

IMPRESSED BY DISCIPLINE

P.M. Inspects Camp

"All this talk about the Australian making a ragtime soldier must be scouted after what I have seen to-day. I have been impressed more than anything else by the splendid discipline of the men and their patent good humour."

This was the summing-up of Mr. Menzies as he left the A.I.F. camp at Puckapunyal yesterday after a thorough and searching inspection which he made with Brigadier Street, Army Minister, and Sir Keith Murdoch, Director-General of Information.

The P.M. (as Mr. Menzies is known to the men) and Brigadier Street (whom they have dubbed the A.M. because he likes to arrive before breakfast on inspection days), in intervals between heavy soaking rain, saw many sections of the 7,500 men of the Seventh Division and Corps troops at work in the field.

A close inspection was made of the work of the Gas Instruction School, where 50 selected officers and N.C.O.'s from all States are being trained by Captain Rutherford, chemical warfare instructor.

The Ministers were shown the use, wearing, and field packing of anti-gas capes, and they smilingly tested for themselves the fit and comfort of gas masks. Afterward they studied the mounting and operation of an anti-aircraft machine-gun.

Sites selected for the installation of new showers for the men and the new ceilings in the huts were then inspected.

In the training field, to which Brigadier Street rode on his charger, the Ministers saw bands of men from the 2/2nd Pioneers at bayonet and rifle training.

VISIT TO SICK WARDS

Mr. Menzies and Sir Keith Murdoch paid a long visit to the hospital unit, where they were accompanied by Brigadier J. E. Stevens, C.O., 21st Infantry Brigade, and Colonel Spiers, of the 4th A.G. Hospital.

Most of the beds in the wards were occupied, and the visitors chatted with some of the patients.

"What do you think of Carlton's chances to-morrow?" asked Mr. Menzies of a young private down with the flu, who was reading a sporting paper.

Quick as a shot came the reply: "Not up to much!"

Before he left the camp Mr. Menzies indicated that he would discuss some aspects of the hospital accommodation with Brigadier Street.

After lunch at base headquarters Brigadier Street inspected the corps petrol supply lines and divisional supply column. He said that the marching of the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion and the 2/14th Infantry was magnificent.

From Puckapunyal the party drove to Seymour, and made a long inspection of the camp at the headquarters of the area command, where tents and older buildings looked dismal in the rain after the neat, trim huts of the newer camp at Puckapunyal.

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The Ministers walked through much of the camp inspecting kitchens, tents, and other equipment. Men parading before week-end leave gave them some hearty cheers.