

THE  
*Soldiers Own*  
DIARY

MEMBERSHIP CARD.

Regimental No. <sup>ion of</sup> <sup>dire</sup> ..... Rank.....

Name *1029694 W. C. ...*

Home Address *15 The Hill*

*Hitchin Hudd.*

Corps *R. A. M. C. Yorks.*

Company..... Platoon.....

Section *a 15 Field Amb*

GUM THE CREST OF  
YOUR CORPS HERE.

Date.....1917.

Went now at Ameyin  
Mr Bethune

1 Mon—Circumcision

got a letter from G. M.

2 Tues

Received a parcel  
and answered the  
letter

3 Wed

**WHAT THE SASH MEANS.** Have you ever seen a soldier with a bow of black silk worn on the back of his tunic? Do you know that it is a relic of a bygone custom of the seventeenth century. The "flash," as the ribbons are called, was used to keep the tunic clean, for hair in those days was heavily powdered and greased.

In the old days, soldiers as well as sailors used to wear pigtails. Except for the "flash" of the Welsh Fusiliers there remains nothing in the army uniform to remind us of the fighting days of long ago.

1st Month

JANUARY

1917

7 Sun—1st after Epiphany Bethune was  
bombarded all afternoon but  
8 Mon—Plough Monday. O Full Moon, 7.43 a.m.  
they were a lot of duds,  
men  
on guard tonight.

9 Tues

Stanley was on  
guard so we did  
not go to Bethune  
as we intended.

10 Wed

Our guns bombarding  
heavily expect  
some reply but  
nothing doing we  
went to Bethune

**WEIGHT OF 15-INCH GUN.** There are more than a dozen ships in our navy possessing guns the weight of which is greater than that of thirty ordinary elephants. These guns are bigger and heavier—being 98½ tons—than those possessed by any other navy in the world, German or otherwise.

Germany, in fact, possesses no ship carrying a heavier weapon than the 12-inch gun, which we left behind as long ago as 1909. Germany has only 9 ships armed with 12-inch guns.

1917

JANUARY

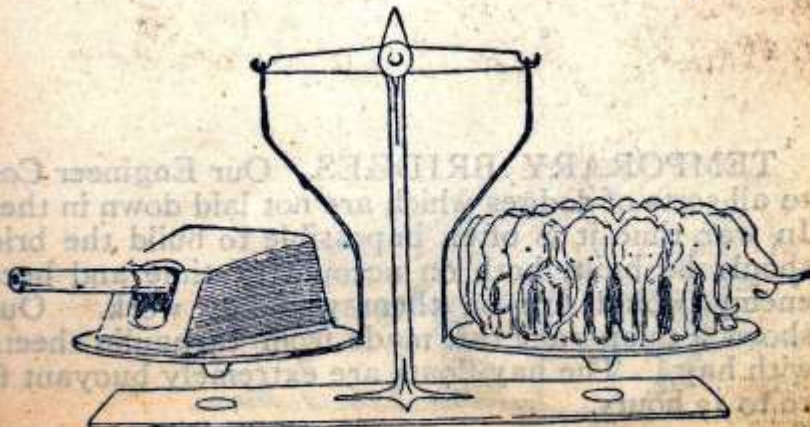
31 Days

11 Th—Hilary Law Sittings begin

Parcel and letter  
today replied

12 Fri

13 Sat—s. R. 8.3, s. S. 4.14



1917

JANUARY

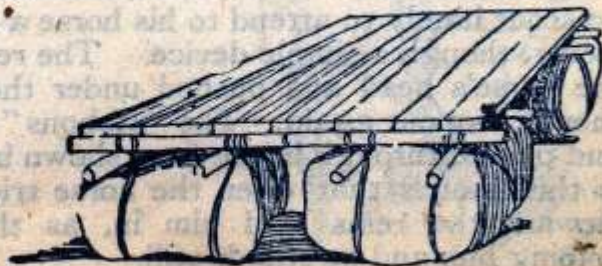
31 Days

18 Th

19 Fri

A P S heavily shelled  
the last few days

20 Sat—s. R. 7.57, S. S. 4.25



1st Month

JANUARY

1917

21 Sun—3rd after Epiphany

22 Mon

*expect to be moving soon*

23 Tues—● New Moon, 7.40 a.m.

24 Wed

**HORSES LEFT UNATTENDED.** When there is no scout handy to attend to his horse a soldier makes use of clever, though a simple device. The reins are brought over the horse's head and pushed under the saddle girth, and then drawn out again. The "ribbons" are then taken back and passed through in the form shown in sketch. The result of this knot is that when the horse tries to move his head forward the reins hold him in, as though someone was holding him and he stands still.

25 Th—Conversion of S. Paul

Left Amoyen ~~for~~ to take  
over the White House  
a small hospital between  
Bethune and Locon

26 Fri

Billeted in an Estaminet

27 Sat—S. R. 7.49, S. S. 4.37



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1st & 2nd Mths.

JANUARY

1917

28 Sun—4th after Epiphany

29 Mon

30 Tues—D First Quarter, 1.2 a.m.

Have got set on helping Stanley in the joiners shop making benches etc.

31 Wed

**WONDERFUL SIKH WEAPON.** Our Sikh Warriors wear a curious steel weapon around the "point" of their turbans, see arrow. It is very like an ordinary quoit in appearance and is called a "Chakkar."

This quoit has an edge like a razor, and the Sikhs throw it by twirling it round the finger, and then suddenly releasing it. The weapon flies through the air, and inflicts a terrible wound on anyone it strikes. At a distance of twelve yards it has been known to cut a 2 inch bamboo cane in two.