

**Duplicated "Summary of information", 2nd Cavalry Division news-sheet, Christmas 1914, including an account of the Division's activities, Aug-Dec 1914, in France**

**Publication/Creation**

1914

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
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R.A. Musgrave

18380 Staff Sgt. Musgrave R.A.M.C.

Summary of Information  
2nd Cavalry Division.



"Do it? Yes we'll do it. What is it?"

Christmas Number. 1914.

To Col Tennessi  
Kooch Barrack  
July 28

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

\*\*\*\*\*

The undermentioned officers have been awarded the D.S.O. while serving with the 2nd Cavalry Division.

Major H.M. Durand, 9th Lancers,  
Brigade Major, 4th Cavalry Brigade.

Major A.S. Farman, R.H.A.

Capt. The Hon. E.S. Wyndham, 1st Life Guards.

Capt. J.S. Dunne, R.A.M.C.

Capt. J.K. McConnell, 20th Hussars.

2nd Lieut. D. Osmond-Williams, R. Scots Greys.

2nd Lieut. L.H.E. Dent, 6th Dragoon Guards,  
(Special Reserve).

2nd Lieut. C.J. Aris, 16th Lancers.

\*\*\*\*\*

The undermentioned Non-commissioned officers and men have been awarded the D.C.M. while serving with the 2nd Cavalry Division:-

No. 5752 Sergeant C. Graham, 5th Lancers.

No. 2613 L/Corpl. H. Tingey, 2nd Life Guards.

No. 8390 Corpl. Dowstead, 4th Hussars.

No. 6555 Private Stanford, 4th Hussars.

No. 5045 Par. Sergt. Glasgow, 13th Lancers.

No. 836 L/Corpl. Boyton, 13th Lancers.

No. 3243 Private Moston, 3th Dragoon Guards.

No. 3999 S. S. M. Wright, 6th Dragoon Guards.

No. 4056 A/Sergt. Tp. G. A. Stone, 12th Lancers.

No. 1740 Private G. Simpkins, 12th Lancers.

No. 4991 Sergeant H. E. Nash, 20th Hussars.

No. 9829 Private J. B. A. Bennett, 20th Hussars.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION.  
Noon, December 32nd.  
\*\*\*\*\*

1. No change given along the British Front.
2. Things are looking dark in the Indian Corps.
3. Between WARNETON and BASSEE WARNETON the River LIS was found bending.  
Between WITSCHAEDE and the MENIN Road 300 of the enemy's shells were counted in two minutes. Of these exactly 649 failed to explode.
4. Aviators Reports -
  - (a) At 8 a.m. near HOLLEBIE several small parties of the enemy were observed going to the rear.
  - (b) There was apparently much movement in this locality.
  - (c) At 8-50 a.m. a small body of cavalry or infantry or traction engines or camels (take your choice) were seen moving S.E. towards LILLE.
5. It may be of interest that a man of the 8th Bavarian Regt. was captured today near WITSCHAEDE without a diary upon him.
6. Russia.

The following official communiqué has been received from General Headquarters.

There is LOEZ of news from the Eastern Area.

Near SKIEMTVICE the enemy has been driven back about ten miles in the direction of WARSAW.

In other districts along the front the counter attacks of our troops have met with an equally favourable result.

On the VISTULA 5,000,000 prisoners and 2,500,000 guns have been taken. This has inflicted appreciable loss on the enemy.

8. General News.

The Germans have been shelling nuts on the front at SCARBORO'.

It is stated that five Dreadnoughts and ten cruisers took part in these operations, but on being engaged by the local fire brigade, they promptly took to flight.

9. Much excitement has been caused in England by the news that the Tottenham Wanspurs have beaten the Blackburn Dent-revers by two goals to one.

EXTRACTS FROM ROUTINE ORDERS.

1. KNAS ISSUES. Coats, British warm lined to knees. Mounted services not issued with coats lined fur. R.A., R.I., A.S.C., and Infantry transport horses taps  $\frac{3}{8}$ " 25 % taps  $\frac{3}{8}$ " 75 % wrenches 120 % Wrenches are suitable for either size of gogs to shoes horse size 1-7 inclusive holes to be tapped to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " pitch and in all other sizes to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " pitch. (The above has apparently been written in cypher to avoid giving away valuable information to the enemy). A prize of shirts khaki officers one will be given for the best translation.
2. WASTE PAPER. All copies of orders should be carefully burnt. They are not to be used for any other purpose. This includes Corps Orders.
3. CORRESPONDENCE. A large number of unauthorised enquiries are constantly being made at the A.P.M.'s Office which seriously interfere with that Officer's legitimate leisure. The following answers are published in order to save repetitions:-
- GENERAL STAFF, III CORPS. We are sorry we cannot publish your poem about General's Foch and Von Kluck - The rhyming is none too accurate.
- ESQUIRER. The 1st. Cavalry Division was not formed till July, 1st. Your estimate is three months too early. As far as we can discover, none of its Staff were home on the date you mention.
- ANXIOUS WIFE, No. It was the A.D.C. who refused the lady's offer (or says he did).
- SCARLET LAZARUS. Your limericks are the limit - Try the Winning Post.
- INVALIDED SOLDIER. The A.D.M.S. does not recommend SOARBOROUGH as a health resort.
- RETIRED OFFICER. You are quite wrong. The War Establishment of a battery, R.A.A. does not include 4 majors.
- JUDGE ADVOCATE. As usual you are wrong. The award of a D.C.M. is not always a punishment, it is sometimes a distinction.
- ABBT MARIA. The Principal Chaplain of the 2nd. Cavalry Division is not the Priest.
- POSTAL. The permanent address of the Head-quarters 4th. Cavalry Brigade is "le plus beau chateau".
- NOTICE. In future Routine Orders will be published on perforated paper (This includes Corps Orders).
- LOST. By a Staff Captain:- One "A" echelon, one "B" echelon, one show jumping horse, one couple of beagles, one promotion, one mention in despatches. (The only thing this officer appears not to have lost is his temper - all the above have since been found except the promotion).
- LOST. A bay horse clipped all over except behind.
- WANTED. By the G.C.C. 2nd. Cavalry Division "A thin A.D.C."

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JOURNAL  
from the beginning of the War to the end of August  
1914.

The following brief Journal has been drawn up by way of helping us to remember the amount of country we have passed over in the campaign, the number of engagements and operations undertaken, and to make a little clearer the work of all our cavalry in co-operation with the manoeuvres of the Army.

By Aug. 20th. the 5th. Cavalry Brigade had all detrained and occupied billets W. and S.E. of LAURENCE.

Aug. 21st. The whole 5th. Cavalry Brigade advanced N., the 3rd. Brigade receiving orders to act as right flank guard although the 5th. Brigade also was moving on this flank. As we were getting into the billets directed by Divisional Orders, all Brigades received orders to push on the line of the MOHS-CHARLEROI Canal.

The outpost line was held by the 2nd. Brigade East of MOHS, then the 3rd. Brigade and finally the 5th. Brigade, with its right thrown back on the line PERONNES - BILCHE - BUVRENNES.

Aug. 22nd. During the morning various patrols, sent out merely for the immediate protection and information of the outpost Brigades came in touch with hostile cavalry patrols. Soon after mid-day a strong hostile advanced guard of all arms, advancing along the main road from NIVELLE, attacked the squadron of the Greys holding PERONNES. This squadron skilfully posted held on with great calmness for 2 or 3 hours inflicting heavy loss on the enemy, although the enemy at once brought his guns into action against the village. Hostile artillery also opened on the 3rd. Brigade, but no attempt was made by the enemy to advance beyond PERONNES.

About 8. p.m. orders were issued moving the whole Cavalry Division, less the 5th. Brigade, from the right of the British Army to the left. This necessitated a night march of some 22 miles or more continuously through the streets of the suburbs of MOHS. Most regiments did not get into their billets till after 2. a.m. and coming immediately on top of 14 hours under the saddle during the day, it was particularly trying to men and horses.

The 5th. Brigade was now detached from the Cavalry Division and attached to the 1st. Corps. It billeted that night at HAMECHIN.

Aug. 23rd. Most of the Cavalry Division remained in their billets as indeed was rather necessary after the previous days operations. No distant reconnaissances seem to have been sent out to the N. and N.W. previous to this day and now it was too late, as the German columns already were in touch with our outpost line along the CORDE - MOHS Canal.

The 4th. Brigade sent a troop of the Carbiniers to hold one of the bridges (at lock 5) and this troop, though heavily shelled, repulsed an attack of some 500 German infantry, inflicting heavy loss on them, and held the bridge till relieved by our infantry. Late in the evening, the 4th. Brigade was moved some 3 miles further back - S.W. - into billets at SAULTAIN. Their diary does not bring out the reason for this move. Meanwhile the 5th. Brigade remained with the 1st. Corps, but were not engaged and retired to billets near BAVAI, some 14 miles S.W. of their previous night's billets.

Aug. 24th. The Battle of MOHS.

Little is known at present, even if there was space to relate it, of the movements of the 4 Divisions composing the Army on this day, but apparently the Army was expected to retire, and the 1st. Corps, covered by the 5th. Brigade acting as rear-guard, did successfully retire. The 5th. Brigade was heavily shelled and the enemy was seen moving round its flanks, but it kept back any serious attack and retiring some 12 miles during the day it went into billets at HARGNIES (5 miles W. of HAUBEUGE).

Meanwhile a heavy attack fell on the 2nd. Division of the IInd. Corps who seemed to have hesitated about withdrawing.

The 1st. 2nd. and 3rd. Brigades of the Cavalry Division were massed on the left flank of the 5th. Division, W. of BLOUGES. The 29th. Infantry Brigade which seems to have been scattered on a sort of outpost line along the frontier, N.E. of VARENGNIENNES, came in to concentrate with the Cavalry Division; the men being most exhausted after a long march in great heat.

The 4th. Brigade was kept at SEBOURG, about 8 miles off as a reserve.

After some indiscriminate shelling by the enemy the Cavalry Division was withdrawn S.W. but after about an hour the G.O.C. brought it back again to support the 5th. Division who were heavily engaged against superior numbers and were endeavouring to withdraw.

The 2nd. Brigade was ordered to re-cross the stream at AUDRECHIES and take foot on the plateau on which the Division had stood all the morning. The 3rd. Brigade was ordered to cross on its right. At this moment a sharp rifle fire broke out on the left of the 2nd. Brigade (to the R.) and lines of hostile infantry were seen advancing out of QUEVRAIN. It seems that this village had not been held nor reconnaissances kept permanently out towards CORDE to the N. and the N.E. The result was this surprise.

The 3rd. Cavalry Brigade was rapidly moved N.W. in order to attack QUEVRAIN and take the hostile infantry in flank. The enemy were already deploying to the West of the village as well as on the other side of it whence they were advancing on AUDRECHIES. The 3rd. Brigade well supported by 4 guns of "E" Battery, R.H.A. had a sharp fight here, acting dismounted and always endeavouring to outflank the enemy's right. Our machine guns were most useful in this fight, and one way and another the Brigade was able to paralyse any further hostile advance, losing about 50 officers and men, most of which loss fell on the 4th. Hussars.

Meanwhile the 3rd. Brigade charged the enemy directly against our front, but as the ground was covered with wire fences, and the enemy had some 50 guns in action in this part of the field, the attack did not succeed in reaching the enemy, and the survivors fell back and rallied as best they could. This did not prevent some of the survivors, however, showing the utmost gallantry. Some of the 9th. Lancers lay out in the open under heavy fire and helped in man-handling back to cover some of our exposed guns.

The 3rd. and 1st. Brigades now fell back under some difficulties and confusion through some very boggy woods and eventually took up a position for the night with the 4th. Brigade and the 18th. Infantry Brigade - the left at SAULTAIN (4th. Brigade) near VALMORCHIES and the right at WARGIES LE GRAND (3rd. Brigade).

Aug. 25th. At 5.30. a.m. the 3rd. and 4th. Brigades were concentrated between PRESEAU and MARSCHEES, the 3th. Dragoon Guards remaining on the line SAULTAIN - CURGIES in touch with small bodies of the enemy.

The task of the Division was to cover the retirement of the IInd. CORPS from N.W. and N. The Division crossed the railway at AMIES and manoeuvred towards HASPRES and SOMMES always carefully concentrated. The enemy's infantry and cavalry kept at a respectful distance, but their artillery was very active and with the help of aeroplanes succeeded in following its movements with an accurate shell fire. On nearing SOMMES all roads through the villages were found to be blocked by our artillery and ammunition columns who were also subjected to heavy shell fire. A report came in that the enemy's cavalry were threatening a serious attack from the W. and the 4th. Brigade galloped to that flank only to find the ridges held by our infantry of the 4th. Division who had been brought up by rail. The 3rd. Brigade moved East of the town and got in touch with another hostile column. That night the 3rd. Brigade billeted at CATILLON and the 4th. after spending a few hours by the road side near VIESSE moved to TINCHE where it arrived at 4.30. a.m. and then continued its march to LIGHT to join Divisional Head-quarters. On this day the 5th. Brigade held a rear-guard position W. of NEUF MESNIL and afterwards withdrew to TAISHIERS where it arrived about midnight.

Aug. 26th. BATTLE OF LE CATEAU

As a result of the confusion which ended the previous day's work, the 3rd. Brigade had got separated from the Cavalry Division and as events turned out, was never to return. It had got into billets very late in CATILLON. About 3. a.m. on receipt of orders from Cavalry Division to concentrate at LIGHT the Brigade moved West. Just as the Brigade was passing S. of LE CATEAU, the morning being very misty, firing was heard close at hand. It was necessary at once to take up some position and get out of the narrow lanes. Here the Brigade fought for some time and aided by the guns of "D" Battery R.H.A. it assisted some of our infantry to get away and to withdraw West towards the 5th. Division.

The Brigade then moved closer in to the 5th Division and assisted in covering its right, till this Division was forced to retire. The Brigade eventually retired shortly before dark, and marched to MONTREHAIN, billeting with some of the 1st Brigade.

The 4th brigade was operating further westwards, where they covered the retirement of the 4th Division from the battlefield and did not reach billets about LEMPRES till 1 a.m.

Meanwhile the 1st Corps, after repulsing a fierce night attack in LANDRESCIES, was retiring this day, covered by the 5th Brigade, who were not seriously engaged and eventually went into billets at HANWAPPES - 12 miles S. of LANDRESCIES.

Aug. 27th. From this day onwards the 3 Brigades continued to cover the retreat of the Army but operated on separate lines.

3rd Bde. Moved out of MONTREHAIN at 1 a.m. had marched some 8 miles by daylight - it halted at MOMBLESIES for 3 hours under cover of outposts. Touch was gained with British troops and supplies at St. QUENTIN. The Brigade moved to St. QUENTIN and drew supplies and eventually went into billets at TRANCOURT and URVILLEERS.

4th Brigade Moved out of LEMPRIERE at 3-30 a.m. to a position of readiness at GILLEMONT fm. which squadron pushed out towards N. and N.E. Here it covered the retirement of the 4th Division and gained touch with French Cavalry on its left. About noon the rear-guard became engaged with the enemy's advanced troops and fell back to the N. edge of LEMPRES village and some farms in the vicinity. The enemy developed a strong infantry attack supported by guns at close range and the Brigade was withdrawn to ROISEL. The enemy did not follow it up. From ROISEL the Brigade moved to LE MESSNIL where it was intended to billet, but on receipt of a report that a strong body of the enemy were in PEROMME the retreat was continued by night to ROUY LE GRAND where a halt was made from 5-30 a.m. till 11 a.m. on the 28th.

5th Brigade. Held a rear guard position S. of the FORET D'ANDIGNIES. Patrols only in action. Retired to MACQUIGHTY to billet. Outposts on line PROIX - NOYAL.

Aug. 28th.

3rd Brigade. The retirement was continued late in the morning towards FUSSEY. A position was taken up and held for some hours S. of ESSIGNY, which covered the retirement of some French Territorials which had been cut off N. of St. QUENTIN. Touch was obtained with the 5th Bde. near ORIZY and with the enemy N. of the Canal: the latter did not press the attack. The Bde. retired over the Canal leaving the 13th Lancers as outposts to hold canal bridge at FUSSEY, and got touch with Headquarters I Corps, and received orders from them - the first received since morning of the 26th.

4th Brigade. The brigade moved to and held the line MESSNIL - BETHESCOURT in the morning. The enemy did not make any serious attack. At 4-30 p.m. the Brigade retired to billets at GRESSY, very tired.

5th Brigade. Under orders of Brigadier General Horne as a flank guard on the right bank of OISE. Moved to HOY and ORIZY. After skirmishing with patrols two hostile squadrons advanced S. in mass to the E. of the St. QUENTIN road. They were engaged by one squadron dismounted and machine guns of the Greys and by one section of "J" Battery, R.H.A. The enemy dismounted on the forward slope and their horses stampeded. Subsequently part of the 13th Lancers attacked their left flank dismounted and the remainder of the regiment and the Greys charged them. About 70 dead and wounded were counted. Our guns firing high struck as we afterwards discovered the supporting troops in rear of the enemy who retreated in haste leaving a number of dead and wounded. There was probably a brigade of cavalry at least as well as some infantry.

A long march over the OISE to billets at SINCENT.

Aug. 29th.



Aug. 29th.

3rd Bde. The rear-guard engaged the enemy for some time in the early morning inflicting some losses and eventually withdrew in the afternoon across the OISE at CHAUNY into billets at PIERREMAUDE, the passage at CHAUNY being held by infantry of the 1st Corps. As it was thought that the Brigade was being pressed by the enemy, some of the 5th Brigade were sent to reinforce the 3rd Bde N. of CHAUNY, but returned to their own billets on finding all quiet.

4th Brigade. Moved to RAMBOURT with one squadron at FRENCHES.

5th Brigade. Moved out at midday to TERCHIER but did nothing. During the next few days we covered the rear and Eastern flanks of the 1st Corps, but without becoming seriously engaged.

Aug. 30th.

3rd Brigade. Brigade covered the left rear of 1st Corps in its retirement to the AISNE. The main body billeted N. of the AISNE at FORTENOY with 5th Lancers on outposts at ROUVRON - MARTYRS.

4th Brigade. Marched at 3 a.m. on CLAIRVOY in touch with the enemy's patrols. Billeted at MARGNY - 3rd Hussars holding outpost line just N. of Mt. CANELON.

5th Brigade. Covered the rear and Eastern flank of the 1st Corps but without being seriously engaged. Billeted at VAUXAILLON.

Aug. 31st.

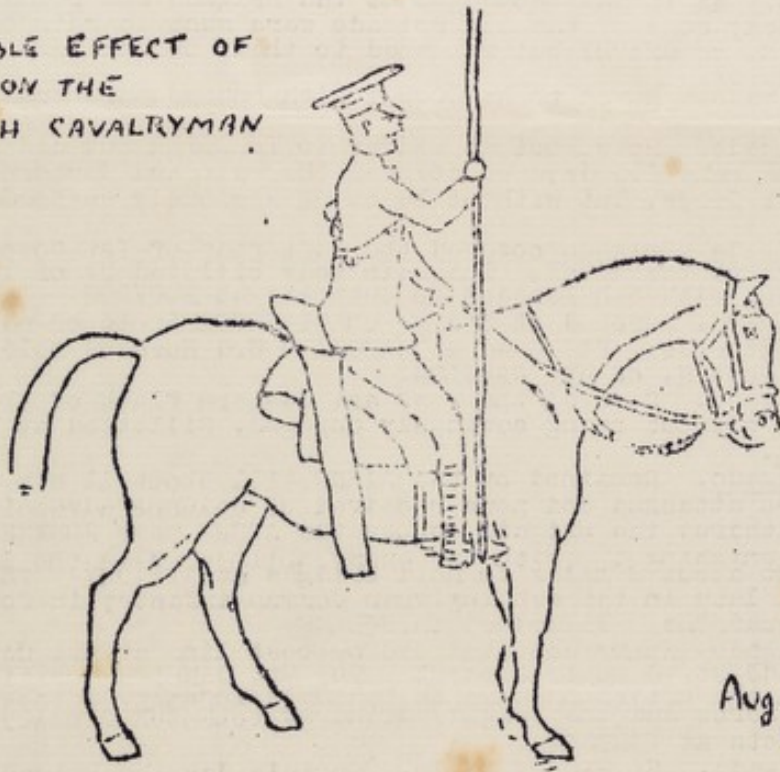
3rd Brigade. Remained on the AISNE till about 11 a.m. when outposts were attacked and news received of columns advancing on the left. Withdrew the Brigade across the AISNE near FORTENOY - Rear-guard skirmishing with the enemy and meanwhile the left was pushed out about 3 miles to hold bridges at ATTORY. These were held till late in the evening, when German infantry in force drove in our squadrons. Billeted in OELGES.

4th Brigade. Enemy attacked the outpost line at Mt. CANELON and Brigade moved up in support. The Mt. CANELON position was held till the afternoon when the enemy's infantry attack developed in force and the brigade withdrew to LAMPUX finally going into billets at VERBERIE.

5th Brigade. St. PIERRE Aigle. On this day the Brigade had a long halt on the AISNE. It was a very hot day and nearly everyone in the Brigade had a welcome bath.

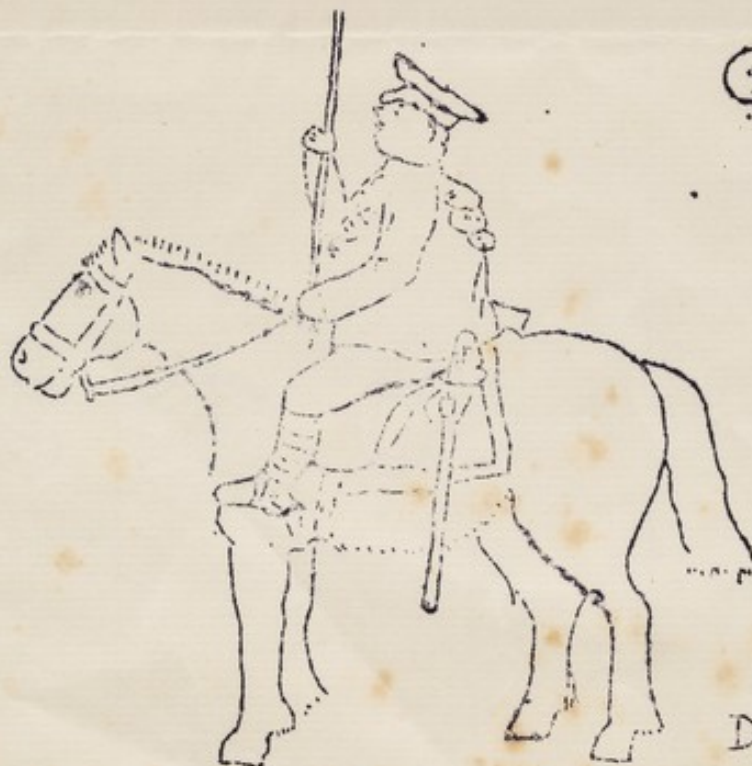
TERRIBLE EFFECT OF  
WAR ON THE  
BRITISH CAVALRYMAN

①



Aug. 1st.  
1914.

②



Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
1914.

The following letters have been intercepted by the Censor and are published with the usual disregard for regulations:-

I.  
COPY OF LETTER HOME.

Dear George,

I write this from the little town of --- which is on the beautiful river --- and as you know quite close to the wonderful town of ---. Life out here continues much the same, periods of intense boredom only broken by intervals of indescribable terror. As I write this from my comfortable billet in the Chateau of Quoi-pas - sorry I mean my somewhat flooded trench - we at the front always live in trenches - there is a slight lull as the Landwehr (so called because they wear out the land by sitting on it) are singing their latest "Song of State" having just received the news of the glorious victory of Scarborough. I am fairly warm as at present I am wearing a vest (Government issue) another vest (sent by Habel) a shirt (Govt.) another shirt (mother), a cardigan, cummerbund, serge, British warm, cloak, goat-skin jacket, and mackintosh. We have widened the trench considerably, as the Colonel got wedged in a narrow traverse yesterday morning between "A" and "B" squadrons, and the fog of war wasn't in it with the state of the air round when he'd finished his opinions on the Squadron Commanders. Thus though there may be more space to catch the elusive "obus" there is certainly more room for the bundles of clothing, which is about all you can call us, to pass up and down the trench. Cuthbert with his well known command of the German language, shouted across to them yesterday morning "Haben sie heard about Habel" and an anxious voice immediately replied "Himmel nod an der time" with such peroxysms of wit do we while away the long hours, also it gives the information bureau something to do put in its evening tissue of L-- I mean stories. I have just sent off my Xmas mail. I found with five bits of carbon I was able to get off six very suitable letters from your young here at the front with some facility, so that Aunts Georgina and Louisa and Uncles Reginald, Rupert and Roger to say nothing of Great Uncle Percival will each have a nice little carbon copy to themselves and if yours truly is not mentioned in the codicillo I'm no judge of form. I went off to -- yesterday to fetch Ordnance Stores. I had a fair day managing to collect all the 26th; Lancers shirts, and the whole divisional issue of rum. My Colonel says I deserve the V.C. and the Quarter-master says I bear a charmed life. There is not much news, the Allies are making steady progress - in the West towards Calais and in the East towards Warsaw. You have doubtless heard about Italy joining Austria (if not see map of Europe) and that there are thousands of Poles in England - keeping up the telegraph wires. They have just shouted "stew up" so I know you will understand. Give my love to Gertrude and tell her to be careful, and if you can sell the bay horse to the Govt. for 370 for an officers charger do I know he wont stand another season. Good bye old man.

Yours as ever,

PERCY de PLOEGSTEEBT,

2nd. Lt. (Special Reserve)

Our own Aristocratic Horse.

P.S. I hear the Germans, when they heard of the formation of a Corps of Fantoms in London, began to train all the hens in Belgium to look fascinating, they then intend to put these on the parapets of the trenches opposite them - Cook-a-doodle-doo.

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II

From Baboo Moti Lal, attached to the 155th Sikhs.  
To his late Master in India.

Honoured Sir,

Humble deponent abjectly beseeches after your honour's health, and that of most imposing memsahib, and humbly craves that your most pitiful and crawling servant may pray the Raj for return of your humble, as I am very much family way man.

This war is most trembling. I understand sanguinary bullets. Those we have in Bengal but perishing canon balls I do not understand. They make much trepidation and cause disturbance to the ear-holes. My teeth do so shake I cannot eat the biscuit and the hair does not lie down. Your most craven servant disjointed by balls as above, and not liking the flesh of pigs fears for starvation and much desiring return to master's illuminated service.

Therefore your eviscerated petitioner ever prays as in duty bound for your honours life and self's safety

in cringing expectancy  
I am, your honour's  
most squirming servant,

MOTI LAL.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Our Chateau"  
in FRANCE,  
19-12-14.

Dearest Maud,

Many thanks for the parcel containing the Keating's Powder, received it safely the other night. Since I wrote last we have had a great kindness bestowed upon us, that was a hot bath with plenty of Jay's fluid in it and a clean change of underclothing, so you see I shan't need the Keatings now but still on second thoughts that bath wont last for ever will it? As regards the powder I will carry out your kind instructions carefully and as you told me not to mix the powder with water, but to take it dry on the tip of my tongue that part I have already carried out with marvellous effects. The doctor told me I was suffering from a very bad stroke, then his fellow doctor and him disagreed on the subject. I was then passed on to the higher quarters and they told me I had been poisoned with some unknown germ. Dear Maud have you not made a mistake as regards your instructions to me re the powder? I was looking at the pamphlet that was around the tin and it says nothing about the powder to be taken. All it says is that it kills moths, bugs, fleas, beetles and other insects. Its about a week or little over that we had that glorious splash and I'm sorry to say that the foreign bodies are vigorously attacking and invading me again, so I'm going to powder myself well with that Magic Dust and then probably sleep will come to me for a few hours throughout the night. Dear Maud you asked me in your letter if I had broken myself of that nasty habit I used to have of drinking. Well dear, I'm pleased to say I haven't. The other evening we had an enjoyable time for a few hours at an Estaminet, or rather Cafe It sounds better doesn't it? called the "AU Bleutour", does this name strike you being familiar it does me what about the "Two Brews

At this same Cafe there is a ripping barmaid don't be jealous Dear but she is the typical type of continental lady, dark hair, sparkling eyes and slim figured, she's most divine. But owing to our limited knowledge of French it makes chats of a loving nature very difficult so we have got to be satisfied with an occasional smile or glance and sometimes may be the position and have the opportunity of giving her the Glad-eye. Toward this lady great competition is directed, all sorts of hair dressing is used  
When

When brillianine is not available other substitutes are brought into force such as scapy water and if the hair is found very obstinate Mineral Jelly is then essential, before appearing in this lady's presence. The beer that is sold at this place is not of such good quality as that from the "Wheatsheaf" or the "Pigeons", sometimes it tastes very thin and other times rather thick but the latter is not so objectionable especially when one happens to have rather a small tea.

"Oh" I must tell you " We had a new arrival to the Section the other day one of those Flapping Species, we couldn't make this strange fellow out at all, he was always singing that popular old song " THE ONLY HORSE I THINK I CAN RIDE IS THE ONE THAT THE MISSUS DRIES THE CLOTHES ON" They say that "there's many a true word spoken in jest" it came true in this case.

Dear Maud I'm pleased to say that we have Dear Old Charlie back in our ranks once again. He and his banjo were a great support to his fellow comrades, we all only wish that he had his instrument here, probably the sweet strains would have great effects on the foreign bodies, same as they had on the mosquitos in the East. Now closing for this time hoping to give you some more valuable information next opportunity. All the boys send their love also myself. By the way has your Dad joined Kitchener's Army yet? Please send another tin of Keatings.

Sincerely Yours,  
R.F.C.

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ON WORE BY THE A.D.C.

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You all know what GAUSEWITZ has written and what BERNHARDI says about Wore. This is what I think about Wore. The ignorant consider wore a terrible occupation. As a Staff Officer I know its not so bad. When I first came out I made lots of bad mistakes. I tried to make the General comfortable and I was civil to mere regimental officers: Now that I know all about wore and what it means I know better than to do things like that

There are two sorts of wore, one when you sit down and do nothing which is by far the best. All I have to do then is to stroll round with the fur rug to the car after the General has been waiting about 10 minutes. Sometimes I feel I must go for a ride in order to give the troops a treat. Well at wore an A.D.C. always gallops even at exercise on the cobble stones and especially so when he is riding the General's best horse without his knollege. The rest of the day I can sit by the fire in the one arm chair which is supposed to belong to the General Staff with my feet on the stove thinking about wore or about nothing. My only other hard task for the day is to tell the mess cook to go to HARBROOK or BIYOL to buy food as it is too far for me to go, and to explain at lunch why there is no fresh butter. Some story of a German sholl and the only cow in the district always does. If I am hard up for amusement there is always the office where the Staff think they work: I go in leaving all the doors open and walk about asking questions which they cannot answer till they get fed up and boot me out. This sort of wore is a very trying to anybody like me in an important position and I am quite worn out with the hard work and am getting bald like the General Staff.

Then there is the other sort of wore when fighting is going on. The responsibilitys are orful. The General will go out and look at the battle, as he calls it. He never sees anything but always gets shelled. That would not matter except that he always takes me with him to help him win the battle and I get shelled too.

I always go out in a motor while the General and Staff ride. I usually find a comfortable house with a cellar along way back from the front and try and get the General to stay there: but as the beastly Frenchman the house belongs to always forgets to light the fire the General says it is too cold to stop there. Sometimes I am sent down to see how the fight is going on and to tell some General or Colonel what to do. That is horribly dangerous not for the troops fighting, as I always see that they are alright, but for me as there are bullets and shells flying about much more freely than where I usually stop where we are fighting, whilst if the Germans see me coming or hear about it through a spy which they often do they always fire twice as hard.

The best thing in this sort of work is going into the trenches for a couple of days: you have precisely heard that life in the trenches is horribly hard and dangerous. You can take it from me that it is not a bit. I always stop in a comfortable house nicely out of range and as we can't move without the horses I just stay indoors all day and think.

Just as there are two sorts of work so there are two sorts of A.D.C. One is the young active smart intelligent sort of fellow like myself: of course you know me so well that I need not say anything about that sort. Then there is the old grey haired sort of A.D.C. usually remarkable for slow movements and large appetites. I never understand why Generals select that sort of fellow for an important job like an A.D.C. unless it is to show how young they are in contrast to their A.D.Cs.

These old men never know their job properly and some of them seem to like fighting. I know of one who went on a message never comes back till dark if there is any fighting going on: he gives the message and then steals a rifle from some one and starts shooting and forgets all about coming back. Of course I don't do silly things like that: I know the staff aren't supposed to fight; so if there is any fighting going on I come back and don't bother about the message.

Of course work is most harassing to the staff and the hours of constant brain fag tells: in fact I am troubled so much by the importance of my position and the continuous anxieties that I am losing my appetite and am afflicted with sleepiness.

SOME A.D.C.'S ARE OLD AND GREY,  
AND HATE THE SIGHT OF RUL;  
ONE A.D.C. IS YOUNG AND SOFT,  
AND CANNOT HIDE HIS BACK;

IN ONE RESPECT THE'RE ALL ALIKE,  
ONE THING MAKES THEIR BLOOD BOIL;  
THEY STAND DISMAYED, THEY FALL AND FAINT,  
AT THE MAGIC WORD OF TOIL.

OUR WAR CORRESPONDENT AT THE FRONT.

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Our readers cannot fail to be deeply interested to hear that our War Correspondent, Mr. Silas Cronk, has actually seen The Great General XXX in action.

In the following terse, clear and well chosen words, Mr. Silas Cronk gives a graphic description of his wonderful experience.

'I arrived at the little town of XXXXX (erased by Censor) shortly before dusk. The winter sun was sinking, sinking in clouds of blood; and the chill night wind had commenced its ominous moan. In the distance I could distinctly hear the sharp crack of the hostile musket, and the low continuous boom of the answering maxim. Taking a quick glance round, and a rapid sip from my 'active service flask' I walked rapidly towards the nearest estaminet. In front of the estaminet stood two figures; picture my amazement and gratification when I saw that the forms in front of me were none other than those of the Great General XXX and of his personal A.D.C. Captain XXX. General XXX is well advanced in years. Two steely blue eyes, bright and clear as a beetles, looked out above a hawk-like nose with that far away gaze which men acquire from long sojourn in the desert. Even when looking straight at you his eyes seemed to gaze through you over the sand stretches. All the resignation, all the fatalism of the East, seem to be reflected in their half steady half mournful depths. The sun of Aldershot or of Hounslow had tanned the parchment face to a dull yellow brown. The dry skin was so tightly stretched over the projecting bones of cheeks and jaw that with its close cropped hair and moustache, this head recalled the mummy of some forgotten King of Egypt.

A fine type of British soldier, the beau sabreur in his late maturity. A splendid figure of the light cavalryman he made in his close fitting "British warm" khaki breeches and gum boots. In his hand he nursed a little cane, with a beautifully chiselled ferule.

His A.D.C. whom I soon recognised as the brave and fearless Captain XXX, stood by the General's side. In stature Captain XXX is tall, perhaps 6' 4". His eyes are a liquid green, and his hair has that wonderful auburn tinge, so much admired by the elite of a modern drawing room.

One has only to glance at him to think "what a gentlemanly fellow". His brow so often wreathed in sunny smiles, was sad to-day. A frown clouded his delicate features. A short golden moustache and a delightfully chic pair of Canada boots, at once stamped him as a British Cavalry Officer.

General XX, who was pacing up and down suddenly stopped. Turning to Captain XXX, he said, in the clear bell like voice of one used to command 'what the devil's that now'?

Captain XXX started - then without faltering, he replied, speaking sparingly, in beautifully distinct, well chosen English, 'those are the German Wine Waffas. They shell our echelon "B".'

General XXX turned pale, but only for a moment - then with a lightning movement, he placed his hand on his revolver.

Taking advantage of the failing light, I hastily retreated within the estaminet and carefully closing the door, placed a chair in front of it'.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO THE 'DAILY MAIL').



Signature  
erased by  
Press Censor.

General X in observation.  
His Mackintosh is no  
longer waterproof

In the distance is seen the nice happy  
little hamlet of DIXMUDE.



WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW?

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1. Who was the General who gave the French lady a handkerchief and what he got in return?
2. Who was the Private of the 2nd Cavalry Division who lost his cap badge and what he got in return?
3. What are they going to do with all the surplus subalterns in the R.H.A. ?
4. Who was the private of the 16th Lancers who did not shoot Prince Max of Hesse. ?
5. Who is the officer of the 12th Lancers who finds his men prefer exercise to Number 'Nines' ? Do they ?
6. Who gets all the strawberry jam ?
7. Whether it was keeping goal that taught jovial Joe of "J" to keep so cool under fire ?
8. How many subalterns are there in the Division older than the G.O.C. ?
9. Why does a Staff Officer draw more pay than a Regimental Officer? Is it because he runs more risks ? (of growing fat).
10. What do the officers do when they go on three days' leave to London? England expects every man to do his duty.
11. Who was the officer who having taken a cabin for the return journey preferred to spend his time in the lavatory?
12. Is a man a Staff Officer because he's a fool or is he a fool because he's a Staff Officer?

The following wire has just been received from Cavalry Corps:-

2nd Cavalry Division.

Bertie' 2001. = Twentyfourth. = W.G.1914. = AAA

Merry Xmas AAA Acknowledge by wire AAA

Time 3 a.m.

Cavalry Corps.  
Last T in MONT NOIR.

Who said the Signal Squadron had nothing to do?

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THE G.O.C. and STAFF WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY XMAS and A  
VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR.  
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