

130-MILE MARCH TESTS AUSSIES.

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The 2/13th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force set out from Ingleburn camp to march over the Blue Mountains. They were the vanguard of 3000 men of the 7th Division. The general ordered the march as a test of fitness. Katoomba gave them a big welcome. At this Blue Mountain holiday resort, 70 miles from Sydney, began the stiff part of the climb. They took the 130 mile march in easy stages. At the highest point the Blue Mountains rise to about 4000 feet. On the upper slopes the men ran into light rain, a welcome cooler at that stage. Up-country children cheered the first soldiers they'd ever seen outside a picture-book. Then it was feet up at the midday rest. Nothing like a few days' march to find the weak spots in your poor old feet.

The summit of the climb was reached on the fourth day, and whether the view was worth it depended on the state of their blisters. The rest was comparatively easy going downhill. Altogether it was a testing march, proving that one more division of Australians is fit for service overseas.
