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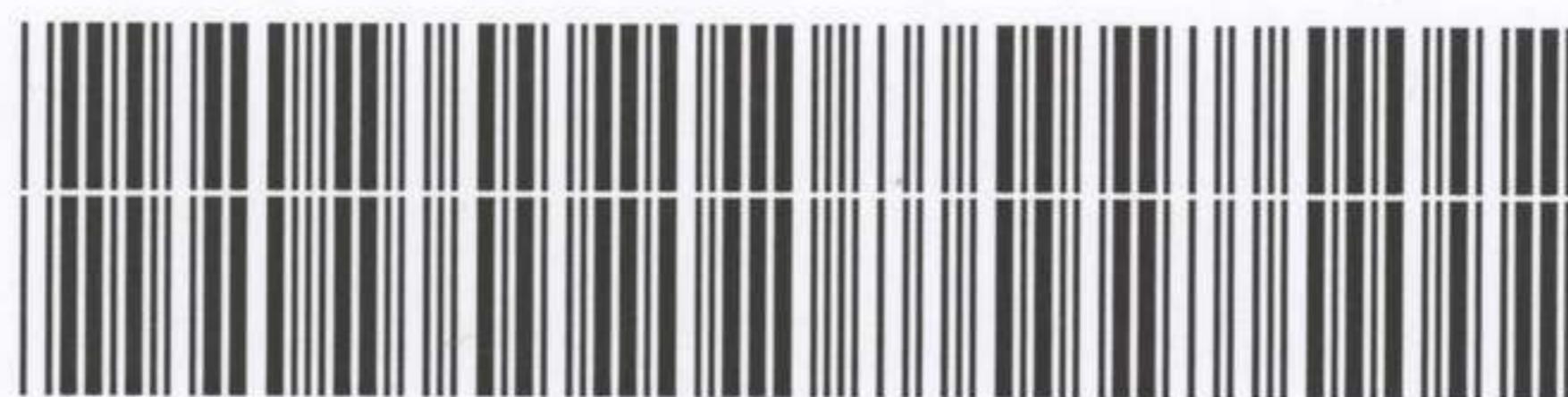
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/47/42

Title: 30th Infantry Battalion

January 1919



AWM4-23/47/42

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

W A R D I A R Y

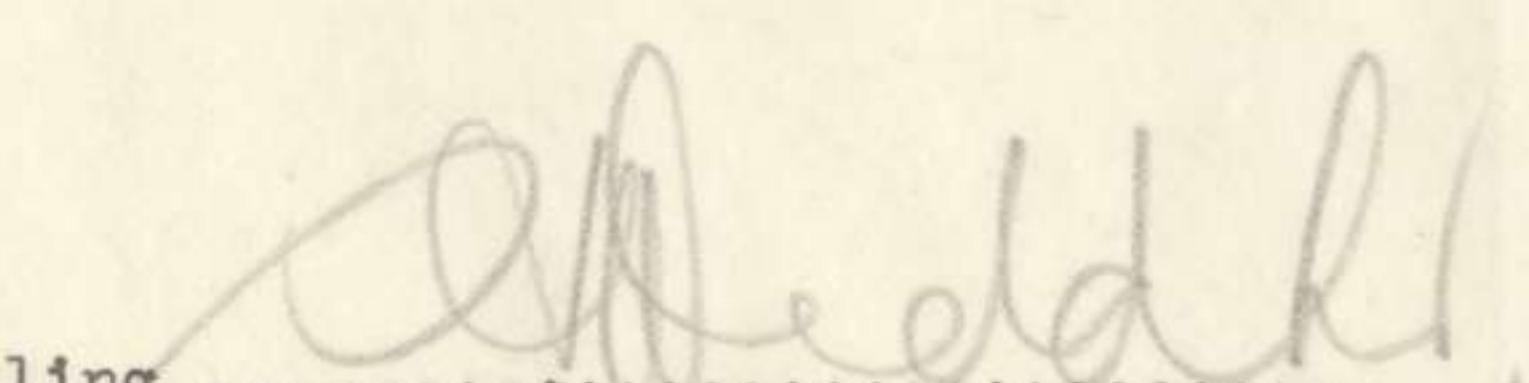
of

30th BATTALION A. I. F.

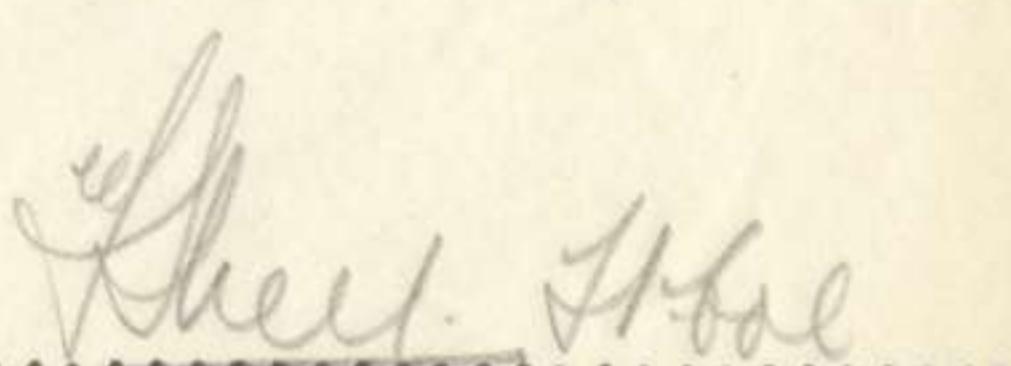
for

-----JANUARY 1919-----

Signature of Officer Compiling



Signature of Commanding Officer.....



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.

30th Battalion A.I.F. WAR DIARY

January 1919.

Army Form C. 2118.

30TH.
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALIONor
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Strength Inf. Off. O.Rs.	No. Date	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	1st.	37	674	Brigade Caledonian Sports were held on Brigade Sports Ground near BEUGNIES. All events were handicapped and consisted of flat racing, mule and horse racing, etc. Book-makers and totalisator were on the ground and also wet canteens for each Battalion, selling beer and wine. The meeting was a most successful one and the men got a lot of enjoyment out of it.	ffm	
do	2nd	37	674	The work for the day consisted of physical training, Company and platoon inspections and company drill. Educational classes were conducted from 1000 to 1200. Major Charlton M.C., acting C.O., attended at conference at which general matters and the comfort of the men were discussed.	ffm	
do	3rd.	37	674	Company and platoon inspections, physical and recreational training and company drill comprised the programme of work for the day, and educational classes were conducted from 1000 to 1200. These classes consist of Short-hand, Book-keeping, French, English and elementary subjects. The Y.M.C.A. cinema opened in the village and an excellent programme was shewn. This was largely attended by all ranks.	ffm	
do	6th	37	679	Owing to wet weather no training could be carried out in the open. Educational classes were held as usual. At 2-15p.m. a Rugby football match between "Possibles and Probables" was played to select the Battalion team to play against 5th Divn. H.Qrs. Scores were three all. Owing to the wet weather, the players got very dirty, but the game evoked great interest.	ffm 5th Div. H.Qrs	

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JANUARY

1919

30TH.
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

30th Battalion A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Strength Off O.R.	No	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	5th	37 680	Date	<p>General Birdwood visited the 8th Brigade at 1045 and addressed this Battalion with other Battalions of this Bde. in the Cinema Hall. General Birdwood spoke about demobilisation and the reasons for accepting the armistice, commenting on the state of Germany and the hope of a speedy return to Australia.</p> <p>Voluntary Church Services were held, C. of E. at 10-a.m. in Recreational Hall at BEUGNIES and Sing-song Service at No. 8 Rue de place SARS POTERIES at 6-0p.m. Mass was celebrated at 10-a.m. in the Church, BEUGNIES.</p>	1 OR. ec Hoop.	
do	6th	37 681		<p>Bathing parade was held at Brigade Baths BEUGNIES and a change of underclothing obtained.</p> <p>Two lectures were delivered at 10-30a.m. and 2-30p.m. respectively, by Canon Masterman M.A., the subject being "Democracy, its significance and its dangers". The lecture was well attended and keenly enjoyed. Canon Masterman had a splendid delivery and made his subject very interesting.</p>	1 OR. ec Hoop.	
do	7th	37 681		<p>Physical and recreational training, platoon and Company inspections and Company drill was carried out by all who did not attend educational classes. A ceremonial parade was to have been held, but owing to inclement weather had to be postponed.</p>	ffw	
do	8th	37 681		<p>Educational classes were held from 1000 to 1200 and a kit inspection from 0900 to 0945. From 1015 to 1200 those not attending educational classes attended a tile-shooting practice at the Battalion Rifle Range.</p>	ffw	

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INFANTRY BATTALION
JANUARY
No 1919
Date

WAR DIARY

or

3rd BATTALION A. I. F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Strength Off. O.Rs	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	9th	37 681	Educational classes were held from 1000 to 1200, platoon and Coy. inspections having taken place from 0900 to 0945. Those not attending the education classes carried out a route march to FELLERIES and back.	fwd	
do	10th	37 674	From 0900 to 0945 platoon and Company Inspections were held, and members not attending Educational Classes from 1000 to 1200 carried out physical and Recreational Training and Company Drill. At 2-p.m. the Battalion gave a fete to the orphans and children of the village of BEUGNIES, at which refreshments and toys were distributed to all children. Subscriptions were collected from members of the unit for this entertainment. The fete was largely attended and greatly appreciated by the people of the village, numerous letters of thanks and appreciation being received from the School mistress and parents. A description of the event was published in the AGUESNES paper, and is attached. The first draft of 1915 personnel consisting of eight men left for Australia.	1 OA to Australia	Appen.1.
do	11th	37 676	Educational classes were held from 1000 to 1200, the remainder of the Battalion carrying out physical and Recreational training and Coy. Drill. The judging of the essays submitted for the Battalion competition was completed and results published. The competition was divided into two sections - prizes being allotted to each section separately. The first prize for competition for W.O's., N.C.Os. and Men - trophy valued at £5.5.0. (presented by the C.O. was won by 664 Cpl. J. Graham of "G" Coy.,	2 OA ex Hosp.	

over -

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AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION
JANUARY
1919
Date

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

15
15
1

Place	Date	Strength Hrs. Off. O.Rs	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS- POTERIES	11th Contd.	37 676	<p>The second prize (Trophy valued at £3-3-0 presented by Major Charlton) was won by No. 2101 rte. R. Mather "D" Coy., Corpl. Graham scored 233 points, rte. Mather closely running up with 230 points.</p> <p>In the Officers' section, the first prize (trophy valued at £3-3-0 presented by the C.O.) was won by Lieut. B.A. Bragg M.C. with 253 points, and the second prize (trophy valued at £2-2-0 presented by Major Charlton) fell to Capt. W.H. Zander - 244 points.</p> <p>The second Battalion dance was held on the top floor of the glass factory and was largely attended by both civilians and the troops. The 8th Brigade Band supplied the music and the function was a great success. Refreshments consisting of cocoa and biscuits were distributed.</p>		
do	12th	37 675	Voluntary G. of E. parade was held in the Cinema Hall at 1000 and a Sing-song service at 1800. Mass was celebrated in the Church at BEUGNIES at 1000.	1 OR to 3rd MTG.	
do	13th	37 673	Educational Classes were held as usual from 1000 to 1200, those not attending, carried out physical and Recreational training and Company Drill.	2 OR. eval.	
do	14th	37 662	The second draft of '1915' personnel, consisting of 1 Sergt. and 10 Other Ranks left to Australia. Educational classes were held from 1000 to 1200 and those not attending carried out physical and recreational training.	11 OR to Australia	

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AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION

Ja nuary
1919

Date

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

25

Place	Date	Strength Off. O.Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	15.th	37 665	Educational Classes were held from 0900 to 1200 those not attending carrying out platoon and Company inspections and physical and Recreational training.	3 OR ed AIBD. fwd	
do	16th	37 664	The work for the day consisted of platoon and Company inspections from 0900 to 0945. 1000 to 1200 Educational Classes were held, and those not attending carried out physical and Recreational training and Company Drill at the discretion of Coy. Commanders.	1 OR to Australia fwd	
do	17th	37 657	Educational Classes were held from 1000 to 1200 and platoon and Company inspections, physical and recreational training and Company Drill were carried out by the remainder of the Battalion. Sergt. Kelser of the 8th Field Ambulance delivered a lecture on "South Australia" in the Cinema Hall at BEUGNIES. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides loaned by the Agent General for S. Australia, and screened by the Y.M.C.A. Cinema. The lecture was exceedingly interesting and well attended by all ranks.	1 OR trans to AACL fwd	
do	18th	37 657	The day's work consisted of Platoon and Company Inspections from 0900 to 0945, Educational classes from 1000 to 1200, and those not attending classes carried out Physical and Recreational training and drill at the discretion of Coy. Somdrs.	fwd	

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No January
Date 1919.

INFANTRY BATTALION
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

30th Battalion A. I. F.

C.J.A.

Place	Date	Strength Off. & O.Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS - POTERIES	19th	37 661	Voluntary Church Services were held during the morning and at 6-p.m. Jimmy Donnelly, the popular Entertainer, Pianist and Humorist held an entertainment in the Cinema Hall BEUGNIES and afforded two hours amusement which was appreciated by all.	5 OR. ex AIBD. 1 OR. evac. <i>fwd</i>	
do	20th	37 661	The work for the day Platoon and Company inspections from 0900 to 0945, Educational Classes from 1000 to 1200 and for those not attending classes, drill under the supervision of Company Commanders. A supply of text books and list of technical hand books available for purchase were received by the Education Officer and these will greatly facilitate the work of the Instructors. Good attendance at the classes during the past week was maintained and good progress made.	<i>fwd</i>	
do	21st	37 661	The Battalion was bathed at the Brigade Bathes, BEUGNIES, and a clean change of underclothing obtained. Educational classes were held from 1000 to 1200 as usual.	<i>fwd</i>	
do	22nd.	37 661	From 0900 to 0945 Platoon and Company Inspections were held. From 1000 to 1200 education classes were conducted as usual, and those not attending classes carried out route marches under the supervision of Company Commanders, and by Company arrangement.	<i>fwd</i>	

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INFANTRY BATTALION

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A.I.F.

No. Ja...nuary
Date ... 1919

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252

Place	Date	Strength	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
		H.m.s. Off. O.Rs.			
BEUGNIES & SARS - PETERIES.	23rd	37 660	<p>The work for the day consisted of Company and Platoon inspections from 0900 to 0945, Educational classes from 1000 to 1200. Those not attending classes carried out Physical and recreational training and company drill under the supervision of Company Commanders.</p> <p>At 2-30p.m. the personnel forming No.6 Draft returning to Australia paraded in the dance hall and were addressed by the C.O. who shook hands with the men and wished them God speed.</p> <p>In the evening, a farewell dance to the '1915' men was given in the Bn. Dance Hall. The dance was well attended by the civilian population as well as members of the Battalion and was a great success.</p>	1 OR. vac.	<p>Lend v. Levitt to 5 Div Train</p> <p>Lt H.C. Whipp to 16th Parachute DSO</p> <p>H.B. Bragg + 123 OR to Australia</p> <p>860</p>
do	24th	37 537	<p>No educational classes were held. At 0930 personnel for No.6 Draft to Australia, consisting of 3 Officers, 14 N.C.Os of and above the rank of Sergeant, and 109 O.Rs. left by route march for the 5th Divn. Reinforcement Camp at BEAUMONT. Members of the Battalion turned out to wish them God speed and the Brigade Band played the draft out.</p>	860	
do	25th	33 537	<p>The work for the day consisted of Platoon and Company inspections from 0900 to 0945, and educational classes from 1000 to 1200. Those not attending classes were given physical and recreational training and company drill by Company Commanders.</p>	860	

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No.
JANUARY
1919

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Strength Off. O.Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & BARS- POTERIES	26th	34 536	voluntary Church Services were held during the morning, the R.C. Service being conducted by the Cure of the Village. At 1800 a Sing-song Service was held in the Cinema Hall.	J/T CH McLastey DCM J/T Jackson 1 OR TO 3rd MTCY J/T	
do	27th	34 537	All personnel were bathed at the Brigade Baths BEUGNIES, during the day, and from 1000 to 1200 Educational classes were held as usual.	J/T 1 OR ex A.I.B.D.	
do	28th	34 537	The re-organisation of the Battalion into two Companies took place during the morning, and also a re-arrangement of bils. "A" and "D" Coys. amalgamated and are now known as "A" Company; "B" and "C" Coys. amalgamated and are known as "B" Company. Educational classes were held as usual, and in the afternoon a dancing class for beginners was commenced. During the evening a Euchre Tournament was held amongst all Companies, there being 39 entries. The stakes were pooled, and 70% went to the winner, 20% second and 10% third.	J/T J/T	
do	29th	36 537	Educational classes were held as usual, and Company and platoon inspections carried out. During the morning all bils and cook-houses were inspected by the C.O.	J/T D. D. Dickson J/T H. Chapman J/T	

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AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION

No
JANUARY
1919
Date

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

25

Place	Date	Strength Off. O.Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUGRIES & SARS- POTERIES.	30th	37 537	<p>The work for the day was as follows:- 0900 to 0945 Platoon Inspections. 1000 to 1200 Educational classes. Remainder of the personnel were employed on fatigues. During the morning the C.O. made an inspection of all billets. Dancing classes were held during the afternoon.</p>	<p>Lieut Wells. cc Flying Corps.</p> <p>fwd</p>	
	31st	37 537	<p>The work for the day consisted of platoon and Company inspections from 0900 to 0945 and educational classes from 1000 to 1200. The remainder of personnel were employed at the discretion of Company Commanders.</p> <p>The education classes have been seriously depleted owing to the departure of drafts for Australia, but interest is still maintained.</p>	<p>fwd</p> <p><u>Sheet 11801</u></p>	

257

W A R D I A R Y.

of

30th BATTALION A.I.F.

for

JANUARY 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No	Subject
1	AVESNES Journal
2	C.O's Report

The month has been spent by the Battalion in its winter quarters at BEUGNIES, and every effort has been made to make all ranks as comfortable as possible, whilst the social and entertainment side has not been neglected.

The weather during the month has been very cold, particularly the latter portion, but this has not been greatly felt owing to the warmth and comfort of the billets occupied. A heavy fall of snow has greatly interfered with the out-door recreation and training.

The past month has seen the commencement of the demobilisation of the Battalion and so far three Officers and 143 Other Ranks have left the unit for Australia. This depletion of the Battalion's effective strength has necessitated a re-organisation into two Companies, which in its turn made a re-allotment of billets in the area essential.

It is anticipated that the Battalion will lose an additional hundred men in drafts during the coming month, as there is still this number who enlisted in Australia in 1915.

No reinforcements have been received during the month to replace the drafts departing from the unit.

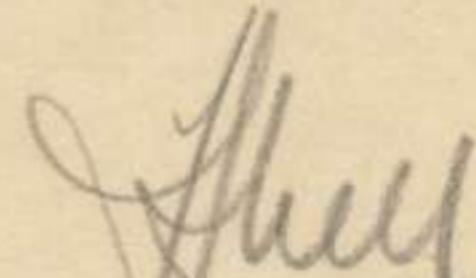
The rations have not been up to the standard during the month, vegetables particularly being scarce, but it is hoped an improvement will take place in this respect during the coming month.

The Transport Section is still up to war establishment, but all animals have been classified by the Veterinary Section and it is anticipated that a fair number of these will be withdrawn from the unit at an early date.

The discipline of the Battalion has been very well maintained during the month and it is most gratifying to note the contentment evident amongst all ranks of the Battalion.

The departure of practically every original member of the Unit still in the ranks, has cut many strings that bound the Battalion together during its four years existence, but the spirit and 'esprit de corps' will still be maintained by the remaining members, all of whom have been with the Unit for at least two years.

31-1-1919.


Lieut. Colonel
Commanding 30th Battalion A. I. F.

L'Avenir Libéral

*Journal Indépendant de l'Arrondissement d'Avesnes
Paraissant les Mardis, Jeudis, Samedis*

Abonnements payables d'Avance	
Nord et Départements	Paris et Départements
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Un An. . 15 fr.	Six Mois. 9 fr. 50
Six Mois. 8 fr.	Trois Mois 5 fr.
Trois Mois 4 fr. 50	Trois Mois 5 fr.
Sauf avis contraire l'abonnement est renouvelé à expiration	

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6, Avenue de la Gare, 6

Avesnes-sur-Helpe

Annonces 0 fr. 40 la ligne

Réclames 1 franc la ligne

Comptées au Lignomètre

On Traite à Forfait pour toute Publicité permanente et pour les insertions en seconde page

L'Agence Havas, 8, Place, de la Bourse, est seule chargée, à Paris, de recevoir les Annonces pour le Journal.

CHILDREN'S FETE DAY AT BEUGNIES. (France)

Australian Brigadier-General
Distributed Toys to French Children.

It is a tradition at Beugnies that at Christmas a distribution of gifts and good things be held. It was formerly the « Ladies Patriotic League » which organised the festival, but war disturbed things. Who was now to take the matter up, seeing that the war was over? Good luck came this year in the shape of the 30th Battalion A. I. F., which was billeted in the village.

M. l'abbé Dubelle, Parish Priest, had hardly expressed his regrets at the disappearance of the old traditions, when Captain Chaplain Gwynn S. J. hinting at the situation, the matter was at once taken up by the men of 30th Battalion and a resolution to renew the old custom was taken and executed.

Would it be too much to do? At any rate the 30th would do their best. The sum of over 1000 francs was donated voluntarily and the purchase of all that was necessary was made at the Grand Bazaar, Boulevards Anspach, at Brussels.

Friday, 11th January, in a large room of the fabrique des Produits Céramiques decorated by the soldiers who were happy to make others happy, was held the distribution of toys, cakes and chocolates. What a day for the children after four years bondage with the huns? There were about 150 of them with their parents and sisters. They regarded with open eyes the array of toys intended for them and forthwith gained an imperishable souvenir of the Australians. The fete was under the patronage of the Brigadier General, whose presence at first lent rather to the children's inquietude, for necessarily they were a trifle timid, but this was quickly dissipated as the General kissed the first of the recipients after presenting them with their toys.

The children rendered God Save the King in English, thus winning the hearts of their Australian auditors. These valiant soldiers joined in the singing of the Marseillaise. After singing several French songs, the children were regaled with refreshments and the distribution of presents was commenced by the General.

The exclamations and cries of joy and surprise can not be expressed. It

was necessary to have been an eye witness to fully appreciate the happiness of these youngsters among whom were also the children of the Orphanage of the Sisters of Charity. After the distribution, a moving picture show was taken of the gathering in a field nearby. The children, held high in the arms of soldiers and shewing off their toys were snapped by the photographer. Several were wearing the popular Australian hat and one youngster was seen to have made prisoner of the General's cap.

This day will be an epoch in the annals of the history of Beugnies and the youngsters will always have the liveliest recollections of the Australians, as a proof of which we have the fine letter of thanks sent to the Commanding Officer of 30th Battalion by the School-teachers and parents.

Each Copy of this issue will be sold to the Australian troops for 50 centimes as a Souvenir all the proceeds for the Orphans at Beugnies.

La 1^{re} partie du journal manquerait totalement d'intérêt pour ceux de nos lecteurs qui ne lisent pas l'anglais.

La traduction que nous donnons, de l'article ci-dessus, leur expliquera que la générosité du 30^e bataillon A. I. F., méritait bien, à son égard, cette marque de reconnaissance, de publier, pour lui et dans la langue maternelle, le compte rendu ci après :

Une Fête Enfantine à Beugnies

Le général de brigade australien, distribue des jouets aux enfants

C'est une tradition, à Beugnies, qu'à l'occasion de la Fête de Noël, une distribution de jouets et de gâteaux sont faite aux enfants. C'était, jadis, la « Ligue Patriotique des Français » qui en prenait l'initiative, mais la guerre est passée par là aussi....

Et voici que, cette année, une bonne fortune arrive à ces enfants : le 30^e Bataillon d'Infanterie Australienne était cantonné dans le village et... le général de brigade Davies, aine beaucoup les petits enfants de France.

M. l'abbé Dubelle, curé de la paroisse eut à

peine exprimé les regrets de la disparition des vieilles traditions, que le R. P. Gwynn, aumônier du corps, transmit ses doléances à MM. les Officiers et, séance tenante, la plus gracieuse résolution était prise et exécutée.

Faut il être indiscret?

C'est dans l'âme du journaliste.

Donc, la somme rondelette de mille francs était recueillie et le grand bazar du Boulevard Anspach, à Bruxelles, littéralement dévalisé.

Et vendredi 11 janvier, dans une immense salle de la Fabrique des Produits Céramiques, gracieusement ornée par les soldats, heureux de l'air des heureux, avait lieu une phénoménale distribution de jouets, de gâteaux, de chocolat.

Quelle fête, mes enfants!

Ils étaient, là, 450, avec les papas, les mamans, sans oublier les grandes sœurs, qui oubraient des yeux émerveillés et reconnaissants, et qui, dès le principe, osaient à peine croire que toutes ces gâteries leur étaient destinées.

Il est vrai qu'ils s'enthardaient bien vite, et que bientôt ce fut une exubérance charmante et même quelque peu tapageuse, mais on pardonne beaucoup à cet âge qui reste toujours sans pitié pour tous les usages et pour tous les grades.

Aussi le général Davies et tous les officiers qui avaient tenu à honorer la fête de leur présence étaient-ils littéralement radieux. Quant aux soldats..... ne sont-ils pas de grands enfants? C'est-à-dire qu'ils étaient à leur propre fête.

Les Chants?

Les enfants reconnaissants avaient appris le « God save the King » et c'est en l'exécutant, autre d'autres chants, qu'ils témoignèrent leur reconnaissance à l'armée australienne, dont les valeureux soldats reprirent en chœur leur hymne national et accompagnèrent notre Marseillaise.

M. le Général Davies tint à commencer lui-même la distribution des cadeaux.

Dire les exclamations, les cris de joie et de surprise, non, cela ne s'écrit pas. Il faut les avoir entendus et avoir vu le jeu de toutes ces physionomies heureuses, pour s'en faire une idée.

Et n'étaient pas les moins heureuses, les filles de l'orphelinat des Sœurs de la Charité qui n'avaient eu garde d'oublier les organisateurs de la fête.

Après la remise des cadeaux, tout le monde se répandit dans la prairie voisine, en un abandon pittoresque qui fit les délices des objets photographiques et même de la manivelle du Cinéma.

Les enfants, définitivement apprivoisés avaient pris avec l'armée, des familiarités gracieuses et bon nombre d'entre eux furent croqués, un chapeau australien sur la tête! Dieu me par-

donne, le couvre-chef du général lui-même avait été fait prisonnier.

Voilà une journée qui sera époque dans les annales de la jeunesse de Beugnies. Celle-ci en conservera le souvenir reconnaissant.

Nous n'en voulons pour preuve que les charmantes lettres que les enfants ont adressées au Commandant du 30^e Bataillon A. I. F. et au R. P. Gwyen S. J. :

Voici le texte de ces lettres :

« Monsieur

» Nous sommes très sensibles à la chaleureuse sympathie que vous nous témoignez ce jour.

« Au nom de nos parents, au nom de nos Institutrices et en notre propre nom, nous venons nous exprimer notre reconnaissance avec nos sincères remerciements.

Pendant les quatre années que les Allemands ont vécu avec nous, ils ont essayé vainement de gagner notre affection par leurs caresses et leurs flatteries. Nous avons voulu conserver nos coeurs tout entiers pour les Français et leurs braves alliés : les Australiens.

« Aujourd'hui, heureux et fiers nous vous les offrons pleins d'amour et d'admiration.

« Nous garderons un ineffaçable souvenir de votre passage parmi nous et nous aimons à croire que vous n'oublierez pas.

« Vos petits amis de Beugnies
Beugnies, le 10 Janvier 1919. »

LES AVIS ALLEMANDS

— o — COMMENTAIRE

La « Kommandantur » de Maubeuge, ressemblait en cela à toutes les « commandantures » était féconde en ordres et avis de tout genre. Parmi les nombreux avis qu'elle publia, j'en ai relevé un qui me paraît avoir une saveur toute particulière. C'est au sujet des processions. J'en extrais quelques lignes.

« Les processions sont autorisées, à la condition formelle de ne sortir ni étendards, ni statues de Jeanne d'Arc, de ne tirer aucun coup de fusil, d'arquebuse, de ne pas lancer de

fusées, de ne chanter ni la Marseillaise, ni la Brabançonne, de ne pas pavoiser aux couleurs françaises, etc., etc.

— Toute une série d'absurdités du même goût que vous ne dispensez pas d'énumérer.

Pour ce qui est de Jeanne d'Arc, soit ! cela rentre dans le rite des processions. Mais tirer des coups de fusil, voire même d'arquebuse, lancer des fusées, voilà une façon bien étrange de célébrer une procession. En ce qui concerne la Marseillaise, il ne me semble pas que ce soit un chant de circonstance, pas plus que la Brabançonne.

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N'est-ce pas votre avis, lecteur ?

Düsseldorf, où les spartaciens avaient imposé leur domination, a été occupée par les troupes britanniques.

OMNIBUS

J'ai un ami. — Intérêts à l'Etat. — La question du passe-port. — Certificat de bonne vie et mœurs. — La Providence est de la partie. — Onze jours après le retour. — Rien que ça de formalités.

— o —

J'ai un ami. C'est un droit. J'ai même beaucoup d'amis.

Mais celui-là a des intérêts à Mons; c'est encore un droit, n'est-ce pas ?

Ah ! Si je vous disais qu'il a des intérêts à Cologne ou à Munich, vous me feriez, peut-être, des yeux en coulisses en sussurant : espionnage....

Mais non, c'est à Mons — Belgique — que mon ami a des intérêts. Et il reçut, il y a quelques trois semaines, un mot de son notaire, le priant de passer en son étude, ne fut-ce qu'une heure, pour mettre à point, certaines questions.

Une heure à Mons ! Bah ! La Providence et la chance aidant, les camions en France, les trams en Belgique, peut-être bien qu'en partant de bonne heure, il rentrerait facilement le soir même.

Mais, tout à coup, un éclair traverse ses ménings : depuis le 25 décembre, il faut un passe-port pour franchir la frontière.

Respectueux, mon ami s'en fut vers les autorités constituées et très régulièrement établies, lesquelles furent littéralement ébahies d'une demande de passe-port.

On verrait, on transmettrait, on répondrait.... Il suffisait d'attendre pa-

tiennement.

Oui, mais, nouvelle lettre du notaire : urgence, urgence !

Chose que ne connaît pas l'administration.

Second éclair dans les ménings suscités : voilà déjà huit jours passés, pas de nouvelles de Monsieur le Préfet, ni de ses paperasses : attends une minute.

Visite à d'autres autorités non moins constituées et non moins établies : obtention du fameux « Certificat de bonne vie et mœurs » que tous les Maires de nos 36,000 communes de France sont tenues de délivrer à tout réquerant.... en avant.

La Providence, la chance, les camions, le tram, le notaire, les intérêts, tout marcha comme sur des roulettes. Dix-sept heures de voyage et c'était bâclé. Il y a onze jours de cela.

Et hier, oui, hier, M. le Préfet se révéla à mon ami, et l'avisa, par une circulaire très détaillée, qu'il serait en droit d'obtenir un passe-port, aux conditions suivantes :

A — Demande sur papier timbre, indiquant :

1° — Nom, prénoms, etc., y compris ceux du conjoint.... éventuellement.

2° — Date, lieu de naissance.

3° — Durée approximative du voyage.

4° — Localités où il désire se rendre successivement.

5° — Motifs du voyage (joindre pièces justificatives).

6° — Résidences du demandeur depuis le 1^{er} janvier 1914, avec les adresses et les dates de séjour.

7° — Point de sortie du territoire.

prodigieusement de l'aventure.

Cependant, ils ne devaient pas dormir encore, car ils étaient à peine remis de la première alerte, qu'un nouveau, tel un beau diable vert qui surgit de sa boîte, quand on presse le ressort, le commandant se profile devant eux, aimable et gracieux.

— Serez fusilés ! Serez fusilés !

Et, de fait, une première charrette est prête pour le poteau ; M. Trouche est levé du cercle et disparait dans la nuit noire, poussé par la soldatesque brutale.

Les amis consternés, ne songent même pas à se réjouir de l'aubaine qui leur tombe du ciel : ils vont avoir, maintenant, chez-eun un lit !

Non, les ingrats ! Ils oublient d'en bénir le commandant !

Attentifs aux bruits du dehors, ils attendent, halatats, la détonation qui couchera leur ami dans la tombe et qui sera le prélude de leur propre trépas....

Ils l'attendaient encore, si....

Quant à M. Trouche, il s'en allait, escorté par une section au pas accéléré ; il était bien gardé, mais il comprit de suite que ce n'était pas la course à la mort,

On dégringola la ville ; on traversa le passage à niveau ; on grimpa à l'essai de la route de Maubeuge.

La haut, vers le Tivoli, tel un feu follet

8° — D — te des passe-ports et visas antérieurement obtenus.

B — Avis motivé du Commissaire Central de police pour Lille, Roubaix, Toncoing, du Maire pour les autres communes, comportant la certification de l'identité, et de la nationalité du demandeur et l'indication de son signalement très complet.

C — 0.60 en un mandat-poste pour le coût de la formule du passe-port.

D — Un exemplaire de la photographie nor-cartonnée du demandeur.

Ouf ! Comme vous le voyez, c'est simple et rapide comme tout ! Mais le plus simple encore, c'est de faire comme mon ami et de partir d'abord.

On ?

Le 18 janvier 1919.

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s'agitaient, allait, venaient, apparaissaient et disparaissaient une petite lumière faible et fugitive.

Cette lumière-là c'était un danger terrible pour l'armée allemande et pour les destinées de l'Empire.

Une sentinelle l'avait aperçue des hauteurs de la caserne, elle l'avait signalée au poste qui l'avait trouvée très suspecte et qui en avait relâché au commandant.

Ce dernier, conscient de sa haute responsabilité, s'est d'abord rué sur les otages : — Serez fusilés ! Serez fusilés !

Puis, il avait froidement ordonné l'assaut de la chandelle insidieuse, en spécifiant que marcherait, en avant, pour courir les mêmes risques que les valeureuses troupes, un des quatre otages.

— Pan, pan, pan !

— Qui c'est là ?

— Ouvrez la porte !

— Qui c'est là, qu'est-ce que vous demandez ?

C'est-y l'usage-femme !

— Pan, pan, pan ! Ouvrez donc !

A défaut de porte, la fenêtre du premier s'entrouvrit et une tête effrénée y fit une apparition et une éclipse, aussi rapides l'une que l'autre.

C'éait pas une femme, ni même une sage-femme qu'il avait entrevue, mais notre section es oufflée qui faisait le siège de la maison.

(A suivre)

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Quatre Ans sous la Botte

Histoire de l'occupation

Par Karl DEGAULE

C'est le commandant qui surgit devant les joueurs de cartes qui n'avaient pas bronché, eux.

— Je, Ja ! Serez fusilés !

Au fond, ce n'était pas un remède à la situation et le commandant le comprit, car, après avoir rendu pour la N^e fois, déjà, le verdict, il fut s'enquérir de la cause de ce petit formidable.

Or, il s'agissait tout bonnement d'une explosion de gaz, dans une salle basse du bâtiment. Un peu y avait vraisemblablement été laissé ouvert par mégardé.

Le commandant dut convenir, in petto, que les otages n'étaient pour rien dans l'affaire, car ils ne furent pas, à ce moment, du moins, passés par les armes.

Dire qu'ils tremblèrent de peur, serait une bien disgracieuse exagération, ils avaient même plutôt l'audace de s'amuser