

1917

NOVEMBER

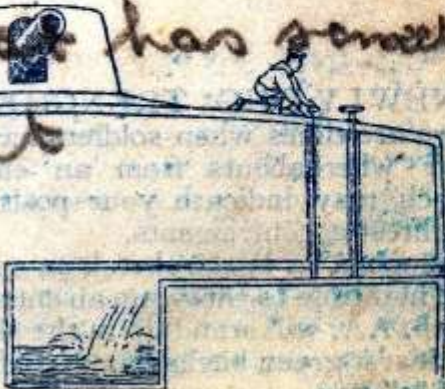
31 & 30 Days

1 Th—All Saints

2 Fri—All Souls

3 Sat—S. R. 6.57, S. S. 4.29

Still no relieve but
bad news from Stealy and
I suppose that has something
to do with it



11th Month

NOVEMBER

1917

11 Sun—23rd after Trinity. Half Quarter Day.
Martinmas

12 Mon

*Relieved at last and
march to Reninghelst*

13 Tues

Clothing parade, etc.

14 Wed—● New Moon, 6.29 p.m.

CARRYING BIG SHELLS. The "Jack Johnsons" you hear our soldiers talking about, are the big enemy siege guns. The shells from these guns throw out dense black smoke when bursting.

The shells used weigh close on 1,000 lbs and as it is, of course, impossible for one man to lift such a weight, each shell is placed in a special wicker-work basket. The lid is made of metal and fastened on with leather straps.

It takes four men to carry the shell, which costs £1,250.

1917

NOVEMBER

30 Days

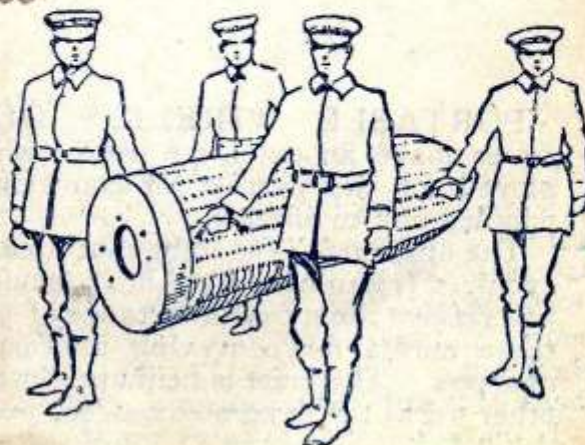
15 Th

Leave for Hopentre siding
Peperhinge and entrain
for a place called Lumbres

16 Fri

17 Sat--P. R. 7.22, S. S. 4.8

Hear today I am for leave
tomorrow



11th Month

NOVEMBER

1917

18 Sun—24th after Trinity

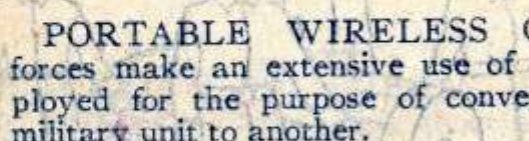
Leave for home 3.0 pm

19 Mon

Caught a boat about 11 am
and got into London 5 pm
and got home about 11 pm

20 Tues

21 Wed—D First Quarter, 10.29 p.m.



PORTABLE WIRELESS OUTFITS. Our field forces make an extensive use of wireless. They are employed for the purpose of conveying messages from one military unit to another.

The apparatus is so light that it can be carried by a motor cyclist. It can be erected in 15 minutes, and send messages and receive them over a distance of 50 miles. Scouts utilise these outfits for conveying information in code to headquarters. The mast is held upright by one soldier while the other works the dynamo by a foot pedal.

11th & 12th Mths. NOVEMBER

1917

25 Sun—25th after Trinity (last)

Telegram, Rejoin 27th. Expect
26 Mon to go to Italy
Leave Hudd. 11.19 tonight

27 Tues

Have dinner in the rest camp
at Folkestone and cross in
the afternoon arrive Boulogne
at dusk and spend the night
at the rest camp

28 Wed—O Full Moon, 6.41 p.m.

Leave Boulogne about midday rejoin
the unit 15 Kilos from St. 1st
at half past four

INVISIBLE WRITING. The following is a novel and not very well-known method of writing a despatch in such a manner that it appears to be a piece of blank paper. Soak your sheet of paper in water and place it on a sheet of glass. Lay a sheet of dry paper over it while you write your message on this with a blunt pencil. Dry the paper, and give it to the despatch bearer. Your friends on receiving it will immerse it in water and read it. Caution: do not dry over a lamp or in front of a fire.

1917

NOV—DEC

30 & 31 Days

29 Th

30 Fri—S. Andrew

Leave camp at 10 pm to go to
Amoy and entrain there
5 K away. Twenty five of us in
a van. we leave at 2 am

1 Dec Sat—Queen Alexandra born, 1844.

S. R. 7.44, S. S. 3.53

Pass through Chantilly
and St Denis but
miss Paris



12th Month

DECEMBER

1917

2 Sun—Advent Sunday

Arrive at Lyon just after dark

3 Mon

Got to Marseille about twelve
and pass through Toulon, Nice,
Monaco and all along the coast
some lovely scenery.

4 Tues

Stop for five or five hours
in Ventimiglia the first
town in Italy

5 Wed

Arrived at a place called Pavia
and expect reaching Milan today

SERBIA. The government of Serbia is a constitutional monarchy.

Military service is universal and compulsory. The Army, reorganised in 1907, far exceeded expectations during the Balkans War of 1912-13. Peace strength 35,000 to 40,000 men. The total number of men put on the field, with levies from occupied territories, reached 400,000.

Area before the Balkans War, 18,650 square miles, population 2,912,000; after the war 33,890 square miles, population 4,550,000.

Austria declared war on Serbia, July 28th, 1914.

1917

DECEMBER

31 Days

6th — Last Quarter, 2.14 p.m.

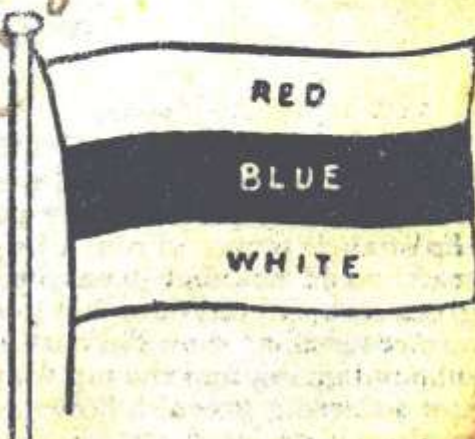
Arrived at a place called
Soto and marched about
twenty miles to a place
near Serrana.

7 Fri

Very cold just now and
we are sleeping in open
barrs so it is best
in bed.

8 Sat — S. R. 7.53, S. S. 3.50

Moved to the other side
of the village a better
billet though
of the same
sort



12th Month

DECEMBER

1917

9 Sun—2nd in Advent

10 Mon—Grouse Shooting ends.

Start training today
1 hour physical jinks 2 hrs
route march and football

11 Tues

Rice is very cheap here and
we can get a sort of cake
made of maize called
Polento.

12 Wed

DISGUISED AS SHRUBBERY. Our troops have found that a very successful means of avoiding observation from above, by placing large pieces of trees and bushes on top of their tents. From a height of 3,000 feet, enemy aircraft would not find it easy to recognise these patches of green as being anything but genuine shrubbery. Guns are also covered, as shown in our sketch. Many tents have been coloured green, and the top wings of military aeroplanes are now painted a greenish brown, so as to harmonise with the earth.

1917

DECEMBER

31 Days

13 Th

14 Fri—● New Moon, 9.17 a.m.

Left Colorado for a place
called Pinaro just over twenty
kilometres took us while nearly
dark

15 Sat—S. R. 8.1, S. S. 3.49

not much doing had the
day off ~~but~~ could not go
out



12th Month

DECEMBER

1917

16 Sun—3rd in Advent. Ember Week

Church parade in the morning.

17 Mon

Church Mail up for the first time in Italy and we leave for near Arago about fifteen Miles.

18 Tues

Day off today, we expect stepping here for Xmas and we got paid out, and they are making arrangements for Xmas.

19 Wed—Ember Day

marching order parade in the morning and football match in the afternoon

HOW GUNNERS ARE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH COMMAND. Telephones are used for all sorts of purposes during war time, but one of the most useful directions in which they are employed is with artillery. In a brigade of artillery, a telephone set is supplied to enable the officer commanding the brigade to communicate with his three battery commanders. To lay the wires, there is a special waggon known as a cable cart. The sketch shows the route followed by the cart. It starts from X, and runs to A, without paying out cable, then from A to X, and on to C. From C to B, no cable is paid out, then from B to X, the cable is paid out.

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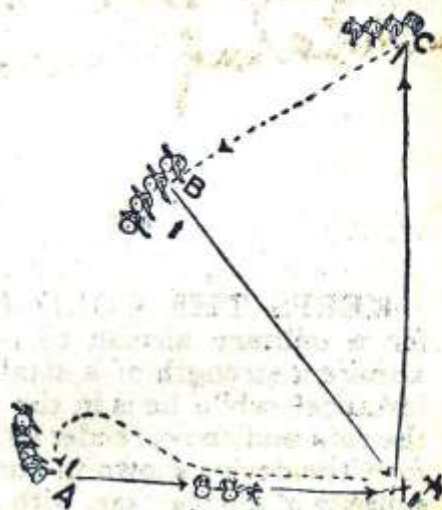
31 Days

20 Th Baths have been rigged up here and we had the first official bath for a month.

21 Fri—S. Thomas. Ember Day. D First Quarter, 6.7 a.m.

100 men sent to S. George on fatigue when we got there nothing to do but pick paper up etc wet through coming back

22 Sat—Ember Day. Shortest Day. S. R. 8.6, S. S. 3.51



12th Month

DECEMBER

1917

23 Sun—4th in Advent

24 Mon

25 Tues—Christmas Day

Preparing for dinner all morning.
Had a good dinner at 6.30
followed by a concert a
really good do considering

26 Wed—S. Stephen. Bank Holiday

Got a job in the canteen
with E Pilling and Cpl
Shackle

KEEPS THE COLD OUT. It is very often necessary for a military airman to make a note of something—the apparent strength of a small detachment of the enemy, for instance—while he is in the air, but the cold air, and often the rain and snow, render writing a very difficult job. Therefore, the device shown in our illustration is resorted to. It consists of a mica-case, with a waterproof curtain at one end.

