

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/43

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/35/43

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.



Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

18th BATTALION

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

*Macmillan
all 18/2/19*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H. Robinson
Major
T/C.O. 18 Bn.*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WALCOURT	1/2/19	0900	Weather: Snowing - about 1" on ground.	
		0930	Battalion roll call.	
			Battalion strength as at 1/2/19 - 40 Officers, 588 Other ranks.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut. C.J. ROSSOIS marched out to Course at Corps P. & R.T. School, BARBENCON. Eight men proceeded on leave to England. Leave had been cut out for a few days as no trains were running from 4th. Army to Bases. Reason appears to be some trouble with English troops at Calais.	
		1400	Owing to prevailing weather conditions no sporting events took place.	
		2000	Dance given by N.C.O's of the Battalion in the Hotel de Ville WALCOURT. There was a fair attendance of ladies but local feeling is very high owing to some having had dealings with the Boche during his occupation.	
	2/2/19.	0900	Weather: Cold and snowing slightly.	
		1030	Church of England parade held in Green Diamond Concert Hall - Chaplain King.	
			Roman Catholic parade held in Village Church WALCOURT. - Chaplain Clune M.C.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Major W.R.C. ROBERTSON, M.C. returned from leave in Brussels.	
		1230	Draft of one officer and 43 Other ranks left for England en route to Australia - all 1915 men, with the exception of a few M.C.O's and officers and those who do not desire early repatriation have left the Bn.	1/F/19
		1430	Conference of Battalion Commanders at 5th. Brigade Headquarters re demobilisation and projected move to MONIGNY-les-TILLEUL.	
	3/2/19	1200	N° 3 Edition of "DEESWEET DESPATCH" (18th. regimental paper) published.	2/F/19.
		0900	Weather: cold and frosty.	
			Battalion roll call and inspection of ammunition.	
		1000	Application made to 5th. Aust. Inf. Brigade for Electric generating plant, captured by 18th. Bn. on 9th. August 1918 near FRAMERVILLE. The plant is at present used by the Brigade Concert Troupe for generating current for a cinema and for lighting purposes. (Appendix attached)	3/F/19
		1030	Recently arrived reinforcements were assembled in the Band Hall WALCOURT and the C.O. spoke to them on the records and work of the Battalion. (Vide appendix)	8/F/19
		1200	Changes in Officers: 2/Lieut. F.P. QUIRK proceeded to England to report to Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation for duty. Lieut. H. KIRKE, M.C. takes over duties as Transport Officer.	
		1400	Owing to weather conditions no sporting events took place.	

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WALCOURT.	4/2/19.	0900	Weather cold and frosty.	
		1030	Major W.R.C. ROBERTSON, M.C. gave a lecture to the latest reinforcements on "Operations since 8th. August 1918 to present date".	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut. L.M. REDGRAVE proceeded to Cap Martin Convalescent Home. Lieut. W.S. MOORS, M.C. proceeded to MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL as billeting officer for the Battalion.	
		1330	Lecture given by Lt-Col. Murphy on "Reminiscences of the Campaign"	
		1900	Warning Order for move to MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL received from 5th. A.I. Bde.	
	5/2/19.	0900	Weather: Cold and snowing.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: 2/Lt. S.S. MATTICK (ex 19th. Bn.) joined from O.C. Bn. via Havre. Brigade Orders for the move received.	
		1800	Preparations made for the move to MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL. <i>Br. Order N° 55 issued.</i>	4/5/19
	6/2/19.	0900	Weather: Snowed throughout the night - 3" snow on ground this morning.	
		1200	Troops entrain in special train, all the Brigade group except transport being on the train.	
		1010	Train leaves WALCOURT en route for BOMEREE. Scores of civilians turned out to farewell the troops. Many combats with snowballs took place.	
		1300	Arrived at BOMEREE, and detrained. Troops marched to billets at MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL.	
BOMEREE.			No. 4486. Pte. C.W. MERCER was accidentally injured en route to Bomere and had his leg fractured.	
MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL.		1400	Troops settled in billets. The men are scattered but are very comfortably placed.	
		1400	Changes in Officers: Lieut. M.L. WOODYATT returned after 75 days furlough in England and Lieut. J. MAXWELL, V.C., M.C., D.C.M. returned from Aust. Base Depot HAVRE.	
		1630	1st. Line Transport in.	
		1800	Transport experiencing great difficulty owing to the slippery nature of the road. No rations yet to hand.	
	7/2/19.	0900	Weather: Frozen: very cold. Wind blowing from North.	
		1200	Some 2nd. Line A.S.C. Transport arrived during the morning but there are still some more to come. Troops are comfortably housed in private houses. Straw and other necessary things are being purchased.	
			Changes in Officers: Capt. J.B. LANE, D.S.O. leaves for England for investiture.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL	8/2/19.	0800	Weather Very Cold and dull.	
		0900	Battalion roll call and company inspection.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: 2/Lieut. R.C. WILLIAMSON joined from O.C. Bn. via Havre.	
		1400	No sporting events took place owing to the prevailing weather conditions.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 18 by Lt.-Col. G.F. Murphy, CMG, DSO issued - Church parades for Sunday 9th. inst. published.	
	9/2/19	0845	Weather Very cold. Snow still lying on the ground.	
		0900	Battalion roll call. Education classes assembled.	
		1030	Church of England & Other Protestant denominations service in Cafe de Casino MONTIGNY by Chaplains Tugwell and Crawford.	
		1045	Roman Catholic Service in the village church MONTIGNY by Chaplain Clune M.C.	
		1800	There was nothing further of interest to record to-day. - N° 4 Edition "DEESWEET DESPATCH" published. 5/1/19.	
	10/2/19.	0900	Weather: Still cold but fine.	
			Battalion roll call and inspection of Companies.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 16 by Lt.-Col. G.F. Murphy, CMG, DSO, issued. - Lecture to be given in Cinema Hall, MONTIGNY at 1030 12th. inst. by Mr. H.W. ROBERTS on "Drawing, measuring and sketching to scale".	
	11/2/19.	0845	Weather: Fine but cold.	
		0900	Battalion roll call after which men proceeded to various educational classes.	
		1500	Battalion visited by official photographer who took photos of "X", "Y", H.Q. Coys. and Officers of the Battalion in the Square MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL.	
	12/2/19.	0845	Weather Fine.	
		0900	Battalion Roll call and educational classes.	
		1200	Bathing parade for Battalion. Troops bathed at baths MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL.	
			The battalion during its stay in this village has had the advantage of using the baths attached to Le Grande Taille Charbonage. These baths are very well appointed and are capable of accommodating fifty men at the same time. Each bather has a small compartment for himself in which he has the bath and a little space where he can hang his clothes.	
			The compartments are walled with white glazed tiles and the floor is also formed of tiles. There is an abundant supply of hot water the temperature of which may be regulated as	

WAR DIARY

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MONTIGNY-16-TILIEUL.	12/2/19.	1200	desired. There is also a large dressing room which is artificially heated by steam pipes. The temperature of this room is just a little warmer lower than that of the water with the result that the men can dress in greater comfort and pleasure and at the same time the chance of contracting a cold is greatly reduced.	
		1800	Routine Order No.17 by Lt-Col.G.F.Murphy, CMG, DSO, issued.	
	13/2/19	0830	Weather fine. Snow still laying on the ground.	
		0900	Battalion Roll Call - Men proceeded to education classes.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut.G.J.BROSSOIS returned from Corps P.& R.T.School.	
		1400	There were no sporting events to-day.	
		1830	Concert given by Australian Y.M.C.A.Representatives in the Concert Hall MONTIGNY. There was a good attendance at the Concert where an interesting evening was spent.	
	14/2/19.	0830	Weather fine.	
		0900	Battalion roll call.	
		1000	Lecture by Cpl.J.E.MURRAY in the Concert Hall MONTIGNY on "Town Planning"	
		1800.	Routine Order No.18 by Major W.R.C.Robertson, M.C. issued. Court of Enquiry to assemble on 15th.inst. to inquire into alleged absence of a member of the Bn. Copy of Aust.Corps wire G.783 was published for promulgation to the troops - "Embarkation to 6th.February 26860 A.I.F. 1956 others families etc.AAA February shipping to take 19000 and 2730 others AAA Shipping delayed by strikes in dockyards and railways but hope to adhere to programme AAA Shipping Ministry have been asked to provide shipping for 20000 for March AAA	
	15/2/19.	0845	Weather; Cloudy and cold.	
		0900	Battalion roll call - Men marched off to various education classes.	
		1800	There is nothing further of interest to record to-day.	
	16/2/19.	0845	Weather: Cloudy and cold.	
		1030	Church Parades - Church of England & Other Protestant Denominations held in Cafe du Casino, MONTIGNY by Chaplain Crawford. Roman Catholic in the village church by Chaplain Clune, M.C.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut.C.E.Etheridge proceeded to England on special leave. Lieut.C.J.Brossois marched out to 2nd.Aust.Div.Artillery in charge of party of 30 men for attachment to Artillery.	

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(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

WAR DIARY

or

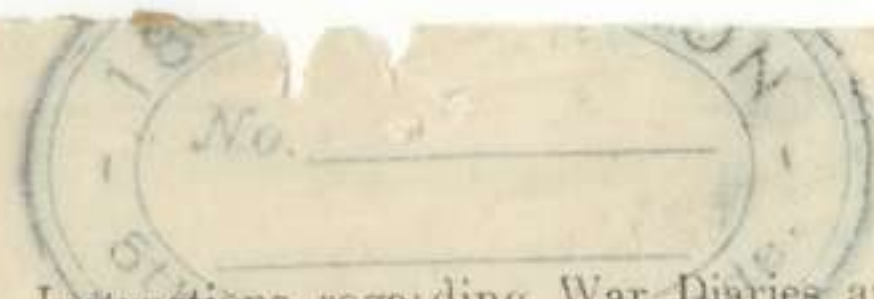
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MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL.	16/2/19.	1200	<i>No. 5 Edition "DEESWEET DESPATCH" published.</i>	6/F/19.
		1330	Draft of 15 men from this Bn. marched out to 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery for attachment to that branch of the service.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 19 by Lt-Col. G. F. Murphy, C.M.G., D.S.O. issued - G.R.O. 6185 republished. Lecture to be given on "Waterloo" in hall in Rue EADORE PIRMEZ, MARCINELLE on 17th. inst. by Major General Sir A. A. MONTGOMERY, KCMG, CB, PSC, M.G.G.S. 4th. Army.	
		2000	C.O. attends short conference at 5th. Brigade Headquarters - Business - An informal discussion on Brigade matters. - Brigadier General E. F. Martin, C.M.G., D.S.O. returned to 5th. Bde.	
	17/2/19.	0900	Weather: Dull but warmer.	
		1000	Draft of 1 N.C.O. and 14 men marched out to 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery at THUIN for attachment. Field General Court Martial sat at 18th. Bn. H.Q. - Ptes. Pracey & Mandle of this Bn. tried.	
		1100	15 Officers and 40 M.C.O.'s attended the lecture given by Major General MONTGOMERY.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: 2/Lieut. E. E. CRUICKSHANK, M.M., ("X" Coy), 2/Lieut. A. DICKINSON, D.C.M., M.M. ("HQ" Coy.) and 2/Lieut. C. L. SUTTON ("Y" Coy) joined from O.C. Bn. via Havre.	
		1330	Draft of 11 men marched out to Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp CHARLEROI en route for demobilisation Camp LE HAVRE for duty - 1918 class men - Transferred to A.B.D. and S.O.S.	
		2000	Meeting held at 5th. Brigade H.Q. to consider the re-forming of the 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Officers Club. Capt. Walklate M.C., Lieut. W. S. Moors, M.C. and Lieut. F. J. Brown, M.C. of 18th. Bn. attended.	
		2030	Lieut. P. D. Jones, M.C., D.C.M. and Lieut. D. L. O'Sullivan, M.M. returned from English leave.	
		2100	Capt. Walklate M.C. received a letter from No. 2375. Pte. W. FRICK of this Bn. who was wounded and left behind in German trenches at BOIS GRENIER during a raid by this Bn. on night of June 26th. 1916. Pte. Frick has recently been repatriated from Germany. He was the first 18th. Bn. member to be taken prisoner in FRANCE. (Copy of letter attached)	7/F/19.
	18/2/19.	0900	Weather dull and misty.	
		1030	Brigade lecture at Cinema Hall MONTIGNY by Cpl. J. E. MURRAY, 18th. Bn. Subject "Town Planning" The Battalion attended.	
		1200	Changes in officers: Lieut. E. BELCHER, M.C. returned from English leave.	
		2000	Officers of 17th. & 18th. Bns. held a dance at Cafe du Casino MONTIGNY-le-TILLEUL. The G.O.C. and Staff of 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. were present, and about 60 local residents.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL.	19/2/19.	0900	Weather Dull and cold.	
		0930	Battalion roll call.	
		1800	Nothing further of interest to record to-day.	
	20/2/19	0900	Weather: Bright, cold and windy.	
		1030	Brigade lecture at Cinema Hall MONTIGNY by Captain W.R.Mearns, 2nd.Aust.Div.Education Officer. Subject "Democracy and the war". The Battalion attended.	
		1045	Lt.-Col.MURPHY, C.M.G., D.S.O. attended conference at 4th.Army Headquarters to consider whether, in the light of experience gained in the war any modification or addition in equipment, arms, etc. were desirable.	
		1400	Sports: A rugby match, 5th.Bde. versus 7th.Brigade was played on the ground of the former, at Montignies-le-Tilleul. 5th.A.I.Brigade won by 20 points to 3.	
		2100	Routine Order No.20 by Lt.-Col.G.F.Murphy, C.M.G., D.S.O. was issued - General Instructions No.1 of Repatriation and Demobilisation Department published for communication to all ranks.	
	21/2/19.	0900	Weather: Dull, windy and cold.	
		1030	Lt.-Col.Murphy, "CMG.DSO" attended a conference at 5th.Aust.Inf.Brigade Headquarters. C.O's of Battalions with G.O's C. Brigade and Division.	
	22/2/19.	0900	Weather: Dull and wet.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut.E.BELCHER, M.C. proceeded to WALCOURT to take over the duties of Town Major.	
		1400	Detachments of all units of Australian Corps attended parade in the Grande Place, MARCINELLE, to hear address by Mr.W.M.HUGHES, Prime Minister of Australia. An account of the address, together with a special message from Mr.HUGHES to this Battalion will be found in "Deesweet Despatch" (vide appendix)	8/F/19.
		2100	Routine Order No.21 by Lt.-Col.G.F.Murphy, "CMG.DSO" issued - General Instructions No.2 & 3 of Rept'n.& Demob'n.Desk. republished for communication to all troops.	
	23/2/19	0900	Weather: Dull but warmer.	
		1030	General Sir W.R.BIRDWOOD, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., attended 6th.Brigade Church service at MARCINELLE, after which he received the senior officers of the Division. Col.MURPHY, and Major ROBERTSON went from this Unit.	

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MONTIGNIES-LE-TILLEUL.	23/2/19.	1100	<i>N°6 Edition "DEESWEET DESPATCH" published.</i>	8/F/19
		1130	2/Lieut. R.C. WILLIAMSON proceeded on special leave to England for the purpose of obtaining and bringing back books for the library for 2nd. Aust. Div. Education Officer.	
		1400	Soccer football match played between 5th. Brigade and Charleroi Sporting Club resulting in win for the latter by 3 goals to 2.	
	24/2/19.	1030	Church of England and O.P.D. Service held in the Cinema Hall MONTIGNY - Chaplain Crawford.	
		1045	Roman Catholic Service in the village church MONTIGNY - Chaplain Clune, M.C.	9/F/19
	24/2/19.	1600	<i>Special Edition of Regimental paper published.</i>	
		0900	Weather: Dull but not chilly.	
		1000	2/Lieut. E.E. CRUICKSHANK, M.M. proceeded to Charleroi to relieve Lieut. W.E. SANSON, as guide to parties visiting factories etc., while the latter went on English leave.	
		1030	Lecture by Pte. Bramfield of 2nd. A.M.G. Bn. on "Talks about books" in the Cinema Hall MONTIGNY, at which the Battalion attended.	
		1100	Lieut. E.S. BONHAM and 2/Lieut. A.L. JENNINGS, M.M. proceeded to Charleroi for course in Motor Driving.	
		1400	Rugby football match played between 5th. Aust. Inf. Brigade and 2nd. Aust. Div. Artillery (final of Divisional Competition) won by 5th. Brigade - 22 points to nil.	
		1700	18th? Bn. provided two of the fifteen players.	
			Divisional Routine Order No. 2012 received, closing, until March 1st., all public places of entertainment on account of the epidemic of influenza. - 17th. Bn. obliged to abandon their dance.	
	25/2/19.	0900	Weather: Dull and cloudy.	
		0930	Leave party, Lieut. J.H. MEADS and 4 O.R. proceeded to BRUSSELS per lorry.	
		1030	Lecture by Capt. Tulseford, 6th. F.A.B. in the Cinema Hall MONTIGNY - Subject "Co-operation"	
		1400	Major ROBERTSON, M.C. proceeded to Perteaucourt as President of a F.G.C.M.	
		1800	Routine Order By Lt-Col. G.F. MURPHY, "CMG, DSO" issued. - Instructions published re steps to be taken against the influenza epidemic.	
		2000	Case of Lieut. P. WOOD "dismissed from H.M. Service" promulgated.	
	26/2/19.	0900	Weather: Misty.	
		1030	Lecture postponed.	
		1100	Lieut. P. WOOD handed over to D.A.P.M. 2nd. Aust. Div. for disposal.	
		1400	Soccer match played against 2nd. A.M.G. Bn. resulting in a xxx draw - scores 2 all.	

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No. 1
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Army Form C. 2118. 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES-LE-TILLEUL.	27/2/19.	0900	Weather: Dull and cloudy.	
		1600	Lt.-Col. G.F. MURPHY, "CMG.DSO", Capt. S. BEDDIE, M.C., and Lieut. J. MAXWELL, V.C., M.C., D.C.M. proceeded to LONDON for investiture.	
		2000	Routine Order No. 24 by Capt. C.G. WALKLATE, M.C. T/Commanding Bn. issued. - General Instructions No. 6 re Pay, Allowances etc. before, during and after embarkation published for the information of all ranks.	
	28/2/19.	0900	Weather: Drizzling rain.	
		1200	Preparations are being made for the handing in of stores, equipment, etc. to D.A.D.O.S. Strength of Battalion as at 28/2/19 - 47 officers, 498 Other ranks.	
		2100	War Diary of Quartermaster attached. " " " Transport Officer attached. " " " Regimental Medical Officer attached.	10/F/19 11/F/19 12/F/19.

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WAR DIARY

OF

18th BATTALION

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919



LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1/F/19.	Nominal roll of draft for Australia.
2/F/19.	"Walcourt Argus" No.3.
3/F/19.	Application for claim of German generator.
4/F/19.	Battalion Order No.55.
5/F/19.	"Deesweet Despatch" No.4.
6/F/19.	"Deesweet Despatch" No.5.
7/F/19.	Letter from Pte .FRICK, 18th.BN.
8/F/19.	"Deesweet Despatch" No.6.
9/F/19.	"Deesweet Despatch" No.6/2 (Special)
10/F/19.	Quartermaster's Diary.
11/F/19.	Transport Officer's Diary.
12/F/19.	Medical Officer's Diary.

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2nd. FEBRUARY 1919.

"X" COMPANY.

1225.	COMS.	McMAHON,	F.W.
2646.	CBL.	GROOMS,	C.S.C.
2685.	L/CPL.	JOHNSON,	R.S.
141.	PTE.	TELFORD,	J.
2141.	"	FALCONER,	P.H.
3568.	"	GILLHAM,	A.K.
3342.	"	STEPHENS,	W.J.
3136.	"	LLOYD,	H.C.
645.	CSM.	STICKLEY,	L.A. (MM)
708.	SGT.	EDWARDS,	J.J. (MM)
394.	"	PIERCE,	H.S. (MM)
717.	CPL.	FRASER,	B.D.
2830.	CPL.	VILES,	J.
2020.	PTE.	SMITH,	J.
3718.	L/CPL.	JACOBSON,	L.
3119.	PTE.	KNIGHT,	J.
3590.	PTE.	ROBBINS,	H.
3496.	"	FOX,	W.A.
4282	<i>Lt</i>	<i>McQuirk</i>	<i>A (MM)</i>
3586	"	<i>Rawcliffe</i>	<i>SS (DCM)</i>

TRANSPORT SECTION.

2039.	DVR.	COMERFORD,	L.W.
2379.	"	GILLHAM,	A.J.
2335.	PTE.	BUSH,	F.D.
2853.	DVR.	ALLEN,	P.C.
4194.	"	CLSEN,	W.O.

HEADQUARTERS COY.

612.	SGT.	Mc GREGOR,	J.H.
315.	"	SCOTT,	W.H.
1368.	CPL.	MILLS,	E.R.
3526.	PTE.	MAHER,	A.
3688.	"	YARROLL,	R.W.
2474.	"	SELF,	A.J.
1882	<i>Sgt</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>GR</i>

"Y" COMPANY.

1953.	SGT.	JONES,	F.W. (DCM MM)
2360.	L/SGT.	DIXON,	J.S. (MM)
1928.	PTE.	FITZGERALD,	E.
3534.	"	MACLEAN,	P.A.
3470.	L/CPL.	BREW,	C.A.
3883.	PTE.	KEANE,	W.P.
2481.	SGT.	SMITH,	A.R.
2423.	CPL.	JOHNSON,	W.P.
2402.	PTE.	GREEN,	W.A.
102.	"	FARMER,	"
2321.	L/CPL.	SCHOFIELD,	A.P. (DCM)
1980	<i>Clt</i>	<i>MacKenzie</i>	<i>R (DCM)</i>
1609	<i>Pte</i>	<i>Tate</i>	<i>Wm.</i>

WALCOURT ARGUS

No. 3.

WALCOURT - Sunday, 2nd. February 1919.

Not registered for
transmission by post.

- THEATRICAL NOTABILITIES IN THE A.I.F. -

- DRYSDALE -

Of all those scintillant stars composing the "Green Diamonds" constellation, there is one who ever shines with irradiance, unsurpassed by Venus - one Drysdale. Bruce Drysdale is one of the few really lucky men I know, for not only has he been specially gifted with inimitable powers of humor and entertainment but he has as his better half, that very charming and talented Australian artiste - Phyllis Faye. Some people would like a few millions thrown in to satisfy their ideas of good luck, but Drysdale's luck would do me nicely.

Everyone knows of course, that Drysdale, before the war, made many successful appearances on the Fuller circuit with Stan McKay, and Ted Jasper in Panto, and on the Rickards circuit. For some time he appeared with his wife in many clever sketches and everyone has seen him as the Dame in such pantos, as "Mother Goose", "Bo-Peep", "Humpty-Dumpty" and lots of others.

In 1916, Drysdale left Australia for the war, and first hit Salisbury Plain where he was initiated into the mysterious wonders of the "bull-ring".

Later on, he joined the famous 17th. Bn. where he produced many original and practical poses in the primitive art of "proving it". Possibly these acrobatic performances reached the ears of the Staff Capt. (Capt. Johnson, M.C.) who, at that time, was attempting to form a Brigade Concert Party. Anyrate he sent for Drysdale and promised him £50 to start the show. A few days later, he handed Drysdale the sum of 70 francs and told him to hop in and get the business going, trusting, I suppose, that the 70 francs would be juggled in such a way as to bring £50 worth of "profs". At all events the show was started at Nieppe at Xmas 1917 and and right from the very start was a success, thanks mainly to Drysdale. He says that only a liberal rum issue saved the show from coming a crash more than once, which is a sound argument against temperance.

Drysdale is the producer for the "Green Diamonds" and we have all seen the excellent results of his work in this direction, although few know how seemingly insurmountable difficulties have been overcome and material and "profs" accrued in order to put on the best show possible. I have no hesitation in proclaiming Drysdale to be the funniest man on any stage. It is hard to pick and choose when such names as Robey and Tate are being considered but they fade away before the genius of Drysdale. His grotesque make-up helps him considerably but he has real bed-rock ability and knows how best to use it. He never fails to produce roars of laughter and the man who can successfully amuse the same people night after night - especially when they are Australian - is, without doubt, a front ranker. The cultivation of such an off-hand and natural manner would be an impossibility to any but the born comedian. Drysdale's knowledge of his art is very clearly shown by the excellence of the sketches and farces the "Green Diamonds" give (most of which he writes) and by the careful working out of such small details as the introduction of a French phrase or two or some little trick or mannerism. Then his voice is most expressive. Such a voice in any other man would need sand-papering, but in Drysdale, it only adds to the general effect of excellency. All this can be seen in any one of his numbers "The Toreador" for instance.

During his association with the "Green Diamonds" Drysdale has experienced many queer adventures. At St. Omer he had the gruesome task of digging out dead civilians from the debris of houses wrecked by Goths.

When the rapid advance from Villers-Brettonneux began, everyone forgot the 'Diamonds' and they had to push along as best they could. Whilst searching for the Brigade Drysdale arrived with all the party's 'props' at Bray. The only 'possie' procurable was the church which he promptly appropriated and in which he dumped all the gear. Next day whilst in the midst of his ablutions a padre appeared on the scene and calmly proceeded to carry on with a mass service, much to the embarrassment of Drysdale.



Later in the day an officer came round and "strafed" the 'Diamonds' for using a church as a billet despite the fact that Drysdale attempted to convince him that his properties were engineers' material and that his job was to guard the dump.

Perhaps Drysdale's fun and humor were never so acceptable as at Frise where the show opened in an old Hun stable captured by the 12th. En. a few days previously. His bright entertainment there did much to break the monotony of life in that blasted wilderness.

In conclusion, I wish L/Cpl. Drysdale the very best of luck and thank him for many a hearty laugh in the past. I hope the authorities will allow him to gratify his desire to gain a little experience on one of the big English Vaudeville circuits prior to his return. I am sure he would prove a splendid ad. for AUSTRALIA.

The Dramatic Critic.

"If I -----"

When I get back to Australia and draw my deferred pay, of course I can easily bust it up on the booze or at the races. But why do that? Is there anything in that sort of thing? It is money often earned at the risk of my life, so am I going to chuck it about as perhaps I would a big Tatts. prize?

Now, if I were a farmer, I could use my deferred pay to improve my holding, implements, house and stock. If I were a farm labourer, I could take up a Government farm or a share farm and would have a few notes in my roll to give me a fair start. Of course, if I knew all about farming it would be easy, but anyrate I could learn in the schools in England and Australia where the Government will pay me a living wage. I guess if I knew anything about horses and drays, I could buy a new turn-out for £50 and make a good living and soon own more. If I only knew anything about clearing and fencing, I could easily get contracts for this class of work. Why work for a boss? He must make something out of me. If I knew anything about business I could watch for a chance and hop in, because I know of several businesses, now flourishing concerns that were started on a few quid. If I happened to be some sort of a tradesman I could use my deferred pay to start small contracts, and in time, employ other men. I wasn't too windy when I bumped up against the Huns so surely I've got 'guts' enough to have a dinkum go at this. If I were going back to my old job, the Repatriation Department would see to it that I got a living wage, and I could invest my deferred pay in a house and get married. If I was only lucky enough to be an apprentice, I could invest my deferred pay because the Government guarantees them a full adult living wage. Then when I was ready I would either start for myself or invest in a house. Why pay rent? If I save my deferred pay I have something to offer May when I see her again, if she'll have me. Money talks. I remember once reading that Mr. Wandmaker, proprietor of the world's biggest stores said that his fortune was assured after he had saved his first £100 - which was the hardest job of the lot. Well Wandmaker is only a Yank - I am an Australian and if he could make a fortune from £100. what about me?

I know what I'll do. I'll go up and see the Battalion Education Officer and ask him to give me full details of what the Repatriation Dept. will do for me in Australia and also see if he can give me any good tips about investing my pay. If he can I'll write them for next week's Argus and kid the Editor to publish them.

A DIGGER.

(Who makes full acknowledgement to
(Lieut. Saunderson, 20th. En. for information
(contained above.)

- THE BELGIAN CONCERT. - (By our musical critic)

On Wednesday evening at 7'30 p.m. in the "Green Diamond" Hall in the presence of Colonel Lord, DSO, VD, C.deG., Lt.-Col. G.F. Murphy, CMG, DSO, a Belgian Concert Party whose visit was kindly arranged by the Y.M.C.A. was billed to give an entertainment. Unfortunately, owing to some mishap, only the orchestra of the party arrived, and they gallantly volunteered, at a somewhat late hour, to fill the gap caused by the non-appearance of the remainder.

After the usual noises of 'tuning up' the first number was started. Although most of my attention was occupied in a study of the beautiful ladies manipulating violins, I could not help noticing the queer performance of the flautist. I was at first under the impression that the weird noises he alternately produced first from a piccolo, then a flute, were in accordance with the best Belgian ideas of the interpretation of music, but this idea was dispelled when I caught sight of one of the ferocious frowns of displeasure directed at the well meaning 'tootler' by the conductor. The flautist displayed marvellous agility in changing over from flute to piccolo, and provided a good show on his own. In the third number - for me and my girl - the cornetist stood out from the others by reason of his vigorous and determined handling of his part, displaying these qualities throughout the evening. His efforts were somewhat marred by those of the flautist, who in changing over, missed 6 or 8 bars, and ran right of the course, but galloped triumphantly on again near the end of the piece, the whole thing ending with a great display of dash, brightness, and a good deal of harmony.

By the end of the fifth number some ignorant 'boors' in the audience who apparently did not appreciate musical pearls, were talking and laughing loudly, but the general effect was that of an obligato, so loudly and well did the musicians play. One of the ladies next attracted the entire attention of the audience by the excellence of a dainty little violin solo, and her high and charmingly shaven boots. It was rather unfortunate that she entered half a note sharp, but this in no wise marred the subsequent enthusiastic demand for an encore. I was enchanted by her second symphony, and the cut of her Brussels gown. She left the stage after her graceful little efforts amidst prolonged and thunderous applause.

In 'good-bye' which followed, the flautist gave further proof of his talent by negotiating some nasty corners in a most masterful way, and his hub-brake effect during the 'basso-pro-fundo' run of the long haired pianist, was most original and effective. The determined cornetist next gave a most excellent performance on some unknown gadget, being ably supported in the coda by the flautist, who helped to make more noise on a similar thing, which he had carefully camouflaged. Later the cornetist brought down the house with a patriotic song 'sauer-kraut' which told us how the Huns, well fed on sauer-kraut, marched out to lick the world, and of the crash they came after bumping the French, English, and no, not Americans, BELGIANS.

In the madelon and tinperary which followed the flautist varied his performance by playing in harmony with the others, and the pianist squirmed and frowned more than ever, so perhaps the previous interpretations which were much similar to the Egyptian, are the correct Belgian for the flute. Perhaps the best performance for the evening, was that of the cellist, who impassively saw the way throughout the evening, displaying great talent.

Tinperary concluded a most entertaining show, and we have to have the pleasure of another visit from this talented party soon, and we thank them for a most entertaining evening.

AVIS.

Hier soir pour le concert au Patronage, quelques uns seulement de la troupe Holge arrivaient. Le reste évidemment s'avait perdu en route. On voudrait notifier le public que les arrangements pour la soirée n'étaient pas faites par nous. Les Australiens sont desolés qu'il n'y avait pas autant d'artistes qu'on attendait.

- "BLUE'S" BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS -

(By the Saint unanointed)

Yea! woe is me, and I weepeth mightily. For it came to pass that I lay me down to cushie, but yea verily I slept not, for lo! une ben mademoiselle appeared before me, saying "Arise ye digger and promenade avec moi toote sweet" and as I looketh upon her I trembleth exceedingly, like unto him who hearth a whizz-bang passing. But I o'en obeyed the voice and followeth her bookoo wondering. And it came to pass she stoppeth before the door of an mayrong, bookoo grande; and she entereth therein, and turneth to me, saying "Ontree" - and I ontreed. And behold! great was the beauty thereof, and I praiseth her saying, "Bon! ah! tray bon". And upon the shelves there standeth veng blong, and I pointeth thereto, saying "Moi desoree kumsa" and she parlayeth unto me "ee moi digger, even vin blong will I give unto thee if thou wilt but worahip moi". And I kneeleth before her toot sweet saying

"Wee wee wee" with a great voice. And even as my arms were about her, a great pain troubled me and I awakened suddenly. And lo! un par bon Sargeon boothth me, saying "Arise ye blank malingerer, and filleth ye the dixies". And I getteth me up from my dreaming and dooeth bookoo fatigoo, whereat my spirit revolted and I crieth aloud with a sad voice saying "Yea verily blankety blankety blank" for truly is the sargeong par bon and the digger suffereth more than the C.O.'s wots of. AMEN.

(Contributed by Pte. J.E. Murray (H.Q.) who wins 20 Franc prize)

- SENSATIONAL ROBBERY.-

Vol.

A daring robbery was perpetrated in Walcourt on the night of Tuesday 18th. inst. when a beaucoun brigand forcibly entered the premises occupied by the Regimental Tailor in the Rue des Dry and removed breeches, service, pair 5 and jackets, service, 8. also overcoats, lined, fur, 1. property of the Tailor. The crime was committed between 9 o'clock at night and daylight and immediately on receipt of the news our special criminal investigator was despatched to the scene. It was evident that the brigands not only displayed much ingenuity, but great determination in their operation. A pane of glass in the front door had been broken and an attempt made to open it. Owing to the occupants having previously taken the precaution of nailing it up however, the desperadoes were foiled in this attempt. They next evidently turned their attention to the rear of the premises, and after scaling a wall by means of a door and fence, succeeding in forcing open a window in rear of the house.

As usual, the Police neglected the most obvious clues in their futile attempts to trace the marauders, and they saw nothing being done to measure the foot and finger prints in the snow, or to employ bloodhounds in tracking them down. It was left to our outside investigator to follow the case logically and he successfully followed a trail of blood from the house to this office. The offender has not yet been apprehended.

The Religious Editor.

SPORT -

The final match of the 5th. Brigade Competition, 18th. Bn. versus 20th. Bn. eventuated last Wednesday, 29th. and it provided a splendid exhibition of rugby. After a very fast and strenuous match the 18th. Bn. defeated the 20th. by 15 points to 3 points. Tries were secured for the winners by Smith (2) Sgt. Tom Russell (1) Pagger converted the three tries. Wills grounded the ball over the line for the losers. Jefferies, Donnelly and Thompson were as usual in fine form, whilst Smith as five-eighths played brilliantly. Russell was solid and his try, after a neat cut in, helped largely to destroy the moral of the 20th. backs. Johnson as full back merits any eulogy that might be heard on him. For the 20th. Bn. Wills, Dobbs, and Lieut. Cooke were the best out of a very good team. Winning this match made the 18th. Bn. premiers of the 5th. Brigade. The 18th. Bn. are also premiers of the 5th. Brigade in Soccer and Hockey.

C.Q.M.S. McMahon.

THE PARLIAMENT

The Walcourt Parliament has been dissolved, and general polling will take place on Friday 7th. inst. The 17th. Bn. will elect 9 members, the 18th. Bn. 9 members, 5th. F. Ambce. 4 members, T.M.'s & Bde. Details 3 members. Govt. Opposition and Independent parties will be formed. Nominations, backed by at least 5 seconders, and acceptances of same in writing must be left in the Bn. Education Office, addressed to the Chief Returning Officer (Capt. Walklate M.C.) by Thursday at 6 p.m. Writs are being issued for the following electorates - WOOLLOOMOOLOO - NORTH SYDNEY - DUBBO - GLEN INNES - ALEURY - COBAR - BATHURST - CANBERRA - PARRAMATTA - for the 18th. Battalion.

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW.

Why Padre KING does not wear "A"s? Why so many people have not yet seen the point of last week's ghost yarn? Whether the troops have 'nt noticed the notice on the Education Office? Who was the Q.M.S. who used a digger's bath and left them to empty the dirty water out? Whether Capt. Doyle has been elected Minister of Economics and if not, why not? Whether the prospective C.S.M. of X Coy. is taking over the reins of Venus on the departure of C.S.M. S----y.

PRINTED BY SGT. HANSEN & PUBLISHED AT 18th. BN. EDUCATION OFFICE.

87
EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.
Headquarters,
5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.



Application is hereby made that the German generator captured by 18th. Bn. in the Battle of AMIENS on 8th. August 1918 be sent to the War Museum SYDNEY, on the demobilisation of the A.I.F.

It is at present with Headquarters, 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. and supplies the electric light for the concert troupe.

The plate on the inside of the engine bears the following inscription:-

BEI BESTELLUNG VON ERSATZTEILEN 1st. STETS DIE GERÄTE
No. 842 ANZUGEBEN.

For purposes of identification and records the following description is appended - *(supplied by 4737 Pte Rosenberg I 2nd Pioneer Bn)*

German generator set - The set is mounted on springs attached to the axle of a special iron carriage which entirely encases the set. Attached to the carriage is a centre pole so that it can be removed from place to place by two mules.

The top portion of the carriage carries the petrol and oil tanks and radiator which are filled with their separate fluids through strainers from the top.

Between the oil tank and radiator at the top is a folding door which is opened to effect any repairs and for inspection of the top of the set.

The front and back portions are hung on hinges and are to be raised when the engine is running.

The engine and generator being mounted on springs attached to the axle of the carriage enables the outfit to be shifted from place to place with all fittings mounted without the slightest damage. Thus the set which is manufactured by the world renowned A.E.G. Coy. is designed specially for war work.

Description of the engine - The engine consists of 4 separate castings.-

(a) The bottom casting, which serves as a reservoir for oil.

This casting contains a false bottom made of copper and perforated with holes and is situated about 4" from the top of lower casting thus dividing the casting into an oil case proper and sump. The casting carries an oil indicator gauge and a plug is fitted at the bottom for the removal of oil.

At each end at the top the lower halves of the main and intermediate bearings are carried.

(b) The upper castings contain upper half of main and intermediate bearings.

Forms the platform for cylinder and valve guides. To this casting is attached the rotary oil pump, gauge and adjustment screw. This pump circulates oil through the main bearings of the motor and returns the oil to the pump, where the same oil is used over and over again. It also contains hole for lubrication by gravity fed to the crank chamber. At the back two large plugs which serve for inspection of crankshaft and admission of oil to the crank case. This casting also carries support for cooling fan bearings.

(c) The four cylinders form one casting which are held in position by six bolts screwed into the upper casting. They are water cooled.

Above each of the admissions and exhaust ports there is a sparking pin plug and compression or timing tap respectively.

(d) Castings which encloses the water jacket of the cylinders and carries the outlet pipe to radiator. This casting forms the support for the conduit which carries the high tension wires from distributor to sparking plugs. The valves are of the ordinary mushroom type and are the same size, admission to the left and exhaust on the right and are interchangeable.

The valves work in C.I. bushes attached to the casting of the cylinder. They are kept in place at the bottom by steel platforms which in turn are kept in place at the bottom by small steel wedges passing

through the valve stems. A plate is screwed from the cylinders to the cylinder platform this entirely enclosing the valve stems and springs.

The Pistons have three rings and are held in place by the gudgeon pin, which is screwed to the piston by a screwed key. The gudgeon pin is itself screwed between two cast bearings in the platform of the pistons.

Connecting Rods have bronze bearings at both ends.

Crankshaft is of the type for ignition in the order 1.2.4.3. and at either end is prolonged into the main shaft which has also bronze bearings.

Attached to the main shaft are; - the main cog of distribution into which is meshed an intermediary cog of $\frac{1}{2}$ No. of teeth this causing the intermediary shaft to ~~travel~~ travel at $\frac{1}{2}$ velocity of the motor itself.

A pinion on the intermediary shaft meshes with a level gear on the governor shafts this transmitting its velocity, the magneto is also driven from the governor shaft.

The Intermediate shaft of $\frac{1}{2}$ velocity rotates in two bronze bearings and has the valve cams mounted on it, it also drives the small centrifugal oil pump.

The Governor is of the ordinary centrifugal weight type, and acts on the quantity of the mixture, thus the machine is governed on the throttle.

The Magneto is of the ordinary high tension Bosh type.

The Carburetter is of the float principle with ordinary hand controlled air intake. The engine bears the following data:-

No.1071, Type S15, 4 Cylinders

8 Horsepower, and revolves at 1200 revs. per minute.

The Generator is of 3.9 Kilowatts capable of supplying 60 amperes at 65 volts continuously of direct current. It is of 6 poles and shunt wound.

It possesses only one bearing on the side farthest from the engine as it is directly coupled to the engine by means of a very light fly-wheel, the armature of the generator itself forming the main fly-wheel. The brushes of the generator are of Graphite. The switch-board is carried on the right side of the carriage, and contains volt and ammeter, Single pole switch and main cut-outs. On this is also mounted the magneto switch and switch for light on the machine itself.

Geo. B. Murphy

Lieut-Colonel
Commanding 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

87
SEVENTEENTH/EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

ADDENDUM TO 17th/18th. BATTALION ORDER No. 55.
(Reference Para. 15)



Battalion Headquarters,
5th. February 1919.

Route for Transport will be altered to CHASTRES - along CHASTRES-
COMZEE Road to South of figure 8 thence North through GOURDINNE -
NALINNES - JAMICHELX.
Starting Point Main WALCOURT-CHASTRES Road South of first O in
TOMBOIS
Time 1000.

Captain
Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Battalion Headquarters,
5th. February 1919.

Reference Map: NAMUR 8. 1/100000

1. The 17th/18th. Battalion will move from the present area to MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL on 6th. inst., personnel by train, transport by road.
2. Entraining station WALCOURT. - Detraining Station BOMEREE.
3. Capt. J.B. LANE, D.S.O. will act as Entraining Officer: 2/Lieut. R. McFadden will act as Asst. Entraining Officer and report to Capt. LANE with 17th. Bn. entraining state at 18th. Bn. Officer's Mess at 0910 on 6th. inst. Entraining state of "Y", "X", & H.Q. Coys. will reach B.O.R. by 0830 6th. inst.
4. 18th. Battalion (marching independently by Coys.) will assemble in railway yard to right of gate at 0950 6th. inst. - 17th. Battalion will assemble in railway yard to left of gate at 0955.
5. Greasecoats will be worn. Three blankets per man will be carried.
6. Sick parade will be at 0800 on 6th. inst.
7. Billeting parties have proceeded - guides will meet Battalion at the detraining station.
8. Billets, stables & Transport Lines will be left in a clean and satisfactory condition. A certificate to this effect from 17th. Bn., "X" Coy., "Y" Coy., H.Q. Coy., 18th. Bn. T.O., will reach 18th. B.O.R. by 1800 on 6th. inst.
9. Officers kits will be stacked at Q.M. Store of 17th. & 18th. Bns. respectively by 0745 on 6th. inst.
10. All latrine seats will be dismantled by 0800, 6th. inst. - those from the Chateau will be stacked opposite Q.M. Store.
11. All trench shelters, picks and shovels (except one pick and shovel per kitchen) will be returned to Q.M. Store by 0800, 6th. inst.
12. Billets will be inspected immediately after departure. "K", "Q", "X" & "Y" Coys. will each detail two and H.Q. Coy. one other rank who will act as a rear party. These will follow on by mid-day train.
13. The Guard on WALCOURT station is remaining till further orders. The Q.M. will supply them with 48 hours rations.
14. "X" Coy. will detail an officer to take charge of Guard as from 0900 6th. inst. until the move is complete.
15. Transport is proceeding under Capt. H.O. BUSBY, 17th. Bn. in order of 20th. Bn., 17/18th. Bn., 5th. Fld. Amb., Bde. H.Q., and 5th. A.L.T.M. Bty. Head of column to pass Cross roads East of PRY and just West of T in TOMBAIS at 1000 6th. inst. Distances of 100 yards between unit's Tpt. and 25 yards between each section of 6 vehicles. Route - THY-le-CHATEAU - WALLINES - JAMICULX.
16. Watches will be synchronised at 2000 6th. inst.
17. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Macnam
 Captain
 Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Post to overleaf



Distribution.

- No. 1. - "X" Company.
- 2. - "Y" Company.
- 3. - H.Q. Company.

- 4. - The 17th/18th Battalion will move from the present position to the new position on 6th inst. by train.
- 5. - T.O. 17th/18th Bn.
- 6/9. - 17th Bn.
- 10. - 17th Bn.
- 11/13. - War Diary.
- 14. - 17th Bn. (for information)

17th Battalion (working independently by Coy.) will assemble in railway yard to left of gate at 0800 6th inst. - 17th Battalion will assemble in railway yard to left of gate at 0800.

Operations will be carried. Three platoons per day will be carried. Sick parties will be at 0800 on 6th inst.

17th Battalion have proceeded - guides will meet Battalion at the 17th inst.

17th Battalion will be left in a clean and satisfactory condition. 17th Battalion will be left in a clean and satisfactory condition. 17th Battalion will be left in a clean and satisfactory condition.

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Chambers

Antony Campbell

DEESWEET DESPATCH

"with which is incorporated the 'WALCOURT ARGUS'"

No. 4.

MONTIGNY - Sunday, 9th. February 1919.

(Not registered for
transmission by post.)

- EDITORIAL -

It is not often that we have a word to say, but at the present juncture, perhaps our readers will be interested to know a few of the plans and aspirations of this paper. Figures, doubtless, are dry, but damned convincing so that we quote our circulation figures (which have not been verified by our auditors) as striking illustration of the progress of this paper. Of our first issue 25 copies were printed, of our second 40, and our third no less than 50! This week the phenomenal circulation of 51 has been reached. Our paper reaches everyone, from the Corps Commander to the plain "diggers" read it!! These facts and figures speak for themselves. What a different story to the miserable one our reptile contemporary "The Waiting Times" would be forced to tell were it possible to persuade it to hop up and relate the true history of its growth and progress. We have heard of the Times but never seen it. although, regularly, this paper despatches a copy of its current issue to the Editor. Doubtless, his miserable paper is afraid to face the world or perhaps his Fox(y) nature prevents him from producing his light from beneath his Bushell. However, we strongly suspect that he has neither light, Bushell, or any semblance of a paper worthy of the name, and we challenge him to produce authenticated proofs of any such progress as that of our own paper noted above, and dare him to submit a copy of his inglorious rubbish for our perusal.

It is hoped that, before long, this paper will be printed in such quantities as to enable all to obtain a personal copy. A small charge, say twenty or thirty centimes, would cover the working expenses, and purchasers would have the satisfaction of owning a copy of the biggest and most progressive regimental paper in the Brigade. Owing to our move from WALCOURT the name of "Walcourt Argus" is no longer appropriate, and in future this paper will be known as the "DEESWEET DESPATCH".

We thank our readers for their solid and hearty support in the past and confidently expect a continuance of this in the future. We also thank our numerous contributors for the very excellent copy which regularly fills our columns.

The Editor.

- "If I -----" -

I told you last week that I intended having a yarn with the Bn.E.O. about my deferred pay, and so I went along to see him. I found he could tell me all about Repatriation and Demobilisation and I'm going to get my cobbler Bill to go along and see him at his office, 62 Rue des Marchiennes.

The first thing he told me was to hang on to every quid I could, because the money market, not only in Australia, but all over the world, is very 'tight'. For the next 4 or 5 years it won't be any too easy to save money, even in Australia, so I'm going to be careful with what I've got. It costs seven quid a year for £100 to get money on, say, a mortgage, as against 4½ before the war. That's a bit of a slug. Well I know a bit more now than I did before seeing the world and I want to use my increased confidence and knowledge to the very best advantage.

I found out that the Government in New South Wales will advance me £500 to start a farm, and see that I get all the stock, implements, seed and so on, that I want. They will also help me to sell what I grow. I can repay the £500 gradually. There is plenty of good land available and every assistance will be given. I'm going to the Arithmetic class in the room next to the Cafe Casino so that I will be able to see no one rooks me for my good head when I'm dealing with business people.

Now, about a house. I could have one built for about £525 on a block of land costing about £125. To rent a house of that sort would cost me about 25/- a week. If I paid it off at that rate I would own the 'joins' in 11 years and 1 month. The house would have 4 rooms, bathroom, kitchen, scullery,

and all conveniences and the job would be first class throughout. Now, I could pay my £100 deferred pay as a deposit and borrow £550 from a Building Society, Government Savings Bank, or the Repatriation Fund at 5% interest. At the end of the first year I would have paid £65. Of this £26-15-10 went in interest, and £38-4-2 off the house. By gum leaves, that seems a big slug for interest, doesn't it? But come to think of it, it's not so bad as it seems at first. If I paid rent the whole £65 would have gone west, but I have saved the £38-4-2. Then, of course, every year, I would pay off a bit more of the loan, and the interest would get less and less. For the 10th year only £5-4-11 would go in interest and £54-15-1 off the loan leaving only £67-5-10 to pay off. Another 13 months and the house would be mine! Just think of that. I'll only be 35 then and no rent to pay and will have bought a house of my own without noticing it. The rates, taxes, insurance would not cost more than £10 and I could easily manage that. I spend that much now on cigarettes, about 6d a day. Well, at that, I think I will write to sweet to May and see if she'll wait for me. I haven't seen her for a few years, but I know she's a dinkum. Nothing like hopping in for my cut, just to make sure none of the returned Jacks go pitching a yarn. I may as well make every preparation to settle down permanently now and I can't do that without May, so here goes.

A Digger.

(Who makes full acknowledgment to Lieut. (Saunderson, 20th.Bn. for information above.)

- "BOYS OF THE FIFTH BRIGADE" -

In memory of the fallen.

When your fighting days are over, and your laurels you have won,
There are many friends will grip your hand and say to you "well done":
You'll be proud to feel you've done your bit and giv'n a helping hand,
But oft you'll think of mates who lay 'neath the soil of "No Man's land":
You can tell your friends when you return of the history men have made,
For braver lads ne'er fought a fight than the "Boys of the Fifth Brigade".

Gallipoli, Flanders and Bullecourt, that's where they made their name,
Australia's proud of the feats they've done; the world rings out their fame:
Their country's honour they've preserved, they fought to keep her free,
And save her from a foreign power, from shame and misery:
Through shot and shell they fought their way, of death they weren't afraid,
They've done their part, and nobly too, the "Boys of the Fifth Brigade".

And when at last you're safe at home amidst your kith and kin,
You'll tell them of the hardships, and the battles you've been in.
And your face will glow with pride though your heart will saddened be,
As you tell about your comrades lying far across the sea:
How they fought and won and died, and the courage they displayed,
They've done their share and gone before, those "Boys of the Fifth Brigade".

Those of us who are left behind should keep their memory green,
For had they not fought for freedom where now would we have been.
No land could we have called our own had the Kaiser had his say,
And the liberties we now enjoy, like mist would pass away;
Remember, men of Australia, the price those boys have paid,
They gave their all for you and me, those "Boys of the Fifth Brigade."

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E.R.Mills.

- TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS. -

Whilst the 5th Brigade was travelling by train last Thursday from WALCOURT to BOMEREE, those who were looking that way were horrified to see a man - Pte. C.W. Mercer, 18th.Bn. who had been running along beside a truck, suddenly stumble, then disappear bodily from view. Two or three other men at once jumped from the train and hauled him out of the hole into which he had fallen and laid the unfortunate fellow on the snow. He presented a ghastly spectacle owing to the enormous quantity of blood which streamed from a fearful laceration in his leg. Both bones of the left leg were severely fractured, and the man was suffering greatly with shock. The train was

stoned, and medical and other assistance promptly despatched to the scene of the accident, which was about 300 yards from the Charleroi end of the big tunnel near HAM-sur-HEURE. The accident was a result of the man suddenly being precipitated into a pit 3 or 4 feet deep, which was hidden by a crust of snow. It is hoped that this will serve as a warning to those who fail to look before leaping. We trust the victim will quickly recover, and not, as is rumored, lose his leg.

Later: Pte. Mercer died at 20th.C.C.S. some time last night.

On Friday, whilst engaged in fixing a telephone line outside the B.O.R. a member of the 18th.En. slipped and fell, severely bruising his forehead, and, it is thought broke his right forearm. Cant.C.G.Templeman, A.A.M.C. rendered first aid and the sufferer was removed to hospital by the 5th.Field Ambulance.

Yesterday, in the Rue des Marchiennes, near the tram terminus, a young mademoiselle, whose name we are not at liberty to publish, slipped on the ice covering the kerb and crashed heavily to the prone position. The accident, painful as it was, to the victim, afforded our reporter an excellent opportunity of studying the beauty of Belgian lace edgings, and of making a quick comparison between French and Belgian garters. An Australian officer gallantly went to the rescue and helped the young lady to regain the stand at ease position.

On Saturday evening about 6'30 p.m. two English soldiers, in attempting to avoid a motor car, were knocked down by a tram in Marchienne au Pont and horribly mangled. One of the unfortunately men was killed instantly, his brains being crushed out, and the other so severely lacerated that no hope of his recovery was held at the time we went to press. The two men were to have returned to England on Sunday for demobilisation.

THEATRICAL NOTABILITIES

- McGOWAN.

The appearance of Lance McGowan on the stage of the Green Diamonds is always the signal for prolonged and hearty applause. He has been associated with the Green Diamonds since their inception and has earned a reputation as a singer second to none of any appearing in the A.I.F. Concert Parties.

Contrary to general belief, McGowan has never been professionally associated with the stage, but, in his capacity of accountant with the Bank of N.S.W. he has travelled a great deal in various parts of Australia (particularly in the Northern Rivers Districts) and frequently appeared in amateur dramatic productions. He has played leads in many comic operas such as "The Country Girl", "Miss Hook of Holland", "Florodora", and all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Although McGowan has been the winner of the Baritone Championship of Queensland, he has a most exceptional range and has competed frequently amongst the Basses in Eisteddfods etc. winning a competition in that class. He has also sung at many concerts and in oratorios. McGowan was a member of the Lismore Philharmonic Society - the first outside Sydney to produce the "Messiah" and has sung in that and "Elijah" as Bass soloist, with Mme. Slanoffski as Soprano.

McGowan left Sydney with reinforcements of the 18th.Battalion in 1916 and proceeded to Rolleston. There he joined the well known KKKK's as a soloist. Later, he joined the 18th.En. in France and at the end of 1917 transferred to the Green Diamonds on their formation.

There is no more popular member of the Green Diamonds than "Mac". A visit at any time will prove this. The reason is that he most ably meets the national Australian demand for good music and interprets many of the best old favourites sympathetically and well. Every member almost of the A.I.F. sings, even if he finds it necessary to imbibe much point blank in order to produce the mood best suited for his efforts in this direction. Australians will sing. But perhaps one in ten sings well, one in a thousand very well, about 10 of the A.I.F. sing excellently. McGowan is one of the 10. His full, resonant voice, modulated in the way only possible to a trained singer, has delighted thousands, and McGowan is never allowed to go off without complying with the demand for an encore. Like "Tiki's" dancing, or Drysdale's humor, Mac's singing is a principal feature of the Diamonds Show and we would greatly miss his absence from their programme. As an actor, McGowan's work is quite

as good as his singing, and he frequently takes part in the sketches and forces the Diamonds put on. We would particularly like to compliment him on his performances in the part of a policeman, and trust that, if he ever does join the force, he won't be quite so stern and ferocious, or if so, that we don't strike him if we should ever require striking by a policeman.

In conclusion, we would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Pte. McGowan and hope we will often be charmed by the sound of his beautiful voice in the future.

The Dramatic Critic.

- THE WAY WE WOO. -

"Bon swar, mam'zelle. Woo! Bookoo fra":
 Er - commentally voo."
 A pause, and then "Well, donner moi",
 Vin blong and bookoo too."
 The "digger" lights his issue fag
 Then starts again to woo:-
 "Voo bon mam'zelle! ah'jee tres bon
 "Moi tray deservée voo.
 Compres! mam'zelle! Voo promenade
 Avec moi, ses-war - toot-sweet?
 Voo fat-i-goo! -- San feiry ann!
 No promenade troon vete!
 No! Moi no deserve more vin blong.
 Vin blong na bon" (A pause,
 The digger hums a loving song:
 The girl gives no applause.)
 "Voo no desere to promenade?
 He makes a final try
 With his best French - "Ah! Zher voo zair" -
 The girl makes no reply.
 "Voo bookoo flashe avec moi?
 Pa quare voo cumsa? Eh?
 Beccuse moi no desere vin blong!
 So that's your little way!!
 You only want my 'dough' it seems,
 I've been a 'mug' I see.
 Tee! Partee maittinang. Bon swar
 I no returnee! Bon noo-ee".

The Mug.

- THE PARLIAMENT -

The 17th. & 20th. Bns. are sending 6 members each to the new "Dinkum Parliament" and nominations close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday next. Polling will take place on Thursday from 1 to 3 and the elected members will meet in the Cinema Hall (next Church) at 2 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday next at 7 p.m. the new members will take their seat in the new Parliament House, Cinema Hall, next to Church. Same conditions as announced in our last issue.

- WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW. -

Is it a fact that Padre King pinched Padre Clune's 'A's.?
 Which member of the 18th. Bn. got married in Walcourt?
 How they got the boy down who climbed a beanstalk that grew up faster than the boy could climb down and so fast that an axeman couldn't hit it in the same place twice?
 Why many of the female population of Walcourt were in tears last Thursday?
 Who'll buy the soap for all the girls in Walcourt now the 18th. Battalion's gone away?
 Why the boss-greasy hasn't gone on draft yet?
 When will the Kelly gang show again?
 Where the mail has got to lately?

CLASSES. Classes are now being held in the room next to Cafe Casino, in the following subjects:- LETTER WRITING, ELEMENTARY & ADVANCED ARITHMETIC, SHORTHAND, COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY (lectures) and ELEMENTARY FRENCH. Full particulars are available at Bn. Education Office, next B.O.R. or at Company Orderly Rooms. Hop-in and get rid of that tired, fed-up feeling by exercising your brain a little. It needs it.

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18th. BATTALION No. 6/F/19

DEESWEEP DESPATCH

No.5.

MONTIGNY - Sunday, 16th. February 1919. (Not registered for transmission by post.)

- THEATRICAL CELEBRITIES - "Martin" -

These fatuous wowsers who viewed with horror the introduction of 'ragtime' and its accompanying dances, and predicted a transient popularity for the new "craze" must now be sadly disappointed. After 6 or 8 years, ragtime is just as popular as at its introduction, and no concert party may be considered complete without a "rag" specialist.

The "Green Diamonds" are fortunate indeed in securing the services of Sgt. Frank MARTIN as a "ragger", because he not only sings and dances excellently, but has the benefit of long professional experience on the stage prior to enlistment in the A.I.F. At 9 years of age Martin made his first bow to the public in a Pollard & Hall Juvenile Opera Company and he has been on the boards ever since.

Martin has filled engagements on the Rickards, McIntosh, and Brennan Fuller circuits and has toured Australia putting on songs, dances, rags, etc. For some time he appeared by himself, but later was joined by a lady partner, Miss Irene Stewart. Later on, he was with a combination known as the "Dancing Sparks", his two partners being late members of Hugo's Minstrels. Most people will be surprised to learn that Martin is a self-taught dancer, and he has mastered all his intricate "fake" dances entirely unassisted.

In early 1916, Martin left Sydney with reinforcements for the 17th. Bn., passed his native city of Melbourne and proceeded to Rostown. There he went through the usual instruction in military science, and later, passed on to France, where he made the acquaintance of the Hun. This was not Martin's first experience in a foreign country, as he had previously travelled India and China with a Pollard & Hall Opera Company.

With the Green Diamonds Martin has given evidence of great versatility and talent. He lets us have all the latest "rags", topical songs, etc. and frequently appears with Jack Risdon in songs and patter. His dances are particularly popular and clever and are always loudly applauded. As a singer, Martin is able to completely fill the largest hall with a clear, ringing voice, ideally suited for the strenuous work of "rag" singing. He pays careful attention to expression, and does not make the mistake common to many less perfect artists of overdoing the play of hands, feet and limbs during a "rag". Perhaps nothing is more likely to kill ragtime than the grotesque wild contortions some ragers imagine to be necessary as an accompaniment. Martin relies on fewer, simpler and less exaggerated gestures than the usual exponent, and is, consequently, much more effective.

Martin often takes a leading part in the sketches and farces which the Diamonds feature, and he always displays the greatest ability and confidence in these. He is an invaluable member of the Party, and we wish him every success.

The Dramatic Critic.

- WHAT IS BEING DONE. -

Extract from Sydney "Sunday Times" 3/11/18. :-

A returned soldier writes "I left in a Railway tram at 5 p.m. on Friday evening a parcel containing new clothing of the value of £2-12-3, and the loss is very severe for me as I am being re-trained by the Repatriation Department, and have only my sustenance allowance. I suffer from a bad memory, the result of active service, and that's how I came to leave the parcel in the tram".

(which shows that it is not all beer and billiards for returned soldiers (in Australia, and that the Government is assisting 'dinkum' cases who (need it.)

- "GIVE US THIS DAY --" -

A certain well known Sgt. of this Bn. had the good fortune to be billeted in Montigny with a family of somewhat strict Protestants. The day or so after arrival, the good lady of the house requested the gallant Sgt. to attend family prayers. Although not possessing any marked religious tendencies, the Sgt. was very keen to oblige such hospitable people and complied. A hymn was sung and various portions of scripture read by members of the family. Then, much to the embarrassment of the Sgt., the good Madam called on him to kneel and pray. Having naturally an obliging disposition, and, perhaps, being swayed by the personal charms of the fair lady the Sgt. consented to offer up a short petition, and reverently (if irreligiously) knelt. Right in the midst of his devotions several other Sgts. burst into the room. The unfortunate Sgt. who was caught in the act, attempted to explain things away by saying that he had been praying for bread (there had been a very small issue for 2 preceding days) and strongly resented the base insinuation that he had been trying to "work his nut in". He has not attended family prayers since.

The Religious Editor.

- SPORTING - RUGBY -

A rugby match, No.1 Brigade team versus No.2 Brigade team, was played on the afternoon of Saturday, 15th inst., resulting in a win for No.1 team by 6 to nil. This is the first game played for the last 2 or 3 weeks and it was evident most of the players had lost a little form. The ground was very muddy but the weather was excellent. Brennan of the 5th T.M. Battery played brilliantly throughout the game, and showed the spectators how a "half" should play.

By "Rugger"

- WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW -

Who had the honour in WALSLEY of having a calf named after him and why?
 Why the C.S.U. has no funds?
 That five diggers and five ladies were doing near the Cross-roads at the electric tram terminus about 8 p.m. on Wednesday night?
 What the R.S.M. said when a fellow presented a revolver at his head in BRUSSELS?
 Why the lady threw a brick at the digger in the Rue de la Plume at 7'15 on Friday evening?
 Why a certain 'Lance Jack' regularly promenades with an English-speaking Belgian girl towards MARCHIENNE?

- REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION -

We are officially informed that the amount of luggage which may be taken by wives of soldiers in the A.I.F. going to Australia is as follows:-

First Class Passengers	40 Cubic feet.
Second Class Passengers	30 Cubic feet.
Third Class Passengers	20 Cubic feet.

(20 Cubic feet are equal to three ordinary size cabin trunks)

Any excess of these quantities must be arranged with the Shipping Company and will be charged for at the rate of 5/- per Cubic foot.

- DINKUM PARLIAMENT -

The first sitting of the first session of the Dinkum Parliament was held at 7 p.m. last night in the Cinema Hall MONTIGNY when the Government introduced a Bill to abolish Sale, Importation or Manufacture of Alcoholic Liquors. Cpl. FOX occupied the Speaker's chair. In introducing the Bill the Chief Secretary (Pte. Greville) drew attention to the fact that the Bill was a broad act and not class legislation. He said that those who were thrown out of work by the introduction of the measure would be given employment in the new industry the Government proposed to establish. This wiped out the argument which had been put up in opposition to progress for ages viz:- What will be done with the unemployed?

It was necessary for New South Wales to have every pound and every atom of energy behind her when participating in the new struggle for trade supremacy and the Bill would help this. In 1914 £1530000 were wasted in N.S.W. on the luxury of alcohol and this money could have been used to begin new industries. No compensation would be paid to brewers and hotel keepers because

they had already, in the past, made fortunes from the trade and they would be given a chance, and assistance, to enter new industries. The moral standpoint must be considered. Records of Police Court convictions in N.S.W. showed that 40% of criminals were first convicted for drunkenness.

The Leader of the Opposition (Lieut. Perryman) said that a tendency to drastic measures was always to be deplored. The people wanted reduction and not prohibition, which was an insult to man's intelligence. What of the great loss of revenue, at a time when every penny was needed? Australia was a producer of raw materials, and did not require any new industries. The adoption of the Bill would result in an enormous increase in taxation, and would mean industrial unrest and upheaval. The Labor viewpoint must be taken into consideration. To take away the employment of highly skilled workers, and leave them to be labourers would result in a revolution. It was direct, barefaced robbery to take away the business of respectable citizens, and give them no compensation, and this would never be tolerated. Of course, it was a well known fact that the weakling always went to the wall, but this was no argument in favour of prohibition. In prohibition areas, it was a well known fact that more cases of, and prosecutions for, drunkenness occurred. The Government, in order to hide its inefficiency and past inactivity, produced the Bill merely as a camouflage. If we were to ruthlessly pluck out and destroy everything that annoyed us, where would we get to? Why pick on drink? The people cried for reform, and reform they would have, but never by the adoption of Prussian methods. He condemned the Bill as a measure which adopted the policy of "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face", and as one which sought to convert the people into a race of "wowers". It was madness to attempt to destroy a thing which was part and parcel of our social system, and was most certainly not an idea for a Broad-minded Government. What the Govt. should do, was to introduce a law to punish the drunkard and the man who sold him too much alcohol. He then ridiculed the idea of establishing new industries which would without doubt prove to be the White Elephants the State Bakeries, Brick works etc. were, and only result in increased taxation. It could be more than foolish to get rid of the source of supply of \$1530000 revenue. The Hon. Member resumed his seat amid loud applause.

The Premier (Cpl. Murray) next spoke.

He said that the Govt. was attacking an army of vice and misery and was going to smash through the barrage of dud words interposed by the Opposition. The drink traffic was a tax on the souls and health of the people, and the vampire which sucked the life-blood of a country. Much had been said about the labour question. What was the result of the labour of brewers and hotel keepers? Vice and misery. The Govt. no longer intended some men to live and fatten on the blood of their weaker brethren. No one would question the right of one man to prevent another from committing a murder, and no one should try to prevent the Govt. from preventing some men ruining others, mentally, morally and physically. The idea that Australia did not need new industries was absurd. The foolishness of sending Australian wool to England, there to be made into cloth, then to carry it back again, was very evident. He effectively dealt with the miseries caused in many homes by the indulgence in drink of one or both parents and instanced the pitiable plight of little children who cried for bread, which was not forthcoming, because the parent's money had gone in drink. Medical testimony declared that alcohol was responsible for misery and disease. The drink curse was rotting away the country like gangrene and like it had to be dealt with by complete cutting out. (Loud applause)

The Hon. Member for Glen Innes (Lieut. Sanderson) said that he had been elected on a liberty ticket and could not countenance a Bill savouring of Prussianism. He said that it was impossible to make a people good by a legislation. It was not to say that the race had deteriorated - the war has disproved that theory - and people had been drinking for centuries. He pleaded for the liberty of the subject. Alcohol was a natural product, and, therefore, was intended for man's use. He pointed out the fact that the Govt. had made a great amount of money from alcohol. The whole policy of the Govt. was a negative, dog-in-the-manger one. The working man had a right to his glass of beer - it had not harmed him in the past. All that was needed was education - teach a man how to drink.

The Hon. Member for Gobarr (Sgt. Johnson) alleged that the Opposition had advanced no facts - merely wild talk. The action of the Govt. was drastic, certainly, but so was that of alcohol. When the Hun advanced through Belgium, and found cellars full of alcohol, diabolical and fiendish outrages resulted. The loss of revenue would be more than balanced by the productivity of the new industries which would be established. Liquor was at the root of most labour agitations. In U.S.A. alcohol was prohibited and there had been no

~~terrible results.~~ If alcohol was good and right for a man to take, it was good for a woman - for wives, sisters, daughters. The rum issue in the Army produced a certain amount of Dutch courage, but many of the best soldiers were total abstainers.

The Hon. Member for La Perouse (Cpl. Roughley) said that beer was a national essential, necessary for the health and material welfare of the people. There should be plenty of free, good beer everywhere - on the tram, street corners, and laid on to every house. It was impossible to exist without beer (Laughter) The best workers were the biggest drinkers, and beer was the only thing in life worth living for. Had the beer supply of Germany been greater than that of the Allies, it was certain that Germany would have won the war. Beer had been the financial salvation of France. Let there be beer, beer, beer everywhere. (Thunderous applause)

The Hon. Member for Cooloocooloo (Lieut. Poole) ridiculed the statements of the Hon. Member for La Perouse and made several uncomplimentary remarks about the sanity of the electors of La Perouse. He pointed out the fact that the work and health of the A.I.F. was just as good when pure luscious oranges were issued in lieu of rum. If alcohol was a natural product, it was also poison, and our weaker brethren must be prevented from swallowing it. Australians drank less alcohol than Englishmen, and consequently were bigger and brawnier. If they drank none at all, they would soon develop a race of giants.

The Leader of the Opposition next spoke in reply. He denounced the Govt. as being shameless double-dealers elected on a free beer ticket, and then attempting to prohibit it. Such men were not worthy of the country's confidence, he claimed. The great evil was not alcohol, but the red tape supplied by the Govt. When a prohibition measure was proposed in America, the workers downed tools in protest. Worse things might result in Australia. Beer was the only thing which kept a working man going.

In reply, the Premier (Cpl. Murray) said that the Opposition were rather premature with their no-confidence talk. The Govt. were not traitors, but politicians. They had been wise enough, within a few days, to see the evils of the drink traffic. Alcohol had wiped out the Black population of Australia. Judging by the remarks made by Hon. Members on the Opposition side he was agreed, with them, that an Education Bill certainly was needed - badly (Cheers)

A vote of the stranger's gallery was then taken and the Bill rejected by a majority of one. Consequently the Govt. was dissolved and the Leader of the Opposition asked to form a new one.

The House was adjourned at 8'30 p.m. until Wednesday at 7 p.m. when the new Government will introduce their Bill for the taxation of bachelors.

- EDITORIAL -

We are not surprised to find that our reptile contemporary, the "Waiting Times" (the so-called "paper" of the 17th.Bn.) has been unable to make any effective reply to our comments of last week. It has reached our ears, however, that its Editor, stung by our remarks, has prepared an article derogatory to the good name of this paper and its Editor. We would scorn the base slanders of such an insignificant organ were its poisonous inanities merely a personal attack on the unblemished honor of the "Deerfoot" Editor. But it appears that it is our paper which this viperous person is attacking, and, in doing so, he attacks not only it, but the 18th.Bn. This forces us to view this scurrilous attack in a different light. The honour of the Bn. is at stake. We do not bluster or even threaten - that is not our way. We do not lower ourselves to making low, dirty, personal attacks via medium of our columns. We remember that we belong to THE Battalion - the immortal 18th. We merely state what we will do in the event of the Editor of the "Waiting Times" having the temerity, after this public warning, to publish his loose canards. We will despatch our runner, 'foot post' to him, with a written message to the effect that the "Times" Editor is a low, ungentlemanly fellow, and demand an instant and complete apology. Should this not be forthcoming, we will deem it to be our painful duty to personally visit him and publicly chastise him. We sincerely trust this will serve as a final warning.

The Editor.

- SOME CULLED THOUGHTS -

The man who goes straight home, goes home straight.
 There is no road to Oro, perfect bliss for two, a small boy's right, a lover's privilege, a hypocrite's mask, a young girl's faith, a married woman's love, and an old maid's charity.

are called thoughts. (cont.)

absolutely uncalled for - the old maid.

Waste not, want not: when you see a waist just put your arm round it.
Mind your own business, and, in time, you'll have a business of your own
to mind.

Man proposes, woman disposes.

The Literary Editor.

- THE VALUE OF WEIR -

O mortal man, who livest here by toil,
Do not complain of this thy hard estate;
That like an onnet thou must ever roll
Is a sad sentence of an ancient date;
And, certes, there is for it reason great,
For, though sometimes it makes thee weep and wail,
And curse thy stars, and early drudge and late.
Withouten that would come a heavier bale -
Loose life, unruly passions, and diseases pale.

THOMPSON - "Castle of Indolence".

TEN STANDING ORDERS FOR BRITISH INFANTRY IN FRANCE
from a private of the Glosters.

1. The Colonel is the only Boss, thou shalt have no other Bosses but him.
2. But thou shalt make unto thyself many graven images of officers who fly in the Heavens above; of Staff Officers who on the earth beneath, and of submarine officers who are in the waters under the Earth; thou shalt stand up and salute them. For the C.O., thy Boss, will visit with Field Punishment unto the 1st. & 2nd. degree on those that salute not, and shower stripes on those who salute and obey his orders.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Adjutant in vain, for the C.O. will not hold him guiltless who taketh the Adjutant's name in vain.
4. Remember thou shalt not rest on the Sabbath Day: six days shalt thou labour, and the 7th. is the day of the C.O.E.: on it thou shalt do all manner of work, thou and thy officers, thy non-commissioned officers, the sanitary men, and the Kitcheners' Army who are in thy trench (for instruction).
5. Honour the Army Staff that thy days may be long in the Corps Reserve, where one day they may send thee.
6. Thou shalt kill only Huns, slugs, lice, rats, chads, and other vermin which frequent dug-outs.
7. Thou shalt not adulterate the section's rum issue.
8. Thou shalt not steal or at any rate be found out.
9. Thou shalt not bare false witness in the Orderly Room.
10. Thou shalt not covet the A.S.O.'s job, thou shalt not covet the A.S.O.'s pay, nor his motors, nor his wagons, nor his tents, nor his billets, nor his horses, nor his asses, nor any other cushy thing that is his.

- THE 18th. BATTALION. -

Few people with the Bn. at present really know very much of its history, and the purpose of the writer (who is indebted to Lt-Col. Murphy, C.M.G., D.S.O. and Major Robertson, M.C. for most of his information) is to touch, however slightly, on all the principal moves and actions in which the Bn. has participated, and to mention a few of its honours. It is hoped these articles will prove of interest to all, in view of the fact that we have been privileged to serve with the best and most glorious Battalion in the A.I.F. Also, it will enable us to trot out the facts that the other chap back in Aussie will want to know when we tell him the 18th. was the best battalion - he is sure to think his was.

The Latin motto of the 18th. means "Hand on the torch of the legion" and in the past, this has been done by the 'old hands'. Unfortunately, there are few with the Bn. now who have been with it much over two years and fewer still who have been right through, and the writer hopes that his articles will fill this gap.

Originally, it was intended that the first 20000 were to go to England for training, then across to France. At that time, the only leading military critics who thought the war would last much longer than Xmas 1914 were Earl Kitchener and Marshal Foch. The events following the Battle of the Marne, and the failure of the Navy to reduce the Cardanellas Forts by bombardment, convinced our leaders that the struggle was going to be prolonged and plans were altered. The first 20000 were held in Egypt and the offer of

a Second Division from Australia was accepted. At first, it was proposed to raise the 17th., 18th. & 19th. Bns. in N.S.W. and the 20th. Bn. in Queensland. This plan, however, was modified, and the complete Fifth Brigade was formed in one night from the troops then in camp, and marched down George Street, Sydney the next day. It was also intended that the whole Brigade should leave on May 20th., but transport difficulties prevented this. Eventually the 17th. Bn. got away on the 20th. May 1915, the 18th. & 19th. Bns. together on the S.S. Ceramic on 25th. June 1915 and the 20th. Bn. on June 28th. 1915. The late General Holmes C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. was in command of the Brigade, and Major Wisdom C.M.G., D.S.O. (later Colonel of the 18th. Bn.) was Brigade Major. The 18th. Bn. was commanded by Colonel Chapman, with Major McDonald as his Second-in-Command, and Capt. Hinton as his Adjutant. After landing at Port Said, the whole Bn. proceeded to Alexandria (with the 19th. Bn.) and settled down to training. This was in July so that ordinary hours for parade were impossible. The day's routine commenced at 4 or 5 a.m. and finished by 9 or 10 a.m. by which time the sand would be very hot, and a chance to "cool off" in the tents and devour 'cringees' - 2 for 3 - and "to-morrow's paper" would be very acceptable. Whether or not the 18th. Bn. participated in the Battle of the Waza is not officially recorded, but it is more than likely that a few of the more enterprising spirits in the Bn. were at least acquainted with the narrow, stinking, crowded corkscrew streets of that neighbourhood, and possibly one or two of them did join in the grand attack.

After a few weeks of drill, sand and sweat, the Bn. embarked early in August for the Dardanelles. Perhaps no expedition with purpose so serious ever sailed through such seas of enchanting delight. The brilliant tints of sea and sky, changing at evening to rose and gold and yellow of an Aegean sunset were sights of unparalleled beauty, in comparison with which, the barren, dreary hell of Anzac later appeared to be all the more hideous. After a day or so at Leros Island, the Bn. was conveyed by a fast steamer to Anzac, arriving there at night, and finding it a maze of twinkling lights, and the scene of a furious battle. The great attack at Suvla was in progress so the troops were quickly disembarked, and landed on the pebbly shores of Anzac Cove. Then fate intervened. It was intended that the 17th. Bn. should be loaned to General Walker for the purpose of making an attack on Hill 60, but, by some strange chance, the orders came to the 18th. Bn.

Just before midnight one night, the Bn. moved off over rugged, precipitous ground, and daylight found them marching over a fairly open, exposed place. The Turk found them too. Someone shouted orders, the troops deployed - charged - and the first "stunt" was over. This was on Aug. 22nd. Again on August 27th. the Bn. charged the deep, timbered Turkish trenches, and once more gained their objective. Next day, the Bn. was gathered together in West Gully, behind the lines, and the roll called. First blood had been drawn, successes gained, but a heavy toll had been exacted - two hundred men were left.

At this stage, Colonel Chapman returned to Australia, Major McDonald was ill, and so Major Murphy was given command.

Major Murphy was immediately confronted with a task of re-organising a broken Battalion - no easy work. The 3rd. Reinforcements of the 18th., 19th., & 20th. Bns. were drafted in; some officers transferred from other Bns.; and some promoted from the ranks. Amongst the officers might be mentioned Capt. Lane, D.S.O. (then Lieut.) Capt. Walklate, M.C. (then R.S.M. of 20th. Bn.) Capt. Paine (previously a Cpl. in 20th. Bn.) Capt. Boddie, M.C. (then C.Q.M.S. in 20th. Bn.) and the late Capt. Appleby.

These drafts brought the strength of the 18th. Bn. up to the neighbourhood of 600 and, in a very short time, every was ready for a resumption of active operations. Then commenced several months of weary heartbreaking toil and trench warfare. Conditions generally were most weakening and sickening, and men had to contend not only with the Turks - a courageous fighter - but with flies, heat, incessant fatigue, digging, sickness, lack of proper food and insufficient water.

(To be continued)

PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY THIS COPY UNTIL YOUR COBBER HAS SEEN IT.

Printed and Published by Sgt. Hansen and Cpl. Yarrowell, at 18th. Bn. Educ. Office.



No.1 Command,
No.5 Camp,
Hut No.5.
SUTTON VENY.

Dear Captain Walklate,

I have just received your letter which was written on 12/1/1918 and was indeed very pleased to hear from you and to know that at least some of the old men are still alive. You are asking about the raid, well, I don't know what to say. Of course you were in a better position to see what was going on than I was. I don't remember seeing you after we crossed that ditch prior to getting into the trenches. When we did get down the trench, Joe and I were the only two there for a few minutes. I thought and believe that Joe was of the same opinion, that we were in the wrong trench, but eventually the others came along. I think the first two Germans were taken prisoners. I have always regretted letting those two pass as I believe that if I had done those two in, the other one would have come out from behind the timber and debris that was there but as it happened he didn't and as the advance was made and I went around the corner, I got stabbed twice in the back of the neck. One thrust went right through into my throat and the other was not very deep but quite deep enough to injure the nerves and make me helpless. Bolger shot the German "which happened to be an officer" 4 times but he did not kill him straight away but he fell forward and when you people tried to get me out I fell backwards on top of him, and me, being fairly heavy, he could not get out from underneath which was very lucky for me. By that time I was completely paralysed and could not move, not even my eyes. I stayed there until nearly six o'clock; nobody came near me, they seemed to go completely away. Eventually the officer died after putting up a very hard struggle to get out. There were quite a lot of dead and wounded lying about. I never lost consciousness for a minute; I was wishing I could as those bombs coming over were rather annoying but nothing came within 20 yards of me so I was very lucky.. The Germans that got me were very decent but when I came to the first officer, things were lively, because I could not stand to attention to him. I received one of the best beatings ever anybody got. Regarding the hospitals - being blackened I was a source of amusement to some of them, especially two young nurses who had a habit of spitting in my face. I remained at LILLE and VALENCIENNES for a month and was then unable to walk. I was then sent right back to Germany to a place called STANDAL, arrived there with only shirt, underpants, and socks, but the English prisoners soon fixed me up. I might say I was the first Australian in that camp. After I got well enough I was sent to a small farm and was there right until the Armistice. The people treated me decently enough and it was much better than working in factories or mines.

I must thank you for writing home as I believe that the first news of me was that I had been killed. I received a letter from Colonel Murphy which was written on 6th. Sept. 1916. I haven't the slightest doubt that someone tried to get me out, but who it was I don't know, and I also remember one of the runners coming along and saying the flares for the retirement had gone up and whoever had hold of me immediately let me drop. Mind, I am not blaming anyone for running away as I was not in any position at all to see what was going on, but I can assure you I felt pretty rotten when the last footsteps died away, but in one way I am lucky. I would very much liked to have got back out of that small affair. I have met quite a lot of the old signallers and they told me most of the news. I tried to get back to the Batt. again but there is no hope and I am now on a draft to go on the next boat for Australia, which sails this month.

There is not much more I can tell you on paper so I will close with kindest regards to all the old Battalion.

I remain, Yours etc.

(Sgd) W. FRICK, Pte. (No. 2375)

DEESWEE DISPATCH

No. 6.

MONTIGNY, Sunday, 23rd. February 1919. (Not registered for transmission by post.)

LEAVE PAY.

There has been some misapprehension regarding the regulations recently promulgated, governing the payment of a sum of 84/-, prior to obtaining the 14 days leave, which is granted after arrival at the Demobilisation Camp in ENGLAND. It is hoped that the following will make this clear to those in doubt :-

If you have sufficient credit in your book, you may draw 84/- before you go on leave, and 30 days pay when your name appears on the "Boat Roll" just before embarkation. If you are overdrawn (not over £10) you may also draw the 84/- before going on leave, but you can't draw the 30 days pay after returning unless you have it in your book. If you don't draw the 84/- before you go on leave though, you can draw the 30 days pay before you embark, so long as you are not more than £10 in debt. You must decide, if you haven't enough credit to cover both payments, whether you want the 84/- to go on leave with, or the 30 days pay when your name appears on a "Boat Roll" (usually 7 or 10 days at least before sailing) You can only have one benefit if in debt. If you don't understand now any point regarding pay during demobilisation, call and see the Education Officer, next to the B.O.R.

PARLIAMENT.

On Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Cinema Hall, the second sitting of the first session of the "DINKUM PARLIAMENT" was held. The Strainer's Gallery was packed, and both Government and Opposition benches were well filled. The Speaker (Col. Fox) was in the Chair.

The Premier (Lieut. Perryman) rose at 7'10 to introduce a "Bachelors Taxation Bill". He said that the object of the Bill was to create new revenue in order to rejuvenate the nation. The taxation at present borne by married men with families of 5 or more would be reduced, and the balance expended on Education and care of infant life. Bachelors would be taxed pro-rata on their incomes - £1 for £100 yearly income, £1-10-0 for £150, then a 1/- on each ten pounds until a maximum of £20 was reached. This would be in addition to income tax and paid by all bachelors and widowers over 21 years of age. The tax would reach everyone and bachelors were best able to afford new taxation. About 200000 bachelors would be liable to taxation, which would return about £500 000 yearly and only the unemployed and those who were the sole support of families would be exempted. The tax would be paid by men 12 months after discharge from the A.I.F.. This was a fair proposition, because the single man was not a householder, and therefore paid no taxes, but left it all to the married man.

The Leader of the Opposition (Col. Murray) described the measure as an atrocious form of taxation: a petty tax, and a venomous dagger. After men had shed their blood at the War, an ignoble Govt. proposed to tax them in that way - but that would never be done! Men were reduced to the servility of being tied to woman's apron strings; and men alone were taxed. Both sexes should be taxed - it was not the bachelor's fault he was single. It was a form of class legislation to tax men only. Why not tax the woman who refused to marry a man? The Bill would force diseased men and criminals to marry, therefore was unfair. The Govt. who suggested such a thing should be hurled from power. Love should be the great factor in a Christian country in making a marriage, and the Govt. proposed forcing men into a distasteful marriage to save a few pounds. It was absurd to mention £100 as a minimum - that was not even a living wage. It was not a fair thing to women to encourage men to marry to avoid taxation.

The Hon. Member for Parramatta (Padre Crawford) drew attention to an alleged libellous statement made by the Opposition Leader in stating that the Govt. were not fit men to produce good legislation. There was no unfairness about the measure as a comparison of the position of married and single men would prove. Both got the same pay, and the married man paid all the taxes. Before the war there were more spinsters than bachelors in Australia, and now 10000 more women were going there, so that a bachelor had plenty of choice.

If a man refused to allow his daughter to marry, his mind was unsound. The tax would not frighten any man into marriage, because no one would be fool enough to marry merely to save £1. It would be a long time before Australia received her share of the war indemnity and a new means of finance had to be found in the meantime. The revenue from the Bill would enable steps to be taken to decrease infantile mortality. The man with 5 children had done his part - let those who hadn't pay. Those unfit to marry must pay. Their line of productiveness was not along the birth-rate one, but they earned money and had a share in public responsibility.

The Hon. Member for Potts Point (Pte. Treedie) next spoke for the Opposition. The Bill, he said, was ill-considered, and suggested that the title be altered to "A Bill to amend the functions of the Almighty". The Govt. had not given the matter due thought and consideration. The Govt. said they would raise £500,000 yearly and rejuvenate the nation. If that were so the Govt. were the Heaven born financiers the world had been looking for years. The sad lot of the unfortunate widower 21 years of age had to be considered. After recent marriage and death expenses, the Govt. proposed to solace him and help him out of his misery by imposing a Bachelor's Tax. This was adding insult to injury. The statement that a single man paid no taxes was further proof that the Govt. had not considered the subject. Single men paid more in taxes than anyone, because they went in for more luxuries. It was an absurd idea and a statement that would not bear a moment's examination. Were men who supported relatives to be exempted from this farcical scheme of taxation? The adoption of the Govt. proposals would result in chaos and ruin because fools would rush in and marry - it was easy. More revenue than the tax returned would be spent in providing new judges, courts and officers to untie the knots the Govt. had forced young, unbalanced people to tie. Men were not bachelors because it was an ideal state of existence, but because the Govt. did nothing to reduce rent, taxes, and high living, increase wages, or create decent economic conditions.

The Hon. Member was loudly applauded at the conclusion of his speech which lasted 23 minutes.

The Minister for Education (Lieut. Saunderson) then delivered a lengthy speech. He asked the Hon. Members not to be misled by the Opposition's appeal to their hearts, interests and sympathies, and congratulated the Premier on having introduced the Bill. New methods of taxation were now necessary, and these must cause as little hardship as possible, having due regard to the future, and affect those best able to pay. Luxuries, not necessities, must be taxed. Bachelors were not necessities. The introduction of new taxation was better than borrowing money. Revenue was not required in the nature of an investment, but to pay debts, and carry out social and educational works. The measure would not entirely rejuvenate the nation but it would assist this. He had hoped the Opposition would forget the old Party Spirit, and not damn a measure because it emanated from the Govt. benches, but his hopes were dashed to the ground. To provide a foundation for the nation, homes and more homes, babies and more babies were wanted. The besetting sin of the nation was selfishness and the bachelor was most selfish of all - he only failed to benefit himself. The Govt. hoped to stimulate young men into action, and not leave them to grow old and be full of remorse, sad, friendless, hastened into early oblivion, with their last years embittered by thoughts of what might have been. When men received the "order of the boot" a dozen times or so, as had been mentioned, the tax should be doubled. Early marriages were successful because calf love persisted and did not result in failure like so much later and middle-aged love. The tax would spur the shy and reluctant bachelor, and he would soon have his quiver full. Marriage was a patriotic duty, and men who failed to carry it out must be penalised.

The Hon. Member for Cooma (Pte. Griville) said that the Govt. introduced the Bill in order to provide money out of which their friends would be given fat jobs. The Bill was opposed to natural selection. If the Govt. wished for more marriages, they should pay a decent living wage. He characterised the Tax as "soup kitchen finance".

The Hon. Member for La Perouse (Col. Roughley) said the measure was reasonable. During the war, bachelors had had a good time in the big cities, and now they must pay for the results. The married men gave his screw to the 'missus' on pay-day and got nothing for himself. Men were only diseased because their minds got beyond their work (Loud laughter).

The Hon. Member for Dubbo (Sgt. Gemmill) said the Govt. was not going to protect children by forcing them to be brought into unhappy homes.

Hon. Mr. Murray said bachelors were a necessity - ask a father of 5 daughters. Old maids were more selfish than bachelors - if they said "No" the best thing to do was the 'cave-man' act. It was often said two would live more cheaply than one, therefore the married man must pay. If the Govt. insisted on

passing the Bill, there would be a strike of bachelors and the object of the measure would be defeated.

In reply, the Premier dealt with several points, and said the Govt. was not trying to force people to marry but to assist those who were married. Money had to be raised - the last Govt. had left empty coppers. Bachelors must accept their full share of responsibilities.

A vote of the Stronger's Gallery was taken and the Bill made law by 23 votes to 12. The House adjourned at 8'30 p.m. till 7 p.m. on Saturday night.

A TRAM RIDE.

CLANG! gurr-r-r-r-and off we went, the sudden jerk of starting throwing me in a most undignified way into a corner seat. "Sil vous plait" said the conductor, and I searched my pocket for a stray 25 centimes. Yip - Yow! A stream of blood splashed a passing madam, the driver accelerated speed the cars rolled and rocked, and the soul of a stray mongrel floated off to its happy hunting grounds. The tram dashed and leaped wildly onwards, houses flew past in a blurred stream, a captain jumped out of the way just in time, and the tram suddenly pulled up at the corner, violently hurtling me into the lap of a madam, passing fair, who was seated opposite. "Er--pardon, madam, il est--" I commenced, but was silenced by the sudden start forward of the car. The whistle of the conductor sounded shrilly after we had started, the driver put on speed, and we hurtled down-hill at an alarming pace. I shyly glanced at the attractive features of the little lady opposite, and noted they were apparently composed, and very nice ---crash! bang! The tram pulled up, and the driver and conductor jumped off. They anxiously scrutinised the paintwork of the car to see whether it was damaged, heaved sighs of relief, hopped aboard again, and started off once more. I craned my neck forward, and saw a mess cart, a donk, harness, empty boxes, and a driver scattered about the road. Above the roar of the tram could be heard the voice of my compatriot on the road, uttering many swear words. On we dashed, the bell clanging, the cars swaying. Two stops were passed in safety however, and the tram pulled up for 10 minutes. Again I shyly glanced into the eyes of the dear little creature opposite. Was she married? My word she was pretty, and her eyes! What a trusting, confiding, sweet look she had. I wondered whether --another sudden start disturbed my train of thought, and on we rattled through a narrow, crowded street. I glanced ahead and saw a Hun, one of many carrying large bundles, trudging along. The bell rang, the car crashed on, and hit the Hun squarely in the back. He sailed gracefully as a flare through the air, and came to earth again on top of a small boy. The driver turned and grinned at the cruel enemy, and the car swung round a corner, and sped down another hill. Again I glanced at the sweet creature opposite. Ah! she was making the usual feminine preparations for departure - patting her hair, hugging at her jacket, gathering her various little etceteras together. I decided promptly that the next stop was my stop too. The stop was neared, we both stood up, the driver applied the brakes, the tram dashed on. Then, right on the track, only a yard or so ahead, we saw a Tommy. My heart ceased beating, the lady screamed, the Tommy disappeared. Gallantly, I seized the waist of the fair lady and reared back anxiously towards the scene of the disaster. We saw the Tommy lying, bleeding, on the ground, and a crowd gathering. My heart resumed its normal occupation, and I longed for the lady to faint. But no, she stood there, pale, but unafraid. Again I glanced at the Tommy, and saw him get up, apparently little hurt. Then the tram slowly came to a standstill, and I swiftly decided on my course of action. I cleared my throat and said "Voulez-vous --" The lady wrenched herself free from my protecting embrace, glared at me, said, in perfect English "I am not one of those", struck me heavily on the face with her umbrella, and sailed majestically from the car.

I jump lorries now-a-days.

A.N. ACANTHUS LEAF.

W A L C O U R T

My experiences during the past three or four years have quite convinced me that everything does come to him who waits. In Egypt glowing tales were told illustrative of the comfort, beauties and peoples to be met with in French rest areas. Stories were recounted of buxom belles bedecking the brave Britishers with beautiful flowers, and insisting on them accepting a bottle of champagne each time they passed. All were fair and charming, everything was cheap, and the beds the troops were to sleep in were of the softest feathers. At least so said the old hands, who had been in England, and there met dinkum old sweats who had actually been in France and therefore positively knew.

Thoughts of beautiful beer at a penny a pint caused my soul to cry aloud in approach of the Great Ones who kept us swallowing Egyptian sand. I trudged through the burning sands of MO'SK'R in anguish of spirit; and submitted "chats" to horrifying and diabolical tortures before finally ending their miserable lives. And always I thought of the beautiful metalled roads and green fields of France - "La Belle France", chatless and flyless. At last I was relieved from the bondage of Egypt and sailed away towards Marseilles on the stinking, stuffy "S.S. Ascenia".

Marseilles was delightful. Then came the long journey to FLANDE and the detrainment at Thiennes. I marched past the clean little white-wash cottages, the bright little estaminets, and the plump, pretty little ladies, and the thoughts of the feather bed, and the good cheap beer to come, no doubt prevented me, then, from noticing that the road was covered with a layer of liquid mud. That night I slept on a mud floor and awoke next morning chatting the first time since leaving Egypt. Then followed the monotonous months of blood, filth, and "chattiness" with never a decent drink to sustain one. I altered my opinions of France.



WHEN WE

GET BACK.

The armistice happened, and the Battalion trudged towards BELGIUM. I knew all about Belgium, of course. I knew it to be the most crowded corner of Europe, and the people to be the perpetrators of the Congo horrors. I didn't expect much there. The Battalion arrived at Barbencon where the inhabitants told me the Boche were 'bon' and the 'soldat Australien pas bon'. Oh! well, it was a ----- of a country anyway, so hang it and everyone in it for mine. Next day we marched into WALCOURT.

From whichever quarter it is viewed, Walcourt presents a most charming dainty picture. The clean, winding, cobbled main street, flanked by well-built bright red brick houses is both interesting and cheerful to the eye. The picturesque and famed Church on the top of the hill, crowns a series of tiers of houses so grouped as to present an attractive and unusual view. There is nothing monotonous or flat about the architecture, and the beauty of the natural surroundings is enhanced by the works of man. The swift, rushing little stream which hurries on to join the Sambre, runs along the bottom of a lovely valley, the slopes of which on one side are covered by gardens, fields, woods and orchards, and on the other by the houses of the town. Several large chateaus, prominently placed, give an air of importance and prosperity to the town.

In the people. No man of us will ever forget the kind, hospitable, charming people of Walcourt. They took us into their homes, and made us one of the family. They fed us with waffles, and forced us to consume gallons of coffee and beer. On special occasions, cob-webby bottles of wine were produced from the queer places in which they had been hidden, and we tasted some dinkum stuff. The girls defied old Mother Grundy, and promenaded to the pictures or concerts with the troops. The old chief guards, chief porteurs, and other war railway chiefs appreciatively puffed away at issue cigarettes, and the kiddies

had the times of their lives playing with the soldiers. In a very short time, the troops and civilians had formed one big, mutual admiration society, and the time was pleasantly whiled away with parties, entertainments, and sport. It would be impossible to adequately describe the charms of the local ~~maison~~ - let it suffice to say that they are beautiful, virtuous, and fascinating. Perhaps the best feature of the whole show is the fact that the inhabitants understand good French when it is spoken. The people of WALCOURT will do me, and I will never forget them or their many kindnesses.

We waited - long time before our dreams of the perfect rest area came true, but Walcourt proved "everything does come to him who waits".

A DEESWEETIAN.

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW.

1. What is a tool's edge?
2. Who is the P.C.O. who came between a Belgian and his fiancée in Montigny?
3. What the digger took the "oil painting" from the Cafe d'Elite for?
4. Who is the ~~known~~ Sgt. who lost his girl at the dance on Thursday night?
5. Why the little digger searched the trams on Tuesday night and what is the bandage for?
6. Who is the officer who promenades with only one legging on, and why?

SPORTING.

On Thursday, 19th inst. on the M.G. Ground, a rugby match, 5th. Bde. versus 7th. Bde., was played. The ground was in good condition and the afternoon fine. Some most excellent play was witnessed, for although the 7th. Bde. lacked weight, they gave a good exhibition of rugby. In the first half, the ball was on the line three times and was carried over the fourth time only by the heavier weight of the 5th. Bde. team. The heavier weight of the 5th. Bde. forwards told again in the second half, when most of the play was on the 7th. Bde. twenty-five. The goal-kicking of the 5th. Bde. was very poor, Carnshaw, Smith and Wilson might be mentioned for the 5th. Bde. team who won by 20 - 3.

"RUGGER"

EDITORIAL.

Despite our warning given in last week's "Deesweet" our reptile contemporary, the "Fighting Times" was misguided enough to print those slanderous statements we had heard of. We have seen their effort, and can assure our readers that never has a more miserable attempt at sarcastic vituperation ever appeared in the columns of any paper, even those of the low, "Fighting Times" standard. Their base, calumnious statements do not affect us. We can well afford to ignore such irresponsible babblers. They ignominiously failed in their futile attempt to belittle the name of this paper, and their feeble attempt at a pun "It is better to be FOX(y) than slow(foote)d" merely illustrated the hypochondriacal condition to which our vigorous remarks reduced them. All their circumlocution, bosh, and twaddle, failed to hide the fact that they have the "wind-up" badly, and fear that we will carry out our threat. We assure them that WE WILL, for their Fox(y) nature is unable to discover any hiding place where they will be safe from the boot(e) (and boot) of the Deesweet Editor who will treat them as he would an obnoxious reptile, and crush them out of existence. Let them beware, or, in time, recover from their state of turgidity, and make full apology. We dealt with their vulgar obliquity in our consuetudinal way, and, with the aid of a pair of tongs, conveyed it to the incinerator.

"The Editor."

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

Q. Why the C.C.U. has no funds?
A. As one of the members of the Union in question, it may interest your readers to know that the Union was formed on purely Philanthropic Lines, and at no period of its existence has its Credit Balance been in excess of Hand and Mouth requirements. I am informed by the President (who is also Treasurer) that acting on the advice of his Executive Council, he advanced the existing Credit Balance, amounting to One Hundred Centimes Francais to the Editor of your journal, who was at the time financially embarrassed, and as the loan has not yet been called in, the Union Funds still remain at Zero Point. If the Editor can, without inconvenience to himself, reimburse the President, it is proposed to invest the Capital Sum in War Bonds, or shares in a large Beer Factory - brought under our notice as suitable investments. - "LEX"

To the Editor,

For about ten weeks the Bn. held the line at Steele's and Courtney's Posts, and the men soon became proficient in all the latest methods of warfare. Rapid fire at night, and the use of jam-tin bombs were then considered to be the best offensive weapons and the 18th. made full use of them - much to Jacko's annoyance. On Steele's Post the Bn. was opposite the famed German Officers Trench, and this position was the only one on the whole front where the Aussies looked down on the Turk.

Artillery support, such as we knew it in France, did not exist, and the largest gun on the front was an 18 pdr. Instead of leave to Amiens or Paris, leave was granted to the Beach, where, as likely as not, a man would be numbered amongst "Beachy's" victims. As time progressed, so did defences, and it was found to be almost impossible to go over the top. This caused our leaders to decide that a vigorous and extensive mining offensive should be conducted. The Engineers supervised, the Infantry did the work and the 18th got their share of it. Did space permit, many thrilling tales could be told of the experiences our soldier-miners had deep down in the shafts and tunnels. All sorts of tricks and dodges were adopted to avoid the counter-mines of the Turk. Just one short story may be told of this: Our men were digging a shaft, when the Turk was heard tunnelling in towards them. At once our people moved to another spot, and dug very hard there, but, in order to persuade the Turk that they were still working in the first shaft, a stratagem was adopted which completely deluded Jacko. A pick was tied to a rope, and swung, pendulum like, continuously against the side of the shaft. The noise produced, seemed to the Turk to be that made by miners working, and he placed a mine as near as possible to it. The explosion, when it occurred, damaged nothing but the pick.

We must hurry on, however, just mentioning in passing the tremendous bombardment of our front early in November by the Turks, and relate, shortly the evacuation on 19/20th. December. In preparation for this, there had been a couple of "silent stunts" when not a shot was fired for hours, and as much material as possible removed to transports. Tons of stores were burnt and everything that had to be left was made unfit for use. Hundreds of "booby" traps were set, many by mines prepared, and about one third of the troops taken off the night before. At last the night came, and thousands of men with feet carefully muffled, crept silently down the saps, on to the beach, and away in lighters to the waiting ships. Major Murphy, with a force of 75 men and 16 machine guns, was left on Plugge's Plateau, and Capt. Kirke, with Lieut. Lane and 51 other ranks was holding about one mile of front line. These two small forces covered the retirement of the whole Brigade, who held the key position of the Australian front. At 4'3 a.m. all parties were reported clear, and orders were then given to the rearguard to withdraw. This was successfully accomplished, and if the last man off Anzac was not a member of the 18th. Bn. the second last most certainly was.

The Bn. then proceeded to Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and soon after, to the Sinai Desert, where they were employed in the construction of defence works. No easy matter in loose sand many feet deep. After a couple of months digging outpost duty and sand, the Bn. moved to Moascar - Ismailia, where they got short rations, plenty of drill, and more sand. Then came the long-expected orders to proceed to France, and the Bn., under the command of Lt-Col. WISDOM, V.D. entrained for Alexandria, and was placed aboard S.S. Ascania. Immediately after leaving the narrow entrance of the magnificent crowded harbour, heavy rolling seas were struck, which caused many to "feed the fish". The weather was delightful however, and the good if slow, ship, ploughed her way through the Blue Mediterranean. A stop of one hour's duration was made at Malta, but owing to the suspected presence of U-boats, the voyage was quickly resumed. The Sardinian coast, dotted with little, whitewashed fishermen's cottages, made a pretty picture, and a day or so later (March 25th) the picturesque harbour of Marseilles was reached. Next day, (Sunday) the Bn. marched through the streets of Marseilles, with the Band playing, drums rolling, and bayonets fixed. The entire population turned out to greet the new comers, and, after their identity had been established, the Australians were greeted with shouts of "Bravo! Australie!" whilst the younger females threw flowers amongst them. The Bn. entrained at 9 p.m. that same day for Flanders, and rolled away along the beautiful valley of the Rhone. A stop of half an hour at Lyons was appreciated, and was also the hot wine and coffee handed round by smiling ladies of the French Red Cross later in the day.

On arrival at Thiennes (about 4 kms. from AIRE) the Bn. went into billets and made ready for taking over in the line. About 10 days later, the Brigade marched off for Bois-Grenier, passing Marshal Joffre and Staff on the way. On April 10th, the Bn. relieved the 25/7 Northumberland Fusiliers, and settled down to three month's hard toil, entirely reconstructing the old defences,

and making many new ones. Bois-Grenier may be briefly described as a rifle range, where the troops sheltered behind breastworks, when (as sometimes happened) they were not engaged on R.E. fatigues. A raid on June 26th. was very successful, when a party from the Bn. entered the Hun lines, killed 50 of them, brought back 4 as prisoners for identification, and secured many interesting souvenirs. Patrol work there was a special feature of the usual routine, and the late Lieut. R.L. Fidge, M.M., C. de G. avec Palme (then Sgt.) especially distinguished himself in several encounters with the Boche in "No Man's Land". An incident which illustrates the fact that Australian have the right kind of discipline, occurred on the night of May 15th. when, after a terrific bombardment, the Hun raided the 20th. Bn. The men of the 18th., without waiting for orders, immediately returned to their billets on hearing the noise of the bombardment, and without even waiting to finish their glasses of beer, hopped into full marching order and were ready to move up into close supports before the officers could reach them. In about an hour the whole Bn. was in the line, having doubled 2 to 4 miles through a heavy barrage. On July 1st. the Bn. was relieved by the 16th. Bn. and moved back, by stages, to Arques, where it was entrained for Longeau (near Amiens) On detraining at 2 a.m. one morning, the troops saw for the first time, the shimmering, silver light of the barrage that lit the countryside each night for several ensuing weeks. Gradually the Bn. moved up towards the colossal conflict then raging on the Somme, and, on July 25th. took over from the 3rd. Brigade, in front and on the right of Pozieres. The events of the 12 days during which the Bn. held the line here cannot be even touched on in this article, but the figures of the casualties suffered, and the fact that the troops "stuck it" throughout the heaviest bombardment known in this War on any front (even Verdun) will give our readers a slight idea of the fearful things the troops suffered. The Bn. (including Transport etc.) went into Pozieres about 950 strong. Of these 23 officers were killed or wounded, 136 other ranks killed, 425 O.R. wounded, and 75 were gassed or suffered other casualties - a total of 659 casualties. "B" Company went in 180 strong, and came out 13 strong. The Bn. moved out on August 5th. and back, via Warloy and La Vicogne to Halloy-Pernois. In early September they returned, and were in the forward area and front line for a week. Things were then comparatively quiet, most of the fighting on the Australian front being confined to Mouquet Farm. The result of the Bn.'s work at Pozieres was the capture of several hundred prisoners and the famous Gun Ridge and Windmill (the remains of which may still be seen).

After a few days spell in the clean, busy little town of Beauval, a move to Rovinghe, via Doullens, St. Pol, and Hazebrouck, was made. A day or so later, the Bn. took over the apex of the ghostly, eerie Ypres salient, and looked down on to the Hun from Observatory Ridge. A raid on Sept. 29th. in which two Sgts. were killed and Capt. Lane and 12 others wounded was the only notable event of the month's tour of duty here.

Then another move down to the Somme, and a new phase of operations was commenced. The Bn. went into the line at Flers, and had to fight, not the Hun, but the MUD. The shelling was heavy enough, true, but the devilish, unforgettable mud quickly reduced all to an absolute blank disregard of the heaviest shell. The mud and cold killed one's very soul, and the 100 odd unfortunate men who contracted trench feet there were lucky compared to those who were left behind to go in again at Geudecourt. Xmas day was spent, wet and shivering, amongst the blasted remains of Delville Wood, and on Xmas eve, the Bn. took over the line at Geudecourt. A pitiful sight here was seen of Tommies who had been killed in an attack, stuck in the mud waist deep. It was almost impossible to move along the saps, and men felt like lying where they were in the mud and dying. Flers and Geudecourt were frightful horrors.

A few days out then in again to Le Sars, followed by the attack on Gird Trench and capture of the well known Butte d' Warlencourt. Heavy fighting for the possession of Malt Trench next eventuated and the Hun was badly beaten. A quick move over to Ligny-Thilloy followed, and the Bn. there took over a front of about 1400 yards, keeping the Hun thinking by vigilant alertness and aggressive patrolling. Then the big Hun retirement to the Hindenburg Line commenced, and the Bn. followed up the rearguards. Soon after, in early April, the line opposite Bullecourt was taken over from those of the 48th. Bn. who were left, and for six weeks preparations were made for the great attack on the Hindenburg system. On April 15th. a starting event, which caused much excitement, took place. The Hun broke through the 12th. Bn. line (on the right of the 18th.) with 4000 men, and advanced about 2 miles, to within 300 yards of the 18 pdrs. at NOREUIL. The 17th., 19th. & 20th. Bns. and 2 companies of the 13th. Bn. assisted by the 2nd. Div. Artillery, inflicted 3700 casualties on the enemy force, leaving the ground grey with dead.

The soldiers of Australia have
done their part in achieving a
great victory; the interests of
Australia must be amply
safeguarded by the laws of Peace
W. H. Hughes

The above is a copy of Mr. HUGHES' special message to 18th. Bn. which he gave to our special correspondent after his address on Saturday afternoon at Marcinello.

BATTALION READING ROOM.

During the week a reading room was opened, situated in the Food Committee's Room, opposite "Y" Coy. cooker. A good supply of standard novels and magazines is available and these may be obtained free on application to the Col. in charge. All you have to do is to sign your name in the book he has. Writing paper and envelopes are also available, and the latest Australia papers may be seen. This room opens at 5'30 p.m. and closes at 9 p.m.

PARLIAMENT.

On Saturday night, in the Cinema Hall, the third sitting of the Dinkum Parliament eventuated, when the Government introduced their resolution to amend the Aliens Restriction Act. The vote of the Stranger's Gallery unanimously rejected the proposal, with the result that the Govt. was thrown out, and the Leader of the Opposition (Col. MURRAY) asked to form a new Govt. They will introduce a resolution dealing with the nationalisation of all land next Wednesday night at 7 p.m. A full report of Saturday night's debate will appear in our next issue.

REPATRIATION.

On "family" ships, fares for children over 3 and under 12 half-price, under 3 free. A child over 3 has a separate berth, babies are provided with cot attached to the side of a berth.

Dependents may include parents and sisters. On some boats the cabin contain 6 berths, down to 2, but this varies on different boats. The soldier does not travel with his wife. A refund of passage money paid before the present concessions were granted may be obtained. If the wife of a private travels on a different boat, she may travel 1st., 2nd. or 3rd. but it is pointed out that 1st. & 2nd. class accommodation is very limited, and the wives of Officers and Sots. travelling on the same boat as their husbands have the preference. It will mean that the wife of a private would have a long wait to travel other than 3rd. class, because it is not fair to allow her to cut in before a wife who wishes to travel on the same boat as her husband. There is more 3rd. class accommodation available however and men who want their wives to get to Aust. in the quickest possible time are advised to arrange for a 3rd. class passage for them.

ANSWER DESPATCH

No. 6/2

MONTIGNY-le-TILLHUL, Sunday, 23rd Febr. 1919. Not registered for transmission by Post.

Mr. HUGHES VISITS SECOND DIVVIE - WHAT HE HAD TO SAY -
(By our Special Correspondent)

On Saturday afternoon, in the Square at MARGINVILLE, Mr. W.M. HUGHES, Prime Minister of Australia, addressed a large number of troops, representative of the Second Division. The troops were regularly formed in an hollow square, but, after he had been introduced by Major General Rosenthal, KCB., CMG., DSO., he asked the men to close in around him. Mr HUGHES then delivered a very fine speech, speaking in a voice audible to all, and emphasising his points with the aid of his well known gesticulations.

Mr HUGHES said that after enormous efforts and heavy sacrifices, a great victory had been gained, and the bullying, boasting Huns forced to a total surrender. We now saw the Huns reduced to abject depths which contrasted strongly with his previous attitude of a bullying avenging warrior, stalking the earth to bring it to the heel of Germany. Now he was whining and murmuring against the hard terms imposed on him.

It was unnecessary to speak of the part - heroic and great - played by the Australians in winning this magnificent Victory. No words could describe their greatness, no words could detract from it, and their deeds would endure for all time. Australia went into the War - to then play a noble and prominent part - because it was a War of democracy against autocracy. Australians fought for Australia, so that she should be, and remain, free. Australia being free, valued freedom, and is determined to remain

FREE and WHITE. Now to speak of Peace and the right of Australia to have a say in it, and to ensure that she got those things for which she fought. In 1914, Australia, a little nation, determined to enter the War, and for the first time, realised what the spirit of nationality meant. Previously the people spoke of the little place they came from, and the little people they were, but now they recognised the fact that it was a great thing to be an Australian. They had the right to make laws for themselves, and did their part to destroy the menace to themselves and Liberty. Now that

Victory had come, the fruits of Victory must come too. Such terms must be imposed on the Hun as would prevent him, ever again assaulting the whole world. Part of his Fleet had been taken, but the whole lot - every ship, every U Boat - must go. His sword must be broken on his knee, and all arms taken from him. Australia demanded this by right of her 60,000 dead. Substance must not be exchanged for words. The League of Nations people talked about might be a good thing, but no, (Mr. HUGHES) did not know what it was, they did not know what it was - nobody knew what it was (laughter). It was a poor exchange if, for that, Australia had to hand away those things which she had bought with blood. To give New Guinea back to the Huns and bring them from 3 weeks to 3 minutes of Australia, was unthinkable. The spirit which took Australia's sons 12,000 miles to the War would see that there was no open door in New Guinea! It would be a closed and bolted door, and Australia would guard it. Her right to this was her 60,000 dead, the best right on God's Earth. If Australia were given a mandatory, well and good, perhaps, but he didn't know what a mandatory was! Nothing less would suffice than that Australia would be left free to administer in New Guinea the same laws - that were administered in Australia. If there was any doubt about this he did not intend sitting down under that doubt. Australia's War Bill had to be paid: whether the Germans paid it under the name of Hohenzollern or Hoggenholmer, it was the same old gang, and they would be made to pay if Australia could make them. Australia could not afford and would not allow goods of all nationalities to flood the country.

Speaking of demobilization, Mr. HUGHES said that 16,000 men were to have gone home during February, but owing to strikes, only 5,000 could go. His one desire was to get the troops home, and he was anxious that no one

should doubt that the Government was earnest in this desire. He had complete control of demobilization, but had handed it over to an English soldier friend (an M.P.) with orders that every arrangement for the comfort and happiness of the troops be made, and only 80% of the carrying capacity be utilised.

After repatriation was complete the future of Australia was in the hands of the A.I.F. A great burden of debt must be borne, and troublous times were ahead. Australia was a small nation, and could only bear the burden by increasing production. It was no way to make the people happy to shoot the profiteer, but to produce more wealth. The "go-slow" policy was national suicide, and there was no salvation for Australia except the gospel of work.

Mr. HUGHES then referred to Motor Transport men who enlisted in 1915 and those men kept back on jobs. After consideration of both sides, he saw no reason why M.T. men should not be relieved at a faster rate. As for the men who had to stay behind, he wanted them to accept his word, that they would not suffer in any way as far as any benefits were concerned. He was going to see every one got a fair deal, and none were prejudiced.

After seeing other countries, the men of the A.I.F. realised what a glorious heritage Australia was, and whether Australians were to be a great people, or linger in the back-wash, depended on themselves.

Mr. HUGHES hoped the A.I.F. would soon be home - at any rate that all would be back before he was. It took longer to make Peace than War. He drew a picture of two ex-soldiers, bent, old and grey, in the dim future, standing on the Quay at Melbourne or Sydney, and watching people land from an English liner. Presently they would see a pathetic little figure, tottering down the gang-way and one man would say to the other - "Gorblime, that Billy Hughes!" (Loud laughter). He was going to stay and see that no privilege, valued by Australians was yielded.

Mr. HUGHES then spoke of the good work of, and the dastardly attack on, M. CLEMENCEAU, the great French Statesman, and asked the troops to pass a vote of sympathy and regret for his injury. This was carried by show of hands. Then Mr. HUGHES called for three cheers for M. CLEMENCEAU, which were lustily given, followed by three, even more hearty, for Australia. When someone called for "three cheers for Mr. HUGHES" the troops responded with a deep-throated, prolonged, terrific roar - cheers of admiration for "Our Billy" and his recent work.

Our special correspondent then interviewed Mr. HUGHES, who gave him the Special Message for the 18th Battalion which appeared in our last issue.

War Diary.

Rations.

Rations generally have been as laid down in scale. Exceptions, shortage Potatoes 2.15 lbs & Fresh Meat 1.90 lbs for the period 9th to 15th Feby. Potatoes drawn in New rations were spoiled & 75% destroyed.

Ordnance

10 Pairs boots drawn on 10th Feby were Imperial pattern leather very hard & an unsuitable boot for the service.

18 Pairs boots drawn on 28th Feby were Australian pattern & unserviceable boots are being replaced. Other stores have been supplied according to Indents.

Movements

The Battalion moved from Halcourt to Montigny le Pillon per Railway. R.A.M. Store & Transport Section moved by road on 6th Feby.

Owing to weather conditions road was very difficult for Horse Transport. 2 Supply wagons were unable to complete the journey & camped overnight on the road, arriving at 1700 on 7th Feby.



Due to failure of supply wagons to reach destination, an early draw had to be made on 17th A.P.S.C. on 7th Febry to enable meal being issued troops at midday, this was replaced out of issue on supply wagons.

Comforts

A supply of comforts was drawn from Trust Comforts Fund consisting of cigarettes, Milk, Sardines & Buns & powder & 2 lbs Mixed Groceries distributed to troops on 10th Febry.

Regimental Fund supplied Tobacco cigarettes Cocoa & Milk Oatmeal, Curry powder & Biscuits which were issued at intervals during the month.

5th Trust Brigade Y.M.C.A. supplied cigarettes at rate of 2 packets per man.

3 Bundles socks received from McFarlane Smith & 7 bundles socks & woollens from 18th Batten Comforts Fund also 6 bundles shirts & these also distributed to troops.

2/3/19.

J.M. G. Type
A.P.S.C.
18th Batten.

87 TRANSPORT DIARY - 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Month of February 1919.

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For the first week of February, the Transport Section, both men and horses, were comfortably billeted at WALCOURT (Belgium).

Work There was normal. Several of the 'oldest hands' left the Battalion from Walcourt en route for Australia for demobilisation.

During the early days of February and latter part of January the animal strength of the section diminished by 5 (4 horses & 1 mule - the latter broke a leg and was shot) The horses were 3 Company Commanders chargers !!! and Capt. Beddie's famous trotter "Miss Bettie" which was suffering from ~~ophth~~ opthalmia and was therefore due to be destroyed or sold to the butcher.

On 6th. February the Brigade Group transport started on an 18 kilometres route march under very bad conditions, the roads being like a pain of glass - frozen. After much difficulty the section arrived at Montignies-le-Tilleul minus the 4 A.S.C. wagons carrying, food, fodder and officers' valises. These arrived about 24 hours after the remainder of the transport, the result of ~~not~~ having horses shod with shoes unable to take frost cogs which were most essential.

At Montignies-le-Tilleul both men and horses are comfortably billeted and the work is normal.

At Marchienne au Pont some of our horses and mules were offered at auction. No mules of this Bn. were sold. Five horses were sold at prices varying from 300 francs for one ride to 1325 francs for a Heavy draught Gelding aged 16.

Towards the end of the month, Capt. McNabb's famous hunter "Bones" died of cholera.

On 28th. February preparations were being made for the handing in to D.A.D.O.S. of the vehicles and equipment and harness etc. The latter was for the most part Australian and has withstood the wear and tear of almost 4 years continuous use under extremely bad conditions.

During the month horse stealing was very prevalent. So far this unit has been fortunate.

(Signed) H.W. KIRKE, Lieut.
Transport Officer, 18th. Bn. A.I.F.

Medical Notes

18th Bn 2/2/19 - 2/3/19



Sanitation: Billets, accomodation, disposal of refuse in a satisfactory sanitary condition

Hygiene & Health of Men:

(a) Hot Shower baths in close proximity to billets allotted to Bn. one morning per week when clean change of clothing is available - men also bathing at frequent intervals apart from above - no case of skin disease or condition of liceiness in the Bn at the present time.

(b) Health of troops very satisfactory - no prevailing disease amongst troops though they are in an area where deaths have occurred during past 4 days from Spanish Influenza.

Veneral disease more prevalent this month - one case only contracted in France or Belgium. Two evacuations with acute gonorrhoea & sin or severy have received abortive treatment & remained with Bx. Veneral disease has been practically all contracted in United Kingdom.

(c) Food provided for men good except for part of their ration in which 80% of the potatoes were unfit for consumption & had to be disposed of by burial - vegetables being obtained locally to give variety to rations.

Preventive Measures against Disease:

All concerts, cinemas, dances, & like assemblies are prohibited to all ranks since 25th inst. to lessen chance of infection with Spanish Influenza at present prevalent amongst civilians in Divisional Area.

