell the charms of London seem strangely strengthened; there is a new loveliness in the soft grey distances, the violet evening shadows, and the bare boughs etched against the sky.

The glamour which England holds for all people from the Dominions has revived. The buildings which during the years of « war work » have become part of their daily life are once again the places of historic interest which held them in a spell when they first arrived in Great Britain, and they awaken to the fact that they too have been making history in the land of their fathers.

And now that they are about to say good-bye, the Australians have discovered a very real affection in their hearts for their English cousins. The Scots they have always loved; the men of the mountains seem nearer akin to the men of the vast plains and big distances, but « the English take more knowing, » they will tell you. « But, my word, when you do know them they're all right, » as one man put it.

And so they go with a sigh at their hearts for the new friends they leave behind, and they carry away to the South land kind memories which will draw them back again some day to the little Motherland by the grey North Sea.

AMY ELEANOR MACK.

*The Daily Mail.*

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.



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Every Day, from 2.30 — 7 p.m.

CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME

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Rear Stalls : 2.50.

Stalls : 1.10. — Front Stalls : 0.70

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Finest English & American Films

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**CHARLIE CHAPLIN**

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For a good Dinner  
visit the

ENGLISH - AUSTRALIAN - AMERICAN  
**RESTAURANT**

**Madame Veuve ARISTE**  
Propriétaire

102, Rue de la Mailleraye LE HAVRE  
(Just off rue de Paris)

Roast Chicken Every Sunday

Fish and chips with bock	1 75
Beefsteak with bock	2.25
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Coffee Tea and Bread if required	0.60
Steak, Eggs with chips	3.75
Beer	0.40

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**Knickerbocker Bar**

OFFICERS ONLY

The first American Bar in Havre

SUPERIOR BAR - CENTRAL LOCATION

Next to COX BANK

103, RUE VICTOR-HUGO, 103

Le Havre

## ABOUT DIGGERS

The boxing section of the Con Depot is losing a familiar and popular identity in Sgt Jim O'Donnell, who is leaving us en route for Aussie. He has been on the Gym Staff as Boxing Instructor for the past eight months, when his advice and second-to-none knowledge of all the ins and outs of the noble art has proved invaluable. General regret is expressed at his departure, and we all heartily wish him bon voyage and success in the Home Land when he lays aside his khaki.

Staff-Sgt W. Neil, of the Dental Corps, is on the wing for Australia, where he will present himself for his final examination in dental surgery. He has been stationed here some months.

Cpl A.J. Hampson, who has been associated with « The Digger » for some months, and wrote on various subjects that were of considerable interest to the troops, marched out of the Base the other day. He is proceeding to England to take up new duties in connection with demobilisation and repatriation. It will be remembered that he was formerly member of both the Federal and State Houses of Parliament.

Sgt W. McLellan, of the A.I.B.D., is leaving for Aussie. He is one of the January 1915 men.

Lieut Chapman and Staff-Sgts J North and F. Treacy, all of the Dental Corps, marched out of the Depot this week. They will continue their work with the 3rd Flying Squadron.

Sgt Major F.W. Worrall, of No 1 Coy, A.G.B.D., will shortly proceed to England en route for Australia. Frank is one of the most popular N.C.O.'s at the Base. He is tactful and considerate with a fine sense of humour. Even on the early morning parades he had a way of amusing the troops that was unique. He receives hundreds of letters from men who pass through the Base, which is a tribute to his personality. For some days he has been at No 40 Stationary Hospital suffering from a fracture of three small bones in his ankle.

Due to return here in a few days is Miss M. B. Hindmarsh, an active helper at the Hamilton Hut, A.I.B.D. She has been for some months at one of the Y.M.C.A. institutes in Paris.

The A.I.B.D. Sergeants are holding a dance on Friday, January 17th, and elaborate arrangements are being made to entertain the guests, who will include upwards of 100 Waacs and other ladies. Sgt J.W. Nichols and Staff-Sgt Hemley have been appointed secretary and president respectively and assisting them are a committee composed of W.O. Moore, C.S.M's F. Hooper, Wade, and Bath, and Sgts T. Brown, Mitchell, Reed, Cockrane, Jeurgens, Reed, Beetsen, Eilenberg, Lyons and McKay. Fancy dress is optional.

The New Year festivities have been many and varied and an innovation, which has no precedent, has been introduced into them by two sergeants of the A.I.B.D. The Y.M.C.A. in their programme tried to cater for men of all tastes, but these non-coms had their own way of doing things, and ended a perfect day by having a bath whilst fully dressed, and subsequently undressing and playing a game of cards

in pyjamas. Of course there is no accounting for tastes. They may have enjoyed this form of pastime ; and, if they didn't, it was very kind of them to provide amusement for the rest of the troops during the festive season.

Adjutant Edith Tilbury, of the Salvation Army, has been warned to proceed to Dunkirk where she will take charge of the Army's hut. Prior to her arrival at the Australian Base some nine months' ago she was in charge of the Army's Hostel at Le Havre for two years. She will be succeeded here by Adjutant and Mrs. Soper, who will arrive in the course of a few days, and take charge of the canteen branch of the Army's work.

Staff-Capt Renshaw, of the Salvation Army, has distributed over 1,000 Xmas presents to soldiers at the Bases during the past few days. Many « Diggers », who had spent Christmas day in a « Hommes 36-40 Chevaux 8 » carriage highly appreciated on arriving here the gift of dates, soap, and so on.

## ENGLISH ENTERTAINERS

In the organised circuits that brought entertainers to the various Y. M. C. A. huts in the different areas, it has been possible to have a constant interchange of Tommy shows. An outstanding feature of the English show is the fine quality of the performance. The following can be mentioned as highly successful entertainments, the Sons of Guns, the Hustlers, the Bang Boys, the Merry Scamps, and various other shows in the Havre area, or the Dons, the Barn Owls, and others in the forward zone. It has always been a pleasure to listen to the good performances put over by the Tommies. In view of the fact that some of these shows are disbanding we can assure them that they will long be remembered by the Aussies.

## TOTAL WAR PENSIONS

Melbourne, January 4th.

The number of war pensions granted to the end of December is 147,146, with an annual liability of £4,435,196.

« 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.

## THE BLIGHTY SHOP

(Mlle BOUSSEKEY)

34, RUE DE PARIS, 34

A choice selection of CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS and SOUVENIRS

Brooches, Jewellery, Silk Handkerchiefs  
EMBROIDERED POSTCARDS  
Cigarette Cases - All Kinds of Fancy Goods

ENGLISH SPOKEN

ANY PARCEL CAN BE SENT HOME



## SOCCER MATCH

Aussie Defeated

The Con. Depot having defeated the Guards (Impl) team in the first round and later in the next round, had almost a bye with the A.I.B.D. who were unable to get a fully representative team, migrated into the semi final and were drawn against the A.S.C. (Impl) who in the last round, after playing a drawn game, defeated a strong team of the A. V. C. (Impl) in the replay. The match took place last week. The ball got moving and after a little midfield play the A.S.C. pressed and forced a corner, which after the kick in, was easily cleared. Then the Depot broke away and the Tommies goal was dangerously near falling but their stalwart backs were strong in the boot and brought relief. The Tommies were pressing and by a fine bit of combination the ball was finally passed to the A.S.C. outside right, the situation being saved by Sgt Bardett with a fair charge depositing player and ball over the line. The Tommies now seemed to have found their stride and after a stiff shot was met by Aitken, who could not quite clear, the ball was sent back, this time finding the net, giving the A.S.C. a lead of 1 goal. After the kick off play was a little more lively, and by now there had developed a fresh breeze which blew across the pitch and did not benefit either side. Half time came with the scores A. S. C. 1 goal to Con. Depot. 0. A good piece of work by the A. S. C. resulted in a soft shot being sent towards Aitken, who hampered a little by one of our backs, let the ball pass between his legs, giving the Tommies goal. No 2.

Corner kicks at the Depot's end were frequent and after a bit of a scramble in front of goal, Aitken was called upon to save a tricky shot, which he did, but could not get it away, the ball reaching the A.S.C.'s centre forward's head rebounding into the net giving the Tommies a good lead of 3 goals. The Aussie's now got a bit of play in, but the opponent's backs were there and their Goalie was hardly ever tested, about five minutes before time the Depot again attacked but were out-paced, but later forced a corner which came to nothing, the whistle blowing for full time, with the ball in the A.S.C.'s half, thus ending a good clean and enjoyable game of football. The result was a substantial win for the Tommies by 3 goals to 0.

The outstanding features were no doubt, our goalie Aitken and Hobbs the A.S.C. centre forward who was always dangerous.

## WAAC'S BAND

A.I.B.D., band is constantly in demand to supply the music for the many and varied functions perpetrated by the Waacs. This excellent band has thereby earned the enviable title of, «The Waacs Band.» At a recent fancy dress ball at Hostel 2 the band provided the music and as it was New Year's eve and many of the girls were going to a Watch Night service to ring out the old and ring in the new year, the band played the «march off.» The bandsmen have long since learned that «music hath charms» and so have our mademoiselles anglaises.



## WHAT AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS SAY

(Typical Extracts from Letters)

(1)

PRIVATE P. O'NEIL

Australian Imperial Force, France

"I had to make nightly trips up with rations, this is rather ticklish work as the roads are constantly being shelled. The continual strain at last told on me, and it was getting worse and worse, until one of my chums put me on to Phosferine, and I am glad to say that it worked, and I am once again fit."

(2)

PRIVATE W. J. CLARK

8th Batt., 2nd Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, France

"We had a pretty rough time towards the end of last year, shells and bombs day and night. The man who is not wounded pays the price in another direction, nerves; mine went, so I looked round for a remedy, heard of Phosferine and tried it; it did the trick and now I feel like a new man."

(3)

CORPORAL C. McGHAY

Dispatch Rider, Australian Imperial Force, France

"I was motor dispatch riding in France and had a pretty lively time through continually being on the roads under heavy shell fire, the result of which was that my nerves gave way and I had to be returned to England. I was recommended to try Phosferine, and after taking it for a short while I felt quite well again."

(4)

PRIVATE F. J. DONOVAN

1st Anzac Headquarters, France

"In Gallipoli, Phosferine Tablets did me yeoman service and proved a veritable godsend during those ghastly days in the Peninsula. A return of the old fever trouble withdrew me from the line, and but for the fortifying influence of Phosferine I might possibly not have been writing this."

(5)

J. W. TINDAL

19th Batt., Australian Imperial Force, France

"I found Phosferine a splendid nerve tonic and physical recuperative. After joining up with the Australian Imperial Forces Phosferine continued to prove of great value in negating the effects of the sudden change from clerical work to military duties; it provided a reserve of energy."

These valiant Australian soldiers exemplify the great part Phosferine plays in enabling them to overcome suffering and the most extreme exertions. No special effort exhausts the energy of these valiant men, no extra hardships break down their endurance, because Phosferine recharges their systems with the vitality to survive all the rigours daily experienced.

When you require the Best Tonic Medicine, see you get

PHOSFERINE

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Nervous Debility  
Influenza  
Indigestion  
SleeplessnessExhaustion  
Neuralgia  
Maternity Weakness  
Premature DecayNerve Shock  
Loss of Appetite  
Lassitude  
NeuritisFaintness  
Brain Fag  
Anemia  
BackacheRheumatism  
Headache  
Hysteria  
Sciatica

Phosferine has a world-wide repute for curing disorders of the nervous system more completely and speedily, and at less cost than any other preparation.

## SPECIAL SERVICE NOTE

Phosferine is made in Liquid and Tablets, the Tablet form being particularly convenient for men on ACTIVE SERVICE, travellers, &c. It can be used any time, anywhere, in accurate doses, as no water is needed. The 3/- tube is small enough to carry in the pocket, and contains 90 doses. Your sailor or soldier will be the better for Phosferine—send him a tube of tablets. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c. The 3/- size contains nearly four times the 1/3 size.

PROPRIETORS: ASHTON &amp; PARSONS, LTD., LA BELLE SAUVAGE, LONDON, E.C. 4.



## BETWEEN DRINKS

BY PIQUANT

Until I met Peggy, I did not suppose  
Any girl could excel my Australian Rose;  
Her smile (with the dimples) was joy to behold,  
Her speech was like silver, her song was like gold. —  
But Pimlico Peggy, I'm sadly afraid,  
Has put pretty Rose very much in the shade.

I continued to rave about Ivy's dark hair  
Till I met blue-eyed Doris; and now I declare  
That the blondes are more beautiful :  
Ivy's all right,  
But her hairs's far too sombre — the color of night —  
While her figure's uncomely and barren of grace,  
And she has'nt a line of good looks in her face.

The demureness of Dorothy captured me once;  
But now I can see she's a terrible dunce —  
That she doesn't take in half the words that she hears,  
And her silence arises from lack of ideas.  
For since I met Marie, I'm bound to admit  
These Parisian girls are the devil for wit.

Now pray don't imagine I'm flighty or vain;  
I assure you it gives me a great deal of pain  
That I can't love the worst when I'm loving the best,  
Or worship this one and adore all the rest. —  
For in this thing at least I'm to principle true :  
That I'm off with the old when I'm on with the new!

From Our Special Correspondent :  
Aussie Police are busy. Intend to put a stop to the fascinating and exhilarating game of two-up. Raided 27 Johnnies in a loft, and the Beak said £2 each.

Reminds me of one of those English War Correspondents who wrote that « the Australian troops are strongly addicted to a game of tossing pennies up in the air to see if they come down the same or different. »

A novel Police Court Case recently. Guard on a race tram on Derby day took £10 in fares. Forgot to pay in or report himself. As he had the gambling habit, detectives looked for him on the Monday at Randwick. Got him; but he did not have the money. Had invested £10 on Rebus at 33 to 1. He had his ticket O. K., and Rebus won.

Now, as all you coves have nothing to do, can you tell me who will get the money?

Yes, this Bird caught a Cage.

Our French scholar borrows from Marot :

A soft Nay, nay, with soft smile to allay it,

Is proper, you may learn, and very meet;

But as for Yea, if you should chance to say it,

For having said too much I'd chide you, sweet.

Not that I should be grieved, so quickly winning

The harvest of the fruit for which I long,

But fain that you, while privy to my sinning,

Should tell me : 'No, you must not; it is wrong.

Australia's first electric train ran the other day in Victoria on the Flemington line, which is to be used as a breaking-in ground.

(Another popular victory, and a thud for the Wowzers.)

A pigeon flew from Zanthus to Port Augusta, 827 miles, and averaged 26 1/2 miles an hour.

Who wouldn't be a pigeon?

Imaginary Conversations, No 3 :  
Scene, any Civilised Pub., Somewhere well out of France.

Time, 1919 (years, not hours).

Bill : What'll you have next, Jim — Tooth's or Forster's ?

Jim : I hate these common liquors. Give me some Boc, and have one of these.

(Produces an Anzac wafer and a tin of Bully.)

Bill : You can go to.... (Exit.)

Jim : Funny cove, Bill. Now I call that a.... good feed.

AND HE EATS THEM.

(On Blank, a Lady-Killer.)  
Blank talks about the women he has known,

And then about the girl he calls his own;  
And then he talks about himself; and then

We turn the conversation on to men.

(With apologies to A.D.)

Heard outside mess hut, one Sunday :  
1st Dig. : How long have you been at the Base, Dig?

2nd do. : 3 puddings, cobber.

1st Dig. : Oh! Three weeks.

From Our New Billiard Table (Y. M. C. A.).

Staff-Private X. aims for a pot. Misses the red, hits four cushions, pots the red, cannons on to the white, and goes down the centre pocket.

Opponent (Ironically) : Good shot!

S.-P. X (modestly) : Not at all. Quite simple, when you understand these tables.

This Adelaide boy wins : Enlisted at 15, spent 2 years in Egypt and France. Sent home as immature. Arrested for being rude to Police. Being under age, was sent to the Children's Court.

Fined £2 for language.

## ADVANCED EDUCATION

Rue School Opens Next Week

As the result of a decision to repatriate all University undergraduates in time to commence study in the Australian Universities at the beginning of the Academic year in March next, the organisation of the Australian Corps Central School of the A.I.F. Education Service has been modified. The School, which is established at Rue, will now take candidates, who wish to be prepared for examinations such as Matriculation, Public Service, Bankers' Institute, and Accountancy. In addition facilities will be provided for a limited number of selected students, who desire advanced courses in any of the following subjects : — English, French, German, Latin, History, Geography, Mathematics, Greek, Shorthand, Book-keeping, Accountancy, and Commercial Law.

Courses will extend over a period of three months and will conclude with examinations for which certificates will be issued. The first session will open on January 13th, and conclude on or about April 13th. The candidates will report to the school on January 11th. It will be to the advantage of those who are not attached to the Base Depots to return to their units as quickly as they can because they cannot make an application to attend the school unless they are with their units.

Special courses for surveyors are being arranged to enable them to have experience in France or England, especially the latter country. Licensed surveyors are to receive advanced training and topographical experience. Men who have completed more than two years under articles are to be given intensive courses which will enable them to sit for their licence examination in Australia this year.

The Commonwealth and States' debt has increased by £350,317,759 in four years. Nearly £300,000,000 is war expenditure.

## FOLLOWING AUSTRALIA

At last the demand of labour in America for an eight-hour day is likely to be realised. All work done directly for the Government must conform to a law limiting hours to eight and all direct contracts for Government work carry a clause providing for the eight-hour day.

## CAFÉ DES FLEURS

Georges SIMON, Propriétaire

13, Place Gambetta, 13 — Havre

English and French Beers

Coffee ————— Tea

— Best Brand Liquors —

Highest Quality

Satisfaction Guaranteed



# SPIRITED BOXING & WRESTLING

## Warlike Contests at Gym

### BOXING

Clever and keen fought out bouts were the rule and not the exception at the boxing show last Monday. The spacious Y.M.C.A. gymnasium was well filled with members of that warlike tribe known throughout the countries of Europe as 'The Diggers.' There were seven fights in all and not one was a 'dud'. A pair of Liliputians in Ptes Fidders and Faux were first in the ring seeking the glad hand and lusty encouraging shout that greets the well placed uppercut and straight left that has sped clean and true to its objective. There is a deal of executive power concealed in a six ounce glove, my masters. Well, Faux and Fidders took one look at each other and then they got to it. My word things hummed. Each boy used both hands splendidly. They displayed a fair knowledge of the game and fought with tigerish intensity. There were four clean knock downs during the bout, honours being easy in this department.

The verdict was a draw and it was an excellent one.

Dvr Lee and Sapper Welfare were the next pair. The sapper's name is a snare and a delusion. He was not all concerned in the welfare of his opponent. He hit Lee with all sorts and conditions of wallops, a pretty left rip to the stomach being his long suite. Lee as usual fought a game dogged battle but he was much below form and Welfare ran out an easy winner.

Pte Gurney and Pte Grant now entered the ring. These boys have proved their mettle in many a hard fought battle in the Gym., and over among our friends, the Tommies. Gurney is one of the most aggressive little fellows one could imagine. He possesses a dangerous wallop in his left hand and his under and over punch is a beauty. Grant is an awkward customer, long armed and rangy, he packs a good punch in either mitt. On Monday he was not seen to the best advantage having had a spell in hospital recently. It was a pretty even scrap. Gurney's aggressiveness probably influenced the referee when giving his decision. There really was nothing in it as regards actual scoring but Gurney made the fight and was rewarded accordingly, which is as it should always be when scores are equal.

Matters had been very strenuous up to now, but hereabouts a broad splash of comedy was introduced. Ptes Ryan and Rattray were the humorists, but Ryan gained most of the laughs. In theatrical jargon he 'went over' big. Now Ryan is a recent addition to the boxing class. He spends every spare moment in strengthening his punch and perfecting his style. The latter is all his own. He has no imitators. His methods are original. Rattray is as solemn as a boiled owl in the ring. No sooner had the men squared up than the crowd sensed a comedy, unconscious if you like, but nevertheless a comedy. Ryan bounded in the air like a dancing Dervish and waved a pair of long thin arms.

Then he flapped his gloves on his knees like a rooster preparing to crow. He charged and dabbed Rattray a real hard smack on the nose. Then followed a 'Woodman spare that tree' pose; he pelted the solemn Rattray in the side as if he were indeed intending to cut down the said tree. He stepped back and started a sort of Salome 'wriggle' with the rear portion of his anatomy while he made mesmeric passes with his gloved hands in front of the bewildered Rattray's nose. Rattray's solemn and aggrieved countenance was a foil to the weird disciple of the art fistic who paraded in front of him. Well, the farce went on for three rounds. The crowd screamed and rocked with laughter. Rattray was declared the winner and Ryan announced his intention of going on sick parade in the morning.

Dvr Bruce, A.G.B.D. and Pte Barnett were now introduced. Bruce fights right hand and foot foremost. He is an aggressive little chap and is a real good fighter in the making. He will, however, have to vary his punches better and cultivate the art of 'bawling' before he will get in among the topnotchers. Barnett has done a lot of boxing and he handled Bruce in a masterly way. For two rounds he pecked away with his left hand and nicely slipped the majority of Bruce's lunges. In the third round Bruce woke up and gave Barnett a rough time. He had left his run a little too late, however, and Barnett, snatched the verdict.

Cpl Elliott and Pte Parrett are big chaps. Elliott boxed nicely on the defensive and in the last round drove several stiff right handers home. Parrett scored now and again with a straight left and was the aggressor. A draw was the verdict.

Ptes Lee (Snowy) and Tanner can hardly be described as novices. They boxed splendidly and at the finish of three desperate hard hitting and skilful rounds a draw was recorded. Lee was the better and more graceful boxer, but Tanner is a sturdy chap and bores in all the time.

Sgt Billy Meeske was a most efficient and popular referee. Lieut Snow, as usual, handled matters splendid as M. C. Sgt-Major Ratten, our official time keeper, being absent Lieut Hood took the job on and made a very good job of it too.

Sgt. J. F. O'Donnell.

### WRESTLING

In the middleweight class Sgt Brady and Dvr Mottram were the first to come to grips, and started to wrestle fast and furious, first one and then the other on the aggressive. From a head spin Mottram regained top position and with a three-quarter nelson secured a fall in 4 min 10 sec. Decision, Mottram the winner.

Heavy weights L/Cpl Teague and Bdr O'Neill proved an excellent contest, each wrestler striving hard to gain a fall. Teague showed great skill and strength in resisting his heavier opponent. O-

Neill forced his man over the bridge with an arm lever. Teague putting up a fine defence, and bridging on top of his head for about 1½ minutes.

Teague was applauded. If he could have only been able to hold out three more seconds the decision would have been a draw, but at 5 min 57 secs., O'Neill slowly pressed his shoulders to the mat, thus winning the contest. Teague was beaten but by no means disgraced.

In another heavyweight contest L/Cpl Laughton and Private Young (champion lightweight wrestler of Queensland) came to grips. Young is meeting Sgt Erbacher in a challenge contest next Monday, January 13th. Both men wrestled well. Laughton being much heavier than his opponent. Towards the end of the contest Young had Laughton in difficulties and was slowly pressing his shoulders to the mat when the gong saved him. The referee's decision was a draw.

Sgt Billy Meeske and Sgt Erbacher gave a very interesting exhibition. Sgt Cockaine (England), a noted all-round athlete, has accepted Billy Meeske's challenge, which was made some months ago to wrestle anyone in the Allied Armies up to 13 stone. This contest will also be decided to-morrow night.

### RACING RESULTS

#### Wedding day Wins Tattersal's Cup

Melbourne, January 3rd.

Australian racing on New Years Day: At the race meeting held in Sydney on New Years Day, Tattersal's Club Cup of one mile and a half was won by Wedding Day. (1), Greg. (2), Bee (3). Betting 5 to 2 against Bee; 7 to 1 the winner; won by a head after a great race in the record time for Australasia of 2 mins. 30 ½ seconds.

### STANDISH HANDICAP

At the V.R.C. meeting in Melbourne the Standish Handicap was won by eadwind (1), Sir Ibex (2), Wedge (3). The winner started favorite at 11 to 2 against.

### STAR COMEDIAN SUCCESSFUL

The Bagot Handicap resulted, Star comedian (1), First Trim (2), Escomb (3); the winner was favorite at 7 to 2 against.

### S A. MEETING

The South Australian Jockey Club's New Years Gift was won by Minchinbury (1), Boontree (2), Kongrong (3). The dividends were £19. 1s. and 16/-.

### INTERSTATE CRICKET

Victoria V. South Australia

Melbourne, January 3rd.

Victoria in the first innings scored 374; Armstrong not out 162. South Australia scored 359; Rundell, bowled Armstrong, made 100, and Gehrs, bowled Ryder, 96. Victoria in the second day scored 2 for 82.

### LATER

Melbourne, January 4th.

Victoria in the second innings has scored 252; South Australia, second innings, has lost one wicket for 104 runs.





# THE DIGGER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY WITH  
... .. AUTHORITY ... ..



AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS  
... .. FRANCE ... ..

VOL. 1 No. 25.

SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## Demobilising Australians

### GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS STATED

Leave for Every Six Months Abroad - 7 1/2 Days

Lieut-Gen. Monash, Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, has issued general instructions regarding the pay, allowances, and leave during and after the return to Australia of all ranks of the A.I.F.

An overdraft upon the active pay account of every soldier of the A.I.F. at the net drawing rate of pay, up to a maximum of 30 days, will be made prior to embarkation from the United Kingdom, France, Egypt, or India, as the case may be. This advance is payable when the name of the soldier appears upon the boat roll. Provided the necessary credit exists, soldiers may draw during the voyage to Australia £10 for officers and nurses, £5 for sergeants and higher rank, and £3 for other ranks. Immediately before disembarkation £10 will be paid to soldiers, who embarked from Australia prior to 1917, provided the necessary credit exists, and £5 in all other cases, irrespective of their pay book balance. To assist the District Paymaster in Australia to effect a prompt settlement of the pay account each soldier during the voyage home will be required to state in writing his Australian postal address, and sign an authority directing the Paymaster to place the balance due to his account with any bank or Savings Bank agency, free of cost.

Leave of absence on full pay and subsistence at the rate of 3/- a day will be given upon disembarkation at the rate of 7 1/2 days for every six months' service away from Australia. In the case of a soldier twice enlisted, the second period abroad will be added to the first. Fractional periods over four months will be regarded as six months. Those who have taken long service furlough abroad will be granted 14 days leave, without subsistence allowance. In the case of officers, field allowance will cease as from the date of disembarkation.

Soldiers will be discharged from the A.I.F. upon the expiration of their leave.

Within four days of disembarkation all the balance to the credit of the soldiers pay account to date of discharge will be made, together with 75 per cent of his accrued deferred pay, and also his subsistence allowance.

If a soldier has enlisted in one Military District, but has his home or relatives in another, he will be permitted to disembark and be discharged in that other district. This can be arranged by application to the officer commanding the transport. In all cases where the home or family of the soldier is situated at a distance from the port of disembarkation a free warrant to the railway station nearest such home will be issued from the port of disembarkation.

tary District, but has his home or relatives in another, he will be permitted to disembark and be discharged in that other district. This can be arranged by application to the officer commanding the transport. In all cases where the home or family of the soldier is situated at a distance from the port of disembarkation a free warrant to the railway station nearest such home will be issued from the port of disembarkation.

### NON-MILITARY EMPLOYMENT

#### Great Privilege Offered

To the soldier who intends to improve his knowledge of his trade or profession while awaiting his turn to be demobilised the following points in connection with non-military employment are of great interest:—

The application should be made on form No 540. These may be obtained from O.C.'s of Units or Educational Officers. They are then dealt with by the Repatriation and Demobilisation Department, 54 Victoria street, London.

It is estimated that ultimately 20,000 members of the A.I.F. will avail themselves of the advantages now offered for non-military employment in England. No more than this number can be dealt with.

Any man who can arrange with a firm for employment in his particular trade or profession will find little difficulty in being accommodated with leave.

No agreement must be entered into for more than nine months.

Qualified tradesmen must be paid full trades union rates, and, if necessary, hold the trades union card in the particular industry.

Semi-skilled men to be paid for what they produce. Clothes necessary for working and tools of trade will be provided.

Sustenance allowance for fourteen days will be granted for men who fall out of work through causes beyond their control.

Every man to be entitled to obtain for himself all salary, wages, or earnings which he is able to command and to receive in addition to the full military pay of his rank.

The minimum sustenance allowance is 4/- per day.

Payment of college or university fees and of premiums demanded may be approved in suitable cases by the Director General upon the recommendation of the Director of Education.

The whole of these benefits depend upon the good conduct of the soldier.

To the future shipbuilders, engineers, architects, draughtsmen, electricians, motor mechanics, assayers, and workers in the arts and crafts now is the time to get busy and acquire some of the technical skill of the old world for the benefit of Australia and its future advancement.

## Australian Cables

—(—

By special arrangement with the High Commissioner for Australia we are able to publish each week copies of the latest cables from the Commonwealth.

### "Boss Kerre"

(From Queensland)

Australia likes you, Genreal Pau!  
The reason why? It is, you know,  
Because you understand a joke,  
And often try one on a bloke!  
But most we like you, we declare,  
For picking up our word, « Bos-kerre! »  
To you we cordially give  
That great Australian Adjective;  
Our other one, a naughty word,  
We trust that you have never heard.  
But gladly with the French we share  
That adjective you call « Bos-kerre! »  
The great discovery you've made  
Has nought to do with war or trade,  
No truer word than this we've spoke,  
That Genreal Pau's a boker bloke;  
And bosker is your speeches' flow,  
And boskerino d'Andre's mo!  
Although « bos kerre » is French, you say—  
You've found it in your Rabelais—  
It's evident that though polite,  
You've learn't to pull our leg all right.  
We've searched old Rabelais, and there  
Found bosker things, not « Bos-kerre! »  
And though it seems, maybe, absurd,  
Our greatest gift is but a word.  
When you to France make your report,  
It will be pithy, pointed, short:  
« They are our brothers, I aver;  
Australia's tout-a-fait Bos-kerre! »





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

**Editor**

Pte E. A. DOYLE.

*Advertising and Business Manager.*

Pte W. R. M. DIMOND.

**Staff**

Gnr. F. B. TREMEARNE (Literary).

Pte J. C. GOODCHILD (Art).

**Advisory Editor**

Captain R. M. MARKS.

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

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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 Havre, France.

**WAR DECORATION**

« 1914-15 Star »

An Army Order issued by the War Office states that His Majesty the King has approved the issue of the « 1914-15 Star » to those who served in theatres of war between the 5th August, 1914, and the 31st December, 1915. The decoration will be a Star in bronze. No clasp will be issued with the Star. The riband will be red, white and blue, shaded and watered. It set out that, « provided the claims are approved by the Army Council the Star will be granted to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British, Dominion, Colonial and Indian Forces, including civilian medical practitioners, nursing sisters, nurses and others employed with military hospitals, who actually served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war as defined in the appendix. Individuals in possession of the « 1914 Star » will not be eligible for the award of this decoration. » In the appendix the defined « theatre of war » include operations in France and Belgium ; Greek Macedonia, Serbia and Bulgaria, from October 5th, 1915 ; Gallipoli and islands of Aegan Sea from 25th April, 1915 ; *Egyptian theatre*, to include all operations against Turco-German forces from 5th November, 1914 ; also operations against Senussite forces in Western Egypt and on the borders of Cyrenaica from 3rd November, 1915, but excluding operations for which the Sultan's Sudan Medal has been awarded, and in the *African and Asiatic theatres*, which are set out in some length. The Medal also applies to those who served in the *Australasian theatre* which includes the following operations: (a) German New Guinea Bismarck Archipelago as follows :— (1) New Britain from 11th Sept., 1914 to 21st Sept., 1914 ; (2) New Ireland from 16th Sept., 1914 to 18th Oct., 1914 ; (3) Kaiser

Wilhelm-Land on 24th Sept., 1914 ; (4) Admiralty Islands on 21st Nov., 1914 ; (b) Nauru on 6th November, 1914 ; (c) German Samoa on 29th August, 1914.

**GOLD PRODUCTION**

Question of Federal Bonus

Melbourne, January 7th.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister, interviewed regarding the proposed bounty to encourage the production of gold, said :—« I observe from the press report that the municipal mining interests of Bendigo have cabled to the Prime Minister, asking him to support a movement for the grant of a bonus of £1 an ounce on gold, and that Mr Hughes is supposed to have replied in the following terms :—« Your cable re gold-mining industry received, quite appreciate gravity of position, will make immediate representations along lines urged. »

Mr. Watt continued. « I have no official information other than what press affords of this correspondence, but in July of last year the Cabinet considered what appeared to be the same request, then made by the Chamber of Mines of Victoria, and decided that it could not approve of the proposition. Nothing has occurred since then that I am aware of to warrant the Government amending its view, but I think there are still very many economic, financial and political considerations against the proposal. »

**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**

Unsurpassed Record

Melbourne, January 7th.

Senator Pearce contends that the Australian Imperial Force is the best equipped fed and clothed force raised for war service in any part of the world. It was transported over a greater distance than any other army, excepting that of New Zealand. As a fighting force the A.I.F. had an unsurpassed record.

**WHEAT FOR NORWAY**

Melbourne, January 7th.

Senator E.J. Russell, the Chairman of the Wheat board confirms the sale of 50,000 tons of wheat to Norway at a price equivalent to 5/8d per bushel f.o.b., Norway despatching the tonnage.

**ANZAC BRIDES**

Melbourne, January 7th.

The S.S. Zealandia has arrived at Melbourne from London with 185 wives of Anzacs and 87 children.

**ANZAC MEMORIAL**

Melbourne, January, 11th.

The Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League has purchased the City Club's building in Melbourne for £37,000 as an Anzac memorial.

**FRUIT CROP**

Melbourne, January, 11th.

The fruit crops in Victoria are small, chiefly owing to the thrip.



R.R.E. Pas bon, but the sentiment is good.

The land or the shores of Australia  
Is like the kingdom of Heaven  
Especially to us, soldiers of Australia  
When back round our own bush fires.  
Don't try again. G.J. lets himself go,

**TO THE WAACS AND DIGGERS**

(God Bless Them)

At Le Havre when the sun sinks low,  
And the hills are bathed with a twilight glow  
The Diggers put on their belts and go  
To stroll in the woods, or to drown their woe,  
That they seek other company besides  
their own,  
And, ere I have finished, I think I'll  
have shown  
Why the Diggers don't stroll in the  
woods alone.

Far away in the woods they go each  
night  
Little brown ladies so merry and bright,  
And the Diggers fall victims—and well  
they might,  
For who could resist such a lovely sight,  
As the Waacs in the Woods in the evening light.

The Digger he tells of a lovely home  
That he has in Australia across the foam  
Of his motor car and his horses fine,  
Of his blackberry farm and his treacle mine,  
Of the fabulous wealth that his father's  
got,  
And poor little Waccies believe the lot.

But little Miss Waccie has a story too  
To tell to her Digger so kind and true.  
Of how, ere she joined this Army Corps  
She had never done work at all before,  
Except to paint or sing or play  
On her grand piano all the day.

**FINALE**

No 9. Overdone and useless. L.M.  
Passed out in the eleventh century. T.  
A.H. Rather smudgy and sentimental.  
L.P. Repatriation skit absurd. It is  
now resting in the W.P.B., along with  
many other « gems. » Sapper. No.

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## "BO PEEP" at Grand Theatre

### Overwhelming Success

When Captain D.F. Middleton, adjutant of the Con Depot, decided that the pantomime « Bo Peep » produced by the Australian Dandies, should go to Havre, he could not, in his most extravagant moments, have anticipated the great success that would accompany the venture. « Bo Peep » was produced by Stan Mackay, who by profession is a pantomime producer in Australia. He had the splendid talent in the Australian Dandies at his disposal, and he augmented their number with a sparkling chorus whose costumes were as brilliant as their singing. The impersonations were complete—that is the greatest praise that can be given them—and even real ladies admired their

dress and figure. The season at the Grand Theatre, Le Havre, took place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with a matinee on Thursday afternoon. At each performance the fine old theatre was crowded. Those who did not book seats had to be turned away disappointed. « Bo Peep » had been produced in the camp with great success, but the performances could not compare with those at the theatre. From the appearance of the demons to the singing of the Marseillaise, the panto was full of lively interest and laugh producing patter. The speciality turns were of the highest order. The Camel act, wire walkers, jugglers, Russian dancers, muscular posers, etc., secured rounds of applause, and the tableau songs « Joan or Arc » and « Children of the Empire » were greatly appreciated by the large audiences. In perfor-

mances such as these in which all worked so effectively and well, it would be unfair to single out names as deserving of special mention. All worked admirably, and the orchestra, under Brad Major gave an excellent rendering of the fine music of the pantomime. At each of the crowded performances England, France, America, and Australia, were largely represented. At the opening night the attendance included Brig., General A.R. Burrowes, C.M.G., D.S.O., Base Commandant, Brig., General Bennett, American Base Commandant, Lieut-Colonel F.M. O'Donnell, acting Commandant, Aus., Base Depots, Mr Churchill, British Consul, Col., Firth, D.D.M.S., Havre, the Prefet of Havre, and a large number of Allied officers and nurses. « Bo Peep » will be numbered amongst the few greatest successes of performances produced by soldiers.

## AERIAL SERVICE

### England to Australia

Melbourne, January, 11th.

A company named « The Aerial Service Limited, » has been registered for the purpose of establishing a service between London and Australia. An expedition is forming a chart route via Darwin, the Dutch East Indies, India and Bagdad.

## ROBERT HARPER DEAD

Melbourne, January, 11th.

Obituary : The death has occurred of Mr Robert Harper, an ex Member of the House of Representatives and a pioneer in commerce in Victoria.

## FEDERAL MINISTERIAL CHANGES

Melbourne, January, 11th.

The following ministerial changes have been made in the Federal Government : the Hon. W. Massey Greene succeeds Mr. J.A. Jensen as Minister for Trade and Customs ; Senator E. J. Russell administers the Department of Defence with the assistance of the Hon. G. H. Wise during the absence of Senator Pearce. The Hon. Alexander Peayton assists with Repatriation and continues to control shipbuilding. The Acting Minister for the Navy the Hon. R.B. Orchard voluntarily retires at the end of the month when recruiting comes to an end.

## AUSSIE WOOL CONTROL

Melbourne, January, 11th.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister states that the Commonwealth Ministry is not likely to extend the control of wool beyond June 1920.

## DEMOBILISATION BOARD

Melbourne, January, 11th.

The Ministry have appointed Mr W. G. McBeath as an honorary member of the London Demobilisation Board.

## THE ORIGINAL DIGGERS

To the Editor of the Digger :

Sir,

In reference to the article in last weeks « Digger » raising the question as to who are originally entitled to the name « Digger », the Aussies or the New Zealanders, I wish to state that when I was in camp at Morphetville, South Australia, in 1914 the term Digger was in common use and was introduced into that camp and many others by miners who enlisted from Broken Hill and other mining centres.

Yours truly,

R.H. FINCH.

32nd Batt.

To the Editor of « The Digger ».

Apparently the name of Digger originated in 1851 with the discovery of gold in Victoria, and if so the title cannot be claimed by New Zealanders. When I was in Enland I met an old couple, who told me that Australia, many years ago, used to be known in England for its gold, and its inhabitants were consequently called Diggers. With the advent of agriculture and other industries, however, the name of Digger gradually died out, but was revived in England with the coming of the Australian troops.

Yours, etc.,

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN.

To the Editor of « The Digger. »

I reached the Motherland as a « Reo » in July,—16, and was camped at Codford where the main New Zealand Command Depot was. I spent a good bit of time there with the New Zealanders who were all old hands, and they called each other Digger ; in fact, it was universal among them, and I used it freely myself. I joined up the Batt., in September and called some of them Diggers, and nearly got stoushed for it. About the middle of 1917 the Aussies started to call themselves Diggers.

Yours, etc.

The Goat (A.I.B.D.)

## Soccer

Another friendly Soccer match was played between the Con. Depot team and 'A' Base (Rifles) Imp. team. This makes the 5th time they have met and real good sportsmanlike games have been the result. Out of the 5 games the Con Depot have won two, lost two, and one drawn. The Tommies were just defeated in the semi-final of the Lezarde Valley Comp. by the narrow margin of 2 goals to 1 by the strong semi-professional team of the R. G.A. and the few Diggers that witnessed the match made themselves heard.

In the game last week with the Con Depot, the Rifles, who were 'at home' on their own 'mud heap' which made good football out of the question, ran out the winners just scoring the odd goal in three. The Depot were trying a few new men, who owing to the frequent moves are hard to find. Some good games can be got in the Valley if players will only come out for a kick and give their names to Cpl. Tostevin 'A' 2 Coy.



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## ARMISTICE CELEBRATIONS

Wild Days in Sydney

Recent letters from Australia give graphic descriptions of the Armistice celebrations and the following letter from a Sydney « wag » has been received in the Depot.

« And the Lord said, « Let there be Peace, « And there was Peace !

Now I am not well up in Biblical treatment and won't guarantee the above to be the correct wording yet I have some pleasant memories of something similar that once happened unto myself. When we talk of peace let me make a very poor attempt at giving a description of what happened on Friday last. The « Telegraph » published a late edition saying « Germany has signed armistice ! » Then whistles and bells rang and people went mad. The women easily took charge and deliberately put on their hats and walked out of the various businesses, the men followed. By 9 a.m. every description of vehicle on wheels was parading the streets, loaded principally with women with trumpets, drums, kerosene tins and other instruments of torture. Ten o'clock came and a notice was posted on the « Herald » board saying the news was « NOT official. » By this time all the suburban people had crowded into town and traffic was stopped all along Pitt street, which was full of people cheering, laughing, and acting crazy. Then another notice saying « Armistice not signed, as Peace delegates had not reached France and would not do so for another 24 hours. » That was no good to the populace, so they tore the notice down ! I mixed with the crazy « cows » for three hours. Then I got abused for declining to get « shik » and kept on the old lemonade and sherry until I was like any poisoned pup. Finally I went on strike and would not drink so persuaded my pals to eat. It took us 1½ hours to get lunch. The waitresses did not care whether they worked or not, there was that sort of feeling wherever we went. The crowd must have been getting out of hand during the lunch hour as the police closed all pubs at 2-30 p.m. and some were locked up in the pubs. Fancy not being able to get out of a pub ! We came upon a chalk sign in one foot letters saying « Der Tag » and I can imagine the grin of satisfaction on a returned johnnie's face who wrote underneath it, « A Gutser ! » After being stung at a fashionable joint for dinner, where we got plenty of plates and no food, we viewed the multitude of people formed into miniature processions, dancing in the streets, bands playing, etc. The women and girls let themselves go at every class of innocent fun. They were simply splendid. The next night, Saturday, the whistles started to blow again, so the people once more rushed to town and went mad. On the Sabbath came the news of Mad Bill's abdication so the whistles worked overtime. When the news of Peace did come on the Monday evening at 7-30 it was « a stretcher. » Motor cars, containing women doing tableau stuff covered with flags and anything that could make a noise, formed processions. Each car dragged behind it a kerosene

tin. People who could not beat kerosene tins beat tubs. The Post Office bells chimed, and the hands of the clock went mad by going around fast like the « Where time flies » stall at the late lamented White City. It was a wild night. »

## Camouflage

Strolling recently through the streets of Havre, my astonished gaze beheld a vision. It was immaculately clad in a tunic of the material and cut favoured by the Officer class, garnished with superbly polished buttons (of Imperial pattern) and badges; though the colours denoted an Infantry unit, yet the breeches were of an aggressively mounted type and the puttees were rolled in like fashion; boots à la civile lent elaboration to the costumed scheme, and the hat alone appeared to represent the common or garden Government issue — but even that was camouflaged by a puggaree of ample proportions; a cane, jauntily flourished at the correct angle, and gloves of delicate hue added the necessary « corroborative detail »; and an eye-glass only was lacking to complete the *tout ensemble*.

Once more mine eyes surveyed the gorgeous spectacle, and then the hideous truth in all its naked reality flashed through my disordered brain — it was an Australian soldier !

## THE WATTLE BIRDS

The Base concert party is at work on a new program. Following the success of the first sketch a new one is being worked into the program. The caste comprises Lt McLennan, J. Monohan and Alan Bailey.

Les Pickles is a robust tenor and is now with the show. He fills a much desired place and is a decided acquisition.

Jack Earle, the versatile hat maniac, is on the « No Duty » roster. His nerves are out of gear and he'll be missed for a week or so.

F. Gallagher tumbled into the Wattle Birds and in that capacity will hit the boards.

Martin Keith the producer in the role of a comedian was successful in several impersonations in a concerted item. The missing feature however was his baby swank cane. Wonder is he leaving the legitimate for the vaudeville stage.

A fine flautist in Harry Curtis is the latest addition to the orchestra. The Base Orchestra is noted for some dark horses. Harry was for some years at the Sydney Tiv. He may be seen in some specialties besides playing in the band.

The scenic artists of the Wattle Birds helped out the Dandies whose staff were rushed with the Havre arrangements, by painting a cloth representing the quarter deck of H.M.S. Bo Peep which was used with effect in the « Children of the Empire » tableau.

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

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**103, RUE VICTOR-HUGO, 103****Le Havre****About Diggers**

Sgt Arthur Edwards, the conductor of the Australian Orchestra, is on leave. Arthur left hospital after a break down in health, and has earned a much needed spell.

Gnr A. Gardner, pianist for some months of the Australian Orchestra, has left for England in a « B » class boat en route for Aussie.

Sgt Brown, of the A.I.B.D., has been in bed some days with influenza, but is now nearly « A » class.

Corp Harrison, instructor in mathematics under the A.I.F. Education Service, has left the Base for the Central School at Rue. Spr Storey has succeeded him here.

For some weeks past Gnr R. Kidston, who was attached to the Australian Base Depot Headquarters, had been a successful contributor to « The Digger ». The « Between Drinks » column owed its origin to him. He was formerly a Sydney barrister. Last week he received his « moving orders » to proceed to Charleroi to take up the position as an instructor at the Central School at Rue.

Dave Oliver, one of the original members of the Australian Dandies, passed through the A.G.B.D., last week en route for Australia. He left the concert party about two months ago to rejoin his unit and after enjoying the sights of London, and afterwards Paris, received his « pass » for Aussie, being a 1915 man.

Captain R. M. Marks, has been admitted to Hospital, suffering from measles. Latest reports state that he is progressing favorably.

Sgt L. Reynolds is on leave in England prior to leaving for Australia. Another N.C.O. enjoying leave in Blighty — or rather Ireland — is C.S.M. Clark of the Con Depot.

In connection with the visit of General Pau, the famous French General to Australia, the Brisbane « Courier » October last states, — Personal visits were paid on behalf of General Pau by M. Mathieu and M. Bader to several relatives of soldiers whom they met in France, and very welcome messages were also conveyed to anxious relatives. Amongst those visited yesterday was Mrs O'Donnell, of East Brisbane, wife of Lieut-Col F. M. O'Donnell, C. O. A.I.B.D., who has been three years and four months on active service.

Pte Roy Bonnett is now a busy man in the position vacated by Sgt Jim O'Donnell, boxing instructor in the Con Depot Gym. Roy has a fine knowledge of ringcraft. He has been successful in the ring and is always keen on his work and a « grafter ». We congratulate him and wish him success among the boys he brings forward to try conclusions on boxing nights.

R.Q.M.S. J. J. McGrath, A.G.B.D., has been mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of 8th November, 1918, for special services.

**PNEUMONIA INFLUENZA**

Prevented Entering Aussie

Melbourne, January, 11th.

The Quarantine Department has prevented pneumonic influenza from entering Australia. The Director's salary has been increased from £1,000 to £1,200 and the senior officers salaries from £700 to £900.

**RED CROSS**

In the Red Cross Recreation hut on January 9th another enjoyable « fun stunt » was held when a large number of prizes were distributed by the local Commissioner, to the winners of the competitions, which included billiards (single break), barraqette, bagatelle and so on.

The evening was organised by Spr. H. Burt, and helping him were Dvr. J. Mutimer (in charge of decorations), Mrs Fitzpatrick, and the Misses Maxwell, Armitage, and Calthrop.

In some of the games two or three separate competitions took place. Following is the prize-list : — Billiards, No. 1 Comp., W.G. Perrins, 1. Weston, 2. No. 2. Bates, 1. Brown, 2. Bagatelle, No. 1 Comp., Taylor, 1. Cronin, 2. No. 2, Taylor, 1. Williams, 2. Rifle shooting, No. 1. Reid, 1. Carter, 2. No. 2, Henderson, 1. Swinson, 2. Guessing Competition, Cronin, 1. McKee, 2. Barraqette, Mann, 1. Swinson, 2. Ball Eater, Brown, 1. Escoot, 2. Pig's Tail, Pember, 1. Early, 2. Word Competition, Busby, 1. Price, 2. Bull Board, No. 1. King, 1. Tate, 2. No. 2. Taylor, 1. Morris, 2. No. 3, Lovatt, 1. Bryant, 2.

**GYMNASTIC DISPLAY**

What has been termed « the finest display of athletics seen in Havre » was given by the Con Depot Gymnastic team in the Crystal Palace on January 11th. The large building was crowded and each item was loudly applauded. The team work—Swedish drill, wand work and Russian dancing—proved the efficiency of the training the men receive under Mr Judd, the Australian physical instructor. The display of ground pyramids, horse and parallel bar work was excellent.

In comedy tumbling Sgt Meeske and George Kean scored. Sgts Meeske and Hamilton gave a fine exhibition of hand balancing and weight lifting. Mr Judd gave an interesting exhibition of electric club swinging. He is amateur champion club swinger of Australia.

« 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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(Mlle BOUSSEKEY)

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## Education

### Opportunities Offering

A school has been opened at Le Havre where soldiers may attend classes in English subjects, languages (modern and ancient), mathematics and mechanics, natural science, art, and business subjects. The idea is to give instruction in those subjects, which cannot be catered for at the Base where the soldier is camped. It is known as the Y.M.C.A. Central School, and is situated at the Hotel du Bras d'Or, Rue Thiers, and comes under the B.E.F. Education Service.

Many of the subjects are now being taught at the Australian Base Depots, and those desiring tuition can obtain information from the Educational Officers here, where information can also be obtained regarding the Central School, whose curriculum will embrace the following branches of education:

English Subjects — Expression in word and writing, English literature, British and foreign history, moral philosophy and logic, psychology, and theology.

Languages-French (elementary and advanced, conversation classes, commercial, and literature), Spanish (elementary and advanced), Italian, German, Latin, and Greek.

Mathematics-Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, mechanics, workshop mathematics, mechanical drawing, and higher mathematics.

Natural Sciences-Physics (heat, light and sound, electricity and magnetism), chemistry, chemical analysis, and chemical arithmetic).

Art-Landscape sketching, portrait sketching, water color painting, drawing, design, perspective, lettering, artistic anatomy, flower painting and drawing, architecture, and geometrical drawing.

Business subjects-Shorthand (theory and speed), bookkeeping, commercial correspondence, commercial spelling, commercial handwriting, and business methods.

Owing to the extension of the work of the A.I.F. Education Service a new building is being made available in the Con Camp, near the parade ground. Evening classes, which will also benefit the Staff, are being arranged.

## THE JOY OF COMING HOME

There's joy in sailing outward though we leave upon the pier  
With faces grieved and wistful our very dearest dear  
Though seashe'lls roll between us p'haps for many a year.

There's joy in climbing mountains, in fording rushing brooks,  
In peering into places we've read about in books,  
In meeting stranger people with unfamiliar looks.

But the joy of joy is ours, untouched by any pain,  
When we take the home-bound steamer and catch the home-bound train.  
There's nothing half so pleasant as coming home again.

« A » Base Sgts Mess, last Monday evening, tendered a social and dance to the working staff of the Q.M.A.A.C. Several Australians were present. The hall was excellently decorated by the Waags, under Miss Reid. The « A » Base orchestra under the conductorship of Rfm Sandburragh, in the absence of Sgt Bright, provided the music. About 80 couples were present. The Aussies declare « it was some show. »



## WHAT AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS SAY

(Typical Extracts from Letters)

(1)

**PRIVATE P. O'NEIL**  
Australian Imperial Force, France

"I had to make nightly trips up with rations, this is rather ticklish work as the roads are constantly being shelled. The continual strain at last told on me, and it was getting worse and worse, until one of my chums put me on to Phosferine, and I am glad to say that it worked, and I am once again fit."

(2)

**PRIVATE W. J. CLARK**  
8th Batt., 2nd Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, France

"We had a pretty rough time towards the end of last year, shells and bombs day and night. The man who is not wounded pays the price in another direction, nerves; mine went, so I looked round for a remedy, heard of Phosferine and tried it; it did the trick and now I feel like a new man."

(3)

**CORPORAL C. MCGHAY**  
Dispatch Rider, Australian Imperial Force, France

"I was motor dispatch riding in France and had a pretty lively time through continually being on the roads under heavy shell fire, the result of which was that my nerves gave way and I had to be returned to England. I was recommended to try Phosferine, and after taking it for a short while I felt quite well again."

(4)

**PRIVATE F. J. DONOVAN**  
1st Anzac Headquarters, France

"In Gallipoli, Phosferine Tablets did me yeoman service and proved a veritable godsend during those ghastly days in the Peninsula. A return of the old fever trouble withdrew me from the line, and but for the fortifying influence of Phosferine I might possibly not have been writing this."

(5)

**J. W. TINDAL**  
19th Batt., Australian Imperial Force, France

"I found Phosferine a splendid nerve tonic and physical recuperative. After joining up with the Australian Imperial Forces Phosferine continued to prove of great value in negating the effects of the sudden change from clerical work to military duties; it provided a reserve of energy."

These valiant Australian soldiers exemplify the great part Phosferine plays in enabling them to overcome suffering and the most extreme exertions. No special effort exhausts the energy of these valiant men, no extra hardships break down their endurance, because Phosferine recharges their systems with the vitality to survive all the rigours daily experienced.

When you require the Best Tonic Medicine, see you get

# PHOSFERINE

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Nervous Debility  
Influenza  
Indigestion  
Sleeplessness

Exhaustion  
Neuralgia  
Maternity Weakness  
Premature Decay

Nerve Shock  
Loss of Appetite  
Lassitude  
Neuritis

Faintness  
Brain Fog  
Anæmia  
Backache

Rheumatism  
Headache  
Hysteria  
Sciatica

Phosferine has a world-wide repute for curing disorders of the nervous system more completely and speedily, and at less cost than any other preparation.

### SPECIAL SERVICE NOTE

Phosferine is made in Liquid and Tablets, the Tablet form being particularly convenient for men on ACTIVE SERVICE, travellers, &c. It can be used any time, anywhere, in accurate doses, as no water is needed. The 3/- tube is small enough to carry in the pocket, and contains 90 doses. Your sailor or soldier will be the better for Phosferine—send him a tube of tablets. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c. The 3/- size contains nearly four times the 1/3 size.

PROPRIETORS: ASHTON & PARSONS, LTD., LA BELLE SAUVAGE, LONDON, E.C. 4.



## BETWEEN DRINKS

BY PIQUANT

Last week's headlines for the Y.M.C.A. Gym boxing appeared as follows : —  
« Warlike contests at Gym ».

Remarkable how habit grows on one. It was a sort of combination of war and peace. Perhaps the likeness to war was due to the fact that a violent duel of arms was reported on all fronts.

Armstrong's score of 162 not out on January 3rd in the interstate game between Victoria and South Australia gave vent to much comment in the depots.

Yes! the veteran champion has certainly had a « good innings. »

Say! Dig, I'm in a fix this morning. The hot water tap in my tent is blocked.

Dig : — That's too bad. You'll have to have a sweat bath in the steam house. As a matter of fact in the tent where I slept the shower leaked all night.

There has been a whole lot said about repatriation among other kindred subjects, of late. Everybody is assuring everybody else of helping them.

A wag in a cafe the other night gave a definition of the word Repatriation. He says : — Repatriation means, every man back to his own wife. We agree.

The following verse came to France simultaneously with the last batch of reinforcements. It was enclosed in the folds of numerous trench comforts, sox, mittens, Keatings, etc : —

In fellowship the same —

One Thought,  
One Heart,  
One Aim.

May this cap a mascot prove,  
Man of mettle may you  
Many months be spared to maul  
Men who else would slay you.  
To keep your head cool,  
A paradox true,  
This small cap of wool  
I am sending to you.  
Ninety six stitches  
Started this cap,  
A hundred good wishes  
Within it I wrap  
Since your feet are not cold  
Let me cover your head  
To keep from its pressure  
Your helmet of lead.

This reo is a genial personality and is wondering why?

The Crystal Palace in Havre for some time past has been popularly known as « The Pig and Whistle ».

Of course in pre-war days it might have

## CAFÉ DES FLEURS

Georges SIMON, Propriétaire

13, Place Gambetta, 13 — Havre

English and French Beers

Coffee ————— Tea

— Best Brand Liquers —

Highest Quality

Satisfaction Guaranteed

been a fit and proper institution to bear the above name. However, the nearest approach to « hops » is a Fancy Dress Ball occasionally.

The female impersonations in the Bo Peep pantomime at Havre were clever, especially Bo Peep. Some of « her » admirers were carried away.

The new version of the Bo Peep chorus has therefore been revised : —

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep,  
And can't tell where to find them;  
But at the stage door there were plenty  
of sheep,  
But little Bo Peep didn't mind them.

At the Sunday afternoon Band Concert. Con Camp Parade ground.

Headqrs Runner : — « Not so many mademoiselles out here these days to hear the band. »

His cobbler (ruefully) « No! But it always gets lonely here when the trees leave. »

Oh! the vagaries of Rouelles wood.

Imaginary Conversation No 4 :

Editor : I say, Piquie, what about the imaginary Conversation this week.

Piquant : Oh, that's dead easy; imagine you've got it.

From our special correspondent : —

The jolly old war has taught the Two-fold bay inhabitants to wake up. A company is being formed to attack the Whale on a warlike basis. The scheme is to have an aeroplane to locate him and a depth bomb to do the rest.

How about a few mills' bombs in a rabbit warren?

The Commercial Travellers of Melbourne have decided that in future no German is a fit and proper person for membership.

The Commercials are noted for their quick work.

The « Wharfies » are again dissatisfied with their rates of pay and now demand a paltry 2/6 per hour. For Sunday work 7/1 per hour is asked while North of Brisbane the rate is to be 7/8.

How about an application for early repatriation?

The half owner of the Melbourne Derby winner owns a pubbery at Wagga Wagga and when his gee gee won he had an open bar all day.

Fancy being in France while that paradise was in Australia.

## CONTESTS of LEZARDE VALLEY

Honeyman beats Young on Points

The programme of the Lezarde Valley Boxing Club on January 9th included eight contests. Each, with one exception being a bout between a Tommy and a Digger. The attendance, which was very large, saw with both eyes, giving unstinted praise to the men, who showed out well.

Chaplain the Rev. A.T.A. Naylor acted as referee, and R.S.M. S. W. Randall as M.C. Lieut L.C. Pettitt held the watch, and the judges were Capt H.C. Roddy and Lieut J.E. Dobbs.

Pte Hill, Middlesex Regt., and Pte Smith, A.I.F. were the first to enter the ring. The proceedings were rather tame at the start, each man trying to sum up his opponent. Then Hill opened up with a jab, which was followed up through a counter attack, and brought the Aussie to the boards. Smith was the aggressor in the second and the third rounds, but was cautioned for low hitting. A lively exchange occurred in the next round, ending in Hill's towel being shied. Smith, the winner.

Bdr Vowell, R.F.A. and Pte Gurney, A.I.F. gave a good exhibition, but in the second round Gurney found his favourite left punch, and half way through the next his opponent's towel was shied.

Bdr Curtis, R.F.A., and Pte Tanner, A.I.F., were both cautioned before they had been in the ring two minutes. Tanner was punished a good deal about the face, and towards the end of the third round the white flag was hoisted.

The return bout of Rfn Mike Honeyman, Rifle Brigade, and Pte Young, A.I.F., who had a drawn decision a fortnight ago, caused a good deal of interest. The first few minutes made it appear that a similar decision would be reached on this occasion. Honeyman opened the second round in dashing style, and his clever dodging near the ropes was greatly admired. Also in the next round Honeyman piled up points, but in the fourth Young's hard hitting and quickness made the fight more even, and he received a good deal of applause. After the next interval Honeyman's dashing style again came into prominence, but the Aussie found his punch and made full use of it. The last of the six rounds was also exciting. In this, as was the case throughout the fight, Honeyman showed great skill in eluding his opponent when near the ropes. Young must be credited with putting up a game fight. Honeyman was given the verdict on points.

From the beginning of the contest between Pte Faux, A.I.F., and Pte Gerrard Kings, Liverpool Regt., lively exchanges took place. Both men were very willing and game. The first round ended in King's favour, but in the next Faux reversed things, showing much improvement and punishing his opponent severely. The third round was noticeable for hard fighting and badly directed blows, which called so much comment that the referee had to call order. After the interval Kings came to light with several body punches, and a ding-dong go ensued. Faux was awarded the verdict on points.

Pte Maley, R.F.A., and Pte Lee, A.I.F., were not before the public long. Lee opened with a straight right to the face, and followed it up with several body blows. Maley, bleeding, was knocked down three times, the third being fini.

Pte Grant, A.I.F. in his fight against Dvr Nicholls, R.F.A., opened up with a straight right. This was the signal for severe fighting. Grant was very game and his quick dodging saved him from going to the boards a number of times, but the third round saw him in trouble. He was knocked down twice, and took well the stuff to gi'e him, and there was no question about the result Nicholls, the winner.



# INTERNATIONAL BOXING AND WRESTLING

Meeske's Easy Victory - Another Yank Whipped - Honeyman and Young, a Draw

Fight fans and lovers of the athletic game generally had their periodical treat last Monday night at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium. As usual the programme was perfectly arranged and the show ran like a well oiled engine. Even the inevitable pause that must occur during the removal of the wrestling mat was finely filled by a triple tongued cornet solo by Sgt Bobby Condon.

The first pair of gladiators to enter the hempen arena was Ptes Young and Sgt Erbacher — both of the A.I.F., who were billed to wrestle, catch-as-catch-can style, three four minute rounds. The husky Sgt proved that advantage in height, weight and condition were the main factors required to gain the laurel for his brow.

Sgt Billy Meeske A.I.F., and Sgt Cockayne, Eng., were the next pair to settle their differences in a like manner (catch-as-catch-can). The Englishman has shown us what a fine boxer he is, but he certainly did not shine against the popular « Billy » in the wrestling business. The most conspicuous events in this contest were: — Cockayne's heels describing arcs in the ether; Mr Les Judd assuming the prone position on the mat, with one hand raised to administer the judicial pat; and that same gentleman slipping through the ropes occasionally, to observe better, and at the same time miss the whirling heels. Meeske secured his first fall in three minutes, and his second in 58 seconds.

The first of the « brethren of the padded mitt » to open the debate for that association were Dvr Evans, Eng., and Pte Bruce, A.I.F., who met in a featherweight affair of four rounds duration. It was a spirited scrap — a fitting overture to the good contests to follow. The English boy evidently has been taught how to box these awkward gentlemen who battle their way to fame with their right foot forward. Evans used a hard right uppercut to the body consistently. Bruce employed the same weapon from all angles, more or less effectively — he does not seem to understand the art of baulking with his right, in order to bring his sinister left into play, but that will come. The fourth was fought at a great clip and the final bell found Evans decidedly groggy. The decision, a draw, was a good one.

With the Stars and Stripes about his middle, one of our « Yankee cousins » stepped into the magic square (popularly miscalled a ring) to do battle with Roy Miner, of Australia. Pte Ebers, the American, received a great ovation, and walked to his corner to place himself in the hands of two « fiends in human guise, » as I heard a well known boxing writer seated behind me remark. This business of seconding a man is a branch of the fistic art that should be studied carefully and seriously. Frequently the inexperienced « bottle holders and towel swingers » do more damage to their man than the gentleman with whom he is holding the genteel discussion. Miner boxed as prettily as ever, and introduced a deal of variety into his work, using nearly every

punch in the game. He pecked away with his left, worked the « under and over » effectively and even exhibited the now rarely seen « loop ». The Yank punched hard using a right rip to the body, and tried hard to use the same member in an uppercut to the face, but Miner's glove was always in the way. Roy's little « walk away » will bring disaster on his head one of these days. The Yank caught him indulging in this perambulating stunt and administered a stiff left swing under Roy's corresponding listener. Jimmy Clabby used to introduce this « walk away, » but he watched his man with a covert sidelong glance that had something tigerish in it. The fourth session found the American completely dazzled by Miner's rapid fire work and clever evasion. In the opening of the fifth he walked to the middle of the ring, and offered Roy his hand in token of the firmly welded friendship between the Yanks and Diggers, and also to indicate that he had lost all interest in the discussion. Miner looked at the judges in a puzzled manner as if waiting for a signal to « box on » but the towel came fluttering from the Yank's corner in token of surrender and saved the judges the trouble of a decision.

Pte Faux A.I.F., and one Geohagan, of the Inniskillin Dragoons, were the next and started operations with a dead willing slugging round. The Inniskillin boy scored « many a time and oft » with a stiff left to face and body, but his slim opponent stayed with him gamely. The third round of this event was one of the most popular of the night, for just at this juncture, Faux literally pulled the fight out of the fire. He used his left for the first time, and steadying his man as he came in, he used his right in a series of hard swings to the dial. The Dragoon made for his corner with a visible tremor in his knees, and the « ruby » flowing freely from mouth and nose. In the last period, the slim Australian repeated the dose and there were times when Geohagan must have imagined himself back at Donnybrook with his ancestors. Faux the winner.

The affair between Pte Lee, A.I.F., and Sgt Graham, Eng., a tattooed disciple of the glove game, should have ended early in the proceedings. Lee fought all over his opponent and one stiff punch to the midriff caused the tattooed beetle on the Englishman's body to wriggle its legs frantically. Lee an easy winner.

The ten rounds welter contest between Mike Honeyman, Eng., and Pte Percy Young, A.I.F., was the star event of the night and resulted in a draw. The first round was a fast one although Honeyman did not box with his customary speed. Young seemed strong and confident, and scored well with both hands in close. In the second round both were cautioned for holding and hitting. They then settled down to work. Honeyman scored with a pretty left to the face. The third round was a repetition of the second with the introduction of a little roughing on the ropes. The fourth saw Honeyman taking risks in walking in to Young and

mixing it with him, and the fifth must have convinced him of his folly when Young handed out some stiff right uppercuts. From this out Honeyman boxed more up to form and frequently beat Young's leads in a manner reminiscent of Frank Thorn. The pair continued to fight at a fast pace. Young scoring whenever they got close and Honeyman using his most effective punch, a left rip to the body. Nothing sensational occurred until the ninth session when Young cleverly back moving Mike's favorite left to body, crossed his own right, like lightning, to Mike's jaw. It was an exciting moment, but Mike, wily bird that he is, evaded disaster by diving into a clinch. Some of the punches of both men went dangerously low but when fighting at a fast clip these things are liable to occur. The bell found both men battling away, and, as before stated, the decision was a draw, but if a newspaper decision is worth anything on this side of the globe Honeyman absolutely has ours.

By way of dessert Sgt Smith, Eng., and Sapper Welfare, A.I.F., were served up. M'sieu Smith had the advantage of poundage and length of limb and also an abundance of hair on his manly thorax and arms. With the addition of a wild woman and a stone axe we might have imagined that we were witnessing Pliocene Pete, the prehistoric pet, in action. The stone axe was very necessary for the Sgt to secure a victory, in this paper's eyes. Only once did he succeed in landing a clean punch on his smaller opponent — the said punch being a decent straight left to the face. Coming out of every mix Welfare scored with a neat left hook, introducing that punch at his own sweet pleasure. Perhaps the judges mistook Smith's sprawling all over his man for aggression, and gave him points accordingly — Quiene Sabe? The ruling powers declared the affair a draw.

The officials were as follows: — Referees, Capt. Roddy, Emp. Base Depot (boxing), L. T. Judd (wrestling); judges, Capt. Milgrove (A.E.F.) and Lieut Hood (A.I.F.); timekeeper, Major Riley (A.I.F.); M. C., Capt. Robertson.

Martin Keith.

## POSEIDON GELDING

Sold for 1625 Guineas

Melbourne, January 7th.

At the Sydney sales of bloodstock Mr H.R. Denison bought the Poseidon gelding Greg for 1625 guineas which ran second in the Tattersal's cup at Sydney on New Years day.

## VICTORIA BEATS SOUTH AUST.

Melbourne, January 7th.

In the inter-state cricket match between Victoria and South Australia the latter in the second innings made 159. Victoria won the match by 108 runs.

## ENGLISH DOGS

10th January 1919.

A proclamation has been issued prohibiting the importation of dogs from the United Kingdom into Australia.

XX. 512CLL 7. RUE VOLTAIRE - HAVRE





# THE DIGGER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY WITH  
... AUTHORITY ...



AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS  
... FRANCE ...

VOL. 1 No. 26.

SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## DEMOBILISATION

Important Statements issued — From unit to Boat, 6 weeks

Pre-Embarkation Leave, 14 Days — Average Flow of Troops to England, 500 Daily

Important statements dealing with demobilisation and repatriation of members of the Australian Imperial Force have been issued by Lieut-General Sir John Monash, Director General for Repatriation and Demobilisation.

The repatriation of personnel who enlisted in 1915 will continue at such a rate as shipping becomes available, and will merge, in due course, into general demobilisation. It is for this reason desirable forthwith to regulate the method of withdrawal from units so, that a system of regular demobilisation on the lines proposed to be adopted may be initiated. The procedure laid down does not concern any of the special cases for which regulations both as to withdrawal and movement have already been promulgated, and which comprise:— personnel (including cadres), early repatriation, discharge elsewhere than in Australia, extended leave, leave to return to Australia at own expense, family men and non-military employment. Such personnel will be dealt with in their proper turn, under the particular instructions applicable to each case.

Embarkation of the A.I.F. now in France and United Kingdom will, for some weeks to come, take place from ports of the United Kingdom. If, at a later stage, final embarkation from continental ports in whole or in part is decided upon, the present procedure may require modification, but the general principles will be adhered to. It is estimated that the period which will elapse between the day when a man leaves his unit in France until the day of sailing will be about six weeks. This period will cover the journey to the coast, the channel crossing, pre-embarkation leave, and the completion of all embarkation formalities. It is essential that the whole of the troops for any given transport must be assembled in the final embarkation depots not less than 12 days prior to the date of sailing. The grant of pre-embarkation leave involves, owing to the large numbers to be dealt with, very considerable difficulties of railway transport, and the like. But every effort will be made to arrange for such leave, and a period of 14 days will be aimed at.

Each Divisional group in rotation will be called upon to entrain, at a specified time and place, an embarkation quota, of 1000 of all ranks, commencing with the First Australian Division, fol-

lowed by the Second Australian Division, and so on. The process will be repeated indefinitely. Divisional groups will include all units under the establishment of the division, together with other units which will be attached to the Division for the purposes of demobilisation.

As a general guide, it may be assumed that, when all rail and sea transport arrangements are in working order, and when Depot Camps at Havre, and in the United Kingdom, have been cleared for the reception of an adequate number of troops, the usual rate at which embarkation quotas can be taken will be one quota every two days; the rate of flow for this purpose of troops from France to England being therefore 500 per day. Thus, each Divisional group must be prepared to produce a quota at intervals of 10 days. The final responsibility for the composition and selection of each divisional embarkation quota will rest with the divisional commander. It is provided that all men of any given year's enlistment, as far as practicable, receive precedence over all men of later enlistment. Also it is desirable, other things being equal, to keep men for the same Australian destination together on the same ship.

### FREE PASSAGES FOR DEPENDENTS

Fresh instructions have been issued in connection with the repatriation of soldiers' dependents. Approval has been given for a free third class passage to be granted to soldiers' dependents who are desirous of returning to Australia. Dependents include wives and children. Any other cases will be considered on their merits. Arrangements are being made for dependents, returning to Australia, to travel on the same ship as the soldier, if so desired. In these cases it is ruled that the wives of officers must travel first class, the wives of N.C.O.'s of the rank of sergeant and upwards, second class, and the wives of all other ranks, third class. It is estimated that at least one ship per month will be available for this purpose. Applications for free passages for dependents will be made when the soldiers arrives in Depot Camp, England. Only third class passages will be granted free. Dependents who must travel by a higher class

by reason of the soldiers' rank must pay the difference between the cost of the higher class and the third class passage. The present rates are,—first class, £55, second class £38, third class £23. If the soldiers have not the funds available, arrangements can be made with the Chief Paymaster, A.I.F., for payment out of their deferred pay provided the overdraft does not exceed 75 per cent of that money. The repatriation of dependents now in England of soldiers who have returned to Australia or of deceased soldiers of the A.I.F., will be under the same conditions.

### DAY DREAMS

I sit at night the day's work o'er  
And dream by camp-fires glow,  
Of that far-distant sunny shore,  
While here, 'tis deep with snow.

I see the rough surf-breakers race  
O'er dripping rock and ledge,  
The strip of foam like snow-white lace  
That marks the water's edge.

I see a crystal broad expanse  
A cloudless stretch of blue;  
The finest art could not enhance  
That richest sapphire hue.

I smell again the scented gum  
And watch the lose bark swing;  
I hear the insect's busy hum  
On ever-busy wing.

I see the waving yellow corn  
That bends its golden ear  
To catch the sun at early morn  
That's shining bright and clear.

I see the dust-clouds slowly rise,  
And slowly drift away;  
That blind the teamster's blood-shot eyes  
From dawn till death of day.

The magpie's liquid, lilting note,  
The fox's strident call;  
Across the world their voices float —  
I seem to hear them all.

Where sprouting grasses crisply curl,  
My thoughts have wandered back,  
Where tender ferns their fronds unfurl  
Around the old bush-shack.

And dreaming thus the fire grows cold,  
My friendly pipe is out;  
A pal, his blankets half-unrolled,  
Disturbs me with a shout.

A sigh escapes me as I rise,  
I scarcely know for what;  
Maybe they're fools who moralize  
But, after all — why not?

H. Leonard Hyde.





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

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## "ANZACS FIND THEIR YOUTH"

Is this a Jokes

Thus the "Daily Mail" of last Tuesday :

The Australian soldier is returning to the Commonwealth physically a changed man. He has been rejuvenated by the long stay in Europe, in spite of the strain of war conditions, and returns home with a greater expectation of life.

This conclusion has been forced upon me by a special study of the departing men, and of the health statistics available in many individual cases. The men know it themselves. "When I get home my mother won't know me", is a frequent remark. It is not because they look older and more mature, but because they look younger and less worn.

A walk along the Strand will satisfy any observer of the truth of the statement. The Australians who came here three years ago were lean, stringy fellows, with tanned, sunken faces, sallow and lined. They gave the impression, as they walked, of having far too many angles in their make-up.

Now they have put on weight and their faces have filled out. The tan is still there, but it is a rosy tan. The lines are smoothed out of the faces and the more aggressive angles from their figures. Really, the men have been made over afresh.

There is no mystery about the transformation, for it has been worked by change of diet, change of climate, and change of occupation.

Like most denizens of hot countries, the Australian matures early ; the earlier, perhaps, because he has steadfastly refused to adapt his diet to his climatic conditions. He eats meat three times a day, and lots of it, washing it down with numerous cups of tea.

He has proved it a good diet to work upon. It gives him physical energy enough to get through his work at a

terrific speed, and then have enough left over for his rather exhausting recreations.

But meat is not beauty food ; and the Australian Army in Europe, on a diet providing less than half as much meat, and a regular abundance of green vegetables has grown, younger looking. Well-baked bread has had something to do with it, too, for in the "bush" that is a rare commodity.

Eternal sunshine and crystal clear air sound very good things, but the Australian soldier has become a living testimonial to the soothing effect of grey skies, taken as a prolonged alternative. The lined Australian faces were due to the monotonous brilliance of their home climate ; quiet mists and grey clouds have smoothed them away.

With the nervous lines several characteristics of the men have been abated. They are noticeably less restless and more equable ; not so nervy all round as they used to be.

The younger among them, who were passing straight from boyhood into manhood, have actually slipped into the stage of youth, hardly known in Australia. It is one of the many things Australia has won in the war.

Roll on the next war—it will make us giants !

It was the year two-nought-one nine  
A war was being waged,  
An old man journeyed, wet or fine,  
To where the battle raged ;  
The people said, "He's off his dot,"  
Said he "To tell the truth,  
I go to seek the magic spot  
Where Anzacs found their youth."

An ancient dame her way pursued  
Along the mountain side,  
(A wrinkled dame was she and grey),  
All things her age defied ;  
When questioned said, "Though old  
and bowed  
I know what I'm about,  
I'm looking for a kind grey cloud  
To smooth the wrinkles out."

And so dear friends should you desire  
Your lost youth to regain,  
Sit not at home beside the fire  
But cross the rolling main ;  
Seek out a country plunged in strife  
'Mid screaming shot and shell,  
For afterwards with freshened life,  
You shall for ever dwell.

## FOOD CONTROL

Melbourne, January 16th.

The Cabinet has considered the Inter-state Commission's Report regarding the control of clothing, boots, fruit and vegetables. It has been decided that in view of the early expiration of the War Precautions Act, no further action shall be taken. Several orders regarding prices have been repealed.

## WHEAT PAYMENT GUARANTEED

Melbourne, 20th January.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister has arranged for the payment of the guarantee to wheat growers for the 1918/19 crop amounting approximately to £14,000,000.



Acting Blank File becomes reflective.

You may talk of your mountains in Scotland,  
You may boast of your scenery in Wales.  
But give to me dear old Australia,  
Where the warmth of the sun seldom fails

I yearn for my home in Australia,  
I long for a stock whip to crack,  
To follow the cattle o'er mountains,  
Or down the bush denizens tracks.

I can see the bright golden wattle,  
I can see the red waratah  
That grows in the homestead's bush garden,  
On the mountains at Coulebar.

I can smell the sweet scent from the mountains,  
From the pines and the big gums also,  
For it's back to my home in Australia,  
That my heart is yearning to go.

L.D.S. According to a paragraph published in the Sydney "Mail" some time ago all men, who were in Egypt or Lemnos island before the evacuation of Gallipoli, are entitled to wear the letter "A". Further than that, we have no information. M.L. No good. P.J.J. The Educational Officer can give you all the information you require in connection with non-military employment in England. A.C. Cannot pass, it misses badly. G.G. Offensive and useless. Tommy. No sense in it. 303. We ceremoniously filed it for the next guerre. We will hand it over to our descendants with instructions to publish it in the first Diggers' paper that is sure to arrive when sufficient Diggers enlist for that event. Judging by present remarks there won't be any. V.K. Satire too cheap and without point.

## SHIPS CONTRACT CANCELLED

Melbourne, 20th January.

The Hon. A. Poynton, Controller of Shipbuilding, has announced that it has been mutually arranged to cancel the contract with Wallace and Company for wooden ships.

## FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, 20th January.

The Federal Ministry gave a luncheon in honour of the French Labour Delegates MMs Paul Thomson and Adolf Hodee. The guests included Mr. Tudor the Labour Party Leader. Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister in welcoming the delegates, referred to the affectionate regard the people of Australia had for the French. He invited the delegates to prolong their visit. M. Thomson in reply expressed the hope that the closer relationships between the two nations would endure for ever. M. Hodee realised Australia as a country essentially democratic. Both speakers complimented Mr. Meadows Smith on his organisation of the mission.



## EN ROUTE FOR AUSSIE

Total Ships Already Left — 27  
31,779 Diggers Gone

According to an official statement just made available a total of 22,984 Australian soldiers actually left England from November 20th, 1918, to January 15th, 1919, and up to the end of January the grand total to leave will be 31,779. These totals include nurses and munition workers. Up to January 15th 27 vessels had left and 7 were to follow to complete the January embarkations. The following is a list of the vessels and the dates of their departure from England:—

November 20th,	Suevic,	1006
26th,	Zealandia,	47
December 3rd	The Port Hacking	673
4th,	Somerset,	731
9th,	Leicestershire,	1054
9th,	Argyleshire,	1210
10th,	Somali,	1073
11th,	Saxon,	1229
12th,	Burmah,	842
12th,	Nestor,	1540
13th,	Karoola,	434
18th,	Aeneas,	853
20th,	Orontes,	980
21st,	Namari,	856
21st,	Miltiades,	353
22nd,	Bakara,	605
24th,	Takada,	1146
24th,	Barambah,	6
January 2nd,	Karmala,	1019
2nd,	Berrima,	1167
4th,	Morvada,	909
5th,	Kanowna,	450
8th,	Orsova,	1458
10th,	Osterley,	723
10th,	Thongwa,	511
14th,	City of York,	1050
15th,	City of Exeter,	1059

The remaining vessels to leave for Australia during January are as follows: Demosthenes, 1052, Ulysses, 1523, Margha, 661, Delta, 1400, City of Cairo, 6, Ceramic, 2190, Nerasa, 1510.

It is interesting to note that a cable under Melbourne date of January 7th published last week stated that the Zealander had arrived. A letter posted from Port Said by a returning soldier on the Somali states that the troops were having a good time.

## SENATE VACANCY

Melbourne, January 16th.  
The Tasmanian Parliament has elected ex-Senator Mulcahy to the vacancy in the Federal Senate.

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THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH Co. Limited

## AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

School at Sutton Veny

In order to assist soldiers in the practice and study of pursuits connected with agricultural and pastoral industries, it has been decided to establish an A.I.F. Agricultural Training Depot at Sutton Veny. Instruction will be provided in the following subjects:— getting on the land and the business of farming; stockraising (horses, cattle, sheep and wool classing); wheat (and general farming (cereals, fodder, potatoes, maize and so on); fruit-growing and viticulture; dairying and pig raising; tropical agriculture; irrigation and lucerne; and minor agricultural pursuits such as poultry, bees and market gardening.

Those subjects will be set out in such a way that students may take selected courses of practical utility to their future careers. Courses will consist of lectures, classes and practical work. The practical work will be carried out on the demonstration areas at the Depot, and also by arrangement with local farmers on neighboring farms and orchards. Practical work in woolclassing, blacksmithing, saddlery, etc. will be arranged for beginners; students with some practical experience; students who have specialised in certain branches; and general farmers.

An agricultural library will be available, and an inquiry bureau established for supplying the latest available information concerning Australian land settlement proposals for soldiers.

Soldiers without previous experience in land pursuits or wool-classing will be expected to pass through short courses at the depot before being placed for further experience upon properties in the United Kingdom, or technical colleges at Bradford, Leeds or Halifax.

Courses will last from 10 to 12 weeks, but attendance at the Depot will not postpone the individual's normal period for return to Australia without his consent.

Men with extensive previous experience in farming may apply for non-military employment on farms or properties in the United Kingdom.

Application should be made to Lieut Clemes, the Educational Officer.

## WHO ARE THE ORIGINAL DIGGERS

—o—

To the editor of the Digger,

Sir,

You are sure to know that the Dinks of the A.I.F., the «eggs are cook» took over from the New Zealanders on the Houp line sector, Armentières, in 1916. I heard them for the first time use the term Digger, which was used by the Dinks of Dinks, the New Zealanders, in speaking to each other or to anyone they addressed. Up to then we, Aussies, used the word Cobber, which we brought from Aussie. Now I give the New Zealanders the credit for making short Australians to Aussies. I first heard it from them at Armentières in 1916 and Messines 1917. It was the fame of the New Zealanders and Australians that earned the cherished name of Anzac.

Yours etc,  
N.T. (3rd Div. Pioneers)

## At the Dental Hut

Scene. — Dental Clinic Waiting Room.

Personnel: Several diggers (Behind the scene) and Dental Officers, Staff Sergeants, and their victims inside.

1st Dig: How long have you got to wait here?

2nd Dig: Not long, six chairs, no waiting.

1st Dig: I don't know why they want me here, my teeth always fall out themselves.

2nd Dig: You're lucky, when my wife's mother's uncle was in Califor — (Yells issue from within) 1st. Voice. What did you yell for, did that extraction hurt?

2nd. Voice. No never felt it a bit, you'll do me, Dig.

3rd. Voice. Next please.

Another part of building: 1st Dig. Hey! Dig, can I get measured for a case? Staff Sergeant: Yes, what size? Dig. Fifteens. S/Sgt. Pants? Dig. Sixteens. S/Sgt. Collars? Dig. Seventeens. S/Sgt. You take eighteens in plates. How many do you want? Dig. One. — Bottom! S/Sgt. Same to You.

Impression is taken. Digger washes out his mouth, asks for another cup of water, and is informed that it is not a Y.M.C.A.

Orderly places 17 repaired sets on table, and calls for their owners to come and pick their own teeth.

1st Dig. (After trying to get a set in.) This is not mine.

2nd Dig. (Gets it in.) No, it's mine. (munch, munch.)

Cook house blows. Exeunt.

The following notification has been issued by the Postal Corps:—« All newspapers posted without stamps will be destroyed. Stamps can be obtained at the field post office in the A.I.B.D. Green envelopes are also cancelled. »

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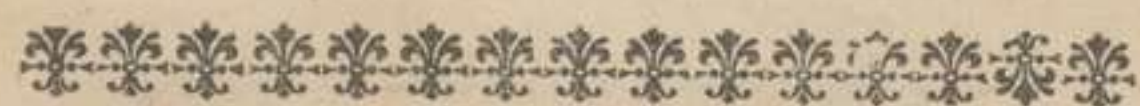
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BLIGHTY LEAVE NON-MILITARY EMPLOYMENT

Y. M. C. A. Arrangements  
British Hospitality Offered

To Diggers proceeding to England en route to Australia Lieut H. Boas has some interesting news to impart. Lieut Boas is the representative of the International Hospitality League, and comes here with all information as to how men in process of demobilisation may make the full use of their time in the « old country ».

The League is a combination of the English, American, Australian, and New Zealand Y.M.C.A.'s for the purpose of controlling the sight-seeing and hospitality of over-seas troops on leave in England. It has depots all over London, and centres at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Bournemouth, Liverpool, and Manchester. Its central headquarters are situated at 25 Montague street, London W. C. 2.

Lieut Boas said this week that working in conjunction with the Ropery Club the League had placed at its disposal some thousands of British homes, which were graded into groups to suit the special desires of the soldiers. For instance, some were situated in the country where there were great shooting or fishing facilities. Other homes catered for those who wished to see the sights of the city, and so on. Also attempts were being made to get men in those homes where they would feel most interested by reason of their calling in life. For example, a medical man's home would be at the disposal of the soldier, who in civil life was studying medicine. Soldiers must not think that in those homes they were living on charity because it was a general desire on the part of British hostesses to extend hospitality to the over-seas troops in consideration for what they had done for the mother country.

The League would be glad if Diggers would think well before applying for hospitality, so that they may make the very best use of their time. Advice in this direction can be obtained from the Y.M.C.A. representative at one of the four institutions at Weymouth, or at Salisbury Plains, where there is a Y.M.C.A. hut in each camp.

Apart from hospitality in homes there is the question of sight-seeing in London and elsewhere. Any man not desiring to go to a home can make arrangements at one of the distributing centres in London to see all the historical sights of the city under an official guide. General information can also be obtained by those, who don't wish to avail themselves of the League, but seek the best method of spending their leave. The League will help to arrange their tour for them in any particular direction.

In view of the congested nature of London, Diggers are asked to arrange with the Y.M.C.A. in regard to sleeping accommodation in that city.

Printed matter in regard to all the above facilities will shortly be available at the Y.M.C.A. institutions at this Base.

FEDERAL CAPITAL

Nearly £2,000,000 has been spent at Canberra on the Federal Capital. The total estimate to be spent for the ensuing financial year is £48,562.

Rate of Subsistence Increased

In connection with non-military employment in England, details of which were published in last week's issue of *The Digger*, a further order has been issued by Lieut General Sir John Monash stating that ministerial authority has been received for an increase of the « minimum subsistence » in England from 4/- to 6/- per day.

Sgts' SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL

The social evening and dance arranged by the A.I.B.D. Sergeants' Mess took place on Friday, the 17th inst. It was a highly successful function and it had more of a touch of civil socials than military. Fancy dress was optional, but most of the ladies wore camouflage in preference to the familiar uniform of the Q.M.A.A.C., or the costumes of the Y.M.C.A. The majority of the Sergeants preferred khaki, but sufficient wore fancy dress to complete the touch of gaiety and color. Dancing commenced at 5-30 p.m. and, except for the interval for an excellent supper, continued until 10 o'clock. The music was supplied by the A.I.B.D. band under Conductor Sgt Rasmussen. Sgt J. W. Nicholls and Staff Sgt Hemley, as secretary and president respectively, assisted by an energetic committee, left no stone unturned to make the function the great success it was. Lieut Colonel F. M. O'Donnell, C. O., A.I.B.D., and several other officers joined in the dancing. A member of the Q.M.A.A.C., disguised in the costume of a savage from the South Seas, secured first prize for the ladies and Captain Williamson, who was a « dainty Y.M.C.A. lady » carried first honours for the gentlemen.

Crystal Palace Staff Entertained

One of the most delightful stunts pulled off in Havre for some time was the entertainment given to the members of the Y.M.C.A. staff by the members of the army and navy who are regular diners at the « Pig and Whistle ». The function took the form of a dinner and dance to follow. The long table was waited on by the « family » who were represented by an active executive committee comprising Sgt Bullock, R.Q.M.S. Miller, P. O. Kershaw, Sgt Owens, Messrs Metzner and Lewis. From the table decorations, impersonations, eats, and table conviviality to the last waltz the whole affair was voted a big hit by the guests. Among the hosts were a number of Aussies stationed in Havre.

CRYSTAL-PALACE (Y. M. C. A.)  
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Eggs and chips with bock...	2.25
Coffee, Tea and Bread if required.....	0.60
Steak, Eggs with chips .....	3.75
Beer.....	0.40

English Spoken - Welcome to all.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pay a visit to the****Knickerbocker Bar**

OFFICERS ONLY

**The first American Bar in Havre****SUPERIOR BAR - CENTRAL LOCATION**

Next to COX BANK

**103, RUE VICTOR-HUGO, 103****Le Havre****About Diggers**

Captain C. E. W. Bean, official war correspondent to the A. I. F., has written as follows to the Editor of *The Digger* under date of January 15th : — « I have to thank you for the copies of *The Digger* which you have sent me so regularly up to the present. I am sure that this magazine helps the Diggers a lot during these rather slow months. I am off to Australia, via Gallipoli, within a few days in order to start on the history of the A. I. F. »

No 4993 Pte Reginald Bodley, formerly of the 31st Battn., and Australian Corps Headquarters, was drowned in the Thames river, London, on December 30th. He was on duty in London at the time of his death. His cousin desired the publication of this fact as he did not know the addresses of the many friends of the deceased soldier. Other papers are therefore asked to reproduce this notification.

Con Carroll, the popular comedian of the Australian Dandies, who was a remarkable success as the Shah in the pantomime *Bo Peep* recently produced in Havre, has finished with the guerre and concert parties and is awaiting « only one more marching order » to hit for home and beauty. During his sojourn at the Base Con has made hundreds of friends. Both on and off the stage he has been a fine companion. His familiar face will be looked for on the Aussie stage, when the soldiers return.

All athletes in the A.I.B.D., should visit the gymnasium which has just been formed in that Base. Lieut. Jones is in charge, and Sgts W. R. Matheson and G. Beetson have been appointed instructors. Already some promising young boxers and wrestlers have happened along, and it is expected that some of the recruits will come before the public one of these days.

Ted Beachcroft, who was Jack Straw in the *Bo Peep* panto, went on leave last week to Blighty. Ted is probably one of the best developed amateurs on this side. His voice and personality are all that can be desired.

A sergeant of the A.I.B.D., has returned from Paris leave. His friends brought strong pressure to bear to make him unfold his story, but up to going to press the only admission he made was « I would like to go again. » His friends now ask no more questions. « Comprey, Monsieur, » they say.

Among the numerous fancy dresses — comic and otherwise — at the A.I.B.D., Sgts Mess dance last Friday week, not one attracted more attention than the dainty Y.M.C.A. « lady » whose grace and personality were quite charming, in fact, there was quite a wild rush to fill « her » card. « She » accepted first prize with the elegance of any lady of taste and now Captain Williamson is rousing because « someone put the show away. » There was another « lady » who took some identifying. She stepped surreptitiously through the doorway and bowed when the ladies dressing room was pointed out. But « she » made no use of it, merely taking a seat on the side of the hall. Few were suspicious except the Sgt secretary who remembered that an invitation had been sent to a well known English concert party. Soldiers have got quite pro-

fessional in the art of lady impersonation.

'Tis said, on excellent authority, that an Australian lady Y.M.C.A., worker, who has learning ju jitsu from a Con Camp expert, found the « kiss preventer » a great acquisition the other evening.

Ptes Lee and Young, formerly of the Con Camp, have been appointed boxing and wrestling instructors respectively to the new gymnasium A.I.B.D., which is being equipped by the Australian Y.M.C.A.

Martin Keith is a very happy producer just at this moment. One Sgt Fredericks, better known as Jimmy Coleman, has arrived at the Base, and will remain for a while in the capacity of « specialist » in all things pertaining to stage mounting. The two are old friends in the theatrical game, so we may expect anything from train wrecks to earthquakes.

**THE WATTLE BIRDS**

—o—

Last Monday at the Lismore and on Wednesday at the Mildura Hut the Wattle Birds introduced a new program. The concerted items « Aeroplane » and the Kipling Walk — sung as the Aussie Walk were bright and breezy numbers. The sketch « Father Kelly's Burglar » by Messrs McLennan, Monohan, Bailey and Johnstone was a scorer as the finale. H. V. Macfarlane did the Salome dance and showed, beside a clever impersonation a possession of art and skill in his clever stunt. The soloists Ben Davies, Les Moten, Les Pickles and Les Edye sang well chosen selections and their pleasing voices went over in good style. Johnny Earle the hat favorite and his partner scored again. By the way, Reg Finch is developing into a clever juggler and is constantly adding to his repertoire. He might be termed a member of Martin Keith's school of deportment and Johnny Earle's school of hat and ball perpetrations. The new program worked up, will be a strong one and it is full of laughs and variety.

« 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.

**THE BLIGHTY SHOP**

(Mlle BOUSSEKEY)

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## SHOW BUSINESS IN A. I. F.

After the War Problems

Almost as soon as the first troops arrived in any of the war zones or mobilized at any particular base for active service somebody thought that a show would be a good idea and everybody else agreed. Divisions, brigades, bases and hundreds of units have their own shows. Some of these shows are distinguished by their artistic productions and the many professionals numbered in their personnel. The rest are made up of professional and amateur artists of more or less ability. It is safe to say that where the «pro» has had a say in a show, the mark of his work is very noticeable. These clever men have been a great boon to the troops as entertainers and probably when they return to Australia they will return to the footlights where they are quite at home.

One thing stands out in the «business» and is a matter for some conjecture. That is what will happen to the amateur who has benefited so much as an entertainer, by his association with artists whom he would probably never have met under peace time conditions. Many men, and certainly men who possess talent — but there are others — have been affected by the peculiar fascination for which the stage is noted. To the man who has filled the bill as a handy man or developed a particular novelty turn, and who was a clerk, tradesman or laborer in civil life, the return unto himself is going to mean a rude shock to his system.

This is what will probably happen. Booking agents, managers and directors will be stormed with applications from property men to female impersonators, and after a «try out» or a «plain turn down» the process of elimination occupying many days or even weeks of managers' time, the normal times will come back and while many of our soldier entertainers will be missing we will sit back in the stalls and see the old hands back on the job and murmur to the girl alongside, «that chap was in my Batt. He was the king pin of the show we had up the line.»

## SUCCESSFUL STUNT

The ladies of «Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps» at Rouelles must have imagined that the Aussies were pulling off a raid on Tuesday night when the Wattle Birds fluttered into their midst. A seemingly endless string of slouch hatted performers emerged from the outer darkness, carrying bass viols, trombones, drums, prop baskets, ect. With her pretty eyes wide with amazement one lady remarked «This is not a concert party, it's part of the Australian demobilisation scheme. «The show went with its usual sparkle and dash—wonderful incentive—a sprinkling of skirt in front, what!

## Red Cross Activities

The Jesters, who have been showing in the Havre area lately, made their reappearance on Sunday, January the 19th at the Red Cross recreation hut, and met with good reception. Among the many activities of the Red Cross are dances, «fun stunts» and card evenings.



## WHAT AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS SAY

(Typical Extracts from Letters)

(1)

PRIVATE P. O'NEIL  
Australian Imperial Force, France

"I had to make nightly trips up with rations, this is rather ticklish work as the roads are constantly being shelled. The continual strain at last told on me, and it was getting worse and worse, until one of my chums put me on to Phosferine, and I am glad to say that it worked, and I am once again fit."

(2)

PRIVATE W. J. CLARK  
8th Batt., 2nd Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, France

"We had a pretty rough time towards the end of last year, shells and bombs day and night. The man who is not wounded pays the price in another direction, nerves; mine went, so I looked round for a remedy, heard of Phosferine and tried it; it did the trick and now I feel like a new man."

(3)

CORPORAL C. MCGHAY  
Dispatch Rider, Australian Imperial Force, France

"I was motor dispatch riding in France and had a pretty lively time through continually being on the roads under heavy shell fire, the result of which was that my nerves gave way and I had to be returned to England. I was recommended to try Phosferine, and after taking it for a short while I felt quite well again."

(4)

PRIVATE F. J. DONOVAN  
1st Anzac Headquarters, France

"In Gallipoli, Phosferine Tablets did me yeoman service and proved a veritable godsend during those ghastly days in the Peninsula. A return of the old fever trouble withdrew me from the line, and but for the fortifying influence of Phosferine I might possibly not have been writing this."

(5)

J. W. TINDAL  
19th Batt., Australian Imperial Force, France

"I found Phosferine a splendid nerve tonic and physical recuperative. After joining up with the Australian Imperial Forces Phosferine continued to prove of great value in negating the effects of the sudden change from clerical work to military duties; it provided a reserve of energy."

These valiant Australian soldiers exemplify the great part Phosferine plays in enabling them to overcome suffering and the most extreme exertions. No special effort exhausts the energy of these valiant men, no extra hardships break down their endurance, because Phosferine recharges their systems with the vitality to survive all the rigours daily experienced.

When you require the Best Tonic Medicine, see you get

PHOSFERINE

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Nervous Debility  
Influenza  
Indigestion  
SleeplessnessExhaustion  
Neuralgia  
Maternity Weakness  
Premature DecayNerve Shock  
Loss of Appetite  
Lassitude  
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Phosferine has a world-wide repute for curing disorders of the nervous system more completely and speedily, and at less cost than any other preparation.

## SPECIAL SERVICE NOTE

Phosferine is made in Liquid and Tablets, the Tablet form being particularly convenient for men on ACTIVE SERVICE, travellers, &c. It can be used any time, anywhere, in accurate doses, as no water is needed. The 3/- tube is small enough to carry in the pocket, and contains 90 doses. Your sailor or soldier will be the better for Phosferine—send him a tube of tablets. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c. The 3/- size contains nearly four times the 1/3 size.

PROPRIETORS: ASHTON &amp; PARSONS, LTD., LA BELLE SAUVAGE, LONDON, E.C. 4.



## BETWEEN DRINKS

BY PIQUANT

The question of a bonus of £1 an ounce to stimulate gold production in Australia was referred to by Mr Watt, acting Prime Minister, and his cabinet, who, after considering the proposition turned it down—vide cable to the Digger in last week's issue. The representatives of the mining interests at Bendigo renewed their energies in a cable to Mr Hughes, who sent a somewhat encouraging reply. We want to know WHO'S WHO?

If you leave a man behind  
For your affairs to mind  
And especially a man you know will do  
The things you want at home,  
While from place to place you roam,  
Don't be fussy—let us know who's who.

If the man you leave behind  
Is a dud, you'll surely find  
That the people back at home will, put  
him through  
We're all quite satisfied  
That you have crossed the tide,  
What folks want—Is just to know who's  
who.

So if the man behind  
With cabinet speaks his mind,  
He might perchance make wily miners  
blue;  
But Mr Billy Hughes!  
Willy Watt now wears your shoes.  
Just sign peace—And let us know who's  
who.

A Digger who was suffering from  
pangs of conscience went straight to  
his C.O. to give himself in charge. He  
was asked the nature of the charge he  
wished to lay against himself. The Dig-  
ger blandly stated,—Bigamy. He was  
promptly told to fall in the queue of  
500 other diggers waiting outside.

The quarter bloke has been the most  
abused member of the A.I.F. There may  
or may not be any reason for the  
songs of concert parties, the gibes of  
wags and the sonnets of the poet all  
directed against the quartermaster.

G.H.F. spills a lot of ink in a clever  
little satire on the venerable chief of  
the A.I.F. Drapery Store.

## THE « QUARTER BLOKE »

Who's the man who owns the war,  
And lives all day in a musty store.  
Who has new gear of all kinds galore?  
The Quarter

## CAFÉ DES FLEURS

Georges SIMON, Propriétaire

13, Place Gambetta, 13 — Havre

English and French Beers

Coffee ————— Tea

- Best Brand Liqueurs -

Highest Quality

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Who gives the diggers the icy glare  
When perchance they venture to his lair.  
And ask for strides «A brand new pair?»  
The Quarter.

Who is the man who has the cash,  
And on paynights makes such a splash.  
And showers sarcasm on the rash.  
The Quarter.

His will is law. We must obey.  
Do his fatigues from day to day.  
My dearest wish is to be O.K.  
With. The Quarter

We referred last week to the fact that  
a proclamation has been issued prohi-  
biting the importation of dogs from the  
United Kingdom to Australia.

Who the devil wants to send dogs to  
Aussie. We want to go home and we  
need food. Save the space. Anyhow the  
city dog inspectors are busy enough pic-  
king up strays. There are however, dog  
fanciers who are crazy enough to pur-  
chase first saloon cabins to transport  
their pet poodle all over the shop to  
the general annoyance of the long suf-  
fering public. Tie your dog in the back  
yard. He won't know the difference be-  
tween an Aussie or a Blighty kennel.

Last week a cable message to the Dig-  
ger stated «The S.S. Zealandia has  
arrived at Melbourne from London with  
185 wives and 87 children.»

The Department of Demobilisation and  
Repatriation should add to its functions  
—Immigration. The troops have certain-  
ly helped matters along. Incidentally it  
might be mentioned that Aussies popula-  
tion has now gone over 5,000,000.

Dated Jan 11th a cable states that the  
Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League  
has purchased the City Club's build-  
ing in Melbourne for £37,000 as an  
Anzac Memorial.

Furnished like an estaminet and a  
continuous sale of eggs and bock, top-  
ped off with an automatic piano would  
make it a memorable as well as a me-  
morial institution. However, 8 o'clock  
fini would be absurd.

Coming home on an early tram the  
other night, I came, what is known in  
polite society as «an abdominal crash»

I entered the car, and saw a pretty  
little Mademoiselle sitting inside, so  
promptly planted myself opposite her.

She was engrossed in a book which  
aroused my curiosity, so I at last muste-  
red up. «Bon soir, Mam'selle» and  
she smiled back «Bon soir M'sieur»

Then silence reigned for about ten  
minutes, when at last I said «Bon li-  
vre, mam'selle»?

In reply she handed me the book ac-  
companied with a bewitching smile.

I took the book, and on opening it  
found it to be an Italian Grammar so  
handed it back to her remarking «Oh,  
vous parlez Italiano mam'selle» and to  
my amazement she replied. «Oh, no,  
I'm just learning».

Next time I'm going to try English

Imaginary Conversation No 5.

Sweet young thing (forgetting to  
blush) «I say, Aussie, something's co-  
me loose.»

Digger (on leave) «Never mind here's

a pin—I'll go round the corner while  
you fix it up.»

«When is a Digger like the wick of  
a candle?»

«No idea.»  
When he's surrounded by Waacs.

One of the Blighty Dailies tells us :  
— «Many of the food restrictions having  
been lifted, there will be a general im-  
provement all round in the new year». But they forget to state which one. Pa-  
dre Gault's guessing competition isn't  
in it. Up to date we haven't been exactly  
staggered by results anyway, and none  
of the Diggers returning from leave are  
complaining of over-indulgence in the  
tucker line.

From another Blighty journal we get  
this : — «Arrangements are in progress  
to establish a passenger air service be-  
tween England and Australia.» Now we'll  
soon be home. In the same column we  
are told that, «with a view to facilitating  
demobilisation the British Government has  
commandeered most of the big stea-  
mers». Many Diggers who never prayed  
before now say a few fervent words  
each night, for if the Government com-  
mandeers the air service their chances  
may go flying in all directions.

## AUSTRALIAN SMALL ARMS

French Tribute

Probably the member of the French  
Mission most interested in the Common-  
wealth Small Arms factory was Com-  
mandant d'Andre, who is an expert on  
rifle shooting. After the inspection he  
made the following statement : —

«We found your plant entirely up to  
date for the production of modern small  
armaments. You make your own matrices  
with beautiful finish of touch that leaves  
room for no exception. And your maple  
for the wood parts you are able to use  
after four years, while we in the old days  
used to demand more than 10 years' sea-  
soning. Soon, I hear, you will do it in  
one year. We admired also the quality of  
your steel. Its perfection astonished us.  
You get it right at the steel works at  
Lithgow within close range of the fac-  
tory. And the works find their coal right  
at hand. We were astonished too, to find  
your organisation of labour such that a  
child controls a machine tool. I find  
your sighting of your marvellous Mark  
III Enfield worthy of attention. It is  
sighted to the most minute variations of  
distance as if graduated with a micro-  
meter.»

There is a story told of a man who  
had a cancer and was operated on suc-  
cessfully by a celebrated physician. The  
doctor removed the man's digestive or-  
gans and substituted a Kangaroo's  
paunch.

The patient, who had been a suffer-  
er for many years and a burden on  
his family, now jumps to work, eats  
grass and saves his missus two quid a  
week. «Cognyaack pour camerad, and  
cafe and rum pour moi, mademoiselle.»



## NOVICE BOXING

Miner Beats Welfare

Six contests were billed at the novice boxing programme at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium, Con Camp, last Monday afternoon. The building was crowded as usual. There was nothing striking about any of the contests. Perhaps the most interesting fight was between Ptes Welfare and Miner (welterweights). Both have been successful in recent bouts. They are of the sturdy type of boxer with plenty of movement and attack. They fought every second of the three rounds, but there was a good deal of jostling and close fighting which did not count for much. Welfare's left hook was dangerous, and he scored repeatedly and varied the destination of the venture. Miner did most of the attacking, but Welfare's smothering was good. In the third round they fought at lightning speed. There was some hot work on the ropes in which each scored alternately. Welfare did not appear to be in the best of condition. Miner was ahead on points when the gong sounded and, of course, got the verdict.

Ptes Gurney and Barnett (lightweights) opened rather tamely. There was a little finessing, then a clinch. Both scored with lefts. Gurney was working rather smartly. Disaster was in store for Barnett in the second round. Gurney tried unsuccessfully with an occipital punch, but a left hook to the chin sent Barnett sprawling. It was a nicely timed blow. Barnett rose after nine seconds rattled, and Gurney repeated the dose. Barnett again resumed his equilibrium, but was very dazed. He gamely faced the gruel and the bell saved him from fini. He walked somewhat nonchalantly to the wrong corner. Barnett was fresh for a minute, when the last round opened, but was slow to evade Gurney. The latter was cautioned for hitting low. Barnett was fighting well, and scored with a good left. Barnett left many openings but Gurney was too slow to take advantage. Gurney the winner. Barnett was loudly applauded.

Lightweights Ptes Taylor and Lee were not startling. Taylor pegged away in the first two rounds, and got a slight lead, but in the third round Lee nullified matters by causing lively mix-ups. Lee scored repeatedly to the face. Taylor was a trifle shaky, and appeared to fear Lee's lefts. They fought to the ropes and exchanged freely. Taylor was in trouble most of this round. The decision, a draw, was excellent. Some diggers evidently forgot that Taylor was winning up to the commencement of the third round. A fight cannot be won

in one round unless by a foul or a knock out.

Ptes O'Grady, A.I.B.D., and Tanner entertained the diggers. O'Grady literally flew at his man. They are both strong boys and fought like Kilkenny cats. O'Grady missed a lot. Tanner is a very sturdy type of boxer. He would pose preparing to put all his weight and strength into the punch, and O'Grady was a well received » when he attacked. There was a good deal of clinching which was more a feat of strength than anything else. During one of these clinches Tanner bowled over on the boards. They sparred for a minute and then a fearful smash was lost in the air. In the third round, Tanner went at his man like a human tiger and there was a terrific clinch in which the in-fighting was like lightning. The rapidity of the blows amused. They were like human punching machines, but nothing serious happened. Tanner the winner.

Middleweights Ptes Parrett and Smith sparred for the first round. Smith was the aggressor. He sent home a heavy rip to the body, but Parrett stopped him with a good left. Smith still attacked and was all over the ring. Parrett was blocking well, but he feared Smith's body rips. Smith's feinting and running away were more spectacular than effective. Very few of his blows reached their objective. When the third bout opened Parrett scored to the solar plexus. Smith flinched but kept the attack going. Their blows began to get feeble. They were both tired. Smith the winner.

Lieut McLean was a very efficient referee; Lieut Barnes M.C., and Lieut Thompson, timekeeper.

## AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

Since the recent formation of a football club at the A.I.B.D., two matches have been played and members are keen in making the Australian game as popular as soccer has been. The first match took place on January 15th between teams representing the first three divisions and the last two divisions and resulted in a win for the former by 10 goals 14 behinds (74 points) to 3 goals 9 behinds (27 points).

On January 18th the A.I.B.D., played the A.G.B.D., and a very interesting and close match ensued. In the third quarter, however, the infantry, being too keen to get into the ruck, did not watch their men with the result that their opponents scored freely. The final was:—A.G.B.D., 7 goals 3 behinds (45 points); A.I.B.D., 5 goals 9 behinds (39 points).

A BIG "G"  
War Critic Slips

Since the outbreak of war one Henry Stead has published a review in Melbourne in which he states his opinions somewhat freely under the heading « The Progress of the World. » Nothing escapes his notice and from his cushioned chair he cheerfully gives his consent or disapproval of the actions of the big men in the war. His latest was rather a staggerer. Imagine the tired soldier, who is now peacefully reclining after the greatest possible victory in the history of the world, reading the following which was published on August 10th — just three months before Jerry had been absolutely smashed by Foch's great offensive:—

« The present French advance has not followed a carefully planned offensive, but was in the nature of a counter attack designed to upset enemy calculations. As such it was eminently successful. It is improbable that a major offensive will be launched by General Foch until he can command still greater forces than are at the moment under his direction. I do not look for an Allied blow against the Germans until 1919, but I do anticipate another great enemy offensive this year. Not until next year will the Germans have to stand on the defensive, and even with the best of luck the driving of them back will be a matter of many months. Assume for the moment that Allied attacks meet with success as great as those of the Germans this year. The first would hurl them back to the Hindenburg line. The next thirty miles further east, and the third might reach to sixty miles behind the Hindenburg front. Even then our troops would not have reached the Belgian frontier. But that General Foch will be able to take three thirty-mile strides next year is very unlikely, for there seems no doubt whatever that the Germans have made full provision for a stubborn defence along every mile of the road from their present front to the Rhine. Still we may assume that the initiative, held so long by our foes, will definitely pass to us in 1919, and that during the whole of that year their man power will wane whilst ours, thanks to American arrivals, will steadily wax. »

And on November 11th 1918 Germany had surrendered to the Allies' drastic conditions!!!

It is reported from Newcastle (N.S.W.) that an English company with £5,000,000 capital intends to establish works in that city for smelting copper and for the manufacture of copper wire.

XX<sup>e</sup> SIÈCLE. 7. RUE VOLTAIRE — HAVR.