

SELECTED RECORDS FROM THE  
LAST YEAR OF THE WAR

1918

By 1918, the First World War had been raging for almost 3 ½ years. Canadians had seen major battles and significant casualties and conscription had been enacted. Victory – and the end of the war – was not assured. Twelve months later the war was over and many Canadians remained in Europe to assist with the transition from war to peace.

This display features a selection of letters, diary entries and photographs documenting nine Manitobans serving overseas in 1918. These Manitobans include soldiers, officers and a nursing sister. The letters and diaries were written in the trenches, in hospital beds and in training barracks and provide both censored and uncensored accounts. The photographs provide a glimpse of the individuals and their surroundings. This display traces the progression of the year and the war, through winter, spring, summer, fall, Armistice (11 November) and the weeks following.

These records are a small selection of records from the Archives of Manitoba related to the First World War. Search the Keystone database or visit our research room to find out more about these and other collections of records from the time of the First World War.

DOCUMENTS SÉLECTIONNÉS DE LA  
DERNIÈRE ANNÉE DE LA GUERRE

En 1918, la Première Guerre mondiale faisait rage depuis presque trois ans et demi. Les Canadiens avaient participé à des batailles importantes et subi des pertes significatives. La conscription avait également commencé. La victoire – et la fin de la guerre – n'était pas encore garantie. Douze mois plus tard, la guerre était finie et de nombreux Canadiens étaient demeurés en Europe pour aider à la transition de la guerre à la paix.

Ce présentoir comporte une sélection de lettres, d'entrées de journal et de photographies se rapportant à neuf Manitobains ayant servi outre-mer en 1918. Parmi eux, on trouvait des soldats, des officiers et une infirmière militaire. Les lettres et les journaux ont été écrits dans les tranchées, des lits d'hôpital et des casernements de formation et fournissent à la fois des récits censurés et non censurés. Les photos nous donnent un aperçu de ces personnes et de leurs environnements. Ce présentoir montre la progression de l'année et de la guerre, au cours de l'hiver, du printemps, de l'été, de l'automne, l'armistice (11 novembre) et des semaines qui ont suivi.

Ces documents ne sont qu'une petite sélection des documents des Archives du Manitoba relatifs à la Première Guerre mondiale. Recherchez dans la base de données Keystone ou visitez notre salle de lecture pour en apprendre plus sur ces documents et sur d'autres collections de documents datant de l'époque de la Première Guerre mondiale.



Canada  
Y.M.C.A.

Aens Belgaen,  
Nov 12<sup>th</sup>/18

Dear Mother:-

At last the fighting is over now to get home as soon as we can. It is hard to realize the the fighting is over. There was very little celebrating yesterday. To-day it is worse. When they told us yesterday to stop hostilities at 11 o'clock. We didn't

are a bit short as we have been going ahead fast and the rails are all blown up but now they are getting better. The roads a fine also the cards for my stomach. I will not want for my much this winter & present we are having fine weather. The Belgian people treating us first. We couldn't

KINDLY WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PAPER

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ours

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"The Belgian people are treating us first rate. We couldn't wish for better. Beds with white sheets every night. We are billeted right in their homes. They are very sociable and do everything they can for us."

Campbell Millar, 12 November 1918

W.H. 24  
biffled last night was  
killed on Sunday by a  
man on his train

Belgium 12-11-18. They have managed to  
save most of their val-  
uables which could  
either be buried or hidden. We  
are in a very nice house  
arranged and  
in a week or so if you are  
do not receive my New Year's  
in a telegram will convey time as the seas are  
I have come thru safely after all  
All that remains for us  
to do is march into  
Germany for a short  
period of Garrison Duty.  
Probably until Peace is  
signed.

Tomorrow I am  
going out to buy Xmas  
present, good ones this  
year will be close now.

Sincerely Frank.

(102)

"As I pen these lines you will know that the armistice has been arranged and in a week or so if you do not receive my name in a telegram will conclude I have come thru safely."

# Frank Leathers, 12 November 1918

# “A fine day— Armistice at 11. a.m.”

# Clarence Boswell, 11

## November 1918

NOVEMBRE

10 Dimanche. — s. Juste 314-51  
*A fine day -*  
 lunch with Mr. Aug. Home  
 Rod with May. Walking to  
 Denain in afternoon  
 Tea with her.  
 Get throat bridge with Nisles  
 & George.

11 Lundi. — s. Martin.(P.Q.) 315-50  
*A fine day -*  
 Arrived at 11. am.  
 Dined with Kiley, Watson  
 Pow. was at 14<sup>th</sup> Transport

NOVEMBRE

12 Mardi. — s. René. 316-49  
*A fine day -*  
 Had. 4th & 5<sup>th</sup> Cards. to boat.  
 Dined with 1-60 18<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> with  
 Lt. Farrell.

13 Mercredi. — s. Brice. 317-48  
*A fine day -*  
 orders to report 6.15<sup>th</sup>  
 boat at mess -  
 Motored by 7000 CWT and  
 Bienville & Lacelle down to  
 Denain - Received A.C.B.  
 smaller boat with graphite  
 lake over 12  
14 Jeudi  
 Mess & Entomist  
 Dance in eve -  
 Automobile from player in  
 Bay or leave. Tide up 2.6

“Nov 11.  
Peace declared.  
Made a night of it.”

James Uhlman, 11 November 1918

# ARMISTICE

## 11 NOVEMBER 1918

# "VICTORY is Ours - ...

As I write these words the London  
Guns have begun firing  
and cheers are  
breaking out every-  
where... To realize that this  
horrible nightmare of nearly 5  
years is over is not yet possible."

R.M. Dennistoun, 11 November 1918

R.M. Dennistoun, 11 November 1918

The German Armistice delegates have sent a courier to Spa as they did not venture to sign the armistice terms without further authority. They have till Sunday to take or refuse the terms offered. Kaiser's abdication is openly demanded by Socialists.

In the mean time our armies are pressing them back & France will soon be free from occupation. There are great days to live in. Every newspaper contains wonderful news. Our people are very calm and cool. There has been no jubilation of any kind.

Hughes Prime Minister of Australia is making a great protest that the Dominions are not being sufficiently consulted about peace terms.

Going to Walsingham to see the children this afternoon at St Margaret's School.

Monday 11 Nov 18

Kaiser Abdicates & flees to Holland

Germany in Revolt -  
Self-murders - Officers  
Killed. German Kings  
abdicate - Socialists.

Ebert's appointed Regent.

Word is just in that the Armistice has been signed & that the war is over.

The peace delegates sent to France to obtain an armistice sent a messenger back to Germany on Friday. He was held up by barrage and finally got over

by aeroplane. We have been waiting his return.

Wonderful days there! Crowns have been falling in a shower. Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Austria Germany & the German King - We cannot keep pace with the list of names, said to 26 of them. One thing is certain VICTORY is Ours. Canada & U.S.A. have been celebrating but here there has not been a cheer yet.

1.  
e declared.  
a night of it."

ian, 11 November 1918

Morris & Da. learning daily  
in evening.

Oct. 1. Wednesday Pictures  
- P.M. Art with the girls at night.

Nov. 1. lunch up town with girls  
then pictures. Bunchdown to have at  
Nov. 2. Walk in A.M. Pictures <sup>Lunch</sup> at night.

Nov. 3. Church in A.M. Walk in  
P.M. Company at night.

Nov. 4. Rainy. Up town in A.M.  
Wrote in P.M. Pictures with  
Roy at night.

Nov. 5. Pictures with girls & Roy in  
P.M. Danced at night.

Nov. 6. Up town to lunch with Mr. R.  
in A.M. then with Roy swimming.

Nov. 7. Up 7:45. Left 10. for L.D.  
3:30. lots of letters writing for  
the kids.

Nov. 8. Roy went in to see me till  
noon. Wrote in P.M. Pictures at night.

Nov. 9. Work up till noon. Out of  
while in P.M. Pictures at night  
with Alex.

Nov. 10. Very stormy. Wrote till noon.  
Wrote in P.M.

Nov. 11. Plane declared. Made  
a night of it.

Nov. 12. Motor run with Derby  
back about 12 midnight.  
Great time.

Nov. 13. Round house most  
of day & all evening.

Nov. 14. Left 1 A.M. for  
Manchester. Slow journey. In  
about 5. got baggage together.  
In evening went to see  
Lanigan.

Nov. 15. Left 12:05. for p. 30.  
See Appleby & Grammar.  
To bed early.

Nov. 16. Up late. Busines in  
A.M. Went to see Paul in P.M.

"Yesterday we marched  
right through the city of  
Mons and the Germans  
were getting out on the  
other side. ... One woman gave  
me some fried potatoes and I ate  
them on her steps..."

# George Hambley, 11 November 1918

George Henry Hambley.

Nov. 11. 1918.

Yesterday we marched right through the city of Mons and the Germans were getting out on the other side. The troops stopped right on the street on the right of the city, and the women came out to make a big adieu over us. I don't know where the men were - One woman gave me some fried potatoes and I ate them on her steps while old Knight stood in the street with the other horses. Toward evening we came out to a farm about three Kilometers from Mons where we were billeted for three days. After we got our horses fixed up Dan and I went along with the boys down into the city of Mons. It was

"I am come  
alwayes on longe he fad  
from the German yoke of bondage,  
The Belgians are extremely friendly  
and today very happy.  
Our boy hardly dare to think  
the war is over. We kept right on  
duty, ready, heavily armed well  
dressed - and when we will  
walk through & Germany.

thine habit as thy purse  
but not expressed in  
such not gaudy, for  
I left proclaims  
entrance to a  
bit being in see  
the opposed may  
thee!" — HAMLET — SHAKESPEARES

"To theng as so aggravates  
a basilles talkative wokhan!"  
In the worst men there is  
ever a strain of good - but  
beware of a man who is con-  
stantly telling of his good  
qualities. —  
Avoid flattery and your  
femin will be valued.