AN ILLUSTRATED DIARY of
AUSTRALIAN INTERNMENT-
Camps

BY
AN OFFICER of the GUARD
© LIEUT. EDMOND SAMVELS

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MELBOURNE,
6TH MAY, 1919.

No. O.A. 31319

Memorandum for
Edmond Samuels, Esq.,
Club Chambers,
Sydney.

Referring to your letter of 22nd ult., I have to inform you that publication of the book referred to therein is now permitted.

Geo. G. McColl,
Colonel,
Deputy Chief Censor
LIEUT. EDMOND SAMUELS,
Officer of the Guard.
AN ILLUSTRATED DIARY OF AUSTRALIAN INTERNMENT CAMPS

By
AN AUSTRALIAN OFFICER OF THE GUARD.

LIEUT. EDMOND SAMUELS.

TYRRELL’S LIMITED,
Publishers and Booksellers,
99 Castlereagh St., Sydney.
PREFACE.

At the instigation of many of my friends and brother officers I have compiled this work, faithfully depicting the existence and conditions under which the people interned in Australian Concentration Camps lived. As an Officer of the Guard I had every opportunity of gleaning this information with the hope that it would interest my readers. I was mobilised for service and volunteered with the A.I.F. and was rejected; hence my position as Officer of the Guard.
To

MY BROTHERS

Lieut. Louis Samuels, M.C., Australian Field Artillery,

and Corporal Harry Samuels, A.S.C., A.I.F.

THIS BOOK

IS DEDICATED
I was detailed to proceed to Holdsworthy German Concentration Camp for duty. I reported to the Camp Commandant, and was instructed to act as Supernumerary Field Officer, and my work was to accompany the Field Officer on his tour of duty, and become acquainted with the work. The first duty necessitated my mounting a horse and going the rounds of guards and sentries.

During the forenoon I was taken to the German Compound and shown the different quarters and barracks of the internees, and details of a Field Officer’s duties were explained to me.

Allow me here to explain the duties of a Field Officer and Regimental Officer in this Camp. My object in explaining these duties is to show the consideration and care required to be looked to by our authorities in the interests of the internees. An officer is daily detailed as Field Officer. This officer is responsible for all matters of camp hygiene, food supplies, parades, etc., in connection with the troops, as well as the prisoners of war. The Field Officer represents the Commanding Officer, and any orders or instructions issued by him must be complied with. He is armed with ample powers to check every irregularity connected with the interior working of the camp, and is answerable that good order and quietness is observed. He will attend every prisoner of war roll-call,
General View of Holdsworthy, showing Interior of Compounds.

Camp Jail, Holdsworthy, built by Internees.
inspect the camp police at 7.15 a.m., attend all meals of internees, and see that the food is evenly distributed, inspect their barracks, visit the gaol and special confinement compounds, visit all working parties of internees, turn out all guards, inspect and visit all sentries, and generally supervise all works.

He will pay special attention to the maintenance of correct sanitary service, and will be responsible for correct despatch of mails from camp, and attend to the censorship of letters and parcels outwards and inwards.

The Regimental Officer is responsible for all matters in connection with the guard. He supervises camp quarters, food supplies, general cleanliness of the camp, parading and inspection of all guards, mounting and dismounting; he attends all meals of men attached to the guard and acts as assistant censor.

All letters are censored by the Field Officer and Regimental Officer, both inwards and outwards. Books and periodicals are allowed prisoners, with the exception of those of a sensational style or offensive to our enemies. Also books may be received by post from enemy countries, subject to censorship, and if not containing any illicit correspondence, are delivered to internees without delay.

I have seen parcels and books delivered to prisoners within an hour after receipt of same. Postal articles are sent free of charge from prisoners of war to any part of the globe, on being marked Service de Prisonniers de Guerre. Letters under 2 ounces in weight are also accepted and delivered free of postage.
Sectional View of Holdsworthy, showing Part of Compound and Recreation Grounds.

Internees at Work making Wire Beds for their own use.

Interior of one of the Internees' Kitchens, showing Adequate Cooking Utensils.
The Daily Bread Arrival.

A Daily Procedure—Guard Mounting, Saluting the Union Jack, Colour Party at Saluting Base.
Every facility is afforded internees of regular correspondence. Parcels sent from prisoners of war in Australia to other countries, in addition to being sent free of charge, and are registered and insured without charge.

Money orders sent by prisoners of war in Australia or elsewhere, also are issued free of commission. Letters addressed by prisoners of war to Consulates of Allied or neutral States in the Commonwealth, which are of personal interest to the writer are exempt from censorship.

I will here describe the camp and camp arrangements. The camp is situated on a high lying ground about 5 miles from Liverpool, and accommodates about five to six thousand Germans, Austrians, Turks, etc., from various parts of the globe, included in which is a number of the crew of the "Emden." These internees are quartered in wooden barracks, each building holding about 60 men. They are organised into companies and each company has a company commander of their own nationality, who attends to the administration of his company. There also is a senior company commander to whom junior commanders will lodge complaints, and this senior commander places any important matters unable to be adjusted by himself, before the Camp Commandant.

A roll-call is made twice daily, morning and evening, and each company commander hands a parade state accounting for all men under his command, to the military policeman on duty with that company.

On walking through this compound all manner of shops and buildings erected by the internees are to be seen. There are dozens of small
Prisoners Waiting to Interview Camp Commandant.

Types of Internees, Sports Club Exhibition.
cafes, run on Continental style, where the richer internee is able to purchase the best of sweet dishes, sausage, and a most varied assortment of cakes manufactured on the premises.

There are several theatres where every night shows are held, open air picture shows, gymnastic halls, massage chambers, hot baths, vapour baths, cafes, billiard tables, and all manner of places.

At frequent intervals will be seen wood-carvers doing most wonderful work, small book clubs, libraries and schools. The type of internee is most varied, from the stout typical German to the Asiatic type of Turk; all are tolerably well-clothed and well looked after.

A regular bi-annual issue of clothes is made. A correct record by card system is kept of every issue. Pants, shirts, white hat, boots, overcoat, three blankets, straw tick, towels and singlets form the major portion of clothing issue.

Daily men are allowed to go out under escort in working parties and are engaged in various works, such as road-making, timber cutting, saw-milling, etc. It is entirely optional for these men to work, and they are paid at the rate of 1/- per day.

It is most remarkable to watch the continual and daily exercises engaged in by these men to keep themselves quite fit. On an average the general physique is particularly good, and some handsome specimens of mankind are to be seen. Those who do not desire to work simply lounge about all day, occasionally taking a walk in the recreation ground pro-
Gymnastic Display on a Celebration Day.

There are numerous Art Studios at Holdsworthy—Interior of one of these Studios.
March Past of Austrian Internees, Celebration Day.

vided for this purpose, or partaking in a game of football or tennis, and living altogether a life of ease except for the confinement. There are many men who have been interned for periods of over three years. Holdsworthy is the Headquarters for the concentration camps of Australia and other centres, as Berrima, Trial Bay and Bourke are worked from here, and subject to the administration and discipline of the officer commanding Australian concentration camps.

A bugle call is sounded as a warning to parade, and internees are allowed 15 minutes to be on parade. Any man late or absent after this period is paraded at once before the Field Officer, who, if he considers the case warrants the procedure, will authorise the detention of such person in the camp gaol pending trial by the Camp Commandant.

Confinement to gaol for various periods, according to the severity of the case, is made by the Camp Commandant, with the exception of serious charges which are remanded for district court-martial.

The food arrangements are excellent, being prepared by cooks nominated by the internees, and consists of porridge and coffee for breakfast, meat in various forms for lunch, with several kinds of fresh vegetables (which are grown in the camp garden). The evening meal consists of coffee and tea, jam and bread. Only the best of fresh meat is daily supplied. Approximately 1 ton is used daily.
Complete Working Mechanical Models, made in Camp with Improvised Materials and Tools.

The following is the daily allowance per man:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>1 1/2 lbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>10 ozs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>1 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>1/2 oz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetables (Mixed)</td>
<td>1/2 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed Milk</td>
<td>1/20th of a lb, tin daily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>2 ozs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>1 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jam</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
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</tbody>
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Adequate cooking utensils are supplied to allow proper preparation of food, "Goulash" being popular, also Hamberger Steak, and such dishes are regularly prepared.

The main German compound is surrounded by an extensive wire entanglement, outside which at short and regular intervals sentries and guard-rooms are posted.

The camp guard is divided into three companies, A, B and C. The administration of these commands is conducted by the company commander, who has as his assistant a subaltern.

There is a special compound consisting of a barrack of one platoon shed wherein internees are confined for severe offences and continual misbehaviour. This place has been named by themselves Sing Sing, after the famous Sing Sing Gaol, but needless to say, there is no comparison.
Internees' View of American Attitude when they took the First Hun Prisoner.

A Frequent Haul—A Typical Still of Improvised Type for making an Alcoholic Beverage. These are frequently located in the Compounds, jam being used in the process.
Two Models of the "Emden," made at Holdsworthy.

Evening Meal Parade and Count of Prisoners.—About one-third of the Internees.
Art Class at Work—A Popular Amusement at Holdsworthy.

Charcoal Burning.
Internee Impersonating Part.

Machine Gun Tower, Holdsworthy, in course of construction.
Internees Celebrating a Religious Ceremony.

Display of Articles made in Camp by Internees for Exhibition Purposes.
There are many criminal types of men confined in this compound, also men who previously effected escape by tunnelling, but were not at large very long before being recaptured, and after confinement in a civil prison for a period, were interned here. These men do not, nor are they allowed to do any work.

The type of internee confined in this Sing Sing compound is, generally speaking, of a troublesome character, continually displaying their arrogance and verbal criticisms of the administration. It is not infrequent to see boisterous performances amongst them. They have proved themselves as a majority of exhibiting the lowest moral characters that could be displayed by any man.

Despite these facts, they were well looked after and considered in every possible manner. In fact, it is remarkable how they were tolerated.

Previously a disturbance in the compound was headed by a Black Hand gang, the leaders of which are confined in this Sing Sing compound.
HOSPITAL.

Every facility for careful care of the sick is afforded, and an extensive hospital with a permanent and extensive staff of A.A.M.C., including two resident doctors, a chemist, and an assistant. In addition to medical and pharmaceutical treatment, there is also a resident dentist, who attends internees free of charge, for all minor dental treatment.

The hospital is surrounded by nice gardens, and is situated on higher lying ground than that of the camp, and commands perfect views and a most healthy atmosphere. Also a special sleeping-out compound, well away from the camp, for internees suffering from infectious lung and tubercular complaints. Such consideration reflects great credit on Australian thoughtfulness for the care of the internees.

The interned Germans and prisoners generally are wonderful gymnasts, and practise daily at various exercises. There is a club amongst one class in the compound, and I attended a display arranged by this club, which consisted of all manner of games, gymnastic performances, weight-lifting and strength exhibitions, and one would little think that the majority of these men were prisoners of war who had been interned for a long time.

In the evening after these displays a concert was held and the camp officers were invited to attend. I, together with other officers, attended,
and was astounded on entering the gymnastic hall (erected by the internees, and a very extensive building) to find long rows of tables all magnificently decorated, and seating accommodation crowded.

I was informed over 500 of the Gymnastic Club members were present.

The evening commenced with displays by gymnasts, followed by musical entertainments, singing in German, etc., etc. Following this, supper was partaken of and the long tables from end to end were covered with fancy cakes made by the various cafe cooks, and were of excellent make, all nicely iced and prepared, equal to any prepared by our leading caterers. Coffee was served, and it was hardly possible to imagine that all these men seated at the various tables, eating and making merry, were interned prisoners of war.

It was an education to me to be present at such a gathering, to give me scope at a later period to compare these favourable conditions with those of my brother Australians and Britishers interned in German camps in Germany.

I was detailed to proceed to take charge of a new compound some distance from Holdsworthy. I was entrusted with the whole arrangements, and was informed certain internees of Croatian and Dalmatian and Austrian birth were to be taken out of the main compound at Holdsworthy and sent down to this new camp for certain political reasons.

One of the German bands came to the gates of the main compound and played marches as the various groups of men passed out on the road.
to "they knew not where." Some thought they were to be released; others suggested they were to be exchanged, and all manner of wild rumours rapidly circulated amongst the wondering remainder.

It transpired that a number of internees had Servian sympathies and were desirous of fighting with Servia.

The object of this camp was to allow the personal interview of each individual man thought to have these sympathies, and those who proved to be sympathetic with Servia were to be given the opportunity of proceeding for service with that army.

The internees were totally ignorant of what was to happen, and consequently I had considerable trouble in making makeshift explanations. A certain number, which previous to this happening were in a special compound, were also sent along. These people, numbering 73, were Jugo-Slavs and were in sympathy with Servia, and had been endeavouring for a considerable period to influence other internees to this way of thinking. It was on this account they were previously separated, and almost immediately they were marched in amongst the Austrians trouble commenced, and I found myself in the middle of what might have been a serious riot. The Jugo-Slavs asked for protection, and forthwith were sent back to headquarters at Holdsworthy.

From enquiry I learnt that the Austrians, some Dalmatians and Croatians were antagonistic towards these Jugo-Slavs for the very reason that they were attempting to alter the sympathies of the Austrians and Germans towards Servia. The total number remaining was
about 500, all of whom I was personally responsible for the safe keeping of, and had considerable difficulty during the first night in quietening them down.

On the following day I was visited by the Camp Commandant and informed that each man was to be individually interviewed next day by an officer selected by District Headquarters.

The arrangements were that as each man was interviewed he was moved to a place some distance from the camp, and out of speaking distance of the remainder. Those whose sympathies were with Austria were transferred direct back to Holdsworthy, and any whose sympathies were with Servia were retained.

I found it necessary for the easy working of the show to make myself familiar with sufficient Croatian language to direct arrangements of the internees. I found no difficulty in this direction, and in a few days made good headway.

The enquiry lasted every day for six days, with the ultimate result that 73 men were located who were to go and serve the Servian Army.

All those who had been interviewed and had displayed German or Austrian sympathies (and these were most definite about it) were by this time returned to Holdsworthy and the addition to the Servian Army were left. Most restrictions previously held over these people were lifted, and now understanding what was intended to be done with them,
immediately under their own leaders (and I noticed them to be all trained men) they commenced drilling, and continued this all day and every day, and until very late in the evening.

They were visited almost every day by the officer in charge of this new unit who was arranging for their transfer to Liverpool Training Camp, and in less than ten days the men were removed to Liverpool, and after some eighteen months' or more internment were given their freedom and became Servian soldiers.

They were kept in a separate camp over which the Servian flag was flying, and under officers and staff-sergeant-majors of the Australian Forces, rapidly became well-trained and well-disciplined men. They were uniformed in navy blue, and when together on parade presented a fine show.

After being in camp for many weeks they were moved off and arrived safely in Salonika, where they were well received. The Australian officer who had charge of them from the beginning and until they arrived at their destination was decorated by the Prince Regent of Servia with the White Eagle of Servia. I might add that it was specially requested by the members of the Servian Unit that I be sent for service with them, but most unfortunately Headquarters did not comply with the request.

A few internees of Croatian birth and Servian sympathies remained in this special camp on account of having family ties here which prevented them going on service.
My work having been successfully completed at this camp, I was detailed to proceed to Trial Bay, one of Australia’s many picturesque spots, where another detention barracks is situated. This place is about 200 miles up the north coast of Australia, and near the small town of Jerseyville, and about thirty miles from Kempsey. The old gaol, situated near the breakwater of the entrance to the Macleay River, is used as a detention barracks, and over 500 prisoners of war are interned there, mostly men of some business standing from all parts of the world—tea-planters from Ceylon, rubber-planters, ship’s officers, and military officers.

The same regulations exist at this camp as at Headquarters with the exception that a limited parole area is allowed.

There are at these barracks the finest tennis courts I have ever seen, and they are well patronised by the internees. There is not the number of cafes and shops as at Holdsworthy—just the one cafe outside the gaol, and one inside, in a huge hall which at night almost presents the sight of a German beer-garden. Twice a week concerts are given in this hall by the camp orchestra, which is excellent, and has about 40 performers. The internees sit in groups at the many tables, smoking and playing cards and drinking the nearest they are allowed to beer, that is non-tox, 2 per cent. beer. The orchestra plays selections at regular intervals, and the scene in this place is one to remember.
General View of Trial Bay. White Posts mark the Parole Area.

There are many facilities for sport at Trial Bay, such as surfing, fishing, boating, and all internees have permission to utilise the beach and such places for these purposes. Hockey is played by them on the beach, and generally the place presents a concentration camp that undoubtedly must be one of the most comfortable in the world. The food supplied is adequate and of good quality, and well prepared by German cooks. Medical attention is available and the hospital is supervised by a medical practitioner interned there; also a captain of the Australian Army Medical Corps who regularly visits the camp.

A total of three internees have died since the commencement of the camp and an elaborate and massive stone monument has been erected on a high-lying place near the gaol as a permanent land-mark and to mark the burial place of these three internees.

Outside the gaol itself is erected a series of sheds, quite comfortably arranged and occupied by interned men of rank. The other internees are quartered in the old gaol cells and have marvellously fitted them up and made themselves quite comfortable. Any reasonable request to improve their conditions is never denied them. The cells and surroundings are inspected thrice weekly by an officer attached to the camp. A regular working party goes out daily and is paid at the rate of 1/- per day per man for wood-cutting and such work.

There is quite a good theatre in the barracks where German plays are staged once a week by amateur performers, who with the constant practice have become quite clever theatrical artists.
Many spend a great deal of time learning languages, wireless, merchant shipping and similar studies.

At 6.30 p.m. a roll-call is taken and checked by an officer of the camp, and the gaol gates closed. No internees are allowed outside the gaol after this hour.

There is an extensive canteen, supervised by a member of the guard, assisted by internees, where almost any article, such as clothes or food can be bought. A guard consists of 102 men and 3 officers. It is a most monotonous life for the guard. They have to make their own amusements, as leave to Sydney is not frequent.

**BERRIMA.**

After a short tour of duty at this place, I was recalled to Holdsworthy and then sent to another of our concentration camps, Berrima, a place situated 87 miles from Sydney on the southern line. Berrima is 6 miles from Bowral, and about the same distance from Moss Vale. There are 329 prisoners interned in this camp, and similarly to Trial Bay, the old gaol here, deserted for so many years, again becomes historical as a confinement place for prisoners; the fact of it being a prisoner of war internment barracks will revive the history of Berrima, where now, in place of criminal civilian prisoners of years before, it is occupied by prisoners of war.
The internees of this camp present various walks of life: ship's captains late of the Nord Deutscher Lloyd, German Australian and other shipping companies, ship's officers, every rank of ship's engineers, wireless station constructors, superintendents of shipping companies, from Shanghai, Singapore, and a few military officers, some of them titled men; also a few business men, a sprinkling of musicians and many of the N.C.O's. of the "Emden" crew.

The German officers taken prisoners by the first Naval and Military Expeditionary Force in Rabaul, are also interned here.

All internees at this barracks have a 2-mile parole, commencing at 6 a.m. and finishing at 6.30 p.m. Then they are confined to the barracks during the night.

The surrounding country is very beautiful, and possesses a wonderful climate at all times of the year.

The Wingecarrabbee River flows just below the gaol, and all along the banks on either side for a distance of nearly two miles curiously constructed huts, made out of bush timber with improvised tools, have been erected and taken possession of by the internees. They utilise these as rest houses, and almost all day they are to be found in these places, chatting or reading, and some have fenced allotments of ground surrounding the huts and cultivate vegetables which they consume for their own personal necessities.
First Batch of Internees for Berrima arriving at Moss Vale Station.

Group of Internees, Berrima.
The river lends itself for all manner of sport and numerous small craft have been made, rowing boats carved out of logs, some cleverly made hand-worked paddle-wheel boats, and all manner of canvas-covered boats are to be found. These are moored at small jetties made near the huts, and present a most uncommon sight.

Swimming is a most popular sport, and most of the internees, during the warmer weather, occupy most of the day in the water. Some of the huts are of clever construction fitted with stoves made with improvised material, old jam tins being used, when joined together, to make the chimneys. Those who do not care to walk back to the barracks for their mid-day meal prepare it in these huts and eat it there.

It is a charming site for a concentration camp, and every liberty that could be expected by a prisoner of war is permitted here. Internees generally are very satisfied and recognise that this place is the best concentration camp to be found anywhere. A roll-call is held twice daily at 7.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., and after the latter time no prisoners are allowed out, the gates of the gaol being locked and sentries posted.

The internees occupy themselves in the evening in many ways. Numbers are learning to play musical instruments, many good tutors being amongst them; others engage themselves in wood-carving, studying the intricacies of navigation, wireless, and all languages. There is also a theatre in which, once a week, a theatrical performance is given, the female parts being well interpreted by some of the internees, who by practice have become quite clever at the art.
The majority of the internees in this camp were brought here from Singapore, Shanghai and such places, many not having been in Australia before. The daily paper is allowed them every morning, and huge batches of German mail arrive frequently, also parcels for almost every internee, from all parts of Germany, as: Berlin, Hamburg, Stettin, Strasburg, Dresden, Schleswig, Bremen, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart.

Parcels also arrive regularly from Baguio, Medin, Manila and such places. They mostly contain cigars, cigarettes, sweets, articles of clothing and in some cases sausages direct from Berlin, all gifts from friends and relations. Most of the shipping firms pay regular allowances to the captains of their ships who distribute the money in proportion amongst the members of the crews at the various camps. Large sums of money arrive here for distribution; as much as £300 is drawn by one captain per month. Many have banking accounts in the Government Savings Bank, on which they are continually drawing, and which are gradually being reduced, and fears for the future are becoming quite prevalent.

In many cases money is sent direct from Germany through Switzerland and London to interned ships’ crews here. These allowances seldom fail to arrive regularly.

The internees are allowed to visit the general store in the town of Berrima, which enables them to purchase any article in which they are in need of.
Stage Scene, German Theatre, Berrima, Female Parts being played by Male Internees. Make-up, Stage Settings, etc., are purchased by the Internees.

There is also in the barracks a German canteen, where all manner of foodstuffs, clothing, sweets, etc., may be bought. The profits of this canteen are handled by the German committee, who see the money utilised to improve their conditions, such as providing amusement, purchase of band instruments and similar purposes.

Christmas and New Year being festive times in Germany, permission was asked to hold a concert in the barracks, such permission being granted. An open-air stage was promptly erected and an elaborate concert held, at which band selections, orchestral selections, and vocal items were rendered from 8.30 p.m. till after midnight. Thus was the New Year of 1918 ushered in, and the hope was expressed to me by many internees that this year would bring peace.

As an example of the freedom allowed the internees here, several times permission was given for parties to hire vehicles and drive to the Falls—a day’s outing about 18 miles from the barracks. An interesting item worthy of mention is on the occasion of the first visit here of the Consul-General for Sweden (in charge of Austro-Hungarian affairs). He informed me personally he was surprised to find the surroundings and liberties allowed the men interned in Berrima. He remarked: “I never expected to see such a fine place,” and he was certainly impressed, stating it was worthy of mention to the Austrian Government, and he would inform them of the excellent conditions and facilities for prisoners interned in these barracks.
Behind the Scenes, Berrima German Theatre—Internees being Dressed for Female Characters.

Berrima Orchestra—Instruments purchased by Internees.
Daily Roll Call Parade, Berrima.

On the Banks of the Wingecarrabbee River, Berrima—Internee's Hut and Vegetable Garden. There are numerous gardens similar to this one.
A Model Recreation Hut on the River Bank, built by Internees.

Internee and his Hut, Berrima.
One of the many Huts erected by Internees along the Wingecarrabbee River Banks, Berrima.

Another Type of Hut erected by Individual Internees and used for Recreation Purposes.
Another View of an Internee's Hut, with its Beautiful Surroundings.

The quantity of meat daily consumed is about 204 lbs., and is fresh, and delivered within six hours of being killed, and is not accepted unless it is in the primest condition.

As a further instance of consideration and liberty afforded the prisoners permission was given to hold a sports carnival on the river on the 25th January, 1918. In reality, it was a preliminary celebration of the Kaiser's birthday, which is on the 28th. We understood this, and on the assurance that no patriotic displays or German emblems would be utilised as decorations, permission was granted. A very extensive programme was arranged, commencing at 8.30 in the morning, and finishing at 6.30 in the evening, parole being extended to 7.30 p.m. on this occasion.

During the morning all manner of sports were indulged in, such as tugs-of-war, tennis, faustball and slagball (German games), etc. At 2 o'clock a parade of decorated boats commenced on the part of the river, which is very wide and resembling a lake. These boats were comically, cleverly and most curiously decorated, some shapened to resemble hydroplanes, seaplanes, gondolas, submarines, steam tugs, sailing vessels and many other kinds of craft. The occupants of the boats were dressed in accordance with the style of their boat, many in nigger costumes, colouring, etc. Many were dressed in female clothes, carefully decked out in every detail, even to wigs and expensive underwear.

After the parade of boats for the purpose of each internee recording a vote as to which he considered the most deserving of a prize, one in which were two internees was suddenly attacked by the boat resembling
An Elaborate Hut, erected on the River Bank, Berrima, by the Internees, and used for Recreation Purposes, called the “Emden” Hut.

a submarine, and as arranged previously, was set alight and sunk, and the occupants swam ashore.

The portion of the river where this carnival was held was open to the public, and quite a large crowd of visitors watched the whole proceedings. One thing was most prominent to my mind, and most inexplicable, and that was the keen friendliness shown by many Australian girls who were visitors, towards the internees. Many such cases came under my notice.

The programme of sports continued, and exhibitions of high-diving, swimming and boat racing occupied the remainder of the afternoon. Afternoon tea or coffee and cakes was supplied by the internees. This, together with the attendance of a brass band, constituted a gala representative of the good treatment here, full of amusement and mirth, and hardly possible to depict as a prisoner of war detention camp. I do not remember in pre-war days seeing such an excellent turn-out as was presented at this festival.

Sunday, the 28th, and the actual festival day, was kept by a tennis tournament amongst the internees, the prize being a solid silver cigarette case of good value. The tennis courts were decorated with flags; afternoon tea was served, and music accompanied the proceedings. In the evening a grand concert was held, with permission to continue till 11 p.m., this concluding the celebrations. I noticed that almost every internee wore in the button-hole of his coat the blue cornflower, Germany’s national flower.
German Celebration Day—Scene at River Carnival.

Berrima River Carnival Scene—Internee and his Model.
Internee and his River Boat, made at Berrima.

Internee and his Boat, Berrima—A Popular Sport with Internees.
Berrima Internees’ Carnival Scene. The Elaborate Dresses worn by them were purchased at their own expense.

Worthy of mention also is the fact that many other prizes were given for the various sporting events. Included amongst these was a live duck, a live pig, and bags of assorted vegetables, cigars, cigarettes, sausages, etc.

As an example of the circumstances of time, a prominent feature is noticed in connection with the daily newspapers. Formerly the daily paper was eagerly looked and waited for. Now, in January, 1918, the utmost of disinterest is displayed on arrival of the morning paper; a casual glance suffices the average internee. It would appear as though lack of interest is due to either doubt of reliability of news or more especially to loss of interest in the whole affair. This was told me by an internee who is a good general judge of the interior existing conditions and feelings.

The following extracts from letters written by internees to outsiders, with their personal views, will be interesting. An internee, on first arrival at Berrima, writes to a friend:

“This is a most beautiful place; lovely scenery, and I have met many friends here, so will be happy. We spend most of our day swimming in the river.”

Another, writing to Germany, says:

“This is a wonderful place; we are very well looked after.”
There are many evidences here which show the wonderful class distinction made amongst the Germans. For instance, this war has thrown together in this camp men of different social standing. It was told me by an internee who was a fourth officer on a ship, and whose captain is also interned here, that during the three years of their internment, not more than a total of a few hours' conversation has taken place between them. It is not considered desirable by them, even under these prison camp conditions, to alter their training as regards social differences, unless a captain of a ship is addressed first by, say, a junior previously under his command, no conversation would take place. More prominent even than these cases is that interned at this barracks are prisoners of war officers, titled men, and the distinction made by these men is astounding. They will not converse with a man of average pre-war social standing. Further than this, it is noticed that other internees take off their hats to titled men in almost every case. This is a wonderful example of the severity of class restriction that must have predominated in Germany. Conversation between these titled men and other internees is not usual. In all cases must they be addressed first.

Any truthful statement written by internees as regards treatment would not be censored. Any statement made detrimentally criticising treatment would never be permitted, our knowing perfectly well any such statement could be only unfounded and untrue.
I think my outline of the general principles governing the treatment and conditions prevailing amongst internees in Australia will be of historical interest to all people.

More especially it is intended that a comparison will be made, after the successful close of this terrible tragedy, between these conditions and those our Allies had to suffer when similarly placed in enemy concentration camps.

I am not in a position to make a comparison myself, but of this I feel confident that it is an immemorable credit to our race to know we are so instilled with human feelings and kindness not to pursue the brutal example shown by our enemies.

Such conditions, added to the deeds of our gallant Australian troops, who have written in indelible characters a most glorious page in the world's greatest tragedy—not only a page, but a huge volume—inscribed in blood and illustrated by our noblest and greatest artists in gallantry, nobly upholds the traditions of our great Empire.

The details explained in this volume are facts and happenings which I personally viewed and recorded. So concludes one of the many writings this war has caused to be written. In this case it is intended that this work be of educational and instructive value.
A Model Zeppelin made at Berrima and exhibited at River Carnival held there.

One of the many Curious Craft made for the occasion, and necessitating considerable expense.
River Scene, Berrima—Internees and their Models.

Berrima River Carnival—Model Destroyer, made by an Internee.
An Elaborate Gondola made at Berrima for the River Carnival Celebrations.

Another River Carnival Boat, made by an Internee.
Interior of one of the Studios, where all manner of Art is taught.

Internees' Celebration Day. Note Uniformity of Dress purchased by themselves.