

Cattle Killed in the Shops.

SAPPER GORDON BUDGE VIEWS SYRIAN BUTCHERS

In a letter to a friend in Morwell, dated Boxing Day, Sapper Gordon Budge states that the Xmas festivities of the troops were over. All enjoyed a merry time, and the Xmas dinner was O.K. Continuing he said that the previous Sunday he visited the town of Bierut, and whilst there had the extreme pleasure of meeting Ernie Townsend, of Morwell, and a great pal named Tom Dunn, who was formerly employed at the Maryvale Mill. Both are in the same unit, and were camped only a few miles distant. We are billeted in an old school in a small village. The country is exceptionally hilly, and the roads bend in every direction. The populace here are much friendlier than in Palestine. A few days previous to writing Sapper Budge (who before joining the A.I.F. was on the "Advertiser" staff) received his second copy of that journal, and in his own words said, "I read it from the first to last column." The weather in Syria was unlike Xmas weather in Australia. In fact it was the direct opposite—cold, showery, and hail storms at intervals. In the village where the camp is the troops are able to get steak and eggs at a cafe. However, the beef, said the soldier, is not as good as in Aussie. He was keenly interested in the butchers shops, where he watched four butchers killing. This was done in the shop proper, which is very narrow. Concluding Sapper Budge sends kinds regards to all Morwell friends.