

Anzac Bulletin



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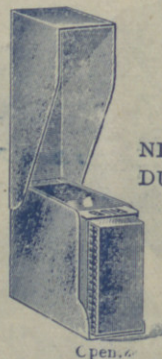
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Troops passing through a ruined town on the way to take over the Front Line.

(Australian Official Photograph.)



CABLE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

A Lucky Find.

Melbourne, 23rd March.
A labourer at Castlemaine, Victoria, has found a 17 ounce nugget of gold, valued at £64, in the street gravel.

Extension of Federal Powers Recommended.

Melbourne, 23rd March.
At the Australian Natives' Association Conference a resolution was carried that the time has arrived for the extension of the powers of the Commonwealth similar to those in Canada and South Africa.

A "Tank" Week Arranged.

Melbourne, 23rd March.
A "Tank" week is being arranged in connection with the war loan.

Lord Forrest and the House of Lords.

Melbourne, 22nd March.
Lord Forrest has resigned the Treasurership on the ground of ill-health. He states that when well he will visit Britain to take his seat in the House of Lords.

Royal Commission on Defence Department.

Melbourne, 22nd March.
The second report of the Royal Commission on the Defence Department has commented severely on the chaotic condition of the accounts. A Business Board of Administration has been appointed with Mr. George Swinburne, late member of the Inter-state Commission, as Chairman; Mr. C. W. McBeath, an honorary adviser, and with Mr. H. V. Mackay, of Melbourne, and Mr. C. H. Reading, of Sydney, as members. It is also intended to appoint an accountant as Director-General of Accounts and to make numerous other changes.

Obituaries.

Melbourne, 28th March.
The deaths are announced of Colonel W. V. Legge, late Commandant of Tasmania, and of Mrs. Johnson, owing to a fall from her horse. The deceased lady was the wife of Brigadier-General Johnson, recently appointed Administrator of German New Guinea.

Wealth of Australia.

Melbourne, 28th March.
Mr. Knibbs, the Commonwealth Statistician, estimates the private wealth of Australia at £1,760,000,000 on June, 1915, or £355 per head of the population.

Victorian Loan.

Melbourne, 28th March.
The Victorian State Treasurer announces that the 5 per cent. State Loan of £500,000 is to be converted into a 4½ per cent. stock; conversions and redemption funds provide £180,000, the remaining £320,000 will be taken by the Savings Banks Commissioners.

Repatriation Council.

Melbourne, 28th March.
The Repatriation Act has been proclaimed to operate from April 8th. The Commissioners appointed are: Sir Langdon Bonython, Messrs. R. Gibson, E. Grayndler, John Sanderson, H. P. Moorehead, R. H. Owen, and Senator Millen, Minister for Repatriation, ex officio.

No Further Taxation.

Melbourne, 28th March.
The Prime Minister has denied the report that the Government intended to impose additional taxation. Mr. Watt is considering material modifications of the War-Time Profits Tax and also the Bachelor Tax. The soldiers' wives separation allowances has been increased to 2s. a day extra, with extra sixpence for each child under sixteen, to operate from April 5th; the first payments to be made on April 18th.

Recruiting Conference Concluded. Separation Allowances Raised.

Melbourne, 22nd March.
The conference on recruiting at Melbourne is concluded. Captain Dyett reported that separation rates have been increased to 2s. a day for a wife or mother, and 6d. a day for a child, to operate from April 5th. Resolutions carried were that the Government be asked to secure a list of eligible men in each electorate; that the Government should provide all money payments for soldiers and their dependents, and also for repatriation, thus eliminating public collections; that Trades Halls and Employers' Federations be asked to help the State Recruiting Committees.

A Butter Pool for the Winter.

Melbourne, 26th March.
Under the War Precautions Act regulations have been issued constituting a butter pool for the winter, with the purpose of supplying the Imperial Government after the requirements of the Commonwealth have been met. Henceforth all factory butter will be subject to the pool regulations.

M.H.R. Working his Passage to England.

Melbourne, 25th March.
Frank Anstey, member for Bourke in the House of Representatives, is working his passage to England as a seaman. He states that his purpose is to see his invalid mother.

Fire at Charleville, Queensland.

Brisbane, 26th March.
A fire at Charleville has destroyed six business houses.

Melbourne Council's Town Rate.

Melbourne, 26th March.
The Melbourne City Council for the 57th year in succession has imposed a town rate of 1s. 2d. in the £.

Local Committees for Repatriation.

Melbourne, 26th March.
Senator Millen is forming local committees under the provisions of the Repatriation Act, to assist returned soldiers.

Recruiting: All-Australian Conference Proposal.

Melbourne, 26th March.
Captain Carmichael, M.L.A., states that his scheme for holding an All-Australian Convention to discuss means to improve recruiting has been favourably received. He hopes to secure the attendance of leaders of all parties and creeds.

Australian Soldiers and English Wives.

Melbourne, 26th March.
Two hundred and forty soldiers with English wives have landed in Melbourne and been warmly welcomed. Numbers are proceeding to other States.

Daring Attempt to Break Gaol.

Melbourne, 25th March.
Two long-sentence prisoners at Pentridge, Victoria, feigned illness and secured admission to the gaol hospital. At 2.45 a.m. on Saturday, March 23rd, they bound and gagged the warder, secured his revolver and broke into the gaol store, where they obtained a rope and climbed two walls. In the meantime the warder rolled to the telephone switch, knocked off the receiver with his head, and raised the alarm. Both prisoners were recaptured when negotiating the final wall.

Sinn Fein and Enemy Flags in Melbourne. Monster Deputations Protest.

Melbourne, 22nd March.

A record deputation, estimated at numbering over 3,000, protested to the Lord Mayor of Melbourne against the display of disloyal flags and emblems in the recent St. Patrick's Day procession. The deputation, which claimed to be non-political and non-sectarian, declared that in this procession Sinn Fein flags and banners were carried, and that loyal people felt this as an intolerable outrage. Lord Mayor Stapley said he never dreamt when granting permission for the procession that disloyal emblems would be displayed. He had decided to give no further permits except under special conditions, and was considering the advisability of disallowing all but patriotic processions.

Mr. Benjamin Hoare, a leading member of the Roman Catholic Church and writer, had a motion carried asking the Federal Government to take necessary action to prevent the display of enemy flags and disloyal emblems. The deputation, which had swelled to 4,000, proceeded to the Prime Minister carrying loyal flags. Mr. Herbert Brookes, presenting the resolution, said that it was the desire of the meeting that Dr. Mannix, Roman Catholic Archbishop, should be prosecuted under the War Precautions Act.

Mr. Hughes, speaking from a motor-car in the street, said: "One flag only can float in Australia as emblematic of the country, namely, the Union Jack. While we welcome waving the flags of any friendly nations, we shall not permit the display of flags of our enemies, whether they dignify themselves by the names of nations or of only of factions within a nation. In this great life and death struggle we cannot permit sedition to raise its head under the name of faction or any other name. I agree that the matter is of the first importance and cannot be evaded. It shall be settled. I have always been in favour of Home Rule for Ireland, but am a determined enemy of any attempt at settlement on fantastic, futile lines set up by Sinn Fein adherents." (Great cheering.)

A petition against the return of Mr. Tunnecliffe for the Eaglehawk seat in the Legislative Assembly at the recent general elections has been lodged with the Speaker (Mr. Mackey) by Mr. W. C. Hill, who was a candidate. The petition asks that the election of Mr. Tunnecliffe should be declared void, and that the seat should be given to the petitioner, or, alternatively, that there should be a fresh election. It is claimed that certain votes were irregular, and that if these had been prevented and a wrongly prevented vote had been allowed, Mr. Hill would have been declared duly elected.

Australian Cabinet Changes.

Advisory Bodies Formed.

Business Men Assist Ministers.

Melbourne, 28th March.

The Federal Cabinet was reconstructed at a meeting of the Executive Council in Sydney. Messrs. Poynton, Wise, Greene and Orchard were appointed honorary members. Mr. Hughes said the resignation of Lord Forrest and the visit of two Ministers to London to attend the War Conference, and the great expansion of Governmental activities occasioned by the war, made the appointments necessary. Mr. Watt was appointed Treasurer; Mr. Groom, Minister for Works and Railways; Senator Russell, Vice-President of the Council; Mr. Wise, Assistant Minister of Defence; Mr. Orchard, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Defence, to take charge of recruiting. The Prime Minister's Department has been overloaded, and it has been impossible to give due attention to the general policy of the Government. It was decided to transfer the Ministerial control of wheat, wool, butter and other pools, and also metals, price-fixing and the new Trade and Commerce Bureau to the Customs Department, under Mr. Jensen, assisted by Senator Russell and Mr. Greene.

The Government has decided to take advantage of the offer of the Chambers of Commerce Conference, placing their best men at the disposal of the Government. The Chambers have been requested to make available two first-class business men to join the Advisory Board for Trade and Commerce, with Messrs. Jensen, Russell and Greene as permanent head. These appointments should assure producers and traders that the political interference with business necessitated by the war would be reduced to the minimum. The functions of the business men, distinct

from the proposed new Commerce and Industry Bureau, have been approved by the Chambers of Commerce and manufacturers and other bodies. The Bureau will be non-political and have the services of a first-class business man as a permanent head.

The Government holds the opinion that the recent Defence Inquiry has strengthened the view that the Naval and Military sides of National Defence should be co-ordinated to give effect to the national policy and obviate friction and overlapping and to ensure efficiency. In addition to giving effect to the recommendations of the Defence Commission, it is proposed to create a Council of Defence composed of the Prime Minister, the Ministers and Secretaries of the Navy and Defence Departments, and two members of the Business Board recently appointed.

It is also proposed to create a Council for Finance, composed of the Treasurer and Secretary of his Department, two representatives of banks and two representatives of financial institutions.

As the welfare of the Commonwealth depends on the satisfactory relations between Capital and Labour, it is intended to make the Attorney-General Minister for Labour, in order to link up the Labour Department with outside organisations of Labour and Capital and Industrial Tribunals. A small council of three representatives of organised Labour and three employers will be appointed to advise and assist the Minister. Mr. Hughes, concluding, said: "By the additions of the Cabinet the reconstruction, and the radical departures outlined, the Government will be greatly strengthened and enabled to carry out its most difficult and responsible duties more efficiently and smoothly."

Arbitration Bill in New South Wales.

The principal measure of which notice will be given in the State Parliament during the adjourned session is the Amending Industrial Arbitration Bill drafted by Mr. Beeby (Minister for Labour). One of the features of the new Bill will be the amendment of the law regarding trade unions, which will give the Minister or some official power to take ballots on important issues, particularly if they are likely to lead to industrial disputes. The provisions of the English Trades Unions Act passed to meet the Osborne Judgment will be included. An effort will be made

to check the evils arising from "black" declarations and from picketing, and machinery will be provided compelling payment of penalties for illegal strikes. The restriction against strikes will be greatly modified, and in every direction the voluntary as against the compulsory method of settling disputes will be encouraged. A Board of Trade to investigate and report upon matters referred to it by the Executive Council will be established, and will deal with the apprenticeship question, the housing of miners, etc. The registration of registry offices and unemployment and sick and accident insurance will also be provided for.

[NOTE.—This article is the sixth of a series. The Battalions of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have been dealt with in previous articles. Those of South Australia and West Australia, are to come.]

The Australian Army: Its Famous Infantry.

Tasmanian Battalions.

By C. E. W. BEAN, Official Correspondent with the A.I.F.

In the old first Australian Division the Battalion which contained the Infantry sent by Tasmania to the war was the twelfth Battalion. The Headquarters and a little more than half of this Battalion were provided by Tasmania, the rest coming from Western Australia and South Australia. While the training in Egypt was still continuing a further batch of Tasmanian Infantry arrived in the fifteenth Battalion, and to this day there are still Tasmanians in the fifteenth. That Battalion, however, like the twenty-sixth, which also for a long time contained Tasmanians, has now become almost entirely a Queensland unit.

The twelfth Battalion was one of the units which landed in the first rush at Anzac. The Colonel and one of his companies scaled the very steep cliffs to the north of Ari Burnu, and all that day this part of the twelfth Battalion was engaged in the critical struggle, which wavered to and fro across the Nek and as far as the summit of the hill known as Baby Seven-hundred. Early in the day Colonel Clark was killed as he was giving an order, and his second-in-command wounded by his side. Another part of the Battalion was well towards the other end of the line; and it was not until the third Brigade was taken out to rest after several days' heavy and confused fighting that the twelfth Battalion was re-assembled.

The twelfth Battalion, with the rest of its Brigade, was now put to hold a position on the right of the line at Anzac; where a very well-known section of underground trenches was dug, and an extension on to one of the minor ridges became known as Tasmania Post. It was from Tasmania Post that the eleventh Battalion made its charge a few days before Lone Pine at the taking of Lean's Trench; the twelfth Battalion relieved in these trenches, but it was not heavily involved in the fighting until the attack upon Lone Pine.

In the Lone Pine attack the twelfth Battalion took a more important part than has generally been recognised, they were amongst the troops who joined in the later stages of the actual attack itself; and their casualties were some testimony of the part which they played. The twelfth Battalion took part in the feints made upon the right of the Anzac position in June, but was not heavily involved in either of them as the ninth and the eleventh. The fifteenth Battalion came in for the tremen-

dous fighting which followed on the night march by which the left of the Anzac position was extended on August 6th, 7th and 8th, and upon it fell the brunt of the terrible fighting on the Abdel Rahman Ridge on the morning of August 8th. It also played some part in the fighting later in the month near Hill Sixty, and was amongst those troops which had further to go than any others on the night of the evacuation. Meanwhile, the twelfth Battalion, having been continuously on the Peninsula fighting in the lines or in close support from the day of the landing until well on in October, had been withdrawn for a greatly needed rest.

When the troops came back to Egypt the fifty-second Battalion was formed out of a large proportion of the twelfth, while the forty-seventh was made from a contingent of the fifteenth.

It was at Pozières that the Tasmanians entered on their first great fight in France. Here the twelfth Battalion formed part of the Brigade which in the first great assault occupied the right flank of the attack. For three days the Tasmanians fought on the eastern end of the village, and extended their position gradually across the road, under one of the most terrible bombardments that Australians have ever experienced. It was indeed, a Western Australian officer of this Battalion who took the surrender of the German Commandant at Pozières.

When the fifteenth Battalion attacked in the first stages of the advance northwards towards Mouquet Farm, it was a young Tasmanian officer who, with only twenty odd men following him, seized a German trench, took twenty-five German prisoners, and brought the whole twenty-five back just before daylight, when it was clear that the position could not be held. At a later stage in the fighting around Mouquet, the twelfth Battalion was one which seized and held the nearest position to the farm that was ever taken by Australians—a position which remained in our hands and was handed over to the Canadians a fortnight later. In that same fight in which the Canadians relieved the Australians the fifty-second Battalion was also involved in a tremendous struggle. Although this Battalion was, like the fifteenth, largely composed of Queenslanders, there were amongst its officers still many Tasmanians, one of whom, Captain Littler, who is by many persons believed to be the last man

to leave Anzac Pier, was killed in a most gallant effort to lead his men, though desperately wounded, into the German trench. His body was found later within ten yards of the trench to which he was struggling.

Of these Battalions it was the twelfth Battalion which from the first day had been more connected than any other with Tasmania; and while the twelfth Battalion was becoming more and more a purely Tasmanian unit, the Tasmanian contingent in the others was gradually dying out. By the winter of 1916, which was spent in the terrible mud of the Somme, the twelfth Battalion was practically an all-Tasmanian unit. All these Battalions wintered on the Somme, the twenty-sixth and fifteenth being those of them which were engaged in active fighting during the winter. The twenty-sixth attacked near Flers in November and the fifteenth at the end of the winter at Stormy Trench.

When the Germans retired in the spring the twelfth Battalion pressed close on their heels into Le Barque, where there was a really sharp fight. After going for a short time into rest with the remainder of its Division, the twelfth was thrown in again on the occasion of the most difficult village fighting at Boursies. In this fight, in order to attract the attention of the Germans to the left and hide from them the knowledge that Hermies was going to be attacked simultaneously, the attack upon Boursies was intentionally made an obvious one, and naturally drew upon itself the greater part of the German opposition. The result was that the fighting at the entrance to this village was particularly stiff, and the capture of it a real feather in the cap of the twelfth Battalion.

A few weeks later the Germans made their surprise attack from Queant upon the lightly held out posts of the Australians in front of Lagnicourt. The outposts at the very apex of this attack were held by the Tasmanians. One post was swamped by the strength of the attack, and those on the flank of it were hurriedly withdrawn to their supporting positions. There they hung on with the Germans pouring into Lagnicourt and emerging in rear of them—and hung on with such tenacity that the Germans, so far from surrounding them, began to realise that he himself was surrounded by them and to withdraw his troops hurriedly in the village. Although he had broken through

the line at several other points the breach was not wide enough to be of use to him, and he found that his troops were spread out like a mushroom on its stalk between the posts which held their ground. Great numbers of Germans were captured, and the rest retired with difficulty from the jaws of an ugly position.

The twelfth Battalion was again thrown in with the rest of its Brigade during the fierce bomb fighting and counter-attacks that followed the capture of the Hindenburg line near Bullecourt. When withdrawn into rest during the summer months the twelfth had experienced as much heavy fighting in the course of the advance as any Battalion in the Australian Force.

Second Tasmanian Battalion.

While the Tasmanians in the older Divisions had gradually become concentrated in the twelfth Battalion, which is now a purely Tasmanian unit, there had been forming in Tasmania another Battalion—the fortieth, also consisting entirely of Tasmanians. It was at Messines that the fortieth Battalion first entered upon a great battle, although it had previously been engaged in raiding, a branch of warfare in which no Battalion in the A.I.F. has had more experience. In the attack on Messines it was the fortieth Battalion which was given the duty of crossing the little river which flows across No-Man's Land and penetrates the German position—the River Douve. The attacking platoons carried with them small wooden bridges of a single span to throw across this stream should it be found necessary; and some of those which were actually thrown over the river within two minutes of the start of the attack are now preserved for Australians to see amongst the collections of the Australian War Records Section. Having completed their duty at the front German trenches the fortieth were sent further up to reinforce the Battalions to which the further objectives had been given.

The first Tasmanians to enter the great battle with which the year 1917 ended—the third battle of Ypres—were the twelfth Battalion, which attacked, with the rest of their Brigade, through Glencorse Wood and dug in on the edge of the famous Polygon. It was on October 4th that the other Tasmanians, of the fortieth Battalion, were launched into this battle in the course of one of the most successful days' fighting which is to the credit of Australians in this war. Five days later, when the whole condition of the salient had been changed by the downpour which followed on the battle of Broodseinde, the fortieth was again flung up the muddy valley of Raveveek. With the rest of its Brigade it struggled on in little parties of twos and threes as best it could through that hopeless morass and dug in on the position of the first objective. But the plight of the



The way to Lille. Lille Gate, Ypres.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

New Zealanders upon its left, who found themselves faced at the start of their attack with wire which no troops on earth could penetrate, left the block-houses there intact, and the trenches filled with Germans, who overlooked the position and completely enfiladed the position on which the fortieth Battalion were digging in. After a consultation of the officers present it was reluctantly decided that this position was untenable, and the fortieth was withdrawn.

Double Tragedy at Adelaide.

A terrible tragedy was enacted at Henley Beach, near Adelaide, on Friday, December 21st, when a man was shot dead and a woman in his company was critically injured. The latter's husband, who gave the name of William Boxwell Miller, of Tarragon Street, West Adelaide, was shortly afterwards arrested by the police. The circumstances pointed to a domestic drama of a pathetic nature, as the dead man, it was stated, was married, and the family of the Millers was said to number four. The murdered man was named Charles Herbert Mills, tramway motor-man, 27 years of age, who lived with his wife at 11, Nelson Street, Stepney. On the night of the tragedy Mills told his wife that he wished to attend to some business at the tramway employees' swimming sheds.

Alleged Motor Conspiracy.

Racing Motorist Charged.

Murray Aunger (formerly manager of Murray Aunger, Limited, now Auto Cars, Limited), W. J. Richards, of Chief Street, Brompton, motor-car salesman, and J. McDonald, of Bute, blacksmith, appeared at the Adelaide Police Court, on December 17th, on a charge, laid on the information of A. W. B. Mather, that between March 21st and April 28th last, they unlawfully and fraudulently conspired to obtain £150, owing by A. W. Ramsay to Auto Cars, Limited, and from June 21st to 30th £67 10s., owing to the firm by the same man. It was alleged that the money was obtained by excess charges on the sale of motor-cars to Ramsay, who is a farmer at Ninnis. At the close of the case for the prosecution, the Bench committed Richards and McDonald for trial, but held that there was no evidence against Aunger.

Mr. Smith (for the prosecution): An information will at once be laid against Aunger, and he will be proceeded against before the regular magistrate.

Mr. Bright (the magistrate): I consider that as an insult.

Mr. Smith: I did not intend it as such. It is a statement of facts.

Aunger is a leading South Australian motorist, and holds the motor-car records for Adelaide to Port Darwin and from Melbourne to Adelaide.

GENERAL AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Soldier's Crop Harvested.

During January a number of farmers at Goroke (Vic.) unexpectedly assembled on the farm of Private Black, who is at the Western Front, and after announcing that they had formed themselves into a working bee, proceeded to gather the absent soldier's crop. They brought with them sixteen harvesters. Work commenced at 10 o'clock, and by 5 o'clock that evening the whole of the crop had been taken off and the wheat, amounting to 690 bags, delivered at the Goroke station.

Sick Pay Frauds.

In the Melbourne Court, before Mr. E. N. Notley, P.M., George Vivian Burns, formerly employed as a cashier in the sick pay office at the Victoria Barracks, St. Kilda Road, was committed for trial on several charges of having obtained sums of money by fraudulent means, and of having forged certain receipts, and falsified the books of the office.

Damages from Union Secretary.

The case of Hampton & Walker, small-goods tradesmen, against McCallum (Secretary of the Labour Federation), for conspiracy to boycott plaintiffs during the recent slaughtermen's strike by declaring their goods "black," has been concluded before Mr. Justice Burnside, in the Supreme Court. His Honour awarded plaintiff £357 10s. damages. A stay of proceedings was granted.

Germans Recaptured.

On December 22nd eleven German war prisoners, including the commander and a lieutenant of the German raider "See Adler," escaped from the Motuihi internment Island, near Auckland. They stole a launch, and got several hours' start on their pursuers. Subsequently they captured a scow and took the crew prisoners. News has now been received that all the prisoners were recaptured without bloodshed.

Money Wasted on Gaols.

Official returns received by the Victorian Ministry, which is pledged to a policy of economy, shows that unwarranted expense has been incurred for a long time in the maintenance of country gaols. All the prisoners in these institutions could easily be accommodated at Pentridge, and a saving of from £4,000 to £5,000 a year effected as a result of the change. Pentridge has accommodation for 718 prisoners, but its inmates number only 458; and there are only 45 in the five country gaols. At Ballarat there are 15 prisoners, at Bendigo 9, at Geelong 17, at Sale 3, and at Beechworth 1.



Trouble at Port Pirie.

Several windows of a Greek café in Florence Street have been broken with stones thrown by an infuriated mob. The reason for the attack has not been disclosed, beyond that there seems to have been ill feeling because the Greeks have engaged in business here. The row began with howling and jeering. P.C. Kennedy arrested a man named Robert Alexander Dale, who, at the Police Court, before Mr. E. M. Sabine, S.M., was convicted of loitering and was fined £3 and 15s. costs. The police do not think Dale had any hand in the stonethrowing. The windows of the Britannia Café, in Ellen Street, also owned by Greeks, were broken, but there is no clue to the perpetrators.

Business Better than Usual.

It is reported from Melbourne that a pronounced increase has been shown in the number of shops registered in Victoria, as compared with the number registered last year. The apparent advance is probably attributable to the prosperity of the community in spite of the war, and to the bounteous harvests, and the circulation of loan money. This year the number of shops registered in Victoria was 25,913, as compared with 25,653 for 1916, showing an increase of 278. Presumably, as a result of enlistments, and the extension of employment for women workers, the increase in the number of employees of shops mainly comprises women. The total number of males employed in these registered shops during 1916 was 17,168, and of females 8,573, while this year the number of males was 17,178, and of females 9,617.

Colliery Labour Difficulties.

The Lymington colliery, Newcastle (N.S.W.), which normally employs 169 workers, has been closed indefinitely, because of frequent strikes. Wheelers who went on strike on January 15th had earned on an average 19s. 5d. a day for the past three months, and most of them were boys; yet, in contravention of the agreement they had signed for three years in October last, they struck for a further increase. Discussing the trouble, the New South Wales Minister for Labour and Industry (Mr. Beeby) strongly criticised the action of the Coal and Shale Employees' Federation in upsetting the decision to resume work which was arrived at between the management and the men after local consultation. Unless the executive of the federation

accepted the principle that matters of local dispute as to detailed working of a colliery were to be settled by purely local committees, the public were in for a good deal of trouble in the coal-mining industry. If the federation had decided that this strike was to be a test of future policy in the coal trade, the Government was prepared to accept the challenge.

Aliens in Australia.

Remarkable allegations regarding the apparent disloyalty of British-born people were made at the Adelaide Police Court, when Pauline Gallas, an elderly woman, was charged with having failed to comply with the Aliens' Registration regulations. Superintendent Priest, who prosecuted, told Mr. S. J. Mitchell, S.M., that defendant was arrested by M.C. Adamson at Mount Pleasant—a district which was practically a German centre. She was born in Germany in 1854, and was a quiet, harmless, respectable citizen. She had been advised not to register herself by two British people. She had accepted their advice as reliable.

The S.M.: I wish they were here to pay her fine.

Mr. Priest: I'll not forget about them.

The S.M. (to defendant): You will be fined £1 and 10s. costs.

Mr. Priest: Her brother, who is in Court, will pay the fine. I am going to investigate further into the character of the people who led her into this trouble.

Australian Militia.

The military authorities have decided to abolish the height standard in regard to the Militia forces. In future youths when they attain the age of 18 years will be required to serve in the citizen forces, no matter what their height may be. It is also decided to give every lad physically fit to stand the training an opportunity of going through the cadet courses.

A Bush Wedding.

The most unique wedding in Tasmania's history was celebrated on January 18th at North Heemskirk, away in the heart of the wild west coast bush, more than half a day's journey from Zeehan. Here, in a long-abandoned miner's hut, Mrs. Leppard and Victor Beck, an elderly couple, were married by the Rev. T. H. Wills, Anglican vicar of Zeehan. Several miners, fossickers and tin scratchers from the surrounding wilderness, stood around in their shirt sleeves, and the bride knelt on a folded overcoat as a substitute for a cushion. The bride for many years has been engaged in tin mining, and is described as one of the best women that ever handled a pick and shovel.

GENERAL NEWS—continued.**Footsteps of the Pioneers.**

Between the Valley and Browne's Lakes a memorial stone has been laid to mark the site of the first hut erected at Mount Gambier by white men. The hut was constructed in 1841 to the order of Mr. S. G. Henty, the Portland pioneer, for the men who were to look after his cattle station. Mr. W. S. Henty, a grandson of the pioneer, who is one of the engineers connected with the construction of the Mount Gambier to Heywood railway, laid the stone.

Clergyman in Trouble.

The Rev. Dr. Hughes, Baptist minister, took a prominent part against conscription in the recent campaign. At the monthly meeting of church members at Rockhampton (Q.), at which 60 were present, Dr. Hughes was denounced. When he rose in defence he received a hostile reception, several of the adherents stamping their feet on the church floor and shouting out. Twice he was called a liar to his face. Finally it was decided to give the minister three months' notice of the termination of his pastorate.

Subsequently, Dr. Hughes said his dismissal was unconstitutional. Other ministers had expounded conscription from their pulpits.

Profit on Mining.

The net profit of the Commonwealth on the coinage of silver and bronze currency during the year 1916-17 amounted to £327,848, as against £339,694 in 1915-16. In his annual report, the Auditor-General states that the coin issued by the Treasury during 1916-17 amounted to a currency value of £680,250, being made up of £651,799 in silver coins and £28,600 in bronze. The cost of the bullion used in the manufacture of these coins was £317,461 for silver and £8,662 for bronze.

Locking the Murray.

The Murray Waters Commission, which consists of representatives of the Commonwealth and of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, has presented a report on its operations. It is estimated that work in connection with the locking of the river and the provision of storage will require an expenditure of £419,972 up to July 1st, 1918. Of this total, it is estimated that £28,047 will have been spent in New South Wales, £66,127 in Victoria, and £325,798 in South Australia. Under the Murray waters agreement arrived at between the Commonwealth and the three States concerned the total expenditure is to be shared by the three States equally, with a proportionate contribution by the

**"A Certain Liveliness."**

Testing the engines of a Short seaplane.

(From "The Bystander.")

Commonwealth. The commission recommends that the sum of £419,972, most of which has already been disbursed, should be provided as follows:—Commonwealth, £90,065; Victoria, £109,969; New South Wales, £109,969; and South Australia, £109,969. For administrative purposes each of the contracting Governments has agreed to advance to the commission the sum of £250.

Homes for Soldiers.

The last of the soldiers' homes erected by the Voluntary Workers at French's Forrest has been opened by Mr. A. James, Minister for Education. This pretty cottage is the 32nd completed on the settlement, and was built by a band of voluntary workers from the Government Printing Works. It is occupied by a returned soldier—Private Pearce, his wife, and eight young children. A little sadness is felt by the French Forrest workers, who have for more than two years been making the long trip every week to the settlement and working at clearing land, building houses, fencing, planting orchards, erecting fowl runs, etc. But although the erection of cottage homes is finished in this locality, for the time being at all events, the faithful volunteers still keep in touch with the soldiers and their families, and help them in every possible way.

Bathing Fatality.**Brother and Sister Drowned.**

Ernest George Brewer, 27 years, and his sister, Hilda Muriel Brewer, 18½ years, were drowned in a dam at High Street Road, Mt. Waverley, about noon, early in the New Year, in the presence of Brewer's young wife, who, accompanied by him, was on a visit from Launceston to his father, Mr. James Brewer, secretary of the Central Fruit Growers' Association, and ex-president of the Chamber of Agriculture.

Pozières Memorial.**Australian Monument in German Hands.**

Within the Somme area recaptured by the Germans during the recent advance stands the monument erected at Pozières to the memory of the Australians who fell during the historic advance on the Somme in July, 1916. The memorial, which is in the form of a white cross, was unveiled by General Sir William Birdwood, Commander of the Australian divisions, in the summer of 1917, and occupies a commanding position overlooking the ground where the fiercest fighting took place. It is surrounded by the graves of Australian soldiers, and each trench and objective is marked by a line of white crosses. As this area is again the centre of heavy fighting, it is possible that by now the memorial has been destroyed.

With the Australian Miners.

The Germans Outclassed.

The Underground Fighting at Loos.

By F. M. CUTLACK, Assistant Official Correspondent with the A.I.F.

British Headquarters, France,

February 17th.

The men of the Australian Tunnelling Companies come from every mining district in the six States, and are thorough masters of their craft. There are few varieties of soil they have not learned how to work in our own country; if there are any such they have found them here in France and Belgium. They have tunnelled the sea sand. They have tunnelled the Flanders mud. They have learned to kick through blue clay like any Staffordshire miner—if not better. They have worked the chalk of Lens and Cambrai. Beside the mileage of galleries they have burrowed out on one front or another, the Channel Tunnel or the Sydney Harbour Tunnel appear quite minor schemes. They have successfully sunk shafts and driven galleries deep into ground which technical experts considered unworkable at any depth owing to sand or water. In both quality and speed of work they far outclass the Germans. At Hill Sixty in the clay the Germans were baffled by the Australian miners, on the defence, for six strenuous months. At Hill Seventy and Loos, in the chalk, we attacked the enemy from a position which he absolutely dominated both on the surface and underground, and in a few months not only drove him back to beneath his own lines, but fought him to a finish, so that he dared not work at all.

A Difficult Position.

There had been considerable mining in localities both east and south-east of Loos in 1916, after the battle of the September of the previous year, and the enemy, by repeated blowing of craters had steadily worsened our position beneath his on the slope of Hill Seventy, south-east of Loos. Finally, in October, 1916, he blew in our front line here in several places. Early in the November following, an Australian tunnelling company arrived. The task that faced them was as hard as it could well have been. The enemy overlooked the position from near and far; he had undermined our front line; he was apparently, for all anybody knew to the contrary, in a position to blow more mines at any minute.

Australians Blown Up.

The Australians first work was to mine out and find where the enemy was. It was dangerous going, but there was no alternative. From every gallery in both localities the Australians started in at once to push out saps, working fast and listening at intervals as they went. In the south-east minefield the Germans blew a camouflet on

November 27th, which caught twenty-two of our men; they were waiting, and the Australians had no chance. But that was the last time they did it. It determined our men on revenge, and they knew now something of where the Germans were. Steering clear of the gassy ground about the blow, they worked round on each side. They dug three feet to the enemy's one and had beaten him easily for advantage of position when he began working again on the old gallery. Simultaneously the other galleries went steadily forward. Either the enemy had not charged mines in other parts, or he had not reached as far as he wanted to, for he blew no more for a while, and here and there the Australians picked him up with the geophone. They will show you a map covered with little crosses in No-man's Land which mark the places where, by listening and getting cross-bearings, they charted out bit by bit the lines of the German galleries. And as was proved later the chart was remarkably correct.

The Tables Turned.

By March, 1917, the Australians had driven out a number of good galleries among the German works and charged five

camouflets. On the 16th they got their revenge for the previous November, and blew all five at once—three in the south-eastern field and two in the eastern. The shock to the Germans was considerable. Any offensive mining schemes he had were killed for the time being and our front line was safe. Then in April came the capture of the Vimy Ridge. The pivot of the British advance there was about Hill Seventy and the pivoting carried our front line over the German minefield south-east of Loos. The result was rather to restore the enemy in the position from which the Australian miners had driven him, and the German galleries in this locality again ran under our line. Evidently the enemy expected our advance to continue, for he did no work in those galleries for two months. Suddenly, on June 26th he was heard charging in them; the geophone caught the inevitable sounds of it. The Australians did not hesitate. They knew the location of the three German shaft-heads leading to these galleries; they organised a joint enterprise; and on June 28th the infantry and a party of tunnellers went over for a raid. They found the shaft-heads where they expected them, and while the infantry



The Rescue Station in an Australian Tunnelling System.
(Australian Official Photograph.)

With the Australian Miners—contd.

fought the enemy back the tunnellers went down into the workings, examined them for a distance, and finally laid three heavy charges which blew in the galleries for a long distance.

Race Through the Chalk.

The game now became fast and furious. The examination during the raid had disclosed that only one of the galleries had leads in it, and so the likelihood was of only one mine to fear. The race was between our tunnellers to undermine that gallery and blow it in again, and his to work through the debris to his broken leads to fire the mine. The Australians were not sure of the exact location of the charge, but they knew, by listening, the general course of the gallery leading to it. They drove out two saps straight for it. The Germans on July 8th got to their leads in the tumbled-in dirt, fired them at once, and a small mine went up at mid-day behind our front line, but quite harmless. The haste with which the enemy fired this mine betrayed his anxiety. The race was not yet over; the enemy was now for clearing the gallery completely and further charging. One of our saps at length arrived at where it should have cut the German; our men could not exactly strike it, but knew it must be in the vicinity, and they charged a ten-thousand pound camouflet on the spot. Immediately afterwards, on July 24th, the other searching gallery struck into the enemy's a short distance away on the right. The Australians broke in, walked up the workings to the block, and listened to the Germans digging on the other side of it. They located their other sap (the one which they had charged) at five feet above the German gallery; they reckoned it would take the enemy about three days to get through the block; so they returned into their own gallery, closed up the entrance, and waited. They blew the camouflet on July 27th and wrecked the enemy's work and himself together.

Next month came the Canadian attack around Lens, the capture of Hill Seventy, and the elimination of the south-eastern minefield altogether. The Canadians received high praise for this operation, and deserved it, but they passed on some of it to the Australian tunnellers, without whose work it would not have been possible. We had to beat the enemy underground before we could safely attack him on the surface. And the moral effect remains in the whole mining system about there. East of Loos the German workings have long stopped. We have driven them to a standstill in offensive mining, and they can make no movement in their galleries which our listeners do not hear.



Leaving the Hangar for a Night Bombing Stunt.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

Wheat in Victoria.

In Victoria there are to be 140 storage silos constructed by the State Government, so that in the course of time when the State adopts the system of the bulk handling of wheat the storage capacity in Victoria will be 19,940,000 bushels, which is about equivalent to the exportable surplus of a normal harvest. On June 30th it was officially stated that the Victorian Wheat Commission held the following stocks of wheat:—

	1915-16.	1916-17.
	Bushels. Lb.	Bushels. Lb.
Millers	1,778,473 49	5,929,871 31
Shipping agents ..	14,988,396 25	37,844,920 52
Totals	16,766,870 14	43,774,801 23

This is stacked at Brooklyn and Williamstown and in other storage centres. Included is the bulk of the 16,609,149 bags, each containing approximately three bushels of wheat, carted to country railway stations during the year up to December 16th last. To these stacks are to be added the bags that this season's harvest will produce, and while in the aggregate the miles of stacks represent millions of pounds in wealth, to turn the grain into gold requires careful business handling, which must cope with the exigencies of the time. This is the problem to be met by the authorities in the future.

Weed Pollutes Bendigo's Water.

The dirty condition of the water supplied to the residents of Bendigo has been the subject of numerous complaints. The Bendigo Chamber of Commerce decided to

inform the Board of Health that, as the filth conveyed through the pipes is decidedly unwholesome, the Board should have inquiries made with a view to prosecutions being launched against those responsible under the Pure Foods Act. The official explanation is that the state of the water is due to the decay of a water weed which makes its appearance annually in Crusoe reservoir.

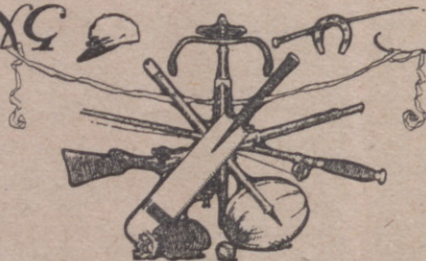
South Australian Politics.

The Land Scandal.

There were meetings of both the Liberals and the Labour Nationalists in the South Australian Parliament, on January 9th, to consider the developments arising out of the report by the Royal Commission (Mr. N. Webb) on purchases of land by the Vaughan Government, and the subsequent resignation of the Minister for Education (Mr. A. W. Styles). The Liberals have decided to ask the Labour Nationalists to nominate a successor to Mr. Styles. The Labour Nationalists passed a resolution expressing entire confidence in Mr. Styles, and announcing their intention to assist him to obtain a review of the matter. It is understood that a request will be made for a Royal Commission, but it is doubtful whether the Government will be disposed to reopen the case.

The Liberals also agreed to a motion, urging that steps be taken to prevent competition between Liberal and National candidates at the elections, which are due in March.

SPORTING NOTES.



Up to the end of the late year the totalisator had been in use on seven days at Randwick, and £158,697 had passed through the machine. Now that the tote is in full working order in all the A.J.C. enclosures, and is increasing in popularity, it is likely to handle some big totals.

Racing "Recruits."

Recruits from the ranks of performers at the "pony" meetings have done exceptionally well in Sydney since the ban was lifted last September. Some Bay (Cyrus—The Tart) is probably the best of these performers, and his recent success at Randwick, where he beat a smart field, and ran the six furlongs in 1.12, speaks volumes for his class. Parsing, Briseis, The Tuck, Clovelly, Cerise Colours and Vocalist are a few of the other brilliant horses from the unregistered ranks. The pony courses have produced many smart horses, and those to show form in earlier seasons included Cinder Ellen, Djin Djin, Water Colour, Bega, Lisnarte and Satan, all of whom were good winners at Randwick or Flemington.

Jockey's Performances.

Probably the best riding performance ever registered in Australasia was that credited to the New Zealand jockey, Albert Whittaker at Huntley (N.Z.) a few years ago. There were seven races on the card during the afternoon, and Whittaker rode every winner. George Fordham once piloted seven winners in an afternoon in Great Britain, but one of these included a dead heat for first, and he was beaten in the run-off. The best-known riding efforts on Melbourne courses were four wins apiece credited to the late Tom Hales at Flemington and Cyril Bolton at Aspendale. S. Sleigh and one or two other pony jockeys have ridden six winners in a day at the pony meetings, but that was before fixtures commanded as much attention as at present.

Acrobatic Jockey.

A striking incident occurred in the Hurdle Race at Randwick the other day. G. R. Davis, the rider of Lochnell, was thrown about 4ft. into the air as the field crossed the obstacle in front of the stand. Fortunately the momentum enabled him to fall neatly back into the saddle, and without losing his balance he resumed riding as if nothing had happened. The crowd appreciated his nonchalance, and gave him a hearty cheer for his clever piece of circus riding.

Motoring across Australia.

Francis Birtles, accompanied by his brother Clive and Mr. W. Taplin, of Adelaide, arrived in Sydney at 1 o'clock on the morning of December 23rd, after a non-stop run—save for repairing punctures

and the like—of 9 days 11½ hours from Fremantle, having travelled across the continent by way of Adelaide and Broken Hill. They broke the record, having exceeded Messrs. Armstrong and Fraser's daily average of mileage of 320 miles by 50 miles. The travellers report that between Balladonia and Eucla the aborigines were dying of measles in large numbers. Rabbits were plentiful on the eastern side of the Western Australian vermin-proof fence. Along the track of the fence, where the country was waterless and without feed, dead rabbits were to be found literally by the millions. The rabbits were changing the character of the vegetation. For about 18in. from the ground they had ring-barked trees, which were dying.

Carrington Stakes.

This year's Carrington Stakes may be written down as an event in which only four horses had a chance from the word "Go." For all the hope the others had they might just as well have been in their stables. Colugo, La Steppe, Poitrina, and Rosedell were the first to get going, and, quickly demoralising the rest of the opposition by their remarkable pace, they had the rest of the race to themselves, and nothing else ever had a chance of striking a blow at them. The field numbered 28. It is fairly safe to say that the size of the field did not have a great deal to do with the result, although it may have slightly affected the chances of some of the candidates. It was simply a case of the four mentioned having too much pace for the other twenty-four runners. At the barrier La Steppe was drawn wide on the outside, but Poitrina and Que Sera had positions near the rails, and Colugo was also well drawn. The horses have a straight run from the six furlongs at Randwick, and perhaps the draw does not count for a great deal. In the early stages Merrimee and Que Sera were noticed well back in the ruck. Poitrina was half a length in front of La Steppe when they began the home run, but they had barely reached the distance when Colugo put in his claim, and immediately the race was all over. He ran past the leaders as if they were only doing even time, and finally won by three lengths from Poitrina. La Steppe was third, a length behind Poitrina, and the most prominent of the others were Rosedell, Merimee, and Que Sera.

A Profitable Horse.

As a stake-winner Cetigne has already earned a high position, and with £17,166 to his credit he now ranks fifth in the list of leading Australian winners. As Cetigne is still a comparatively young horse, he should, with ordinary luck, seriously challenge Poseidon's position of third on the winning list, with £19,476, before the season ends. Cetigne cost his present owner, Mr. T. A. Sterton, £1,500, and a contingency, when bought last April.

A Good Performance.

Seldom has a more striking performance been witnessed on a suburban course as that registered by Amanus in winning the Epsom Purse, which was run over a mile. R. Lewis's mount, Kangatong, led into the straight, and the race looked all over. However, Amanus, who was probably four lengths behind the leader at that stage, put in a surprising run on the outside, and won by two lengths from Kangatong, with the jumper, Beccasine, a moderate third. A few early backers got tens about Amanus, but so persistent was the support for this son of St. Amant that he started a hot favourite at twos. Amanus, who is owned by Messrs. A. and G. Tye, is a Newmarket Handicap and Australian Cup candidate.

SPORTING CABLES.

Great Aquatic Carnival, Melbourne.

Melbourne, 25th March.

At an aquatic carnival held by the Deep Rock Swimming Club at Dights Falls, on the River Yarra, there was an attendance of 60,000. The proceeds go to the Soldiers' Amelioration Fund. Prince Wickyama, known as "Alec Wickham," the South Sea Islands sprint champion, dived from a height of 200 feet into the water. He was 2½ secs. in the air, and thrilled the audience with his exploit.

Victoria Bowling Championship.

Melbourne, 25th March.

M.C.C. (107) beat Canterbury (86) for the premiership of the Victorian Bowling Association. Ascotvale won the "B" grade competition.

Bowls: Mr. Pascoe, Champion.

Melbourne, 22nd March.

Mr. E. M. Pascoe has beaten Mr. V. D. Cochrane by 31 to 19 and thus won the Champion of Champions bowling contest.

The Hawkesbury Autumn Handicap.

Sydney, 25th March.

The Hawkesbury Autumn Handicap result is as follows:—Kennaquahair, 1; Persian Dream, 2; Mehi King, 3. Even money was offered the winner.



Red Tab: "That's not the way to speak to an officer. I've a good mind to ——."
Billjim: "Sorry, Sir, I only m——."
Red Tab: "Silence, Sir, when you speak to an officer."

Australian Red Cross.

The Comfort of our Troops in Egypt.

Australian Red Cross workers in Palestine have had to do battle continuously during the past winter with appalling weather conditions. The Assistant Commissioner in Egypt, in his January report, says: "This is mid-winter in Palestine, bringing with it increased rain, with bitter cold and mud amongst the Judean hills, more mud on the roadless plains."

At that time a portion of the Australian troops had been withdrawn to the warmer fringe of the desert, and only some of the remainder had been in the line. As a result the work in hospital was much quieter. Light issues were made during the month for the comfort of Field Ambulance Units withdrawn from the front and the Camel Brigade Field Ambulance personnel was fitted out with additional clothing.

At the Moascar Field Hospital the recreation tent was enlarged during the month and supplied with ping-pong, card and writing tables, deck chairs, Australian and English papers, magazines and games. The recreation tent at the Port Said Convalescent Camp is reported to be "more or less full all day and usually crowded at night when the piano works overtime." The Australian soldiers at this camp greatly appreciate the fact that lady assistants are in attendance (under Mrs. Fetherstonhaugh) to provide morning teas and suppers.

In other directions the Society has been equally alert. No fewer than 831 men were taken for outings in Cairo in January and at Port Said 560 convalescents took part in fishing excursions and runs up the Canal by motor launch. At the new hospital at Port Said a complete programme of outings has been arranged.

The Assistant Commissioner states that the wounded and missing inquiry work for Australians, which was taken over from the British Red Cross Society in Egypt in November last, is going on satisfactorily. The cable inquiries in December numbered 234 and the replies 191. In January the inquiries fell to 123, in response to which 130 reports were sent by cable.

Actress and Her Husband.

Mr. Justice Harvey delivered his reserved judgment in the Equity Court on December 28th in the case in which Ada Reeve, the actress, claimed a declaration that her husband had no interest in her theatrical business. The husband, Wilfred Cotton, counter-claimed for a declaration that he and his wife were partners in the business.

The conclusion left by the evidence, said

The Great German Offensive.

Australian Engineers Participating.

From F. M. CUTLACK, Assistant Official Correspondent.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, 27th March.

An Australian engineering unit witnessed and took part in several stages of the British Army's defence and retirement across the Bapaume battlefield during the past five days. These engineers suffered some casualties from gas in the preliminary bombardment of the battle zone by the Germans. East of Bapaume they subsequently saved and entrained some useful army stores ahead of the German advance. Some of these men were probably among the last to pass through Bapaume on Sunday. On Sunday night they assisted in digging a temporary defence line across the old scarred field of Pozières. In advance of retiring infantry they salvaged what stores and ammunition were transportable, and blew up many dumps which it was impossible to remove. They say that the British infantry they accompanied while retiring under orders were weary, but in good order and spirits. They were much cheered by the sight of large num-

bers of heavy guns that were saved, and were travelling westwards.

Bodies of our infantry frequently stopped, washed themselves in shell-holes, and ate their "tucker." The general greeting among them was, "We shall catch the Boches soon on our chosen ground." They were under but little of the enemy shelling, which was occasionally aimed on the roads ahead.

On the Monday the roads leading into Bapaume were massed with German transport. The country between the roads, a great desolated open plain, was observed to be covered with enemy troops. This was a magnificent target for our airmen, who poured bombs and machine-gun fire into it, Australian aeroplanes participating. Every machine, flying low, loosed its bombs and emptied its bullet drums.

There was severe air fighting whenever enemy planes interfered. One Australian alone shot down three enemy machines on Monday, and several other enemy machines are also reported to have been brought down.

The Timid Hero.

A military medical officer, speaking in Melbourne, stated that he had met with numerous cases of men who had proved themselves absolutely fearless in the field, as nervous as school-girls in the face of a minor operation in the hospital:—

I met him on the stairs to-day,
He held his jaw, his face was grave.
Three years ago he went away
The foe to meet in deadly fray,
And proved himself a warrior brave.

An empty sleeve across his breast,
The young Australian hero bore.
A dozen scars that he possessed
Were proof enough he'd stood the test,
The pain and penalty of war.

Now pale he stood and tremulous;
"I can't," he said, "I lack the pluck."
"What, make this unheroic fuss,"
Cried I, "and sigh and shiver thus—
You who have faced the German ruck?"

"That's different. I don't mind guns—
These stairs I cannot face. Gee-whiz!
He's got me cowed; the other ones,
Well, they were only bloomin' Huns,
But this here bloke a dentist is!"

"Melbourne Punch."


His Honour, was that there was no partnership between the parties. It appeared to him that the business carried on was Mrs. Cotton's, but her husband helped her loyally and to the best of his ability, because he was her husband, and not because he was a partner. The result was that Mrs. Cotton could, if she chose, sever all business relations with her husband, and withdraw the whole management into her own hands. But the remedy for such injustice resided in Mrs. Cotton's sense of equity and justice, in which he had no reason to think she was deficient. The decree would be for a declaration and injunction as in the statement of claim, and the counterclaim would be dismissed with costs.

[Miss Ada Reeve, during her Australian tour, has raised a large sum for the Anzac Buffet, London.]

More Shearing Records.

How about the aggregate of this team of shearers? S. Bingley, 262; V. Lodge, 239; T. Logan, 231; J. Gordon, 225; J. Carter, 219; B. Doyle, 215, E. O'Brien, 207; S. Gordon, 181. Total, 1,779. This performance was put up by W. J. Cowan's team at John Boardman's Bangaroo station, near Canowindra (N.S.W.), on October 5th. Seven men doing over 200 each for one shed on one day will also take some beating.

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Australians Oppose German Advance.

Fighting on Familiar Ground.

Queenslanders and Victorians Engaged.

By C. E. W. BEAN, Official Correspondent with the A.I.F.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, 31st March.

Australian troops are in line, facing the head of the German advance. At this point a thin line of outworn British infantry who had been slowly retiring before the Germans, fighting and marching without rest for five days and nights, passed through the Australian Infantry. The British troops were weary-eyed and battle-scarred, dusty, and carrying five days' beard, but nowhere was there anything approaching a rout. Indeed, there was more confidence and less anxiety amongst the infantry who were actually in touch with the Germans than those amongst the staffs and authorities further back. The Australians first came in touch with the Germans in a village bordering the old Somme battlefield, where they captured a German patrol.

Yesterday afternoon two of us walked out to a position which the Australians were just then relieving. Groups of our men at ordered intervals, looked magnificently strong and bronzed, were waiting by the road, others were marching downhill with a grand swing, a trifle weary after their long march, but the whole lot eager and excited at the prospect of meeting the German attack.

Ahead, on the knuckle of the valley side, could be seen a line of British troops digging in. On the next hillside, further back, a line of British Tunnellers, who from the beginning of the attack had been fighting like infantry, were digging a long line of splendid trenches.

German shelling, which till then had been very light, had begun gradually to increase during the afternoon as more German batteries came up. Shells were already falling thicker than in ordinary trench warfare.

A village in the valley was burning, the smoke forming a blue haze over the German position. In one village where shells had begun to fall, I found an old French lady and several villagers living bravely and quietly. They are being cleared today.

On the far hill could be seen figures of men in small groups moving: these were Germans, who appear to be working gradually southwards, feeling for our flank, and always trying to find a gap into which they might filter. The method of Germans in later stages of the advance has been always to feel forward down valleys in an endeavour to creep unobserved under the hedge of the hilltops which we were holding.

Yesterday the splendid British Cavalry caught a body of this German infantry getting out from omnibuses and charged them, some of our men looking on from the hills. Last night the Germans managed to penetrate a section of our line of troops. A Queensland battalion at once attacked and captured an officer and forty men and killed many others. The battle on this line is only beginning. As I write the guns are increasing their fire and the remaining villagers are being carried out by military waggons. Very hard fighting is certain to take place to-day and the next few days. The Australians are in splendid heart. The same old "Jim," "Syd," and "Bill," with the same Australian jokes and chaff, and the same fond thoughts of Australia in their hearts, are now fighting to the uttermost in the war's greatest battle to save Australia from disaster and help Britain and the British race in this most critical moment.

Artillery Engagement.

Enemy Guns Outfired.

By F. M. CUTLACK,
Assistant Official Correspondent with the
A.I.F.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, 31st March.

The honour fell to Australian troops, amongst others, to assist in blocking the German advance. Tuesday was the last day of trial for the weary British Divisions who retreated from the St. Quentin line, steadily fighting, and for five days contesting every possible spur. On Wednesday the Germans found themselves up against fresh troops, including the Australian brigades, who were itching to return a blow to the foe for re-invading the Somme battlefield. The arrival of the Australians and other reinforcing troops was received with great joy by the villagers. The hearts of our men, spoiling for fight, were uplifted at hearing cries of "Vive les Australiens." Australian battalions, who were in magnificent fighting form, arrived from the north. Some marched continuously from nine o'clock one night until four the next afternoon, with only one meal, and straight into action. By the next morning they had beaten off the German advance guards, dug a series of excellent defensive positions, and then slept in their trenches while the artillery came into action in the open behind crests, and carried on the battle.

Wednesday was spent in improving positions and getting up artillery. An artillery battle took place on Thursday, and our guns easily outfired those of the enemy. Minor infantry patrol encounters occurred on Wednesday and Thursday, and the enemy soon found that he was unable to advance on the north of the Somme past the gullies. This ground was the old training theatre of the Australian battalions when resting during the Somme campaign, and was familiar to both staffs and men.

Australian brigades took the keenest delight in repeating the manœuvres against the Germans, to whom they owe a heavy blow. On Wednesday morning the enemy heavily attacked the Australian battalions on a nine hundred yard front in twelve waves. They were mowed down by machine-guns and rifle fire, and lost at least six hundred killed. Our casualties were trifling. On Thursday, at dawn, two companies of the enemy were wiped out in attempting to penetrate our positions. During the same day Victorian and Queensland battalions pushed out their line, driving back the advance guards of the enemy for, in one place, two thousand yards.

This morning there was a further encounter with a large body of Germans, who were defeated in a skirmish in a wood, thirty being killed and some prisoners taken by a Victorian battalion without loss. Enemy traffic on the roads back to Bapaume has been severely bombarded by Australian guns.

There is every indication that the Germans have shot their first bolt north of the Somme and are preparing uneasily to receive the counter-blow in the next phase of this tremendous battle.

Land Official Dismissed.

Although, following upon the sensational findings of Commissioner Webb regarding the land deals of the Vaughan Government, the resignation of Mr. E. B. Jones, Government valuator, was demanded, that official did not immediately comply with the request. Subsequent to a Cabinet meeting the Premier (Mr. Peake) stated:—"In view of the fact that the late Government was grossly misled by the Government valuator as to the values of land, the Government is of opinion that he has forfeited his claim to the further confidence of the Government, and has decided that his services shall be dispensed with." The Cabinet also resolved to appoint a board of inquiry to consider the position of Mr. N. W. Pethick, Surveyor-General.

War Honours for the A.I.F.

The following are the statements of services for which the undermentioned decorations were conferred. Ranks shown are those held at the time when the award was made:—

The Distinguished Service Order.

Major Joseph Henry Peter Eller, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He led his company under heavy fire with great skill and complete contempt of danger. When he came under heavy machine-gun fire from a pill-box, he bombed the enemy machine gunners and put the gun out of action single-handed, thus preventing many casualties. He captured and consolidated his objective. His courage and leadership contributed largely to the success of the operations.

Lieut. Leonard George Prentice Errey, M.C., Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After an objective had been captured, an enemy strong point caused many casualties. With four men he rushed through the barrage and attacked it under heavy machine-gun fire, and captured the position, with five officers, sixty other prisoners and two machine-guns. His courageous and determined action undoubtedly saved many lives and restored a critical situation.

Major Frederick Stephen McClean, Pnr. Bn.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while engaged on road construction. The road was subjected to concentrated shell fire every night while his party was at work, but he carried out the work successfully, showing great courage and determination as well as ability in handling the transport units bringing up material. On one occasion, when a building, against which a large quantity of 9.2 shells had been dumped, was set on fire by enemy shelling, he at once organised a party and prevented an explosion by removing all the shells under heavy fire.

Bar to the Military Cross.

Lieut. Leslie Kenneth Browning, M.C., Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though badly wounded before the battalion had reached his first objective, this officer insisted on carrying on, and took over the command of his company. When the objective had been gained, he superintended the work of consolidation, until the pain and loss of blood caused by his wound forced him to lie down. Still refusing to be evacuated, he continued to receive and send messages. On a further advance and re-consolidation by the battalion, he again insisted on being carried up to the new point, where he supervised the work of consolidation, though under very heavy hostile shell fire. His wonderful grit and determination proved a fine example to all ranks.

Lieut. Frederick Fisher Christian, M.C.,

Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was detailed at very short notice to take charge of a composite party and construct and garrison a strong point in the second objective. Under heavy shell fire he organised the party, moved forward and sited and directed the work. Owing to his splendid example and energetic leadership a strong point was constructed and wired under very difficult conditions.

Capt. John Davie Elder, M.C., Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During the assembly of his company, of which he was in command, he sustained a painful wound, but refused to leave until he was satisfied that his company was in position. Finding that the shell splinter could not be removed at the aid post, he returned to his company, led it to its objective, where he reorganised and superintended the consolidation of the position, until his physical condition compelled him to leave the line.

Lieut. Hector James Abbott Ferguson, M.C., Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of a cable burying party and later of all communications forward from cable head. He showed great courage, energy and powers of organisation in maintaining communication, and personally led parties to repair lines under heavy fire. It was mainly due to his untiring efforts that the communications of the divisions were kept up during the operations.

Lieut. Clarence Taskman Mummery, M.C., Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as adjutant of his battalion during an attack. He did excellent work in getting his battalion into the assembly position. Though wounded early in the attack, he refused to go back, but remained with the battalion, assisting and encouraging all ranks. He led a party against an enemy strong point and captured the garrison. He set a magnificent example throughout.

Lieut. Norman Percy Harold Neal, M.C., Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a party laying cables and telephone lines. He showed great courage and untiring zeal and determination under heavy shell fire.

The Military Cross.

Lieut. Robert Hayward Barber, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was put in command of a platoon in an attack at very short notice, and, though wounded before the attack began, led his men forward with the greatest coolness. He captured his objective and showed splendid energy and initiative in consolidating the position.

Captain Harold Bouchier Dight Barlow, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devo-

tion to duty. On reaching the first objective he rushed a machine-gun post and shot three of the crew single-handed. Heavy casualties were being caused amongst the officers of the battalions through concentration of artillery fire, and this officer, quickly appreciating the situation, gallantly led the battalion to higher ground, which thus secured its final objectives. His skilful leadership and bold initiative were potent factors in the success achieved.

Lieut. John Reginald Blackman, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He showed great dash and determination in attacking a strong point which was holding up the advance of his company, and with a few men captured the position and took forty-two prisoners and two machine-guns. He did excellent work in selecting positions for Lewis guns which covered the consolidation. His cheerfulness and courage inspired his men with confidence.

2nd Lieut. Albert Arthur Bock, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Whilst leading his platoon this officer encountered a series of concrete dug-outs. He rushed the entrance of one and, single-handed, captured seventeen prisoners. He continued to lead his platoon until severely wounded in both legs, setting a splendid example of coolness and daring to all ranks.

Lieut. Edgar Harold Booth, T.M. Bde.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer, whilst carrying out a task of bombarding a strong position, displayed courage of a high order. His gun position, being under a continuous heavy shell fire, was totally destroyed, and he had to construct another. Despite this, his tasks were performed exactly to schedule time, and completed so well that the positions were captured without opposition.

2nd Lieut. Reginald William Brinsmead, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his company commander became a casualty in an attack he displayed great skill and initiative in leading his company to the capture of the final objective. Through his determination and untiring energy the position was consolidated and the defence organised.

Lieut. Lawrence Brunton, Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He succeeded, with another officer, in extinguishing a serious fire which had broken out on an ammunition train near a battery position. The work was carried out at considerable risk from exploding ammunition, and he set a fine example of coolness and devotion to duty.

Lieut. Alfred Joseph Bussell, Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He succeeded, in company with another officer, in extinguishing a serious fire which had broken out on an ammuni-

War Honours for the A.I.F.—continued.

tion train near a battery position. The work was carried out at considerable risk from exploding ammunition, and he set a fine example of coolness and devotion to duty.

2nd Lieut. Gordon Carmichael Cameron, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon against a strongly fortified position with great calmness and daring, and although suffering casualties he re-organised the remainder and gained his objectives. He then personally led a squad of men against an enemy machine-gun position, captured the gun and killed the crew. Afterwards, whilst consolidating, he set a fine example by his courage and coolness until he was finally wounded in the head.

Capt. Joseph Edward Thomas Catron, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in leading his company to the final objective in an attack. He showed great skill in selecting positions, and encouraged his men under heavy shell fire. The success of the operation was in a great measure due to his courage and initiative.

Capt. Percy Charlton, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a party burying cables in a forward area. He showed splendid powers of organisation and courage in leading his men to their work under heavy shell fire, and encouraging them at their task in the face of great difficulties. It was largely due to his efforts that the work was completed.

Lieut. Harold Ernest Clifton, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer led his platoon with conspicuous skill and marked initiative, although wounded early in the attack. Despite his wound, he continued to lead his men, and inspired them with confidence, showing absolute disregard for his own personal safety.

Capt. (T./Maj.) James Coghlan, Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while in charge of transport carrying material for road construction forward. The material was urgently required, and he got it forward in spite of heavy enemy shelling, going about under intense fire encouraging his men. On several occasions when the road was blocked he led parties to clear it, thus saving many casualties and enabling the work to go on. His gallantry and organising ability were responsible for the road being completed.

Lieut. Alexander McGregor Collie, Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a convoy of pack animals carrying ammunition forward. A large dump near the road caught fire, stopping all traffic, but by making a hazardous detour he succeeded in delivering his ammunition at a forward position. Though he was badly shaken by a bursting shell and several casualties had occurred among his convoy, in response to an urgent

demand for ammunition he made four more journeys under the most trying conditions and continuous shell fire. He set a splendid example of courage and energy.

Lieut. Walter Alston Collins, Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer carried out the construction of a valuable strong point under the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. By his magnificent personal example and leadership all his sappers and working parties were properly set to work immediately on the objective being gained. Throughout the operations he displayed the most admirable courage, soundest judgment and an utter contempt of personal danger.

Lieut. John Stephen Coolahan, M.G. Corps.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer by great exertions got his machine-guns and ammunition into position in rear of the objective as soon as it had been gained. He showed splendid pluck and cheerfulness under very heavy shell fire. Through his grip of the situation he rendered great assistance to the Battalion Commander by the splendid manner in which he handled his guns, and by his promptitude in opening fire, which prevented the counter-attack from developing.

Lieut. William Joseph Denny, Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while engaged on pack transport work. He showed the greatest coolness and initiative throughout, especially when his convoy came under heavy shell fire. Though wounded, he personally obtained assistance for two of his men who were wounded, and then reorganised his command and reached his destination.

Lieut. Bruce Sheen Dowling, Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. As Engineer Reconnaissance Officer he carried out his work in a most expeditious and capable manner, and his reports were of great assistance. A large proportion of the work was carried out under very heavy shell fire, and he showed great courage and resourcefulness in obtaining information.

Capt. George Gray Dixon Ferrier, Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when acting as Forward Observation Officer during an attack. He established himself in a very forward position under heavy shell fire and kept his group in touch with the situation throughout. The information which he sent back was most valuable, and enabled the group to deal with the situations as they arose.

Lieut. Roland Belfield Glanville, Infy.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon with great dash and skill in an attack. At one period, when he found himself out of touch with his men and under heavy rifle fire, he went forward, though his revolver ammunition was expended, and captured sixteen of the

enemy. He showed great initiative and leadership throughout.

Lieut. William Richard Haigh, Infy.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his men with great skill and had to consolidate his objective under the heaviest shell fire. Though suffering severe casualties, both in officers and men, he continued to move about amongst them, encouraging them in their work until he was wounded and forced to go to the rear.

Lieut. George Meysey Hammond, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. As Intelligence Officer he went forward with the advance party and secured much valuable information. Though only having the use of one arm, he captured a score of prisoners single-handed. He was fearless in the extreme, volunteering for any dangerous work and making a number of reconnaissances of the front line, through which he obtained much useful information.

2nd Lieut. Cyril Clyde Hanson, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an extremely heavy enemy bombardment he moved up and down the parapet of the trench, regardless of risk, encouraging his men. In an attack he took charge of a platoon who had lost their officer and reorganised them under heavy shell fire with the greatest courage and determination.

Lieut. Illingworth Keith Harrison, Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as Liaison Officer in an attack. He went forward with the infantry and remained with them throughout the day, obtaining most valuable information.

Lieut. Anthony Honybun, M.G. Corps.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of machine-guns in an attack. He led his men to the assembly positions through an intense barrage without casualties, and went forward in the advance, showing complete disregard of danger. When the objective was captured he placed his guns with great tactical skill and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Though wounded he refused to withdraw until the position was made secure. He was largely responsible for the success of the operation.

Capt. Joseph Walton Hopkins, Infy.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed great initiative and courage in successfully leading his company to the attack and consolidating the captured position. He remained at duty though wounded.

2nd Lieut. Thomas Balfour Keillor, Inf.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon with great dash, and was always encouraging the men. On his senior officers becoming casualties, he took charge of the company and carried on the consolidation with judgment, afterwards organising the defence very thoroughly. He was fearless and set a splendid example to all.



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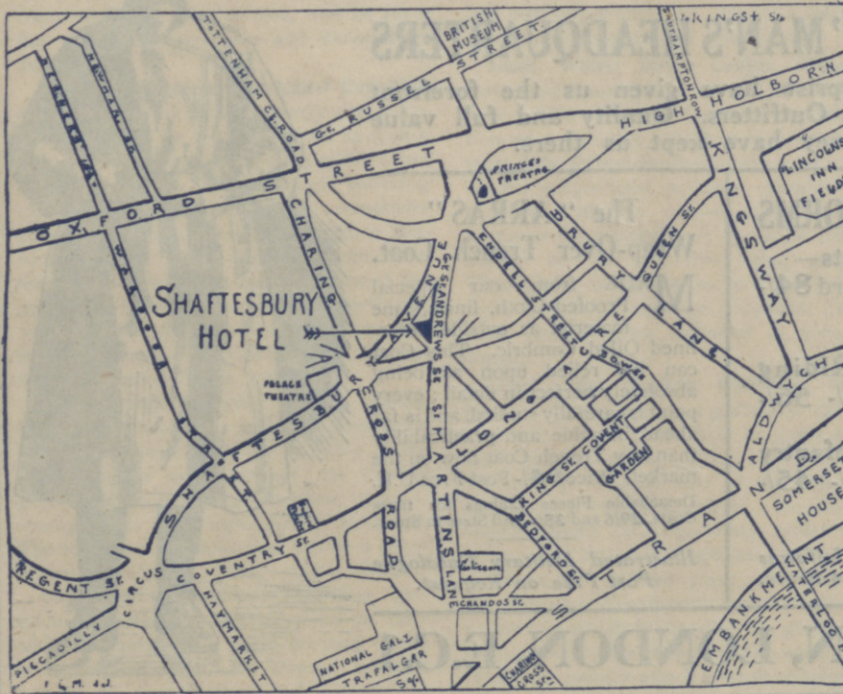
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