

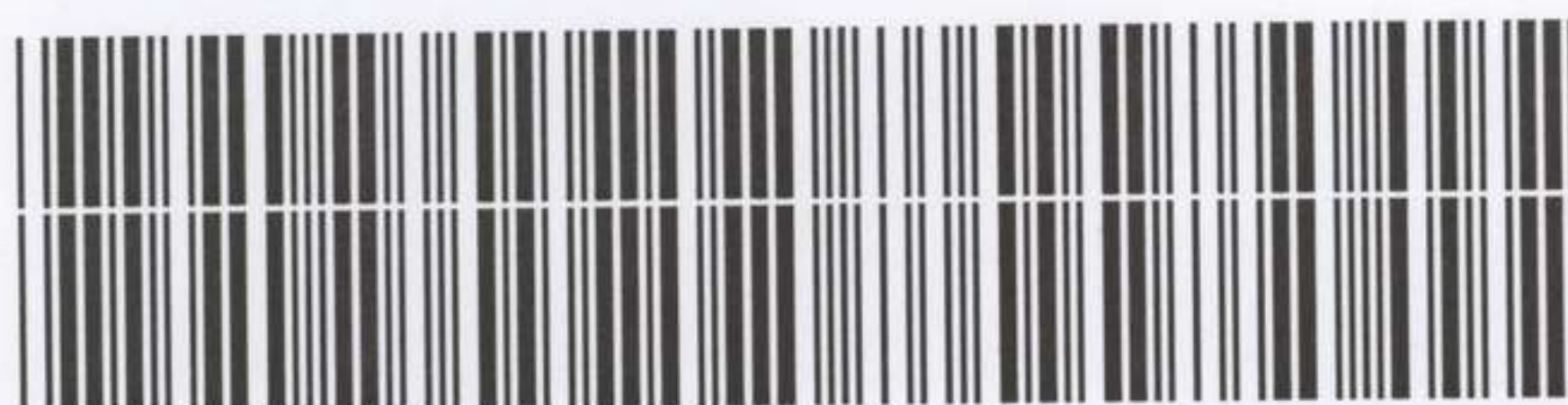
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/40/39

**Title:** 23rd Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/40/39



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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93

Australian Imperial Force.

# WAR DIARY

OF

*93rd Battalion*

FOR

*December*

*1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*F. J. Lindsay* *Lt. Col.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*L. Berish* *Major*



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
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Army Form C. 2118.

PAGE. I

MAP. VALENCIENNES 1:100,000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE SUR-HELPE	1/12/18.		<p>In accordance with B.O.O. 145. The Batta moved to be reviewed by His Majesty the King, passing the starting point at 0945. through BOULOGNE LE DESSUS and halting along the MARBAILL road S.K. 14.47. from 11.30 to 13.15. Luggage books were taken &amp; then the Batta lunched. At 13.30 the Batta moved forward again through MARBAILL along the MAROILLES ROAD to a field S. J. 91.47 where the Brigade was to form up in mass for the review. When the 23<sup>rd</sup> Batta arrived the 24<sup>th</sup> Batta had been inspected &amp; by the time we were formed up His Majesty had also inspected the 22<sup>nd</sup> Batta &amp; was waiting for us.</p> <p>His Majesty inspected the Batta throughout questioning many men as to the decorations, health etc. The officers of the Batta then formed up in line &amp; were personally introduced by the C.O. Major Smith to the King.</p> <p>The Batta returned via CARTIGNIES and reached their billets at 1400. Weather fine.</p>	<p>Strength O.P.R.'s 39.654</p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE	2/12/18.		Companies were placed at the disposal of Coy. Commander for inspection light training and an hour's short route march in drill order.	
SUR.				
HELPE.				
			The whole of H. Coy acting under instructions from Lt. F. J. Jenkins were placed on salvage work. The whole of the area - as shown on appended map - was marked over, two L. S. Wagons being used to convey shells and other material to the dump. That were established at railway station BOULOGNE and cross roads H. L. of the village.	APP. I.
			During the morning the C. O. Major Keith & the Adjutant visit 6th A. I. Brigade at BOULOGNE.	
			Advantage was taken by Lt. Pederick to get the Admiration Scheme on a sound and active basis.	
			Program for the week instruction in Algebra, Arithmetic Book-keeping French & English was drawn up and	APP. 2.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boulogne.	2/12/18.		put into operation.	
SUR-HELPE.			Lt/Col. Brazner. D.S.O. acting G.O.C. 6 <sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. was struck down with influenza and confined to bed for several days.	
			Weather was very fine during the day but thick with some snow in the evening.	
Boulogne	9/12/18.		The G.O. Major Smith, Lt/Col. MacKenzie D.S.O. (attached to 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bn.) presided to 4 <sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. H.Q. LE GRAND-FAYT as member of G.C. Co. presided over by Brig. Gen. Windsor C.B.D.S.O.	
SUR-HELPE.			G.C. Co. of several members of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde. presided over by Lt/Col. Wilshire D.S.O. M.C. was held at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bn. H.Q. Companies carried out the usual daily routine under Coy. Command. The afternoon being devoted to sports.	
			Three wagons of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Transport were sent to the BOIR. de LA. HOUSSEVE for wood which was delivered to the MAIRIE. BOULOGNE for the civil inhabitants. Weather foggy.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boulogne.	3/12/18		(continued.) Nominal rolls of all officers & O.R. in the Batta who left Australia during the first 6 months of 1918 showing date of sailing, records, trades & occupation was forwarded to Brigade. Lists too of officers & O.R.'s demands of discharge in England were also sent in, no guarantee being given that such discharges would be granted but each application would be considered on its merits.	
SUR-HELPE.	4/12/18		boys inspected by Coy. command. Physical Training & Coy. drill. Precautions against fire were read on three consecutive parades. 1 P.O. & 10 men per Coy. detailed as Fire-Precinct. Short Coy. route marches carried out in fighting-order. In view of extra clerical work falling on Coy. Q.M. S. the C.O. met them at 1330 at P.H. Q. and pointed out the necessity for accurate returns & work involved in keeping records in both the Repatriation & Educational Sections.	J.F.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE.	4/12/18.		Chaplain Capt. Jefferys attended conference held at Brigade.	
SUR. HELPE.			Lt. J. E. Smith passed billeting officers net Lt. Hird at	
			Byde & received details of billets in the CHARLEROI area.	
			Capt. Lawrence Whitman had designed by Lieut.	
			Engelkingale of the batt. were distributed gratis to	
			all Officers & O.R.'s in the Batt.	
			Weather foggy & miserable.	
	5/12/18.		Boys at disposal of Company commanders. Boy Inspection	
			Platoon & Coy drill. From 09.30 to 11.30 short route marches	
			in fighting order were carried out. Recreational	
			training carried out in the afternoon.	
			All men over 40 years of age were paraded to the R.M.O.	
			with a view to being boarded & those unfit for the	
			steamer marching & winter conditions returned to	
			Australia.	
			Further opportunities were offered in the Educ. Scheme	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE	4.12.18.		for those men desirous of taking up Photography; applications were also received from those who wished to complete their musical education.	
SUB. HELPE.			Weather foggy & cold.	
"	6/12/18.		Baths issued by the 6 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy. Engrs at the MILL. 6.K.8.9 were allotted to the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bn. No change of under-clothing could be arranged. O.C. D Coy supplied 1 Officer & 4 O.R.s to take charge of the bathing parade. On account of typhoid & enteric fever being rather prevalent in the AYESNES and CHARLEROI areas all paybooks showing dates of last inoculation were collected & handed into the R.A.P.	
			Notification was received from Ryde that applications for return to AUSTRALIA other than men included in the first six months of 1918 would not be accepted; all men were being returned in accordance with priority & prepared posters. Weather fine.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE. SUA-HELPE	4/12/18.		<p>by commander inspection &amp; bay drill.</p> <p>The B.O. Major Smith inspected the Coy. during the morning.</p> <p>B. C. &amp; D. Coys on D. Coy parade ground at 11.30 and A. Coy at 11.45. Inter-platoon scratch football matches were played in the afternoon.</p> <p>In view of the fact that a considerable number of specialists in the Batt. are among the early 1914 men understudies to these men have been made right throughout the Batt. conduct sheet of all original 1st &amp; 2nd reinforcement men were forwarded to Batt. H.Q.</p> <p>The Adj. Lt. Elliott visited Brigade &amp; received further orders concerning the move to CHARLEROI. Possibility of the Batt. remaining in the BOULOGNE area till about the 18th inst.</p> <p>Lt. J. E. Smith &amp; Lieutenant H.C.O. proceeded to SOLEIL-LE-CHATEAU and inspected billets for the Batt.; the first halt en route to CHARLEROI. The Batt. Transport Officer, Capt.</p>	<p>Strength</p> <p>O.O.R's</p> <p>38.671</p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boulogne	4/12/18		Parade M.C. paraded all to Boulogne where a selection committee chose those suitable for breeding purposes.	
SUB-HELPE			News was received that Pte. Robert Thacker whose gallant services in the attack on MT. ST. QUENTIN meant so much for the success of the operation had been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.	PP
"	7/12/18		Church parades were conducted by Chaplain Capt. Jefferys. H. A. and M. Coy in billets adjoining the R. A. P. B. C. & D. Coys in B Coy billets. The band attended both services.	
			Voluntary services were also held in Y. M. C. A. G. K. 8. 9.	
			Beautiful fine sunny day.	PP
"	9/12/18		Companies were again at the disposal of Coy Commanders. The morning being spent in an inspection, bay & Platoon drill & a short route march in fighting order.	
			Baths at the M.I.H. G. K. 17. 98 were allotted to this	
			Baths from 1300 to 1600. All the men over 140 years.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boulogne.	9/12/18.		of age who had been examined by the R.M.O. on the 4 <sup>th</sup> inst proceeded to CARTIGNIES for a Medical Board.	
GUR-HELPE			The Educational lectures for the week were commenced by Lt. Frederick and the attached syllabus adhered to.	App. 2
"	10/12/18		Very cold & miserable weather owing to fog & drizzling rain. Company commander inspection, Paymaster Fighting & Organised batteries 1000 to 1200 short route march.	2 pp.
			All rifles in C & D. Coy. were inspected by the Ammunition Sgt. The C.O. Lt. Col. Brookes D.S.O. returned from Brigade & took over command from Major Smith.	
			Capt. Bean Australian Official War Correspondent visited B.H.Q. & interviewed the C.O. and several officers who took part in the battle of HAMEL.	
			MT. ST. QUENTIN and MONTDREHAIM.	
			Weather still damp & miserable.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE SUR-HELPE	11 <sup>18</sup> / <sub>19</sub>		Weather very wet. Impossible to hold any parades. C.O. inspected the billets.	AS
	12 <sup>17</sup> / <sub>19</sub>		Weather still wet & miserable. Parades held in billets. Col. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust Division inspected samples of transport from the Brigade prior to the move & made suggestions as to what he desired to make an improvement in the turn out. All Commanding Officers & Transport Officers present.	AS



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE-SUR-HELPE	13/12/18		Weather wet. In consequence parades had to be held in billets, under company arrangements. Major Pascoe & Lt Jenkins proceeded on English leave.	AS
	14/12/18		Weather dull. Company parades, route march in "marching order". Col. 6 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. & Brigade Major visited Battalion, inspected billets. Lt Col. W. Drayton D.S.O. again evacuated sick. All officers of the Brigade Group paraded at Bde. Headquarters Boulogne where they were addressed by Col. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust Division regarding future movements of the Division, progress of the educational scheme etc.	APPN <sup>o</sup> 2 Strength O.K.'s 38. 666 AS
	15/12/18		Church parades conducted by Chapl. A. Jeffries. 10 <sup>th</sup> Coy in billets near R.F.P. B. C. & D. Coys on B. Coy parade grounds. Pay distributed.	AS



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOULOGNE - SUR-HELPE	16 <sup>12</sup> /18		Raining most of day. 'Marching out' parades under company arrangements; cleaning up of billets etc. preparatory to move. R.M.O. lectured all companies on the V.D. question. Meeting of Company Commanders at Battalion H.Q. in afternoon to discuss the move. Battalion Christmas cards posted to all Battalions in A.B. & numerous others who are in any way interested in the Battalion.	LB
	17 <sup>12</sup> /18		Weather showery. B.O.C. 156. issued for the move towards CHARLEROI area. First staging place for Battalion is SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU. Passed starting point at 0925. Whole Brigade moved as a group. Halted on road for lunch, Transport went right thro' to destination. Battalion arrived SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU about 1600. Billets fairly good. Whole Brigade in this town.	APP. 1. LB

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU	18 <sup>th</sup> /18		<p>Move continued again today in accordance with BOO. 18<sup>th</sup> Starting point passed at . Spinning heavily when march commenced &amp; very cold wind blowing G.O.C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div. inspected the column passing the starting point. Column halted for some minutes just past starting point owing to a block in road. Eventually had to switch on to another road. Arrived at our second staging place - RENLIES - at about 13.30. Billets fair but very scattered indeed.</p>	APP No 5 L.S.
RENLIES	19 <sup>th</sup> /18		<p>March resumed to WALCOURT, our next staging place. Battalion passed starting point at 0925 &amp; marched as per BOO. 18<sup>th</sup>. Battalion moved independently to BOUSSU - LES - WALCOURT where we joined the Brigade column. The timing of the march was exact as</p>	APP No 6 L.S.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19 <sup>th</sup> /19		we arrived at the cross roads just as the rear of the Brigade column passed. Arrived at WALCOURT about 1300. Billets good. All four companies in one billet - large chateau which made an excellent billet	LSP
WALCOURT	20 <sup>th</sup> /19		March to HAIES - NALLINES - our final destination - continued. Raining heavily at start, very cold but cleared up as day advanced. Passed starting point 09.15. Battalion at the head of the Brigade column today. Arrived at HAIES 1200. Billetting arrangements not complete on our arrival as there was no data to work on, each house had to be visited to ascertain accommodation. Billets also very scattered. Battalion drawn up in the square awaiting billets attracted much	APP No 7 BOO 158. APP 14. LSP



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20 <sup>th</sup> /18		much attention, being the first the inhabitants had seen or heard of the Australians. Two of our men who had arrived earlier in the day with a lorry, were taken into the school by the schoolmistress. Immediately they entered the children rose & shouted "Vive L'Australie". Billes here are all very good & people very obliging.	LB
NALLINES - HRIES.	21 <sup>st</sup> /18		Companies at the disposal of Coy Commanders for general clearing up of equipment & clothing. Billing Officer & Adjutant went round the village & discovered more accommodation. Billes reallocated. Genl. 6 <sup>th</sup> Brigade & Brigade Major visited Battalion to enquire how we were situated.	Strength O.R.'s 37. 658 LB
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES-22 <sup>nd</sup> HAIES.			Church parade held in new Brasserie, conducted by Chap J. H. Jeffries. Meeting of company lvs. to discuss arrangements for, dates of the boy. Xmas Dinner, organisation of boy messes in billets etc. Headquarters boy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Coy moved to new billets 3 <sup>rd</sup> Coy took over portion of billets vacated by 1 <sup>st</sup> . All coys now fairly well off for room.	AD
	23 <sup>rd</sup> /18		Companies on syllabus work under boy arrangements. RMO inoculated majority of men with second injection. The first party of 1915 men who are to go home were paraded & addressed by the CO. who wished them safe journey home & officially said goodbye. Meeting of boy sports representatives to arrange recreational training	AD

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES - HAIES.	24/12/14		<p>Battalion parade 10.00 for Inspection by H.R.H. Prince of Wales at NALLINES (R.R.O.) Brigade paraded forming three sides of hollow square. The Prince &amp; the Corps Commander were received by the G.O.C. 6th Bde, the Brigade giving the General salute. The Prince then inspected Battalion details, after being introduced to Battalion Commanders. Presentation of decorations (D.C.M. M.M. &amp; M.S.M.) followed - about 50 recipients from various Bns. After presentation, the Brigade marched past in column of route. All Regimental Officers then presented.</p> <p>First batch of 1915 men to go home marched out &amp; were given a send off in the square at NALLINES. Weather fine but cold. Light fall of snow at night - first this winter.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES -HIFIES	25 <sup>th</sup> /18		<p>Kinassey. Rations for today did not arrive till 11:00 consequently all men were without breakfast today. Since arriving here we have been 1 1/2 days behind with rations. Were told that fault was with the Railway service. Owing to late arrival of rations, church parade arranged for today had to be cancelled. Brig. Gen. Robertson visited Battalion to wish all the season's greetings. Band played a program in the village square. It was apparently much appreciated by the civilians. We took the opportunity to show to some slight extent our gratitude for the kindness of the inhabitants by printing a special Kinassey card in both English &amp; French. These were distributed by the local letter carrier. The people were greatly pleased &amp; regarded them as 'bon souvenirs'. The</p>	APP 7A



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES - HAIES	25 <sup>th</sup> /18		Dinner Officers Xmas Dinner held at night. Visitors included Brig Gen J. B. Robertson CBE & DSO., Mr. J. J. M. Dron gothers. An excellent dinner was placed on the table. After dinner the usual toasts were honored responded to & a musical program followed. The best thanks of the Officers are due to Lt. H. Sindley for his untiring efforts in organising the evening's dinner. Also to Mr. J. M. Dron for use of hall at the Dresserie & for numerous acts which helped to make the evening a success.	AB
	26 <sup>th</sup> /18		Co. parades for Physical training, organised games etc. Rations again late - delivered 0900. Could only give men tea for breakfast. Football match against Brigade Headquarters did not take place as Brigade could not get	AB



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES -HAIES	26 <sup>th</sup> /18		a team together. Co. went to Brigade Head Quarters mess for Xmas Dinner. Other Battalion Commanders also there. Our own Head Quarters Coy held their Xmas Dinner at night. All went well, men thoroughly enjoyed themselves.	APP No 8. H.S.
	27 <sup>th</sup> /18		Weather wet & cold. Corp. at disposal of Coy. Commanders. Gade goes on leave. Transport Dinner at night. All thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The dinner was excellently prepared & laid out. After dinner a dance was held to which several ladies had been invited. Dancing continued till about 2300, at which hour supper was handed round. At conclusion Mr. Piron, in a speech delivered in French, thanked the Transport personnel for the enjoyable time they had had.	APP No 9. H.S.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES - HAFIES	28 <sup>th</sup> /8		<p>Very wet again - impossible for any outside work to be done. Tins boxes from the Comforts Fund distributed today. Regret to have to record the death of Lt W.O. Summers M.C. which occurred under sad circumstances. He was detonating two nose caps when by some means one exploded killing Lt Summers instantly &amp; wounding two other persons. Lt Summers was an original member of the Daffy &amp; was much respected by all who knew him. 'D' Coy Tins Dinner at night. It was not possible to postpone this, but naturally there was a certain gloom over the evening. However everything went off as well as possible. After the dinner several speeches were delivered &amp; thereafter followed singing &amp; locutionary items.</p>	<p>APP H 10 Strength OOR's 37.654</p>



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

WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME  
PAGE  
MAP

XLIV  
22

Army Form C. 2118.

NAMUR 1:100000 93

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES - HAIES.	29/7/18		C. of C. communion at 0730. Unable to arrange church parade today account scarcity of chaplains. Weather very wet & cold. Lt. Summers funeral in afternoon. Body buried with full military honours in the cemetery at HAIES. Football match against 24 <sup>th</sup> postponed at the request of the 24 <sup>th</sup> as a mark of respect for late Lt. Summers. A' Coy. dinner postponed also.	APP. 11. LS
	30/7/18		Company parades, route march & physical training. Football match against 24 <sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. A very exciting finish to a very fast game. Win for 23 <sup>rd</sup> by about 3 goals. C' Coy. dinner at night. Things went off well. Concert program after dinner.	APP. 12. LS



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

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

VOLUME  
PAGE  
MAP

XLIV  
23

Army Form C. 2118.

93

NAMUR 1.100000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALLINES HAIES	31 <sup>st</sup> /18		<p>Weather showery. Companies at the disposal of company commanders. Soccer match against 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn in afternoon on 22<sup>nd</sup> ground. Win for 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn.</p> <p>'B' Coy dinner at night. A very well organised function. Gen. 6<sup>th</sup> Bde attended was only to stay about half an hour, but eventually sat the whole dinner through.</p> <p>The old year was ushered out very quietly in this village.</p> <p>This closes one of the most exciting memorable years in the history of the world.</p>	<p>APPENDIX</p> <p>SP</p>



# WAR DIARY

OF

23rd Battalion. Australian Imperial Force

FOR

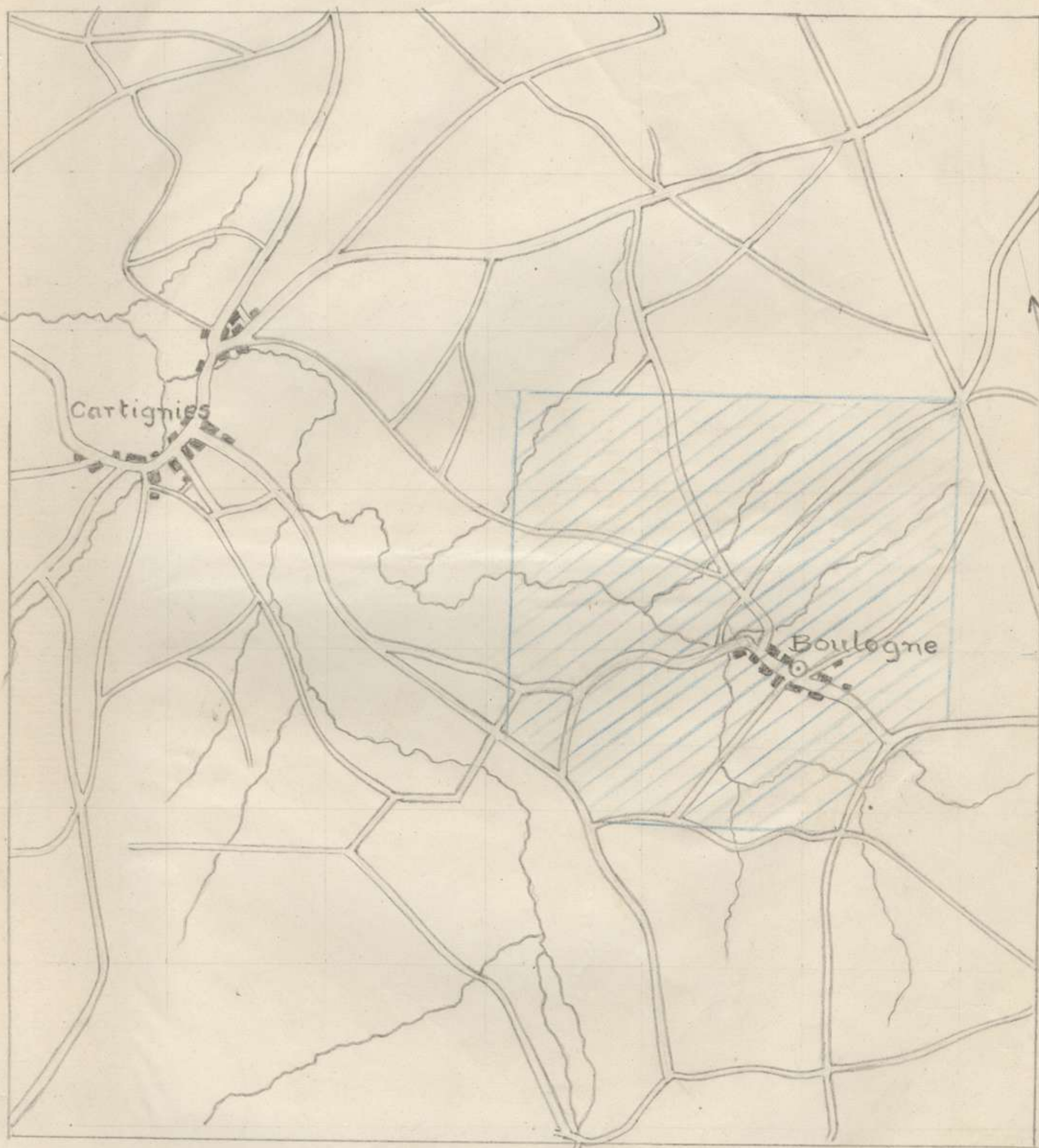
DECEMBER 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Map of Cartignies area
2.	Syllabus of training
3.	Nil
4.	Battalion Operation Order No. 156.
5.	Battalion Operation Order No. 157.
6.	Battalion Operation Order No. 157a.
7.	Battalion Operation Order No. 158.
7a.	Bn. Xmas Card
8.	H.Q. Coy. Xmas Dinner Menu
9.	Transport " " "
10.	D. Coy. " " "
11.	Bn. Special Order (Funeral of late Lieut. W.O. Summers M.C.)
12.	C. Coy. Xmas Dinner Menu
13.	B. " " "
14.	Map of HAIES area
14a.	A. Coy. Xmas Dinner Menu
15.	Aust. Corps News Sheet
16.	" " " "
17.	Battalion Paper 1st Dec.
18.	C.O.'s report
19.	Movement of Officers for month
20.	Transport Officer's report
21.	Q.M.'s report
22.	Bn. Xmas Card.
23.	C.O.'s Xmas Card.



Enlarged from Valenciennes  
APPN<sup>o</sup> 1  
1/100,000





AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - FOR PERIOD ENDING 28th Dec. 1918.

<u>Date.</u>		
16th Dec.	Mon.	Marching Out Parade and Cleaning of Billets, etc.
17th "	Tues.	Move to CHAMBEROI AREA.
18th "	Wed.	" " " "
19th "	Thurs.	" " " "
20th "	Frid.	" " " "
21st "	Sat.	Coy. at Coy. Commanders disposal. Organisation of Billets. AFTERNOON.- Recreational Training.
22nd "	Sun.	Church Parade.
23rd "	Mon.	Battn. Parade - Ground permitting; C.O.'s. Inspection. Nos. 1 and 2 of Lewis Guns to clean guns, etc. under I.C.O. <i>Platoon Drill</i> AFTERNOON.- Recreational Training.
24th "	Tues.	Physical Training - Organised Games. Platoon and Coy. Drill. AFTERNOON.- Recreational Training.
25th "	Wed.	Christmas Day Service.
26th "	Thurs.	C.O.'s. Parade and Inspection. Bayonet Fighting. Coy. Drill. AFTERNOON.- Recreational Training.
27th "	Frid.	Physical Training - Organised Games. Basketry. Platoon and Coy. Drill. AFTERNOON.- Recreational Training.
28th "	Sat.	C.O.'s. Parade and Inspection. Battalion Drill. Short Route March.

EDUCATIONAL.

It is proposed that classes be held from 1000 to 1200, and from 1400 to 1600, each day in the following subjects:-

- Arithmetic.
- Algebra.
- French.
- Shorthand.
- Book-keeping.
- Australian Poets (Readings).
- Bootmaking.
- Saddlery.
- Blacksmithing.

Attachment to Regimental Staff in the three latter.

Nos. 1 and 2 of Lewis Guns to report to Lewis Gun Officer for the inspection and cleaning of Lewis Guns.

14th December, 1918.

*W. D. W. W. W.* Lieut.  
Adjutant. 23rd Battalion.



## BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 156.

Re Maps.- VALENCIENNES ) 1/100.000.  
 NAMUR. )

16th DECEMBER. 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade Group will move to "NAILINNES" Sub-Area to-morrow, 17th December. 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will leave their present Billeting Area at 0855 to-morrow, 17th inst., and will proceed to SOLRE LE CHATEAU via AVESNES, WANDRECHIES and FILLERIES. yards
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- Junction of Roads 100/West of "R" in ROUGE.  
HEAD OF COLUMN will pass Starting Point at 0855.  
Coys. will be in position by 0850.  
ORDER OF MARCH.- Band, "H<sup>q</sup>rs", "A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.
- 4.- The following DISTANCES will be maintained throughout the March:-
 

Between Battalions	-	200 yards.
" Companies	-	100 "
" Unit and its Transport	-	100 "
" Each Section of 6 Vehicles	-	25 "
- 5.- DRESS.- Full Marching Order.  
 Iron Rations.  
 Unconsumed portion of day's Rations.  
 Water Bottles filled.  
 S.B.R's. slung on top of the Pack.  
 Mess Tins under Steel Helmet.  
 60 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
- 6.- OFFICERS' VALISES will be dumped in accordance with the under-mentioned Table:-
 

"B", "C" and "D" Coys. at "C" Coy's. H <sup>q</sup> rs. by 0730.
"A" Coy. at Coy. H <sup>q</sup> rs. by 0730.
"H <sup>q</sup> rs" at Battalion H <sup>q</sup> rs. by 0730.

 Coy. MESS BOXES will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
- 7.- BLANKETS.- 2 Blankets per man will be rolled in Bundles of 10 (Width of Blanket) securely tied in three places and clearly labelled, and will be dumped at Coy. H<sup>q</sup>rs. by 0700 on the 17th inst.  
BAND PACKS will be dumped at Transport Lines by 0730, 17th inst.
- 8.- BILLETING PARTY.- Coy. Billeting N.C.O's. will report to Lieut. J.E. SMITH at Battn. Orderly Room at 0745 to-morrow, 17th inst., and will move by Bicycles to SOLRE LE CHATEAU.
- 9.- O.C., "C" Coy., will detail 1 Officer and 15 O.R's. to act as "Stragglers' Party". This Party will march in rear of 6th A.M.G. Coy. - Rear of Brigade Column.
- 10.- ALL Coys. will march in THREES.
- 11.- Battalion will halt for LUNCH from 1250 to 1400.
- 12.- Watches will be SYNCHRONISED at 2000, 16th inst.
- 13.- Coy. Commanders will furnish Certificates that ALL Billets occupied by them have been left in a Clean and Sanitary Condition, to reach Battalion H<sup>q</sup>rs. by 0830 to-morrow, 17th inst.
- 14.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Transport Officer.

Lieut.  
 Adjutant. 23rd Battalion.



BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 156.

Ref. Maps.- VALENCIENNES 1/100,000.  
 MAPS.-

16th DECEMBER, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade Group will move to "VALIENNES" Sub-Area to-morrow, 17th December, 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will leave their present Billeting Area at 0835 to-morrow, 17th inst., and will proceed to SOLRE LE CHATEAU via AVESNES, WANDREBACH and VALIENNES yards.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- Junction of Roads 100/west of "R" in ROUGE.  
HEAD OF COLUMN will pass Starting point at 0855.  
COYS. will be in position by 0850.  
ORDER OF MARCH.- Band, "H'ers", "A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.
- 4.- The following DISTANCES will be maintained throughout the march:-
 

Between Battalions	-	200 yards.
" Companies	-	100 "
" Unit and its Transport	-	100 "
" Each section of 6 Vehicles	-	25 "
- 5.- PREPARE.- Full Marching Order.  
 Iron Rations.  
 Unconsumed portion of day's Rations.  
 Water Bottles filled.  
 S.B.A's. Slung on top of the Pack.  
 Mess Tins under Steel Helmet.  
 60 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
- 6.- OFFICERS' VEHICLES will be dumped in accordance with the under-mentioned Table:-
 

"B", "C" and "D" Coys.	at "C" Coy's. H'ers. by 0750.
"A" Coy.	at Coy. H'ers. by 0730.
"H'ers"	at Battalion H'ers. by 0730.

 Coy. MESS BOYS will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
- 7.- BLANKETS.- 2 Blankets per man will be rolled in Bundles of 10 (width of blanket) securely tied in three places and clearly labelled, and will be dumped at Coy. H'ers. by 0750 on the 17th inst.  
BAND PACKS will be dumped at Transport Lines by 0730, 17th inst.
- 8.- BILLETING PARTY.- Coy. Billeting S.G.'s. will report to Lieut. J.E. SMITH at Battn. Orderly Room at 0745 to-morrow, 17th inst., and will move by Bicycle to SOLRE LE CHATEAU.
- 9.- O.C., "C" Coy., will detail 1 Officer and 15 O.B.'s. to act as "Stragglers' Party". This party will march in rear of 6th A.I.C. Coy. - Rear of Brigade Column.
- 10.- ALL Coys. will march in THIRDS.
- 11.- Battalion will halt for LUNCH from 1250 to 1400.
- 12.- Watches will be SYNCHRONISED at 2000, 16th inst.
- 13.- Coy. Commanders will furnish Certificates that all Billets occupied by them have been left in a Clean and Sanitary Condition, to reach Battalion H'ers. by 0830 to-morrow, 17th inst.
- 14.- NO MORE TO DO.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- O.C.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C.'s., Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Transport Officer.

Lieut. Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

*Al E. Smith*



Ref. Map.- NAMUR 1/100,000.

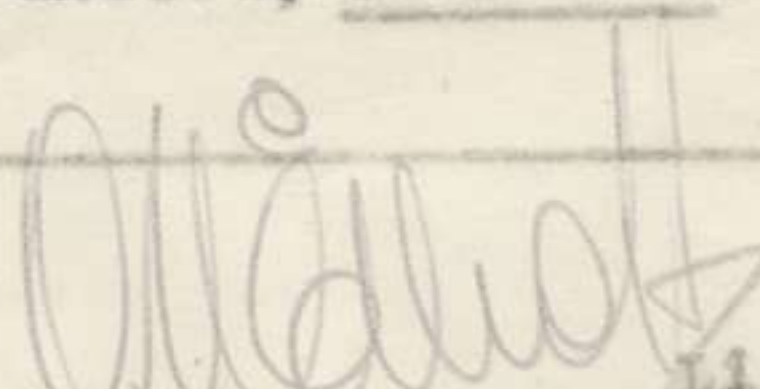
17th DECEMBER, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade Group will continue move to "WALINNES" to-morrow, 18th December, 1918., by March Route.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. will leave their present Billeting Area at 0925 to-morrow, 18th inst., and will proceed to WALINNES via BEAUKIEUX, SIVRY and SIVRY STATION.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- Billet No. 1, Rue de Beaumont.  
HEAD OF COLUMN will pass Starting point at 0925.  
 Coys. to be in position by 0920.  
ORDER OF MARCH.- Band, "H.Q.F.", "B", "C", "D" and "A" Coys.
- 4.- The following DISTANCES will be maintained throughout the March:-
 

Between Battalions	-	200 yards.
" Companies	-	100 "
" Unit and its Transport	-	100 "
" Each Section of 6 Vehicles	-	25 "
- 5.- DRESS.- Full Marching Order.  
 Iron Rations.  
 Unconsumed portion of Day's Rations.  
 Water Bottles filled.  
 S.B.R.'s. slung on top of the pack.  
 Mess Tins under Steel Helmet.  
 Waterproof Sheet under Flap of Pack (Ready for Emergency).  
 60 rounds S.A.A. per man.
- 6.- OFFICERS' VALISES will be dumped at Coy. Billets (with Blankets) by 0815 to-morrow, 18th inst.  
 Rolling of Valises to be personally supervised by Officers.  
 Coy. MESS BOXES will be carried on Cookers.
- 7.- BLANKETS.- 2 Blankets per man will be rolled in Bundles of 10 (WIDTH of Blanket) securely tied in three places and clearly labelled and will be dumped at Coy. Billets by 0815 to-morrow, 18th inst.  
HAND PACKS will be dumped at Transport Lines by 0815 18th inst.
- 8.- BILLETING PARTY.- Coy. Billeting H.Q.O.'s. will report to Lieut. J.E. SMITH at Battalion H'qrs. at 0730 to-morrow, 18th inst.
- 9.- O.C., "D" Coy., will detail 1 Officer and 15 O.R.'s. to act as "Stragglers' Party" for the Brigade Group. They will march in rear of the 2nd Div. Salvage Coy.
- 10.- ALL Coys. will march in THREES.
- 11.- Watches will be SYNCHRONISED at 0830 to-morrow, 18th inst.
- 12.- Coy. Commanders will furnish a Certificate that ALL Billets occupied by them have been left in a clean and sanitary condition, to reach Battalion H'qrs. by 0830 to-morrow, 18th inst.
- 13.- ACKNOWLEDGE.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C.'s., Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Transport officer.

  
 Lieut.  
 Adjutant. 23rd Battalion.



Ref. Map.- NAMUR. 1/100.000.

23<sup>rd</sup> 18th DECEMBER. 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will continue the move to "NALINNES" AREA to-morrow, 19th December. 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion. A.I.F. will move to WAJCOURT via VERGNIES, ERPION, BOUSSO LEZ, and SILENRIEUX, to-morrow, 19th inst.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- Junction of Roads 200 yards North of "R" in RENLIERS.  
HEAD OF COLUMN will pass Starting Point at 0930.  
 Coys. will be in position by 0925.  
ORDER OF MARCH.- Band, "H'Qrs", "D", "B", "C" and "A" Coys.
- 4.- The following DISTANCES will be maintained throughout the March:-
 

Between Battalions	-	200 yards.
" Companies	-	100 "
" Unit and Its Transport	-	100 "
" Each Section of 6 Vehicles	-	25 "
- 5.- DRESS.- Full Marching Order.  
 Iron Rations.  
 Unconsumed Portion of Day's Rations.  
 Water Bottles filled.  
 S.B.R's. slung on top of the Pack.  
 Mess Tins under Steel Helmet.  
 Waterproof Sheet under Flap of Pack (Ready for Emergency).  
 60 rounds S.A.A. per man.
- 6.- OFFICERS' VALISES will be dumped with their Coy's. Blankets, as per undermentioned Table:-
 

"B", "C" and "D" Coys.	at Coy's. Billets by <u>0815</u> .
"A" Coy.	at Billet No. 27 by <u>0730</u> .
"H'Qrs".	at Battalion H'Qrs. by <u>0815</u> .

 Coy. MESS BOXES will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
- 7.- BLANKETS.- 2 Blankets per man will be rolled in Bundles of 10 -  
 Width of Blanket - securely tied in three places and clearly labelled and will be dumped as follows:-
 

"B", "C" and "D" Coys.	at Coy's. Billets by <u>0800</u> .
"A" Coy.	at Coy's. Billet by <u>0745</u> .
"H'Qrs".	at Billet No. 23 by <u>0800</u> .
- 8.- BAND PACKS will be dumped at Transport Lines by 0800.
- 9.- BILLETING PARTY.- Coy. Billeting N.C.O's. will report to Lieut. J.E. SMITH at Battalion H'Qrs. at 0730 to-morrow, 19th inst.
- 10.- ALL Coys. will march in THREES.
- 11.- Coy. Commanders will furnish Certificates that ALL Billets occupied by them have been left in a Clean and Sanitary condition, to reach Battalion H'Qrs. by 0830 to-morrow, 19th inst.
- 12.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- |        |                    |                           |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.-    | File.              |                           |
| 2/4.-  | War Diary.         | Lieut.                    |
| 5.-    | C.O.               | Adjutant. 23rd Battalion. |
| 6.-    | Adjutant.          |                           |
| 7.-    | 6th A.I. Brigade.  |                           |
| 8/12.- | O.C's., Coys.      |                           |
| 13.-   | Q.M.               |                           |
| 14.-   | Transport Officer. |                           |



Ref. Map.- NAMUR. 1/100,000.

18th DECEMBER. 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will continue the move to "MALINNES" AREA to-morrow, 19th December. 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion. A.I.F. will move to WALSOURT via VERGNIES, ERPION, BOUSSE LEZ and BILLENRIEUX, to-morrow, 19th inst.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- <sup>Walsourt</sup> Junction of Roads 200 yards North of "R" in RENNIES.  
HEAD OF COLUMN will pass Starting Point at 0930.  
Coys. will be in position by 0925.  
ORDER OF MARCH.- Band, "H'qrs", "D", "B", "G" and "A" Coys.  
The following DISTANCES will be maintained throughout the March:-
 

Between Battalions	-	200 yards.
" Companies	-	100 "
" Unit and its Transport	-	100 "
" Each Section of 5 Vehicles	-	25 "
- 5.- DRESS.- Full Marching Order.  
Iron Rations.  
Unconsumed Portion of Day's Rations.  
Water Bottles filled.  
S.B.R's. slung on top of the pack.  
Mess Tins under Steel Helmet.  
Waterproof Sheet under Flap of Pack (Ready for Emergency).  
60 rounds S.A.A. per man.
- 6.- OFFICERS' VALISES will be dumped with their Coy's. Blankets, as per undermentioned Table:-
 

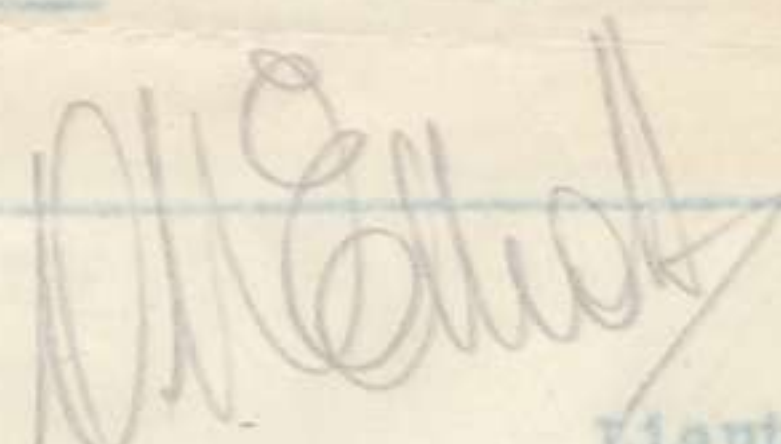
"B", "G" and "D" Coys.	at Coy's. Billets by 0815.
"A" Coy.	at Billet No. 27 by 0730.
"H'qrs".	at Battalion H'qrs. by 0815.

 Coy. MESS BOXES will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
- 7.- BLANKETS.- 2 Blankets per man will be rolled in Bundles of 10 -  
Width of Blanket - securely tied in three places and clearly  
labelled and will be dumped as follows:-
 

"B", "G" and "D" Coys.	at Coy's. Billets by 0800.
"A" Coy.	at Coy's. Billet by 0745.
"H'qrs".	at Billet No. 23 by 0800.
- 8.- BAND PACKS will be dumped at Transport Lines by 0800.
- 9.- BILLETING PARTY.- Coy. Billeting H.Q.O's. will report to Lieut. J.E. SMITH at Battalion H'qrs. at 0730 to-morrow, 19th inst.
- 10.- ALL Coys. will march in THREES.
- 11.- Coy. Commanders will furnish Certificates that ALL Billets occupied by them have been left in a Clean and Sanitary condition, to reach Battalion H'qrs. by 0830 to-morrow, 19th inst.
- 12.- ACKNOWLEDGE.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- |        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| 1.-    | File.              |
| 2/4.-  | War Diary.         |
| 5.-    | C.O.               |
| 6.-    | Adjutant.          |
| 7.-    | 6th A.I. Brigade.  |
| 8/12.- | C.O's., Coys.      |
| 13.-   | Q.M.               |
| 14.-   | Transport Officer. |

  
 Lieut.  
 Adjutant. 23rd Battalion.



Hof

Ref. No. 93. NAMUR. 1/100.000.

19th DECEMBER. 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade Group will continue the move to "MALINNES" Sub-Area to-morrow, 20th December, 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. will move to HAIES via THY LE CHATRAU, to-morrow, the 20th inst.

3.- STARTING POINT. - RESTAURANT - Billet No. 29 - RUE LA STATION.

HEAD OF COLUMN will pass Starting Point at ~~0830~~ 0915  
Coys. will be in position by ~~0830~~ 0910

ORDER OF MARCH. - Band, "H'Qrs.", "C", "D", "B" and "A" Coys.

- 4.- The following DISTANCES will be maintained throughout the March:-

Between Battalions	-	200 yards.
" Companies	-	100 "
" Unit and its Transport	-	100 "
" Each Section of 6 Vehicles	-	25 "

5.- DRESS. -

Full Marching Order.

Tren Nations.

Unconsumed portion of Day's Rations.

Water Bottles filled.

S.B.R's. slung on top of the Pack.

Mess Tins under Steel Helmet.

Waterproof Sheet under Flap of Pack (Ready for Emergency)

- 6.- OFFICERS' VALISES will be dumped as follows:-

"A", "B", "C" & "D" Coys. opposite Billets Nos. 74 and 75 -  
by 0830.

"H'Qrs." at Battalion H'Qrs. by 0730.

Coy. MESS BOXES will be carried on Coy. Cookers.

- 7.- BLANKETS. - 2 Blankets per man will be rolled in Bundles of 10 -  
Width of Blanket - securely tied in three places and clearly labelled  
and will be dumped as follows:-

"A", "B", "C" & "D" Coys. at CHATRAU GATE by 0730.

"H'Qrs." at Coy. Billet by 0730.

BAND PACES will be dumped at Transport Lines by 0730.

- 8.- BILLETING PARTY. - Coy. Billeting M.C.O's. will report to Battalion H'Qrs. by 0700 to-morrow, ~~20th inst.~~ 20th inst., and will proceed to HAIES where they will meet Lieut. J.M. SMITH.

- 9.- ALL Coys. will march in THREES.

- 10.- Watches will be SYNCHRONISED at Battn. H'Qrs. at 2000 19th inst.

- 11.- Coy. Commanders will furnish a Certificate that ALL Billets occupied by them have been left in a Clean and Sanitary Condition, to reach Battalion H'Qrs. by 0830 to-morrow, 20th inst.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

DISTRIBUTION. -

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- C.O's. Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Transport Officer.

Lieut.  
Adjutant. 23rd Battalion.



93

App 7<sup>th</sup>



Twenty-Third Battalion  
A.I.F.



Xmas  
...1918...



Nalannes-Haies. ————— Belgium.



93

### Greetings.



To the inhabitants of Nalannes-Haies, our comrades in the war, 1914-1918.

From the C.O., Officers and Men of the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F.

Greetings for Christmas, 1918, and our wishes that the New Year may bring prosperity and happiness to you all after the sadness of the past four years.



93

### Salutation.



Aux habitants de Nalannes-Haies, nos camarades pendant les années de guerre 1914-1918, de la part

de C.O., officiers et soldats  
du 23<sup>me</sup> bataillon  
Australien.

Après quatre années de peine nous vous envoyons nos meilleurs vœux pour Noël 1918 et vous Souhaitons une grande prosperite pour l'année qui va com-  
mencer.

93



93

8

Battalion

H.Ors.  
**Xmas  
Dinner**

...1918...

Deuvres" we  
"Cupe Tomate."  
nes-Haies,  
have praise.  
eas,  
and Carrots,  
on the plate,  
ix" as mates.  
e rule with some,  
ddings come  
well  
nes are  
ng us  
ve us cheer,  
w Year.

nes-Haies

Belgium

23rd Battalion  
A.I.F.

"D" COY.

**Menu.**

Hors  
Tom

Roas  
Roas

**Xmas  
Dinner**

...1918...

nes-Haies

Belgium.

9

23rd Battalion  
A.I.F.

TRANSPORT SECTION.

**Xmas  
Dinner**

...1918...

Nalannes-Haies

Belgium.

5



8



**23rd Battalion  
A.I.F.**

**A CHRISTMAS CRAMM.**

**Menu.**

With "Hors de Oeuvres" we  
make a start,  
Followed by "La Soupe Tomate."  
An Entree nom-de-Nalannes-Haies,  
For Belgium's kindness we have praise.  
Then the Mutton and the Peas,  
With "Pommes de Terre" and Carrots,  
please?  
The luscious "Cochon" on the plate,  
"Petit Pois" and "choux" as mates.  
Sweets for the sweet, the rule with some,  
So up the big Plum Puddings come.  
And Brandy, too, contained in Sauce,  
No overdoses—no! of course.  
We finish on the Fruit and Custard,  
Its just as well for our wits' rusted.  
The Wines and Beer, they give us cheer,  
And bring us to a Glad New Year.

Bonne Nuit.

Nalannes-Haies - - Belgium

10



**23rd Battalion  
A.I.F.**

**"D" COY.**

**Menu.**

Hors d'Oeuvre.  
Tomato Soup.  
Fish.  
Joints:  
Roast Beef, Roast Pork.  
Vegetables:  
Roast Potatoes, Boiled Cabbage,  
Carrots.  
Sweets:  
Plum Pudding and Brandy Sauce,  
Custard and Fruit.  
Cake, Biscuits, Nuts, Cigarettes.  
Cafe Noir.  
Nalannes-Haies Belgium.

9



**23rd Battalion  
A.I.F.**

**TRANSPORT SECTION.**

**Menu.**

Soup: Giblet.  
Entrees:  
Salmon Patties, Tomato Mayonnaise.  
Joints:  
Roast Mutton, York Ham.  
Poultry:  
Turkey and Seasoning.  
Vegetables:  
Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbages, Peas,  
Brussels Sprouts.  
Sweets:  
Plum Pudding and Sauce, Fruit  
Salad, Wine Trifle, Custard,  
Savoury Cheese Straws.

5



93

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

No 11

SPECIAL ORDER.

Funeral.

The Remains of the late Lieut. W.O. SUMMERS M.C. will be interred in the Cemetery of NALINNESHALES this Afternoon at 1400.

Cortege will leave R.A.P. at 1400.

Chaplain BLOOD will officiate.

ALL Officers of the Battalion will attend.

"B" Coy. will supply the following FIRING PARTY.-

1 Officer. 40 O.Ranks. 5 Rounds of Blank Ammunition will be fired.

DRESS.- O.Ranks.- Greatcoats - Drill Order with Rifles.

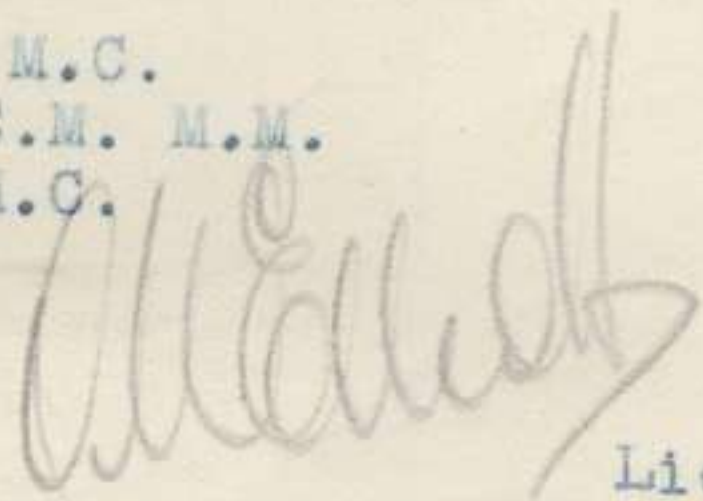
Officers.- Greatcoats - Gloves - but no Sticks.

ALL RANKS will wear HATS.

BAND will attend.

The undermentioned detail of Officers will act as Pall Bearers:-

- Lieut. L.S. MADDRELL M.C.
- Lieut. V. DIXON D.C.M. M.M.
- Lieut. G.W. GRIFFIN M.C.
- Lieut. W.A.E. BRAGG.



29th December. 1918.

Lieut.  
Adjutant. 23rd Battalion.



12

23rd Battalion

COY.

Monday,  
Dec. 30th.

Xmas  
Dinner

..1918..

oup.

Pork.

Peas.

rd,

r.

igars.

Belgium.

13

23rd  
Battn.

B  
Coy.

Xmas  
Dinner

..1918..

Nalannes-Haies

Belgium.





23rd Battalion

"C" COY.

Monday,  
Dec. 30th.

Menu.

- Tomato Soup.
- Boiled Fish.
- Roast Beef, Roast Pork.
- Potatoes, Cabbage, Peas.
- Xmas Pudding.
- Fruit and Custard.
- Coffee. Beer.
- Cigarettes. Cigars.

Nalannes-Haies Belgium.

Orchestral Programme.

- |   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| Mlle. Tragot (Conservatoire de Bruxelles) | - | Pianist        |
| M. Brogneaux                              | " | Violiniste     |
| M. Lennain                                | " | Violoncelliste |
| 1. "Premiere Partie"                      | - | Trio           |
| 2. "Meditation de Thais"                  | - | Violin         |
| 3. "Danses Norwegiennes"                  | - | Trio           |
| 4. "Le Cygne"                             | - | Violoncellle   |
| 5. "Finale"                               | - | Trio           |
| 6. "Menuet"                               | - | Violin         |
| 7. "Concerto"                             | - | Violoncellle   |
| 8. "Finale"                               | - | Trio           |
| Mendelssohn                               | - | Trio           |
| Massenet                                  | - | Violin         |
| Greig                                     | - | Trio           |
| St. Saens                                 | - | Violoncellle   |
| Mendelssohn                               | - | Trio           |
| Rogister                                  | - | Violin         |
| Servais                                   | - | Violoncellle   |
| Beethoven                                 | - | Trio           |

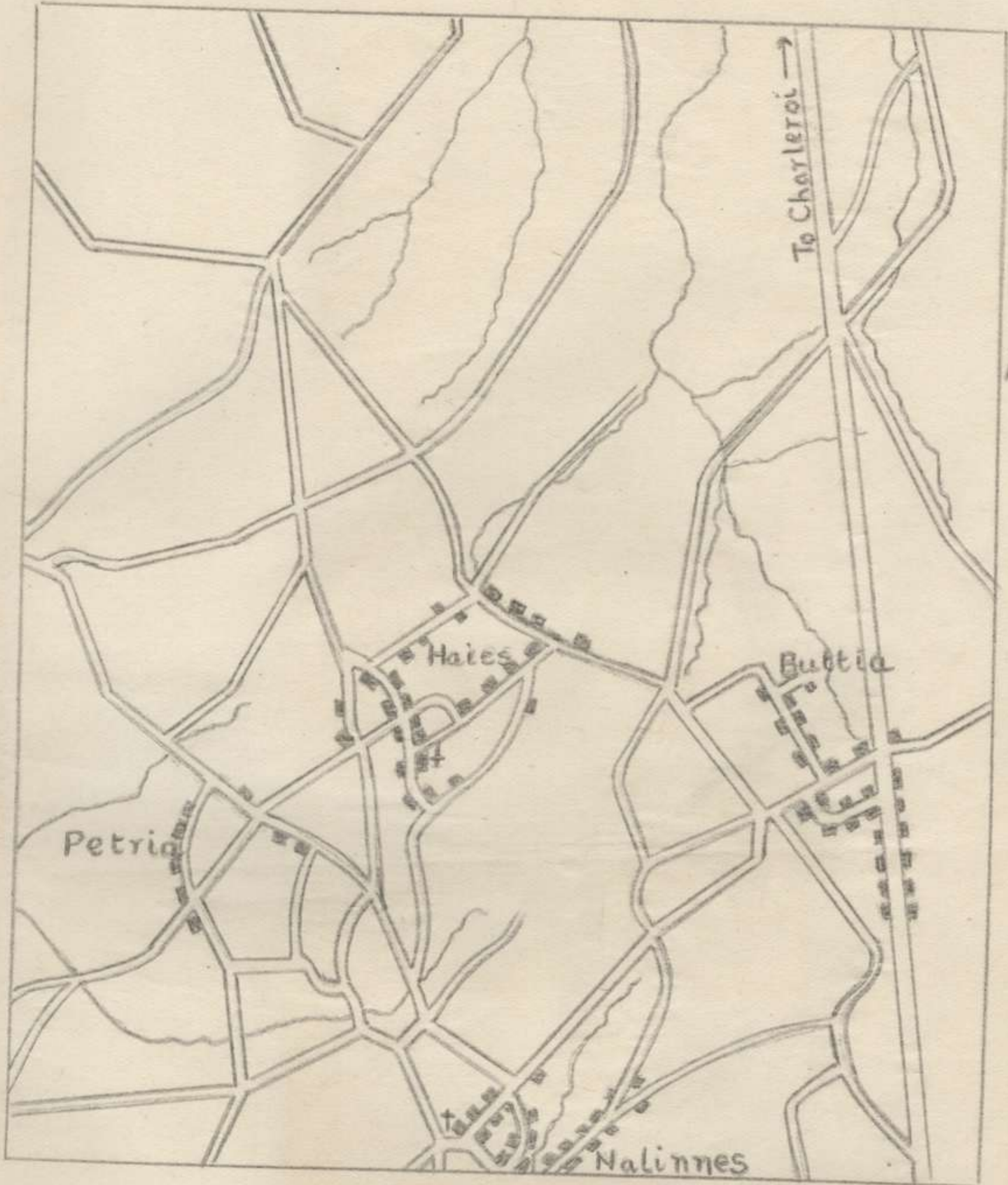
Menu.

- Hors d'œuvres.
- Pate de Saumon a la sauce mayonnaise.
- Soupe a la Julienne.
- Poisson: Sole, sauce au persil.
- Filet de boeuf a la Jardiniere (pommes de terre, choux.)
- Porc roti, aux pommes, (petits pois, pommes de terre, carottes.)
- Tarte creme aux fruits.
- Plum Pudding, sauce Cognac.
- Fromage savoureux.
- Desert: Pommes, noix.
- Vins, biere, cigares, cigarettes.



93

Enlarged Map 1/100000  
No 14.



Scale 1:33333-3  
2 Kilos.



93

93

14  
A

23rd Battalion

"A"

"DEACON S. L. K."

Me-an'

"Submarines on the coast."  
"Loop the Loop, mate."  
"Our W... with the

Stuff  
ies  
sted."  
Martin

1918. "The Toot."  
"Jam Sp... Glad Eyes."  
"Stand a... Risk Its,  
Joe Blak... and Ruts."  
"Joe Roffey, P... Ear, ours and Mine."  
"Over the B... and Angonettes."

Nalannes-Hales Belgium.



93

93



**TOASTS:**

The King. The C.O.  
The Visitors. Absent Friends.  
Those who Assisted.

**23rd Battalion**



"A" COY.  
"DEACON SKINNER."

**Me-an' You.**

"Submarines on the Coast."  
"Loop the Loop," Tomato.  
"Having your Wish with the  
White Horse."  
Song, Cpl. J. Romaine.  
Roast "Come to Grief, Green Stuff  
and Murphs."  
Song, Pte. A. Douglas.  
"Go for a Walk, Tear the Pommes  
and The Cab."  
Song, Sapper Martin.  
"Plum-a-the-Pud, Nearly Busted."  
Trip, Cpl. Romaine, Spr. Martin  
and Pte. Douglas.  
"Blue Mange and the Toot."  
"Jam Spare Parts and Glad Eyes."  
"Stand at Ease and Risk It,  
Joe Blake, Holes and Ruts."  
"Joe Roffey, Pigs Eat, Yours and Mine."  
"Over the Bars and Wagonettes."

Nalannes-Hales

Belgium.

14  
A



# AUSTRALIAN CORPS NEWS SHEET.

Extracts from Allied and Enemy Press compiled from Press cuttings supplied by the Australian War Records Section and Other Sources.

## SUGGESTED AUSTRALIAN TOUR.

The M.C.C. has been asked to consider the idea of a tour next summer of a cricket team picked from Australians serving at home and abroad, and if possible to arrange fixtures. The Australian Board of Control has been asked if they approve of the project, and if so, to nominate someone in this country with whom the M.C.C. can deal.

## AN AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TOUR.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 19.

The Cricket Board of Control will, on December 6, consider the M.C.C.'s cable suggesting that an Australian team composed of active service men shall tour England in 1919.—EXCHANGE.

## ESTEEM FOR MARSHAL FOCH.

It is proposed to erect in Sydney a bronze statue of Marshal Foch, and also to present him with a service of Australian gold plate.

## VOTES FOR MEMBERS OF THE A.I.F.

It has been agreed by the Federal House of Representatives to give the vote to every member of the Commonwealth military and naval forces, irrespective of age.

## THE DANES AND SCHLESWIG.

Danes resident in New South Wales are supporting the claim of the Schleswig Provinces for justice on the principle of self determination.

## OUR DEBT TO FRANCE.

Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister of Australia, in cabling to M. Clemenceau, says that centuries cannot repay the debt due to undaunted France, and hopes for an indissoluble bond between free nations.

## LORD FORREST'S SUCCESSOR.

*The Times*, Friday, Nov. 22nd, 1918.

John Forrest, born in Western Australia, started life with neither wealth nor influence, and became a peer of the realm. He died recently, and his successor in the House of Representatives is a youth named Corboy, barely old enough to have secured the franchise, but brave enough to have fought in the war.

## TIMBER FOR AEROPLANES FROM THE WEST.

At the instance of the British and Commonwealth Air Boards, tests are being conducted in Western Australia of local timbers thought to be suitable for aeroplane building.

## WAR SCHOLARSHIPS.

A trust has been formed in Western Australia for providing scholarships for the children of fallen or incapacitated soldiers. Scholarships to the value of £6,000 have already been allotted.

## WORLD PEACE, AND WAR INDEMNITIES.

SYDNEY, NOV. 18.

Mr. W. A. Holman, Premier of New South Wales, in discussing the peace terms, said that if a scheme can be devised whereby Australia is assured that there will be no more war it becomes an entirely secondary and unimportant consideration whether she gets any indemnity. The best commercial treaty would be worth nothing under the liability of another war.

"We must not," he continued, "allow our minds to be diverted from the main purpose; but we must be prepared to surrender small, if attractive, immediate gains in order to secure a World Peace, which is the greatest gain of all."

## AUSTRALIAN WHEAT STOCKS.

SYDNEY, Monday.

In consequence of drought the wheat harvest in New South Wales is expected to yield only 15,000,000 bushels, compared with 38,000,000 last season. The outlook is correspondingly bad in South Australia and Victoria, but the Commonwealth on the whole has 154,000,000 bushels, representing three years' accumulations, still available for export.

## RESTARTING INDUSTRIES IN ENGLAND.

The *Daily Mail*, of 2nd Nov. contributes to this discussion a *résumé* of some of the plans of the Ministry of Reconstructions for the supply of raw materials, and makes other interesting statements. In most lines of material there will be more available than we can import, *e.g.*, cotton at Galveston in Texas. Special ports will be set apart for the debarkation of troops, and others for ships bringing supplies. The Navy, which has 5,000 ships under its control, will carry out the transport of our demobilized troops; and big liners taking returning troops to America, will bring back food or raw material. The warehouses at our ports will be freed by storing war material in disused munition factories. Not only will the unified railway service be continued, but the whole inland transport will also be organized to secure economy in wheel traffic. The distribution of raw materials will be made according to a scheme of priority in trade, but in each trade the sub-division will be decided by the representatives of the trade itself.

## AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

There has been a very strong manifestation of feeling in the Commonwealth during the month upon the future of the Pacific Islands, and the whole subject was debated at length in the Commonwealth Parliament on Nov. 14 and 15, upon a motion submitted by the Government. During the course of this debate the acting Prime Minister (Mr. Watt) made a particularly important statement, in which he pointed out that the naval advisers of the Government had said that the Bismarck Archipelago and surrounding possessions, now held by Australia, would be of such strategic value to a potential enemy that unless they were retained in Australian hands an expenditure on defence of several millions per annum would be necessary. Apart from purely defensive reasons, Mr. Watt submitted that the islands should be retained as part of the reparation the Commonwealth was entitled to for her great outlay upon the war, supposing it were impossible to obtain true indemnity. A notable contribution to the debate was made by the leader of the Official Labour Opposition, Mr. Tudor, who, no doubt having regard to the Pacifist element in his party, took the line that he would not oppose the motion owing to the assurance that the retention of the colonies was necessary as a defensive measure. In the result the resolution submitted by the Government declaring that it was essential to the future safety and welfare of Australia that the captured German possessions in the Pacific, now occupied by Australian and New Zealand troops, should not, in any circumstances, be restored to Germany, was passed unanimously by both Houses of Parliament.



# AUSTRALIAN CORPS NEWS SHEET.

## REPATRIATION SCHEME IN AUSTRALIA.

### What the Government is Doing.

Reprint of the Summary of a Speech Delivered in July last  
by Senator MILLEN, Minister for Repatriation.

The Australian Repatriation Scheme is in full operation. Senator Millen, the Minister for Repatriation has aimed at making the scheme worthy of the men and women in whose interests it has been framed. He has succeeded.

#### WHO IT INCLUDES.

The scheme includes soldiers, sailors, nurses, doctors, and their dependants. The fundamental principal is that neither those who enlisted for active service abroad nor their dependants shall suffer economic prejudice by reason of their military service.

#### THE DEPARTMENT.

The Repatriation Department undertakes to provide each soldier applying for employment with the opportunity of earning at least a living wage, and until the opportunity is forthcoming, to pay to applicants such amounts as will ensure them incomes ranging from 42/- to 66/- weekly, according to circumstances. When employment involving travelling is obtained through the Department, the removal expenses of the soldier and his family and their household effects may be paid. The Department will also provide tools and personal equipment necessary to follow his trade.

#### FOR THOSE ILL.

Sufferers from illness or injury due to, or aggravated by military service, are given free medical treatment in their own homes or in hospitals, or special institutions, for so long as treatment may be necessary. Artificial limbs and surgical appliances will be repaired and replaced free as often as necessary. During the period of medical treatment and convalescence, soldiers and their dependants are entitled to sustenance. Fares to and from hospital and travelling expenses are also paid. Those who are unable through disability resultant upon service to pursue their usual avocations will be trained in other occupations to which the disability is no bar. During the period of training soldiers are guaranteed incomes ranging from 42/- to 66/- weekly, together with a travelling allowance of 3/- if they are in training classes; or a minimum wage of the industry in which they are undergoing training if such training is being effected in industrial establishments. Apprentices are guaranteed the adult minimum wage in the trade to which they are apprenticed the moment they resume indentures. Those so disabled as to prevent their return to normal efficiency are guaranteed a living wage, and are provided with opportunities to earn at least part of such wage in employments suited to their temperament and capacity.

#### COMMUNITY SETTLEMENTS.

The industries in which they are engaged are to be conducted in community settlements formed in each State.

In these settlements there will be national workshops and homes for workers and convalescents, schools, and other social accessories.

Men with the inclination, aptitude and physical capacity for engaging in farming pursuits will be financially assisted on easy, liberal terms to take up land and to acquire the stock and

equipment necessary for successful working. Until the land is ready for occupation, they may, if no employment is available, be paid a sustenance allowance, and when land is available the necessary fares and freights to enable them to enter into possession. They will also be entitled to sustenance during the unproductive period of occupation.

#### TO THOSE IN BUSINESS.

In approved cases, soldiers incapacitated to the extent of being unable to engage in their usual employment, and soldiers who prior to enlistment were dependent on businesses which they owned and conducted, will be advanced money to purchase business plant, stock, and live stock, to enable them to establish or re-establish themselves. The necessary fares and freights to their place of business will be paid.

Free passages from the Commonwealth may, on certain conditions, be granted to incapacitated soldiers, their wives and children, and to the widows and orphans of deceased soldiers, and the wives and children of soldiers married abroad, and to fiancées of soldiers and Australians who have served in the present war in the military and naval forces in any part of the King's dominions.

#### WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.

Widows and children have been subjects of Senator Millen's special care. Widows with children are entitled to gifts of furniture to enable them to re-establish their homes, and to augment their means of livelihood money will be advanced to them to assist in the purchasing of businesses, plant, stock, and live-stock, and their pensions will be supplemented and fees paid where widows with or without children decide to undergo training in any calling. They may also be granted rental allowances, or such other assistance as the Minister thinks proper. The provisions for rental allowances, as also for gifts of furniture, apply equally to totally incapacitated men.

Soldiers not incapacitated will be loaned money to purchase furniture and establish homes.

Towards the care and education of orphans of deceased soldiers and the children of incapacitated soldiers the Minister is empowered to pay such amounts as he deems fit.

The scheme also provides for advances to relieve the burden of oppressive mortgages effected prior to the soldier's enlistment, and for grants towards the funeral expenses of soldiers in indigent circumstances.

#### THE MOTHERS AND FATHERS OF THE FALLEN.

Parents have not been forgotten. Mothers and fathers who were dependent on their soldier sons will be assisted.

To carry out this liberal and statesmanlike scheme, Senator Millen is organising local committees from one end of Australia to the other. Wherever the soldier finds himself on his return, he will be in touch with willing workers anxious to repay some measure of the debt they owe.

Within the next few weeks the Minister hopes to place in the hands of every Australian soldier abroad a personal letter explaining the aims and objects of his department.

## PLANS FOR DEMOBOLISATION.

Reprinted from the "British Australasian" dated November 21st, 1918.

Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, states that the Government is in communication with the Imperial Government and other Dominions and the military authorities regarding the return of Australian Forces. The Cabinet has requested Mr. Hughes to take up the question of speedy demobilisation with the administrative and military authorities in London, who will take his directions on the main principles. Consultations are proceeding on questions relating to employment for those awaiting embarkation, and a scheme for university education.

**The troops will return as units under their own officers.** The Battalions, regiments and batteries will be divided into halves, the first-coming half containing as many men as possible meriting preferential treatment according to the priority list, as follows:—

Firstly, married soldiers, with preference according to the number of their children, length of service, and guaranteed employment in Australia; secondly, single soldiers of long service, with guaranteed employment; thirdly, other single men according to length of service.—COMMONWEALTH CABLE.



*The Voice of THE The Battalion*

"FORWARD" "UNDETERRED"

1st DEC 1918

PRICE 10 CENTS

TINE. ALP

GALLIPOLI · LONE PINE · ARMENTIERES  
POZIERES · BAPAUME · BULLECOURT  
YPRES · BROODSEINDE · PLOEGSTEERT

"Peace hath its  
victories, thrice  
renowned as  
war."

O:O

25-5-18 G.L.N.



## Amongst the Boys.

Goin' 'ome, digger?

Who said Paris? Oh, those furphs?

According to the latest L.B. there will not be enough Brilliantshine manufactured to supply the Batt.

Has anybody seen the Third Divvy? This has been the question since 1916.

Fritz kept "blowing" till the end, finishing up on inoffensive bridges.

About the only thing Fritz left around these parts is a bad name and a worse impression. Even the bare necessities of life were taken in many instances.

Frank Crossley is still the producer at the Anzac Coves. Another panto in preparation.

Distressed Madam, whose horse is ill, and desiring assistance, to Tommy: "M'sieur, M'sieur, cheval!" Tommy: "I ain't got no shovel, mam, but ye'll get one round the corner, off my mate."

It is said that some of our prisoners are back in England from Germany.

Jack Engels has had furlough—England. He was seen with the redoubtable "Bully" Hearn.

Our billets are not bad, but oh, what a route march to the different Coys.

A certain bandsman, just a trifle exhilarated while in Blighty, was asked by one of the urchins, "Do you want Euston, digger?" "No," replied the instrumentalist, "You can have it."

We are short of paper, short of time, and short of breath travelling, hence small issue.

Q.M. Laffan has quitted for a position at O.T.B.

"Here a woman, there a man, Refugees where'er you scan." In some cases their condition is dreadful, almost skin and bone. The kindness of the boys to these poor people is proverbial.

The band played a programme on Sunday at the cross roads.

That wretch, Dinny Dwyer, has been gaily gallivanting in Paris. He's back again, though.

We have read an interesting letter from Pte. Cecil Horan, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany since Lagnicourt, 1917. It was written to Pte. D. F. Jackson, and apparently the writer was cheerful in his captivity.

The giddy young things over forty years of age are being sorted out in the Battalion with a view to having them boarded. One or two of the tougher ones have refused the opportunity.

We have received copies of Xmas cards from other units. Our own has been distributed.

R.M.S. Woodlands, Cpls. Hutchinson and Secombe are doing it grand on the Strand.

The regimental tonsorial expert has cut short his state of single bliss.





Vol. 2.—No. 4.

1st December, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

### Patience.

Hostilities have been brought to an end by the combined strategy of our generals, and the bravery and dogged perseverance of our soldiers. Naturally the prospect of departure for the dear homeland is first in our thoughts, and an impatient Australian love of country becomes pronounced. But with that same spirit that held us together when clouds were darkest and victory seemed farthest away, we should exercise patience. The British Government and our Commonwealth have numerous ideas in hand for demobilisation of Australian soldiers, and out of these will, no doubt, evolve something concrete to deal fairly and equitably with each man as his turn comes round. In the interim opportunity will be given to those desiring to improve themselves in almost any trade or profession, and to a certain degree fit themselves for their particular niche in civil life. By a unanimous effort on the part of all, the nation can, and will, emerge satisfactorily out of its difficulties, for in this phase of war, as in battle—  
"Union is Strength."

### The Triumph.

Across the sodden Flanders plain  
The wind is loud with fierce despair,  
Tossing the shattered branches bare,  
Hiding from earth the last small gleam  
of light.

Thro' the mud and dark of trackless waste  
My faithful engine beats her way;  
Comrade, when all else fails, by night  
or day,  
Mid cold and storm and perils to be faced,  
The driving rain beats in my straining  
eyes,  
Yet loud above the tumult of the storm  
I hear that pitiless slayer without form,  
The shrapnel bullet striking as it flies.  
— Enid M.

At the request of one of our officers above is inserted as a tribute to the "Triumph" motor cycle, so much used during the war.

Weather conditions are remarkably mild considering that it is well into the cold season. Perhaps the Peace Conference is warming the atmosphere.



## The Sergeants Celebrate.

What a flutter the Sergeants of our most excellent battalion must have caused in the hearts of the village maidens one night while at Vaux, when they donned their glad rags for a real ball given to the French folk in the locality to celebrate the signing of the armistice. Once the great moment (to celebrate—not to sign) arrived they simply went their hardest, did their best, and invited the Mayor (M. Vast) and other civic notabilities of the village.

What a sight they presented in the hut, decorated and seated for the occasion, with "Rammy" the dear boy in the forefront, and such handsome chaps as Arthur Bertuch, Dick Richards, "Cam," "Max," "Tom" Hume, and "Billy" Wilson. A sprinkling of officers provided the giot frame to the picture as it were, for Major Beith, Major Pascoe, the Adjutant, and several Company Officers honored by their presence. It was just great. And such dancers! Gee! They would have turned the most ardent Yankee "ragger" green with rage. They waltzed, schottisched, and romped through the Lancers, etc. till supper, which was in charge of "Jimmy" Bruce, "Wag" Gornell and "Jerry" Moore, and comprised ham sandwiches, biscuits and coffee. No need to remark on the appetites. The flowing bowl was much in evidence throughout the evening, and gaiety held sway. Melody was provided by D Coy's Quartette Party, S.M. Bertuch, Sgt. Harris and others, while L.-Cpl. Reg. Berndt tickled the ivories in great style. The following ladies were present:—Mmes. E. A. Vast, G. H. Delaforte, A. Darrat, B. Quiret, H. Surville, A. Loyer, H. Robillard, A. Quiret, T. Quiret, E. Raymond, A. Defaris.

## A Presentation.

To the Editor,

Sir.—Reading in your issue of 15th November that Sgt. Ramsdale and his party were sadly in need of a piano the undersigned hasten to fill the want.

Kindly present as publicly as possible. Wishing you and all the diggers a bonza time in France and Germany, a happy holiday with their best cobbles in good old England, and a speedy and safe return to the "Land of the Wattle."

From yours truly,

Belcher, Mums, Auntie Lill and Cynthia  
35 Market Place, Warminster.

You will be glad to hear on Armistice day the boys round here behaved (as always) like gentlemen, and caused no trouble or disturbance.

[The piano will be presented during the Christmas festivities.]

## Soccer.

The return match against the 24th Battalion was played at Vaux. The game was slow at the commencement, and soon after kicking off a long, low shot from the boot of Seers scored for the 23rd. At half time the score was—23rd, 1gl.; 24th, nil. At the change over 24th tried hard to equalise matters, and eventually, after some hot work in front of the home goal, a fast corner shot beat our custodian. Scores evened, the visiting team made a bold bid for victory, but our defence was too good, and the game ended in a draw. S.M. Cameron acted as custodian and played a beneficial game for his side.

Sgt. Harry Lear is recovering from an attack of double pneumonia.



## Generalities.

The Battalion, as part of the Sixth Brigade, was reviewed by King George during the stay at Boulogne. One or two of the officers and sergeants had the honor of a handshake with the crowned head of the Empire.

Serg. F. Jacobs is convalescing at No. 1 camp, Havre. Q.M. Lorimer and Sgt. McDonald have passed through the base.

If rumor speaketh correctly we will have the choice of 16 concert parties in our next area. They will all carry on.

There won't be an epidemic in the battalion if M.O. Capt. Daniels can help it. His first study is its health.

Lieut. Bastow has returned to his old love, the 23rd.

At Vaux we had the privilege of hearing the Div. Concert Party. "The Dinkum Diamonds," under Capt. Potts are good, and with the introduction of new items will be hard to equal. We are expectant.

The following cable has been received through the London Branch of the E.S. and A. Bank:—"6th Infantry Brigade Depot sends hearty congratulations and God speed home again,"

Pte. Jack Mansfield has reached the land where beaucoup wheat is stored.

## Our V.C.

Following message has been received—  
"His Majesty the King has approved of the award of the Victoria Cross to Pte. Mactier, 23rd Bn., and Sgt. A. D. Lowerson, 21st Bn. Please convey Army Corps, Divisional and Brigade Commanders' congratulations."

[Full reference will be made to above in next issue.]

## Hospital Notes.

Col. Brazenor is with us again. Almost recovered, and we are glad.

Lieut. Kirkwood is reported as very seriously ill. Regrets.

Bandsman Ferguson was evacuated while on leave, with illness.

Pte. Hudson has also gone to hospital.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Ptes. M. Dawson and L. Trevena.

## Hidden Treasure.

A curious spectacle was witnessed recently when a number of French people dug up a large safe which had been buried by the thoughtful village Mayor, prior to occupation by the Huns. It contained the people's securities and other private valuable papers resting securely six inches under the surface of terra firma, alongside what was a Bosche officer's billet.

## Socks.

Fram shop to shop we chase for wool  
To make your knitted hose,  
Then use one color for the leg,  
Another for the toes.  
But black or white, or green or red,  
Whate'er its color be,  
The love we put into our work  
Is boundless as the sea.  
We chase the wool, you chase the Huns  
And each of us gets there,  
Australian grit and knitted socks  
Will stand the hardest wear.

—M.L., Manly.



The skies that arched his land were blue,  
His bush-born winds were warm and  
sweet,

And yet from earliest hours he knew  
The tides of victory and defeat;  
From fierce floods thundering at his  
birth,

From red droughts ravening while he  
played,

He learned to fear no foes on earth—  
"The bravest thing God ever made."

The bugles of the Motherland  
Rang ceaselessly across the sea,  
To call him and his lean brown hand  
To shape Imperial destiny :

He went, by youth's grave purpose willed,  
The goal unknown, the cost unweighed

The promise of his blood fulfilled—  
"The bravest thing God ever made!"

We know—it is our deathless pride!  
The splendour of his first fierce blow;  
How, reckless, glorious, undenied,  
He stormed those steel-lined cliffs we  
know!

And none who saw him scale the height  
Behind his reeking bayonet-blade  
Would rob him of his title right—  
"The bravest thing God ever made!"

Bravest, where half a world of men  
Are brave beyond all earth's rewards,  
So stoutly none shall charge again  
Till the last breaking of the swords;  
Wounded or hale, won home from war,  
Or yonder by the Lone Pine laid,  
Give him his due for evermore—  
"The bravest thing God ever made!"

W.H.O. in "London Punch."

[Judging by the numerous requests made for publication of the above tribute,  
it has not been generally read by our fellows, so we accede to the request.  
Ed.]

You have weathered the storm of war. Let the home folk know.



app. No 18

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
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COMMANDING OFFICER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1918.

GENERAL.-

During the early portion of the Month the Battalion was at BOULOGNE-sur-HELPE.  
Weather for the most part was wet and little drill could be done.  
During this period much Salvage Work was done in the Area and the material collected and put into Central Dumps.  
On the 17th December, 1918, the move forward was commenced. Weather was very bad for marching, being Wet and Cold. Battalion was four days on the road to our present location, NALINNES-HAIES.  
BILLETS here are good and comfortable, although very scattered.  
The Inhabitants have been very good and have done their best to make us comfortable.  
All Companies have held their Christmas Dinners which have gone off very well. The local Brewer kindly loaned a room in the Brasserie to hold the Dinners in.  
Since arrival here Coys. have been employed on Syllabus Work and Recreation.  
On the 1st of the Month the Battalion was inspected by His Majesty the King, and on the 24th by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

CLOTHING.-

Clothing is in better repair, much new clothing having been received. Could still do with more.

BOOTS.-

During early part of the Month there was a great difficulty in getting leather for repairs. This has now been remedied.

RATIONS.-

Have been up to standard. On several occasions since arrival here delivery has been very late.  
On Christmas Day men had to go without Breakfast on account of the late arrival of the Rations.

TRANSPORT.-

All in good working order.  
Transport Vehicles have been kept much on the Roads doing work for Civilians, etc.

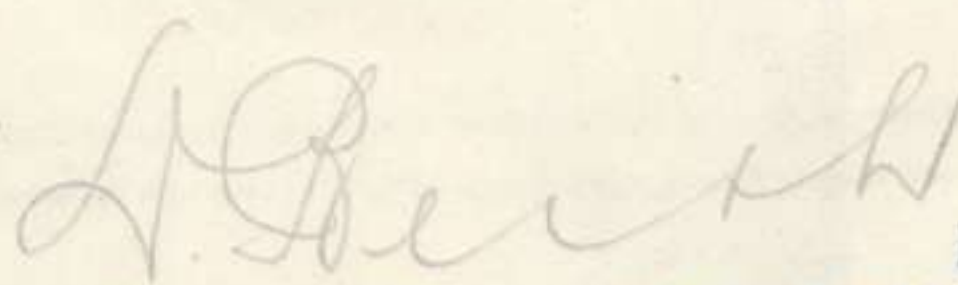
1915 MEN.-

First batch of men who left with the Battalion, left for home during the Month.

C.O.-

Lt.-Col. W. BRAZENOR D.S.O. again evacuated Sick during the Month.

-----oOo-----

  
Major.  
T/Commanding. 23rd Battalion.

31st December. 1918.



MOVEMENTS OF OFFICERS

Taken on Strength

2nd. Lieut.	F. M. Dale	from Cadet Bn. (Rfts.)	27.11.18.
Lieut.	A. Bastow	rjd. from Sec. 6th Bde. Gas Officer	2.12.18.
"	J.C. Robertson	rjd. from Aust. Corps School	29.12.18.

Taken off Strength

Lieut. Col.	W.K.S. Mackenzie DSO.	Gen. List attached.
"	W. Brazenor DSO.	Returned to Aust. 11.12.18.
Lieut.	W.O. Summers MC	To Hosp. sick 14.12.18.
Captain.	L.G. Addison MC	Accidentally Killed 28.12.18.
Lieut.	J.C. Robertson MC	To Hosp. sick 28.12.18.
		Attached 6th A.L.T.M.B. 29.12.18.

Promotions

Promoted Lieutenants Dated 21.11.18.

2nd. Lieut.	P. L. J. Foley
"	A. P. Burke M.M.
"	V. Dixon DCM MM
"	A. D. Glendenning
"	A. F. H. Gabriel MM

Appointment

Lieut. O.M. Elliott MC appointed Adj. 19.10.18.

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"



Appo. No. 20

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
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TRANSPORT OFFICER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER. 1918

On the 17th December, 1918, at 9 a.m., the Transport moved from BOULOGNE and arrived at SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 2 p.m., a distance of 18 kilometres.

On the 18th December, 1918, at 9 a.m., the Transport moved from SOLRE LE CHATEAU to RENLIES arriving there at 1.30 p.m., a distance of 15 kilometres.

On the 19th December, 1918, at 9 a.m., the Transport moved from RENLIES to WALCOURT arriving there at 1.30 p.m. and left the following Morning (20th) at 9 a.m. for NALINNES-HAIES, the final destination, and arrived about 11.30 a.m., a distance of 9 kilometres.

During the Month the Transport were kept busy carting COAL for Civilians - 4 G.S. Wagons and 6 Limbers being supplied for this purpose - The carting of this Coal involved a trip of some 40 kilometres.

During the Month 173 Limbers and 41 G.S. Wagons were put on the road for Battalion Work.

Till the 17th December, 1918, the Transport fared well for Fodder in the BOULOGNE AREA, there being a quantity of German Hay and good grazing; there was also an issue of bran of two pounds a week per horse.

A marked improvement had taken place in the condition of the Horses, but since coming to this Area the condition of the Horses and Mules has fallen away considerably, there being no grazing and on account of the extra work entailed by the Christmas Dinners and Rations being drawn by 1st Line Transport, involving long distances being traversed.

Five & (5) men from the Transport Personnel have been withdrawn for Courses in Workshops and one (1) 1915 man has been returned to Australia on Furlough. These men have been replaced by fresh men from the Battalion.

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31st December. 1918.

*M. J. L. L.* Lieut.  
Transport Officer. 23rd Battalion.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

QUARTERMASTER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1918.

The early part of the Month was spent at ROUGE CROIX and Rations were drawn from BOULOGNE-sur-HELPE: Ordnance was situated at CARTIGNIES.

On the 17th December, 1918, the Battalion moved off by road to SOLRE-le-CHATEAU; an early move the next Morning brought us to RENLIES: thence on to WALCOURT; from here we reached our destination - NALINNES-HAIES - on the 20th December.

Seven General Service Wagons were used to carry the Rations, Blankets, etc. These wagons proved most useful as we were able to allot one wagon to each of the five Companies for the carriage of Blankets and Valises which meant that the wagons could follow the Companies into the Company Billets as soon as the Billeting Area was reached, and men could settle down and get their wet clothes dried much more quickly than usual. Three of these wagons were attached from the S.A.A. Section of the 2nd D.A.C. and the Drivers proved to be most willing to do any work that was allotted to them.

The Billets at NALINNES-HAIES are very good and comfortable, although scattered.

The Ration Refilling Point is situated at THY-le-CHATEAU, a distance of eight kilometres from here. The place is far from central and it is hard to realise why this village was fixed on as a Refilling Point.

Rations have been very irregular in delivery and on several occasions have been received too late for Breakfast.

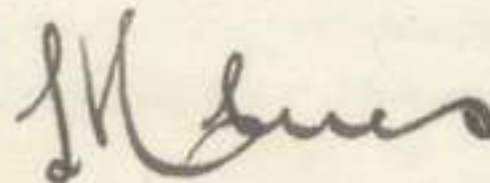
With the exception of shortage of Vegetables, Rations have been GOOD and as we have been able to purchase supplies this shortage has not been felt to any extent.

Ordnance is situated at No. 494 Rue de Beaumont, MARCINELLE, and occasionally the Lorry brings a load of goods to NALINNES. BOOTS have been difficult to obtain, especially in small sizes. Since coming to the present Billets a good supply of Repair Material has been received and the Boots have been brought up to fair condition.

With a view to Demobilization, Indents have been lodged to make up all shortages in the Mobilization Store Table.

Within the last few days an extra Blanket per man has been issued, making the issue of three blankets per man.

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Captain.

31st December, 1918.

Quartermaster. 23rd Battalion.



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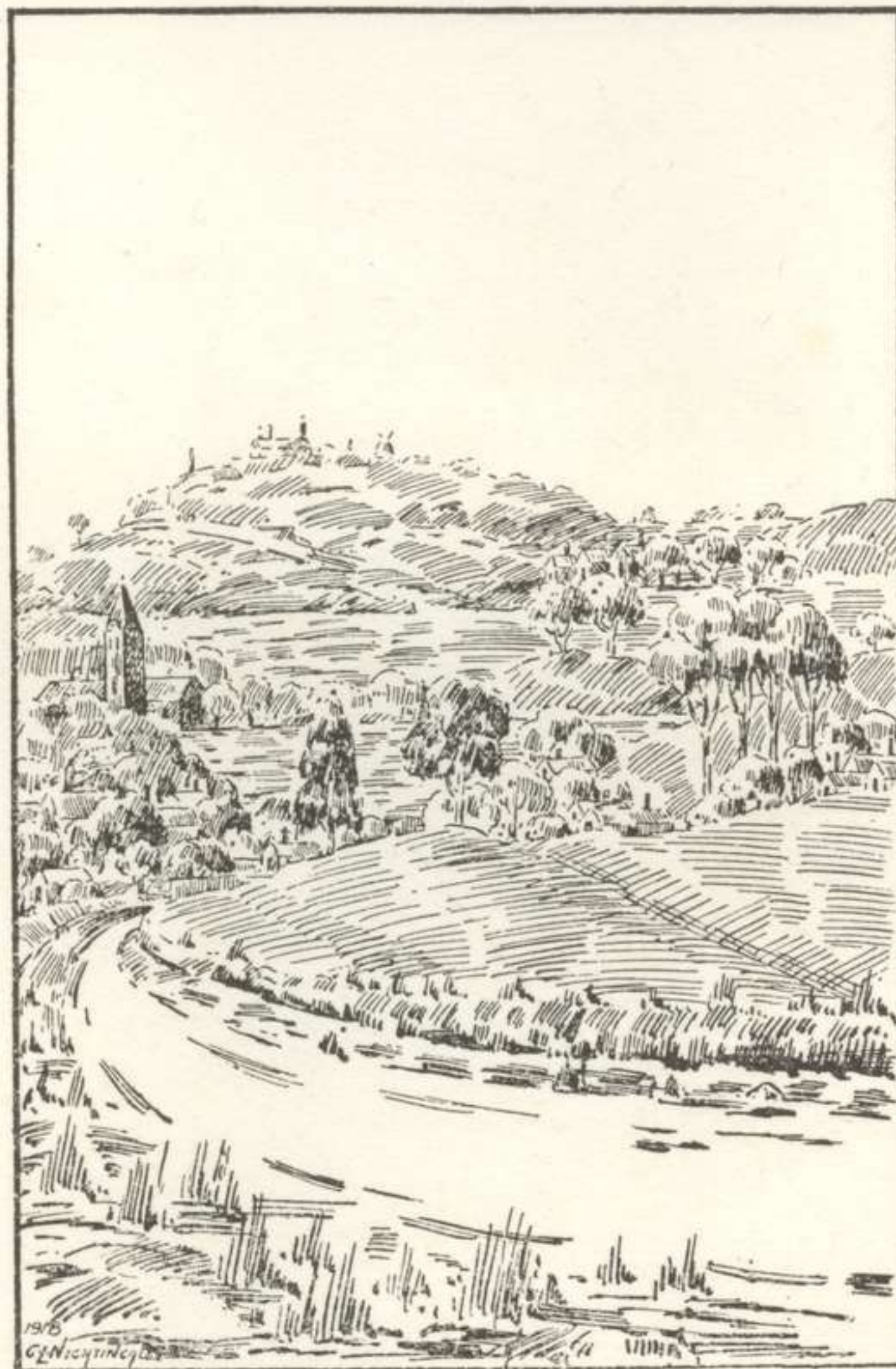


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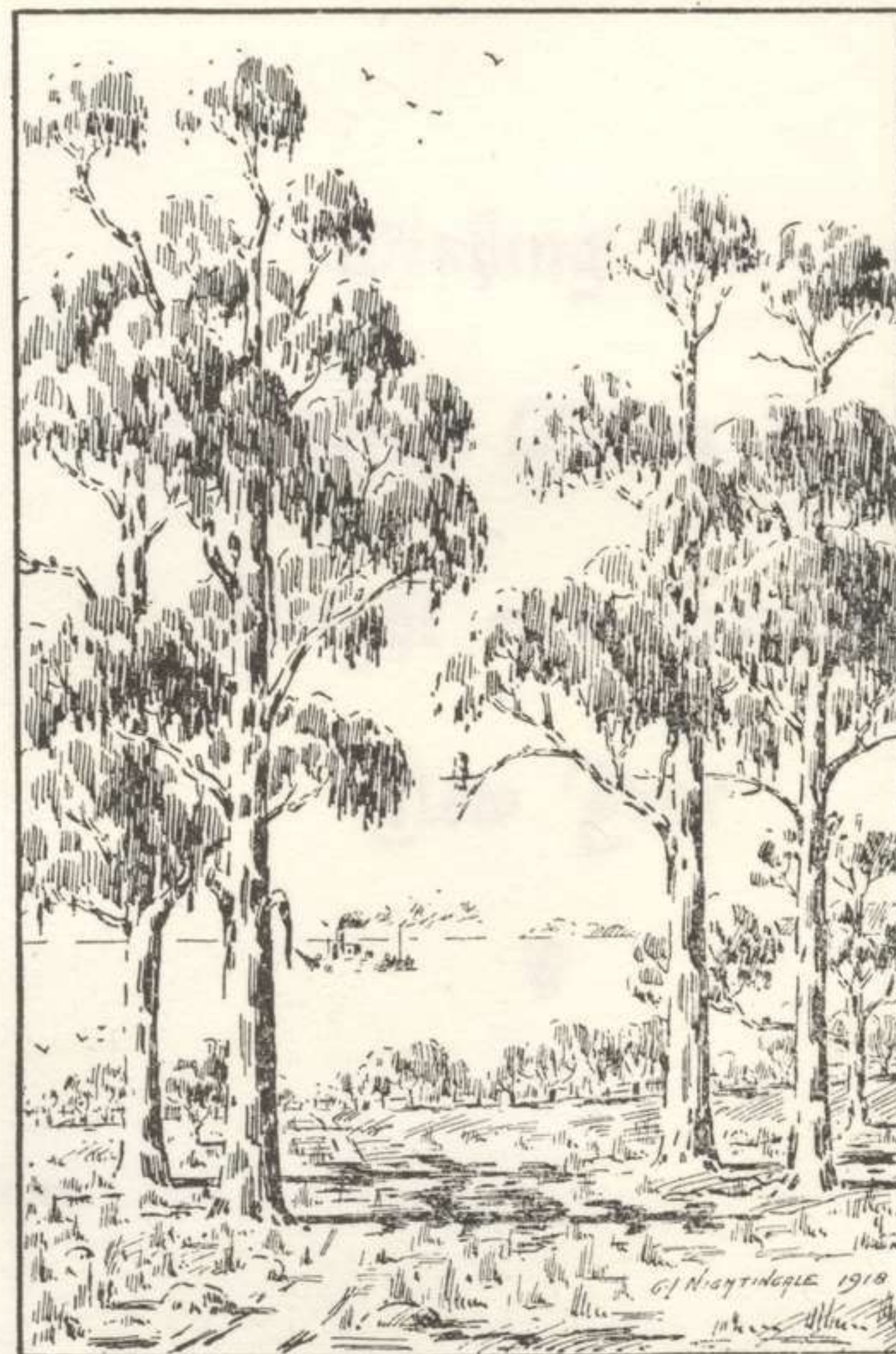




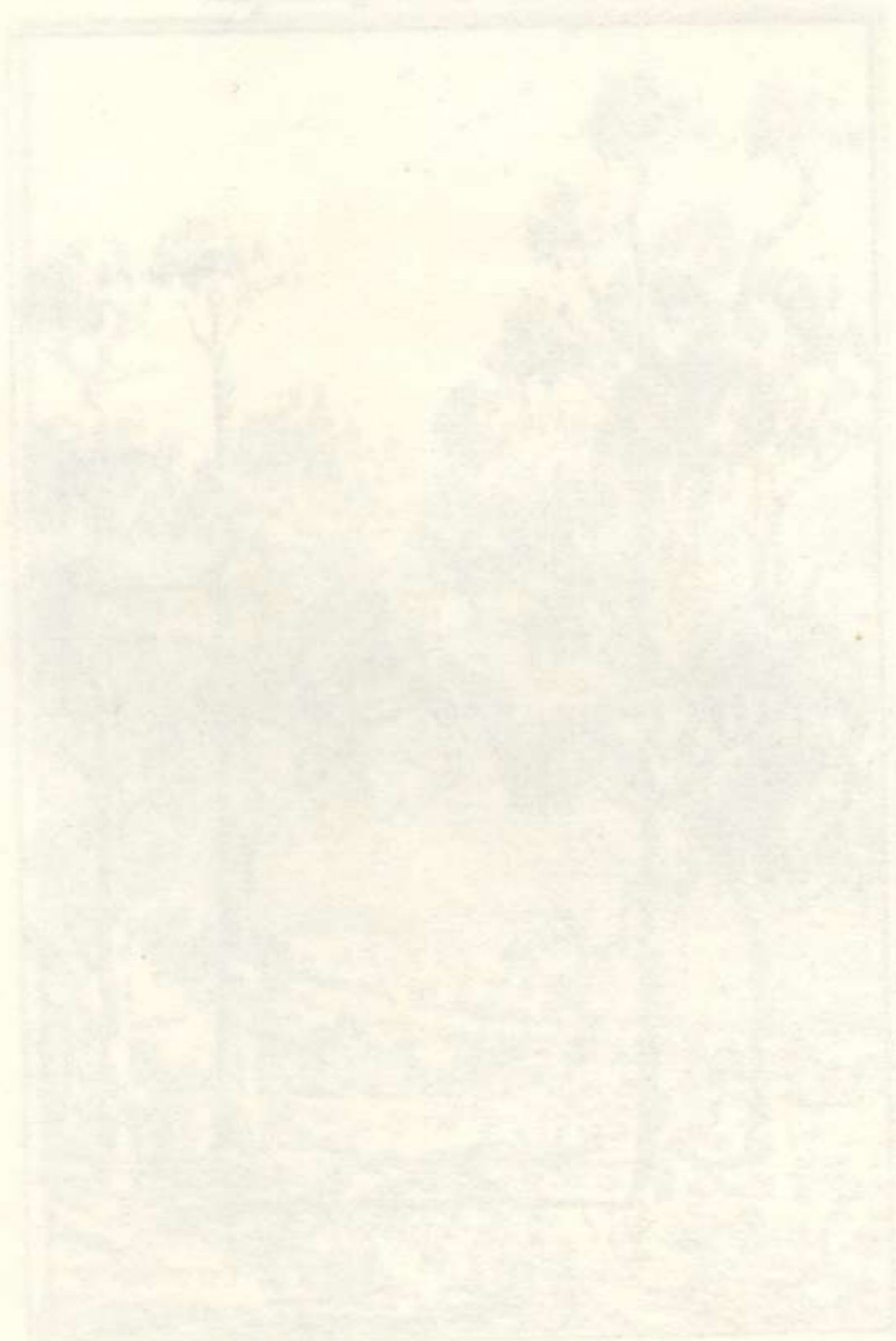
Mont de Cats, FRANCE



Eastern Park, Geelong, AUSTRALIA







Wishing you  
A Merry Xmas and a  
Bright and Happy  
New Year  
✠

From .....

To .....

France,  
Xmas, 1918.

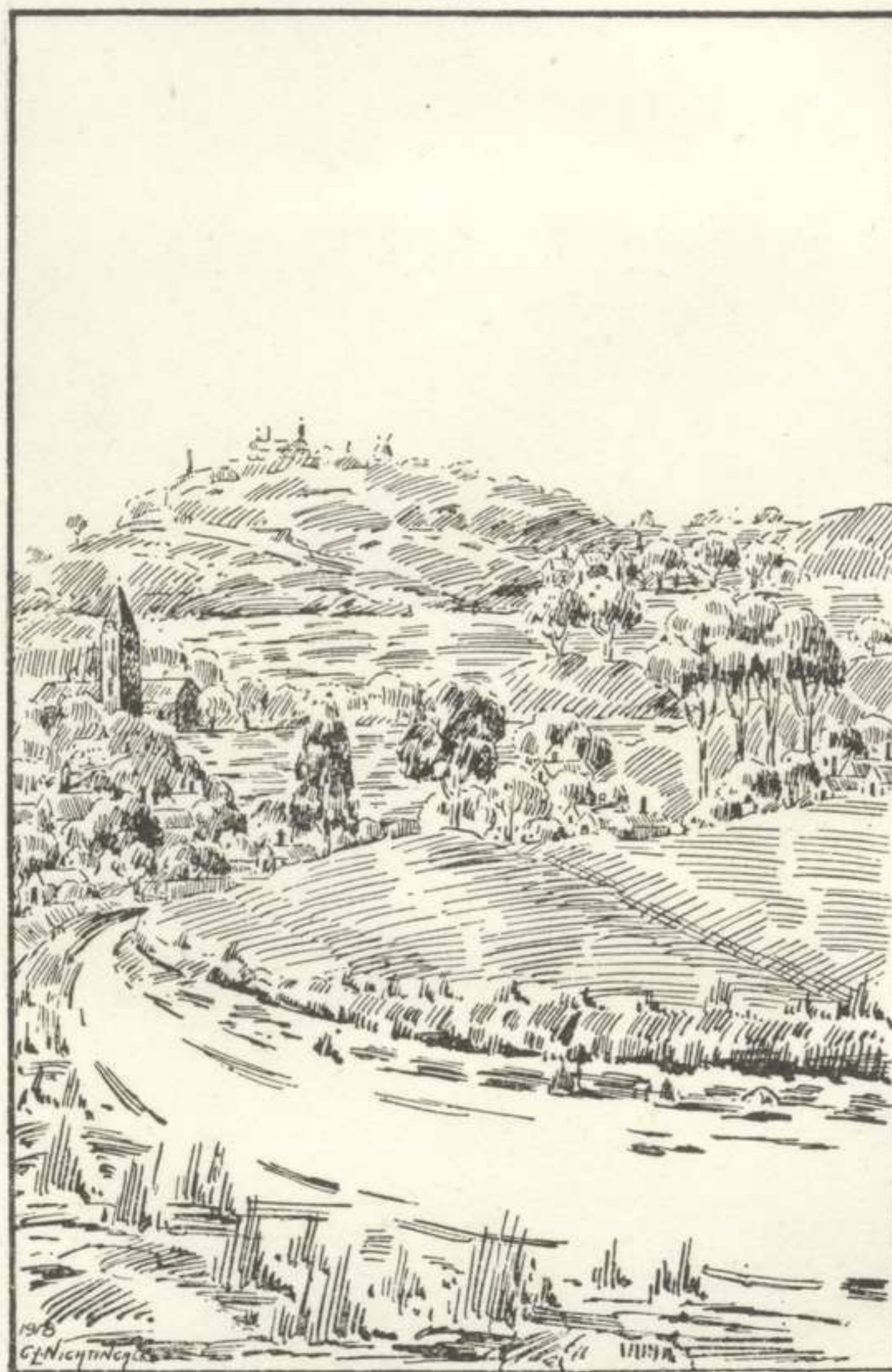


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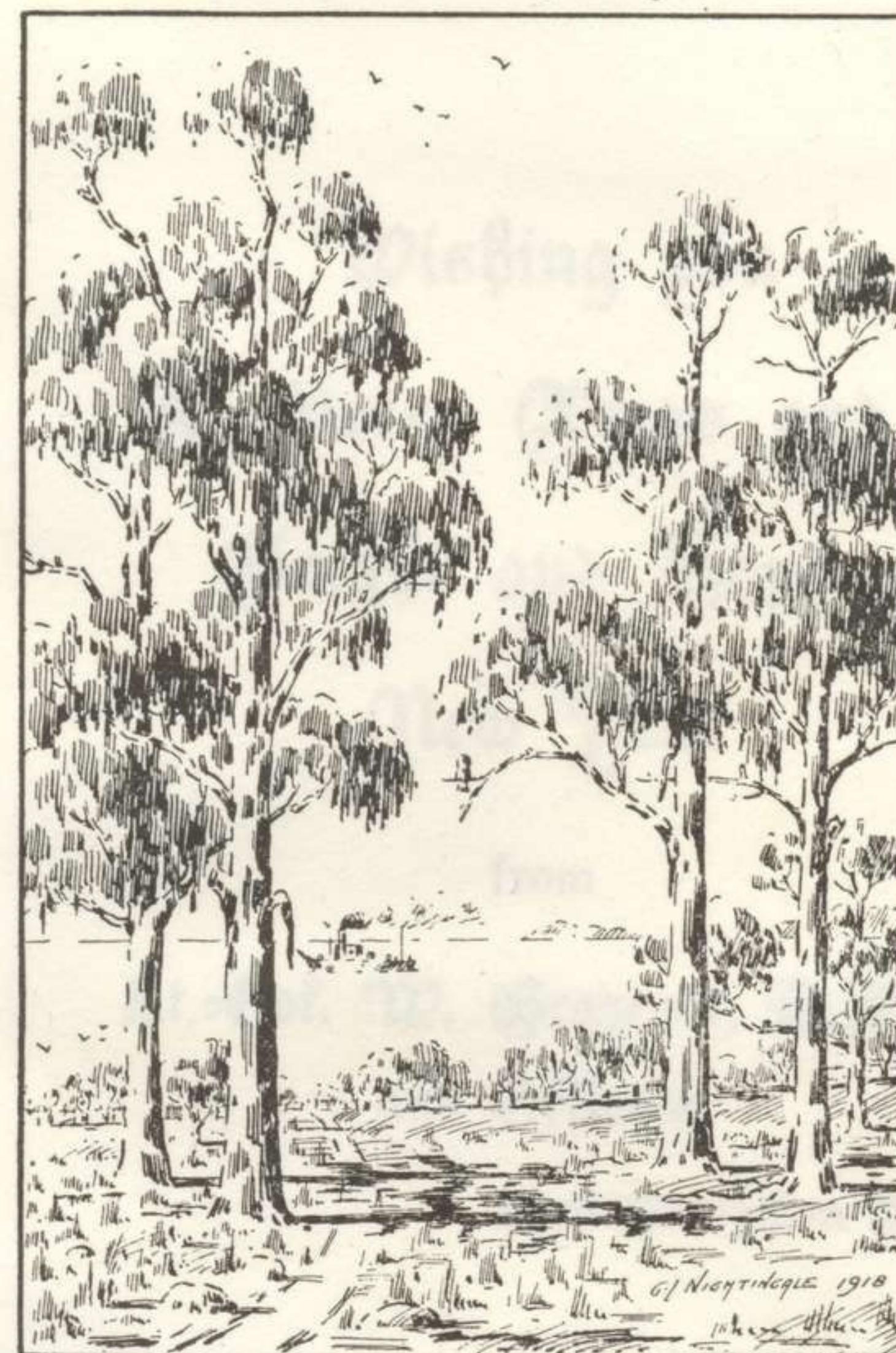




Mont de Cats, FRANCE



Eastern Park, Geelong, AUSTRALIA







Wishing you  
A Merry Xmas and a  
Bright and Happy  
New Year

from

Lt.-Col. W. Brazenor, D.S.O.  
and Officers,

23rd Battalion A.I.F.,  
France.

Xmas, 1918.

To .....