



"Dedicated to Digger Heritage"

DIGGER



Photo: 2758 Private Colin Maxwell Harkins, 2nd Pioneers, 1918.
Courtesy of Andrew Macdonald.

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Answers to *DIGGER* Quiz No. 42

1. King George's Sound, Albany, on the southwest coast of WA.
2. The convoy was originally expected to sail to the UK (on 21 September) where the men would be trained prior to fighting on the Western Front.
3. 28 October 1914.
4. 21 529 men and 7 882 horses [Source: 'Postal History', RC Emery. Note: Bean records the number of horses as 7 843.]
5. 28 Australian Transport Ships plus 10 New Zealand Transports.
6. Escort consisted of: HMS *Minotaur* (armoured cruiser, 14 600 tons); the Japanese battle cruiser, *Ibuki* (14 600 tons); HMAS *Melbourne* (light cruiser 5 400 tons); HMAS *Sydney* (light cruiser 5 400 tons). The *Minotaur* left the convoy on 8 November and *Melbourne* took her place.
7. A3 SS *Orvieto* of 12 130 tons.
8. The *Minotaur* was 5 miles (8km) in advance of the convoy, which followed in three lines abreast; *Sydney* was on the left; *Ibuki* on the right and *Melbourne* five miles astern.
9. 1 November 1914.
10. Turkey had declared war on the Allies on 31 October 1914 and the War Office wanted the Australians and NZers to help defend the Suez Canal from Turkish attack. Also, it was thought inadvisable to bring the troops from the southern hemisphere to Salisbury Plain in an English winter, with a lack of suitable accommodation.

Strange Coincidence

April 6, 1917, had been a strenuous day in the 34th Casualty Clearing Station on the Poperinghe road. Wounded soldiers had been pouring in all day. A request went around for a volunteer from among the nursing staff for a blood transfusion for a poor fellow lying almost at the door of death.

Feeling that I should get a rest from the horrors around me, I volunteered. A test was taken of my blood, and I was chosen. After the transfusion I had 24 hours rest, and when I resumed my duties I was told by the doctor that the man to whom I had given my blood wished to see me. I made my way to his side, and when I saw his face I promptly fainted across the bed.

He was my own brother, who had been reported 'killed in action' eight months previously. He is alive to-day. – 'Springbok', Perth.

Snippet from 'A DIGGER'S DIARY' – a column in the Western Mail (Perth) – conducted by "Non-Com", which published brief accounts and reminiscences from ex-servicemen. Thursday, 22 December 1932. Contributed by Heather (Frev) Ford, Montrose. [According to the CWGC the 34th CCS was at La Chapelle, Peronne, France from Apr-July 1917, which casts some doubt on the reliability of the story.]

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