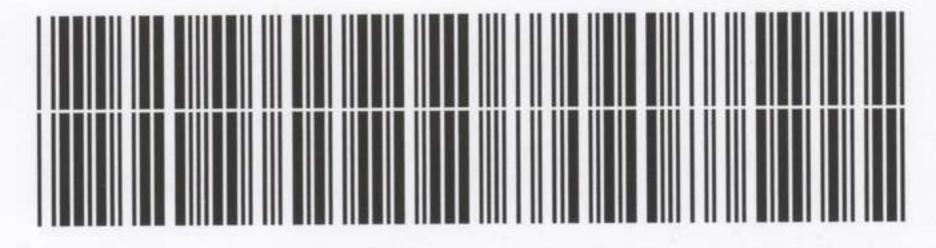
# AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/26/48

Title: 9th Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/26/48

ORIGINAL.

Australian Imperial Force.

# WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN BATTALIUN. INFANTRY

FOR

DECEMBER

Signature of Officer compiling of Chapman Quary Signature of Officer Commanding & Hoso Juil bal.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1003192

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.



Place	Dâte	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES.	1.12	18.	Word was received late on the night of the 30th that His Majesty the King would be passing through the Corps Area and that all Units of the 3rd Brigade Group would line the MORBOURG-AVESNES Road and to be in position by 1100. At 1145 the King passed down the whole Brigade Group which consisted of troops lining both sides of the road. In the King's entourage was General Rawlinson, G.O.C. 4th Army and under whom this Battalion had often fought. At 1215 the Battalion marched home in column of route when the salute was taken by the G.O.C. 1st. Division. Weather very chilly and inclined to rain. Lieut. V.M. CHATAWAY from Base. Lieut. W.S. MACTAGGART to Australia on furlough.	1 6
	2.12	18.	Battalion carried out ordinary training and at 1000 word was received from Brigade that this Unit had been selected from all Battalions to furnish a Kings Guard of 1 Captain. 1 Subaltern, and 50 Other Rarks. Itxwaxxixxxixxxixxxixxxixxixxixxixxixxixxixx	BChapmanla
	3.12	18.	Battalion proceeded to carry out ceremonial drill from 0930 to 1130. Reinforcements who originally joined are sadly lacking in military training and in consequence special awkward squads were formed. Efforts were made to have the time for inspection of Kings Guard by Corps Commander altered framxl130 and were successful. The Guard fell in at 1115 on parade ground in drizzling rain and at 1130 word was received that they would be inspected in Glass Factory at SARS POTERIES. At 1140 the Corps Commander and Staff arrived and the general salute was played by the regimental band. After a very careful inspection the Corps Commander address.	

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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	3.12	18.	the Guard informing them of his extreme pleasure and appreciation in regard to the turnout. and the soldierly bearing of all ranks. The Guard was addressed in a similiar manner by the G.O.C. 1st Australian Division. Lieut. KNOWLES "M.C." Subatern of the Guard proceeded to CHATEAU-SEBOURG to receive instructions as to the mountings and posting of the Guard. Rain set in for the afternoon and therefore cancelling all outdoor recreation. Quartermasters Staff of tailors was busy repairing and altering illfitting clothes of all Companies.	
	4.1	2.18.	At 0600 three Lorries arrived at Battalion Headquarters for conveyance of Guard to CHATEAU- SEBOURG.At 0745 the Guard wasinspected finally by the Commanding Officer show all Officers before it moved off at 0615. At 0930 Battalion fell in in Mass and proceeded to carry on with ceremonial and rifle drill. In the afternoon the Education Officer Lieut. FINTER commenced organisation of classes and selection of instructors.	19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 1
	5.12	18.	weather completely changed for the better the morning being like that of spring. It seemed to effect the spirits of everybody and the drills and recreation were an absolute pleasure. An interesting football match between keen and interesting players of "B" and "C" Companies was the main centre of attraction for the afternoon's recreation. On the football ground were tug-o'-war and Boxing contests. Nights fairly cold.	enan
	6.12	18.	Weather conditions still remain the same and the Battalion carried on with Military, Education and Recreational training. Reinforcements who have joined without seeing any active service whatever are beginning to look like soldiers. Corps Commander was supposed to have inspected the billets at 1130 but was postponed. In the afternoon Rugby Football between Headquarters and "A" Company and Soccer between "C" Company and "D" Company was played on their respective grounds and in each instance the game was evenly contested. As sport will play a big part in the future every game is organised with that end in view.  Fighting Strength 35 Offs. 677 OfRanks. Detached 10 Offs, 171 O/Ranks. Total 45 Offs. 646 O/Ranks.	Jan Jan
	7.12	2-18.	Bat talion carried out military training for 12 hours- students enrolled under educational scheme were classified under their respective headings and tuttion was given for 1 hour. This branch of the service is developing with remarkable results and the keenness of all betokens a bright future. In the afternoon interesting rugby matches between 6th Battalion.	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C (10340) Wt W5300/F713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16.	

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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Bat tallon by 21 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion by 21 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion by 21 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion battal ion being defeated by 11 to mil and the 4th M.G. Battal ion ba	nag
	8.1.	.18.	Church Parade held in factory commencing at 1030. Rev. SMITH McBAIN officiating. Arrangements were made to have the Unit bathed after Church Parade with a complete change of underclothing By 1600 all Companies were completed.	6
	9.1.	18.	Divisional Commander inspected billets and transport lines and commander inspected billets and transport lines and consequence recreational had to be and cleanliness. Weather showery and unpleasant and in consequence recreational had to be abandoned. Rations on issue to the troops have improved wonderfully and for the first experient the bread allowance works out at 1 loaf to men two men. Meals are added to by a vegetable supply being maintained by Companies from plots formerly cultivated by the enemy.	20
	10.	12.18.	carrying on with armed drill and physical exercises. At 1000 histocolors, the last. Division lectured the Battalion in billet No.7 of 10th Battalion on Tradition. It was a resume of the deeds and exploits of the Battalion since its inception right down to the last and most distinguihed honour, that of supplying the body guard for the King. All ranks last and most distinguihed honour, that of supplying the body guard for the King. All ranks were keenly interested in the address and it was a lesson to be taken to heart by reinforcemnt have recently joined. The weather cleared sufficiently to allow of a football fixture taking have recently joined. The weather cleared sufficiently to allow of a football fixture taking place between this Unit and 2nd Battalion on the latter's ground. The team selected was of the very best and highly representative resulting in their defeating the 2nd Battalion by 11 point to 3.	s who
	11.	12.10.	Heavy rain set in during the early morning and was most consistent throughout the day. This meant training of all companies in billets. A very bad thing for the reinforcements who are sadly in need of close order drill. With rain this village presents a very dirty appearance	
			and becomes a regular quagmire. Training grounds are invariably ankle deep in water.	

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks an references t Appendices
	11.12	:18.	after 24 hours rain. Fortunately the ration issue is up to a high standard with plenty of vegetables all ranks are fairing well. Officers were given the opportunity of seeing the newbilleting area at CHATELET and all are extremely delighted at the prospect of resting there for sometime. Recreation for the afternoon was cancelled.	No.
	12.1	2.18.	The weather conditions are again unfavourable for outdoor training, so in consequence all Companies are carrying out rifle and physical training in Billets. G.O.C. Brigade inspected all ranks at work and the conditions of the Battalion billets. Word was received that transport would form up in line at 1030 for inspection by Brigadier. This was cancelled owing to weather conditions. Educational Classes, Shorthand, French, Bootmaking, Carpentering, Armouring were in full swing and this fact was favourably remarked upon by the Brigadier. Recreation in the Efternoon could not be adhered to so the Companies were detailed for a short route march.	rula fund
	12.1	2.18.	Weather appears to set in as it has been sanstaxtayars consistently raining the whole of the day. All training was carried on in Billets which is becoming monotonous owing to lack of floor space. A sad accident which became fatal to the former happened to two members of this Unit, Ptes. MORRISON and DOWLING at 1130 this morning, when examining a live no secap of an enemy Minerwerfer. This resulted in an explosion and the instantaneous death of Pte. MORRISON. DOWLING was severely wounded and little hope is entertained for his recovery. Rainings too heavily for recreation outdoors. Fighting Strength 30 Offs. 701 O/Ranks. Detached 70ffs. 115 O/Ranks. Total 45 Offs. 016 O/Ranks.	R
	14.1	218.	Changes in the weather are remarkable. To-day is quite clear with sunshine. This allows of training being carried out with great spirit after such long confinement to such close indoor space. Sickness in the Unit is still very much above normal principally owing to weather conditions. A military funeral was accorded Pte. MORRISON and through the courtesy of Lieut.Co MACARTNEY "D.S.O." 3rd. Army Bde. Artillery a gun-carriage complete was obtained. It is worthy of note that it is the second time on record of this Unit that a gun carriage has been used for a funeral. Recreation in the afternoon was enjoyed to the utmost and some exciting games of rugby between companies were witnessed. With the ration biscuits saved from issue all Companies were able to make plum puddings for tea.	r
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (10340) Wt W5300/1713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16.	

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information re	emarks and ferences to appendices
	15.1	2.18.	Sunday Church Parade during the morning and sports in the afternoon. It is noticeable the keenness displayed by all ranks on recreational training and it answers well for the future. Bright clear day and surprisingly warm for this time of the year.	hala
	16.1	2.18.	move. At 1000 Bde. Order received for first stage for the move to CHATELET. Battalion Order in accordance with above issued at 1500. This move is a three days march and everybody is pleased with the prospect of advancing still further to towns of far greater importance than BEUGNIES. The men will move the lightest on record. Blankets, steel helmets and box respirators will voe carried on transport. Rout lies via SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU - HESTRUD - GRANDRIEU - points 35 and 36 both south of BEAUMONT, thence to final area in first stage SLORE-ST-GERY. Still raining with every likelihood of its continuance. Again companies had plum puddings for tea and these were made from ration biscuits ground up as flour. Vegetables are still plentiful and they are collected daily from patches planted by the enemy during his occupation of this territory.	Chapens .
	17.1	<- 18·	and the head of the column passed to time at 0002. Weather conditions were very unsettled but	pendix 3.
	10.	12.10	At 0700 the Batalion was again on the move amid heavy rain and the march ranks with one of the most unpleasant in France. The country through which the group was passing was highly picturesque and interesting and at about 0.45 the Franco-Belgian border was crossed. To see so many villages intact was a novel experience particularly when for the last two years the division had become to war destruction. The column again halted for lunch from 1130 to 1210 and it was perishing cold. At 1430 THY-LE-CHATEAU was reached and every step was taken to procure fuel for drying garments and boots of all members of the Unit. The inhabitants of the village rendered	bpendix H
			every assistance and by 2100 the majority were practically dry and ready for the final march	

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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information .	Remarks and references to Appendices
		2.18.	the next day. THY-LE CHATEAU was electrically lit and all the local industries were in full swing. Inaaccordance with time-table issued from Brigade Battalion Order was issued for the final stage to CHATELET at 1700. The Starting point necessitated a good deal of reconnaisance as the map of THY-LE-CHATEAU (NAMUR) was incorrect.	May
	19.01	2.18.	At 0000 the Battalion was on the move and the weather was most favourable. In the early stages of the march it looked as though heavy rain would be experienced but fortunately it blew over. The route laid down, viz., through SOMZEE - TARCIENNE - GERPINNES - ACOZ, was highly enjoyed by all ranks as it lave through towns whise industry had not suffered through the war. People en route cheered the column and at the entrance of the larger towns arches of welcome inscribed "welcome to Australia" were frequently met with. On all the Cafes notices to that effect were posted up on all windows and the local citizens were loud in their praise of the Australian soldier. At 1120 the Battalion halted in ACOZ and the troops were supplied with light beer and coffee free. At 1210 the march was proceeded with an thoroughly enjoyed. At BOUFFLOUIX all the inhabitants turned out in mass to cheer the passing through the military police had difficulty in keeping them back. This welcome was extended troops and the military police had difficulty in keeping them back. This welcome was extended right to CHATELET and the warmth was highly appreciated by everybody. CHATELET was the Meccaright to CHATELET and the warmth was highly appreciated by everybody. CHATELET was the Meccaright to Sleep in. Transport and horses were billeted in a huge pottery factory and all stable electrically lit. Lieut. F. PERRETT from Base.	ad ba
	20.	12.18.	' adjusting the billeting accommodation and the formation of messes for	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (10340) Wt W5300/1713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16.	

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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21.12	28.	An Inspection of the Battalion took place at 0950 and the Company representing the Battalion paraded for inspection at 1100 by the G.O.C. Brigade and the Battalion Commander. This completed the morning's work and at 1400 the composite Battalion formed up ready to move to the PLACE de VILLE for the official welcome and levee. The G.O.C. Division arrived at 1500 when the general salute was given and the Belgian National Anthem was played. The G.O.C. and Burgomaster inspected the troops finally taking the salute in the march past at the entrance to the HOTEL DE VILLE. This parade lasted about 2 hours after which the Commanding Officer and Adjutant were presented to the Burgomaster in the reception room of the HOTEL DE VILLE. During the parade aheavy sleet storm was experienced but it in no way hampered the proceedings Lieut. E.H. MEYERS "M.C." from School, Englad.	Appendi 5.
		12.18.		1. Cal
	23.	12.18.	An inspection of the Battalion took place at 0900 and on completion companies carried out smarterning-up drill and physical exercises. Educational Classes, French and Mathematics comments at 1100 till 1200. Battalion notified of the intention of Division to start aRest House in BRUSSELS with the object of extending 3 days leave to each soldier of the Division.  Major N.G. ARMSTRONG was appointed as O.C. Rest House	eran o
	24.	1218.	After Battalion Inspection all Officers were busy preparing for the Xmas meal of the men.  The messes of the various Companies were furnished for the occasion and they presented a  The messes of the various Companies were furnished for the occasion and they presented a  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The cooking of the beef presented little difficult y as the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The substitute of the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The substitute of the Belgian people  gala apear ance. The Belgian p	Alhay
	25.	12. 18.	and round the cookhouses there	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (10340) WtW5300/1713 750,600 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16.	

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25.1218.	Xmas, which made the actual meal far and away the best the men have ever expectioned. Roast and Boiled Beef and Mutton, vegetables, plum pudding and sauce, with three bottles of beer per man constituted the Menu. The G.O.C. in company with the Battalion Commander and all Officers inspected the meals and all ranks were loud in their prasses of the way in which the dinner was prepared. In the afternoon the Officers and men congregated in their respective Club Rooms and spent the balance of the day in a cheery manner.	had
	26.12.18.	The Divisional Commander had ordered that Xmas, Boxing and New Years Day would be set aside as a holiday so in consequence sports were arranged for the afternoon. The day was beautiful sunny and invigorating and it required little effort for everyone to join in. Inter-Company football matches were the main fixtures and they were witnessed by a good many local inhabitants and other troops billeted in the vicinity of CHATELET. In the evening a big dance was held in the Cafe Royal which further commanted the feeling between the Belgians and the troops.	ion of
	27.1218.	Brigst e Review was held on Battalion Parade Ground. Battalion formed up at 0930 and were inspected by the Acting Brigadier Lieut.Col. RAFFERTY. D.S.O. The weather was bitterly cold and after a few movements Battalions were dismissed by 1030. Education Classes commenced at 1100 in the Battalion School Room. This branch of the service is assuming large proportion Notwithstanding its being in its infancy. Men are keenly interested in attending and intent on obtaining benefit from the scheme. Recreation in the afternoon provided the greatest interested and after a heated contest Battalion team wong by 8 points to 6.	rest (
	28.1218.	nRain prevented all outdoor parades so Companies carried on with physical training indoors till Educational Classes assembled. Both in the morning and afternoon lectures were given mainly of History. Battalion was warned that The PRince of Wales would visit the Bde, and present medals to recipients on 30th. Also Guards would be furnished for Bde.H.Q. and Concert Hall, the latter to be chosen from the two largest men in the Unit. This was easily obtained and Pte. TAYLOR, W. "A" Coy., and Pte. WICKHAM "B" Coy., were chosen each oft. Jins. in height. Lieut. H.A. SLAUGHTER to U.K. Leave. Lieut. J.J. CHAPMAN furlough to AUSTRALIA.	
		D. D. & L., Loudon, E. C. (10340) Wi W\$300/P713 750,000 3/18 2 1688 Forms/C2118/15.	

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place Dat	te Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks an references t
2	9.12.18.	Church Parade was held in the Brigade Concert Hall RUE DE CALVAIRE at 0930, Chaplain Rev. DOU officiating. 2 Officers and 25 Other Ranks proceeded to BRUSSELS on leave. Reaminder of day spent in Recreational Rooms.	IGLAS .
30	0.1218.	Prince of Wales paid the Brigade avisit and splendid arrangements were made for the reception Troops of the four Battalions lined the streets from the PLACE DE VILLE to the RUE DE CALVAIRE Guards of honour were furnished by the 11th and 12th Battalions and the special party of two is this Unit took pride of place by being posted at the main entrance to the Reception Hall. His Royal Highness arrived at 1115 and commenced to present medals to all receipients from the 2nd and 3rd Brigades. On leaving the Hall he was loudly cheered and the inhabitants of CHATELET joined in heartily. The men's quarters were then visited and Ptes. ROONEY and SLOAN were presented. Inter-Company football took place in the afternoon and the keenness and interest displayed in sport of this nature is improving every day. Lieut. R.B. SALISBURY M.C. to U.K. Leave.	rom
3.	1.1318.	The Battalion was inspected by the Commanding Officer at 0930 and it is considered that the appearance and turn out has never reached such a high standard. The spirit of keen competitive between companies is a large factor coupled with the comfort of the men which all goes to make efficiency. At 1000 Companies proceeded to the Baths of the Societe Anonyme &u Charbonnage du Carabiner where every manhad a hot plunge and shower and was issued with a clean set of clothing from the Comforts Fund. The sports fixtures for the afternoon were weel patronized by the local residents who appear highly amused at our premier sport, RUGBY Football. Arrangements were well in hand for the big dinner to be given to the men on New Years Day and by all appearances it will surpass that of Xmas Day. Everything that could be bought in the way of vegetables seasoning, etc. was procured locally and the cooks were given 4 bott of wine per Company for sauce for the puddings.	A Charles
		D. D. & L., London, E.C. [10340] Wt W5300/P213 750,000 3/3 ± 1688 Forms/C2118/13.	

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

FOR

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# LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Memorandum (King's Guard )
2.	Movement Order No.181
3-	Movement order No.182
4.	Movement urder No. 103.
5.	Training Programme for week ending 20th Dec.1918.
6.	Memorandum - Visit of H.R.H. Prince of Wales.
7.	Training Programme for Tortnight ending lith. January, 1919.
0.	Medical officer's Report.
9.	Quertermaster's Report.
10.	Transport UTTicer's Report.
11.	Commanding Officer's Report.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

Was and

Battalion Headquarters, 3rd. December, 1918.

## MILLORANDU - KING'S GUARD

The Guard will fall in on Parade Ground adjacent to "A" - "B" and "C" Coy's. Billets at 0730 tomorrow preparatory to moving off by lorries at 0800.

Drass- Fighting Order - Greatcoats and gloves will be

Packs will be carried separately in lorries.

The Guard will be inspected by Commanding Officer at 0745 Any Officer desirous of attending will parade at this hour.

R.Q.H. will detail 1 Cook with two dixies and 1 Tailor with iron to accompany Guard. He will also ensure protection against dirtying of equipment by supplying bagging etc.

Blanco, Brasso and Boot Polish will be issued from Battalion H.Q. in sufficient quantities to enable Guard to maintain the highest standard during the whole tour of duty.

24 hours rations will be issued for all personnel proceeding.

Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

MALIR 1/100,000.

Lattalion Headquar 78.

The "j". Infantry Brigade Group will march to CHATELET. Area r three stages commencing to -morrow 17th inst. Rout for lat. Suase - SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU - HISTRUI -GRANHIEU - SOLHE ST GERY.

The following distan cas will be maintained :-Between Battalion. - 50. ya.dsdor.p.nies - ic yerds.

Infaring & Transport -25 yards. Cther Units - 2 yar ds.

Companies vill Lass Starting Point (Cross Roads at Comman ding Officerta Dillet) as under :-"D" Company - 1755 "H.Qrs." Company - 1756
"A" - 0757 "B"

Transport will accompany the Unit and Cook ... will pro--DRECS :- Full Marchin Order less blackets, cte i helmet, a and Box Respirator, Lia-unexpended portion of days rations. Mess Tin will be carried on top of pack. Jerkins and Gloves to worm.

VALUSES. Two dames will be formed for Officers: values. No.1 Dup Battal 10m Handowar Prs. No.2 Dump - Q.M. Store. Vallase. on be at diag. by 071;

3: Illumer. Burkete will be rolled in budles of hen. tied at sett ends and centre, properly labelled and will sa stackel as unuar it 0645 in \*\* Company

\*\*H. dr. \*\*\* Compa Packs of personnel authorised in Battalion Standing Orders will be ium of with respective Company's clankets.

Packs of Bard all Battalion Flag-bearer will be stacked at Battalion Hemiquarters at 0615 and he placed on G.C. Wagon carrying Headquarters blanket so Facks will ! lo wed first. Packs of sick men issued under Authroity from R.M.O. . will be dumped at Q.i. Store at 0700. C.Q. will supervise loading of their respective Company blankets. R. O.M. will detail & men of Richer decuion to load elatteta commencia at Battalion Healquer tera-This sport Officer will detail Nos-1 and 2 S.A.A. 19 An 45. 1960ns, wach with double trams, to report at 0645 at Factory Billets . The disposition of blanket wagons will be as follows '-No.2 " "B" and "J" Companies.

No.2 " "A" and "D"

Br. G.S. Wagen - "H.Qrs." Companies. to Redelle and take charge of hounkers and in Officers Mess Cart will call as Comp. ny messes as frieve. "H.Qrs." Suppl and thary Less 0715, thench to "A", "C", "T."

AN IILLETING PARTY. Battalian Billeting Party as leid down in Battalion Standing Orders will proceed in rear of "Hagra." Company. Personnel from Companies will report to Lieut. WRENCH 'M.C." at Br. H. Qra. at 0750 on 17th inst. will be led. At 1245 O.C. Bill stire Party will prince Lob his section to SULRE-ST-GERY, and Loat Bn- at the entrance to the village. P.T.0.

guide to proceed with Mass Carta

"B" and Battalion Headquar ters. R.Q.li. will detail a

- 17th Dec. At HEUGNIES at 0700 for consumption on 18th Dec. At BARRENCON at 0700 for consumption on 19th inst.

  19th Rest At PRY at 0700 for consumption on 20th Dec.
- Will he Lieut. F. FINTER "M.C.", Lieut. E.L. ALCOCK and 2/Lieut. H.A. SIAUGHTER. Natmen will accompany these Officers, who will proceed under their own arrangements.
- Officer to collect all stragglers. This Officer will make himself acquainted with the Route in case he is delayed on line of march.

  In anticipation of the few who may possibly fall out on the line of march, 5 blank forms of authority have been despatalted to each Company.
- all rubbish burned or burned before billets are vacawed.

  Usual Certificate will be forwarded to Battalian Headquarters by:0730.
- inspection of feet of all members of their Command.

  Those suffering from the slightest blisters or abrasions

  will be sent to R.M.O. at a time and place to be

  notified later.
- 10. The Wetches will be synchronised at Dottalion Headquarters at 0700 to morrow.
- 11. WATER CARTO. R.M.O. in conjunction with Transport Officer will ensure that water Carta will proceed on line of march filled.
- 12. OFFICERS! HACKS. Hacks for mounted Officers will be at their respective Headquarters at 0745. Retions for one meal will be carried.
- Pipe Band B' Company.

  The Battalion Flag-bearer will march in rear of the Regimental Band.

Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

#### DISTRIBUTION

- 1. Commanding Officer.
- 3. 3rd. A.I. Brigade.
- 5. BD. Company.
- 9. Transport Officer.
- J.l. R.S.M.
- 13. Milwaation Sificer.
- 15/17. War Diary. 19/20. Spares.

- 2, second in Command.
- 4. "A" Company.
- 6. "C." Company.
- 8. "H.Q. Company.
- 10 Raquis
- 12. R.M.O.
- 14. Lieut. C.li. WRENCH "M.C."
- 18. Fil 4.

#### N'ATH AJSTRALIAN INIVATEY PATADON ORDER NO.182.

Battalinn Headquarters, 17t h . Desember, 1918.

The "C" Intentry Driged " Group will continue ims merch he the OH. TEDET. Area to-morrows

Route :- Cross Roads H of point 40 on the BARRENCON -BOUSCH - DEZ - WALOCURT RAAD. CLSTILLON - FONTEWELLE -

TALIATOURY - THY IN CHATEAU. Halts of ten minutes at 10 minutes to the clock hour will be

observed. The column will helt in midder meal from 1200 to 1200. As far as possible ill trongs and transport will shyouad in fields during middley meal.

Draes: - Same as B.C. No. 181. Compan ies will pass a starting point - (Billet No. 102 - \*A' Company ) as under :-

"L" Company - 0730 "F.-Qrs." Company - 2737.
"C" Company - 5732 "F" Company - 3737

\*\*\* Compan y - 9734; Transport will accompany Unit and Cookers will march in rear of Companies.

- OFFICER 8. VALLEES. Three Turns for Sirio era! Valises will be formed : In ... R.Q.M. Store Vo.2 - Chatean Ic.3 - 34 Company's Tallet No. 1.32. Valiana vi ll 10 at dumpo by dias-

Blankers. Blankets will le rolled in bundles of ten, tied av toth ends and contra, lengla, and stacked as under at solf.

With Company - Billet No. 162 "?" % "I" Coyse + Chataen. MC " & MH.Q. " - H.Q.M. Stone.

Packs of personnel authorized by Battalion Standing Orders will we du mpei with respective Company blankets. In every instance they will be loaded at the bottom of all wagons. lasks of stak men authorised by R.M.O. to be carried will be dumped at R.Q.M. Stor at 0700.

BOUTINE.

H-79111 - 65% Stick Parada - U640 Treakmast - 0616

" MAND: Brass Band wi 11 pracada "&" Ocupany , Pips Band will pracada "B" Company.

. Hacks for mounted difficers will be at respective Headquartara at 0715-

BIJIETS As soon as possible efter arrival at destination Companies and Transport will forward a return to bettalion Haadquarters giving number of Billet and number of Cifficers and man secupying same.

Paras. 4. 8 and 11 of 3.0. No. 181 holdsond.

dest. adjut ant. 9th. Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

(H)

# MINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BUTLLION ORDER NO. 183.

Tattal ion Headquarters.

The "C" Infantry Enigada Group will complete the march to CHATFLET Area to-morrow-Route:- SONZEE - TARGINE - GIRPITNS - AGGS - BOURFELVELY -CHATELET. Halts of ten minutes at 10 men minutes to clock hour will he stserred. Column will helt for midday meal from 1200 to 1300 when all troops and transport will be clear of the road if possible. Compenies will pass the starting point (R.Q.a. Sucia) as under. CA Company - edes 3 dompany - 080% "To Qrao " " - 0807 "D" C309 DRESS :- An par B.R.C. No. 182

I. PLANKETSE Blankstie, will be dumped as unler :-

"A" Company - Hillet No.1) to of Rue de Central.
"B" Company - Hillet 30 Adja cut to Company Cooker.

"C. Company - Company Headqu rters.

"1" Company - Billet 27 Rue de la URUY.

"H.Q." " - Hillet No.19

Packs authorized to be carried will be dumped with blankets. Packs authorized by R.M.O. to be carried will be dumped at R.Q.M. Store at 07.00.

3- VALISES. Velises will be dumped as under:

A" Company — Regelf. Store at 0715

"B" — Company Headquarters at 0645.

"C" — Eillet No.33 at 645

"H.Q." — H.Qrs. Mess. t 0715

- 5- HACKS. Hacksfor mounted Officers will be at respective Headquarters at 0745.
- 5. TIME: Watches will be synchronized at Billet Mo.11 at 0730.
- 7. HOUTINE. Same as B.C. No. 182 of 17-12-18.
- Drace Band will, procede "C" Company, Pipe Band will procede "D" Company.
- 9- EILLETING. Rattalion Bill sting Party will report to Lieut.
  C.M. WRENCE "MOGA" at 0800 at R.Q.M. Store.

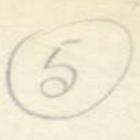
Soft Contraction Capter

Adjutant. Sth! Battalion.

7. 2.



# NINT H AUSTRALIAN INFARTRY BATTALION.



# TRAINING SYLLABUS FOR WEEK ENDING 28th, DECEMBER, 1918.

Mond	a.y -		
Nied 2000	gri a	2 2	inde
0.900			
0930	to	10	30
		11	
1100		120	The sales

Company Inspection.

Battalion Inspection and Drill.

Bayonet Figh ting by Platoons.

Educational Classes - French, Mathematics. Elementary

Education. Blacksmithing. Tailering. Bootmaking.

Armouring.

Recreation.

1330 to 1530

Tuesd	sy	24the
0900	10	0930
0930	TO	1030
1039	50	1100
1100		1200
		76
1330	to	1530

Company Inspection
Battalion Inspection and Drill
Ceremonial
Education, Shorthand and English, Blacksmitning,
Tailoring, Bootmaking, Armouring,
Recreation.

## Wednesday 25the

# Thursday 26th.

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200

#### Christmas Day.

#### Bexing Day.

Companies under Company Commanders.

Battalion Inspection and Drill.

Musketry.

Musketry.

Mucation . French, Mathematics. Elementary Edu cation.

Blacksmithing. Tailoring. Bootmaking. Armouring.

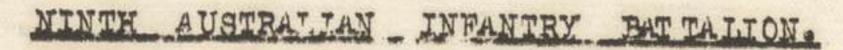
9900 to 0930 0930 to 1100 1100 to 1200

Companiesunder Company Commanders.

Battalion Route March .

Education. Blacksmithing. Tailoring. Bootmaking.

Armouring.



Bettel ion Headquarters.
30th, December, 1918.

#### MEMOFAN JUN-

#### Vist of H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince will arrive in the Place HOTEL DE VILLE at 1115, and will there inspect the Guard of honour of the inth Battalion. He will then proceed to the Frigade Convert Party Hall. RUE DE CALVAIRE, when a presentation of medals to N.C. Ose and less of the 2nd and 3rd. Edes. will take place.

After the ceremony the Prince will visit one billet in each Battalion area, beginning with 9th Fattalion and finishing with 12th Battalion.

Companies less l fricer and 19 other Ranks from each "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys, and Transport and recipients of medals, will linethe streets from the Mail Entrance towards the place HOTEL DE VILLE. Companies will report to the hall entrance as under :-

"A" Company - 1030 "B" Company - 1032
"C" Company - 1034 "D" Company - 1036
Transport - 1037

One marker from each of the above vall report to R.S.M. at the Hall at 1028 with strength of Company frontage.

Drass:- Officers - Parade Drass.

Transport- Great coats, belts and sidearms.

Transport- Great coats, Bandoliers, Belts and Bayonets.

When Companies are in position the Battalion will line both sides of the the streets at half arm intervals. Officers will be evenly spaced on both sides of the street one pase in front of the men.

As the Plince passes, Officers will salute, other ranks remain steady.

Personnel lining the streets will be dismissed when the Prince has entered the Concert Hall.

- 2. Parsonnel of 1 Officer and 19 Other Ranks from each "A", "B", "C", "D" Companies and Transport as membioned in paral will proceed to the Hall and 10 section by 1045.

  Transport Overweate, Bundeliers and Belts.

  Transport Overweate, Bundeliers and Belts.
- The following recipients of decorations will report to the Hall and be im their allotted seats at 1040:-

2662: Sgt. T.G. GAYDON "A" Company
%5%c Pta. J. HICKEY "C" "C"
6705 " W. HELL Transport.
3876 " G.W. PORTER Headquarters
1031 " E. FEW "A" Company
4458 Sgt. S.G. BEAL "C" Company
5359 Ita. G.V. EVANS "A" Company

Dress !- Belt and sidearm. No overcrats to be worn.
The above personnel will report to Battalion Orderly Room at 1025 for inspection.

HALL GUARD. 2 Other Ranks selected from """ and "B" Companies to act as door sentries will report to Lieut. E.H. MEYERS "M.C." at Battalion Headquarters at 1030.

Dress:— Skeleton Order.

This Officer will placethem in position at the Hall by 1050.

P-T-0-

- 5. PATTALION GUARD. Battulion Guard furnished by "D" Company will mount at 0900.
- BANDS: 9th Battalion Band will take up its position in the Place HOTEL DE VILLE at 1045 and will play alternately with 12th Battalion after the troops have taken up their position. The Band will remain in Place HOTEL DE VILLE until the Fringe leaves Brigade Headquarters.

en standard francisco dapt.

Adjutant. 9th Battalion. A.I.F.





#### NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

#### TRAINING SYLLABUS FOR FORTNICHT ENDING . 11th JANUARY. 1919.

#### MONDAY - Tem 30 011 -

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200

Battalion Inspection and Drill.
Bayanet Fighting by Platcons.

Education, Blacksmithing, Tailoring, Bootmaking,

Limouringe

#### TUESDAY-31st.Dec.

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200

Battalion Inspection and Drill.

Coremonial.

Hducation, Shorthand and English, Blackemithing, Tailoring, Bootmaking, Armouring.

WEDNESDAY . I st . Jam . NEW YEAR'S DAY ..

#### THURCDAY. 2nd -Jan -

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200 Company Inspection.

But talion Inspection and Drill.

Bayonet Fight ing by platoons.

Educational Classes - French, Mathematics.

Elementary Education, Blacksmithing, Tailoring.

Bootmaking. Armouring.

#### FRID AY Trd Jane

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1200 Comparies under Company Commanders. Pattalion Inspection and Drill.

Muskotny

Faundion - Tremch, Mathematics, Elementary Binockion, Slacksmithing, Tailoring, Bootmaking, Armouring.

#### RATURDAY . Atthe Jane

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1100

Companies under Company Commanders.

Battalion R out a March.

Education - Blacksmithing, Tailoring, Bootmaking,

Armouring.

#### MONDAY-6th Jan-

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1000 1000 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200 Company Inspection.

Battalion Inspection.

Bayonet Fighting
Smartening-up Drill by platoons.

Educational Classes - French, Mat hematics.

Elementery Education, Blacksmithing, Tailoring,
Bootmaking, Armouring.

P.T.O.

(2)

#### TUESDAY. 7th Jan.

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200 Companiesurder Company Commanders.

Battalion Inspection and Daill.

Tryonet Fighting.

Education and English Black

Education - Shorthand and English, Blacksmithing, Tailoring, Eostmaking, Armouring.

#### WEDNESDAY, 8th.Jan.

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1000 1000 to 1030 1000 to 1200 Battalion Inspection.

Battalion Inspection.

Physical Exempisesby platoons.

Exempisesby platoons.

Exempises - French, Mathematics.

Elementary Education, Blacksmithing.

Tailoring, Dootmaking, Armouring.

#### THURSDAY. 9th. Jan.

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200 Companies under Company Commanders

Battalion Inspection and Drill.

Bayonet Fighting

Education - Shorthand and English: Blacksmithin

Tailoring, Bootmaking, Armouring.

#### FRIDAY . 10th Jan.

0900 to 0930 0930 to 1000 1000 to 1030 1030 to 1100 1100 to 1200 Company Inspection

B attalion Inspection

Physical Exercises by platoons.

Bayonet fighting

Education, French, Mathematics, Elementary

Education, Blacksmithing, Tailoring, Boot
making, Armouring.

#### SATURDAY ... 11th .. Jan .

0900 to 0930 0930 t 1100 1100 to 1200 Dempanie and er Company Commanders.

Battalion Route March.

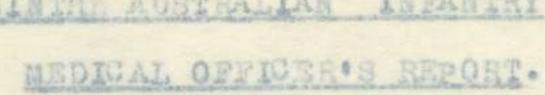
Education - Shorthand and English. Blacksmithing.

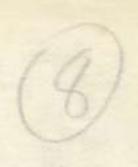
Tailoring. Bootmaking, Armouring.

basket ball and medicine ball.

Inter-Brigade Matches when possible.

## NINTEL AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.





SARS POTERIES. 1-17/12/18.

During the first portion of the month the Battalion was billete at SARS POTERIES and here we spent a quiet and monotonous three weeks. Billets - The men were comfortable a though a great deal of work was required at the outset to make their billets sanitary. Three companies were billeted in a large glass factory and the environs of this factory were very filthy ami much was done to improve these committeens during our stay. Recreation - Owing to the energies of the Battalion Sports Officer, Lieut. E.L. ALUCCK recreation was thoroughly organised and the men materially benefited. A good deal of Centhusiasm was displayed and the Bst talion witnessed several very fine rugby mot ches. Health of men - Here there were heavy sick parades due to an epidemic of diarrhoes. Coughs and colds were also very prevalent. The health of the men in this area was far from satisfactory. The excellent work of Cpl. LYNCH and his staff in the Aid Post was highly commendable. Prevalent Diseases. Diarrhoea- This epidemic was in all probability due to the appalling senitary or mittions which existed in the village. The water carts were used throughout and food supply was carefully supervised. Cooks, cookhouses and their environs received careful attention. During the month seventy men reported for treatment. Of these three required evacuation. Bronchitis - was fairly prevalent. Nine cases required evacuation from this village. In all twenty-seven men were evacuated from this area, making a very high percentage of evacuations. Food - The ration was light. Large supplies of vegetables however were available in this area and the stews in consequence were excellent. The large percentage of vegetable may have been a causative factor of the diarrhoea. Water. - was drawn from local water point. Carte were used throughout.

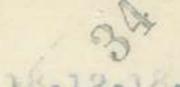
13-12-18-

while at SARS POTERIES a mest unfortunate ascident occurred resulting in the death of two men, Ptes. MORRISON and DOLING. The casualties resulted from the explosion of the detonating charge of a Minerwerfer nose-cap. Pte. MORRISON was killed immediately and Pte. DOWLING subsequently dies at the C.C.S. at MAUBERGE.

Baths - Excellent baths were situated in the factory. Here the men were frequently bathed and issued with clean clothes. Several cases of scaoles were treated here by an ambulance orderly. Chiropodist - The Battalion Chiropodist L/Cpl. BOWRING. was very busy in this area and did good work. The men's feet received careful at tention and trench foot powder was issued to platoens. Foot inspections and foot drills were instituted in Exception of the march to Charlies.

17.12.18.

On the 17.12.15 the Battalian marched from SARS POTERIES to SOLRE ST. GERY a distance of about 17 kilometres. The men Travelled light for their blankets and box respirators were carried. The weather was good and the men marched well. Only two men fell out but remained with the column throughout. At SOLRE ST. GERY the billets were good and the men spent a comfortable night. In the afternoon forty men paraled for foot treatment. Only one required evacuation.



(8)

18.12.18. This day was very windy and wet . The Battalion marched from SOLRE ST. GERY to THY LE CHATEAU a distance of about 18 kilos. Despite conditions the men marched well and only four fell out. Their packs were caried. We arrived at THY LE CHATEAU wet am miserable. There the men were very comfortably billeted and coon dried their clothes before large fires. Only five men par aded with sore feet.

19.12.18. The Battalion marched from THY LE CHATEAU to CHATELET a distance of 17 kilos. It was a beautiful day and the men marched aplendidly. Only two men fell out and were carried. We arrived at our destinat ion early in the afternoon.

19-31/12/18.

they are billeted in pairs and a large percentage have beds.
The Battalion is spread over a large area and as a result sanitation is difficult to control. We were great ly handicapped at first by the scarcity of material but now central latrines for each Company have been constructed. These latrines are now being roofed over and protected.

Refuse is dumped by companies and collected daily and removed to village refuse dump. An incinerator is being erected for organ is refuse from cookhouses. The environs of cookhouses

has received attention in all cases.
As far as possible the use of trench latrines is prohibited but it is impossible to enforce this at present owing to the scarcity of material for latrine accommodation. The condition of the trench latrines in t his area is on the whole fairly

Recreation - Here the Batalion have asplended field for recreation. Lieut. ALGOCK deserves great credit for his organisation of recreational training. Twenty showers have been erected in a building sijoining the sports ground and here the men can have a warm shower daily. Great enthusiasm has been displayed and the Bat talionscan produce several fine rugby teams. The health of the men has benefited considerably and their spirit is good for they are happy and contented. As well as outdoor sports recreation and snusement rooms have been selected for each company. These are all adive now but as yet there has been some difficulty in getting sufficient books, magazines, etc. for

Health - The health of the men hasbeen excellent in this area.

The epidemic of Diarrhoea has entinely subsided.

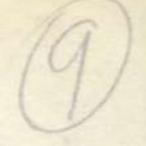
V.D. - Throughout the month active measures have been taken to combat V.D. and many cases have received early treatment. In Chatelet there has been great demand for prophylactic treatment, as many as thirty have reported in one day. Two men have contracted Generates in this village and have been evacuated. The following are the sick and scables report a for the month :-

ALTER AN COLUMN THAT PROPERTY	Dec. 4th.		18th.	25th.
No reporting sick	255	200		2
Cases of Diarrhoea.	40	35	22	No.
	20	20	6	2
" Pulmonary	5	2	- 3	1
# Rhoumstic		6	A	400
# PolleCo	10	0	-	
" Trench Feet	-	**	**	-
	-	-	2	1
# Scabies		-	1	1
" Venereal	-		-	1
# Measles.	-	9/61		all I
	400	600	-	-
" Humps	10	8	9	3
sent to Ambulance.		D4 - white de	Dierrhoea	
Remarsk.	Diarrhoea			
	prevalent	Prevalent	B.L. aAST AND 6	-
			THE RESERVE TO THE PERSON OF T	PROBLEM TO ARREST

Blankets last Disinfected. 30.10.18. 30.10.18. 30.10.18. 24.1218. Blankets last Disinfected. 30.10.18. All Coys. All Coys. All Coys. All Coys. All Coys. Clera Clothing 2.12.18. 10.1218. 15.12.18. 22.1218.

(3) 25.12.18. CHRISTHAS DINNER. - Owing to the energy of Lieut. CAMERON and the whole hear ted co-operation of the cooks an excellent Christmas Dinner was provided for the men. Supplies were very short this year and t he necessary food was extremely difficult to procure. Despite these facts Lieut. CAMERON was responsible for the best Christmas Dinner the Battalion has yet hand in France. Muroi. RoMeO. - 9the Bet talione As IsFo

# NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.



# QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1918.

The month of December has been for the "" Branch of the Bat talion a comparatively easy one for two reasons; the first, the shortage in Ordnance Supplies received, and second, the moving from SARS POTERIES to CHATELET. The main reason for the shortages in supplies in ordnance material is due to the fact that being billeted in the SARS POTERIES Area we were quite a considerable distance from the main railway communications and the supplies had to be brought by Mechanical Transport some 40 to 60 miles from Railhead.

RATIONS have been well up to the average throughout the month. Mutton and Lamb formed the major portion of the fresh meat rations for several days preceding Christmas and with what economy was exercised throughout the month in view of the uncertainty of obtaining adequate supplies of fresh meat for the Christmas dinner, we were able to put sufficient mutton and lamb aside to provide the dinner and it is pleasant to record that there was an ample sufficiency for all.

The Plum Puddings at the rate of glb. per person were received on the 23rd and again there was plenty for all members of the Battal-

ion. Fresh vegetables, mostly cabbage and potatoes were purchased during the month with which to augment the ration issue. It is necessary

to make these purchases regularly as for some time past, the vegetable ration is rather on the light side. For the Kmas dinner some 320 kilos of Potatoes, 100 kilos of parsnips and 100 kilos of cabbage were required and all of these were pur-

chased in CHATELET at a price that was satisfactory.

ORDNANCE SUPPLIES as already stated were very short and slow in coming forward but however since arriving in CHATELET these supplies have shewn signs of being back to the normal state very soon. Apart from the above however it is pleasing to record that all the requirements of the King's Guard (which the Batalion supplied at the beginning of the month) were met mainly to the splendid efforts of our Divisional Ordnance Officer - Lieut. KENT . Lieut. KENT visited all the Divisional Ordnance Branches to obtain the clothing that our D.A.D.O.S. service was not in aposition to supply immediately and his efforts were highly successful. The greatest thaksis due to Lieut. KENT for his efforts in enabling the Bat talion to maintain the repu-

tation it has. COMFORTS. The regular big supplies of comforts which have been received from time to time were not kept up during December through no fault however of the A.C.F. Branch but however the Kmas Boxes were received in time for distribution on Christmas Day and were thorough-

ly appreciated by one and all. A considerable quanity of Custard Powder which was received from the A.C.F. last month went to provide the Custard for the Xmas puddings and with it the "Sweets" portion of the Xmas dinner was all that could

be desired. The A.C.F. expect as soon as transport facilities permit to be able to supply a much larger quantity of comforts than has hitherto been received. The value to the troops of many of these comforts cannot be under-estimated in any degreem as same are not procurable elsewhere at the present time.

No amount of thanks can suffice to applaud the benefits and splendid

services of the A.C. Funds.

BATHS. Whilst at SARS POTERIES it was possible to bathe the Battalion on two occasions during the month and clean clothing was available on each occasion. On arrival at CHATELET the "Societe anonyme de Charbonnage du Carabinier" a' Pont de Loup placed at the disposal of the Battalion Commander the full use of the Baths of the company and needless to say were used on two occasions and voted by one and all - splendid.

Our deep appretiation and thanks is due to our Belgian friends and Allies for this very great concession on their part. Clean clothing

was available also for these bat hse

(2)

RECREATION - In conjunction with the Transport section a football team was formed during the month and two matches played with satisfactory was many during the month and two matches played with satisfactory was month as month and two matches played with satisfactory was month as month and two matches played with satisfactory was month as month as

GENERAL - Under this heading in conclusion the two outstanding features of the month should be emphasized. The first is the splendid services performed by the Tailoring section under Cpl. KENNEDY who turned out the KING'S GUARD in record time and thus enabled the Battalian's reputation

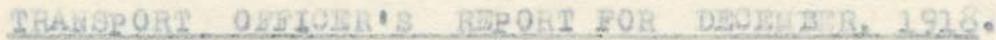
to be kept at its high standard.

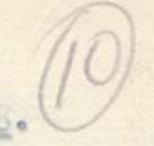
The second feature which perhaps is the best of the two and this is the preparations of Kmas Dinner by the Sergeant Cook and Staff, viz., preparations of Kmas Dinner by the Sergeant Cook and Staff, viz., Sgt. JENKINS and his assistants, Ptes. STROUD, SLOANE, McKEOWN, PRINGLE, Sgt. JENKINS and his assistants, Ptes. STROUD, SLOANE, McKEOWN, PRINGLE, Sgt. JENKINS and his assistants, Ptes. STROUD, SLOANE, McKEOWN, PRINGLE, Sgt. JENKINS and his assistants, Ptes. STROUD, SLOANE, McKEOWN, PRINGLE, Sgt. JENKINS and his assistants, Ptes. STROUD, SLOANE, McKEOWN, PRINGLE, Sgt. JENKINS and DELACOURT. These cooks in close co-operation and ably assisted by the Chateen Staff, Storemen and Company Cooks spent no small effort by the Chateen Staff, Storemen and Company Cooks spent no small effort in making the Kmas dinner the fine success it was and the very heartiest in making the Kmas dinner the fine success it was and the very heartiest thanks and appreciation of the Battalion is their due.

(Sgd) T.W. CAMERON. Lieut. a/R.Q.M., 9th. Battalion.



#### NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.





On the 2nd inst the Section was fortunate in drawing 1 H.D. from Remounts, and with looking after his present poor condition will improve. By all appear ances he is sound and will eventually make a good limber horse.

The whole section was turned out for inspection by the Commanding Officer on the 4th and its smart and nest appearances was commented upon.

Following close came an inspection by G.O.C. Division, Major-General GALSGOW and he was keen on instituting racks for harness and suggested a few other improvements. On visiting the men's billets he remarked that he had never seen such clean and tidy Transport Billets during his experience in France. Every at tempt is being made to reach the highest standard in Transport management and all members of the Section are enthused with that idea.

In accordance with the Educat ional Scheme submitted from Battalion Readquarters 3 pupils from Companies were attached to the Farrier for instruction in Blacksmithing.

Up to the 17th inst. Transport routine was maintained and the

herese were extraordinarily fit.

On the 17th in company with the Battalian the first stage in the trek to CHATELET was commenced under very bad weather conditions. It was looked forward to by everyone and the section turned out as smartly as ever.

Prior to moving off, L/Cpl. JAMES was thrown from his horse and received a painful kick on the leg but with his accustomed fortitude he per-

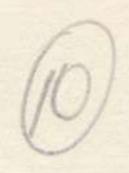
at 0800 the column commenced to mave and the trek lay through SOLRE LE CHATEAU - HESTRUD - GRAND RIEU and the trip in spite of the weather was highly interesting. A midday halt was made on the road allowing sufficient time for water and feed the horses, and at 1500 the Section reached SOLRE ST GERY, remaining there for the night. Comfortable billets and stab les were obtained and preparations were then made for the

This was a memorable days mar on as it meant leaving an area of war devastation to reach one of normal appearance with populat ed and decor-

The next days weather conditions were appalling, wind and sleet the whole of the trip and the cold was something to be remembered. The route lay through BAREENCON - CASTILLON - FONTENBLIE - MALGOURT and the road was in a very bad condition. It was so extremely cold that the column only halted for half an hour and reliefs in drivers were arranged every 20 minutes. After lunch the road gradients were very steep, but the loads on all vehicles were light and at 1430 THY LE CHATEAU was reached. Arrangements were at once made after the men had seen to the norses to procure coal for drying wet clothes of Section personnel. Fortunately each billet had a nice stove and at 2200 the men were completely dry

Next morning the final stage of the journey was commenced and the weather had completely changed overnight from heavy rain to abright and clear day. The march was the most interesting to date and the route lay through towns of great importance and of historical interest. By this time the Unit was well in advance of war areas and not a sight of the usual war devastation was encountered. The G.O.C. Division inspected the column at GOURDINNE a village on the route; SONZEE - TARCIENNE - GERFINNES - ACOZ - BOUFELOUX. En-route inhabitants from these villages cheered the passing troops and at ACOZ where the column halted for lunch they were quick in their offerings of beer and meal bread. Morses and drivers were well rested here in anticipation of the hard cobble roads to be encountered before completion of the mar ch. After lunch the route lay through towns whose chief industry was coal-mining and at 1500 CHATELET was reached and a rousing reception was accorded the whole Brigade.

(2)



From now, commenced entirely a new kind of life. All drivers, grooms and Brakesmen had boot comfortable billets and a recreational and mess room and for the first time since the Section's inception the lasue dixie had to give way to nice clean plates and china cups. The horses faired as though they belonged to a wealthy civilians separate horse boxes all lit with electric light was their stable accommodation, and a recreational paddock was obtained for exercise on soft ground. All the stables have concrete floors but straw is plentiful which gives them a rest at night. On the 21st the S.A.A. Section of the D.A.C. which has been attached to the Unit since BOHAIR returned to their own Golumn and the greatest thanks is due for the manner in which they helped at all times.

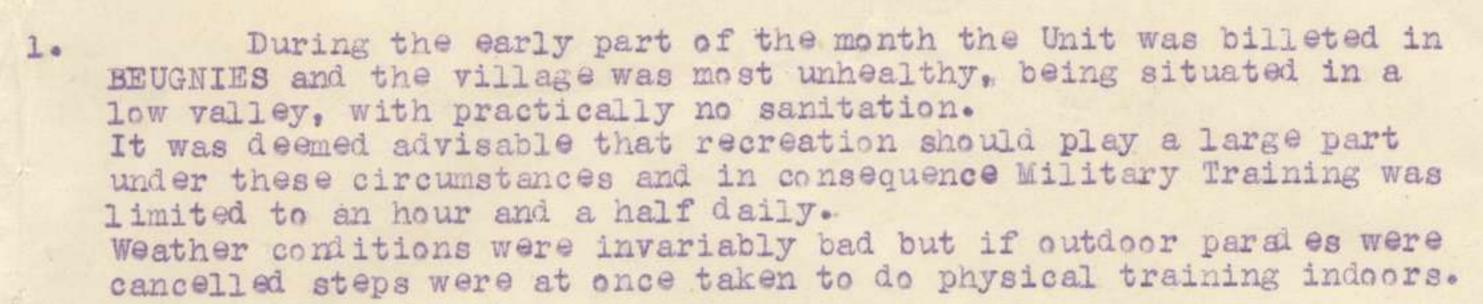
This small section was partly instrumental in allowing the Battalian to move on the march so lightly and with medium comfort.

Stable routine and the detail of the usual waggons , deaning and painting of limbers, and erection of harness racks occupied the majority of time up to Imas.

Two days before the 25th arrangements were commenced to make the actual dinner the best up to date. The mess was decorated with flags and each member of the Section had a seat xxxxxxxx assigned to him.

This with the actual dinner and it will be long remembered, led to the festibities being such a success and all voted to the care and attention paid by B.H.q. Staff to make the day so extremely pleasant.

# ENDING, DECEMBER 1st, 1918.



The appearance and spirit of the men is highly gratifying and all ranks appear to be enthused with the desire to maintain the reputation of the Unit under any circumstances.

- The long looked for move to the CHARLEROI Area eventuated on the 17th inst. and all members of the Unit were greatly pleased with the thought of leaving BEUGNIES. The first two days march through very interesting, considering War devastation was being left behind, was to a great extent marred by the frightful weather conditions. Each night all ranks arrived at the staging area drenched to the skin, and it meant staying up late into the night while clothes dried. The third and last stage entirely made amends and all the townspeople en-route cheered the group and extended the heartiest welcome.
- Billeting accommodation was the best encountered in France, the greater majority had bedrooms and the use of the sitting room.
- Divisional Concert Party all tend to amuse and help all ranks to pass away the time between Retreat and Lights Out.
- portions and classes are held daily from 1100 to 1200 and from 1700 to 1800. Subjects include French, Shorthand, Mathematics and History. Classes for the trades which may be learnt with the Unit are Bootmaking, Blacksmithing, Carpentering, Armouring and Signwriting.
- Recreation. Recreation is organised on a Military basis. Battalion Headquarters have a Sports Officer and Staff and each Company
  a small committee. Inter Unit sports are arranged as frequently as
  possible and every interest is centred in all games which lends to the
  excellent health of the troops.
- Transport. Under such conditions, the Transport Section is improving daily and limbers and horses are presenting a very fine appearance.
- sick parades are exceptionally small.
- Leave. Leave to U.K. has been somewhat liberal and a Rest Club has been opened at BRUSSELS for Officers and other Ranks.
- praise, the soldiers are conducting themselves with natural dignity and are vecoming ravourites with the residents of Chatelet.

  Their general appearance and discipline has never reached such a high standard as at present and my thanks are due to all who uphold with such nonour the rair name of Australia.
- nance of a high rood standard and vegetables have been procured apart from issue in large quantities.

  The K.Q.M. and his Starr have been instrumental in the maintenance of a high rood standard and vegetables have been procured apart from issue in large quantities.

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Commanding, 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.