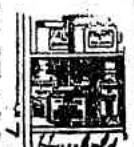
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Wednesday, May 15, 1940

A.I.F. Despatches

GENERAL IS SATISFIED WITH A.I.F.

(From Ian G. Fitchett, Acting Official Correspondent with the A.I.F.)

Jerusalem

The A.I.F. has had a thorough examination at the hands of General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Middle East, and has emerged from the test with credit.

A quick, restless man in a hurry, General Wavell was obviously determined to gather personally what knowledge he required, and not get it second-hand.

The four rows of medal ribbons on his tunic include a D.S.O. and M.C., and show that he served in the Boer War and the first German War, as well as several minor campaigns that have been overshadowed in history.

His questions at all times were brusque and to the point, as also was any comment he had to make.

He arrived in the Australian district at 9.30 on a blazing hot morning. The inspection of the guard of honor was soon over and the party moved at once out on to the training areas adjoining the camps.

WATCHED EXERCISES

Here, a mechanised scouting unit was carrying a defensive exercise, the object being to cover any infantry withdrawal and harass an oncoming enemy Weapon pits had been dug along the flank of a gentle rise and sections complete with light automatics were stationed in each pit.

A brief conversation with the C.O. of the unit gave General Wavell the general picture of the exercise, and he then proceeded to fire questions at the officers and men on their particular duties Apparently well satisfied, he strode off across a ploughed field in the direction of the camp, ignoring his own and the staff cars which had bumped their way across the fields in readiness to drive the party to their next stopping place. Somewhat shaken, the large party of generals and staff officers hurried after him, but this was only a taste of what was to come later in the morning.

General Wavell then inspected a mechanised squadron of the scouting unit. The men and their vehicles were drawn up in three long lines, along which the General moved with a keen eye for detail. Time and again he stopped and questioned men on their duties.

Invariably a slow blush mounted in the tanned faces of the men to whom he spoke, but their answers were always unhurried and intelligent.

In a short conversation the soldier would remain stiffly at attention. But in the odd cases where a man was drawn out in a fairly lengthy questioning it was amusing to see the slackening from the rigid stance so unfamiliar to the men.

CONCENTRATION AND GESTICULATION

It an Australian has any enthusiasm on the subject he speaks with his hands and arms as well as his tongue. Such departures from army procedure did not seem to worry General Wavell, who was obviously pleased with the men and their intelligent approach to military problems

As on his previous visit he paid special attention to the cooks and their knowledge of their jobs as well as to the facilities given them to prepare meals for the troops. Nor was he slow to make recommendations where procedure did not correspond completely with his ideas.

The inspecting party then motored several miles to the infantry camp. After a brief stop at Headquarters and an inspection of another guard a move was made out to the large trench system at present being used by the infantry battalions in rotation.

Armed with a map of the trenches and surrounding country, General Wavell accompanied the C.O. of the battalion holding the line on a rapid inspection of the whole scheme.

By this time the sun was beating down unmercifully, but it did not worry him nor slow his rapid gait. Up and down hills and over broken ground and wadis he was followed by the perspiring staff who rested thankfully when a stop was made to comment on some feature or other that attracted his attention.

MOCK ATTACK

During the morning an attack was staged by another battalion on a thousand yard front.

The task set the attacking battalion gives an indication of the high standard of physical fitness attained by the men. After an early breakfast they route marched more than six miles to the jumping off spot. They wore tin hats and carried rifles or light automatics and full battle dress.

After being distributed over a thousand-yard front they came in for half a mile in short dashes at the double. Once the exercise was over they were given a short rest, after which they marched the six miles back to camp. Each man has only a full water bottle to drink for the whole stunt, but they are thriving on the work.

During the whole attack the inspecting party had little respite. Not content to watch operations from one vantage point General Wavell was constantly on the move and it was a thirsty and tired party who finally collapsed into the official cars. After a quick inspection of the Army Service Corps camp a move was made—to Divisional Headquarters for lunch

Interviewed after the inspection General Wavell seemed well pleased by the progress made by the men. He commented especially on their rapid acquisition of soldierly bearing and general smartness

MEDICAL HISTORY OF GREAT WAR

The second volume of the history of the Australian Army Medical Corps in the Great War by Colonel A. Graham Butler, D.S.O., V.D., ensures that no branch of the Australia Imperial Force will have a more enduring literary memorial, or a more impressive record of consistent and heroic endeavor, than the medical services.

The volume, published at £1/1/-, is part of the Official Australian War History and is obtainable from the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra.

Local and General

Bowral Rugby League first grade football team defeated Nowra by 18 points to 9 at Nowra on Sunday.

* * *

No accident cases were reported to the District Ambulance over the week-end. The staff has been kept busy attending many medical cases.

* * *

In the district soccer competition on Saturday, Bowral United defeated Moss Vale A team by nine goals to two.

* * *

The Hon. J. A. Perkins, M.H.R., who has been convalescing after an operation recently performed, took his place in the House of Representatives at Canberra on Wednesday. He is stated to be considerably improved in health.

* * *

Mr. R. J. Drummond, who was one of the two men killed in an accident on Catherine's Hill, Alpine, last week, was the only son of Matron Drummond, who conducted a maternity hospital at Mittagong some years ago. Matron Drummond lost her husband in the Great War and her only daughter died some years ago.

* * *

On Tuesday night of last week Mr. Jeff. Bate, M.L.A., was entertained at a farewell social by the Menangle branch of the U.A.P. The Camden and Cambelltown branches were associated with Menangle in the function, and in addition to the executive officers from these branches were also many visiting members. On behalf of the branch Miss Macarthur-Onslow (president of the Menangle branch) presented Mr. Bate with a wallet.

Red Cross Society

MOSS VALE BRANCH

The acting hon. secretary of the Moss Vale branch of the Red Cross Society reports that from December 15 last to May 9, 1940, the local branch of the Red Cross Society has forwarded to the Stores Branch, Phillip Street, Sydney, the following articles: 22 dressing gowns, 17 pyjamas, 68 undershirts, 9 mufflers, 110 pairs socks, 10 sheets, 65 underpants, 27 hot water bag covers, 33 bedside bags, 1 hospital bag, 2 balaclava caps, 19 washers, 15 pullovers 23 housewives, 12 cholera belts, quantity of old linen, box of second-hand clothing.

Visitors to the Stores Branch are welcomed by the voluntary helpers, and those who have availed themselves of the privilege have been amazed at the organisation and systematic working of this very necessary department of the society.

Obituary

Mr. William Hollins, who passed away at his residence, "Laurel View," Robertson, on Thursday after a long illness, was widely known throughout the Berrima District where he had resided for almost thirty years. He came to Australia with Mrs. Hollins from England in 1911, and they were later joined by members of the family.

Mr. Hollins had been engaged in farming pursuits in England, and also in purchasing horses for the Midland Railway Company. He was a particularly fine judge of horses and cattle and on his arrival in Australia settled at "Burradoo Park," Burradoo, where he commenced the breeding of Clydesdale horses. After eight years there Mr Hollins moved to "Laurel View," Robertson, where he conducted an A.I.S. herd and continued the breeding of horses Mr. Hollins was a consistent prize-winner at local shows with his dairy cattle and horses. His "Laurel View" property at Robertson has been greatly developed since Mr. Hollins took it over and it is regarded as one of the best in the district.

Mr. Hollins, who was 73 years of age at the time of his death, is survived by a widow, three sons and four daughters.

Another old and highly respected resident of the district passed to his rest on Saturday last, when Mr. Samuel Thomas Whyte died in the District Hospital where he had been an inmate for the past three months.

The deceased, who was 75 years old, was born in Melbourne and came to Moss Vale some fourty five years ago. He conducted a tailoring business here until about eight years ago, when he handed it over to his son, Mr. J. D. Whyte, and retired to Robertson where he resided until his death. He is survived by his second wife and by five sons and three daughters of his former marriage.

The late Mr. Whyte was a devoted worker for the Catholic Church and in his early days was keenly interested in football.

The funeral, which took place on Sunday afternoon, was a large and representative one, the remains being interred in the R.C. portion of the General Cemetery, Berrima Road, Moss Vale, the Rev. Father Lynch officiating at the service in St. Paul's Church and also at the graveside.

Milk Production and Distribution

In the Legislative Assembly last week, Mr. Jeff Bate, M.L.A., advocated blocked milk runs as a solution of the problem of increasing the price to producers without making a corresponding increase to consumers. He moved:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, (a) the refusal of the Government to agree to the Milk Board's recommendation to increase the price of milk to the consumer renders it essential that in order to enable dairy farmers to continue the production of milk profitably the return to the dairy farmer be increased by 4d per gallon; (b) retail milk distribution should be carried out by the institution of 'blocked' runs, thereby reducing the cost of distribution."

This is a most urgent and desperate matter for the dairymen who are supplying milk to the city They are facing ruin. Each day their position becomes more dreadful because of the cost of feed and the low return for their product. They are selling some of their cows at a very low price in order to save the lives of the remainder Some are being destroyed. The rain that has fallen has been accompanied by such cold winds that it has been of no value and has made the position much worse. The needs of the dairy farmer have become very urgent.

In moving this motion, it is not my desire in any way to embarrass the Government. My sole purpose is to accelerate the establishment of some form of organisation which must presently come into being in the distribution of milk. In the past, attempts by the Milk Board to reduce costs of distribution have been frustrated by the Government on the ground that too much unemployment would result. On the other hand, the latest New South Wales Year Book shows on page 956 that 2,200 people lost their employment in the producing side of the dairying industry because of impossible seasonal conditions. The existing method of distribution is costly and wasteful. With the nation at war, every effort should be made to reduce costs and prevent overlapping, but in the milk industry no such effort has yet been made. For instance, six or seven carts deliver milk to consumers living in one block in the city The wages of the carters and the cost and maintenance of the carts combine to make this overlapping most expensive. By this time hon. members should be familiar with the apportionment of costs in the milk industry, but I shall restate them for the purpose of refreshing their memories The milk producer receives a gallon; the dairy factory, which treats the milk in the country, is paid .7d a gallon; freight accounts for .775d; and the administration expenses of the Milk Board absorb 125d. Those expenses bring the price of milk, when it reaches the distributing companies in Sydney, to 1s 1·6d a gallon.

The distributing companies collect the milk from the Railway Department, treat it and distribute it to the vendors. One company operates an enormous plant which some years ago employed 1,000 men. Now the number is probably greater. Payments to them increase the cost by a further 3¾d. a gallon, so that by the time the product reaches the vendor the cost is 1/5¼ For loose milk the vendor is permitted to charge consumers 2s. 4d. a gallon. Thus he is allowed a profit of 10¾d. a gallon. Lately, a good deal of criticism has been levelled at the difference between the price paid by the consumer and that received by the producer. Some illuminating information upon that disparity is contained in the report of the Swift inquiry of 1936.

Hon. members who represent dairy farming constituencies have been shocked by the manner in which milk has become the subject of political manoeuvring. For purposes of comparison, I invite hon. members to consider the favoured treatment meted out to the producers of other staple foods. Sugar, butter, tea and flour comprise roughly 60 per cent. of a grocer's sales. Last week the Federal Government agreed to extend the Sugar Agreement for a further period without alternative of the existing price. To produce raw sugar in the mills in the north costs little more than 1d. a pound, but the Australian consumer is required to pay 4d a pound, in order that the sugar may be grown with white labour. World parity for sugar is about 2d. a pound. That is for export purposes! we are told that in only a few countries is sugar retailed more cheaply than it is in Australia, From the other States, Queensland draws annually £12,000,000 in respect of its sugar. If sugar were retailed at world parity, that figure would be reduced by one-hand. If Australian consumers are obliged to pay such an enormous sum for the privilege of doing without black labour, why is not drastic action taken to prevent the existence of black labour conditions in the dairy industry?

I have strong reasons for assuming that hon. members will not allow an increase to the consumer and assuming that, my only course is to ask the House to agree to a reduction of the cost of distribution The difference between the amount paid to the producer and the amount paid by the consumer is about 1s. 4d.

My endeavor now will be to show that the cost of distribution of milk could be cheapened by the elimidation of overlapping in its delivery. I have here figures dealing with block runs that were prepared for Mr. Swift in 1936 as the result of a questionnaire sent to persons engaged in the industry. They reveal that in 1934 the average amount of milk carried by each milk cart was 33 gallons. In 1936 it had risen to 39 gallons. We are told that in Wellington, New Zealand, where the block system operates on a high standard, they have actually reached a figure of no less than 116 gallons a vehicle, and use only one employee to each cart. I admit that Wellington is a much smaller city than Sydney

Last week milk producers in my electorate held a number of meetings, and I have received many letters from them stating that they are almost in despair because of the failure of the Government to engage in a constructive endeavor to stabilise the industry.

Mr. Lee: What are the farmers doing to improve their methods?

Mr. Jeff Bate: In the Camden district the Royal Agricultural Society has conducted competitions and, in doing so, the winner has had to compete with other societies throughout the State. Several times I competed in the Fodder Conservation competitition for my district and won the championship three years running. That was a competition for the eastern districts of the State. In 1918 the first Fodder Conservation Championship prize was won by a Camden farmer. Recently a Camden farmer won the championship prize. On repeated occasions farmers in the Wollondilly electorate have been within two or three points of the eastern part of the State championship, and a Kangaloon farmer won the State pasture improvement championship for dairy farmers. The Camden Society has always been able to display a fine exhibit annually from this district, but this year it was found impossible to do so because of the drought conditions. In the district to which I refer, fodder is conserved in both concrete and pit silos. Both hay and grain are conserved for cattle, but the cost is high, and while the dairy farmers use milking machines, they have to pay dearly for labour to enable them to conserve fodder. Most of them find that it is not profitable to conserve fodder.

In the Camden and Moss Vale districts pasture improvement and the construction of fodder have in the past been practised in a high degree, but frequently, and especially lately, water supply has been their great difficulty As hon. members know, for a considerable time there has been no rain on the catchment area, and the dairy farmers in the adjoining country are seriously affected. Water has had to be transported to the farms. Hon members who represent dairying constituencies will realise the seriousness of the position. Every farmer does all he can to conserve fodder, and the farmers appreciate the concessions granted by the Government. Every farmer who could take advantage of those concessions has done so.

Although, in 1936, the time may not have been ripe for the application of the blocked-run system, it is opportune now in the time of crisis when we should face the position courageously. If we are to preserve our democracy it is no use going on as we are doing. It seems that democracy will fail if we do not act more courageously No selfish section in the community should be allowed to retard the progress of democracy, and we should cut out waste and overlapping. The blocked-run system must be adopted. I admit that it will take time to bring about the change, but it should not take more than six or nine months If hon. members and the Government will give them a chance, it will be a gesture to the dairy farmers and will give them heart. Of course, in addition, some provision has to be made to avoid disaster immediately.

Golf

STOKE HANDICAP

Scoring in the T.B. Cup 18 holes stroke event at Moss Vale on Saturday afternoon was good, L. I. Catts winning the event with a nett 67. H. H. Paine, with a nett 70, was in second place. The winner of the event at Moss Vale will now represent Moss Vale in a further elimination competition for the cup to be played at Goulburn. Leading scores on Saturday were: L. I. Catts, 81 14 67; H. H. Paine, 83 13 70; H. W. Stephenson, 80 9 71; A. A. Pegrem, 89 18 71; K. Oately, 90 18 72; C. H. Gilbert, 13 9-74.

Bowls

CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

The draw for a section of the State championships next week are published in the current issue of Bowls. In the No. 2 pennants, in which Moss Vale will challenge for the title on behalf of the Southern Tablelands Association, the draw is as follows: Moss Vale v South Coast; Hunter River v Lower North Coast; Newcastle and Western a bye.

The winners will meet Hornsby on the City green on Saturday, May 25.

The pairs championship in which Lansley and Mallard will represent the association, will open on the Chatswood green on May 21. The date for the singles has not yet been fixed, but will be played as early in the week as possible.

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½lb ,, ,,	6½d	8oz. ,, SPAGHETTI	7½d
1lb RED SALMON	1/3	16oz. ,, SPAGHETTI	11½d
1lb BEEFSTEAK PUDDING	1/-	5oz. ,, BAKED BEANS	4d
1lb STEAK and TOMATO PUDDING	1/-	8oz. ,, BAKED BEANS	6½d
1lb TIN PRUNES	8d	16oz. ,, BAKED BEANS	10½d
5oz JAR NESTLE'S CREAM	7d	10oz. Jar NESTLE'S CREAM	1/-

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

TENDERS, accompanied by the necessary deposits, will be received up to NOON on MONDAY, 27TH MAY, 1940, for Repairs and Painting at ROBERTSON POST OFFICE.

Specifications and Tender Forms are available at the office of the Commonwealth Works Director, Customs House, Sydney; and at Post Offices, Robertson and Moss Vale

Tenders in envelopes endorsed with the name of the work should be forwarded to the Commonwealth Works Director, Box 47 A.A., G.P.O., Sydney. No tender necessarily accepted.

H. S. FOLL,
Minister for the Interior.

Cricket

BOWRAL v S.P.C.

The above match was continued at Moss Vale on Saturday. Scores:—

S.P.C.—First Innings, 182

Bowral—First Innings

A. Stephens, b Dray	9
L. Williams, c Dray, b Bonser	9
C. Bonser, lbw, b Ferguson	58
C. Goodfellow, c Beattie, b Ferguson	79
D. Price, c Bonser, b P. Beattie	61
J. Douglas, not out	13
S. Ford, c J. Beattie, b P Beattie	20
L. Price, c and b P. Beattie	52
A. Harding, b P Beattie	29
K. Curr, c P Beattie, b Ferguson	4
Sundries	24
Total	372

War Savings Groups

PURCHASES BY EMPLOYERS

For the conduct of war savings groups, formed for the purchase of war savings certificates, standard rules have been prepared by the Commonwealth Treasurer and the Commonwealth Bank. The rules are simple, but their observance is being requested to protect contributors.

In addition, cards for the contributions of individual members of groups and registers for recording the operations of the groups have been printed and will be distributed free. The organisation created for the control of the savings campaign will operate through a State secretary in each capital city.

As a safeguard in the interests of group members, registration of groups with the State War Savings Certificates Committee is being required. Where employees of a business house or members of a club desire to form a savings group, they are invited to communicate with the State Secretary at the Commonwealth Savings Bank Building, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, to obtain advice and supplies of the standard forms.

Great help has already been given to the savings campaign by employers who have made bulk purchases of certificates for re sale to their employees on easy terms Registration of groups formed by employers in this way is unnecessary, but because it is desired to keep an accurate record of the extent of the savings movement, advice of such purchases will be appreciated.

SALES OF WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES TO MAY 2nd, 1940

STATE	Face Value of Certificates Sold	Approx. £1 Face Value sold for every
New South Wales (including A.C.T.)	159,394	17 persons
Victoria	128,400	14½ ,,
Queensland	113,486	9 ,,
South Australia	45,524	13 ,,
West Australia	50,410	9 ,,
Tasmania	13,947	17 ,,
Commonwealth	£511,161	13½ ,,

Cost of Delivering Milk

ONLY REASONABLE PROFIT SAYS COMPANY

Mr. A. N. Binks, M.L.C., chairman of the Dairy Farmers' Co-operative Milk Co., one of the city distributors of milk, told the "S.M. Herald" that his company made only two per cent. profit upon its turnover.

"There appears to be an impression that the distributing companies are making inordinately large profits," said Mr. Binks. "As a matter of fact, this company makes only two per cent. net profit on its gross earnings. Last year the amount distributed among its 3,000 or 4,000 farmer shareholders was £11,582, an average of slightly more than £2 a head. The whole of the company's operations are directed to giving better service to the consuming public."

Mr. Binks said wages in the handling and distribution of the milk by the company last year absorbed about 55 per cent. of its gross earnings, general working expenses accounted for 35 per cent., and rates, insurance, and other expenses absorbed eight per cent., leaving only two per cent. for the company, which was a co-operative one. The gross earnings for the year were £589,000, from which £313,000 was paid in wages, £204,000 in general working expenses, and £16,000 for rates, insurance, and provision for taxation.

Since the last fixation of prices in March, 1938, said Mr. Binks, there had been a steady increase in operating costs, because of basic wages increases, totalling 4s per week for each of its 1,500 employees, and increases in the price of petrol, oils, coal, motor tyres, and accessories, and registration.

* * *

Within two months over 3,500 applications have been received for advances for home building under the scheme inaugurated by the State Government in conjunction with the Rural Bank.

* * *

It was officially stated on Monday that recruiting for the A.I.F. in New South Wales had so far been a long way short of requirements. About 11,000 men are needed for the 7th Division. Since April 1 there have been 7,705 applications; 6,105 have been given their preliminary medical examination; 5,503 have been passed as fit.

o o o

Advice has been received from Marseilles by the Australian Woman's Relief Fund for Poland, that several more cases of clothing have safely arrived for transhipment to Polish refugees in neutral countries. The loss of the Polish destroyer "Grom" ("Thunder") in Norwegian waters brings the realisation that comforts are urgently required by the Polish sailors and soldiers fighting with the French and English. Donations should be sent care of the Australian Headquarters of the Polish Relief Fund, 76 Pitt Street, Sydney.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page13149930