

HOTEL DE FRANCE.

This is a group of buildings which spread over a large area, and offers many conveniences which you will find lacking in other institutions of its kind in your continental tour. It was largely designed and built under French supervision, and traces of its former glory are still visible. However, British plans and workmanship have altered it greatly. The present management has endeavoured to maintain a first-class cuisine and sleeping accommodation as far as war conditions permit, and have catered for many transient guests. It is located on a plateau which, in a few minutes walk, gives a fine view of the surrounding country.

The manager's office is the third door on the left where the staff and special guests report on arrival and departure as well as at certain times during their stay.

Sgt. Bessey is in charge, assisted by Pte. J. E. Thomas. All who wish to speak to the manager "the O.C." will make known their wants to the commissionaire "the S.M.," who, of the staff alone has the right of entry.

The desk "admitting room" is the second door on the left where the ordinary tourist reports and is allotted his bed. Sgt. Twohey and Pte. Brennan are in charge, although travellers are usually met by the Asst. Manager, "the Orderly Officer," who is on the look-out for old friends.

The baggage room is in the rear of the desk with an attendant always on duty where guests can leave all baggage not immediately required.

In the immediate rear of the desk is the dispensary, dentist, and surgery, this being a novel feature but very useful as many a guest can testify.

Sgt. Orr, who is in charge of the dispensary, assisted by Pte. Spencer, keeps a very complete stock on hand at all times.

Capt. Clarke and Sgt. Kerr have an up-to-date dental establishment.

The surgery is in charge of attendants who will procure a qualified M.D. on short notice.

On your left as you enter the hotel is the "Canteen," library, reading, recreation, banquet and concert hall.

At the canteen, in charge of Sgt. Paulding, with Ptes. Roozen and Davies as assistants, you can get most well-known brands of cigarettes (except Players), tobacco, cigars, and any special foreign delicacies which you happen to fancy. There is a bar attached where hot coffee can be obtained at all hours, and English beer (drawn from the wood), can be obtained within hours specified by the existing Liquor Laws, Spirits can only be obtained by application to the manager.

The library carries a stock of bound books and magazines which is kept as up-to-date as circumstances permit.

The piano in the concert hall is for the use of everyone, but the management asks that care be taken of it as on account of war conditions we find it almost impossible to replace it.

On the extreme right as you enter the hotel you will find the lavatory, bath room and barber.

Pte. Whorton, who has charge of the barber shop, has had long experience and can give the utmost satisfaction.

The bath room, while not an elaborate installation, is one of the best in this part of the country. The plunge is closed as part of the war economy.

Past the office is the mail room, where Pte. Lloyd has on hand registered envelopes and postage stamps.

Adjoining the mail room is the boot and shoe repair shop, where Pte. Neish does all work, in the good old-fashioned way, by hand.

Nearby is the carpenter shop and paint room, where Pte. Crossman holds sway. He is an all-round mechanic, and if you want any souvenirs mounted he is the man to go to.

In the rear of the concert hall is the steward's stores, "Q.M. Stores," Q.M.S. Quigley in charge, with an able staff, Ptes. Reville, Cantrell, and Williamson. They can supply you with a complete outfit (sometimes), and the tailor, Pte. Boswell, is on hand to make any alterations you may require.

The kitchen is in charge of L/Cpl. Baldwin, assisted by Pte. Mean. Under this well-known chef a high-class cuisine is maintained, and if the tea tastes of chloride of lime you must blame the health department.

The Manager and his assistants dine separately, their staff consisting of Ptes. Ross and Ash, with various helpers.

The heads of the staff also dine separately, their staff being Ptes. Babbs and Morrison.

The guests' wing is opposite the manager's office on the right. The sleeping apartments are light and well aired, embodying the latest sanitary ideas, open plumbing and no carpets or hangings to catch the dust. Guests are allowed to have any particular pictures that they desire around them.

The baggage delivery "horse transport" is in charge of S/S.M. Taylor and Sgts. Wood and White. They have a special service of char-a-bancs arranged by the management which is very popular.

The automobiles "M.T." are in charge of Sgt. Weghorn, and is very popular with the manager and his assistants as well as with special guests. They are mostly used for special trips but the management arranges various daily schedules.

PAUL.

