

### Newly-weds : Re-union Diversion

An unexpected turn was staged at the 36th Bn's re-union at the Dungowan, Sydney, on November 21, when a bride and bridegroom, to the strains of "The Wedding March," passed through the room occupied by the troops, on their way to another room, in which the reception was held. The cheers that the troops gave the newly-weds should ring in their ears for the rest of their lives.

Among 36th Bn. Diggers who attended the reunion were Gus Keown, a double amp., and Frank Hyde, of Bathurst, who is totally blind.



By the way, Gus Keown, who is in partnership in a tobacco kiosk at the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street, Sydney, should have been asked to tell the story, "How I spent my first Armistice Day."

He got his issue at Passchendaele, and on Nov. 10, 1918, while a patient at Southall, was ticketed for an operation the next day. Doctors had him on the operating table, preparing to give him the anaesthetic, when tidings of the Armistice came through. Gus was asked by the doctors if he would like to have the operation postponed, and join the other patients who were journeying to London to celebrate. "I have got this far, you might as well finish the job," said Gus, who spent most of Armistice Day recovering from the anaesthetic.

Of the 100 members who attended the re-union, some came from country centres—Goulburn, Tamworth, Kiama, Cobar, and Bathurst—and among those who sent apologies and who wished the reunion success was Roy McGregor, of the Solomon Islands. The 36th Bn. Assoc. has always held a yearly reunion, and in each

"Give 'em a Cheer, Boys."

following year the show has proved more successful than the past. There were, however, familiar faces again absent this year—more having gone to the Big Reunion up yonder. These were not forgotten, nor the others who had gone before, when the troops assembled at the Cenotaph to offer a wreath. Congratulations to the president (Mr. A. P. Thompson), the secretary (Mr. P. A. Medcalf), and the committee on the splendid success of the reunion.

### Main Suburban Line Council

With the president (Mr. R. Rowe) in the chair, a meeting of the council was held at Concord West on November 12; Mr. Robinson, president, Concord Sub-Branch, extending a welcome to the council.

Mr. R. Rowe said that the council's aim was to help, not retard, the State Executive. The State Secretary had personally assured him that State Executive regarded the council with approval and esteem.

A plan for the reform of the State-wide ballot was discussed, and will be forwarded to headquarters for consideration.

Mr. Peterson, of the War Service Homes Commission, is to be asked to attend the next meeting of the council. Government Savings Bank Board intimated that the suggestion that householders with credit deposits should be allowed to transfer in payment of their accounts, was not deemed possible. Every consideration would, however, be afforded such persons. H'qrs. will be asked to approach insurance coys. with a view to obtaining a cut—say, 20 per cent., in all returned soldier policy premiums.

### War Mare's Record

Major T. Preston, M.C., of the Yorkshire Hussars, in an article in the current issue of "The Cavalry Journal," relating to the work of the cavalry at Arras, in 1917, mentions that two of his own hunters—a mare and a gelding—bred at his own home, served throughout the whole war, and were then re-purchased from the Army. The mare bred four foals, and lived to the age of 23, when her health failed, and she had to be destroyed.

### Family Quotas : Great War

**RIPPS FAMILY**, of Lismore (N.S.W.)—2488 Pte. J. C. Ripps (49th Bn.), enlisted 1/5/16, K.I.A. Messines Ridge, 7/6/17. 516a Cpl. Alexander Ripps (4th M.G. Bn.), enlisted 14/7/16, returned 1919. Lieut. William Ripps (4th M.G. Bn.), enlisted 28/3/16, commissioned 26/8/18, promoted Lieut. 1/12/18; returned to Sydney in 1919, and is now in business in Bridge Road, Drummoyne (N.S.W.).



W. Ripps.

**DOWLING FAMILY**, of N. Sydney.—Three brothers in A.I.F.: Lieut. E. S. Dowling (1st L.H. Regt.), enlisted 24/8/14; the first man of the regiment to be wounded at Anzac; commissioned 5/11/17; died of wounds 18/11/17. 37865 Gunner K. S. Dowling (107 Howitzer Bty.), enlisted 8/3/17; returned to Aust. in 1919. Capt. B. S. Dowling, M.C. (1st Div. Engineers), enlisted 10/12/14; commissioned 3/11/15; promoted Captain 7/11/17; returned in 1919.

**BICKFORD FAMILY**, of Ravenswood (Vic.)—Four brothers in A.I.F.: 1519 Pte. Edward Bickford (M.G. Section, 21st Bn.), enlisted 8/4/15; killed at Mouquet Farm, 21/8/16. 1518 Cpl. R. J. Bickford (M.G. Section, 21st Bn.), enlisted 8/4/15; died on 12/1/17 of wounds received at Pless. 3416 Cpl. W. Bickford (4th Bn.), enlisted 12/9/14; killed at Bullecourt, 11/4/17. 1716 Cpl. N. Bickford (6th Bn.), enlisted 7/1/15; returned to Aust. 1919.

### Kaiser Was Popular : Until

Major —, who was O.C. of a camp at Tel-el-Kebir, and later of another in England, had forfeited the goodwill of the Diggers, due primarily to their dislike of the rigorous training to which he had subjected them in the Egyptian deserts.



Now, in camp in England, he left no stone unturned to place himself in popular favour with the troops. He provided a recreation hut, with plenty

of reading matter and writing material, and there were games galore for them.

All this, however, "cut no ice," and his final effort was the introduction of a life-size dummy, made of rubber (the likeness of the Kaiser) mounted on a cast iron base (half-round), the idea being to punch the dummy and side-step, as you would an ordinary punching-ball.

The first we all knew of this new stunt was when we saw it propped up just outside the mess tent. Incidentally the old Major was standing at his own tent staring in our direction, obviously anxious to see the result of his new idea. Well, we at once guessed who had put it there, so apart from its being piped off and given an occasional push from some curious dog, the dummy was ignored.

All this, of course, to the great disappointment of the O.C.! A few nights later one of the troops, who was a good hand at sketching, drew a likeness of the old Major on the back of dummy. It was a splendid likeness of him, too; and the following morning there was quite a stampede outside the mess tent. The troops lined up in a queue waiting their turn to have a go at it. Some took off their coats and hats, and punched into it like mad. Some even put "the boot" into it!

Needless to say the old Major stood once again at his tent door watching the whole performance. He seemed quite thrilled, but it was not till he saw ZUB, our regimental "babbling-brook," smash a beer bottle over the head of the dummy, that he walked toward us and smilingly remonstrated, "It is evident that the Kaiser is not too popular among you men, I am glad to see you making use of this dummy; but I will not stand for any of you kicking it, nor breaking bottles over it either; and as for you Spr. — (addressing the writer), "you have been in this camp quite long enough to know where the Latrines are!"

Then, walking closer to make an inspection of the dummy, he discovered the real reason for the "hate" exhibition. The sequel: Camp closed for a week and all leave cancelled!—J. Rombell

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