

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

Bases & Depots

**Item number:** 33/3/9

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

April 1919



AWM4-33/3/9

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS, FRANCE.

FOR

APRIL 1919.

*[Handwritten signature]*

CAPTAIN.

Signature of Officer compiling  
STAFF OFFICER TO COMDT. AUST. BASE DEPOTS, FRANCE.

*[Handwritten signature]*

COLONEL.

Signature of Officer Commanding  
COMMDT. AUST. BASE DEPOTS, FRANCE.

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

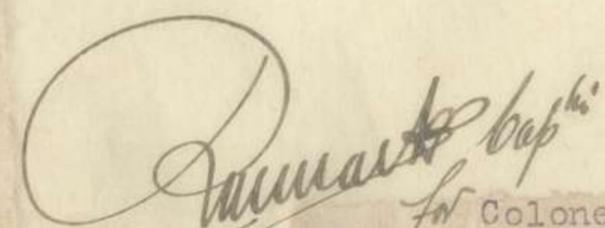
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Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LEZARDE VALLEY, HAVRE.	3rd May, 1919.		<p><u>QUOTAS AND DRAFTS.</u> The past month has been a record one as regards personnel passing through the Base for demobilization purposes, a grand total of 24,742 all ranks being despatched to England, comprised as follows:- Quotas, 1086 Officers and 20,604 O/Ranks; H.Q.'s, A.I.F., 5 Officers and 52 O/Ranks; Details, 163 Officers and 69 O/Ranks; Educational, 44 Officers and 1,067 O/Ranks; "B" Class, 36 Officers and 50/Ranks; Non-military Employment, 30 Officers and 573 O/Ranks; Early Repatriation, 33 Officers and 808 O/Ranks; others 1 Officer and 166 O/Rs. No 44 Quota has arrived at the Base leaving a balance of 15 Quotas to be passed through the various Depots.</p> <p><u>ACCOMMODATION.</u> The hutting of the camps is now complete and with the electric light, which is now being installed, has materially added to the comfort of the personnel in the Depots.</p> <p><u>ESTABLISHMENT.</u> Approval has been given for New Establishment for these Headquarters and the three Depots, which has resulted in a stabilising of affairs, which has materially assisted in the smooth running of the organisation of the Base.</p> <p><u>AMUSEMENTS.</u> The usual round of amusements has resulted in the satisfactory entertainment of the personnel passing through these Depots. A special feature has been the Anzac Sports held on the 25th of the month, which proved highly successful, being attended by practically all available men in the Depots, in addition to various local celebrities and representatives of the Imperial and Allied Armies. A full report will appear in the next issue of the Camp Newspaper.</p> <p><u>THE DIGGER.</u> Copies of this paper are attached hereto and contain a full account of the doings of the past month. A valedictory issue is being arranged for publication about the middle of May and no efforts are being spared to ensure success.</p> <p><u>EDUCATION.</u> Demobilization is now so near completion that arrangements are now in hand for winding up the various classes, which have proved of great benefit to those who have taken advantage of the facilities offered. Lieut. Skipper, Lecturer on Repatriation and Demobilization matters, is now engaged on a tour to the various Divisions and Units of the A.I.F. and good results will undoubtedly accrue as a result of his lectures.</p>	

  
 for Colonel,  
 Commdt. Aust. Base Depots, France.  
 J.J.M.



# THE DIGGER

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



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

VOL. 2 No. 10.

SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## AUSTRALIANS ABROAD

In France 61.191  
Big Decrease For Week

Compared with the return issued last week giving the strength « by arms » on March 1st, the latest statement issued on March 25th shows that from March 1st to 8th the total A.I.F. in France decreased by no less than 5,427. According to the latest statement there were, on March 8th, 4,113 officers and 57,078 other ranks in France, or a grand total of 61,191. The total A.I.F. in Europe, which means the United Kingdom and France, on March 22nd was 111,919 compared with 115,534 on March 15th. In Asia and Egypt on March 15th there were 13,296 members of the A.I.F. against a total of 15,091 on March 8th.

Details of the latest returns, which were issued last week, were as follow :

### A. I. F. In France

	Off.	No O.R. To each Off.	O.R.
STRENGTH "BY ARMS" 8 3 19.			
Effective strength in France .....	4083	54675	13.3
Non-effective strength in France .....	30	2403	81—
Total strength in France .....	4113	57078	13.8

### LATEST STRENGTHS OF DIVISIONS

Corps (as at 8. 3. 19).....	317	6144	19.3
1st Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	747	9469	12.6
2nd Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	717	7833	10.9
3rd Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	708	9342	13.4
4th Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	594	7923	13.3
5th Division (as at 8. 3. 19).....	684	8936	13—
Lines of Communication (as at 8. 3. 19).....	166	3099	18.6

### A I F. In Europe

	Off.	Nurses.	O.R.
1914.....	519	10	574
1915 January to June..	349	138	7308
July to December..	1794	158	19959
1916 January to June..	2167	13	27102
July to December..	1028	90	26329
1917 January to June..	436	111	10045
July to December..	388	21	9416
1918 January to June..	383	11	7008
July to December..	219	4	5364
Total at 1. 3. 19.....	7283	556	113105

Embarked from U.K. from 1 3. 19 to 22.3.19.....	400	79	8089
Discharged (outside Australia) from 1.3.19 to 22.3.19....	16	4	271
Died outside Australia from 13.1.19 to 22.3.19.....	3	—	163
Balance at 22 3 19 ..	6864	473	104582

### A I. F. In Asia and Egypt

	All Ranks
1914.....	218
1915 January to June.....	4881
July to December.....	2576
1916 January to June.....	1652
July to December.....	1331
1917 January to June.....	2016
July to December.....	1585
1918 January to June.....	1157
July to December.....	880
Total at 15.3.19....	13296

A.I.F. in Egypt and Asia 30.11.18 ..	18558
Embarked from Egypt to 15.3.19	5205
Discharged (Egypt etc.) to 15.3.19	8
Died Asiatic theatre to 15.3.19....	49
Balance at 15.3.19....	13296

## EMBARKATION ACCELERATED

### Leave to be cut Down

An official statement issued by the Department for Repatriation and Demobilisation says :

" Owing to the provision of more shipping during April next, it is anticipated that the rate of embarkation will be accelerated and that, for this reason, the amount of leave granted to members of certain quotas is liable to be reduced "

" The United Kingdom leave of quotas 19 to 23, inclusive, may be reduced by from 1 to 4 days, i.e., the leave may be only 10, 11, 12 or 13 days, according to circumstances. "

" The United Kingdom leave of quotas 25 and following quotas is liable to be reduced to 10 days. "

" This reduction in leave is caused entirely by the fact that more shipping is available, and that therefore the repatriation of the A.I.F. has been accelerated, with the result that it may be found to be not practicable to retain the men in England for more than 22 to 25 days without unduly delaying their embarkation. "

## AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES

Big Development Foreshadowed  
Question of Tariff Reform  
Government to Act

Melbourne, March 24th.

The Hon W. Massey Greene, Minister of Customs, in the Australian Government has stated that he would consider the representations made on the subject of the tariff.

Melbourne, March 22nd.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister of Australia, has stated that in accordance with the definite pronouncement made by the Prime Minister in the House of Representatives in February 1917, which was re-affirmed and amplified in Mr. Hughes's policy speech at Bendigo in March 1917, the Federal Government has recently given careful consideration to the tariff problem and intends as early as practicable next session to undertake a revision of the tariff with a view to the development of Australian production and industry.

The following important consideration will be kept in view. (1) The necessity for the preservation of industries which have been brought into existence during the war : (2) The encouragement of new industries which are in contemplation : (3) The extension and diversification of existing industries.

The great world conflict has taught many lessons and amongst them is the one that Australia, in view of its geographical isolation and of the long ocean haulage must develop itself on more self-reliant lines. The Government therefore has in view in the proposed tariff amendments, the promotion of those great key industries the raw material of which is within the confines of the Commonwealth, and upon which so many other industries and enterprises are based.

## TRANSPORTS NOT WITHDRAWN

### Rumours Denied

The following statement has been issued by Hdqrs A.I.F. in the United Kingdom :— Rumours have recently been circulated to the effect that ships allotted for the repatriation of Australian troops have been withdrawn and given to troops other than Australians. The G.O.C. desires it made known to the troops that there is absolutely no truth in such rumours. On the contrary additional ships have been provided for Australians, and the prospects are exceedingly encouraging.



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

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

## Gone Home Since November 30th

Progressive Total 45.013

The total members of the A.I.F. and munition workers who sailed for Australia from November 30th, 1918, to March 22nd last, was 45.013. The details were as follow :- officers 1.728 ; nurses 318 ; warrant officers and sergeants 3.080 ; other ranks 35.711 ; wives, etc. 1.360 ; munition and war workers 2.816.

The transports which sailed during this period were, *Czaritza*, *Plassy*, *Kildonan Castle* and *Kursk*. Since the return giving these particulars was issued the following additional transports have sailed for Australia :- *Cluny Castle*, on March 23rd, total A.I.F. 547 ; *Czar*, on March 23rd, total A. I. F. 803 ; and *Port Denison*, on March 25th, total A. I. F. 1045. The *Cluny Castle* conveyed portion of the 4th thousand from France consisting of the 1914 and 1915 personnel.

## Progress of Quotas

«Thousands from France» Gone

The 4 000 troops, who arrived in the United Kingdom prior to the inauguration of the quota system, have left for Australia. These troops were known as the « thousands from France » and embarked on the following transports :- *Anchises*, *Kildonan Castle*, *Kashmir* and *Cluny Castle*. The return issued on March 28th showed that quotas 1 to 17 had arrived in England.

## FREEZING WORKS DESTROYED

Damage £100.000

Melbourne, March 20th.

The Freezing Works of the Goulburn Valley Industrial Company have been burnt. The damage is estimated at £100.000.

## LONDON SHIPPING RING

Position of Australian Merchants  
Unfair Treatment Alleged

Melbourne, March 22nd.

The Victorian State Treasurer, Mr. McPherson, as head of the firm of W. W. McPherson Proprietary Ltd., commented on the remarks of Mr. Tredwen, the Chairman of the Australian Merchants Association, regarding the sympathetic attitude of the Association towards the Shipping Ring. He had been in touch with leading merchants in Melbourne who resented the inference that Mr. Tredwen represented the views of Australian merchants. The Australian Merchants Association in London is an association of commission houses who buy for Australian merchants, and who for many years have found it advantageous to work with the London Shipping Ring. Mr. Tredwen's views are not to be taken as representing merchants who buy goods in Australia. Australian merchants consider that the Shipping Ring has treated them with the reverse of friendliness and consideration, in proof of which the Bill of Lading issued by the Ring may be cited which contains the most unfair and unjust clauses.

## MINISTER SPEAKS

Australia Likely to Suffer

Melbourne, March 25th.

The Hon. A. Poynton, Australian Minister for Shipping, has stated that there is no place in the world likely to suffer more than Australia, by the action of the Shipping Ring. The great bulk of its primary products must find a market overseas and the Commonwealth Government would not allow themselves to be squeezed out. The suggestion that merchants would not ship by the Commonwealth Line is completely answered by Mr. McPherson personally. Mr. Poynton believed that Australian merchants are much more patriotic than Mr. Tredwen seemed to indicate.

## SAVINGS BANKS

Commonwealth V States

Melbourne, March 20th.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister, has through the press suggested the amalgamation of the Commonwealth and State Savings Banks. The Commonwealth Savings Bank has deposits amounting to sixteen millions. Mr. Watt favours the creation of a Savings Bank Advisory Board, consisting of the State Treasurers. A State would be guaranteed a definite proportion of the increased deposits which, if competition continue, may be attracted to the Commonwealth Bank. The Commonwealth is now paying a lower rate of interest to avoid active competition with the States.

## STRIKE SETTLED

Melbourne, March 22nd.

Following on mediation by the Premier of Victoria, the employees of the Prahran and Malvern tramways have resumed work.



J.W.L. If you could not draw your full credit in your paybook prior to going on leave you could certainly do so in London. Old Bill tells another story, and is apparently jealous :-

## SNOWY

Snow was only a Digger  
Who came down to the Base,  
Took things quietly for a while,  
And then he made the pace.

He was always very busy,  
And moved around in style,  
Often caught some pretty girls  
With his charming smile.

While in town one evening,  
The Yankees caused a brawl ;  
Snowy made a lot of threats  
But gazed upon it all.

Gave the boys the dinkum oil.  
He said « I'm not a padre,  
But if I see another brawl,  
I'll advertise the cadre. »

Snowy doesn't give a damn,  
He's just a dinkum Aussie ;  
I only wish I knew the town,  
And had his little possie.

K.M. Somebody else sent in that joke months ago. J.O.L. Dissertation on Paris « slips ». Wallah sends along a few lines by way of a sensational contribution : « Won't it be a fair cow when the Waacs are demobilised ? »

## IMPORTING MACHINERY

Melbourne, March 25th.

The Hon. Walter Massey Greene, Australian Minister for Customs has announced, as part of a policy to encourage the establishment of new industries and the development of those existing, that the Federal Government is prepared to consider applications for Rebate Duty paid on machinery imported for the purposes of this expansion and machinery which cannot be made in the Commonwealth. Applicants should furnish particulars of the machinery which it was proposed to import, and proof of the landed cost ; proof would also have to be furnished of the inability of Australian firms to manufacture the same.

## ENGLAND TO AUSTRALIA BY AIR

Prize of £10,000

Melbourne, March 20th.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister, announces that the Commonwealth will offer a prize of £10.000 for the first successful flight from Great Britain to Australia on a machine manned by Australians.

The Orchestra will "Orc"



Conductor Arthur EDWARDS

INTERSTATE COMMISSION

To Inquire Into Sugar Question

Melbourne, March 27th.

The Australian Minister for Trade and Customs, The Hon. W. Massy Greene, has announced that it has been decided to put, in the forthcoming session of Parliament, the Interstate Commission on a more satisfactory footing.

Messrs Piddington, Lockyer and Mills, the present members of the interstate Commission, have been appointed Royal Commissioners to inquire into the sugar question generally and to furnish a report before the end of June.

COAL PRODUCTION

Melbourne, March 27th.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister of Australia has announced that he has convened a conference of coalfield proprietors and employees with a view to arriving at a satisfactory settlement of various industrial matters relating to coal-production.

INITIATIVE REFERENDUM AND RECALL

Melbourne, March 25th.

At a large public meeting held in Melbourne Town Hall under the auspices of the Australian Referendum League resolutions were passed in favour of the principle of Initiative Referendum and Recall.

AUSTRALIAN SHIPBUILDING

First Ship Launched

Melbourne, March 24th.

The S.S. Delungra the first 5000 ton steel merchant vessel built in Australia, under the Commonwealth Ship-building Scheme will be launched on Tuesday at Walsh Island, New South Wales.

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING

Melbourne, March 26th.

The S.S. Delungra, the first ship completed in Australia under the Commonwealth Ship-building Scheme, was successfully launched in the presence of the State Governor and Lady Davidson, and members of the New South Wales State Ministry. The Delungra is a steel ship built on the Isherwood principle and is the largest Australian built ship afloat.

FRANCY DRESS DANCE

Successful Function

Gaiety and general good fun marked the very successful fancy dress dance held in the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium on Friday evening, March 28th. Only a limited number of invitations could be made available to the Diggers, and there were something like 200 couples on the floor. The ladies came from the various Q.M.A.A.C. and V.A.D. hostels in Havre and the Lezarde Valley. Whilst fancy dress was only optional the majority of those present preferred some sort of camouflage, and the dresses were picturesque and varied. Some of the ladies preferred evening dress as change from fancy dress or their brown uniforms. Strangely enough the few in evening dress, appeared to be the only ones not in fancy dress even though they had donned the clothing as a camouflage for khaki. Such was the impression owing to the fact that the dance had the atmosphere of peace times and khaki intermingled with fancy costumes as though the men wore military uniforms in preference to civilian clothes. The gymnasium was well decorated with flags. From 7 p.m. the dancing was uninterrupted and enjoyable. Conducted under semi-military rules no man is allowed to sit out a dance if a lady has no partner. That is the unwritten law, and a good one. There is a great demand for the limited number of tickets available. It is interesting to note that there were over 5,000 men in camp, when only about 200 were wanted for the dance. So far as it is possible only the correct number of ladies are invited. They are all dancers and so it is necessary for the Diggers to be dancers and then there are no "wallflowers".

After a grand march of fancy costumes was held the prizes were awarded. Miss Cox, of Hostel 5 (Q.M.A.A.C.), dressed as a squaw, secured first prize for the best original costume, and a lady whose name was not announced was awarded the prize for the best dressed, being camouflaged as a daffodil. The gentlemen's prizes were won by the following:— Pte Les Edey, stage manager of the Wattle Birds, dressed as a rather grotesque Macbeth, and C.Q. M.S. Bickford (A.G.B.D.) as as mephistophiles.

PAPUAN OILFIELDS

Development Assured

Melbourne, March 26th.

The Hon. F.M. Glynn, Minister for Home and Territories, has announced that an arrangement has been completed whereby the Imperial Government and Commonwealth shall each contribute £50,000 to expedite the development of oilfields in Papua.

STATE BYE-ELECTION

Nationalist Successful

Sydney, March 24th.

In the bye-election for Petersham, New South Wales, Major Shillington Nationalist, (2,633 votes) has been elected. Mr. Olde the Labour Candidate polled 2,377 votes.

AFTERNOON AMUSEMENTS

At the A.I.B.D. efforts are being made to provide amusements for Diggers in the afternoons as well as in the evenings. Mr Harper, the Y.M.C.A. officer is confident that these can be carried out at least four afternoons in each week, and a start in this direction has already been made. Another innovation that pleases Diggers is the free distribution of cigarettes prior to their departure to Blighty on a demobilisation quota.

HOSPITALITY LEAGUE

Aussies Invited to Homes

Since his arrival at the A.I.B.D. Mr. G.D. Harper has been making addresses relative to the International Y.M.C.A. Hospitality League to Diggers, who are on demobilisation quotas, and he has filled up for them many application forms to stay in homes when in England whilst awaiting a boat for Aussie.

Mr. Harper points out that in the "old country" there are hundreds of people, who are only too glad to welcome the Digger in a practical manner. Though there is nothing to pay for this hospitality he emphasises the fact that the scheme is not charity, but a genuine desire on the part of the people of the mother land to have at their homes a soldier from over-seas, and to give him the opportunity of enjoying a bit of real family life. The League is in touch with a large number of the kindest people, who wish to try and make up to the Digger all that he is missing during his absence.

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**A.I.F. STATISTICS**

Non-Military employment 2000

Returns issued on March 25th by the Department for Repatriation and Demobilisation give the following information :

Early repatriation, etc.

On March 22nd the privileges granted to members of the A.I.F. totalled as follows :- discharges (outside Australia) 54 officers and 802 other ranks ; early repatriation 416 officers and 2,367 other ranks ; non-military employment 469 officers and 1,534 other ranks ; extended leave 21 officers and 83 other ranks.

Dependents

For the week ended March 22nd there were 90 marriages of Australian soldiers in the United Kingdom. The embarkations of dependents totalled 1,360 leaving an approximate total of 11,400 dependents yet to embark.

Non-Military Employment

The number engaged in non-military employment in the United Kingdom on March 22nd totalled 2,000 made up as follows : engaged in industrial pursuits, 1,373 ; engaged in various businesses 220 ; attending courses at British Universities 67 ; attending courses at British schools and colleges 340.

Munition and War Workers

For the week ended March 22nd the embarkation of munition and war workers totalled 781 bringing the total embarkations to date to 2,816. There are still 4,756 yet to leave.

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ENGLISH SPOKEN

ANY PARCEL CAN BE SENT HOME

**WITH THE WATTLE BIRDS**

Entertainers Entertained

On Monday night the Wattle Birds were billed to perform at the Lismore Cinema. The large building was packed, the orchestra had peeled off a bright overture and the show had just begun to warm up, when the lights failed. It looked like a "wash-out", but Sgt Arthur Edwards went to the piano and led his orchestra in popular airs to which three V.A.D.'s and 1997 diggers chimed in lustily. The time honored "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" was sung and "Beautiful Katie", said to be the national anthem of the Aussies at Charleroi, was well supported by members of Number 21 quota. Harry Curtis "pickled" on his piccolo and Joe Newton played a cornet solo. Good old Joe.

When the lights came up again a great yell from 2000 throats must have shook the building badly because the lights went out a second time. However, the performers were held in readiness ; and, after some coaxing by a patient electrician, the lights once more shone brightly. All through the unfortunate happenings different sections of the house would burst out in song. Just where the officers usually sit a familiar chorus was struck up and discordant notes fell on listening ears. They seemed to get tangled up in the "last bar". Folks usually do.

The Wattle Birds did their best when it was certain that the lights would hold out. In spite of the many disconcerting episodes, it is doubted whether a large audience was more happily entertained than when the lights went out and darkness cast its magic spell over the crowd.

It is a cause for extreme regret that there were not more than three ladies present.

**Hockey**

The A.I.B.D. met the General Base Depots tommies at hockey on March the 28th, Pte H.E. Smith taking the game in hand. Right from the start the tommies made good headway, combining well with each other. The Aussies made many fine breaks-away, but spoiled many an opportunity. From a scrimmage the tommies opened the score with a goal, and for a long time afterwards their defence stood firm. Eventually, however, the score was made even. The concluding stages of the game were fast and exciting. Bartlett beat the tommies' defence more than once, and had hard luck in not putting his team in the lead. The game, which was one of the best ever held in these parts, ended in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

**CAFÉ - RESTAURANT**

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**FRENCH GIRL'S LETTER FOUND**

To Whom It May Concern

The following letter, written from a place out of bounds, has been found by our religious editor whilst strolling near the officers' quarters this week. Any officer, giving proof that it belongs to him, may have same on application. The letter reads : - My Dear Puss Puss, It was a long time such you me seen, and surely if me meet you it would be for me difficulty because when I meet you before it was very dark but I like to write to pretty boy then my friend austral-ian. I am happy you live before the railway because it is not incommode you me visite still. You smile yet, if yes, it was very good for you. It me pleases that of me there is a wish me go the dances of the offisiers, if you prefere. Me is confututined for me that it is a pleasure for mine to have received of which there was one. If for you there is an ignorance, should for you to have the kindness to me tell. Tout dévouée.

**WOUNDED AND MISSING BUREAU**

A change has been made at the Red Cross wounded and missing department at the Base. Mr C.R. Riddell who has been in charge for some weeks has returned to England. His place has been taken by Lieut Hays, who was engaged in similar work up the line. Lieut Hays is desirous that all men passing through the Depots should give any information they can of killed and missing comrades.

**Diggers !**

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## About Diggers

Miss Doig has returned to the Hamilton Hut after a month's Blighty leave. Miss Kirkpatrick has been visiting Etratat.

The two children of No. 3 Coy had a holiday at Le Havre last week and returned home rather late—it was about 999999 hours according to the time militaire. Each thought the other had won a V.C. and that such honor entitled him to call out the guard. They had to do something like this in order to be conducted to their hut, which somehow had got mixed up with others in the Depot. In answer to « guard turn out », the men doing that job didn't appear at all pleased, but fortunately a belated vin blanc fatigue party arrived on the scene to assist them.

At the Diggers' fancy dress dance the other night « Chum », who has already appeared elsewhere as an Anzac of Gallipoli and an officer, came out in a new disguise. He went as a Q.I. form, but did not win the prize. If he had camouflaged himself as a Victoria Cross winner and told the gathering the exciting battle stories that he has related to his staff friends at the A.I.B.D., he would have got something even if it were only looks of amazement.

Bert Monohan, who as the « parson who slipped » and « the stage carpenter » caused much laughter when he appeared with the Wattle Birds Concert Party has just passed through the Australian Base Depots en route for Australia. During the few days spent mostly in sergeants' messes Bert had many happy reunions.

There is a rumour of divorce proce-

« In Australia » and « The Boys of the Old Battalion », the two popular Australian songs written by Capt. G. C. Neech, of the 9th Batt., are to be obtained at the « Digger » office or at Y. M. C. A. Huts. Price 2/- or 2 frs. 60 cts. each.

## KURSAAL - CINEMA

22, Rue de Paris, 22

Every Day, from 2.30 — 7 p.m.

CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME

Evening Performance : 8.30

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Finest English & American Films

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMEDIAN

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

also

FATTY & BILLY WEST

dings in an officers' mess « somewhere in Rouelles. » Names, of course, cannot be published, but the parties concerned are two mademoiselles and a subaltern. It is not said whether the case will be heard in the Palais de Justice or the Diggers' Mess.

The Digger, who teaches Waacs at Camp B how to Jass, now makes the extraordinary statement that many V. A.D's are desirous of having similar lessons. There has been a rush of applicants.

Pte J. Goodchild, the cartoonist on the Digger staff, has just returned from London after completing a contract for the publication of a set of art etchings for sale as postcards. The sketches are of the most familiar places on and near the Western front. The packet of six cards will be sold for one franc. Pte Goodchild's work is of high quality, and the opportunity to obtain these excellent souvenirs should not be missed.

Jack Tiller, the mimic who appeared with the Kookaburra Concert Party (5th Division), is at present at the Base. Jack was here some months ago as a member of the Australs, which were afterwards absorbed by the Kookaburras. According to Jack demobilisation has resulted in the popular concert party ceasing to exist.

Sgt R. Tredea, one of the pillars of the A.G.B.D. Sergeants' Mess, has been removed to the 21st Demobilisation Quota, thus causing a vacancy for a president and a treasurer. A 1915 man, Sgt Tredea was originally in the 6th Light Horse, but the latter part of his military career has been more happily spent in this district where he has specialised in dinners at Le Havre with French people, with whom he has been as popular as with the Diggers.

Sgt Bickford and Corp Larcen celebrated their birthdays last Sunday, but fortunately not together, as such an amalgamation would have been too much for the guests. The only thing that anyone seems to remember about either function is that no padres were present.

The female impersonator of the Wattle Birds concert party held an « at home » in his boudoir at the Lismore Cinema last week on the occasion of his birthday (home papers please copy.)

Recently there have been several Y. M.C.A. changes at the Base. Mr Potter has arrived from Paris as successor to Captain H. Peake, but he will not remain at the Geelong Hut for many weeks as a permanent appointment is to be made later. Mr. Harper is in charge at the A.I.B.D. Mr Les Judd is the Base Leader.



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ALSO AT MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

## ANZAC SPORTS

Souvenir Programmes Free

It has been decided to have printed 5,000 programmes for the sports to be held at Rouelles on Friday, April the 25th, the anniversary of the landing of Australian troops at Gallipoli. These programmes are very elaborate and artistic in design, and will make excellent souvenirs. They are being printed at a very high cost, and visitors will be charged one franc each for them. A free distribution, however, will be made to Diggers.

The programme of the sports, which finish at 5 p.m., has already been published in *The Digger*. Boxing contests will be held from that time until 7 p.m., after which dancing will take place at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium. It is anticipated that there will be a large number of ladies both at the sports and the dance. A number of entries for the different events and contests have already been received, and a satisfactory total are assured, especially from the Americans, who are very keen on evening things up with the Aussies, in fact, their athletic director has been given instructions to go full steam ahead with training. Application forms can be obtained at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium.

## OBITUARY

Sydney, March 23rd.

The death of Mr. John English, Lord Mayor of Sydney, is announced.

LONDON

THE

DIGGERS'

REST

SHAFTESBURY

HOTEL



FOOTBALL

Australian Game

19th Quotas V 20th Quota

Last Sunday an excellent game of Australian League football was played between the 19th Demobilisation Quota (4th Division) and the 20th Quota (5th Division). Up till half-time the scoring was very even, there only being one goal between the teams. A strong wind favoured each side in alternate quarters, but in the last stage of the game it had almost died down. In the second half the 20th Quota added 4 goals 8 behinds to their opponents' 1 goal 1 behind, and won the match by 6 goals 16 behinds to 2 goals 9 behinds. Lack of training was the cause of the defeat of the 19th, who seem to have been run almost to a standstill towards the conclusion of the game. The 20th Band played selections during the afternoon.

Base V. 21st Quota

On the following day, Monday, a combined Base team met No. 21 Quota and the match was watched by a very large number of enthusiastic spectators. Considerable amusement was caused by the supporters of the quota calling their representatives soldiers, and referring to their opponents as wallahs, some of whom had seen very much more service in the line than the « soldiers », but « ça ne fait rien », as the « chiacking » was devoid of any ill feeling, and was taken in the spirit in which it was meant. The game hardly seemed to have commenced when the Base obtained a goal, but a minute later their opponents retaliated and evened the score. The match was very fast up till half time when the Base were 18 points in the lead. Several well known professional League men were playing including Minogue (Collingwood), Eason (Geelong) Bushbridge (Essendon), O'Brien (Port Melbourne), Strugnel (West Torrens) and others. No. 21 Quota had the best of the play in the third quarter, and at the commencement of the last quarter it looked as if they had a good winning chance, but Strugnel and Davies for the Base put the game beyond all doubt by each kicking a goal from almost the centre of the field. The final scores were :—Base, 11 goals 10 behinds (76 points) ; 21st Quota, 7 goals 14 behinds (56 points). The match, which finished as it had begun with the greatest excitement, is regarded generally as the best held this year. Although the 21st quota lost by 20 points they scored as frequently as the « wallahs », but their less accurate shooting for goal was the cause of their defeat.

Soccer

The unbeaten team of the 9th Brigade defeated a Canadian team from Le Havre last week by 6 goals to nil on the Con Camp ground.

—)(—



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 Fag  
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 3/4 size 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 3/4 size contains nearly four times the 1/3 size.

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**BETWEEN DRINKS**

BY PIQUANT

Since so many of the Aussies have returned to the home land and have become acquainted for the first time with their babies the following dialogue between a returned Anzac and a Little Digger sums up the case rather effectively :—

Little Digger : « Did you know me, Dad, before I was born ? »

Returned Anzac : « No ! Bill.

Little Dig : « Did Mummy know me before I was born ? »

Returned Anzac : « No ! Bill.

Little Dig : « Then how did you know it was me ? »

\*\*

*Imaginary Conversation No. 15*

Mother (to returned soldier at tea table) « Son, will you please pass the sugar ? »

Ex-Digger : « Yes ! if you can't .... reach it. »

\*\*

Joe : « What did you think of the old padre's sermon this morning ? »

Bill : (not impressed) « Sounded as if he was talking in his sleep. »

Quota Dag : (butting in) « Very likely. He talked in mine. »

\*\*

**Stand Easy**

Four weary years went slowly by,  
While battles were being fought sir !  
And troops were trained in many ways,  
But most things went for nought sir !  
Slope arms and port, then ground your arms,

In orders gruff or wheezy,  
But sergeants knew we were not trained  
Till we could all STAND EASY.

When on parade the Colonel said,  
« Now, listen to the oil sir ! »  
And if you at attention stand,  
Your blood begins to boil sir !  
If he just says « P'rade, stand-at-ease »  
In manner bright and breezy,  
You go the whole hog for you know  
He meant you to STAND EASY.

When days were hot and padres swore,  
And sweat ran down your back sir !  
In marching order you were dressed,  
With mighty heavy pack sir !  
You've marched along the dusty roads,  
And got so tired and greasy ;  
You felt a damn sight worse how'er,  
If the heads forgot STAND EASY.

We've had a run of joys and woes,  
A digger's lot is hard sir !  
Sometimes you've found a cushy job  
And you're not on the cards sir !  
But there are joys that make us glad  
Though it be cold and freezy  
Our hearts seem light and all is bright  
When the «Major» roars STAND EASY.

When we have left this life behind—  
We mean this army life sir !  
We'll go to work, but not for long ;  
We can't endure the strife sir !

We'll grow old fast and tell our clerks  
In tones worn weak and wheezy,  
Just work a few more minutes, please !  
Then the whole damn shop STAND  
EASY.

The show was closing. The orchestra had risen to play the national anthem. A tired Digger got up to walk out. His friend called to him :—« Why not stay and sing God Save the King ? » His friend replied : « What's the use? We saved him. »

\*\*

1st Base Wallah : « Where are you going white that chain measure ? »

2nd ditto « I'm going to measure off a property I've just bought. »

1st B.W. « Going to live here ? »

2nd ditto : « Sure ! I like the valley of the Lezarde and the historical surroundings. »

\*\*

A well known officer in the Base (to a brother officer who had just returned from Nice) : « I'm thinking of going to Italy before returning to Australia. Have you been through Italy ? »

Brother Officer : « I have been Tourin since the Armistice. »

\*\*

Prospective contributor to « Digger » « How much do you give for printing an article in your paper ? »

Our reply . « If it was particularly good we would insert it free of charge. »

\*\*

Returned Officer to a dear old friend: « You'll be glad to have Bisley meeting revived now that the peace bells are ringing. »

Veteran Aussie Rifle Champion. « Yes, but there'll be some poor scoring. You see there's been no serious shooting for the past four years »

\*\*

An officer at the Base informed the mess orderly that he was very fond of porridge and asked if he might have a large plate of that edible. At noon, he said he was fond of soup and asked for a large portion. At tea time the orderly placed a cup of tea before the officer and politely remarked « Sorry sir, but we have no large cups of tea. »

**Basket Ball**

**Aussies Defeat Yanks**

The impression gained from the basket-ball match between the Australians and the Americans at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium last week, was that the Diggers had been so successful in learning the American game that they were able to soundly defeat a well representative team from that country. The match last week was the second in succession in which the Australians had won decisively. Their concerted work was better; individually superior and in throwing for goal more certain. There was no

doubt about the result of the game. From the outset the Australians gained the lead and gradually drew away from their opponents. American skill only came in flashes. At times their concerted work carried the ball into the territory of the Australians, but, if they were not successful in scoring quickly, they were doomed to failure owing to the excellent individual and concerted play by Alick Eason and Lieut Snow. The latter's height is a great advantage when preventing opponents from throwing at the basket. He is also fast and aggressive, and his determined quick work, when in a tight corner, foiled the Americans time and again. Eason is one of the leading footballers in the Victorian League, and was captain of the Geelong team. He is in great form at present both as a footballer and basket-baller. As back, he played about the most consistent and reliable game in the room. His play was faultless. The dash with which he and Mr Snow relieved gave Mr Judd and George Keane repeated opportunities which they used to the best advantage. All the Australians did well throughout the contest but Eason, Snow, Judd and Keane were the most prominent. For the first half the Australian team consisted of Mr Judd, Major Phillips, Lieut Marlow, Ptes Eason and Farrer, but after the interval Lieut Snow and Pte George Keane replaced Major Phillips and Lieut Marlow. The scores were :

**Half Time**

Australians .....	14 points
Americans .....	6 points

**Final**

Australians .....	29 points
Americans .....	17 points

The scorers for the Australians were : Eason, Judd, Snow, and Keane.

**Aussies Raid V.A.D. Hostel**

(By Digger)

In return for the sparkling social evening given them by the Commandant and members of No 4, V.A.D. Hostel a short time ago, a party of 25 Aussies from the Australian Base Depots sprung a surprise party on the « Diggers Paradise » on Thursday evening, March 27th. All the arrangements were in the hands of Sgt Gladstone and Sig Jock Taylor, and everything blossomed to success far beyond anticipation. An advance guard in the person of the « Iddy-Umpy » specialist reconnoitred the Monte Bello front early in the evening, and arranged for the raid to take place at 7 p.m. Sharp to time the human barrage of slush hatted mirth, laughter and musical company crashed on the temple of British Beauty, and in a few seconds Monte Bello was taken by storm. The proceedings begun with a whist drive and, later, there was music and games. Gallant Bill Bailey was in excellent form and his rendering of « Drinking » and « Trumpeter » brought rounds of applause. It was a great night and the 25 Diggers deeply appreciated the able manner in which the Commandant and members of the Hostel assisted to make the evening so highly successful.

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8  
**BOXING AT NO 8 CAMP**

**Australians Win Three Contests**

An interesting boxing programme was held at Camp 8, on Thursday March 27th. Four Australians were engaged, three of whom were successful, the fourth resulting in a draw. The programme was arranged by the members of the old Lezarde Valley Athletic Club which ceased to exist when the camps were reorganised under the demobilisation scheme. An aeroplane hangar had been erected in which to hold the contests, Capt Merrifield, A.I.F., referred.

Pte O'Grady (A.I.F.) and Pte Hutt (R.A.S.C.) opened the programme. O'Grady is a very willing type of boxer who forces the pace from the outset. He fears no one and the rapidity of his blows, whether they land or not, keeps his opponents going their « hardest. » Hutt is a hard hitter, but O'Grady soon had him on the defensive. The Tommy is a strong boy and the exchanges were lively. There was a good deal of close fighting in which Hutt scored to the body. In the third round O'Grady's quick footwork and side stepping gave Hutt no rest. A terrific uppercut by the Australian failed, and in some close work Hutt scored with a series of jabs, rips and chops. At this stage it appeared as if the Englishman was wearing O'Grady down. There was too much wrestling and close fighting. O'Grady attacked vigorously in the fourth round. They were « hitting to kill. » The Australian landed a strong uppercut. He was smothering well. Fortunately for both men most of the heavy blows missed or were successfully blocked. Despite the strenuousness of the contest the last two rounds were fought at a fast pace. O'Grady did most of the attacking, but each offensive was solidly met. The Australian was leading on points when the final gong sounded, and secured the verdict.

Pte Parrott (A.I.F.) met Pte Waller (R.A.S.C.) in a four rounds contest. They looked a good match in the ring, fairly tall and well proportioned. Parrott opened cautiously. They were content to stand off and box. Parrott scored early with his left. He smothered effectively, and stopped the Tommy's rushes with his left. The Australian boxed with more certainty than Waller. He did all the leading in the third round and scored with left and right to face. The Tommy was severely troubled and the gong was welcomed. The brief respite benefited Waller who opened the last round strongly. Parrott still maintained the advantage and boxing his man kept well ahead. Waller, in a quick piece of work, broke through Parrott's defence and landed a heavy right on the nose. Waller followed his advantage and scored again. Parrott staggered before the offensive and the ruby flowed freely. It was an exciting moment. After leading right through the fight it looked as if the Australian was going to be knocked out, but he managed to smother successfully and then the gong sounded. Parrott was awarded the decision on points.

Pte Bruce (A.I.F.) boxed a draw with Rfn Wheeler (K.R.R.C.). The Tommy had the advantage in weight, and for the first two rounds Bruce took matters very cautiously. Wheeler was the aggressor and landed a short right hook to the jaw. Bruce did not appear at all sure of his man. Wheeler landed a right to the head. Bruce smothered frequently and was kept on the defensive. Sound advice from Pte Gurney (A.I.F.) to Bruce made a difference when the third round opened. Bruce brought his right strongly into play. He had the Tommy fighting strongly on the defence. Wheeler attacked in the fourth round and scored with both hands. Bruce smothered and in a trice attacked the Englishman scoring with both hands. The decision, a draw, was a good one.

Pte Percy Young (A.I.F.) and Dvr Stubbo (R.F.A.) provided the final contest. The Tommy was no match for the Australian. In the first round he attacked from all sides and at all angles, and one wonders if Stubbo had seen or felt such a whirlwind before. Young danced round the ring with alacrity that quite confused Stubbo. In the second round Stubbo was in a bad way. A heavy left to the jaw sent him down for 6 seconds. He rose somewhat rattled and gamely faced the Australia only to go down again for eight. He rose again and the occipital punch sent him down again and the contest ended.

Sgt Billy Meeske and Pte Reville repeated their interesting exhibition of ju-jitsu.

**BIG BOXING NIGHT**

To be Held in Grand Theatre

Aussies to Meet Leading Yanks

Mr Les Judd, Australian Y.M.C.A., is busy making arrangements for a big boxing and wrestling night to be held in the Grand Theatre, Le Havre, on Tuesday, April 22nd. The Australians to be matched are Sgt Billy Meeske, ex-middleweight champion wrestler of Australia, who has an unbeaten record as a light heavyweight champion, and the following boxers: - Ptes Percy Young, Bruce, Gurney, and Lee, and Gnr H. Cox. The records of these men are well known in the Havre district. At least four Americans, who have been successful in the Paris competitions, are to oppose an equal number of Australians. Meeske will meet an American champion. The arrangements are only in their initial stage, but it is hoped to announce the matches at an early date. Mr Judd is also in communication with Georges Carpentier, the champion boxer of France, to give an exhibition on the same night. He is hopeful of the famous French athlete accepting the invitation

**CIELO WINS OAKLEIGH PLATE**

—o—

Melbourne, March 26th.

Result of the Oakleigh Plate : —  
Cielo (1), Molly's Robe (2), Blue Cross (3). Betting 12 to 1 against the winner.

**Y. M. C. A. FIXTURES**

Lismore Cinema

SUNDAY — Service. 5.30 p.m.  
MONDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Lantern Service. 7 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.  
THURSDAY — R.G.A. Orchestra 7 p.m.  
FRIDAY — Lecture 6.15 p.m. (Percy Allen)  
Canadian London Party 7 p.m.  
SATURDAY — Lecture 6.15 p.m. (Miss Baxter) Gym display 7 p.m.

A. I. B. D. Cinema

SUNDAY — Service. 5.30 p.m.  
MONDAY — Miss Hitchin's Party, 7 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Gymn. display 7 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Service. 7 p.m.  
THURSDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.  
FRIDAY — Lecture 5.30 p.m. (Miss Baxter)  
Dieppe Rep. Coy. 7 p.m.  
SATURDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.

Gymnasium

MONDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Folk Dancing Class, 11 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Officers Dancing Class, 2 p.m.  
THURSDAY — Basket Ball Practice, 7.30 p.m.  
FRIDAY — Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.

**SUCCESSFUL GYMNASTS**

The Gymnastic team, which was formed in the days of the old Con Camp, is doing remarkably good work at present. As an amusement company, the team are giving shows at least four nights a week at the A. G. B. D., A. I. B. D. and at the British, Canadian and American camps. The physical director is Mr Judd (Y.M.C.A.) and the display of pyramids, exercises in the various departments of gymnastics, Russian dancing, tumbling and ju jitsu create the greatest interest wherever the show is put on. At each display at the Crystal Palace, Havre, this popular rendez-vous is crowded with thousands. The team is making a name for Australian athletics before so many large audiences of British and Allied soldiers.

**Y. M. C. A. BALANCE SHEET**

Large Free Distributions

In the balance sheet of the Y.M.C.A. for the six months ended September 30, 1918, the free distribution in the United Kingdom and France totalled £ 22,791-16-1. The amount expended out of general fund for free distribution was £ 15,525-11-10. The total profit on all canteen operations in these countries was £ 7,446-4-3, which was transferred to free distribution fund. The prices of articles sold at the institutions of the Association is determined by the Expeditionary Force Canteens.



# THE DIGGER

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



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

VOL. 2 No. 11.

SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## WHAT AUSTRALIA EXPECTS DIGGERS' PALAIS DE DANSE

MR WATT'S SPEECH ON NATIONAL AIMS

Folies du Printemps

MANDATORY GOVERNMENT IN PACIFIC ISLANDS - REIMBURSEMENT FROM GERMANY FOR THE COST OF THE WAR - FISCAL FREEDOM

—0—

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister, at the gathering of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures last night, said that the Federal Parliament would meet as early as the deliberations of the Peace Conference would permit, and deal with the tariff. Australia required to be made more replete in respect of necessary industries, both primary and secondary, than in the past. The future of the world for perhaps a century is being settled in Paris, things pregnant with fate for the future of Australia are hanging in the balance. The Prime Minister is there fighting with the full approval of the people of Australia for three things: one was the future of the German colonies in the Western Pacific in the interests both of the safety of Australia and the well being of the inhabitants of the islands. Australia should control these, he believed, because every indication pointed that way. That struggle which Mr. Hughes had sustained since November until now will work in their favour, and Australia would be granted at least a mandatory Government in those islands, the possession of which meant everything to the security of future generations in this country.

The Prime Minister is also advocating Australia's legitimate claims against the broken German Empire and people for reimbursement of some of the cost of the war. If the claim be not advanced strenuously and successfully two or three generations would have to bear the blighting effect of a huge burden of taxation.

Mr. Hughes is fighting also for the fiscal freedom of this part of the British Empire, and he (Mr. Watt) without the slightest hesitation, and speaking for a unanimous cabinet, said that whatever might be the basis of peace, Australia could not surrender its fiscal rights, but must control its own destinies in this matter, and must have the right as an intelligent progressive democracy, to determine under what conditions and standards of comfort its people should live.

He made no prediction as to the success of the League of Nations, but it carried with it a gospel full of hope for the human race. Whether they believed the experiment would succeed or not, they must work for it. There was everything to gain and nothing to lose

by a trial of this great experiment but a League of Nations was not the only thing necessary. What Australia also wanted was a league of the whole nation to work unitedly for its welfare and safety.

### IS IT BOLSHEVISM ?

There was unfortunately arising in Australia a spirit that bid fair to challenge the spirit of Bolshevism. Many people thoughtless and unheeding, believed this was a new doctrine involving the re-incarnation of man. Were they going to one of the least educated countries of the world to learn lessons of liberty? He did not believe history would read the recent outbreaks of Bolshevism in any country in the world as anything but an unforgivable crime. After detailing the doctrines of the Russian soviets as set forth in a pamphlet printed in Australia, which he said made one wonder how anyone outside a lunatic asylum could adopt them, Mr Watt stated that the Commonwealth Government would use the powers it had to preserve law and order, and prevent Bolshevik excesses, if necessary, it would go even to the length of deportation. The Government looked for strength in the community to put down the illicit exercise of force. He ventured to think that the great heart of Australia would remain sound.

### GONE HOME SINCE NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>

Number Rapidly Increasing  
Progressive Total 52,295

From November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1918, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, last, a total of 52,295 members of the A.I.F., dependents and war workers had left the United Kingdom for Australia. The usual weekly return issued on April 1<sup>st</sup> showed that on March 29<sup>th</sup> a total of 45,953 members of the A.I.F. and 4,179 dependents and war workers had embarked. A supplementary return issued subsequently increased the grand total to the number mentioned. The transports which sailed for Australia during the period from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> were: *Cluny Castle*, *Czar*, *Port Denison*, *Karoo*, *Port Macquarie*, *City of Poona*, *Khlyber* and *Wandilla*.

The unsuspecting mind has probably not understood the reason why a gang of carpenters is so busy in The Dell erecting a spacious platform. The Dell is suggestive of an amphitheatre in the earth surrounded almost completely by grass-covered hills with a picturesque background consisting of the forest of Ardennes, it is capable of accommodating thousands of people. This natural amphitheatre is at its best in the spring and summer-time, with the universal tender green of European foliage. Last year, it was the rendez-vous of fun stunts and religious services; and on occasions, there were between 4000 and 5000 present. Situated in the midst of the Australian Base Depots, The Dell is one of those convenient natural formations which appear almost indispensable as a place for entertaining a large body of men.

With a desire to amuse the thousands of troops passing through the Depots and the hundreds of staff men, the Commandant has given his permission for the erection of a large dancing platform. It is proposed to have dancing nightly or as frequently as there are ladies and a band available. The ladies will be conveyed in char a bancs from the various Q.M.A.A.C. and V.A.D. hostels, and there will be occasions when French ladies will be permitted to dance. In about a fortnight the erection of the platform, which will be approximately 40 by 80 feet, will have been completed and the arrangements, under which the dancing is to be conducted, finalised. The principal events will, of course take place in the evenings; but dancing classes will be held in the mornings and afternoons. A certain number of hours will be reserved for officers. It is expected that the open-air *palais de danse* with its picturesque scenery will be a great success during the coming days of sunshine. It is also intended to erect refreshment booths in The Dell; and, if it is possible, moving pictures will be shown.

### PROGRESS OF QUOTAS

A return issued on April 4<sup>th</sup> dealing with the position of embarkation quotas as at 4 p. m. on April 3<sup>rd</sup> shows that quotas up to the 21<sup>st</sup> had arrived in England. According to the table dealing with the embarkation of the troops from France to Australia the 1<sup>st</sup> quota left on the *City of Poona* on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The embarkation of the first four drafts from France, known as the 'thousands from France' was completed on the same date.



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

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

## REPATRIATION FIGURES

### Are they Misleading ?

It has been said in many quarters at the Australian Base Depots, that the statistics, as published by the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation and reproduced in these columns, do not give the correct indication of the number of Australians in France and the United Kingdom. The figures as published are issued by Lieut-General Sir John Monash, and are the only official returns compiled dealing with the strength of the A.I.F. on this side. These statistics are compiled from the various returns issued by each unit on a certain date. They are issued weekly and it is obvious that the figures from France must refer to a date which is about a fortnight earlier than the actual date of publication of the return. For instance, the figures published in this issue refer to the total strength in France on March 15th, while the date on which the return was issued was April 1st. To obtain some idea of the total men in France on April 1st, it would be necessary to deduct the number of men who left for the United Kingdom since March 15th as members of quotas for Australia or drafts in connection with non-military employment, education, and for discharge outside Australia. Misconception has been caused by the publication, in Melbourne, of alleged official figures which differ from the ones issued in London. The absence of dates, or the difference between London and Melbourne dates also causes confusion. Again in this issue appears a statement by Brigadier-General C.H. Foott, deputy director of Australian Demobilisation, in which he makes the general statement that there were 60,000 Aus-

tralian troops in France in March. It is not said whether that figure refers to March 1st or the 31st. Then again so many rumours, founded, of course, on the most reliable authority, have floated round the Depots alleging that the number of men in France are far below the totals as published officially. There appears to be no reason why the official figures should be questioned, since if Lieut-General Monash does not know how many men there are in France, who does ? The figures as published in these columns each week must be accepted as authoritative and accurate, and it may be possible to arrive at something like the approximate number of men now in France, by subtracting from the official totals the approximate number of men who embarked for England since the date of the latest official return.

## FOCH TO AUSTRALIA

### Impressive Message Sent

#### « Shock Troops of First Order »

Marshal Foch, generalissimo of the Allied Forces, has sent the following autographed message, through the United Cable Service to the soldiers and people of Australia :-

The Australian troops have upheld the cause of the Allies with magnificent dash.

From start to finish they distinguished themselves by their qualities of endurance and boldness.

By their initiative, their fighting spirit, their magnificent ardour, they proved themselves to be shock troops of the first order.

In the grave hours of 1918, with their British, American and French comrades, they barred the enemy rush. They stopped it, broke it, and at the appointed hour drove it far backwards.

I am happy to express to Australia the undying memory which we shall cherish of her incomparable soldiers.

This historic message will be preserved in the Australian War Museum.

## LATEST SAILINGS OF TRANSPORTS

The following is the latest list of transports to leave England for Australia :

*Shropshire*, on April 1st, from Avonport, with 1048 members of the A.I.F. and 5 dependents.

*Benalla*, on April 2nd, from Tilbury, with 410 members of the A.I.F. and 340 dependents.

*St-Albans*, on April 3rd, from Tilbury, with 12 members of the A.I.F. and 145 munition and war workers.

## VICTORIAN LAND PURCHASES

### Soldiers to Benefit

Melbourne April 4th.

The State of Victoria has purchased up to the present date 80706 acres of land for £1,092,563 for the purpose of the resettlement of returned soldiers.



Rieta, lets himself go on the departure of Darkie Harding, who was a clerk at the A.G.B.D.

He was always in his office  
And always wore a smile,  
While he carried out his duties  
In proper business style.

He just loved to do a favour  
For pals around the Base,  
And nothing was too much for him,  
We're sure to miss his face.

Now he had better shout for the crowd.  
R.T. War stuff overdone. We'll risk just one stanza of your « Hymn of Hate to Bill ! »

The classic fiend has sown his seed  
Wicket, unscrupulous to the core ;  
The Allies should omit the creed  
And put him down to rise no more.

Whisky and soda, please ! our poet laureate has fainted ! Sentimentalist ruminating over the end of the war recalls these words published in Sydney during the Gallipoli campaign,

Mother earth, are the heroes dead ?  
Do they thrill the soul of the year  
no more ?

Are the gleaming snows and the poppies red

All that is left of the braves of yore ?  
Gone ! In a grander form they rise  
—dead !

We may clasp their hands in ours.  
And wreath their brows with immortal flowers.

Anxious. We hasten to inform you that Lord Kitchener is still dead, and his double seen about the A.B.D. lately is an Australian officer.

## SUGAR INDUSTRY

### Scope of Federal Commission

Messrs. A.B. Piddington K.C., N.C. Lockyer and S. Mills have been constituted as a Royal Commission to report on the sugar industry, the inquiry covers the national value of the industry, production, Government control, protection and Imperial preference.

## PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

Applications are still being invited by Captain R. M. Marks, Staff Officer to the Commandant, Australian Base Depots, for the position of camp photographer. A N. C. O. is preferred. The duties of the photographer will be to take photos of the personnel of the Staffs, and of anyone he might secure orders from. The developing and printing of copies will be done outside. The successful applicant will receive a percentage of the profits for his work.

## DEMobilISING AUSTRALIANS

### Explanation By General Foott Labour and Shipping Difficulties

Brigadier-General C.H. Foott, Deputy-Director General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, A.I.F., gave an address at the War Chest Club, Horseferry Road, on Thursday March 27th.

#### Machinery of Demobilisation

General Foott dealt first with the machinery of Demobilisation. When the Department was organised under Lieut.-General Sir John Monash the first thing they had to consider was the clearing out of 1914, and after that 1915, men of whom there were 26,000 in France and the United Kingdom. The paramount motive which actuated the Department was, of course, the repatriation of men who were longest in the army always subject to the reservation that they could be spared. For some reason or another he was not in that category, and he would have to wait his turn like the rest. When the question arose in which order consistent with all the exigencies of the military situation should they repatriate the men, General Monash devised the Quota system which should not be confounded with the Draft method, and the result had been that every man got a fair run for his money.

#### Unavoidable Anomalies

There might have been apparent anomalies in the manner in which Divisions had been sent away from France, but it was unavoidable. On November 30, 1918, the total strength in France was 90,000 and in March there were still 60,000 in France and 36,000 in England. They had to cut the garment according to the cloth, and there was no room beyond that figure to accommodate any more troops in the United Kingdom. It was no good attempting the impossible and they had not been able to ship any more of the Quotas from England to Australia.

#### Labour Trouble Causes Delay

By means of a diagram General Foott showed the detrimental effect which the industrial strikes had upon the fitting out of ships available for the transportation of troops. Where 15,000 men should have gone they had been able to send only 7,000—a fault due not to the Repatriation Department or the Shipping Controller, but to the industrial trouble. It was a sensible and common sense proposition to put, that if you interfere with machinery you dislocate output.

#### Consolidating Units

General Foott then pointed out that a Quota consisted of 1,000 men and from next month arrangements had been made to send 6,000 per week from France to Depots in England. A most essential thing aimed at by the Department—they hoped to carry it into effect by every means in their power—was to consolidate Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men in the same Division to travel together to Australia. Therefore allotment of Camps on

Salisbury Plains was directed to that object.

#### Other Difficulties

General Foott spoke of the enormous difficulties which beset them in getting men from France who were approved either for educational purposes or for discharge. There were 1,100 men in industrial employment up to date and there had been 600 discharges in the United Kingdom. Originally the Repatriation Department did not concern itself about the transportation of wives and families or the dependents of the Australian soldiers but subsequently they undertook that task with the result that they had shipped to Australia 1,400 of them since January.

#### Shipping Accommodation

The Department had been promised shipping accommodation for 28,000 up to the end of January; they had actually got 27,000. They had been promised a total of 43,000 to the end of February; they had got only 32,000. Up to the end of March they had been promised a cumulation total of 68,000. The Shipping Department was doing all they could for them.

#### Certain Ships Unsuitable

General Foott dealt with the unsuitability of ships built for certain routes, which would have to be either partially reconstructed or totally remodelled to equip them for the tropics so as to ensure a safe and healthy passage for so many thousands of miles.

## DIGGERS DANCES

The weekly dances held on Monday and Friday evenings at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium are remarkably popular. Owing to the limited number of tickets available, there is a big rush each week for admission. The ladies come from the various camps and hostels in Havre and the British camps. Now that a motor park has been established at the Australian Base Depots, no difficulty is experienced in conveying the ladies to and from the gymnasium. The recent fancy dress dance was such a popular success that the question is being asked when is the next one to be held. It is interesting to note that the members of the Q.M.A.A.C. and V.A.D. enjoy themselves so much at these functions that there is quite a general feeling of regret that Australian demobilisation is speeding up and that in a few months the good times spent at the Australian Base Depots will be but a memory.

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## THE WATTLE BIRDS New Programme Scores

On Wednesday night the Wattle Birds presented a new programme, at the Lismore Cinema and gave a bright and breezy performance that "caught on" from the word "go". The versatile producer Bill Bailey and his merry bunch had worked hard with the new production and their efforts were crowned with the hearty applause that greeted every item in the bill.

Bill Bailey in comedy and in topical songs pushed a programme full of "roof-raisers" across the footlights. Jack Treharne, the female impersonator, was at his best in dialogue with Bill. His make-up is the envy of the ladies in the front stalls. The vocal numbers of stage manager Les Edey "Take the Path", Bruce Hopkins "Military Band", Vic. Bickford's "Come to the Ball" and Frank Pickles' "Nirvana" were sung splendidly and well received. The second half opened with the conjuring double, Moody and Samios. Geo Smith followed with an eccentric dance. "Father Kelly's Burglar" with Bill Bailey, Frank Johnston, Frank Pickles and Les Edey as the caste closed the show. In spite of the fact that the orchestra has met with many reverses of late owing to the numbers being depleted from time to time, Sgt Edwards and his baton led the musicians in some fine selections and accompaniments. The new programme teems with originality and variety and is geared up to concert pitch without a dull moment. The troops passing through the base "can't go wrong" at a night with The Wattle Birds.

#### MOVING PICTURES OF THE DEPOTS

Arrangements have been completed whereby a cinematograph operator will visit the Australian Base Depots, this week, for the purpose of obtaining pictures of the Depots and the quotas passing in and out on their way to Australia via England. These pictures will be shown in Australia where they will be greatly appreciated.

#### GAMBLING FINI

Madame was of good family—tres gentille—and some young Aussie officers who had drunk wisely but not too well were in the same car. They were in that mood when the sporting instinct rises supreme, and the youngest one bet his artillery comrade that Madame wouldn't accept a cigarette. « Take it », said an Aussie sitting near to Madame when the cigarette was held out to her. « Bien pour mon fils, » replied the lady, as she put it in her hand bag. The bet was repeated and again taking the hint from the Digger beside her, madame accepted. The young officer having now lost two francs bet double or quits that Madame would take a third cigarette. « Don't take it » whispered the lady's prompter when the offer was again made, and madame seeing that some joke was being played politely but firmly refused. The young officer who thus lost four francs and three cigarettes has now decided to assist padres in suppressing the gambling evil.

Two basket ball matches, other than those previously reported, were played last week. The A.I.B.D. defeated the Officers' team by 36 points to 19; and the Con Camp defeated the A.I.B.D. by 32 points to 29.

### PAYMENTS ON DISCHARGE

#### New Régulations Issued

The following regulations have been issued in connection with payments on discharge (The previous regulation issued in regard to this matter has been cancelled) : —

#### On Discharge in Australia

The District Paymaster in Australia will make available within seven days of disembarkation all balances to the credit of soldier's pay account to date of discharge, together with the whole of accrued deferred pay, also subsistence allowance if payable. Ordinarily payment will be made in the home town of members whose homes are in the country. Variance to this ruling must have the approval of the Officer Commanding Troopship by which the soldier returns to Australia, and will only be granted when good cause is shown or where change of district of disembarkation is approved.

#### On Discharge Outside Australia

Deferred pay is payable on discharge. The member's pay account, including the balance of his active pay account, together with deferred pay earnings will be settled as follows :—First instalment is to be made at date of discharge, and to include balance of active pay,

leave gratuity, and 50 per cent, deferred pay. Second and final instalment to be made 40 days after date of discharge, and to include any credit balance on the active pay account together with the balance of deferred pay. In the event of a soldier not being in possession of a paybook or being in possession of a duplicate paybook, settlement will be made as follows :—First instalment to be made at date of discharge, and to include balance of active pay, leave gratuity, and 25 per cent, deferred pay. Second and final instalment to be made 40 days after date of discharge, and to include any balance on the active pay account, together with the balance of deferred pay.

### A. I. F. STATISTICS

Up to March 29th a total of 2,816 munition and war workers had embarked for Australia leaving an approximate total of 4,756 still in the United Kingdom.

For the week ended March 29th the marriages of Australians in Great Britain totalled 63. The embarkations of wives and other dependents numbered 1,363 leaving an approximate total of 11,460 to leave for Australia.

The weekly returns dealing with early repatriation, discharges outside Australia and non-military employment have been held over for one week pending adjustments. The new returns, when issued, will be in a more amplified form.

### REPATRIATION OF DEPENDENTS

A regulation has been issued by the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation providing that in cases of necessitous circumstances in connection with the repatriation of dependents now in England of soldiers who have returned, or are about to return, to Australia, or of deceased soldiers of the A.I.F., the grant of an allowance not exceeding £10 to cover expenses entailed by the voyage, may be made at the discretion of the Director-General. Applications for such grant should be submitted to the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation, A.I.F., London, and must be supported by written evidence disclosing full particulars.

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### BOXING AT GRAND THEATRE

#### Wrestling Match - Meeske V Polk Two Champions to Meet

Arrangements are being finalised in connection with the big boxing and wrestling programme to be held at the Grand Theatre, Havre, on Tuesday, April 22nd. Pte Polk, the Yank light heavy-weight champion wrestler, is to meet Sgt Billy Meeske, the light heavyweight champion of Australia. Polk has been wrestling with success at the Paris competitions held at the Folies Bergere. He is considered to have a fine record. The American opponents for the Australian boxers have not as yet been announced, but it is expected that the contests will be definitely arranged early this week. As already stated in these columns the Australian boxers to fight are, Young, Bruce, Gurney, Lee and Cox. Four Americans will oppose an equal number of Australians. The fifth opponent will be a Tommy. Next week the box plan will be opened at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium, Australian Base Depots, and the Australian Y.M.C.A. Headquarters, Le Havre. There will be a limited number of seats available on the stage where the ring will be erected. The profits of the entertainment will be entirely devoted to the Anzac Day celebration to be held on April 25th. Mr Les Judd, the Y.M.C.A. officer, who has charge of the arrangements, left last Monday on a ten days holiday to Blighty. Sgt F. Muller is acting for him at the Gymnasium during his absence.

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About Diggers

Members of the A.G.B.D. Sergeants' Mess cook house spent many long and sorrowful evenings last week saying good-bye to four of their number, who have finished their military careers and left for the South. Ptes D. Englands and J. Harding and Gnr W. Darby left on the 21st quota while Gnr Tim Cassidy, who specialised in hashamagundie, went to Charleroi to join his quota. Pte Englands was senior cook at the mess. Pte S. Wells succeeds him.

The question of opening a fish and chip shop in Havre is being seriously considered in many quarters. Fryers of bacon and boilers of stew consider that their valuable experience gained while cooking for the troops justifies their belief that they could turn out *poisson et pomme*; and, if necessary, *bifsteak* at some *café à la Digger* on the Quai Southampton or some other questionable locality. Cpl W.H. Jones of the A.B.D. mess is very reticent about the matter and refuses to say whether « Dark » « Snow » or « Nigger » are concerned in the scheme.

Corp Nicholls, a 4th Divvy Anzac of the A.I.B.D., has celebrated his promotion to the rank of sergeant. His friends don't wish him any further promotion because they are thinking of his health.

Seeing ladies home from little social functions are not always pleasurable, especially when they are held in Le Havre, and one misses the last tram back to camp. Of course there are men who may like walking four or five miles home by themselves, but R.S.M. Gilbert doesn't.

"In Australia" and "The Boys of the Old Battalion", the two popular Australian songs written by Capt. G. C. Neech, of the 9th Batt., are to be obtained at the « Digger » office or at Y. M. C. A. Huts. Price 2/- or 2 frs. 60 cts. each.

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The success of the A.I.B.D. Senior N.C.O.'s dance on the 3rd inst. was so pronounced that it is now suggested to hold these functions fortnightly. R.Q.M.S. J. Mills conducted the transport arrangements of some of the girls to « C » Camp Wackery—a position for which he had volunteered. He did the work well. He seemed to know every inch of the road.

W.O. Atkins and Sgt R. Atkins, both of the Education Service, are on Paris leave. The education they will derive from their trip will not be utilised for the benefit of the Diggers attending the Education Service classes, as it is considered the students might learn too much.

A girl's photo and a letter finishing up comme ça XXXX gives the reason why a corporal in a demobilisation quota applied to go up the line again, but this is not the reason that the corporal gave in his application.

Sgt Joseph Wesley Nichols had another birthday party last week. This is his 165th birthday party that he has celebrated since his arrival in France. A full report of the proceedings was promised to our social editor, but Joseph Wesley doesn't remember anything about it now beyond the fact that it went with much vim and vin, and was the most successful since his 50th birthday, that très bon jubilee that almost stopped the war. Joseph Wesley is endeavouring to complete 200 birthdays prior to his demobilisation in order to claim the A.I.F. record, thus eclipsing the fame in this direction of Sgt T.E. Brown, who, by the way, hasn't had a birthday party for nearly a month, and is fast losing prestige.

Lieut C.P. Smith, the A.I.B.D. Education Service officer, is now head serang of the Service in these Base Depots, Lieut A.W. Clemes, who held that position, having left for Blighty.

Demobilised this week was Sapper J.H. Burt, an earnest and indefatigable (This is a good word, Dig. Use it in your letter home. I think it is spelt right) worker in connection with the amusements of the troops in these Depots, first as sports manager and coach of AI Coy in the old Con Camp. Later he was connected with the Australian Red Cross as store-keeper, when he was also in charge of the amusements there, such as fun stunts, billiard tournaments and so on. Since the Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau has been established here he has been in charge of the hut.

Sgt Wallace attended four dances last week and three this week. A Waac from the Halifax Hut is also fond of going to these dances. There was a time when Sgt Wallace would have been annoyed if anybody had told him to go to Halifax. Now if such a request were made to him he would be off there « at the toot », and he wouldn't be *fâché* either.

It is with much sadness that our religious editor has learnt that R.S.M. « Mick » Murphy, of the A.G.B.D., has again gone to Paris—this time en route for Brussels. It is said that legitimate military business occasions the trip. We hope so. We hope so sincerely.

Q.M.S. Joe McGrath, of the A.G.B.D. Staff, left in a train last Sunday, and he was last heard of in Paris. He told his friends prior to his departure that he was bound for Nice, but he apparently thinks Paris is nice.

During the absence on Blighty leave of Mr L. Judd, Y.M.C.A. Physical Director, Capt A. Forrest, who has arrived from the 3rd Division, will be in charge of the Geelong Hut. Subsequently he will work at the Hamilton Hut, and it is anticipated that another Y.M.C.A. officer will arrive in a few days to take up work in the Geelong Hut. Since he has been in these Depots Capt Forrest has been explaining to Diggers the advantages of availing themselves when in England awaiting demobilisation of the International Y.M.C.A. Hospitality League.

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## EDUCATION SERVICE NOTES

### New Classes Beginning Of Interest to Staff Men

Instruction in Pitman's shorthand at the Education Service Office in the Nisson Hut, No.3 Reception Camp, has been recommenced with Pte Young as instructor. Intending students should apply immediately.

Pte Lane is taking a motor mechanics class for beginners, and for those who have had a little experience in this subject.

A new class for quantity surveying and building construction is also being started.

In addition to these classes staff men have the opportunity of learning mathematics, English, French, book-keeping, accountancy, and other subjects, and those desirous of improving their education should make inquiries at either the office at the A.I.B.D. or No. 3 Reception Camp.

Owing to the rapidly changing conditions the effective work of the A.I.F. Education Service in many units is seriously interfered with, as continuity of study and instruction is in many cases impossible. The fluctuations in enrolments due to alternate periods of movement and rest are clearly evident. The members of the A.I.F. attending classes in France for the week ended March the 22nd were 9,437, a decrease of 838 since the previous week. In addition to these 9,437 students there are 1,375 attending special courses of instruction. This brings the grand total of enrolments up to 10,812 representing approximately 6,500 individual students.

Educational activity has already commenced successfully in No. 24 Quota, now in England.

Large parties continue to visit Brussels, Ostend and other places weekly, and by unit arrangements many parties are visiting places of interest in the Corps areas, including Abbey d'Aulne and Dinant.

## DISEMBARKATION PRIVILEGES

### Extended to U.K. Discharges

The Commonwealth Government has approved of the extension of « disembarkation leave » and subsistence allowance privileges granted to members of the A.I.F. in Australia being extended to men, who obtain their discharge outside Australia. Other instructions dealing with privileges state that those who have taken long service furlough abroad will be granted a gratuity equivalent to 14 days' leave without sustenance allowance, but in the case of those who have taken only a portion of such long service furlough the unexpired portion of such furlough will be taken into consideration when calculating the leave period for this gratuity. It is also provided that a gratuity in lieu of leave and subsistence allowance will be granted subject to a corresponding deduction for any period of leave, gratuity, or benefit, granted upon discharge.



## 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 Fag  
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 S'UVAGE, LONDON, E.C. 4

### BETWEEN DRINKS

BY PIQUANT

Mary had a little bomb  
A souvenir from Ghent  
She pulled the pin with great aplomb  
And God knows where she went.

Inquisitive new arrival to a digger  
skinning a donk : « What are you going  
to do with the skin, Dig ? »

Old hand : « Send the damn thing  
to Ordnance and get it refilled. »

*Imaginary conversation No. 16.*

Orderly Officer : « Any complaints »  
Mess Orderly : « Yes, sir ! No sweet-  
ening in the food or the tea. »

O.O. (to mess hut Sgt) : « Why ar-  
ren't the sugar basins on the tables to-  
day ? »

#### Work Your Nut

Three simple words comprise my text  
And by the shortest cut  
They are in brief, the golden rule  
Ge forth and WORK YOUR NUT.

When diggers joined the A.I.F.,  
They learned—the biggest mutt  
Was just the man who found hard work  
And didn't WORK HIS NUT.

The jobs you liked the best of all  
Were those that filled your gut  
The Sergeants' Mess might come your  
way  
If you could WORK YOUR NUT.

In darker days when life seemed short  
Your shoulder pressed your butt  
You know you kept your rifle clean  
Whone ! or you WORKED YOUR NUT

When number nines were rationed out  
Down at the M.O's hut  
You were labelled straight for Blighty  
If you only WORKED YOUR NUT

To every soldier of the line  
The doors were always shut  
Unless the text was carried out  
Go forth and WORK YOUR NUT.

In days to come we'll all look back  
Whene'er you WORKED YOUR NUT.  
And smile—and think how we applied  
The text—Go ! WORK YOUR NUTS.

« R.A.F. Major, skilful pilot, D.S.  
O., 25 years old. Three years in France,  
wants a job. Willing to do anything  
anywhere. What offers ? »

*The Times.*

The major should be quickly suited.  
There are several good things offering.  
« Daily Mail » flying competition, car-  
rying mail by air, and if the worst comes to  
the worst the winner of the « Daily Mail »  
fly will need a mechanic and a lot of  
off-siders to assist him in splending the  
10,000 quid. To those willing to do  
anything, anywhere, something, any-  
where is bound to turn up.

A Digger was riding on a bus in  
London. He had climbed on top of the  
bus, after having visited the Troca-  
dero and partaken of the fruits and the  
juice of the grape. In this affable way  
the Digger addressed an elderly gentle-  
man.

Digger : « Did you see me get on  
the bus ? »

Old Gent (to the accompaniment of a  
chuckle) « Yes, my lad. »

After five minutes silence the Digger  
asked, You're sure you saw me get on  
the bus ? »

Old Gent : « Certain, my boy. »  
A few minutes later. Our Digger :  
« Do you know me ? »

Old Gent : « No ! I don't know you. »  
Digger : « Well, how the hell did  
you see me get on the bus. »

The Cadre company at the Base  
Is mighty and ostensible ;  
With « Kitch » as head of all the gang  
They think th're indispensable.

### GULLIVER'S DEMOB.

(Contributed)

Pte Gulliver, you may or may not be  
aware, according to your height of in-  
telligence or depth of ignorance, was  
the best bombthrower, the crack rifle-  
shot and the unbeaten pug of his batta-  
lion. Only the demobilisation of the  
Battalion deprived him of this eminent  
position. To be frank, I am the gen-  
tleman concerned. Yes, I am Pte Gul-  
liver and I give you the facts of the  
case because I have adopted the army  
motto « ..... you Jack I'm alright. »  
If I am to get my full ration of praise  
I must be my quartermaster-sergeant.  
Indeed, when I get back to Aussieland  
and my friend Munro Ferguson, the  
C.O., knocks me hat with his sword and  
then cries, « Rise, Sir Gulliver, » I  
shall adopt that good old army motto  
to adorn my coat-of-arms.

But let us return to our mutton, as  
the French say. I had heard in my  
infancy of the slow and stately pro-  
gress of the camel caravans across the  
Egyptian deserts, but even when in  
Egypt the fact that travelling can be-  
come the most solemn thing in the  
world had not struck me. It remained  
for the cattle-truck demob train from  
Charleroi to Le Havre to give me the  
impression of having been launched  
into infinity. How it ever arrived the  
Lord only knows. It seemed just to  
grow from Charleroi to Le Havre, like  
any other cucumber, and it was at  
night, when nobody was noticing it,  
that it did most of its growing. At last,  
however, the impossible was achieved.  
Infinity was bridged. We arrived. To  
the man who, like myself, has trained  
himself to habits of keen observation,  
there were several significant signs that  
we had at last reached our destination,  
such, for instance, as the name « Le  
Havre », painted on the railway sta-  
tion.

But let us keep on returning to our  
mutton for we may have to live on  
iron rations for the next forty-eight  
hours. What I really want to tell you  
about is my meeting at the Rouelles  
camp with Mr Bertie de Vere Chol-  
mondeley, a relation of mine by a dis-  
tant marriage of convenience, comme  
ça—His father had a fish shop ad-  
joining a chip potato joint run by his  
foremother. Fashion in food changed;  
the people demanded, not fish alone,  
chips alone, but fish 'n chips. What  
more convenient that Bertie's forefa-  
ther should marry his foremother and  
thus amalgamate these two branches of

ravitaillement (How I do slip into my  
French !) My relationship with Bertie  
comes in this wise, that my forefather  
used to make the chips (i.e., peel the  
spuds) at the amalgamated establish-  
ment.

Hence my passion, as it were, for al-  
ways returning to our mutton. Bertie  
told me his martial history. He had  
not, he said, been thrown like so much  
cannon fodder into the line, but had  
been kept for strategical reasons at Le  
Havre.

« By the way », he asked, « what  
do you think of our Harbour ? »

I said I liked his Harbour, but thou-  
ght the streets of Melbourne were splen-  
didly wide and straight.

Bertie now produced a map and poin-  
ted out, with the end of his cigar, how  
Le Havre stood like a watch dog guar-  
ding the estuary of the Seine « up  
which », he declared, « a force from  
the sea could strike at the very heart  
of France. » I would readily under-  
stand, he added, why it had been neces-  
sary for Dug Haig to keep him there  
as a strategical reserve with a full com-  
plement of troops, such as H.Q's. bab-  
bling brooks, concert troupes and dan-  
cing masters.

« Pas compree » I said. « If there  
were any danger from this mysterious  
force from the sea why didn't you send  
for me and my battaion ? »

He took six whiffs of his cigar be-  
fore replying. Then—

« It was the exigencies of the conge-  
ries of unanticipated events, unrelated  
as a whole, though at times (and sec-  
tionally) quite uncollatorial » he de-  
clared, which had conscripted him to  
Le Havre.

« ... it », says I, « I like the old  
fashioned names better. Why not call  
'em tarts, mademoiselles, or just plain  
W.A.A.C's ? »

But he dodged the question and si-  
de-stepped. « There are no plain W.  
A.A.C's here » he snapped out tartly.  
« They are all Venuses de Milo. »

However, let that go and let's fi-  
nish with a little more of Bertie's bio-  
graphy. First, he was attached to the  
headquarters of the G.B.Y.Z.C.H.O., but  
applied for a transfer on March 21st  
(on March 27th a draft was sent up to  
the line from this unit) Safely in the  
Q.M. Branch of the Y.P.L.M.T.D, he  
was constrained to transfer again. This  
was on April 16th (on April 22nd a  
draft left this unit for the line) On  
November the 11th, 1918 Bertie applied  
for duty in the firing line, but this  
application was returned, marked « Pas  
necessaire. »

As for me, having had three week's  
experience of the grande guerre with  
my batt., and two year's experience of  
the camps in Blighty, I feel that Ber-  
tie over-states the case when he says a  
strategical force should be kept at the  
mouth of the Seine. London is the heart  
of the Empire and Horseferry road the  
real strategic centre. That explains, per-  
haps, why the heads kept me there for  
so long a period until three weeks be-  
fore the Armistice they decided (pro-  
bably it was the « Council of Ten »  
who did it) that the long night of  
tension was over and Pte Gulliver could  
be spared for the more routine and less  
important task of killing Fritzes at the  
front.

# A. I. F. OVERSEAS

Decrease for the week  
France 2,407 : Europe 5, '92

According to the official returns issued on April 1st dealing with the A. I.F. abroad for the period, March 22nd to 29th, the decrease in strength amounted to 5,092. On March 29th there were 106,827 members of the A.I.F. in the United Kingdom and France. The total included, 6,612 officers, 574 nurses, and 99,641 other ranks. The total for the previous week was 11,919. In France on March 8th there were 4,113 officers and 57,078 other ranks. The latest return shows that a week later there were 3,888 officers and 54,895 other ranks, which means that during the week the A.I.F. in France decreased by 2,407. There has been practically no change in the figures for Asia and Egypt. Except that the latest return has been revised there is practically no alteration in the number of troops in this theatre on March 22nd which is now stated to be 13,299.

The complete details of the latest returns are as follow

### A. I. F. In France

	Off.	Nurses	O.R.
STRENGTH "BY ARMS" 15.3.19.			
Effective strength in France	3864	52665	13.6
Non-effective strength in France	24	2230	93-
Total strength in France	3888	54895	14.1

### LATEST STRENGTHS OF DIVISIONS

Corps	Off.	Nurses	O.R.
(as at 15. 3. 19).....	275	6007	21.8
1st Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	747	9469	12.6
2nd Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	717	7833	10.9
3rd Division(as at 15. 3. 19) Artillery as at 8.3.19..	708	9342	13.1
4th Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	594	7923	13.3
5th Division (as at 15. 3. 19).....	682	8686	12.7
Lines of Communication (as at 15. 3. 19).....	169	3281	19.4

### A I F. In Europe

	Off.	Nurses	O.R.
1914.....	487	14	500
1915 January to June..	311	153	6998
July to December.	1773	176	19088
1916 January to June..	2135	24	26251
July to December.	1014	101	25438
1917 January to June..	431	118	9814
July to December.	384	29	9205
1918 January to June..	380	20	6939
July to December.	218	12	5339
Total at 8. 3. 19....	7133	647	109572
Embarked from U.K. from 8. 3. 19 to 29.3.19 .....	509	71	9528
Discharged(outside Australia) from 8.3.19 to 29.3.19....	10	2	304
Died outside Australia from 8.3.19 to 29.3.19.....	2	-	99
Balance at 29.3.19..	6612	574	99641

### A I. F. In Asia and Egypt

	Off.	Nurses	O.R.
1914.....	163	1	116
1915 January to June.....	234	1	1679
July to December ...	100	1	2440
1916 January to June.....	52	-	1622
July to December ...	35	12	1213
1917 January to June.....	42	52	1962
July to December ...	30	71	1471
1918 January to June.....	20	-	1161
July to December ...	26	20	775
Total at 15.3.19....	702	158	12439

### All Ranks

A.I.F. in Egypt and Asia 30.11.18.	18558
Embarked from Egypt to 22.3.19	5196
Discharged (Egypt etc ) to 22.3.19	10
Died Asiatic theatre to 22.3.19...	53
Balance at 22.3.19....	13299

## FOOTBALL

### Australian Game

A combined team from the Base Depots last week played the 22nd Demobilisation Quota. The match ended in a draw, the scores being :- Base, 9 goals 7 behind (61 points); 22 Quota, 8 goals 13 behinds (61 points).

### Rugby

Last week two rugby matches were played. The first was between the 22nd Demobilisation Quota and the Base Depots, which resulted in a win for the Quota by 8 points to nil. The A.I.B.D. and the A.G.B.D. were the opposing teams in the second match, which ended in a draw, each side scoring 3 points. A drawn game was also played on Monday between the 25th and the 26th quotas, each side obtaining 3 points.

### Soccer

Tommies representing the King's Liverpool Regiment met an Aussie team from these Bases on April the 3rd, and had an easy victory, obtaining 5 goals to 4 obtained by the Diggers

The following day the 24th Demobilisation Quota played a combined team from the Base Depots, and won by 2 goals to nil.

## Continuous Pictures

Something new in these Depots in the way of a continuous cinema entertainment was carried out at the A.I.B.D. last Monday evening. Mr. Harper, the Y. M. C. A. officer, seeing that the hall could not accommodate all those desirous of obtaining seats, made arrangements for the screening of a 7-reel drama at 7 p.m. after the 5.30 p.m. show was finished. At 8 p.m. a third picture programme was commenced with the result that all the Diggers had an opportunity of seeing at least one of the three shows held during the evening.

## Y. M. C. A. FIXTURES

### Lismore Cinema

SUNDAY — Service. 5.30 p.m.  
MONDAY — Ladies' Concert Party 2.30p.m. Wattle Birds 7 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Lantern Service. 7 p.m.  
THURSDAY — R.G.A. Orchestra (if not demobilised) 7 p.m.

### A. I. B. D. Cinema

MONDAY — Aus. Ladies' Party, 5.30 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Miss Hitchins' Party 7 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Service. 7 p.m.  
THURSDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.  
SATURDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.

Pictures at each cinema every evening

### Gymnasium

MONDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Diggers Dance, 6.30p.m.  
TUESDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 11 a.m. Folk Dancing Class, 11 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Officers Dancing Class, 2 p.m.  
THURSDAY — Basket Ball Practice, 7.30p.m.  
FRIDAY — Y. M. C. A. Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.

## ANZAC SPORTS

All arrangements in connection with the sports to be held at Rouelles on Friday, April the 25th, are being carried out smoothly. In practically all events satisfactory entries are being received, and good competition is assured.

## SERGEANTS' SOCIAL

### Successful Function

The dance held by the Sergeants' Mess, Australian Reception Camp, at the Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium last Wednesday evening proved highly successful. An energetic committee had made complete arrangements and there was not one dull moment during the whole evening. Lient Colonel J. P. Clark, the commanding Officer of the Depot, was present, and joined heartily in the dancing. Colonel C. H. Davis, Commandant, and Captain R. M. Marks, Staff Officer, were present for portion of the evening. The visiting ladies came from the Y. M. C. A., V. A. D., and Q. M. A. A. C. An excellent supper had been arranged and the dance is regarded as one of the most successful held in the Depots. C. S. M. Mc Guinness was secretary of the dance and his committee were, Sgts Gladstone, Pitt and Dobbs. The other officials of the mess who assisted ably were the president, C. S. M. Sanders, secretary, C. S. M. Best, treasurer, Sgt Dent, and last, but not least, the caterer, Sgt Ternan, whose efforts in the direction of supplying refreshments, were crowned with success.

## Hockey

In the hockey match last week between the Tommies and the Aussies four goals were scored by the the men from the mother land as against one obtained by the men from overseas.



# THE DIGGER

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



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

VOL. 2 No. 12.

SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## AUSTRALIANS ABROAD

THE WEEK'S DECREASE  
France, 3,943; Europe, 5,969

Each week the strength of the A.I.F. abroad steadily decreases and the latest return issued on April 8th shows that the number of Australians in the United Kingdom and France totals 100,858 including 523 nurses. The decrease for the week totalled 5,969. The return dealing with France alone shows that on March 22nd the strength « by arms » was 54,840 representing a decrease of 3,943 as compared with the previous week. The decrease in the figures for France represent, of course, the number of troops passing to the United Kingdom for repatriation, while the decrease for the total in Europe (United Kingdom and France) represents embarkations to Australia, discharges outside Australia, and deaths. Again this week's return shows there have been no embarkations from the Asiatic theatre. The A.I.F. strength on March 29th was 13,294.

Details of the latest returns are as follow : —

### A. I. F. In France

	Off.	No. O.L.O.R.	O.R. To each Off.
STRENGTH "BY ARMS" 22 3 19.			
Effective strength in France .....	3694	49178	13.3
Non-effective strength in France .....	20	1948	97.4
Total strength in France .....	3714	51126	13.7

### LATEST STRENGTHS OF DIVISIONS

Corps (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	223	5017	22.5
1st Division including 1st Tunnelling Company (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	715	9300	13—
2nd Division including 3rd D.A.C. and 7th and 8th F.A.B., Veterinary Evacuating Stn., 2nd Tunnelling Company, and Cyclist Battalion. (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	786	9004	11.4
3rd Division including S. A. A. Section, 3rd D.A.C. (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	555	6781	12.2
4th Division (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	571	7909	13.8
5th Division (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	670	8586	12.8
Lines of Communication (as at 22. 3. 19) .....	176	3155	17.9

### A. I. F. In Europe

	Off.	Nurses.	O.R.
1914 .....	460	14	455
1915 January to June ..	305	152	6222
July to December ..	1766	173	18895
1916 January to June ..	2124	24	26088
July to December ..	1012	98	25284
1917 January to June ..	427	117	9679
July to December ..	384	26	9128
1918 January to June ..	378	20	6920
July to December ..	218	12	5317
Total at 15. 3. 19 ..	7074	636	107988
Embarked from U.K. from 15 3 19 to 5.4.19 .....	661	411	13675
Discharged (outside Australia) from 15.3.19 to 5.4.19 .....	19	2	294
Died outside Australia from 15.3.19 to 5.4.19 .....	2	—	76
Balance at 5 4 19 ..	6392	523	93943

### A. I. F. In Asia and Egypt

	Off.	Nurses	O.R.
1914 .....	163	4	116
1915 January to June ..	234	1	1677
July to December ..	100	1	2440
1916 January to June ..	52	—	1622
July to December ..	35	12	1212
1917 January to June ..	42	52	1962
July to December ..	30	71	1469
1918 January to June ..	20	—	1161
July to December ..	26	20	775
Total at 29.3.19 ..	702	158	12434

### All Ranks

A.I.F. in Egypt and Asia 30.11.18 ..	18558
Embarked from Egypt to 29.3.19 ..	5196
Discharged (Egypt etc) to 29.3.19 ..	12
Died Asiatic theatre to 29.3.19 ..	56
Balance at 29.3.19 ..	13294

## AUSTRALIAN WAR MATERIALS

Independent of Outside Supplies

Melbourne, April 10th

Mr. Leighton, Manager of the Commonwealth Arsenal, who has returned to Australia, states that observations abroad satisfied him that Australia was magnificently placed as regards raw materials for war purposes. Should the Government decide to make Australia self-contained, Australia could supply all Defence requirements from a rifle to the biggest field gun.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Figures for the A.I.F.

### Interesting Return

The Department for Repatriation and Demobilisation has issued a new return, known as the « statistical summary », which gives interesting details of the strength of the A.I.F., embarkations, discharges, etc ; and, also, statistics in connection with nurses, munition and war workers, and dependents. The figures which deal with embarkations, discharges, non-military employment, leave and deaths cover a period from November 30th, 1918, to the date mentioned in the return. The totals of the A.I.F. in Europe and France ; and, also, embarkations from the United Kingdom, do not include nurses. The following is the statistical summary according to the return issued on April 8th : —

A.I.F. in Europe .....	at 5 4 19 ..	100.335
A.I.F. in France .....	» 22 3 19 ..	54.840
Embarkations of A.I.F. from United Kingdom ..	» 5 4 19 ..	51.424
A.I.F. nurses in Europe ..	» ..	523
A.I.F. nurses embarked for Australia .....	» ..	398
Wives and dependents of A. I. F. in United Kingdom .....	» ..	11.204
Wives and dependents embarked for Australia ..	» ..	1.756
Munition workers etc in United Kingdom .....	» ..	4.124
Munition workers embarked for Australia ..	» ..	3.448
Discharges of A.I.F. in United Kingdom .....	» ..	875
Deaths of A.I.F. in United Kingdom .....	» ..	530
A. I. F. in Egypt including nurses .....	» 29 3 19 ..	13.294
Embarkations from Egypt ..	» ..	5.196
Discharges of A.I.F. in Egypt .....	» ..	12
Deaths of A.I.F. in Egypt ..	» ..	56
Non-military employment (Educational ..	» 5 4 19 ..	2.025
(Industrial ..	» ..	1.690
Granted early repatriation .....	» ..	2.877
Granted extended leave ..	» ..	259



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## REPATRIATION RULINGS

### AMENDMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

—)(—

Important information is contained in the « consolidated summary of decisions and rulings » issued by the Department for Repatriation and Demobilisation. Questions which arise in connection with the interpretation of the regulations issued by the Department are answered from time to time and the following are some of the answers :—

#### The Leave Question

Disembarkation leave in Australia is not affected by the period engaged in non-military employment.

The grant of 14 days pre-embarkation leave does not affect the period of disembarkation leave in Australia, viz., 7½ days for every 6 months service abroad up to a maximum of 60 days.

Personnel on leave from Egypt may apply for non-military employment subject to the approval of the G.O.C., A.I.F., Egypt, being obtained.

Permission cannot be granted for personnel on pre-embarkation leave to quit the British Isles during such leave. Any leave required for visiting South of France, etc. must be obtained from units prior to embarkation for England for repatriation. This does not affect personnel who obtain leave for the purpose of escorting their wives to England from France and Belgium.

#### Non-Military Employment

Applications for non-military employment are not to be refused merely because the applicant seeks a form of employment different from that which he followed or declared he followed before the war. That is to say an applicant is not to be debarred in principle from seeking educational training in

some other form of employment. Each application will, however, be considered on its merits and regard must be paid as to the fitness of the applicant from an educational or other point of view, to profit by the course of employment or instruction for which he applies.

#### Purchase of Horses

Officers in the A.I.F. desirous of purchasing their horses for sentimental reasons may do so only at public auction, personally or through representatives. The Commonwealth Government will not return such animals to Australia nor will animals be permitted to land if privately shipped.

#### Discharge is Final

After discharge is completed an ex-member cannot be subsequently reinstated in the A.I.F.

#### Advances of Deferred Pay

Approval for advances of deferred pay has been extended to cover the following cases :—(1) illness of wife or dependent; (2) funeral expenses of wife or dependent, and (3) marriage of soldier.

#### Scandinavian Leave

Members of the A.I.F. other than those of Scandinavian or Danish origin cannot be given facilities to visit Scandinavia or Denmark.

## A.I.F. PRISONERS OF WAR

### Missing Believed Dead

The final return dealing with the A.I.F. prisoners of war has been issued by the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation. The grand total remaining to be repatriated in Germany and Turkey is 3 officers and 63 other ranks. These totals include 38 other ranks reported to have died in German hands, and, also, 1 officer and 6 other ranks reported to have died in Turkish hands. It is now thought that the balance of the missing are dead. On November 30th, 1918, the A.I.F. prisoners of war were as follow : In Germany and neutral countries, 108 officers and 2,832 other ranks ; in Turkey 3 officers and 62 other ranks. Of these figures the following have been repatriated to April 1st : From Germany and neutral countries, 106 officers and 2,776 other ranks ; from Turkey 2 officers and 55 other ranks.

#### Influenza Epidemic

Melbourne, April 12th.

In connection with the present influenza epidemic, the Federal Government has decided to regulate traffic hitherto controlled under varying conditions by the State Governments.

## Mildura Hut Subscribers

All the ladies who subscribed the money to erect the Y.M.C.A. Mildura Hut have had their names worked in red silk on a cushion, which has been received at the hut, which is situated at the A.I.B.D.



#### « MIGHT HAVE BEEN »

As I see the sun a-shining,  
On the field now turning green ;  
I cannot help a-thinking,  
Of things that *might have been*.

Old Fritzie started out to war,  
A think not quite unseen ;  
He now must feel extremely sore,  
To think what *might have been*.

His dreams of Calais and Patee,  
Were thrown upon the screen ;  
But just somehow his victory,  
Was not what *might have been*.

And later in his last big aim,  
To crush the Allies clean,  
But thanks to Diggers round Amiens,  
T'was not what *might have been*.

At last the Hun has had enough,  
And caged in his desmesne ;  
He's simply got to sit and dream,  
Of things that *might have been*.

G.H.F.

Reita is evidently scared at the continued increase of Anzac brides.

Hold fast Cupid, stop your game,  
Or else we'll get to loathe your name ;  
Since war began you've made the pace,  
And the music we have yet to face.

Oh ! what a business you have done,  
Scores and scores of hearts you've won  
While you worked in your secret style,  
Among the Diggers rank and file.

Oh ! the girls we left behind,  
I often wonder if they will mind ;  
They know the boys have been a target  
For Cupid in the marriage market.

« Private ». Your complaint duly received and the authorities are profoundly impressed. Reo. We cannot give you any information of the hours of recreation of the Waacs at Le Havre. We are not an encyclopaedia of hostel doings, but when you've been here longer you'll probably find out for yourself, especially as the summer-time is coming. Ambitious. It is true that some V.A.D's come from very rich families but our luck in striking this kind of girl has been *pas bon*.

## GONE HOME SINCE NOVEMBER 30th

Grand Total to April 8th 58,866

With the departure of the *Tros-os Montés* for Australia on April 8th the grand total of embarkations of A.I.F., dependents, and munition workers since November 30th, 1918, increased to 58,866. The details were : total A.I.F. 53,662 ; wives and dependents 1,756 ; munition and war workers 3,448. The other transports to leave for Australia between March 31st and April 8th were: *Khyber, Wandilla, Shropshire, Benalla, St Albans, Warwickshire, Armagh, and Arawa*. The *Tros-os-Montés* carried a total of 1,840 troops representing the 2nd and 4th quotas from France. No 3 quota left on the *Armagh*.

REPATRIATION OFFICER



Lieut Skipper Explains

Commonwealth Shipbuilding  
Another Vessel Launched

Melbourne, April 12th.

The second steel steamship constructed under the Commonwealth Government scheme has been successfully launched at Williamstown yesterday in the presence of the Governor General, the Governor of Victoria, Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Tudor, Leader of the Opposition, and a distinguished gathering of leading citizens. Lady Munro Ferguson christened the vessel Dromana.

Mr. Poynton, Acting Minister for the Navy, said he hoped three more vessels would be launched in a few months with the steel and engines made in Australia. When imported a vessel cost roughly £28 per ton; a reduction is anticipated in further vessels.

ENTERTAINING THE TROOPS

Last Monday afternoon an excellent concert was given in the Lismore Cinema by four members of the Lena Ashwell party and an equal number from the old Blue Dandies. Mr A.O.C. Davies, the new Y.M.C.A. officer endeavoured to arrange for the entertainment of the troops in the evening also, and with that idea in view assisted to carry the "movie" engine from the Hamilton Hut to replace the broken engine at the Lismore Cinema. The efforts, however, were in vain, the pictures resembling an impressionist's study of darkest Africa.

LONDON SHIPPING RING

Australian Interests Affected

—o—

Melbourne, April 10th

Mr. Poynton commenting on the contention of the London Shipping Conference that the agreement between English shipping companies is not a combine unfairly to exploit Australian trade, said he was unaware that such combines were established for the benefit of the public or that the refusal of rebates was in the interests of producers. He asked what right had the London Shipping Conference or any other body to claim the control of the high seas. Such statements would not deter him from doing the proper thing in the interests of the people of Australia. He would be very sorry to see a state of affairs arrive which would leave producers to the tender mercies of the combine, even if run on philanthropic lines, attributed to the London Shipping Conference.

Non-military Employment

Opportunities for Staff Men

Lieut C.P. Smith, the officer in charge of the A.I.F. Education Service in these Depots, has been besieged lately by Staff men asking if it is possible to obtain non-military employment when they go to Blighty. Lieut Smith wrote for a ruling on the subject, and has received the following reply:—

« This matter has been referred to the Director-General for Repatriation and Demobilisation. If nothing unforeseen occurs it is hoped to be able to give members of the Base Depots' staffs opportunities to participate in the benefits of non-military employment after the end of July. A.I.F. form 540 should be signed and forwarded at once, but it must be clearly marked on each form that applicant is on the permanent staff and not available for release before the 31st July. »

AT THE HOME OF A COUNTESS

A Digger's Ambition

Mr Harper, the Y. M.C.A. representative at the A.I.B.D. last week filled in 180 application cards for Diggers, who wished to avail themselves under the International Y.M.C.A. Hospitality League of the use of a home while on leave in the old country. During an address on the subject a Digger told Mr Harper that on a previous occasion he had been at one of the homes and that it « would do him », and reference was made to the fact that certain soldiers had taken hospitality at the house of a countess. Another Digger then asked Mr Harper how many countesses he had on the list because he was dead keen on being the guest of one of these ladies as he believed it would be different to camp life, especially in regard to the rations.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE TROOPS

Moving Pictures for Australia

Work Commenced this Week

About a week ago Col. C.H. Davis, D.S.O., V.D., Commandant Australian Base Depots, received an intimation from the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation stating that a cinema operator would be sent to these Depots with the object of obtaining a film of the activities here. It is intended to depict the system of demobilisation of the Australian soldier from the time he fills in his demobilisation papers at his unit until he disembarks in Australia. It was asked that in regard to the Depots no important feature should be omitted, and that Lieut S.H. Skipper should be asked to assist the operator.

At a meeting of the commanding officers of these three Depots and of their adjutants and quartermasters a very thorough syllabus was drawn up of the subjects to be treated, but it was very disappointing to find that when the operator arrived he had only 600 feet of film, which was totally inadequate to do justice to the pictures arranged. Col. Davis was determined that suitable pictures should be taken and a wire was at once dispatched for more film, but the operator left before it arrived, but with a distinct promise that he would make representations in London for some one to return next week in order to complete the film and, if possible, to take a moving picture of the Anzac Day sports. It is to be hoped that the authorities in London will realise the importance of obtaining a permanent record of these Depots before they are closed down, and Diggers may rest assured that Col. Davis will do his utmost to have that accomplished.

On April 16th under ideal conditions the following subjects were filmed by the operator:— No.33 Quota detraining at Soquence Triage; the handing in of equipment at the kit store; passing through the delouser; repatriation officer answering the questions of men who had remained behind after his lecture; quota 32 leaving the Depots, and embussing for the quay with a representative crowd of Diggers at the A.I.B.D. waving good-bye; the buses passing up the avenue of the Café de Vallée; debussing at the quay and embarking at Le Havre.

These are all that could be dealt with with the amount of film available but the syllabus provided for, in addition, the quota entering the Depots, arriving at the Reception Depot, men going into the cinema, issue of additional equipment, filing in for cook-house, and other incidents connected with the camp life, including the arrival of members of the W.A.A.C. for the Diggers' dances.

It is to be hoped that the picture already taken will be sent here for exhibition as well as in Australia.

INTEREST IN THE Y.M.C.A.

Diggers interested in the Y.M.C.A., who wish to keep in touch with this Association after their return home, are invited to fill in a card obtainable at the Depots, giving their address in Australia and a few other details.

### Lament of a Wallah

"Daddy What Did  
You Do In The Great War"  
Battle For Havre and France

The old veteran roused from a lethargy. He lazily outstretched his arms and gazed nonchalantly at a German cap hanging on the wall alongside a steel helmet, which bore the inscription, « Pte \_\_\_\_\_ Cadre Coy, A. B.D. France 1919-20 ». Madeline, his youngest, hastened to arouse her aged father. She had begun to read and understand, and had just thrown aside a modern history book which referred to the great war. Then, casting a sly childish eye at the souvenirs ornamenting the room, asked :

« Daddy ! what did you do in the great war ? »

The old man turned steadily in his armed chair, and caressing the child's golden locks replied :

« My child, that is a long story ! »

« But you were there, Daddy ? »

« Yes ! » replied the aged soldier, visibly swelling with pride at the remembrance of the dark hours on the famous Havre front which protected the estuary of the Seine — the key to the heart of the French nation.

« I will tell you the story of how, tike De Gruchy, we saved France from her enemies, » the veteran began. « Havre is the chief town of France and is sur-

rounded by many great cities such as Sanvis, St-Adresse, Rouelles, Harfleur and D'Orsay. It is also the chief port and all the Allied soldiers disembarked there. Tanks, aeroplanes, guns, poison gases, etc, all came from this great centre, and it was also the fashion centre of this great country. We called them *modes*, my dear. Of course, we spoke in the language of the country. The ladies (reflectingly)—oh ! my !—they were wonderful. We called them *mademoiselles*—Ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! — »

« But, Daddy, what had they to do with the great war ? »

« Lots, my dear, but we won't bother about them now ! »

« The great war ! » resumed the old man warming up, a rather grim expression overcoming his usually calm features. « Ah ! yes, that day, in April 1919, when we charged the Parce, vaulted the Galleons, fought along the banks of the Seine, and finally drove the enemy into the famous river of the Lezarde, I shall never forget. Henry V was not in it. He only had 40,000 men, while we had great leaders known as Sir Michael Spud Murph, M. le Meeskey de Bill, Major Moodie Waac, Count Stout McGuinness, Billjim Bailee, the Siamese twins—Generals Nicholls and Brownnes, and many other great heroes. The engagement begun about 6 a.m. and half an hour later Michael Spud had planted the Union Jack on the Tortoni heights completely commanding the Majestic, Fleurs, and Knickerbocker salients. He was seen to hurl the Crown Prince's armies beyond Bleville. Edouards, ah ! gallant Sir Arthur, with old Rasmitten and Mills Lorry, defended the ancient V.A.D. Chateau near the famous Strassburg, until Bailee relieved with those stalwarts, the Wattle Birds and Dandies, who had been kept at Havre as shock troops of the first order, to be thrown where the fighting was keen and indecisive.

« It was outside the W.A.A.C. club that Earl Les Molly behaved so gallantly and received a bar to his V.D., and Reginald le Worst won his fifth decoration for Havre engagements. But the enemy came again, and Michael Spud, Edouards, and the other leaders were sorely pressed, and Havre and France swayed in the balance.

« But, my child, the gods were good. The greatest charge in history was to take place. By a miracle the great Kitchener of Khartoum, camouflaged as a well polished Digger captain, appeared at the head of the famous mobile

cavalry—the cadre. It was whispered about that Neptune and his mermaids were responsible for the miracle. The great Cadre charged as though on parade. With their new puttees—reversed, my child—tailor-made tunics, and breeches, puggeries on their hats and kangaroo feathers, and polished spurs with half francs ringing therein, they presented as magnificent picture as they tore past the Hôtel de Ville. Daredevil Skinner carried the black and white triangle *drapeau* at the head of the column. It was all over in a few moments, the Cadre had won the day. The enemy staggered back to the Lezarde never again to molest Havre and France.

« And, there, ma chère ! (pointing to a picture on the wall) is Tortoni's where Michael Spud besieged and outnumbered held out until relieved by the Cadre. He climbed out of that window and kissed old Kitch's colours, and was invested with the Dislegion of Honour on that famous square, Place Gambetta. »

« Ah ! ah ! those were great days », added the hero of 1919-20 « I believe I see it now, ah ! there's the guns !! »

« Get up you lazy—s ! Get on parade ! Kitch will roar your—heads off !! »

One man attended sick parade and asked the M.O. if vin blanc were likely to cause insanity !!!!

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PRIVATE ROOM - THE OFFICERS' RENDEZ-VOUS  
Service à la Carte - Grill-Room

### AMERICAN BAR

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## FOOTBALL

Owing to the bad state of the weather football lost its popularity last week. Only two matches were played, one Aussie rules and the other rugby. In the Australian game the 10th Brigade (3rd Division) defeated a combined Bases team by 11 goals 7 behinds (73 points) to 4 goals 7 behinds (31 points). The rugby match ended in a draw, 3 points each being obtained by the 28th Quota and the combined Bases teams.

For Troops visiting Havre

CRYSTAL-PALACE (Y. M. C. A.)

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THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH Co, Limited

About Diggers

The engagement is announced of Miss Marjorie Gill (Y.M.C.A.) daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Gill of Oxford, England, and Capt. Frank B. Stark, A.I.B.D., Le Havre, late 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion, son of Mr and Mrs C.W. Stark, of Melbourne, Australia.

A somewhat painful and heartrending send-off gathering took place at a city V. A. D. Hostel last week. "Billy", the life and light of the hostel, and delight of many Diggers, had been commissioned by the unsympathetic military heads to proceed to Calais, and the whole Havre world shed tears. The gathering was hurriedly arranged and the day selected happened to be the birthday of "Paddy" and "Copey". It was about their twentieth birthday this year, but that was only a detail. The Diggers, or rather those whose activities are divided between the camp at Rouelles and sundry hostels, were informed by wireless that the adieu service was to be held. Previous engagements were cancelled at the "toot", no sacrifice was too great to be present at such a ceremony. The proceedings got so sorrowful during the evening that Bill Bailey and Vic Bickford broke down while singing "Watchman, what of the night". For further particulars, which it is not considered advisable to publish, please enquire of Arthur Edwards, who is the father of the hostel.

To use a water-proof sheet for card playing sounds as interesting as if a Digger used his pipe to blow bubbles; at least, that is what a Y.M.C.A. lady thinks. The lady discovered Sgt Mulvaney just about dusk hurrying along with a sheet. The N. C.O. explained that he was on his way to a Bridge party and stammered out that the

"In Australia" and "The Boys of the Old Battalion", the two popular Australian songs written by Capt. G. C. Neech, of the 9th Batt., are to be obtained at the "Digger" office or at Y. M. C. A. Huts. Price 2/- or 2 frs. 60 cts. each.

KURSAAL - CINEMA

22, Rue de Paris, 22

Every Day, from 2.30 — 7 p.m.

CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME

Evening Performance : 8.30

PRICES

Rear Stalls : 2.50.

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Finest English & American Films

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMEDIAN

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

also

FATTY & BILLY WEST

sheet was also wanted by a corporal to take to America. The lady is wondering if that were a good explanation to make.

The appearance last week of Miss Flo Bradford returning to the Mildura Hut in a broken motor car tied up with string gave Diggers the impression that she had been to the war and had taken part in some stunt in the forward area. But she had not got that far. In connection with the Y. M. C. A. scheme of allowing their lady helpers to visit the Somme area Miss Bradford drove away with that intention, but an unfortunate accident on the journey caused her to return "at the toot".

Among well known members of the A. I.F., who passed through these Depots this week on demobilisation quotas were Aeroplane Peter, Pistol Joe, Corduroy Charlie, Ted the Slog King and Shellhole Frank. We are still waiting for Shish and Shosh. Wild Rabbo Jack left in a previous quota. Staff men are indeed lucky to have an opportunity of meeting such celebrated people.

The competition between Sgt J. W. Nichols and Sgt T. E. Brown as to who will have the most birthday parties in France is still very keen. When this edition went to press Sgt Nichols had celebrated 168 birthdays and Sgt Brown 164. Although four points behind, the chances of Sgt Brown are favored owing to him having ordered a ton of haggis and 20 cases of Johnny Walker from Edinburgh. The betting at the Sergeants' Mess is 5 to 4 on. In order to encourage true sport and stimulate interest in the competition our religious editor has decided to award the winner a trophy. It will be one of the five kittens deposited on the said reverend gentleman's bed recently, the Regimental Cat having selected that place for her habitat during her busy week.

Much has been heard of poets sitting up all night writing verse. They deserve sympathy. Two Diggers on Paris leave this month wrote poetry at 4 a.m. after partaking of oysters etc. They don't deserve sympathy—they are to be envied.

All the gymnasium team are convinced that Sgt Geo Kean never performed better on the stage than he did last Saturday. It was an audience to his liking—she was dressed in a khaki shirt and sat in one of the front seats. Sgt Muller also did excellent work—his audience was a V.A.D.

Mr A.O.C. Davies, a Y.M.C.A. officer from Salisbury Plains, has taken charge of the Geelong Hut, Capt Forrest having been transferred to the Hamilton Hut. When in Queensland Mr Davies was a sergeant-major, and was acquainted with many Diggers, who are at these Depots now.

Sgt Melvor, Antoka Joe and Mac, friends at the A.I.B.D. Sergeants Mess are contemplating joining the colors on the snowed up Murman coast as they consider things are too hot at the Base.

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PRODUCER OF "BO PEEP"

Stan Mackay Leaves for U.K.

Cpl Stan. McKay (14th L.T.M.B.) well known throughout Australia and New Zealand as a manager of his own pantomime companies has left for Blighty, on three months extended leave. On arrival in these Depots from Sutton Veny on December 7th, 1918, he was "commandeered" by the C. O. 1st Australian Convalescent Camp in order to produce the pantomime, "Bo Peep", as a Christmas attraction. Although he had only a fortnight in which to do the job he rehearsed a caste of forty Diggers (principals and chorus) in the tuneful production which was recognised on all sides as, perhaps, the most ambitious and the finest show ever given in the Grand Theatre, Le Havre, and the crowded audiences will remember "Bo Peep" as one of the brightest memories of their last Xmas in France. Stan expects to be present at the Memorial Shakespearian Festivities at Stratford-on-Avon beginning on the bard's birthday, April 23rd. It is understood that he has a special attraction of a musical nature in view for Australia next year. He left France with the best wishes of a wide circle of friends.

Latest Sailings

Medic left Devonport for Australia on April 11th with the following members of the A.I.F. - 33 officers, 4 nurses, 141 warrant officers and sergeants, and 1041 other ranks; total 1219.

LONDON

THE

DIGGERS'

REST

SHAFTESBURY

HOTEL



**RUHLEBEN in LONDON**

BY CPL. A. J. HAMPSON

Probably no name connected with prison camps is so widely known as Ruhleben.

The place is six miles from Berlin, and the stables on the trotting track were used to keep about 4,000 prisoners.

That is not a large number compared with some of the places I have seen where Germans were temporarily detained, but so much has been heard of Ruhleben that I visited the exhibition of work by the prisoners, who were chiefly British.

In a glass case there are beautiful tobacco pouches, wallets, ladies' hand bags of varied designs, cigarette holders, and such pocket conveniences that one gets a shock to find that they were all made from the skins of rats killed at Ruhleben. Four thousand was the first year's total. They were trapped, caught by terriers, and sometimes with ferrets. I have seen the Belgian soldiers ferretting at Proven, and the size of these war rats is equal to, if not bigger than, anything I have seen in Aussie.

**News in Ruhleben**

The news of the world was circulated at Ruhleben all through the war. In the early days a London newspaper cost 40/—. This was purchased and hired out by the hour. The price was soon reduced to 5/- per copy, and then the hiring rate was 1d. per hour for permission to read the news of the day. The longest period prisoners had to wait for English newspapers was fifteen days. They frequently received them in three days.

The Camp, paper named the « Daily Daily » was typed, and contained extracts from the German press. News from the « Berliner Tageblatt » was common. It contained five pages, foolscap size, and was edited by Mr G. Vaughan.

The view of Ruhleben near one of the grandstands is not unlike the Epsom racecourse, with one row of trees surrounding it and a group like the Elms at Flemington. The noticeable differences are the number of buildings, on the ground, and also the church spires and smoking chimneys from the many factories which denoted industrial activity close by.

**Art School**

The number of drawings and paintings give some indication of the artistic talent prevalent among the men.

There is some excellent work. The variety is remarkable. Some have been sold for substantial prices. The highest price marked was 200 guineas. The pictures bear the German official censor's stamp. A portrait of Capt. Joseph Powell speaks more eloquently than any words can convey of the haggard longing and anxiety that long incarceration in a military prison camp indelibly stamps on the human face of some unfortunates; others, worn, wor-

**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 a 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.**

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**Sleeplessness****Exhaustion**  
**Neuralgia**  
**Maternity Weakness**  
**Premature Decay****Nerve Shock**  
**Loss of Appetite**  
**Lassitude**  
**Neuritis****Faintness**  
**Brain Fag**  
**Anæmia**  
**Backache****Rheumatism**  
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**Sciatica**

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**BETWEEN DRINKS**

BY PIQUANT

Some funny man was heard remark « There's wind of drafts blowing into the Base. »

\*\*

A night or so ago some of the cook-house staff were partaking of joy water and between spasms were exchanging greetings with the French civilians who dropped in for a cafe bien chaude and a packet of snuff. One affable Frenchman entered the pubbery and said to the nearest digger « Bonz war. » The short and pointed reply folded up the estaminet for the boozed one said « No ... fear it wasn't. »

\*\*

And this is a fact. A few nights ago a lecturer visited the Base. That he was a lecturer was evident, for he wore a long coat a high collar and a pointed beard. In the course of his remarks he referred frequently and glowingly to everything and nothing in particular. The audience began to leave in clusters during the lecture until there were very few left in the hail near the close of the stunt. However, another show was billed to commence at seven and a great host swarmed in by all doors. At this juncture the lecturer was just finishing off his remarks by another touching reference to the above subject. Above the din of « counts out » and subdued murmurings that foretold of general uproar, the lecturer's face glowed with pride and satisfaction at the sight of crowds pouring in to the cinema. While telling of his « hit » at Lezarde Valley he spoke of the men who left early in the discourse to find their pals and bring them along in their thousands to hear the address.

\*\*

A 75 day Anzac said that while one could Rome all over Italy it took Toulon to see France.

\*\*

Teacher : « What is the name of France's National Anthem ? »

Pupil : « The Marseillaise. »

Teacher : What is the national anthem of Great Britain ? »

Another Pupil : « God Save the King. »

Teacher : Who can tell me Australia's national anthem ? »

Jimmy (also a pupil) « Mademoiselle from Armentieres. »

\*\*

*Imaginary Conversation No 17.*

Overheard in the Rue de Paris !

A dainty Mademoiselle : « Bon Soir, Monsieur Diggah ! Voulez-vous promener avec moi ce soir ? »

Digger : No, merci. »

\*\*

« Captain, why is there so much trouble about obtaining leave to Italy? »

« Well, I don't know, unless the Italians are afraid we might want to take their Florence. »

RUHLEBEN (continue 1)

ried and hopeless, with consumption's doom engraven in the very look, make sad subjects, and mutely impress the observers with the horror of *Military force*.

Amusements in Camp

A splendid spirit of mutual help was shown at Ruhleben. There was a police force, there were rugby and soccer football teams, dramatic and musical entertainers, band and golf clubs. The printed posters hung out on the cook house were quite gay. Two wooden revolvers — the property of the heavy dramatic section — were excellently constructed. « Othello » was staged ; and « The Mikado » among the operas.

Jewel cases, fancy boxes, photo frames, match boxes, cigarette cases, mirror stands, all made and polished by expert hands denoted another phase of industry in camp. It was the manifestation of « recreation in work. » The marble ash trays made from the top of a broken wash stand, serviette rings, pipes, medallions, painted bone from the shoulder blade of a bullock, were all good. Some of the best of this work, done by a negro, was highly commendable.

Metals and Agriculture

The metal work was among the best exhibited. It is extraordinary where all the material is salvaged from.

A violin made from a cigar-box and piece of native wood with two metal wires and two pieces of cat gut does not look equal to a Stradivarius.

One of the best acts performed for the prisoners was when the Royal Horticultural Society of London forwarded parcels of vegetable and flower seeds for cultivation. This was a boon to the prisoners. The photos of the products raised were worthy of a little Bendigo show.

The parcels of food from Blighty, aided by the vegetables raised on the farm, made the living tolerable.

A sample of the German bread and the quantity per day allowed were shown. It was almost the colour of ginger cake.

The prisoners say they were overcrowded in the beginning, but this and

the washing accommodation were rectified after protests had been lodged. The absence of hot water during the winter of 1914-15 was severely felt. Two hundred and sixty men were housed in each stable where space was allotted for 27 horses.

The camp had a dental corps and a chaplain.

A popular place in Ruhleben was « Trafalgar Square ». At the « Theatre » the charges for admission were 2d, 3d, and 4d. The « Royal Box » was ninepence.

There was a varied mixture of nationalities, including 30 Australians, among the 4,000 prisoners.

The cabbages raised in camp were sold for 1d each. The price at the same time in Berlin was 1/—.

In conversation with one of the prisoners who was there for four years he said they were not brutally treated. Those who took up some employment or hobby fared the best. The man who moped and let the situation get on his nerves fared badly.

The whole exhibition is a striking example of the innate power of self-government possessed by Britishers. Germany found it possible to withdraw 150 of her soldiers who in the early part of the war were detailed to keep order at Ruhleben.

\*\*

These men have endured and suffered ; but by comparison Ruhleben is not in it with Kut. I met one of the sailors who was captured with General Townsend. He and another were all that remained of 40. Only 273 were left alive to tell the tale, out of 3,000 captured by the Turks.

**Zebbras and Spring**

Printemps 1919 was ushered in without the ceremony of guns and threats of offensives. Only a wordy bombardment was maintained in Paris, and the stalls of the Australian Base Depots had something else to think of besides noticing that spring was walking along the Lezarde riverside causing new green to appear everywhere, that the sunshine was filling all life with new light and that bright hues on the distant hills and valleys were appearing. There had been a promise, not by Nature, but by the powers that be militaire that this spring would see the arrival of zebbras - many in number - whose striped garments would be the attraction of the brown and blue fairies, and the envy of those who hoped to be zebbras but would miss in the great shower. The shower has passed and the zebbras now appear. Some have three, others two, while the least significant can hardly be called zebbras with only one. The *folies du printemps* have hardly begun, but the next few weeks will be decided by the fairies who can give the zebbras the life of the season or cause them to mutter : « Is it better to have been striped and lost than to have never been striped at all. »

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# ANZAC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Varied Programme Arranged

SPORTS BEGIN IN THE MORNING

The anniversary of the landing of Australian troops at Gallipoli will be suitably commemorated next Friday, April the 25th, at Rouelles. It will take the form of an international sports day, and will no doubt live long in the memories of many hundreds of visitors as well as members of the A.I.F. Posters containing the programme of events and also of the boxing contests to be held in the evening were obtained some weeks ago, and have been distributed among the camps in and around Le Havre.

Commandants of different nationalities have been approached and their patronage obtained. These include Brig-Gen Burrowes C.M.G., D.S.O. Commandant British Base, Le Havre; Le Contre-Amiral Didelot K.C.M.G., Governor of Le Havre; Gen-Major Deruette, Belgian Commandant; Brig-Gen John Bennet, Commandant American Base, Le Havre; and Col C.R. Hill D.S.O., Commandant Canadian Base, Le Havre. The Président is Col C.H. Davis D.S.O., V.D., Commandant Australian Base Depots. The executive committee consists of Lieuts S.H. Skipper (Chairman), S. L. Parry, Marshall, W.H. Taylor, and W.E. Scotson with Lieuts L.J. Judd and P. Jones as joint secretaries. This committee arranged all preliminaries, including the production of a very fine souvenir programme, which is being printed by Messrs Raphael Tuck and Sons in London, and is the work of Australian artists in these Depots, Pte J.C. Goodchild and Gnr H. Stevens. Immediately all preliminaries had been completed a larger committee was formed consisting of a big number of non-commissioned officers and men, who will be responsible for the successful running of the sports.

The sports will commence at 10.30 a.m. on April the 25th, when the heats for the events, for which entries are limited to A.I.F. men, will be decided.

After the luncheon adjournment the sports will be continued when the finals for the A.I.F. events and the international events will be run off.

Provision will be made for a large number of guests as Col Davis has sent out invitations to all the allied commands. A special request will be made to Lieut-Gen Monash to send over a staff representative from London. It is expected that the civilian population of the Havre district will also turn up in full force as the sports will be advertised in French papers and transports will be arranged.

The sports are timed to finish at 5 p. m. after which boxing contests will be held in the Dell on the new stadium or platform now in course of erection. It is expected that at least 4,000 people will be able to witness these boxing contests. Entries have already been received from the French and Americans.

Afternoon tea will be provided free on the grounds, which are situated between No. 1 A.B.D. (better known by its old name of A.I.B.D.) and the little town of Rouelles. This ground has been

kindly lent for the occasion by M. Leon Thomas, of Harfleur. It is anticipated that the evening meal in the Depots will not be provided until about 8.30 or 9 p.m. Diggers are therefore advised not to be too modest when the free afternoon tea happens along.

In connection with the evening amusements special cinema pictures will be shown at 5.30 p.m. A concert will be held at 7 p.m., and a Diggers' dance in the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium, and, in addition, if weather permits, a combined concert in the Dell. It is suggested, also, to hold an officers' dance in Le Havre the same evening.

## BOXING AND WRESTLING

International Contests

Big Night at Grand Theatre

Owing to delays in connection with the negotiations with the Americans the programme for the international boxing and wrestling contests to be held in the Grand Theatre, Le Havre, on Tuesday evening next has not been completed, and Mr Les Judd, Australian Y. M.C.A., left for Paris on Friday morning to arrange for Americans to compete in some of the Tuesday night contests and also the contests to be held on Anzac Day. The programme, as already arranged, is a splendid one, and so far no less than seven boxing and wrestling contests have been billed. It was previously announced that the Australian wrestling champion, Billy Meeske was to meet the American, Polk, but the latter sprained his ankle last week and the match had to be abandoned. However a suitable opponent for the Australian was found in the successful French wrestler, Pernin, and the match will take place on Tuesday night. When in Paris Mr Judd hopes to secure opponents for Percy Young and Gurney. The other contests, which are to be decided on Tuesday, are as follows:—Boxing, King (England) v Headen (Australia); Miner (Australia) v O'Grady (Australia); Buckingham (England) v Cox (Australia); Cubster (England) v Lee (Australia); Reynolds (Australia) v Bruce (Australia); wrestling, Bartlett (Australia) v Hicks (America); Meeske (Australia) v Pernin (France).

## LAST ISSUE OF "THE DIGGER"

Souvenir of A.I.F. in France

Story Competition Open

The final issue of « The Digger » to be published in about two months time will be a souvenir issue. It will be about the same size of the excellent Xmas issue and will be replete with photographs of the Australian Base Depots and topical stories. Every effort will be made to make the issue worthy of the occasion since it will be the last publication in France by Australian soldiers—about the time when the last drafts

## Y. M. C. A. FIXTURES

Lismore Cinema

SUNDAY — Service. 5.30 p.m.

TUESDAY — Lantern Service. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY — Lena Ashwell Concert Party, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY — R.G.A. Orchestra (if not demobilised) 7 p.m.

FRIDAY — Lena Ashwell Touring Party 6 p.m.

SATURDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.

A. I. B. D. Cinema

SUNDAY — Service. 5.30 p.m.

MONDAY — Aus. Ladies' Party. 5.30 p.m.

TUESDAY — Wattle Birds Party 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY — Service. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.

SATURDAY — Not Fixed.

Pictures at each cinema every evening

Gymnasium

MONDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.

TUESDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Folk Dancing Class, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY — Officers Dancing Class, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY — Basket Ball Practice, 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY — Y. M. C. A. Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.

are leaving for England en route for Australia. In connection with which substantial prizes will be offered. The competitions which close on May 25th are as follow:

Best Story — 50 francs.

Humorous Skit — 50 francs.

Verse — 50 francs.

Joke — 15 francs.

Paragraph — 15 francs.

## EMBARKATION QUOTAS

Position on April 10th

A return, issued on April 11th by the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation, showed that the position of embarkation quotas as at 4 p. m. on April 10th was as follows:— Quotas up to No 26 had arrived in the United Kingdom. 27th to 31st (inclusive) were en route, and 32nd to 41st were at the Divisional camps. Since the arrival of the "thousands from France" in the United Kingdom to the 26th quota, the total members of the A.I.F. who had arrived from France was 1,005 officers and 29,228 other ranks. The position as regards embarkation for Australia was that up to the 4th quota had sailed on April 8th.

## The King's English

As Sometimes Spoken

A W.A.A.C. officer, opening the morning mail at a city hostel, read a startling invitation from a Frenchman who aspires to become a linguist. Just plainly addressed to the W.A.A.C. the letter bore the postmark of Le Havre. It read as follows:

A young man French wish to go knowledge of a young W.A.A.C. for improvement of the speak English. Himself to find place Thiers before the funiculaire Monday at Thursday towards half past six to accost the young man who have an handkerchief white at the left hand.

(sgd) D. E.

It is not known whether the invitation was accepted.



# THE DIGGER

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



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

VOL. 2 No. 13.

SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1919

PRICE ONE PENNY

## A. I. F. STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Progressive Figures Stated

In Europe on April 12th, 96,186

In France To-Day About 30,000

The statistical summary for the A.I.F., issued on April 16th, shows that for the week ended April 12th, the number of men in Europe (United Kingdom and France) was 96,186. The number in France on March 29th was 49,766, a decrease of 5,074 for the week. These figures are contained in the latest official returns issued by the Department for Repatriation and Demobilisation, and to arrive at the approximate number of Australians in France at the present time, it will be necessary to deduct the approximate number of embarkations to the United Kingdom since March 29th. On the basis of a weekly embarkation of 5,000 from France since that date, the approximate total of A.I.F. in France on April 26th is roughly 30,000. That should give a fair indication of the present strength in this country.

Details of the latest statistical summary are set out below.

(The figures which deal with embarkations, discharges, non-military employment, leave and deaths cover a period from November 30th, 1918, to the date mentioned in the return. The totals of the A.I.F. in Europe and France; and, also, embarkations from the United Kingdom, do not include nurses who are dealt with separately).

A.I.F. in Europe.....	at 12 4 19..	96,186
A.I.F. in France.....	» 29 3 19..	49,766
Embarkations of A.I.F. from United Kingdom »	12 4 19..	55,480
A.I.F. nurses in Europe. »	» ..	515
A.I.F. nurses embarked for Australia.....	» ..	406
Wives and dependents of A. I. F. in United Kingdom.....	» ..	41,316
Wives and dependents embarked for Australia »	» ..	1,756
Munition workers etc in United Kingdom.....	» ..	4,120
Munition workers embarked for Australia. »	» ..	3,452
Discharges of A.I.F. in United Kingdom.....	» ..	962
Deaths of A.I.F. in United Kingdom.....	» ..	535
A. I. F. in Egypt including nurses.....	» 29 3 19..	13,294

Embarkations from Egypt »	» ..	5,196
Discharges of A.I.F. in Egypt.....	» ..	12
Deaths of A.I.F. in Egypt »	» ..	56
Non-military employment	(Educational » 12 4 19..	2,647
	(Industrial. » ..	2,002
Granted early repatriation.....	» ..	2,986
Granted extended leave »	» ..	293

### A. I. F. In France

Details of A I.F. Abroad

Decreases For The Week

France 5,074 : Europe 4,157

The latest returns issued on April 15th dealing with the A.I.F. in Europe and France show the average decrease is approximately 5,000 weekly.

Details are as follow :

	Off.	No. O.L.O.R. O.R. To each off.
STRENGTH "BY ARMS" 29 3 19.		
Effective strength in France .....	3283	44776 13.6
Non-effective strength in France .....	15	1692 112.8
Total strength in France	3298	46468 14.

### LATEST STRENGTHS OF DIVISIONS

Corps (as at 22. 3. 19).....	223	5017	22.5
1st Division includes 1st Tunnelling Company (as at 29. 3. 19).....	559	7717	13.8
2nd Division includes 3rd D. Artillery, Veterinary Evacuating Stn., and Cyclist Battalion. (as at 29. 3. 19).....	715	8529	11.9
3rd Division includes S. A.A. Section, (3rd D.A. C.), Sanitary Section, Traffic control, 5th. M. T. Coy. (as at 29. 3. 19).....	547	6891	12.6
4th Division Includes 12th Army Brigade. (as at 29. 3. 19).....	507	6843	13.5
5th Division (as at 29 3. 19).....	589	7240	12.3
Lines of Communication (as at 29. 3. 19).....	181	3449	19.

### A. I. F. In Europe

	Off.	Nurses.	O.R.
Departure from Australia			
1914.....	423	12	379
1915 January to June..	258	146	5638
July to December..	1726	171	18114
1916 January to June..	2082	24	25501
July to December..	994	91	24647
1917 January to June..	419	104	9355
July to December..	376	26	8885
1918 January to June..	373	19	6815
July to December..	217	11	5277
Total at 22. 3. 19...	6868	604	104611

Embarked from U.K. from 22 3. 19 to 12 4. 19.....	586	88	14372
---	-----	----	-------

Discharged(outside Australia) from 22.3.19 to 12.4.19...	18	1	285
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Died outside Australia from 22.3.19 to 12.4.19.....	2	—	30
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Balance at 12 4 19..	6262	515	89924
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No return was issued in connection with the Asiatic theatre, which includes Egypt. There have been no embarkations from Egypt for several weeks. The A. I. F. strength in that theatre on March 29th was 13,294. It was announced recently that embarkations from Egypt had been cancelled for a certain period owing to the disturbances in Egypt, but it was not specifically stated if the Australians were affected.

## IMPORTANT CABINET DECISIONS

Bolsheviks to be Deported

Melbourne, April 10th (Delayed)

The Cabinet has decided to amend the War Precautions Regulations to provide greater liberality of Government control of capital issues. The cabinet has approved of the deportation of certain Bolsheviks to Odessa.

## AERIAL COMPANY FORMED

Flying Services in 1920

Melbourne, April 14th.

The Federal Treasury has granted permission for the registration of a limited company for aerial transport. It claims to be backed by leading financiers, and proposes to make immediate surveys of routes, the arrangement of aerodrome sites and other preliminaries. The company expects to commence flying services between the capitals and cities about July 1920. The shareholders are all of British birth.



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.

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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.

## LAST ISSUE OF "THE DIGGER"

Date Of Publication, May 18th  
Story Competition Open

The final issue of *The Digger* will be published on May 18th. It will be a souvenir issue replete with photographs of the Australian Base Depots and topical stories. Every effort will be made to make the issue worthy of the occasion, since it will be the last publication in France by Australian soldiers — about the time when the last drafts are leaving for England en route for Australia. Everyone is invited to contribute to the story competition entries for which close on May 10th. It was announced last week that the competition would close on May 25th, but owing to the date of publication having been definitely fixed for May 18th, it was found necessary to make the alteration. Intending contributors are urged to forward their copy early. Manuscripts will be returned if desired. Contributions submitted must of course, be Australian in character and topical. The prizes are as follow :

Best story — 50 francs.  
Humorous skit — 50 francs.  
Verse — 50 francs.  
Joke — 15 francs.  
Paragraph — 15 francs.

## 1915 PERSONNEL

6 485 In France

On March 29th there were still 6,485 members of the A.I.F. in France who enlisted in 1915. The total was made up of 1,147 officers and 5,338 other ranks. They were distributed as follows : — 1st Division, 912; 2nd Division, 2,614; 3rd Division, 720; 4th Division, 915; 5th Division, 1,281; Australian Corps, 43. The 3rd Echelon Demobilisation group was not included in the total.

## ANZAC SPORTS

Full Report Next Week

Owing to the fact that *The Digger* goes to press on Friday it was impossible to publish this week the report of the sports and other amusements held on Anzac day. It will be published in next week's issue.

## TALENTED AUSTRALIANS

Privates With High Degrees

Doctors Fighting In Ranks

Speaking at the War Chest Club last week upon the work of the A.I.F. Education Service, Lieut J. H. Vaughan gave some interesting examples of educational talent which had been discovered in the ranks of the Australian Army since the Armistice.

There were numerous instances of professional men, architects, clergymen and lawyers who had been fighting as private soldiers. In the rank and file of a gun-team in France there were no less than three Bachelors of Science, while some medical men had enlisted as ordinary soldiers in order to carry a rifle rather than a stethoscope.

A graduate in civil engineering with a valuable and varied experience, holding the rank of sapper in the Australian Engineers, was entrusted with the difficult task of determining the safe-bearing loads of soils for new foundations in France.

But, perhaps, the most striking example was disclosed when at the request of the French Government, applications were called throughout the A.I.F. for appointment to a Commission proceeding to Morocco to report upon the suitability of that country for the breeding of merino Sheep. The ranks of the applicants ranged from colonels to privates. One of the latter had, prior to the war, managed a station comprising a quarter of a million sheep and was a highly skilled stock breeder and wool-classer. The successful applicant, however, an infantryman, possessed even higher qualifications. He owned a million acres of land, had organised and conducted droving-tours from the Kimberleys in Western Australia to the Queensland coast, a distance of nearly two thousand miles, and from the Northern Territory to the Southern Ocean, had sunk artesian bores and was a recognised expert in water-finding. Moreover, he could speak French fluently, and had other brilliant educational qualifications.

## AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES

Conference Resolutions  
Boycotting Enemy Goods

Melbourne, April 10th (Delayed)

A conference, held in the Melbourne Town Hall, of ten organisations interested in Empire trade, has unanimously resolved to create new industries and to foster existing industries in Australia; also to buy no enemy goods but to give preference firstly to Australian and British manufacturers, and secondly to establish reciprocal trade with the Allies. A committee has been formed to co-ordinate these efforts.



Reita writes an ode to 'Our Adjutant', thus :

Some say he's regimental  
Of course I do not know,  
I've often seen him on parade,  
But that's when I keep low.

It's a fact he's always busy,  
Still he doesn't mind a joke,  
And I know that all the diggers,  
Think he's quite a dinkum bloke.

You will always get a hearing,  
And get a good spin too,  
A cove don't want no more than that,  
He's a good sport through and through.

Whoever the cap fits, please wear it.  
R. R. Thanks for the compliment.  
We'll see how the outsiders like it.

When you feel a sort of fed up,  
In fact, you have the blues,  
Just you speculate a copper,  
And read the *Digger* news,

Call round for your tip! Our social editor is delighted, in fact he's *tres zig zag*. G. H. No, thanks. L. M. Also, no. However, don't be downhearted, have a go at the souvenir issue competition.

## Non-Military Employment

New Conditions Issued

The following conditions will apply to applications for non-military employment from all members of the A.I.F., including the duty personnel :—

All applications must be lodged with the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation by June 30th. No such applications after that date will be considered. No application should be submitted unless the applicant can be released from his military duties before July 31st. The date by which he can be released must be stated on the application form (A.I.F. form 540). It will facilitate the administration if the earliest possible date of such release is stated in each case.

No grant of non-military employment will be made which would involve such employment after October 31st, except in very special cases. By that date at latest all personnel undergoing non-military employment must become available for repatriation to Australia.

In connection with duty personnel the time is approaching when it can be considerably reduced in numbers; those in France during May, June, and July, and those in England during June, July, and August.

## PRE-EMBARKATION LEAVE

Applications for special leave from members of quotas when in England are considered on their merits. The guiding principle is that the process of demobilisation will not be delayed.

## Australia's part In War

Record Which Insures Future  
Capt. Carmichael's Tribute

Interviewed by the Sydney morning dailies on his return to Australia, Captain Carmichael, M.C., M.L.A., paid a fine tribute to the unique record of the Australians in the war. During the course of his remarks he said:

"May I say a last word in regard to the record of your men. The men who composed and sustained your divisions have endowed Australia with a great and enduring assurance for generations to come against the attack of any predatory nation. No one can properly apprehend this who has not first-hand information of their record. Unfortunately, I was absent from the fighting in the great retreat, so I can speak impersonally of that crowning act of the valour of our men. Great generals have called them the finest shock troops in the world, and our enemies have attested their untamable valour in attack. But some of us who experienced the growing war-weariness of Australia in its diminishing stream of recruits, and others who watched it keenly from a distance wondered whether in this first try out of our nation we should prove to be of those who could stick to a finish, whatever and whenever it might be. Your men have wiped out that doubt for ever from the minds of friends and enemies alike. It remains for our friends to add the proof of the stubborn and unyielding tenacity of the Australian breed.

There is nothing so dreaded by all generals because of its maddening contagion as a panic. It is intangible, not reasoning, and the last dreaded test for even veteran regiments. Time and again when the troops were streaming back in retreat that was practically a rout, your men have passed through the retreating troops to the attack, and held their positions with a stubborn tenacity that is incredible. They hand to you this unique record of a disastrous time that in no single instance did they abandon a position entrusted to their care. In the midst of a falling world their firm and tenacious courage was unshaken. The knowledge of this truth will widen as the combatant troops return to their own countries. It is even now writing itself as a tradition in the life of France. From France it will pass to America, and round to China and Japan; till it girdles the earth. The record of these men of Australia will remain not only in the minds of our enemies, but indelibly in the memory of your friends of to-day, who, history teaches, may be the enemies of to-morrow. It is a great insurance of the future of Australia.

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## AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS



View of old Infantry Camp

## ANZAC BRIDES

### Shipping Arrangements

The following regulations have been issued with regard to the repatriation of soldiers and their wives who are in the United Kingdom:—

Married men about to embark with their wives or families are marched out of the Depots ten days before the sailing of the family boat, and proceed to their homes from where they join the boat direct at the Port on the date notified by this department.

Railway warrants to cover the journeys of husband and families are provided.

Men can only travel in the class provided in respect of their rank, viz, officers, 1st class; sergeants and warrant officer, 2nd class; other ranks, 3rd class. If it is desired and the application is approved, for the wife to travel in a higher class than her husband is entitled to the latter cannot travel on the family ship even though prepared to pay his own passage. To enable the parties to travel together in such circumstances application by the husband should be made for leave to return to Australia at his own expense. The parties then make their own arrangements with a shipping company. In an ordinary case the leave would be without pay, but special cases are considered on their merits.

## NO BON AUSTRALIAN SOLDAT

By "Mud"

"Bon soir", Australian Solda' I make to you  
"Bon soir".

Mais, tout le meme, I do not you "compree";  
You are so very differon', oui, differon'; pourquoi?  
From all ze ozzer soldiers zat I see.

Je compree soldat Anglais and Je compree  
soldat Fritz,

Ze "Pork & Cheese" & "Waacs" — ah! Je  
"compree"

But ze solda' ze call Aussie, — ve'l'e gif to me  
ze "fits",

Ven 'e go on vat 'e call ze "dinkum spree".

Before 'e come zis vill-aége it vas ver-rry, ver-  
rry calm,

But since ze Aussie make ze promenade

At night, and steal ze pommes-de-terre from out  
ze Frenchman's yard —

Vhy, 'e'd put ze vind up *all* ze Prussian Guard!  
Australian solda! ver-rry good, compree, to  
make ze fight,

And la! la! 'ow' e use dose bad words strong;  
But ven'e steal ze chicken & ze fire wood a-  
night —

No Bon, Australian Solda', im no bon!

Je compree vell ze English of ze Cockney and  
ze Scot,

And also of ze Irishman — your "Pat",  
But ze English of ze Aussie I sink I compree *not*  
Ven 'e say "I come zo gutzer" — vot mean zat?  
'E entree zee estaminet for vot 'e call ze 'Boozhe'.  
Zen say, "Na poo ze dough" I "done me dash",  
So "strap me up some poison", du vin blanc  
or du vin rouge

And "Billy Hughes will pay ze Oscar Asche!"  
For three days after pay day 'e plenty beaucoup  
swank,

Zen like ze cannibal to me 'e come along  
And tell me 'e would "bite my ear" — because  
'e vant a franc!

No bon, Australian Solda' — 'im no bon!

Australian solda' cheeky man & ef you gif 'im  
inch

'E 'elp 'imself to beaucoup kilometre.  
And any sing 'e sink 'e vant immediatemong  
'e pinch.

Mon Dieu! I vish 'e "partie", oui, tout suite.  
But sometime ven I sink 'ow far 'e com to fight  
for France

I 'ave ze little pity and I say,  
'Im not too bad, Australie, — no, 'im not too bad,  
Je pense,

But zen 'e drive zat pily all away.  
Last night I meet an Anzac and 'e speak, "Bon  
Swore, Mes-shoo"

To-night vit me you "dineer", come along  
But ah! ze pig! ze debbil! 'e gif me *Anzac Stew!!*  
No Bon, Australian Solda'; 'im No Bon!

## MOTOR CLASS BEGINNING

This week final instructions were given  
at the motor mechanics class at the A.I.F.  
Education Service. A new class will  
commence next week, and anyone wishing  
to join should make application forthwith.

## GONE HOME SINCE NOVEMBER 30th

Grand Total To April 13th, 63,555

Eighth Quota Gone

On April 13th the grand total of members of the A.I.F., dependents, and war workers who had embarked for Australia since November 30th, 1918, had reached 63,555. The actual total of members of the A.I.F. was 58,302. The following is a list of sailings since those published last week :-

On April 12th, *Suffolk*, from Devonport, 30 officers, 59 warrant officers and sergeants, and 914 other ranks.

On April 13th, *Commonwealth*, from Devonport, 35 officers, 50 warrant officers and sergeants, and 693 other ranks.

On April 13th, *Castalia*, from Devonport, 46 officers, 4 nurses, 67 warrant officers and sergeants, 647 other ranks, and 22 dependents.

On April 13th, *Wyreema*, from Liverpool, 44 officers, 4 nurses, 81 warrant officers and sergeants, 743 other ranks, and 23 dependents.

The quotas from France were embarked as follow :- Fifth and early repatriations, on the *Suffolk*, sixth on the *Castalia*, seventh on the *Commonwealth*, and eighth on the *Wyreema*.

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Brooches, Jewellery, Silk Handkerchiefs  
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Cigarette Cases - All Kinds of Fancy Good.

ENGLISH SPOKEN

ANY PARCEL CAN BE SENT HOME

## COO-EE! "COO-EES"

Last Show in France

3rd Divvy Party Going Home

Last Saturday night the Lismore Cinema must have looked like an over-boiled potato in its jacket. The huge auditorium was bulging with a khaki mass of expectant Diggers. There were also many ladies present. The Coo-ees are well known. As a live-wire, first rate bunch of entertainers they have been long established in favor throughout the A. I. F.

The Coo-ees orchestra opened the show with a bright selection, and on the rise of the curtain, the Coo-ees jumped into action with their opening chorus. From start to finish there was never a dull moment. The first half of the programme was rendered in vaudeville fashion, presenting Fred Deal in some raggy moments, Varley and Butler, a dandy double in "Peaches in Georgia". Geo. Harper revelled in "The Play" from C. J. Dennis' "Sentimental Bloke". Mick Watsford, the classy female impersonator, next appeared with Jones in a couple of well suited numbers. By the way, Mick has the voice, the style, the glad rags and all accessories that make a successful impersonator. Trewavis and Taffy Williams, in baritone and bass items, were fine. The juggler, Backman, had a bundle of tricks and novelties that scored. The second half took the form of a revue with the Cooes dressed as naval officers and Mick as the yachting girl. The revue was brim-full of songs, gags and concerted numbers. The entire production teemed with variety and quality.

The Coo-ees were formed in 1916, and were a busy body of entertainers all over the forward area. Wherever the 3rd Divvy was located the Coo-ees were right on the job. In addition to a good show, the regimental funds of the Division were considerably augmented by the proceeds. In January, 1918, the Coo-ees had their orchestra for the first time and opened a successful season at Nieppe at that time. The show was then at top speed and ever since has maintained a standard of all-round efficiency and organization. The Coo-ees were the only Australian artists that visited Paris.

It is quite on the boards that the Coo-ees will give some shows in Blighty until the quota leaves for Australia, but the show given here on Saturday night was the last in France.

## CAFÉ - RESTAURANT

"MAJESTIC"

7, Place Gambetta (near the Grand-Theatre)

PRIVATE ROOM - THE OFFICERS' RENDEZ-VOUS  
Service à la Carte - Grill-Room

## AMERICAN BAR

COCKTAILS A SPECIALITY ENGLISH BEERS

Afternoon Tea - Moderate Price

## Hockey

A hockey match took place last Sunday between teams representing the M. F. O. (Imperial Army) and these Depots. The Tommies had an easy victory, obtaining 5 goals to nil.

A more even game was played on Good Friday between the A. B. D. and No. 1 Despatching Coy (Imperial Army). It was a very fast and exciting match, played under ideal conditions. At half-time the Diggers were leading by 4 to 3. On resuming the Tommies quickly drew level. Then commenced a ding-dong struggle for the winning goal. Ten minutes from the end pretty combination by the Aussie forwards resulted in Bartlett putting them in the lead again which equalised the final score: 5 goals each.

## FOOTBALL

### Rugby

On Sunday, April 27th, at 3 p. m. on the Sanvic Athletic ground a rugby team representing these Base Depots will meet a team from the French Army.

The A. B. D. hockey team after their match on Good Friday challenged a number of Frenchmen, who had come on the ground with a football, to a game of rugby. It proved very amusing as some of the Diggers didn't understand the rules. For instance, when Beetson crossed the touch line after a rush he forgot to drop on the ball, and ran round and round the line with a big Froggie chasing him. The game ended in a draw, each side scoring 1 try (3 points). It was another illustration of the stamina and sporting instinct of the Digger - after a hard game of hockey to turn round and play a fresh team rugby football, and not only play but hold their own against a full team while they only had ten men.

## BOSANQUET HANDICAP

Rankest of Outsiders Wins

Adelaide, April 14th.

Through a bad start of the Bosanquet Handicap in South Australia, four horses remained at the post. The winner was Mount Miltsin, the rankest of outsiders, which paid the remarkable tote dividend of £188/9- upon £1 invested.

For Troops visiting Havre  
CRYSTAL-PALACE (Y. M. C. A.)

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THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH Co, Limited

### About Diggers

"Griff" writes :- It has come to our notice that a certain C.Q.M.S. in the A B D., No 1, has become so infatuated with the photo of one of the winners of the Beauty Competition that he has opened up a red hot correspondence with her, so far without any satisfactory results. He is prepared to wager his fortnightly pay of forty francs that he will receive a reply within a week. I have taken Hawker and him in a double, and I have never won a double in my life."

Armed with carving knives, forks, and sundry other implements of torture, including a pair of clippers, the staff at the A. B.D. Officers Cookhouse conducted a midnight "hair-raid" on Peter, whose long and flowing locks were not admired. Peter is now almost bald and smiles good naturedly.

The disappearance from the Y.M.C.A. Mildura Hut of nine basket-chairs — not the ones that fall down unexpectedly—last Sunday and their reappearance late at night was a mystery that puzzled many at the A.I.B.D. But a Digger coming home late from a lonely walk in the woods has supplied the solution. He had met two sergeants and nine ladies in a motor lorry. The ladies, he said, were seated in basket chairs in a motor lorry, and the sergeants had assumed an attitude of ease and contentment surrounded by their nine charming passengers. What our religious editor objects to about the picnic was that he had not been invited. If he had been, there would have been three ladies for each of the sergeants and three for himself -- just the number that the reverend gentleman desires. Now each of the sergeants had 4 decimal 5 of ladies, and every school child knows that this number is a vulgar fraction.

"Who'll have a card?" The continual repetition of these words in the Y.M.C.A. Mildura Hut this week has given Mr. Harper much concern, because although "House" is described as a legal game, it is not played in any Y.M.C.A. Hut. Mr Harper accordingly made up his mind to gently remonstrate with the person always calling out Who'll have a card? He discovered to his surprise that it was Padre H. Heath

(who has arrived to take the place of Padre Gault), who was making use of this expression. Padre Heath explained that he didn't play "house", but had picked up this expression, which had become a habit.

Mr. R J. Finch F.R.G.S. has been giving interesting addresses in these Depots this week by arrangement with the Y.M.C.A. They covered a variety of subjects including prehistoric animals, trade and transport; Belgium in August, 1914, and Alsace in July, 1917. Mr. Finch is the author of two books used in Australian schools—Travel Pictures and World Studies. He was at Namur with 30 English school boys and girls when war broke out. They were on an education tour and wanted to stay there until the end of hostilities, thinking it was a glorious war!

The very thought of getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning makes most people feel tired, and if any Digger is Kean on this sort of thing he is considered to have a bee in his Bonnet Perhaps it is explained by the fact that they are both in the gymnastic team. But why did they boil eggs at this awful hour? Did they belong to the "eggs o' Cook?" No, the cause of all this energy was the arranging of a picnic in the woods of the picturesque Lezarde Valley.

Sgt. L.B. Wallace left for Blighty this week en route for Aussie. He was instructor under the A.I.F. Education Service in these Depots in Book-keeping, accountancy, and commercial law for nearly seven months, and instructed something like 60 pupils every day. He leaves with good recommendations and with good wishes.

R.S.M. Alick Moore was farewelled last week by the committee of the Sergeant's Mess, A.I.B.D., on the eve of his departure for Australia. Alick left behind a host of friends who wish him good luck on his return to civil life.

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES CEASE

The education officials at the Australian Base Depots have been notified by Corps Headquarters to cease activities immediately. It is stated in the notification that it was decided to take this step owing to the speeding up of demobilisation.

### Employment In Ireland

In connection with non-military employment in Ireland the Department for Repatriation and Demobilisation has decided that a limited number of special cases may be approved provided it can be shown that the non-military employment or course recommended is more suitable or better than can be obtained elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

### Frenchman Writes English

Is He a Suitor?

The Frenchman, who issued a general invitation to a city W. A. A. C. Hostel, for an enterprising English lady to teach him to "speak the English" is evidently not going to signal defeat because he got a "cooler". Last week he wrote again and included an Easter card which contained some affectionate greetings. The letter was as follows:

Le Havre, 19th April 1919.

Mess or Madam,

Perhaps have you not received my letter thus to write: "A young man french wish to go knowledge of a young W. A. A. C. for improvement of the speak English Himself place Thiers before the funiculaire Monday at Thursday towards half past six and to accost the young man who have an handkerchief white at the left hand". Or well have you an well bad opinion of the frenchman of what I am desolate If I mi are address here rather than elsewhere it is that I know that they are that of the honesty girl who live in this house. I admire the women english who have to leave theirs family and theirs fatherland for to go in France too serve our cause against the germany. Also I you address my demand for the last time I am at the place Thiers again Monday and Thursday at the same hour. However if you will answer by letter, you to be able the to make at the address on the other side Well accept them feeling o my deed respect.

The writer then gave his name and postal address, with a stamp for reply.

The Hostel is wondering if it is an April joke!

## KURSAAL - CINEMA

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Every Day, from 2.30 — 7 p.m.

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Evening Performance : 8.30

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**REST**

---

**SHAFTESBURY**

**HOTEL**



## WHEN WE GET HOME

What Will We Do?

By Dinkus

Occasionally, we are misunderstood, even at this juncture, of the world's greatest war, with the Plenipotentiaries in Versailles signing the peace terms.

The other day in London I saw innumerable Diggers — and though I say so — they are the finest type of men in the world — mingling with that monster population, on their pre-embarkation leave. As I examined their faces it struck me that many were not looking ahead, and obtaining the best knowledge to tackle their jobs when they reach sunny Australia. The one great desire, of course, is to get back, but there are many opportunities to get on. "Getting on" is an art, and art is the capacity for detail, the faculty for seeing things which other people overlook, and of seeing other people's point of view while you make them see yours. I think the time has arrived when every digger on "Quota Leave" in England should have decided what he will do when he gets home. No doubt the task is colossal to most of us, but we must attack it and win, against odds too.

We have had many lectures on what is being done for the returned soldiers in Australia and many men are picking up good experience in special trades, etc., but the great bulk are not doing much to help themselves. As in the business and manufacturing world, there is with us a wide margin for improvement. Be sympathetic and test your own powers, you will become interested at once. Learn to turn a complaint into an order without being long-winded. Watch the scales with yourself and see that you get weight for your money. Create a definite objective with a high goal to counteract any lowering of the trajectory. In these days of "Après la guerre agiter", it is necessary to be more careful than before. H.E. must be used in a long range gun with a delayed action fuse, care being taken to prevent chlorine from escaping but keep your box respirator in order.

### Afternoon Entertainments

In spite of the rapid demobilisation of the A.I.F. in France, the entertainments at these Depots are increasing rather than decreasing in number. Reference has already been made to the afternoon entertainments at the A.I.B.D. This week something like ten picture shows or lectures were given at the Lismore Cinema, situated in No.3 Reception Camp, in addition to those in the evening. Two services were also held there on April 20th (Easter Sunday) by Padre Lew, assisted by Mr. Davies, of the Y.M.C.A., who operated the lantern, which illustrated the Padre's address. At the second service nearly 1,000 Diggers attended. At the A.I.B.D. a Sunday afternoon service was also conducted by Mr Harper before an audience of about 700. The 34th Demobilisation Quota Band assisted.

—)(—



## 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  
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Exhaustion  
Neuralgia  
Maternity Weakness  
Premature Decay

Nerve Shock  
Loss of Appetite  
Lassitude  
Neuritis

Faintness  
Brain Fag  
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 3/4 size 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 3/4 size contains nearly four times the 1/3 size.

PROPRIETORS: ASHTON & PARSONS, LTD., LA BELLE S'UVAGE, LONDON, E.C. 6

**BETWEEN DRINKS**

BY PIQUANT

A delighted Digger who was present at the Diggers' Dance and had indulged in graceful glides, was feeling so elated that he remarked: « Gee! I wish I was twins and we were both here. »

\*\*

Reo: « I wish the war had lasted a little longer. »

Old Hand: « Why? »

Reo: « I would have joined the flying corps — I've had a fly. »

Old Hand: « Yes! in your — tea. »

\*\*

*Imaginary Conversation No 18*

Digger in train (to French passengers) « Do you mind if I open the window. »

French passengers (in chorus) « Open the lot, by all means. »

\*\*

A Y.M.C.A. party of tourists at Salisbury went to Stonehenge. The guide had explained the whys and wherefors of the stones, rocks and boulders lying about the historical spot and the number of centuries these stones had lain there. A digger remarked: — « It's a wonder to me some blighter hasn't moved the whole — lot before this. »

\*\*

An applicant for a position in après la guerre time was informed « promptness was essential. » « Then I know I can't fill the position » sighed the returned soldier as he turned to leave the room. « The only training I ever had was in getting out the casualty lists. »

One is at a loss to know why diggers shout « Combien » when female impersonators appear on the stage at different shows.

Encore, bis, more — one comprees. — « Combien » — No compree.

\*\*

Writing from Palestine a Dinkum, who hails from Melbourne, lets himself go, thus

« Well, Johnny, I feel rather glad my crusading days are over at last. I don't love the bookmakers and the pawnbrokers enough to ever go on another restoration stunt on their behalf. I was not quite as uninterested in the Holy Land, or quite as unmindful of "higher things," as an inebriated Billjim who (while being shown round a church in Jerusalem) was informed by the guide that a certain candle there had been burning for 2,000 years, blew it out remarking that the — had been burning long enough anyhow. But I failed to be impressed as a true Christian should. Life itself was too real. However, all is over now, thank goodness, and we DID win, don't we? I hope the happy day when the smells of Footscray floating up the dear old Yarra assail my nostrils is not for distant. If "Ikey Mo" so desires he can hand me his property in Aussie, in return for which I bequeath him the whole of the blessed kingdom of the Israelites. I can see them all returning here (I don't think). « Cheero, Johnnie, see you soon. »

**SPORT** (continued)

accounted for all of his opponents. His darting left was soon in evidence against Buckingham. The latter was speedy and covered well, but he lacked the skill necessary to stop a brainy opponent such as Cox. The Australian cleverly boxed away the Englishman's defence and scored. Buckingham boxed openly with head slightly tilted back and at times evaded well. In the second round, Cox scored with a right to the point. Buckingham was severely rattled and several other blows put him in a bad way. He was shrewd; he surrendered.

**Australian Knocked Out**

Pte Headen (Australia) was knocked out by Pte King (England) in the second round. Both had plenty of speed and hit hard and often. Headen was not so sure as the English boy whose blows were always dangerous. King scored a good deal in the second round and a heavy uppercut put the Digger in a bad way. He stood up gamely receiving severe punishment until knocked out.

**Lee Wins In Fifth Round**

Pte Snowy Lee (Australia) severely punished Pte Williamson (Scotland) in the fifth round with the result that the Jock signalled defeat. The Scotsman fought solidly and cleanly. He lacked the speed which Lee put into the contest. Lee fought more cautiously and coolly making Williamson miss badly. Lee outboxed his man and, in the fifth round, kept him retreating. He scored repeatedly and Williamson was beaten. It was evident that the Scotsman's condition would not last him out against a man like Lee.

**O'Grady Gains Points Decision**

Pte O'Grady (Australia) gained a points decision over Pte Miner (Australia) after four rounds. It was a fast contest with both boys boxing willingly. Blows rained from many directions, but only a small percentage did any damage. O'Grady kept well ahead right through the four rounds. He scored the most and had Miner very tired.

**A Game Boxer**

For four rounds Pte Reynolds (Australia) stood up to Pte Gurney (Australia) and, although it was his first contests he gave a fine display against a doughty little opponent. Gurney is one of the fastest bantams to be seen in the ring in the Havre district, and he kept Reynolds going. The latter satisfied his supporters that he will do well when more experienced. Gurney was always ahead, boxing like a terrier, and when the gong sounded at the end of the last round he had Reynolds in a bad way. He had taken severe punishment gamely. Both boys were cheered for their display.

**Bartlett Repeats Performance**

Sgt Bartlett (Australia) met Pte Hicks (America) in a middleweight wrestling contest of three four minute rounds.

When the pair met some weeks ago, Bartlett won and he again repeated the

performance by securing a points decision. Bartlett did most of the work and held the advantage. Towards the end of the second round he had the Yank almost pinned when the gong saved him. That was the only occasion that a fall appeared imminent although Bartlett was easily ahead on points.

The boxing officials were: referee, Lieut Merrifield; judges, Lieut Elliott (England) and Lieut Given (Australia); timekeeper, Lieut Skipper. Lieut Snow acted as M.C. and kept the large crowd in perfect order. The arrangements, as usual, worked smoothly, and it was the finest athletic night given in Havre.

**MAIL TO AUSSIE DAMAGED****Postmaster General's Statement**

The Postmaster-General for the Commonwealth made the following statement in March in connection with the damage to Australian mails by the Ventura, through a train catching fire while running across America to the west coast:

« 43 bags of letter mails, 15 bags of second-class matter, one bag of parcels and five bags of registered mails were received in a more or less damaged condition. The major portion of the letter mails was only smoke damaged, and the letters have been forwarded to their destination. The number of articles on which the addresses were undecipherable would not exceed 100. Of the second-class mail matter, only 50 articles had been so damaged as to render the addresses unreadable. A bag of clothing contained in the parcel mail bore no address and was damaged beyond repair. One bag of registered articles from London did not contain a list, and it could not be stated whether any articles were missing from it. The addresses on all of the articles in this bag, with one exception, were readable, and they would be delivered. »

**High Class HAIRDRESSER****GENT'S SALOON****Ernest CALLE****2, RUE THIERS**

Near British Base Hqrs.

Up-to-date Appliances

Electric Face Massage

MANICURE

HIGHEST GRADE PERFUMES

TOOTH BRUSHES · SOAP · SHAVING SOAP

Hair Lotion - Shampoo, etc.

# BIG BOXING AND WRESTLING NIGHT

Meeske Throws French Wrestler  
Contest Over In 6 1/2 Minutes

Despite the lack of transport to the city owing to the tramway strike, the Grand Theatre was crowded on Tuesday night to witness the boxing and wrestling challenge contests. It was an Australian night arranged by Mr Les Judd, Australian Y.M.C.A., and his staff. A large number of motor transports had been requisitioned to convey the troops into the city from the British and Australian camps. A lengthy programme had been arranged. Interest centred in the international contests in which Australians met either French, American, or British opponents. The chief event of the evening was the heavyweight wrestling contest between Billy Meeske (Australia) and M. Pernin (Champion of France, 1912.) The audience was composed of English American and Australian soldiers with a sprinkling of French civilians including several ladies. On the ringside were the representatives of the British and American armies in Havre including Brig. General Bennett, commanding American Base Headquarters, Colonel Miller, A.A. G., Havre Base, Colonel C.H. Davis, D.S.O., V.D., Commandant, Australian Base Depots, Captain R.M. Marks, Staff Officer to the Commandant, Lieut-Col. Muir, Lieut-Col. McCallum, 40th Stationary Hospital, Lieut-Cols. G. Hurry, D.S.O., J.P. Clark, D.S.O., H.C. Nott.

## Meeske's Easy win

When Billy Meeske, ex-champion middleweight of Australia, stepped into the ring he was loudly cheered. M. Pernin, the French champion, followed and received an ovation. Pernin is a professional strong man, and won the wrestling championship of France in 1912. He is a powerfully built athlete, but lighter than Meeske. The Australian has an unbeaten record, and the manner in which he has beaten heavier English and American opponents in Havre, during the past nine months, gave his supporters great confidence that he would easily throw his French opponent. An agreement was drawn up setting forth certain conditions. It was agreed that the contest be of three ten minute rounds; and, if there were no falls, only the points gained in the last round were to count. The contest was for a purse of 300 francs and gold medal. The loser was to receive one third of the purse money. The side betting between the Australians and French was heavy, and over 14,000 francs changed hands over the bout.

The conditions under which the match took place were a severe handicap for the Australian. The Frenchman's fine physique made him a difficult opponent, especially as he intended to « play » on the defensive for the first two rounds and then to work for a points decision in the last bout. Meeske, however, was confident that he could throw his man in the first round. The rules governing the match stated that

it was to be « catch-as-catch can », no strangle holds, and « no gouging or use of any hold to punish the opponent. »

## Frenchman's Defence

At the outset the wrestlers dropped to the mat. The Frenchman was immediately on the defensive, crouched in a frog-like position. He did not appear to desire to do anything except to release himself from Meeske's grips. The Australian found him a difficult proposition. He was remarkably strong and agile. Meeske tried to turn him with several holds but was unsuccessful. He applied body holds, extended arm, leg and crutch holds. The attacks of the Australian, followed by the quick defensive movements of Pernin, made the contest exciting. Both wrestlers moved quickly across the ring with Pernin underneath. The wrestling was stenuous. The rough forceful tactics had resulted in the Frenchman's knees being badly skinned and also his elbows. Meeske applied the scissors and, during a hot tussel, the wrestlers were forced almost through the ropes. Then for a few seconds the Australian was on « all-fours », but Pernin could do nothing with him. It was then that Meeske's superior weight and strength were apparent.

## Meeske Pins Pernin

The end was fast approaching. Meeske securing Pernin had him in difficulties with a further nelson. He then slipped the head chancery hold and gradually screwed the Frenchman down. The fall was secured in 6 1/2 minutes. As it was agreed, before the contest began, that one fall was to be decisive, Meeske was declared the winner, and he repeated his challenge to any 12 stone man in the world. The Frenchman took his defeat badly and a tremendous amount of argument took place in the dressing rooms. Mde Pernin was also present at the contest. The arguments appeared to centre round a few hazy allegations that Meeske that used unfair holds, which is absolutely untrue as the Australian's fairness as a wrestler, sport, and man are unquestionable. He conceded Pernin practically every condition he wanted for the contest, and the result was that he was severely handicapped. The Australian is continually accepting great risks to prove his superiority over any wrestler at his weight. Pte Hicks (America) acted as referee.

## Young Defeats American

Pte Percy Young (Australia) met a tough proposition in Pte Cosmoss (America). The latter who is a middleweight was runner-up at the Paris competitions for the American army championships. He is a solid type of boxer with fine muscular development. He was difficult to get at and, although

## Y. M. C. A. FIXTURES

Lismore Cinema

SUNDAY — Service, 5.30 p.m.  
MONDAY — Lena Ashwell Touring Party  
5.30 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Lantern Service, 7 p.m.

A. I. B. D. Cinema

SUNDAY — Service, 5.30 p.m.  
MONDAY — Wattle Birds 7 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Lantern Service, 5.30 p.m.  
Pictures at each cinema every evening  
Entertainments are being arranged for remainder of Week.

Gymnasium

MONDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.  
TUESDAY — Diggers Dancing Class, 9.30 to 11 a.m. Folk Dancing Class, 11 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY — Officers Dancing Class, 2 p.m.  
FRIDAY — Y. M. C. A. Diggers Dance, 6.30 p.m.

he appeared slow as he boxed forward, his defence was sound and his dodging and smothering were effective. Young, moving with alacrity, boxed prettily, darting out his left and then his right, but found that his blows did not give the Yank much trouble. Cosmoss could take a lot of punishment, and would be a difficult man to handle in a long contest. He is the type that would wear out the clever boxer in the course of several rounds. However, in Young over a six rounds journey he found an opponent in great condition and with capacity for moving about the ring like lightning. That is not saying that Young would not beat him in a 20 rounds contest. His form last week showed that he would. He kept ahead on points through each round and cleverly evaded when the Yank's heavy tactics looked dangerous. Young scored from every angle and landed time and again. During some hot bouts in which the Yank attacked strongly, Young appeared at his best. His smartness of glove and footwork gave him many points. He coolly blocked the Yank's heavy blows. Both in attack and defence Young was always clever. The fifth and sixth rounds were highly interesting. Both were aggressive. The Yank hit solidly. The boxing and close fighting were fast and severe. The Australian more than held his own. Towards the end of the last round Young was on the defensive a good deal, but his cleverness kept him out of danger. He rightly secured the verdict.

## Cox wins Again

Bert Cox (Australia) and Pte Buckingham (England) were billed for six rounds, but after two rounds the Englishman had had enough.

Cox is regarded as the cleverest lightweight boxer the Australians, at Havre, have produced and so far he has early

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