

PRIVATE BILLY MEESKE

The following letter will be greatly appreciated by all sportsmen, for it is a reproduction forwarded by Mr Allan M'Donald from a letter from Private Billy Meeske, the Australian champion wrestler. It will be remembered that a lengthy report was published in this section which reviewed the past performances of this athlete up to his departure for the front. He writes during the trip across, and says: "The weather has been lovely, but there were times when the boys appeared to be upset. As to myself, I have been a good sailor up to now, and the worst is over. It will surprise you to know, perhaps, that some well-known athletes are aboard, and they are all eager for a go in the various games. The ones known to me are: A. George (captain Melbourne F.C.), G. Samson (vice-captain F.C.), H. Danks (Port Melbourne), T. Jones (North Melbourne F.C.), T. M'Cleesky (Footscray F.C.), Percy Scown (Geelong F.C.), P. Falshaw (ex-champion middleweight boxer of Victoria), and D. Valance (inter-state heavyweight railway champion)." Referring to his wrestling on board, he goes on to say that in his first bout he met a Russian, Private G. G. Gedgawd, 13 stone, and secured the first fall in two minutes with a cross-buttock, and the second in 1½ minutes by a half-nelson and crutch hold. Later he met Corporal C. Retner (military All Nations champion), a title gained by him in Egypt. He also beat this athlete. In the tug-of-war the Railway Unit beat the In-

He also beat the winner. In the tug-of-war the Railway Unit beat the Infantry easy. Other games gave plenty of fun, and helped to pass away the time and keep the boys in the pink of condition. He concludes: "Kind regards to all 'Winner' readers."