

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/40/29

**Title:** 23rd Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/40/29

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion A.I.F.*

FOR

*February*      **1918**

Signature of Officer compiling

*M. Wier Lt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H. Brazner Lt Col  
C.O. 23rd Bn*

Secret  
Original

23<sup>rd</sup> B.N.

WAR DIARY

VOL XXXIV

Army Form C. 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.

A.I.F. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

P.P.I.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place                                | Date           | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Strength. | Remarks and references to Appendices |              |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Guesques<br>CALAIS<br>100000<br>4 F. | February 1918. |      |   |           |                                      |              |
|                                      | 1              | -    | Coy. Training was commenced; a syllabus embracing various points raised   |           |                                      |              |
|                                      | 2              | -    | at a conference of C.O.s was drawn up for the ensuing week.   | 45        | 961                                  | App. 1. m.w. |
|                                      | 3              | -    | Church Parade conducted by Chap. F. J. Beverdon was held at 9.30 am. at 3 pm. Brig. Genl. J. Paton addresses Bn. officers on course to be pursued during training period, particularly stressing musketry and recreational claims.    |           |                                      | m.w.         |
|                                      | 4              | -    | Courses at Bn. schools were opened. Principals being Lewis Gun - Bombing Lt. Dodgshun & Lt. Hislop respectively. - Signalling Lt. J. Wiltshires.  |           |                                      | App 2 m.w.   |
|                                      | 5              | -    | accompanied by asst. adjutant, Lt. G. M. Elliott, C.O. proceeds to Records, Rouen, Major W. J. Bateman temporarily assuming command.  |           |                                      | m.w.         |
|                                      | 6              | -    | Private Turner, A. Coy, accidentally killed on previous day, was buried in Guesques cemetery being accorded full military honours. a voluntary subscription was made by members of the Bn. to enable tombstone to be placed on grave. |           |                                      | m.w.         |
|                                      | 7 + 8          |      | Rain interferes with training operations.   |           |                                      | m.w.         |
|                                      | 9.             |      | First course at Lt. & Bomb. school ended by a tactical scheme demonstrating with live ammunition use & cooperation of both arms.  | 47        | 984                                  | m.w.         |
|                                      | 10             | -    | Church services were held in School Room GUESQUES. Chap. J. Wainford conducting.  |           |                                      | m.w.         |

Secret

*Required*

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23<sup>rd</sup> B<sup>n</sup>

WAR DIARY

VOL XXXIV

Army Form C. 2118.

A. I. F. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Pp. 2.

| Place    | Date           | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Strength                           | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|----------------|------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|          | February 1918. |      |  |                                    |                                      |
| QUESQUES | 11 + 12        |      | Usual training proceeds. Pte. J. McQuinnis No. 1756, awarded <i>broig de guerre</i>  | <i>Shingth</i><br><i>o. o. h's</i> | app. 3                               |
|          | 13 + 14        |      | Rain precludes training; Bide concert Party entertains C + D Coy at Verval + on 14 <sup>th</sup> A + B Coy. at QUESQUES.   |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          | 15             | -    | C.O. + Lt Elliott returned - In inter-battalion football B <sup>n</sup> team was defeated by 22 <sup>nd</sup> B <sup>n</sup> by 2 goals.   |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          | 16 + 17.       |      | 16 <sup>th</sup> usual training proceeds. 17 <sup>th</sup> Chap. Cleverdon conducts church Parade.   | 48. 1002                           | mw.                                  |
|          | 18             | -    | Dental Parades continued, completing dental inspection of whole battalion.   |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          |                |      | C.O. Lt. Col. W. Braynor D.S.O. assumed temporary command of 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde.  |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          | 19             | -    | For purposes of records, B <sup>n</sup> officers + men photographed.   |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          | 20             | -    | Party consisting of G.M. and assistants visits Salvage Depot. CALAIS.  |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          | 21 + 22        |      | usual training on 22 <sup>nd</sup> B <sup>n</sup> attends Gas demonstration near HARLETTE  |                                    | app 4                                |
|          | 23             | -    | Chemical contest for representative B <sup>n</sup> platoon, in field firing + bayonet work, under auspices of A.R.A. - No. 2 Platoon (Lt. S.W. Morrell) being picked by Judges. Lt. Col. W. Braynor, D.S.O. Maj. W. J. Bateman + Lieut. L. Maddrell M.C. | 48 1010                            | mw.                                  |
|          | 24             | -    | Chaplain Durnford conducts Church Parade.  |                                    | mw.                                  |
|          | 25             | -    | Demonstration at R.E. Park. WIMEREUX attended by I.O. + Lt. J. E. Smith  |                                    | mw.                                  |

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23<sup>rd</sup> Bn  
A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

VOL XXXIV

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OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place    | Date           | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|----------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| QUESQUES | February 1918. |      |   | Shinga<br>o.o.k's                    |
|          | 26             | -    | Usual Training.   | m.w.                                 |
|          | 27             | -    | Battalion exercise carried out in morning. - No. 2 Platoon second in "Bde Elimination" Contest A.R.A.   | app 5.<br>m.w.                       |
|          | 28             | -    | Inter Coy. football - H.Q. Coy. leading by 1 point - Bde Horse show held at QUESQUES. 47.1034<br>10 Volunteers secured from each Coy. to form Raiding Platoons. | J. G. report.<br>m.w.                |
|          |                |      |   | Braynor Lt. Col.<br>C.O. 23rd Bn.    |

# WAR DIARY

OF

23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

February 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject.   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Syllabus of Training for week ending 9.2.18            |
| 2.  | Orders for B <sup>n</sup> School. S.                   |
| 3.  | Syllabus of Training for week ending 16.2.18.          |
| 4.  | Syllabus of Training for week ending 23.2.18           |
| 5   | do do do 2.3.18  |
| 5A  | Battalional Operations Order - Tactical Scheme 27.2.18 |
| 6.  | Quartermaster's Summary.                               |
| 7.  | Transport Officer's Report.                            |
| 8.  | General Report.  |

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23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

APPENDIX  
New  
Draft

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - FOR GREE EXERCISES 9.2.18.

| Date.  | Time             | "A" Coy.                   | "B" Coy.            | "C" Coy.       | "D" Coy.            |
|--------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 4.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to     | Bayonet                    | Physical            | Platoon        | Platoon             |
|        | 10.15 a.m.       | Fighting                   | Training            | Drill          | Drill               |
|        | 10.15 a.m. to    | Musketry                   | Musketry            | Musketry       | Musketry            |
|        | 10.45 a.m.       |                            |                     |                |                     |
|        | 11.00 a.m. to    | Physical                   | Bayonet             | Bayonet        | Bayonet             |
|        | 11.30 a.m.       | Training                   | Fighting            | Fighting       | Fighting            |
|        | 11.30 a.m. to    | Rifle                      | Rifle               | Rifle          | Rifle               |
|        | 11.45 a.m.       | Exercises                  | Exercises           | Exercises      | Exercises           |
| 5.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to     | Platoon                    | Platoon             | Bayonet        | Physical            |
|        | 10.15 a.m.       | Drill                      | Drill               | Fighting       | Training            |
|        | 10.15 a.m. to    | Musketry                   | Musketry            | Musketry       | Musketry            |
|        | 10.45 a.m.       |                            |                     |                |                     |
|        | 11.00 a.m. to    | Bayonet                    | Bayonet             | Physical       | Bayonet             |
|        | 11.30 a.m.       | Fighting                   | Fighting            | Training       | Fighting            |
|        | 11.30 a.m. to    | Rifle                      | Rifle               | Rifle          | Rifle               |
|        | 11.45 a.m.       | Exercises                  | Exercises           | Exercises      | Exercises           |
| 6.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to     | Bayonet                    | Physical            | Platoon        | Platoon             |
|        | 10.15 a.m.       | Fighting                   | Training            | Drill          | Drill               |
|        | 10.15 a.m. to    | Musketry                   | Musketry            | Musketry       | Musketry            |
|        | 10.45 a.m.       |                            |                     |                |                     |
|        | 11.00 a.m. to    | Guards &                   | Guards &            | Guards &       | Guards &            |
|        | 11.30 a.m.       | Sentries                   | Sentries            | Sentries       | Sentries            |
|        | 11.30 a.m. to    | Rifle                      | Rifle               | Rifle          | Rifle               |
|        | 11.45 a.m.       | Exercises                  | Exercises           | Exercises      | Exercises           |
| 7.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to     | Platoon                    | Platoon             | Bayonet        | Physical            |
|        | 10.15 a.m.       | Drill                      | Drill               | Fighting       | Training            |
|        | 10.15 a.m. to    | Musketry                   | Musketry            | Musketry       | Musketry            |
|        | 10.45 a.m.       |                            |                     |                |                     |
|        | 11.00 a.m. to    | Bayonet                    | Bayonet             | Physical       | Bayonet             |
|        | 11.30 a.m.       | Fighting                   | Fighting            | Training       | Fighting            |
|        | 11.30 a.m. to    | Rifle                      | Rifle               | Rifle          | Rifle               |
|        | 11.45 a.m.       | Exercises                  | Exercises           | Exercises      | Exercises           |
| 8.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to     | Gas                        | Gas                 | Gas            | Gas                 |
|        | 10.15 a.m.       | Drill                      | Drill               | Drill          | Drill               |
|        | 10.15 a.m. to    | Physical                   | Physical            | Physical       | Physical            |
|        | 10.45 a.m.       | Training                   | Training            | Training       | Training            |
|        | 11.00 a.m. to    | Route                      | Route               | Route          | Route               |
|        | 11.45 a.m.       | March                      | March               | March          | March               |
|        |                  |                            | (in Half-Battalion) |                | (in Half-Battalion) |
|        | 9.2.18<br>(Sat.) | 9.30 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m. |                     | Extended Order |                     |

NOTES

- 1.- Coy. commanders will adhere to a physical Training Table while on parade. No organized Games to be permitted.
- 2.- Musketry Table - as per attached appendix.

*S. J. Addell*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

End February, 1918.

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APPENDIX  
MUSKETRY TABLE

APPENDIX /

HARD

EASY

MONDAY.

Firing Positions

Care of Arms

TUESDAY.

Bolt Drill

Trigger Pressing

WEDNESDAY.

Rapid Loading

Visual Training

THURSDAY.

Rapid Firing

Judging Distance.



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GRAND FOR BATTALION SCHOOL

- 1. INSTRUCTORS. Bombing.- Lieut. C.B. Hialep.  
No. 691 Sgt. W.J.H. Blake.  
Lewis Guns.- Lieut. H. Hodgshun.  
No. 2009 Sgt. T.S. Heath.
- SCHOOL S.M.- W.C. O. WILBY.
- 2. DURATION OF COURSE.- Each Course in Bombing and Lewis Gunnery will be for four (4) successive days.
- 3. TRAINING.- The instruction of the first two days of the Course will be elementary.  
The third and fourth days practical, and tactical training; co-operation of Bombing and the use of Lewis Guns being used.
- 4. PARADE HOURS.- 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Recreational Training with Coys.)  
School to be formed up and dismissed at 11.50 a.m.
- 5. PARADE.- Students will parade at 9.20 a.m. daily under the School S.M., and will in turn be handed over to Senior Officer.
- 6. NOMINAL ROLL.- The School S.M. will have a complete Nominal Roll of all students, and roll will be called on each Parade.
- 7. DUTIES.- Students attending this school must not be detailed for any duty that will hinder their attendance at the School.

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Sad February, 1918.

*W. H. Hadden* Lieut.  
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

*War Diary*  
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APPENDIX  
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ORDERS FOR BATTALION SIGNAL SCHOOL

- 1.- INSTRUCTORS.      Lieut. J.A. WILKINSON.  
                                     No. 3996 Cpl.D. WHELAN.
- 2.- DURATION OF COURSE.      The course in Signalling will be three weeks.
- 3.- TRAINING.            1st week.-      Elementary.  
                                     2nd "      .-      "      and Electrical.  
                                     3rd "      .-      Practical and Examination.
- 4.- PARADES.            All students to parade at No. 49 Billet at 9.15 a.m.  
                                     The school will be formed up and dismissed at 11.50 a.m.
- 5.- NOMINAL ROLLS.      The Asst. Instructor will have a complete Nominal Roll of all students.      The roll will be called on each parade.
- 6.- DUTIES.            Students attending this School must not be detailed for any duty that will hinder their attendance at the school.

*A. J. M. N.*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

3rd February, 1918.

## 23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

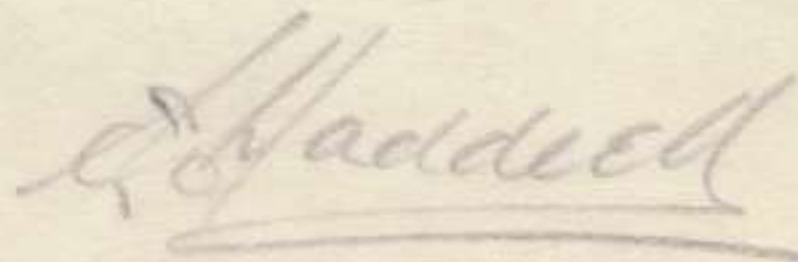
Warklau  
APPENDIX

## SYNOPSIS OF TRAINING - FOR WEEK ENDING 16.2.18.

| Date   | Time.                       | "A" Coy.                                | "B" Coy.                                | "C" Coy.                                | "D" Coy.                                |
|--|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 11.2.18  | 9.30 a.m. to<br>10.15 a.m.  | Bayonet<br>Fighting                     | Bayonet<br>Fighting                     | Musketry<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range. | Marking<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range.  |
|  | 10.15 a.m. to<br>10.45 a.m. | Musketry                                | Musketry                                |   |   |
|  | 11.00 a.m. to<br>11.30 a.m. | Physical<br>Training                    | Physical<br>Training                    |   |   |
|  | 11.30 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m. | Rifle<br>Exercises                      | Rifle<br>Exercises                      |   |   |
| 12.2.18  | 9.30 a.m. to<br>10.15 a.m.  | Platoon<br>Drill                        | Platoon<br>Drill                        |   |   |
|  | 10.15 a.m. to<br>10.45 a.m. | Musketry                                | Musketry                                | Marking<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range.  | Musketry<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range. |
|  | 11.00 a.m. to<br>11.30 a.m. | Guards &<br>Sentries                    | Guards &<br>Sentries                    |   |   |
|  | 11.30 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m. | Rifle<br>Exercises                      | Rifle<br>Exercises                      |   |   |
| 13.2.18  | 9.30 a.m. to<br>10.15 a.m.  |   |   | Bayonet<br>Fighting                     | Bayonet<br>Fighting                     |
|  | 10.15 a.m. to<br>10.45 a.m. | Musketry<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range. | Marking<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range.  | Musketry                                | Musketry                                |
|  | 11.00 a.m. to<br>11.30 a.m. |   |   | Physical<br>Training                    | Physical<br>Training                    |
|  | 11.30 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m. |   |   | Rifle<br>Exercises                      | Rifle<br>Exercises                      |
| 14.2.18  | 9.30 a.m. to<br>10.15 a.m.  |   |   | Coy.<br>Drill                           | Coy.<br>Drill                           |
|  | 10.15 a.m. to<br>10.45 a.m. | Marking<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range.  | Musketry<br>on<br>4th<br>Army<br>Range. | Musketry                                | Musketry                                |
|  | 11.00 a.m. to<br>11.30 a.m. |   |   | Guards &<br>Sentries                    | Guards &<br>Sentries                    |
|  | 11.30 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m. |   |   | Rifle<br>Exercises                      | Rifle<br>Exercises                      |
| 15.2.18  | 9.30 a.m. to<br>10.30 a.m.  | Gas<br>Drill                            | Gas<br>Drill                            | Gas<br>Drill                            | Gas<br>Drill                            |
|  | 10.45 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m. | Route<br>March<br>(In Half-Battalion)   | Route<br>March<br>(In Half-Battalion)   | Route<br>March<br>(In Half-Battalion)   | Route<br>March<br>(In Half-Battalion)   |
| ALL Details not fired Musketry Course to report<br>to Range at 9.30 a.m. |                             |   |   |   |   |
| 16.2.18  | 9.30 a.m. to<br>11.45 a.m.  | OPEN ORDER SCHEDULE                     |   |   |   |

## NOTES.-

- 1.- Coy. Commanders will adhere to a Physical Training Table while on Parade. No Organised Games to be permitted.



Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

9th February, 1918.

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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - FOR WEEK ENDING 23.2.18.

| Date.   | Time.         | "A" Coy.               | "B" Coy.               | "C" Coy.               | "D" Coy.               |
|---------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 18.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to  |                        |                        |                        | Bayonet Fighting       |
|         | 10.15 a.m.    | Musketry               | Musketry               | Practice               |                        |
|         | 10.15 a.m. to | on                     | on                     | A.R.A.                 |                        |
|         | 10.45 a.m.    | Battalion              | Battalion              | Competition            | Musketry               |
|         | 11.00 a.m. to | Minature               | MINATURE               | on                     | Physical Training      |
|         | 11.30 a.m.    | Range                  | Range                  | Battalion              | Rifle Exercises        |
|         | 11.30 a.m. to |                        |                        | Parade Ground          |                        |
|         | 11.45 a.m.    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| 19.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to  | Practice               | Bayonet Fighting       |                        | Musketry               |
|         | 10.15 a.m.    | A.R.A.                 |                        | Musketry               | on                     |
|         | 10.15 a.m. to | Competition            | Musketry               | on                     | Battalion              |
|         | 10.45 a.m.    | on                     |                        | MINATURE               | MINATURE               |
|         | 11.00 a.m. to | Battalion              | Physical Training      | Range                  | Range                  |
|         | 11.30 a.m.    | Parade Ground          | Rifle Exercises        |                        |                        |
|         | 11.30 a.m. to |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|         | 11.45 a.m.    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| 20.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to  |                        |                        | Bayonet Fighting       | Practice               |
|         | 10.15 a.m.    | Musketry               | Musketry               |                        | A.R.A.                 |
|         | 10.15 a.m. to | on                     | on                     | Musketry               | Competition            |
|         | 10.45 a.m.    | Battalion              | Battalion              |                        | on                     |
|         | 11.00 a.m. to | MINATURE               | MINATURE               | Physical Training      | Battalion              |
|         | 11.30 a.m.    | Range                  | Range                  | Rifle Exercises        | Parade Ground          |
|         | 11.30 a.m. to |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|         | 11.45 a.m.    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| 21.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to  | Bayonet Fighting       | Practice               |                        | Musketry               |
|         | 10.15 a.m.    |                        | A.R.A.                 | Musketry               | on                     |
|         | 10.15 a.m. to | Musketry               | Competition            | on                     | Battalion              |
|         | 10.45 a.m.    |                        | on                     | Battalion              | MINATURE               |
|         | 11.00 a.m. to | Physical Training      | Battalion              | MINATURE               | MINATURE               |
|         | 11.30 a.m.    | Rifle Exercises        | Parade Ground          | Range                  | Range                  |
|         | 11.30 a.m. to |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|         | 11.45 a.m.    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| 22.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to  | Inspection             | Inspection             | Inspection             | Inspection             |
|         | 10.30 a.m.    | Anti-Gas Appliances    | Anti-Gas Appliances    | Anti-Gas Appliances    | Anti-Gas Appliances    |
|         | 10.45 a.m. to | Route                  | Route                  | Route                  | Route                  |
|         | 11.45 a.m.    | March (Half-Battalion) | March (Half-Battalion) | March (Half-Battalion) | March (Half-Battalion) |
| 23.2.18 | 9.30 a.m. to  |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|         | 11.45 a.m.    |                        |                        |                        |                        |

SCHEDULES.

NOTES.

- 1.- All ranks will attend the Musketry Course. Lewis Gunners to be handed over to Lieut. DODGSHUN to shoot on Lewis Gun Minature Range (Next to Rifle Range).
- 2.- LOCATION OF RANGES. On Ground where the Bombing and Lewis Gun School was held last week.
- 3.- ROUTINE. Coys. to be on the Range at 9.30 a.m. sharp.
- 4.- MARCH. March Discipline to be observed to and from the Range.
- 5.- DRESS. Drill order.

16th February, 1918.

*H. Addick* Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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APPENDIX 5

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - FOR WEEK ENDING 2.3.18.

| Date                 | "A" Coy.   | "B" Coy.                                 | "C" Coy.                                 | "D" Coy.                                 |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Monday<br>25.2.18    | Platoons in<br>Attack on<br>Strong Posts   | Platoons in<br>Attack on<br>Strong Posts | Platoons in<br>Attack on<br>Strong Posts | Platoons in<br>Attack on<br>Strong Posts |
| Tuesday<br>26.2.18   | Coys. in<br>Attack.  | Coys. in<br>Attack.                      | Coys. in<br>Attack.                      | Coys. in<br>Attack.                      |
| Wednesday<br>27.2.18 | Battalion in Attack.   |  |  |  |
| Thursday<br>28.2.18  | Coys. in<br>Attack.  | Coys. to<br>Attack.                      | Coys. in<br>Attack.                      | Coys. in<br>Attack.                      |
| Friday<br>1.3.18.    | Brigade Scheme.  |  |  |  |
| Saturday<br>2.3.18.  | Inspection of Anti-Gas Appliances. 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.<br>Route March - Half Battalion. 10.45 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.<br>"A" and "B" Coys.<br>"C" and "D" Coys. |  |  |  |

23rd February, 1918.

*R. Addick*  
 Lieut.  
 Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER.

APPENDIX 5

Ref. Map. - As issued to all concerned, 1/5,000.

- 1.- INTENTION. On the 27th February, 1918, the "Nth" Division, with Divisions on each Flank, will continue its advance. On the 6th Brigade Front, the 23rd Battalion A.I.F. will attack on the Right and the "Xth" Battalion on the Left. [21.c.80.15 and 21.c.35.15.]
- 2.- BOUNDARIES. BATTALION - 180 yards North and 180 yards South of Ridge. Inter-Coy. of Battn. - Ridge 21.c.80.15 and 21.c.35.15.
- 3.- MODE OF ATTACK The "Xth" Battalion will attack and capture Wood, pushing through to the High Ground on the Left of our Final Objective, where they will link us through and make a continuous line throughout the Division. The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will capture SUNKEN ROAD and Trench running 27.b.7.5. and 27.b.8.7., pushing on ~~the~~ High Ground in advance immediately.
- 4.- ASSEMBLY PLACE At ZERO-10 the 3 attacking Coys. to be formed up on the J.O.T. and the Support Coy. will be in the Front Line Trench. DISTANCES.- Lines 15 yards. Waves 25 yards.
- 5.- POSITIONS OF COYS. "B" Coy. to take first objective and to cover the whole front. "D" Coy. to take the Left. Coy. Sector in the 2nd and 3rd Wave. "C" Coy. to take the Right Coy. Sector in the 2nd and 3rd Wave. "A" Coy. in Support.
- 6.- MOVEMENT. At ZERO the whole formation on the J.O.T. will move forward - the first line of "B" Coy. only extended. On reaching the 1st Objective, Lines will open to 25 yards and Waves to 75 yards. On any Line being in front it will immediately extend. The Support Coy. will stand fast and await orders.
- 7.- OBJECTIVES. "B" Coy. - SUNKEN ROAD.  $\frac{1}{2}$  "C" and "D" Coys. - Trench running 27.b.7.5. and 27.b.8.7.  $\frac{1}{2}$  "C" and "D" Coys. - To form a line of Strong posts in advance on HIGH Ground.
- 8.- SIGNALS. The Signalling Officer will arrange to have Visual Stations established throughout.
- 9.- R.A.P.'s. Before Attack - In Support Line. Advanced R.A.P.- In the 1st Objective in SUNKEN ROAD.
- 10.- DUMPS. BATTALION Dump will be moved to the Front Line on night before the attack. BRIGADE Dump .....
- 11.- HEADQUARTERS. BATTALION Headquarters ..... Advance Battalion Headquarters will move to 1st Objective on Signal of Success being fired.
- 12.- SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES. WATCHES will be synchronised at Headquarters twice during 24 Hours preceding attack.
- 13.- A C K N O W L E D G E

26th February, 1918.

*[Signature]*  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER UNITS.APPENDIX  
5SECRETTACTICAL SCHEME.

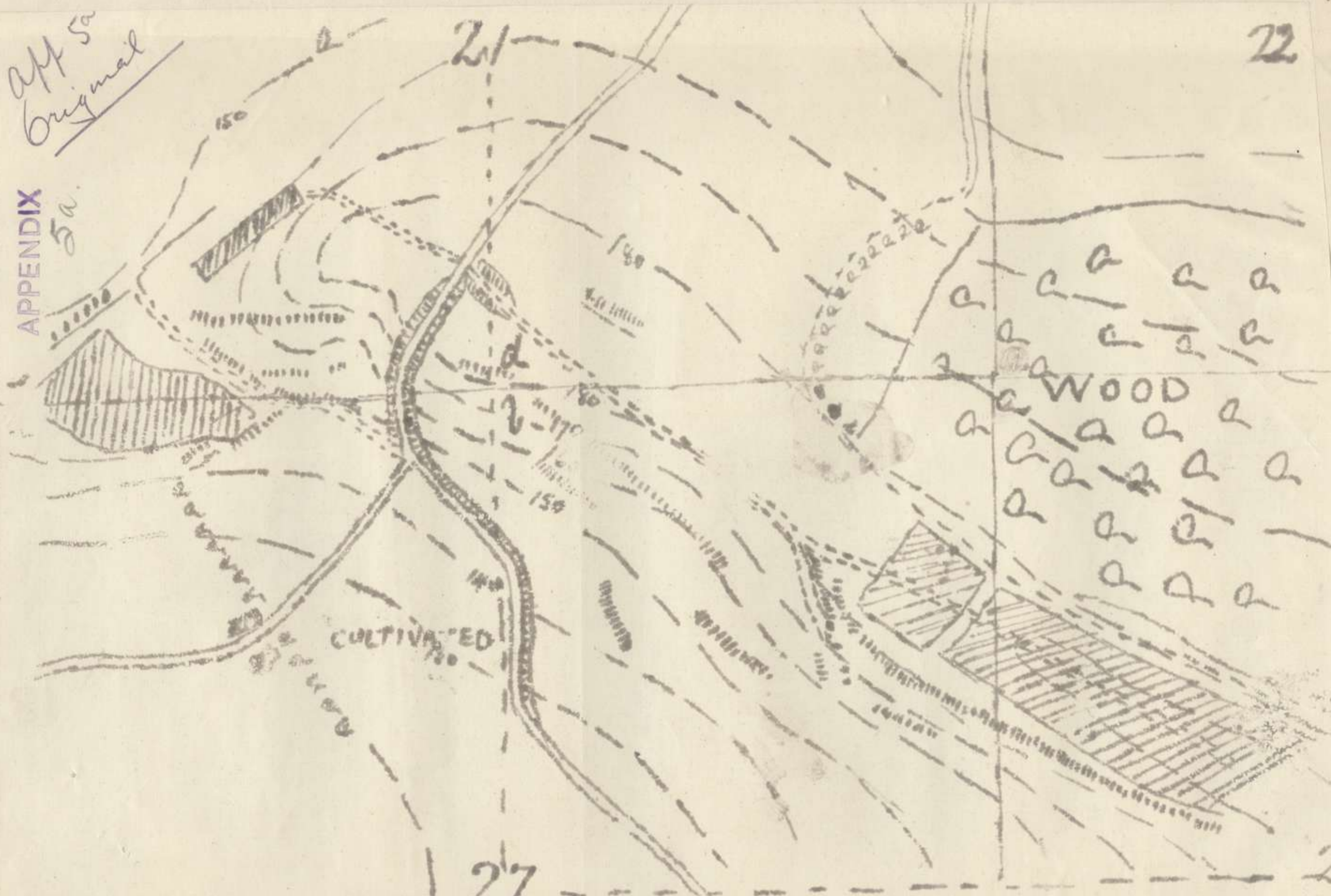
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BATTALION OPERATION ORDER.APPENDIX

- 
- 1.- STOKES MORTARS. Stokes Mortars will move forward after the third Wave and will be used on strong posts and surprise positions.
- 2.- VICKERS GUNS. Vickers Guns will give Overhead Barrage throughout.
- 3.- ARTILLERY. At ZERO the Barrage will be placed 100 yards short of the first Objective.  
At ZERO plus 15 the Barrage will move forward at the rate of 25 yards per minute.  
At ZERO plus 19 the first Objective will be carried and cleaned up.  
The Barrage will continue to advance at 25 yards per minute to the 2nd Objective, and at ZERO plus 30, after Destructive Fire on 2nd Objective, this will be carried.  
The Barrage will creep out 300 yards and will remain there giving covering fire while we consolidate.
- 4.- ZERO. ZERO will be notified later.
- 5.- A C K N O W L E D G E.
- 

26th February, 1918.

*A. J. Addell* Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.



app 5a  
Original

APPENDIX  
5a.

CULTIVATED

WOOD

2218

CALAIS

100000

4F19

1/5000

SKETCH ENLARGEMENT

Square 21 c + d (parts)

27 c + b

22 c + 28 a (parts)

Appendix 5A.



93  
app 6

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
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Q.M.'s. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY. 1918.

GENERAL.

During the Month of February the Battalion has been in rest in comfortable Billets, at QUESQUES and VERVAL.

The Division was scattered over a wide area and the Ordnance Stores were situated at NEILLES, a distance of ten Kilometres from QUESQUES, where this Battalion was billeted. The distance prevented a visit to Ordnance every day and trips were made, on an average, every alternate day.

On the 20th February arrangements were made for Company Quartermaster Sergeants and the Q.M. to visit the Salvage and By-Product Depots at CALAIS. This proved to be a practical demonstration of the immense saving effected by these Depots, and the importance of salvage of all classes of War Material.

During the Month a Solder Kiln has been established here and a considerable quantity of Solder has been extracted from empty ration tins.

ORDNANCE.

CLOTHING.-

At the beginning of the Month the Battalion was in need of a considerable quantity of Clothing. This was indented for and was found to be rather slow in coming to hand, but by the end of the Month the Battalion was well clothed and equipped.

BOOTS.-

About 200 pairs of Boots have been drawn during the Month. The class of Boot supplied has been inferior to the usual standard. The sole leather is of very poor quality and the Bootmakers have been kept hard at work repairing.

REGIMENTAL EQUIPMENT.-

The Battalion came into this Area with Regimental Equipment complete with the exception of Signal Flags and some Revolvers for Lewis Gunners. These have now been supplied.

TRANSPORT.-

A considerable number of parts of Vehicles have been replaced and the turnout of the Transport is well up-to-date.

RATIONS.

The Rations generally have been GOOD. For a time the average weights of Meat and Bacon were found to be short. Complaints were made to the Supply Officer and this was adjusted.

The Tea Ration was reduced from 5/8 oz. to 1/2 oz. The reduced Ration was found to be sufficient.

The Ration of Oats was reduced by 2 lbs. per Horse. As the Horses were living in Stables and under good conditions, no hardship was inflicted on them.

28th FEBRUARY, 1918.

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| RATIONS  | ..... | GOOD. |
| CLOTHING | ..... | GOOD. |
| BOOTS    | ..... | FAIR. |

-----00000-----

1st March, 1918.

*Holmes* Hon. Capt.  
Quartermaster, 23rd Battalion.

Brigade Headquarters,  
24th February, 1918.

P R O G R A M M E.

To be held on 23rd Bn. Football Ground, QUESQUES, on  
Thursday, 28th February, 1918 at 1.30 p.m.

- 1.- Best turned out pair of pack Horses or Mules. No Saddle Blanket or Rug. Two Boxes of S.A.A. to be carried. (Ropes to be used). One entry per Unit. 1st Prize 20 Francs. 2nd Prize 10 Francs.
- 2.- Best turned out Limber.- One entry per Unit.  
1st Prize 30 Francs. 2nd Prize 15 Francs.  
Rifle and Cover in Cups. Board Inventory Wood with list on near side - fore portion. Brush Water Carriage - one.  
FORE PORTION.- Buckets Water G.S. Canvas - two tied to studs.  
Cordage Spun Yarn - Hemp 5 lbs.  
Grease lubricating, in Grease Box - 3 lbs.  
REAR PORTION.- 4 pair Shoes and Nails in S.A.A. Box on front of rear portion.  
Grease lubricating - 3lbs in Grease Box.  
Ropes, drag, light G.S. - pair.  
Covers Waggon two. To be folded in Limber.  
In S.A.A. Box.- Block Brake Field Transport - 2  
Collars adjusting 2nd Class C. 1. Capped Wheels 1  
Washers, drag, 2nd Class C. capped Wheels 1.  
2 Horse Rugs in Limber.  
DRIVER. Dress.- Belt, Bandolier, Side Arms, 50 rounds S.A.A.,  
1 Brakesman, Drill Order (Web).
- 3.- Best turned out Cooker.- One entry per Unit.  
1st Prize 30 Francs. 2nd Prize 15 Francs.  
Rear half Cooker to be complete with Dixies - whole Cooker complete if possible. 2 Cooks.
- 4.- Best turned out Officer's Ride. (Officers up) Entries unlimited. Points to be awarded for correct fitting and cleanliness of Bridle and Saddle, and best turn out. 1st Prize Trophy.
- 5.- Best Shoemith. One entry per Unit. Forefeet only to be shod. Smiths to provide their own material and tools. (Front sets shoes sizes 5, 6 and 7 only need be carried). Horses to be ~~selected~~ shod will be selected by Judges on the Ground.  
1st Prize 20 Francs. 2nd Prize 10 Francs.
- 6.- Mule Steeplechase. (Bareback) Entries per Unit unlimited.  
1st Prize 20 Francs. 2nd Prize 10 Francs.
- 7.- Rapid turn out of Limbers. One Entry Per Unit. points to be awarded for time taken and correctness of harnessing of horses, Brakeman not to assist.  
1st Prize 30 Francs. 2nd Prize 15 Francs.
- 8.- Rapid assembling of Harness. (Near Horse to be used). Each competitor will provide himself with one set of limber harness and horse. Harness will be stripped; on a given signal harness will be assembled and horse harnessed. Points will be awarded for correctness of assembly and fitting of harness, and time taken.  
1st Prize. 20 Francs. 2nd Prize 10 Francs.  
(one entry per Unit).
- 9.- Driving of Limbers.- One entry per Unit. Pairs to be evenly matched in paces. Pace to be even trot. Aids to be used.  
1st Prize. 20 Francs. 2nd Prize. 10 Francs.

(Sgd) A.G. BROWN. Captain.  
Staff Captain, 6th Ing. Bgde. A.I.F..

APPENDIX 7

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
-----TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING, 28.2.18.

- 1.- GENERAL. The Month passed without incident. The weather was normal for the Season of the year, and all Horses being under cover, condition of same remained excellent.
- 2.- EQUIPMENT. During period Equipment was thoroughly over-hauled - Liners being re-painted and Battalion Colours - in Celluloid - being inset.
- 3.- BRICADE Horse Show. As per Programme attached was held at QUESQUES on the 28th of February, this Battalion being successful in Events Nos. 4, 5, 8 and 9.

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2nd March, 1918.

*M. D. ...* Lieut.  
Transport Officer, 23rd Battalion

Original  
app. 8

23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion A.I.F. APPENDIX 18

General Report for month ending 28. 2. 18

1. General. - During this period the B<sup>n</sup> was well housed but widely distributed, which latter fact necessitated training, sport, messes etc. being carried on under Coy. arrangements.  
To ensure that no lack of entity resulted from these, frequent conferences of Coy. Commanders, presided over by the C.O. were held at B.H.Q. when matters relating to the wellbeing of the unit were discussed and uniformed action decided upon.
2. Training - was continuous and progressive.  
Batt. schools were a success, and the centralising of control for specialist training, justified.  
Throughout the month, officers and O.R. as usual were despatched to Army and Corp. Schools, and signallers attended Div. & Bde classes.
3. Health - (vide R.M.O.'s weekly reports) during rest period continued excellent. Evacuations were normal.  
During month each man had his teeth examined, treatment being given when necessary.  
Baths were available weekly, changes of clothing being supplied.
4. Recreation was provided for daily; each afternoon being devoted to football and hockey.  
Football jerseys were procured, cost being defrayed half by voluntary subscription, half by Regt. Funds.  
M.C.A. tents at QUESQUES & VERVAL were maintained in conjunction with Coys.  
Leave to BOLOGNE was granted daily. - 2 per Coy - Bus conveying personnel to and fro.
5. Institutions - Regt. Canteen under supervision of Rev. Bleverdons was open throughout month.  
Batt. Paper was published as usual on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> inst.  
Regt. Funds made usual contributions to Coy. Funds for purchase of vegetables etc.
6. Discipline Throughout period was good O.R. cases being 150 & I.M.'s 2

J. Brazner  
Lt. Col.  
Com. 23<sup>rd</sup> B<sup>n</sup>

1. 3. 18.



No. 10.

MARCH 1st, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

**A WORD IN SEASON.**

The trophies won by the Battalion having come to hand inspires us to offer congratulations to those whose magnificent efforts have so finely upheld our honor in the lesser of antagonistic combats in the sporting field. There is instilled in each individual a pride in his Battalion which will never be effaced from memory while a breath remains in his body. The fighting spirit, the sporting spirit, and the spirit of good comradeship has been fostered to a high degree, and nothing is found wanting. We are indeed a proud unit. Proud of our officers, those who have shed their life's blood for us, our conduct in hamlet or trench, and the glorious record so far achieved, and look forward to the future hopeful of adding to our laurels in any phase of the game of life—in peace or war.

To our Colonel we owe much, and hope for the day when he can proudly look back from the well-earned comforts of his own home, and gaze at the permanently recorded faces of his co-operators and comrades—for such they are—and say, "Well done, lads."

**WHEN THE DAWN BREAKS.**

Oh, to be back in dear, sunny Homeland,  
Isle of the sea, with its glories untold!  
Back with the friends who are waiting to  
welcome us;  
Back to the land with cornfields of gold.

Oh, to be out on the wide, winding river,  
Idly to drift 'neath the tall waving trees;  
Downward to float where green rushes  
quiver,

Lit by sunshine and kissed by the breeze  
How shall I love in the valley to wander,  
Deep in gullies where cool waters run;  
Up on the hillside, 'mid flowering black-  
woods,

Forming a chequer of shadow and sun.  
Oh, for a gallop—fern leaves beneath us,  
Glistening with dew as onward we pass  
On thro' the field, with buttercups golden,  
Gleaming like stars, as they wave in  
the grass.

Oh, to be back in the land of the wattle,  
Back with loved ones awaiting us there;  
Oh, in the island of sunshine and gladness  
Just to be back again—'tis a prayer.

Yes, when the glorious banner of Freedom  
Proudly is waving o'er land and o'er sea;  
Tyranny vanquished, England victorious,  
We shall go back to the land of the free.

—H.C.H.

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**IMPRECATIONS.**


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Billeted, billeted, "somewhere in France,"  
 Waiting for orders before you advance,  
 Slipping off duckboards, barking your  
 shins,  
 Cursing creation and piling up sins.  
 Waitin' for Blightys that somehow don't  
 come;  
 Cursing the Sergeant that pinches your  
 rum.  
 Trying some coy little maid to entrance,  
 Who kills your ambition with one little  
 glance.  
 Reading the paper and asking the sky  
 Why "Win the war Willie's" new kite  
 didn't fly?  
 Cursing the Corporal who blows out the  
 light,  
 Trying to sleep, but scratching all night.  
 "Voulez-vous," "combein," some French  
 for the day.  
 You get a day's leave with forty francs  
 pay:  
 Coming back in the morning you haven't  
 a sou,  
 But you've had a good time and the boys  
 see you through.  
 It's damnable hard when a man starts to  
 think  
 He'll be fifteen long days nippin' francs  
 for a drink;  
 Then you curse the ambition that led you  
 astray  
 And made you a "hero" for six bob a day.  
 —Sig. W. Benson.

Drill competitions with the object of  
 deciding which platoon would best repre-  
 sent the Battalion in the Brigade event  
 were held last week with the following  
 results in points:—No. 2 platoon, A Coy.  
 365 points (Lieut. G. Morrell); No. 5, B  
 Coy 359, (Lieut. W. Martin); No. 13, D  
 Coy., 333 (Lieut. O'Reilly); No. 10, 315  
 (Lieut. A. Hepburn.)

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**WHERE WE ARE.**


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**III.**


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Still recuperating in rural quietness.  
 The tried and travelled soldier mingles  
 with the old-fashioned, steady-going vil-  
 lagers whose greatest excitement is per-  
 haps preparation for the coming harvest.  
 The folk have got to know us a little bet-  
 ter now—our ways, our spirits, our be-  
 havior, and if their actions or subdued  
 cheerful exchange of greetings count for  
 anything, then we are a happy conglom-  
 eration of tongues, which makes social  
 intercourse rather difficult, but, as in  
 most things, we manage it somehow.  
 The first few days of our stay were splen-  
 didly serene from a weather point of  
 view, until winter decided to "carry on."  
 But its attack was not sustained, for  
 although it has been dull and threatening  
 sometimes, with mists and a touch of the  
 arctic in the wind, we have had some  
 lovely bursts of sunshine. The main re-  
 creation with a good many in the long  
 evenings seems to adding to their French  
 vocabulary per medium of madame or  
 preferably, mademoiselle.

A French funeral has taken place in  
 the village during our sojourn, and it is a  
 very impressive ceremony even in a  
 small village. The bells of the old church  
 chime at intervals from early morn, and  
 at 9 a.m. almost all the folk are at the  
 churchyard to pay their last respects,  
 dressed in sombre hue, with demeanour  
 in keeping.

Unfortunately in the graveyard lies  
 one of our own, resting far from his  
 native soil, laid among a people of a dif-  
 ferent tongue. The young Australian  
 was interred with military honors and the  
 villagers' sympathy was sincere indeed.

March 1st.

## THE TWENTY-THIRD.

3

## GENERALITIES.

We must apologise for not carrying out the promised improvement to the "23rd" in this issue. However, patience is a virtue possessed especially by soldiers.

Captain Barnes, of ours, has been decorated with the Order of the British Empire. One of very few, we understand.

"Got the 'pip'" for the second time. —Lieuts. H. Field, G. Morrell and W. Simpson.

Two officers discovered purchasing baby bonnets at Boulogne the other day. Who were they?

A little bird whispers that Lieut. Findlay has become the father of a "bon petit fille." Lieut. Morrell gave some fatherly advice.

The Brigade Concert Party showed to the Battalion last week. There is certainly an improvement in the combination, judging by the outbursts of laughter and general comment.

There is room for improvement. We believe drastic alterations in the personnel (much needed) will take place.

The Anzac Coves entertained London audiences at the Court Theatre while on furlough.

Our good old band better than ever. We now have a Drum "Majah," Sir.

The Commandant at Rouen, or, at least, the officer in authority, has issued orders that while "promenading" all ranks shall carry canes. Swank, eh?

Chevrons of all shades should be prominent on coat sleeves before long.

Would any of our readers inform us which was the first platoon to go into action at the Lone Pine stunt?

"The grave of Pte. J. Turner will be attended to and kept green for all time." Such is the promise of the kindly French people, interpreted by Pte "Scotty" Rix, the battalion French scholar.

Numerous congratulatory messages have been received in reference to our Battalion paper, two issues of which have arrived in Australia.

A dirty bit of play was indulged in by he of the broken nose in the 24th v 23rd football match. It's a pity, as the other 17 men were sports.

The match was played in almost a quagmire. It is wonderful how either team stayed the 4 quarters.

The C.O. returned from Paris only to be commandeered by Brigade for a few days. The assistant adjutant Lieut. O. Elliott was also on the record searching trip.

The first flowers of an Australian spring (the yellow Lupin) are blooming everywhere round our billets in France.

Rumor hath it that Major Lloyd M.C. and bar, of the 24th, but one time of ours has gone to the Indian army.

A number of our Q.M's attended an economy demonstration at Calais during last week. They are all unanimous as to the marvellous things done, and state that "out of the salvage cometh wonderful things." Everything that is salvaged is turned into some useful article for warfare. Guns are broken up and remelted, old equipment made like new, clothes fumigated and repaired, ancient sandbags pulped for paper, mess tins and old dixies soldered and replated, the fat extracted from old bones, and the dry bones shipped for some other purpose. Nothing but what is converted into something or other. Long sentence prisoners do the heavy work, and a number of mademoiselles the lighter travail.

## FOOTBALL.

## Twenty-Third v. Twenty-Second.

With Jack Phillips, Osborne, Cameron, Kew Ming, Murchison and Doig absent the cup winners met the 22nd on Friday week last, and suffered defeat. Want of practise was the disadvantage plainly visible on the part of the chocolate and brown diamonds, and in the first quarter the 22nd, with the aid of a slight breeze and a drop in the otherwise perfect field, hustled away at the bounce, rattling up a goal and a behind in double quick time. They maintained their dash throughout the quarter, and by scoring 5gls 2bds to 1gl 1bd gained a winning lead.

The second quarter showed the 23rd striving hard to wipe off the deficit, but they were cleverly held in a hollow of the ground on the wing from where it was difficult to pierce the backs of the red and purple diamond combination and only managed to come out two points to the good for the quarter.

After the spell and a confab, our boys shook themselves up, and struck a bit of form, playing a spirited uphill game, and keeping the ball hovering around the sticks for most part of the quarter, but the 22nd back men would not allow them to make it a welter in the scoring line, but they managed to notch 1gl 2bds out of the top-hill end.

The 23rd made a great effort to retrieve their dilatoriness of the first quarter, but were held in hand, and notching points mainly, and attacking strongly when the whistle sounded. The final result was:

22nd - - 6gls 7bds  
23rd - - 4gls 7bds

Grohs, Davies, Hargreaves, O'Brien, Petrie and Garden played a good game, and Robertson (c.) struck form in the second half.

## Twenty-Third v. Twenty-Fourth.

These teams met on 20th ult., under bad weather conditions. The ground was heavy and muddy, consequently the weight in the twenty-fourth team told a tale of victory.

In the first quarter the twenty-third had a little better of the game, and showed a good deal of dash. Green, Gardner, Carter, Cameron and Hargreaves (who kicked the only goal) shone brightest. The bell rang when scores stood at six points to three.

The twenty-fourth, in the second period, proved superior, and after a good deal of bad kicking in the first quarter, made up for it by notching three goals to our team's second six pointer. C. Davis did quick, clean work, and so did Kemp. Carroll saved the situation several times, and Robertson occasionally put in some dash. Ingles was often seen to advantage. The quarter finished with the scores—3gls 3bds to 2gls 2bds.

The third quarter told on both teams, and worse on the 23rd. Godfrey played a hard up-hill game and Green was again a tower of strength. Our players didn't pay much attention to positions. Hence a lot of bad placing. Hargreaves, Davis, Kemp, and Carter still did the bulk of the work; but the organization was bad. Scores at the time call were:—24th, 5gls. 11bds; 23rd, 3gls. 8bds.

With the twenty-third nearly three goals to the bad the fourth quarter commenced, and the twenty-fourth went with a rush, while ours appeared in a fagged condition. The same little coterie stuck nobly to the uphill task with O'Brien and Petrie coming to the rescue once or twice. Generally speaking neither the kicking or marking wds up to the standard of our combination. The final scores were:

24th - 8gls 14bds  
23rd - 5gls 9bds



## TWENTY-THIRD SUPPLEMENT.

March 1st.

## BATTALION FOOTBALL.

For the Battalion competitions the grounds have been on the heavy side, but some good, close games have resulted notwithstanding.

The following are the results of the matches played to date:—

D Coy. v. C Coy.—D, 6gls 15bds; C, 3gls 4bds. Won by 29 points.

Headquarters v. B Coy.—H'qrs, 6gls 8bds; B, 5gls 11bds. Won by 3 points.

Transport v A Coy.—Tr'pt, 4gls 10bds; A, 2gls 7bds. Won by 15 points.

C Coy. v. Headquarters.—C, 3gls 3bds; H'qrs, 2gls 9bds. A draw, 21 points all.

B Coy. v. D Coy.—B, 5gls 19bds; D, 0gls 6bds. Won by 43 points.

## NOTES.

We go to press with the competition unfinished. The finals will receive due notice next issue.

The Headquarters-B Coy. match was a ding-dong go, and it was anybody's game till the final bell.

When C Coy. beat Don in a practise match the competition game seemed to be all over bar the shouting. After the first quarter in the "dinkum" game, however, things looked blue and continued so till the end.

A feature of the opening of the first round was the players turning out in all the splendour of neat, natty and distinctive uniforms for the first time.

Headquarters has chosen for their colors a brown guernsey and blue knicks. A Coy. stands by navy blue and yellow striped guernsey; B Coy. hopes to carry the blue guernsey with red neckband and cuffs to victory; C Coy. dons those of the magpie (black and white), while D Coy. hopes to emulate the performances of South Melbourne in the late eighties. (red and white.) The transport swear by the old battalion uniform.

## NOTES FROM BLIGHTY.

Capt. Pascoe is performing the duties of Adjutant at 6th T.B.

Capt. Moss has been to a School at Chelsea, but is now an instructor at the bull-ring. His thoughts are with the battalion, and he sends his best wishes.

Capt. Parkes is now at a Cadet School, Cambridge.

Lieut. Love is an instructor at Park House, attached to the Engineers, we believe.

Sgt. Jack Phillips progresses favorably towards his epaulette constellations.

We understand that Capt. Noall is to be boarded, and there is a probability of him returning to Australia.

Major Trew is booked to once more listen to the gentle rustle of the gum leaves.

## PROMOTIONS.

To be Lieutenants.—2nd-Lieuts. Field, Morrell and Simpson.

To be L-C.S.M.—Sgt. L. S. Homewood (W.O. class II.)

To be Sergeants.—T-Sgts. Robinson, Kew Ming, Hamilton.

To be Corporals.—T-Cpls. Parker, Hynes, Larkin; L-Cpls. Hatt, Sharpe, Clementson.

## STRAYS.

Another record.—A certain Sergeant bet another fourteen bottles of "knock-over" that he couldn't consume four bottles of the aforementioned poison in five minutes. The challenged one accepted, and finished the lot in 45 seconds. Anybody else like to?

Jack Jolley spoke at the Y.M.C.A. tent on Sunday evening last. His discourse was—"Eight o'clock, Finni."

## TWENTY-THIRD SUPPLEMENT.

March 1st.

## AN ECHO OF THE PAST.

The following lines of poetry, written by Lieut. Norman Rattray, remind us of one of the darkest periods in our soldier history. Lieut. Rattray was wounded so badly that he was returned to Australia, where he has been recuperating at "Wharepuke," Panton Hill:—

## THE EMPIRE'S GLORY.

What made you don the khaki, man, to  
face the shells and fumes—  
You who were used to lounging in these  
cosy smoking rooms?  
What made you married men leave all  
to do a soldier's part?  
What said your women folk to this, the  
girls who held your heart?  
Did they, by word, or look, or act, beseech  
you not to go?  
Did they suggest that other men should  
deal the Hun the blow?  
Nay; gladly they took up their cross—  
the hardest part to bear;  
They cheered you men on with a smile,  
and screened their great despair.

## Chorus—

Greater than the wealth of the Indies;  
Greater than the power of the foam;  
The secret of Britain's glory,  
The women there are at home.  
Greater than fame as a nation, God—  
On our knees we invoke,  
Support through great desolation,  
Our Empire's grand women folk.

When you're crouching in a trench, or  
out in No Man's Land,  
Or in a charge or gas attack, or in a raid  
well planned,  
What makes you set your chin so firm—  
what makes your courage rise?  
You see beyond one smiling face; you  
see a woman's eyes.

Aye, while you strive, she toils and  
hopes, and fights the harder fight.  
She scans each day the fateful list, and  
dreads each restless night.  
God bless you, Britain's women folk!  
smile on, though hearts may ache;  
Keep smiling, smiling, smiling, till the  
the dawn at last doth break.

## Chorus.

## NEARLY A.W.L.

We would remind readers that the photos of the Battalion, for all companies, will be ready on March 3rd. It is needless to remind that the francs should be paid into this office before that, as artists in France have a hard and fast rule.—"Pay on delivery."

We have heard on good authority that the 23rd Battalion has added another creditable record to its number—that of possessing the least crime of any battalion in the Brigade.

A little bird whispers that we are likely to be further reinforced, also that some of the sportsmen who left Australia's shores will perhaps be taken on our strength.

Lieut. Morrell was as proud as a peacock as he marched his platoon off to take part in the big competition. Well he might be, as each individual was "just the thing," and we hope to be able to inform Capt. Moss in next issue that their efforts were successful.

"Monde" is alleged to have written more letters in one week than the private secretary to the King, but has'nt received any replies. Can anybody say why? He isn't a bit wrath, either!

"Tres bien, Madame," was the reply made by a soldier French scholar, when a lady sorrowfully told him she had one son killed at the war. Needless to say the friendship between the two was'nt made any stronger.

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## THE TWENTY-THIRD.

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## AMONGST THE BOYS.

Still ruralising in rural serenity.

Pte T McGuinness, B Coy, has received the Belgian honor—Croix de Guerre.

Our old friend, Q.M. Linklater, paid us a visit the other day. He is blooming like a rose.

The cups and medals proudly won by the 23rd in Brigade football and sports are to hand. The designs and workmanship are a credit to all concerned. The Battalion trophies have left the manufacturers and are being inscribed.

It will not be long before Pte. Clarry Gardiner awakes to the magpie's revielle.

Brother George recuperates amongst the Brummagen goods.

The comradeship existing in the Battalion has never been better illustrated or immortalised than by the lovely headstone, subscribed and paid for by the boys, to erect over the remains of Pte. Turner, who was accidentally killed while at musketry. It is perfect French workmanship.

"The Terrible Twins," Johnson and Ingles, are back with us again.

No. 9 platoon have unearthed a "dark horse" comedian. They say his terpsichorean act on one leg almost equals "Jimmy Shields."

A gallant Sergeant of the 23rd was much in demand while convalescing in Blighty, and enquiries by ladies in high society were a daily occurrence. "Oh, Cyril, you're a nice boy."

Sig.-Sgt. Jacobs has linked up again.

Pte. Langley has been appointed Drum Major to the band.

A Bing for Bing.—The O.R. typist has a habit of carrying a cigarette perched above his listening gear. The Adj., with a twinkle in his eye, asked would he have a cigarette. "Yes, sir," replied the stenographer. "Well," said the Adj., "smoke the one behind your ear."

The erstwhile mascot of the Battalion, "Bobbie" Sims, has been trapped into matrimony by a winsome munition worker in Manchester. Best of luck in double harness.

Thanks to the vigilance of the Anzac police in the cement city adjacent, the Editor was nearly incarcerated in an 'orrible gaol, for leaving "le cheval" unchaperoned, to wit, standing at the rudder end of the horse instead of the head. It was a case, anyhow. Some of the poor police have been vaccinated, so never catch anything.

A certain soldier who had diligently learnt French from a phrase book, paid particular attention to the greeting, "comment tally vous." On using it in reply to the familiar "bon soir," by a mademoiselle, he was knocked flat when she replied, "No compre Engleesh."

Frank Crossley writes from London. 16.2.18: "We have received a Command to appear before the King at Buckingham Palace to give an hour's show, from 5 to 6 p.m. This is the first show to appear in the Palace since the outbreak of war, so, naturally, we all feel highly honored, not only for ourselves, but for the compliment paid to the A.I.F. . . . We are a big go here at the Court theatre."

## ON SHOPPING IN FRANCE.

It would be difficult to find a more amusing and yet, at times, vexatious and unprofitable pastime than shopping in one of the small towns that lie immediately behind the "danger zone." If typical of French methods of petty commerce, then we can advise a stranger to forget all he learnt of Australian ways and come prepared for a system that will tax all his ingenuity to obtain the article he desires. And his patience will be rewarded. For if forty-nine shops have not the thing required it does not follow the fiftieth will also be empty of it. Probably the reverse. And you also have the delight of trying every shop in the town. That is the quaint mystery of French shopping. You don't go to the butcher for meat and the baker for bread. That would be too obviously the right thing to do. Try first the stationers or "lingerie" depot, and lastly the butcher and baker.

French sellers do not advertise. They have never learnt from America—as we have done—that a brilliant display of goods is half the battle. Their shop windows are small and their goods littered everywhere. They do not try to catch and hold the eye. Try them about Christmas, when you want a variety of goods for dinners. You wish for some holly. The greengrocer has none, but will direct you with fine veracity to a chateau "à la droite." You explain you desire to purchase, not steal, and try the ironmonger. He is out of it, but thinks the butcher may oblige. And so we reach the butcher. Here holly is in abundance, but it decorates the largest sirloins and panes of the windows. But madame is equal to the occasion. While monsieur is busy serving, she rips the decoration from the window, and presents you with a berried bunch. You

ask nervously "combien," and madame, with a large smile and a shrug of her shoulders, answers, "Ah! pour vous, monsieur."

But surely is the delight of shopping in France. Everyone is so cheerful, obliging, and informal. You meet with no cold stare if no purchase is made; you do not feel what a privilege it is to be allowed to buy in any shop; there is no superior shopwalker to put you off your dignity. All is friendliness and chatter. The girl at the greengrocers' has no objection if you try a date or an apple. The brown-eyed lass who serves the sweets will offer you two of her best chocolates as a sort of discount on your 10 franc purchase. They are all smiles and charm. And what family histories are related. The son in the artillery, who has just won his commission, the father in the infantry, and the lover in the flying corps are all mentioned in a confidential chat between sales. You are expected to be sympathetic and appreciative. And often you are shown the photographs. You may only have spent 100 francs for the morning, but you have made friendships that will last during your time in France. Perhaps in six months time you are back in that area. You call on the brown-eyed damsel and her parents. In a minute you are asked to the parlour behind the shop, drinking their never-inferior coffee and mingling your broken French and English in an atmosphere of extreme intimacy.

When you go buying in France you must not reckon your value by the quality of the goods supplied. That may be possible at Rue de la Paix, but in these little towns behind the line you pay your humble franc for more elusive things, often pots and pans. A hearty laugh, a jovial conversation, and a ripening friendship are the best goods madame or mademoiselle can offer one.—  
L.G.S.

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## THE TWENTY-THIRD.

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## FIFTEEN PLATOON IN DETAIL.

## HOW IS THAT?

The other morning Ptes. "Thomson," "Stevenson" and "Anderson" had bacon for breakfast. The "Ryan" was so hard they could not "Scoble" it, so they threw it against the "Wall," and finally into the "Wells." The "Ord" Sgt. appeared and asked the cause of the trouble. Being told that "Jones" and "Melville" had been "Larkin," he then had to "Hunt" up the C.S.M., who "Cam" down the "Lane" riding a nice "Cobb," and he told them that soldiering was not all "Summerfields." He also inquired what their occupation was in civil life. One said a "Taylor," another a "Goldsmith," and the other said he earned a living by "Weedon" gardens. He thought they should surely have been "Millers," and should use a "Rodgers" knife. I don't "Jenner"-ally have to "Lowne" on mine like you. "Wyllie" was explaining this, someone had stolen from the office one tin of "Williams" pears, a bottle of "Parsons" sauce and a "Forbes" hammer. On discovering this, he issued words that flew in all directions "Tilli"-ardly had breath to speak. He vowed he would "Keatch" the "Kerr" and have him sent to "Hamilton" gaol, providing the "Pen-docks" were open. The rogue was caught by "Alford," and sent for a "Field" General Court "Marshall," and received two years' hard, to be done in "Holland," where the military authorities are the boss "Cox," and won't allow prisoners to sit on the "Sands" and drink "Carleton" "Hale." Now, gentlemen, in "Casey" does'nt know, its 8 o'clock.—"Finney."  
—I.S.J.J.

Soldiers who for trouble look—  
And strike it  
Should take their gruel and not go crook,  
But smile as if they like it.

The young subaltern of C Coy looked at the pile of letters to be censored—and his look was a little glum. He heard Louise's laughter in the parlor-kitchen, with its responding ring from the other subaltern of the Company, whose eyes twinkle so readily. "— the letters," he said, "I want to join the fun." But his sense of duty prevailed, and the letters were taken in hand. At last his vigilance was rewarded. He opened a letter, and this is what he read:

"My dear Sis,

We are living in the back-blocks of France, but leave is sometimes to be obtained. The other day I went into" (here he turned over the page with pencil poised) "— Oh, it is all right, Mr. Censor, I am not going to put in the name. Had him there, Sis, eh? and had you too, Sis."

From your loving —"

## "GOFF."

Golf.—That's a game for officers only.

The C.O. and Second in Command are already becoming enthusiastic over it.

It's a funny game. First you hit the ball, then you walk after it for a couple of miles or so.

The Major is possessed of a mighty swipe.

He is said to not even swear mildly when bunkered.

When the contributor of these notes knows what a driver is, other than transport, he may enthuse.

Also a brassy from brasso, or a putter from a puttee.

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## IF SHAKESPEARE LIVED TO-DAY.

Scene: The village square—estaminet in distance.

Enter three warriors.

1st W: "A rotten hole."

2nd: "A blighter place."

3rd: "And only one estaminet. Ye Gods!"

1st W: "By my tin hat that battle scarred—Hath traversed all this dopey land; not e'en in all Picardy's sullen mire did we encounter such a place."

[They swear severally]

Enter a Monsieur.

Warriors: "Bon-Jour, monsieur."

M: Bon-Jour, messieurs (and mumb-ling.)

2nd W: "That old chap's getting mad. Methinks he's shick, or in plain English, 'nectared up.'"

Monsieur: "Bon parlez, eh?"

3rd W: "Don't know old son, but if you think you are going to raise a loan off me, you've come a hard and sudden crash."

Chorus: "'Tis great! When Blighty leave and Paris leave combine, and honest beer is mixed with sparkling wine. When taxis whisk us to and fro; and we ignore pay book's demands—Go slow. But pay day comes—a retributive morn. For then we hear that sentence dread "Overdrawn."

Monsieur (thickly): "Finis messieurs. Bon soir."

Warriors: "Bon-soir old sport." [Exit Monsieur.]

Enter a 4th warrior, excitedly: "Struth! Did ye ever hear the likes of this?"

3rd W.: "Calm yourself brother. We can hear you over the roar of the taxis."

4th W: (more calmly): "Have you seen an old Froggy about? An old bloke what looks as though he's been shied from a salvage dump."

1st W.: "Ah oui. There was an ancient chap. He lingered here not many moments since."

4th W.: "'Struth! That's the bloke. Francs galore. He stood us all three rounds of drinks."

Warriors: "Stood you all three rounds of drinks!"

4th W: "Then he went to hunt up any more soldats to stand another round. Don't say you went and put him off?"

1st W: "Well and truly brother. We mistook him, and departed. Verily, an ill-omened day—the very day I enlisted."

4th W (reeling back towards estaminet): "You—put—him—off."

[Vivid lightning; pigs squealing; the wild cry of a clink bird in the distance.]

1st W: "By the village creek!"

2nd W: "By my madamoiselle's boots!"

3rd W: "By this vile French lingo!"

All: "We are a set of mugs; let us home."

[Exeunt.]

—M.W.