

FOREWORD

HAVING been asked to write the Foreword of this the Third Volume of the "Yandoo," I must first express my appreciation of the honour of following in the footsteps of such able men and soldiers—Col. Macartney, D.S.O., and Major Playfair, O.B.E., D.S.O., the writers of the Foreword in the previous two volumes.

Being an original member of the 7th F. A. Brigade, and with it until the time of its demobilisation, I feel I am in a position to know what a large amount of splendid work has been done by this organ. Issues have been printed, as you can see, right through our period at the war, and under all sorts of conditions. At times it was not possible to give the Editor and staff all the consideration they deserved, and adversities occurred which would have "knocked" any ordinary men, but they always came up smiling with another issue, and no praise can be too high for the unselfish and untiring efforts displayed by the management.

By perusing the casualty list you will observe what a large number of new men must have come into the brigade. The motto of the "Yandoo" was "Esprit de Corps," and it was not long before these men were made to feel as members of a large family. On all occasions it has considerably helped to promote the feeling of good fellowship, and the Management can rest assured its original object has been more than fulfilled, and it has not "lived in vain."

L. J. COLQUHOUN,

Capt., 26th Battery,

7th F. A. B.

4th August, 1919.

INTRODUCTION

IN accepting the honour bestowed upon me of introducing the third and concluding volume of "Yandoo," my thoughts naturally wander back over the life of "Yandoo," even further back still to a day on board H.M.A.T. "Argyllshire," in May, 1916, when two "diggers"—Acting Bombardier S. E. Rohu and Gunner E. Harding—first came and suggested its birth. I remember voicing some of the difficulties likely to be met with, but they were keen, and no difficulty seemed too great, and so they commenced, and later enrolled to their number Gunners B. C. Duckworth and S. W. Hodge, and throughout the four years the good work well commenced has continued. All sorts of difficulties were met with, great and small, ranging from the melting of the wax sheets on the eve of publication when in the Tropics, the freezing of the same sheets during publication in winter-time in France, or the heavy hand of the censor removing the laugh from a joke, to the loss of the whole outfit when the brigade was racing south to fill the Somme gap, in March, 1918, but fortunately the management were not included in the outfit, so the "Yandoo" still lived, and these persistent fellows, by their determination, continued the publications, giving us Vols. I and II, published during the war, and now giving us Vol. III, "The Daddy of the Lot." They have provided something permanent to carry with us, something to act as a substitute for a pal when left alone, for I feel sure that every member of the brigade reading through "Yandoo" in years to come, will immediately be transformed back to a scene amidst those friends and associates this war has given us; for every page of "Yandoo" aims at and succeeds in fostering these associations.

How much are we indebted to these four men—S. Rohu, E. Harding, B. Duckworth and S. Hodge? Think it out as you read through and through in future years; the same answer will come to us all.

Though the war is over, the brigade will live with us all for ever, and with the brigade will live the "Yandoo." It was impossible for associations such as were made in the 7th Brigade to continue until 1920, and then to suddenly cease, and so the 7th Brigade F.A.B. Reunion Club was formed, and is going "good and strong," meeting periodically to talk over things that happened or things that didn't, but always providing that same wonderful opportunity when friends again meet and firmly shake. The Committee has the active support of the "Yandoo" Management, so keep in close touch, and keep other members in touch, for who knows perhaps even yet Volume III may have a successor?

T. A. J. PLAYFAIR,
Major.

PREFACE

THE final production of "The Yandoo," so long looked forward to, has at last become an accomplished fact.

Throughout the vicissitudes of the campaign, a gleam of light, a ray of hope, could be discerned through the gloomy shadow of a protracted and apparently unending struggle. Sometimes that light, or ray of hope, was dim; sometimes it was almost invisible, and the effect was noted in the grim, dogged demeanour of the troops. Then on occasions it was transcendent, dispersing the dullness and monotony; and finally when our armies were victorious, that light shone out unmistakably, and it was realised that the dreams of home and return to the associations of the sunny homeland were about to be realised. Throughout that long period of ups and downs, that prolonged alternation of expectancy and disappointment, "The Yandoo" continued its publications, advocating a cheerful optimism, consistently looking forward to the great event, the final volume of the paper which was to be coincident with the return of the brigade to Australia.

In the first publication of the paper after leaving Cape Town on the voyage to England, the intention was announced of continuing "The Yandoo" throughout the voyage, during the period of training, and in the firing line. That plan has been fulfilled, and the issues of the paper dealing with the operations in France are herein produced to supplement Volumes I and II respectively, chronicling the periods on the troopship and in training in England.

As far as we know "The Yandoo" is the only diggers' journal to accompany its unit from transport to training camp, from training camp to firing-line (there the paper was actually compiled alongside the guns in action at Messines), and from firing-line back to England and thence to Australia, to have its final part published and the entire publication completed in volume form.

With the idea of preserving the character of the paper as printed and issued in the war zone, the whole reproductions of the original parts have been done by photography.

The sketches were not executed in pen and ink, but by the tedious process of cutting the outline into a wax sheet with a steel stilo, the sheet then being placed on the duplicator and run off in the usual way. During the hot weather the wax often melted, necessitating new sketches, and causing much bad language. The wax stencils for the typewritten sheets were often cut three times before a sufficient number of copies could be got for issue.

The average number of copies for each issue in France was 1,200 comprising six or eight sheets making a total of anything between 7,000 and 9,000 sheets to be turned out by hand through the duplicator.

Sports and concert programmes, menu cards, etc. were also printed by the aid of the Ellams duplicator. A "speedometer" was attached to the machine and registered, from the time we purchased it at Capetown to the completion of our last issue 225,000 revolutions!!!!

It has been decided to place the Oliver Typewriter (which was used for typing the "Yandoo") in the Australian War Museum.

Difficulties innumerable were experienced. The matter of the transport of the typewriter, duplicator, and other accessories, was

a constant concern to the Management, but thanks to the co-operation and loyal support manifested by a number of the brigade officers, and not a few of other ranks, "The Yandoo" equipment found its place on a limber in the line of march. On the occasion of the great retreat (on the Somme) early in 1918, when the Hun was pressing hard in his last despairing effort to pierce the Allied line, "The Yandoo" equipment had to be sacrificed in the interests of mobility, during the Australian's advance to meet the oncoming enemy, and was left behind at Witternesse. Fortunately the enemy was stopped before reaching the village, and some months later, when the position was less critical, it was possible to return per motor lorry and restore the equipment to the brigade intact. Throughout its checkered career the paper has had the unreserved support of Colonel H. D. K. Macartney, Major T. A. J. Playfair, Captain L. J. Colquhoun, Lieutenant E. A. Cody, Lieutenant H. R. Pountney, Corporal W. Ryder, Bombadier L. J. Boone, Gunners R. Oakes, R. Kirkpatrick, Driver H. C. Neilly, as well as others too numerous to mention, and the Management in placing on record its obligation to these gentlemen confidently asserts that, without such backing, the paper would long since have been defunct.

The photos. in the Roll of Honor include ex-members who were transferred to other units, and there unfortunately met their deaths.

According to the data available to the management, the deaths within the brigade were 126, and, with 23 deaths of ex-members, making a total of 149. We have been exceedingly fortunate in securing 143 of those photos., and our thanks go to the next of kin, and friends who supplied them.

The nominal rolls are as complete as it was possible to get them.

The photos contained herein are by K. Grieves, H. R. Jackson, P. M. Herbert, F. S. Chapman, J. M. Allport, C. M. Gardner, W. C. Fahey, C. Ross, S. E. Rohu, and the Australian Official Photographer.

The sketches are by B. C. Duckworth, and the Xmas cards by G. Bleach and L. H. Browne.

We also record our appreciation for assistance to Mr. F. C. Hilzinger for looking after "Yandoo" matters in Sydney, prior to the Management's return; to Mr. and Mrs. J. McCann, of Paddington, in placing an office at the disposal of the Management; and to the National State Government, Brigadier-General Grimwade, Major Playfair, and those members of the 7th F. A. B. whose financial assistance rendered possible this publication.

Its mission now accomplished, "The Yandoo" extends its heartfelt sympathy to the relatives and friends of those noble comrades who gave their lives in the great cause, hoping that its pages will assist in handing down to posterity the memory of their glorious life and still more glorious death. To those who have returned we wish the happiness and prosperity they deserve after the experiences in the Great War, and the hope is expressed that the comradeship of active service will continue in civil life; that the experiences in the 7th Field Artillery Brigade will better fit them for playing the part of true men in upholding, in this country, the principles for which they fought abroad.

The Management {
SIL. ROHU.
ERIC HARDING.
BERT. DUCKWORTH.
BAS. HODGE.

110 Bathurst Street,
Sydney. 1-2-1920.