

Written for the DINGO FLAT DAILY CHRONICLE by one of the local heroes:-
 "The 26th of Jan. has gone for another year, and thoughts fly homeward as they are ever prone to do. Reminiscences of last year recall the kangaroo drive at Dingo Flat, when Long Joe's blue cattle dog was ripped up by an old man, and Thirsty Theo's cart horse beat Ginger Jim's thoroughbred in the race from the home paddock slip rails to the bore drain back of the shearing shed.

Anniversary Day in France was a different scene. Instead of the ruddy summer sunset, the overmantling mist of a dreary winter evening; instead of tall gums, the shattered trunks and stumps of a former wood; instead of a waving expanse of long grey grass, a white stretch of uneven territory of shell craters partly filled by ice and snow. In spite of all this, however, we were fortunate in being billeted in evacuated houses at ARMENTIERES with all the comforts of home such as tables, chairs, stoves and spring mattresses. Even sideboards, crockery and kitchen utensils were at our disposal, and as shops were handy we amplified our menu by cooking our own porridge, cocoa, potato pies, pancakes etc. according to our individual cooking abilities. At the wagon lines the drivers had a home away from home in the huts. That our guns should thus be located in the midst of civilian life seemed to us most incongruous, but we were yet new in our experience of these tenacious peasants, and were shortly to see them working their farms heedless of bursting shells of the enemy on every hand. As we expected, our town life was too good to last.

ARMENTIERES for PLOEGSTEERT WOODS. It was with great regret that on 15th. March we left where we were and came to where we are. Took over from the New Zealanders. The Maorilanders and Aussies are cobbers. The former call one another "Digger" which in Australianeese is "Cobber" and in Tommy tongue "Chum." "PLUG STREET WOODS" were a relief to the eye, and our lines being on higher ground than those of the enemy, we were afforded good observation of his movements, making the new sector much more interesting. We were interested in a log cabin once occupied by Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather. On the ends of the logs and on the door are carved the badges of the numerous regiments which have taken part in the very heavy fighting in this vicinity since the commencement of the war.

On 17th. March news reached us of the revolution in Russia. We can only hope that the outcome will be an enthusiastic prosecution of the war, and the establishment of a liberty founded constitution.

The theoretical, if not the actual termination of the winter arrived at last, and on the night of March 24th. clocks were put on one hour. The scheme to our mind is economic, and a boon to recreation. After our experience of last summer in England, we wonder at the antagonism to a similar measure adopted in Australia.

Here in France we seldom know the date or even the day of the week, but one day was an exception. Officers picked up unaddressed envelopes to see 1ST APRIL before them in large characters, and troops stood to attention in front of officers who had not demanded their presence.

Fritz became active with his heavy artillery, but considering his expenditure of ammunition, damage was slight and casualties few. Peasants continued plowing and sowing undeterred by heavy shelling of their cultivations.

Easter we spent as other days. The weather became much warmer. Hedges and woods behind the line showed signs of bursting into leaf, and we renewed our acquaintance with the lark and cuckoo. Crops began to show above ground but many were late owing to scarcity of labor and absence of up-to-date agricultural methods. (Continued in our next.)

HOBBIES AND PASTIMES.

As the war drags on and things become a trifle monotonous (for some) officers and men alike by their different and peculiar dispositions adopt very curious and questionable customs as time-killers. So much data of this kind stares the management in the face that we feel it our bounden duty to dedicate space each issue to chronicle these doings:-

Lieut. Cooper. Welsh rarebit.
 Bdr. DeDear (26). Dug-out diving.
 B.S.M. Willis. (25). Tilted hat.
 Dvr. Bourne (27). Early rising.

Gnr. "Gunboat" Smith (26) Pence & Gas Meters.
 Gnr. Lin Browne (25) Guard duties.
 Major Playfair & Major Taylor. Giving away stars.
 Bdr. Hammond (H.Q.) Woodpecking.
 Gnr. Brown (Cook 27) Signing pledge
 Dvr. Call (27). Waking the boys.
 Ex P.M.G. Herbert (26). Syphons.
 Dvr. Chas. Corbitt (25). Carting H2o.
 Cpl. Buckle (H.Q.) Singing????????
 Sgt. Weil (26). Levelling the bubble.
 Dvr. Phillips (25). Harness cleaning.
 Dvr. Wax Gillespie (107). Sitting on nettles.
 Tpr. Brown (107). Keep to wagon line