

When Kirkham returned home, he was asked by a journalist what chances any Australians had of winning races in France or Belgium. He replied, “None. Not because our men cannot stay or sprint, but simply because there is just as much difference between road racing in Australia and France, as there is between the game of baseball and cricket.”

Kirkham was also asked about his future intentions. He said, “The war will probably upset all French road racing arrangements for 1915, but if matters are straightened out, I intend on returning to France.” He certainly wasn’t alone in thinking that the war would be resolved relatively quickly. The Australians had been fortunate to get out of France when they did, as they said that the train they left on was the second last to leave Paris. Before they departed, though, their bikes were commandeered by the French authorities—any machines might prove useful for the war effort.

Kirkham, Munro, Snell, and Bell made their way to England before setting sail for Australia, while Piercey and Keefe would head for America to take part in track races there. Upon their arrival home, a group of their mates from the Coburg Cycling Club met them at the