



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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*Sisters and staff of the 1st Australian General Hospital (1AGH) share a joke with Prime Minister William Morris Hughes. Standing on his left is Matron Ethel Gray, Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). The original caption reads 'Our "Billy" with Sisters of 1st AGH SV 8/7/19'. (Original housed in Australian War Memorial Archive Store). 8 July, 1919.*



## **THE MILDEST TERMS**

London, July 9

The Commonwealth Prime Minister (Mr Hughes), in an address to Australian troops at the Sutton Veny Camp yesterday, while on his way to Plymouth to embark for Australia, made reference to the peace terms which Germany was shortly to ratify. He said:- The terms constitute, not a "peace of justice," as Germany clamoured for. They are more than that; they are a peace of mercy. Some people say that the Allies' terms are severe; but I declare to you my opinion, that severe as they are, considering all the circumstances of the case, they are the mildest that were ever imposed on a conquered nation.

Mr Hughes embarked on the steamer *Friedricharuhe*. In a farewell message to the people of Great Britain, he thanked them for their hospitality to the Australian soldiers, whom they had treated as their own sons; and said that the Commonwealth would never forget the kindness they had manifested.

(*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia - Saturday 12 July 1919)