

MURDY-AYOUN.

The following lines were written by Pte. Scotty Bell, of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, A Company, mate of Pte. Carter, of Gorne:—

Oh Syria, land of mountains and ruggedness, I'll never forget,
When I leave you behind I leave you with regret ;
Will ne'er forget the morning of the 17th of June,
The Pioneers went into action at Fort Murdy-Ayoun,
You were all really tired, sadly in need of rest,
But you never grumbled ; I know you did your best,
You were all outnumbered, you only had a few,
You went in as heroes—you had a job to do,
Your courage was Australia's, your pluck we all admire,
But you never had a chance against that deadly fire,
Yes, you had to take it, Pioneers one and all,
Lying on that stony ground or crouched behind a wall,
I'll always think of you, pals, while I say such words as these,
How you returned back from the fort in twos and threes ;
And to those who did return to God we owe our thanks—
I know you'll ne'er forget the Legionnaires and the tanks,
Good-bye, my Pioneer comrades, you did not die in vain,
For we'll tell the story when we get home again,
So I'll leave you, Pioneers, with a pang of regret,
You are Australia's heroes, Australia will ne'er forget.