

**FIELDS AND  
BATTLEFIELDS,  
BY NO. 31540**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649160563

Fields and battlefields, by No. 31540 by Hope Bagenal

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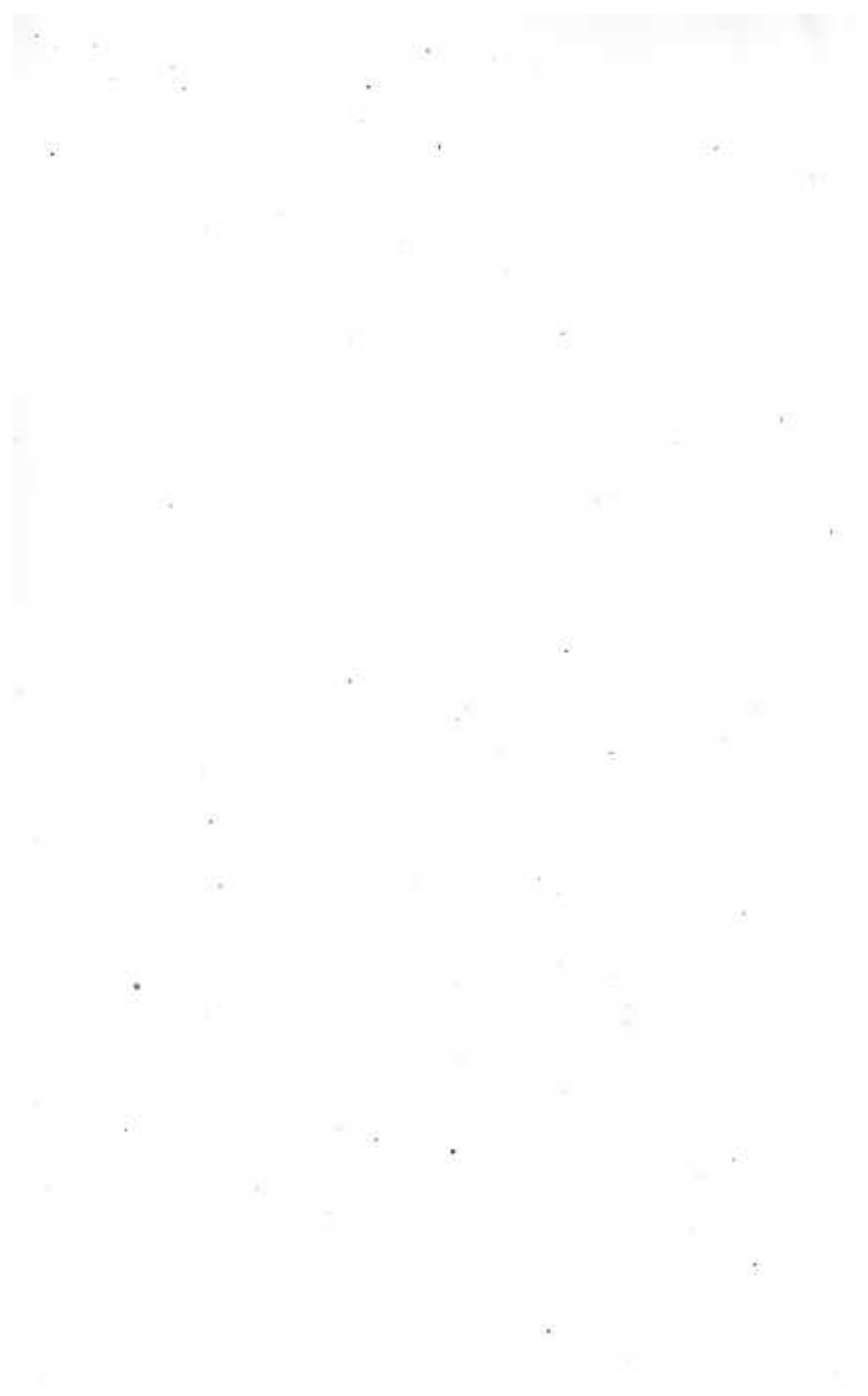
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**HOPE BAGENAL**

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BY

No. 31540

*a. Bagnall*

LONDON  
CONSTABLE AND COMPANY, LTD.

1918

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PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY  
RICHARD CLAY & SONS, LIMITED,  
BRUNSWICK ST., STAMFORD ST., S.E. 1,  
AND BUNGAY, SUFFOLK.



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## FIELDS AND BATTLEFIELDS

### CHAPTER I

#### THE TOWN

"My eyes I lend to you, but not my heart."

*Old Play.*

THE town of Bailleul stands upon a hill and may be seen over your shoulder for a two days' march, but the town of Steenwerk lies below on the plain of Flanders and peers above the orchards and willow trees surrounding it. Bailleul is a centre of gaiety.<sup>1</sup> Bands play of a Sunday afternoon in the market-place, Charlie Chaplin is seen every night by crowded audiences in the Y.M.C.A. Cinema, and the correct incidental music is provided. There are, or were, concerts every evening at the Caisse d'Epargne. All the important journals—*La Vie Parisienne*, *The Cambridge Magazine*, *The Listening Post*, *John Bull*, *The Feathered World*—can be borrowed or bought; and English beer can be found in limited quantities. Also an English soldier once chose a wife among the daughters of Bailleul and married her: yet it is not of Bailleul but of Steenwerk that I wish to write.

There was a time when Steenwerk set herself to

<sup>1</sup> Written before the German offensive of 1918. It is feared these towns are now in ruins.