

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/35/45

**Title:** 18th Infantry Battalion

April 1919



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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

# WAR DIARY

OF

*18<sup>th</sup> Battalion*

FOR

*April*

*1919.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*R. Williamson Lt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

# WAR DIARY

Army Form 2118.

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

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL. (Belgium)	1/4/19.	0900	Weather: Bright, cold and sunny.	
		1030	Lecture given by Miss Baxter of the Y.M.C.A. in the Cinema Hall, Montignies-le-Tilleul, Subject "Glimpses of Australian Life", illustrated with cinema films.	
	2/4/19.	0000	No. 11 Edition of the "Deesweet Despatch" published. Weather: Bright and cold.	1/A/19.
		2030	Battalion paid in Belgian money, the rate of exchange being 5 francs equal to 3/7d. 18th. Battalion dance held at the Casino Cafe, Montignies-le-Tilleul, there being a very large attendance of both soldiers and civilians. (Invitation card attached)	2/A/19.
	3/4/19.	0900	Weather: Bright and cold.	
		1100	Parade of all officers of the 5th. Brigade Battalion in the Cinema Hall, Montignies-le-Tilleul for an address by Lt-Col. F.W.D. FORBES, D.S.O. on "Current events"	
		1200	Changes in Officers: 2/Lt. T. McINTYRE returned from proceeding to England for Transport Duty. 2/Lts. C.L. SUTTON and A. DICKINSON, DCM. MM. returned from leave to Cologne with the Australian Corps Rugby Team. Capt. N.H. HOBBS, M.C. proceeded to BRUSSELS on duty as President of a Court of Enquiry held at 2nd. Aust. Div. Rest House, Brussels on shortage of blankets at the Rest House.	
	4/4/19.	0900	Weather: Bright cold and sunny.	
		0945	Medical inspection of the Battalion by the Regimental Medical Officer.	
		1030	Lecture given at the Cinema Hall, Montignies-le-Tilleul by W.O. McLeod of 13th. A.L.H. Subject "Finance and business organisation".	
		1200	Changes in officers: Lieut. L.M. REDGRAVE returned from leave to England. Capt. J.B. LANE, DSO returned from Cologne as manager of Australian Corps Rugby Football team. Result of matches :- 29/3/19 - COLOGNE - Aust. Corps representing 4th. Army defeated 2nd. Army by 21 to 6. 2/4/19 - COLOGNE - Aust. Corps defeated R.A.F. by 41 - nil. One 18th. Bn. representative in team.	

No. 181  
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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
MONTIGNIES	-le-TILLEUL.			
(BELGIUM)	5/4/19.			
		0900	Weather: Cold, bright and sunny.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Capt. N.H. HOBBS, M.C. returned from Brussels as President of Court of Enquiry held at 2nd Aust. Div. Rest House, on shortage of blankets at the Rest House. Lieut. G.F. FOOTE, MC proceeded to Bhurtpore Barracks, TIDWORTH, England to report to the Asst. Director of Education. A.I.F. Depots in U.K. for duty as Education Officer with Quota.	
	6/4/19.			
		0900	Weather: Bright and sunny.	
		1200	Changes in officers: Capt. J.B. LANE, DSO <del>xxxx</del> proceeded to England for duty at Dept. of Repatriation and Demobilisation A.I.F. Headquarters, London. 2/Lt. R. DE SAXE, M.M. returned from Calais as Officer i/c Divisional Leave party proceeding to ENGLAND.	
	7/4/19.			
		0900	Weather: Bright and Sunny.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut. F. WILKINS returned from leave to England.	
	8/4/19.			
		0900	Weather: Bright and sunny.	
		1400	F.G.C.M. held at 6th Bde. Bn. H.Q. MARCINELLE. Capt. N.H. Hobbs M.C. president. No. 1879. Pte. Arnold, H.C. 18th. Bn. tried.	
	9/4/19.			
		0900	Weather: Dull and cold.	
		1900	The picture "Whatsoever a man soweth" shewn at the Cinema Hall, Montignies-Le-Tilleul.	
		2030	18th. Battalion dance held at the Cafe du Casino, Montignies-le-Tilleul, at which there was a very large attendance of both civilians and soldiers. (Invitation card attached)	5/A/19
	10/4/19.			
		0900	Weather: Bright and cold.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: 2/Lt. R. DE SAXE, M.M. proceeded to take over charge of 5th. Brigade Railway Guard, at CHARLEROI STATION from 2/Lt. A. HARRISON who returned for demobilisation with embarkation Quota No. 33.	

(A915) War Diary Form C. 2118/15. Sch 52a.

## WAR DIARY

Army Form Q. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL. (Belgium)	11/4/19	0900	Weather: Dull and cloudy.	
		1200	The 18th. Battalion being reduced to Cadre "B" of 1 Officer & 4 O.R., the remainder of officers and other ranks were attached to 20th. Battalion.	
	12/4/19.	0900	Weather: Wet & cloudy.	
		1200	Changes in Officers: Lieut. L.J. Botham returned from duty as Lecturer at the Universite-du-Travail, CHARLEROI for repatriation with Embarkation Quota No. 33.	
	13/4/19	0900	Weather: Dull and cloudy.	
		1200	Draft of 7 officers & 21 O.R. marched out for return to Australia with Quota No. 33. Lieut. E. BELCHER, M.C.                      Lieut. J. MAXWELL, V.C., M.C., D.C.M. 2/Lt. A. HARRISON,                      2/Lt. A. DICKINSON, D.C.M., M.M. " C. L. SUTTON,                      " A. T. C. CLARKE. Lieut. L. J. BOTHAM.	4/8/19
			2/Lt. R. DE SAXE, M.M. returned from duty at Charleroi Railway Station as Officer i/c Guard and was relieved by Lieut. E. S. BONHAM.	
	14/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull and misty.	
	15/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull & showery.	
	16/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull & showery.	
		2030	18th. Battalion Farewell dance held at the Cafe du Casino, Montignies-le-Tilleul, there being a very large attendance of civilians and soldiers.	
		2100	During the day thirty O.R. have returned to the Battalion from duty on detached jobs for repatriation with Quota No. 33.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL (Belgium)	17/4/19.	0900 1200	Weather: Dull and cold. Changes in Officers: Capt. C.H. KAEBPEL, M.C. marched out to England for non military employment. Capt. N.H. HOBBS, M.C. president of F.G.C.M. held at 6th. Bde. Bn. H.Q. MARCINELLE	
	18/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull and fine.	
	19/4/19.	1400	Capt. N.H. HOBBS, M.C. president of F.G.C.M. held at 6th. Bde. Bn. H.Q. MARCINELLE.	
	20/4/19.	0900 1200	Weather: Bright and sunny. Quota No. 38 of 7 Officers & 196 O.R. marched out for return to Australia, including Cadre "B" Lt-Col. F.W.D. FORBES, DSO 20th. Bn. as Commanding Officer. Capt. C.G. WALKLATE, M.C. Lieut. R. DE SAXE, M.M. 2/Lt. A.L. JENNINGS, M.M. Lieut. R.C. WILLIAMSON (A/Adj. Cadre "B")	
		1400	Arrived at "B" Aust. Div. Reinforcement Camp, CHARLEROI and the Quota billeted at the Camp. Changes in Officers: Lieut. A.E. GARTRELL returned from 2nd. Aust. Div. H.Q. where he was on duty with Education Officer, 2nd. Aust. Div. Lieut. E.S. BONHAM returned from Charleroi as Officer i/c Brigade Railway Guard. The following have yet to be repatriated, attached as members of 5th. Bde. Bn. - 14 officers & 89 Other ranks. Capt. N.H. HOBBS, M.C.. President of Standing Court Martial, 2nd. Aust. Div. Inf. Group, - With Unit. Capt. J.N. DOYLE, attached 2nd. Aust. Div. Rest House, BRUSSELS. 2/Lt. S.S. MATTICK - With unit. Lieut. J.C. COSTAIN, attached as Instructor at Universite-du-Travail CHARLEROI. Lieut. E.E. CRUICKSHANK, M.M. attached to 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn. as Educational Guide. Lieut. P.D. JONES, M.C. & D.C.M. attached to 2nd. Aust. Div. Inf. Group as Asst. Brigade Major. Lieut. S.M. CLARK, M.C. - With Unit. Lieut. D.G. BUCHANAN attached as Instructor at the Universite-du-Travail CHARLEROI. Lieut. E.S. BONHAM - With Unit. Lieut. V.F. JONES, M.C. - "B" Aust. Div. Baths Officer.	5/A/19

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MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL (BELGIUM)	20/4/19.		Lieut. L.M. RED GRAVE - With Unit. Lieut. A.E. GARTRELL - With unit. Lieut. R. HENDY attached to "B" Aust. Div. as Sports Officer. Lieut. H.S. WILLIAMS, instructor at Corps Central School RUE Major Rev. F. CLUNE. M.C. Chaplain attached - On leave in Italy. Personnel detached from 5th. Bde. Bn. - 6 Officer & 66 Other ranks.	
	21/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull. Train with Quota No. 38 departed from Charleroi Station for Australian Base Depot HAVRE The train consisted of 42 trucks, mostly German. There were 24 men per truck and a <del>stove</del> stove and coal provided for each truck. Comforts were issued to the troops before the departure of the train. Kitchens were on the Demobilisation Train and stoves were made at MONS - MONTIGNY - HEILLY and ROMESCAMPES for meals.	
	22/4/19.	0900	Weather: Bright and sunny.	
LE HAVRE (FRANCE)		1030	The Quota arrived at HAVRE and marched into the Reception Camp, A.B.D.	
	23/4/19.	0900	Weather: Bright & sunny.	
		1000	Quota 39 medically inspected at the Base, bathed and clothed, rifles & equipment handed in and white sea kit bags issued. The quota was then transferred to No. 2 Camp, Australian Base Depots for despatch to England.	
	24/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull.	
		0930	Lecture given to the quota at the Aust. Base Depot on "Repatriation & Demobilisation".	
	25/4/19.	0900	Weather: Bright & sunny.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE HAVRE (FRANCE)	25/4/19.	1900	Fourth Anniversary of ANZAC DAY. Departure of Quota 38 to England postponed on this account until 26th inst. Sports were held at the Aust. Base Depot - 18th Bn. tug-o-war team out of Quota 38 came second in the tug-o-war event after defeating an American team.	
	26/4/19.	0900 1630	Weather: Dull and windy. Quota 38 embussed at HARFLEUR for LE HAVRE and were embarked on board S.S. "PRINCE ARTHUR" by 1830 hours.	
	27/4/19.	0900	Weather: Dull and wet.	
SOUTHAMPTON.		0700	Quota disembarked at Southampton after arriving from HAVRE at 0300 hours. Breakfast issued before entraining at 0900 for WARMINSTER.	
		0900	Entrained at Southampton for Warminster.	
WARMINSTER.		1200	Arrived at Warminster and marched in to No. 4 Camp, SUTTON VENY. - Paybooks collected on arrival at the camp.	
	28/4/19.	0900 1000 1330	Weather: Fall of snow and very windy. Quota inoculated against Influenza. Cadre "B", consisting of Lieut. R.C. WILLIAMSON - A/Adj. t. 3687. CPL. S.E. YARROLL - Orderly Room Clerk. 4131. " A. GOODE - Q.M. 6673. PTE. L.J.G. FORD - Postal Orderly. 4487. " H.G. MILLER - Batman.	
LONDON.			proceeded to London with all remaining records of the 18th Bn. to be handed over to the Australian War Records Section and to be finalised.	
	29/4/19.		Finalising records of the Battalion at the Aust. War Records Section.	
	30/4/19.			

OF  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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## WAR DIARY

OF

*18<sup>th</sup> Battalion*

FOR

*April**1919.*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- |         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1/A/19. | "DEESWEET DESPATCH" No.11 Edition. |
| 2/A/19. | Invitation Card, 18th.Bn.Dance.    |
| 3/A/19. | Invitation card, 18th.Bn.Dance.    |
| 4/A/19. | Nominal roll of Quota No.33.       |
| 5/A/19. | Nominal roll of Quota No.38.       |

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# DEESWEET DESPATCH

ban  
bian

No. 11.

MONTIGNY, SUNDAY, 30th. March, 1919.

Not registered for  
transmission by post.

## A BELGIAN ELOPEMENT.

In MONTIGNY, near the railway station, lived a girl, about 22 years of age, and somewhat good looking. Billeted in the house are two Deesweetians. One of these, by reason of his personal beauty and many accomplishments, entirely won the lady's heart. Many pleasant evenings were spent together by the pair, and the girl frankly displayed her great and keen admiration for the gallant Aussie. Her devotion, pure and touching was beautiful to behold. Last week, however, tragedy entered the hitherto happy home. The Aussie took another girl to a dance. Driven frantic by pangs of unrequited love, the girl decided to elope. Summoning her civilian fiancée, whose greatest qualification (although not regarded as such by the girl's mother) is that he knows how to live without working, she informed him of her momentous decision. A portmanteau was hastily packed and the eloping pair set off for BRUSSELS. Arrived at the MONTIGNY train-terminus, however, the Belgian discovered that he hadn't the price of a tram fare. Neither had the girl, so nothing could be done but return to her home.

Next day, the Belgian called on her mother, and requested the loan of some francs. After much parley, these were handed over. The Belgian then proceeded to give his future in-law a piece of his mind, and was finally forcibly ejected by the Aussies. As her love was still not reciprocated by the soldier, the girl decided to elope again. This time, she did it on her own, leaving her sorrowing mother and swain, and the now delighted soldier.

Up to the present the girl's location has not been discovered by her people, and the "DEESWEET" does not intend to divulge it. We sympathise with the Belgian, and assure him it was not the soldier's fault.

The Religious Editor.

## THE LANDING IN FRANCE (By "Deesweetian")

On the 25th. March, 1916, the good ship S.S. "ASCANIUS", arrived at MARSEILLES, carrying the 10th. Battalion, and two companies of the 19th. Bn. After some delay, occasioned by a large steamer being foul of her anchors in the berth, the ship was at last tied up to French soil. The troops were not allowed to land that night, and spent the remaining hour or so of daylight in peering xx over the side at the queer looking French "wharfies", who, in their sabots and peaked caps, were a new sight to most, and in eyeing curiously the German prisoners of war, who were quartered on a couple of hulks on the other side of the quay. These were the first real live Germans most of the troops had seen, and few, at that time, expected to see so many in their wild state as they did later. Much amusement was caused by the efforts of some of the men to make the Frenchmen understand Arabic. After a short night's sleep, the troops were up and about early, all eager to land on the sacred and historical soil of France. Kits were packed, and rifles and equipments cleaned up in readiness. At last the troops filed slowly down the gangways, deposited their black kit-bags on the quay, and then formed up as a Battalion in mass. Arms were piled, and the 19th. Bn. band discoursed lively airs, finishing with the "Marseillaise", which was listened to with hats raised by the crowds of curious Frenchmen, and loudly applauded on conclusion. The troops then fell in again, unpiled arms, and prepared to move. Lt-Col. Wisdom gave the orders to advance, and the whole Battalion moved off with bayonets fixed, marching in column of route.

It being Sunday afternoon, the streets were crowded with civilians, principally women and girls, and these were attracted to the march route by the martial music and sight of the glittering bayonets. The troops marched splendidly, keeping a good step to the roll of the drums, and remaining at the slope the whole way, changing arms at intervals. No finer body of fighting men ever marched the streets of any city. The writer, who was then a member of No. 11 Platoon, then 46 strong, and is 5'7" in height, remembers that there were only three men in the platoon shorter than himself. The gay, jaunty, swinging step, and neat, soldierly appearance of the new-comers created a most favourable impression, and when their identity as Australians has been established, loud cheers, and shouts of "Bravo Australie" marked the progress of the long column. The papas and mamas held up the little tots to give them a glimpse of the soldiers, and the younger girls and more excitable women threw flowers amongst the bayonets.

After about an hour's march, a short halt in a beautiful boulevard was made, and many of the civilians ran out with trays loaded with glasses of very nice beer, for the consumption of the troops. After this spell, a start was made on the return journey. By this time, the crowds were even greater than before, and as the troops swung along, the people crushed forward to see all they could of the 18th. Bn. Bright eyes smiled sweetly, children shouted and screamed, and men cheered and waved their hats. Each soldier carried a flower, and every lady gave every soldier a fascinating smile.

Although now, the Battalion will not march up George Street, it is pleasant to remember the march through MARSEILLES, for it was a march to victory-- a real one, not one of the Aussie recruiting style. None of those who are left today will ever forget that enjoyable march, and all were delighted and gratified by the great ovation tendered by the kindly and courteous inhabitants of MARSEILLES.

After returning to the quay, and cheering the crew of the "Ascanius" as she left, the Battalion moved to the station, and entrained for FLANDERS.

### THE

### DEESWEET

### DESPATCH.

In January, on the 18th., it was decided to start an 18th. B.n. paper. Lt Col. G.F. Murphy, C.M.G. D.S.O. gave his consent to this at 4 p.m. that day, and by 4 p.m. the next day (Sunday) the first issue of the paper, then called the "WALCOURT ARGUS" was in his hands. The Editor had the "wind-up" pretty badly, for he had no idea as to how the thing should be carried on, but having made a start, he thought the best thing to do was to go ahead, and trust more or less to luck. The objects of the paper were to record passing events of note, the doings of the Parliament, and give those members of the Battalion with a literary bent a chance of getting into print. How far these objects have been fulfilled is not for me to say, but I have heard that the Editor claims a high place for the paper, and as he is a literary man, he ought to know!

The copy, after revision, is typed on wax stencil sheets, and these are placed in a cyclostyle and printed. This is an operation requiring a fair amount of skill and practice, as the wax sheets are very easily broken, resulting in a black smudge. Sketches etc., are drawn direct on the wax sheets, and printed in the ordinary way. In the preparation of a six-page paper of 50 copies, the sheets have to be placed in the machine a total of 300 times, and as the roller is passed over them 4 times each, on an average, this gives a total of at least 1200 strokes with the roller. A firm steady pressure is required, and the printer after his 3 or 4 hours work, feels none too fresh.

As the typing has to be done very distinctly and evenly, this portion of the work is of great importance, and has been done excellently throughout. Spelling and punctuation have always been very carefully attended to, making the job of the reader an easy one. Paper has always been a great difficulty, the supply of absorbent paper once entirely failing, but somehow or other, sufficient was always obtained, after the fourth issue, to print 50 copies of each number.

The work of the staff will be judged by the "Deesweet" readers, and although they do not wish it, I publish their names:-

The Editor----	The Editor.
Sub-Editor----	SGT. H. W. HANSEN.
Typist -----	CPL. S.E. YARROLL.
Printer-----	CPL. W. R. MOORE.
Sport Corres.	LT. F. D. JONES L.C. D.C.M.

Now that the "Deesweet" is to be no more, I hope that the above facts will prove interesting to some of my readers when they take the "missus and kids to the war museum, and see their old Battalion paper there.

By "Outsider".

### THUDS!

The other night at a dance, a certain subaltern, after skilfully and successfully cutting out a digger with a mademoiselle, and dancing with her for some time, requested permission to escort the lady and her la to their home. After much persistence, permission was graciously granted. It was a nas winter's night, and the roads none too good for walking, but this did not deter the gallant "loot". A start was made, and for a time, all went well. Then, judge of the loot's dismay, when he discovered the girl lived seven kilometres away! Nothing could be done but to see the thing out, and the sub. returned from his 14 kilo. jaunt, fully determined to escort no more

strangers home, however fascinating they might be.

At another dance, three cobbles took three beautiful Belgian belles. The entry of the bints was the signal for much rivalry amongst the troops for engagements. When the last dance arrived, one of the cobbles was, apparently, out right out, the other two maintaining merely a very precarious hold. The disappointed one did not dance, but took charge of the lady's hat and cloak. On finishing the dance, the lady's partner began to search for her hat, and his rival, seizing his chance, walloped the articles onto the girl, and whisked her away home. Trust the troops to find a way!

### EDITORIAL.

Unless present circumstances are altered by some unforeseen event, this will be the last issue of the "DEESWEET OBSERVATION". In another column, will be found a short history of the paper, which may prove of interest to some. In relinquishing the editorial chair, the Editor has mixed feelings of relief and regret. Relief that the worry of the next issue has finished and regret at severing his connection with the paper of the best Battalion in the A.I.F. He has watched it grow from the small affair of the first number, to the present issue, and whilst he does not claim any great literary value for the paper, he is strongly attached to it by reason of purely personal considerations, mostly sentimental.

Numerous and able contributors have made his editorial work, as far as matter was concerned, a light and pleasant task, and to these kind people, he will be eternally grateful. Printing has been more of a task, and in this connection, the Editor wishes, on behalf of all those who have, at any time derived any pleasure from a perusal of the "Deesweet" columns, to thank the printers:- Sgt. Hansen (also sub-editor) Cpl. Yarroll, typist, and Cpl. Moore, printer in chief. They have had no light task, and their work speaks for itself. We extend our hearty congratulations to our contemporary, "The Waiting Times", which has from the start, been a bright journal of absorbing interest, well written, edited, printed, and particularly well arranged.

In conclusion, we wish to thank all those who have given us encouragement and support, and particularly Lt. Col. G.F. Murphy, C.A.G. D.S.O. Major W. R. Robertson, M.C., and Capt. Kaeppl, whose support and interest made the paper a possibility. We wish all our readers "Good-bye and good Luck".  
The Editor.

### SOCIAL

### SLASHES

### AND

### STUNTS.

#### 18th Bn. Dance.

The principal event in the social world during the week was a dance, held on Wednesday night in the Casino Hall, by the 18th Bn. This proved to be quite the most successful and brilliant function of the season, and was attended by all the youth and beauty of Montigny.

#### People Present.

Amongst those present were noticed many distinguished soldiers, and prominent civilians, and the following may be mentioned out of many:- Lt. Col. F. Forbes, D.S.O., Lt. J. Maxwell, VC, M.C. & D.O.M., Capt. Walklate, M.C., Lt. Murray M.C., Lieut "Teddy" Belcher M.C. & Major Olune M.C., Lt. W. Satchell M.C., Capt Templeman A.A.M.C., Lt. F.D. Jones, M.C. & D.O.M., Pte. Harding, Sgt. Newkill, L/C Smith, Sgt. Hill M.M., Sgt Hansen, Cpl. Moore, Warrant-Officer Murray, and many visitors from other Battalions. Amongst civilian friends, one noticed Melles. Laure et Marthe Baussart, M. et Melle. Folise, Mme. et Melles. Marie et Clemantine Antoine, Mme. Mangon, Mlle. Simone Montoleur, Melle. Nelly Crispin, M. et Mme. Vincent, M. et Mme. Leroy, Mme. et Melle. Masset, M. Mme. et Melle. Livin, M. Derog, Mme. et Melle Jacobs, Melle. Anna Vincent, M. Jules Ner, M. Jacques Spencis, M. Juan Renard, Melle. Andree Dupuis. The assembly probably numbered some 350 odd, and fully 150 couples took the floor during the waltzes, which were most popular.

#### The Dancing.

The fifth number, a waltz, saw the floor crowded, and presenting a scene of gay animation unequalled by any other witnessed by members of the Bn. while O.A.S. Many quaint and rather startling innovations in dancing were introduced at intervals by various people. One most distinguished officer, partnered by a pretty little girl about 9 years of age, was noticed enlivening the usual waltz steps by introducing variations of the Irish jig, minuet and Australian corroboree. This charming novelty, if disconcerting to his partner, had at least the advantage of being original. During the polka, the onlooker was

treated to the sight of elderly ladies clinging tightly to lads young enough to be their grandsons, and polking with great determination and "go". The effort of some of the younger people to appear graceful during their somewhat unbecoming evolutions in this dance were ludicrous in the extreme, having the appearance of the contortions of the proverbial "cat on hot bricks". One of the troops displayed his knowledge of the latest novelties and ball-room etiquette by barging at intervals right down one side of the ring, and bumping heavily against couples who were endeavouring to enjoy themselves. It is a pity this practice was not more seriously viewed by the L.C.

#### Civilian's Dance.

In introducing dances solely for the Belgians, the Committee did the right thing, and are to be complimented on their fore-thought. During one of these dances, one could not help wondering how two "Ladies" had gained admittance to the Hall. They were hardly of the type one would introduce to one's terms, and their presence there was strongly resented by the Belgian ladies, as distasteful to all.

#### The Costumes.

Some of the ladies wore very striking and natty costumes, typical Belgian. One noticed particularly a gown fetchingly designed from white orpè de-ohane, with underskirt of pink Georgette, adorned with a charming collar of Brussel's lace. A string of imitation pearls set the whole costume off very handsomely. Mlle M----- wore a chic blue ninon with panels of black taffeta, which presented a pleasing and quiet effect. Mme. S----- was charmingly attired in a well-cut and original gown of pale-blue charmeuse, with collar of marine blue shot-silk.

#### Some Incidents.

During the intervals, the troops congregated in the centre of the floor, mostly looking rather sheepish, and making no attempt to converse with the many beautiful ladies adorning the side benches. The Belgian gentlemen monopolised the attention of the prettiest girls until the signal for the next dance was given, when the Aussies would dash in for their cut. One very new young lot did sit out all the dances with a fair young lady, and another attempted to fascinate a pretty young flapper, but this was cut short by the arrival of the maiden's M.

#### People's Franks.

During the Jolly Miller (which was very popular and amusing, and the signal for several "wallflowers", mostly rather elderly, to hop in for their cut) our worthy R.M.O. carried out successfully a clever piece of head-work. On finding himself confronted, when the music stopped, by a lady of very uncertain age and faded charms, he jumped backward and sideways with that agility due to the heart of the Tommy I.T. instructor, and carried off a fairer partner from beneath the very nose of a digger. Lt. Maxwell, V.C., after parading round with his weather eye on a particular pearl, clicked nicely with the best looking girl in the room, but this was far more by good luck than good management. Pte George Gorman piloted an aged madam through the intricacies of a valotte, with the stately grace of a mid-Victorian courtier. W.O. Murray appeared to be the most uncomfortable man in the room, and one feared least his now Sam Browne belt would really choke him, as it appeared to be doing. Whilst the remainder were whirling around to the gay music of a barn dance, a "lot" of the 20th. Bn., partnered by a heavy-weight young lady dressed in a white blouse and black skirt, waltzed around the inside of the ring, very slowly and ungracefully. The proceeding ~~xx~~ appeared to be very painful and agonising to both.

#### The Rag.

In the rag, fully half those on the floor were apparently unacquainted with the steps, and they waltzed in double time, with set faces expressive of grim resolve and determination. Some more gentle recreation, such as mountain perching, would apparently have been a welcome relief to them. One fierce looking lady, who waltzed through the rag, was rather conspicuous by reason of a rifle, chopping, windmill action of the arms. She swung them with such vigour that any unfortunate who might have been in the way and stopped them, would most certainly have been knocked out. At all events, she successfully cleared a passage for herself and distressed looking young partner. Later, in a polka her weird gymnastic evolutions, were strongly reminiscent of the "can-can", and would have been much better if performed in the centre of a 100 acre paddock.

#### The Chaperones.

Of chaperones, a goodly assortment was on view. Mostly, they were of the distinctly "family" type of lady, there to see no one eloped with their daughters. They enlivened the passing hours with the exchange of reminiscences of their younger days, and rather scandalous comments on the other ladies present. Although they missed the exercise of the dancing, they quite made up for this when the supper arrived.

#### After the Supper.

After the supper, dancing again progressed merrily until about 1-1/2 a.m.. The "Deerfoot" reporter admired the remarkable hang-froid and other things, of one young lady, who found it necessary to adjust her garters. By

11.30 some of the complexions had rather faded, but some of the troops appeared to have rather a glow up.

FINIS

The music throughout the evening was excellent, and reflects great credit on the very able musicians who supplied it. The floor and supper arrangements were excellent, but the loss of a trench coat and pair of gloves left our reporter cold on the subject of cloak room arrangements. However, the evening was a brilliant success, full of fun, life and beauty, and the committee must be given all thanks and congratulations for this. The M.C. also deserves a special mention for his work. The 14th Battalion thank all the Belgians for their presence, and trust that it will not be the last pleasant evening spent in their midst.

By our Special Correspondent.

## P L A C E S   O F   I N T E R E S T

### ANTWERP

ANTWERP is one of the greatest seaports of EUROPE, serving as an outlet for the commerce of Germany as well as Belgium prior to the outbreak of war. It was once the capital of a Margravite, belonging to the Duchy of Brabant, and was founded as early as the 7th century. In 637 the town was destroyed by the Frisians. Its advantageous position on the Scheldt, 40 miles from the sea rendered Antwerp a very important and wealthy place in the middle ages. Commerce, which luxury and revolution had banished from other Flemish towns, especially Bruges, sought refuge here about the close of the 15th century. Under Emperor Charles V, Antwerp was perhaps the most prosperous and wealthy city in the continent: when at the height of its prosperity it numbered 200,000 inhabitants -- in 1565. At that period, thousands of vessels are said to have lain in the Scheldt at one time, while a hundred or more arrived daily. The great fairs held there attracted merchants from all parts of the civilised world. The Flemish manufactures: such as carpets, clothing stuffs, gold and silver wares, enjoyed a high reputation after the beginning of the 16th century and were exported from Antwerp to all known parts of the world.

Antwerp's decline began during the Spanish regime. The terrors of the Inquisition banished thousands of the industrious citizens, many of who sought refuge in England, where they established silk factories, and contributed greatly to stimulate English trade. Fearful havoc was committed by the Spanish in 1576, when the city was unscrupulously pillaged; it afterwards suffered severely during a siege of 14 months, followed by its capture by the Duke of Parma in 1585. In addition to these disasters, the citizens were deprived of the greater part of their commerce by the intrigues of their Dutch rivals, who, during the siege of the city, used secret means to prevent assistance being rendered to the beleaguered; and afterwards erected forts at the mouth of the river to prevent its navigation by Antwerp vessels. The maritime trade of the city received its death-blow from the Treaty of Munster, by which Holland was declared independent of Spain, and it was agreed that no seagoing vessels should be permitted to go to Antwerp; but should unload at a Dutch port, whence merchandise should be forwarded to Antwerp by river barges only.

In 1794, the French obtained possession of Antwerp, re-opened the navigation of the Scheldt, and dismantled the forts erected by the Dutch. Napoleon, who recognised the strategical importance of Antwerp, caused a harbour and new quays to be erected, but the wars in which he was engaged, prevented him from actively promoting the interests of commerce. In 1814, the city was defended against the Allies by Carnot, but was surrendered to the British, and afterwards incorporated with the newly-constituted kingdom of the Netherlands.

The prosperity of Antwerp received a new impetus from the trade it then carried on with the Dutch colonies; but it was again utterly ruined by the revolution of 1830, in which the citizens participated sorely against their will, and which diverted its trade to Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

However, the tide of prosperity again set in about 30 years later when the right of levying navigation dues on the Scheldt was commuted. Since that date, its commerce has increased in a greater ratio than that of any other European seaport.

As many may know, Antwerp had long been the rendez-vous of the Belgian army, and as happened in 1914, when the neutrality of the country

Antwerp was, though for a short period, the centre of the Belgian Revival. The population of Antwerp is exclusively Flemish. The numerous masterpieces of painting which it possesses afford one of the best proofs of its mediæval prosperity. The fascinating influence of Rubens cannot be appreciated without a visit to Antwerp, where his finest works are preserved.

About 50 years ago, Antwerp made a vigorous effort to regain the artistic pre-eminence which it so gloriously asserted in the 17th. century. The modern revival of art saw its rise in Antwerp. A great effort was made to re-erect the ancient national style of art, and to revive a just appreciation of Rubens and his contemporaries--a visitor to the city can readily see how well they succeeded. Even a day's visit allows one to view the more important structures in the city, the fine Gothic Cathedral being prominent amongst these. The rich portal, the choir, the Chapels, make it one of the finest churches in the Netherlands. Here may be seen Rubens's masterpiece, the "Descent from the Cross", painted soon after his return from Italy, where he acquired the skill and tone of the Italian masters, and which is so noticeable in all his paintings of a later date.

Near the Cathedral may be seen an old well, executed by Quinten Massys, who at one time was a blacksmith, and afterwards a famous painter. Close by, the plain structure of the Hotel du Ville may be seen--Renaissance style. But once inside, one marvels at the grandeur and wonderful works to be found there. It is in the Marriage Room, which contains a chimney dating to the 16th. century, that all the knots of wedlock are tied.

In front of the Hotel du Ville, stands a bronze fountain, surmounted by a statue of Brabo, a mythical hero, who defeated and cut off the hand of the giant Antigenus. This giant used to exact a heavy toll from vessels entering the Scheldt, and ruthlessly cut off, and threw the hand of every shipmaster who refused to pay into the river. Hence, says the legend, the name of the town--Antwerpen (Flemish) werpen to throw. The Academy of Beautiful Arts is one of the places that all visitors to Antwerp should see. There, the magnificent collections of the works of Flemish painters of all ages and all schools, are to be seen. Rubens, Teniers, Van Dyck, Quentin Massys, Holbein--in fact every master of every Flemish school. The walls are adorned with these priceless works, and one inside the building, one moved along through the many rooms in an ecstasy of delight.

Other places of interest in the city which might be mentioned, are the Bourse, Railway Station, and Zoological Gardens--now almost devoid of animals. On the whole, Antwerp suffered very little in devastation through the war, although for a long time, the Harbour was of little use to the Huns, the Belgians having sunk a 16000 ton German liner across the river; the vessel had been to Aussie several times. The Germans managed to salvage it after two and a half years, and after having everything renovated, and ready for painting, they were hurriedly called to further lands.

A visitor to Brussels can with ease see Antwerp in a single day, but to note the many beauties etc., weeks are needed. Men on leave to Brussels can get a 3-30 train from the Gare du Nord, and after a good day with Louis the gun can return by trains leaving at 8p.m., 8-15 or 12-30p.m. DONT MISS IT.

"BANFF".

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Digger --Writes, "I followed your advice, and nipped the M.O. for a cigarette.

He gave me one -- an 'ORA' ". Digger, you have our sincere sympathies.

Spotlight. No, we have no idea why people with jobs waiting worth £1500 a year, are so anxious to remain in the Army. We suppose that is what politicians mean by "patriotism".

Lance-Corporal. If the lady is so keen on you, we advise you to either take poison, or get away with the next draft. There seems to be no easy way out of it.

Private S.R.D. Although it is rather a vulgar way of doing it, we advise you to get a cobbler to write to her, and say you have been killed by a tram.

Corporal H. Cannot tell you where you may purchase 19th. Bn. colours. Cannot understand what you want them for. What is wrong with the purple or green?

755421 Get the idea right out of your head that any rations were kept from the troops to provide supper at the Battalion dance. We would very much like you to pay us a personal visit.

Protious. Your poem is too classical for this paper--try the "Sydney Bulletin". We reproduce one stanza to encourage you.

87  
 "And then the gay and gallant louts,  
 With collars light, and kiwied boots,  
 Produce their cash.  
 And try to mash,  
 Our girls, when e'er we leave them.  
 They'd pinch them, if they got a chance,  
 They try it on at every dance,  
 But we're too shrewd,  
 And sometimes rude,  
 For we always beat them badly."

William. We know all about the doings at the Cafe in the Rue-de la Plagne.  
 You see, we have inside information.

#### ----- PRESENTATION OF MEDALS. -----

On Tuesday morning, in the square at MONTIGNY, in the presence of the whole Brigade, Lt. Col. F. Forber, D.S.O., presented medals to members of the 5th. Bde. Rugby team, in recognition of their good services in winning the 2nd. Div. Competition. The following members of the 18th. Bn. were presented with the medals:-

Sgt. T. Russell, Col. Patterson, Pte. Donnelly, and Pte. Jefferies, and also these T.M. Bty. men who played with the 18th. team -- L/Cpl. Smith, Pte. Earnshaw, and Pte. Brennan. "We extend to them our very heartiest congratulations."

-666666-

OH! WHAT A DIFFERENCE !

-666666-

At a dance the other night, I was enchanted by a fair young thing who evidently belonged to the "very best people", that is, if one could only judge by her "company" manners. When supper was served, she daintily nibbled at a small piece of cake, carefully conveying portions about the size of one's finger-nail to her mouth in quite the way the very "naïveté" people do. Next day, I saw her, clad in the usual garb of the country, hanging out the washing, and she had seventeen clothes-pegs in her mouth!

"Observer"

W H A T

W E

W A N T

T O

K N O W .

1. Who were the subs. and why were they walking along the tram line at Montigny last Sunday at 1640 ?
2. Why all the troops were boozed last Wednesday?
3. Why so many men don't want to go on draft now?
4. Why did the doorkeeper let two "ladies" in to the dance on Wednesday?
5. Why did a certain officer lose his trench coat on rum issue night?
6. Whether certain people who suddenly acquired many francs are now feeling sorry for themselves?
7. Why a certain officer, who has not been on Brigade so very long, find it necessary to visit Montigny so frequently?
8. How a cafe proprietor near the Casino came into possession of rum all equal to the issued article? If it IS issue rum, broken down?
9. Did No. 71 recently go into the Iron Cross business, and is his balance sheet up to expectations?
10. Why he didn't use a mattick instead of his hand one night last week?

#### REGIMENTAL SONGS.

"The Infantry, the infantry, who go before the guns, The Infantry, the Infantry, who strafe the bally Huns. The Cavalry, Artillery, and all the Engineers. Could never beat the Infantry, in a hundred thousand years."

"The A.I.F. are happy, the A.I.F. are free, The A.I.F. are happy, when out upon the spree, They never never quarrel, and never dis-agree, And the motto of the A.I.F. is 'Come and have a drink with me' "

These two grand old songs, reminiscent of many a convivial evening are perhaps the only two songs of note that may be classed as regimental.

"Music Lover"

A FET BATTALION SIGNATURES ENDORSING THE "DEESWEET'S" MESSAGE TO THE DRAFT.

W. B. Parker Major Charles M. Huggins Col.  
 W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.  
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 W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.

F. Blum C. J.

W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.  
 W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.

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W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.

W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.

R. De Saxe 2/Lt.

W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.

W. H. Jones Jr. C. J. Campbell Capt. R. H. C.

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