



"Dedicated to Digger Heritage"

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE FIRST AIF INC.

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DIGGER



Photo: A group of Australian officer cadets playing in the snow. It is likely that the photo was taken at Officer Training School at Trinity College, Cambridge, where Percy Smythe, 24th Battalion (custodian of the photo) was in attendance from 24th November 1917. Photo supplied by member Margaret Clarke.

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No. 28

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Edited by Graeme Hosken

Answers to *DIGGER* Quiz No. 28

1. Turkey – correctly named the ‘Turkish Star for the Gallipoli Campaign’. A design was submitted for a Gallipoli Star and Ribbon for British troops, but was eventually withdrawn in favour of the 1914-15 Star.
2. The 41st Battalion had no prisoners taken by the enemy. The battalion’s Latin motto translated as ‘Death Before Shame’.
3. In May 1918 the Germans stated in their Army Reports that the troops “most to be feared” and who were the “most courageous” were the Australians, the Guards, and the 5th Highland Division.
4. The first gas attack was at Ypres against the Canadian Highlanders, on the left of the British line, and a coloured French regiment on April 22nd 1915.
5. The ‘Desert March’ took place between Tel-el-Kebir and the Suez Canal. The men had to walk in soft sand, carrying heavy and full equipment, 120 rounds of SAA, rations and limited water, thirty-nine miles in three days (24 hours of marching). This horrible march is dramatically and truthfully recounted in many unit histories and soldiers’ memoirs, such was the impact of it on the men.
6. The death penalty did not apply to the AIF.
7. Major CH Brand (3rd Brigade) was the first to win the DSO, for his deeds during the first half-hour ashore at Gallipoli.
8. Captain TP McSherry (later Lieutenant Colonel and DSO) of the 15th Battalion was the first to be awarded the MC.
9. The 63 VCs went to: 17 privates, one driver, eleven corporals, ten sergeants, eighteen lieutenants, five captains and one major.
10. The 63 VCs went to: 57 infantry battalions, one light horse regiment, one AFC squadron, one pioneer battalion and three machine gun battalions.
11. (a) An **epaulment** is a side-work (e.g. a mound of earth) to afford cover, usually to a gun position, from flanking fire. (b) An **estaminet** was a French inn. (c) **Explosive bullets** contained an explosive, but these were never used by or against the Australians. ‘Expanding’ bullets (made, or tampered with, to expand on impact) were sometimes referred to as ‘explosive’. (d) **Extended order** was a formation in which men (and often successive lines of men) were separated by wide intervals. (e) A **fantass** was a flat-sided tank used for the carriage of water on a camel’s back. (f) A **field ambulance** was the first medical unit behind the regimental medical detachments – in the case of infantry, about 250 strong, under a lieutenant-colonel; provided with stretcher bearers, horse ambulances, and tents. (g) A **field company of engineers** was attached to an infantry division for ordinary military work (bridge-building, trench-siting, etc.). Usually about 220 strong, under a major. (h) A **field gun** was a mobile gun used on the battlefield for low-trajectory, high-velocity fire. (i) The **firestep** was a step in a fire trench on which men stood in order to fire over the parapet. (j) The **fire-trench** was a trench from which men fired (as opposed to a communication trench). If properly made, consisted of a series of short fire bays with traverses between them.

Reminder! The **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Bandiana Army Museum (near Wodonga, Vic) on Saturday, 10th October, between 3pm and 5pm. Dinner will be held at the Commercial Golf Club Resort in North St, Albury, NSW, at 7.30pm. Further details are with this mailing and will be placed on the website.

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