

3 MAY 1917

PRIVATE FRANK BOYCE.

Mrs. C. Boyce, of Tallangatta Valley, by last mail received a letter from her son, Private Frank Boyce, a former employé at Tallangatta post-office. Frank has three brothers—Tom, George and Eddie—in the firing-line in France; at latest account these were all well.

FRANCE, 15/2/17. I returned from England this morning. I had a splendid time over there, but the ten days seemed to go far too quickly. I went to almost every theatre in London, and the best of the plays I saw were "High Jinks," "Three Cheers," "The Aristocrat" and "Ruzzle Dazzle." Ivy Schilling and Fred Leslie are in "Three Cheers," also Harry Lauder. I was very much struck with him. After doing his "turn," Lauder spoke about subscribing to the War Loan. He said he had saved £50,000 for his son, but the latter was killed in action, and would not need it, so he had invested his money in the War Loan. I struck the worst time of the year for London. It was snowing nearly every day, but I thought it much warmer than France. I saw the King's procession in connection with the opening of Parliament. It was not a very grand sight, as only navy and army uniforms were worn, instead of the gorgeous robes worn in times of peace. The people of England do their utmost for us when we go over there. I had several invitations from well-to-do people, but accepted only one. This lady called for me in her car, took me to a concert, then home to tea. She had a beautiful home, and, although she was a great swell, she was quite homely. Her butler and servants were so dignified that I almost felt shy in their presence; but the lady herself was as homely as any farmer's wife in Australia. After tea, we had some music, and, when I left, the car was waiting to take me back to my hotel. I did not care much for London itself, although some of the buildings were very interesting from an historical point of view. The narrow streets and the total absence of verandahs make this city look quite desolate. I haven't had a decent rest for about three days, so will close, with love to