

RECRUITING.

SLIGHT FALLING OFF.

There was a slight falling off in the week's total as far as recruiting figures were concerned at Victoria Barracks. The previous week had seen 743 men passed as fit, but last week the total only reached 653, made up of 77 on Sunday, 156 on Monday, 96 on Tuesday, 86 on Wednesday, 65 on Thursday, 88 on Friday, and 85 on Saturday.

Among those enrolled on Saturday were a miner from South Clifton, a tailor's cutter, a porter from the Hawkesbury College, a labourer from the Public Works Department, a fuel man from the railways, a carpenter from the Sydney Harbour Trust, and a school teacher from Kogarah. Others included a farmer from Denman, a tram cleaner, and a motor mechanic. Then came a man who only arrived in the hope of being issued a rejection certificate. He was told that he would have to be medically examined, and if found fit would be passed for general service. He declined to risk the ordeal, and cleared out immediately.

A railway worker and a butcher came along together with a linesman, a paper machinist, a tobacco operator, a station hand from Darlington, a printer's machinist, a foreman printer, a brass dresser from the Clyde Engineering Works, a painter from the Harbour Trust, a contractor, a motor driver from the Federal Government, a storekeeper from Woy Woy, a school teacher from Annandale, a brewer's labourer, a postal assistant from Walgett, a quarryman from Punchbowl, and a grazier. Next came a dentist, a plumber and gasfitter, a stonemason, a builder and contractor from Nyngan, a painter and decorator from Mosman, a wool expert, a labourer from the Water and Sewerage Board, a station manager from Kerrabee, an electrical mechanic from the city council, a painter who had been in the employ of the military in New Zealand, a hospital attendant from Gladesville, a press hand from Brisbane, a shipwright from the naval dockyard, a milk

shipwright from the naval dockyard, a milk carter, and a fitter's assistant from Garden Island.

According to the officer who does the eye-sight testing, there are three stages of recruits. "In the morning," he said, "nearly every man has good sight, and we can pass them as quick as they come along; in the afternoon many have been imbibing Dutch courage, and find a difficulty in seeing one line at a time, while in the night recruiting many of the recruits either won't or can't see."

There was a fairly steady stream of recruits yesterday morning, and early in the day arrived an Austrian who was anxious to join. He gave his parents' address as the enemy country, but said that he had no sympathy with Germans or Austrians. "Have you any brothers in Austria?" he was asked, and replied that he had, but didn't know whether they were fighting against us or not. As the odds were that they were in the enemy camp he was told he could not be accepted.

An order has also been issued that no recruits who are not "substantially of European origin and descent" are to be enrolled.

Other Sunday recruits included a painter, a clerk from the Accounts branch of the Public Works Department, an accountant, a compositor, a farmer from the Tweed River, a labourer from the Bull Coke works, a slater and tiler, an ironworker's assistant, a wharf labourer, an assembler, a junior salesman, an insurance clerk, a clerk from the Department of Justice, a bookbinder, a station bookkeeper from Yorkshire Downs, North Queensland, a fancy leather dresser, and a labourer recently employed by the military. One sturdy young fellow, when stripped to the waist, was not only a perfect picture from a physical point of view, but was also a walking picture gallery. His chest, back, and arms were covered with tattooing, most of the designs having been most artistically carried out. He explained that the work had been done in China—in fact, the Chinese dragon was the main theme of most of these "living pictures," though golden-crested pheasants and dainty little Japanese girls were also to be noticed on each forearm.

News has been received by the parents of Private Bert. Clarke, of Manilla, that he has been wounded in France.

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Quartermaster-sergeant Darken, who recently returned wounded from the front, was entertained by members of the Parkes branch of the Orange Lodge, and presented with a gold emblem specially inscribed.

Private A. J. H. Twynam-Perkins, A.M.C., was recently presented by the staff of the Liverpool State Hospital and Asylum with several presents.

A "Story of Gallipoli" has been written by Lieutenant David Doull, who was with the 5th Brigade. A vivid description is given of the famous landing, and of the principal incidents in the campaign. The proceeds of the sale of the little book are to be devoted to the 17th Battalion Comforts Fund.

At the Victoria Barracks yesterday morning 70 men volunteered, and of these 49 were accepted.

Mr. J. J. Morrish, M.L.A., representing the Sydney recruiting committee, reports that during the week ended Friday, May 19, 82 men attended at the Town Hall, Sydney, for enlistment in response to the Prime Minister's appeal. Of this number 47 were passed as medically fit. Independent of these, a further 33 men were enlisted at the Town Hall and taken by the recruiting sergeants attached to the Sydney recruiting committee to the Victoria Barracks. A meeting of the organising committee will be held at the Town Hall to-day, at 8 p.m.

Privates Gaudzinski and Romaskiewicz, who have volunteered for active service, were entertained by the Polish Society at the Masonic Hall, Hurstville, last week. Several of the speeches were in Polish, and the Polish National Anthem was played by Miss Szulla.

Privates Russell and Price were presented with a wristlet watch and fountain pen by their Dalwood friends.

Private T. R. Lloyd, son of Mr. John Lloyd, of Croydon, was entertained at the Town Hall, Enfield, by a number of friends, prior to his departure on active service. He was the recipient of various presents, including wristlet watch, pocket wallet, and money belt.

A correspondent writes from West Maitland:—Mr. Robert Blakeley, of West Maitland, the blind miner, who used to sing and play his concertina in the Domain, has six of his family in the 35th Battalion—John, Angus, and James Blakely, his sons, Thomas Cook, and John Moffatt, his sons-in-law, and William Brown, his grandson.

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