

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/75/35

**Title:** 58th Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/75/35





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267

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*58<sup>th</sup> Battalion*

FOR

*December 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*W Sproule  
Capt. A.I.F.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H James  
Major*







WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME 12

(Erase heading not required.)

Folio 24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVRIL Ref. VALENCIENNES I2.	19 18 Dec. 2nd		<p>WEATHER - Fine and cool. Lieut. J.L.M CAMPBELL addressed "B" Company on the proposed Educational Scheme.</p> <p>The Battalion barber cutting hair in "B" Company afterwards.</p> <p>78 reinforcements marched in, 24 of whom were casuals rejoining.</p> <p>Arrivals - Nil.</p> <p>Departures - Nil.</p>	
- do -	Dec. 3rd.		<p>Weather - Fine.</p> <p>Companies were at work salvaging material, mostly German, in their areas, stacking same by roadside convenient for picking up. 1 Officer and 40 men from each company were salvaging.</p> <p>Arrivals - Lieut. F. W. GRIBBLE from 59th Battalion for attachment</p> <p>Lieut. C. R. BUCHANAN " " "</p> <p>Lieut. S. T. HERRIOTT " " "</p> <p>Capt. W. C. SCURRY MC, DCM from Seconded Aust. Corps School.</p> <p>Lieut. W. H. GATES DCM from Aust. Flying Corps.</p> <p>2/Lieut. M. W. NOONAN from leave U.K.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>FAVRIL Ref: VALENCIENNES 12 ) Edition 2 ) BELGIUM )</p>	Dec. 4th.		<p><u>Weather:</u> Drizzling rain; warm.</p> <p>Four Companies under their Platoon Commanders continuing salving their respective billeting areas and placing collected material at dumps established at the four Company Headquarters. H.Q. Company continuing salving Battalion H.Q. Billets and placing collected material at a dump established at Battalion Headquarters.</p> <p>Arrangements made with S.S.O. for room in a motor lorry to bring Canteen supplies from LE CATEAU.</p> <p>Regimental Barber cutting "B" Company's hair.</p> <p>Regimental Band played selections in the village square from 14.00 h. till 15.30 h.</p> <p>A.I.F. List No. 415 received wherein it is notified that Capt. F. D. JOHNSTONE embarked for AUSTRALIA on furlough and remains Regimentally seconded.</p> <p><u>Arrivals:</u> Nil. <u>Departures:</u> Nil.</p>	
- do -	Dec. 5th.		<p><u>Weather:</u> Drizzling rain.</p> <p>Four Companies and Headquarters details continuing salving their respective billeting areas as per yesterday.</p> <p>Lieut. JOLLEY with 8 other ranks despatched to DOURLERS (4.L.2-2) as Forward Billeting Officer for the Battalion, due to march out of FAVRIL on 8th inst.</p> <p><u>Arrivals:</u> Nil. <u>Departures:</u> Lieut. W. MORRISON proceeded to U.K. on 75 days furlough.</p>	



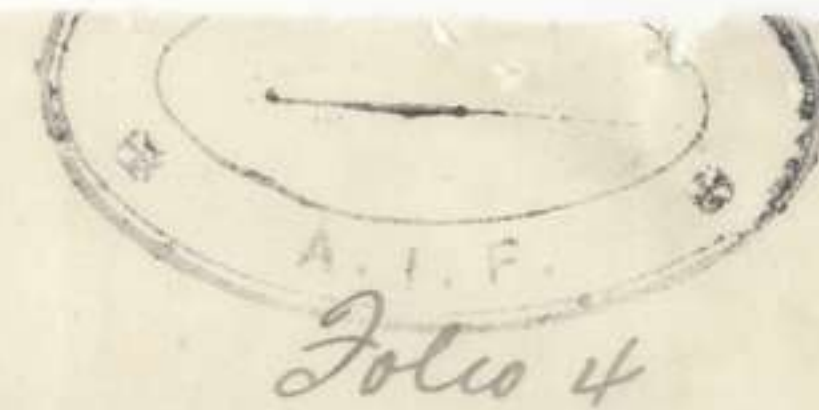
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVRIL	<u>Dec. 6th</u>		<p><u>Weather:</u> Dull; warm.</p> <p>Battalion completed salvage operations and all salvaged material left for collection by Divisional Salvage Officer.</p> <p>The C.O., Lieut-Col. C. V. WATSON, DSO., having been ordered to LONDON on special duty, inspected the Battalion at 10.30 h. and bade "Good-bye" to the members.</p> <p>Regimental Barber cutting "A" Company's hair.</p> <p>The C.O. and Second in Command, Major D. B. DOYLE, motored to DOURLERS to reconnoitre route to that place preparatory to Battalion moving.</p> <p><u>Appointment:</u> 2nd Lieut. (Hon. Lieut) F. R. JOLLEY is appointed Battalion Intelligence Officer, 30/11/18, vice Lieut. A. ROBERTSON, wounded.</p> <p><u>Arrivals:</u> Lieut. J. H. GARBUTT marched in from U.K. and taken on strength of Battalion from Seconded List.</p> <p><u>Departures:</u> Nil.</p>	
- do -	<u>Dec. 7th</u>		<p><u>Weather:</u> Showery; warm.</p> <p>Battalion making ready to march out of present area to DOURLERS. General overhaul of kit and equipment, and cleaning up of billets.</p> <p>Regimental Band played from 14.00 h. to 15.30 h. in the village square.</p> <p><u>Arrivals:</u> Nil.</p> <p><u>Departures:</u> Nil.</p>	



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FOLIO 5.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVRIL	Dec. <u>8th</u>		<p><u>Weather:</u> Bright and fine. Reveille at 06.00 h. Battalion marched out of FAVRIL at 08.00 h. to DOURLERS. For Movement Order and route see Appendix No. 3. <i>Battalion order 68</i> Battalion halted from 11.45 h. to 13.00 h. at 5.K.35-53 for lunch and marched to DOURLERS at 15.00 h. Guides met Battalion one kilometre west of DOURLERS and conducted the various Companies to their respective billets, which are good and adequate. Battalion marched excellently, and march discipline was good throughout. <i>Report on move - Appendix 3A)</i> The C.O., Lieut-Col. C. V. WATSON, DSO., remained behind at FAVRIL and proceeds to United Kingdom tomorrow. Major D. B. DOYLE is in Temporary Command.</p> <p>Arrivals: 2/Lieut. J. J. G. COLCLOUGH DCM. from General Inf. Reinforcements ex Cadet Battalion. Departure: Lieut-Col. C. V. WATSON DSO. as above. <i>R &amp; M's weekly report attached (Appendix No. 4)</i></p>	Appendix No. 3  APPENDIX 3A  APPENDIX No. 4
DOURLERS. Ref. Sheet VALENCIENNES. 4.L.	Dec. <u>9th</u>		<p><u>Weather:</u> Dull; warm. Morning - Battalion settling down in new billets and converting same into a sanitary and proper condition. Billets were left very dirty and untidy by outgoing Unit, 50th Division. The C.O. and Adjutant made an inspection of all billets - all men found comfortable and satisfied. Canteen and Y.M.C.A. established. Afternoon - Men cleaning equipment. Village people obliging and kindly disposed. Interested in the first Australian troops they have come in contact with. Capt. J. LOUGHNAN MC., appointed Town Major of DOURLERS, MONT DOURLERS and FLOURSIES - Sgt. CLARK, Assistant Town Major. Lieut. W. FLINTOFT appointed Town Major of SEMOUSIES.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil. <i>Rmo's Weekly Health report attached (Appendix No. 5)</i></p>	APPENDIX No. 5



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FOLIO 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOURLERS Ref? VALENCIENNES 4.L.	Dec. <u>10th</u>		<p><u>Weather:</u> Drizzling rain and cold.</p> <p>Kit inspection of whole Battalion held and shortage lists made out by Officers Commanding Companies.</p> <p>Lieut. S. A. PHILIP appointed Battalion Officers' Mess Secretary, and preparatory measures taken to form a Battalion Officers' Mess.</p> <p>Lieut. H. WALKER appointed Battalion Sports Officer.</p> <p>Q.M. drew supply of coal from AULNOYE, 9 kilometres N.W. of DOURLERS, where a German dump was located. Dump was set afire by Germans about 5th November and is still burning. Arrangements made to draw coal daily.</p> <p>At 15.00 h. the C.O. attended a meeting of Unit Commanders at Brigade Headquarters to decide on a Sports Policy.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil.</p> <p>Departures: Lieut. W. FLINTOFF   To U.K. on Special Lieut. A.H. BARRACLOUGH) Transport Pay duty.</p>	
- do -	Dec. <u>11th</u>		<p><u>Weather:</u> Drizzling rain and cold.</p> <p>Inspection by C.O. of "A" Company postponed owing to bad weather. Men confined by weather to their billets where a start has been made on discussions relative to Education, Demobilisation and Post-war problems.</p> <p>At 11.00 h. the C.O. held a meeting of Battalion Officers to discuss Battalion Sports, Officers' Mess Affairs, Educational and Domestic matters.</p> <p>Billeting returns sent in by Officers commanding Companies, Q.M. and Transport Officer.</p> <p>Canteen representative despatched at 08.30 h. to CHARLEROI to purchase canteen supplies.</p> <p>O.S., "C" Coy. arranged a concert at the Company's billets, which proved a success.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil.</p> <p>Departures: 2/Lieut. M.T. DANAHY MM. Leave U.K.</p>	



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FOLIO 7.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
	<u>1918.</u>									
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES. 4.L.	Dec. 12th.		<p>Weather: Raining all day and cold.</p> <p>C.O., (Major D. B. DOYLE) inspected "A" Company. Inspection held in billets owing to bad weather. Balance of Companies on Educational work. 15th Brigade took over 50th Divisional baths (Imperial) and arrangements have been made whereby this Battalion has the use of baths tomorrow.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil.</p>							
- do -	Dec. 13th.		<p>Weather: Wet and cold.</p> <p>Battalion working on special syllabus of training, See Appendix, No 6</p> <p>Throughout the day, Battalion used new Brigade baths, going through at the rate of 100 per hour. C.O. inspected "B" Company - inspection held in billets owing to bad weather.</p> <p>A football match between Officers and "A" Company was played on Battalion parade and sports ground, resulting in a win for Officers by 3 goals 4 bhds. to 5 bhds.</p> <p>Arrival: Lieut. H.D. WILLIS MC. and Lieut. T.A. SLAUGHTER MC from Leave U.K.</p> <p>Departures: Nil.</p>	APPENDIX No 6						
- do -	Dec. 14th		<p>Weather: Fine.</p> <p>C.O. inspected "C" Company on Company parade ground.</p> <p>Training - checking and inspection of platoons, Company drill and instruction in guards and sentries as fixed for 13th inst., the programme outlined in the syllabus having been put back a day owing to bad weather and the bathing.</p> <p>2/Lieut. F. R. JOLLEY, the I.O., was evacuated to Hospital on account of an old wound.</p> <p>Football results:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>"D" Coy.</td> <td>5g. 18 bhds.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>beat</td> <td>"B" "</td> <td>1g. 8 bhds.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Arrivals: Nil.</p> <p>Departures: 2/Lieut. F.R. JOLLEY to Field Ambulance.</p>		"D" Coy.	5g. 18 bhds.	beat	"B" "	1g. 8 bhds.	APPENDIX No 7
	"D" Coy.	5g. 18 bhds.								
beat	"B" "	1g. 8 bhds.								

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*RBM's weekly report attached (Appendix No. 7)*



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FOLIO 8.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES 4.L.	1918 Dec. 15th.		<p>Weather: Threatening and cold.                      Church parade at St. AUBIN on 57th Battalion parade ground, for Church of England. Capt. W. C. SCURRY MC., DCM., O.C., "A" Coy. was in charge of 58th Battalion and Major SMITH, 57th Battalion, in charge of the Combined parade. R.C. Mass in Parish Church, DOURLERS.                      Arrivals - nil. Departures - Nil.</p>	
- do -	Dec. 16th.		<p>Weather: Wet.                      "D" Company inspected in billets by the C.O. Indoor training and physical training carried on. Weather clearing in afternoon, football match was played, "A" Coy. versus "B" Coy., result being "A" Coy. 9 g. 14 bhds. to "B" Coy. 3g. 6bhds.                      Arrivals: Nil                      Departures: 2/Lieut. E.C. CURTAIN (attached from 59th Bn.)  <i>Amo's weekly report attached (Appendix 8)</i>                      to leave U.K.</p>	APPENDIX No. 8
- do -	Dec. 17th.		<p>Weather: Threatening and cold.                      Battalion parade on parade ground east of AVESNES - MAUBEUGE Road, towards SEMOUSIES. After a few movements in line and in column, rain come on and the parade was dismissed to Company billets, then carry on with physical and recreational training.                      Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil.                      Syllabus of training attached (Appendix No. 9)</p>	Appendix No. 9.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES <u>4.L.</u>	Dec. 18th		<p><b>Weather:</b> Cold and raining.</p> <p>The Musketry instruction on the syllabus was given under Company arrangements in billets, with a good deal of physical training.</p> <p>Brigade 3 miles cross-country run fixed for this afternoon was abandoned owing to the weather.</p> <p><b>Arrivals:</b> 2/Lieut. R. G. HOLLINS from General Inf. Reinforcements, ex Cadet Battalion, and posted to "C" Coy.</p> <p><b>Departures:</b> Nil.</p> <p>Lieut. C. A. DEANE MC. struck off strength on being invalided to AUSTRALIA on 9/12/1918.</p>	
- do -	Dec. 19th		<p><b>Weather:</b> Finer, but threatening.</p> <p>Battalion all sent through the baths, DOURLERS, at rate of 100 per hour, during the day. Clean clothing, i.e., socks, vests and under-pants, (but no shirts) was obtained.</p> <p><b>Arrivals:</b> Chap. The Rev. C. HALL from Leave in U.K.</p> <p><b>Departures:</b> Nil.</p>	
- do -	Dec. 20th		<p><b>Weather:</b> Wet.</p> <p>The training set down for today, route march by Companies, had to be abandoned and training under Company arrangements, in billets, again resorted to. Physical training played a large part in this training.</p> <p>The weather brightening up after mid-day, the football match, Officers versus "C" Company was played, resulting in a win for the Officers by 7g. 8bnds. to 4g. 5 bnds. During the afternoon H.R.H. The Prince of Wales attended the match informally and remained about half an hour. He was heartily cheered by those present on leaving.</p> <p><b>Arrivals:</b> Nil. <b>Departures:</b> Nil.</p>	



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FOLIO IO.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES 4.L.	1918. Dec. 21st		<p>Weather cold but not raining. In the morning all companies were put through application practice on the range opposite Battalion Headquarters - I2 targets - under supervision of Musketry Officer, Lieut. W.E. SHIELDS MC. Work on Battalion Class Rooms which had now been going on continuously for past week or more, still continued, obtaining timber being the greatest difficulty.</p> <p>During morning classes in French, Shorthand and book-keeping were started. In evening a concert party from the 14th Welsh Regt. (Swansea Battalion) calling themselves "The Swans" came over from ECUELIN, a village some 5 kilometres to the E.E. and gave a performance in the Battalion Concert Hall, which was crowded. The show was a great success. The performers (some 15 in number) were afterwards entertained at supper at Battalion Headquarters.</p> <p>During the afternoon, Major H. B. G. FERRES, D.S.O. MC, 2nd in command, rejoined from Senior Officers' School, ALDERSHOT.</p> <p>During afternoon a football match was played, resulting as under :-</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="885 1073 1898 1172"> <tr> <td>"D" Company</td> <td>-</td> <td>8 Goals</td> <td>14 Behinds.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" "</td> <td>-</td> <td>3 "</td> <td>8 "</td> </tr> </table> <p>Arrivals - Major H. B. G. FERRES D.S.O, MC. from Senior Officers' School  Departures - Nil. <i>R.B.M.'s weekly report attached (Appendix 10)</i></p> <p>Sunday.</p>	"D" Company	-	8 Goals	14 Behinds.	"A" "	-	3 "	8 "	
"D" Company	-	8 Goals	14 Behinds.									
"A" "	-	3 "	8 "									
- do -	Dec. 22nd.		<p>Weather: Fine.</p> <p>Church parades - C. of E. held in Battalion Concert Hall;</p> <p>R.C. Mass celebrated in Parish Church, DOURLERS.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil.</p> <p>Departures: Lieut. R. V. MOON "VC" Leave, PARIS.</p>	APPENDIX No 10.								

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES 4.L.	<u>1918.</u> Dec. 23rd		<p>Weather: Threatening. - Raining after 10.30 h.                      Battalion parade held by C.O., Major H.D.G. FERRIS DSO., MC., who had taken over command from Temp/Major D.B. DOYLE. All available men on parade, but heavy rain coming on soon after parade started men were dismissed to carry on physical training in billets.                      Football: It was decided to disband the Officers' football team to allow the Officers to play with their Companies.                      Arrivals, Nil. Departures: Nil.                      The following appeared in part II. Orders:- "Following struck off strength on being invalided to Australia:- 2/Lieut. W.G.O. EGGINGTON 12/12/18                      Lieut. W.R.B. NICHOLSON 13/12/18.                      Lieut. E.W. TASKER is transferred to Permanent Supy. List and posted for duty with A.I.F. Depots in U.K. 25/11/18".</p>	
- do -	Dec. 24th		<p>Weather: Weather was showery, very cold, snow in evening (light fall).                      Day spent preparing for Christmas Day Festivities. No Comforts Fund Gifts had arrived up to a late hour but at 20:00 h. a wire was received to send a G.S. Wagon to SOLRE le CHATEAU for Christmas Gifts and extra stores ordered previously from Canteen.                      Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil. The following appeared in part II. Orders:- "Lieut-Col. C.V. WATSON DSO., is transferred to General List and to be A.P.M., LONDON, 19/12/18. List 424."                      A two mile Cross-country run, teams of 10 per Platoon, resulted in a win for No. 13 Platoon, "D" Company. Individual places were filled by                      1st. Lieut. R.D. HOLLINS, "C" Coy: 2nd. Pte. J. Nixon, "D" Coy.                      3rd. Lieut. H. WALKER, "D" Coy. 4th. Lieut. J.E. DAVIES MC. "D" Coy.                      The conditions of this run were - To be run in boots; the first 5 in any one Platoon past the post - 50 francs: 1st, 2nd and 3rd men past the Post - 30 francs, 15 francs and 5 francs respectively.</p>	



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FOLIO I2.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918</u>			
DOURLERS. Ref. VALENCIENNES 4.L.	Dec. 25th		<p><u>CHRISTMAS DAY.</u></p> <p>Weather: Beautifully fine; snow on the ground, but sun shining and sky cloudless.</p> <p>The whole Battalion, less absolutely essential duties, attended Church Parades; that for Protestants was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, DOURLERS Cha plain, The Rev. C. HALL, officiating, and R.C. Mass at Parish Church, DOURLERS. Holy Communion (Church of England) was celebrated at 07.30 h. and also after Service at 10.30 h.</p> <p>The Christmas Dinner of all Four Companies was held in the Company billets at 13.00 h. All ranks were seated at tables either built as fixtures or improvised, and Officers and Sergeants served the food to the other ranks. The C.O. visited all Messes and wished the men the Compliments of the Season. Q.M. Store and Transport personnel, separately, had their dinner in the evening at 17.00 h., as did the H.Q. Sergeants and "B" Coy. Sergeants. The C.O. visited all these Messes also. The dinners provided for the men, also a good tea were excellent. The diet sheet for the day (Appendix No. // ) inadequately describes the meals. The cooks had done their very best, working untiringly and had everything served smoking hot and in the most appetising manner possible; There was abundance of everything, thanks to the energy of Company Commanders and C.Q.M.S's who had gone far afield to purchase extra vegetables etc. The only disappointment was the non arrival of a quantity of beer that was expected. During the afternoon the C.O., accompanied by the Adjutant, rode over the Brigade Headquarters to wish the B.G.C. and Staff the Compliments of the Season, and also paid a call on the C.O., 14th Welsh Regiment at ECULIN - the same Battalion which had sent over the Concert party on 21st inst.</p> <p>The new Battalion Officers' Mess Room was open for the first time for Breakfast on this day. Lieut. S.A. PHILIP, who had been appointed Hon. Secretary, Capt. P.E. VOSS MC. (R.M.O.) Treasurer, and 2/Lieut. T. BROWNLESS, (Member of Committee), had with the assistance of the 15th Fld. Coy. Engineers, converted an old and very delapidated building into a very decent Mess Room, tastefully decorated with bunting, Mistletoe and Holly, the 58th Battalion Flag, (presented by a Committee of Ladies, organised and presided over by Mrs. Hughes, wife of the Prime Minister, occupying a prominent place in the Decorations.</p>	
				APPENDIX No 11



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FOLIO 13. A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.		<u>CHRISTMAS DAY.</u> (continued)	
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES 4.L.	Dec. 25th		The Christmas Dinner was excellently put on and quite worthy of the Battalion and the occasion. The whole day passed off excellently without a hitch, the arrival in the nick of time of the Comforts Fund Gifts, a well selected Christmas Bow for every man in the unit just putting the finishing touch on the Christmas. Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil.	
			<u>BOXING DAY.</u>	
- do -	Dec. 26th		Weather: Fine and clear. No training done. Football match in the afternoon resulted - "A" Coy. 4g. 6bnds. beat "B" Coy. 3g. 6bnds. Departures: Lieut. F. W. GRIBBLE (attached from 59th Bn) and Lieut. J. H. GREEN MM. - Leave to PARIS. Arrivals: 2/Lieut. F. B. MURN (attached from 59th Bn) ex Corps School.	
- do -	Dec. 27th.		Weather extremely cold in the morning - rain later in the day. Men in billets all day because of weather, cleaning and repairing and refitting equipment in anticipation of review next day by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil.	
- do -	Dec. 28th		Weather: Wet. H.R.H. The Prince of Wales held an Investiture of Medals and Ribands (Other ranks only) at Brigade Headquarters, at which were present the Battalion Commander, Seconds in Command, Adjutants and Company Commanders of all the Brigade Units. Those presented with their Decorations were:- 2863 Pte. T. BENOIT DCM. 3645 Pte. J. STOKES MM. 2960 Pte. A. SMEE MM. A draft of 20 O.Rs. and 1 Officer (Lieut. G. LAING MC) of those who embarked during 1914 or first 6 months of 1915 left for Australia. ARRIVALS NIL. DEPARTURES LIEUT. G. LAING MC. TO AUSTRALIA.	

A draft of 20 O.Rs. and 1 Officer (Lieut. G. LAING MC) of those who embarked during 1914 or first 6 months of 1915 left for Australia.  
ARRIVALS NIL. DEPARTURES LIEUT. G. LAING MC. TO AUSTRALIA.  
All m's weekly report attached (appendix 12)

APPENDIX 12



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



VOLUME 12

FOLIO 14

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOURLERS Ref. VALENCIENNES 4.L.	19 18 Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather: Cold and wet.</p> <p>Church parades - Church of England in Concert Hall; R.C. Mass in Parish Church, DOURLERS.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Lieut. A.H. BRUDELELL Leave U.K.</p>	
- do -	Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather: Cold, overcast, but rain held off.</p> <p>Specialists Training under Company arrangements, and the 10 best shots of each Company were at rifle practice at the range under the Battalion Musketry Officer, with a view to picking the Battalion team.</p> <p>A Cross-country run was held over a distance of three miles, in which 300 competed - 20 per Company from the different Units of the Brigade. The 59th Battalion won, 57th Battalion, 2nd and 58th Battalion, 3rd. "D" Company did best for the Battalion, being the first Company of any Battalion to get all its 20 men home, though it did not win the event. Lieut. H. WALKER, (Acting O.C., "D" Coy) was third, being first home for this Battalion.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil. Departures: Nil. <i>Syllabus of Training - Appendix 13</i></p>	APPENDIX NO 13
- do -	Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>		<p>Weather: Cold but no rain. A 6 mile route march was held and though there was no band (owing to half the players being on U.K. Leave) the marching was excellent. ECLAIBES was traversed en route. A musical and card evening was held in the Battalion Mess room to see the New Year in, after Dinner.</p> <p>Arrivals: Nil. Departures: 2/Lieut. M.J. HASSET (Attached from 59th Battalion) Leave U.K.</p>	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form D. 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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

=====  
(Erase heading not required.)  
=====



VOLUME 12

FOLIO 15.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918</u>			
DOURLERS.			During the month much was done by Company Amusement Committees to provide entertainments and amusement for the troops. In addition, during the last fortnight of December <del>held numerous</del> the Y.M.C.A. Cinema held numerous shows.	
Ref. VALENCIENNES			A list of the entertainments held in the Companies is subjoined, (Appendix No. 14) as is also a report by Education Officer on Educational work done. <i>(Appendix 15)</i>	Appendix 14 Appendix 15
<u>4.L.</u>				
			Battalion Strengths for month of December 1918 (Appendix 16)	Appendices 16
			Honors and Awards for month of December 1918 (Appendix 17)	17
			Sick wastage for month of December 1918 (Appendix 18)	18
			Summary of Punishments for month of December (Appendix 19)	19
			Transport Officer's Monthly Report (Appendix 20)	20
			<i>R.M.O.'s Monthly Report</i> (Appendix 21)	21
			<i>History of Downlers</i> (Appendix 22)	22



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# WAR DIARY

OF

58th BATTALION A. I. F.

FOR

DECEMBER 1919

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	58th Battalion Order No. 67
2.	Amendment to Battalion Order No. 67.
3.	58th Battalion Order No. 68.
3a.	Report on move - FAVRIL to DOURLERS.
4.	R.Q.M's Weekly Report.
5.	Weekly Health Report.
6.	Suggested Programme of training.
7.	R.Q.M's Weekly report.
8.	Weekly Health report.
9.	Syllabus of training.
10.	R.Q.M's Weekly report.
11.	Diet Sheets for Xmas Day.
12.	R.Q.M's Weekly report.
13.	Syllabus of training.
14.	List of entertainments for month of December - by Companies.
15.	Education Officer's Monthly report.
16.	Details of Battalion strength.
17.	Honors and Awards for month of December.
18.	Sick wastage for month of December.
19.	Summary of punishments for month of December.
20.	Transport Officer's Monthly report.
21.	Medical Officer's Monthly report.
22.	<i>History of DOURLERS</i>

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58th BATTALION ORDER NO. 67.

Copy No. .... 11 .....

Ref. VALENCIENNES - Sheet 8.  
1/100,000.

Nov: 30th 1918

1. (a) His Majesty the King is to visit the Australian Corps Area tomorrow, 1st December 1918.  
(b) During the afternoon the King and suite is to proceed through the 5th Aust. Div. area from AVESNES to LANDRECIES thence through CATILLON.
2. The units of the 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade Group are to line the LANDRECIES - LA GROISE road as the Royal Party passes through.
3. The 58th Battalion will line the road on North of 59th Battalion near cross roads 6.I.25.97.
4. The proceedings are to be quite informal and it is ~~xxxx~~ hoped the troops will give His Majesty a reception worthy of the 58th Battalion and the Australian Corps.
5. DRESS - Belt and side arms. Officers will wear hats and Sam Browns belts.
6. (a) Starting Point - 58th Battalion Q.M. Store on FAVRIL-SAMBRETON road.  
(b) Time of passing - 13.15 h.  
(c) Order of march -  
Headquarters  
"A" Coy.  
"B" Coy.  
Band  
"C" Coy.  
"D" Coy.
7. Company Commanders' horses will be at their billets at 13.05 h. Transport Officer will arrange accordingly.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) W. S. SPROULE Capt. & Adjt.  
58th Battalion AIF.

Issued by runner at 1900 on 30/11/18

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1.	File
	2.	C.O.
	3.	15th A.I. Bde
	4.	"A" Coy.
	5.	"B" Coy.
	6.	"C" Coy.
	7.	"D" Coy.
	8.	Q.M. and T.O.
	9.	War Diary
	10.	War Diary
	11.	War Diary



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Appendix 2



AMENDMENT TO 58TH BATTALION ORDER NO. 67A

COPY NO. ....!!

Reference VALENCIENNES- Sheet 12, I/100,000

Dec. 1st 1918.

1. The arrangements for the visit of His Majesty the King have been amended.
2. The road to be lined by the 15th Brigade will be the MARCILLES - LANDRIEUX road. The Royal party will pass along at approximately 14.30.
3. The 58th Battalion will proceed to the allotted road via FAUB de FRANCE.
  - (a) Starting point: Cross Roads, S.I. 65-26
  - (b) Time of passing: 13.20 h/
  - (c) Order of March: as in Order No. 67. "D" Company will fall in in rear of the column as it passes their billets.
4. 200 Yds between Units; 10 yds between Companies.  
The usual 10 minutes to; the clock hour halts will be observed.  
Mounted officers will be mounted.  
Head of column will halt at approximately S.I. 97-56 and troops will line the road in single rank on either side of the road and await the arrival of the Royal party.
5. Men will wear gloves.
6. Acknowledge.

(Sgd) W.S. SERGUE, Capt & Adj  
58th Battalion, A. I. F.

Issued at 12.15h.

Issued to all recipients of Battalion Order No. 67



SECRET.

Volume 12



Appendix 3  
COPY NO.....

58th BATTALION ORDER NO. 68.

Ref: VALENCIENNES, Sheet 12.  
1/100,000

8th December 1918.

1. The concentration of the 5th Aust. Division with other Divisions of the Corps is to proceed forthwith.
2. The 15th A.I. Brigade Group is moving to the AVESNES (St. REMY) Area, during the period 7th to 12th December 1918.
3. The 58th Battalion will move tomorrow, 8th December 1918 from FAVRIL to DOULERS.
  - (a) STARTING POINT: Cross roads, 5.I.65-26.
  - (b) TIME OF PASSING: 08.00 h.
  - (c) ORDER OF MARCH:
    - Headquarters,
    - Band
    - "A" Company;
    - "C" "
    - "B" "
    - "D" "
    - Mess cart
    - Maltest cart."D" Company will take its place in the column at proper distance as it passes Company Headquarters.
  - (d) DISTANCES: 200 yards between Companies; 500 yards between Units, and 100 yards between every 6 vehicles will be maintained while on the main LANDRECIES - AVESNES Road.  
Distance will be increased and Companies divided should the state of the traffic demand.
  - (e) ROUTE: FAUB de FRANCE - MARRIOLLES - MARBAIX - Cross Roads, 5.K.35-53 - DOMPIERRE - LES BODELEX - St. AUBIN - DOULERS. Battalion will be clear of main LANDRECIES - AVESNES Road before 12.30 h.
  - (f) DRESS: Full marching order, less blanket.
  - (g) TRANSPORT: Transport, less Mess Cart and Maltest cart will leave starting point at 07.30 h. and proceed independently, observing distances as laid down.
  - (h) MID-DAY MEAL: Battalion will halt at a place to be selected, between cross roads K.5.35-53 and DOMPIERRE for a mid-day meal. R.Q.M. will arrange for cooks to have a hot drink ready at this halt and to supply a hot meal on arrival at DOULERS.
  - (i) REAR GUARD: "D" Company will provide a rear guard of 1 officer and 12 other ranks to march in rear of column.
  - (j) TIME: Watches will be synchronised with Battalion Signalling Office at 19.30 h. tonight 7th inst.
  - (k) DISCIPLINE: Strict march discipline will be observed and no man will be allowed to fall out without the written authority of his Platoon Commander.
  - (l) FALLING OUT: Companies will report immediately on arrival at destination the number and name of men who fell out on the march, with reason.
  - (m) VALISES, ETC. Both blankets will be carried by transport. Blankets will be packed in bundles of 20 (short way) securely tied, labelled, and stacked at Company and Battalion Headquarters, for collection, by 06.45 h. tomorrow, 8th inst.

P.T.O



3. (n) VALISES, ETC. Officers' valises, packs, Music and spare instruments of the Band, with Company and Battalion Orderly Room and Mess boxes will be ready for collection at respective Headquarters at 06.45 tomorrow 8th inst.

(o) BILLETS: All billets will be left in a scrupulously clean and sanitary condition, and a certificate to this effect forwarded to the Adjutant immediately on arrival. No fires or lights will be left burning in billets.

(p) Company Commanders will hand to the Adjutant before leaving, a parade state of their Command.

(q) Company Commander, Q.M. and T.O. will report to Adjutant as soon as they are settled in their new billets.

(r) REPORTS: Reports during march to head of the column.

4. Battalion Headquarters will close at FAVRIL at 07.30 h. tomorrow, 8th inst., and re-open on arrival at new location.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) W/S/ SPROULE Capt. & Adjt.  
58th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued at 14.45 h. 7th December 1918.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No.	File
1	-
2	- C.O.
3	- 15th A.I. Brigade.
4	- O.C., "A" Coy.
5	- O.C., "B" Coy.
6	- O.C., "C" Coy.
7	- O.C., "D" Coy.
8	- Q.M. and T.O.
9	- War Diary
10	- do
11	- do

(f) TRANSPORT: Transport, Mess and Bedding will leave starting point at 07.30 h. and proceed independently, observing distances as laid down.

(d) MID-DAY MEAL: Battalion will halt at a place to be selected between cross roads R. 5.25-23 and BOMBIERS for a mid-day meal. R.Q.M. will arrange for cookers to have a hot drink ready at this halt and to supply a hot meal on arrival at BOMBIERS.

(i) REAR GUARD: "B" Company will provide a rear guard of 1 Officer and 12 other ranks to march in rear of column.

(j) TIME: Watches will be synchronized with Battalion Signalling Office at 19.30 h. tonight 7th inst.

(k) DISCIPLINE: Strict march discipline will be observed and no man will be allowed to fall out without the written authority of his Platoon Commander.

(l) FALLING OUT: Companies will report immediately on arrival at destination the number and name of men who fell out on the march, with reason.

(m) VALISES, ETC. Both blankets will be carried by transport. Blankets will be packed in bundles of 20 (short way) securely tied, labelled, and stacked at Company and Battalion Headquarters for collection, by 06.45 h. tomorrow, 8th inst.



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Appendix 3A

58th BATTALION A.I.F.



REPORT ON MOVE FROM FAVRIL TO DOURLERS.

Pursuant to Brigade orders, the Battalion moved on 8/12/18 from starting point, FAVRIL, passing at 08.00 h. Till the main road was reached distances of 50 yards were observed between Companies to make use of the services of the band. On reaching the road the column opened out to the prescribed distances and had no difficulty with traffic, which was fortunately very light. The usual ten minute halts were observed and the cross roads, S.K. 35.53 were reached at 11.20 h. At 11.25 h. the Battalion halted for the mid-day meal, about 500 yards North of this point, and hot tea was served from the two cokers which had gone on ahead and were ready when the Battalion arrived.

The march was resumed at 13.00 h. and DOURLERS was reached and Battalion in billets by 15.15 h. Billeting had been well done and the Battalion was very comfortably housed, and all animals under cover.

Two blankets per man were carried on the transport which was sent on ahead of the column, leaving at 07.30 h. as it was understood the traffic would be much less congested in the early morning. It arrived well ahead of the Battalion. The blankets and cooking utensils of a party detached at LANDRECIES were collected separately. This detached party joined up the Battalion at the mid-day halt. After leaving the main road the column was closed up and the band played, which greatly reduced the fatigue of the march.

The men marched to attention and the band played going through all towns and villages.

The marching was distinctly good throughout.

Only two ~~xxx~~ men fell out on the journey, but both these were men who had been marked medically unfit for long route marches and had been included in those to be left behind on the projected march to the Rhine.

The billeting accomodation in the DOURLERS area is the best the Battalion has had.

*W.D. Doyle*

Temp/ Commanding

Major.  
58th Battalion A.I.F.



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VOLUME.....

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APPENDIX NO.....

4

58th BATTALION A.I.F.



REPORT ON SUPPLIES, ETC. FOR WEEK ENDING 7/12/18 - BY REGIMENTAL QUARTER MASTER.

RATIONS

- Ration supplies for the week have been good and issue has not been lower than the laid down scale for field troops. Fresh meat has been issued above the normal rate, averaging from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the meat ration. The issue of bread has averaged 13 ozs daily.

ORDNANCE

- Ordnance supplies have been small owing to movement. Meanwhile only a small number of indents are outstanding over a period of ten days.

BOOTMAKERS

- Repairs to 120 pairs of boots were carried out by Regimental Bootmakers during the week. The number of new boots issued totals 11 pairs.

POST OFFICE

- The following mail has been dealt with by the Battalion Post office during the week :-

Numbers of bags distributed.

Letters	-	9
parcels	è	21

Numbers of bags passing outwards.

Letters	-	7
parcels	-	1

DIET SHEETS

- Attached is diet sheet received from the Sergeant Cook.

(Sgd) A. F. BEST CAPT. & Q.M.  
58th Battalion A.I.F.

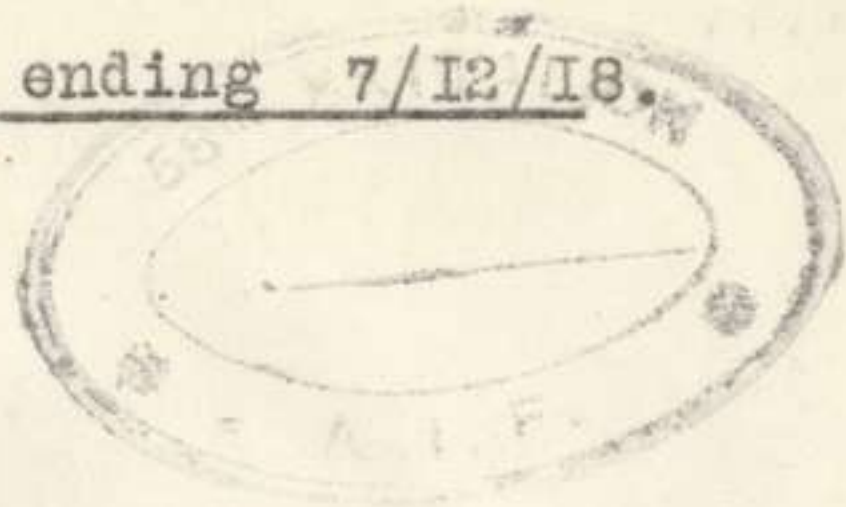
7/12/18



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58th BATTALION A.I.F.

ATTACHMENT TO R.Q.M.'s WEEKLY REPORT - Week ending 7/12/18.

D I E T   S H E E T .

Date	Breakfast	Dinner	Tea.
SUNDAY 1st Dec.	Porridge, Fried Bacon, Tea.	Baked Meat, Potatoes, Beans, Tea.	Baked Biscuit Pudding. Tea.
MONDAY 2nd Dec.	Curried Mince. Tea.	Irish Stew, Vegetables, Tea.	Boiled Rice Pudding, Tea.
TUESDAY 3rd Dec.	Porridge Fried Bacon, Steamed Beans, Tea.	Curried Mince Scollpp. Tea.	Boiled Anzac Pudding, Tea.
WEDNESDAY 4th Dec.	Porridge, Fried Bacon, Tea.	Boiled Meat, Gravy, Potatoes, Onions. Tea.	Tea.
THURSDAY 5th Dec.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Plain Stew, Vegetables, Tea.	Boiled Biscuit Pudding, Tea.
FRIDAY 6th Dec.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Irish Stew with Vegetables, Tea.	Boiled Anzac Pudding, Stewed Prunes, Tea.
SATURDAY 7th Dec.	Rissoles, Tea.	Boiled Beef, Onion Sauce Potatoes. Tea.	Tea.





58th BATTALION A.I.F.



WEEKLY HEALTH REPORT. - week ending 9/12/18.

General Health ..... *Good*

Prevailing Diseases .....

Water Supply ..... *Pumps* Source *DOURLERS* Location.

Water Carts (if cleaned regularly) ..... *Yes*

Latrines Type..... *Box* Flyproof *Yes* Percentage *5%*

Urinals ..... *Soakage pit*

Food Quality ..... *Good* Quantity *Sufficient*

No. of hot meals daily ..... *2*

Cooking and Cookhouses ..... *Good*

Disposal of Refuse ..... *Burned*

Disposal of Manure ..... *Stacked*

Percentage bathed during the week .....

Condition of men regarding lice and scabies ..... *Satisfactory*

Location of R.A.P. ..... *DOURLERS*

(Sgd) P. E. VOSS Capt.  
 R.M.O., 58th Battalion A.I.F.



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VOLUME.....



APPENDIX NO.....

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME OF TRAINING. - 13/12/18 to 16/12/18.

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Date	Time	Work	Remarks.
13/12/18 FRIDAY.	1000 - 1015	Checking and inspection of platoons.	
	1015 - 1100	Movements of a company in line.	Special attention to be paid to "rapid" dressing.
	1100 - 1200	"Sentry Go" drill - instruction.	It is intended that company competitions be held and the best platoon in each company will represent the company in a Battalion competition.
14/12/18 SATURDAY.	1000 - 1015	Checking and inspection of platoons.	
	1015 - 1030	"The Fall-in".	
	1030 - 1100	Company movements in ceremonial drill.	
	1100 - 1200	"Sentry Go" Drill - practice.	
15/12/18 MONDAY.	1000 - 1200	Battalion Drill.	(i) Dressing Battalion in line. (ii) March past in column of companies. (iii) March past in close column.

(Sgd) W. S. SPROULE Capt. & Adjt.  
58th Battalion A.I.F.



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58th BATTALION A.I.F.

REGIMENTAL QUARTER-MASTER'S WEEKLY REPORT.

RATIONS - The scale of issue of rations for the week has been normal. The meat ration has consisted of 50 per cent Fresh Meat and 50 per cent Preserved Meat. Of the bread ration, 15 ozs daily has been the average while the balance of the ration has been made up with biscuits. Other components of the daily ration have been issued at the rate laid down for field scale.

ORDNANCE - Ordnance supplies have been kept up regularly and only a small number of indents are left outstanding over a period of 10 days from the date of the demand.

BOOTMAKERS - Repairs to 80 pairs of boots have been carried out during the week, by the Regimental Bootmakers. The number of new boots issued to companies has been 5.

POST OFFICE- The following mail has been distributed amongst companies during the week :-

Letters - 10 bags  
Parcels - 19 bags.

The outward mail forwarded to Brigade Post Office has been as under :-

Letters - 8 bags  
Parcels - 1 bag.

DIET SHEET - Attached is Battalion Diet Sheet for the week, prepared by the Sergeant Cook.

Dec. 14th 1918

(sgd) A. F. BEST Capt. & Q.M.  
58th Battalion A.I.F.





58th BATTALION A.I.F.



D I E T S H E E T . - week ending 14/12/18

Date	Breakfast	Dinner	Tea
SUNDAY 8/12/18	Porridge Fried Bacon Bread Tea.	Bread, Jam, & Cheese. Tea	Irish Stew Tea.
MONDAY 9/12/18	Fried Bacon Bread Tea.	Fresh Meat Stew. Tea.	Bread, Butter, Cheese. Tea.
TUESDAY 10/12/18	Curried Rice Fried Bacon Bread Tea.	Boiled Meat, Potatoes Onion Sauce Tea.	Anzac Pudding Bread, Jam. Tea.
WEDNESDAY 11/12/18	Rissoles Bread Tea.	Irish Stew Tea.	Boiled Rice Pudding. Bread, Jam. Tea.
THURSDAY 12/12/18	Porridge Fried Bacon Bread Tea.	Dry Ash & Vegetables. Tea.	Bread Jam, Cheese. Tea.
FRIDAY 13/12/18	Curried Meat & Vegetables Bread Tea.	Plain Stew Potatoes, Onions Tea.	Boiled Biscuit Pudding. Bread, Jam. Tea.
SATURDAY 14/12/18	Fried Bacon, Bread, Jam. Tea.	Boiled Beef Potatoes Onions & Beans. Tea.	Boiled Anzac Pudding. Bread, butter, Cheese. Tea.



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APPENDIX NO.....



58th BATTALION A.I.F.

WEEKLY HEALTH REPORT. - week ending 16/12/18.

- General Health..... *Good*
- Prevaling Diseases..... *—*
- 3. Water supply - Source *Pumps* Location..... *DOURLERS*  
Measures of B. Powder..... *1*
- 4. Water Carts, if cleaned regularly..... *Yes*
- 5. Food - quantity *Sufficient* quality..... *Good*
- 6. Cooking and Cookhouses..... *Good*  
No. of hot meals daily..... *2*
- 7. Latrines - Type *Box & Pit* Flyproof..... *Box & Flyproof* Material insufficient to provide all latrines.....  
Percentage..... *5%*
- 8. Urinals..... *Soakage Pit*
- 9. Disposal of Manure..... *Stacking*
- 10. Disposal of Refuse..... *Burning*
- 11. Percentage of Troops Bathed..... *all troops*
- 12. Received clean clothing..... *nil*
- 13. Condition of troops re lice and scabies..... *Satisfactory*
- 14. Locatio. of R.A.P. .... *DOURLERS.*

(Sgd) P. E. VOSS Capt. & R.M.O.  
58th Battalion A. I. F.



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58th BATTALION A.I.F

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - 17th December to 28th December, 1918. (inclusive)

Date, 1918.	A. I. Times.	Work.	Remarks
Dec. 17.	10.00 h. - 12.00 h.	Battalion Drill.	Movements of a Battalion in line. March past in Column of Companies. March past in close column of Companies.
Dec. 18	10.00 h. - 12.00 h.	Musketry Instruction.	The main object to be aimed at is to ensure that instruction already given is not forgotten.
Dec. 19	10.00 h. - 12.00 h.	Baths	
Dec. 20	--	Route March	
Dec. 21	09.00 h. - 12.00 h.	Range Practices.	Spirit of competition to be cultivated. Company Teams to be selected on results.
Dec 22	10.00 h. - 12.00 h.	Battalion Parade.	Practice movements for Brigade Ceremonial Parade
Dec. 23	--	Brigade Parade.	
Dec 24		Preparation for Xmas Celebrations	
Dec 25		Xmas Day.	
Dec. 26		Boxing Day.	
Dec. 27	10.00 h. - 12.00 h.	(a) specialist Training (b) P. & R. T.	Refreshing & Overhaul of Equipment.
Dec. 28	10.00 h. - 12.00 h.	Musketry.	Cleaning of Arms & Equipment. Demonstrations (previously prepared) on "How things should and should not be done".





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VOLUME 12.

APPENDIX NO. <sup>10</sup>.....

58th BATTALION A.I.F.  
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REGIMENTAL QUARTER-MASTER'S WEEKLY REPORT - week ending 21/12/18.

Rations - Rations for the week have been good with the exception of one day, on which a hard ration was issued. This ration, together with an ordinary supply was divided and issued on two days. During the rest of the week the normal scale was issued.

Ordnance - No supplies have been received during the week from Ordnance.

Bootmakers- The work undertaken by the Regimental bootmakers for the week has been as follows :-

Repairs - 70 pairs  
New Boots issued - 26 pairs.

Post Office - The Battalion Post Office has dealt with the following mail matter :-

		<u>Letters</u>	<u>parcels</u>
Inward	-	12 bags	10 bags
Outward	-	7 "	-

Diet Sheet- Attached hereto is Battalion Diet sheet for the past week, prepared by the Sergeant Cook.

22/12/18

(Sgd) A. F. BEST Capt. & Q.M.  
58th Battalion A.I.F.





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## 58th BATTALION A.I.F.

DIET SHEET - 15/12/18 to 21/12/18 (inclusive)



Date	Breakfast	Dinner	Tea
SUNDAY 15/12/18	Fried Bacon, Bread Tea.	Preserved Meat, Mashed potatoes Pickles Tea.	Boiled Biscuit Pudding, Bread, jam & Tea.
MONDAY 16/12/18	M & V Rations Bread, Tea.	Irish Stew, Bread, cheese, Tea.	Boiled Rice Pudding, Bread, jam, Tea.
TUESDAY 17/12/18	Fried Bacon, Beans, Bread, Tea.	Boiled Meat, Potatoes, Onion Sauce, Tea.	Boiled Anzac Fruit pudding, Tea.
WEDNESDAY 18/12/18	Rissoles, Bread, jam, Tea.	Plain Stew, Potatoes, Onions, Bread, Tea.	Bread, butter, jam, cheese, Tea.
THURSDAY 19/12/18	M & V Rations, Fried Bacon, Tea.	Preserved Meat, and vegetable Hash, Tea.	Baked Milk Biscuit Pudding, Bread, jam, Tea.
FRIDAY 20/12/18	Fried Bacon, Bread, cheese, Butter, Tea.	Boiled Meat, Potatoes, Steamed Beans, Tea.	Bread, cheese, jam, Tea.
SATURDAY 21/12/18	Preserved Meat with Curried Rice, Tea.	Irish Stew, Bread, butter, cheese? Tea.	Baked Anzac Biscuit Pudding, Tea.





DIET SHEETS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

"A" Company.

Breakfast -----	Dinner -----	Tea. ---
Fried Bacon Bread, butter, Tea.	Vegetable Soup Roast Beef and Mutton Gravy Boiled turnips and Carrots. Potatoes. Plum Pudding & Brandy Sauce. Custard. Tea.	Bread, butter, Jam, cheese. Tea.

-----

"B" Company.

Breakfast -----	Dinner -----	Tea. ---
Fried Bacon Porridge Bread, butter Tea.	Roast Beef & Mutton. Brown Gravy Roast Potatoes Boiled Carrots & Turnips. Babbage Mashed Potatoes. Tea.	Rissoles Plum pudding Sauce Custard Tea.

-----

"C" Company.

Breakfast -----	Dinner -----	Tea. ---
Fried Bacon Tea. Bread, butter, Jam.	Roast Beef and Mutton. Gravy Boiled turnips & Carrots. Mashed Potatoes Baked Potatoes Plum pudding Brandy Sauce Custard Tea.	Boiled Rice pudding. Bread, butter, Jam. Tea.

-----

"D" Company.

Curried Mince. Bread, butter, Cheese Tea.	Roast Beef & Mutton Brown Gravy Boiled Turnips Carrots Mashed potatoes Baked potatoes Plum pudding Brandy Sauce Custard Tea.	Cold Roast Mutton. Pickles Rice Custard Tea.
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VOLUME 12.

58th BATTALION

58th BATTALION, A.I.F.

APPENDIX NO.....

A. I. F. REPORT ON SUPPLIES FOR WEEK ENDING 26/12/18.

A. I. F.

RATIONS.

The issue of rations for the week has been good with the exception of fresh vegetables.

The meat ration was normal viz:- Fresh meat 50% preserved meat 50%.

The average for the bread ration was 13ozs., and an issue of biscuits completed this ration.

Dried vegetables have been issued as part of the vegetable ration.

The other components of the daily ration have been issued at field scale.

For Christmas Day an issue of plum pudding at the rate of 1/2 lb per man was made together with a small issue of rum for sauce.

COMFORTS

On Christmas Day a special dinner was given to the Battalion which included roasts for every Company as well as extra vegetables and plum pudding. The following foodstuffs were bought from Regimental Funds and distributed for this dinner:-

meat	Cabbage
potatoes	milk
carrots	Custard powder.
turnips	

The Australian Comforts Fund also provided 3600 boxes for the whole of the Battalion personnel.

ORDNANCE.

No supplies have been received from P.A.S.O.S other than palliases which have been distributed, thus completing one per man in the Battalion.

BOOTMAKERS.

The regimental bootmakers have during the week completed repairs to 52 pairs of boots. The number of pairs of new boots issued has been 8 pairs.

POST OFFICE.

Big parcel mails have been received and distributed; the total being 50 bags. Letters to the number of 4 bags have also been received and distributed amongst the Battalion. The outward mail has been letters 7 bags

DIET SHEET.

Attached hereto is Battalion diet-sheet for week ending today, prepared by the Sgt. Cook.

26/12/1918.

( signed ) A. F. BEST                  Capt & Q.M.  
58th BATTALION,                  A. I. F.



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APPENDIX NO. ....

WEEKLY DIET SHEET FROM 22/12/18 TO 28/12/18.

DATE, 1918.	BREAKFAST	DINNER	TEA
Sunday Dec 22	Fried Bacon M & V Ration Tea	Irish Stew with vegetables Bread Jam Tea	Boiled Rice Pudding. Bread Cheese. Jam. Tea.
Monday Dec. 23.	Curried M&V Rations Tea	Preserved Meat & Vegetable Hash Bread. Tea	Baked Biscuit Pudding. Bread Cheese. Tea
Tuesday, 24th. Dec.	Fried Bacon M & V Ration Bread Tea.	Plain stew, potatoes, Bread. Tea	Rissoles Bread. cheese Jam. Tea.
Wednesday 25th Dec.	Fried Bacon. Bread Butter Tea.	Roast Mutton Baked & Boiled Potatoes Cabbage. Gravy Turnips. Carrots Plum pudding Brandy Sauce. Tea	Bread Butter Cheese Jam Tea.
Thursday 26th. Dec.	Rissoles Bread-Jam Tea.	Boiled Meat potatoes Carrots Tea.	Boiled Anzac Pudding. Sauce Bread Tea.
Friday 27th. Dec.	Fried Bacon M&V Ration Bread Tea.	Plain stew Potatoes Turnips Bread. Tea.	Preserved Meat & Potato Pie Butter Bread Tea.
Saturday 28th Dec.	Rissoles Bread. Butter Tea?	Haricot of steak potatoes Bread. Tea.	Baked Biscuit Pudding. Milk. Tea.

*Special  
APPENDIX*





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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - 30/12/18 to 14/1/19.

Date	Times	Work	Remarks
30/12/18 MONDAY	1000 - 1200	Specialist Training and Baths	P. & R.T.
31/12/18 TUESDAY		5 mile route march	
1/1/19 WEDNESDAY			New Year's Day
2/1/19 THURSDAY	1000 - 1200	Range Practice	Inter-Company Competition.
3/1/19 FRIDAY	1000 - 1200	Ceremonial Parade	March past in column of companies and in close column of companies.
4/1/19 SATURDAY	1000 - 1200	Specialist Training	P. & R.T., cleaning of equipment.
5/1/19 SUNDAY	1000	Church Parade	
6/1/19 MONDAY	1000 - 1200	Baths	
7/1/19 TUESDAY		5 mile route march	
8/1/19 WEDNESDAY		Musketry Instruction	Recapitulation
9/1/19 THURSDAY		Platoon Ceremonial	"Sentry Go", slow marching and balance step.
10/1/19 FRIDAY		Battalion Parade	Movements in line, march past in column.
11/1/19 SATURDAY		Interior Economy	Company Parades; cleaning of arms & Equipment.



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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - continued.

Date	Times	Work	Remarks
2/1/19 UNDAY		Church parade	
3/1/19 UNDAY		specialist training	P. & R.F.
4/1/19 UESDAY		5 mile route march.	

(Sgt) E. A. O'MALLEY Lieut.  
Asst. Adjt., 58th Battalion A.I.F.





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Appendix No. <sup>14</sup>.....

ENTERTAINMENTS PROVIDED FOR BATTALION DURING THE  
MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

"A" Company.

December

- 17th Company Concert; members of Company and other performers.
- 20th Essay writing - platoons.
- 22nd Euchre party - platoons. Prizes of 10 francs.
- 23rd Essay writing.
- 25th Company Euchre party. Prizes 20 francs and 5 francs.
- 27th Lecture by Capt. W. C. SCURRY MC., DCM. (O.C., Coy.) on "Repatriation Problems".
- 30th Lecture on "Modes of early English Criminal Trial" by Capt. W. S. SPROULE.
- 





"B" Company's List of entertainments for December 1918.

- 
- 20/12/18. 1st Euchre Tournament, - 52 entries.
- |              |    |                |            |
|--------------|----|----------------|------------|
| Ladies Prize | -- | Sgt. A. Boadle | 21 francs. |
| Gents Prize  | -- | Pte. J. Finley | 21 francs. |
| Ladies Booby | -- | Pte. P. Devitt | 5 "        |
| Gents Booby  | -- | Pte. A. Ellis  | 5 "        |
- 24/12/18. Bridge Tournament.
- |               |                       |                  |              |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Ladies Prize  | --                    | Pte. Macklin     | 15 francs.   |
| Gents Prize   | --                    | Pte. Floyd       | 15 "         |
| Special Prize | ( L/Cpl. S. Millard ) | ( Opl. J. Aird ) | Divided 10 " |
- 29/12/18. 2nd Euchre Tournament.
- |              |    |                  |            |
|--------------|----|------------------|------------|
| Ladies Prize | -- | Cpl. R. Pilley   | 15 francs. |
| Gents Prize  | -- | Pte. R. Fox.     | 15 francs. |
| Ladies booby | -- | Pte. Worthington | 5 "        |
| Gents Booby  | -- | Pte. Smith       | 5 "        |
- 16/12/18. Impromptu Debate.
- Subject "Is alcohol beneficial to the Community".
- Affirmed by Pte. A. Anderson.
- Negatived by Pte. M.K. McKenzie.
- Others joining in were Ptes. Hull, Turner and Thompson.
- 16/12/18. Address by Capt. W. S. SPROULE on "The History of Criminal Trials".

Entertainments under the management of:-

- Lieut. F. W. GRIBBLE.
- Cpl. J. Aird.
- Pte. A. Turner.
- Pte. Warner.
- L/Cpl. S. Millard.

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"C" Company - 58th Battalion, A.I.F.



LIST OF ENTERTAINMENTS.

11/12/18 - Company Concert.

12/12/18 † Company Debate.

14/12/18 - Inter-Company Challenge Debate - "C" Coy. versus "B" Coy. Subject, "Is a League of Nations Practicable".

Affirmative - "B" Coy.  
(Ptes. Mackenzie, Turner and Anderson, L/Cpl. Millard.

Negative - "C" Coy.  
(Lieut. S.A. Philip, Cpl. Sullivan Ptes. Trompf and Somerville).

Judge - Lieut. H. D. WILLIS MC

"C" Company adjudged winners.

26/12/18 - Company Bushre tournament and supper.

Winners - 1st L/Cpl. Coad  
2nd Pte Ray  
3rd " Creati

Booby prizes - Ptes Hunter and McColl.

30/12/18 - Company Bushre tournament and supper.

Winners - 1st Pte Collins  
2nd " Carrucan  
3rd " A.H. Kelly

Booby prizes - Ptes Honeman and Patterson.





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58th BATTALION A. I. F.

"D" Company Evening Entertainments for December 1918.

Dec. 6th      Company Concert - assisted by Divisional Concert Party.

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EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

The Education Officer gave a lecture to each Company explaining the object of the Educational Scheme, its scope and its method of working. An individual census was then taken, each man being interviewed and questioned as to his experience in his civil occupation, what experience he desired during the demobilisation period, and what subjects he desired to study.

When this was practically complete the formation of classes was undertaken. In this the first difficulty was to obtain instructors, it being found that there were no trained teachers in the Battalion. Volunteers were found to take classes in French, English, Arithmetic and Shorthand and Bookkeeping. The next difficulty was to obtain text books, for the instructors, being amateurs, did not feel capable of carrying on without that aid. This was met to a small extent by the receipt of one copy each of text books on Shorthand and Bookkeeping, and a French text book was also procured. Having these, the classes were started, but obviously the work is being greatly hampered through the students not having books. Other difficulties were in the procuring of suitable accommodation, and still more in furnishing - the Battalion being in territory stripped by the Germans and beyond railhead, it was very difficult to obtain timber for tables and forms, and still more difficult to obtain transport. The comfort of the men being the first consideration the fitting up of mess rooms and billets had to be completed before the furnishing of class rooms could be undertaken. After that was completed timber was secured and forms made but tables are still required.

Supplies of stationery, blackboards, and chalk were all urgently required and have had to be met by improvised means. Lamps are also required to allow of evening classes and of a room being placed at the disposal of men in which they might study.

On the practical side of the scheme men have been detached to technical Units for instruction as under:-

1st Heavy Repair Shops, PARIS	(Fitter)	--	1.
Aust. Corps Armourers Workshops, CHARLEROI	(Blacksmith)		1.
3rd Aust. M.T. Coy., LE CATEAU	(Fitting & Turning)		1.
	(Tinmithing)		1.
	(Blacksmithing)		1.
	Motor Car fitting)		2.

These men are all skilled workmen and the object of attachment is to refresh them and give them further experience.

Lieut. E. L. STEPHENSON is instructing in French, the average attendance being 36. Chaplain, The Rev. C. HALL is instructing in Bookkeeping and Shorthand, the average attendances being respectively 33 and 16.

(Sgd)

J. L. M. CAMPBELL

Education Officer, 58th Battalion

Lieut.  
A. I. F.



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58th BATTALION A.I.F.

APPENDIX NO. .... 16

DETAILS OF BATTALION STRENGTH.

Date	With Unit		Field Amb.		Detached Duties		Total Effective Strength.	
	Officers	O.Rs	Offs.	ORs	Offs.	O.Rs	Offs.	O.Rs
1/12/18	25	466	1	7	5	90	31	563
8/12/18	28	530	1	10	4	84	33	624
15/12/18	25	494	2	7	6	104	33	605
22/12/18	26	495	2	4	6	100	34	599
31/12/18	22	466	3	7	8	106	33	579



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JUNE 12.

APPENDIX NO. .... 17

58th BATTALION A.I.F.

HONOURS AND AWARDS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

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APPENDIX NO <sup>18</sup> .....

58th BATTALION A.I.F.

SICK WASTAGE FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.



Date	To Field Ambulance		Returned from Field Ambulance		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	Officers	O.Rs	Officers	O.Rs	Officers	O.Rs
1/12/18						
2/12/18						
3/12/18		2				7
4/12/18		3				
5/12/18		1				
6/12/18		2				
7/12/18		2				
8/12/18						
9/12/18		2				
10/12/18				1		
11/12/18		2				
12/12/18						
13/12/18		2				
14/12/18	Lt.F.R.JOLLEY	3				11
15/12/18						
16/12/18						
17/12/18						
18/12/18		1				7
19/12/18						
20/12/18		2				
21/12/18		1				
22/12/18						
23/12/18		1				
24/12/18						
25/12/18				1		
26/12/18						
27/12/18						
28/12/18	Capt.J.LOUGHANAN	2				
29/12/18		1				
30/12/18						
31/12/18						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>25</b>



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APPENDIX NO. ....

58th BATTALION A.I.F.SUMMARY OF PUNISHMENTS FOR MENCH ENDING 31/12/18.

	Admonished	4 days' F.P.No.2	7 days' F.P. No. 2	14 days' F.P.No.2.
No. awarded	1	1	1	3

FIELD GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL.

No. 1316 Pte R. STOBAUS tried by F.G.C.M. held in the Field on 23/10/18. Charged with "Absenting himself without leave from 21/14/18 till 26/9/18. Pledges - Guilty Found - Guilty. Sentenced on 23/10/18 to 12 months I.H.L. Sentence and finding confirmed but 9 months' of sentence remitted by G.O.C., 5th Aust. Div. on 30/11/18.

Sentence of 3 months' I.H.L. commuted to 90 days F.P. No.1.  
(Authority Fourth Army)

No. 4773 Pte J. DOWLING - tried by F.G.C.M. held in the Field on 4/12/18. charged with "Absenting himself without leave from 12/7/18 till 29/10/18 - 109 days. Pledges Guilty Found Guilty. Sentenced to 2 years' I.H.L. Sentence and finding confirmed by G.O.C., 5th Aust. Division.











The neighbourhood of DOURLERS, FLOURSIES, St. AUBIN and SEMOUSIES are very old - its historical records date back to about the year 1200 and Roman remains have been found in the neighbourhood of FLOURSIES, a village about one and a half miles North-East of DOURLERS.

FLOURSIES. - There was formerly an Aqueduct of Roman origin conveying water from FLOURSIES to BAVAI, in Roman days one of the most important places in all BELGIUM, and to this day a very important centre some 18 miles to the North West. Traces of this in the form of a wall were to be found as late as 1860 to the North and North East of DOURLERS.

FLOURSIES is supposed to have got its name from the fact that a temple was there erected by the Romans to the Goddess Flora.

The pavement and foundation of a Roman villa have been found near FLOURSIES, and there exist embankments which suggest that a fortified Military post existed here for the protection of the aqueduct.

A fountain dedicated to St. NLOI of great antiquity is at FLOURSIES by the Church.

SEMOSIES. - SEMOSIES existed as a parish in the twelfth century with a cluster of fairly important houses.

The terrible Black Death which swept from the East over the whole of EUROPE in the beginning of the 14th Century wiped out the whole population of the village with the exception of one widow who alone remained to bury her husband. After this for many years the village was entirely abandoned, for it is related that a tree of considerable circumference was afterwards found in full growth on the principal altar. In 1469 SEMOSIES had 11 houses.

The bell which hung in the belfry of SEMOSIES in 1850 bore the date 1551, which shews the village sufficiently recovered by that date to need a church.

The present Church of SEMOSIES was built in 1672. It was, however, not important, for in 1666 there were only 2 births in the Parish and only 11 in 1800. Up to revolutionary times SEMOSIES was on the main road from AVESNES to MAREBROUGE, but the present main road was then continued and SEMOSIES was passed by.

DOURLERS - said by an antiquary to take its name (alleged meaning "Place of waters" ) from the fact that an old Roman aqueduct ran from FLOURSIES through the North East and North of the village to the important centre of BAVAI some 12 or 15 miles to the North West; portions of this old aqueduct were still to be seen in 1859 in the North of the centre of the village of DOURLERS.

To the North of where the Church now stands formerly stood the old Chateau of the Lords or Seigneurs of DOURLERS of SART de DOURLERS as the Seigneurie was called. But, by 1709 there stood no more than a tower of sorts and a few huts. The Seigneurie or Feudal Lordship was in that year purchased - practically from the creditors of the Lady of DOURLERS ( The Comtesse of ESCLAIBES ) - by Peter Bady, a financial secretary to the Kings of France, who, having made a large



fortune out of the contract for erecting the fortifications of MAUBEUGE and the provisioning of the French Army (1678 to 1692) bought up several Seigneuries in the neighbourhood of AVESNES and became the most powerful land holder around. He began the building of the Chateau in its present position on the North bank of the small stream, FONTAINE St. ELOI, which flows from FLOURSIES. This Chateau remained till 1793 when after being rather knocked about in the great battle of WATTIGNY in that year between the Republican French and the Austrians, it was so destroyed ~~xxx~~ by the troops billeted in it during the winter following, who burnt all woodwork, floors, wainscoting, etc., that no attempt to restore it or live in it was made till after 1845, when the last of the family of Bady, then Marquis de Normont, dying, left it to a kinswoman, the Marchioness de MEDONCHEL of an old noble family dating back to the year 1006.

The Marquis restored the Chateau to its present splendour and enclosed the fine park. The present owner is the brother-in-law of the last Marquis de MEDONCHEL of this line.

Situated in a frontier district the town of DOURLERS, being also situated along main routes of communication, suffered much from war. In the times of the ~~w~~ Feudal Barons, the Lord of the Seigneurs of DOURLERS was the Count of MAUBEUGE, who in his turn held from the Dukes of BURGUNDY and later from the Kings of France, after the French in the 30 years war conquered this part of the country from the Spaniards and the Austrians.

In 1622 DOURLERS and MONT DOURLERS were sacked and ravaged by the mercenary bands of a German Leader named MARSFELD, and again during the wars of the Generals of Louis XIV. in the low country.

MAUBEUGE lying some 11 kilos North was fortified anew 1678 - 1692. In 1793 (In October) the French Republican Army under Marshal JOURDEN met the Austrian forces under the Prince of Coburg who had MAUBEUGE strictly besieged. The French appeared from the South with their line of battle stretching as far North as WATTIGNIES with their centre on the high ground to the North of DOURLERS, running from SEMOUSIES past DOURLERS and St. AUBIN to St. REMI-CHAUSSEE.

Advancing from AVESNES, the French Marshal made his Headquarters and ambulance posts at Gense-à-Longe where the SOIRE Road joins the MAUBEUGE-AVESNES Road. From this high ground the French launched attack after attack on the enemy who were well served with artillery. Three times FLOURSIES and ~~MAUBEUGE~~ were taken at the point of the bayonet and each time the French were driven out by the Austrians. When night fell 1500 French lay on the ground dead and an enormous number of wounded blocked the road to AVESNES as well as the GENSE-à-Longe where the ambulance was. On the main heights ~~xx~~ near the Gense-à-Longe were some pieces of heavy artillery with which the French eventually knocked out the Austrian artillery to the North of DOURLERS. 82 houses in DOURLERS were burnt owing to shell fire.

The cemetery was fiercely attacked and defended. A small road between the cemetery and a neighbouring farm, leading towards the French positions was so choked with the dead, that the French could not pass and the Austrians fell on them from behind and slaughtered them. Across the South side of the stream in the road running west



from point 185 on MAUBEUGE - AVESNES Road (VALENCIENNES 1/100,000) called Route de Monceau, a huge number of bosies have been found. Here the Hungarian Grenadiers, resting their rifles on the branches of the hedges shot down the French attackers.

In 1815 Napoleon went up on June 10th by Gense-à-Longe along the main road to SOIRE en route (as it turned out) to WATERLOO, and two days after the battle, the advance guard of the Prussian Army bivouacked in DOURLERS. In the meantime the beaten French Army now poured in utter rout down the same road. Napoleon now selected and named AVESNES as a rallying point, and Cavalry piquets had been placed at Gense-à-Longe to indicate rallying points to the units as they came along. But the troops refused and took to the woods and side roads and could not be collected till three days later under the walls of LAON.

The Prussian troops were settling down to besiege AVESNES when the powder magazine of that town was blown up and the Huns went on to PARIS "to the great satisfaction of the inhabitants of DOURLERS, who had been greatly pillaged and maltreated". The brutalities of the Prussians, goes on the ~~great~~ Historian, went so far on this occasion that they exasperated in the Commune a crowd of naturally peaceable and gentle citizens, and it has since come out how one of them replied to the maltreatment and threats of death by two Landwehr trainees who stopped to make pillage. He enticed them to a stable under the pretext of showing them some hidden money, and knocked them on the head. In 1816, 1817 and 1818 owing to the period of the Allied occupation DOURLERS, as well as the neighbouring villages, was occupied by the soldiers of the Russian Artillery Regiment. The inhabitants sympathised readily with the strangers whose discipline and gentleness were found much more endurable than that of the Prussians. Three years of residence had so accustomed the people of DOURLERS and St. AUBIN to the customs of the Russians that after their departure the people of these two villages could not refrain from putting on masquerade in which they recalled the farewells of the soldiers of the Czar in leaving for their distant homes. The people of St. AUBIN represented the French and those of DOURLERS took the part of the Cossacks; and played their part like true Cossacks on the DON. They adroitly got away with the victuals of the French party had reserved for their own repast, and then went off to DOURLERS to levy contributions on the peasantry. The good old dames of that place, seeing bearded men approaching, clothed as Cossacks, believed that the Russians had returned to France and hastened to serve them with all the chickens and capons they demanded.

St. AUBIN gets its name from the saint to whom its church was formerly consecrated, St. AUBAN, ALBIN or ALBAIN. In the 12th Century this church existed and we find a legal document of this period in which the Bishop of CAMBRAI confirms to the Abbey of HAUTMONT the revenues of the altar and seven "mances" of land situated on the spot. Thence forward the monks of the Abbey of HAUTMONT continued to collect the tithes of the curé of St. AUBIN. Their revenues continually increased till the period of the French revolution when they were engulfed, like so many others, in the



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shipwreck of the goods of the Clergy. The Manor of St. AUBIN with its Chapel erected about 1199 was acquired in the 13th Century by the Knights of the Temple, and later, after the abolition of this Order it passed into the hands of the Knights of MALTA. It preserves today (or did in 1850) the name "CENSE (farm held on Feudal tenure) DU TEMPLE". ~~By~~ 1850 the old chapel of this big farm had been converted into a barn but the woodwork supporting the roof was intact.