

Australian 7/18/44 Tells About Her Country

Tells of Different Expressions and Different Customs of Her Native Land in Letter to Editor

The Press is in receipt of the following letter from Miss May Boyd of Lake Clarendon, Oia Gatton, Queensland, Australia, who says that she is a reader of the Press, which has been passed on to her by a soldier from Jasper county. It is dated June 4.

"As an Australian reader of your paper, which is passed on to me by an Illinois soldier, will you permit me space to answer Private Paul Ping's letter published in the issue of your paper of the 11th of April, 1944.

"Just as the Americans get a kick out of our sayings we too get a laugh out of yours such as calling our "trams," "street cars," our "draper's shops" as "dry goods stores." What we call "boots" are known to Americans as "shoes."

"Now as regards to greetings and farewells, we in Australia have often found a lot of your folk just don't use any. They are more likely to walk out without saying a word of farewell to anyone.

Wide Open Spaces

"Yes, our towns are scattered; we have the wide open spaces here. Take in to consideration Australia and the U. S. A. are the same size, just compare the populations. This explains the scattered towns.

"Private Ping thinks Australians eat a lot of meat. Now our boys are noted here for the amount of steak they can consume in one meal. As regards ice cream eaters, I think your folk can hold their own there to.

"I don't think it is taken in to account how much younger country Australia is than America. Who knows but when we are as old as America we may even eclipse that great country.

"I admit your money system once you are accustomed to it is easier than ours; your money is worked on the ten and ours twelve. Let some of the boys return here in peace time, they would find Australia did not lack as many essentials or luxuries then as they do after four years and eight months of war.

Petrol is Rationed

"For instance when we could pull up at a "bowser" and fill your petrol tank as often as you like in one day. What a changed order today when private cars are rationed to four gallons per month even though we live six miles from a town.

"Owing to manpower shortage and lack of petrol and rubber, all deliveries have been suspended. This is only a small part of our effort to try and win this terrible war, so your boys and our boys will be free to return to their own countries and loved ones.

"I have a brother who has been in the army for four and one-half years, has lived in different parts of the globe. He, like millions of other men, is waiting for the day 'when the lights go on again all over the world.'

"Now as regards Aussies lacking initiative, hasn't the Aussie soldier always been noted for their initiative?

"Let me conclude by saying Australian country is all right. Even though Private Ping only supposes it is, still 'There's no place like home' to anyone, is there?

"Now Mr. Editor, let me say here how I have enjoyed reading the Newton Press and how I will miss it."