Australians Much Like Folks Back Home, Americans Discover

Servicemen Mingle With Aussies in Fun, Sports and Worship

By ELLIOTT PINE

Released by Western Newspaper Union. About the time the Jamestown settlers were setting sail for Virginia, a Spanish navigator was exploring the strait bearing his name that separates New Guinea from Australia. The sea captain was Torres, and the year 1606. This was the beginning of definite knowledge of the great island known as Australia. In 1942 this strange land was "rediscovered" by men stemming from those Jamestown colonists-an expeditionary force of the U.S. army.

Until the war with Japan broke, Americans knew little and probably cared less about Australia. As one writer put it, "A vast bond of ignorance united Americans and Australians." But war has changed all that. Now many thousands of soldiers from "the States" have met thousands of Australians, have eaten at their tables, drunk in their public houses, danced and played in their "Comforts" (USO to us), and worshiped in their churches. The "Aussies" turned out to be very much like the folks back home.

This is not remarkable, after all, for Australians are largely of British stock-English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, with smaller numbers of other peoples represented. They are generally tall, sturdy, independent people-much like Americans of the Western states, with much of the same forthrightness and friendliness characteristic of a people close to pioneer days. While most of the 7,000,000 Australians live in cities on the coasts, they are a rugged, outdoorsy folk. For instance, in their army training camps there are no cots provided for enlisted menthey sleep on the ground! "Roughing it" is a sort of fetish-partly making a virtue of necessity, partly an inheritance from tougher days, when survival depended on endurance.

Appear Old-Fashioned.

While Australian cities like Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide are modern enough, smaller places appear a bit old-fashioned to American eyes—the architecture belongs to a generation or more ago. Such comforts as central heating plants and electric refrigerators are not so common as in the States. Because the climate is mild, they get along without much heating, but the summers are warmer too, so the absence of refrigeration is surprising, considering that the Australians are a mechanically minded and practical people. At all events, the furnishings and equipment of the homes look pretty crude to Americans. But the Australian tells himself, and probably the nearest Yank, that he just can't be bothered with too much comfort.

The Aussies were amazed, and perhaps a bit envious when they saw the army equipment that came with the U. S. first contingent-all



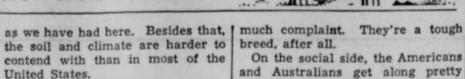
A baby wallaby, which is a small species of kangaroo, is the pet of Pvt. Albert Minarik of Milwaukee, Wis. He calls it "Jasperoo Demp-

the gadgets from kitchen mixing machines to movie projectors for an army on war duty. If this is what an American army in the field takes home have, reflected the natives.

The farms "Down under" don't measure up so well beside American in a pack). Matches are very standards either. Barns and other buildings have a patchy, ramshackle appearance, in sorry contrast to the trim handsome appearance of everything on many American farms. All this is explained, perhaps not too convincingly, by the statement that Australians have had only about doors, the Australians are taking to most people after the war than it half as long to conquer their country | these privations in stride without | was before.

As might be expected, many American servicemen found their heart's desire in Australia. One soldier was married two weeks after he landed-to a girl he met on the docks.

Somewhat more formal was this wedding in Our Lady of Lourdes church in Armadale, Australia, in which Chief Petty Officer Lowell Rudy and Miss Alice Drew were rnited. Attendants are Petty Offir r Waldo Gustafson, also of the 1. S. navy, and Miss Lila Drew, Lridesmaid



An Arid Country. Most of the big island is desert and poor scrubby grazing land. Out of 3,000,000 square miles (almost exactly the size of continental United States), over a million miles is real desert-stone and sand and salt flat that is entirely out of the question for any purpose at present. Another million miles grows scanty vegetation sufficient to support the hardy sheep for which the nation is famous. The really good farm land comprises an area about the size of the three states of the Pacific coast, Oregon, Washington and California. Only one region in the south is tropical enough to grow bananas, pine-

apples and such exotic plants. Early settlers found that their wheat dried out and died in the heavy reddish soil, but a new hard variety called "Federation" is resistant to drouth and rust, and is yielding well. The acreage of wheat



"Roughing it" seems to be a lark for these two American army nurses, who are estationed somewhere in Australia. Lieut. Frances Cox is getting a shampoo from a bucket of cold water, with the assistance of Lieut. Lily Fucci.

has been almost doubled by the invention of the "Stumpjump" plow, adapted to the rough bush country.

The manpower shortage is even more severe on Australian than American farms, since 913,000 men re in the armed forces, and drain on the male population equivalent to an American military mobilization of 17,000,000 (ours is actually about 11 .-000,000 now). Another 600,000 men are working in factories, as are many thousands of women. To make matters worse, Australian farms are not as highly mechanized as are American, so manpower does not go as far. For these reasons food is a bit scanty. Vegetables that require a lot of hand cultivation are scarce. Even potatoes are hard to get, and are largely requisitioned for troops. Oranges are another thing civilians rarely see. Jams and jellies are real luxuries, too.

Give Their Steaks to Yanks.

As part of the reciprocal lendlease program, Australia is trying to provide food for American troops. and is doing a successful job at it, but the home folks have to pull in their belts a bit. In meat, for instance, civilians have had to reduce their consumption by two thirds. (They used to eat 124 pounds a year: U. S. consumption is 95 pounds.) Since Australia is a meatexporting country in normal times. it can be inferred how much of a pinch the war is putting on the livestock industry. Added to their other difficulties was a "beef" from the Americans that they were getting too much mutton and not enough beef. So the Australian home folks had to forego their steaks almost entirely, and turn them over to the

The equivalent of Victory gardens in vacant land, but window boxes and tubs. The need for small vegetables is real enough for many truck farms are not in production this year. Canned goods have disappeared from the markets. "Austerity" is the name for getting along tries need further development. without a lot of things, like spices, tea, malted milk, chocolate candy along, what must the civilians at | and so on. The gasoline allowance is four gallons a month. Cigarettes are limited to a pack a day (10 scarce. Laundry and dry cleaning services are available only once in two weeks. Traveling is restricted; horse-racing is closed down; liquor is scarce. Clothes have to be made over, repaired, and made to last.

breed, after all.

On the social side, the Americans and Australians get along pretty well, considering the self-esteem and pugnacity on both sides. After the Yanks and Aussies had fought to Porch Suppers gether a few times, the bond of battles shared united the comrades in arms. Americans were instructed beforehand in getting along and behaving nicely, and it appears that most of them are doing so. The Australians, who are grateful for the timely succor, are acting as hosts and allies should.

There is of course some grumbling among the Aussies about the Yanks snatching away their girls. The famous American "line" goes over pretty well too, and the certain awe that most foreigners feel toward Americans helps to make an impression. Then the higher pay scale of the U. S. army gives our men more spending money, and they probably show the girls a better time than the native boys do. Australian girls say that Americans treat them as equals and are more courteous than their own men folks who are following traditional behavior that is "out of date" in Amer-

In New Zealand, where the situation parallels that in Australia pretty closely, a member of the parliament introduced a resolution asking the U. S. army to reduce the pay of our came of it, but it shows how some of the family. of them feel.

Love Comes to U. S. Soldiers. Many Americans have found romance in the big island. Only lately 900 Australian women, brides and finances of American soldiers, landed in San Francisco, and began to adjust themselves to their new home land. Many other brides are staying over there until the war ends. Some soldiers plan to remain in Australia. Prime Minister Curtin recently stated that he wished that as many as 200,000 Americans would settle in his country. It is not reported how the average Australian fellow feels about this proposition. Until lately Australia, like all frontier countries, had a large preponderance of males. How kindly the Aussies take to addi-

and their jobs is not revealed. Australian girls are rather bigger than American girls, our soldiers swimming and tennis. Their endurance on the dance floor is a marvel to husky Americans, who are often hard put to keep up. They want to learn the latest American steps. They enjoy American slang.

On the other hand, there is considrable British conservatism in social life throughout Australia. Many forms of amusements are closed on men of all denominations were pre- self" style. testing against hasty marriages beconsiderable weight.

While Australians play our brand per: of baseball, they do so only to keep in condition for football in the offseason. And football to them is a special game of their own, unlike American football or English rugby. It is a fast game with much kicking, leaping and running. Eighteen men play on each side.

Cricket is the national game as in other British countries. Americans found it is not as slow as they had been led to believe. Tennis and golf are popular. Horse racing used time stringencies have closed most tracks.

The Future.

arid land is unfavorable to exten- night, remove garlic clove. are "Austerity gardens" in Austra- sion of agriculture without great irlia. These are not only small plots | rigation projects. Forest resources are inadequate for much lumbering or paper-making. The mineral inches square by about 34 inch thick. resources have not been exploited very much yet, and offer considerable promise. There is a good deal of manufacturing, but the heavy indus-

Unless the population increases considerably, the commonwealth cannot expect to become a great nation. Postwar years may see considerable migration to this country, still a frontier land with real oppor- bake in a hot oven 1 to 11/2 hours tunities. Perhaps many Europeans will try their luck there. Enough American soldiers may decide to settle there to set the pace, and to attract other Americans in years to come. On the other hand, Australia With the war right at their back | may not be much more interesting





Furnish Tonic For Appetites



Serve the family quickly prepared soldiers, because the local chappies | cool drinks made with flavored powwere being put to shame when it ders. They're economical and can came to free spending. Nothing be made in a flash by any member

Save Used Fats!

Wise homemakers will plan porch suppers for warm evenings. Not

only will the family enjoy the gay informality of the porch but the changing of mealtime locale just naturally will pep up lagging of appetites that warm weather brings.

Checked cloths in bright colors will carry out the simplicity of theme that is customary when you "rough it" on the porch, or if you have them, fringed cloths or bric-abrac edged ones will do fine.

tional competition for their women Centerpieces of fruit from the orchard or big bowls of colorful vegetables will dress up the table. Fat say. They are athletic and healthy candles in squatty glasses will add and interested in sports such as a homey touch to supper, and the family will love to linger over the table just chatting until the last candle burns low. All this promotes a nice social atmosphere which we call home, and that you'll agree is important!

Keep to the simple and sensible with food and try to have foods combined on one platter so there aren't too many trips to the kitchen. Meat Sunday. The churches exert more and vegetables can go on one platinfluence there than many Ameri- ter, salad in a bowl, rolls in a basket can communities. Only a few and dessert on one plate, everyone months ago, for instance, clergy- dishing out for himself in "help your-

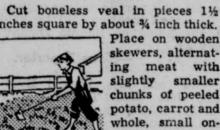
Barbecued chicken is an appetite tween Americans and Australian bracer and so colorfully golden girls. The remonstrance carried brown it will make an immediate bid for attention at the porch sup-

Barbecued Chicken. 1/3 cup catsup 2 tablespoons vinegar ½ cup salad oil 1 large onion, grated 1 clove garlic, crushed 2 teaspoons salt 16 teaspoon pepper Dash of cayenne Pinch of thyme

Chicken, cut in pieces

Combine ingredients in order given, stirring until salt is dissolved. to be a national passion, but war- Let stand several hours or overnight. Brush over chicken just before broiling. Broil in a hot oven 20 to 30 minutes, turning frequently, and How much greater Australia can basting again with sauce, until become depends on many factors. chicken is cooked thoroughly. If The great areas of desert and semi- sauce is kept for more than over-

*Veal on Skewers.



skewers, alternat ing meat with slightly smaller chunks of peeled potato, carrot and whole, small onions. Lay skew-

ers in roasting pan with 1 cup hot water and salt to taste. Cover and

Lynn Says

Spring Vegetable Tips: Cut string beans with scissors. It saves time and fingers.

Carrots peel easily if blanched in boiling water for two or three

To retain the red color of beets, always cook them with about two inches of their stem left on when boiling.

Old coffee percolators are excellent for cooking asparagus. Stand asparagus in percolator, add boiling water, adjust cover and cook. The tips steam beautifully while the stems are cooked to perfect tenderness.

To wash spinach, use warm water rather than cold. It loosens the sand from the leaves.

Lynn Chambers' Point-Saving

*Veal on Skewers *Beet Greens with Diced Beets Whole Wheat Biscuits Butter Raspberry Drink Strawberry Meringue Pie ·Recipes given.

until meat is tender. Garnish with broiled bacon.

Save Used Fats!

For a quick supper dish you might try this meat pie, flavor-rich and economy-wise: Hamburger Noodle Pie.

(Serves 6) 11/2 pounds hamburger ¼ cup milk 1/2 cup fine, soft bread crumbs

2 tablespoons onion, minced 1 egg, slightly beaten Salt and pepper to taste Hot buttered noodles

Combine all ingredients except noodles and pat mixture into bottom and sides of pie plate. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) 45 minutes. To serve, fill center with hot, buttered noodles and dust with pap-

Don't forget the lovely spring greens when it comes to adding color to the table and vitamins to your

Wilted Greens. 1 small onion, chopped 14 cup bacon fat ½ cup mild vinegar Greens

Cook onion in bacon fat until yellow, then add vinegar. When heated through, add greens and cook until just wilted. Season with salt and pepper and serve hot.

Mixed Spring Greens

(Serves 6) ½ pound beet greens

1/2 pound dandelion greens 1 teaspoon lemon juice ½ teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons butter 2 tablespoons flour

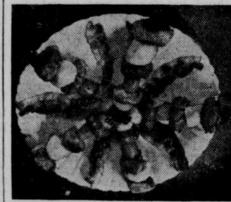
1 cup milk ¼ pound chicken livers, sauteed and cut fine

Cook and drain greens. Add lemon juice and salt. Pack into buttered mold or loaf pan and place in oven to keep warm. In the meantime, melt butter, blend in flour and add \

milk. Stir while cooking until smooth and thick. Add chicken livers. Turn mold onto platter and pour sauce over them. *Beet Greens With Diced Beets.

> (Serves 6) 1 pound beet greens 1½ cups cooked beets, cubed ¼ cup melted butter

Salt and pepper to taste Cook greens until tender and drain. Add beets, butter, salt and pepper, mixing until blended. Serve piping hot.



This veal wheel will turn a new trick for your porch suppers. Pieces of veal, carrots, potatoes and onions all go on wooden skewers to make up the colorful platter and adds new design to menus.

You'll want desserts that aren't too rich and are easy to prepare. Berries are good and in season now:

*Strawberry Meringue Pie. 2 cups milk 1 package vanilla pudding 2 beaten egg yolks

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 9-inch baked pastry shell 1 cup strawberries Gradually add milk to pudding,

stirring constantly. Cook over low heat until thick. Add part of hot pudding to egg yolks; stir in remaining hot pudding. Cool slightly; add vanilla. Pour into shell. Place strawberries on top of filling. Pile on meringue. For Meringue:

1 teaspoon unflavored gelatin 2 tablespoons cold water 2 egg whites

34 cup confectioners' sugar 1 cup crushed strawberries 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Soften gelatin in cold water; dissolve over hot water. Combine remaining ingredients. Beat until thick; add gelatin. Continue beating until mixture forms peaks.

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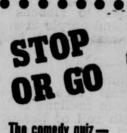
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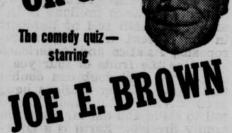
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