

# Camp Hay (Australia) Internment Camps

The Australian military selected Hay with its small population, road/railway connections, clay soil and the Murrumbidgee River water supply.

The internees were fortunate the Australian guards were kind and did their best to adapt. Camp 7 internees for example created schools, a quasi-Parliament, theater groups, work details and a banking system. In early 1941 the Commandant allowed the internees to have money printed outside of Camp 7 at the local newspaper, The Riverine Grazier.

*A series of three denominations were issued in March-April 1941, designed by internee Georg Teltscher to illustrate life within Camp 7. Georg took the liberty to use a lot of sarcastic humor throughout the design (in sharp contrast to the scrip made for the ghettos and concentration camps in Europe).*

*Within the barbed wire outside frame the phrase "we are here because we are here because we are here" is repeated. This was the theme song of the camp sang to the tune of Auld Lang Syne and might be an example of the frustration felt by being treated like an enemy. Eppenstein (Andrew) one of Camp 7 leaders, is engraved in the sheep's wool on the front. Hidden in the wool of sheep on the back of the note are the names of other internees.*

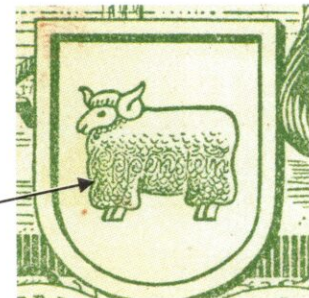
Camp 7 green one shilling (1/-) signed by Stahl and Robinow. Serial# D 22840 (Feller AU911c)



H.M.T. Dunera



Eppenstein



"Liverpool to Hay"