

# Anzac Bulletin



No. 64. (New Issue).

LONDON, MARCH 29, 1918.

Price 3d.

Issued to Members of the Australian  
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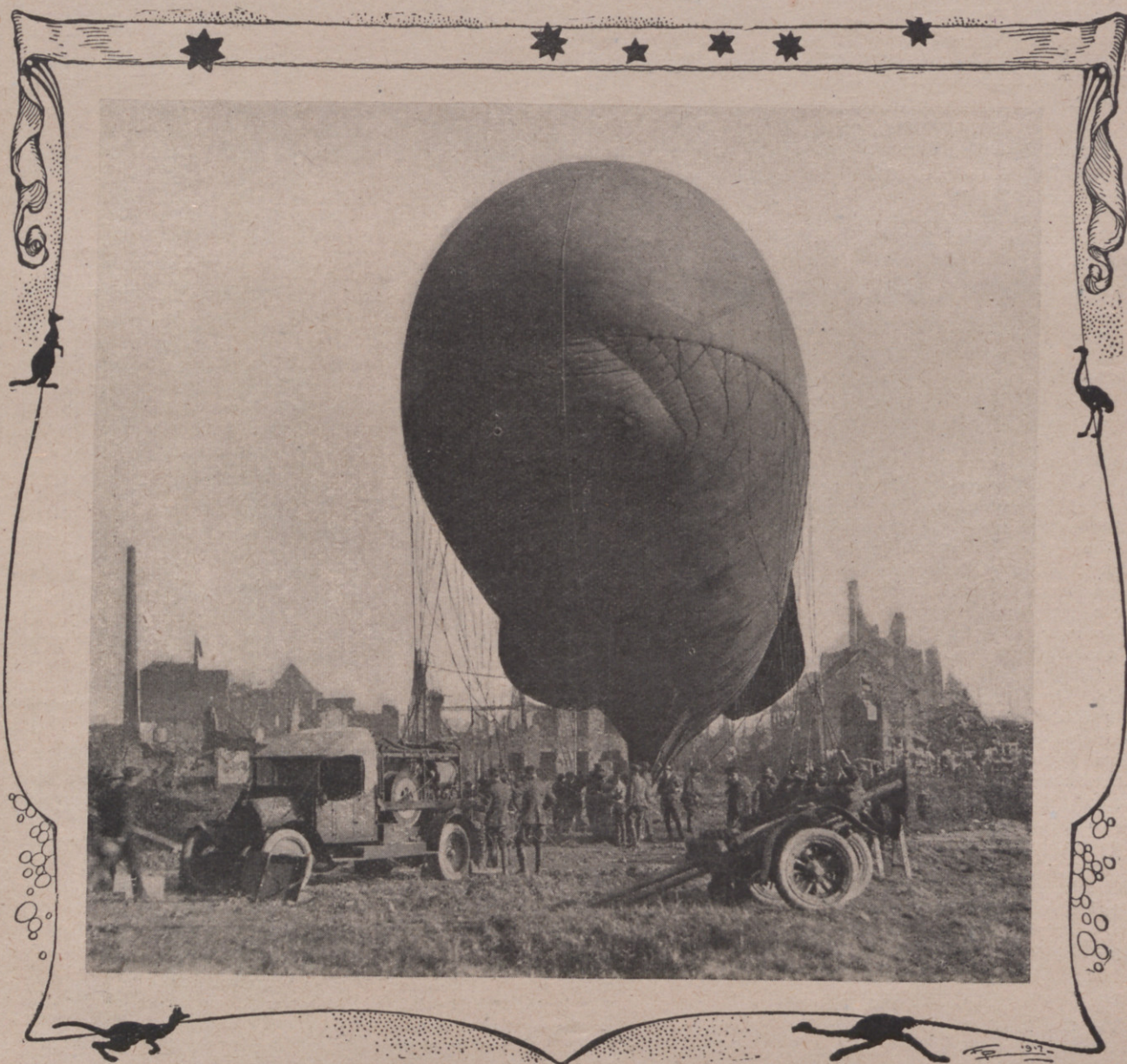
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An Observation Balloon preparing to ascend.

(Australian Official Photograph.)





# CABLE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA



## Training Cadets: New Methods Adopted.

Melbourne, 19th March.

The military authorities contemplate the introduction of new methods in training senior and junior cadets. There are to be more physical exercises and organised games and a reduction of routine drill.

## Obituary.

Melbourne, 19th March.

Mr. Barnet Glass, rubber manufacturer, has died.

## Proposed Recruiting Bonus dropped.

Melbourne, 16th March.

Mr. Pearce, Minister for Defence, has announced that the Ministry has dropped the proposal to pay a bonus of 10s. to recruiting sergeants for each volunteer enlisted.

## Death of Lieutenant Algie.

Melbourne, 16th March.

Lieutenant Algie has died from the effects of the injuries received in his recent accident. A military funeral will take place to-day.

## Patriotic Carnival at Melbourne.

Melbourne, 16th March.

A record success attended the carnival at Melbourne in aid of the State War Council's fund. A portion of Collins Street was converted into an avenue of nations and the traffic stopped. There were numerous kiosks representing the Allies, where sales of goods from mouse-traps to motor-cars and Canadian mocassins to crayfish were made. The kiosks and the street were gaily decorated with bunting by day and with multi-coloured electric festoons and lights by night. Thousands of people entered thoroughly into the spirit of the carnival, dancing and spending freely. The commercial travellers organised a surprise prize packet scheme. The first prize was a block of land, won by a soldier. This scheme is expected to raise £1,000. America won the first prize for the most effective kiosk. The total collections are expected to be over £20,000.

Melbourne, 18th March.

The Our Boys' Day collections in Melbourne, still incomplete, have reached the amount of £28,000.

## Results of Queensland Elections.

Brisbane, 18th March.

The Queensland election results are:—Labour, 51; Nationalists, 21. The Government increased its majority by 12. All Ministers, excepting Mr. Lennon, are leading. Twenty returned soldiers stood as Nationalists. Only one is likely to be elected.

## The Queensland Elections.

Brisbane, 21st March.

The latest figures in the Queensland elections show: Labour Ministerial, 50; Opposition, 22.

## Mr. Lawson, the New Premier of Victoria.

Melbourne, 19th March.

The Governor of Victoria refused Mr. Bowser's request for a dissolution, and summoned Mr. H. S. W. Lawson, who undertook to form an administration. Mr. Lawson, aged 43, has spent nineteen years in political life.

## The New-Victorian Ministry.

Melbourne, 21st March.

The new Victorian Ministry has been formed from the consolidated Liberal Party: Mr. H. S. W. Lawson is Premier, Attorney-General and Minister for Labour; Mr. John Bowser, Chief Secretary and Minister for Health; Mr. W. M. McPherson, Treasurer; Mr. Arthur Robinson, Solicitor-General and Minister for Public Works; Mr. Hutchinson, Minister for Education and Forests; Mr. F. G. Clarke, Minister for Lands and Water Supply; Mr. S. Barnes, Minister for Railways and Mines; Mr. D. S. Oman, Minister for Agriculture; Hon. Ministers, Messrs. A. Robertson, J. McWhae, H. Campbell, W. Kendell. Four of the salaried ministers are from the Peacock and Bowser parties respectively, and three Hon. Ministers from Mr. Bowser's party. It is intended to continue the main features of Mr. Bowser's policy.

## Drowning Fatality at Melbourne.

Melbourne, 11th March.

Three brothers, named Crawshaw, residing at Albert Park, near Melbourne, left Williamstown on Saturday in a yacht for Altona, met with a squall, and were drowned. One body was found; the other two are still missing.

## "Wet" Canteens Recommended.

Perth, 20th March.

Several witnesses in Western Australia, giving evidence before a Committee of the Senate, favoured "wet" canteens.

## Lord Forrest Resigns the Treasurership.

Mr. Watt to Succeed.

Melbourne, 21st March.

Lord Forrest has resigned the Treasurership owing to ill-health. The Federal Cabinet meets to-morrow for reconstruction. It is forecasted that Mr. Watt is likely to become Treasurer.

## Large Sydney Subscriptions to War Loan.

Sydney, 21st March.

Approximately £400,000 was subscribed to the war loan at a luncheon in Sydney Town Hall held by the Millions Club. It was announced that the Australian Mutual Provident Society intends investing £2,000,000, making the Society's war loan investments up to £7,000,000.

## The Financial Position.

### Australian Women Spending Too Much.

Melbourne, 21st March.

Mr. Watt, Acting Treasurer in the Federal Ministry, said that bank deposits from September, 1914, to September, 1917, had increased by £61,000,000. The banks were relatively stronger by £56,000,000. Australia had muddled man-power, but must not muddle financial propositions. Great Britain had lent the dominions £180,000,000, which was unexampled generosity. Australia now must have £40,000,000, if not voluntarily from the people, then taxation must be heavier. The women of Australia were spending far too much money; they should invest more in war bonds.

## Chambers of Commerce Approve Organisation Scheme.

Melbourne, 21st March.

The fifteenth annual conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce has approved of Mr. Hughes's scheme for the organisation of industry, and has appointed five delegates on the temporary General Council.

## Germany's Pacific Possessions.

Melbourne, 20th March.

The Australian Associated Chambers of Commerce, in conference at Melbourne, have passed a resolution in favour of Great Britain retaining Germany's Pacific possessions.



**Cable News from Australia—continued.****A.N.A. Favours Conscription.**

Melbourne, 20th March.

At the Australian Natives' Association annual conference, at Bendigo, an amendment that the association should not support Conscription was defeated on the voices. Mr. Clem Hack was elected president.

**"Fighting Mac."**

Melbourne, 14th March.

"Fighting Mac," as Chaplain Mackenzie, of the Australians, is called, has had a stirring welcome on his return home. He paid a warm tribute to the courage and generosity of the Anzacs.—Exchange.

**SPORTING CABLES.****Bowls in Victoria.**

Melbourne, 18th March.

In the semi-final for the bowls premiership of Victoria, the M.C.C. beat North Fitzroy by 7 points. Canterbury beat Armadale by 28 points.

Melbourne, 19th March.

In the Victorian Champion of Champions contest at bowls the result of the semi-finals was that E. M. Pascoe beat W. Wallace by 31 to 37, J. D. Cochrane beat T. Ridgeway by 31 to 27.

**Football.**

Melbourne, 20th March.

The committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club adheres to its decision not to play football during the war. Other clubs have decided to do so.

**Ladies' Swimming Championship.**

Melbourne, 18th March.

Miss J. Shimmon has won the Ladies' Swimming Championship of Victoria, defeating Miss Lily Beaurepaire. This is the first defeat of Miss Beaurepaire for the championship for eleven years.

**Racing Results.**

Melbourne, 18th March.

V.A.T.C.—The result of the St. Kilda Cup: Shadowland, 1; Kunegetis, 2; Blackwood, 3. Betting, 7 to 2 v. the winner. Won by a neck.

Rosehill, New South Wales.—The Rawson Stakes: Westcourt, 1; Rebus, 2; Redfern, 3. Betting, 5 to 2 v. Rebus, 25 to 1 v. the winner. Won by a neck. Dividend, £7.

The Rosehill Handicap: Willow Green, 1; Kandos, 2; Mehi King, 3. Won by four lengths. Betting, 7 to 2 v. Kandos, 10 to 1 v. the winner. Dividend, £6 3s. 6d. L. A. Walker rode three winners.

Queensland: St. Patrick's Handicap was won by Poaching King. The winner started at three, and won by a quarter of a length.



Australian Infantryman watching the Enemy at Messines.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

South Australia.—St. Patrick's Handicap: High Tension, 1; Baracoon, 2; Nomic and Weegun dead heat for third place. Won by five lengths. Dividend, £4 13s. 4d.

West Australia.—St. Patrick's Handicap: Lady Aggie, 1; Yandanooka, 2; Arrowfield, 3. Won by a length and a half. Dividend, £12 7s.

Anyone who knows the blacksoil of the West can imagine a coach trip after 2in. of rain. There was only the driver, a very silent returned Billjim (minus the filling of one sleeve) and myself. With much profanity and whip-cracking we lurched along, slower than Billy Hughes winning the war. At one particularly bad

spot, after five minutes' consecutive cursing, the driver turned to Billjim and asked: "Is the mud in France anything like this?" Billjim woke from his reverie and glanced round. "We'd call this a blanky duststorm," was all he said.

At last Australia has its travelling bank, as well as its hawking baker and butcher and its travelling johnny-all-sorts. The mallee country on the borders of Vic. and South Australia produced it—a bank that covers a distance of sixty miles along the Ouyen-Pinnaroo line, and through which cocky can transact his business two days a week at given points. The bank claims that it supplies the only service of the kind in the world.



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

## The Australian Army: Its Famous Infantry.

### Queensland Battalions.

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

London, March 11th.

Queensland has sent some of the most famous of all Australian Infantry Battalions to the war. At least ten Battalions are more or less formally connected with Queensland—the ninth, fifteenth, twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, thirty-first, forty-first, forty-second, forty-seventh, forty-ninth, and fifty-second. The ninth has the reputation of having been first ashore at Anzac. At the dim hour of the morning when the landing was first made, it was impossible to see any great distance along the beach; but it is generally accepted in the Force that this tradition is right. The parties of Australians who, as far as can be made out, reached furthest inland in the early hours of that great morning, contained probably more of the ninth than of any other Battalion, although in almost every case there was some mingling of troops. When the line was endangered on the second day by the wiping out of most of the troops on the "Fourhundred Plateau," the ninth, which had been partly withdrawn for re-organisation, was one of the two Battalions called upon to re-establish the line. In going forward they found the bodies of men of another Queensland Battalion, the fifteenth, lying thickly behind the scrub on the plateau—this being the first meeting of these, the two oldest, Queensland infantry units after their entry into the war.

Amongst Queensland Battalions it was now the fifteenth which had to bear the brunt of the next month's fighting. The Battalion, which included also Tasmanians, had been split up on landing, but was put almost at once into the terrible corner to part of which it gave the name of Quinn's Post. For over a month the Fourth Brigade held these dangerous trenches, where the bomb fight never ended. Towards the end of May the attacks and counter-attacks became almost a daily matter there, and on May the 28th, when the Turks rushed part of Quinn's Post, Captain Quinn lost his life in leading his men to regain it in a charge of which the onlookers speak as one of the finest spectacles ever seen in Gallipoli. Shortly after this the fifteenth was called out of the line for what was called on the Peninsula a "rest."

The ninth and fifteenth had both taken part in beating off the Turkish attack on the morning of May the 19th; while the fifteenth was "resting" the ninth engaged in two of the most difficult minor opera-

tions that Australians had ever undertaken, the two sorties of June the 4th and June the 28th. The ninth had made a reputation by the extraordinary success of a small raid carried out beyond the right of our lines a few days earlier. The two sorties which it was called to make during June in order to help the troops at Helles by tying the Turks down to Anzac and preventing them from reinforcing their line at Helles against the attacks made by the British in the south, were completely successful in their object, but highly expensive; and to the men who had to go out to a Turkish trench, sit there for an hour or two, and return without any gain of ground, these operations were more trying than some of the great battles through which the ninth Battalion has since fought.

In August the fifteenth Battalion had to undertake what was probably the heaviest of all tasks in the great night attacks by which the old Anzac position was extended to join hands with the Suvla landing. In the actual march out on the night of August 6th and 7th another Battalion led. But in the dawn of August 8th, when the column pushed out further and made the one and only actual assault ever undertaken towards the great summit of Sari Bair itself, the fifteenth Battalion was leading. The column made its way as far as Abdel Rahman Spur, but as it was crossing this it suddenly came under a whirlwind of machine-gun fire, which staggered the leading companies. As the Turks followed this with an attack which threatened the flank and rear, the whole column had to get back as best it could, and was only saved by the magnificent covering fire put up by its machine-guns. The fifteenth Battalion was involved in the heavy fighting which followed Hill 60, and by the end of August was thoroughly exhausted.

#### The Next Queensland Battalions.

It was shortly after the close of this heavy fighting that two other Queensland Battalions arrived on the Peninsula, the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth. The twenty-sixth at this time included a considerable number of Tasmanians. These Battalions held for a time the position which was the highest up on the Ridge ever occupied by Australians—the trenches at the apex on the Rhododendron Ridge. When the evacuation came most of the Queenslanders had been moved before the final night, but the fifteenth Battalion was one of those which had to retire from the furthest posi-

tion up the Ridge from which retirement took place, and withdraw down the deserted valley after the trenches had been left behind them for the Turks.

On reaching France the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth Battalions were two of the first to enter the trenches on the Western Front and some of the earliest to raid the Germans. The ninth Battalion carried out one of the most successful raids ever made by the Australians. But it was a new Battalion altogether which first carried the Queensland colours into a heavy fight. This was the thirty-first, drawn from Queensland and the northern rivers of New South Wales, which for a night and morning went through the most acute fight which Australian troops have ever been involved in—the attack before Fromelles. Three days later the ninth Battalion was again the first amongst all Australian units to enter the Battle of the Somme.

#### Pozières.

It was the ninth Battalion which had the extraordinarily difficult task of fighting up the old German second line on the right flank of the Pozières attack. For two nights previously the Battalion had made small attacks on the German strong points in these lines in preparation for the great attack. And in the great attack its task was perhaps the heaviest. It was the right flank at Pozières which was the trouble for a fortnight; the Queenslanders of the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth were amongst the troops who twice attacked these German trenches in the centre after the capture of the village—the first great attack failing and the second succeeding. These two attacks together constituted probably the heaviest battle in which Australian troops ever engaged.

Immediately after the capture of the "O.G." trenches, the forty-seventh Battalion, which contained a good half of the old fifteenth, was put in to improve and extend these lines. The fifteenth itself was at the time heavily fighting in the first attacks that were made immediately northwards towards Mouquet Farm. The terrible fierce struggle towards this farm, which finally ebbed and flowed over the farm buildings themselves, involved at one time or another five Queensland Battalions, the ninth, the fifteenth, the forty-seventh, the forty-ninth and the fifty-second. But of these the brunt fell upon the forty-ninth and the fifty-second. These Battalions contained a big proportion of the men from



two of the oldest Gallipoli units—the ninth and the twelfth, but the Tasmanians of the twelfth only composed a portion of the fifty-second, which has since become almost entirely a Queensland Battalion. They were the two which were involved in the last final sortie upon the Farm and Ridge before the Australians left the Somme. The forty-ninth, which attacked the Ridge, carried its furthest objective and held it, and handed it over to the Canadians. But the Farm was a more difficult problem, and although that part of the fifty-second which was next to the forty-ninth took and held its trenches, the Farm was won only to be lost.

All these Battalions went through the terrible winter on the Somme. The twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth were two of those engaged in the heartrending struggle in the November mud near Fliers. At the end of the winter, before the Germans retired, the fifteenth Battalion undertook the first difficult attack upon Stormy Trench. The ninth was just about to raid the equally awkward trench known as "The Maze" when the Germans withdrew. The ninth disputes with one other Battalion the honour of having first discovered the German retirement. It followed them in wonderful trim to Le Barque. The twenty-sixth was the next engaged in the heavy fighting at Malt Trench. Later in the German retirement it was the twenty-sixth and its Brigade which fought perhaps the best example of a village fight that lies to the credit of Australians, at the capture Lagnicourt. The next occasion when a Queensland Battalion was engaged was in the attack on Noreuil, in which the fifty-second played a part. The forty-ninth Battalion helped to advance the line from Noreuil towards the great Hindenberg line at Bullecourt.

The ninth, twenty-fifth and the twenty-sixth were involved in the Bullecourt fighting. It was the ninth Battalion which finally obtained contact with the Gordon Highlanders in the Bullecourt trenches on May 7th. But the fifteenth Battalion was the Queensland unit which faced a fiercer struggle at Bullecourt than any of the others from the State. The fifteenth was in the first great fight of April 11th, in which the German line, despite the fact that its famous Hindenberg wire was still unbroken, was taken by the Australians, only to be lost later in the day when supplies and communication failed. The forty-seventh also was to some extent involved in this first Battle of Bullecourt.

#### Messines and Ypres.

It was at the great Battle of Messines on June 7th last that the two latest, and two of the very best, of the Queensland Battalions entered their first big battlefield in France. These were the forty-first and forty-second Battalions. It was the forty-first which, during the five days before the

battle, while our bombardment was gradually shattering the hill slope opposite, held the whole front line of the third Australian Division. They had to endure every retaliatory bombardment showered back by the Germans whenever our own practice barges descended upon him. Later in the fight both the forty-first and forty-second acted on the left of their Division. Meanwhile three other Queensland Battalions, the forty-seventh, forty-ninth and fifty-second, had been flung in beyond Messines. The forty-seventh had to maintain the difficult struggle at the point where the third and fourth Australian Divisions joined. It attacked opposite Huns Walk, and reached the support trench of the second German line, and for three days was engaged in the fighting which wavered backwards and forwards at that disputed point. Further left the forty-ninth and fifty-second had reached the same second line, and after four days' heavy fighting helped to close up the gap in the Australian position there. The counter-attacks which the fifty-second withstood were more serious than most people realised. The fifteenth Battalion was one of those which relieved these troops and carried the line still further east of Messines.

During the summer, while almost all the other Australians were resting, the third and fourth Divisions, to which the fifteenth, forty-first, forty-second, forty-seventh, forty-ninth and fifty-second belonged, were continuously in and out of the line. The forty-first and forty-second were amongst those who endured one of the most trying fortnights that Australian troops have ever experienced, when the new line was for the first time being dug in front of Messines. Later, on July 31st, when the great Battle of Ypres was started by the British further north, the forty-first and forty-second engaged on the extreme right of this battle in making an attack upon the windmill in No-man's Land and a number of German posts east of Messines. But the majority of Australians did not enter the Ypres battle until September, and when they entered it it was at the spear-point of the British attack—on the heights by the Messines Road and Polygon Wood.

The ninth Battalion was near the right of the great Australian attack of September 20th; and the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth nearer the left of it. This day's fighting was probably the most successful in which Australian troops were ever engaged up to that time. The furthest objective was carried all along the line. The next Queenslanders to enter this battle were the fifteenth Battalion, who attacked in the second phase on September twenty-sixth; and the thirty-first Battalion, who were put in place of other Australians worn out by the German counter-attack of the day before. Both Battalions did magnificently, the thirty-first reaching and holding

its objective under very heavy difficulties, in spite of the driving back of the troops upon their flank. The forty-first and forty-second came into this battle for the first time on October 4th, a fight which was even more successful than that of the 20th, because, besides reaching all their objectives, our troops walked straight over an intended German counter-attack within ten minutes of the start. The twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth were also involved in this fighting.

The period which next followed was in some ways the heaviest endured by Australians in the Ypres sector. The twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth Battalions were on the battlefield through most of this trying time, which, to most of those who went through it, was heavier than any actual day of battle. In the later stages of the battle the forty-first, forty-second, forty-ninth and fifty-second were amongst the troops who relieved some of these much tried units; and the forty-seventh was engaged in one particularly difficult advance on the right flank of the whole army movement towards Passchendaele.

The man who lives in Queensland has indeed reason to be proud of the famous units of Queensland infantry at the front. The record of them is as honourable, and their names will one day be as famous, as those of any battalions in any army in the world.

#### Australasian Muniton Workers' Association, Barrow-in-Furness.

A conference of delegates, comprising the Executive Council of the A.M. Workers' Association, was held at Barrow-in-Furness on March 2nd and 3rd. Representatives were present from Birmingham, Sheffield, Erith, Crayford, Woolwich, and Barrow. After the business had been dealt with the delegates were entertained at dinner by the Barrow branch, and subsequently visited the picturesque and interesting ruins of Furness Abbey.

#### Australians on Leave.

##### Travelling and Accommodation.

The Australian military authorities have organised a department to make arrangements for sight-seeing trips of various kinds for soldiers on leave. For this purpose a number of honorary guides are required to escort the men on their various outings. Any person (Australian or otherwise) who would care to undertake the work is invited to communicate or call at the "Hospitality Dept." Room 41, Australian Imperial Headquarters, Horseferry Rd.

Soldiers will find it useful to know that any information required by them in reference to travelling arrangements, accommodation, sight-seeing, etc., is obtainable at Room 41, at the A.I.F. Headquarters, or at No. 135, Strand, where a branch of the General Information and Hospitality Dept. has recently been opened.



# GENERAL AUSTRALIAN NEWS



## Recruiting in New South Wales.

It is probable that Mr. J. J. Cohen (Speaker of the Legislative Assembly) will be appointed Chairman of the State Recruiting Committee in place of Dr. Macintyre, who resigned at the end of the year.

## Sir Matthew Harris.

The estate of the late Sir Matthew Harris, of which probate has just been granted, has been valued at £32,792. The testator, who died in June last, bequeathed the whole of his estate to the members of his family.

## Cost of Living.

In his statement for the month of December, the Government Statistician of New South Wales observes that the prices of necessities were lower than in the previous month. Prices of meat in December were 74.8 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, and other food and groceries were 22.3 per cent. higher.

## Federal Shipping.

A statement of accounts detailing the transactions of the Commonwealth Government line of steamers up to June 30th, 1917, shows that during the preceding twelve months the earnings of the ships in Australia were £92,114 15s. 2d., which, added to £69,825 remitted from the head office, London, makes a total of £162,554 15s. 5d. The overdraft of the shipping line with London branch of the Commonwealth Bank in June last was £1,816,587. Freight for vessels of the Commonwealth line has been increased to £7 10s. a ton, as against £6 a ton previously in force.

## Cyclone in Queensland.

A dangerous cyclonic disturbance, which will probably cause heavy floods, was reported by the Brisbane Meteorological Office on January 21st, as existing in the central and south-eastern districts of Queensland. On January 20th the disturbance was centred approximately 150 miles north-east from Mackay, and on the following morning it had crossed the coastline, and the centre was probably located midway between Townsville, Longreach, and St. Lawrence. The disturbance was expected to move on a south-easterly course. At Rockhampton 456 points of rain fell in 24 hours. Other falls were:—Maleny, 400; Mapleton, 350; Landsborough, 335; Woodford, 335; Mirimvale, 313; Gracemere, 305. The Buckley River was reported to be in flood. Telegraphic communication with Mackay and St. Lawrence was completely interrupted, and it was feared that these places had suffered severely. The coastal region between Bowen and Keppel Bay experienced the full effects of a very severe north-easterly to northerly gale.

## Homes for Soldiers' Widows.

The Department of Lands of New South Wales in its annual report states that under the Government scheme to provide homes for widows and widowed mothers of soldiers, 307 cases were dealt with for the year ended June 30th last. Of the number 285 cases were approved and 58 cottages erected, while rental allowances were granted in 227 cases. Altogether 316 adults and 509 children were provided for.

## Anniversary Day in New South Wales.

January 26th was celebrated as a general holiday in New South Wales, and the day was commemorated by a ceremony at the statue of Captain Phillip in the Domain, which consisted of an address from the President of the Pioneers' Club (Mr. R. J. Black, M.L.C.), and the breaking of the Union Jack and cheers for the King. The holiday traffic showed an increase over last year, and races, regattas, cricket matches, and surfing were extensively patronised.

## South Australian Harvest.

An official forecast of the South Australian wheat harvest was issued on January 17th. The total area sown was 2,642,945 acres, representing a decrease of 469,534 acres on the previous year. Of this 2,255,616 acres was devoted to grain, against 2,778,357 acres in the preceding season, and 297,611 acres, compared with 323,633 acres, was reserved for hay. About 89,000 acres failed or was fed off. The aggregate yield is expected to be 26,658,999 bushels, against 45,745,064 bushels in 1916-1917, equal to an average of 11.82 bushels, against 16.46 bushels in last season. The hay return is stated at 388,881 tons, against 436,813 tons last year, representing an average of 1.31 tons. Contributing causes to the diminished averages are failure and destruction of seed by mice, excessive rains, rust, take-all, and rabbits.

## Girls and the War.

The evolution of the numerous bands of patriotic entertainers in Australia is a curious feature of war time. These groups generally consist of about a dozen girls (with perhaps a returned soldier or two, some vocalists and dancers, and pianist and violinist. Sometimes they are wise enough to place themselves under the direction of a competent "producer," who tutors them and arranges

their turns. They think out new and startling scenes and costumes, or faithfully copy popular items of the moment, and then offer their services to some patriotic entertainment, and if their performances are not altogether above reproach, at least their intentions are. The selection of a title is a matter that entails more and more brain-fag as time goes on. Catchy, attractive names are soon snapped up, and must not be duplicated, and when the field is already occupied by Strollers, Pierettes, Cheer Ohs! Merry Madcaps, Queer Kewpies, Melody Maids, Gumnuts, Merriuns, Sunshine Girls—what is there left?

## Lord Mayor's Fund, Sydney.

The Lord Mayor's Fund, to which the people of New South Wales subscribed £216,000 in the early days of the war, is now almost exhausted, and another £150,000 is now requested from the same source. The subscriptions to hand so far are approximately about £11,000. The monthly disbursements of the fund are approximately £12,000, and 5,250 families are assisted every week. The persons benefiting number over 20,000, of whom 15,000 are children.

## Treasurers' Conference.

The Treasurers of the different States of the Commonwealth met in conference at State Parliament House, Melbourne, on January 18th, when the two questions of chief concern were:—How much the Federal Treasurer would advance in the way of loan money for the requirements of the calendar year and for how long would the repayments of the £18,000,000 loan distributed under the financial agreement of 1914 be further deferred. Mr. Holman indicated to the conference that New South Wales was only concerned with the question of repayment of its share in past advances. The State had found it could borrow on its own and would not ask financial assistance from the Commonwealth, to which it was already indebted to the extent of £7,000,000. In regard to this matter, Sir John Forrest agreed with the conference that the loan is to be repaid in five years from the termination of the war, with a maximum limit in 1925. Out of that total New South Wales received £7,400,000, and the whole carried with it 4½ per cent. interest.

The net profit on the winter butter pool, which was controlled by the Commonwealth Government, was, according to the Auditor-General's annual report, £1,495. The profit on the sale of rabbit skins was £76,847, and on chartered vessels £46,442. The profit on rabbit skins was made in a few months.



**General Australian News—continued.****A Profitable Enterprise.**

For the third time in ten months an extensive robbery from a mailbag in transit has been reported from New South Wales. On March 7th, 1917, a registered mailbag, containing £2,000 in notes, belonging to the E.S. and A. Bank, was stolen between Bulli and Sydney. On November 5th last a registered packet, containing £1,500 in notes, belonging to the same bank, was stolen between Bulli and Sydney. On January 17th the third robbery was reported. A registered mailbag containing £1,600 in notes belonging to the Bank of New South Wales, and three other registered packets, was emptied of its contents between the parcels post-office, Sydney, and the post-office at Brewarrina.

**Queensland Shooting Cases.**

Several shooting cases have occurred in Queensland recently. A returned soldier named George Henry Gore was remanded at Brisbane on January 12th on a charge of having attempted to kill Beatrice Gore at South Brisbane on January 11th. From Gympie it is reported that at Tewantin on January 12th Otto Peter Otterson is alleged to have fired two revolver shots at Richard Herbert Newton, a tenant with whom he had quarrelled, one of the shots taking effect in the abdomen, though without fatal result. News has reached Townsville that the body of Joe Stinnetti, an Italian, who was suspected of having murdered an Italian woman, Mrs. Origassi, at her home in the bush near Home Hill Station, was found in the scrub three-quarters of a mile from the scene of the murder.

**New South Wales Parliament.**

When the State Parliament re-assembled on January 29th the Leader of the Opposition submitted a motion of censure. The motion referred to the coal contract, the grain silo contract, the secret Cabinet memorandum on recruiting, and the national party's election pledge concerning Conscription.

The Premier, who welcomed the censure motion, declaring that it would give him the opportunity of dealing calmly with certain matters, secured the adjournment of the House.

Mr. MacAbbott announced his intention to resign, in keeping with his pledge that he would do so if the Upper House voted "No" on the Conscription question, and he stated that he would not stand again.

**A Determined Suicide.**

Robert Peter Walker, of Nott Street, Port Melbourne, who unsuccessfully attempted suicide by asphyxiation on January 17th, made a second and successful attempt on

January 23rd, the method employed being exactly the same as previously, namely, enveloping his head in a blanket over a gas-stove. When Walker made his previous attempt his plan failed owing to the gas supply in the stove, which was regulated by a penny-in-the-slot meter, running out. He was treated at the Melbourne Hospital, and appeared at the Port Melbourne Court on a charge of having attempted suicide, but was released and placed in the care of a married son, Robert Henry Walker, who lives in Barkly Street, Carlton. On January 23rd Walker, sen., returned to the deserted house in Nott Street, Port Melbourne, where his son later found him sitting in a chair huddled over the stove with a blanket covering his head. The gas tap was turned on. Turning the gas off, the younger man hurried for a doctor, who on arrival found that death had taken place some time previously.

**New Use for Stadium.**

The West Melbourne Stadium having been closed to boxing, is now being used as a store for wheat and wool. It is proposed to resume boxing contests shortly at the Pavilion, Exhibition Street, now sub-let to the Socialist party. The proposal is to have boxing matches on Monday evenings. The lease of the Pavilion is held by Stadiums Limited.

**Lad Perishes from Thirst.**

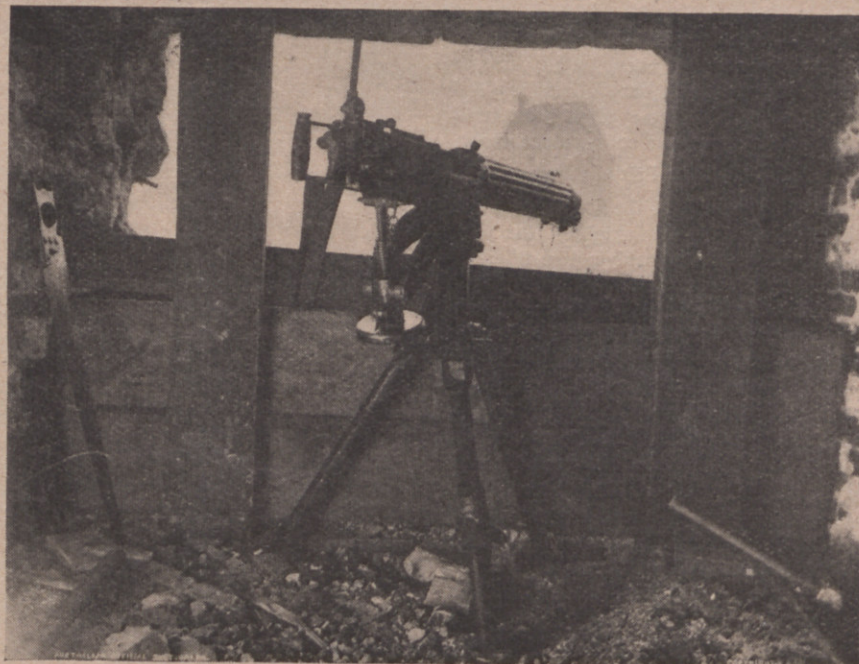
Frank Deeble, a lad employed at Mildura station, in the Murchison district, was lost in the bush on December 31st, and found dead by a search party eight days later. His tracks showed that he had abandoned a bicycle and wandered through the mulga until he died of thirst.

**Townsville Girl Murdered.**

On January 20th Gertrude Dillon, a young woman, was found with a bullet wound in her head near the western breakwater, Townsville. She was taken to the hospital in an unconscious condition, and died shortly after admission. She lived with her parents in South Townsville. Later, John Percy La Hay, who was keeping company with the girl, was arrested on a charge of wilful murder.

**Strangled with Ligature.**

Evidence given at the inquest at Flinders Island, Bass Straits, on the body of C. Collins, a prisoner, showed that when in the cell he gashed his wrist open with a piece of broken bottle. A doctor bandaged the wound and gave Collins a sleeping draught. Collins was watched during the day, but next morning was found dead, having torn the ligature from his arm and strangled himself with it.



A machine-gun position on the Australian Defence Line.

(Australian Official Photograph.)



## The Domestic Side of a Division.

### A Return to Tribal Life.

### The Work of a Claims Officer.

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

British Headquarters, France,  
March 5th.

The military unit called a Division is a sort of little tribe under its chieftain and swears by itself and its members in all circumstances and against all comers. It is designed to be mobile, self-supporting, self-contained. The smaller chiefs within it rule the families of the tribe with the paternal care of all true heads of families, and the well-being of the whole tribe is the highest law. It teaches, like those famous honey-bees, the act of order to a peopled kingdom. It provides its own shops, engineers, and craftsmen of all sorts; it has its own carriers, tradesmen, musicians, playactors, posts and telegraphs, police, laws and law-makers, courts and judges. The canteens, wet and dry, and the musical troupes are profit-sharing institutions which have opened the eyes of many to the practical economy of municipal business houses. The Division will build, if necessary, its own houses, erect its public baths and laundries, plant its own gardens, furnish its own libraries and sportsfields. War is a wasteful business, but the Division does the best to correct it through the divisional salvage company. The Division, in short, can itself produce and manage anything it wants—which, seeing that it is a carefully constituted tribe of about twenty thousand men, is really not more than might be expected of it. One of the Australian divisions runs its own soda-water factory.

#### The Officer for Friendly Relations.

The operations of the Divisions in this foreign country—although in their own country it would probably not be different—naturally require some detailed regulation of the domestic sort. A Division is quartered, for instance, on a district; in due course it departs again, leaving behind its own particular marks—its friendships, its improvements, its damages. All Divisions are constantly moving about France, and in these respects there is no great difference between them. Every Division recognises that for its own sake and everybody's sake it has got to have an Officer for Friendly Relations in the Back Areas, a receiver of civilian representations—in short, a Claims Officer.

His hands are full enough and his sense of justice must be nicely balanced. His very existence is a provocation to civilians who make claims. His presence as an

arbitrator lends a professional aspect to any act of damage alleged on the one hand or denied on the other. His attitude in life towards the people around him is based on the two great truths, that a soldier will break or pinch anything that he can, and that the French or Belgian civilian will demand the uttermost franc for damages done. In course of time both parties, with the growth of friendly relations, learn to play the game; and there probably never was a war where civilians were so equitably and faithfully treated by foreign troops living among them under military necessity.

#### Bricks and Wood.

Yet while the war lasts horses and mules will inevitably go on eating barnposts by night, and the windows and chairs of village houses rented for messes will continue to be broken. Not every unit in the Division finds it easy to understand why, when a village has been demolished by hostile shell fire, the civilian authority is excited to great wrath if the soldiers use the tumbled-down bricks. And if there is one thing the average battery or battalion desires more than the bricks from a ruined

house, it is the wood of the rafters and door-frames. You would think that these heaps of wreckage were of no further use, save to the desperate artillery driver who wants to make standings for his horses, or for the shivering infantryman who wants to warm himself and boil his dixie. During a recent bitter frost the troops of a certain Australian infantry brigade, quartered in a busted old village behind the lines, apparently resolved one night that they must light some fires or die, and they accordingly foraged among the ruins for the wood. There was a great outcry from the civilian representatives next day, and the blue-lipped ranks had to listen on parade to the divisional law's stern disapproval of such offences, sanctity of the home (though busted), and so forth. A few days later an Australian private of this brigade, just returned from leave, casually picked up a piece of wood from some ruined building, and was moving off with it, little knowing the full enormity of his crime, when a whole battalion, looking out of its 'bivvies' on the edge of the field, roared out at him in one mighty noise, "Put down that house."



A machine-gun packed for transport.  
(Australian Official Photograph.)



### The Domestic Side of a Division (continued).

#### The Too-True Camouflage.

Most of these civilian claims arise from school-boyish damages. Only in some such spirit can be explained the enduring joy in a certain unit's transport lines over a small civilian cart you may see there. It was found, according to the general statement, in some emergency; and the Divisional Claims Officer is still looking for it vainly, with the worn and wrinkled reclamation papers of the Flemish farmer in his pocket. The unit fondly hopes and expects that by-and-by he will give it up and the cart will be theirs without doubt or camouflage, the memory of man running not back to the contrary. The danger may linger on of their having to pay for it, as the Pioneers did for the anvil. "And how the devil," demanded the Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, "could they carry away by mistake a two-hundredweight anvil?" But such mistakes do happen at times of moving in the best conducted units. There is a sad story of a claim in respect of five cows found dead in a field near an engineer dump. The troops denied all connection with the disaster till the owner pointed out pieces of half-chewed canvas-netting camouflage — such good camouflage too, painted green and brown, and just the very stuff several heavy batteries were badly wanting. The dump-guards, who resented the claim as insult added upon injury, made some allegation about a pot of paint left near the fence by the Royal Naval Air Service; but this defence fell through when the Divisional Vet opened the cows and recovered large handfuls of the stuff the artillery wanted, easily identifiable.

#### A Well-Known Personality.

The name of a Claims Officer with a certain Australian division is especially well-known in this arbitration work. He was a leading K.C. in Sydney, and would probably have been a judge by now if he had stayed at home. He was beyond military age, but in peace time he and a man who now commands an Australian infantry brigade in the field had made a hobby on Sundays of doing ackety-ack-ack exercises on the heliograph with each other between Valley Heights and Sydney, and he considered he owed thereby some additional duty to his country. He enlisted in the ranks, meaning to continue his signalling, but has drifted into being a Claims Officer instead. And now he pushes a bicycle up and down this countryside; his short-breeched figure is one of the best-known in the Division; he can take coffee with his friends of the household at many a house along the road. Some people say he could be Maire of more than one little township if he liked. He knows these



"How the h—I am I to sink a shaft here?"

people almost as well as the Curé does. In the course of settling the claims of the division he belongs to, he has done more than shows on the surface to make the Australian name good in this land. The French and Belgian people and the Australian soldiers are good friends enough, but the local inhabitants within the spheres of activity of this one Australian will surely have a tender memory for his countrymen long after the war is over and the A.I.F. has gone home again.

#### Plague of Sandflies.

A message from Charleville (Q.) states that since the recent rains sandflies have become very troublesome. They have appeared literally in millions. The river side can only be visited with the greatest discomfort. The flies are also very troublesome indoors. Dumb animals are suffering greatly from the flies, which attack the nostrils, causing the animals to rush about in agony.



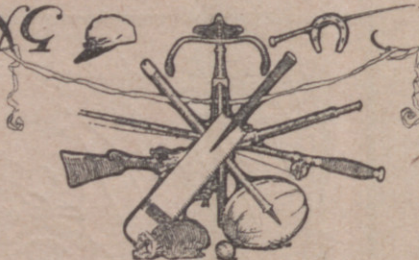
# SPORTING NOTES.

## West Australian Racing.

Coming right on top of the W.A.T.C. annual meeting, and with a lot of visitors still in town, W. A. Tattersall's Club meeting, held at Belmont Park, was attended by a bigger crowd than usual. A feature of the racing was the fast times put up, the track being splendid going. After his good performances at the annual meeting the Exploit gelding Explore was made a short-priced favourite for the Jumper's Flat Race. He beat all but Liberator (20 to 1), who was in receipt of 32lb. The winner is owned by W. D. Atwell, of Fremantle, and is a useful customer. Golden Mead, who, by the way, has been entered for the Newmarket Handicap and Doncaster Handicap, met with solid support for the First Class Plate. It was a fast-run race, and the top weight (Golden Mead) did not get home quickly with his big weight. He was last at the turn, but finished fast in second place a long head behind C. H. Norton's N.G.E., whom the Victorian jockey Bowler had in front all the way. A promising colt in Messrs. Nicholas and Bolger's Empyrean, who had a good following, scored a nice win in the Second Class Plate, which an outsider in Extortion tried to win all the way. Orzilla, the favourite for the Tattersall's Club Handicap, was unequal to the task, and C. H. Norton scored his second win of the day with Azamar (Bowler), whose time, 2 min. 6 4-5 secs. is only a shade over the State record for the mile and a quarter. The winner was solidly backed by the stable. Bright Sky, the favourite for the Third Class Plate, again disappointed his admirers. The race went to a speedy gelding in Tutu, a son of Perkes, and Bowler scored his third win for the day. Venetian King, who shows good pace at times, won the Welter Handicap with ease, the imported Simplex, who is evidently nothing out of the common, being second.

## An Expert Wicket-keeper.

It is evident that the young Victorian cricketer—Atherton—who plays for Collingwood, is a most promising wicket-keeper. His performance in a recent match for his team against North Melbourne can be classed as one of the most notable in recent years. He was responsible for the dismissal of no fewer than five of the opposing team, catching four and stumping the other. This reminds one of the famous Englishman—Edward Pooley's—great feat in 1868, of dismissing a dozen batsmen during a match between Surrey and Sussex. Pooley caught eight and stumped four. Some years after he was responsible for ten wickets in a match against Kent.



## Boxing at Melbourne.

Stuart Smith has gained a decision over Chris Jordan in a 10-rounds contest at the West Melbourne Stadium. Smith weighed 9.3 and Jordan 11b. more. The match was interesting throughout. Smith attacked strongly from the start, and boxed at a fast pace. He appeared to be too quick for Jordan, who, however, escaped several weighty blows by clever footwork. Smith used both hands effectively, and at one time it appeared likely that he would knock out his opponent.

## Champion Australian Cyclists.

Australian racing cyclists are still to the fore in America. The latest returns for the all-round championship of America, which is decided on points for wins and places, for all important events decided during the season, show that out of the first five leaders three are Australians, viz., Goulet, 112 points, for 15 wins, 7 seconds, 6 thirds, and 4 fourths; M'Namara, 76 points for 6 wins, 9 seconds, 6 thirds, and 7 fourths; Kramer (U.S.A.), 46 points, for 5 wins, 4 seconds, and 5 thirds; Spears, 39 points, for 4 firsts, 4 seconds, 5 thirds, and 1 fourth; Spencer (Canada), 34 points, for 5 firsts, 1 second, 2 thirds, and 2 fourths. Another Australian in Grenda is seventh on the list; whilst Piercey, who won the one-time great Dunlop Road Race from Warrnambool to Melbourne, in 1910, is fifteenth, with only one win to his credit.

## Comedy King Sold.

The famous racehorse Comedy King has been sold to Mr. Norman Falkiner, of Victoria, for 7,300 guineas. Had the international outlook been more settled, there might have been competition from England and America, but as a matter of fact the bidding resolved itself into a duel between Victoria and New South Wales, and Victoria won. There was no buying commission from New Zealand, which is rather surprising, in view of the fine performances of the New Zealand-owned Biplane, who is a son of Comedy King. If the black horse can get a few more of the Biplane sort he will prove a bargain. The careers of three comparatively young stallions now located in Victoria, viz., Comedy King, Woorak, and Trafalgar, will be watched with particular interest. Woorak is, of course, the youngest horse, and has only just retired to

the stud. In addition to Comedy King, Mr. Falkiner bought Air Motor (dam of Biplane), together with her Comedy King colt foal. Will this foal turn out another Biplane or another Air King—a crack or a crock? A few of the more notable prices realised for stallions in Australia and New Zealand are appended. The list does not include horses bought in England for Australia:—

	Guineas.
Carbine (privately) .. ..	13,000
Trafalgar (auction) .. ..	7,500
Comedy King (auction) .. ..	7,300
Tressady (auction) .. ..	6,000
Nordenfeldt (auction in N.Z.) ..	5,600
Trenton (privately) .. ..	5,000
Bill of Portland (auction) .. ..	4,900
Multiform (auction in N.Z.) ..	3,750
Trenton (auction) .. ..	3,000
Bobadil (auction) .. ..	2,300
Charlemagne II. (auction in N.Z.)	2,300

## Skull-caps for Jockeys.

The innovation of compelling all jockeys to wear skull-caps while riding on the Melbourne pony courses was introduced at Richmond on January 19th. The only mishap which occurred resulted in R. Ednie being sent to a hospital with slight concussion of the brain. Ednie received a nasty fall off Rathcormack while competing, with only seven others, in the second division of the Plate for horses.

## Campaign Against Foul Riding.

The sitting of the V.R.C. committee, on January 11th, was a protracted one. J. Killorn lodged an appeal against the six months' suspension imposed by the stewards at Caulfield, on Boxing Day, for careless riding on First Trim in the Hopetoun Cup. A good deal of additional evidence was adduced, but after a very lengthy hearing it was decided to dismiss the appeal, and the decision of the stewards was confirmed. After Mimic War had finished second to Calton in the Rock Plate at the Hanging Rock meeting, on New Year's Day, he was with his owner (J. Moye) and rider (A. Renny), disqualified for three months, as the stewards considered his performance unsatisfactory. Moye and Renny appealed to the V.R.C. committee, and their appeal was dismissed, and the decision of the local stewards confirmed. It was also decided to forfeit £10 of the deposit lodged by Moye, and it goes to the Distressed and Disabled Jockeys' Fund. C. L. Wigg also appealed against the decision of the Riddell's Creek Racing Club stewards in disqualifying him for six months in connection with the running of Sir Bruce in the Pony Race at the club's meeting on Boxing Day. The appeal was dismissed, and the decision of the local stewards confirmed.



### Lingua-Franca of the Trenches.

An Australian journalist in an English hospital has supplied a number of foreign words, principally French, that have been adopted by the Australian soldier as part of his vocabulary. "Bukshee," he writes, "is used throughout the army in France and England. The night nurse in this hospital comes along at 10 o'clock, and says, 'Would you like some "bukshee" cocoa to-night? And when there are any sausages left over from breakfast the day sister comes into the ward and cries, 'Who wants some 'bukshee' sausages?' One never hears of the village hostelry being called a "pub"; it is always an "estaminet." When one intends to have a meal, one says, "I'll think I'll 'imshee' off and have some 'mongey'—a corruption of manger, to eat. Both officers and men make frequent use of "toute suite" for immediately. An officer requires a thing done "toute suite," and when it is finished the man reports back "toot sweet." The hungry Australian enters an estaminet and demands of madame "deux oeufs" (two eggs), or, as he pronounces the words, "ders oofs," to be supplied "toot sweet." Billjim does not go for a stroll with a girl now. He "promenades" with a "ma'm'selle," and when desiring his friends to "clear out" or "get a move on," he bellows, "Allez toot sweet!" He drinks "vang rouge," and is pleased when "pang" is issued instead of biscuit. A man back from Blighty tells his mates that he had a "bon" or a "tres bon" time. A latecomer is informed by the cooks that dinner is "fini" or "napoo"—"napoo" being a corruption of "il n'y a plus" (there is no more). The Australian in France calls everyone "digger." "Say, digger, got a match?" he shouts to a passing Tommy. "Ay, choom," says the Tommy in reply. "Digger" has almost entirely supplanted "cobber" among the Australians overseas.

### Shark Attacks Bathers.

Considerable excitement prevailed for a time amongst the bathers at Sandringham, Victoria, shortly after Christmas, when a shark, measuring at least six feet in length, made its appearance in the shallow waters of the beach. In view of the ideal weather conditions, many thousands of excursionists were attracted to the beaches within easy reach of the city. At Sandringham particularly there was a record holiday attendance. While large numbers of visitors were indulging in "mixed bathing," a shark which had evidently got out of its depth appeared amongst those who were farthest from the shore. It attacked several of the bathers, who with great presence of mind began splashing the water with the object of frightening it, and simultaneously warned the other swimmers of their danger. No one was hurt.

## The War in the Air.

### Seven Australian Machines Against Twenty.

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

War Correspondents' Headquarters,  
France, March 18th.

German aeroplanes are appearing on the Western Front in larger formations than any seen since last summer's fighting. Nevertheless there is a marked reluctance to visit our side of the lines.

The Australian Flying Corps is well represented in a certain wing of the Royal Air Service, which has been doing heavy execution among the Germans the past fortnight. In six days this wing shot down 61 enemy machines, which either crashed or descended out of control, probably destroyed. As usual, after our men have an especially successful period, an avenging circus arrived. The circus is a selected number of crack airmen, each flying the type of machine he prefers individually, which acts in combination under a famous leader.

The best known enemy circus is Richt-hofen's. His, or another renowned enemy circus, reappeared over the British front two days ago. A patrol of seven Australian machines on Saturday met about twenty of this circus at twelve thousand feet. Ten of the enemy dived to attack our men. A regular dog-fight ensued for half a minute. Three of the enemy were shot down, two of whom fell in flames and the other probably crashed. Three others

attacked one Australian machine, which descended with a spin, affecting to be out of control, and then escaped and flew home. One of our machines which was forced down nearly reached home, but was compelled to land between the enemy front and support lines. The other five returned after the enemy circus had broken off the battle and retired.

Australian airmen daily patrol the enemy country, and where the German machines can be brought to a fight a battle, almost invariably over enemy lines, ends in our favour. Our airmen say that the Germans show no inclination to meet us unless they have an overwhelming advantage.

### The 7th F.A.B. "Yandoo."

We have received from the compilers a copy of the 7th Field Artillery Brigade "Yandoo," which journal, according to its sponsors, is "compiled and published alongside a brasier (for warmth) in the field, Northern France." The frigidty of Flanders, however, has not been successful in freezing the founts of humour, for light-hearted jest and banter gush forth ripingly from the pens of the conductors of the "Yandoo," and not even the commanding officers are immune from "chaff."



Christmas Day at Mordialloc.



## German Raider in Australian Waters.

### Seaplane Assists Pirates.

Two Australian officers—Col. Strangman and Major Flood, of the Australian Medical Corps—who were captured by the German raider, the "Wolf," have arrived in England, and tell a dramatic story of her doings.

They were captured, says the Australian Press Association, on the "Matunga," one of the earliest of the "Wolf's" victims, transferred to another captured vessel, the Spanish steamer "Igotz Mendi"; and were liberated when she stranded in Denmark last month.

The "Matunga" was taken in August last when off New Guinea. The "Wolf" was sighted early in the morning, and, looking like an ordinary coal tramp, was believed to be a Japanese vessel.

#### "Matunga" Fired On.

"Suddenly she turned across the 'Matunga's' bows," say the two officers, "and, when about half a mile away, she dropped a portion of her forward bulwarks, exposing her gun muzzles. Simultaneously the signal for us to stop was hoisted on her foremast and the German ensign on her aftermast. Whether or not the signal was misunderstood it is impossible to say, but the "Matunga" did not immediately stop. Promptly a sharp report rang out from one of the "Wolf's" guns, and the shell whizzed by close to the "Matunga's" bows. Our engine-room bells rang, and we were soon at a standstill. Code books, manifest and other official papers were hurled overboard, for it was realised that we had fallen into enemy hands. Not a moment too soon. Already the "Wolf" had lowered and manned her steam launch, and five minutes later the German prize crew were courteously conversing with our ship's officers on board the "Matunga."

#### The Pirate's Lair.

"With the prize crew in charge instead of our own navigators, and a German wireless operator in the seat vacated by our own "sparks," we followed the "Wolf" to a prearranged destination.

"This proved to be a natural harbour on the north coast of Dutch New Guinea, an ideal place for the purpose, as well as being the most beautiful haven imaginable. At the entrance, less than a quarter of a mile wide, the Germans placed a couple of small guard boats. On the higher of the two great hills that screened it from the sea they established a wireless plant and signalling station. The seaplane carried by the "Wolf" meantime scoured the neighbouring land and sea for a hundred miles around while the transference of

passengers and cargo proceeded, the two vessels being lashed together.

"While in the harbour the 'Wolf' was refitted as methodically as if in dry dock, and the 'Matunga' was taken out to sea and sunk. Then the 'Wolf' set out on her long voyage.

"As we followed a zigzag course," the narrative continues, "to the east of Singapore, where the 'Wolf' sowed the remainder of her mines—she had already laid mines off Cape Town, Bombay, Colombo, Gabo Island, and in the Tasman Sea, according to report—we prisoners were frequently regaled with bragging reports of what the 'Wolf' had done. They were particularly proud of the achievements of their seaplane, and claimed, among other things, that she had made an early morning excursion at a great height over Sydney Harbour and had noted the disposition of the ships there. It was, too, they said, owing to the seaplane sighting an Australian warship that they were able to escape capture while minelaying at Gabo Island.

#### Japanese Steamer Captured.

"After idling about in the Indian Ocean for some weeks, the 'Wolf,' on September 26th, met its next victim, the 'Hitachimaru,' a Japanese vessel, with passengers and cargo, about 540 miles from Colombo. For twenty-four hours previously the Germans had been bragging of the big prize they were about to take, for the seaplane had been able to confirm what the 'Hitachimaru's' intercepted wireless messages had indicated. Her capture was an exciting affair.

"The Bird was hovering overhead with bombs ready when the 'Wolf' fired twice across the 'Hitachimaru's' bows. The 'Hitachimaru' did not immediately stop, and, as an excuse no doubt for their subsequent conduct, the Germans declared that they saw and even had photographs of the 'Hitachimaru's' gun crew preparing the gun for action.

"Whether true or not, a bloody business followed. The 'Wolf' poured shell after shell into the Japanese vessel. One went clean through the wireless room, but the operator was unscathed and continued to send out S.O.S. messages in defiance of the Germans' orders.

"The greatest confusion prevailed on the 'Hitachimaru.' The 30 passengers and crew of about 100 made for the boats. One of these capsized while being lowered, and many of those on deck jumped into the sea to avoid the gunfire.

"Only one was drowned, however, and,

according to the Germans, 15 were killed by gunfire. Our opinion was that the death roll was heavier.

"The 'Wolf' transferred her prisoners into the 'Hitachimaru,' which, with her cargo of silk, copper, rubber, and other goods, was estimated by the Germans to be worth £3,000,000 sterling. They hoped to take her to Germany, and it was several weeks before they abandoned that hope, and sank her on November 5th. Five days later the 'Igotz Mendi,' with 7,000 tons of coal, bound for Colombo from Delagoa Bay, was captured.

"The 'Wolf,' after making various excursions, in which, among others, an American barque was sunk, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, accompanied by the 'Igotz Mendi,' and made for the Trinidad Islands, off the Brazilian coast. A wireless message was, however, intercepted stating that Brazilian men-of-war had arrived there. Both vessels promptly turned and went full speed south-east. The 'Wolf' now needed coal, and decided to take all the risks of transferring it from the 'Igotz Mendi' in mid-Atlantic. The attempt proved disastrous, and had to be abandoned. It was completed later in better weather.

#### Tricking the Germans.

"Some days later two large ships, apparently transports, showed up suddenly out of the strong mist. The Germans became very excited. They changed their clothes, packed their kits, and sent the prisoners, with a few exceptions, below. The latter included the mate of the 'Igotz Mendi,' named Susaeta. He saw the German bomb officer lay his bombs along the deck, ready in case it should be necessary to use them, and noticed that they were left temporarily in charge of a wireless operator. Susaeta told the operator he was wanted on the bridge, and the latter promptly obeyed the summons. When he returned the bombs had been hurled overboard. Needless to say the Spanish mate was severely punished for what he had done.

"The 'Wolf' and the 'Igotz Mendi,' after following separate courses for many days, came together for the last time on February 6th.

"The grounding of the 'Igotz Mendi,' concluded Major Flood, "cost me £2. I accepted a bet in January with the German prize-crew commander, Lieut. Rose, that he would not get us ashore by February 25th. We stranded on the 24th. He won. But I was jolly glad to pay."





Interrogation of a German Prisoner at Montauban.

(From a sketch by Lieut. W. Dyson.)

**Food Shortage Predicted.**

Professor Maxwell Lefroy, the British Government's wheat representative, told a conference of wheat growers at Sydney that there would be "a terrific food shortage at the end of the war." The soundest policy for the people of Australia to adopt was to accumulate as large a stock of wheat as they possibly could.

**FARMERS ARE DIVIDED.**

Messages from the country districts of New South Wales regarding the question of whether farmers should raise stock in preference to cultivating wheat show a diversity of opinion.

A statement from Inverell says:—"A proportion of farmers will go in for dairying, but for most of the small men it is wheat or nothing."

At Dubbo the opinion is that instead of discouraging wheat growing the Government should guarantee at least 5s. a bushel. It is beyond the power of 80 per cent. of the wheat growers to buy stock, even if it were available.

On the other hand, at Forbes, it is stated that the farmers have been disheartened by the waste of wheat, and it looks as though sheep raising will become much more popular than wheat growing there in the next few years.

**Lunatic Asylum on Fire.  
Excited Inmates Rescued.**

The greater portion of the block of buildings used for a male hospital at the Wendouree Asylum for the Insane, Ballarat, was gutted by fire on December 19th. The thirty patients in the hospital were rescued without injury. A bath-heater near the

kitchen range is regarded as being responsible for the outbreak.

Some of the patients became wildly excited when they saw the fire, but the attendants carried them out into the hospital yard, and handed them over to the care of female nurses, who had hurried over from the women's portion of the establishment. Several of the patients in the excitement attempted to make their way into the dormitory, and one man had to be removed from it twice, a nurse entering the dormitory the second time after portion of the ceiling had fallen in.

Had the outbreak happened ten or fifteen minutes earlier than it did it seems almost certain that there would have been serious loss of life, as the men would then have been in the dormitory, egress from which was cut off, except through the windows, within a few minutes of the outbreak being detected.



## Australian Red Cross in France.

### Prepared for the Coming Offensive.

Our Red Cross representative writes:—  
Everything is in readiness to meet contingencies in connection with increased activity on the Western Front.

February was a quiet month, but a good deal of steady work was done in the way of distributing equipment of various kinds, upon which there will no doubt be heavy demands before the year is much older, and it is gratifying to note that the Society's co-operation with, and readiness to help the medical service, has met with warm tributes on all sides.

At the advanced Dressing Stations in the forward area only a few wounded were brought in, and there has been no occasion for us to conduct coffee stalls, but as soon as the necessity arises, and casualties come through in any larger numbers, we are in a position to undertake this section of our work at a few hours' notice.

Although the weather has for the time of the year been exceptionally mild, and the striking contrast with last winter is indicated in the great falling off of issues of warm clothing, the demand for heating apparatus is still heavy, for the evenings are chilly. The French Commissioner reports that there is great difficulty in keeping pace with requirements for Primus stoves. Fortunately the repairs department is able to give great assistance in this direction, and during the month 63 were returned for further use after going through the stoves "hospital."

At the Depôts more remote from the fighting front, the quiet of the past month has been even more marked. Advantage has been taken of the respite to increase the attractions of the new recreation room for the personnel of the Rouen Dépôt, and suitable chairs, tables, and other articles have been supplied, as well as a piano.

At various centres the Branch's policy of brightening the environments of hospitals and casualty clearing stations has been continued.

Although there was, generally speaking, but little visiting done among Australians in Imperial Hospitals, this work was continued wherever necessary, and the letters show that those visited appreciate our visitors' attentions.

At Havre the lady representatives continue to meet the trains and distribute comforts to our men.

### Proprietary Foodstuffs. Australia Prohibits Importation.

In order to permit of the retention in Great Britain of foodstuffs, Australia has voluntarily discontinued the importation of proprietary foods, such as Bovril, Lactogen, Mellin's food, etc., from the United Kingdom. For some time the Director of Muni-



Treatment of feet after a spell in the Trenches.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

tions in Melbourne has granted shipping permits in connection with food preparations, providing the manufacturers satisfied the War Trade Department that there was an exportable surplus. The British Ministry of Food lately expressed the opinion that it was desirable to retain in England foodstuffs of all kinds, and a cable message was sent to Australia asking whether there would be any objection to the general prohibition of the export of foodstuffs to that country.

The Commonwealth Government replied that it was unwilling to press for the exportation of such commodities at the present time, and endeavours would be made to meet Australian requirements locally. Upon receiving the reply, Lord Rhondda expressed his appreciation of the action taken by the Government of Australia.

### Motoring Sensation.

A sensational motor accident occurred on the Blacks' Spur on the evening of January 5th, when the mail coach running between Healesville and Marysville overturned whilst travelling at a speed of about 30 miles an hour. The driver, Alfred Albright, employed by the Blacks' Spur Motor Co., Ltd., left Marysville at ten minutes to 4, with six ladies, three men, and a boy, together with their luggage, calling at St. Fillans and Narbethong for the mails. The driver had safely negotiated the last turn but one of the Spur, and was preparing for one of the steepest grades and the final turn leading into Fernshaw, when the motor slipped out of gear. The brakes were put on, but

proved inadequate. The situation was perilous. A precipitous valley was on the right, an embankment on the left, and a dangerous crossing ahead. In an instant the driver had to determine what to do, and with great presence of mind he swung the coach into the embankment. The two near side wheels mounted the embankment, and the car was thrown over on to the roadway with great force. The strong three-ply wooden roof of the coach prevented the occupants from being thrown out, and nothing was to be seen but a heap of confused humanity and baggage, over which lay the heavy spring seats of the coach. Three ladies who occupied the front seat with the driver were flung over the shattered plate-glass shield, and they escaped most luckily with scratches and bruises only. One by one the inside passengers were extricated. Wonderful to relate, all escaped without as much as a broken limb. Many, however, were badly hurt and shaken, and all suffered from shock. In addition to other damage the front wheel of the coach was smashed to fragments, not even a spoke being left on the hub.

A good deal of interest in being shown in New South Wales Parliamentary circles in connection with a notice of motion to enable electors to decide the question of State prohibition on a bare majority principle. The notice stands in the name of Mr. Bruntnell, a private member, but it is possible that the Government may not allow him an opportunity to submit the motion.



## War Honours for the A.I.F.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned rewards for distinguished service in the Field. Dated 1st January, 1918:—

### AWARDED A BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. William Henry O'Bern, M.C., Pnr. Bn. (M.C. awarded Gazette 19th November, 1917.)  
 Capt. Norman Rutledge Plomley, M.C., Infy. (M.C. awarded Gazette 26th November, 1917.)  
 Capt. Harold Burfield Taylor, M.C., Inf. (M.C. awarded Gazette 26th November, 1917.)

### AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

Capt. Alexander Donaldson Ellis, Inf.  
 Capt. Alexander McPhee Greenlees, Engrs.  
 Capt. Arthur Nicholson, Inf.

The following are among the decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign:—

His Majesty the King has given unrestricted permission in all cases to wear the decorations and medals in question:—

### DECORATIONS CONFERRED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

#### Decorations Militaires.

12293 Sgt. Richard Garfield Fishwick, Australian Army Medical Corps.

#### Croix de Guerre.

General Sir William Ridd Birdwood, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., General to the King.

Major (Temporary Lieut.-Col.) David Mantel Davis, Australian Infantry.

Captain Cyril Longmore, Australian Infantry.

Lieut. William Francis McIver, Australian Infantry.

Lieut.-Colonel Donald Tiechurst Moore, D.S.O., Australian Infantry.

Captain William Patrick Trainor, Australian Infantry.

With reference to the awards conferred as announced in the London Gazette dated 18th October, 1917, the following are the statements of service for which the decorations were conferred:—

### AWARDED A BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS.

**Capt. Walter Henry East, M.C.,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his Battery Commander and a subaltern were killed he took command, showing most remarkable steadiness. He continued to command the battery until it was relieved from a very exposed position, displaying remarkable courage throughout. He set a magnificent example of fortitude and courage to his men. (M.C. gazetted 4th June, 1917.)

### AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

**Lieut. Clive Anton Archer,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as forward observation officer during an attack. He succeeded in establishing communication, and maintained it under heavy fire for a day and a night. He transmitted much valuable information as to the position of the front line and enemy preparations for counter-attack.

**Lieut. Andrew Hugh Carrigan,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in charge of ammunition waggons. When hostile shelling caused three casualties to drivers, killing two

horses and wounding eleven others, he at once gave orders for the removal of the wounded, rearranged the teams and supervised the withdrawal of the column in spite of the continuous shelling.

**Lieut. Bob Thompson Cowlshaw,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. While several batteries were moving forward by night over very difficult ground a heavy bombardment of gas and high explosive shells was opened on them. The horse of one of the drivers was wounded by a shell and fell on the driver, who was also wounded. Taking off his box respirator so as to be able to see better, he succeeded, with two others, in rescuing the driver from under the horse. He then collapsed from the effects of the gas.

**Lieut. John James Aloysius Dodd,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in organising a party under very heavy fire and putting out a fire at an ammunition dump, though the ammunition had begun to explode. Later, it again caught fire, and he again led a party from the shelter trench and put it out.

**Lieut. Frederick Herbert Doust,** Infy.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Whilst leading reinforcements to the front line he was severely wounded by enemy shell-fire. In spite of this, however, he guided his men to cover, and when shelling stopped again led them forward to the trenches, handed them over to his company commander, and then collapsed from loss of blood. No praise can be too great for his pluck and devotion to duty.

**Lieut. Brian MacNamara,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. A gun-pit was set on fire by a hostile shell while the battery was under direct observation from enemy balloons. He went out from cover under heavy shell fire and extinguished the fire, thus saving the ammunition and preventing the battery position from being located by the enemy. He has consistently done good work.

**Lieut. Norman Percy Harold Neal,** Engrs.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an attack the communications from the front line were cut and the signal lamps buried by shell fire. He went forward on two occasions through a heavy barrage and obtained information. It was owing to his gallantry that communication was maintained during the enemy counter-attack.

**Lieut. William Henry Gilbert Segrave,** Fld. Arty.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as forward observation officer. He established communication under very difficult conditions. He obtained and transmitted most valuable information and assisted in the capture of six prisoners and a number of enemy maps. He showed a splendid initiative and disregard of danger.

**Lieut. Leonard Cariston Seton,** Fld. Arty.

—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when the battery was heavily shelled and one gun pit was set alight. Hearing cries, he rushed into the burning pit, knowing it contained a large number of charges and shells, rescued the corporal, who was wounded in both legs, and also took to safety one man who was on fire. This officer, with two men, remained until they had extinguished the fire, and then returned to the wounded man.

**Lieut. James Edward Staley,** Fld. Arty.

—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as forward observation officer during an attack. He succeeded in establishing communication, and maintained it under heavy fire for a day and a night. He transmitted much valuable information as to the position of the front line and enemy preparations for counter-attack.

*Note.*—The ranks herein shown are those held at the time of publication of the Gazette above mentioned.

### Mentioned in Despatches.

The undermentioned Officers have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War, by the Army Council, for very valuable services rendered in connection with the War up to 31st December, 1917:—

Godwin, Lieut.-Col. J., A.A.M.C.; Green, Senior Chaplain J.; Hurley, Temp. Lieut.-Col. L. J., Gen. List, attd. A.I.F.; Knox, Lieut.-Col. G. H., Infy.; McCay, Maj.-Gen. Hon. J. W., C.B., V.D.; McWhae, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.), D. M., A.A.M.C.; Murdoch, Hon. Lieut.-Col. J. A., A.A.M.C.; Smith, Lieut.-Col. (temp. Col.) K., A.A.M.C.

### Distinguished Conduct Medal.

**1261 Sgt. F. Schryver, M.M.,** A.M.C.—

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a bearer sub-division. He tended the many wounded without adequate protection from early dawn till dusk, under heavy shell fire. When a shell struck a cupola in which he was sheltering, killing one man and wounding and burying five others, though badly shaken, he, unaided, under incessant shelling, succeeded in digging out these five men, and after tending their wounds obtained stretcher squads for their evacuation.

**3262 Sgt. E. Seale, Infy.**—For conspicu-

ous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was one of a small party who rushed two machine-gun positions, killed the men at the guns, and captured some prisoners. He showed great dash and courage throughout the operations and set an excellent example to his men.

**996 Sgt. J. S. Shilliday, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of one of the assaulting platoons. Encountering a strong point, the garrison of which resisted strongly and



### War Honours for the A.I.F.—*continued.*

showered grenades among the party, he rushed the position alone, killing the whole of the garrison of seven men. Although wounded, he remained in charge of his platoon until late in the afternoon, when he was ordered to withdraw.

**2422 Pte. H. J. Slattery, M.M., Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a stretcher-bearer. When a party of nine men were caught in the barrage, three being killed and six wounded, he tried to get to them with his squad of bearers, but his squad were all knocked out. He then went forward into the barrage alone, dressed the wounded, and carried them one by one to a place of safety. He then returned and organised a squad of bearers and got them back to the A.P.

**2518 T.-2nd Cpl. J. C. Sloper, Engrs.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When an ammunition dump was fired by enemy shelling he dashed into the burning dump and rescued and carried away several wounded men under heavy shell fire and frequent explosions. He set a fine example of courage in difficult circumstances.

**2244 T.-Cpl. C. C. A. Small, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a stretcher-bearer. When his company was in support and suffered heavy casualties, including nearly all the stretcher-bearers, he showed great gallantry in attending to the wounded under heavy shell fire. Later, during an attack, he established an aid post on his own initiative and attended to all the wounded in his part of the line. He showed great initiative in organising bearer parties, and set a splendid example to all.

**2669 Sgt. W. H. Sully, M.M., Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He attacked a party of the enemy who attempted to hold up our advance, and when his rifle was put out of action by a bullet he seized a captured rifle, shot three of the enemy, and made the remainder prisoners.

**2720 L.-Cpl. J. E. Symington, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in guiding men into position under heavy shell fire. Although wounded himself, he single-handedly attacked four of the enemy, killing them with his revolver, when he was wounded a second time and put out of action.

**92 Pte. F. W. Tenniswood, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a runner under most trying conditions. He went forward with two others into enemy territory and brought back several wounded under heavy fire. Even after his battalion got out of the line he remained, carrying out the wounded over most difficult ground, until almost exhausted.

**1267 Sgt. J. Thompson, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of his company. When there were no officers left he did wonderful work in reorganising them and getting forward food and supplies.

**494 Sgt. D. W. Walker, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in organising a party, leading them to the attack on a machine-gun that was giving trouble, capturing the gun, killing three of the enemy, and taking ten prisoners. When his platoon officer became a casualty, he took command of his platoon for two days under most adverse conditions.

**6434 Sgt. W. L. Wallace, Fld. Arty.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of his section when the battery was ordered to move forward, and led them to their new position. Though wounded, he remained at duty and got both guns into action. His courage, skill and determination during a very difficult operation were invaluable to his battery. Later, when the ammunition in one of the gun pits was set on fire by enemy shelling, he extinguished the fire and saved a large quantity of ammunition.

**1816 Cpl. J. H. Walsh, M.G. Corps.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took charge of two machine-gun teams when his officer was wounded, got his guns into position on the objective, and protected the infantry while they were consolidating. He also brought into action a captured enemy machine-gun, which he used with great effect. He set a splendid example of coolness and determination to all.

**1273 Pte. W. A. Waugh, Pnr. Bn.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a stretcher-bearer. When another unit moving up to the line lost four men wounded and five killed from severe shelling, he rushed through the barrage and bound up their injuries, which without immediate attention would have resulted in death. Then, improvising stretcher-bearers, he removed them to a place of greater safety.

**1510 C.S.M. G. A. Werner, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in searching in front of our lines over marshy ground and under heavy fire and bringing in two wounded. When his company suffered heavy casualties and had only one officer left, he was chiefly responsible for their rapid reorganisation.

**12436 Sgt. A. M. Wilson, R.M.C.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in charge of the loading of horse ambulances with wounded under intense shell fire. When thirty cases still awaited transport, he organised stretcher squads to carry the wounded back and then returned to his post, remaining on duty until daybreak without shelter, although suffering from a septic foot.

**116 C.S.M. E. G. Wilson, M.M., Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in reorganising and steadying the men after they were caught in the enemy barrage. When the company ran short of bombs and ammunition, he organised a party, and by skilful handling had very few casualties, bringing up ammunition when urgently required.

**3971 Pte. A. Woodhead, Infy.**—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He and another man were Nos. 1 and 2 of a Lewis gun team with a limited field of fire. The enemy had reached to within fifty yards of our line when they sprang out of the trench, and, standing on the parapet, Pte Woodhead fired the gun, resting it on his comrade's shoulder, and continued until the remnants of the attacking line retired and they were ordered back into the trench. They inflicted severe casualties on the enemy and contributed largely to the utter defeat of the attack.

#### Bar to Military Medal.

A Bar to the Military Medal has been awarded to the undermentioned:—

920 Pte. S. J. Devitt, M.M., Aust. Inf.; 2887 Cpl. E. A. Lukins, M.M., Aust. Inf.; 145 Cpl. N. Nylander, M.M., Aust. Inf.; 2224 Spr. (A.-2nd Cpl.) J. J. H. Worland, M.M., Aust. E.

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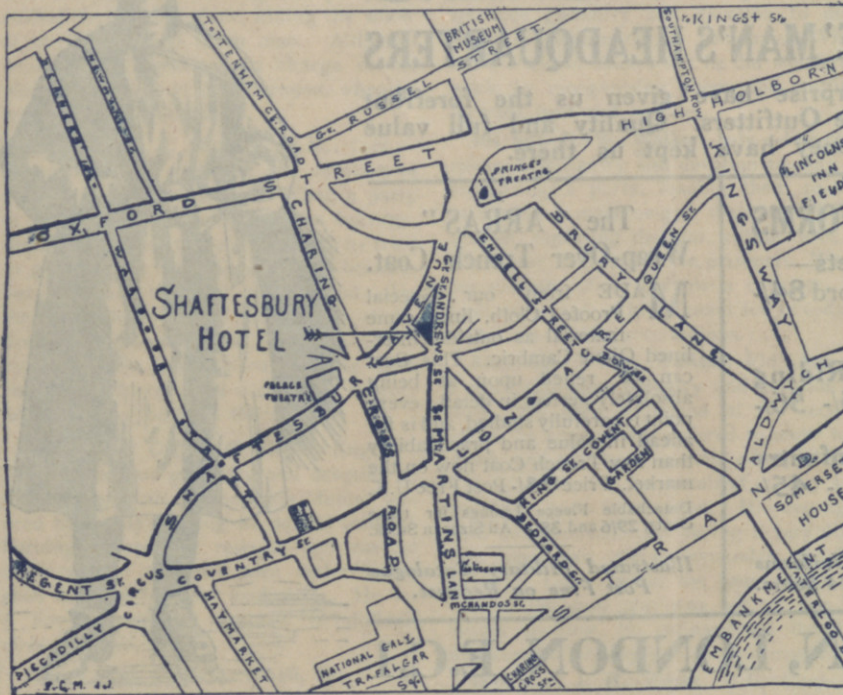
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