



Australian Newspaper Articles

Anzacs Marrying English Women

“Being an Australian, I am asked every day how it is that the Anzac boys are marrying English girls in such numbers,” writes Albert Dorrington from London to the “Southlander” (N.Z.). “The question is usually followed by another: Does the English girl make the Australian a better wife than the woman of his own country? To the latter query I have only one answer, and that is that she does not. Of five young Sydney-ites I met at the big camp at Codford last week four have married English girls during the last six months. These four boys, if they survive the coming spring operations, will add four fresh girl faces to the gaiety of George Street when they return. I notice that it is the quiet Australian boy who marries quickly at this side. In his own land he was probably shy and was avoided by the smart girls who chased Percy of the long tongue and the white picnic trousers. When shy Bill from Leichhardt hit London and found himself chased to death by really pretty and engaging girls he grabbed the one who hunted him most and yelled for a marriage certificate. This is how one of our newly-married Anzacs voiced his admiration of English girls recently: ‘They are such bricks. See the way they turn their hand to any work that’s going, and watch how little fuss they make. I’ve seen them in hospital visiting their wounded men folk. By jing! Any fellow that comes here from overseas and gets an English wife is a lucky chap. Look how good they’ve been to us. Why, man, if I lived to be a hundred I’d never forget the kindness of these English women!’”

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia, 29th April, 1917)