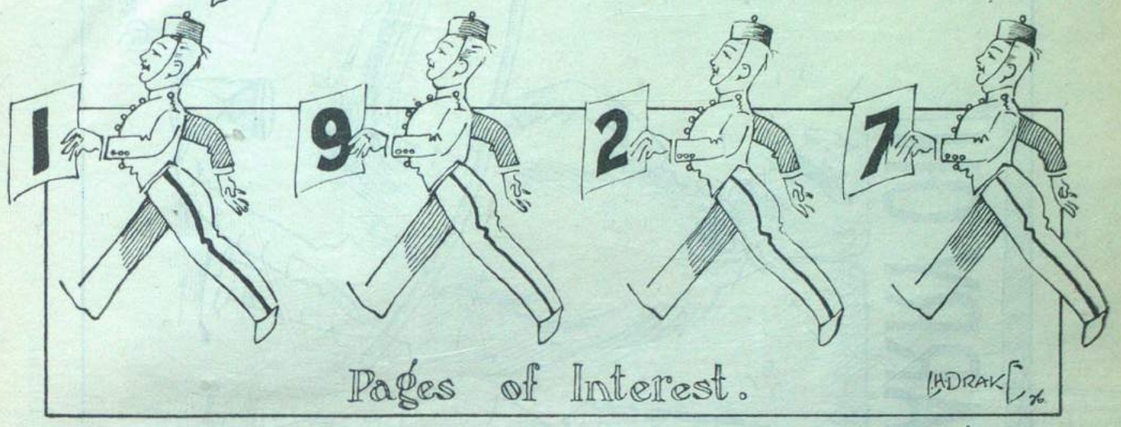
ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

# THE WIRE

January—December, 1927.

# THE WIRE.




*The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.*

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VOL. VIII.—No. 83 JANUARY, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


## *A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all "Wire" Readers!*

## Editorial Notes.

The following is an extract from a letter received from the Assistant Director of Signals, Department of National Defence, Canada, which is calculated to be of interest to those n.c.o.s and men who are, or who may be, desirous of emigrating to Canada. The General Secretary Signals Association will be glad to make arrangements for anyone desirous of accepting this offer, and will readily assist in putting such applicants in touch with the Canadian authorities:—

"The Canadian Signals Association will be only too pleased to do everything possible to assist the Imperial Association, and will endeavour to secure positions, etc., for any of the British members who desire to come out to Canada. In this connection I would suggest that this office be communicated with should ex-members of Royal Signals desire to settle in Canada, giving full particulars as to service, trade qualifications, etc., and the part of Canada in which they would like to secure employment. Such information would be communicated to the nearest District Signal Officer and O.C. unit in that area, with a view to getting the applicant suitably placed. It would be expected, in return, that anyone looked after in this way would be willing to become a member of the Canadian Corps of Signals Non-Permanent Active Militia."

❀ ❀ ❀

We have also been asked to notify all ex-K Company telegraphists who desire nomination for Post Office employment to apply in writing direct to The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are indebted to Egypt Signals Camera Club for a most interesting collection of photographs illustrating the Holy Land. Unfortunately, they were received too late for inclusion in this issue, but will be published as a pictorial supplement in the February number.

❀ ❀ ❀

It is notified for general information that the Signals Association has now been accepted and registered as a Benevolent Organisation under the Friendly Societies Act of 1896. Such registration has necessitated a revision of the existing rules, new copies of which will be circulated to all Signal units, Branches, etc., early in the New Year.

Such registration has also changed the end of our financial year from the 31st March to the 31st December, and the Committee would be obliged if all outstanding accounts could be remitted to this office without delay. THE EDITOR.

[LATE EDITORIAL.]

We acknowledge the receipt of unit notes from No. 1 Section 2 W/T Company, Sarafand, Palestine, which came to hand too late for inclusion in this issue.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following Bankers' Orders and amounts from Branches, etc.:—

BANKERS' ORDER (5s. per annum) from:—
Lieut M. G. Gordon Wilson.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Manchester Branch ... ... ... ... ... | £2 10 0 |
| Chiswick Branch ... ... ... ... ... | 0 15 0 |
| Capt E. J. Murphy ... ... ... ... ... | 0 5 0 |
| 1st Divisional Signals Branch ... ... ... | 5 14 0 |

Applications are frequently received from n.c.o.s and men desirous of securing employment as Barrack Wardens on leaving the Service. The attention of all members who contemplate

THE RELIEF. By L. H. Drake.



applying for such employment in future is directed to Army Order 483 of 1920, wherein will be found full particulars of the qualifications necessary, and also the correct method of making application.

EMPLOYMENTS.—The attention of all Association members is directed to Editorial Notes of this issue. Situations found for the preceding month :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Railway Porters... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Wireless Set Tester ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Silver-man (domestic) ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Cinema Attendant ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Clerks ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Switch Board Operator ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Dock Side Employee ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Labourer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

Mr. W. T. Beaverstock, ex-L/Sergeant Royal Signals, of G Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore, India, asks to be kindly remembered to his old friends of that unit. As a Police Constable in the Hampshire Constabulary he cordially invites any of them who may on some future occasion be sojourning within the confines of his perambulations, to visit him and to be sure of a hearty welcome.

[We do not like the sound of this. There certainly appears to be something cryptic about an invitation of this description, and we would warn any intending visitors to be most circumspect when approaching the vicinity of Lyndhurst, Hants.—Ed.]

GENERAL SECRETARY

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from—
Lieut M. G. Gordon Wilson.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from :—
Sergeants' Mess 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot.
Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.
A Corps Signals, Karachi.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick.
Anonymous.
1st Divisional Signals.
Mr. J. Greer.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from—
Major C. L. Day.

APPEALS dealt with :—
1—Ex-Signalman, tuberculosis patient. £10 allocated from funds.
2—Ex-L/Corporal Royal Signals and family. Domestic difficulties and illness. £5 allocated from funds.
3—Ex-Signalman, London. Destitute; admitted to hospital last month; discharged recently. £5 allocated from funds and employment found.
4—Sergeant Royal Signals, in financial difficulties. £9 10s. 6d. advanced on loan.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

## Plain Tales.

**A Happy New Year.**—I hope 1927 will bring to everyone all they wish! I won't say all they *deserve*, because if we all got what we deserved there would be a terrible upset in the world. Let us, therefore, wish each other the best of luck! May the passing months bring prosperity and promotion to the men, and may Time "stand easy" for the ladies!

* * * *

**The Great Day.**—Christmas is about ten days off, as the crow flies—I mean, as I write; and those lucky wights who have been granted leave for the period are full of smiles and energy. The remainder don't mind now they have become used to the idea of spending Christmas in camp.

The 3rd Divl. Signals are to have their Christmas dinner in No. 8 Hut. This will be decorated for the occasion: at least, I think it will. You are justified in reading an element of doubt into these lines, for the post of decorator has been allotted to me! What I don't know about decorating would fill a very large book, and anyway, I haven't seen any holly with berries on. Indeed, I have not seen any holly at all so far. I put this down to the fact that I haven't been to look. Well, well, "nil carborundum," or something, which is (I believe) Spanish for "never say die."

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Corps Promotion Roster Subsequent Amendments.

**To be C.Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals)**

2306713 Walker, C. 8/2/26
(The promotion appearing in Nov. issue should be cancelled)

**Appointed Acting C.Q.M.S.—**

2307347 Atkins, J. 22/11/26

**To be Sergeant—**

2309526 Trayner, A. 4/4/26
1850363 Bennett, T. 26/4/26
2307733 Cranham, J. 26/4/26
2307515 Binham, C. 26/4/26
2310354 Mann, C. 7/5/26

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**

2307981 Devlin, A. 20/9/26
2311694 Laing, J. 2/10/26
2308157 Chenery, A. 12/10/26
2311622 Mason, A. 22/10/26
1850272 Rhodes, J. 25/10/26
1852766 Hoare, C. 25/10/26

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**

1850419 Stone, E. 1/4/22
1855003 Bartlett, C. 11/9/26
7075905 Foley, J. 18/9/26
2308408 Simpson, L. 20/9/26
2308855 Oliver, W. 1/10/26
2306417 Storey, A. 12/10/26
2309675 Higham, B. 16/10/26
2306754 Lewis, W. 16/10/26
5373627 Banham, J. 22/10/26
2310455 Baldwin, D. 25/10/26

**To be Corporal—**

1850419 Stone, E. 1/2/21
2309839 Daniell, C. 1/4/26
2314287 Field, H. 1/4/26
2310583 Mears, A. 1/4/26
2306745 Grainger, G. 1/4/26
2313859 Kidby, A. 1/4/26
2314583 Baker, E. 4/4/26
2314533 Sewell, W. 4/4/26
2312497 Tully, V. 26/4/26
2310578 Dipple, R. 26/4/26
2306704 Butler, R. 26/4/26
2308909 Jennings, F. 26/4/26
6768174 Gough, F. 26/4/26
2309115 Finney, E. 27/4/26
4605978 Jessop, T. 7/5/26
5718864 Coole, R. 7/5/26
2315277 Chignall, F. 7/5/26
2306730 Rogers, E. 9/5/26

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**

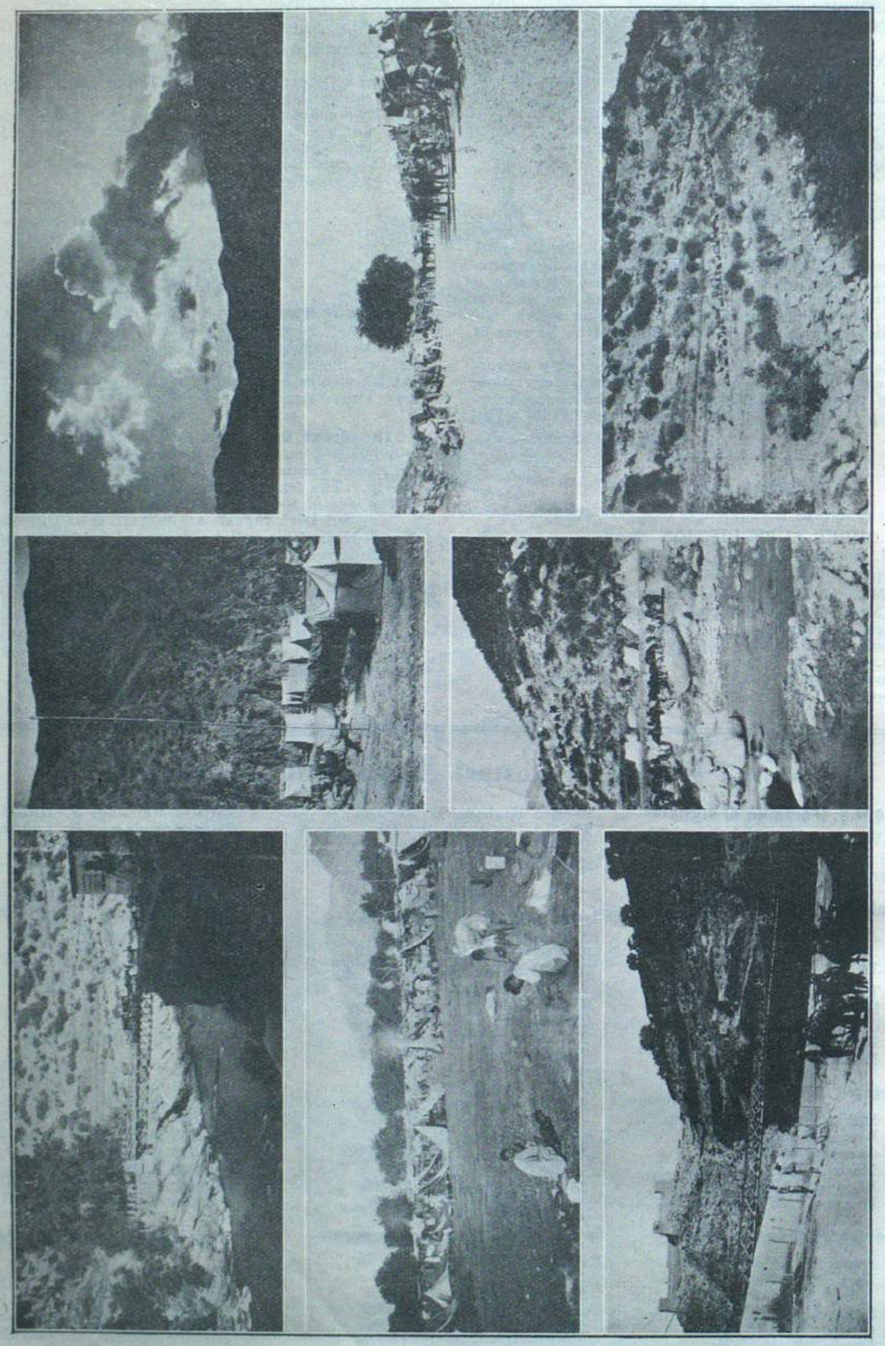
2313951 Redworth, F. 3/9/26
2311409 Guile, W. 11/9/26
2313635 Read, S. 18/9/26
2310576 Thorne, G. 20/9/26
2311689 Osborn, E. 21/9/26
1849706 Williams, L. 1/10/26
2315014 Manning, J. 1/10/26
2314489 Andrews, F. 1/10/26
2314280 Fox, R. 1/10/26
2312989 Church, W. 2/10/26
2311302 Topp, R. 11/10/26
727793 Edge, M. 12/10/26
1858913 Shreeves, L. 16/10/26
2314313 Hart, R. 22/10/26
2314029 Brown, H. 25/10/26
2306824 Lemon, J. 25/10/26
2308501 Baker, L. 1/11/26

## Discharges.

2306373 C.Q.M.S. M. Walsh, 3/10/26
2306359 C.Q.M.S. R. Tait, 10/11/26
2306214 Sergt F. Conner, 21/10/26
2556673 Sergt A. Gray, 7/10/26
2307345 Sergt E. Downer, 17/11/26
2306773 L/Sergt J. Kightley, 15/10/26
3122928 L/Sergt R. Sawyer, 4/12/26
2308590 Corpl P. Berry, 26/10/26
1400985 Corpl W. Reid, 1/11/26

## Transfers to Army Reserve.

2312332 Corpl H. Bromwich, 10/10/26
2312301 Corpl W. May, 31/10/26
2312401 Corpl H. With, 31/10/26
6722312 A/Cpl W. Richardson, 1/11/26
5987312 Corpl H. Colgan, 28/11/26



1 Chuilaten Bridge
2 In the Concentration Camp at Dargai
3 Suspension Bridge at Drosh
4 Wireless Station erected at Mirkamai
5 A Corner of the Camp at Dir
6 Sunset at Chitral
7 A Rest by the Roadside
8 Column on the march between Dir and Darora



# With "Signals" on Chitral Reliefs, 1926

Chitral is an independent State in the furthest north-west corner of India, pushed like a wedge into the Pamirs and consisting chiefly of the high mountains at the east end of the Hindu Kush, with narrow fertile valleys where maize and rice are cultivated, and walnut and chenar plane trees grow in profusion. Its ruler is the Mehtar, and it is under the ægis of the Government of India, which is represented by a Political Agent. It lies across the main route from India to Turkestan (described so aptly in A. E. W. Mason's "Broken Road"), acting as a guard on this route and a safeguard from raiders from the west.

The "road" generally is a rocky and narrow mountain track across precipitous slopes, occasionally scaling the face of the cliff by a "pari," which is built out from the cliff-face very similarly to scaffoldings from a building, and seldom has much parapet on the outer edge. Thus there is no question of wheeled transport, and everything has to be carried on pack animals or oxen.

"Signals, Chitcol," were commanded by Capt F. R. L. Goadby, I.A., consisting of a detachment of the 4th Indian Infantry Brigade Signal Section of A Divl. Signals (under C.S.M. Wills, from Nowshera) and No. 8 Pack Wireless Section (under Sergt Philpotts from B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi).

The Wireless Section left Rawalpindi in August, and spent a pleasant fortnight at Risalpur in practising ground/air communication with the R.A.F., who sent up planes twice daily to watch the Column's progress and drop mails. They were most hospitably accommodated and entertained by C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, to whom best thanks are due for a very cheery send-off.

The Column was to concentrate at Dargai, so the Nowshera party started on September 4th, and (picking up the Wireless Section en route) marched via Mardan, the home of the Guides, to Dargai, arriving there on the 7th. The start was made at 06.00 hours in a terrific thunderstorm, which did not pass off till 08.30 hours, when the sun came out and the humidity was very trying.

Dargai is a fort at the foot of the Malakand Pass. Here we remained till the 10th, when we climbed the pass and dropped down to Khar on the Swat Canal, and on the next day across the Swat River to Chakdarra, through the country so fiercely fought over in 1897. Chakdarra consists of a fortified hill guarding a bridge across the Swat River.

Up to this camp we had marched along a motor road, with our baggage in A.T. carts. Henceforward all was to be on mules, and a day was spent in drawing loading ropes and weighing our loads to balance to the nearest pound. We left Chakdarra on the morning of September 13th—an early rise, stampeding and barbery mules everywhere, and the camp just one general curse. However, all settled down, and we were ready to move when the cooks produced the inevitable odd load, so things had to be adjusted once more.

Away at last! and two days' hot dusty marches to Serai (2300 ft.), and over the Bobadil Pass (3200 ft.) to Sado (2300 ft.), through country familiar to anyone who knows the Indian Frontier—more especially the Zhob or Baluchistan. Here we came into the valley of the Panjkora River, which we were to climb to its head near the Lowarai Pass, seventy miles to the north, and which at Sado was some two miles broad and covered with fine crops of rice.

Our next march brought us to Robat (2800 ft.), the track running along the hillsides just above the cultivation. This day was chiefly notable for a thunderstorm which drenched us before we had reached halfway. The valley now begins to close in, and the hills are covered with shrubs—chiefly myrtle—and our next halt, at Warai (3300 ft.), saw us well in the hills with little cultivation except narrow strips of maize near the river bed.

From Warai we marched to Darora (4000 ft.), one of those camping-grounds which you can see in the distance and which apparently never get any nearer as you wind round the hill slopes. We had our first experience of the local suspension bridge which, though well and solidly constructed, shudders as you step and worries mules considerably.

Our next stage was through scrub holly to Dir (4800 ft.), the chief village of this part of the country and the residence of the Nawab of Dir, whose territory extends from Chakdarra to the Lowarai Pass. He is very friendly to the British rule.

From Dir onwards, the path becomes steeper and narrower, and possible places for a camping-ground are much more difficult to find, so the Column split into two echelons, marching one day apart, and each served by a Wireless Station. Up to Dir we had had no troubles at all—daily wireless communication immediately in erection—but ahead of us we knew that, figuratively, we should have to erect at the bottom of a well one day and at the foot of a cliff the next, so we felt rather worried.

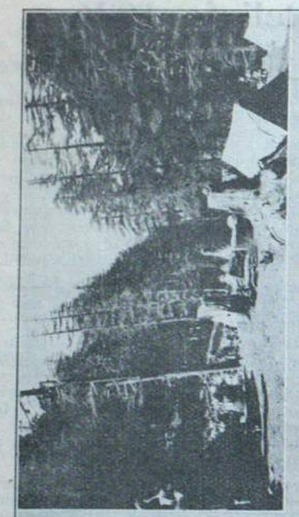
The picqueting of the hills was done by levies, each of whom at night kept a fire blazing both for warmth and to show us where *not* to shoot if we were sniped.

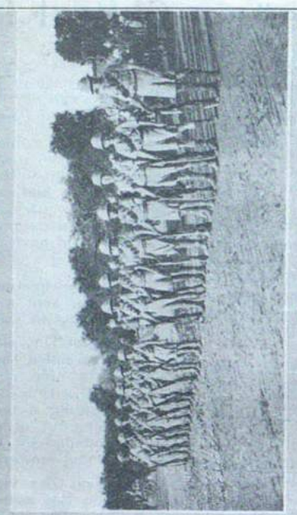
From Dir, after a day's rest, we began to climb in earnest, and ascended the narrow rocky track to Mirga (7800 ft.)—3000 feet in nine miles. The camping-ground here consisted of stones, with a little earth, banked up in terraces, each just wide enough for a tent. Nights were getting pretty cold, and the evening tot of rum was more welcome than ever. We were surrounded by 10,000 ft. hills, each outlined with the picquet fires and crowned by enormous blue pines.

Next day was the most trying march of all: crossing the Hindu Raj mountains (a spur from the Hindu Kush, averaging some 14,000 ft.) by the Lowarai Pass (10,528 ft.) and down the northern slopes to Ziarat (7500 ft.)—the distance from Mirga being 9½ miles. It did not prove so bad as we expected, as we were almost at the crest before the sun got up far enough to shine over the surrounding hills on to our backs—and there was a bitter wind to keep us cool! The view from the crest was magnificent: miles of mountains, none less than 10,000 feet high, Tirichmir (25,500 ft.) in the distance, and traces of last year's snow and eternal glacier ice.

"Old Joe," the Beggar of Chitral

## With "Signals" on Chitral Reliefs, 1926





6 Encamped under the Pines at Ziarat
7 No. 8 Pack Section on parade prior to entraining for Rawalpindi
8 Between Malakand and Dargai (the canal runs through a tunnel)

4 En Route from Dir to Darora
5 Looking towards Lowarai Pass

1 Arrival at Mirga Camp
2 Cooks preparing a Meal
3 Drosh, looking towards Chitral



We put up a Wireless Station on the crest for experiment, but soon closed down owing to the cold. Here we crossed into Chitral territory, the only sign of life being two huts for levy guards; and the blue pines gave way to deodars, some of which were 5 ft. in diameter. Many English flowers were to be seen on the march, such as balsams, buttercups, scabious, and ragwort; while on the Pass were some wonderful blue gentians.

The descent to Ziarat was very steep—about 2000 ft. in zigzags in the first mile, and another 1000 ft. in three miles to camp, which consisted of a flat grassy plateau with river bed on one side, and steep khud thickly forested with deodar on the other. The flat part was only just sufficient for the Battalion and a Transport Company, so Signals were given a piece of khudside fifty yards square and on a slope of about 50 degrees. However, we got our loads off somewhere, got our cooks making tea as quickly as possible, and started to prospect for a site for the Wireless Station.

On previous reliefs we knew that wireless communication had been found impossible here, so we climbed about 500 ft. above the camp, pushing the mules with the wireless set up somehow. We strung our aerial to two trees, and to our astonishment we found signals were as strong as ever and just as if we were only out in a scheme from barracks.

The Wireless Station with the second echelon crossed the Pass the following day and got into camp in time for a snowstorm. Wireless went up at the foot of the hill—as if on the rocks below Beachy Head—and their signals were as good as ever. So we took off our hats to the "C" Set I.P.

In the meantime we (the leading echelon) had marched on to Mirkamni (4300 ft.), six miles from the Afghan border, where the escorting troops remained in a very dusty camp for ten days while the reliefs in Drosh and Chitral took place. One W/T Station went on into Drosh (4400 ft.), a large straggling fort on a hill above the Kunar River, which runs from the Pamirs down through Chitral, Drosh and Mirkamni, and joins the Kabul River at Jellalabad in Afghanistan.

From Ziarat to Mirkamni (and into Drosh) there is a telephone route which would cheer the heart of Fred Karno. The poles (where trees are not used) are kept up by lumps of stones; there is an average of six joints (loosely bound and un-soldered) per bay; the insulators are 25 per cent. good and 25 per cent. bottle necks, and on the remaining poles the line is just bound in—and yet the levies' posts speak to one another (in dry weather, and with many "Hallo's!")

Mirkamni is on the usual hillside, and football was impossible, so the Signals remaining there busied themselves with khud-climbing and helio, etc., schemes before breakfast. We halted there from September 22nd until October 1st, when the Drosh Station arrived and the echelon moved back to Ziarat.

During our stay there the Shahzada (prince, eldest son of the Mehtar of Chitral) Nasur-ul-Mulk came down to visit the camp, and took great interest in the wireless. He had been educated at the Islamic College at Peshawar, and listened in with great interest to our various W/T Stations in Northern India.

The return march came off "according to plan," except for the day on which the rear echelon crossed the Lowarai Pass, when we met a real blizzard with the sleet blowing nearly horizontally. However, Signals fared quite well, as the kindly Shahzada (who had arranged tea for the officers of the Column in the levy hut on the crest) came out and brought the whole Section in. Hot tea and chapatties were found excellent for keeping out the cold.

We arrived at Chakdarra on October 10th and marched in past the G.O.C. Peshawar District, who was very satisfied with the communication we had provided. On the 12th we marched over the Malakand Pass to Dargai (18 miles), and there picked up No. 9 Pack W/T Section under Sergt Weston.

"Signals, Chitcol," then dispersed—the Brigade Sections to Nowshera by route march, and the Wireless Sections to Rawalpindi in a "troop special." Travelling by rail was considered very comfortable after marching more than 200 miles in the previous six weeks.

[As mentioned in last month's notes from No. 2 (W/T) Coy. B Corps Signals, the photographs illustrating this article were taken by Sergt Philpotts.—Editor.]

## Plain Tales—

*(Continued from page 3)*

An account of the celebration, or as much of it as remains undimmed in my mind, will be given in due course, either here or in 3rd Divl. Signals notes.

* * * *

**Impracticable Mathematics.**—As predicted in "Plain Tales" a few months ago, a goodly number of aspirants to 1st class honours are attending the Garrison School. One need only attend once to realise how ignorant one has become with the passage of years. Look at these questions, taken at random from "Brown's Mental Gymnastics."

1—If five signalmen haul 15 cwt. of wood from A to B (a distance of three-quarters of a mile) and get seven days each, find the distance to Gosport, to two places of decimals.

2—A bought a sidecar for £3, and sold it two months later to B for £5. B "crashed," and obtained repairs value £7 through his insurance company. Find Joe Soap.

3—A box 2 ft. long, 1 ft. wide, and 8 ins. deep, is filled with wet clay. A man declines to carry it three miles for a shilling. Do you blame him?

This "B" must be a mischievous little blighter, according to the books I've seen. No sooner does "A" (a serious-minded fellow) commence to fill a tank than "B" deliberately opens the waste pipe and allows the water to run away.

Then, again, "A" can dig a trench in practically "no time," yet "B" (lazy fellow!) takes ever so much longer, and may on occasions actually start filling it in again. Awfully annoying!

* * * *

**A Lady of Spirit.**—One admires "Dogged Determination," and one can become awfully interested when this excellent quality comes up against "Inflexible Purpose."

One day there was a lady with a very fair share of "D.D." [There is *still* a lady with it, as a matter of fact; but don't interrupt.] She arrived at the bus terminus in Bulford camp with a considerable amount of luggage, and attempted to board the bus. The conductor was fully equipped with "I.P." (see above), and the following spirited conversation took place:—

Conductor: "You can't get on this bus, madam."
Lady (exhibiting "D.D."): "But I must; I have to catch a special train in Salisbury."
Conductor ("I.P." coming to the surface): "The bus is full."
Lady: "Can't you put somebody off, to make room for me?"
Conductor ("I.P." in full view): "Sorry, madam; can't be done. What time does your train go?"
Lady (still determined, but fewer dogs): "I don't know."
Conductor: "Well, I'm——. Right away, George!"

* * * *

**Men's Wear.**—Of course they do! A well known tradesman, with an establishment never-mind-where, exhibits a poster thus:

"We don't need a loud speaker:
Our goods speak for themselves."

I agree. I'll go further. His socks and ties positively shriek!

* * * *

**Personal.**—Pte A. Coleman, Military Police Hut, Bulford Camp, Wilts, would like to hear from Sigmn (?) G. Hull of Tooting, who enlisted in Royal Signals in 1923.

* * * *

**Question and Reply.**—Q.: Dear Barleux. I am having trouble with my 1906 "big single" B.J.S. motor-cycle. As soon as I engage bottom gear, the gear box falls out and the rear wheel comes out of alignment. I am unable to pump up either of my tyres, and the tank refuses to hold any petrol.

A.: You are liable to prosecution under the Rag and Bone Act (1882), but I will advise you. Make sure that what you think is a gear box is *not* a spare tin of carbide; then inspect to see whether there are any nuts and bolts attached. Discard rear wheel altogether. Make certain you have tubes in your tyres, as tyres without tubes take a very long time to pump up. From what you say, the tank appears to leak. Post it to me, with money order for £7, and then cultivate patience.—Yours truly,

BARLEUX.

# Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major A. G. J. Copeland from India to Colchester.
Major R. P. A. Helps from Gibraltar to Catterick.
Capt O. S. D. Wills from Malta to Aldershot.
Capt G. P. Pavey from Colchester to Catterick.
Capt M. F. M. Parkes from Catterick to Aldershot.
Capt C. V. L. Lycett from Palestine to Bulford.
Capt E. H. du Cros from Aldershot to London.
Capt H. V. von S. Thorne from Rhine to Catterick.
Capt E. J. Murphy from Ireland to Aldershot.
Capt F. R. Courtenay-Thompson from Catterick to Palestine.
Lieut R. Sutton-Pratt from Rhine to Aldershot.
Lieut C. F. Newsom from Blackdown to Egypt.
Lieut P. H. Owens from Egypt to Catterick.
Lieut E. V. McCormack from Catterick to Rhine.
Lieut F. K. Morton from Aldershot to Belfast.

## Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/11/26.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
Lieut A. Arnold, late R.E., to be 2/Lieut., 17/11/26, and relinquishes the rank of Lieutenant.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—Capt. G. R. Nichols to be Major, 17/11/26.
50th (N.) Divl. Signals—Capt P. Jennings, M.C., R. Signals, to be Adjutant, 1/11/26.

War Office, 19/11/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Capt D. H. Cunynghame is seconded for service with the R.A.F., 28/10/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
50th (N.) Divl. Signals—Capt W. T. Howe, O.B.E., Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 1/11/26.
A.A. Signals (Artillery Zones)—Capt W. U. Tyrrell, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 1/11/26.
Lieut W. H. G. Rogers, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, and is granted temp. rank of Captain in T.A. (with pay and allowances of Lt.) whilst holding that appointment, 1/11/26.

War Office, 23/11/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Capt and Brev.-Major F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., retires on retired pay 24/11/26.

War Office, 26/11/26.

REGULAR FORCES—MEMORANDA.
Col. O. C. Mordaunt, D.S.O., retires on retired pay, 27/11/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut F. C. Watts, from 42nd (East Lancs.) Divl. Signals, to be 2/Lieut. with precedence as in the T.A.
48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals—Ernest Shackleton (late Cadet L/Corpl Dollar Academy Contgt. Junior Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut., 27/11/26.
51st (H.) Divl. Signals—Capt (Brev.-Major) F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., Royal Signals (temp. Lieut.-Col. T.A.) vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 9/11/26.
Lieut B. H. House, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, and is granted the temp. rank of Captain in the T.A. (with pay and allowances of a Lieutenant) whilst holding that appointment, 9/11/26.
55th (W.L.) Divl. Signals—J. R. S. Orchard (late Cadet Under-Officer Bradfield College Contgt. Junior Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut., 1/9/26.

War Office, 30/11/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Capt P. Jennings, M.C., is seconded for service with the T.A., 1/11/26.
Capt T. H. L. Turner is restored to the establishment, 1/11/26.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
Harold Bernard Thompson to be 2/Lieut., 1/12/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals—A. B. Taylor to be 2/Lieut., 24/10/26.
V. E. Bailey (late Cadet C. of London School Contgt. Junior Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut., 24/10/26.
56th (1st London) Divl. Signals—Major H. E. Blake vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 17/11/26.
Capt E. H. du Cros, R. Signals, to be Adjutant, 17/11/26.

War Office, 3/12/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Lieut W. H. G. Rogers is seconded for service with the T.A., 1/11/26.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
2/Lieut W. O. P. Pritchard to be Lieutenant, 4/11/26.

War Office, 7/12/26.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
2/Lieut R. T. Rateliffe to be Lieutenant, 5/12/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—Lieut S. W. Lloyd, M.C., to be Captain, 8/12/26.
48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals—M. E. R. Mannox (late Cadet Bromsgrove School Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 7/12/26.

War Office, 10/12/26.

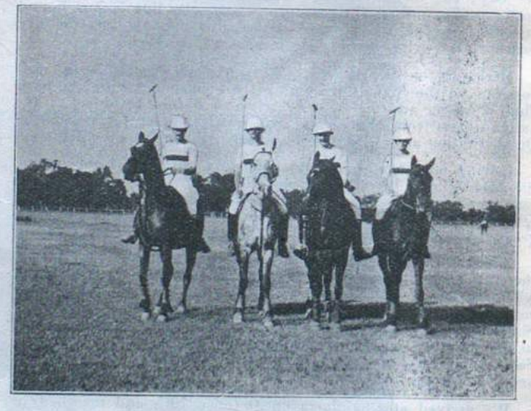
REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Lieut B. H. House is seconded for service with the T.A., 9/11/26.

## Murree Brewery Polo Tournament, Rawalpindi.

### Royal Signals v. Brass Buckles.

The Signal team received three goals on handicap, but were beaten by 11 goals to 3. The game was more even than the score represents; in the last two chukkers there was little scoring.

In the subsidiary tournament we met the Royal Engineers, Rawalpindi, and were beaten by 2 goals to 1. The match was lost by the bad shooting of the Signals, who had the best of the game.



The Royal Corps of Signals Team

*Left to Right*—Lieut. F. P. L. Gray, Capt. R. Neale, Lieut.-Col. F. A. Heymann, Capt. I. F. G. Hall

This is the first time the Corps colours have been seen on the polo field, and although beaten on our first appearance, a commencement has been made!

It is hoped that all Signal officers, when doing a tour of service in India, will strive to play polo and encourage others to do so. Line ponies at a very small cost per month can be played, and the upkeep of private ponies is small. All who do play will agree that there is no game to beat it, and will never regret having commenced it.

**Departures.**—Sergt McGrath and Corpl Walsh to 1st Divl. Signals; Sigmn Asbury to No. 1 A.A. Signal Company; Sergt Overington to India; Corpl Adams to civvy street.

R. L. S.

# Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

## A Company, Depot Battalion.

We regret saying goodbye to Capt M. F. M. Parkes, M.C., our O.C. for over a year and during a very troublesome period. His personal interest in the welfare of the recruits may well earn him the title of "the recruit's greatest friend." Their initial expenses and stoppages are considerably less now than they used to be.

In his place we welcome Capt H. V. Thorne, and hope his stay will be a happy one both for him and for us.

Some of the R.E. fixtures of the Company have now been removed from the inventory by a few posting orders. Doubtless their names will be familiar to anyone who has passed through the Depot during the last four years. They appear under "Departures."

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever."

Surely Tennyson must have had something to do with a Recruits Company. As fast as we say goodbye to one squad, another fills the breach. Nos. 79 and 81 Squads have left us for Trade Companies. The former have left behind a record in musketry of which they and all associated with them may well be proud. An average of 88.8 out of a possible 115 will require some whacking. What about it, "B"? We have again won the recruits' musketry cup—this time by No. 81 Squad, under Sergt Driver. Advice on this subject will be given free to any other Recruit Company.

L.M.S. posters, advertising the attractions of various parts of England, now adorn the barrack-room walls, making us long to be there. Catterick, needless to say, is not included. The cadre, for obvious reasons, have a poster entitled "Trooping the Colour."

So far, snow and blizzards have held off; probably because the weather is too cold. We saw the sun last week. How'd you like to come back, Nat?

**Arrivals.**—Corpl White from Egypt; L/Corpl Strugnell from the School of Education, Shorncliffe; L/Corpl Ellison from A.P.T. School, Aldershot.

## B Company, Depot Battalion.

**General.**—To all members of the Corps, past and present, a very happy and prosperous New Year!

There are rumours that we are to "fade away" in the New Year, but that remains to be seen. Writing of fading reminds me that one of our number *has* faded: Sergt Stone to India, accompanied by family, on 16/12/26. He has been removed from the R.E. fixture board.

The inter-Squad sports shield is once more with us, having been won by No. 84 Squad (Sergt Devlin).

We are beginning to feel the effects of the slackness of recruiting, being unable to find sufficient to furnish the main guard; so after much gnashing of teeth, this honourable duty was handed over to the Company cadre. This naturally came as a great shock, but I am pleased to state that they have now recovered.

We congratulate L/Sergt Storey on his recent appointment to that rank.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

*It's Anzora that Masters the Hair!*

MEN who use ANZORA never need a comb. They know that their hair will stay tidy all day long throughout the most strenuous activities. It is the hair dressing which *really* controls the hair, giving it that smooth, well-groomed appearance. It is simple to use, clean and delicately perfumed. Join the many thousands of discerning men who use Anzora regularly.

*Anzora Cream for greasy scalps, will not soil hat linings or pillows, and Anzora Viola for dry scalps, containing a little oil of violets. Both are sold in 1/6 and 2/6 (double quantity) bottles by hairdressers, chemists, stores & canteens.*

*Refuse all Substitutes*


Lieut J. A. Tait, 1st Battn. Middlesex Regiment, is now with us, and he seems to like it. We are hoping that his stay will be long.

Unit Headquarters A Corps Signals will hear from the Hon. Russell in due course. He is a very busy man these days, having more than one thing on hand—the greatest of these being his big scheme of living, or how to live when he enters civilian life on the 31st March, 1927. He offers his congratulations to "Simmo" on his recent appointment.

Our Company S.M. recently won the mess pontoon sweep, and at the same period witnessed the pictured record of "Mons" at the Court Cinema, Darlington. It is said that he would not like to win the sweep again under the same circumstances (he certainly looked as though he had just won his Mons star again).

At the time of writing we are busily engaged in sorting out Christmas leave applications from those people desiring to proceed to their homes, if any, at that period. We are also busily engaged in making preparation for the entertainment of those unfortunates remaining up in Yorkshire. By what I can see of things, the "unfortunates" are going to have a very good time.

The clutching hand of "Attest" has not yet reached us, but A and C Companies have felt the tightening grip (time, too, someone said—I wonder what they meant). The catches have been replaced by old friends from the Field units, who are making themselves as comfortable as possible in their new home. My friend Harry of H.Q. fame tells me it is *not home*. He says that Catterick is the place we live in, and that Heaven is our home. P'raps so!

Corpl Jennison of No. 1 Company Egypt Signals, attached to this Company, is now enjoying a well-earned rest at home after his P.T. course at Aldershot.

R. C. B.

## C Company, Depot Battalion.

Again I find it my painful duty to scribble the Company notes. Not that I loathe the job, but it is what is told me afterwards. Did anyone ever envy the Company scribe, or willingly volunteer to test his own abilities?

Since last month a few changes have taken place, and we now find Fifi in new surroundings after a good run in this Centre. Sergts Waller and Gregory, Corpls Birchenshaw and Farmer, and a pair of office scissors, have found their way to different units. We wish them success in their new abodes, especially the scissors.

Sergt Cayley, S/Sergt Dowty, and Corpl Kilford are due to leave us in the near future for Colchester, together with a motor cycle. It has been told that a motor-cycle club exists there, so we hope to hear of records broken on tram-lines.

The following have found their way to the old Company, and we wish them every possible advantage they may secure: Sergts White and Ford, Corpl Howells, and C.Q.M.S. Campbelton (our new riding instructor). We still have Corpls Day and Duncan to follow, but they are at present enjoying furlough.

Congratulations are extended to Sergt Cranham, Corpl Oliver and L/Corpl Reads on their further "legs," and to Corpl Wilmott on being presented with a daughter, and Sigmn Carman with a son.

Now we find that very exciting time "Christmas" drawing near. How the duty rosters are being scrutinised, and what a happy man is the C.S.M.; but rumour has it that indulgence in cross-word puzzles has enabled him to meet the position. And the Pay Sergeant! Oh, he's a jolly good fellow and O.P. cigarettes. Could any housewife have been put to the test of making both ends meet as he is now: he whose clothing bills exceed all trace of credits, and yet he expecteth.

Within three months many changes will have taken place, and many of our old drivers will be in civil life again. Some may proceed overseas, and some may not.

**Sports.**—At present the Company have a very good command on all sports, and we stand foremost in many cases. The Depot Battalion boxing team consisted mainly of members of this Company, which is a very good outlook.

## F Company Boys, Training Battalion.

We must apologise for the non-appearance of Boys' notes in last month's WIRE, our excuse being the formation of the Boys' Company, this being (as "Donpai" remarked) "an awful happening." The Company, as "those in the know" are aware, had been contemplated for some time, but was not formed till late in November, under Major F. R. Cobb and the old boys' n.c.o.s. Now, brethren, the boys of the Signals are all in one Company! Of course, it sounds much more formidable than it really is. The new Company is well represented in every way. We have a cadre, composed of the pendulous "elect."

The Boys' Club is still going strong, and now serves in the capacity of a canteen for the boys. This may account for the worried looks assumed by those in the local N.A.A.F.I. The Corner House isn't in it (nor is Nippy). The club is run on modern lines, the "Home Rule" stunt being used.

At the time of writing the leave period is very near, but when these notes appear in print, the long-expected will be the long-remembered, with a New Year and new memories. Now will be the "bonne-heure" for a postman's strike, when the "billets-doux" fly fast and furious.

Many of the notoriety will soon be leaving us for the distant lands known to the travelled as "The Divs," on completion of eighteen years of ups and downs, but they will travel staggering under the weight of our good wishes.

L/Corpl Reed has vanished from our ken to the strange lands mentioned after enjoying (?) a comparatively short time with us.

"Some may come, and some may go,
And some go on for ever."

Our New Year wishes go to all ex-rats. The old firm still stands good under the new title, and any queries should go to the usual place.



**An Appreciation.**—A certain signalman, who was also a librarian, has just been discharged on compassionate grounds. He hopes to become a chiropodist, or a clerk in a big firm.

So he
Is gone:
The man who lent the books
When
He was
There!
To Civvy Street, to cut a toe,
Or p'raps
To clerk
For some impoverished firm.
We wish him back: we miss him very
Much.
He was such
Fun
To rag.
But nevertheless
He was
A d—— good sort.

**Agony.**—Sigmn Broadley wishes to hear from Messrs. Dobson Brothers, India.

LES DEUX GARCONS.

## School of Signals.

By the time these notes appear, Christmas, with its attendant festivities, will be nothing more than a memory; and no doubt we shall be a bit "fed up" with hearing people remark, "This time last week I was at the Ritz," and so on and so forth. However, we hope that Christmas *was* enjoyed by everyone; and if the enjoyment was in proportion to the "sweating" they did before Christmas, they surely had a hectic time!

During the last few weeks we have had the pleasure (?) of watching a "square" come to life in our midst. By the way, a square is a thing you drill on—not something one gives to the orderly buff. This square is highly respected by the School; so much so, in fact, that it is generally hoped that it may never be trampled underfoot. What a hope!

Christmas presents were received from the N.A.A.F.I. and the M.O. The gift from the N.A.A.F.I. was a piano; admittedly only a small edition, but nevertheless a piano for all that—and we are truly thankful! The M.O. treated the whole of the Company to inoculation for the prevention of "flu." Judging from some of the remarks passed, it wouldn't be quite true to say that for that, also, we were duly thankful; but if we should see our brethren stricken down by this deadly melody—no, malady—no doubt we *shall* be.

"The Flying Eight," reported last month as having disappeared from our ken, has been seen once more; and we advise any intending motor-bike buyer to look before he leaps, or he may become the proud (?) possessor of this ancient model.

It is now masquerading as a "Triumph," and from a distance—a long distance—it doesn't look unlike one. But beware! if it were a horse, its tail would be decorated with a bit of red ribbon; but of course, not being a horse, this is impossible—so it is allowed to roam at will amongst its brethren. It doesn't roam far, it is true; it could not if it wanted to. Anyhow, don't say we didn't warn you!

**Departure.**—Dvr W. Y. Burton to the 11th Field Brigade R.A., 17/11/26. The best wishes of the School follow him.

**Births.**—To Corpl C. H. Tolley, a son (Anthony Gerald) 23/11/26. To Dvr T. Joy, a daughter (Marguerite), 27/11/26.

BANGER.

## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### A Corps Signals, Ewshott Camp.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—A whist drive and dance was held on Friday, December 3rd, in the camp dance hall, and was voted a great success. The winners of the booby prizes are, it is believed, seeking admission to a children's welfare creche. Who was the mess member who joined in every dance except three, despite the fact that he was suffering agonies from "cross-country feet"?


IF YOU WANT

BEEF

CUBES

that make the richest and tastiest beef-tea you've ever had—

that have a delicious vegetable flavour—

that are simply unequalled for enriching soups and gravies—

BE SURE YOU ASK FOR

Armour's

BEEF

CUBES

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

YOUR NEW H.Q.

are being constructed by

Sir Lindsay PARKINSON & CO. LTD.

*Specialists in Construction*

LONDON and BLACKPOOL

We are hoping to hold a fancy dress ball on January 28th, and we take this opportunity of reminding mess members and their guests to get busy with the making of costumes.

With the departure of Sergt Chenery for India, we wish him "bon voyage" and a very happy sojourn in the East.

### No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

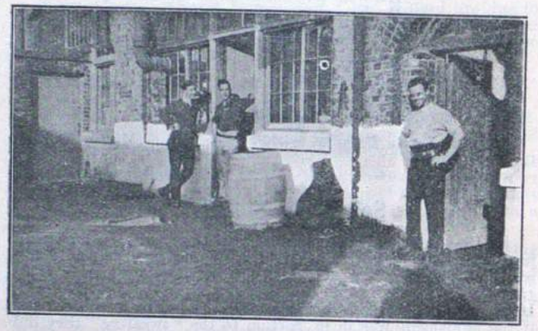
On Detachment at Bembridge Fort.
Isle of Wight.

Despite sundry rumours that this Section had departed for an extension of leave to this delightful island, it has been noticed that the "leave" has been and is being spent in a curious manner. Unlike many people who live in offices and have idle pens, we have a job of work on hand, and we are getting stuck into it to no small tune.

No. 1 M.T. "Naval" Section
(this is the new dres issued for work in this Island)

The job in question is permanent line, although this would probably be beyond the scope of understanding of the kind critic in last month's WIRE.

We arrived here on one of the finest examples of a wet day seen for some time, and found a five mile march to the top of the mountain before us. The ancient chariot produced for our kits gave up the ghost half way up, and had to be propelled by hand for the rest of the journey. However, we finally arrived and crossed the drawbridge (g.v.), and found ourselves inside the fort. As our only illumination is provided by oil lamps, we had a certain amount of amusement in sorting things out for the night.



Cook House and Staff

We are entirely "in the blue" here, and run our own messing, canteen—wet and dry; mostly wet—and live entirely on our own. The canteen has proved a most successful venture, and we are enlarging its capacity week by week. We have found that this island is composed entirely of chalk rock, which of course is splendid stuff for breaking pick-axes when digging pot-holes; and as we have to dig over a hundred holes from 5 ft. 6 in. to 9 ft. deep, we are finding the job equally as good as any muscle factory course.

Entrance to Fort

Sandown is the nearest town to us, and this boasts one cinema and two dance places. However, the Gunners (of whom there are 28 in the island, for experimental work) gave an excellent dance and social, to which practically the whole Section went. The Gunners are now on furlough for twenty days, but they have promised to have another show soon after their return; so if we are still here then, we shall be able to enjoy ourselves thoroughly again.

We are not entirely reliant on other people for song and dance, as we have a number of Charleston experts and a band consisting of about six banjuleles and mandolins. There is also a loud-speaker in the canteen.

Interior of Fort

We have had two successful inspections since coming here: one by the G.O.C. Wessex Area, and the other by Col. Powell (accompanied by Capt T. B. Gravely) from the War Office.

EMTEE.

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

### No. 3 Company.

Despite the furlough season, sport is in full swing, every available half-day being devoted to soccer, hockey and cross-country running. The inter-Section and inter-Company matches have been keenly contested. A few friendly games with other units have also been played.

In addition to these sports, a billiard match recently produced some remarkable talent, the C.S.M. "slinging a wicked cue."

**Whist Drives.**—Through the generosity and whole-hearted efforts of C.S.M. Keevil this season, the whist drives have been continued successfully, there being a good attendance every time. Capt. D. A. Brown, M.C., kindly presented the prizes. Incidentally, the amusement and refreshments provided at these drives represent good value for a modest "bob."

**Appointments.**—Congratulations to Corpl Lewis on his promotion to L/Sergeant, also to Signalmen Minnett and Lee on being appointed A/U/L/Corporals.

**Notes.**—Dvr M. Burke of this Company would like to get into touch with No. 54320 Sigmn A. Johnson, believed to be in Egypt.

Uncle (Dick) wishes to congratulate Corpl Willmott of C Company on his recent increase. Keep it up, Darky, old boy; we want a few recruits in the R.A. detachments.

THREE COY.

## 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

### No. 1 Company.

May our New Resolutions be successful in the New Year.

**Departures.**—L/Corpl G. F. Skitt to the School of Signals, Catterick. Signalmen Carter, Graves, Andrews, and Francis to India. We deeply regret losing our excellent pianist. We shall certainly miss him after the splendid times we have had—especially the rock salt incident, Gravo.

**Howlers.**—The following are for the 1st class candidates to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. Misunderstanding of a word is a fruitful source of the errors to be found in any batch of examination papers.

"Bearded like a pard" means with a beard like a clergyman.
After nineteen years in prison Mary Queen of Scots was executed, and remained as beautiful as when she was young.
William the Conqueror was thrown from his horse and wounded in the Fuedal System and died of it.
A magnetic force is a straight line, generally a curved one, which would tend to point where the North Pole comes.

JIM.

### No. 2 Company

Owing to leave our notes will be short. The last batch of men (or the lucky ones) proceed on leave on December 17th, and no doubt they will enjoy the festive season. It is pleasing for us who are staying behind to hear they have contributed towards our Christmas fare.

Our O.C. has started on his visit to South Africa. May the sea be kind to him, and prevent him scrumming on deck!

The names of those detailed for future drafts continue to leak through. Some smile, while others continue to "wangle" it.

We hope to have our sportsmen going strong in the New Year. A trial cross-country run took place on December 15th, but we still want to hear of less transfers to the "Bedfords" on half-days. Now, don't forget the Command running club is going strong. We want still more to represent the Company in the club's runs.

**Departures.**—Corpl Batchelor and Sigmn Gunn to India in November; and Sergt Todd, Signalmen Carey, Fox, Chitty, Cappleman, Bazin, Ewers, Walker and Birkett on December 16th. May they enjoy the change of climate.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl J. Davis from Rhine Signals; L/Corpl Penn from India; Dvr Mitchell from Depot Battalion. We wish them all a happy stay with us.

NICK.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—The second leave party left us on December 1st, to taste (temporarily) the delights of civvy street. Many and varied will be their tales of adventures in ever-changing spheres.

**Departures.**—Since our last notes appeared, four more of our sadly-depleted personnel have left us: Corpl S. Bell, Signalmen F. G. Homan, A. Lourie, and D. A. Meech to India per "City of Marseilles," 3/12/26. The Troop wish them the best of luck in their new station.

**Transfer to Army Reserve.**—Dvr W. Tricker. May he have as good horses to carry him to success in the future as he had to carry him to "turf-cutting and rolling" in the past.

**Personal.**—Sigmn B. F. Legge would like to hear from H. W. Smith, late of this Troop.

SANDY.

## No. 1 A.A. Signal Company.

Blackdown.

**General.**—The first course of instruction for trade testing has been completed, and it is hoped that results of the instructors' efforts will be reflected in increased pay for the candidates, who will be put up for test in March after a short "refresher" course.

On December 16th we welcomed new neighbours in the 1st A.A. Searchlight Battalion R.E., who are now quartered in the same barracks as ourselves. We are very pleased to be rubbing shoulders with a battalion of our parent corps, and trust that the good feeling and understanding already existing between the units will continue and increase.

**Arrivals.**—Sigmn Ryan from No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals. Sigmn Asbury from A Company Depot Battalion. Signalmen Feltham, Jones and Turner from E Company, Training Battn.

**Departures.**—Lieut H. A. Daws (North Staffordshire Regt.) has proceeded on leave pending retirement to civil life. All ranks trust he will obtain congenial employment, and wish him every success in the future.

The drafts mentioned in last month's notes duly departed on December 3rd and 7th. Sigmn Dyball was honoured by the presence of Corpl Gough to say farewell at Southampton.

**Casualty.**—The C.S.M. rejoined the married half company on 16/12/26.

ACK ACK.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp, Dec. 14th.

**Back to Work.**—By the time these notes appear, we shall all be hard at our jobs, having had our brief spell of freedom. A man may be known by his actions during the week following his

return. One looks frightfully homesick, and may be seen penning lengthy epistles to his home and sweetheart night after night. This, however, soon wears off at 1½d. per letter. Another comes back several days before time, "broke to the wide," but cheerful in the knowledge that he has had his fling. He is ten times more a man than he who returns several days late, or not at all. Yet another type returns with various ailments, chiefly of the imagination, such as the man with "a loose *cartridge*" in his knee! It must be an awful strain to remember to limp all the time!

**After-Duty Affairs.**—I am afraid we are rather behind with our whist drives and dances, but this is due entirely to the fact that the lights have not yet been installed in the annexe to the recreation room. The annexe is necessary, in order that men not wishing to dance may obtain supper in comfort.

We have an efficient dance band, although it has been necessary to recruit a pianist from outside the unit. Have we not a pianist in the unit? Let him step forward, and his fortune is made!

All pianists might have this qualification marked on their documents, and be posted to units as required. Worth noting! It is not realised that a canteen or recreation room resembles a morgue, on a wet night, when the troops are sitting about in groups telling each other how they enlisted, whilst an imaginative individual picks out a dirge on the piano with one finger.

However, things will be brighter in a day or two, for I hear that a man actually came to survey the ceiling of the annexe a few days ago. All the Charleston enthusiasts are wriggling impatiently. Well, let them wriggle. We will give them something to get on with very shortly.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt G. Gregory and Sigmn H. Pearson from Depot Battalion, 22/11/26; and Dvr G. Mursell, 13/12/26.

Sigmn J. Morley from Training Battn. 22/11/26; Signalmen Harrold and Lynton, 29/11/26; and L/Sergt H. Vokins, 13/12/26.

L/Corpl Walby, Signalmen S. Craft, G. Colley, A. Coomber, and S. Mayhew from Artillery College, Woolwich, 23/11/26.

Sigmn C. Vincent from India, 26/11/26.

Sigmn L. Lovell from Northern Ireland Signal Coy. 2/12/26.

Signalmen B. Cooper and P. Keast from Egypt, 5/12/26.

L/Corpl J. McBride from Hong Kong, 13/12/26.

**Departures.**—C.S.M. W. Nichol to Duke of York's H.Q., London (P.S.), 22/11/26.

Sergt W. White to Depot Battalion, 22/11/26.

To India—On 3/12/26: Corpl J. McKee, L/Corpls V. Cole and T. Healey, Signalmen A. Fulcher, J. Jones, G. Sweeney, Atkinson, J. Inman, G. Reed, and F. Williams. On 16/12/26: Corpl F. Sykes, L/Corpls Robertson and E. Wood, Signalmen L. Bray, H. Brand, C. Cleary, S. Couch, S. Farmer, C. Fray, Johns, C. Johnson, H. Kiss, A. Lee, A. Mayo, D. Mills, H. Moseley, Raley, A. Salter, J. Teague, W. Turner, E. Warman, H. West, Woodstock, D. Wrenn.

L/Sergt H. Boulter to Training Battalion, 13/12/26.

Sigmn J. Smithers to 6th Field Brigade R.A., 13/12/26 (transfer).

**Birth.**—To Sigmn E. R. Boniface, a daughter (Rosemary Isabel), 1/12/26.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—A/Corpl W. Sewell to be Corporal, w.e.f. 4/4/26. L/Corpl J. Lemon, appointed A/Corporal w.e.f. 28/10/26.

**Marriages.**—Sigmn S. Basted to Charlotte Maidment, at Bermondsey, 20/11/26. L/Corpl E. Wood to Henrietta Henderson Golton, at Fulham, 30/10/26.

**Extension of Service.**—Dvr G. Smith to complete 12 years with the Colours, 6/12/26.

**Transfers to Army Reserve.**—Sigmn J. Curley, 14/12/26; Sigmn W. Kay, 2/12/26; Sigmn C. Vincent, 17/12/26; Sigmn L. Goodwin, 7/12/26; Sigmn T. Tinsley, 12/12/26; Dvr F. Royle, 13/12/26.

**Discharges.**—L/Sergt R. Sawyer, 4/12/26; Dvr T. Mooney, 16/12/26.

**Education.**—Awarded 1st class certificate, October, 1926, Sigmn C. Stanton. 2nd class, 26/10/26, Sigmn W. Chesters. 3rd class, 30/9/26: Signalmen S. Raley, G. Pope, G. Cooper, W. Oakes, and Dvr S. Bartlett.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, Dec. 14th.

To units at home and abroad, we give the old wish for the New Year. May it hold in store everything each one would wish for himself.

Records, alas! have not yet finished with our noble Company. It is with great regret that we bemoan the fact of our losses. Another draft has left us, and a further one is preparing to leave as I write. In addition, many individual postings under the three years' scheme have gone to various rest (?) cures. I will not name them separately—there are too many—but suffice it to say that many an old landmark has been removed from our midst. Good luck to them all! We hope they will soon settle down in their new stations.

On the other hand many faces, not altogether strange, have arrived to fill the vacant places. We welcome them all, and hope their impressions of this station are favourable.

We began to think that, in making their "fierce onslaught" of last month, our old guardians Records had forgotten us in the ladder business. But, no! we did them an injustice, for scarcely had our words appeared in print, than (like a judgment) the undermentioned descended upon us:—

1849706 L/Corpl L. J. Williams, 2314489 L/Corpl F. S. Andrews, 2314280 L/Corpl R. H. Fox, 2315014 L/Corpl J. Manning, and 2312989 L/Corpl W. R. Church appointed Acting Corporals with effect from 1/10/26. 2306730 A/Corpl E. G. Rogers promoted Corporal with effect from 9/5/26. 2307347 Sergt J. C. Atkins appointed Acting C.Q.M.S., with effect from 22/11/26.

"It's a long lane that has no turning."

The corporals' mess decided to hold a dance to welcome the corporals of the Rifle Brigade, who recently arrived in the Garrison. The dance was held on November 26th. Much praise and many thanks are due to the committee who put in so much hard work, and especially to Corpl (Bill) Williams for preparing the bar and making sure the 'ops were 30% over the top. But, Bill, you did start early!

Another big item of great interest was the Signals Association dance in the Garrison gymnasium on December 10th. It was an unqualified success, a goodly number of people (somewhere about 200, I should think) dancing. A really enjoyable evening was spent by all. We tender our best thanks to Lieut.-Col. T. H. L. Spaight, D.S.O. (our C.O.) and the officers of the unit for their support and presence.

The "Estaminet de Stockwell" (Old Joe at the wheel—I mean handles)—its colours, a trifle blurred perhaps, flying merrily aloft in the balcony—was the gem of the evening. Speaking legally, quite a few were "called to the bar." It is rumoured that the M.C. had to borrow a fireman's axe as a counter-attraction, so that eventually the honours were evenly divided between him and the estaminet.

The social things in the sergeants' mess are still maintaining their popularity, but we regret to announce the departure of many who assisted in the merrymaking. As before, I cannot give names, but it is rumoured that Sergt (Blanco) White, before leaving for India, paid a visit to Netley and ordered a corner bed. One "tomato season," and we shall see him back again. Believe me, Buttie!

After one of our dances a certain gentleman of the mess, who had lost the restraining influence of "Pony," reported to the guard room at 6 a.m. and asked the commander for a call at 5.30 a.m.

Another, whose sobriquet is "Clutch," was seen assisting a damsel out of camp on the back step of his bike. Did he crash? And who took his boots off?

**Information.**—In reply to friend Peiching of the North China Signal Section, I am afraid I cannot disclose the history of "Bogie, the horse dentist." Should Peiching, however, be particularly anxious to know, and write to me privately on this matter, I will stretch a point and tell him, provided he gives me his assurance that it goes no further!

**Psychology of this Month (Phenomenal).**—The quartermaster made a free issue. The man said "No thanks!"

BANDA.



## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, December 14th.

I will open with wishing all readers a happy New Year and greater success to the Corps Journal.

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of annual furlough and training of operators.

Rumour has it that we are to evacuate the Rhine about next March, and there is every appearance of the rumour becoming true. If such comes about I think the majority will be pleased, as this station is not so good as one was given to believe.

It is quite "on the cards" that ere long we shall move over to Biebrich, which is some three or four miles away, but by the time these notes are in print we shall know more about it: in fact, we may be there. It will be a move to the better, as it is a much improved town compared with the one we at present occupy, and (the Rhine being so close at hand) will be quite welcomed.

A Signals Association dance was held yesterday evening and proved quite a success, everyone present thoroughly enjoying themselves. It is hoped that there will be a greater success when furlough is over, so that it can be acknowledged that Rhine Signals are doing their share to help the Benevolent Fund.

Our congratulations are extended to Capt J. L. Henderson, Royal Signals, on his attaining that rank and the seniority with it.

Very little happened in the n.c.o.s mess during the past month, but the coming month looks a little brighter with the outlook of a billiard handicap and a few new records.

We welcome the arrival of a batch of n.c.o.s and men from the 4th Divl. Signals, and wish them a happy stay with us. To those who went home in their relief, we wish every success in their new station.

ARMAC.

**The Plight (of the Rhine)!**

Ten good fatigue men,
With a Corporal fine—
The Sergeant-Major wanted one:
Then there were nine.

Nine good fatigue men,
Putting up the gate—
The Orderly Sergeant pinched one:
Then there were eight.

Eight good fatigue men,
Pleading up to heaven—
The Orderly Corporal claimed one:
Then there were seven.

Seven good fatigue men,
All with shovels and picks—
The Pay Clerk thought he'd like one:
Then there were six.

Six good fatigue men,
Only just alive—
One had kit to lay down:
Then there were five.

Five good fatigue men,
Wishing there were more—
One was up for "Office":
Then there were four.

Four good fatigue men,
Longing to be free—
One went sick with toothache:
Then there were three.

Three good fatigue men—
Faces almost blue—
The Quartermaster had one:
Then there were two.

Two good fatigue men—
Day's work nearly done—
One went playing Footbal:
Then there was one.

One good fatigue man,
With a Corporal fine—
On the "Mat" next morning, for—
"Where's the other nine!"

A. S. C.

"So this is how you learn languages —by gramophone"

"Yes, I learned French and Spanish this easy way, and now I'm learning Italian."

"By Gramophone?"

"Yes. It's the Linguaphone Method which has been adopted by over 700 Schools, Colleges and Universities.

Here are the lessons, all contained on ordinary gramophone records, and here is the book which contains the text of all the lessons."

"But how do you know what the lessons are about?"

"That's simple. The lessons are accompanied by illustrations which picture every person, action, and article which the speaker refers to, and the number against each item enables you to refer to the word in the text bearing the same number."

"But what are the lessons about?"

"All about the Home, the Street, the School, Travel, the Theatre, Shopping—in fact, they cover all the happenings of everyday life—and a complete Course gives you a vocabulary of about 2500 words."

"The early records are spoken very slowly and very deliberately in order to enable beginners to hear every distinctive sound. And, of course, you can listen to each lesson again and again until you have mastered every word."

"Sounds most interesting—I will write at once for a copy of the Linguaphone book—I'll do it now before it slips my memory."

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## F Divisional Signals.

Kohat.

**To all Readers:** May 1927 be a prosperous year for all!

The past month, since my last notes were despatched, has been a busy time. The detachment of the unit arrived back from Parachinar on October 28th, after a two-day journey—one by lorry to Thall, and the second by train to Kohat. With the re-assembling of the unit, the organisation of Companies, Sections, etc., was changed to that of the new Kohat Area Signals. Thus the unit is now composed as follows:—

Headquarters—Operating Section (Capt F. J. Matthews). Wireless Section (Capt F. A. Levis). Pack Cable Section and Pack Artillery Section (Capt F. J. Allen). No. 1 Brigade Section (Lieut R. W. Morgan). No. 2 Brigade Section (Capt J. O. Steabben).

Section training immediately commenced, preparatory to the inspection of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. Colonel Hawtrey arrived on November 19th and carried out a two-day inspection of the unit, stores, lines, etc., after which he addressed the unit on parade in a way which showed he was thoroughly satisfied with his inspection.

This inspection was followed by a parade of the unit for inspection by the G.O.C. Kohat District (Major-Gen. H. Isacke, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G.).

A very successful dance was held on October 31st in the Town Hall. The hall was lighted and decorated by Sigmn C. Garner, and F Signals dance band provided the latest and brightest of music. One could not but notice the great improvement in the band, the addition of two saxaphones, Capt F. J. Matthews with his violin, and Major R. H. Rayner with his ukelele, being great assets.

A second dance was held in the Town Hall on November 20th. This coincided with the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, and Col. Hawtrey was present. Sigmn Garner was electrician and decorator, and the refreshments, the band, and the whole show were, as usual—A.1. We are looking forward to many more in the future.

**Departures.**—Corpl A. Claber to the United Kingdom for transfer to the Army Reserve. Capt F. J. Allen to Razani for temporary command of the Section there. Sergt H. J. Lewis (Tiny) to Razani Section.

**Arrivals.**—Capt F. A. Levis from U.K. leave. Sergts A. E. Smith and H. J. Lewis (Mutt and Jeff) from U.K. leave. (Both are a good advertisement for the roast beef of Old England). Sergt F. Hudson and Corpl J. Pallett from D Divl. Signals.

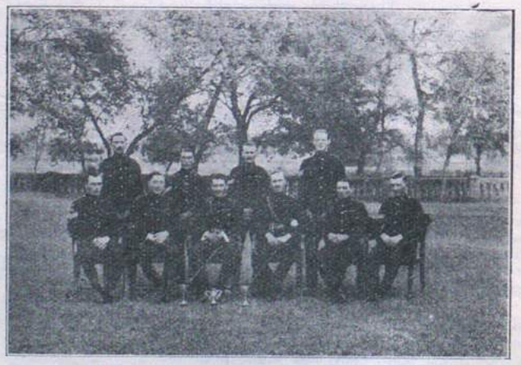
**Promotions.**—Lieut J. O. Steabben to be Captain. The following to be L/Corporals: Signalmen W. Brookes, E. Cole, A. Cave, G. Weeks, R. Taylor, and W. Jones.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, Punjab, India, Nov. 17th.

**General.**—In a former note we explained several of our recreational difficulties, and regretted that it was not possible to have a junior tennis club. By the courtesy of the sergeants' mess, however, this question is now settled, and junior n.c.o.s and men are able to play as honorary members of the sergeants' mess club. This arrangement is much appreciated throughout the Troop.

Several enjoyable "at homes" have been held, and the juniors, considering their lack of practice, have displayed surprising form.



Sergeants' Mess, October, 1926

The two Pack Wireless Sections are supplying, in rotation, a forward station at Hena Marala, where the canal joins the river Chenab. This is the location selected for the Brigade annual field firing.

Discussion is beginning on the forthcoming inter-Troop sports. One or two minor changes have occurred since last year, and surprises are anticipated. Last time the competitions were mainly won by the Wireless, who finished several points in front, though it must be admitted that the Visuals had several instances of hard luck.

The consignment of books for the library has arrived, and we have since had several nights of silence.



The gramophone programmes in the Visual Section bungalow are a never-ending source of pleasure. There is, however, one drawback—some persons think the entertainment is not complete without *vocal* accompaniment. We hasten to assure them that this is not so!

**Inspections.**—On Tuesday, November 9th, Gen. Sir A. S. Cobb, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., reviewed the Brigade in line, and subsequently the Troop marched and trotted past.

Gen. Wardrop inspected the lines and horses of the unit on November 2nd, and personally congratulated the officers and n.c.o.s on the appearance of the horses.



Mary Clifford, "The Poppy Girl"

**The Armistice Ball.**—The much-talked-of Armistice ball was held on November 10th in aid of the Ex-Services Association of India and Burma. From every point of view it was successful. The ball was given by the Sialkot Branch of the O.C.A., with the patronage of the Brigade Commander (Col.-Commandant C. R. Harbord, C.M.G., D.S.O., I.A.) and the O.C.s the Queen's Bays and the Durham Light Infantry. A programme of forty dances was provided by the bands of the Queen's Bays and 2/3rd Sikh Pioneers, who performed alternately, thus avoiding long intervals.

The decorations were worthy of praise, and the effect was enhanced by an illuminated centre-piece, composed of giant poppies and ferns. Poppy-sellers were in attendance, and a helpful amount was realised by their efforts. The helpers and members of the dance committee are to be commended on the manner in which the arrangements were carried out.

The balance sheet has yet to be compiled, but the profits are estimated at Rs.850.

**Appointment.**—Sigmn N. McNeil to be U/L/Corpl, I.U.L.

**Arrival.**—Farrier/Corpl Pummell from Line Coy. Rawalpindi.

**Departures.**—Sigmn L. (Horsey) Clifford and family to Jubbulpore. Farrier/Corpl Heath (Dewdrop) to Line Company, Rawalpindi.

B. O. M.

## No. 2 (W/T) Company, B Corps Signals.

Rawalpindi.

Our heartiest "Season's Greetings" to all units!

**General.**—The visit of the M.C.C. team was the great attraction here from November 3rd until the 6th, and the "tonga wallahs" were kept busy driving the troops to and from the Rawalpindi Club ground in the Mall, where the eventful matches were being staged. Even the horses and mules in our lines got quite excited over this "unusual occurrence," and at intervals during exercise gave some fine impromptu rodeo displays—the only way in which they could express their keen interest. Some very fine cricket was seen, and "satisfaction" was the keynote of the conversation of those privileged to be present.

Another important event took place on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at 08.30 hrs. The Company paraded in "review order, mounted, without arms, medals to be worn," to enable everybody to watch the inevitable "dicky bird" settle on the corner of "cameras, large, taking troops, Mk. 1 star, one of"—in other words, to have their photograph taken by a large camera and a small photographer, who by the way insisted on repeating "put face, two faces sahibs," and to express himself more clearly, patted his own face with one hand, at the same time putting up two fingers to denote the other faces!

Blankets for this occasion were kindly supplied by the occupants of No. 4 Bungalow, and at one time, when it was requested that another blanket should be procured, there was such a rush to secure it that it looked as though not one man would be left to appear in the picture. The photograph was eventually taken, and the Editor will receive a copy in due course for publication.

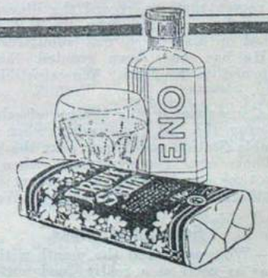
It is understood that the idea of having the Company photographed, is because such a large number of all ranks are leaving us in the near future (sniff! sniff!) for England and other places (more sniffs!) and this is the only opportunity we shall have of getting the whole Company together (complete breakdown and violent sobbing.)

Company whist drives are now in full swing in the vestry (sorry! I mean, in the mess room) every Wednesday night. Our Company jazz band renders very enjoyable music. The prizes are well worth securing, and great credit is due to the organisers, who have done their utmost to make these evenings a success.

Our "purple sage" riders have recently had some very profitable mornings, as some generous person has been kind enough (?) to scatter a few "chips" about the riding school, and keen competition has been displayed as to who would be successful in picking up these "chips."

An announcement has been made that we are to have a Broadcasting Company starting operations in India, and that "listening in" will be as common here as in England in the near

Start each
day right with a
cool, sparkling glass of
ENO'S
"FRUIT SALT"
TRADE MARK
You will soon be repaid
with a store of
good health



future. No doubt! but where are they to get the talent? It is suggested that if it came to a push, some of our "choir boys" and our jazz band could give a creditable account of themselves on the microphone!

**Departures.**—Sergts Thorpe, Grimbley and Burton, Corporal Macfarlane, L/Corpl Hawkins, and Sigmn Freeman, to S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore.

**Enquiries.**—Sigmn Mullinder (ex-R.A.) would like news of Sigmn G. Langham, believed to be in Karachi.

**The "Ashes."**—An interesting souvenir has been obtained in connection with the sergeants' mess "Ashes" trophy, a photograph of which appeared last month. During the visit of the M.C.C., Sergt Dowie was successful in getting the bats autographed by the team.

The combined Signals sergeants' mess have kindly offered this souvenir to the Signal units in Rawalpindi, for yearly competition in a cricket tournament. Their action is greatly appreciated, and no doubt there will be keen competition to secure this unique trophy.

**Here's One!**—Two men met in a bar, and began a conversation on India. One, who had been rather quiet on the subject, suddenly said to the other, "Do you know Bengal?" "No," replied the other: "but I know his brother Bill."

BUGLER.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Salutation.**—Before commencing our usual notes, we tender our best wishes to the Corps—north, south, east and west—for a bright and prosperous New Year.

**Cook's Courses.**—The first of these terminated on November 26th, and the second followed up on the next day. There is only one thing to do, and that is to wish ourselves the best of luck—nuff said!

**Sport Cossip.**—During the past month we have been very busy in the sporting world, having played the first round of the Command rugby cup, league football, etc. (results of which appear elsewhere). It is very pleasing to note that the number of spectators at the various matches is rapidly increasing, and it is hoped that the numbers will still rise; for with "bags" of support, a team can play a much harder game. We are in a rosy position in more than one branch of sport, and with the continued encouragement of the onlookers there is no reason why we shouldn't give our opponents (whoever they may be) a run for their "ackers"!

**Corporals' Mess.**—The corporals are holding their first whist drive and dance in the barracks on December 11th, the music being supplied by the Morse-Key-Toes jazz band.

**Danse a la Signals.**—The regimental dances have now been started in the barracks, the first one being held on November 29th, and the second on December 6th. There was quite a good assembly on each occasion, and judging from the tone of things, everybody present enjoyed themselves immensely. The arrangements carried out by Sergt White (No. 3 Company) were most satisfactory. This n.c.o. also proved himself to be a most efficient M.C. The music, furnished by the Morse-Key-Toes jazz band, was appreciated by all present. These dances are to be held weekly throughout the winter season, and it is hoped that they will be as great a success as the first and second were.

**Officers.**—We welcome Lieut C. F. Newsom, Royal Signals, and trust that he will have a happy stay with No. 1 Company.

Lieut W. J. Pearce, Royal Signals, has returned from the U.K. from sick leave, and we hope that he has completely recovered from his illness.

It is with regret that we record the illness of Lieut R. L. Hansard. This officer proceeded to the U.K. on leave during the summer, and on his return was admitted to hospital with rheumatism. He has since been granted three months' sick leave and returned to England. We wish him a speedy and lasting recovery.

**Schemes.**—Consequent on the number of schemes which have taken place during the last few weeks, when two brothers-in-arms of the Cable Section meet, one asks the other: "Are you scheming?" Those same two gentlemen, when meeting in London some little time ago, greeted one another in a similar way, but instead of the above, it was, "Are you Wembling?"

BEN.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**We Travel.**—We commenced the month with a trip to Moascar, and it was as good as a really good outing *can* be. The excuse for this outing was a football match (Roberts-Hughes cup, 1st round—and last, for us) between "us and t'R.E.s."

**Armistice Day.**—This was celebrated by a dinner and social confined to mess members and their families, the social being in honour of C.Q.M.S. Shaw, Sergts Tolly and Dixon, and L/Sergt Adams, who are leaving for England—the first-named for discharge to pension, and the remainder for posting to home units.

The dinner was very nice; in fact, everything was described by a French name, which is everything in a really good dinner. After dinner the social commenced, and all artistes were very good indeed, the star turn being the ventriloquist. C.S.M. Jeffrey, in a short breezy speech, wished the departing members the best they could wish for themselves in their stations or sphere. C.Q.M.S. Shaw responded, and admitted it was the first time he had been caught for a speech (but he used to entertain the "ride" with a few monologues in those old E Company days).

**Cards and Wine.**—Two fortnightly whist drives and dances have been held, with the usual results; some people won prizes and some didn't; some danced and some didn't; some drank and some didn't—but all went home sooner or later.

**Salutations.**—To C.Q.M.S. Hart and L/Sgt Cole: "Si-ee-da." May your stay in the country be very long and pleasing.

**Down to the Sea in Boats.**—When the s.s. "City of Paris" leaves Port Said on December 11th, included in the "souls on board" will be C.Q.M.S. Shaw and family and the families of Sergts Tolly and Dixon—the husbands to follow later. We wish them all bon voyage!

**Around the Table.**—We have entered the sergeants' mess billiard league of Cairo and District, and have played two away matches: R.A.S.C. 2, Royal Signals 4. R.A.O.C. 3, Royal Signals 3.

**Luck (?)**—L-Sergt Rhodes, who was homeward bound from India, had the misfortune to be taken off the boat at Port Said owing to the ill-health of his wife, and is at present awaiting a passage to England.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to Lieut Newsom, Royal Signals, C.Q.M.S. Hart, D.C.M., L/Sergt Cole, Corpl Udell, L/Corpls Pratt and Barnes, Signalmen Ninnim, Poole, Graham, Marsh, Passant, Kiley, Woolley, Drivers Bunn, Kirby, Martin, Sims, Allen, Ledsham, on their joining this unit from the U.K. May their tour in this land of sunshine never be marred by penal settlements!

**Departures.**—There should be some, but there aren't, although several have been sweating on the top line for some considerable time. Sergt Linder, Corpl Gilmour, and L/Corpls Widgery and Newton are thinking of taking out Egyptian nationalisation papers, having given up all hope of every seeing their native shores ("Dum spiro spero").

**Concert Party.**—The Mossies are stinging again, the second show of the season being held in the regimental institute. The artistes have one or two newcomers, but we could still find room for several more. The programme is quite good, but of course there always will be that doleful chump who comes round at the end of the performance and whispers, "Not bad, but not like the first show!" For information and necessary action: The revolver used in "Love in a Tub" is being repaired. Nuff said.

**Camera Club.**—This is great going guns, the organiser (Corpl Corbett) having arranged three trips during the month: Moascar, Mousky, and the Pyramids. Our private correspondent will probably give a detailed description later.

**Lighter Side.**—In this land of mystery one hears strange things at times. One unsophisticated signalman, having been informed of the data appertaining to the Great Pyramids, was being questioned as to his knowledge concerning same:—

Q.: "Who was the builder?" A.: "King Choppa."

Q.: "The date of its being built?" A.: "1557 A.D."

The questioner, being fed up, asked the signalman if he knew what a mummy was. Imagine his dismay when the bright one remarked: "A female daddy, corporal." Still, we hope for the best.

**Greeting.**—Officers, n.c.o.s and men of this unit wish the Corps in all parts of the Empire a bright and prosperous New Year!



## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Cairo,
December 1st.

**Embarkations.**—On November 25th we bade farewell to several old members of the Company who have embarked for the U.K.: Corpl A. White (on course at School of Signals), L/Corpl A. Pattenden, Signalmen T. Wood, H. Dodwell, S. Franklin, and J. Ryan, Drivers R. Martin, J. Oliver, and L. Maynard. Steve's famous cry of "Yaller Digby!" on the racecourse is now no longer to be heard, and his long-suffering hut companions have to select the winners themselves.

**Arrivals.**—The following arrived from U.K. on November 23rd: Corpl R. Thomas, L/Corpl Marshall, Signalmen Beach, Goble, Green, Jones, Miller, McBain, Shepherd, Wale, Weir and Wetherington, Drivers Abbott, Burnham, Crackett and Stafford.

**Local Discharge.**—Sigmn W. C. Beedle left us on November 15th, having purchased his discharge to take up local employment with the N.A.A.F.I.

**"Wire" Sales.**—It has been noticed that a certain scribe has been patting himself on the back owing to the high sales of our journal in his particular unit. We don't wish to make a song about it, but out of an establishment of 182, no fewer than 176 are regular subscribers in this unit—and it is hoped that the remaining six will enrol before the year is out.

**Appointments.**—L/Corpl W. Guile appointed A/Corpl w.e.f. 11/9/26. A/Corpl H. Field to be Corpl w.e.f. 1/4/26. Signalmen W. Jeans and S. Gill appointed A/U/L/Corporals w.e.f. 4/11/26. These two have got a firm grip on that famous baton!

**A Desert Adventure.**—Early in the past month, one of our dashing D.R.s—"Mumtaz," to be precise—became quite a local hero. With a party of despatch riders he was rather a long way out on the desert, when he became detached from the remainder, and only having a small supply of petrol, became stranded. As it was getting rather late, the other D.R.s had to return to barracks, the erstwhile sheik being left to spend a night on the desert.

Now a night on the desert in this particular part of the country is no joke, as it gets very cold, and those at home in the warmth of Catterick are apt to be misled by the words of the song: "Till the sands of the desert grow cold." They grow cold very quickly soon after sundown; still, perhaps the client who wrote that song had never spent a night on the desert.

The following morning our hero failed to put in an appearance, and aeroplanes were employed in the search for him. About mid-day he was seen near a native village, quite safe, and simply bursting to give an account of his thrilling adventures, for it doesn't come the way of everyone to become famous in a night.

Our dusty and dishevelled hero returned to barracks the next morning, and soon became the centre of an admiring throng. "Shoufti the Sheik," they said. I heard from an unofficial source that the natives in the village where he was found wanted to make him their "great white sheik," but Mumtaz wasn't having any! I don't think he liked the look of the prospective dusky sheikesses, and a ring through the nose certainly didn't make them over attractive. He has now settled down to be a common or garden D.R. once more.

**Auld Lang Syne.**—Corpl H. Jones would like to have a few lines from Sigmn L. V. Burrows, last heard of in 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Sigmn Holman ("Waxie") would like to have a line from L/Corpl Ball, believed to be "dug in" at Colchester.

Dvr Ratledge would like to hear from Steve Maynard, late of this unit, and to have a "sure thing" for the Allenby cup.

**Answers to Correspondents.**—Curious.—The gentleman concerned in the episode of serving two glasses of beer in the place of two tins of soldiers' friend, as recounted in the November issue, is known as "Rudolph." He may be interviewed any time between 6 p.m. and closing time.

Yorkie.—No doubt it was out of curiosity that you visited the far-famed Bab-el-Hadid, but why didn't you take more water with it?

J. O. (late Signal Troop)—Watch out, Joe! Someone's informed the C.I.D. that you have left Egypt. Don't forget the secret sign—right forefinger on top lip. George wishes to be remembered to Angelina.

*Your teeth are Ivory Castles—*

*defend them with Gibbs Dentifrice*

**Gibbs Dentifrice safeguards every one of your thirty-two precious teeth.**

The reason why dentists prefer Gibbs Dentifrice is that it reaches all the little nooks and crannies denied to the toothbrush. Its abundant fragrant foam misses nothing.
Decay germs are killed, impurities and food deposits are all swept away.

Then how gently the priceless enamel is polished to lustrous pearl-like beauty! Gibbs Dentifrice cannot wear or scratch the teeth as gritty pastes and powders do. Three times a day use Gibbs Dentifrice, the safe sure preserver and beautifier of the teeth.

**Gibbs Dentifrice**

*Large size, 1/-; De Luxe, 1/6, Refills for above, 1/1d. Popular size, 7½d. Tubes, 6d. & 1/-*

D. & W. GIBBS, LTD. (Dept. 68EQ) Cold Cream Soap Works, LONDON, E.1

Handsome Driver (Signal Troop)—Your letter has been forwarded, care of Abbassia No. 1. If you are uncertain as to where that is, ask any local S.B.O. and they'll inform you.

M.T.s, Ewshott.—Herewith further details of Geordie's athletic performances. I have been overwhelmed with letters of appreciation from enthusiastic followers of this famous athlete (do stop raspberrying, Geordie!) asking for more, so I will now recount his latest efforts. Wrestling.—This is a very rare sport in this country, but Geordie got fixed up with an opponent. As soon as "time" was called he darted on his rival, turned him round and tied his arms behind his back, and finished up by a magnificent cross-buttock that not only laid out his man but the referee as well, to the accompaniment of loud cheers from his delighted supporters. Hockey.—The first time he appeared on the field with a hockey stick in his hand, the opposing side bolted—they knew Geordie! but he did get through a game last week. I say *he* did; very few of the others did. Geordie, with a hockey stick, was unplayable, as the opposing team found to their cost.

William Younger.—Perhaps it *would* be advisable to cut down the next consignment by half, now that Mart has sailed.

C. I. D.—Particulars requested are as follows: Height about 5 ft. 3in.; for several years has been trying to sprout a "tash," but not succeeded yet; favourite sport "Pontoons only" and "Banker"; destination believed to be Piltdown; answers to the name of "Joe."

Tipster.—H.Q.'s racing expert can always be relied upon to give you a "sure thing." No, I never said "Yimken."

Doubtful.—"Buck" has been known to break the ice on his morning bath water; he really is *so* keen, you know. It saves buying "Krooshems," and makes the muscles so supple (especially the chin ones).

ART.

## Signal Section, Malava

Pulau Brani, Singapore.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., Capt E. G. Sinnott, and hope his stay with the Section will be a happy

one. We also welcome Sigmn McDowall from Belfast, and Sigmn Welsby from Catterick.

On November 1st we said goodbye to Signalmen Lomax, Bond, Cheetham and Stokes, who left for the U.K. per H.M.T. "Neuralia." With the departure of Sigmn Lomax we suffer the loss of a very good soccer player, but he will be a great asset on the football field for whichever unit he is posted to.

At the present time the Section on the Island only numbers ten, but with the aid of one or two R.A.O.C. we are able to muster a sufficiently strong soccer team to give others a good run. The natives are our most formidable opponents, and they usually win or draw. We are well represented in the Island soccer team by Signalmen Anderson, Kenneally and Trickett.

Signalmen Barton and McDowall wish to be remembered to the old boys of the N.I.S.C., and hope they are still doing well on the course. Sigmn McDowall would also like to hear from his old chum, Sigmn L. J. King, late of that unit.

We wish all Signals a very happy and prosperous New Year.

MUTT.

## Signal Section, Hong Kong.

Wellington Barracks, Nov. 11th.

**General.**—The Hong Kong Section send their best wishes to the Corps at home and abroad for a happy New Year.

After a few "farewell" dinners and "welcome" smokers, etc., we are settled down again; and the new cry of "the next is ours" is heard amongst the old draft.

Now that our W/T Ham has returned from a sojourn "up mid-levels," the I.R. shop once more resembles a barbed wire fence, much to the discomfort of the linemen, who suffer unknown agonies (?). Enter Ham with W/T gear; exit linemen. 'Nuff said!

In the Garrison doubles tennis tournament, L/Corpl Purcell and Sigmn White were unfortunate to lose. Better luck next time!

**Welcome**—To Sigmn Winters from Spike Island, and Sigmn Turner from Egypt. Also our R.E. friends who arrived per H.M.T. "Neuralia." May their tour be a happy one.

**Promotion.**—Congratulations to L/Corpl Purcell on attaining that dizzy height—with "dibs," too! Some do have it, Percy!

**Signals Association.**—The Branch dinner, which was to have taken place on October 23rd, was unfortunately cancelled. A dance has been proposed for November 20th, but I am afraid this will suffer the same fate as the dinner. It seems very difficult to get anything going now that the summer months are over. The secretary welcomes Mr. Bellamy as a member of the Hong Kong Branch.

**Agony.**—Sigmn Winters wishes to be remembered to the Singapore draft of 1926.

JOINT BOX.

## North China Signal Section (Peking Detachment)

British Legation Guard, Nov. 20th.

We welcome to the fold C.Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals) Goodridge, who arrived from U.K. some three weeks ago. We hope his tour in North China will be a pleasant one. His arrival was certainly most opportune, coinciding as it did with the installation of new W/T sets, and the carrying out of suggested improvements in the Wireless Office accommodation at Tientsin. No doubt those well-meaning but misguided friends who informed him that posting to this Signal Section meant a three years' "rest cure" will hear all about it sooner or later.

Armistice Day was duly observed when the whole of the British community attended an open-air service in the Civil Legation. At the conclusion of the ceremony, H.B.M. Minister, Sir Ronald Macleay, took the salute from A Company 1st East Yorks Regiment.

In the afternoon the foreign element was in evidence on the French glacis, where an international sports meeting was held. Teams representing the British, American, Italian and Japanese Legations competed. Those Signals who are aware of the East Yorks' record in Egypt will not be surprised to hear that the British team carried off the honours in all the track events. The U.S. Marine Corps, however, by virtue of a marked superiority in field sports, won the cup for the highest aggregate by nine points, the Italians and Japs being third and fourth respectively.

Enthusiasm ran high, and as the national flags were run up to denote a win for the various teams, the cheers must have made the Chinese even more certain that all foreigners are mad!

**"Dry" Humour.**—Heard at the sports: "When the war *started* in 1917."

PEICHING.

## Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, Bermuda, Nov. 29th.

This month finds us nearly recovered from the effects of the hurricane. All routes, with the exception of Warwick Camp, are now back to normal, as a result of five weeks of feverish activity on the part of all hands. "Haversack rations and late dinners" are now things of the past, and "Whose turn is it to buy lemons?" is heard no more. We have also dispensed with the "one T.S.O. by day and one I.R. (A/T.S.O.) by night" regime. "Livers" are back to normal, and the F. of S. goes around with the same old smile again. Altogether we are feeling very pleased with ourselves, though there is still a lot to do in the clearing-up line.

For the information of the old hands, the Prospect—St. George's trunk lines have been rebuilt with three pairs only instead of five (stores are none too plentiful), and are all "run on the straight," which is something to be thankful for after the old conglomeration of left and right-handed twists and posh joints left us as a legacy in 1924.

St. George's news of the hurricane, promised in last month's notes, have not materialised. Our timid enquiries have only succeeded in obtaining one standard reply: "We're busy; will ring you up later."

With Boaz it is somewhat different, as communications are maintained by the spare T.S.O. from H.Q. as A/Lineman. The chief problem was the Spanish Point—Boaz Pier cable landing at Boaz, which was washed away by the water during the storm; and we have to congratulate Sigmn R. F. Piper on the good work performed by him on this particular job.

When he returns to the fold next week, we are looking forward to a lecture by him on the "Resistance of Concrete." His efforts were described as "soul-searing," and his command of the French language has been noted as "very fluent."

We are also informed that he would like to interview the people who laid that cable in 1913. Anyway, the cable was jointed some 2 ft. from the water's edge, the terminal pole dropped back about 12 yds., and 16 yards of new cable inserted. This last item may interest Signalmen Voller and Soper, who did a tour of "dooty" on the isle of Boaz.

**Sport.**—We have had but little opportunity to participate in sport, as might be expected. Our representatives have turned out for two games: Soccer, v. D.E.R.A., which we drew 1—1; and hockey, against the same opponents, we lost by 3—1.

**This Month's Agony.**—Will Sigmn Duncan, who was in Egypt in 1920–22, communicate with Sigmn Mitchell of this Section?

THE PLUG JUGGLER.

## Signal Section, Sierra Leone.

Tower Hill Barracks, Freetown, Nov.

Saturday, October 23rd, found Freetown en fete, gaily bedecked with flags, and with bands playing. One of the new draft arriving per R.M.S. "Aba" thought the rousing reception very considerate on the part of the inhabitants, but he was unaware that the arrival of the draft coincided with the return from England of His Excellency the Governor of the Colony.

On the evening of Sunday, the 24th, a smoking concert was held, at which the new hands were initiated into the "Band of Coasters" with a beating of drums and the playing of bush pianos and banjos. Bonafide members gave many interesting and original songs.

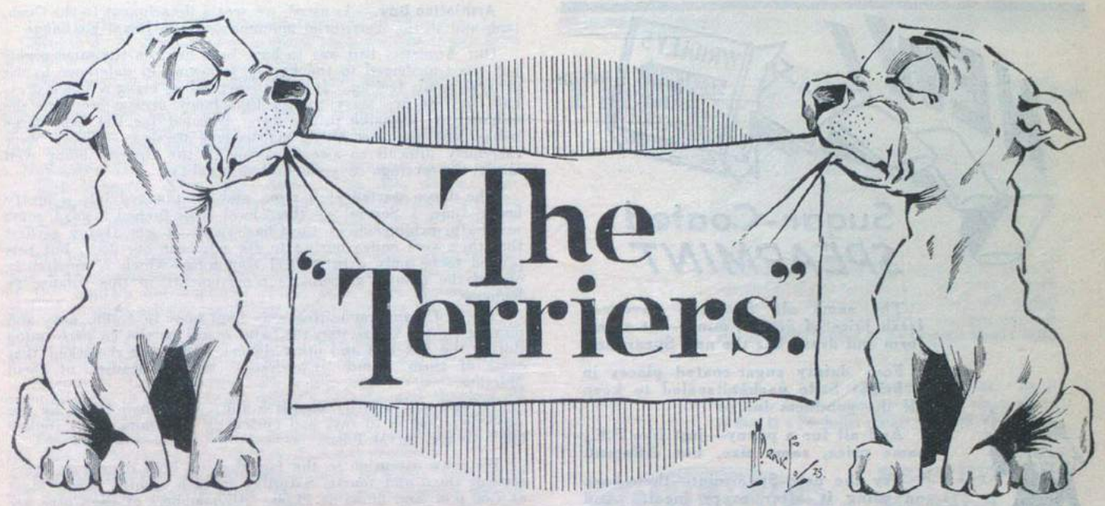
Signalmen Baker, Huggins and Esson, from Northern Ireland Signals, were welcomed, as were Signalmen Garrod from Southern Ireland and Currie from Bulford. Corpl Hollis, of Ewshott, had a rare good time. We wish the aforementioned the best of luck during their sojourn on the Coast.

On Wednesday, October 27th, we bade farewell to Corporal Knox and Signalmen Westley, Ramsden, Graves, Mizen, and Gavins, who have now returned to Blighty by R.M.S. "Appam" for a well-earned rest after twelve months' strenuous endeavours to maintain communications under none too favourable conditions. We trust they will have good luck at their new stations.

Corpl Hollis wishes to be remembered to the n.c.o.s of A Corps, and would like to hear from Sigmn H. Webb, Catterick.

LEONE.






## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington St., Manchester, Dec. 14th.

We are too late for Christmas greetings, but we wish everybody a very happy and prosperous New Year.

December 4th was a cold and foggy day in Manchester. It was also the occasion of a shooting match on our miniature range against the Manchester University O.T.C. In a previous match they were the winners by 43 points, and this time we hoped to have our revenge. It turned out to be really exciting, as the scores ran about equal throughout. Before the last detail fired their last practice, we were leading by 6 points. In the dim light four shivering marksmen snapped at barely visible targets. We must have shivered most, as the O.T.C. made up the deficit and beat us by 3 points. It was at least an improvement on the previous match, and if we can keep this up we should win by 40 points next time. These matches, and the teas that follow, are most enjoyable, and we look forward to another during January. Novel methods of making O.T.C.s shiver will be welcomed by the shooting committee.

At a dinner in the officers' mess on December 1st, we had the very great pleasure of the company of Col. J. G. Riddick, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., R.E. (formerly C.R.E. of the Division) and Capt A. N. Lawford, T.D., R.E. (who commanded this unit from its formation as a Telegraph Company in 1908 until 1915). Major A. Roberts, M.C., and Major G. L. Broad, O.B.E., M.C., were unfortunately unable to attend. It was a reunion of old friends, and some of us who had not the fortune to serve with the 42nd Division during the late war felt a little envious. The communication between our P.M.C. and the orchestra was worthy of all the traditions of the Signal service.

Our football team is covering itself with glory. It has just won its fifth match in succession. Details of matches will be found among the Sports Notes. May we appeal for a little more support from all ranks of the unit at matches? It does help considerably when the team hear a number of enthusiastic supporters urging them on. Particulars of times and places of matches are clearly shown on the notice board at the entrance to the drill hall, and the grounds are always quite easy to get at. We are now fourth on the League table. If you come and shout for us, we might easily rise to first place! So double up, please, everyone. You will enjoy good football and be helping the team along.

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

No. 3 Company held their annual dinner at Plymouth on December 4th. It had hitherto been held at Topsham—the hub of the Company—but its rival port, Plymouth, got a bit (shall I say) envious, and hence Plymouth! Topsham, however, went in large numbers, and there was a gathering of close upon a hundred. The voyage from Topsham to Plymouth and back was apparently uneventful, and the sea was calm throughout.

The postmaster of Plymouth, Mr. A. L. E. Berlyn, was among the guests, and his speech appears to have been one of the features of the evening.

The event being held at Plymouth should help the Section there. Anyhow, there are great hopes of Plymouth at present. I was promised a report of the dinner, but it hasn't arrived, so the foregoing merely represents the "crumbs from the table."

The n.c.o.s week-end training held at Exeter from December 10th—12th (commencing on the evening of the 10th) was well-attended, and the general opinion seemed to be that it was just the sort of thing that was wanted.

It was a full programme, and covered as many essential subjects as possible. There was a rush for the purchase of note books after the opening lecture—a healthy sign, surely, and much preferable to backs of "ack" forms!

Four n.c.o.s came from Southampton and two from Plymouth, and they were housed at our headquarters—a real Hotel Splendide, I'm told. Hot shaving water brought in at 7 a.m. by the R.S.M. was a feature greatly appreciated! A fact!

Next time, I hear, the *local* n.c.o.s will want to sleep at The Priory to enjoy the shaving-water luxury!

Greetings to all in Signals for the coming year.

OLD SPARK.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

For many months (or is it years?) we have been "lyin' low and sayin' nuthin'," but nevertheless we have been working under pressure. In fact, there has been a lot of pressure among the non-com. ranks of late, the full significance of which is only known to them.

Our strength is 100 per cent., on top of which we have raised an attached 226th Brigade Signal Section. A large number of G.P.O. members have joined us, which all boosts up the efficiency. *And* we have three cups *and* the shield—well won, and duly "wetted." Like our Asquithian friend, "wait and see!"

C.S.M. Brown has done most of the heavy spade work in running No. 2 Company, and his efforts are fully appreciated. The slogan, "Good old Jim," expresses the opinion of all, from the C.O. to the trumpeter. We are proud of him, and shall be very sorry to lose him when he returns to duty with his unit.

Sugar-Coated
*SPEARMINT*

**The same old favourite flavour—fresh juice of garden mint—but a new form and dress, has the new Spearmint.**

**Four dainty sugar-coated pieces in a bright little packet, sealed to keep all the goodness in.**

**And all for a penny—just like P.K., same price, same size, but different.**

**Try the new Spearmint—then keep on using it after every meal. And let the children have it too—good for their teeth, good for digestion and gives them the valuable custom of *mouth-cleanliness*.**

E.G. 117

**WRIGLEY'S**


Yes! he can build a 2-valve soft-speaking set, too. In fact, it has been assembled and dismantled so often by the wireless experts (?) that its voice cannot be heard!

The social side is going well, and dozens of delightful dances have been held in the drill hall, organised by the n.c.o.s of the Signals and the R.A. And *don't* the girls turn up! Rather!

Last month we held our fourth annual Company dinner: another huge success. The menu would do credit to the "Piccadilly."

We have also the honour of supplying many transfers to the Regular Service. To these we wish the best of luck!

RED SPOT.

## 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, December 13th.

We sincerely hope that all members of the Corps had an enjoyable Christmas; and may all their wishes be granted for the New Year.

**Inspection.**—Our Divisional Commander inspected our headquarters, accounts, books, etc., and expressed his pleasure with all that he saw. Well done, the P.S. (in not letting him see more)!

**Prize Distribution.**—This took place in the latter part of October. It was well attended. Practically all our officers were in uniform, but we regret that many other ranks were in "civvies." We hope they will don their uniform next year.

The evening was a wonderful success, starting with an excellent concert party, followed by the prize distribution, and ending with a dance, to which members of the unit brought their friends. The thanks of all members are offered to our Hon. Colonel for coming so far to present the prizes. This year the cups changed hands. The trades, sports and cable cups were won by No. 1 Company, and the shooting cup by No. 2. What about it, No. 3 Company?

**Armistice Day.**—As usual, we sent a detachment to the Cenotaph and to the Territorial monument at the Royal Exchange.

Our Armistice ball was to have been held on the same night, but was transferred to the Friday following in deference to the general public feeling. It was advertised as being a fancy dress ball, but we are sorry to say that fancy dresses were in the minority. Valuable prizes were awarded for the best three ladies' and the best three gentlemen's dresses. These were extremely difficult to award, owing to the dresses being well above the average in style and originality.

The dance started at 9 p.m., and we plunged into a pretty hectic time. Several of the "local loose-limbed" gave some wonderful exhibitions of the Charleston. It was feared at first that they were endeavouring to dig a hole in our floor, but this proved to be only a little heel slamming—which is apparently one of the many "graceful" (?) movements in this "danse de jeunesse."

The M.C. and committee were kept busy in traffic duty and moving on the Charlestonians, who would persist in performing during the fox trot and other dances. One wag remarked that some of them would "Charleston" to the deadest of Dead Marches.

Things went merrily on till 5 a.m. Some had fallen by the wayside: that is to say, had curled up in chairs and "conked out"—to use an M.T.ism.

We draw attention to the fact that we hold dances on every second, third and fourth Saturday in each month. They start at 7.30 p.m. and finish at 11.30. All members of the Corps are especially welcome!

**Training.**—Things are progressing slowly but surely. We hold n.c.o.s classes every Monday, and the attendance is quite good. It is hoped to carry out a few indoor schemes during the New Year.

We offer our congratulations to Lieut R. Hill and R.S.M. Currie on making such rapid progress after operations for appendicitis, and we hope they will soon be with us again.

We regret that Sergt Spencer is to leave us this month on reduction of establishment, after being on our P.S. for such a short period. We can only wish him the very best of luck wherever he goes, and trust that he will always think kindly of us.

LEMJAY.

## 48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

The Barracks, Great Brook St., Birmingham.

A happy New Year to all units at home and abroad!

Now that the winter months are upon us, we are in the midst of various courses of instruction. These consist of very interesting matter, and the attendance shows how much they are appreciated.

**Officers.**—We have a subaltern's course which assembles every Wednesday evening under the adjutant. The lectures are well attended. The subjects at present are mainly connected with "horse management," and are very instructive.

**Senior and Junior N.C.O.s Classes.**—The senior and junior N.C.O.s are attending weekly classes of instruction on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. The attendances are very good, considering the nature of the employment of the majority of them.

**Riding Drill.**—Riding drill for corporals commenced on Tuesday, December 2nd, and a fair number put in an appearance to try their skill at equestrianism. The drill was thoroughly enjoyed by all taking part.

The recruits commenced two months ago, and were inspected in the riding school by Lt.-Col. P. H. Keeling, M.C., commanding this unit, who complimented them on their keenness and efficiency. Cossack riding, vaulting, jumping, etc., are included in this course, and great credit is due to their instructor for the rapid progress the recruits have made in such a short period.

**Driving Drill.**—These courses were held on Sunday mornings, and several recruits were passed out as efficient drivers.

We heartily welcome 2/Lieuts E. Shackleton and Mannox on their appointment to the unit.

2/Lieut J. B.Challen was attached to the 3rd Divl. Signals from 1st to 15th September, and obtained a satisfactory report.



Lieut G. W. B. Mitchell resigned his commission on Oct. 15th.

2/Lieut J. A. N. Giles was granted three months' leave from December 6th.

The junior n.c.o.s and men's mess are going "great guns" in the matter of social events, and the entertainments committee are doing their very utmost to make these functions a great success. Their programme has been a very extensive one, and comprised the undermentioned:—

November 7th, concert. Nov. 13th, carnival dance. Nov. 21st, concert. Nov. 27th, dance. Dec. 4th, dance. Dec. 12th, concert (a benefit for the parents of Dvr Smith (270th Field Brigade R.A.), who was accidentally killed on returning from camp with his Battery). Dec. 18th, dance.

The benefit concert held on December 12th was a huge success. The price of admission (6d.) was not excessive. A great number of Dvr Smith's old comrades of the R.A. were present. The undermentioned artistes gave their services free on this occasion: Mr. Hodgkiss, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Rolph, Mr. Alport, Sergeant Sands (R.A.M.C.), Madame Hughes, Miss Edna Cameron, Miss Minnie Spooner, and Sigmn May. Mr. Brain was the pianist.

2/Lieut N. G. Lancaster said a few words relative to the circumstances of the deceased driver's parents, and thanked all who had worked hard and given their services on that occasion.

The arrangement of the programme was (as is usual with the concerts arranged by C.Q.M.S. Jackson) excellent.

**Greetings.**—The warrant officers and sergeants wish their old comrades of the sergeants' mess, 3rd Divl. Signals (Marne Lines, Bulford), a happy New Year.

Jimmy wishes to be remembered to Benny.

Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. James and Sergt Bishop on receiving the good conduct medal this year.

We take this opportunity of welcoming Pte Spalding (6th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment) on his transfer to the 48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The dances and social functions held by the sergeants' mess are a great success, and are often honoured with the presence of Lieut.-Col. P. H. Keeling, M.C., Major Martineau, M.C., T.D., the adjutant, and officers of the unit.

A dance was held in the mess on December 4th, but owing to lack of space the invitations to this were limited. A most enjoyable evening was spent. We are sure that these functions have come to stay, and great credit is due to the untiring efforts of the entertainment committee. The "Dislocated Syncopated Darktown Band" supplied the music, thanks to the mystic art of C.Q.M.S. Jackson, who has never been known to fail in the matter of instrumentalists.

A fancy dress ball was held on December 11th, and was a tremendous success. The costumes were well assorted and numerous. The judges were Major and Mrs. Martineau, and R.S.M. and Mrs. Duffet. Owing to the very large number of competitors, the judging of dresses was none too easy. Prizes were awarded as follows:—

Ladies'—1st, Mrs. Sant, "No more strikes" (which was very original); 2nd, Miss A. Mardley, "Nun"; 3rd, Miss Murray. Gentlemen's—1st, C.S.M. Realff, "Mercury" (this costume was indeed original, and a perfect make-up); 2nd, Mr. Cook, "Mustard Club" (also very good); 3rd, Mr. F. Hodson (who was quite typical in the make-up of a "Savage.")

Mrs. W. Martineau presented the prizes, and said a few words to the successful competitors. This dance concluded the social programme for this year, but extensive arrangements have been made for next year, which I will deal with in my next report.

**Officers' Functions.**—The following mess functions have been arranged for 1927: Benevolent Fund dance, January 7th. Mess dinner, February 18th. Supper to sergeants in March.

RAW-KICK.

### Non-Bowlers Club.

The first general meeting of the above Club was not held on the last Friday after Newmarket, as arranged, when the following resolutions were not put forward.

1.—That the Club learns with deep regret of the increased enthusiasm for this ancient and pre-historic game, and unanimously disapproves of the high standard of efficiency shown by those members who do not play.


# That extra ounce—

TOWARDS the end of a hard-fought game of Soccer or Rugger, it's the man who can pull out that "extra ounce" who most frequently gets the winning goal or try. The whole crowd cheers, and it's good to be that man.

* * *

Training and practice alone cannot give you that superlative degree of fitness. You need to build up the vital force and stamina which will outlast the hardest game, and nothing can help you do it half as well as Horlick's, the original Malted Milk.

* * *

Horlick's is indeed the Diet of Champions. Use it regularly in your own training, and those cheers so dear to a Footballer's heart may well be for you.

HORLICK'S THE ORIGINAL MALTED MILK
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2.—A discussion also arose as to the conduct of some of the members at the last home match, which they did not attend. Special praise is due to those members for their sterling play in this match, which was postponed owing to alcoholic and atmospheric oscillation.

3.—Proposed by Sergt Hammond (in the deaf and dumb dialect) that: A small amount be subscribed and handed over to the sergeants' mess dancing committee, for the purchase of bells and tambourines for the aspirants of the "Paul Jones" and "Signals Charlestown." This ever-thoughtful n.c.o. was sent back for the M.O.'s inspection.

4.—Proposed by Farrier-Sergeant Fellows: That for the word "bias" in bowls, substitute "bass." Carried unanimously.

5.—The president of the Non-Bowlers Club, in making his maiden speech for the second time, brought down the house with his vocabulary. Referring to ancient sports and pastimes in the Service, he stated that from practical experience he was an expert at shot drill and other innocent games so well known to all good soldiers of exemplary character.

He then proceeded to relate a little joke heard at the annual camp, 1926. Scene, Salisbury Plain; characters, Section Sergeant and a Line Operator (the accused).

Commanding Officer: "What is the charge, sergeant?"
Sergeant: "Sir, the accused was heard to use an obscene whistle to an n.c.o. proceeding on pass."
C.O. to Accused: "What have you to say in your defence?"
Accused: "Sir, I wish to characterise the sergeant's statement as nothing more or less than an incomprehensible and baseless tissue of fabrications, which casts a slight redundancy and encroachment on the sergeant's prognastical decorum, and elucidates his testificandum to such an elevated degree as to make himself feel inebriated by the exuberance of his own viviocity."

[N.B.—At this stage the orderly room cat was seen to jump through the commanding officer's window, and was later discovered undergoing a course of physical jerks on the verandah.]

**Scotch Mist.**—A Scotsman who had not been too successful in business thought to end his life by gas poisoning. So he went into the next-door neighbour's house and turned on the gas. But, again, misfortune dogged his footsteps. The meter, being a penny in the slot affair, needed a penny for a fresh supply of gas. So Sandy went back home again!

## 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds.

After an absence of some months we are resuming our contributions, so that readers of THE WIRE will know that the 49th still exists. We commence by wishing all members of the Corps, past and present, the best of all good wishes for a prosperous New Year.

**Fatality.**—It is with very deep regret that we announce the death of Sergt A. Gray, killed in a collision with a motor car whilst cycling to his home in Leeds. He was one of the most popular n.c.o.s in this unit, and his loss will be very keenly felt. He was buried with full military honours, the funeral being attended by a large number of military and civilian friends. All ranks tender their deepest sympathy to his wife and relatives.

**Training.**—Now that summer training is a thing of the past, and bounties, etc., are paid out, we are settling down to a full winter's programme, which we hope will be beneficial to all concerned.

**General.**—A very successful dance was held in aid of the widow of the late Sergt A. Gray, there being an attendance of about 500. The wives of serving members provided refreshments on a lavish scale, their services being clamoured for until the early hours. Prizes were presented to successful competitors in the "Charleston," spot dance, and fox trot.

According to the bounties paid out, the annual musketry was very successful. The participants were conveyed to and from the ranges in charabancs, and lunch was provided; and according to the rush of recruits from the "Highlands," this has had a good effect.

A unit parade was held on Remembrance Sunday, when the whole of the unit turned out, including a good number of the old school who still know how to march to "wings." We were complimented by our C.O. (Col. W. Boyle, O.B.E.) on our deportment and smart appearance.

Two small whist drives and dances have been held to stimulate the propaganda for the coming winter entertainments, and according to "Old Moore" (the syllabus) these will be numerous.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Capt. J. Boyle, M.C., presented a cup for the best shot, to be competed for annually by serving members. This year the struggle was fought out between R.S.M. Brown, D.C.M., and C.S.M. Johnstone, the former emerging victorious.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt W. J. Wilson from 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford, and Sergt A. E. Beckley from A Corps Signals, Ewshott. A hearty welcome is extended to them.

THE ATOMS.

## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 (Gateshead-on-Tyne) Company.

**Company Dinner.**—This was held in the Crown Hotel, Newcastle, on November 19th, when the presence of Capt P. Jennings and all officers of the Company was much appreciated by all ranks. It was with regret that we heard of the inability to attend (owing to indisposition) of our popular commanding officer, Lt.-Col. A. MacLeod, and all ranks wish him a speedy and permanent recovery. An excellent concert followed the dinner.

**Winter Training.**—The winter portion of this Company's training is now in full swing, the n.c.o.s being in operation on Monday nights and the members of the Company on Wednesdays.

**Annual Ball.**—The n.c.o.s held their annual ball on December 3rd in the Beaconsfield Hall, and we are glad to report that it was a huge success. During the evening a visit was paid by the Mayor of Gateshead (Alderman Wardill). The officers of the Company were present, as also were officers of other T.A. units.

**Company Dance.**—The second dance of the season was held on December 10th. Arrangements have been made to hold these functions fortnightly.

A. C.

### No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

**Trade Tests.**—Congratulations to the undermentioned n.c.o.s and men on attaining the following Trade ratings:—

W/T B.I.—C.Q.M.S. J. Gibson and Sergt T. W. A. Mayo.
W/T B.II.—Corpl H. T. Simpson and Signalmen J. F. Ford and L. Glasper.
W/T B.III.—Sigmn R. Holding.
V/T C.III.—Signalmen C. Campbell, C. C. Mayo, A. M. Gibson, and A. Sanderson.

**Training.**—We are still carrying on with our winter training, and we are pleased to see so many of the younger hands taking such an interest in their work. I am sure there will be a few more qualification sheets to be signed up before we proceed to annual training. My advice to all young hands is to stick it, and help us all they can by turning up to drill as often as possible.

**Entertainment.**—We held a Company dance on December 3rd, and everything went off with the usual swing, thanks to the organisers.

**Children's Christmas Party.**—The annual children's Christmas party is taking place in the drill hall on December 16th. We are being honoured with the presence of R.S.M. G. Burrows, who is taking over the responsible duties of Father Christmas—hence the calling in of the bricklayers to widen the chimney! All who know him will agree that he will be the right man on the job; but we shall have more to say about this in the next issue of THE WIRE.

A. C.

### No. 3 (Hull) Company.

**Training.**—Although this is the "close season," quite a number of the Company are turning up for the voluntary parades on Tuesday nights; and the n.c.o.s class is also well attended on Sunday mornings. This speaks well for the interest which is being taken in the training, and it is hoped that a 100 per cent. standard of efficiency will be the result.

**G.O.C.'s Visit.**—The G.O.C. 50th (Northumbrian) Division, Major-Gen. F. A. Dudgeon, C.B., accompanied by Major M. C. Morgan, M.C., paid us a visit on December 9th and expressed satisfaction prior to leaving.

**Football Team Annual Outing.**—This took place on Nov. 20th to Beverley, where we were entertained by the Depot Battn. East Yorkshire Regt., first at football (in which we had the misfortune to lose) and then to tea. Several lady friends of the team also joined the party, the journey being made by charabanc.

**Dances.**—The Company fortnightly dances are increasing in popularity, and are considered by all who attend as "very nice."

The sergeants held their annual ball in the Metropole Hall on November 22nd, and this was voted a huge success. Amongst those present were the Honourable Sheriff and Lady Sheriff, Capt P. Jennings, M.C. (our adjutant), Capt R. E. Petch (our O.C.) and officers and sergeants representing all the T.A. units in Hull. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by C.S.M. R. G. Williams, M.M., Sergt O. Bolmer, and L/Sergt W. H. Thirkell. The thanks of all are due for the untiring efforts of the dance president and the secretary, Sergt J. Wright, M.M., and L/Sergt F. Cross.

**Christmas Festivities.**—A series of festivities extending over the Christmas holidays is being arranged. This includes billiard handicaps and tournaments, a dominoes tournament, and a Christmas shoot.

The function which is causing great consternation amongst the "married pads" is the tea party to be held on New Year's Eve for the wives and children of the members of the Company. (So this is where you spend your time at night, is it?) After tea presents will be distributed amongst the children, and a concert to wind up the evening will be given in the sergeants' mess.

**Greetings.**—Although a wee bit late, we extend our heartiest greetings of the season to all members of the Corps. We wonder how many will turn over the proverbial "new leaf"?

A. Q. Z.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Aberdeen)

And so it came to pass that there came to the city of the Hebrews, which is Ab-er-deen, one from a far land which is Alders-hot. And he was known as Adjut-ant. And when he came to the city of Ab-er-deen there was a mighty stirring, for he was one who had sojourned long in the land of Alders-hot.

And spake he unto the men of the Signals of Ab-er-deen, saying, "How comes it about that your deeds are not noised among others?" And they answered and said unto him, "Show us the way, that we may be known." And he answered them, saying, "Lo, THE WIRE is the way." And so they called for the scribes, and ordered them, saying, "Write ye on the tablets the deeds of the Signals, that men may know what manner of men we be, and marvel."

Having made our bow, so to speak, we shall now get on with it.

### No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company

The season of whist drives and dances is in full swing. We have the Aberdeen Territorial Army whist league, which meets weekly to do battle for a shield. Five matches have been played, of which we have won three and lost two. Then we have our unit whist league, also a weekly affair. This is popular (more so, last winter), but attendances are beginning to fall off, in spite of the free tea and cakes. Yet people say Aberdonians are mean!

The cause of the falling-off in attendances may be that two nights each week in addition are devoted to the gymnastic class. This is under the direction of our energetic adjutant, and conducted by Sergt-Major Norton, A.P.T.S. (Depot Gordon Highlanders). Particular attention is paid to boxing, and some of the men may be picked to represent us in a future tournament.

Two dances have so far been held, with fair success. A "Charleston" competition is one of the new attractions, but the floor of the drill hall will need extensive repairs if the M.C.s do not take care!

On December 18th the annual children's party will take place. Of this very popular treat, more anon.

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company

The Stirling lads have also taken up boxing, and we foresee some more or less scientific tussles when next the 51st Divl. Signals meet at camp.

A whist drive has been held, and was a great success.

We congratulate C.S.M. J. H. Haines (Jack) on obtaining an extension of his tenure (old soldiers never die). A certain R.S.M. is stated to be a trifle envious, to say the least.

### No. 3 (Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline) Company

Our adjutant, in his whirlwind tour of the Companies, left here also the germs of the boxing fever. We *are* going to have a time at camp next summer!

Sergt Cooper has just returned from leave, but he denies that his renewed vigour is entirely due to Kruschen salts.

J. O. R. M.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, November 15th.

Having completed the innumerable "Annual Returns, T.A.," due on the 1st inst., we can now breathe freely, as after due care we have "agreed" them all.

We welcome C.S.M. Gadsby, who has come to join us in succession to C.S.M. Hoare, and we hope that he will be as happy and as popular as his predecessor. We will not ask him anything about house hunting, Cardiff landlords, or helpful T.A. Associations, just now, though!

On the 12th November the w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess held their annual Armistice night dance. Unfortunately the Divisional Commander (Major-General Sir T. O. Marden, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.), who honoured us by his presence last year, was unable to do so on this occasion owing to a previous engagement. The dance went with a great swing, and the drill hall was packed to its utmost capacity. The hall was wonderfully decorated, and great credit is due to the entertainments committee (Sergts D. J. O'Connor and H. P. Baxter, and L/Sergt V. Clarke) and their helpers.

On Sunday, the 14th, the unit, with other T.A. bodies in Cardiff, sent detachments to take part in the Lord Mayor's annual church parade. Some 400 T.A. were present, of which number the unit detachment and band provided about a quarter. The Lord Mayor, being a Baptist, attended his own chapel, but the bulk of the troops marched on to the neighbouring Church of St. John, where a special shortened service was held. The whole procession was most successful, and the threatened rain held off during the march out and back.

We hear that the officers' mess presents an animated scene on each Monday night, when one of the members inflicts on his fellows a lecture on a subject which they have previously chosen for him. It is rumoured that visiting teams in the Air Rifle League, when firing on the range beneath the mess, complain that the sound of snores from above interferes with their shooting.

We hear that two new officers have been appointed to the unit, and we hope to welcome them in person this month.

Rumour also has it that a friend of the unit is kindly presenting us with a cup for miniature rifle shooting, and we hope to hear more about this next month.

With the approach of Christmas, we hear many enquiries as to whether a children's Christmas treat will be held, as it was last year. The powers-that-be are silent on the matter, but we are sure that if funds run to it, there are few things that would be more appreciated than this treat.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.

Social events have been the order during the last month. We visited the 17th Battn. London Regiment on November 19th to defend the inter-unit boxing cup, and managed to bring it home again. The results of this tournament will be found in the Sports Notes.

Artillery and Signals Permanent Staff, Stratford
Armistice Day, 1926

On November 27th No. 2 Company held their third annual dinner at the Langthorne Rooms, Stratford Broadway. Nearly the whole of the Company attended, and a very enjoyable evening was spent under the chairmanship of Major Pemberton, M.C., commanding the Company. It was with great regret that we heard from Major Pemberton that, owing to his civil business, he was retiring from the unit and being posted to the T.A. Reserve. We shall sadly deplore the loss of this gallant soldier and gentleman, but trust we may still have the pleasure of seeing him amongst us again at some future time. Major Pemberton said he was sorry to leave, and spoke of the good progress made by No. 2 Company and of the great assistance given him by C.S.M. Hooper (good "Old Bill").

No 1 Company held their first annual dinner on December 11th at the Princess Alice Hotel, Forest Gate, under the chairmanship of Capt Rayner, commanding the Company. This was a very pleasant event, being the first time No. 1 has blossomed out. We trust that it will become a regular affair. As No. 1 hold the majority of the trophies, these adorned the tables, and naturally the Company felt very proud of themselves. After dinner, a varied programme was got through. One of the best "turns" was Capt Manley's card tricks. He certainly wants some catching. "Switch" is still wondering where it went to!

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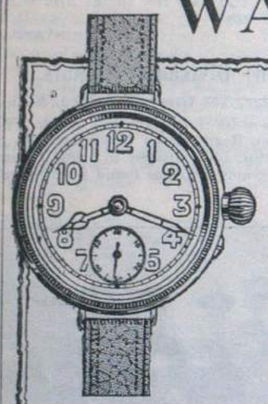

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We are very pleased to see Sergt Simpson (late 3rd Divl. Signals) back amongst us again. He joined us in the spring of this year, working very hard in training the Wireless squads. Just prior to camp he was suddenly taken ill, admitted to hospital, and underwent two operations—one for appendicitis and the other for peritonitis. After a long time in hospital and in a convalescent home, he has at last recovered, and is now delving into the mysteries and intricacies of the various W/T sets and enlightening the younger generation. Working, as he does, at the Experimental Establishment, Woolwich, we are enabled to get the very latest tips "straight from the horse's mouth."

Speaking of horses, a few of the stalwart signalmen are now getting well down in their saddles under the able tuition of Sergt-Major Adams and Sergt Duncombe. The "Hooper Twins" (Barnetts, A. and G.), together with the "Highbrows," Senton and Smith, are fast becoming veritable cavalrymen. It is to be hoped that they won't run away and join the North-West Mounted Police.

We welcome the arrival of Sergt E. Scrivens from the Training Battalion, to join the permanent staff in relief of C.S.M. C. J. Sharp, who was discharged to pension on December 13th after 26 years' service, the last six being spent on the P.S. of this unit. We trust Sergt Scrivens' stay amongst us will be a lengthy and enjoyable one.

Forthcoming events: Novices' boxing tournament, Stratford v. Westcliff Companies, December 16th. Children's Christmas tree and party on New Year's Day.

Recruit joined during the month: 2306335 C. J. Sharp, for a period of 4 years from 14/12/26.

Y. E. D.

## No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

A happy and prosperous New Year to all Signals!

**Mayor's Sunday, November 14th.**—This is a yearly event for Southend: a kind of Lord Mayor's Show. All the local "Terrors" take part in the procession, and needless to say, No. 3 Company was well represented. Firemen, Coppers, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides (I had to mention these) all took part. The "movie bloke" and the photographers had a good day!

The streets en route were crowded with proud parents, policemen off duty, and sweethearts, etc.

Overheard in the crowd: "Look! Doris, there's Archie!" "Oh! what are those wires for, mum?" "Wires, my dear! how absurd; they're his legs." (Pass on).

**General.**—Recruits are still coming along, and at the present rate the Company will soon be at full strength. A welcome to Recruits Baxendale, D. Carty, Spanton, Jones, Martin, Brindley, Mapes, Pease and Potter.

In addition to the above we are inflicted with Acting-Boy Saunders (unattested). "This" turns up every drill night and on any other night when he happens to find the door open. Quite a keen lad!

We have apprehensions as to his immediate future, however, especially if he persists in practising upon a dilapidated bugle which he avers was carried by his G.G.G.-father through the XYZ campaign.

The bugle is apparently only a side line (splendid!) as he assures me that he is quite good on the "linoleum," and wishes to join the band. His favourite piece of music, he continues, is a song about a hotel: "Oh! tell me pretty maiden,"—or words to that effect (with apologies to anybody who objects!)

Sergt C. F. Maries attended a three weeks' signalling course at Catterick, and obtained a very good report. Congratulations, Digger! Ack ack ack.

Sigmn Gates has joined the Regular Army.

**Social.**—The whist drive held in November was quite a success. It would be gratifying to the promoters if more members would come along in uniform. The drives are well worth attending, even if none of the numerous prizes come in one's way. Another drive will be held in January.

Preparations are under way for our second impromptu concert. This we hope to stage on December 31st. All the Scotsmen have promised to attend, and according to information received, talent will not be lacking. Anyway, if it is as successful as the first, those who come along will spend a good evening.

DREITER.

## The Royal Corps of Signals Golfing Society.

**Annual Meeting, 1926.**—The Royal Corps of Signals Golfing Society held its annual golf meeting at Richmond (Yorkshire) on Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th. The entries totalled some twenty officers. It is regretted that only one Signal unit outside the Signal Training Centre was represented, but next year it is proposed to hold the meeting in the Aldershot Area, as such will be a more favourable course for Aldershot Signals and southern units generally.

The first day's play was held in excellent weather—almost like spring—there being a rather "dry fairway," plenty of sun, and no wind; and Major Fitz A. Drayson and Lt J. F. Charlesworth produced a 75 (gross) and 79 (gross) respectively for the first 18 holes of the Corps championship.

On Sunday morning, however, although the sun shone at the commencement of play, those conditions soon gave way to heavy rain before noon. Major Drayson and Lieut Charlesworth almost repeated their previous scores with 80 (gross) and 79 (gross) respectively. Major Drayson won the championship by three strokes from Lieut J. F. Charlesworth (holder).

Weather conditions in the afternoon got rapidly very much worse, with pouring rain and (by 3.0 p.m.) thick fog, making play almost impossible. Three pairs actually finished in the "foursomes" against bogey, Capt P. Jennings and 2/Lieut Adams returning the best score of 8 down.

The results of the meeting are appended:—

**Corps Championship.**—1, Major Drayson, 75 (first round) + 80 (2nd round)—Total 155. 2, Lieut Charlesworth, 79+79—158. 3, 2/Lieut Pipe-Wolferstan, 97 + 92—189.

**Handicap Challenge Cup.**—1, Lieut Charlesworth, 158 gross handicap 6—146 nett. 2, Major Drayson, 155 (handicap 2)—151. 3, 2/Lieut Pipe-Wolferstan, 189 (handicap 18)—153.

**Foursomes v. Bogey.**—1, Capt Jennings and 2/Lieut Adams, 8 down. 2, Major Drayson and Lieut Harris, 9 down. 3, Lieut Power and 2/Lieut Pipe-Wolferstan, 10 down.

**Novices' best Nine Holes.**—2/Lt Pipe-Wolferstan and 2/Lt Ewbank tied at 46. The former won the play-off on the 18th green, after a very strenuous battle.

## Catterick Rugby Notes.

**Training Battalion v. Ripon.**—Played on November 13th at Catterick. As it had been raining for eight consecutive days the ground was a *little* damp. The game was naturally confined to the forwards, and T.B. won by 5 points to 3—thanks chiefly to having two good swimmers!

**Signals (Catterick) v. 1st Battn. Middlesex Regiment.**—Played on the new Highlands Ground, about 300 yards west of the Scotton cricket ground. Lieuts Pennycook and Smith were unable to play for their respective teams. Lieuts Worton and Clinch for the Middlesex, and Lieut Edes and Sergt Squirrell for the Signals, played splendidly. The game resulted in a win for Signals by 1 try to nil.

**Depot Battalion v. The 1st Border Regiment.**—This Army cup match was played at York on November 10th. The ground was in splendid condition, and at half-time the score was 6 to nil in favour of the Border Regiment. After change of ends the Borders' outsides got going, and weak tackling by the Depot Battalion three-quarters enabled the home team to score five more tries, one of which was converted. The Border Regiment won by 23 points to nil.

**Training Battalion "A" v. Middlesbrough "A."**—Played on November 20th at Catterick, resulting in a win for the Training Battalion by 12 points to nil.

**Boys' XV. v. The School, Richmond.**—Played on the Highlands ground on November 20th. Richmond School played two masters and three old boys, but the Boys' XV. won by 1 try to nil. A feature of the match was the splendid forward play of our team. Boys Burke, Jones and Brice led some fine forward rushes, but inexperience caused the latter to get offside on several occasions. Boys Barlow and Milne kicked well at full back and centre three-quarter.

**Signals (Catterick) v. The Border Regiment.**
**Signals (Catterick) v. Middlesbrough.**

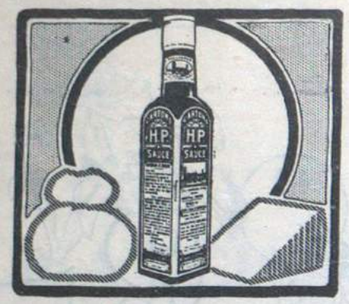
Both these matches were played at Catterick on November 27th. We had rather to divide our forces, and consequently were well beaten in both games, the Border Regiment winning by 16—nil and Middlesbrough by 23—nil. We played a good deal stronger team v. The Border Regiment, but with Lieut Danby (injured) and Lieut Hardy (playing in the Irish trial) away, our attack was somewhat weak. The outstanding player in the first match was Sigmn Reeves at fly half. He made some splendid openings, and his tackling was hard and low. He is now a very live candidate for a place in the Corps XV. v. R.E. on January 14th, either as fly half or as centre three-quarter.

**Small Boys' Trial Match.**—After a few practice games the boys under 16 met in deadly earnest on November 28th. Play was somewhat scrappy at first, but once the teams had settled down, some really hard and fast play was seen, and the game resulted in a draw of 6 points each.

The most promising players appear so far to be Boys Kerr, Vickery, Swann, Jenkins, Kilpatrick, Kenneally and Cox. It will be interesting to see how many of these 14 and 15-year-old boys will be playing for the Corps XV. in years to come.

## F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

**S.T.C. Cross-Country.**—The second inter-Company run was held on November 16th, over a 3-mile course, resulting in a win for this Company. Corpl Cotterell ran first, with L/Corporals Ayres and Ivison second and third respectively.



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On November 22nd, the S.T.C. team finished fourth in the road race for the Clive-Ccokson cup, which the S.T.C. held during the previous year.

A fortnight later, however, the team found their old form, and won the Heaton Memorial road race, by a comfortable margin. The placings of the counting six were as follows: 1st, Corpl Cotterell; 4th, Sigmn Broadley; 8th, Sigmn Gosling; 11th, Driver Gaston; 26th, L/Corpl Stibbs; 27th, L/Corpl Ivison. The following also ran: 2/Lieut McCormack, Sergt Cayley, Signalmen Beale, Nix, Hall and Moore. L/Corpl Ayres was prevented from running through injuries to his foot.

### F Company Boys.

Some of the boys are already trailing in the lime-light on the Rugby stage. In our cross-country budget we discovered that the Boys' Company headed the list in the second inter-Company run held soon after our formation. The Boys' soccer team have only played the Northallerton Boy Scouts since the "Unity," winning by 3—0. We have been formed too recently to cause any great comment in sporting circles; but what did the Sports Despatch say about our rugger?

## School of Signals, Catterick.

**Football.**—Since the appearance of last month's notes we have played senior and junior games against C and E Companies. In both senior games our team played well, but unfortunately not well enough, being beaten in each match. Our junior team had better luck, and won both their matches.

The junior team *were* going to challenge the seniors to a game; but, thinking how bad it would look if they won, they refrained!

## No. 3 Co. 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Soccer.**—Results to date:—v. D Cavalry Troop, won 4—2 (Command knock-out); v. No. 1 Company, won 3—1; v. 38th Field Company R.E., won 5—2.

**Hockey.**—v. No. 2 Company, lost 3—2; v. 38th Field Coy. R.E., lost 3—0.

**Cross-Country Running.**—The result of the inter-Section run was: 1st, L Section, 35 points; 2nd, J Section, 52; 3rd, K Section, 63; 4th, H Section, 69. First three home: Sigmn G. A. Clark, Dvr Winch, and L/Corpl G. Spencer.

**Rugby.**—This game now has a good following in the Company. Several unit games have been played with varying results, and occasionally we have been represented in the Command team. We played Nos. 1 and 2 Companies and managed to beat them by 11 points to 3.

The unit team results are as follows:—Lost to Coldstream Guards, 28 points to 3. Beat A Corps Signals, 6 points to 3. Lost to King's Own Regiment, 9—nil. Beat 2nd Divl. Signals, 11 points to 9.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

**Sport.**—At present a billiard tournament is going strong, and with practice the Troop should turn out a few budding Inman's in the near future (what about it, Paddy?) The prizes are awarded from the sweep entry fee and a grant generously given by the O.C., who is personally interested, being the originator of the scheme. His attendance is greatly appreciated by the Troop.

It was suggested during one match that the opponents should get on the table and make a football match of it, but out of respect for the table the idea was abandoned. No names! but our tame Irishman states that if the M.C.C. is to have the cricket ball made smaller, he is going to find out if the billiard ball cannot be made larger.

**Rugger.**—The 3rd Divl. Signals plus one player from this unit played the Aldershot Command Signals on December 11th, and were beaten by 16 points to 8 after a very keenly-fought and enjoyable, but by no means unequal, game.

**Soccer.**—The League is having its Christmas break, and we hope our team, re-starting at the end of January, will have better luck.

**Boxing.**—In the 16/5th Lancers' regimental boxing on the 4th December, a special contest took place between L/Corporal Fode (16/5th Lancers) and Dvr P. Jackson of this unit. After an excellent fight Dvr Jackson lost to his opponent on points. He hopes to arrange a return match shortly, and we wish him better luck.

## 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

**Football (1st Round Army Cup).**—We met the 2nd Battn Cheshire Regt. on Nov. 18th under conditions much more fit for water polo than football. It was pouring with rain, and although the ground was better than anticipated it was on the heavy side. The Cheshires seemed to appreciate this state of affairs, but although appearing to overplay us at every point, they were only leading by one goal at half-time. After this they ran riot and scored five more, but conditions became so bad that the game had to be abandoned.

The match was replayed the following day. The weather was fine and the ground light, and the tale was rather different, for the Cheshires were hard pressed up to half-time. Indeed, they were distinctly fortunate not to change over in arrears on the play. The second half was fought out at a great pace, with each side pressing in turn. The Cheshires scored after ten minutes, the ball just passing over the line before Higginson scooped it out. Signals tried desperately hard for an equaliser, but could not obtain it, and the Cheshires made the issue safe by scoring again ten minutes from time. Taken all round, the result was very creditable to the unit.

**Garrison League.**—Nos. 2 and 3 Companies are doing quite well in the league, being both about half-way in the table.

No. 1 Company are not doing so well, being about fourth from bottom. However, since losing one match to No. 3 Company by the amazing score of 20—nil (no! not rugger), they have improved considerably, and expect to go up with Nos. 2 and 3 Companies in due course.

Most of our footballers are now on leave, and fixtures have been suspended until the New Year.

"Jimmies" have been awarded to the following unit players: Signalmen King (captain), Dean (vice-captain), Higginson, Hall.



## 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

**Football.**—The unit team has been going strong in Division 1 of the Essex and Suffolk Border League. Played 7, won 5, drawn 1, lost 1—and still at the top of the league. Results of matches to date:—

Long Melford (away), won by 5—4.
11th Field Brigade R.A. (home), draw of 1—1.
Parkeston Railway (away), won by 4—0.
Harwich and Parkeston (home), won by 4—3.
2nd Battn. Rifle Brigade (away), won by 1—0.
11th Field Brigade R.A. (away), won by 5—1.
Harwich and Parkeston (away), lost by 3—1.

Considering the number of injuries, etc., this performance is very creditable, especially as it is the first season we have performed in the senior league.

Sigmn White has played in goal for the Army and Hants County matches on several occasions, and is still in great request.

We have been very unfortunate in cup ties. We are only left in one competition: the Brightlingsea charity cup. Having been in the final the last two years, and lost, we are wondering whether "third time for luck" stands good!

On December 6th our 1st XI. met the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade in the Pearson charity cup, not to play football but to wallow in the mud. Although the Garrison ground was in an appalling condition we held our ground until the last quarter of an hour. The R.B. then took possession of the match and put in six steady ones, beating us by 7 to 1.

In the Essex senior cup we lost to Clacton Town by 2—0, but the result does not indicate the run of the game.

C.S.M. Shenton and Sergt Withers, both late of the old Maresfield Depot team, are still going as strong as ever.

Our reserve team, playing in Division II. of the Essex and Suffolk Border League, are not doing too well on account of the hot local element, but are nicely balanced with the other regimental reserve teams.

**Rugby.**—Big strong burly men required. "It pays to advertise," hence the language in the scrums. Rugby, we hope, has come to this unit to stay; and thanks to the support of one or two of the older hands, it is coming along well. We shall not be able to run a really good side, though, until we can raise two teams. We ought to manage this next season, thanks to a few who have joined us from the Depot and abroad.

Results to date are: 5 matches played, 3 drawn and 2 lost. Many deaths were caused recently when a rumour was spread that a certain lance-corporal had said he would sooner play rugger for the unit than turn out for the soccer second eleven.

**Billiards.**—We have entered a team in the Garrison billiard league, and up to the present have played two matches, one at home and one away, our opponents in each case being our nearest neighbours the R.A.S.C. The team and results are as follows:

Away.—R.A.S.C.: S/Sergt McKenzie 186; Corpl Locke 134: L/Corpl Alderton 206; Pte Barwell 241—Total 767. Royal Signals: C.S.M. Stockwell 250: L/Sergt Cozens 250; L/Corporal Garner 250; Sigmn Merritt 250—Total 1000.

At home.—Royal Signals: C.S.M. Stockwell 250; L/Sergt Cozens 250; L/Corpl Garner 250; Sigmn Merritt 250—Total 1000. R.A.S.C.: S/Sergt Harrison 159; Corpl Allday 136; Pte Barwell 168; Pte Davies 158—Total 621.

Unfortunately we lose one of our mainstays in a few days, as Sigmn Merritt leaves for India on the 16th. S.T.C., Jubbulpore, please note!

## Rhine Signal Units.

The conditions of award of the unit "Jimmy" have now been drafted and approved by our commanding officer. This should encourage keenness in all games, because I can tell you here and now that a "Jimmy" will want some winning.

Since the publication of the photographs of the rugby and football teams in the December issue there have been many changes—some to India, some to England, and several to other stations and discharge; but we hope to forward another photo of each team at an early date.

**Football.**—This sport has bucked up greatly during the past month, and we are now making favourable progress in the league. In our last match of the first half-season we were very unlucky to lose, as it was their goalkeeper versus our forward line all the time. Still, we never grumble.

Very soon we shall commence the inter-Section knock-out, and one wonders which will be the first Section to have its name engraved on the handsome shield presented by the P.R.I. I say, watch the 1st Brigade!

**Rugby.**—We have had a very slack month, due mainly to the majority of the team being on furlough; but at the time of writing we are opposing the Military Police, the result of which is not to hand.

**Hockey.**—Four matches have been played, with one won and the remainder lost; but that does not worry us in the least! We shouldn't mind losing every time if we could get a game a bit oftener, but there being only one ground is not our fault, so we can only look for the best.

## F Divisional Signals, Kohat.

We have commenced the cold season in good style, and from the look of things we are in for a good sporting season. To stimulate an interest in soccer, a league has been formed consisting of six teams—two from Signals, two from the R.A.F., and one each from the Staff and Departmental Club and the British officers of the Station.

To date some very interesting and exciting matches have been witnessed, and at the time of writing our B team heads the league. The local "Derby"—"A" versus "B"—should have been a very exciting game, but unfortunately "A" had several absentees, and "B" had a somewhat easy victory. The results of games played to date are:—

"A" Team—versus R.A.F. "A," won 3—1 (Sigmn Blight 3); v. "B" team, lost 0—4; v. S. and D. Club, lost 0—6; v. B.O.s, draw, 1—1 (L/Corpl Cole).

"B" Team—versus R.A.F. "A," won 2—1 (Sergt Page, Sigmn Major); v. "A" team, won 4—0 (C.Q.M.S. Smithies 2, Sergt Page, Sigmn Lloyd); v. R.A.F. "B," won 2—0 (Sergt Page).

**Hockey.**—The results to date are very satisfying, the rest during the warm weather having been beneficial.

Versus B.O.s of Kohat, won 4—0 (Sergt Page 2, Lieut Morgan, Sigmn Dudley); v. 102nd Pack Battery R.A., won 1—0 (Lieut R. W. Morgan); v. 2/1st Punjab Regt., won 2—0 (Sergt Page); v. 5/13th F.F. Rifles, won 1—0 (Lt. Morgan); v. 102nd Pack Battery, won 3—1.

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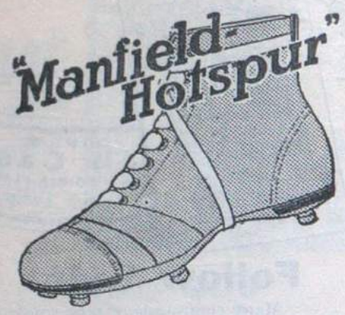


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**Cricket.**—Only one match has been played, versus the Gymkhana Club. The "Gym," batting first, declared at 132 for six wickets. Owing chiefly to Capt F. J. Matthews (70 not out) and L/Corpl Cole (30), our total reached 137 for seven, when the light got bad. Now we have made a start we should go far under the guidance of Capt Matthews.

In closing, we should like to offer our very best congratulations to Capt F. J. Matthews on his performance against the M.C.C. For the Europeans of the N.W.F. he made the top score of 57.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Hockey.**—The team has been getting in as much work as possible, and we think they will assist us in our quest for the Command cup.

Up to the present all matches have been friendlies, our first real match being against the R.E.s in the first round of the Command cup. Enclosed is a photo of the Corps hockey team. Back row (left to right): L/Sergt Coleman, Signalmen Reat, Drury, W. L. Jones, Corpl Solly, Sigmn Collins, L/Cpl Moore (referee). Front row: Sigmn Notley, Lieut Woodbridge, Major Rawson, Corpl Ryan, Sigmn Walsh.

**Rugby.**—The Corps is rightly placing great confidence in the rugby team. In some circles it is considered that the Corps team in Egypt could more than hold its own with the Corps team at home. We have played two friendlies, with results as shown: 5th Pack Brigade R.A. 6, Signals 0. Royal Signals 19, 15/19th Hussars 0.

Unfortunately Sigmn Powell has been excluded from the team consequent on his sustaining a fractured arm.

In the first round of the Command cup we met our old friends the "Faughs," and once more they had to bow the knee. It was a very fast game, and the Signals thoroughly deserved their win, which means another 8 points towards that Command cup. Result: Royal Signals 12, R.I.F. 3.

**Football.**—To the team and selection committee, hearty congratulations on recent performances. May the team go through and win the Command cup. Results of matches:—

November 6th—Royal Signals 2, R.I.F. 2 (the "Faughs" were very lucky to equalise in the last minute of the game).
November 13th—Royal Signals 7, 3rd Hussars 1.
November 20th—Y.M.C.A. 2, Royal Signals 5.
November 25th—1st Pack Brigade 2, Royal Signals 1 (Signals very unlucky to lose).
November 27th—Royal Signals 2, 1st Battn. Norfolks 1.
December 4th—Royal Signals 1, A. and S. Hdrs. 0 (a most enjoyable game, Signals thoroughly deserving victory).

The Corps team comprises: Hyde; Harmsworth and Horne; Holness, Thomas, and Edmunds; Terry, Edge, McKail, Hill, and Dickerson.

The following is the Cairo Military League table, showing the positions of the teams on December 6th:—

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | Goals for | Goals agst. | Pts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Pack Brigade ..... | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 48 | 11 | 22 |
| Argylls ..... | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 58 | 8 | 19 |
| Royal Corps of Signals | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 41 | 22 | 18 |
| 9th Lancers ..... | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 46 | 27 | 18 |
| R.A.F. ..... | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 21 | 14 |
| 15/19th Hussars..... | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 14 | 13 |
| 3rd Hussars ..... | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 25 | 37 | 13 |
| 2nd Brigade R.H.A. ... | 11 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 16 | 12 |
| R.I.F. ..... | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 23 | 37 | 11 |
| Y.M.C.A. ..... | 12 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 27 | 47 | 10 |
| Norfolks ..... | 11 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 28 | 30 | 9 |
| R.A.M.C. ..... | 12 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 23 | 36 | 8 |
| R.A.O.C. ..... | 11 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 16 | 35 | 5 |
| C.C.P. ..... | 11 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 42 | 3 |
| R.A.S.C. ..... | 11 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 46 | 1 |

**Cross-Country.**—The result of the Royal Signals inter-Company cross-country race and championship, held on November 11th, is appended. A total of 26 started, and all but three finished the course of 5½ miles. Time, 34 minutes. Signalmen Beeton and Milsom were awarded the 1st and 2nd prizes.

Placings: 1, Sigmn Beeton (No. 3 Company). 2, Sigmn Milsom (3). 3, Sigmn Clark (3). 4, L/Corpl Soloman (1). 5, Sigmn Cooper (3). 6, Sigmn Backhouse (3). 7, Sigmn Silverstone (3). 8, Sigmn Bazley (3). 9, Sigmn Gratwicke (3). 10, Sigmn Andrews (1). 11, Sigmn Oldale (3). 12, L/Corpl McFrommell (1). 13, Sigmn Powell (3). 14, Sigmn Carpenter (3). 15, Sigmn Reat (1). 16, Sigmn Chambers (1). 17, Sigmn Hunter (3). 18, Sigmn Bray (3). 19, L/Corpl Wales (1). 20, Sigmn J. Stone (3). 21, Sigmn Bates (3). 22, Sigmn R. Brown (3). 23, Sergt Linder (1).

Summary of Points:—No. 3 Company: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 17th—Total 96 points. No. 1 Company: 4th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 19th, 23rd—Total 99 pts.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Cross-Country.**—The result of the inter-Section cross-country run, held on Thursday, October 28th, is shown below. A total of 25 started, and all finished the course of 3 miles. L/Corporal Soloman and Sigmn Collins were awarded the 1st and 2nd prizes. Sigmn Tredgett, who finished in the 12th position, was awarded the "lucky number" prize.

Placings: 1, L/Corpl Soloman (H.Q. Section). 2, Sigmn Collins (B Cable). 3, Dvr Stillwell (B Cable). 4, L/Corpl McFrommell (B Cable). 5, L/Corpl Wales (No. 1 and 2). 6, Sigmn Andrews (No. 3). 7, Sigmn Reat (H.Q.). 8, Sigmn Chambers (No. 3). 9, Sigmn Furze (No. 1 and 2). 10, Dvr Terry (B Cable). 11, Corpl Solly (H.Q.). 12, Sigmn Tredgett (B Cable). 13, Sergt Linder (H.Q.). 14, L/Corpl Powell (No. 1 and 2). 15, L/Corpl Davies (No. 1 and 2). 16, Sigmn Thierrin (No. 1 and 2). 17, Sergt Donaghy (No. 1 and 2). 18, Sigmn Adams (B Cable). 19, Sigmn Furze (No. 1 and 2). 20, Sigmn Richards (No. 1 and 2). 21, L/Corpl Dunn (No. 1 and 2). 22, Dvr Legg (B Cable). 23, Dvr Cauldwell (B Cable). 24, Sigmn Ryder (No. 1 and 2). 25, Sigmn Panter (No. 1 and 2).

Summary of Points:—1st, B Cable Section: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th, 12th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd—Total, 94 points (inter-Section shield points, 4). 2nd, Nos 1 and 2: 5th, 9th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th—Total 115 (inter-Section shield points, 3). 3rd, Headquarters Section: 1st, 7th, 11th, 13th—Total 32 (inter-Section shield points, 2). 4th, No. 3 Section: 6th, 8th—Total 14 (inter-Section shield points, 1).

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—The Company team have been going great guns, and at the time of penning these notes they head their section of the small units league. The record to date is: Played 8, won 7, lost 1. Goals—for 27, and against 5.

A bye has been drawn in the first round of the C. of E. cup competition. The final was reached last year, and it is hoped to find a resting place for the trophy in the Signal Barracks this year. A new arrival in Sigmn Beech has greatly strengthened the team.

**Cross-Country Running.**—The Company cross-country run took place over a 3¾ mile course of heavy sand on November 4th, and all the 36 starters completed the course. Sigmn Beeton (22 min. 30 secs.) was first man home for the third successive year, and was followed by Sigmn Silverstone, who surprised everyone by his greatly improved running. The inter-Section team race resulted in a narrow win for K Section, with the Signal Troop second. H.Q. and J Sections tied for third and fourth place, with H Section fifth. Sigmn Silverstone was given the first prize (Sigmn Beeton not taking the award), Sigmn Milsom the second, and Sigmn Clark third.

Placings: 1, Sigmn Beeton (H.Q. Section). 2, Sigmn Silverstone (Signal Troop). 3, Sigmn Milsom (J Section). 4, Sigmn Clark (J). 5, Sigmn Backhouse (K Section). 6, Sigmn Cooper (S.T.). 7, Sigmn Gratwicke (H Section). 8, Sigmn Powell (K). 9, Sigmn Bazley (K). 10, Sigmn Hunter (J). 11, Dvr Ratledge (H.Q.). 12, Sigmn Oldale (K). 13, Dvr Pitman (S.T.). 14, Sigmn Bray (S.T.). 15, Sigmn Carpenter (H). 16, Sigmn J. Stone (H). 17, Sigmn Bates (H.Q.). 18, Sigmn Heath (K). 19, Dvr Cheal (J). 20, Sigmn Elliott (H). 21, Sigmn Chaloner (H.Q.). 22, Sigmn R. Brown (H.Q.). 23, L/Corpl Jeans (H.Q.). 24, Sigmn Rolls (S.T.). 25, ——— (J). 26, Sigmn C. Stone (S.T.). 27, Sigmn Wilson (H). 28, L/Corpl Pattenden (K). 29, Corpl Collins (K). 30, Sigmn Pitt (S.T.). 31, Dvr Oliver (S.T.). 32, Sigmn Mitchel (H). 33, Corpl Kemp (S.T.). 34, Corpl Jones (J). 35, Sigmn Wilson (H.Q.). 36, Lt Holland (J).

Summary of Points: 1st, K Section: 5th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 18th, 28th—Total 80. 2nd, Signal Troop: 2nd, 6th, 13th, 14th, 24th, 26th—Total 85. 3rd (tie) J. Section: 3rd, 4th, 10th, 19th, 25th, 34th—Total 95. H.Q.: 1st, 11th, 17th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd—Total 95. 5th, H Section: 7th, 15th, 16th, 20th 27th, 32nd—Total 117

The Corps cross-country championship was run over a 5½ mile course on November 11th, and resulted in a win for this Company over No. 1, owing to their not turning out a full team; though it is very doubtful if they would have beaten us, as this Company is very strong in runners this season, and supplied no fewer than eleven of the first fourteen in the run. This is the third year Sigmn Beeton has won this event.

**Boxing.**—The Company boxing competitions took place on November 23rd. The inter-Section team competition resulted in a win for K Section, with H second, J third, H.Q. fourth, and Signal Troop fifth. Results in brief were as follows:—

Fly—Sigmn Clark, walk over—only entrant.
Bantam—Semi-finals: Burns beat Backhouse; Holmes beat Cooper. Final: Holmes had a walk-over, as Burns had damaged his hand.
Feather—First series: Hemmings beat Tattam, Sergt Coleman scratched to L/Corpl Matthews, Coleman beat Drain, North a bye. Semi-finals: L/Corpl Matthews beat Hemmings, and Coleman beat North. Final: Matthews beat Coleman on points in a very good fight.

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Light—First series: Stone knocked out Russell in the first round. Semi-finals: Oldale beat Stone, and Richmond beat Silverstone. Final: Richmond beat Oldale. The Army featherweight champion was far too good for his man, who put up a plucky fight, nevertheless.

Welter—Semi-finals: Sigmn H. Wilson walk over; Cpl Osborne knocked out Cheal in the second round. Final: Sigmn H. Wilson awarded the fight—Corpl Osborne disqualified.

Middle—Semi-finals: Heath beat Williams, and Jager a bye. Final: Heath beat Jager on points in a very good fight, both giving and receiving heavy punishment.

Heavy—Semi-finals: Hewson a bye, and L/Sergt Wheeler knocked out O'Donnell in the first round. The Army and inter-Services light-heavy-weight champion was far too good for his opponent, who fought a losing battle from the start. Final: L/Sergt Wheeler walk over—Hewson scratched.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divl. Signals, Manchester.

**Football.**—The following games have been played, and the success recorded gives us hopes of further progress:—

November 13th—v. Manchester Deaf Old Boys, on our ground, won by 9—0 (Signalmen Groves 4, Clark 4, and Mack).
November 27th—v. All Saints, on our ground, won by 4—1 (Signalmen Emmett 2, Hallett and Atkinson).
December 4th—v. Granby House, at Heaton Chapel, won by 2—1 after gruelling game (Signalmen Emmett and Penlington)
December 11th—v. Parkinson and Cowans, on our ground, won by 4—2 after a very fast game (Signalmen Groves 3 and Walker).

League details to date:—Played 11, won 8, lost 3; goals—for 33, against 19. Points 16; position 4th.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Boxing.**—The outstanding event since our last notes is the local inter-unit tournament held at the headquarters of the 17th London Regiment, Tredegar Road, Bow, on November 19th, at which we had to defend the cup held by us.

We had heard rumours that the 17th London intended to wrest this from us, and they nearly did so. The points scored by the units were as follows: 17th London 7, 54th Signals 7, 232nd (Medium) Battery 5, 175th (Coast) Battery 4.

A "tie" between the 17th London and 54th Signals being declared, it was decided that Signals should retain the cup, the 17th London team being presented with the winning medals and 54th Signals with the runners-up medals—a decision very much appreciated by the audience. The best loser's medal was presented to Dvr T. Mercer, 54th Signals, who made a very plucky fight against Rifleman Leaver, who was at least a stone heavier. Leaver won on points.

We place on record our thanks for the very sporting way in which the 17th London entertained us. May there be many more such evenings!

Referee, Capt H. E. Heffer, M.C. Judges, Lieut I. E. Furlong and Lieut H. Heffer, both of 9th Middlesex.

Feathers—Gunner Langley (175th Battery) was knocked out in the second round by Gunner Bennett (232nd Battery).

Rifleman Leaver (17th London) beat Dvr Mercer (Signals) on points, Mercer being considerably overweighted.

Lights—Bdr Bray (232nd Battery) lost to Rifleman Goffey (17th London) on points after an extra round. Sigmn Sawford, jun. (Signals) beat Rifleman Bradshaw (17th London), knocking him out in the third round.

Welters—Bdr Putland (175th Battery) beat Gunner Townsend (232nd Battery) on points. Gunner Bray (232nd Battery) gave up in the first round to Dvr Middleditch (Signals).

Gunner Bloomfield (175th Battery) lost on points to Rifleman Everett (17th London), the latter being a much superior boxer. Bloomfield was a very plucky loser.

Middles—Gunner Winsor (175th Battery) being absent, the fight was given to Sigmn Sawford, sen. (Signals).

An exhibition bout was given by the brothers A. and F. Whitbread, both champions and winners of many contests. Tptrs C. and A. Wedge also gave a very interesting exhibition.

Our next event is a novices' competition, to be held at these headquarters on December 16th.

## No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

**Boxing.**—Medals were won by the following at the Company boxing competition held at Prittlewell Drill Hall on December 11th (by kind permission of the O.C. D Company 6th Battalion The Essex Regiment): Signalmen Dent, Taylur, D. Carty, and Hollingsworth.

More medals are to be won at headquarters, where a novices' boxing competition is being held on December 16th. We are sending several competitors. More anon.

## "Services Sports Diary"—A Review.

We are in receipt of the 1927 edition of this already very popular publication, which has been slightly reduced in size to make it more convenient for the pocket. The book contains, as previously, dates of the principal Service and other sporting events, as well as the records, general information and tables to be found in the ordinary diary. New features, which will be both interesting and instructive to readers, may be summarised:

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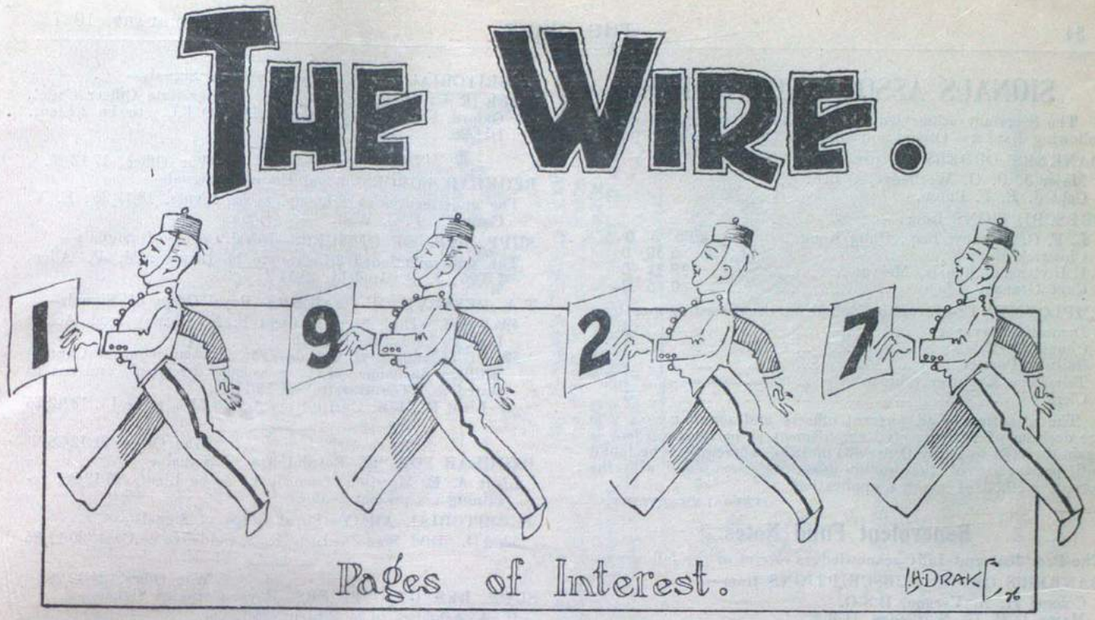



*The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.*

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to whom all Subscriptions and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. VIII.—No. 84 FEBRUARY, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


# Editorial Notes.

Will those units of Royal Signals who have not yet commenced to contribute monthly notes for publication in the Corps Magazine, or who for various reasons have been unable to keep their contributions up-to-date, kindly give this matter their serious consideration.

This appeal is made at the request of many readers who are keenly interested in the activities and welfare of their old units and comrades, and regularly peruse THE WIRE in the hope of finding news of their old friends in other stations.

One recent visitor to this office wanted to know "What had happened to the Malaya Singapore Detachment?" We could only echo his query.

Whilst on this subject, may we venture to enquire whether any Indian reader has accidentally stumbled across C Divisional Signals in their travels? They were last heard of at Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Razmak, and various other places on the frontier. Any information as to their present whereabouts and general welfare would be greatly appreciated, not only by this office, but also by a small army of readers who regularly scan the pages of their monthly WIRE for news of their old comrades. One ex-warrant officer of the unit in question even goes so far as to suggest that an effort should be made to persuade "Coir" to re-enlist.

Some very helpful and constructive criticisms of our Corps Journal have been received from a strong supporting unit of the Association. In acknowledging the receipt of them through this column, we would thank the author for his valuable suggestions, which are receiving immediate attention.

❀ ❀ ❀

In reply to numerous and persistent enquiries concerning the publication of a revised and up-to-date edition of the Corps Promotion Roster, we would again assure our readers that it is a matter which has not been lost sight of. Due notification will be given through these columns as soon as the necessary information is available. In the meantime, will all units and individual readers who wish to be supplied with copies of the publication in question kindly submit their orders in writing to this office, in order that we may be in a position to estimate bulk requirements for printing.

EDITOR.

[LATE EDITORIAL.]

We acknowledge the receipt of unit notes and photographs from B Cavalry Signal Troop, Sialkot, India, which came to hand too late for inclusion in this issue.

❀ ❀ ❀

It has just been ascertained that the Shanghai Defence Force Signal unit is being made up from the 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester. The best of good wishes and "bon voyage" to them!

# SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following Bankers' Orders and amounts from Branches, etc. :—

BANKERS' ORDERS (5s. per annum) from :—
Major J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E.
Capt J. E. F. Paton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| L. F. C. Bellamy, Esq., Hong Kong... ... | £0 | 5 | 0 |
| Chiswick Branch ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| E Divisional Signals, Meerut ... ... ... | 19 | 11 | 0 |
| Capt Graham Adam ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Domestic Servants ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Chauffeur Valet ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Railway Porters... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Telephone Engineer (abroad) ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Clerk ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

The attention of all warrant officers and senior n.c.o.s who are desirous of securing civil employment as barrack wardens is again directed to Army Order 483 of 1920, wherein will be found full particulars of the qualifications necessary, and also the correct method of making application.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
Colonel H. A. Vernon, D.S.O.
Major J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E.
Capt J. E. F. Paton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
Colonel H. A. Vernon, D.S.O.
Major R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C.
Capt Graham Adam.
1st Divisional Signals.
"Razors," Rhine Signals.
A Corps Signals, Karachi, India.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C.
Eastern Command Signals, Chatham.
A Divisional Signals, Peshawar, India.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from—
Capt W. M. Miller, M.C.

APPEALS dealt with :—
1—Ex-Signalman, married, in financial difficulties. £2 allocated from funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, in domestic and financial difficulties. £20 loaned from funds, repayable by instalments.
3—Sergeant Royal Signals, in domestic difficulties. £5 2s. 7d. loaned from funds, repayable by instalments.
4—In payment to West London Hospital for services rendered to an ex-Signalman, £6 5s. from funds.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—
Major J. A. F. Mair from Aldershot to India.
Major R. A. C. Henderson from London to India.
Major A. C. Sykes from Aldershot to War Office.
Major O. P. Edgcumbe from War Office to Staff College.
Capt G. E. Mansergh from Staff College to Bulford.
Capt W. R. C. Penney from Catterick to Staff College.
Lieut E. G. W. Pearse from Catterick to Colchester.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 14/12/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned Captains are restored to the Establishment: G. Rooker, 1/9/26; J. C. McDonald, 17/11/26.
Capt E. H. du Cros is seconded for service with the T.A. 17/11/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals—H. S. Palmer (late Officer Cadet, Oxford Univ. Contgt. Senior Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 1/11/26.

War Office, 17/12/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned 2/Lieuts. to be Lieuts. 18/12/26: E. V. Cormack, F. J. Wall.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned 2/Lieuts. to be Lieuts.: M. F. Allen, 1/8/26; J. P. Appleby, 23/11/26.

T.A. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—Lieut B. N. Bintley from Active List, to be Lieut. 18/12/26.
52nd (Lowland) Divl. Signals—The christian name of Captain William Buchanan, M.C., is as now described, and not as stated in "The Gazette" of 19/11/26.
Lieut R. McK. Currie from Active List, to be Lt. 18/12/26

War Office, 21/12/26.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Lieut A. E. Morrison, from R.A., to be Lieut. 22/12/26, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
52nd (L.) Divl. Signals—Lieut R. S. Calder to be Capt. 20/11/26

War Office, 24/12/26.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
H. A. Ashdown to be 2/Lieut. 25/12/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
Lieut.-Col. D. Hey, M.C., T.D., to be Bt.-Col. 12/4/26.

War Office, 28/12/26.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
Thomas Martin to be 2/Lieut. 29/12/26.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
50th (N.) Divl. Signals—Lieut J. W. Middleton, M.C., late R.M.L.I., to be Lieut. 29/12/26.

War Office, 4/1/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 23/12/26: Brevet-Major H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., and remains seconded; A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E.; G. I. G. Pollard, M.B.E.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
Signal Training Centre—Capt G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., Royal Signals, to be Staff Captain, 27/12/26, vice Lieut E. G. W. Pearce, R.Signals.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
47th (2nd London) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut W. A. Rhind to be Lieut. 18/11/26.

War Office, 7/1/27.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
2/Lieut J. O. Walker, late R.E., to be 2/Lieut. 8/1/27.

MEMORANDUM—
Major H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, to be Brevet-Lieut.-Col., to be dated 24/12/26.

T.A. RESERVE—Royal Corps of Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals—Major R. F. Pemberton, M.C., from Active List, to be Major, 17/11/26.

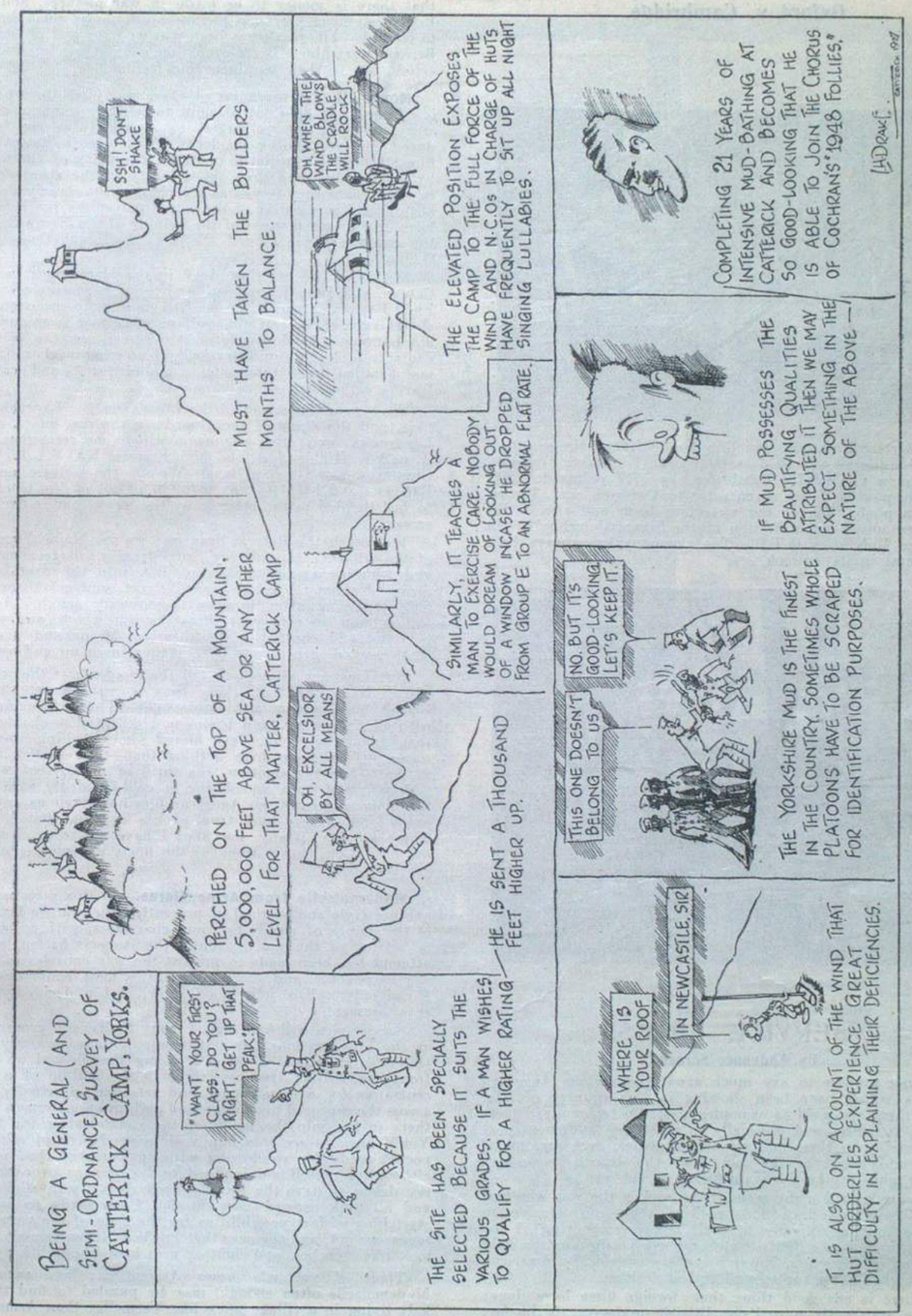
War Office, 11/1/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned are restored to the Establishment; Capt W. U. Tyrrell, 23/12/26; Lieut E. G. W. Pearse, 27/12/26

War Office, 14/1/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
52nd (L.) Divl. Signals—Lt V. D. Warren to be Capt. 31/12/26






YORKSHIRE RELISH. By L. H. Drake.

## Oxford v. Cambridge.

The thirteenth annual signalling competition (wireless, flag, lamp and Fullerphone), held at Oxford on November 27th last, resulted in a victory for Cambridge by 1717 points to 1503. Cambridge now leads by seven wins to Oxford's six. We reproduce a photograph of the victorious team and also of the newly mechanised Cable Section of the Signal Company of the Cambridge University O.T.C. The Company has always been experimental in its outlook.

## SERVICE FILMS.

**By "Advance Screen."**

I do not propose to say much about the various American war films which have been showing in this country of late. Some of them are good as examples of screen technique, but to a British audience—and especially to a Service audience—they fail lamentably in their military technicalities, even making all possible allowance for the fact that the troops shown are American, and may have ways different to our own.

There are a good many men who served in the war who find parts of these American films nothing short of offensive to British sentiment, not only in their complete ignoring of the fact that there was a British and a French army in the field in 1918 and earlier years, but in the nasty smacks the American producers give us in rather undignified fashion.

But there is one good thing these foreign films have done: they have apparently roused our British producers to the fact that there is money to be made in war pictures, and that a British audience prefers a picture which shows what the British forces did. The result has been that we have had of late several British war films—British not only in their producers and actors, but in their sentiment and feeling.

**Mons.**—By far the finest of these war films, in my opinion, is "Mons." It does not attempt to tell any romance or fiction story, but sets out to portray as accurately as can be reproduced the outstanding incidents of the Great Retreat. The film starts with the Battle of Mons, the firing of the first shots by the cavalry, and then the infantry in the scanty scratches in the ground that served as trenches in those early days. We have that stirring part of the action played by the Royal Fusiliers, and a reproduction of the holding of the Nemy Bridge and the exploits which earned the V.C. for Lieut Dease and Pte Godley.

We follow the retiring army in the first stages back to Le Cateau, and get a magnificent and thrilling picture of the 119th Field Battery in difficulties with their guns in the open under a slaughtering fire, and the gallant rush to the rescue by the 9th Lancers. At the trade show where I saw the picture, the audience broke into unrestrained applause when those guns were man-handled back into safety, limbered up, and came at a tearing gallop out of the tempest.

We have a few scenes of the Lincs. and the Lancashire Fusiliers, and the stand of the Guards in the rear-guard action at Landrecies; and other regiments which one recognises are the A. and S. Highlanders, the Manchesters, K.O.Y.L.I., Gordons, Cheshires, and Queen's Bays. We see the historic stand of L Battery; and I'll defy any man, in or out of the Gunners, not to feel thrilled to the marrow by the story that re-lives on the screen.

We watch the Retreat drag on; we see Major Tom Bridges of the 4th D.G. buy his toy drum from a village shop, "drum and whistle" a last flicker of life into the dead-beat men sprawled about the cobble-stoned street, and get them on their feet staggering after him on their weary march. Again you feel a lump come in your throat as you watch, and you want to stand and cheer the stout-hearted Major and his no less stout-hearted men as one by one they lurch up and away.

But I cannot attempt to tell the incidents of the whole epic story. It is one that every Service man—more, that every British man, woman and child ought to see. The Americans, with all the money, and brains and skill and mechanical effects that money can buy, have filmed some thrilling war picture scenes. They have done nothing that—to a British audience, at least—has the emotion, the thrill of pride, that we get in "Mons"; and even considering it cold-bloodedly as a piece of technique and work, no American film has given us anything as exact and correct and true to life as this British picture. There are few, if any, war films I have not seen. I say, without hesitation, that "Mons" is the finest war picture which has yet been made.

**Mademoiselle from Armentieres.**—In this picture we have another style and method of presenting the war—a fiction story of the doings of purely fictitious characters, with a background or setting of the war. While the story is fiction, a genuine attempt has been made to present the war episodes as realistically as possible, and the total result is most emphatically what I can only call a jolly good show, and a decidedly pleasant entertainment.

Service men will find a good many faults, and grouse perhaps at the exaggerations. It is difficult to take seriously, for instance, a story which takes a young French girl up into the front line British trenches, right in the middle of a big concentration for a mass attack, and gets her up actually into and across the captured neutral ground and into the German trenches, there to fall into the hands of the counter-attacking Germans. You'll have to see this film with a good dose of salt in your pocket ready for swallowing with incidents of that sort. But although I myself am inclined to be perhaps over-exacting in my desire to have the war depicted correctly in all its details, and all rank exaggeration cut out, I am ready to forgive the stretching of fact possibilities for the sake of the very fine war scenes we get, and the care that has been taken to make trenches look like trenches, and fighting men look like fighting men.

Those of you who knew Armentieres (and sang of her Mademoiselle often enough) may be puzzled to find the young lady living in a village more like Vermelles than Armentieres—

A few notes on these Egyptian scenes will be found on next page.

in one of those rather picturesque little hamlets we were billeted in many miles back out of the lines, instead of the battered old "Armonteers" with the trench lines running through its suburbs; but again we'll forgive that for the sake of a thoroughly pleasant and dramatic film. I recommend any Service man to see "Mademoiselle," anyhow.

**Nelson.**—In this picture we get away from "The War," but, as one might expect in a film with that title, get a good deal of war of another period.

"Nelson" is a tremendously ambitious attempt to put in a two-hour picture a record of the life of the great Admiral and national hero—and while it is inevitable that such a record cannot be adequate, the picture is really magnificent. Personally—though, in this, I admit I may be a captious critic—I felt sore that the picture record left out some incidents of his life which would have done more to present to us the human side of the great Nelson than anything that was included.

The film stuck to a series of incidents which are already so well-known that their screening could not greatly enhance their value, and it missed such lesser-known sides of Nelson as his spell whilst a youngster serving as a pilot, his voyage to the Arctic, and so on. Historic truth is rather strained by the impression conveyed that Nelson, on the renewal of war, embarked and sailed straight to Cadiz and the Battle of Trafalgar; and not a glimpse was given of that long period of strained and tense dread when all England waited for a sight of Napoleon's fleets rolling up the Channel to cover the passage of the great invading "Grand Army of England."

But I repeat that, in these details, I am perhaps being over-critical. If you take the picture as a whole, it is a great attempt to portray the life of the Admiral hero. It was filmed partly on board the actual vessels which Nelson knew—on the "Victory" in particular—and the greatest pains have been taken to present the men and methods of war of Nelson's day with absolute accuracy. Again we have a purely British film, and one which must touch the heart of British sentiment, and stir our national and our Service pride. It may be inadequate history, but it's a strong film.

**Palaver.**—Perhaps I am stretching it a bit to include "Palaver" in an account of Service films. It has little to do with any of the Services; but I mention it because there are a number of my readers who, no doubt, have served on "The Coast," and will feel a touch of personal remembrance when they see scenes actually filmed there, and see the little Haussa spring to attention and parade with all that smartness and pride in his service which is not only a pleasure to see, but is so truly typical of our native troops.

The story is a thoroughly good romantic one of life on The Coast, with all the elements of love, rivalry, and hate mixed up with "trouble in the bush" and the risings of a native tribe. The acting of the natives (genuine lib-for-die black fellows) is simply gorgeous, and must make many of our film stars green with envy.

"Palaver," in a word, is a real "Empire" film, a true-to-life picture of the routine job of white men carrying on in the outposts of Empire and keeping the flag flying in the good old style—giving a glimpse to the Home Garrison public of the life of our British men and women who live "out bush." I can only hope that there will be many such films produced, and that, one after another, they will give us pictures of those parts and peoples that the Foreign Service troops know so well.

**Every Mother's Son.**—This is a fiction story with a background of War and After-War. It contains some good acting, and is a story which at times is moving and touching. But somehow I feel it lacks a certain appeal to the Service man. It treats the Service sympathetically enough, and the film shows finely-produced war scenes and heroic exploits; but the whole point that is rubbed in through the After-War part is that war does not pay, and especially that it does not pay those who go to war.

There can be nobody who will not agree that war is a horrible and wasteful business, but it is a pity to make a picture which, if it has any effect beyond entertainment, must discourage any man from joining up when there *is* a war on. After all, if men don't join up in such a case, it simply means—as it certainly would have meant in the last war—"smash" for us, and misery and suffering under the heel of a conquering nation worse than any of our present tribulations. Film producers and writers ought to remember this.

## The Wireless Camera Club, Egypt.

Having ransacked the collections of many members of the Camera Club, I am able to place before readers of THE WIRE another photographic contribution which I hope will excel our last. The photos were taken by Sergt Norcross (Palestine views), Corpl Burns, Corpl Corbett (aerial views), and Sigmn H. S. King.

The illustrations have been grouped in two pages, and a brief reference to each is given in the appended notes (the numbers show the order of the photos, reading down the columns in each case).

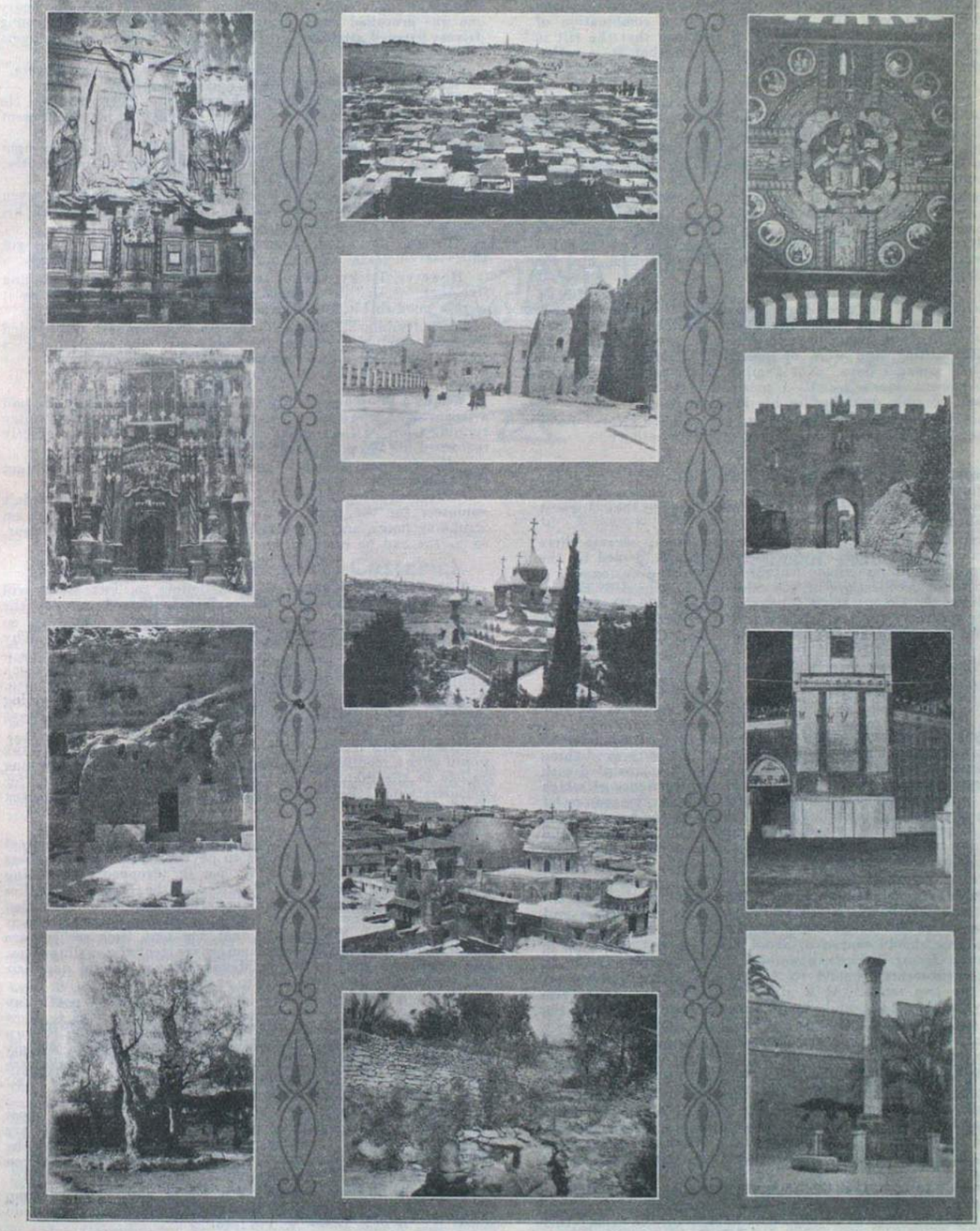
### EGYPT.

1—Mohammed Ali Mosque, Cairo.
2—At Sakkarra. Carving of himself in the tomb of Ti, the chief architect of Kings Nefer-Er-Ke-Re and Ra-En-Wozer (2500 B.C.).
3—A native's idea of the way to clean out a sewer (fortunately, the effluvia cannot be reproduced).
4—A seldom-seen view of the Great Pyramid (taken from a height of 3800 ft. above it). Note the shadows cast by propellor blades, that in the centre fitting exactly to two sides of the Pyramid—a curious phenomenon.
5—Giza Pyramids during the floods.
6—"A small load."
7—A moonlight scene.
8—Interior of the Mohammed Ali Mosque, Cairo (also known as "The Mosque of a Thousand Lights" and "The Alabaster Mosque.")
9—Tomb of Tewfik Pasha in the Dead City, Cairo (he was a brother of the present King Fuad).
10—Another view of the Mohammed Ali Mosque, Cairo.
11—Head of statue of Rameses V. at Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt.
12—Holy carpet in Tewfik Pasha's tomb.
13—An aerial view of the Giza Pyramids.

### THE HOLY LAND.

1—Carving on the wall of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem.
2—This is the spot where Queen Helena dreamed that Christ was buried.
3—According to the Palestinian Archæological Society, this is the actual tomb where Christ was buried.
4—The Tree of Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.
5—A view of Jerusalem. In the distance is the Mount of Olives, crowned by the Church of the Ascension. In the centre is the Mosque of Omar, built on the reputed site of Solomon's Temple. No trace of the Temple is now to be found, thus fulfilling Christ's prophecy that "not one stone shall stand upon another."
6—The Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, built around the stable in which tradition says Christ was born. Under the crypt of this church stands a manger with the inscription, "Here Jesus Christ was born of Virgin Mary."
7—The Church of Mary Magdalen (or "The Church of the Seven Gilded Domes"). The domes were stripped of their gold by the Kaiser at the beginning of the Great War.
8—Another view of Jerusalem, taken from the tower of the German Church. In the foreground is the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
9—The real Calvary.
10—Part of the roof of the Kaiser's Chapel in the Governor's House, Jerusalem.
11—St. Stephen's Gate, by the wall of Jerusalem, under which St. Stephen was stoned to death.
12—Wall surrounding the rock upon which Abraham offered up Isaac.
13—One of the original pillars surrounding the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, at which Christ told the cripple to take up his bed and walk.





For notes on these illustrations of Palestine see opposite page.

## Plain Tales.

**The Cruel North.**—From Catterick comes the story of a long friendship dissolved, like many others, by a combination of Charleston, female and moonlight. It is hoped that the rift in the lute is merely temporary. I will admit that it is rather remarkable how these yarns from Yorkshire reach me, but there it is. As the story happens to be true, I am compelled to suppress actual names.

We will say, then, that George and his friends went jazzing at Richmond. Now, everyone who knows him admits that George is a likely young fellow, so it was not surprising that he had the honour of escorting a charming lass to her home after the dance.

She lived about a mile in the opposite direction to Catterick Camp, which latter spot was George's home. Much to his embarrassment, he was asked to "come in." He did so, and was introduced to a dear solid old Yorkshire couple, who regaled him with cake and cocoa, what time they thanked him for escorting their daughter home.

At 3 a.m. he wished them "good morning," his heart full of uncharitableness, and made his weary way to the square. Fred, Bill, Harry and Jim should have been waiting in the square with the taxi, but, being human, they had become heartily fed up with waiting, and were by this time dreaming of Borstal and their younger days. Not another sound broke the silence of the ancient square as A!—I mean George called down ten thousand horrible destinies for his faithless pals.

The scientific side of the Corps, eh? huh! [Note: From Richmond to Catterick Camp is just over four miles.]

* * * *

**Something for Nothing.**—This time last year I had the good fortune to acquire a handsome calendar. It was issued by The Adjutants Press, Ltd., but I don't suppose they knew it had fallen into my hands.

I am loth to *buy* one of these useful articles, because there always appear to be quite a few knocking about, issued by the tradespeople and presented buckshee to favoured customers. I have distinct recollections of the calendars that used to be presented by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, so that whilst waiting patiently for replies to several "feelers" to friends in business, I am keeping one eye on the N.A.A.F.I.

All else failing, I shall proceed to make one myself. It is quite simple, so long as you don't get too enthusiastic about it. The last time I made one I ran up as far as 36th January before I realised how much India ink I was wasting.

* * * *

**Physical Training.**—This was invented by a man who could not have had any bones. Undoubtedly, it is a very good thing for ordinary mortals like ourselves. It makes us acquainted with bones and muscles in our bodies, of the very existence of which we had never dreamed. The great drawback (in the opinion of certain wives) is that this P.T. seriously affects the housekeeping bills. It seems that the abdominal muscles are awakened, and shout for more work (a remarkable thing, these days.) This means at least two extra rashers of bacon!

After a fortnight of P.T. I have evolved several ingenious "games," designed primarily with the object of keeping the troops warm, although a secondary motive may appear as I describe Game No. 1: "Tearing the Tyrant."

The class should consist of about twenty men. Form up in two ranks, facing inwards, about fifty yards apart. The P.T. instructor is securely bound to a form and placed midway between the two ranks. At a given signal, the two ranks rise smartly to their toes, and double towards each other with the object of capturing the instructor for their side.

After, say, twenty minutes' hard fight, an umpire blows his whistle, and the two ranks rise again to their toes and double back to their original positions. The side which is found to possess most of the instructor to be adjudged winners.

Marks might be given for portions, e.g., tooth 2 points, ear 5, jersey 20. If the instructor can get free of his bonds and clear of the two ranks before they meet, *he* is to be adjudged winner, and has the right to give the class "knees up" for 30 minutes.

I am able to record on the best authority that the Charleston, although acknowledged to be an excellent exercise for ankles, knees, and face muscles, is not being taught on the square this year.

**Pretty Ancient.**—We had often wondered how long "Darky" had been a soldier. No one seemed to know for certain. Came Christmas night with its attendant lubrication, and the hoary one was prevailed upon to recount his experiences. The young drivers listened attentively. Darky passed the tips of his fingers across his face and commanded silence.

"First of all, I served fifteen years with the Carabineers," he said, and a window crashed open respectfully.

"Then I went to the Dublin Fusiliers for seven years." He glanced quickly round the room, but apparently no one present had served in the R.D.F.

"After that I was transferred to the R.E.s, and put in eight years with them." A young driver shuffled his feet impatiently, but Darky silenced him with a look, and continued.

"Finally I was sent to the Royal Signals. That was seven years ago." The young driver had recently obtained his "second," and could contain himself no longer.

"I say," he cried, "on your own reckoning, you've got thirty-seven years' service in." Everyone smiled knowingly.

However, Darky was not to be bowled over by a little thing like that. "Ah!" he replied, grasping his pint pot, "I knew it were a goodish bit, but I've never reckoned it up!"

An *old* soldier, hitherto silent, rose from his seat and handed Darky a surcingle. "Take this, old man," he said, the tears welling up in his eyes; "make yourself a belt with it."

* * * *

**Wonky's Choice.**—The sports officer smiled happily. He had a tremendous crowd of applicants for places in the cross-country running team. Of a sudden he espied Wonky, a lad not exactly renowned for his prowess in the field.

"Er—Corporal Doings," he said, puzzled, "how did you get that man to come along?"

"Well, sir," replied the n.c.o., "I told him that if he didn't volunteer for the team, I would punch his ear, put him on scrubbing floors, and give him late feeds for the rest of the year, so in the end he came of his own accord!"

* * * *

**Our Helpful Friends.**—All contributors to THE WIRE will recognise this gentleman. "I say, here's a good one for the WIRE. Who was the man who—burble, burble, yap yap, so and so and so and so. Ha! ha! ha! How about that? Why ain't you laughing?"

"Sorry, old man," I tell him gently. "Truth is so much stranger than fiction that readers would never digest your idea. About seven people would spot the joke, and the remaining thousands would skip 'Plain Tales' for ever after. Always supposing that someone reads them, of course."

A man asked me the other day whether I thought THE WIRE would offer a monthly prize for the best humorous story touching on life in the Signals. I commend his query to the editor for consideration. I believe our magazine is beginning to support itself these days!

* * * *

**Talks to Wives.**—A leading daily paper gives us the correct prices for bacon, and advises us to pay no more. Back rashers in Bulford are 1s. 8d. and 1s. 9d. per lb. (dropped this evening from 1s. 10d.). These are the prices at the Married Families N.A.A.F.I. (Sorry! I've mentioned this much-tried institution twice before.) How can one refuse, when the nearest town is ten miles away? We are told that the best back rashers are 1s. 5d. per lb. If this be true, housewives, tentwives, slingwives, and wives who have to live in Messines Lines, should put their feet down with firm hands, so to speak.

Should a wife dig the garden? Most decidedly not! Can any man be so lacking in—in, well, in "what is it," as to allow his wife to go out into the bitter wind and bitter rain to turn over his bitter garden? Personally, I would sooner see my garden full of weeds (if I had a garden, that is). I'll take care I don't have one. That's the sort of chap I am. It isn't fair to expect a woman to do that sort of work.

Girls! What about it? Do you Charleston? You must learn. It is the hall mark of modernity. Flat-heeled shoes are advisable. I hear it whispered that the Charleston may be learned at certain "at homes." Grasp the opportunity. Do you Boston? You do? Alas! Get inoculated at once.

Does your husband come home at 5 p.m. and return to camp to read the orders from 6.30 till 9.30 p.m.? What do you do about it? Poof! Likewise Tut! tut!

BARLEUX.

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### B Company, Depot Battalion.

**Christmas.**—This comes but once a year—quite often enough! As anticipated in last month's notes, the unfortunates remaining behind *did* have a very good time. On Christmas Day all and sundry sat down to a sumptuous repast in C Company's dining hall, which had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion. I should like to thank the committee responsible, on behalf of B Company, for the splendid show put forward and their untiring efforts.

Turkey was eaten to the strains of "Bye, bye, blackbird," very ably rendered by Sergt Seabrook and his jazz band. This band, by the way, is now an established fact, and we hope that this will be noted by those good people responsible for "Establishments."

After dinner the men retired for a spasm of "excused looking." It was noticeable that the n.c.o.s did not avail themselves of this privilege, but on the other hand showed unusual activity.

In the evening an impromptu concert, followed by a dance, was held in the regimental institute, the n.c.o.s still remaining active, assisting in this capacity.

This form of entertainment was carried on through the remainder of the holiday period, and it was with regrets that we saw the passing of Christmas. However, all good things have to come to an end, and we are now trying to lead a normal life, very "trying" indeed.

**Normal.**—The Company cadre has again been reduced, three of our number having proceeded to their homes pending confirmation of transfer to the Army Reserve: Corpl Wood, Sigmn Reeves, and Dvr Reddish. We wish them the best of everything in the new life they have just entered. The Hon. Bob can now count the number of weeks on his fingers. He is wishing himself quite a lot, and is quite reconciled to the fact that one has to put up with anything in these hard times.

Yet another A.22 has been rendered to Records—not marriage, but birth this time. We offer congratulations to L/Corpl T. Waight on his promotion to "daddy," he having been presented with a daughter on 3/1/27.

The inter-Squad sports shield remains with us, having been won for December by No. 88 Squad. This Squad also wiped up all comers and won the inter-Squad shooting cup. These being the only trophies available, we rest on our laurels. Cheer up, A Company! you may do better in the New Year.

R. C. B.

### C Company, Depot Battalion.

**General.**—Having settled to work after a few days of relaxation, we find things very much as before, except that perhaps a few New Year resolutions have caused slight changes in various circles. A little difficulty was experienced with the well-meaning few when I endeavoured to collect the usual monthly mess and WIRE subscriptions. However, we are all happy over this point until next month.

Compared with last year we can boast of a record in the way of absentees after the holidays. We found two only, and they proved to be cases of not exactly happy circumstances.

On behalf of the Company I heartily thank those who so kindly went to the trouble of decorating and arranging the dining room for the feast on Christmas Day, and providing the entertainments during the festivities. From all accounts those who remained behind thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

All who knew Lieut R. M. Carr will be sorry to hear that he met with an accident whilst riding at Woolwich. His condition for a few days was critical, but now it is reported that he has passed over the dangerous period and is on the way to recovery. We wish him luck for the future.

All the jazz experts are eagerly awaiting the opening of the new gymnasium in Q Lines, where it is hoped that many excellent dances will be arranged. It certainly will be more roomy than our present hall, but for all that many an enjoyable evening has been spent in the limited space of U Lines canteen. It certainly will give the N.A.A.F.I. staff a better chance of coping with the situation.

**Arrivals.**—The following have arrived from outside units: L/Sergt Partridge, Corpl Batterick, and L/Corpl Duncan. May their stay be long and pleasant.

**Departures.**—Sergt Ford for 2nd Divl. Signals (undoubtedly the trip will have been appreciated). Sergt Smith from the Equitation School. Our popular C.Q.M.S. has left the Company for a vocational course at the A.V.T.C. (it is understood that he is to study poultry farming, and we wish him every success in his new venture).

**Birth.**—To Corpl Lloyd a daughter (Jean Marguerite).

OLIM.

### E Company, Training Battalion.

**Greetings and Things.**—A happy and prosperous New Year, everybody! Well, here I am, making my bow from the north,

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although the process is perhaps a trifle noisy, the hinges of the anatomy being somewhat frozen.

But I am informed that this is nothing in comparison with what it was last year at this time. Pooh! A mere bagatelle! Well, what of it?

Rip and rend me! How I detest these snivelling, cringing, red-nosed ninnies. Gaping like fish out of water, they wear three layers of wool next to the skin, and run round in small circles beating the air with gloved hands. If you look in the second chapter of the first book of Hypotenuse, you will find some words which I have completely forgotten, thank heaven! so I need not repeat them.

Let me have about me men who can face a sturdy north-easter without congealing. Think, just think, how healthy this weather is. Keep moving, and you'll find that you generate so much heat that the fire picket will keep out of the way in case they get scorched.

By Jove! it's great. Open that window, boy, and bring me my muffler—the heavy woollen one!

**Discharges and Transfers.**—Our best wishes for the future are extended to Sigmn F. Clover, who left us on 30/12/26 upon transfer to the Army Reserve, and also to Sigmn G. Hammett, discharged on the expiry of his engagement of 12 years.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt H. Webster from D Company, 4/12/26. L/Corpl J. W. Obee from 1st Divl. Signals, 28/12/26.

**Departure.**—L/Corpl W. Quinn to 1st Divl. Signals, 28/12/26.

**Award.**—Congratulations to Sigmn P. J. Gill upon his receipt of the long service and good conduct medal.

**Obituary.**—It is with deepest regret that we announce the death, at Hunton, of the child of Sergt and Mrs. Young, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. Sergt Young is at present in hospital, but we hope for his early and complete recovery.

**Froth.**—I fancy that the local Vat of the A.O.F.B. has appointed me Chief Reed, or Reid—I don't exactly know which! At any rate, I absolutely decline to record anything in connection with the Ancient Order until such time as I receive my cuff-links.

**Corporals' Mess.**—Monthly reports of the Corporals' Mess, Training Battalion, wil be published, commencing with the March issue of THE WIRE.

L. H. D.

## F Company, Training Battalion.

### Cadre.

At last the "pendulous elect" have decided that they have been left in the cold quite long enough, and intend to make themselves known to the world.

**A few remarks.**—Our bath-house manager at last admits that there are a few streets in Brighton he doesn't know.

We have discovered that the Siamese twins are masquerading under the foreign title of "Les deux Garcons." There is only one of him! Owing to our brunette refusing to allow insult being added to injury, "Les deux Garcons" *is* learning to type. Expressions like these are often heard: "Where's that d—— Y? Anyone seen that X?"

**To the 4th Div.**—F.S.B. knows all!

**Sport.**—The assistance of the "pendulous elect" was not asked for at the last soccer match, A and B v. F—hence the score.

LES DEUX HOMMES.

### Boys.

Again we will endeavour to bring the various exploits of the boys before the public eye. Our "bon mot" for the New Year will be "Never scribe for boys."

The lads have just returned from their annual Christmas leave, and those who did not depart for the ancestral hearth are a bit fed up with hearing the invariable "This time last week I was——" But we are settling down again, and the wheels of routine are fast spinning round.

**The Boys' Club.**—We have ambitious ideas this year, but first we must relate how we finished last year. Some bright lad suggested a club dinner in honour of those members who are shortly leaving us to become "Signalmen 1927 pattern," after bearing up under the strain of eighteen birthdays. The committee went one better and decided to include an entertainment after the dinner.

The dinner, by kind permission of the manageress, was held in Vimy Lines institute, and was voted a great success. Several boys, it seemed, were practising for Christmas.

After dinner the boys adjourned to the club-room, where an impromptu stage had been erected. The entertainment was under the direction of Sergt Payne, who filled the role of actor-manager with wonderful success. We were lucky in securing such stars as Capt Jennings, Lieut W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., C.Q.M.S. Mack, and L/Corpl Cox. Major F. R. Cobb, M.C., also obliged with two very good monologues which the boys greatly appreciated, although the small ones looked at dark corners when "Danny Deever" suddenly became prominent.

The entertainment started at 7.15 p.m., and the following programme was presented: Pianoforte solo, C.Q.M.S. Mack; song, "Bombardier Bold," Sergt Payne; selected comedy, L/Cpl Cox; song, C.Q.M.S. Mack; hornpipe, Boy Broadbent; monologue, Major Cobb; duo steam, Sergt Payne and L/Corpl Cox; selected song, "Wild Man of Borneo," Lieut Galwey; conjuring, etc., Sergt Payne and L/Corpl Cox; monologue, Capt Jennings; song, C.Q.M.S. Mack; song, Sergt Payne; song, L/Corpl Cox; song, Lieut Galwey; comedy double, Sergt Payne and L/Cpl Cox.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and our earnest thanks are due to those who gave us such a wonderful entertainment. Among our guests at the entertainment were Lieut.-Colonel A. Lloyd-Owen, O.B.E., M.C., and the adjutant, Lieut L. C. Boyd, Major F. R. Cobb, Capt Jennings, Lieut W. C. V. Galwey, and the officers of F Company.

Our thanks are also due to Miss McNeil, of the Y.M.C.A., from whom we "scrounged" a piano.

**Departures.**—Since last notes went to press, several have left the fold to follow in the wake of those who are already making themselves known in the "Div." lands: Boy R. G. Barlow to 3rd Divl. Signals; Boy A. J. Nicklen to A Corps Signals; Boy W. Edwards to A Company, Depot Battalion.



**Sport.**—Not much has been done of late in the sporting line, owing to the Christmas vacation. In the New Year the Company soccer team met the A and B Companies' team, and came back bewailing a defeat of 8 goals to 4. The boys are generally playing rugger on odd afternoons, and some have distinguished themselves. Boys Burke, Kelly, Milne and Brice formed part of the Rugby XV. of the Training Battalion when they played at Middlesbrough.

**Agony.**—The "Sec" would like to hear from "Der Tag," suffering at Salisbury Plain.

LES DEUX GARCONS.

## School of Signals.

**Christmas.**—The Christmas dinner issued to the few troops left in camp was voted a huge success. The cooks, L/Corpl Baker and Dvr Marshall, surprised even themselves with the excellence of their cooking. L/Corpl Baker was directly responsible for some cakes which the troops agreed were "just like mother makes," these putting the finishing touch on Christmas day.

**Departures.**—The departure of Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., on posting to the Training Battalion prior to proceeding to India, is keenly regretted by all ranks. During the past six years he has been closely connected with all branches of sport in the S.T.C., and he has done much to bring sport in the Corps up to its present standard. Not only did he work diligently behind the scenes, but he also took an active part both in hockey and cricket—having played for the S.T.C. in both games for the period he spent with us. We take this opportunity of wishing him and his family bon voyage and the very best luck for the future.

Dvr Shakeshaft "departed this life" on 7/1/27 to try his luck in the M.M.P. The best wishes of the School follow him.

**Arrivals.**—We extend a hearty welcome to Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., who has arrived to fill the place vacated by Major Phillips.

The Company has been further strengthened during the past month by the arrival of Signalmen Peacock and Parsons. May they enjoy their stay within our gates!

**Marriages.**—It gives me great pain to say it, but two more of our worthy brethren have taken out shares in the matrimonial sweepstakes—at Christmas, too, a time for peace and goodwill with all men: Sergt R. O. Bradley, R.A., to Florence Mabel Diver on 25/12/26, and Sigmn H. H. Shipman to Elsie Maud Batigan on 26/12/26. All we hope is that their shares may turn out to be winning numbers!

**Birth.**—To Sigmn and Mrs. E. W. Stone, a son (Rodney), on 28/12/26. Having now a son and heir to uphold the name and traditions of the ancient line of Stones, Rodney senior is plotting to die in peace.

BANGER.

### Sergeants' Mess.

The harness is on and we are just yoked in, ready for anything. That's how we feel now, of course; Christmas and New Year festivities have probably softened our feelings a little. How long the Catterick atmosphere will foster the continuance of this "Let 'em all come" feeling is not a matter of mathematics.

It's good to hear the chortles of delight as the visual authorities (Shorty and party) discuss the new procedure. Negative silence was always our strong point!

The "Froth Blowers" are, I believe, holding a debate very soon, the subject to be: "Would half a bottle of 'Skey, plus 15 guineas, be considered a drink." Practical "tips" would be a great help, please.

Capablanca (I think that's his name) is shaking—with good reason, too. Our exponents of the "black and white" (*squares*, of course) are becoming both numerous and great. Challengers will be given a fair handicap.

**Events.**—The departure of that excellent sportsman and officer, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., has robbed us of a lot of joy. The Lahore Signals are to be congratulated on their luck: they get him.

C.Q.M.S. G. H. R. Flynn brings us fresh glory: two "Dons" on his special education certificate is the latest. We are *all* clever, though—only some not quite so much as others. Good old George!

Sergt P. Drummond, promoted C.Q.M.S., has left us. Congratulating him on his rise, we are yet sorry to lose him.


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No. 90 R.S.I. Course is now in full swing, and we give them a hearty welcome. We are pleased to see L/Sergt W. Finney, of X Company fame, amongst them.

**Marriage.**—Sergt R. O. Bradley, R.A., was married at Bow on Christmas Day. Our best wishes to the adventurers!

**Chums.**—We wish all WIRE readers an endless bunch of happiness and prosperity during 1927—and some!

## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### A Corps Signals.

#### No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

Bembridge Fort, Jan. 14th.

Christmas leave and festivities being finished with, we are now beginning to see the end of our work in the Island. Christmas for those who stayed in the Fort went very well under able catering by Sigmn Mitchell and Sigmn Hyland. "The more we are together, the merrier we'll be." All those who remained qualified for membership in the A.O.F.B.

We had an excellent view of the "Renown" as she left Portsmouth, as one cliff overlooks that part.

On Wednesday afternoons we generally manage to get a game of football, either with the Gunners or local teams. Some very keen games have been played, and we are thinking of challenging the rest of A Corps on our return.

Incidentally our Section jazz band has come to stay, and will be heard more later on. It has already performed twice at Yaverland Hall (a local "hall," some 12 ft. by 20 ft.) with great success.

**Arrival.**—We welcome Sigmn Newlyn (and his ukelele). May your stay be a long and happy one, Stan.

**Departures.**—By the time these notes appear in print we shall have lost one of the most popular members of the Section, L/Corpl Voller, for a try at that civvy army. We wish you every success, Jim, and hope to see you sometimes at the wheel (not a word about Ryde to those that matter, Jim).

**Agony.**—Is it true that a certain member of the Section wears a bolster beneath his tunic since the downfall of Huddersfield in "the coop?" An old member of the Ak-Aks congratulates the C.S.M. of that unit on his second attempt at running in double harness.

### 1st Divisional Signals.

#### Headquarters.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot, Jan. 15th.

**Lament.**—Drake *has* gone North. Yes, 'tis true! But we lament his going, for we have been deprived of a most worthy scribe. The groans of the disappointed are still in my ears, and their cry of "Why no notes?" still echoes in and around the old familiar haunts of him who has left us. The search for the one upon whom you had thrown your mantle has been a wearisome task, Drake lad!—and we have not found him yet. The "Land of the Firstdivsigs" cannot go on without news, so here's a few lines for you, my hearties!

**Ins and Outs.**—We welcomed during December, in time to wish them the old familiar greeting, the following:—

From India—C.S.M. Barber. From the T.B.—L/Corpl Quinn and Signalmen Ware and Lane. From North Ireland—Sigmn Keates. From No. 1 A.F.A. Signal Section—Sigmn Lawrence. From D.B.—Corpl Walsh.

"Au revoirs" have been frequent during the month. To all those who have crossed the seas, we wish success in their new stations, and hope they carry with them many happy memories of the Firstdivsigs.

To India—F.S.S. O'Sullivan, L/Corpl Hunt, Signalmen Tomlinson, Triggs, Tunbridge, Unwin, Beck, Davenport, Goode, Burrows, McLintock, Cleal, Mullins, Pendegast, Kenchington, Dawes, T. Cleal, Baker, Baile, Barron, Baynes, Broad, E. Beck, Bilsby, Burfield, Burton, Coles and Tranter. To Iraq—Signalmen Ashford, Green, Jerram, Summers, Swift, Earnshaw, Williams, Stretch, and White. To Sarafand—Sigmn Harthill. To D.B.—Corpl Wheeler. To T.B.—L/Corpl Obee. To Army Reserve—Signalmen England, Bessant, Pars, Smith, Neal, and Davies.

**Ups and Downs.**—Everyone is very busy just now trying to get up to a higher rating, or realising how far they have gone down in their standard owing to lack of practice since the end of collective training. Practice does it, remember!

The "ops. vis." look very rosy these days: out all day flag-wagging—good for appetites and health, without a doubt. The "ops. line" and "ops. wireless" are as busy as bees in their well fitted-up practice room. The linemen, too, are getting on with the job.

**Courses.**—Corpls Elmes and Newberry have left us for the R.I. course at the School of Signals. Having let you go such a long way from us, we shall want to see you come back with A1 certificates.

L/Corpl Binder continues on the P.T. course. Well done! "Jerks" certificate from you, we shall expect.

**Going ahead.**—We are pleased to report that the following have gone one better, and been awarded the 2nd class certificate of education: Corpl Nicholson, Signalmen Bastin, G. Clarke, Davies, D. Dunn, Haward, Wiggins, and Dvr Dobbs. Now you have the idea, there is a blank 1st waiting to be completed with your name. Try it!

D. S. ONE.

#### No. 3 Company.

Christmas was celebrated in a quiet but effective way, as was testified by all who were able to sit up and take nourishment the next day. After the "nags" had been disposed of on Christmas morning, the men trooped in to a dinner worthy of the Savoy, for the cook certainly broke records (one or two individuals were reported to have strained their surcingles). The "wet" part of the feast was successfully managed by Mike Doherty.

The C.S.M. opened the proceedings with a short speech dealing with various Yuletide seasons he had passed through, this incidentally being his last in the Army. The O.C. wished us the compliments of the season, after praising the efforts of those concerned in the decorations and the excellent arrangements for the dinner. The C.O. and Adjutant also visited us.



The dinner concluded with a little music (?). The salle-a-manger is depicted below.

**Agony.**—Old G Coy. wallahs are notified that "Waddles," of rugby fame, still suffers from consumption.

We are greatly surprised at the omission of M.Y.Mate in the England v. Wales match. After his brilliant displays for Barrow (not the soccer team) we thought it was a sure thing, but alas! no! Chink-Wadd is broken-hearted.

It has come to our notice that Reading has been favoured by sundry visits by certain individuals of this Company. Perhaps they wished to see how Army biscuits are made by the well-known firm there. One or two certainly did get some "inside" information.

**Departures.**—Several well-known faces are lost to us as a result of the recent Indian drafts. "Patsy" sends his love to "Tommy," and hopes that he will write first.

**Whist Drives.**—These are still going strong, and we have a good attendance (*and* a good feed) every Thursday evening.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to Sigmn Cargill on becoming A/U/L/Corporal.

**Obituary.**—It was with deep regret that we heard of Sigmn Manktelow's loss of his only child. Our sincere condolences go to him in his bereavement.

W. R. R.

### 2nd Divisional Signals.

#### No. 1 Company.

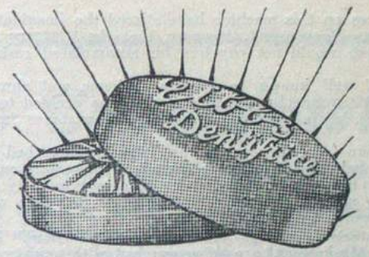
**Seasonable.**—No. 1 Company takes this opportunity to wish all Signal units, at home and abroad, the "very best" for 1927. We lost a number of old faces during the past year through drafts and discharges. It is hoped that the new arrivals will ably fill the gaps, and co-operate in the endeavour to show No. 1 Company at its best—both in the 1927 training and sporting programme of the unit.

**Christmas Fare.**—The small percentage of the Company remaining behind at Christmas were amply recompensed by the very liberal fare that was to be had on Christmas Day. The breakfast was excellent, and the dinner was a very pleasing success. No small thanks are due to those who made all the arrangements.

The commanding officer, Major E. N. F. Hitchens, D.S.O., M.C., and Major G. H. Henderson, O.B.E., M.C., visited the men during dinner. The speech of the C.O. was very appropriate, and his animated version of an attempt to mount a push cycle, by one who had celebrated too freely the previous Christmas, caused much merriment.

After tea, an impromptu concert wound up a very pleasant day. It may interest a few to know that the "Old Fordians" of 1926 celebrated freely in honour of the missing links now serving in foreign climes.

**Furlough.**—Our last batch returns from leave on January 15th, when the work of the year will start in earnest.

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**Training.**—About 15 operators and 7 linemen of this Company will present themselves for trade testing in a new group before the Area Board which meets on January 17th. The weekly training test results adorning the walls of the lecture-room show that many individuals have since last season made 100 per cent. improvement. This fact, with a few Part II. extracts supplied below, is surely a good advertisement for the training received. It is hoped that a good number will emerge with colours flying when the results of the next Trade Board are published.

Classified operator, wireless, Group B—Class I. w.e.f. 18/12/26: Signalmen J. Beresford, J. Edgar, and G. Edwards. Class II., w.e.f. 18/12/26: Signalmen Bayliss, Billings, Christie, Kennedy and Myddleton. Class III.—Signalmen Willcock, Woolcock, and Mackintosh.

Sigmn J. Wild passed as operator, wireless, Group E.

Sigmn P. Bellairs passed as lineman, Group E.

**Marriages.**—Congratulations to the following who have decided that "two can manage better than one": L/Corpl A. E. Ellis ("our Snowy"); let's hope he will always be grateful to the individual who introduced him to the "biscuit city." Sigmn Mortimer. Sigmn Taylor.

**Discharges.**—The best of luck to Dvr Waters, who was transferred to the Army Reserve on January 21st.

**Courses.**—C.S.M. J. Eves passed a course of instruction in chemical warfare. Sigmn H. Corder passed a Company cook's course at Aldershot. L/Corpl C. Hamilton returned from an educational course at Shorncliffe.

**Drafts.**—We lose, early in February, L/Corpl J. Haisell, Signalmen Mortimore and Walton, posted to Indian units. L/Corpl J. Bush, Signalmen W. Hart and Taylor join the Rhine Signal Company on January 24th.

**Our Scandal Column.**—Our motor cycling fiend has decided to use a more precarious mode of transport. He has renovated an old push cycle, and tales of journeys from Aldershot to London

in 75 minutes on this machine have stirred the imagination of the listeners. They regret, however, that the secretary of the Diddlum Club would not pay him his accumulated cash on a Sunday.

"Porky," well known to friends at home and abroad on account of his wonderful bed-time stories, has decided to study "Form Lines." He receives plenty of able assistance from the "Aggler."

The sombre silence of a certain hut is rudely disturbed during the half-hearted hours before check parade. The person concerned shoulders his burden admirably, and with great regularity during the past few months has braved the elements that rage without in the endeavour to reach the goal.

The mysterious comings and goings of "Ookham," one of the "Three Musketeers," are being watched with anxiety by his more intimate friends. It is feared that drastic results will follow his frequent Cove visits.

In response to numerous appeals by our friends abroad, I am able to inform them that a special character study of No. 1 Company is being completed, and should be available, fully illustrated, sometime in April.

**Financial.**—I should advise all who have a spare handful of "clods" on a Friday to interview our savings certificate secretary, C.S.M. Eves, who will be pleased to give them information on this subject. He tells me he has plenty of coggage, but would like to use his pen a little more. So, lads, don't be tempted by Chilian ventures, but roll up. The C.Q.M.S. will be pleased to arrange for a weekly "sub" to be transferred to savings certificates.

**Lost.**—A "Jew's dynamo." Will the finder please return it to the "Wireless Fiend," No. 1 Company.

HAMO.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Bulford, Jan. 14th.

**Dogged Determination.**—Those who read "Plain Tales" in the January WIRE will recall the lady whom we left standing on the kerb whilst the bus moved off to Salisbury. The story has a sequel.

The lady in question was not beaten. Oh, no! not by a long way. She was still determined to get to Salisbury, and to Salisbury she went, *chartering a special bus for the purpose.*

Dogged Determination came out on top after all. This is the spirit that won the war.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The w.o.s and sergeants held their Christmas draw and social on December 22nd amid great excitement. To give a list of the lucky ones would entail the issue of a supplement to THE WIRE, but among the prizes were turkeys, geese, fowls, whisky, port, ales, stout, fruits, more turkeys and more geese!

The ensuing social evening was taken as a suitable occasion to fete Sergt Winzer, who has now left the unit on completion of his pontoon. He was presented with a handsome and suitably inscribed clock, by R.S.M. J. Adams, on behalf of the mess.

Excellent songs were given by R.S.M. Adams, Sergts Thomas, Black, Rose, and many others. An exhibition of the Charleston was given by Sergt Warden (at least he said it was). Music was supplied by the unit band in their usual lively manner, and the fun waxed furious until a late hour, when Sergt-Major Doust gave his war cry, "Wheel 'em out."

**Christmas Dinner.**—The Christmas dinner for the men who remained in camp is still remembered with happy sighs. What a spread! No. 8 hut was transformed by Corpl Barlow and a few helpers. Sergts Harrison and Wright were joint landlords of "Ye olde fetchem inn," and issued refreshment lavishly.

Major Allan and officers were present. The C.O. wished us all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and hoped that we should all get on well together. Well! to return to the "eats." There were turkey, pork, potatoes baked and boiled, parsnips, and the immortal "duff," with nuts, oranges, apples, etc., etc.

Sigmn R—— (teetotaller and non-smoker) has apparently been handicapped in previous years, for he was seen with a pint of beer, a glass of lemonade, a huge dinner, an assortment of fruits, and smoking a cigar, a cigarette and a clay pipe simultaneously. He was discharged from hospital yesterday!

About 120 of us remained behind for the period. L/Sergt Rose and his merry band of cooks were responsible for the culinary masterpiece. Roll on, next Christmas!

**Carnival Dance.**—The first dance of the season took place in the men's recreation room on Tuesday, January 11th, by kind permission of the C.O., Major Allan. The revels lasted from 8 p.m. till 1 a.m., and the recreation room has seldom before held so many people at once. Nobody cared, however, and the visitors declared their intention of bringing all their friends next time, so goodness knows where we shall put them then! Major Allan brought along a party of officers and ladies during the evening.

I tried to give the dance a better review than this, but, becoming somewhat enthusiastic, got hopelessly entangled in the typewriter keys. It is difficult to account for it, but it is an established fact that there is an atmosphere of gaiety and companionship at the Signals dances which is seldom found anywhere else. The "Ellis-Barl" dance band dealt faithfully with the latest London dance music.

The Signals dances will take place every alternate Tuesday.

**The Christmas Tree.**—The annual Christmas tree and tea party given by the officers to the married ranks' wives and children, took place on January 8th in the recreation room. Like all other Signal affairs, this was a great success. There were more people present than last year, owing to the amalgamation of the Signals at Larkhill and Tidworth.

C.Q.M.S. "Joe" Sweeting was up to his old standard as Santa Claus, greatly to the delight of the children. He arrived on a real sleigh drawn by "Tony," the C.O.'s pony, who appeared to realise what was expected of it and behaved beautifully. There were numerous sideshows (one even claiming to come direct from Olympia) at which prizes, given by Captain Miller, could be obtained by the lucky ones.

The decorations were by Corpl Kidby and Co.; music by Corpl Barlow and Co.; costumes by Messrs. Gamage and Co.; sleigh by Wangling.

Sympathy was extended to L/Sergt Keane, who was told off to count a double handful of small shot. He returned later, looking a little dazed.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt J. Powell, L/Sergt E. Masters, Signalmen T. Munday, J. Dooley, T. Betts, G. Perry, and F. Randall, from India, 15/12/26, and L/Corpl Carpenter on 20/12/26.

Sigmn B. Power from Depot Battalion, 16/12/26.

L/Corpl J. McBride from China, 13/12/26.

Signalmen E. Easton, C. Elphick, D. Ettridge, J. Fish, J. Martin, J. Kealey, V. Kerr, V. France, R. Haskell, V. Kealey, R. Merritt, and E. Hudson, from Training Battalion, 31/12/26, and Signalmen F. Pinn and Catherall on 11/1/27.

**Departure.**—Sigmn A. Shenton to 4th Divl. Signals, 14/1/27.

**Marriages.**—Sigmn A. Mason to Jane Cargo Poole, at Newtownards, co. Down, 7/12/26. Sigmn G. Dale to Amelia Frances Kirk, at Boston, Lincs., 27/12/26. Sigmn G. Hunnisett to Agnes Celia Stretch, at Salisbury, Wilts, 7/12/26. Sigmn H. Saunders to Ivy Winifred Draper, at East Grinstead, Sussex, 18/12/26. L/Corpl W. Hinks to Ada Louise Witterick, at Marylebone, London, 18/12/26.

**Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.**—The undermentioned warrant officers have been awarded this decoration: C.S.M. F. Doust and C.S.M. N. E. Legg.

**Birth.**—To Sigmn H. Walsh, a son (John Humble), 18/12/26

**Transfers to Army Reserve.**—Sergt J. Powell and L/Sergt E. Masters, 30/12/26. Signalmen T. Dooley, T. Betts, G. Perry, F. Randall, and W. R. Oakes, 1/1/27. U/L/Corporal F. Gale, 14/1/27. Dvr H. Rickard, 17/1/27. L/Cpl G. Carpenter, 21/1/27.

**Discharges.**—Dvr W. Cope, 9/1/27. Sergt W. Winzer, 11/1/27

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, Jan. 14th.

The main part of the drafting season has come and gone; at least, we trust this is so. But many are the gaps in the ranks of the old stagers. These gaps have been filled, or are in process of being filled, by young soldiers. We trust they will maintain the high standard of efficiency for which the unit is noted throughout the Division.

The Association Branch has now settled down to break all records. The unit has responded to the call, to a man. Some have taken more converting than others, naturally, but persuasion and patience works wonders. The "Inquisition" has not used the third degree, hence the result—a happy band of pilgrims.

"No Complaints!"

*When Symington's Soups are served*

Mess Call is a welcome sound, but on Symington's Soup days it seems to take on a cheerier note. All ranks are happy when they get this steaming, warming, nourishing Soup. It is made in 13 varieties—each as tasty and delicious as the others. And Jimmy, the Cook, the hero who introduced this splendid dish, finds it a boon in the cookhouse. Just add water and boil—and this rich, grand-flavoured Soup is ready. Symington's Soups are made from the best selected meat and vegetables—always good and nourishing—and guaranteed pure.

*SYMINGTON'S SOUPS*
in 13 Varieties:
Tomato, Pea, Lentil, Celery, Mulligatawny, Onion, Hare, White Vegetable, Kidney, Scotch Broth, Mock Turtle, Ox Tail. *2d. & 6d. per pkt.*
Try the New Clear Soup, *in 9d. bottles*
*Other Symington Table Delicacies include:* Granulated Gravy, Jellies, Table Creams, Sponge Mixture and Salanaise

Symington's Soups

Many of the best cooks use Symington's Soups in Stews, Meat Pies, etc.
W. SYMINGTON & CO. LTD. MARKET HARBOROUGH

A programme of entertainment has been drawn up to suit all members, and will be carried out as opportunity occurs. An announcement with regard to an orchestra will, I hope, be made in the near future. Our pianist, we hope, will be recruited *in* the unit.

The old cry, "Wot abaht a squint at yer WIRE, Bill?" is no longer heard at Colchester. Our secretary now approaches the R.S.M. with an apologetic air, and "Can I have the Karrier, please, to bring the WIRES from the station?" Even 100 per cent. has its trials!

All ranks join in extending a hearty welcome to Major A. G. J. Copeland, R.Signals, who has assumed the command of No. 1 Company; and to Lieut E. G. W. Pearse, R.Signals—the former from India, and the latter from the S.T.C. Also to Sergt J. H. Spencer, who has joined us from the Permanent Staff, T.A., and the following from the S.T.C.: L/Sergt Cayley (and a certain motor bike), Signalmen W. G. Waters, R. Phinn, R. Pearce, H. Kitley, E. Clapp, R. Wood, T. Holmes, E. Bannister, E. Bridle, C. Chapman, T. Chidlow, J. Dodson, F. Garratt, R. E. Hall, F. Halliday, E. Harper, and W. Hart. May they all enjoy the air and keep the good work going forward.

To the undermentioned, who have left us for the "unknown quantity" (civvy street) during the month, we wish the best of luck, and "fat jobs" if they have not saved enough whilst in the Service to put them above the necessity of such inconvenience: Signalmen W. Johnson and Wilde, Drivers W. H. H. Brooks, Davis, E. Wilson, and J. Marchant.

C.S.M. J. Stockwell, Sergt W. M. Halls, and Sergt W. Thomas, are to be congratulated on having qualified for and been presented with the "rooti gong." Now, fellows, line up and take your turn for drinks! While in a congratulatory mood, I must not forget Sergt W. Bareham and Corpl R. H. Fox, on gaining the 1st class certificate of education. Also to R.Q.M.S. H. J. Berry on obtaining another prop to his old age in the shape of a son (Derek), born on December 12th; and to Corpl A. E. Wells on a similar prop—to wit, one Derrick Albert, born on December 2nd.

We condole with Signalmen T. W. Johnson and B. S. Howard on joining the married half-Company, the former on December 14th, and the latter starting the New Year well by going off the deep end on January 8th.

The unit Christmas tree and party took place in the regimental institute on January 5th. The C.O. and officers were present at tea and afterwards, and their presence materially assisted to make the party a huge success.

After tea the Christmas cake was cut by Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Winton, and distributed. This was followed by the clown "Frisco," who delighted the kiddies with his drolleries, and the Punch and Judy show caused as much laughter among the grown-ups as the youngsters. I noticed that a certain C.Q.M.S. all but ruined his "blues." His great laugh made the rafters tremble, and I could hear him say between the squalls, "Well, I'm—er—hanged, how the—er—dickens does he do it?" He may have been referring to the Punch and Judy show!

Great praise is due to Sergt W. Thomas and his excellent committee for an extremely pleasant evening.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—There is not much to report this month, most of the members having wangled Christmas leave. It has been left to a very few to keep the bar open—I mean, the flag flying. I nearly forgot to mention the arrival of a motor bike. Members are requested not to mention tram lines in the presence of this bike.

The contractors have been busy with Reed Hall Camp. For some time it has been a work of art to walk about the lines after dark without falling in a sewer or crashing over a heap of building materials.

However, these pitfalls for the feet of the unwary are gradually disappearing, and up to now nobody has suffered any serious injury. We *could* tell a tale of how Sigmn ——, returning late from a convivial gathering, spent the night in an excavation,

under the impression that he was back in the front line. But as he is a hefty person, we will refrain from further details.

By dint of erecting an annexe between each pair of huts and installing ablution and lavatory fittings, etc., and building open fireplaces in the huts, a great improvement has been effected in the comfort of living accommodation. (Anyway, who cares if a surface drain *does* incline the wrong way!)

Just before closing these notes, I was informed that Corpl A. E. Wells has been appointed to referee the match between the Army and the Civil Service, at Colchester, on Jan. 19th. All who know him will join me in congratulating him on receiving such a signal honour.

**RANDOM RAVINGS.—By the "Spare Electron."**

**Appreciation.**—Hats off to the pay bloke who spent Boxing Day chasing an elusive 1/3 through the pay book.

**A bit out.**—The rookie who thought a vocational course was intended to develop the vocal powers of budding n.c.o.s.

**Wanted.**—A quartermaster's clerk will exchange 150 Valet safety razors (new) for a good feather bed.

**Dancing.**—The 4th Signals are pretty hot at jazzing, but it is not generally known that they regard the Charleston as out of date, and are indeed practising the "1928 ankle smashing wriggle."

**(Sin)copation.**—It is with mixed feelings that I hear the 3rd Signals now have a jazz band. Did you ever hear of the 3rd Signals n.c.o. who got up a jazz band while on a W/T course at Maresfield? The dentist worked in the next hut, and when a member of the course went in for dental treatment, he got it—quite gentle treatment, in fact. Could you blame the dentist?

**Queer thought.**—Old Omar Khayyam *must* have come a cropper over his sending test.

"The moving finger writes; and having writ,
Moves on. Nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it."

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

**General.**—Our news bulletin must start off with an apology for our absence in last month's WIRE. Owing to our classes being on leave, we have nothing much going in the technical line; but a spell is very acceptable at times, as there are numerous little items to spring-clean and revise.

A very enjoyable time was spent by those who remained behind at Christmas.

The married families of the unit were very ably entertained to a Christmas tree and tea arranged by Capt and Mrs. Hitchcock, in conjunction with the officers of other small units in Belfast and their wives. One outstanding feature of the entertainment was a cinematograph, with films displayed by Major O. A. Damphy, R.A.S.C.—one of them showing the children of the units at play and coming from school. Another film showed the R.A.S.C. at work on a lorry. (If the R.A.S.C. Journal scribe sees this, I shall "get it in the neck.")

The entry of Father Christmas was one that will live long in the memories of the kiddies. A very old-fashioned fire-place was fixed up for him to come down, while the tree and sleigh came in automatically. The sleigh, drawn by two Alsatian wolfhounds, made the kiddies open their eyes in astonishment. Both young and old enjoyed themselves, and were all sorry when the time came to disperse.

**Education.**—A further batch have passed in the recend 2nd class examination, and to these we tender our congratulations and hope they will soar yet higher. To those who failed: Another examination comes off in March, and better luck next time.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—We welcome Lieut and Mrs. F. Morton to Northern Ireland, and hope their stay with us will be all that they could wish. Whilst our welcome is kindly and well meant, I am afraid the weather is just the opposite.

Signalmen E. and L. Williams, Dvrs Gray, Hannam, Marsh, Mills and Wilson, have arrived from the Depot. May they enjoy their sojourn here!

We said farewell to our second-in-command, Captain E. J. Murphy, who left us to take over the Aldershot Command Signal Company. In him we have lost a member of our hockey team.

By the time these notes are read, we will have lost our attached R.E. friends, who, on the disbandment of their Belfast Section, are being posted to various units in England.

Whilst penning these notes, I heard of another departure—that of L/Corpl Handford to the 4th Divl. Signals (bang goes another cricketer, foothaller, and hockey player).

**Marriage.**—Sergt W. Curtis to Miss Nester Grace Musselwhite. All ranks join in hearty congratulations to the happy pair. (No more milk diet, Bill!)

CHIPPY.

"Look on the Bright Side"

The world's alright and so is a soldier's life. A lot of work, a lot of play and that true comradeship that is cemented with McEwan's—The Soldier's Beer. There's a glow about McEwan's that speaks of strength and flavour from the finest malt and hops, the waters of Edinburgh, and generations of experience in brewing. ——————Always ask for

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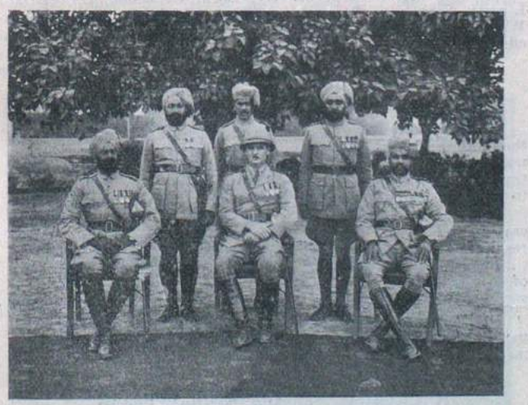
## A Divisional Signals.

Peshawar, Dec. 21st, 1926.

**General.**—These notes will have to commence with an apology for the absence of any reports during the summer. Consequent on the latter I must condense all the happenings during the last four months or so into as brief a space as possible.

It is my sad duty to record the death of No. 2312797 Sigmn G. Thompson, at Risalpur, of heat-stroke, on the 5th September, whilst on the Chitral Relief Column. Practically all the unit in Peshawar made the journey to Risalpur to pay the last tribute to our respected friend and comrade.

One of our Sections (the 4th Indian Infantry Brigade) formed part of the Signal Section during the Chitral relief, and no doubt many a youthful person envied those who were permitted to march the 360 odd miles from Nowshera to Chitral, and back, and to gaze on the luxuriant scenery which is only seen once every two years by British troops.



Indian Officers of A Divisional Signals, with the Commanding Officer, Peshawar, N.W.F.P., Armistice Day, 1926.

*Back Row (left to right)*—Jemadar Sher Singh, Jemadar Jain Khan, M.S.M., Jemadar Ujagar Singh

*Front*—Subadar Randhir Singh, M.S.M., Major E. R. Nason, Subadar Ismail Khan, I.D.S.M.

Half of the Company proceeded to Upper Topa during the summer months to undergo trade courses, and I'm glad to relate that the majority of them passed for higher ratings. Of course, at that select hill resort, it is not only trade courses that count—there are many other minor attractions. (George, please note that dances are not included on a Q sheet.)

**Promotions.**—Congratulations must be offered to the undermentioned, who were appointed L/Corporals (unpaid) on the I.U.L. on September 6th: L/Corpls C. Beard, W. Johnson, C. Knight, A. Clarke, H. Douglas, B. Riando, and H. Coaten.

**Education.**—Classes are now in progress for the 1st and 2nd class certificates of education, and I hope to be able to quote in the near future the names of those who have been successful in passing their respective examinations.

A class for Urdu has also commenced, and it is quite a common occurrence to hear this foreign language spoken in the canteen instead of orthodox English.

**Indoor Entertainments.**—A "local lads' billiard tournament" was organised last month among the budding professionals, the winner of which would be permitted to play with the profes-

Junior N.C.O's of A Divisional Signals,

Peshawar, N.W.F.P., Armistice Day, 1926.

*Back row (left to right)*—L/Cpl Knight, L/Cpl Coaten, L/Cpl Olley, Cpl McCormack, L/Cpl Johnson, Cpl Smithers, L/Cpl Beard, L/Cpl Clarke

*Centre*—Cpl Butcher, L/Cpl Douglas, Cpl Dwyer, L/Cpl Freemantle, Cpl Baldock, L/Cpl Riando, Cpl McCullough, Cpl Oates

*Front*—L/Cpl Butler, Corpl Marshall, C.S.M. Saunders, Major E. R. Nason, Cpl Hayhoe L/Cpl Mawby, L/Cpl Langton

*Now try*

**SPEARMINT**

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4 delightful sugar-coated pieces in a sealed packet.

1d. per packet. More tasty enjoyment than the penny ever bought before.

Get the new Spearmint at once. Use it regularly because it's good for teeth and digestion.

Use it after every meal and give it to the kiddies. Start them off with the most wholesome custom in the world — keeping the mouth clean.

*Flavoured with the juices of fresh Garden Mint.*

**WRIGLEY'S**

E.G.76


sionals of the Company. Local lads! The highest break recorded was 21, and that (incidentally) was made by the unit billiard marker. Amidst great enthusiasm, Sigmn C. Cole made a thrilling shot, thereby winning the tournament.

**Personal.**—Sigmn Stratford would like to hear from L/Cpl Wornham and Sigmn Stevens, late of the Iraq Signal Section.

ACKDIV.

## D Divisional Signals.

Rawalpindi, Dec. 15th, 1926.

**General.**—A thousand apologies to all and sundry for the absence of notes from this unit. This lamentable state of affairs is due to work—with a capital W. However, in the form of consolation, I may find more to write about.

By the time this appears in print, the happy festival will be a thing of the past. No longer will we hear the time-honoured phrase, "Roll on, Christmas, and let us dissipate—on the nuts." Speaking of phrases, this unit is a most peculiar sect for the use of peculiar phrases, habits or afflictions—whichever one likes to term them. Such a saying as "She was a colonel in the Gharial Navy" conveys nothing to the man in the street, but to the initiated—lots. Then again, on a fellow being credited with possessing a really good article, he will reply in an off-handed manner, "Oh yes; had it sent out—the parents, you know." To these peculiarities can be added "Laughing trousers," "Abundance depants," and several "Gomoaisms." In fact, a stranger arriving in the unit would find himself up against a practically unknown dialect.

Of course, new fellows invariably retaliate with equally meaningless remarks. One new arrival was heard to say to the unit barber the other morning, "Barber, humara whiskers leyjowl" (pronounced as spelt). Another fellow, accompanied by a tremendous flapping of his arms, exclaimed "Bhote coghage." Naturally the last two phrases will only be appreciated by people on or in the coral strand.

However, to get back to the festival business. Obviously I am late for seasonal greetings, but if, on behalf of this unit, I convey to all Royal Signal personnel, abroad and at home, best wishes for a happy and fortunate New Year, it may perhaps be acceptable. We all hope so, anyhow!

There are now twelve days to go before the "do" comes off. Our mess-room is already in the champion class, thanks to L/Sergt Rand and his merry band of helpers. Honestly, on completion, I would be willing to back it against any other ranks mess-room in India—at least, for general comfort and decorative effect. I shall try to obtain a photograph on "the" day, but hardly hope for justice from the camera. We are having a very tasteful menu card printed, a copy of which I hope to see in THE WIRE.

The next subject of importance—indeed, some will vouch for its precedence over all—is the "boat." We have about thirty n.c.o.s and men returning to the land of their birth on the s.s. "Neuralia" on January 20th. All are due for transfer to the Army Reserve, or rather overdue. The unfortunates left behind join in wishing them all the best in civvy street, with hopes that none of them will need the dole.

In March next year we again lose several of the old hands on being transferred to the home establishment. I should like to remind units at home that the best back in this district is going home this trooper. Yes, Sigmn Nicholls plays very good football; so someone will be fortunate in securing his services as an aid when winning pots.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—We welcome to the unit Capt I. F. G. Hall (from C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop), and Lieut H. E. Talbot (from No. 1 Line Company, Karachi). In the words of scribes past and present, we all hope that their stay with the unit will be a lengthy and pleasant one.

We extend a welcoming paw to Signalmen Atkins and Edgington (from the Depot) with the usual quotation.

We lose—and our loss will be another's gain (decidedly so)—Lieut E. Levett, posted to the S.T.C. (India).

Au revoir to Sergt Hudson and Corpl Pallett—to F Divl. Signals. Stick it, Joe boy! Euclid never said die, you know, and you will beat him yet.

Farewell to Sergt W. Gillen (fondly known as "Bug") and to Sapper V. Bradshaw, who sailed away on the "California" on the 25th ult. All ranks hope, in fact pray, to see the first-mentioned standing at ease outside the main gate of the Tower of London in the familiar dress of the Tudor period. Good lord, what a dream! "Bug" as a beefeater!

We bid farewell to Sergt O'Connor, late of orderly room fame—recently of Q Branch notoriety—posted to the Signal School, Poona.

**Appointments.**—Congratulations to L/Corporals Ryan and Pearcey on their forging of the first link in the chain of ambition.

**Educational.**—We cannot close down without placing on record the achievements of some bright lads—real good b(h)oys. Congratulations to Sergt Chivers, Corpl Ockenden, L/Corporal Liggitt, Signalmen Pridmore, Tilbury, S. G. Collins, Archer, Walker and Nicholls on obtaining the 2nd class certificate of education.

ALPHA.

## G Divisional Signals.

Jubbulpore, C.P., India.

**General.**—The two Brigade Sections required to serve with the 20th and 21st Brigades during the forthcoming Brigade training have now been completed, and this month will witness the departure of one. It is to be hoped that they will come up to expectations from an efficiency point of view.

**Social.**—A unit dance held at Jackson's Hotel drew a large crowd, and as all enjoyed the evening and a credit balance resulted, it must be classed as a success.

Thanks to the efforts of Corpl Haydon, the corporals have of late come out of their shell, and a practice dance with a social on the evening following the sports proved very enjoyable.

**En Passant.**—The month's "biscuit" goes to a well-known member of the unit who, in lauding the Royal Artillery, remarked that they were ubique, unique, and alltique (all teek).

F. L.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, Punjab, India, Dec. 15th, 1926.

**General.**—Many find it difficult to associate the thoughts of a merry Christmas with spending it in Sialkot. Perhaps it is for this reason that enthusiasm does not run high; for apart from such things as the despatching of cards, there has been



little indication of the approaching holiday. Last year the situation was just the same; but at the last moment a spirit of cheerfulness swept in, and notwithstanding the fact that some of the arrangements were decidedly impromptu, we had an excellent time. This year we hope to follow a similar programme, and possibly introduce improvements.

We have never had the pleasure of announcing a marriage in these notes. We shall, however, shortly give notice of two such events. Just watch!

The first part of the training season is proceeding strongly towards its climax. Several instructive schemes have been worked, and a little more experience gained.

We have been informed that we are to move to Risalpur during the 1927-28 cold season. The most we can say about it is that it will be a change.

It has been announced that the unit horse show will take place on the 23rd inst. The events are to include two competitions for prizes presented by Lieut.-Col. F. A. Heymann, O.B.E., Royal Signals. A list of results will be published next month.

Last month the Signal Officer-in-Chief inspected the unit, and afterwards issued a congratulatory order. Lieut.-Colonel Heymann, C.S.O. Northern Command, after reviewing us at the beginning of this week, decided that a general improvement had been made.

**Tennis.**—This is easily the most popular of our recreations. The juniors were entertained by the Brigade Ammunition Column, and lost the match (so they said) because the court was strange. The return game, played on the Troop court, was also lost. Rather hard lines on the excuse!

**Corporals' Mess.**—Regarding this new institution we know little at the moment. At a meeting of corporals it was decided that a room should be furnished and maintained for recreational purposes only.

**Departures.**—Sigmn G. Bennett, to his regiment (Q.O. 4th Hussars) at Lucknow, and thence to the U.K. Sigmn Gell to Quetta.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Saddler, Mower, Mulholland, Carter, Jackman and Ravenhall from S.T.C., Jubbulpore. Sigmn Pye from Quetta. All elected to the Circular Motion Club!

B. O. M.

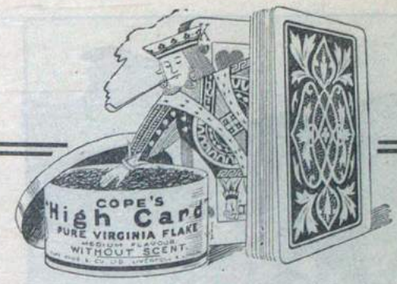
## 9th Brigade Signal Section.

Razani, Waziristan.

For the first time, notes are being sent from this Section. It is hoped that sufficient news can be gathered to contribute monthly in future. The writer has transferred his affections from No. 2 W/T Company, Rawalpindi, to this unit, and hopes to send notes as interesting as possible under the circumstances.

**General.**—The Section is composed of personnel from C and F Divl. Signals and No. 2 W/T Company, Pindi, and is responsible for all branches of communication. Life in Razani is not too bad on the whole, although not so comfortable in some respects as in more permanent stations. Sport such as football and hockey is prevalent, and some very fine play can be seen.

The "Razani Orpheans"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COPE'S
**'High Card'**
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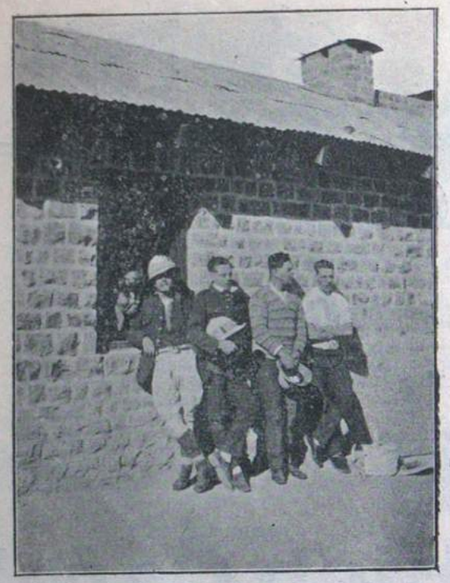
Preparations for Christmas are now in full swing, and the decorations are a credit to those responsible for them. Sigmn Kain has contributed some very creditable Christmas sketches which adorn the walls, and his reproductions of "Jimmy," both in sketch and in wool, are worthy of mention. The menu cards were printed on the outside by hand by Sigmn Brown, and are a credit to him.

**Later.**—Christmas has arrived, and coffee and biscuits were served in bed! W/T and line operators did a little work during the morning, after sitting down to a splendid breakfast at which sugar and milk were a gift.

After the "Kill"—No. 1



At 1.30 p.m., the time appointed for dinner, a visit was paid to us by the Colonel-Commandant and Brigade staff, who wished us a very happy Christmas. Three hearty cheers were given for the Colonel-Commandant. Everybody then had a good "tuck in," and things wents on very merrily until "the end of a perfect day" at 1 a.m.

On Boxing Day we had a social evening, just to wind up the holiday. The "Razani Orpheans" were in attendance, and rendered some excellent music. Songs were given by various members of the Section, and altogether we can say quote we have had a topping Christmas unquote. (Press readers will understand the "quote" and "unquote.")

**Arrivals.**—On December 24th we welcomed the return of our O.C., Capt J. O. Steabben.

L/Sergt Lake, Signalmen Page and Glassborrow, from No. 2 W/T Company B Corps Signals, for duty on wireless station. Signalmen Bruce and Ottaway, from F Divl. Signals, for duty in the Signal office.

After the "Kill"—No. 2

**Departures.**—Signalmen S. and W. Brooks to Kohat, and Signalmen Willis and Perry to Rawalpindi en route for Blighty. Our best wishes go with them.

**Weather Report.**—Snow reported in London, making its way towards India; expected to reach Razani about February or March. Further outlook, wet inside, dry outside, at Razani; and same expected in all British stations during Christmas and New Year holidays.

A. F. L.

## Iraq Signal Section.

**Arrivals.**—Capt D. H. Cunynghame, late A Corps Signals, has taken over command of this unit. We sincerely hope his stay will be a happy one.

The relief draft, to whom we offer a hearty welcome, arrived here from the U.K. on New Year's Day (bang went those resolutions): Signalmen Ashford, Jerram, Keneally, Dyball, Varley, Summers, South, Swift, Green, White, Williams and Earnshaw.

**Departures.**—Signalmen Gray, Wright, Marshall, Carpenter, Jarvis, and Thomson to U.K.—having completed their tour of duty abroad. For information, the last four mentioned are good soccer players, and in addition, Jarvis and Carpenter have both represented the Army in Iraq at hockey and cricket. Good luck to them all!

**Query.**—In Iraq Signal notes referring to Sigmn Denton in December's WIRE, please read "bantam" and not "fly-weight."

To Corporals' Mess, A Corps Signals, Ewshott.—Card received, with thanks. Compliments returned herewith from the juniors of this unit.

Ike inserts the following:—

The Signalman who couldn't buy or borrow a "Wire"
[With apologies to the "Plainsman"]

## Signal Section, Hong Kong.

Wellington Barracks, Dec., 1926.

**General.**—Summer has gone, and winter is slowly creeping in. This will mean a great influx of tourists, a rise in the price of souvenirs, and (last, but not least) the beginning of the dancing season which is welcomed by the dancing fraternity.

Everybody is looking forward to the usual good time this Christmas, and expecting Santa Claus (in the role of Pay-Sergeant) to be free with the dibs. More about this anon.

Work for the linemen still comes along, and "the rest" predicted some time ago seems just as far away as ever. Still, maskee!

**Armistice Day.**—November 11th was honoured in fitting style in Hong Kong, all branches being represented on parade. Included in the many beautiful wreaths laid on the Cenotaph was one from the Hong Kong Branch Signals Association, being a replica of our Corps badge.



**Cricket.**—Hong Kong were at home to Shanghai for the inter-port cricket match, the visitors taking the flag after some close play. In the match, Shanghai v. The Services, the Signals were represented by Capt Bridgland, who in the second innings made an excellent contribution of 90. Well done, sir! To date the R.E.-Signals cricket team have been unlucky to lose both league games played.

**Apology.**—These notes are short this time, but the writer is now out in the wilds of Lyemun, and news from headquarters travels very slowly indeed, in spite of our telephone service.

JOINT BOX.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters, B.T.E., Cairo, Jan. 5th.

**Noel.**—The Christmas festivities are now over, and I am sure that the number who did not have an exceedingly good time is very small. The dinner was very nice, but did not come up to that of the previous year; under the circumstances, we could hardly expect it to.

Majors G. G. Rawson and G. E. Sampson (O.C. Nos. 3 and 1 Companies respectively) were present whilst dinner was being served, as were other officers of the two units. Both mess rooms were suitably decorated with paper chains, etc., and the good wishes from the Companies to their officers and others were displayed on the walls.

It is hoped that the lads are feeling quite fit again, in order that they may settle down to some good hard work during 1927. (Remember, the harder we work, the quicker the time rolls on—and the *boat*.)

**Training.**—By the time these notes appear the Egypt manœuvres will have commenced. We trust that "Jimmy" will receive that extra bit of polish, so that we may "shine" as usual.

**Arrivals.**—L/Corpl R. G. Barnes was posted to the C.S.O.'s Directorate on his arrival in the land of the Pharaohs, and the two "old dictionarians" extend a hearty welcome to him.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to A/Corpl Brown on his appointment to that rank.

**Homeward bound!**—In December's WIRE I stated that we should have then bid adieu to the last of the homeward drafts. Well, that is not so, as they are still with us, but *are* going on the 7th of this month. We are very sorry to part with them, and hope that their journey home will be a pleasant one. To Sigmn Samworth, every good wish on his return to civil life; and to the remainder, who are going to the home establishment, a pleasant stay in a pleasant station.

[*Note.*—I know for a fact that Corporal Gilmour wants a billet somewhere in the vicinity of Edinburgh—there you are, I told you it could be done.] The complete list of personnel departing is: Sergts Linder, Tolley and Dixon, L/Sergt Adams and wife, L/Sergt Rhodes (ex India), Corpl Gilmour, L/Corporals Newton and Widgery, Signalmen Southcott, Samworth and G. Brown.

**Entertainments.**—The regimental dances are still going strong, and by the look of things will be a success throughout the season.

The Morse-KeyToes gave their first show in the barracks on November 25th, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. One or two changes have been made in the party this year, consequent on the departure of some of its old members.

The overture, played by L/Corpl Gill on the ivories, was indeed a credit to him.

"Asleep in the deep" and "Friend o' mine," by L/Corporal Robertson, were received with loud applause. This artiste is a new member in the party, and did exceedingly well.

Corpl White (comedian) delighted his audience as usual with "I'm fond of Swistle's ness milk," also in a duet with Sergt Norcross when accompanying him in "Poor papa." The natural humour of the first-named draws a laugh from the audience with very little persuasion.

Pte Bailey (R.A.M.C.) contributed two coon songs, and it must be said that he has made great headway since last year.

Sigmn Hewson was well applauded after rendering two songs, the better of the two being "Romany Lass," and on this performance should go well with the Mossies.

Two Cockney ditties furnished by L/Sergt Norman were well appreciated, but in my opinion this artiste could have gone one better.

Corpl Holness (another valuable addition to the party) delighted his audience when singing "The Pirates' Lullaby" and "Love, love, sometimes I dream of it."

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"Nile Nights" (burlesque) was exceedingly good, Corpl White and Sergt Norcross being the star turns.

A sketch entitled "Love in a box" was staged last season, and being such a success, again made its bow on this occasion, much to the delight of the patrons. This is enacted by Sergt Norcross (the lover), Corpl White (the errand boy), and Corpl Holness (the much-sought after)—the latter making an admirable "blonde."

During the interval the Morse-Key-Toes jazz band played selections and were called on for encores time and again. L/Cpl Grose and Signalmen Ransom and Perry are to be congratulated on their splendid effort.

**Buck-shees.**—"Our razors are so good-tempered, sir, that they strop themselves each morning, and incidentally strop you if you're not careful. We, being a charitable 'outfit,' have decided to present every 'swaddy' with a free razor, and trust to the gods that his beard grows in hedgehog fashion during the next few weeks in order that our usual turnover may be doubled. In other words, that's the 'auto-strop way.'"

After giving up hopes of receiving the much-discussed razors which were applied for during 1926, we were both pleased and surprised on Tuesday last to find they had arrived. Everybody commenced reading the directions for use, and after taking the razor down to see what it was made of, immediately placed the strop on the back of the bed and numbered off from the corner man, from whom the time for stropping was taken. Oh! what a commotion! it came so strange that one or two couldn't get that nice piston movement with it, and after a few seconds were dragging their beds all over the room.

However, satisfaction runs high. There was only one moan, and naturally (being of Scottish origin) a certain individual, on opening his package exclaimed, "I knew there was a swindle in it—where's the *soap*?"

**Heard in the Corporals' Mess.**—Sunday, January 2nd, 1927, 11 a.m. (incidentally the morning after New Year's Day). Enter a lance-corporal (wearing a bottled look) and approaching menu board: "What's for *breakfast*?"

BEN.

## Sergeants' Mess.

**Happy Days.**—The happy "daze" of Christmas and New Year's Day is (and are) over, and so were we, but we have now been sorted out and once again are treading this earth.

**Who's Who.**—In reply to Pop's (Rawalpindi) request for information of Mr. Sinclair Smith, we regret to say that it is not the same gentleman. It is not our custom to reply to queries through these columns. Applications for information should be accompanied by P.O. valued 10s. and addressed envelope stamped at "deferred rate"—the more deferred the better. All information which appears in these notes should be regarded as confidential, and no reliance is to be placed in it. Information received on our deferred system can be ignored.

**Homeward bound.**—Sergts Tolley, Linder and Dixon, and L/Sergt Adams and wife, leave for the U.K. on the "Assaye" on January 7th. On the same boat will be L/Sergt Rhodes, who has wintered in Egypt on his way home from India. We hope he has had a pleasant stay with us, and will reserve a warm spot in his heart for Egypt Signals. We are sorry to lose them, and sincerely wish that one and all will settle down in the very best station in England.

**Billiard League.**—Only two matches have been played since we last wrote. We easily defeated the 2nd Brigade R.H.A. on our own green, but lost to the R.A.P.C. at their mess. We *could* have defeated them, but one must fraternise with these *old ladies* of Threadneedle Street.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Arrival.**—A hearty welcome is extended to Sigmn Spreadborough on his arrival in the land of "maarlish."

**Departures.**—It is with the deepest regret we say goodbye to C.Q.M.S. Shaw, who leaves the Service for civilian life on the expiration of his pontoon. A fitting send-off was indulged in by members of the sergeants' mess who awaited him at Cairo Station, where ancient songs so dear to the heart of an old soldier were charmingly rendered. Cheer after cheer rent the morning air as the train pulled out, and thus one of our most esteemed n.c.o.s crossed the great divide.

**Concert Party.**—The Mossies are stinging again, and (strange to relate) at a place bearing the motto, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here"—Bab-el-Hadid, the home of late revellers who kneel at the shrine of Bacchus in the small wee hours. Unfortunately our pianist was indisposed, but Sigmn Hewson ably came to the rescue, and a most enjoyable evening ensued.

**Cross-Country.**—Congratulations to the Corps cross-country team on their excellent show against the remainder of the units in the Command. The achievement of second place—we lost the first position to the R.I.F.—was undoubtedly a remarkable performance, and if the same spirit is shown in other sport we shall carry off the Command best all-round unit cup. Sigmn Beeton, needless to say, was first man home.

**Christmas Festivities.**—A most enjoyable time was spent this year, the fun waxing fast and furious, spirits being full to overflowing. A donkey derby was instituted avec tote. Prizes were awarded. The dinner was a huge success; the tables, groaning under turkey, pork and plum pudding, made quite a festive display. Liquid refreshment visited rounds at frequent intervals—but here, strange to relate, my memory is blank!

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

**HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS**

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Polygon Barracks, Cairo, Jan. 4th.

The inter-Section sports competition for 1926 season has now been completed, and J Section have retained their hold on the shield for another year—but only by a narrow margin from K Section. The ultimate destination of the shield hung on the result of a hockey match between K and H Sections, and had the first-named proved victorious they would have taken the shield. As it was, they lost, to the great delight of J Section's supporters, and the shield remains at Polygon for another year.

By the time these lines are in print, K Section will have left Polygon for their old quarters at Moascar. They certainly livened up things in the sports line whilst they were here, and J Section will be the first to admit it. It is doubtful if the "sweat" has left that shield yet.

Another Christmas has come and gone, and the hectic festivities are now almost forgotten. The dinner served up was the best for the past three years, and was really first-rate.

During the afternoon one very happy individual was seen to enter a hut, take up an old whisky bottle (now kept filled with rifle oil), take a good swig, and disgustedly remark on what flat stuff the contents were.

Later, in the evening, two joyous lads were pursuing a rather zig-zag course homewards, when one suggested to the other, "Let's go and fix Charlie's duff. Now, Charlie being a well-known boxing celebrity, I leave it to the reader's imagination as to whether they *were* sozzled or not.

Later still in the same evening, a well known speed merchant, filled with remorse, decided to start training (this about midnight, too) and forthwith proceeded to take a shower bath—but it is regretted that he forgot to remove his clothing beforehand.

On the morning of the 4th January, on approaching the camp, a tremendous "clack—clack—clack" was to be heard emanating from almost every hut. On investigation it merely proved to be everyone trying out their new pattern razors. Our "Shoey," to his disgust, found his new one was of the same pattern as the one he had been accustomed to using. Rather than discard the old one, he is now endeavouring to use one in each hand at the same time!

The many followers of boxing will be sorry to hear that Sigmn (Ted) Richmond has been on the "seriously ill" list in the Citadel Hospital. Happily, he is now well on the road to recovery, and we all hope that his illness will not have had a detrimental effect on his boxing abilities.

**Answers to Correspondents.**—Nobbie: It is to be hoped that the tips contained in the instructions to cross-country runners were marked, learned and inwardly digested. Don't forget to cut round the dotted line.—Anxious: Cease worrying. Buck's bathing at unearthly hours has now ceased. Just hark at those new razors clacking joyfully!

ART.

## No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand.

### No. 1 Section.

After two months of strong silence, following upon we know not what, we are reminded that the season of goodwill being near at hand, our compliments and very best wishes to all other Signal units, and the Corps in general, are due. The same are extended in the true spirit of the season.

We welcome Capt Courtenay-Thompson and Lieut Gardner from home, and trust they will enjoy their sojourn here. To the n.c.o.s and men who have joined us from home and Iraq, a hearty welcome is extended; lack of space prevents the inclusion of all their names.

Corpl Cutler, Signalmen Moore, Radge and Wells left us on H.T. "Nevassa" for the United Kingdom, en route to civilian life, and we wish them every success in the future. We hope that those who went home to "soldier on" find the English (or is it Yorkshire?) climate to their liking.

Congratulations to L/Sergts Banham and Baldwin, L/Corpl Austin, U/L/Corpls Mullins and Wort on their respective appointments.

## Signal Section, Sierra Leone.

Tower Hill Barracks, Sierra Leone, Jan. 1st.

Christmas has gone, and the New Year has arrived—both occasions being celebrated in good fashion. We hope 1927 will



be a successful year for the Royal Corps in the realm of sport and in all other fields of action in which it participates.

The draft who arrived in November are now settled to the monotony of a Coaster's life. Many can be seen with their little calendars, marking off the days as Father Time wends his way.

The month of December brought with it the dry Armatan winds, making liverish persons more liverish than ever they were before.

Our Foreman-of-Signals, C.Q.M.S. Sweeny, is due to leave us in eight or nine weeks' time. He then returns to England, and we hope to a "cushy" station, for he has worked hard out here. None of our other ranks are due for relief in March—their time will come in October; nevertheless, they are looking forward to March as the half-way house.

We are handicapped at this station in not being able to send much in the way of sports gossip. We are so weak numerically that we cannot field a football or cricket team of our own. We often render assistance to the 36th Company R.E.s, who are handicapped like ourselves. When the Garrison cup matches come along, the selectors may look on one or two Signals with a favourable eye. Corpl Hollis (ex Ewshott) has been officiating between the sticks, and giving a good account of himself on all occasions. Sigmn Currie (ex Bulford) is a budding right full back. Sigmn Baker (from Northern Ireland) has been giving of his best, and quite surprised the critics by playing a good game at right half.

A handicap billiard tournament took place last month, R.E.s and Signals participating. Unfortunately all the Signals except Sigmn Huggins made their exit in the first round. He survived, but succumbed by a narrow margin in the second.

Our three new members from Northern Ireland are disappointed at not seeing and hearing the weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth which they presume occurred when the exodus took place. [The best of luck to those who are now wandering in the wilderness, and to those who are perchance broncho busting.] They wonder if Chippy collected the usual half-dollar for the Christmas festivities.

If Sigmn Barton, Singapore, has time to send a few lines to Signals, Freetown, Sierra Leone, we will forward him particulars of a "Cook's tour" in Western Africa. We recommend it as a grand finale to his 21 years with the Colours.

Sigmn Esson sends his kind regards to Sigmn McDowall of the Malaya Signal Section, wishing him good luck in 1927.

LEONE.

## Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta, Jan. 4th.

**General.**—Once more Christmas has arrived and gone, and by the time this correspondence finds its way into the printer's hands we shall have made a stride towards Christmas, 1927, but the memories of the past festive season will remain with us.

I have had myself "on the carpet" for not wishing everybody "A merry Christmas," and got admonished, so must make amends by wishing everybody at home and beyond our little island "A happy and prosperous New Year."

Festivities à la Noel commenced with the Royal Engineers' Christmas tree and tea party for kiddies of the families of n.c.o.s and men of the R.E.s and Royal Signals, in the Princess Theatre, on the 23rd December. Everybody voted this "at home" a great success. Santa Claus was ably impersonated by Sapper Brown, whose sleigh crowded with toys caused the babes to shriek with happiness and delight. They all wished, I am sure, that Daddy Christmas would visit Malta more frequently.

Much credit is due to the president and his committee, who worked with one object in view—to give the kiddies a right royal time. We were more than delighted to see our O.C., Capt Halliday, and Mrs. Halliday present at the festivities.

Seven a.m. on Christmas morning found coffee and biscuits in the socks—pardon! I should say, by the bedside of the junior n.c.o.s and men residing in barracks. This was only one of the many little surprises that the messing committee had provided for them in the way of Christmas fare. To go into details of the good cheer would occupy much space, but all agreed that Christmas 1926 in Malta brought back visions of home.

Although the weather clerk favoured us not with the usual sunshine, our O.C. paid us a visit at the dinner table, and we hope that he did not cast too envious an eye upon the excellent spread that was about to be "seen off" by the inner man.

YOU may drink it hot or cold. You may buy it by the glass or in bottle form or in tablets. It's milk and it's malt and it's good. One of those drinks you feel the better for having in every way. Better in health, better in outlook, better not for an hour, not for a day, but always. *But make sure it is*

HOOKER'S MALTED MILK

Your Canteen is ready to serve it now. Drink it hot or cold. Buy it by the glass, in bottles or in tablet form.

Mrs. Halliday visited the families of the married n.c.o.s and men of the Section, taking with her presents for the kiddies. The appreciation of all concerned is extended herewith to Mrs. Halliday for her kindly thought and generosity, and it is hoped that both she and her children may enjoy the best of good health and prosperity during the years to come.

New Year's Eve found the Princess Theatre a blaze of coloured lights, decorated with balloons and streamers in preparation for the annual New Year's Eve fancy dress ball arranged by the Royal Engineers' Dance Club. From eight p.m. until the wee small hours of the morning happiness reigned supreme, the theatre was packed to its fullest extent, and the crowning effort was the varied fancy and original costumes worn. We were honoured during the evening with the presence of the Commanding Royal Engineer and Mrs. Clogstoun, the C.S.O. and Mrs. Halliday, and Lieutenant Grove White, R.E., who formed the judging committee for the fancy dress parade. Their task was a very difficult one, owing to the many representations on a par with each other. Premier honours were once more awarded to the Signals through the medium of Mrs. Mutter, wife of the Foreman-of-Signals, who represented an "R.E. offspring."

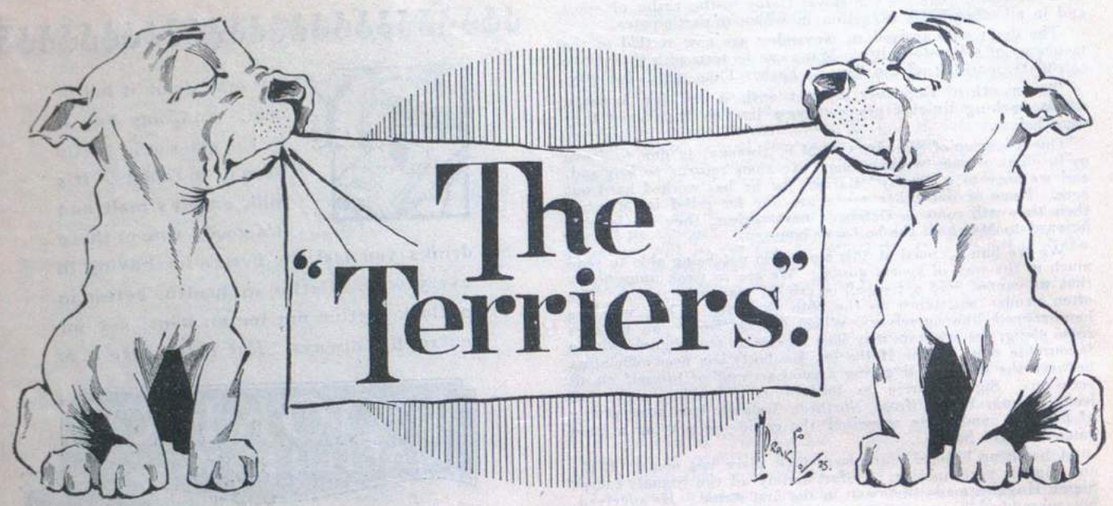
**Promotion.**—Congratulations to Corpl V. E. Osborn upon receiving the second bar.

**Education.**—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Mutter, Foreman-of-Signals, upon obtaining his 1st class education certificate. Better luck next time, Marmaduke, re the special!

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Johnson and Burrows arrived here safely (for the information of old E Companyites and dear friends at Colchester). Both are doing well, especially the former, who with his "Corps" soccer sox is dazzling the football fans of Malta. Already a place has been found for him in the Sappers 1st eleven, and to-day he is a representative for the Army eleven versus the Yugo-Slavs at the Empire sports ground. Congratulations, Knocker!

**S.O.S.**—Should a "Jimmy" still adorn the cap of Sigmn May (Tiny), will he please communicate with Sigmn V. Vyse.

ALGY.




## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Most of our notes this month are in connection with recent social events.

On December 22nd a Christmas dinner-dance was held in the officers' mess, about thirty members and guests being present. All the good old traditions were adhered to, but unfortunately the P.M.C. forgot the mistletoe!

A grand carnival, given by the Signals Association (Manchester Branch) at our headquarters on New Year's Eve, proved a great success. The fancy dress costumes gave a touch of welcome colour to our sombre drill hall. A number of prizes were awarded during the evening for original costumes, etc. All praise is due to the hon. secretary, Sergt McVittie, and his helpers for their organising efforts and decorations, and we hope that the financial result proved as successful as the event.

On January 8th, at a unit dance, the commanding officer presented a number of efficiency prizes, etc., and in this connection we may mention that our new certificate scheme is now in full operation. Non-coms. and men who wish to qualify for promotion have first to obtain the C.O.'s certificates, which are awarded on the results of the n.c.o.s winter training class. These are quite handy little documents, and the lucky owners will no doubt treasure them. We understand that one budding n.c.o. already has a room completely covered with these certificates, suitably framed.

As a result of our efforts during Manchester civic week, the unit received a grant of money from the City Council which was expended in sending Christmas parcels to the families of fifteen of our members who are in straitened circumstances.

We hear that our Divisional Commander, Major-General Solly-Flood, retires from his office in June next, and we presume that we shall not have his commanding presence in camp this year. We have just heard that this will be held at Troutbeck, near Penrith, Cumberland, from June 4th to 18th. This will furnish the less fortunate of us with an excuse to swagger of our visit to the Lake district. Those of us who have been before will regret that it is not the *other* Troutbeck, near Ambleside.

Trade training classes commenced on January 10th and 11th, and the attendance on these first two evenings was, if not all that was expected, certainly encouraging.

We congratulate Capt S. W. Lloyd, M.C., on his promotion, and sincerely regret that he will be leaving us shortly to take up an an important appointment in Singapore. He will be able to talk over old times with Lieut. Bintley, who went there some months ago. We wish him every success, and hope that he will not forget to visit us when he returns.

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies' Christmas festivities ran on similar lines to those of former years, and have been quite as successful.

No. 1 Company started with their annual "draw" on the 17th December, followed, on the 21st, by the presentation of prizes in connection with the Christmas shoot. Our C.O. (Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C.) kindly functioned in each of these events, and his encouraging remarks on both occasions were much appreciated.

Sigmn Selley (late of ours and now of the Royal Corps) dropped in to see us on December 21st, during his leave. His old friends were glad to see him looking so fit and well. He had "no complaints"—on the contrary, he was full of praise for the Corps.

The children's party took place on December 29th, and 45 bonny Wessex girls and boys (accompanied by their mothers) assembled in the prettily decorated hall for four hours' real good enjoyment.

The whole of the arrangements were made and carried out by Mrs. Western (wife of the O.C. No. 1 Company) and Mrs. Roberts (wife of our adjutant), and to them great credit is due for the success which attended the proceedings.

On January 7th the Company Christmas social was held, and there was a very large gathering of members and their friends. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

No. 3 Company (Topsham Section) held their "draw" and prize shooting distribution during Christmas week, and a ball and chidren's party on the 29th and 30th December respectively. Both events were exceedingly well carried out and splendidly supported.

The Plymouth Section held a "draw," but I haven't heard any account of their festivities in other directions.

Our grateful thanks are due to our honorary colonel, Colonel H. E. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O., for his kind thought for us again this year, and also to our C.O. for his Christmas gift to each of the three Companies.

After all this junketing we have resumed our activities on the military side, keeping a hopeful eye towards the brighter days when we can get outdoors again.

The Plymouth Section is now over 40 strong—a very creditable bit of work in so short a time. Congratulations, Plymouth! keep it up!

A welcome is extended to 2/Lieuts A. B. Taylor and V. E. Bailey on being gazetted to the unit.

We were glad to see some account of the "doings" of our friends the 48th Signals in last month's WIRE. So far as present arrangements go, we shall be with them at camp this year, and the Wessex are looking forward to fraternising with the South Midlands. Judging from their notes, we shall have to practise a bit of cossack riding. Cheerio, Raw Kick!

OLD SPARK.



## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

**Training.**—Holidays being now simply a memory, training has recommenced, and as usual the buzzer class under Lieut Ford is first in the field. As the days lengthen, it is hoped that all the Sections will be working at full speed in preparation for the many duties that the unit will be called upon to perform at the Divisional camp, where they will do their annual training this year.

It is also hoped to commence some real musketry training in the near future, in order that we may return from Bisley this year with one or two "pots" which we lost two years ago.

**Social.**—A unit dance was held on January 15th, and was quite successful. It would be more gratifying to the entertainments committee, however, to see these functions patronised more by unit members.

**W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.**—At the meeting held on Jan. 9th, the annual "general post" took place. The trials and troubles of the president were handed over by C.S.M. Jordan to C.S.M. Geere for the ensuing year, and in the same way the worries of secretaryship were transferred from Sergt Horner to C.Q.M.S. Allan. Sergt Dell, as hon. treasurer, carries on for another year. The mess has had a most successful year, and the vote of thanks accorded to the retiring officers was well deserved.

**General.**—It was very pleasing to find in last month's WIRE some notes from No. 2 Company. Let us hope that "Red Spot" will keep well on it.

JOCK.

## 50th Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 (Gateshead-on-Tyne) Company.

**Entertainments.**—The third Company dance of the season was held in the drill hall on Christmas Eve, and was in every way a huge success, easily eclipsing the efforts of the previous two.

**Training.**—The training (winter, of course) still goes on apace, and all ranks are eagerly looking forward to the time when they can put into practical use the knowledge gained during this type of training.

**Recruits.**—Although we have not reported on this subject for some time, we have at present a good number on our waiting list who are under observation, and who will eventually take their stand beside the present members in an earnest endeavour to bring the Company up to a 100% standard of efficiency.

B. S.

### No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

**Holidays.**—The Company closed down for the Christmas holidays from December 22nd until January 4th. During the lull in training the Company held its annual children's treat in the drill hall for serving members' children. After a magnificent feast, the children cleared the decks for a sumptuous hour of enjoyment.

During the course of the festivities, lo and behold! who should appear but the greatest of all children's delights, Father Christmas, sometimes called Santa Claus. After greeting all his merry playmates, Santa Claus then started to distribute among them all the toys from the electrically-lighted Christmas tree which was installed in the centre of the main building.

After bidding the children good-night, Santa Claus started to wend his way back to his abode, but had only got half-way to the sergeants' mess when a white whiskered wig fell off and disclosed to us our esteemed R.S.M. G. Burrows.

When the children dispersed, the Company held a complimentary dance in the drill hall, and this was a huge success.

**Appointments.**—Congratulations are offered to the undermentioned signalmen who have been appointed Acting L/Corpls A. Sanderson, A. M. Gibson, C. Campbell, J. F. Ford, L. Glasper, C. F. Smith, and R. Thompson.

Training has now started again in earnest, and the way the Company turns up to its drills and does its particular job shows that the men have again got their eyes on the Bagnall cup.

A. Q. O.

### No. 3 (Hull) Company.

**Training.**—The usual voluntary classes held on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings are still being well attended.

**Social.**—About 25 wives and 40 children of members of the Company were entertained to tea on New Year's Eve. After tea, presents were distributed amongst the children by Father Christmas. The kiddies were highly delighted to see him arrive by car, with his sack of toys strapped behind. Every one enjoyed themselves immensely. The committee has asked me to thank all those who generously gave donations of fruit and sweets for the party. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Wright for the loan of the tree decorations, and for decorating the tree.

**Smoking Concerts.**—A smoking concert, held in the n.c.o.s mess on Christmas Eve, was voted a huge success. The prizes for the Christmas shoot, the domino handicap, and the Christmas draw were presented to the lucky individuals by Mrs. R. G. Williams.

Another smoking concert was held in the mess on New Year's Eve, and despite the various functions which happened to take place on the same night in various other T.A. messes, this was also enjoyed by a good company.

**Dances.**—The usual fortnightly event was held on Jan. 8th, this being a carnival dance. Judging by the number who attended and the look of enjoyment on their faces, there was nothing to beat it. So far this is the best dance we have had this season. Many have asked, why not have one weekly? Now, then, you hard working committee, what about it?

**General.**—We were very pleased to see three late members of the Company during the holidays, on furlough in Hull from their respective units: Sigmn Freeman of E Company, S.T.C., Sigmn Park of 4th Divl. Signals, and Guardsman Warner of the Coldstream Guards. Still another has left us for the Royal Signals, Sigmn Marshall having joined the Regulars on December 28th. Our best wishes for the future go with him.

A. Q. Z.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Aberdeen)

The whole unit joins in offering heartiest congratulations to Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., on his appointment to the command of the unit. It was with great trepidation that the "Hichdivsigs" first heard of this very popular officer's retirement, and great was the joy when his appointment to the command of the 51st (Highland) Divl. Signals T.A. became known.

The Officer i/c Records has inflicted on us the necessity of tolerating our R.S.M. until 1928. The extension granted to the R.S.M. is, I am sure, a very popular one.

### No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company

Since our notes last appeared, the annual Christmas party for the children of w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men took place at Fonthill Barracks on December 18th. The party was, as in years gone by, a huge success, and was greatly appreciated. The thanks

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of all who participated in this treat go out to the O.C. and officers whose generosity made this function possible.

A new "clause" has been added to the multifarious duties of the adjutant, that of Santa Claus, which gentleman Capt B. H. House impersonated with great success; and the radiant faces of the kiddies showed that he had not disappointed them in the shape of toys.

Dances are still well attended, and now that the Palais has been burnt down, we hope to be overwhelmed with requests for season tickets. There is no truth in the rumour that the origin of the Palais fire was due to the presence of a few of *our* lady dance patrons.

The sergeants held a dance on December 24th, and all were present except the "T.T.s." The police on the beat have been warned to arrest any one found doing the Charleston after midnight: being drunk is no excuse!

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company

At the outset we desire to pay a belated, though none the less sincere, tribute to the capabilities of F. J. Miller, our late C.S.M., who has left the Company consequent upon his appointment to the higher grade of the Civil Service. We shall miss him in the Company affairs, both on the recreational and technical side. Our best wishes go with him in his new sphere.

The recreation committee is a live one. During the winter whist drives have been organised, which have proved very popular. As a result of the visit of the new adjutant (Captain B. H. House), the activities of the committee have been widened, and a P.T. and boxing class has been started. The enthusiasm of the early meetings augurs well, and we are hopeful of yet finding that most elusive of pimpernels, "A white hope."

We offer a hearty welcome to Capt House on his assuming duty with the 51st (H) Divl. Signals. We trust he will enjoy his sojourn in the Highlands, and are confident that an intimate knowledge of the latest developments in Divisional Signals will be ours through his association with us.

We are all glad to see 2/Lieut J. Laing, of this Company, once again himself after his illness.

A most successful Christmas shoot has been held, and the prizes were many and various, most of them being contributed by the Stirling tradespeople—a kindness very much appreciated. The prizes were presented in a very cheery manner by Lieut.-Col. A. R. Bain, 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, after which light refreshments were enjoyed by all.

**Movements.**—After a most searching enquiry, the municipal authorities of Bridge-of-Allan have at last discovered what was wrong with B.-of-A. C.S.M. Haines has now been moved to Stirling.

### No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company

Knowledge of the doings of this Company is somewhat scant, owing to their notes not being to hand in time. Sergt Cooper, however, tells me that he has some good men ready for the fray, and that they are not "a-frayed" of anything Aberdeen or Stirling can produce. Now, then, ye fighting men of Aberdeen and Stirling—remember, training tells in the long run (or the short run, for that matter). Buck up, "Three," with those notes.

SMUDGE.

## 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

### Edinburgh (G.P.O.) Detachment.

Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh.

**Greeting.**—We wish WIRE readers at all stations a happy and prosperous New Year. [Delayed by (Scotch) mist.]

**Strength.**—The detachment is now 100 strong, and we look to the parent body to allow us to carry a Company latchkey.

**Training.**—A course in electricity and magnetism was held during November–December. The enthusiasts who attended were well rewarded by the instruction imparted to them by C.S.M. G. Dickinson.

**Innovation No. 1.**—A Christmas treat to the wives and children of members of the detachment took place on Dec. 29th.

"Professor" Fern's Punch and Judy show, fresh from a series of engagements at a well-known Prince's Street resort, provided a capital indoor entertainment. Young and old enjoyed it, coming as it did after an excellent tea.



Father Christmas appeared and delighted the children by presenting them with gifts from his bounteous store.

The children and wives (and also the "hubbies" fortunate enough to be present) were unanimous in declaring the treat to be a most happy "family" gathering.

The arrangements were in the hands of our Permanent Staff instructor.

**Innovation No. 2.**—Our initial attempt at holding an annual dinner was attended with success. Held in the drill hall on January 12th, a company of seventy sat down.

Our guests included Lieut.-Col. P. R. Bald, D.S.O., C.S.O. Scottish Command, Lieut.-Col. A. A. Jayne, D.S.O., Controller Edinburgh Postal and Telegraph District, Capt A. Beatson Bell, Adjutant 52nd (Low) Divl. Signals, and Lieuts Kennard and Goddard, Royal Signals.

The catering was well up to standard. After the usual toasts, a splendid programme of vocal and instrumental music was gone through.

AULD REEKIE.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

### Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.

The annual Christmas tree and party was held on New Year's Day. About seventy children of the unit were entertained. The lecture-room had been tastefully decorated, and thanks to the excellent work put in by C.S.M. Hooper and his committee, a very happy evening was spent.

Tea was served at 5 p.m., and the youngsters did full justice to the fare provided. Subsequently they were given paper caps of varied designs and colours to wear, and were entertained to a Punch and Judy and conjuring entertainment by Capt Dalva. This proved a roaring success in more ways than one. The children had been warned of Punch's careless way of handling the truth, and to hear their shouts of contradiction was very amusing. The Misses Safferty gave the following programme, with Miss Marie Safferty at the piano:—

Opening chorus, "Heading for Louisville." Recitation, "The green eye of the little yellow god." Miss Edna. Song, "I might learn to love him later on," Miss Rosie (encore, "Me too.") Song, "California," Misses Louie and Edna. Song, "Cecilia," Miss Louie. Song, "Ukelele dream girl," Miss Edna. Character song, "My day out," Miss Rosie (encore, "Knee deep in daisies.") Song, "Poor papa," Misses Louie and Edna. Song, "Sweet child," Miss Edna. Song, "I'm terribly in love with you," Miss Rosie (encore, "I get ze eye.") Finale, "Sitting on top of the world," Misses Louie, Rosie and Edna.

Bandsman Safferty is to be congratulated on his talented daughters, the ages of these young ladies being: Marie 15, Louise 12, Edna 10, and Rosie 7.

After this entertainment the children performed a dance around a huge Christmas tree, and small gifts were distributed to all. Then each child was given a box of chocolates bearing the unit's title on it. Later, Father Christmas (in the person of C.S.M. Hooper) presented each child with a gift.

A tribute to the work done by Mrs. Hooper was paid by the presentation to her by R.S.M. Adams of a box of chocolates. The Mayor and Mayoress of West Ham (Alderman and Mrs. Reed) joined the party during the evening and spoke to the children, and Col. E. A. Edwards expressed the thanks of the unit to them for their presence. A bouquet was presented to the Mayoress by Miss Rosie Safferty.

**Promotions.**—2306335 Sigmn Sharp to be R.Q.M.S. w.e.f. 15/12/26. 2560475 Sigmn Jackson to be Corporal w.e.f. 30/12/26. Congratulations to the above on their respective steps.

We were very pleased to get such a good "chit" from the G.O.C. 54th Division in his general narrative report for the year ending 31/10/26. In it he says: "In no unit in the Division has there been a greater advance during the past three years than in the Divisional Signals. Enthusiasm has been created, and the results are highly satisfactory. The unit provided an Artillery Brigade Section which went to West Down with the 85th Field Brigade, and proved most efficient."

We congratulate Sergt C. F. Maries, of No. 3 Company, on obtaining such an excellent report from the School of Signals.

Y. E. D.

### No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

Drills restarted on January 10th, but apparently several of the Company have not yet recovered from their Christmas rest.

The Safferty Sisters

It is hoped that attendances will soon be as of yore. A series of interesting lectures is now on the training programme, and it would be a pity for anybody to miss them.

Apart from technical training the boxers are attending regularly, and during the intervals between parade hours provide quite an entertainment in practising the noble art and training.

The punch ball provides an attraction, especially after parade, and we advise those of the Company with a pet grievance to vent their spleen on this—it does not mind a bit! I'll not vouch as to the truth of this statement, although the canteen steward assures me it is correct!—Several men have been seen to walk straight up to the said punch-ball and give it a vicious swipe, muttering the soldier's prayer meanwhile. Moral: "Never nurse a grievance."

The "canteen-eers" are talking of forming a dart team. There is certainly no harm in this, especially if it proves an attraction and provides the members of the Company with more opportunities to know one another. As we have several members of the A.O.F.B. (Ancient Order of Froth Blowers) in the Company, this dart affair should not be too difficult a task.

Competition for the drill cup—and a very nice cup it is—is still very keen. This ends on April 10th.

A welcome to Recruits Tate, Langley and Morley.

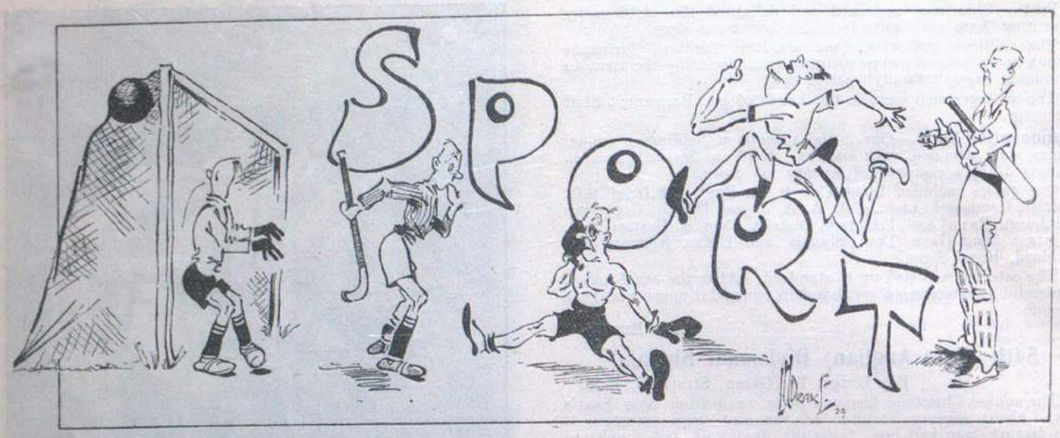
Sigmn Roberts has left us for the Regular Army.

**Social.**—The last whist drive of the season was held at the Masonic Hall on January 13th. This function was, as usual, a good drive.

Our second impromptu concert and dance, held at Milton House on New Year's Eve, was a lively affair. It was very pleasing to see such a goodly crowd of both sexes turn up to help it along, although "talent" was not so much in evidence as at the previous function.

Some of the "weaker sex" performed the Charleston with such vigour that one wondered if they really *are* the weaker sex. Towards the end of the evening members of the A.O.F.B. started a small "community singing" stunt—You know!: "The more we are together," etc., etc.—until the arrival of the New Year. All voted that they had a good time.

DREITER.




## Catterick Hockey Notes.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Bradford.**—Played at Bradford on November 13th. This was the first S.T.C. hockey match of the season, and resulted in a win for our opponents by 2 goals to 1.

From the bully-off Signals pressed, and several abortive attacks were made on the Bradford goal, the roughness of the ground in the circle probably accounting for the mis-hitting on the part of our forwards. Bradford attacked in turn, but Dvr Batcheldor made several brilliant saves. One shot in particular, to the top left corner of the goal, he saved by a superhuman jump, diverting the ball with his hand. The ground was rather too rough to suit the short passing game of our forwards, who continually overran the ball. A hot attack by Bradford let in their forwards, who after several shots in rapid succession finally found the net, giving Dvr Batcheldor no chance. Half-time arrived with our opponents leading 1—0.

Shortly after the bully-off, a good piece of combination and a good pass by Lieut Boyd left Major Drayson with an open goal, and he brought the score level. A very heavy rainstorm came down, drenching the players and flooding the ground. The hard hitting of our opponents now took effect, and the winning goal was scored by them. Signals did not look like equalising.

With a good ground the Signals team promises well. Lieut Pearse was outstanding at back, and played a brilliant game. Dvr Batcheldor was excellent in goal. Capt Elsdale was safe at right back. The half-backs, of whom Lieut Malpass was the pick, were rather inclined to hang back too much, and also did not mark the wing forwards enough. Lieut Boyd was the pick of the forwards. The wing forwards did not centre soon enough.

Team: Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, Capt Elsdale, Lieut Pearse; half-backs, Lieut Vulliamy, Corpl Foley, Lieut Malpass; forwards, Lieut Patterson, Lieut Hatfield, Major Drayson, Lieut Boyd, Lieut Scott.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Thirsk.**—Played at home on November 27th, resulting in a win for Signals by 2 goals to nil.

The ground at Scotton was very wet and soon cut up, thus spoiling what should have been an excellent game. Signals were undoubtedly the better side and ran rings round their opponents, but failed to find the net more than twice, both goals being scored by Major Drayson after excellent openings made by Major Phillips and Lieut Boyd.

The forwards, though excellent up to the circle, were shooting badly, and should have scored at least six more goals. Our defence was sound, and gave very little scope to the opposing forwards. Major Phillips greatly strengthened the half-back line, and made many excellent openings. Dvr Batcheldor was again excellent in goal. Dvr Conroy on the right wing centred well, but was inclined to come in too much. Lieut Patterson played well on the left wing, he and Lieut Hatfield combining well together. Lieut Boyd as usual was good.

This was Major Phillips' last match, as he has now left for India: after many years in the team, and one of its mainstays, he can feel satisfied that he has helped very largely to raise the standard of play in S.T.C. hockey. His presence in the team will be badly missed, and he will be very hard to replace.

Team: Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, Capt Elsdale, Sergeant Tovey; half-backs, Lieut Vulliamy, Major Phillips, Lieut Malpass; forwards, Lieut Patterson, Lieut Hatfield, Major Drayson, Lieut Boyd, Dvr Conroy.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Thirsk.**—Played at Thirsk on December 18th. Owing to Christmas leave there were many changes in the personnel for this match, but the whole team struck an "on day" and the result was a very easy win for us by 6 goals to 1.

It was bitterly cold, and for the first ten minutes stick work was noticeable by its absence. After our opponents had scored from a scramble in front of goal, Signals got together and a splendid bit of combination on the left wing ended in Corporal Foley putting across an excellent pass to Lieut Boyd, who scored easily. A second goal came from Major Drayson a few minutes later, after some fine combination between Lieuts Pearse and Boyd. Lieut Boyd scored again a few minutes before half-time, when we led by 3—1.

On the resumption Signals continued to press, and further goals were scored by Lieuts Pearse and Boyd and Major Drayson. The outstanding feature of the match was the play of Lieut Pearse at centre-half, his openings to the forwards being all they should be. Lieut Boyd was in great shooting form. The backs were very safe, Sergeant Carpenter being excellent. Lieut Moore was tried at right-half, and played excellently.

The whole team were on the top of their form, the only fault to find being an inclination, still, on the part of the half-backs to hang back too much in the attack.

Lieut Pearse played his last game for the S.T.C., as he leaves for Colchester. He is another of the S.T.C. hockey stalwarts who has done much for the game at Maresfield and Catterick. Both he and Major Phillips will be most difficult to replace, but what we lose, other units in the Corps will gain.

Team: Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, Capt Elsdale, Sergeant Carpenter; half-backs, Lieut Moore, Lieut Pearse, Lieut Vulliamy; forwards, Sigmn Davis, Corpl Foley, Major Drayson, Lieut Boyd, Dvr Conroy.

**Training Battalion Hockey.**—The T.B. hockey side has had quite a successful season up to the present, and has included an Army cup match among its wins.

Six new "Jimmies" have been awarded for the season 1927: 2/Lieuts Vulliamy and Pargeter, Sergt Carpenter, Corpl Foley, Sigmn Fletcher, and Boy Gear.

Results of games are as follows:—

Sept. 26th—v. Novocastrians. The T.B. was unable to turn out at full strength, and lost by 4—2.
Oct. 2nd—v. Redcar. The T.B. lost a good game by 6—3 to a really excellent side.
Oct. 23rd—v. Darlington. The T.B. won by 4—0. A very fast game, and more even than the score suggests.
Nov. 13th—An "A" team lost to the Green Howards Depot by 5—2.



Dec. 4th—v. Norton. The T.B. went away for this match, and defeated the home side by 2—1.
Dec. 11th—v. Norton. A return match. After a very good fast game, Norton won by 5—4.
Jan. 8th—v. York 2nd XI. A very level game until half-time, when the score was 2—1 in favour of the T.B. After the interval York soon equalised, but in the last twenty minutes the T.B. completely took charge of the game, eventually winning by 6—2.
Jan. 10th—v. Middlesex Regt. (Army cup). This game was played in a "young hurricane" on the Scotton ground. The T.B. won the toss and played with the gale. They very quickly put on four goals, and then the Middlesex started scoring. At half-time the game stood at 6—3. The muddy state of the ground hindered scoring in the second half, each side getting one more goal. The T.B. defence played a very sound game, Sergt Carpenter, Corpl Foley, and Boy Gear being conspicuous. Final score: T.B. 7; Middlesex Regt. 4.

## Catterick Cross-Country Notes.

In the third inter-Company run, held over a stiff 4-miles course, C was the winning Company, with E and F second and third respectively. This ended F Company's unbroken series of thirty odd wins. Congratulations are due to C Company, who, if rumour be correct, have been putting in some strenuous training for this well-deserved win.

In the fourth inter-Company run, over two laps of 2½ miles each, C Company again won, with F and E second and third respectively.

Competition is now very severe, which is all for the best, for sport as a whole in the S.T.C. will benefit.

In the third run, Corpl Cotterell, Dvr Gaston, and L/Corpl Iveson were the first three home, and in the fourth run the order was: Dvr Gaston, Sigmn Broadley, and Sigmn Gosling. Corpl Cotterell was on leave for this last run.

The efforts of the S.T.C. team are now centred on the North-Eastern Counties championship at Stockton on February 12th. It is hoped to give good news in connection with this event in next month's WIRE.

Interest in northern cross-country circles is also growing in regard to the Sunderland-Catterick road relay race, to be run on Good Friday for the Royal Signals trophy. The distance is about 50 miles, and this will be the first annual fixture of the sort to be inaugurated in the north.

## C Company, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Boxing.**—All the team are looking forward to beating the Training Battalion on the 18th inst. According to rumours, *both* teams are confident of winning. Some good fighting should be seen in the Y.M.C.A. May the best team win!

We have discovered a new heavy weight in Sigmn Purll (good old Joe): we hope that some day he will be England's "white hope."

Dvr Grainger lost in the contest with Mr. Barns at Keighley, the fight being stopped in the fourth round. Never mind, Harry; keep smiling—we must take defeats the same as we do wins.

Out of eleven officers and men comprising the Depot Battalion team, two officers and six men belong to this Company. We ought to do well in the senior boxing league this season.

**Soccer.**—In both the senior and junior leagues we have, up to the present, given a good account of ourselves, and we hope to have the same success in the remaining matches.

**Rugby.**—Dvr Reeves has been chosen for the Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers match at Chatham. The Company team is in good training, and it is hoped that they will be near the top when the season closes.

**Cross-Country.**—The Company team did remarkably well in obtaining first place in the third and fourth inter-Company runs. We hope to give a good account of ourselves in the remaining runs: the shield has been absent from the Company rather too long.

## School of Signals, Catterick.

**Soccer.**—We played senior and junior matches against D Company on January 5th. The senior team lost by 3—2, but the junior team made up for it by winning by 12—1. We believe that next time the junior team turns out, the senior team are going to be there to "pick up tips."

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**Hockey.**—It seems to be unlucky for D Company to meet the School. On January 10th they again got in our way, but they moved out to the tune of 14—1. We can't say that our goalie played a great game, but he did his best. He took a leaf out of the prophet's book: when the ball wouldn't come to him, he went to the ball, and at one time he had a shot at goal from the half-way line. He will have to be put in his place!

**Cross-Country.**—In the run that took place on January 9th, over a course of 5 miles, our team finished fourth. We found a "dark horse" for this run. He very modestly told us that he had run ten miles in the past, so five miles would be child's play to him. We will not say where he came in, but he was in the baths first, and we leave you to judge the rest.

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Hockey.**—We have made some progress during the past month, thanks to the weather. The Company hockey league is flourishing, and the last two games ended in an 8—1 victory for No. 1 Company over No. 2, and a 3—1 win for No. 2 over No. 3. Your two men short, No. 3 Company, lost you the game, and of course the ground was not too good. I wonder what has become of the roller? It was noted in the No. 2 v. No. 3 game that the old obstruction movement, "turning," was very little in evidence. Keep it up; it makes the game much more pleasant.

Our friends from Ewshott gave us a game, and we were able to get the better of them by 2 goals to nil. Fleet H.C. were next entertained, and provided us with a real fast open game. The issue was a lose for us by 3 goals to nil. We congratulate ourselves on this, when glancing at their fixture list and noting their amazingly high goal average for games already played.

### No. 3 Company

**Soccer.**—The Company is still maintaining good form, and during the last month has played and defeated the following: 1st Field Squadron R.E.s, 6—3; No. 3 Company 2nd Divl. Signals, 3—1; No. 1 Company 1st Divl. Signals, 2—0.

With the return of the rest of the team from furlough we are looking forward to a very successful season, and hope to show our worth in the Aldershot Command knock-out competition. In the second round we play C Company R.A.M.C.

**Rugby.**—The only matches played during the month resulted as follows: Aldershot Signals beat Bulford Signals, 14—8. Aldershot Signals beat Basingstoke, 5—3. 1st and 2nd Divl. Signals lost to King's Own, 6—0.

L/Corpl Lee and Signalmen Wadsworth, Rutherford and Harris, of this Company, have played at various times for Aldershot Signals.

**Hockey.**—We have played only one match during the past month, and the team showed considerable improvement by beating 23rd Field Company R.E.s by 2—1. They previously beat us by 3—0.

## 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

**Rugger.**—The first of a suggested series of games between Bulford and Aldershot Signals was played at Aldershot on December 11th. It was a splendid game, in which hard knocks—given and taken in the right spirit—were the order of the day. The score was 14 points to 8 in Aldershot's favour.

We very much appreciate the manner in which we were received, and the treatment given to us while there. We are looking forward to our return game on March 5th, and we hope for better luck.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

**Hockey.**—We played the R.A.F., Aldergrove, on our barrack pitch, winning by the only goal scored.

With the C.P.A., in the Wednesday league, we managed to effect a draw of one goal each.

## G Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

**Cricket.**—Three games have been played and lost: Versus S.T.C. (I.) by 52 runs; v. 48th Battery R.A., by 1 wicket; v. S.T.C. (I.), by 7 wickets.

**Football.**—Unit football is at a standstill except for small inter-Section games, but this fault will, it is hoped, be remedied on the completion of Brigade training.

**Unit Sports.**—The unit sports were held on December 6th with the following results.

Corpl Murphy was adjudged the best individual, and the inter-Company cup went to No. 1 Company. We must congratulate them, but really, isn't weight a useful thing! Sigmn Milton ran well to gain his triple success, whilst Corpl Murphy's great effort in the mile was a main feature.

100 yards—1, Sigmn Milton; 2, Sigmn Newdick; 3, Sigmn Castell.
220 yards—1, Sigmn Milton; 2, Sigmn Burgess; 3, Sigmn Lawrence.
440 yards—1, Sigmn Milton; 2, Sergt Lemon; 3, Sigmn Smith
880 yards—1, Sigmn Smith; 2, Sigmn De Courcy; 3, Sgt Lemon
Mile—1, Sigmn Smith; 2, Corpl Murphy; 3, L/Corpl Ling.
High jump—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Sigmn Edwardes; 3, L/Corpl Rigden.
Long jump—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Sigmn Burgess; 3, Sigmn Neal.
Putting the shot—1, Sergt Steed; 2, Sigmn Benzies; 3, Sergt Molloy.
Throwing the hammer—1, Sigmn Grocutt; 2, Sergt Steed.
V.C. race—1, Sigmn Highman; 2, Sigmn McDougall.
Ladies' race—1, Mrs. Hamilton; 2, Mrs. Sargeant; 3, Mrs. Maguire.
Old soldiers' race—1, Sergt Molloy; 2, Sergt Wise. I won't give the "also rans," because a lot of people scattered over the world, who know them, may write nasty letters.
Relay race—No. 2 Company.
Sack race—Sigmn Haigh.
Greasy pole—Sigmn Draper.
Tug-of-war—No. 1 Company.
Obstacle race—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Sigmn Benzies.
Three-legged race—1, L/Corpl Ling and Sigmn Edwardes; 2, Sergt Marshall and L Corpl Rigden.
Gretna Green race—1, Sigmn Mead and L/Corpl Gray; 2, Sgt Bell and Sigmn Moncrieff.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Hockey.**—We had the misfortune to lose by 5—2 to the Royal Engineers at Moascar, in the first round of the Command hockey cup. No doubt, had the draw been in our favour, we should have still been interested in the destination of the trophy.

**Rugby.**—By defeating the 1st Brigade (Pack) R.A. we have entered the semi-final of the Command rugby cup, and incidentally collected a few more points for that all-round cup. The best of good luck to the team! May they win right through!

**Football.**—We are now second in the league, the unbeaten leaders being the 1st Pack Brigade; the third team is the 1st Battn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the winners of the Roberts-Hughes cup.

We have been drawn against the R.A.O.C. in the first round of the Command cup, and hope to add a few more points to the collection.

The Football Team

*Back row (left to right)*—Signalmen Horne, Edmunds, Dickerson, Hyde, Thomas and Harmsworth
*Front row*—Signalmen Edge, Terry, McKail, Cpl Holness, L/Cpl Hill



Matches have been played as under: Royal Signals, 3; Y.M.C.A. 1. R.A.M.C. 3; Royal Signals 4. Royal Signals 3; 2nd Brigade R.H.A. 1.

League results: Played 17, won 11, lost 4, drawn 2; goals—for 51, against 27. 24 points.

**Command Championship, 1927.**—Hockey and rugby are still being competed for. Football, boxing and athletics have not yet commenced. The following is the present position of affairs:

| Unit | Strength | T | C | S | H | C.C | R | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R.A.S.C. ..... | 449 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 12 | — | 12 | 74 |
| Royal Signals ... | 352 | 2 | 8 | 13 | — | 16 | 12 | 51 |
| R. I. Fusiliers | 827 | — | — | 1 | 12 | 20 | — | 33 |
| 3rd Hussars ... | 529 | — | 8 | 16 | — | — | — | 24 |
| 1st Bn A.&S.H. | 896 | — | 8 | — | — | 12 | — | 20 |
| Leicesters ..... | 907 | — | 12 | 6 | — | — | — | 18 |

(T: tennis C: cricket S: swimming H: hockey C.C: cross-country R: rugby)

**Cross-Country.**—We congratulate the Corps cross-country team on the fine show it put up in the Command annual event. We ran second to our old rivals the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The individual winner was Sigmn Beeton, who ran a splendid race in good time (32 mins. 13 2/5 secs.), the course being about 5½ miles. Congratulations, Artie!—the third attempt is invariably lucky. We also congratulate Signalmen Milsom and Clark, who finished 11th and 14th respectively in a field of 250 runners.

Sigmn A. H. Beeton, who won the Egypt Command Cross-Country Championship on December 23rd, 1926

The first three teams were as follows: Royal Irish Fusiliers, 180 points; Royal Corps of Signals 306; 1st Battn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 537. Thus 16 points are gained towards the best all-round unit competition.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Boxing.**—Our cauliflower-ear dealers are to be seen nightly training under Sergt Wheeler for the forthcoming Command boxing championships. The loss of Sigmn Richmond, through his illness, will be a severe weakening of the team.

**Football.**—In the small units football league we won our section. The winners of each section will be drawn against each other on the knock-out system, the winners of the final receiving the Command small units cup. In the C.E. challenge cup, second round, we drew with the Tanks (2—2) on their ground, and it is hoped to turn the tables in the replay on our own ground and register a victory.

**Athletics.**—Congratulations to the Corps team on finishing second to the Royal Irish Fusiliers in the Command cross-country championship on December 23rd, and to Sigmn Beeton on winning the individual championship. Mention must also be made of the fine show put up by Signalmen Milsom and Clark.

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In previous runs against the Norfolk Regiment and the R.A.S.C., Sigmn Beeton finished first on each occasion, with Signalmen Milsom, Clark, Bazley, Backhouse, Ratledge, Cooper, Pitman, Silverstone, Powell and Hunter (all of whom have been awarded "Jimmies") well to the fore on each occasion. Nobbie should have known better than to have gone bird-nesting during the run with the R.A.S.C.

**Hockey.**—The Signal Troop have headed the inter-Section hockey league, winning all their matches. For such a small Section they have a surprisingly good team.

The following players have been awarded "Jimmies" for representing the Corps: Major Rawson, Lieut Woodbridge, Sergt Coleman, and Sigmn Drury.

**Rugby.**—Congratulations to the Corps team on the fine show they have put up in the Command rugby competition. The following Company players have regularly assisted the Corps team: Lieut Bartlett, L/Corpls Fleet and Grose, Signalmen Mc Bain, Harmsworth, Gratwicke, Edmunds, Osborne and Hewson.

## No. 1 Section, No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

**Cross-Country Running.**—As becomes every unit of the Corps, we are able to turn out a team capable of upholding those traditions of which we are justifiably proud. A Command cross-country league was recently formed, and to date three runs have taken place, in all of which our team has been first home. Hence we lead by a substantial margin of points. Unfortunately we lost a very fine representative in Corpl Cutler, who recently left us for home.

**Hockey.**—There being no league, we play occasional friendly matches which provide excellent entertainment for players and spectators alike. Of late we have played three games with results as follows:—

Versus Palestine General Hospital, lost 2—3.
Versus British Section, Palestine Police, won 4—3.
Versus No. 2 Armoured Car Company, R.A.F., won 6—1.

Sergts Price and Newman and Sigmn Weeks recently had the bonour of being selected for a team representing the Command versus Jerusalem Sporting Club, and materially assisted in winning a hard game by 2—0.

**Football.**—As in other branches of sport, the small number of units in the Command renders the formation of a league very difficult. Hence we must rely on occasional friendly games, and being able to field a comparatively good team, we can provide excellent opposition to all comers.

## No. 3 Company, 50th Divl. Signals, Hull.

**Football.**—The football team appears to have been having a rest over the holidays. On Boxing Day we played the 26th Armoured Car Company (T.A.), being very unlucky in losing to them by 3—2. The match for January 8th, against Spillers, was postponed in order to allow both teams to watch the third round of the cup. No doubt the idea of this was to pick up a few points.

We are very elated to see our city's team has passed into the fourth round of the F.A. cup by beating West Bromwich Albion. I suppose No. 1 and No. 2 Companies are also "blown out," as I see their local teams have been lucky.

**Billiards.**—Our billiard team have lately met with a few reverses, but it is hoped that with the commencement of the New Year they will pull themselves together.

A shield has been kindly presented to the Hull Services Billiard League by Messrs. W. H. Sykes, of billiard table fame. The shield is to be competed for annually by individual members of teams in the above league.

The first round is nearing its completion, and it is with regret that we note that one or two of our team have already been knocked out. However, one of our team—Sigmn Baker—put up such a good show against his opponent that we think he will go far in the competition. Stick it, "Posty," and bring it here for its first home.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Boxing.**—A novices competition took place at headquarters on December 16th, and proved a very interesting affair. The officials were: Judges, Mr. A. E. Kenyon (late Signals) and Mr. Pettit (Metropolitan Police); referee, Capt J. McConville, M.C.; timekeeper, R.S.M. Adams, M.M.

8 st. 12 lbs. and under—Prentice (Southend) beat Brooks (Stratford) in a good bout, the winner showing superior knowledge. Taylor (Southend) beat Ratchford (Southend)—the winner was always on the offensive and won easily. Final: Taylor beat Prentice in the first round.

9 st. 12 lbs. and under—Caldwell (Southend) beat Hayes (Stratford) in the last round. Penny (Stratford) beat Hollingsworth (Southend)—the bout was fast and evenly-contested until the last round, when the more aggressive tactics of Penny secured him the verdict, but he was unable to contest the semi-finals. Final: Bates (Stratford), who drew a bye, beat Caldwell (Southend). Caldwell had the best of the first round, but Bates attacked strongly, and won in the second round.

10 st. 12 lbs. and under—Dent (Southend) beat Gosling (Stratford). Whichello (Stratford) beat T. Scott (Stratford). In the semi-finals Whichello beat Carty (Southend) in a spirited contest. Final: Dent beat Whichello. There was nothing between the contestants in the first round, but afterwards Dent went ahead and eventually won easily.

Silver medals were presented to the winners and runners-up.

## No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

**Boxing.**—At the novices boxing tournament held at Stratford on December 16th, the following members of this Company won medals: Signalmen Dent, Coldwell, Prentice and Taylor. May they win many more!

L/Corpl McMenamin, Signalmen W. Sawford, H. Sawford, Hollingsworth, Dent, Taylur, Ratchford, Langley, D. Carty, and C. H. Johnson are visiting D Company 6th Battn. The Essex Regiment, on January 22nd, to try conclusions with that unit. Good luck to all of them!


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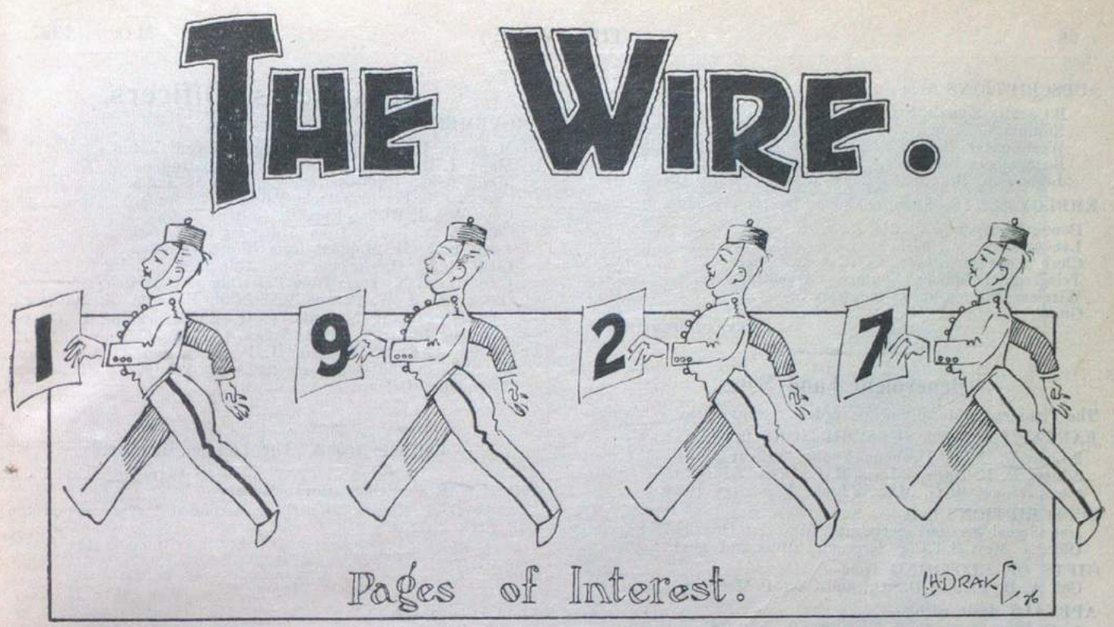



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VOL. VIII.—No. 85 MARCH, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


## Editorial Notes.

S.O.S., D.I.K.—Apropos the opening paragraphs of our Editorial Notes for February, we publish this month, under the heading of "Correspondence," a letter received from an old Association member and a subscriber to THE WIRE, who is patiently awaiting news of his old unit. Their late scribe, by the way—now a civilian and resident in Salisbury, Wilts—is firmly of the opinion that the unit in question has been "called in and done away with." We have tried our best to convince him that such is not the case, and trust that ere long we shall be able to herald their re-appearance under the heading of "Units Abroad."

❀ ❀ ❀

The attention of existing and prospective unit correspondents is called to our new Prize Competition, particulars of which will be found on another page.

May we take this opportunity to remind them that all articles and unit notes intended for publication must reach this office not later than the 16th of each month. Matter received *after* that date will invariably be held over for the next issue.

❀ ❀ ❀

Will any Officer Commanding Signal Unit at home or abroad (Regular or Territorial), and also any Hon. Branch Secretary, who has not yet received a copy of the new Rules of the Signals Association, kindly notify the General Secretary as soon as possible, when the omission will be immediately rectified.

We are still desirous of securing back numbers of THE WIRE bound volumes for 1921 and 1923, and should be glad to repurchase any copies available for sale amongst our readers.

EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Copies of the new Rules of the Signals Association have now been distributed to all Officers Commanding Signal Units at home and abroad, both Regular and Territorial, and also to all Hon. Branch Secretaries. Will any who have not yet received them kindly notify the General Secretary as quickly as possible in order that duplicate copies may be despatched.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following Bankers' Orders and amounts from Branches, etc.:—

BANKERS' ORDERS (5s. per annum) from:—

Capt W. U. Tyrrell, Capt C. V. L. Lycett, 2/Lieut D. L. Hyde, 2/Lieut J. Stuart Usher, 2/Lieut C. P. S. Denholm Young, 2/Lieut J. Fortrey Heap, 2/Lieut E. C. Drew, 2/Lieut L. T. Shawcross, 2/Lieut R. G. Muir.

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| Lieut F. A. S. Atterton ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| C Divl. Signals, Dera Ismail Khan ... ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| G Divl. Signals, India ... ... ... ... | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Baghdad Branch ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| B Cavalry Signals, Sialkot ... ... ... | 1 | 19 | 0 |
| Edinburgh Branch ... ... ... ... | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Westminster Branch ... ... ... ... | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| Birmingham Branch ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Jubbulpore Branch ... ... ... ... | 119 | 2 | 0 |

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Domestic Servants ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Labourer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Clerk Traveller ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Telegraph Telephone Engineer (Argentine) ... ... | 1 |
| Wireless Electrician (Venezuela) ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Groom ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
2/Lieut C. P. S. Denholm Young, 2/Lieut J. Stuart Usher, 2/Lieut D. L. Hyde, 2/Lieut E. C. Drew, 2/Lieut L. T. Shawcross, 2/Lieut R. G. Muir, 2 Lieut J. Fortrey Heap.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
Iraq Signal Section; Sergeants' Mess 1st Divisional Signals; Officers' Mess S.T.C.; Sergeants' Mess 2nd Divl. Signals.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from—
Col. A. H. French, D.S.O., and Capt P. Jennings, M.C.

APPEALS dealt with :—

1—Ex-Signalman, Essex, in difficult circumstances. £3 allocated from funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, London, destitute. Employment found, clothing provided, and £1 10s. allocated from funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh. Applied to Edinburgh Branch for financial assistance. £3 advanced immediately, case referred to Headquarters, and a refund of the amount in question passed by the Committee.

4—Ex-N.C.O. Royal Signals, Yorkshire, in domestic difficulties. £7 advanced on loan from funds.

5—Ex-Signalman, Southampton. Financial assistance applied for by local Charity Organisation. £2 allocated from funds.

6—Ex-Signalman, Liverpool, unemployed and in temporary difficulties. £3 allocated from funds.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major R. Chenevix Trench from Bulford to India.
Major J. L. Tomlin from Woolwich to India.
Major L. G. Phillips from Catterick to India.
Capt T. B. Ferriday from Palestine to India.
Capt W. M. Miller from Bulford to India.
Capt D. A. Brown from Aldershot to Catterick.
Lieut E. J. H. Moppett from Rhine to India.
Lieut R. H. O. Coryton from Aldershot to India.
Lieut L. A. E. Tozer from Palestine to Catterick.
Lieut.-Col. J. W. Orange-Bromehead, Major G. E. Mansergh, Captains L. B. Nicholls, T. H. L. Turner and E. G. W. Pearse, Lieuts R. H. R. Steward, T. C. Thompson, N. H. Edes, J. E. S. Walford, H. P. Hart, and J. W. Gordon, and Lieut and Quartermaster A. E. Winton, to China with Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 18/1/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., is seconded for service on the Staff 27/12/26.
Capt C. V. L. Lycett, O.B.E., is restored to the Establishment, 27/12/26.

War Office, 21/1/27.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
School of Signals—The undermentioned appointment is made :—
Instructor (Cl. Z.) Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, vice Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., R.Signals, 6/1/27

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
52nd (L) Divl. Signals—Capt (Prov.) R. J. Reese (Lieut. Res. of Officers) resigns his commission in the T.A. 31/12/26.
Thomas Cameron to be 2/Lieut. 3/12/26.

War Office, 25/1/27.

COMMANDS AND STAFF—
The undermentioned appointment is made at the War Office :
D.A.A.G.—Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.Signals, vice Major O. P. Edgecumbe, M.C., R.Signals, 21/1/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., is seconded whilst employed as Instructor School of Signals, vice Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., restored to the Establishment, 6/1/27.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

### Appointed Acting C.Q.M.S.—

2307038 Gilbert, F. 1/1/27
2306164 Thompson, C. 1/1/27

### To be Sergeant—

1857022 Prebble, F. 26/4/26
2311805 Rankin, J. 7/5/26
2311575 Baker, W. 7/5/26
2306175 Smith, C. 11/6/26
2307981 Devlin, A. 20/9/26

### Appointed Acting-Sergeant—

1857466 Hawley, A. 17/9/26
5664462 Crouch, R. 12/10/26
1857194 Lyon, G. 22/10/26
1856927 Weston, H. 25/10/26
1858918 Bishop, G. 25/10/26
2306426 Colley, A. 11/11/26
2307631 Penfold, A. 18/11/26
2309062 Carpenter, A. 22/11/26
2306646 Fleet, W. 3/12/26
2306665 Leath, G. 3/12/26
2308008 Hodges, R. 15/12/26

### Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

1857194 Lyon, G. 11/9/26
2306766 Minion, R. 11/9/26
2308866 Lawrie, J. 2/10/26
2312362 Paterson, T. 25/10/26

### To be Corporal—

2306601 Stevenson, W. 15/2/26
2303979 Ramsden, H. 1/4/26
1850101 Masters, E. 1/4/26
2314039 Golder, L. 4/4/26
2307228 Ketteringham, F. 26/4/26
2310781 Bennett, F. 26/4/6
2312288 Fullerton, D. 26/4/26
2310625 Luff, A. 26/4/26
1855005 Jobbins, G. 26/4/26
2311279 Clark, H. 26/4/26
2312237 Child, C. 26/4/26
2309699 Andrews, A. 26/4/26

### Appointed Acting-Corporal—

2313998 Marchant, M. 1/10/26
2311248 Tucker, R. 1/11/26

### Discharges.

1857137 C.Q.M.S. G. Brown, 13/12/26
2308181 C.Q.M.S. F. Betteridge, 31/12/26
2306377 C.Q.M.S. J. Shaw, 14/1/27
2306157 C.Q.M.S. W. Francis, 22/1/27
2306335 Sergt C. Sharp, 13/12/26
2306876 Sergt R. Wells, 14/12/26
2308050 Sergt W. Winzer, 22/1/27
2306154 Sergt F. Brown, 25/1/27

### Transfers to Army Reserve.

2312729 L/Sergt G. Carter, 17/1/27
2312357 Corpl C. Adams, 29/11/26
2312140 Corpl J. Sims, 10/12/26
1857433 Corpl A. Claber, 11/12/26
2312497 Corpl V. Tully, 14/12/26
2311008 Corpl A. Bailey, 15/12/26
2311380 Corpl J. Cutler, 22/12/26
1850101 Corpl E. Masters, 30/12/26
2311116 Corpl J. Powell, 30/12/26
2312735 Corpl W. Wood, 16/1/27
2312730 Corpl J. Price, 17/1/27

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SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
S. R. Bower to be 2/Lieut. 26/1/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
27th (London) A.A. Signal Company—2/Lieut A. H. Croucher to be Lieut. 12/11/26.

War Office, 28/1/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., is seconded for service on the Staff, 21/1/27.
Capt W. T. Howe, O.B.E., to be Major, 21/1/27.
The undermentioned 2/Lieuts to be Lieuts.:—
E. F. Maltby and D. W. Burridge, 28/1/27.
J. W. Gordon, C. H. Lyddon, and H. Gough, 29/1/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
53rd (Welsh) Divl. Signals—Capt R. C. Seel to be Major, 12/5/26.

War Office, 1/2/27.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
Capt W. R. C. Penney, M.C., R.Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Instructor (Cl. CC.) School of Signals, 21/1/27

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military Academy to be 2/Lieuts, 29/1/27:—
John James Yorks Scarlett; Eric Charles Drewe; Richard George Muir; John Stuart Usher; Dermot Lionel Hyde; William Guise Tucker; Edward Jocelyne Heap; Leslie Thomas Shawcross; Leslie Cornwall Cholmeley Harrison; Clement Patrick Samuel Denholm-Young.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Corps of Signals—
53rd (Welsh) Divl. Signals—Lieut F. T. Arnold to be Capt. 12/5/26.

War Office, 4/2/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
The undermentioned remain seconded whilst students at the Staff College:—
Major O. P. Edgecumbe, M.C.
Capt W. R. C. Penney, M.C.
Lieut F. C. Curtis is seconded whilst Instructor School of Signals, 21/1/27.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
School of Signals—Lieut F. C. Curtis, R.Signals, to be Instructor (Cl. GG.) 21/1/27.

War Office, 11/2/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Corps of Signals—
2/Lieut W. D. Weir to be Lieut. 29/1/27.

SUPP. RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Corps of Signals—
J. J. Craik to be 2/Lieut. 12/2/27.

# NOTICES.

## Army Promotion—Educational Qualifications.

War Office, February 8th, 1927.

It is officially stated that the educational qualifications required for promotion to warrant and non-commissioned ranks have been revised, in view of the progress made in educational training.

As from 1st July next, the educational qualifications required for promotion will be as follows:—

1—To Warrant Officer, Army Educational Corps—a special certificate (the equivalent of matriculation).

2—To Warrant Officer in any Corps other than the Army Educational Corps; Staff-Sergeant Storeman, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Staff Sergeant, Royal Army Pay Corps; Artillery Clerk II. Division; and various Sergeant-Clerks—a 1st class certificate.

3—To Colour-Sergeant, Sergeant, Lance-Sergeant, Corporal, Bombardier, Engineer Clerk Lance-Corporal, Armourer Private, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, etc.—a 2nd class certificate.

## Marriage Allowance in the Army.

War Office, February 11th, 1927.

The rates of Marriage Allowance for soldiers for the period April 1927 to March 1928 will, in view of the index figure for the cost of living (as published by the Ministry of Labour on 1st January, 1927) being 75, be those shown in the official scale under the figure 70, viz.: Wife only, 7/–; wife and one child, 13/–, up to 24/– for wife and seven children, with 1/– for every child over that number.

## Territorial Army—Regimental Promotion.

War Office, February 11th, 1927.

The Territorial Army Regulations have been amended so as to provide that all substantive Lieutenant-Colonels who have completed four years in a Lieutenant-Colonel's command or in an appointment carrying that rank will be eligible, if recommended, for promotion to the rank of Brevet-Colonel as a reward for their services in the T.A. All substantive Lieutenant-Colonels will, provided that they have completed four years in command of a unit or in an appointment carrying that rank, be eligible by selection for the substantive rank of Colonel, and will, if selected, be promoted to that rank on vacating their command or appointment.

## Competition for Correspondents.

The service rendered by contributors of unit notes is greatly appreciated, even though the Editor may sometimes use unorthodox language when preparing MSS. for the printer.

"Copy" is very often verbose, or complicated, or written in loose and ungrammatical style, necessitating the use of a pen in correcting it. Should the copy be typed in close lines, with very scant side margins, the printer finds marked on it: "× see slip" (the alterations being perforce made on a separate sheet). Or perhaps the copy *is* such that there is room to write between the lines or at the sides, yet the paper used is of such absorbent nature that any attempt to write on it in ink results in an indecipherable "blob" (and pencil alterations, scarcely legible, are hardly fair to the compositor).

With a view to encouraging contributors to submit their notes in as perfect a form as possible, our Printers (not altogether disinterestedly) have offered three prizes for the best-compiled notes sent in for the second half of this year (July to December issues). Foreign correspondents will therefore have due notice and a fair chance of competing. The prizes (two guineas, one guinea, and half-a-guinea) will be awarded for the three leading aggregates of points scored for the following features:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Correct grammar, with proper construction of sentences and paragraphs ... ... ... ... | 50 |
| Conciseness of notes ... ... ... ... ... | 25 |
| Saving of editorial labour by perfect preparation of MSS. ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 15 |
| Punctuality in despatching notes ... ... ... | 10 |
| Total per month ... ... | 100 |

Should there be a tie for either of the prizes, the award will be made on the number of points scored in the two leading features.

### STUDY THESE POINTS!

Intending competitors should study the following suggestions, as they bear upon the points mentioned above:—

Use paper which can be written on without ink spreading (note 8"×10" size is *preferred*, as more convenient for the compositor than foolscap).

Use *one side only*.

Insert full title of unit, address, and date.

Keep sports notes apart from the general unit notes, and on separate sheets.

Be bright and pithy, yet concise: give all desired information without one unnecessary word (space in THE WIRE is *not* unlimited).

Be sparing in the use of capital letters, quotation marks (" ") and exclamation signs (!)

Do not make abbreviations in writing, except such as are in common use, or use figures unless in a statistical sense.

Leave space between lines and at sides of paper.

Full name, address, etc., of contributor should be given in each case, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith only.



## Views of Khyber and District

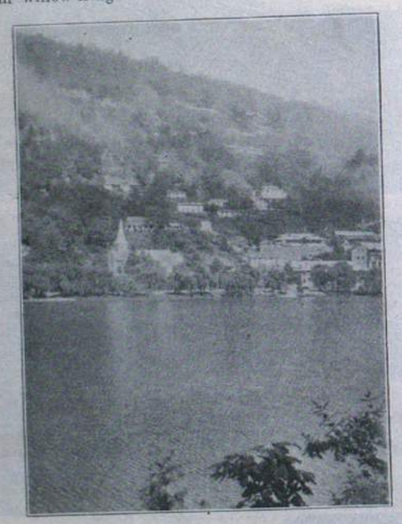
1. The "Special" passing Fort Maude, on the opening of the Khyber Railway, October 2nd, 1925
2. The Old Method *versus* the New
3. Landi-Khotal Camp
4. The Site of Lord Roberts' Camp, near Landi-Khotal
5. } Views near Landi-Khana
6. }
7. Landi-Khana Camp
8. The Frontier Post. "So far thou shalt come, but no farther"

## A Visit to Naini Tal.

From Jubbulpore, Naini Tal—the summer capital of the United Provinces, and a pleasant lake resort in the Himalayan foothills—is reached by journeying via Allahabad and Bareilly (changing at both these places) to Kathgodam on the Rohilkund and Kumaon line. During the rail journey two large rivers are crossed, namely, the Jumna and the Ganges. From Kathgodam, the railway terminus, Naini Tal (in olden days spelt "Nynee" Tal), the headquarters of the Kumaon Division and Eastern Command, is easily accessible. One may approach it either by a bridle road of thirteen miles, or by motor along the cart road, a distance of twenty-two miles.

During the rainy season landslides are fairly frequent, and more often than not, when such occur, serious damage is done to the road, delays being caused by divers obstructions en route. The writer experienced such a delay when he recently visited the place. Sometimes it has been found necessary to have cars on either side of a landslide and to tranship passengers, but on this occasion the vehicle in which we travelled was able to get across the breach with some difficulty.

Naini Tal and the surrounding district afford excellent facilities for shooting and fishing, while in Naini itself provision is made for many other branches of amusement. At the upper end of the lake is found "The Flats," where all kinds of sport from football to polo may be indulged in; while the main attraction for some is the boating and sailing that may be had on the beautiful willow-fringed lake located in the centre of the town.



The Lake, Naini Tal, and St. Francis R.C. Church (from South Mall)

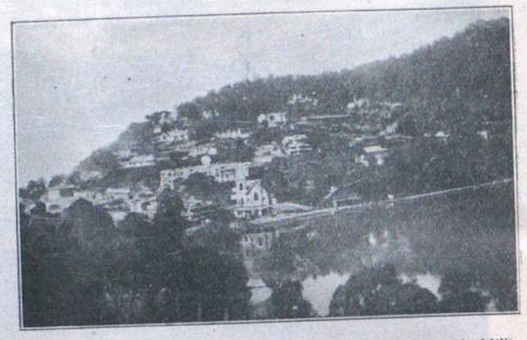
The lake, situated at an elevation of 6350 feet, is approximately two miles in circumference, and is almost entirely encircled by well-wooded slopes, the highest of which is Cheena Peak (8568 ft.).

The hills, with numerous bungalows scattered over their slopes, and the lake below, provide some most exquisite scenery. Hill roads and paths branch off in all directions, offering unrivalled facilities for walks and rides, while each and every turn opens out a fresh vista of beauty.

The Y.M.C.A. (Reid Hostel), a most suitable place for one's abode, is on the north-east side of the lake, and fairly close to the water's edge. Billiards and tennis are available for residents, and during the season hockey and football tournaments are also held, in which teams from the Y.M.C.A. are permitted to compete. A boat-house belonging to the Institution provides admirable facilities for bathing and swimming, and diving and swimming competitions are held during the season, usually about June, when the annual aquatic sports take place.

The greater elevation of the outer ranges, as compared with intervening ranges, is a striking feature of the landscape.

The lake is 1557 yards in length, while its greatest breadth is 500 yards, and it is encircled by the Mall. The lower end of the lake, where stands Talli Tal (with the M.E. Church, Treasury, and Sub-Post and Telegraph Offices), has an open aspect toward the south-east, giving a full view of the sloping shoulders of the hills immediately overlooking the plains beyond.



General View of Talli Tal, Naini Tal (from Sher-Ka-Danda Hill)

The overflow from the lake, running out beneath the road at the rear of the Sub-Post Office, is nothing more than a mere trickle during the dry season, but during the rains it becomes a picturesque waterfall.

The upper end of the lake (Malli Tal) is reached by a long gentle curve past St. Francis (Roman Catholic) Church and the boat-houses, terminating at the Assembly Rooms and Station Library on the edge of "The Flats." Other institutions overlooking the Flats are the Masonic Hall and the Volunteer Club. Along this route are also to be found the principal business houses.

From thence we proceed up the valley in a north-west direction, passing the Crosthwaite Hospital, Bara Bazaar and Market, continuing to rise past the Central Post Office, Y.W.C.A., Government Telegraph Office, Secretariat Headquarters, and the Church of St. John in the Wilderness. Close by, lying between the church and the secretariat, is a well-laid out garden. From the church one may proceed still further until the precipitous slopes of Cheena and Deopatta are reached.

Sunset on the Lake, Naini Tal
(looking towards Talli Tal from Y.M.C.A. Boat-house)



One cannot pass on without some reference to the (C. of E.) Church of St. John in the Wilderness. This is well worth a visit. It was first suggested in 1844 that a church be erected; plans were prepared and accepted in 1846, and the erection was commenced that year; and although the church was not completed, it was opened for divine service in April, 1848. Below the church lies a now disused cemetery containing many old and moss-covered tombstones. Some of these were erected to the memory of heroes of Lucknow, whilst others are sacred to those who lost their lives in a landslide in 1880. At the upper end of the lake, immediately in front of the Club boat-house, is a garden laid out as a memorial to the victims of that landslide.

Reference to the history of the place elicits the information that the year referred to was an unfortunate one for the town, the landslip mentioned being caused by an earthquake during heavy and continuous rain. This occurred between the 16th and 19th of September, a minor slip occurring on the 18th and doing great damage. When the main slip came about, some of the rescue party were still at work. The mountainous heap carried with it buildings that were at that time low-lying, and these were swept with terrific force across the Mall on to the Assembly Rooms, a part of which was thrown into the lake and the remainder reduced to a heap of ruins. The polo ground was strewn with wreckage, uprooted trees and boulders.

The catastrophe was the work of a few seconds only, and escape on the part of any who were unfortunate enough to be in the path of the avalanche was impossible. The killed and missing are said to have numbered 151, more than forty of them being Europeans. The victims included several who were carried away in a flood at the outlet of the lake, which was swept by a huge wave caused by the debris which had fallen into it.

From the north-east banks of the lake rises a ridge known as Sher-Ka-Danda Hill, on which stands Philander Smith College and the Ramsey Hospital, in addition to several boarding houses. From this hill a good view of the snowy range can be had on a clear day, and this is the lowest point from which such a view is possible.

The "Flats" and Malli Tal (from Ayarpatta Hill)

From the opposite shore, the south-west side of the lake, the outstanding natural features are the Smuggler's Rock and a steep cliff named Craig-Ellachie. Here also rises the well-wooded slope known as Ayarpatta Hill, its highest point being 7461 ft. On this hill stand several imposing buildings, including Government House and St. Joseph's College, as well as a number of schools, a church and a chapel (the latter being attached to the Convent).

Adjoining the municipal limits on the east lies the Cantonment, with the Headquarters of the Eastern Command at its entrance.

To a certain extent the soldier has to make his own enjoyment in Naini Tal. If he does not, he will find it a dull and monotonous place. The majority of visitors are apt to be quite content in seeking amusements and availing themselves of exercise on the level and within the basin; but if one desires to enjoy the real beauties of the place, it is necessary to make a tour of the many beautiful roads and paths within a radius of a few miles, and thereby become more fully acquainted with the wonderful variety, beauty and splendour of the scenery.

*(Continued on page 74—column 2)*

IF YOU WANT

BEEF

CUBES

that make the richest and tastiest beef-tea you've ever had—

that have a delicious vegetable flavour—

that are simply unequalled for enriching soups and gravies—

BE SURE YOU ASK FOR

Armour's

BEEF

CUBES

## Emigration.

The number of letters asking for further information concerning our recent notes on Canadian emigration prompts me to add a few additional details to what has already been published in the January issue of our Corps Journal.

The Canadian Royal Signals authorities, in making their offer of assistance to those of our readers who wish to settle in the Dominion, are actuated primarily by a desire to help the Canadian authorities in securing the type of man they are most in need of, and secondly, to assist the Signals Association in their efforts to secure congenial, lucrative and healthy employment for its members when they leave the Service.

The class of emigrant most desired is the man with agricultural experience, or who, lacking actual farming experience, is young and prepared to accept work on the land. There are, undoubtedly, many of our readers who have had previous association with land employment in some form or another; and it scarcely seems necessary to say that those who can handle a plough, or understand the rotation of crops, stock-breeding, dairy farming, milking, etc., come within the category.

All of our readers are, or should be, experienced in the care of horses, which is in itself a most essential qualification to any farm worker, and one which would justify any single man in applying for such employment. I mention single men advisedly, as it is essentially young men who are needed. This, however, does not mean that married men are barred. On the contrary, the Dominion authorities are just as keen to secure able-bodied men with young families, with the obvious objective of training the children to be useful citizens of the country to which their parents have brought them.

So much, then, for farm workers. Such men are wanted immediately, and every facility is open to them whenever they wish to take advantage of the offer.

Prospective applicants who are *not* desirous of working on the land, but who are perhaps specialists in other trades, should give *full particulars* of their civilian trade qualifications when making application.

It must be remembered that these applications are being sent forward to representatives in the Dominion who are endeavouring to assist you to attain your objective; in other words, to nominate you to the Canadian authorities as useful men and desirable colonists. It is essential, therefore, that they should be in possession of full information about each applicant; and I would urge the necessity of giving that information in as full and complete detail as possible, even to items which may appear to be insignificant to the applicant himself.

A man, for example, may be rated in Royal Signals as "Fitter, Signals." Previous to enlistment he may have been trained as a carpenter, and may also have served in other occupations for varying periods. Say so! and give the necessary details. Such information would most certainly assist the authorities, and would probably enable them to tell at a glance whether the applicant was a man who could readily adapt himself to circumstances, and whether he was at all likely to be an acquisition to the country.

Applicants should state whether they have a preference for any particular part of the country to which they wish to emigrate, and also whether they have relations or friends already settled there.

In the hope that the foregoing may be of some interest and assistance to those of our readers who contemplate making application, may I add that we, on our part, will do all that is possible to help such applications through.

EDITOR.

## Correspondence.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—

Will you kindly publish the following, space permitting:—

"*C Divl. Signals, India.*"—Something must be done about this great conspiracy of silence. It is getting serious!

Last Wednesday, when paying out pensions and allowances, I had the pleasure of meeting ex-Sigmn David Lathe. He was badly slashed about the face with a tulwar in the Moplah rebellion of 1921 (or was it 1922?) and looked rather ill. Some of the Wireless in 'Pindi will remember him.

I mention this to show that the world is small, and that while the Corps is "ubique," some of its communications are *not*.

THE WIRE wants to know who you are, where you are, why you are, and what you are doing. So get moving, my pippins, and move regularly; put THE WIRE on the list of "Returns, Waziristan." You will pass that way but once, so make a record of it: a record which will be found in your bound volumes when D.I.K. is a memory.

This letter is not entirely disinterested, let me tell you! Month after month THE WIRE has dropped with a friendly thud through the letter box, and on each occasion my wife and I have "ceased work" to grab for it. There was at first an excited rustling of the pages, and a pleasurable anticipation of news from C Divl. Signals. Then, gradually we began to feel squashed!—a bit sad!—no news!

Many of you know the feeling well. You crowd round the orderly corporal when he brings the mail, and you're full of beans because you know he has something for you. The names are called, one after another, and your name is *not* called. You walk slowly away, and there is a danger of your finding the wet canteen that night.

Some old soldiers will be scornful about this sentiment, but there is a lot of humbug about the "old soldier" business. Some phases of the cult are not quite human, so the "old sweat" is not allowed to be openly sentimental.

However! if you want to *receive* letters regularly you must *write* regularly, so commence the good work in THE WIRE.

About committees! You know the best advice ever given with regard to *them*, of course! "Sack the lot!"

With a full realisation of my grave responsibilities as a taxpayer and a civilian (curse it!) I solemnly record my conviction that you have very nearly allowed yourselves to become "dis"; and may I add, as a further exercise of "this freedom," this must not occur again. For the love ov Mike, switch over to "send."

MAC.

Farewell to the Old Year—and Welcome to the New!

British and Indian Officers, Indian Signal Corps (S.T.C.) at the Officers' Mess Jubbulpore, New Year's Day, 1927

(Col. E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commandant S.T.C. (India) in the centre)

Commemoration Day Celebrations

Hon. Lieut. M. Murugesan, S.B., I.D.S.M., late 34th D.S.C., S. & M. (Indian Signal Corps), S.T.C. (India) celebrated his eighth "anniversary" with his brother officers of the S.T.C. at Jubbulpore on Dec. 24th (the day of his release as a prisoner of war in Turkey, 1918)



## Plain Tales.

**Pegs, Square, Mk. I.**—Ho! Numbskullions, what do you think? I have got a job in the Quartermaster's Branch. Already, I have received numerous expressions of congratulation, sympathy, derision, disgust and jubilation. One particular individual who was, I believe, bitten by a quarterbloke when he was young, asked me if I had to pass the usual tests; and if so, how many marks I got for "low cunning." He tells me I shall have to develop a nasty disposition. I decline to believe it.

At the moment I am endeavouring to name the objects in store on sight. I never knew the Signals had so many queer gadgets. There are telescopes, microscopes, stethoscopes, horoscopes, lanterns, tent folding; boots, nail, hob; generators, H.T. chopped; cells, sec, port, squashed; telephones D.iii. bust; voltmeters, ammeters, wattmeters, wheremeters, when and whymeters—but there, I expect you have just the same in your stores. No doubt I shall be able to distinguish between a handful of broken ohms and a valve W/T O.4 back-pedalling, in the fulness of time. If not, blow it!

* * * *

**Spring Approacheth.**—No one can deny this. There are many ways of observing the steady advance of the year. The R.S.M. will soon be able to see whether we have our overcoat collars up on check parade. Defaulters will have to put extra graft into their equipment. Likewise the guard. These, of course, are the most important things to note.

To-day, being a bright, sunny and temperate sort of day, we have a huge fire. Fires are like that, or is it only ours?

Have you observed the new-born buds in the hedges? The tender little shoots of pale green grass? The shy tips of the early artichokes? You haven't? Neither have I.

All around us, at this time of the year, we can (if we like) listen to the lively chatter of the humble sparrows. That is, wherever there are any humble sparrows—chattering.

The trend of conversation in the married patch is toward new frocks, hats and shoes, and those ladies who find their husbands exhibiting symptoms of deafness or pre-occupation, when the topic is raised, should not be discouraged. Speak up. Attract attention and hold it. Drop something. Be firm. Gr-r-r-r-r!

* * * *

**Culture (of sorts).**—A horrible pastime invented by the brothers Agri and Horti, a couple of Greek cynics, who had a row with Ceres over a new dance in the year B.C. 301 (before you came up). Called "gardening" in England. Starts just about now, and continues until either (a) George wants his spade back, or (b) cats, dogs and chickens counter-attack.

Immediately after either catastrophe, you (or I) retire gracefully, to inform those interested that the ground is unsuitable.

Of course, there are some remarkable people who have spades (and even forks) of their own. I have nothing but admiration for them. Stout fellows all. They have to put up with the boobs who drift along and tender advice, or pass rude remarks.

Later in the year we get: "Pooh! aren't those currants small?" "Look here! You shove off. Those are apples anyway!"

I know, because I've had some. I once started a bit of garden myself. (Cries of "Liar!" quickly subdued as the author continues.) I commenced operations with a spade one afternoon. In a short time the inevitable boob gathered round. "Hallo," he said; "gardening?" It took me a solid hour to get the blood off that spade.

* * * *

**Technical.**—The class had displayed great interest in the Fullerphone, and the instructor was feeling that he had made its intricacies fairly clear. "There's one other thing," he remarked in conclusion. "These little cylinders here are the choke coils, which I explained on the diagram. They have a resistance of 750 ohms each." "Blimey!" said Sigmn Morpheus, his eyes bulging; "they must be very small ones, then!"—The instructor is trying phospherine.

The following were collected in the 3rd Divl. Signals individual training classes, and are guaranteed unadulterated:—

"The advantage of duplex is that a good operator can send and receive messages at the same time."

"Join a battery across the terminals of a P.O. sounder. If the sounder is o.k. it will buzz."

You would scarcely believe it, would you?


# GOVERNESSES' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

Founded 1843.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1848
Under the patronage of Their Most Gracious Majesties The King & Queen.

*President:*
The Most Hon.
The Marquis of Aberdeen & Temair, K.T.

**SUMMARY OF LAST YEAR'S WORK**

**445** granted free annuities at a value of £14,704.

**309** granted temporary assistance amounting to £2,671.

**566** provided with engagements without charge.

**151** resided in the Home while seeking work.

**152** stayed at the Holiday Home.

**12** maintained in the Home for Retired Governesses.

**10** maintained at the Ada Lewis Governesses' Homes, Beckenham.

**154** financial grants to those awaiting free annuities.

**82** given parcels of clothing.

**145** assisted by the Provident Fund.

**1** Pupil maintained at Queen's College, London.

**Over 70,000 Ladies assisted since the commencement. £25,000 required annually to maintain this work**

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W.C. 2

**Further Mathematics.**—The enormous success of our previous competitions emboldens us to present further problems. Strictly speaking, there are no prizes, but those who arrive at a reasonable solution and consider themselves entitled to an award, may purchase goods to the value of 5/- out of their own pockets.

1—A 20 ft. ladder is placed upright in the centre of a street. Tilted over to the right, it smashes three windows and falls flat on the ground. Tilted over to the left, it does the same, plus one window and 24 inches clearance when it finally comes to rest. Explain briefly why you think it would be unlucky to walk beneath this or any similar ladder (if you think so).

2—If "A" can dig a trench 10 ft. by 6 ft. by 3 ft. in half the time that "B" takes to do it, why the heck don't they let "A" do it?

I've spoken to the schoolmaster about this, but he only smiled a sickly sort of smile. Well, you couldn't blame him.

* * * *

**Talks to Wives.**—You look like gaining another point in your fight for equality. Congratulations. Most of the wives I know never *do* obey. I think they must have said "be gay," instead, when they were married. It doesn't make a lot of difference, does it? So long as you all continue to roll up at the social functions, we don't care. Leave daddy to look after the "nibs." We see enough of him all day.

Are you shingled or bobbed? Yes. One or two of you are wriggling in a shame-faced manner. Ha! I know it. You really want those tresses off, but the "boss" is all against it. Now, what about women's rights? Off with it! Watch daddy's face when he comes home. He will be so charmed that he will drop the girl from the sweetshop or the baker's or the Y.M.C.A., or wherever she works, and only take half-an-hour to read orders in future.

On the other hand, he may really be a terror. In this case it is advisable to try him out first. When he arrives, you have your hat on. Tell him you have been shingled, and then await events. If things begin to get really ugly, and there are only a few cups and saucers left, you can easily snatch your hat off and display your beautiful locks unscathed. Don't mention that you got the idea out of this page, though!

This Month's Pertinent Question:—How long is it since your husband bought you half-a-pound of chocolates? Shame! shame!

BARLEUX.

## A "Signal" Honour.

I have been to Catterick Camp!

On my arrival I had a look round this dismal place, and was infuriated to think that the powers-that-be had seen fit to send such a fine corps from "God's own country"—Maresfield—to such an outlandish place. I racked my brains to think—being only a Territorial, I am allowed to think—of some sufficient reason, but could not.

That night I went to bed very much at war with the world, and murmured to myself: "When I return to London I shall go straight to my M.P. about it, and have the whole question brought up in the House." Seizing a book from my table, I decided to read myself to sleep. On looking at the title, I saw it was called "The Romance of Napoleon."

I awoke next morning all smiles, feeling bucked with life and proud of the Corps. I had suddenly realised why Signals had been banished to this out-of-the-way spot. The solution to the mystery was plain. Someone had been comparing the Corps with Napoleon!

Napoleon at the commencement of his career was unknown—a nobody in the eyes of the world. So was the Corps!

Napoleon, once started, made rapid progress to fame and glory, and forced the world to realise that he *was* of some importance and was not to be trifled with. So did the Corps!

At length his enemies realised this. Therefore, as soon as they captured him, he was banished to an out-of-the-way spot in order to arrest his activities. So the Corps was sent to Catterick!

Signals were making themselves felt in all parts of the world. All sportsmen knew and feared the Corps. Its enemies were jealous that a new unit should make such rapid headway. Was this (Catterick) the result of its enemies' endeavours? It would appear so. Obviously Signals *had* been compared with Napoleon, and like Napoleon was feared. What a compliment!

Long live the Royal Corps!

LEMJAY.

**A Visit to Naini Tal**—*continued from page 71.*

Prior to setting out on an excursion, however, it is essential that one should become well acclimatised, the roads and paths being rough and heavy going. One should not attempt strenuous climbing until well used to the climate, and even then any climbing should be done slowly and in comfort.

Short steady walks and climbs could be made almost at once without any harmful effect or unnecessary strain, and these would undoubtedly assist greatly in acclimatisation. Although signboards are to be found everywhere, locating the principal roads and buildings, it is advisable to study the directory and guide book, thus becoming more or less well acquainted with routes, etc., to local places of interest.

On the outward journey, one must on arrival at Bareilly be very wary of motor agency touts, who approach with a view to getting one to book from Kathgodam by a certain company. If you are wise, you will send them about their business. The Naini Tal Motor Transport Company runs an excellent service of cars, and you cannot do better than await arrival at Kathgodam and then book with that Company, by whom return tickets are issued.

In August or early September there is a heavy rainfall, which to a certain extent spoils the pleasure of a visit. It is better, therefore, if desirous of seeing the place thoroughly, to go during the latter end of April, remaining for most part of May. June is also a good month.

A later visit is not without its advantages, however, as even during the rainy season there is a possibility of having at least *some* fine weather, and to a certain degree the rains and mist add beauty to the scenery around.

H. D.

## Our Subscribers Lists.

Will those who periodically send us nominal rolls of WIRE subscribers please do their best to see that these are *strictly accurate* in the regimental number, name and initials of the men enumerated?

Owing to the constant variation in these details, our index cards are becoming quite complicated by the alterations involved, and it will soon be necessary to make out a clean set.

As an example of what we mean: On a nominal roll we get a new subscriber, say 2317938 Sigmn McCormack, G. C., and enter his name on the index card. Next time the roll comes in, this is changed to 1317983 Sigmn McCormick, G. C.; and possibly, at the third attempt, another change is made to 2317938 Sigmn McCormack, *C. G.*

These variations are extremely disconcerting, and we can only follow the latest information supplied. We hope a copy duly reaches the subscriber each month, in spite of the changes on the wrapper, and that he does not breathe anathemas on an innocent clerk!

Another frequent source of doubt and possible inaccuracy arises from the super-imposing of a second figure or letter over another, where a mistake has been made. It is very difficult to see *which* is the correct one; and if the error cannot be erased, the correction would be far more definite if made in ink.

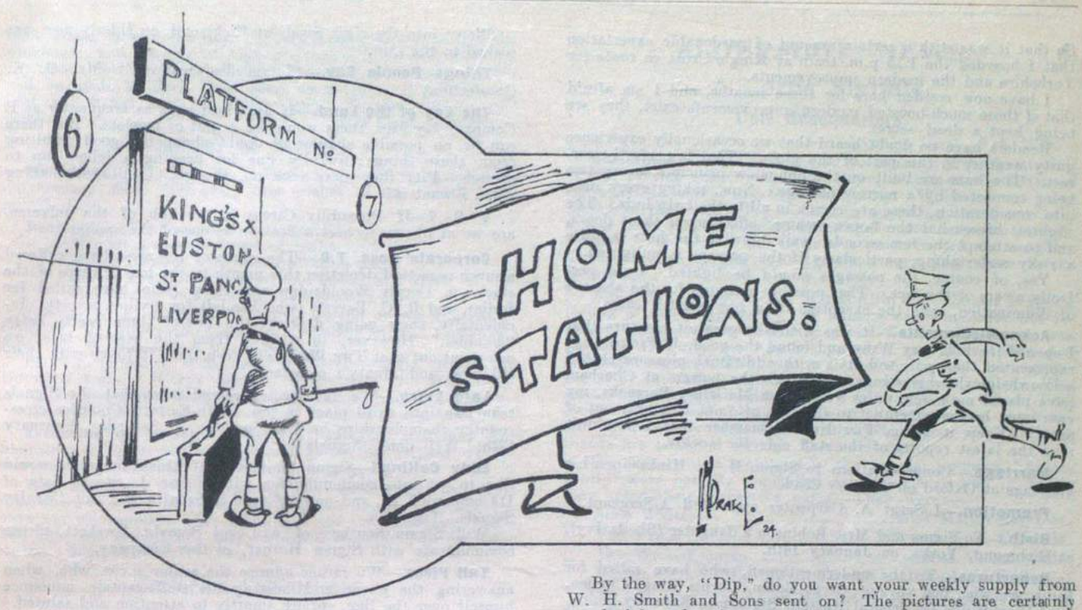
We tender our thanks to those concerned for their labour in compiling the returns, and if the above notes result in more correct returns in future, our thanks will be doubled.

## Sad Fate of a T.A. Adjutant

Officers, w.o.s and n.c.o.s who feel themselves qualified as instructors in the T.A. will read with interest the following epitaph, which is on a memorial in the cloister of Hereford Cathedral. We leave them to draw their own conclusions.

SACRED
To the memory of
JOHN CORAN
Lieutenant and Adjutant of
the Hereford Volunteers
who died of a decline
Oct. 7th. A.D. 1804
Aged 44 years
His death was considerably hastened
by his laudable endeavours to perfect
the military character of the Corps
to which he belonged, and by which
he was universally and justly esteemed.






## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### A Company, Depot Battalion.

**General.**—Apologies for the absence of notes in the last issue! Inadvertently our late reporter had vacated his office without the usual handing over. However, all's well that ends—sorry, starts well. So here goes.

There have been one or two happenings of importance that are worth recording: No. 93 Squad have won the shield; the Company supplied the winner of the recruits' cross-country championship; and lastly, but by no means leastly, kit inspection.

Of course, we don't want to crow, but we *are* coming on, aren't we, B Company?

Analysing these interesting items individually. Firstly, the winning of the shield: Bravo, 93 Squad! your efforts have been truly and justly rewarded. Let us hope that the future squads of A Company will endeavour to keep the trophy with us.

What a pity Sigmn Bulman has decided to leave the Service—after winning the recruits cross-country championship, too! A really good type of recruit that would certainly have been a credit to the Corps, both in work and sport. However, he has decided to return to civvy street, and we wish him the best of luck.

There was a great stir in the ranks of the cadre when the news was first received regarding kit inspections, and many were the incidents, both humorous and pathetic, that afterwards came to light.

For instance, the n.c.o. who spent two hours every evening in polishing a mess tin, only to find that he had been spending his time on somebody else's—and to make matters worse (or shall we say better?) the owner of the said mess tin was excused kit, and he still insists that it was through the mess tin.

Then there was the case of the torn shirt, but as that is rather a long story, the least said the sooner mended! Nevertheless, our congratulations are due to the married folk on laying the best kits; actually, five out of the eight excused were married.

By the time these notes appear, we shall have said goodbye to Sergt Dillon, Corpl Dipple, L/Corpl Sprunt, and Sigmn Fell, who are leaving the great open spaces of Catterick, where men are men and recruits are frozen, for the land of the lotus flower and love lyrics. We wish every one of them the best of luck, and hope they will soon settle down in their new environment.

By the way, "Dip," do you want your weekly supply from W. H. Smith and Sons sent on? The pictures are certainly wonderful, and perhaps would look well on the walls of a little bungalow in the far east.

**Congratulations.**—To Signalman Bulman on winning the R.C.C.C. To Sergt Dillon on joining the noble army of benedicts. (Don't forget a supply of Army Forms A.22, Jim!) To C.S.M. Wray on getting the price of boxing tickets for recruits reduced. To Corpl Dipple and No. 93 Squad on winning the shield. To L/Corpl Strugnell on winning the great match—Strugnell v. Lee.

G. R. S.

### D Company, Training Battalion.

**General.**—Good old Catterick! We do see life and keep in the fashion. S Lines is now quite a fashionable resort, and we have in residence the Misses Flue and Measles.

We have the proud privilege of possessing the first Signals Assistant (1038042 Sigmn W. Marler) to qualify as such.

**Departures.**—K draft, leaving for India on February 15th, Corpls Bramwell and J. Russell, L/Corpl Short, and Signalmen R. August, R. Davey and Robinson ex Rhine Signals.

**Postings to Field Units.**—Signalmen J. Allan and F. K. Lewis to A Corps Signals, Ewshott. Signalmen C. F. Penney, S. Staley, E. F. Shealer, and G. L. Symonds to 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot. Sigmn C. Smith to 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford. Signalmen D. Ferguson and R. Macey to D Troop Cavalry Divl. Signals, Aldershot. Signalmen T. Moorhouse and J. Nicholls to E Troop Cav. Divl. Signals, Tidworth.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome No. 88 Squad, who have completed drill and musketry, and are now commencing technical training as Signals Assistants.

**Things we See and Hear.**—We were surprised to see the new orderly corporal fasten up his collar, and put his cap on, when told that the regimental sergeant-major wanted to speak to him on the phone.

C.S.M.: "What shall we do with Sigmn Deaf?"

Orderly Corporal: "Put him in the mess-room, so he won't hear 'em moaning."

DON.

### E Company, Training Battalion.

**When is a Door——?**—Many, many years ago, that is to say, shortly after I was first posted to the Training Battalion, I heard very wonderful reports of the modern improvements which had been carried out in the new Signals barracks at Catterick.

So that it was with a certain amount of pardonable expectation that I boarded the 1.15 p.m. train at King's Cross en route for Yorkshire and the modern improvements.

I have now resided here for three months, and I am afraid that if those much-boosted modern improvements exist, they are being kept a dead secret.

Readers have no doubt heard that we occasionally experience gusty weather in this part of the globe. That is perfectly correct. The huts are built on the bungalow principle, every two being connected by a narrow passage. Now, taking every door into consideration, there are eleven in all to the twin huts. The slightest breeze has the "open sesame" effect upon those doors, and to attempt the few seconds' walk betwixt the huts is quite a risky undertaking, particularly if the passage is unlighted.

Yes, of course, the passages *should* be lighted. I am perfectly aware of the fact. That possibly accounts for the absence of illumination, with the exception of a few isolated cases.

**Acknowledgments.**—It was with the greatest pleasure that I opened the February WIRE and found the good old Firstdivsigs represented therein. And it is with additional pleasure that I acknowledge their greetings. Although the powers at Chatham have placed me a few miles away from McGrigor Barracks, my case must be the exception to the rule of "out of sight, out of mind." Keep it going, Firstdiv! Remember that I wouldn't miss the latest reports of the staff ride for worlds.

**Marriage.**—Congratulations to Sigmn H. A. Hinks upon his marriage at Oxford on January 22nd.

**Promotion.**—L/Sergt A. Carpenter appointed A/Sergeant.

**Birth.**—To Sigmn and Mrs. Robinson a daughter (Sheila Ivy), at Richmond, Yorks, on January 14th.

**Departures.**—To the undermentioned, who have sailed for India, we wish bon voyage: Sergt Loten, Corpls Ring, Challen, and Wooldridge, L/Corporal Russell, Signalmen Kennedy-Smith, Hicks, Kent, Arrend, Packwood, Yaxley, Ward, Pratt, Hinks, W. Cook, Chetwood, Bugdale, and Barron.

It is regretted that other departures and arrivals are so numerous as to prohibit inclusion on account of space. However, those who have left us carry our best wishes for the future, and those who have joined us are welcomed.

**Ring out the Old!**—With the departure this month, for India, of Corpl Harry Ring and his hat, the S.T.C. loses one of its landmarks. Away back in '20, I remember seeing you, Harry, sitting in A of the old Maresfield H.Q. And you had the same hat in those days!

Cpl R. C. Barrett, well-known to WIRE readers as "R.C.B.," is another of the old originals of Maresfield H.Q. leaving us this month, on discharge. Come to think of it, Harry, you two are the finalists. Well, we all join in wishing you both the very best of luck in the future.

Personally speaking, Harry, I am really vexed to see you go, if only on account of your taking your hat with you. It was the only thing that backed mine up!

**Mainly Meteorological.**—During the recent gales which swept the country, the face of the clock in the Market Place at Richmond, Yorks, was blown out and fell a distance of sixty feet. "Tempus" does certainly "fugit."

Whilst facing a strong wind, a pedestrian at Scotton lost his sense of direction between 4.15 p.m. and the bus terminus.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

**HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS**

**Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.**

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

Blown into the river Swale at Richmond, an elderly man was soaked to the skin.

**Things People Say.**—"I am browned off." (Mr. G. K. Chesterton.)

**The Lay of the Land.**—If hens laid eggs as frequently as E Company lay kits, there would be a glut of omelets. But there can be no possible shadow of doubt about the good resulting from these things: awfully fine for keeping a fellow up to scratch. Pity they mess a kit up, though. Can't find a thing when I want it!

**? ? ?**—If Piccadilly Circus is the hub of the universe, are we at liberty to accept Scotton as one of the spokes?

**Corporals' Mess, T.B.**—The ranks of the mess have suffered a much-regretted depletion this month in the loss of three of the stars, in Corpls Wooldridge and Ring (who have sailed for India), and R. C. Barrett (who has left for civilian street). Incidentally, their going deprives the Vat of three pretty hefty "bubbles." However, in wishing them the best of luck, we can point out that THE WIRE will keep them in touch with their old mess and Monty's moustache.

**Late Extra.**—We have just received news that the Signals team ran into third place in the North-Eastern Counties cross-country championships held at Stockton on Saturday, February 12th. Well done, Signals!

**Eddy Calling!**—Sigmn T. Cook, of this Company, would like to get into communication with Sigmn J. Stocks, late of D Company T.B., and now believed to be with D Troop Cavalry Signals, Tidworth.

Will Sigmn Souther, of A Corps Signals, Ewshott, please communicate with Sigmn Horner, of this Company.

**Tail Piece.**—We rather admire the senior n.c.o. who, when answering the phone and hearing the staff captain announce himself over the line, sprang smartly to attention and saluted.

L. H. D.

## F Company, Training Battalion.

The boys again! Hear our cry from the dim and distant north. The monthly attempt to portray the activities of umpteen examples of youthful soldiers is attempted. We are still a large part of the Training Battalion, in spite of those pillars of sport who are compelled to leave us on coming of age.

The Boys' Club is a great thing nowadays, and stands as a solid proof of our anti-discomfort propaganda. We have attempted nothing social so far this year, but hope to start something soon. We regret to announce that our last club "housekeeper" has passed away—being posted to Ewshott; but we are standing the loss as well as we can. Our leading light has also gone. That head; that hair; some air. Our monthly whist drives deserve a word. C.S.M. Gibson kindly fulfils the role of M.C., while those of Scotch origin guard the prizes. The Boys' Club is fast becoming indispensable to us, and will stand long if the wind keeps calm.

**Arrivals.**—A small addition has been made to our numbers of late. We welcome the following, who have arrived to try their hand at soldiering: Boys H. Burns, Fitzpatrick, Gartery, Healy, Roderick, Lennon, Ryder, Cleveland, Billingsley, E. E. Smith, Whalebelly, Hawcroft, Burch, Robinson, Branagan, and Jennings.

We also welcome a few more old faces. The following left us at Maresfield for the Western Command Signal Company, and now return to find us at Catterick: Boys Bowie, Cooper, Dymond, Harbin and Smith.

We wish them all the best, and hope they will soon accustom themselves to the Catterick climate.

**Departures.**—While welcoming new faces, we find a few of the old ones are "folding their tents and creeping silently away," as it were. We lose the following: Boy. T. S. Bell to A Corps Signals; Boys A. R. Knowles, C. S. Burke, S. H. Beaumont, P. Gregory, L. J. Thomas, and E. Millhouse, to B Company, Depot Battalion.

The following lads have left us for the Western Command Signal Company: Boys Butler, W. Burke, W. Brett, R. Debow, H. Sebborn, Matthews, and G. Cox.

**Our Weather Report.**—A flash of sunshine may appear to-day, but a total eclipse of the sun (by clouds) will occur during the latter part of the morning and all the afternoon. A hurricane is advancing from the west, and a cyclone will probably make a flank attack later in the day. A deep depression hangs over the cookhouse, and a ridge of high pressure will be over here by pay-time. Anti-cyclones being out of fashion, an area inspection will be made by Jack Frost early to-morrow. A bewildering mist still hangs over the lecture huts. Further outlook—impossible.

LES DEUX GARCONS.



## School of Signals.

**Discharge.**—C.Q.M.S. W. J. Francis departed for civilisation on January 22nd. The very best wishes of the School went with him.

**Postings.**—(With apologies to Omar Khayyam).

"'Tis all a chequer-board of nights and days
Where Records with men for pieces plays:
Hither and thither moves, and mates, and slays,
And one by one back in the cupboard lays."

L/Sergt E. S. Huggett to North Ireland Signal Company. Corpl C. H. Tolley to Aldershot Command Signal Company. Sigmn E. W. Stone to A Corps Signals.

Sergt E. Graddon, M.M., from 2nd Divl. Signals. Sigmn F. Keywood from A Corps Signals. L/Sergt H. F. Hall from North Ireland Signal Company—all to Administration Company.

We wish them all the best of luck in their new spheres.

**Extension of Service.**—A/Sergt J. Jackson, after due deliberation as to getting married or signing on, decided wisely and signed on February 1st to complete 12 years.

We will not say that the rumour that two sergeants had died somewhere or other influenced his decision in any way, but we have our own opinion. We think that the inter-Company football knockout competition may have had something to do with it, too. Who knows!

## Catterick Concoctions.

**No. 1—Which concerneth the showing of kits and the outcome thereof.**

1—Now, ye have heard how the mighty tribe of Signals are scattered far and wide over the face of the earth.
2—Some there are in the north and some in the south. Some have habitation in the east, whilst others have pitched their tents in the west with the setting sun.
3—But it is in the land of Eng that the tribe have their home, even at Katterik, which is in Yawks, a majestic and solemn place.
4—And here are gathered many minor tribes, even the Acks and the Beers, the Donz and the Eddyz, and many others each so named after the following of his craft.
5—And it was with the tribe of Eddyz that thy humble scribe was come to rest.
6—Now, with the second month there came a message calling away the captain of the tribe of Eddyz, even unto a far land.
7—And behold, he was gone from their midst.
8—Now, there was of the tribe an officer of the hosts of Artilary. And he was become captain of the tribe of Eddyz for a space.
9—Whereupon he calleth about him his centurions and spake unto them in this wise, saying:
10—"Behold, it is the custom of the hosts of Artilary to stand to their guns. Therefore I say unto you, the tribe of Signals will stand to their kits."
11—And it was so.
12—And, lo, there was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth throughout the tribe. And like unto the daughters of Israel, they would not be comforted. In sackcloth were they clothed, and placed they ashes upon their heads.
13—One there was who goeth unto his neighbour's tent and sayeth:
14—"Lo, of these many things am I lacking, yet have I hope and a piece of fourbytwo."
15—Whereupon his neighbour maketh answer, saying:
16—"Thou art richer than I, for, behold, thou hast fourbytwo."
17—And they went their ways and were not seen.
18—So that it came to pass that the tribe had need of much raiment, and few there were who had as much as a mite when the day was spent.
19—Wherefore say I unto you, take ye care of the Pennys and the pounds will take care of themselves.

L. F. D.

# ALDERSHOT NEWS.

## A Corps Signals.

### Unit Headquarters.

Ewshott Camp, Feb. 15th.

**Christmas Party.**—On Thursday, January 20th, Lieut.-Col. R. M. Powell, D.S.O., and the officers of the unit entertained the married families to a Christmas party. While tea was being served in the N.A.A.F.I. restaurant adjoining the dance hall, a jazz band played popular dance tunes and favourite nursery rhymes. The music, the Christmas crackers and the laughter of the children combined to present a very jolly scene to the onlookers.

After tea, the coy smiles of the little ones showed a strong feeling of awed expectancy. A number of them could not restrain themselves from asking when Father Christmas was coming. However, he was not yet due, and there followed a delightful concert. The conjuror's entertaining ways were appreciated by the fathers and mothers and the elder children. The screams of laughter could be heard in the old unit office. Personally I preferred the remainder of the programme, organised and produced by Mrs. Edwards, to whom our very warmest thanks are tendered through these columns.

The players who took part in the popular operetta, "Snow-White" were heartily applauded for the clever way in which they acted their respective parts. They were:—

Snow-White .....Miss Maisie Edwards.
The Prince .....Master Tom Edwards.
The Wicked Queen .....Miss Violet Steele.
Dwarfs .....Miss Joyce Bowker and Master Bob Steele.

The final scene, in which the Prince proclaimed his love of Snow-White, was enhanced by the heroic way in which Master Edwards rendered "Always." Well done, Tommy!

**The Annual Visitor.**—After numerous games under the direction of Lieut T. C. Thompson, M.C., we lined up on both sides of the hall to await the arrival of Father Christmas. The lights went out, except those on the Christmas tree; then arose shrieks of excited children as the annual visitor drove down between the ranks in a decorated sleigh. Following the distribution of presents came a grand march round the Christmas tree, when the children received oranges and sweets from the officers and Father Christmas.

At the conclusion of the evening's jollification rousing cheers were given for the officers and the committee who worked so hard to make the show a very successful one. The children are looking forward to the 1927 Christmas party, which we hope will take place at Smallshot.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**Fancy Dress Dance.**—Without scarcely recovering from the excitement of the Christmas tree, we found ourselves feverishly creating fancy dresses for the dance given by the members of the mess on Friday, January 28th. Never again (at least, not with soda water syphons so handy).

Many congratulations were deservedly bestowed upon Q.M.S. Edwards and Sergt Francis for the artistic decoration of the dance hall.

There were numerous fancy dresses, but we hope to see a greater number from the gentlemen next time. The prizes were very kindly presented by Mrs. Thursby-Pelham, the following being adjudged winners:—

Ladies—1st, Mrs. Taylor, R.A.M.C., Aldershot, "Negress." 2nd, Mrs. Gregson, R.A.M.C., Aldershot, "Peahen." 3rd, Mrs. Cole, R.A.M.C., Crookham, "Saxon Lady."

Gentlemen—1st, Sergt Strange, Unit H.Q., "K.C.B." 2nd, C.Q.M.S. Birch, No. 3 Company, "Indian Bearer." 3rd, Mr. Dockerill, Crookham, "Schoolmaster."

**Command Billiards Championships.**—We have had four evenings' entertainment in watching the mess team of six members playing off the preliminary rounds in the Command billiards championships. The following are the results:—

February 8th—1st Pack Brigade, 472; R.Signals, 557.
February 9th—1st Pack Brigade, 507; R.Signals, 498.
February 10th—Depot R.A.M.C., 568; R.Signals, 437.
February 14th—Depot R.A.M.C., 600; R.Signals 312.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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**Jazz Band.**—Pray pardon my lack of modernity, but being a pupil in a state of darkness as regards the "Charleston," I wonder whether A Corps Signals could produce a jazz band of its own. I know of a number of musicians who can "strum a string or two" on a ukelele or a guitar (T.B. Mess, please remember the goitre), and a recent arrival brought certain jazz instruments with him from "Singamalay." Will any one take up the task of mustering a band? Now then, musicians, help the unit along by adding one more leaf to our laurels.

**Departures and Arrivals.**—The unit joins in wishing C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Birch and family bon voyage to India, and hoping that their second sojourn in that country will be as happy as the first.

Corpl H. Hoyland, known to many ex-boys as "Mallet," has joined us from India, also Sigmn Cole. A hearty welcome is extended to them.

**Isle of Wight Construction Party.**—The detachment at Bembridge Fort will rejoin us on Friday, February 18th

PETER.

### No. 1 Company.

**General.**—Having heard a big moan from the men of the Company over the lack of notes in last month's WIRE, we will take care that in future the world will be informed of our movements.

The furlough season is still with us, but nevertheless training has started in earnest. Our n.c.o.s had a preliminary spurt on their own, and a few (married men, mark you) were heard to remark that they had not enough cash to keep their throats oiled for the occasion.

It seems quite obvious that riding and driving drill is about to commence, as section n.c.o.s are considering the amount of blanco they need to harden the men's seats.

We are all very sorry to hear of the illness of Major Walsh, and wish him a speedy recovery.

**Marriages.**—Sigmn Sowden to Edith Caroline Berry. Sigmn Yates to Alice Agnes Brooks. More of our brethren gone to their doom!

**Departures.**—Signalmen Kemp, Donaldson, Phillips, Fraser, Voller and Soper, and Drivers Marsh and Phipps to civvy street. L/Corpl Stanton and Sigmn Tyler to the Rhine. Sergt Carter and Signalmen Darvill, Giddy, Headford, Shepard, Renals and Hornal to China. We wish them all the best of luck.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome the arrival of L/Corpl Russell and Signalmen Keeble, Crowley, Morris and Newnham, and hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

AKOR.

### No. 3 Company.

No, we have not gone to China. At least, not yet. Of course we are always ready in case we are needed.

Our cross-country runners have been doing intensive training lately. There is no connection between the first paragraph and this one.

We sent a draft of nine men to join the Shanghai Defence Force last month, and by this time they will nearly be there. Best of luck to them all, and we hope they received their WIRE in due course. We may see them all again before long. Who knows?

On February 15th we said goodbye to a few more of the Company, who are leaving for India: C.Q.M.S. Birch, L/Corpl E. Hudson, and Signalmen Few, Shipton, Samuels, F. Smith, Myddleton, and J. May.

We lost quite a number of the old hands of the Company last month, transferred to the Army Reserve: L/Corpl Blanchard, Sigmn Nobby Lund, Drivers Eatwell, Green and Pickrell. We wish them the best of luck in civvy street. We hope Nobby Lund will soon realise his ambition of keeping a pub (or would it be more correct to say the pub keeping him?)

I mentioned the cross-country team once before. Well, we hope to go a long way in the Aldershot Command inter-Company cross-country championships. There is not much doubt about our team "going a good way" if rumours as to the probable course to be followed are not without foundation.

To mention all arrivals from Catterick and the Rhine during the past two months would try the patience of the best Part II. Order compiler, not to mention the Editor of THE WIRE, who might enquire if this magazine is an enlarged casualty report. However, we hope they soon settle down here.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot, Jan. 31st.

**Appreciation.**—It is a pleasure to record the go-ahead spirit which actuates those responsible for the production of the Corps Journal.

In the first place, let it be noted, the February issue was received in this unit and ready for sale on the 1st inst. (Mr. Editor: is that a hint to correspondents to be up to time with unit notes?)

Secondly—that mass of valuable information above Editorial Notes will be appreciated by more than one Signal unit and individual, including the 1st Divisional Signals.

Thirdly—Tales from Barleux. Those who miss his tales—not "plain," though—lose many a laugh. To those with a fed-up feeling: just turn to "Pretty Ancient" in last month's issue, and if you cannot raise a crease in your cheeks, then you are hopeless!

The Wireless Camera Club, Egypt, is to be congratulated on an interesting set of pictures from a land with which some of us are not yet acquainted. In an issue of THE WIRE some months ago, a correspondent in India related much of interest concerning names of Indian stations and their derivation. Could Egypt Signals produce something of a similar nature, how happy we should be "getting to know" all about the land of the Pharaohs.

Drake! 'tis more than "sauce" to serve Yorkshire Relish in such a form. You have always been hot stuff, but in your latest you really make one feel very cold and not a bit inclined to make a trip up north. Is it truly as cold and "breezy" as you portray?

**Ins and Outs.**—An omission due to the rush to get the notes of last month away, we now hasten to correct. It is to say how happy we are to greet Major R. E. Vyvyan from Singapore, and how sorry to see Major J. A. F. Mair depart for India. May we hope for many jottings from C Divl. Signals now?

We have said au revoir to a good many during the month. The Chinese puzzle caused a good deal of speculation, but in the end we were only called upon to find one officer and five other ranks. May those who have gone to the "Bad" (readers, do not misconstrue this!) find it a pleasant place. It used to be during the happy days when the mark was 1000 to the pound sterling.

Our losses were Capt T. H. L. Turner, C.Q.M.S. Biart, Signalmen Bishop, Brown, Jardine and Ray to 4th Divl. Signals (for Shanghai Defence Force). L/Sergt Callegari, L/Corporal Salmon, Signalmen Garry and Sankey to Germany. Lieutenant Sutton-Pratt and Sigmn Seaton to D Troop. Signalmen Elliott, Cottom, Ford, Moore, Drivers Geary, Tuck, Neal, Davies, Langley, Cavalla and Whitby to Army Reserve. Sergt F. G. Brown to discharge. L/Sergt Cobb to 2nd Divl. Signals.

The Land of the Firstdivsigs is made more happy by the arrival of Signalmen Sheppard, Webb, Fearnley, Squibbs, Cure, Marshall, Hollands, Parry and Wilson from the Training Battalion; Signalmen Newman, Payne, Powell, Bailey, Crockford and Wheeler from the Depot Battalion; Signalmen Brown and Southcott from Egypt Signals; L/Sergt Farley, L/Corpl Clevitt, Signalmen Balch and Dryden from Rhine Signals.

**Ups and Downs.**—Amazing as it may seem, there was more than an element of truth in the few lines under this heading last month. Those who compile records should note this: 75% of those who presented themselves before a trade board passed into a higher class of their trade group. It was done by "getting down to the job"—that little phrase is especially for those going up to the next board. Try to beat the present record: Signalmen Duff and Seaton to carpenters, class i. Signalmen Millen, Harding, Jacques and Pritchett to ops. vis. class iii. Sigmn Keneally to op. line, class ii. Sigmn Fisher to D.R. class iii. Sigmn Smith to clerk, class iii. (b.)

**Valuable.**—A special certificate has been awarded to Lieut Glover on completing his course at the School of Artillery. Lieut Pope obtained a pass in animal management at the R.A.V. School. Sigmn Catt a pass from the School of Hygiene course. Sigmn Davies completed his course at the School of Cookery.

**Looking Around.**—The D.D.V.S. paid us a visit—his annual one—on the 28th January. How could the weather be so unkind to everyone? A bleak east wind and rain made things most uncomfortable.

**Happy Days.**—We wish to congratulate Corpl McGowan on his embarkation on the great adventure. May he and Mrs. McGowan have very many happy days.

**Recovering.**—Sergt Blackburn is making a good recovery from a further operation consequent on his smash a year or so ago. Sigmn Langridge, who lies opposite him in the same ward, keeps very cheery and replies to you with a leg well strung up, "I'm quite well, thank you!" That is the real spirit. We are all hoping that Sigmn Pottinger, who is now at Netley, is on the way to recovery—but no news is to hand.

D.S. ONE.

### No. 3 Company

One thing that is important, not to say serious, is the steady decrease of the old faces in their fading away to that rather uncertain region, civvy street. No longer shall we foregather around the roaring fire and swap yarns of the doings of different sections and individuals during the past training seasons and manœuvres.

There is also the steady influx of the new rate men, and one can hardly remember who is who. Anyway, let us hope they enjoy themselves as much as those who have gone before.

One certain signalman, since transferred to the Reserve, darkly confided to me his ambition (nurtured during the manœuvres previously mentioned, no doubt) of buying the biggest and most luxurious car possible, and following the fortunes of an Infantry Brigade Section in their varied wanderings over the landscape, to gloat over their misfortunes and tenderly enquire after the condition of their pedal extremities (nasty blighter!)

The old timers, with only a few months to do, recently attended a lecture on "Emigration, and how to go about it"—very nice and entertaining, besides bringing to light some very useful and valuable knowledge concerning the Colonies. Quite a few fellows are now airily talking of becoming sheep-herders, cowboys, milkmaids, etc. The Colonies certainly seem a sound proposition to those unable to find employment on leaving the Army. There is, of course, the question of losing Reserve pay on emigrating, but I understand that this point is nearly settled.

**Agony.**—Sigmn G. Brown, recently arrived in this Company from Egypt, wishes to be remembered to Daphne and Nobby of G.H.Q., Cairo. A few friends here are asking after Johnston and Muckler of the same detachment. Does Crossley understand "Ingleterra molto-buono" yet? Will Corpl Coleman correspond with Brownie at this address? Squib (ex G Coy.) would like to hear from Sigmn Harry Goddard, now in Palestine.

Reference, "Scoops, Coal" (which has been the daily query of a certain estimable gentleman of this Company, now on a vocational course).—This matter is now in the hands of the War Office, who will no doubt send the required article c.o.d.

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**Departures.**—Capt D. A. Brown, M.C., who has been O.C. here for the last two years or more, leaves us for Catterick. The Company wish him the best of luck in his new quarters up north.

Signalmen Pidwell, Hardman, Coker and E. Smith have doffed khaki for "Martin-Henrys" on their transfer to the Reserve.

**Arrivals.**—Major Vyvyan, M.B.E., M.C., took over command of the Company on February 14th. This news will no doubt interest all the cricket "fans." We give him a hearty welcome, and hope for his prolonged stay with us.

**Marriages.**—Dvr Rogers, Signalmen W. S. B. White and S. Smith. Heartiest congratulations and best of wishes on their taking the plunge.

W. R. R.

## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 Company.

**Training.**—The Company is at present engaged in intensive training, and several 24-hour schemes have been arranged which will afford much useful practice in preparation for bigger events to follow.

**Postings.**—We were sorry to lose Sergt E. Gradden, posted to the School of Signals, and wish him every success in his new home. Good luck to Signalmen Simpson, Oliver and Whittaker, posted to the 4th Divl. Signals prior to embarkation for China. We hope that they will help to solve the Chinese problem.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome the following, posted to this Company: Sergt W. Tolley from Egypt Signals. Signalmen S. Cole

and R. Whittle from T.B., S.T.C. Signalmen G. Chapman, G. Prescott, and G. Mountney from the Rhine Army. L/Corporal Wells from India.

**Promotions.**—L/Sergt A. Penfold appointed A/Sergeant. Sigmn H. Wilcock appointed L/Corporal on the Corps roster.

**Re-Classifications.**—Sergt S. Radford classified as operator, wireless, group B, class i.

Signalmen H. Osborne and W. Yalden as operators, wireless, group B, class ii. Signalmen F. Adams, S. Cordell, R. Dicker, C. Dodd, R. Hillier, A. West, and W. Willmington, as operators, wireless, group B, class iii.

Signalmen W. Harbury and J. Varey as linemen, group B, class iii. Sigmn H. Hill as electrician, wireless, group B, class iii. Sigmn W. Underwood as wheeler, class ii.

**Discharges.**—All the best to L/Corpl A. Ellis, Driver F. Bloxome, and Sigmn Harman, transferred to the Army Reserve during February.

HAMO.

## No. 2 Company.

Once again things are normal, and we are all back from leave—Capt Mathew being the last, returning from South Africa looking as though he had seen more sunshine than we have.

Technical training is still the question of the day. Most trades have had their trade board, and for the Company the result is very satisfactory. The operators (visual) and a few linemen are still waiting for the March trade board.

Our newly made C.i operators (line) soon left us, being posted to the 4th Divl. Signals for service in China. We are expecting Monty to send us a few tips on the use of chopsticks. Our last Indian draft left us on Tuesday, February 15th, for the sunny clime.

Things are in full swing for the trophy. Now, all you dark horses, don't be nervous; give us your names, and let us know what you can do towards keeping the cup in the Company.

**Vocational Training.**—Sergt Dickerson is worm-turning at the School of Market Gardening. We are hoping he will give us an interesting lecture at our next allotment holders' social.

**Departures.**—Sergt Gordon and Sigmn Lawrence have left us for Germany. Corpl E. J. Halls, Signalmen Hales, Faulkner, L. George, Godly, Hanna, McDonald, C. Mathews, S. Mathews and C. Mepham have also left for India. We wish them all the best of luck in their new stations.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt Hoad, Signalmen Lowe, Chettleburgh, Bush, Wright and Burton. We wish them all a long and happy stay with us.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—The appeal to contributors by the Editor, in the February issue, was in my case a timely reminder that I had been lax in forwarding the usual few words. Of course there is always some excuse to offer, but I realise that producing the goods is far better than offering a few words of apology for their absence.

Now that furlough is, generally speaking, finished, attention is turning towards trade tests, dependent upon whether a few more picks and shovels require shining. It is said that the burnish put on these articles by our shovel shiners is so brilliant that the R.E. storeman has taken to wearing smoked glasses. However, there is a slight chance that after this month we shall have completed our tasks, if not for ever, at least for this year (late members of the Troop, please note).

I had a suspicion some months ago that our office boy had either taken out a fire insurance policy on our office, or that he was desirous of giving us a display in pyrotechnics. Fortunately or otherwise for all concerned, my suspicions proved well founded, for upon returning from furlough I found he had provided a most beautiful fire under the office table—much to the delight of the 16/5th Lancers, who thoroughly enjoyed their sojourn on the barrack square whilst the display was being got under.

Of course cardboard boxes are quite good receptacles in which to place red hot ashes, but I cannot help thinking that a "box, coal, 80 lbs.," would have served the purpose better. However, it's a bad fire that does nobody any good, and the now "ex" office boy was asked to contribute the sum of £1 towards the cost of the display. A cheap affair, you will say, but the lad did his best. Besides, love is a funny thing!

At the kind invitation of the O.C. 3rd Divl. Signals and officers of the Royal Signals, Southern Command, our married families attended the Christmas party at Bulford on Saturday, January 5th. As an account of this affair has already appeared in the January notes of the 3rd Signals, I will simply take this opportunity of thanking those officers and the organising committee for a most wonderful show.

**Promotions.**—A/U/L/Corpl Hill to be L/Corpl on the Corps roster w.e.f. 17/1/27, vice L/Corpl Moggridge (transferred to the Army Reserve). A/Sergt C. V. Smith to be Sergeant w.e.f. 11/6/27. Sigmn H. Stevens to be A/U/L/Corporal vice L/Corpl Hill. Hearty congratulations; and remember, there is always a Field-Marshal's baton in every soldier's knapsack!

**Association News.**—An extensive campaign has been launched in the Troop, in an endeavour to enrol all our fellows in the Association on the 9d. per month scheme. Now then, chaps, roll up and assist us to obtain a 100% membership.

**Transfers to Army Reserve.**—Sigmn F. S. Tirrell to Section B, 16/2/27. All ranks wish him the best of luck.

**Departure.**—Sigmn H. F. S. Smith to India, 15/2/27.

**Marriage.**—Sigmn W. C. Chalk entered the realms of married bliss on 1/1/27.

**Arrivals.**—L/Sergeant F. O. Rhodes from India via Egypt. Signalmen Merritt, Moorhouse and Nichols from S.T.C. Signalmen Thompson and Richardson from India. We welcome them, and hope their stay will be to their liking.

SANDY.

## No. 1 A.A. Signal Company.

Blackdown.

**General.**—The furlough season has come to an end, and we are settling down to work once more. Construction of permanent line in replacement of old air lines is in progress, providing a useful field of instruction for the recruits who have recently joined the Company.

It is very gratifying to record that at the recent trade test seven of the nine applicants successfully passed the board. It is hoped that an even better percentage of passes will be obtained at the next board, for which a dozen or so are under training.

**Marriages.**—Very hearty congratulations to Capt W. H. G. Rogers (adjutant, 26th and 27th A.A. Signal Companies, T.A.) on his marriage. He and Mrs. Rogers have our best wishes for their future happiness.

We also wish Sigmn and Mrs. Hawkins the very best of luck for the future.

**Births.**—Congratulations to the following "daddies": Corpl Gristwood and Sigmn Postle, presented with daughters; L/Corpls Cockings and Betts, and Sigmn S. Smith, presented with sons.

**Death.**—It is with regret that I have to record the death of the infant son of L/Corpl and Mrs. Lowday. All our sympathy goes out to them in their bereavement.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl Green, Signalmen Chapman and Burley from the Rhine. Signalmen Ellis, Fairweather, Kendall, Rouse, Ratcliffe, Clements, Avis, Feltham, Jones, Turner, Mepham, Wing and Yeadon from Catterick. May their stay with the unit be happy and useful.

**Departures.**—Corpl Finney, Signalmen O'Sullivan and Edgeley to the Rhine. Our wishes for the best of luck go with them.

By the time these notes are in print, our old friend Sergt "Yorkie" Sheale will be with the Northern Ireland Signal Coy. We are very sorry to lose him, and wish him all the best in his new sphere of activities. He is still a good old "war horse" at soccer, hockey and cricket, and we shall miss him on our sports field.

**Army Reserve.**—The following have returned to civil life: Corpl Elford, Signalmen Knipe, Trowell, Gillott, Harding, Bowell and Clarke. The best of luck to them all.

**Re-engagement.**—Sigmn F. E. Smith has re-engaged to complete 12 years with the Colours. Will Baghdad Signals please note?

ACK-ACK.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Bulford Camp.

**W.O.s and Sergeants' Annual Binge.**—This took place on January 21st. The first half of the ceremony was held in the dining hall of the mess, and from all accounts was an event to be treasured in the memory.

At about 9 p.m. the ladies arrived, and the party adjourned to the unit recreation room for the ball. Here the establishment was rapidly made up to about 350 souls. The Ellis-Barl band kept everybody on the move until 3 a.m. with their up-to-date music. Major A. C. Allan brought almost every officer in the unit, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It is to be regretted that, at the close of the festivities, L/Sgt Holloway trod on a piece of bunting supported by an empty space six feet deep. This proved to be the orchestral pit, which was not in use at the time. Happily, Shoey was none the worse for his sickening drop.

**Individual Training.**—The first period has now terminated. Results of tests are not yet available, so that most of us are very hopeful in spite of the paragraph in "Plain Tales." It is hoped that all who tried have gone up one. To those who found it just a shade too much for them, we say, "If at first you don't succeed" and the rest of it.

It seems that we shall see a fair proportion of drivers re-mustering as tradesmen at the end of the training season. Good luck to them. "Excelsior" and what not, as Drake's mountaineer observed.

**Breezes, 1927.**—This well-known concert party is once more active, in spite of the fact that Lieut C. A. Oliver, the energetic producer, has been away from us for some time. Now that he has returned it is hoped to present a show about Easter, and with the powerful cast they again have it will be folly to miss it.

**Froth Blowers News.**—The following have left us for various reasons: "Blaster" Sergt C. Harrison to the Terriers at Exeter. What will K Section do?

"Vertical Breeze" Sergt P. Hall to India, where we hope he will continue to enjoy his phenomenal luck in lotteries.

"Tornado" L/Sergt S. A. Rose (better known as "Womany Wose") to India for the purpose of gaining first hand knowledge of Indian curry in its relation to rissoles.

"Vat Scrounger" Kidby has cast away his corporal's chevrons in favour of a civilian collar (and possibly a tie).

In wishing all these worthy "blowers" the best of good fortune, we would add that news of their early promotion to Chief High Hop Strafer will be hailed with joy.

An extra unit farewell dance was given on February 14th for the lads of the Indian draft. A special Charleston for them caused roars of laughter. "Auld Lang Syne" brought a boisterous evening to a close. We have to report that the "Froth Blowers' Anthem" was rendered with such terrific effect that the roof of the annexe to the recreation room has only just been returned from Durrington.

**Billiards.**—A Garrison billiard tournament has now commenced, and is divided into two sections. One section comprises n.c.o.s below the rank of l/sergeant, and the other of signalmen and drivers.

This unit is doing well, both teams having played four games, and won three and lost one.

There is a challenge cup and set of medals attached to the tournament, and according to the prophets this trophy is already ours.

We have some excellent cueists here now, the latest arrival being L/Corpl McBride. This n.c.o. had very bad luck in the Army billiards championship, losing a good game by the small margin of ten points in a game of 300 up. Better luck next time, Mac!

An inter-unit tournament is shortly commencing, and will be well on its way by the time these notes are in print. A challenge cup will be presented to the winning Company team.

**Arrivals.**—Sigmn C. Reddick from 4th Divl. Signals. C.S.M. G. Grist, Signalmen G. Ward and A. Rice, and Drivers Shorey, Smith, Taylor and Wilson from Depot Battalion. Sergt Westwood and Sigmn W. Walker from India. Signalmen H. Else, F. Purchase, H. Huson, L. Bucknole, S. Baldwin, C. Smith and Adams from Training Battalion.

**Departures.**—Corpl Kidby, Signalmen Corcoran and Gale, Drivers B. Fox, Rickard and Ritchie to Army Reserve. Sergt Thomas to Rhine Command. Sigmn Robins to Singapore. Dvr Cope discharged. Sigmn H. Newman discharged by purchase.

The following n.c.o.s and men to India on 15/2/27:—L/Sergt Rose and family, Sergt P. Hall, L/Corpl L. Humphrey, Signalmen W. Shorter, S. Nicholls, P. Wright, Warren, G. Booth, F. Pipe, F. Winton, P. Wolfe, Perkins, G. Nother, G. Pope, A. Pfaff, C. Wise, and Willis.




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**Extension of Service.**—Corpls S. Clay and Crabtree, and Sigmn Booth, extended to complete 12 years with the Colours.

**Education.**—Signalmen F. Purchase, A. Huson, R. Merritt and P. Pinn were awarded the 2nd class certificate on 10/12/26 at Catterick.

**Promotions.**—Appointed L/Corporal (paid) on Corps roster: Sigmn S. Carnell, w.e.f. 25/10/26; and Sigmn E. Crozier, 12/11/26.

**Marriages.**—L/Corpl P. Ives to Charlotte Farren at St. George's, Hanover Square, London, 25/12/26. Sigmn P. Pipe to Doris Currant, at St. Albans, Herts, 27/12/26. Sigmn C. Smart to Molly Violet Gibbitt, at Putney, 29/1/27.

E. R. B.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Messrs. Lyons' waitresses have earned for themselves the title of "nippy," but they've got nothing on the 4th Divl. Sigs. On the morning of January 22nd a most unwonted hustle was noted around the unit offices. Telegrams were being feverishly dashed off; conferences were being held here, there and everywhere. The Q.M.s staff ceased walking about with sheets of paper and pencils, and rallied round for an issue of overseas kit.

Some fifty or so (unlucky bounders) were recalled from leave, the majority returning in time to collect their double dose of inoculation from the unit orderly room. (The writer got *his* alright, but was struck off the draft list the next morning.)

While on the subject of the draft list, I must commend the intrepid bravery of the clerk who stuck it on the notice board. (What's a cauliflower ear, more or less?)

Memories of the ensuing days are rather vague, not to say hazy—but apparently the result was satisfactory, in the shape of a new body, the Shanghai Defence Force Signals. This happy band of pilgrims, with the exception of one officer and fifteen other ranks, entrained at midnight on the 27th for Southampton, en route for China. (The officer and O.R.s comprising the Cable Section went on February 5th.)

The band of the 2nd Battn. Leicestershire Regt. played the lads through the town to the strains of "The Froth Blowers' Anthem." A wait of half-an-hour or so was Charleston'd away, the wives and friends of the draft all joining in and helping to give them a jolly good send-off. I am afraid that one or two failed to reach the station under their own power, but they were happy, so why worry? Good luck to them all!

Ten other ranks leave us for India on February 15th, and the strength of the unit will then be about 160—nearly three hundred having left us within ten days.

As luck had it, a Signals Association dance had been arranged for the evening prior to the departure of the main body, and this was a great success. During the interval, Signalmen Tom Perritt and Ginger Day gave a couple of songs and recitations, and were heartily encored. You fellows who are now on the water are not missing anything in the jazz line, as a couple of flu germs have been oscillating to such good purpose that a ban has been put on Garrison dances for the time being.

Oh! what a picnic the "scratch" orderly room staff have had in clearing things up! If you don't mind my mixing metaphors a trifle, it was only by burning the midnight oil that we managed to get our heads above water. However, with the help of S/Sergt Chenery (of the R.A.P.C.) our pay-blokes have straightened the accounts at last. I have poignant memories of Sigmn Spiller sticking little bits of paper in his pay and mess book in an heroic endeavour to make more room in the "remarks" column (after midnight, this!) I believe the same person also experienced a little uneasiness re a certain three and nine.

On Thursday, February 10th, we played off the first round of the inter-Section six-a-side soccer competition. The H.Q. team were too heavily handicapped by avoirdupois, but they looked well. I'm afraid that's the most I can say for 'em. The spectators were enthralled by the graceful stream-lines of our centre-forward. You know the chap—used to M.C. the jazzes with the aid of a huge wooden spoon. Believe me, our Andee looks well in shorts.

Colchester possesses many ancient relics, one of the most interesting being the only mo'bike left in the unit that will run. The orderly D.R., Sigmn Beaumont, calls it by various names, mostly unprintable, but "Hesperus" suits it best, for reasons obvious to beholders of the bike. Never mind, Beau! we know it is bad luck to turn back, but one simply can't leave one's exhaust in the middle of the road.

It's a faithful old grid, and when Sigmn Beaumont leaves us for India on February 15th it can be trusted to run up to the canteen for a small Players for the clerks, or pop down to the G.P.O. with the mail. The policemen on point duty *never* signal the "Hesperus" to slow down. After all, it does look bad to have a motor cycle conk out on one's point. (Even a certain Bulford "Norton" could pick up a few tips on fidelity from this 'bus.)

**Personal.**—Cheer up, Barleux! even if the N.A.A.F.I. does sting you over the price of bacon. These institutions get rasher and rasher—Ow! ow!

Say, Bob! can you still get those luscious meat pasties from the place where you go to read orders? I shall never forget the picture of old King Cole investigating the interior of one, in an endeavour to trace a somewhat startling odour. His anxiety was in a measure unwarranted because, although he'd eaten more than half the pasty, he hadn't reached the meat!

**To F Company.**—Oh no! oh no! B.J.B.

**Fond Hope.**—May the fellow who recently (by mistake, of course) picked up my eversharp pencil be seasick all the way, and eventually stab himself with it. I suppose now that I shall find the said pencil in the pocket of an old tunic. Pardon?—Oh, yes, I *have* got one older than this.

Congratulations to U/L/Corpls J. H. Johnson, D. Burrell, F. Garratt, B. J. Bryan, J. T. Jones, and A. Henderson on getting one up. L/Corpl Burrell finds that he has numerous friends among the married crocks (he's i/c cookhouse). "Yes, please; sirloin—no bone—thanks!"

The undermentioned have left us for civvy street: Signalmen H. Ryan, W. Tubbs, A. E. Wyatt, W. Shay, Drivers A. Bevan, A. R. Pelton and H. C. Poole. Here's wishing them all the best of luck outside.

Before closing, I must mention a fact that will undoubtedly cause much unholy mirth among the departed warriors. The long-faced friends left in the stables so outnumber their attendants that each man has *three* horses in his care. Some of the men have had no experience, and their knowledge of horses doesn't extend beyond the certainty that they've got a leg in each corner—and a darned dangerous leg, at that.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—I'm sorry, but there aren't any notes. The erstwhile buzzing beehive of social merriment, as such, is no more. The only time members attend, nowadays, is when they muster for the grub-stakes—a scene of desolation!

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Belfast.

**General.**—Everything works on well-oiled wheels at present. That, however, is simply a fabrication, because we are really all upside down, being moved about from pillar to post; and it was only about ten minutes ago that I discovered it was time these notes were sent off.

To those who have been over here and seen how the Company was installed, it would come as a shock to see the alterations which have taken place. We now have a cookhouse and dining room worthy of the name, and we shall soon have a nice "comfy" office both for the C.O. and clerical staff. In fact, our two huts, which are being renovated, are the envy of the rest of the barracks.

Our long-faced chums have turned up, and quite a nice sample they are—only one having been issued before, the remainder being remounts. Our only difficulty in this line is lack of exercising accommodation, as anyone who knows Belfast at all will realise.

**Personal.**—Will Sigmn D. Irving, somewhere on the Rhine when last heard of, please communicate with his brother, Corpl J. B. Irving, of this Company.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Sergt Davies and family from India. We extend a hearty welcome, and trust they will not suffer too much from the difference in climate.

By the time these notes are in print we shall have received L/Sergt Huggett from the School of Signals, and shall probably pick up a few tips from Catterick. Sergt Sheale from No. 1 A.A. Signals, Blackdown, will also have joined us. We hope their stay with us will be all they could wish.

To our Sierra Leone comrades. Chippy did *not* collect the usual half-dollar, as the C.O. came down handsomely at 'Xmas.

CHIPPY.

## Rhine Signal Units.

February 14th.

One often reads apologies for the absence of notes in our Journal, but I wonder if one stops to think of the reasons in this case.

During January I took a month's rest—in my opinion, earned; in others, unearned. One doesn't know all that happens during a month's leave. For instance, how should I know that the G.O.C. had graciously consented to visit barracks and the like of that? Still, he did visit them (much to my pleasure) during my absence. I must be exonerated from all blame for the absence of notes last month, as prior to leaving I approached five persons with a view to getting a few notes sent in; but surprising as it may seem, they all fought shy.

Individual training is the order of the day, which will be substituted at the end of the month by Section training. This has been a good year for training, so we gather, and the annual re-classification should be little feared.

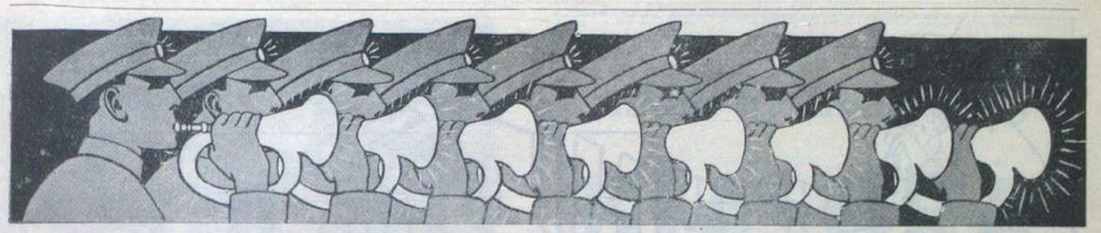
Our congratulations are extended to Corpl Marchant and L/Corpl Hardy on sharing the prize in the recent *Cologne Post and Wiesbaden Times* "Can you write" competition. Perhaps these individuals would like to write an article on Wiesbaden for our Journal. I am sure the Editor would be greatly pleased.

Capt R. G. Williams has handed down the old proverb, "Men may come, men may go," etc., he having left us for leave on February 1st prior to retirement. He has left a good record behind him in the work he has done for Signals on the Rhine, and has carried out the duties of P.R.I. thoroughly. We all wish him great success in his new sphere.

New faces seem to appear every day. We miss the old ones, but now that the main batches of 3-year men and those detailed for drafts have been despatched to their new stations, we should get settled down—or at least, when the large batch of reliefs for these people arrive.

The indoor games tournament has been all the rage in the n.c.o.s mess of late, many a good evening's entertainment having been provided. The games are played in the true sporting spirit,





Jump to it!

On parade! The usual hurry and scuttle. A hurried glance to see that everything is absolutely right. However, there is no need to trouble about badges and buttons, etc., if these have been cleaned with Bluebell because

BLUEBELL

*brings brightness and brings it quickly.*

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and never has there been a frown over many reverses. A whist drive and dance is at present afoot, and an enjoyable entertainment is assured, but I will give all particulars next month.

Signals Association functions have been rare of late, due mainly to the small credit balance, but we have been assured of a good time soon, perhaps in the form of a dance. The membership still continues very good, but there are still a few who cannot see daylight yet and who will persist in reading a comrade's copy of THE WIRE—we don't blame the non-members, but the members for allowing them to do it.

Although owing to certain circumstances (now, we think, happily overcome) the quality of our entertainments has deteriorated somewhat, the quantity has in no wise suffered, owing to the untiring energy of that much-maligned body of workers, the entertainments committee.

The ambitious programme which we set ourselves to produce each month is being rigidly adhered to; and though we can no longer claim the distinction of providing the best functions in the garrison, we are not so very far behind, and hope in the near future to regain the position we held for so long.

Our dances still continue to draw the garrison, in spite of the difficulties we have to contend with. Our first dance in January was well attended, and the music, supplied by the "Ordnance Syncopators," was all that could be desired. Everyone had a royal time, especially the prize winners in the spot dances. The lucky ones were Dvr Savage and Miss Blaubell, and an unknown warrior from the R.A.O.C. and his partner, who were in too great a hurry to get home before "lights out" to give their names. Boxes of chocolates for the ladies and cigarettes for the gentlemen were presented by Lieut E. V. McCormack on his first public appearance among us, and we hope that it will be a long time before we have to record his last.

A whist drive, held in the regimental institute on January 13th, under the able direction of Bandy Williams, proved a great success. The winners, after a herculean struggle, were: Ladies—1, Sigmn Lace; 2, Sigmn Mason; 3, Sigmn Westmore. Gentlemen—1, Sigmn Moody; 2, Dvr Porter; 3, Gunner Holtham, R.A.

The second dance, held in the institute on February 1st, proved even a great success than the first. An invasion (not unpremeditated, we think) by the members of the newly formed Charleston League provided quite a lot of fun, especially when one devotee of the googly dance (during a violent attempt to learn a new step) dropped both his star and his false teeth. To his credit as a Charlestonian, let it be said that he rescued the star first; and his subsequent attempts at simultaneous genuflection, double kicking, and false grinder replacing were highly amusing.

At 9.30 p.m. Capt R. G. Williams, M.V.O. (our late P.R.I, and the father of entertainments in these units) came in to bid us all goodbye before leaving for civvy life on retirement. Sigmn Williams, in a short speech, expressed the regret which everyone felt on his going, and wished him every success in civil life. In reply, Capt Williams showed how sorry he was to leave the unit which, he said, had served him so well, and urged us all to continue to serve our new O.C. in the same spirit. All present sang "He's a jolly good fellow," and then, with Capt Williams in the centre of the room, a link was formed and "Auld Lang Syne"—led by the Charleston Band—preceded three of the most rousing cheers that we could muster.

After Capt Williams' departure, Charleston once more claimed us for his own, and the fun was resumed.

The distribution of carnival novelties was managed in a highly original manner, and reflected great credit on the organiser, although the unfortunate individual who was on his back underneath the scrum still swears otherwise. Every one was sorry when the proceedings closed soon after midnight; and all are eagerly looking forward to the next dance about Feb. 15th, which we hope will be equally as successful as its predecessors.

Education Instr.: "What was England noted for in the olden days?"

Driver: "Commercial travellers."

L/Corporal to Operator (sending): "Are you on 1200 metres?"

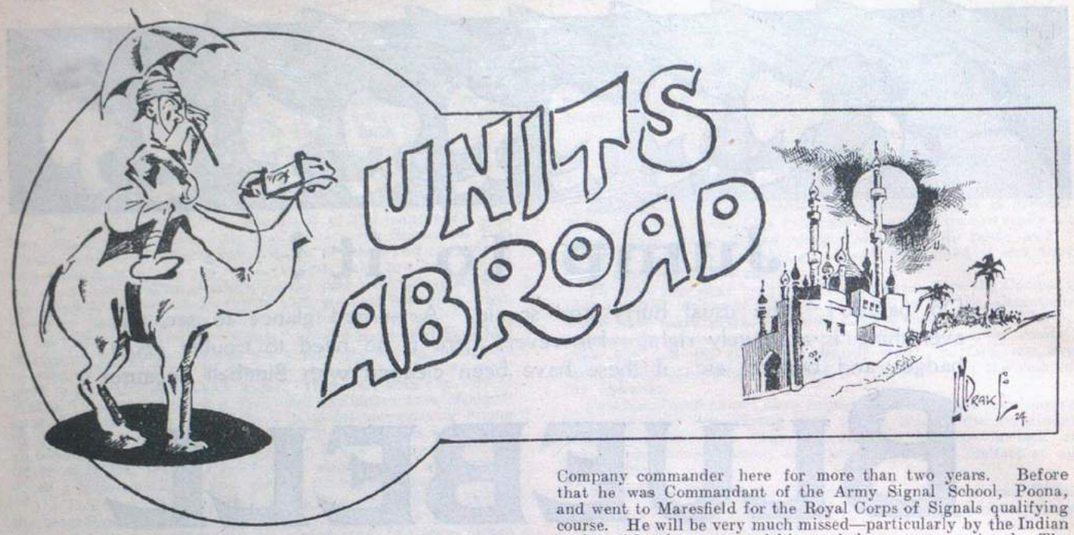
W/T Operator: "Yes."

Asst. W/T Operator: "He's on 1200; I saw it registered on the voltmeter."

Educ. Instr.: "How do you find the north if you haven't a compass?"

Driver: "Turn the hour hand to 12 o'clock, and wait till it rains." (Still waiting.)

ARMAC.




## Signal Training Centre (India).

Jubbulpore, January 20th.

**General.**—Since Christmas the chief event has been the Signal Conference held at Jubbulpore from January 17th to 22nd. This has now become an annual event, and nineteen Signal officers from Army headquarters, headquarters of Commands, and Signal units attended this year. The conference was held under Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., Signal Officer-in-Chief in India.

Nearly all the officers who came to the conference now belong to the Royal Corps of Signals, and it was the first time there have been so many officers of the Corps in this station at one time. This is the outward and visible sign of the unification and strengthening of the Corps in India.

Christmas festivities (thanks to the efforts of the O.C. A Company and a hardworking staff of volunteers) went through with a swing. On Christmas Night we had an excellent dinner, followed by a smoker in the gymnasium. The absence of any fixed programme did not detract in any way from the general enjoyment. Incidentally, we wish to deny the rumour that rubber signature-stamps are being provided at next year's dinner, owing to the craze for autographed menu-cards.

A dance was held on Wednesday, the 29th, to wind up the week's celebrations. Everyone had an enjoyable evening, and some commendable efforts were made to master the Charleston. The draft which arrived on the previous evening were unable to attend, being under the usual segregation: otherwise the outbreak might have been more prevalent.

The men from beyond the Tweed were disconsolate at the "feu de joie" parade on New Year's Day, but were compensated by the presence of the Indian ranks pipe band. True, the tartan kilts were replaced by shorts and puttees, and the streamers on the pipes were blue and white; but (with apologies) "The pipes are pipes for a' that." The general opinion after the parade was that we should have had our own pipers for the march past in close column.

Drafts continue to arrive from home, and are getting their first experience of Indian cold weather (and it *is* cold, for this part of India) in tents.

During the month, Lieut F. Rodman, Worcestershire Regt., and Lieut L. H. Tomkins, I.A., have been seconded to the Indian Signal Corps for a two-and-a-half years' tour of duty. Lieut H. C. B. Rogers, K.O.R.R., has joined for preliminary attachment.

It was with great regret that we heard of the death at Meerut, on January 4th, of Capt R. Brennan, M.C., 5th Gurkha Rifles. Capt Brennan had recently joined E Divl. Signals from the S.T.C. (India), after leave in Australia. He had been a Company commander here for more than two years. Before that he was Commandant of the Army Signal School, Poona, and went to Maresfield for the Royal Corps of Signals qualifying course. He will be very much missed—particularly by the Indian ranks with whom most of his work here was associated. The greatest sympathy is felt for his widow and young son.

Congratulations to Mrs. Barker on winning the ladies' open tennis doubles in the Jubbulpore tennis tournament in December, and to Capt W. M. Clapp on winning the men's open doubles and men's handicap doubles, with Capt C. A. Murray, in the same tournament.

**Corporals' Mess.**—At last the junior n.c.o.s are coming into their own, and there are more signs of life in the corporals' room nowadays. The Christmas "do" was held on the 27th, and exceeded expectations. "Shoey," in a dress suit reminiscent of Napoleon and the North-West Mounted, kept amusement running high throughout the evening. Some excellent items were rendered, though many were obviously impromptu. Yes, things are brightening!

SIGTRAIN.

## A Divisional Signals.

Peshawar, January 12th.

**Officers.**—We welcome Lieut J. A. I. Watts, R.Signals, to our midst after his sojourn at the School of Signals, Catterick, and trust that his stay with us will be a long and happy one. He is a most decided acquisition to our hockey team.

Capt C. M. Malden, 6/13th Frontier Force Rifles, bade us farewell on December 22nd, on being reverted to regimental duty. The best wishes of the whole unit are extended to him in his new sphere.

**Promotions.**—The undermentioned succeeded in winning their spurs on the 20th December, and are now full-blown paid lance-corporals on the India Unattached List: U/L/Corpls Clarke, B. Riando, C. Knight, H. Coaten, W. Johnson, and Douglas.

**General.**—Although a trifle late, we send best wishes for a happy New Year to all units, at home and abroad.

The main feature in this month's notes is the record of Christmas Day. At 8 o'clock we were aroused by the strains of an Indian piper marching through the barracks, playing that weird instrument which is the joy of all pukka Scotsmen. One of our men, of Scottish descent, even gave the musician one anna to play a certain tune again.

Talk about a sar-major's life! Coffee and biscuits in bed would make any civilian rush to enlist if he heard about it, but alas, it is only for one day in the year.

A fancy dress football match was held on the parade ground during the morning, and it must be admitted it was "some" show: a "grotesque costume display" would be an appropriate title. A glance at the photo on next page will prove this. Even Harrods could not have turned out such an amazing array as we did on that memorable day.

After the match, in which no goals were recorded, we trooped into the mess room to enjoy that most-looked-forward-to event of the year. There a picture awaited us of tables decorated as in the Ritz Hotel, walls and ceiling adorned with festoons, and looking for all the world like a miniature palace.

Capt E. P. C. Collin, in the absence of the commanding officer, proposed the health of the Company, which was responded to in a loud and suitable manner by all those present. Then we commenced to polish off the grand spread that was laid before us, but it was practically impossible to see it *all* off. Nevertheless we did justice to the dinner. After dinner we retired from the mess room, some to the barrack room and others to a concert given in the Soldiers' Home. It was agreed that the day was a great success, and even now there is heard in the canteen, "Roll on, next Christmas."

**Proclamation Parade.**—All Peshawar thronged to the Brigade parade ground on January 1st to witness the annual proclamation parade in celebration of the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Queen Victoria.

The parade, which was most impressive and emphasised the realism of British military strength, commenced at 10.30 a.m., when the Chief Commissioner of Peshawar rode on to the ground to take the salute. After firing the feu-de-joie, and giving three cheers for His Majesty, all units marched past the saluting base; and we can safely say that this unit was most splendid in their performance.

**Billiards.**—A silver cup, presented by Lieut Childs for the best billiard player in the unit, was competed for by practically the whole unit. I am sorry to relate that none of the "local lads" previously mentioned in THE WIRE were anywhere near the final. After eliminating games, Signalmen Edwards and Bush reached the final, and after a close game Sigmn Bush was declared the winner.

**Sport.**—The whole Company has been inspired by that little word, and every evening little groups may be seen in training for every kind of sport.

A boxing ring having been erected, we now hope to be able to have some rare good matches with other units in the garrison.

Our hockey team has been going great guns lately, having been in the final of two tournaments during the last month, the Fakhri Alam and the Kristna. We regret to record that in both matches we lost by the odd goal in three. Nevertheless we acquired a silver cup in the Fakhri Alam tournament, which no doubt will be followed by more in the near future.

ADIVSIGS.

## F Divisional Signals.

Kohat, January.

**Christmas Festivities.**—Christmas, 1926, has passed on, leaving behind very pleasant recollections. Altogether it was a very jolly time, lasting from the evening of the 23rd till the night of the 28th, with the following day to get over it.

To set the ball rolling, a fancy dress dance was held—a very bright and cheery show, with a large crowd imbued with the Christmas spirit. Many prizes were given, nearly all coming back home to F Signals.

On the 24th the kiddies' Christmas treat was held in the sergeants' mess, Daddy Christmas arriving in the person of Sergt A. G. Hales. This was followed by a band concert, and the B.O.R.s being "at home" to the rest of the unit. A snap-dragon contest took place round the bonfire. The ladies then

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Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; Toronto, Canada; India; Ceylon; Egypt; East and West Africa, etc.

betook themselves to the sergeants' mess, where a whist drive and a dance saw Christmas arrive.

Christmas Day was a blank, save for the great annual event: the dinner. This was a greater success than usual, and the dinner committee are to be congratulated upon their efforts.

The corporals' mess held their dinner on the 27th, followed by a whist drive and social. A very bright evening it was, too.

A fancy dress football match between the sergeants and junior n.c.o.s and men proved very enjoyable, and a collection on behalf of St. Dunstans realised 30s.

On the 28th the sergeants' mess annual dinner took place. The efforts of C.S.M. Jones and his committee resulted in a first-class dinner, about sixty sitting down. A social and dance followed.

**General.**—The Pack Artillery Section left for Akora Camp under Sergt S. A. Stevens, and returned just in time for Christmas. No. 1 Infantry Brigade Section also spent a few days at the same camp, under the command of Lieut R. W. Morgan, Royal Signals.

The coming month will see the first batch of details leave for home, followed by a further score or so in February. The next couple of months will see a great change in faces in the unit.

Many will be pleased to hear that Sergt Freddy Caines is now on the high road to recovery after being on the D.I. list, very critically ill with erysipelas.

A very successful race meeting is reported below.

**Racing on the Frontier.**—A very successful point-to-point meeting was held by F Divl. Signals at Kohat on Monday, January 10th. The two miles course was selected at a point five miles from Kohat, on the Bannu Road, a large natural mound of rocks providing an excellent grand stand. Despite the distance from cantonments, everybody in Kohat district seemed to be there and witnessed some good chases.

There were six races on the card, the first five each producing from six to ten entries, and the last as many as fourteen. Favourites were on the whole successful, and no startling dividends were paid by the "tote."

Plenty of tosses were taken, especially in the last race, when one horse achieved an amazing double somersault at the first jump, while as many as six riderless horses finished the course.

During the afternoon a picnic tea was provided by Major R. H. Rayner and the officers of F Signals, and at the close of the meeting, cups presented by the Signals officers were handed to the winners by Mrs. G. L. Pepys. The following are the detailed results:—

Kohat Cup (for British other ranks)—1, Sergt A. Keepen; 2, Sigmn S. Huss (both F Divl. Signals).

Frontier Cup (for officers of dismounted Services)—1, Lieut G. Constable (Pack Artillery); 2, Flight-Lieutenant G. Baker (R.A.F.). A good fast race, the favourite winning.

F Signals Cup (for officers of F Divl. Signals)—1, Capt F. J. Allen; 2, Lieut R. W. Morgan. Major Rayner's mare "Winifred" was the favourite, and led up to the last jump, when she unexpectedly commenced to give in.

Kissing Cup (for ladies)—1, Mrs. Nadin; 2, Mrs. May. A very sporting race. One charming competitor, who had led the field through most of the race, met the floor, but no damage was done. The favourite won.

Cavalry Cup (for officers of mounted Services)—1, Capt J. Prinsep; 2, Capt Andrew Davidson (both 5th (K.E.O.) Probyn's Horse). The favourite won.

Hangu Cup (open to all Indian officers and other ranks)—1, Jemadar Mohd Zamain (5th (K.E.O.) Probyn's Horse); 2, Havildar Indar Singh (F Divl. Signals). Quite a number came to grief in this race, but no real damage was done.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, Punjab, India, Jan. 4th.

**General.**—Christmas passed quietly: so quietly that it seemed almost as if something were lacking—something indefinable. It was certainly not a question of arrangements, for the catering and organisation were praiseworthy; and it was not a question of environment, for this is our second year here, and we are comfortably settled. Perhaps it was merely fancy!

Two gleams of brightness are memorable—one, a hockey match, and the other a paper-chase.

The match was between the men's and the sergeants' messes. The men won, mainly because of the help they received from their opponents' goal-keeper. The accompanying photographs will probably be of interest to readers, many of whom will be able to pick out old friends.

Sergeants' Mess Hockey Team

Men's Mess Hockey Team

The paper-chase, held on Boxing Day, was appreciated. We believe one or two people had to resort to what is popularly known as "the number six grip."

We commenced the year with the usual ceremonial parade, and afterwards had our photograph taken. The proofs have just reached us, but they are unfortunately unsuccessful, owing to several horses moving just as the exposure was made.

Sport has been a little behind for some months, but is reviving, especially as regards hockey, inter-troop and inter-section matches being played regularly and talent sorted out.

Boxing is under consideration again. Since the Signals' Northern Command tournament (last April) we have done little in this direction, the trouble being that although we possess men who can box and who are keen on the art, we have had no competitions in which to enter them. This month, however, we hope to send a few entrants to Lahore.

Living conditions are still improving, the latest benefit being the men's recreation room, which we hope to have comfortably furnished within the week. The corporals' room has been completed, and appears to be—if patronage is an indication—quite homely. Of the indoor games, darts is most popular.

From time to time the question of securing a billiards table has arisen. We have now arrived at the decision that such a course is impracticable, the main reason being that the makers will not install a table in any of the buildings we occupy, as the roofing is unsatisfactory, and would not protect the table. This is true enough.

Attention has been diverted from tennis just lately, and apart from a few games played at odd moments, nothing has been done.

**The Lighter Side.**—An arrival from Quetta tells (very often) the story of a promising young lieutenant who contracted black fever, turned black, and had to resume his career not as a lieutenant but as a jemadar! This is what is known as a "cold one."

In an unguarded moment we announced that a photograph of a typical cavalry signalman was to be taken and reproduced as an illustration to "The History of B Cavalry Signal Troop"—a work which is being prepared by the commanding officer. We have to date received modest offers from fourteen people, who are firmly convinced that they are just the thing!



**Horse Show.**—On the whole this was a keenly-contested affair, with a high standard in the turn-out classes. L/Sergt Peters' section (visual) won the troop flag, an award given to the best section annually. Results:—

Best turn-out, n.c.o.s—1, Sergt-Major Gidney; 2, Sgt Yates.
Best turn-out, men—1, Sigmn Rhodes; 2, Sigmn Dirs.
Best signalman rider—1, Sigmn Dirs; 2, Sigmn Coventry.
Handy polo ponies—Sergt-Major Gidney.
Open jumping—1, L/Sergt Standen.

Preparations are being made for the coming Brigade Show, where we hope to secure a prize or two.

**Signals Association.**—The Branch is progressing well, with a 97% membership. No doubt the laggards will make up their minds soon. What is good enough for such a high percentage of their comrades should be good enough for them.

Regarding THE WIRE, we regret to state that we have only about fourteen subscribers—roughly 32%. The general tendency seems to be to read a copy belonging to somebody else. We are doing our best to overcome this trouble.

A meeting is to be called with a view to organising an Association dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund. We feel it is high time we made an effort on behalf of this charity.

**Departure.**—L/Corpl Hall on six months' leave ex-India.

B. O. M.

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Sialkot, January 24th.

**Tennis.**—We commenced our New Year programme by entertaining the Ammunition Column, our old rivals. With a view to making a good show, several changes were made in our team; but the re-arrangement availed us little, for we were defeated for the third time. The superiority of our opponents was such that we did not win a single set.

The return match, played last Thursday, was a great surprise to all, for we won or drew nearly every round. We have every hope (now we are gaining experience) of winning frequently.

**Donnybrook Sports.**—These were held on the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Troop, merely for our own entertainment and not for any special trophy. The troop flag, competed for at the last horse show, was presented to L/Sergeant Peters, who commanded the winning section (No. 4 Visual). The members of the section were each awarded a medal.

The most amusing event in the sports was the boot-race—and to one person it was the most expensive. He is yet hoping to recover what he calls his beautiful "guard-mounters."

Results:—Jumping, Corpl Avton. Llovd Lindsay race, Cornl Avton's team. Boot-race, L/Sergt Peters. Tug-of-war, S.M. Gidney's team. Wrestling, L/Corpl Nimmo's team.

**Sialkot Brigade Horse Show.**—Our modest entries were successful to the extent of one second prize. This was secured in the pack-horse class.

**Sialkot Races.**—"Duplicity," ridden by Mr. Bushby, made a game effort in the Cosmopolitan Plate, but just failed to get a place. Considering that the horse was a late entry and had had no training, we think he did well.

**Social.**—A whist drive, supper and dance were held in the new recreation room last week. No admission charges were made, all expenses being paid by the Branch of the Signals Association. The dance, of the "hobnail" variety, was popular. The effect was slightly marred, as we could not procure a piano and had to use a gramophone—which proved a poor substitute. With this exception all went well, and everybody agreed that it was a good show.

**The Lighter Side.**—When it was announced that our neighbours, the Durham Light Infantry, were to depart for China immediately, the imagination of our tame "Know-all" ran riot. During the breakfast hour he gave official information regarding war establishment, mapped out the quickest route to Hong Kong, and finished up with a glowing account of his uncle, a very wonderful person who fought welters in the last Boxer Rebellion. The Durhams have gone, and still we are here, but the enthusiasm of our informant has not diminished. He is full of stories of the Yellow Peril. We believe him to be deranged by a violent blow he received while passing a Chinese laundry.

Just before the Brigade horse show, we all had a laugh at the person who announced that he was going to see the "illuminating" rounds. He is evidently one of those people who take their pleasures "lightly."

**Arrivals.**—We welcome the following: Corpl Spencer and Signalmen Reed and Smith, all from the Depot, Jubbulpore.

We are pleased to have back Corpl Mitson, who has been away on an S course. Congratulations on passing!

**Personal.**—Sigmn B. O. Mayson would be pleased to hear from Sigmn Littlefield (late of Fort Sandeman, Karachi, etc.), now believed to be with E Troop, Tidworth.

B. O. M.


# That extra ounce—

TOWARDS the end of a hard-fought game of Soccer or Rugger, it's the man who can pull out that "extra ounce" who most frequently gets the winning goal or try. The whole crowd cheers, and it's good to be that man.

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Training and practice alone cannot give you that superlative degree of fitness. You need to build up the vital force and stamina which will outlast the hardest game, and nothing can help you do it half as well as Horlick's, the original Malted Milk.

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Horlick's is indeed the Diet of Champions. Use it regularly in your own training, and those cheers so dear to a Footballer's heart may well be for you.

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May also be kept for use in Training Quarters.

Ask for and see that you get Horlick's.


## Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters, B.T.E., Cairo,

January 31st.

**Training.**—Both units are busily employed in preparing for the Command manœuvres which commence on March 6th.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to L/Corpl C. Butler on his appointment to that rank. Roll on, 1933!

**Departure.**—We apologise for omitting to record in last month's notes the departure of Lieut P. H. Owens, R.Signals, to the U.K. on January 7th. This officer was with No. 1 Coy. Egypt Signals for quite a long period, and one and all wish him all the best for the future. It has come to our notice that Lieut Owens has been playing in the Corps rugby team at home. Congratulations, sir!

**Command Rugby Cup.**—The Corps rugby team is to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final of the Command cup, which was played on the E.S.R.I. ground on January 17th, our opponents being the 1st Battn. Leicestershire Regt. Although we

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were beaten by a very narrow margin, it was a real hard struggle on both sides. The game ended in a win for the Leicester Regt. by 3 points (1 try) to nil. The winners met the R.E. in Egypt in the final on January 24th, and beat them by 10 points to 3, thus carrying off a much-coveted Command trophy.

**This Month's Hero.**—The man who refused a week-end pass in order that he might attend church parade!

**Personal.**—To Corpl Gilmour. Hard luck! Still, it could have been further *south*.

**Razors, auto(matic).**—The lads are gradually getting into the stride, only six having been reported "cut-in-two" during January.

BEN.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**Dry as a Bone.**—The mess has gone dry! Don't ask why, because nobody knows. It was not even a New Year resolution; but it just happened during the first week in the new year.

**Trooping Season.**—The trooping season now holds no charm for us, as those due here have "arriven," and those due for home have gone, and have no doubt been heard moaning and groaning and wishing themselves back in Egypt. Next trooper they will be trying to wangle back to this sunny climate, because (although no Arcadia) it is a station not to be sneezed at.

**Cone are the Days.**—All Anglo-Egyptians will read with regret that the staff at Abou Zaabal will put on their skates in May next and leave for England. The place will then be under new management and worked by remote control. We shall sadly miss those trips to that W/T station, but we shall always remember "Billie, you're just wonderful, dear!"

**Play Suspended.**—Owing to a huge bulge in the ceiling of the billiard room, it has been necessary to pull it down (the ceiling, not the room); and play has been suspended during the repairs.

**Old Soldiers (Never Dry).**—Congratulations to C.S.M. Jeffrey and Sergt Mann on being awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal. This award will appear in Army Orders in due course. They will henceforth be known as the "miracle men."

**78 Shed, Maresfield.**—To those who have dwelt in 78 Shed, Maresfield, it will be of interest to note that we had the pleasure of meeting W.O. (Class ii.) Instructor Le Grys, A.E.C., during his short stay in Cairo prior to his departure for the Sudan. Poor scholar! he had to embark for the Sudan on Christmas Day. We are looking forward to the re-union when he returns to Cairo twelve months hence.

### Corporals' Mess.

A small concert (smoker) was held in the mess on the evening of January 6th, this being the occasion of bidding au revoir to three extremely popular members in Corpl Gilmour, L/Corporals Newton and Widgery. A very pleasant evening was spent, during which speeches were called for and admirably rendered by all three. It was with real regret that we bade them "adieu," and they take our best wishes with them.

The only other casualty during the past month was one member absent from the "phat" parade.

THE BISHOP OF ASH.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Departures.**—After many false starts, the following have bidden farewell to the land of mysticism: Sergts Tolley and Linder, Corpl Gilmour, L/Corpls Widgery and Newton, Signalmen Samworth and Southcott. May they have the best they can wish themselves in their new duties.

According to Reuter, Sergt Linder (whose knowledge of Chinese, gained through years of experience in the East, marks his as a linguist of no mean ability) is taking up an appointment in China. Is it that he cannot stay the distance, or (as Dame Rumour hath it) that "they catch 'em young," the reason for his hasty retreat. Discretion was always the better part of valour, M.O.B.

**Demolitions.**—The inevitable has arrived. The D.O.R.E. are dismantling No. 1 ablution room; another well-known landmark has already disappeared; and in the near future we may have to pack like the Arabs and silently steal away, debris permitting.

**Third Cooks' Course.**—Experiments in the culinary art are not usually appreciated to any extent, as in a technical unit a combination of "Mrs. Beetons" and "Engineering" has produced a comestible weird and wonderful. A rissole by name, its uses are many. In its natural state it can be used for shrapnel, although the Hague Convention may decide to veto it on account of the ghastly wound it makes. Its beautiful rough exterior makes an extraordinarily good substitute for an emery wheel. (Fitters, kindly examine all emery wheels in future.) Having cracked the case-hardened exterior, the edible part is exposed to view, and is worthy of Maison Lyons.

**Agony.**—Will Silas K. listen in on 10 metres every evening commencing March 1st at 7 p.m. G.M.T.? Wonderful results are anticipated. Baghdad reports R.99. T.O.M. I.R.

**Riding Drill.**—Driver: "Why do you mount from the off side?" Equestrian: "Because I'm left-handed, sonny."

**O.C.**—Sergt Frost, 1st Norfolks, Abbassia, wishes to be remembered to C.Q.M.S. Sweeting, 3rd Divl. Signals.

**Pussyfootism.**—The Company having gone "dry," the R.E.s kindly consented to erect a boring apparatus in close proximity to the barracks. I think they were trying to emulate a certain biblical character in that they struck a rock, but without the same results. Better results may be shown in their second attempt. Consequently, drought!

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Polygon, Cairo, January 31st.

**Embarkations.**—Sergt A. Dixon, L/Sergt E. Adams, and Sigmn G. Brown embarked on H.T. "Assaye" at Port Said, on January 7th, for the United Kingdom. We wish them the best of luck in their new stations.

**Appointments.**—2310852 Sigmn W. Backhouse and 2310505 Sigmn C. Phillips have been raised to the dizzy heights of acting unpaid lance-corporals. We trust *they* have a firm grip on that far-famed baton. The last time we had occasion to congratulate two well-known members of our community, one of them got



some grease on his baton and lost it somewhere about 3 a.m. on Boxing Day on the Polygon road. (No names—no "bills.")

**Move of K Section.**—K Section of this unit returned to Moascar on January 11th, but after Brigade training and manœuvres are finished they will re-occupy their quarters in Polygon Camp. They will be welcomed on their return, as since they left the intervals between guards and picquets have lessened considerably.

**Education.**—Congratulations are extended to Signalman P. Widdowsen on obtaining his 1st class certificate of education at Abbassia.

**Dogs.**—The order regarding the registration of dogs caused consternation among a large number of dog owners in the camp. All dogs (above a certain number allowed) had to be got rid of, and despite various methods tried at wangling, they had to go.

**Motor Cycling.**—Our motor-cycle racing experts are still going great guns. Quite recently Corpl Pickering and Sigmn Ruffell have got among the records in open motor-cycle speed trials. It's a pity motor cycling isn't included in the best all-round unit competition: we feel sure that Signals riders would lead the way. A recent convert in Sigmn H. H. Wright put up a very creditable performance in his first attempt at such racing.

ART.

## No. 1 Section, No. 2 W/T Company.

Sarafand, Palestine.

**General.**—Following the usual Christmas shake-up, it was but a short time before everyone settled down to the blissful round of everyday peace and quietness. It seems almost a pity that the general serenity of life in such delectable pastures should occasionally be disturbed by such seasonal requirements as those due to the advent of Christmas, but thus it stands.

The annual shoot-up took place during the last week in January, and proved that although our dealings with a rifle are distinctly limited, our early training has by no means been forgotten. Nine obtained 1st class, and thirteen 2nd, and following a few 3rds came the oldest inhabitant. He could shoot once—at least, so he says—but he lost his eye on the Persian mail in the days of "way-back" and has not written home since. Up, Gillingham!

Congratulations to Sergt Newman, who, whilst speeding along the Jaffa road, was hit broadside on by a "bitser" (see A.O.F.B. handbook for definition), but was able to extricate himself from the wreckage and ask the car driver for details concerning his kindly attentions. What he said to the driver we cannot say, but we feel certain that Collins' Dictionary would have been no aid to him after the first minute (to what do you attribute your luck, Newie?—cuff links?)

We welcome Corpl Good and Signalmen Burcher and Hartill from home, and commiserate with them on being found out so near Christmas leave. Let's hope the hectic life out here won't prove too much for them.

BALDPIER.

## Iraq Signal Section.

**General.**—Signalmen Ashford, Jerram and Green have been sent to Baghdad, to relieve the telegraphists who were due for India.

The following left for the S.T.C., Jubbulpore, on January 15th: L/Sergts Coleman and Minion, and Signalmen Adderly, Atkins, Bolton, Doncaster and Hodges. We wish them luck, and hope the change will be beneficial.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to the following: Corpl Golder to that rank (substantiated), and Sigmn Ashford to be A/U/L/Corporal.

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn Emblem shove his 6-oz. chin polisher aside for a few minutes, to grab a pen for the benefit of his brother?

IRAKSIGS.

## Signal Section, Hong Kong.

Wellington Barracks, Jan. 14th.

**General.**—Christmas, so long looked forward to, is now a thing of the past, but memories and scars still remain.

The Signals dined with the R.E.s as usual, an excellent dinner being provided, together with the many knick-knacks well known


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to us all. The officers arrived at 1 p.m. and were accorded the usual welcome. Speeches were made by Col. Russell Brown, R.E., Lieut.-Col. Mackintosh, R.E., and Capt Bridgland, R.Signals, each stressing the cordial relations existing between the R.E. and Signals, and hoping they would continue.

The R.E. w.o.s and sergeants' mess again gave the youngsters a real good Christmas tree. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the committee are to be congratulated on their efforts.

**Acknowledgment.**—All ranks of the Hong Kong Signal Section tender hearty thanks for Christmas cards received from F Divl. Signals, Kohat, and the sergeants mess of the 1st, 2nd and 4th Divl. Signals at home and G Divl. Signals at Jubbulpore; and also for the gift of whips from Mrs. C. R. Roberts.

**Signals Association.**—The Hong Kong Branch commenced the year by entering into sport, and a tennis team visited the 12th Heavy Battery R.A., the latter winning by five games. As this was our first team effort, we were quite satisfied with the result.

**Agony.**—To Bulford: Will Signalmen C. and A. Durand please communicate with Sigmn Durand of this Section?

JOINT BOX.

## North China Signal Section (Peking Detachment)

British Legation Guard, Jan. 14th.

Winter is here with a vengeance now. At the time of writing it has been snowing for forty-eight hours, and is still going strong. However, everything has its compensations, and Peking—which must surely be one of the filthiest and "smelliest" cities in the world—looks quite clean under its white mantle.

We are anxiously awaiting home newspapers to see what stories are being published in England about the recent anti-British riots at Hankow and other Treaty Ports down south. It would be interesting to compare them with the reports obtained here from Britishers who have been forced to evacuate. Old hands say that the present situation is the most serious which has arisen since Boxer year (1900); and everybody is wondering if any particular "incident" will provide a spark to create a flame over every part of China where the "foreign devil" lives and has his being.

Technically we are more or less jubilant, as an ultra short wave set is due here any day, for the purpose of working Hong Kong naval station. Meanwhile the 120-watt has been tuned up to push out that extra bit which enables us to maintain consistent communication, at about 750 miles range, with H.M. ships on the Yangtse river. A civilian friend has also lent us an 8-valve super-set, and the Shanghai transmissions, although probably not up to B.B.C. standards, are nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed.

We take this opportunity of bidding farewell to Sergt and Mrs. Smith, of Tientsin, who sail for U.K. on the 19th inst. Did we hear somebody say, "Lucky man, getting out of China while the going is good?"

**Sport (?)**—An exciting series of tippit matches has been held in the junior staff and departmental mess, Tientsin. Not being conversant with the finer points of the pastime, we are unable to give details, but understand that Signals have won every game "hands down." We regret that a photo of the team and their trophies is not available, but we hope that in the near future "Jimmies" will be awarded to those who have so worthily upheld our prestige in this manly sport!

PEICHING.

## Signal Section, Malaya

Section Office, Pulau Brani, Dec. 31st.

If rumour is correct, then our new lineman is coming from the home of that famous scribe, "Barleux." We wish him a very pleasant voyage, and hope he will find our little island a more enjoyable place than Bulford.

Our Christmas festivities were, on the whole, a great success. In the company of detachments of Royal Engineers and Royal Army Ordnance Corps, we sat down to a very good dinner.

Before we commenced, speeches were made by the C.R.E., O.C. 41st Company R.E., D.A.D.O.S., the Padre, and our O.C. (Capt Sinnott), each speech being greeted with loud applause. The various toasts having been honoured, everyone proceeded to do justice to the several courses, our O.C. taking dinner with the Section.

The dinner was thoroughly enjoyed by all except the "wielder of pens and despoiler of paper," who was overcome after the first course and did not recover consciousness until 10 p.m.

The evening was spent in merry-making and entertaining about fifty of the crew of H.M.S. "Emerald," and as usual on such occasions the wine flowed freely: as a matter of fact, it flowed *too* freely for some of us. Some very good songs were rendered, particularly by the members of the senior Service. Most of the songs were quite new to me: I am certain they had never been sung in a music hall.

Then came Boxing Day—"the morning after the night before," with swollen heads, parched throats, blurred eyes, untouched meals, and empty bottles.

Christmas comes but once a year, and considering the after-effects I think it is as well that is so. Sigmn Leggett certainly thinks so: he lost fourteen spots during a Christmas card party. Squandering the family fortunes again, Leggett!

No Section sport has taken place this month, though the soccerites have had several games with the R.E. team.

It is rumoured that the New Year will see most of us installed in new quarters at Fort Canning. From what I can see and hear, I don't suppose there will be many regrets, except from those who have to stay here.

We wonder where our dear departed have landed, and whether any of them are enjoying themselves at the famous Yorkshire spa—Catterick.

Sigmn Barwick, of this Section, would like to hear from Sigmn Payne, late of Catterick and now somewhere in Iraq.

THE MONT.

## Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, February 2nd.

**Apology.**—I must apologise for the absence of notes from this unit last month. Stern duty sent me "away to fields anew," and I must needs lay down the pen for the pliers whilst performing the duties of A/U/Lineman at Boaz. Having now returned to the fold, I have learned of the doings during my absence, some of which (notice the "some") I will relate.

**Parade.**—Shortly after the completion of the repairs to the Prospect-St. George's "trunks," the C.R.E. and O.C. Signal Section (Lieut.-Col. F. B. Legh, O.B.E., M.C., R.E.) inspected the Section on parade—drill order—and congratulated them on their work in repairing the hurricane damage. His congratulations, interspersed with a few words of advice, were very much appreciated by the Section, who think such approval gives an added zest to work.

**Work.**—We are well on our way to recovery from the blow dealt us by the hurricane. Repairs have been steadily effected, and we are now left with the Warwick Camp route as our only damage. The H.Q. linemen are at present at the camp, working on repairs to the field firing ranges, and leading the simple life, far from the madding crowd, prior to patching up the line back to Prospect.

**Trade Tests.**—Swotting is now the order of the day, and buzzers may be heard at all hours, getting up speed under the hopeful hand of the operator. The air is thick with queries such as "Does the unsilvered spot go under No. 1 or No. 2 contact?" Life at present is just one darned argument after another, *except* on procedure—on which subject, being all out-of-date, none of us can argue; but as they all help in that good cause, "the retention of the rate," or assist in the grasping of yet another elusive "tanner," they are all welcome. As the tests form part of the normal work of the unit, naturally a higher standard is expected from us.

**Arrival.**—Although late, we welcome Lieut and Q.M. F. W. Roberts, R.E., and his wife, and hope that their stay here will be an enjoyable one. Lieut Roberts' whistle has already been heard on the football field, he having charge of various cup and league matches. Signals will, no doubt, remember him as C.C. S.T.C. at Maresfield.

**Football.**—On January 22nd the R.E. and R.Signals played the 7/8th Platoons 2nd Green Howards, winning by 7—0. The match is worthy of record, as the only three Signals playing scored six goals between them: Gilkes three, Mitchell two, Sands one—Sapper Cook scoring the seventh.

**This Month's Agony.**—No. 727719 Sigmn R. F. Piper would like to know the whereabouts of No. 727536 L/Corpl Ives.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

We have very little to report this month. Our only event was a mounted map-reading exercise arranged for Feb. 13th.

Eighteen of us turned out on a freezing morning, and were duly provided with maps which we carefully folded and put in our pockets. One of the officers carried a compass, presumably in case he got lost. The horses were superb, and the best that we have had for some time.

We spent a most exhilarating day at Baguley, and our only regret was the absence of a camera-man to record the memorable ride in column of sections down Brooklands Drive. Walking—we were wonderful; trotting—tremendous; cantering—well, the horses varied slightly in gear-ratio!

But it was a great day, though unfortunately our last week-end training until April, thanks to the inevitable "axe." We all passed out in map reading with flying colours. The maps were handed in on our return, and the compass replaced in its plush-lined case.

Trade training classes are carrying on vigorously, and the attendances have much improved.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

**Training.**—There is not a great deal to report this month. The buzzer class is still doing good work under the able supervision of Lieut Ford and C.S.M. Bartlett. Riding school has recommenced, and Lieut Thomas and C.S.M. Gilbert are hoping to turn out some very efficient "knights of the pigskin." Let us hope that their efforts will be rewarded. Now that the days are lengthening, it is hoped to see the Cable Detachments and the Wireless Sections get a move on.

**W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.**—A whist drive and social was held in the mess on February 12th, a very enjoyable evening being spent by those present. Amongst the prize winners were Sergts Bailey and Wallis; and as a "slam" appeared on both their cards, apparently they haven't forgotten the tuition they received round a barrack-room table. Songs were rendered by Sergts Forrest and Dymock, Miss Dymock and Mr. Tully. A little community singing was also indulged in, and the new anthem associated with those mysterious letters "A.O.F.B." was repeatedly sung.

**Boxing.**—The Middlesex group championships were held in the drill hall of the 9th Middlesex Regiment on February 10th. Congratulations are due to Sigmn Caley on his great effort to land one of the weights for the unit. Better luck next time, Caley! Efforts must be made to shake up the group championships next year.

**General.**—A word to the corporals. Why not get together and try to form a mess at headquarters? I feel sure that every encouragement would be given such a venture.

Another subject which would be well worth considering is the formation of a Badminton Club in the unit. Why not?

JOCK.

## 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, Feb. 14th.

The absence of notes for January was due to instructional courses, with a spell of rest to inwardly digest the knowledge gained.

Our annual ball was held on December 18th, and was voted a great success by all who attended. The C.O. (Lieut.-Colonel Boyle, O.B.E., T.D.) presented prizes to the three best marksmen of each Company, and also to those who attended drill parades consistently throughout the training season.

The New Year was welcomed in by a special dance, which was very successful. We trust that all the good resolutions made around Jackie's bar will be strictly adhered to.

**Children's Christmas Party.**—Ably assisted by serving members and their wives, the kiddies spent a delightful afternoon with a real Santa Claus, who required very little aid, and to *his* regret, the end came far too swiftly. Various tenders have been received for the sleigh in which Santa rode in state.

**Sergeants' Ball.**—This was considered the best show of the year, and was very spectacular, as all attending wore the uniform of their particular period in the Service. The 1886 recruits were lost among such a distinguished gathering of old sweats. Crimean warriors were seen charging the Charleston with light-hearted steps. There was such a large attendance that two sittings were necessary for supper, A and B being prominent at both sittings.

**O.C.A.**—We are pleased to announce that George Lapping (Father) has practically recovered from a trying illness, and we hope to have the pleasure of seeing his smiling countenance amongst us at an early date.

Successful whist drives and games have been held in the sergeants' mess—very happy gatherings, which we hope will have more support from the serving members, to foster that esprit de corps so much needed to make things go.

**Sales of "The Wire."**—Come on, the 49th! We have heard all the trials and troubles of poor Job's, and we have done more than sympathise with you. It is your turn now to support home industries. Don't say, "After you, Joe," but buy one and keep it for future reference. You will be surprised how interesting it is to look through them even after you're "time-ex." Sergt Wilson (P.S.) is the agent. Give him *your* name now!

**Training.**—N.c.o.s classes are now in progress, preparatory to the training season proper, which we trust will beat last year in efficiency.

**S.O.S.**—R.S.M. Brown, D.C.M., wishes to be remembered to Tich Adams and Co.

THE ATOMS.

## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Darlington).

Very little has happened since the Christmas vacation. It is very gratifying to be able to report that our C.O. (Lieut.-Col. A. MacLeod, Royal Signals) is rapidly improving in health. All ranks hope that he will soon be quite fit again.

A regimental exercise has been fixed for all officers of the unit, to be held at Darlington with a most interesting programme including "1927 procedure."

The adjutant hopes that company commanders will do everything in their power to keep up the interest and maintain the progress that has already been made, with special regard to the training of young non-commissioned officers for the unit.

### No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

**Promotions.**—We congratulate Sergt Newton and Corporal Holding on their promotion to those ranks.

**Trade Tests.**—It is very pleasing to note the number of n.c.o.s and men attending the classes held prior to the examination for trade proficiency, and we congratulate those who have already been successful in passing examinations.

**Annual Ball.**—This was held in the drill hall on Wednesday, February 9th, and was a tremendous success. We were honoured by the presence of our C.O. (Lieut.-Col. MacLeod), the adjutant, and officers from all neighbouring T.A. units and the Signal Training Centre. The Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough were also amongst our welcome guests.

The music was provided by the band of the Yorkshire Hussars, who recently played before H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

It was very gratifying to see the commanding officer after his recent severe illness, and we all sincerely trust he will soon be on the high road to a complete recovery.

Every credit is due to the very energetic and hard-working committee for the able manner in which their duties were performed.

**Week-End Camp.**—A week-end camp is to be held at Middlesbrough on March 5th and 6th, when it is hoped to again have a good muster.

A very unpalatable rumour (fickle jade) is current here that we shall, before camp, be losing that "pastor, guide and friend" of the unit, R.S.M. G. Burrows, whose service expires in June. It would be very gratifying to be able to confute this rumour, especially of one who is so deservedly popular, and who has helped us so much. You'll be missed, major! A. C. S.

### No. 3 (Hull) Company.

**Winter Training.**—The Tuesday evening voluntary classes are being continued, and are the means of a number of the Company receiving instruction that should prove useful when the training season proper comes along. The n.c.o.s voluntary classes on Sunday mornings are proving very popular amongst those eligible to attend. Some interesting subjects have been discussed, and on Sunday last "wireless" was introduced.

**Social Efforts.**—Since our last notes, we have held three Company dances, and thanks to the efforts of our entertainment committee, it is pleasing to record the success attending these functions. The next is to be held on February 19th.

The billiard and domino teams continue their weekly matches, but for some reason or other are not gathering many points. In our last match, versus the Heavy Brigade R.A., the team came a cropper, losing at every table. At dominoes they lost by one "pip."

The rifle club are also active on the cards, yet there is room for improvement. In the last match, versus L.N.E.R. (away), the team lost by 11 points. To-night's match, versus Depot East York Regiment, is a postal shoot, and we hope to record a win.

The football team (competing in the East Riding County League) won again in their last match, when, thanks to a couple of goals by Dvr Wilkinson, we bagged a couple of points from Hull Nomads. On Saturday next we visit the league leaders, Beverley Hodgsons, at Beverley. A strong team has been selected, and we hope to notch at least one point.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—On Monday, January 24th, the sergeants and honorary members of the mess visited the 73rd (Field Brigade) R.A. in a friendly billiard and domino match. The party (a fairly large one) had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Success at both games made our people even more happy, as it is well known that the Gunners are strong in players. The evening (or was it morning?) was wound up with a vote of thanks to the R.A. sergeants, proposed by Sergt J. Wright, M.M., of our Company, and suitably replied to by B.S.M. L. Harvey. The return fixture on February 18th is being eagerly awaited.

T. U. G.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters and No. 1 Company (Aberdeen)

Everyone is now waiting for K, and then training will commence for another year. There have been no winter classes this year, the benefit of which has been missed by the n.c.o.s We hope that no budding sergeants will be put up for examination and be "sent down" for not being able to name the D.A.A and Q.M.G. A year is a good long time to remember, and we are not all Pelmanists.

A church parade for all T.A. units in Aberdeen was held on January 16th in honour of the visit of the G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command. Fully 75% of the Signals turned out, and the smart way in which they deported themselves was freely commented upon by the thousands of civvies who lined the route. Overheard before going into church: "Hiv ye twa ha-pennies for a penny, Sandy?"

A carnival dance was held on February 11th, and proved a huge success, there being an attendance of over 300. Thanks to the committee this function passed off without a hitch. The presence of the C.O. and other officers was greatly appreciated by the troops. The lucky swastika number was won by Sigmn King's partner, Mrs. Wilson (wife of "Tug," the permanent staff instructor), who held number 13 and wore a green dress on a Friday.

Our whist team have only to beat the Gordons and the shield is ours! Prayers are being said. The departure of Corporal Forbes (our secretary) to Africa has weakened the team; nevertheless, best wishes go out to the wanderer. May he return another Carnegie.

### Nos. 2 and 3 Companies (Stirling and Kirkcaldy)

The fortunes of these two Companies are little known, except that No. 2 Company are holding a dance on March 11th, when the C.O., adjutant, and R.S.M. will be there. Look out for squalls, "Thistle," if your notes are not in by the 10th! Thistles will be as buttercups compared with the words of "advice" given by the R.S.M.

The scheme for bringing No. 3 into line has been submitted to Moscow for approval. If boiling in oil is approved by Trotsky, Sergt Cooper will be a sardine by next issue. So perish all traitors!

SMUDGE.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, Feb. 13th.

Owing to the ravages of "flu," our notes were missing from THE WIRE last month, and it seems rather late to talk about Christmas festivities now. I must, however, mention the great success which attended the Christmas treat for the children, the entry of Father Christmas (C.S.M. Gadsby in the name part) being welcomed by a throng of over 200 children. The large Christmas tree, with its hundreds of small toys and crackers, lit up by electric light, was a standing tribute to the work put in by the permanent staff, particularly Sergt Batchelor.

The New Year's Eve ball, held by the n.c.o.s' mess, was also a most successful affair. Nearly 400 guests were present, and an unexpected shower of crackers and confetti from above added to the enjoyment and fun.

The lectures in the officers' mess are still running their appointed course, and there is, I hear, unanimous opinion amongst the officers that they have provided a great deal of most useful instruction.

On January 11th the adjutant gave us a lecture on India, using a number of lantern slides kindly loaned by the Indian Trade Commission. Mr. Randell, a friend of one of our officers, very kindly supplied and operated the lantern. At the close of the lecture our O.C. (Lieut.-Col. R. G. Llewellyn, M.C.), who presided, asked the adjutant if he would try to obtain suitable slides and give another lecture dealing particularly with the North-West Frontier; and this, we hear, Capt Bell is trying to arrange.



Since our last notes we have welcomed two officers to the unit, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Saunders having been gazetted. Both these gentlemen come to us with experience of active service Signals, and we hope they will have a long and happy stay with the unit. They will of course be duly initiated at next year's camp!

We are very glad to hear that Mr. Gardiner, who was admitted to hospital from camp last year and had to undergo a severe operation, is now fully recovered and hopes to be with us on our next week-end course.

Training for 1927 started in earnest on January 3rd, when an operator class and a flag squad commenced training. The former class will be held every week-night for two months, and it says much for the keenness of the men that over 90% of the starters completed the first half of the course. The flag squad also shows much improvement, and it is really wonderful what a keen T.A. soldier can pick up (yes, in every way, if you like!) in the limited time he has for soldiering.

We now begin to look forward to the week-end courses to be held this month and next, when about 80% of the unit will turn out on two succeeding week-ends for some real Signal work on Ely race-course, which the Cardiff Race Club very kindly allow us to use.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.

A whist drive was held on January 20th in aid of the funds of the East London Branch of the Signals Association. This proved a very satisfactory affair, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. As so many members asked for more, it is proposed to hold another on the 24th February. We were very pleased to welcome Sergt-Major and Mrs. Nichol (2nd Cav. Divl. Signals).

At this function an appeal for recruits was made, the C.O. offering 5/- to any member bringing in a suitable man. Since then our strength has gone up by leaps and bounds, and the funds must be sinking correspondingly.

An intensive recruiting week is to be carried out in March, finishing up with a show on Wanstead Flats at which the "Ghurks" (under Sergt-Major Adams) will give a display of trick riding. Having been fitted up with vaulting pads (thanks to the S.T.C.) the riding school now becomes extra interesting. The team are doing splendidly, and it's certain the local inhabitants will open their eyes when the display comes off.

The technical classes held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are being very well attended, which promises well for the next trade board.

We are still keeping up our end in boxing, and the following notes by our Special Investigator (V.C.P.) are submitted.

"The cleanest fighting that I have refereed during the past two years in this hall." This extract from the referee's speech epitomised the evening's boxing tournament between a team of the 17th Tower Hamlet Rifles and ourselves. The boxing took place at Tredegar Road headquarters, and was well attended, some 300 being present. It is an ideal place for "scraps" of this sort, being lofty and well ventilated.

Another point worthy of note is that there are three large messes and canteens. The sergeants' place struck me as being particularly comfortable, especially as several well-meaning w.o.s saw that I was amply supplied with sundry "one's from the bottle," forgetting that I had to review the evening's sport. That their hospitality is only excelled by the brand of their goods is evident in the fact that I descended to the hall in a truculent mood, and therefore much more in sympathy with the fighting. Results of the fights are given elsewhere, so I will just summarise some of the outstanding points.

Sigmn Detenon has improved greatly, being speedier, and with much more pep in his punches, he won rather easily. Sigmn Sawford (from the Southend Company) should bear ample testimony to the excellent recuperative properties of his home town. He put up a much improved show against better men than when I last saw him box at camp. His contest, out of his weight, was very pluckily fought, but I thought Corpl Mills had the "weight" of him all through, and held off until an opening in the third round presented itself of which he took full advantage.

Tommy Mercer's bout, to which I had looked forward as *the* contest of the evening, lasted only about half a minute. Mercer has a clean incisive style that is delightful to watch. Unfortunately Dvr Middleditch, known to all and sundry as "Switch," was unable to turn up, but Dvr Ashdown deputised for him and put up a very able show indeed.

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The feather-weight contest between Dvr Scott and Rifleman Leaver was really fine. Scott has a terrific punch, but his uppercuts kept missing. He wants to hit a man once only; and providing it is well landed, this should win him many bouts—but in Leaver he was up against a very clever boxer who bided his time, contenting himself with covering up until the third round, when he landed a jab just under his opponent's heart which put the Tower Hamlets another point up.

The exhibition bouts kindly given by the Columbia Boxing Club and the Limehouse and Poplar Boxing Club showed us really just how it should be done, the youngsters coming out as fresh as they went in.

The proceeds went to the Greater London Fund for the Blind, which must have benefited considerably. Sergt-Major Davis from St. Dunstan's represented the Fund, and we had a few rounds in the sergeants' mess afterwards, with the able and enthusiastic support of our non-coms., assisted by friend Darby, whose fund of anecdote flowed as easily as Barney's hospitality. A very enjoyable evening was marred by one thing only: I lost the toss for bus fares home!

Y. E. D.

## No. 3 (E.L.) Company, 2nd Corps Signals (S.R.)

Burlington Street, Manchester, Feb. 14th.

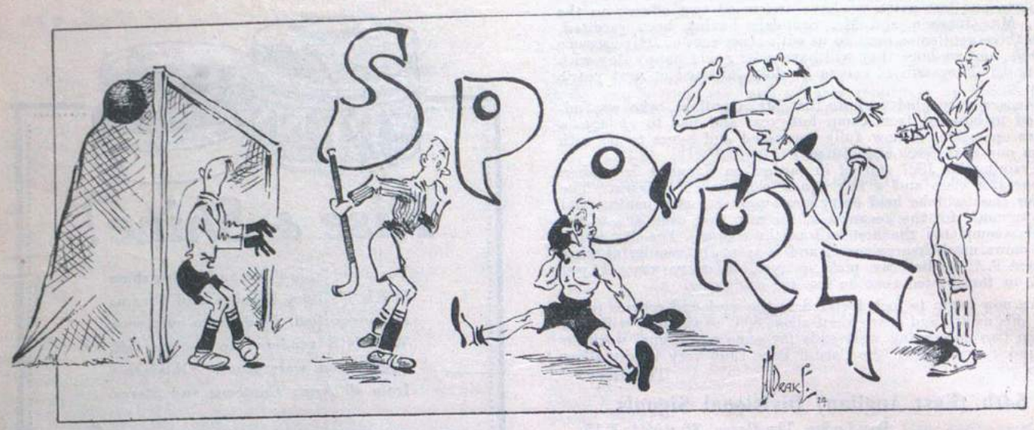
The attendance at the Company hot-pot on January 15th was disappointing, but nothing else was lacking! Mr. Godfrey at the piano, and Mr. McDougal with song (Scotch and otherwise), placed us in their debt with liberal contributions to the conviviality of the evening.

From hot-pots to camp seems a far cry, but the announcement of annual training at Troutbeck (between Penrith and Keswick) at Whitsuntide has already turned our thoughts outdoors. May June be fine!

With rumours of the cancellation of projected week-end camps, participation in the 42nd Divl. Signals officers and n.c.o.s map reading ride on February 13th was the more appreciated. A glorious winter's day, a good mount, Cheshire roads and lanes, and a restful hostel: what more could man desire?

We have much pleasure in welcoming 2/Lieut S. R. Bower to the Company.

ACK ACK ACK.




## Catterick Rugby Notes.

**S.T.C. v. Darlington.**—Played at Darlington on Jan. 8th. Darlington turned out the best side that had represented them during the season, and had a particularly heavy pack. Clarke, the Durham County forward, scored a try for Darlington, which was converted. Soon after Sigmn Lawton dropped a beautiful goal from about 40 yards range, and the effort was loudly cheered by the spectators.

About half way through the second half, Darlington scored another try under the posts, faulty tackling being responsible for this score. Lieut Good then scored by the corner flag, and Signals during the last ten minutes did everything but score. Time after time the forwards swept down and looked like scoring, but something always went wrong at the critical moment, and Darlington won by 10 points to 7.

**T.B. "A" v. Middlesbrough "A."**—Played at Middlesbrough on January 8th. T.B. won by 12 points to 6.

**T.B. v. 4th Battn. Royal Tanks Corps.**—Played on the Tank Corps ground on January 19th, resulting in a draw of 13 points each. T.B. played badly on the heavy going, and only a splendid try by Lieut Hardy from his own 25, and an opportune try by Lieut Good in the last few minutes, saved the T.B. from defeat.

**Royal Signals v. R.E.**—Played at Chatham on Jan. 14th. The R.E. won by 22 points to 9. Soon after the start, the R.E. scored under the posts, and also near the corner flag. However, Lieut Thuillier kicked a penalty goal, and Lieut Gordon broke through and passed to Lieut Hardy, who beat two or three players to score under the posts. The try, unfortunately, was not converted. At half-time the R.E. led by 8 points to 6. Lieut Danby had been crocked, and had been a passenger from practically the first three minutes. This somewhat disorganised the side, as Sigmn Reeves had to play in a position to which he was unaccustomed.

The heavy R.E. forwards were not only being held, but were being beaten for possession; but in spite of splendid work by Sigmn Harbury at the base of the scrum, our backs could not get the ball out to Lieut Hardy. However, he did once get the ball and scored from about half-way. It was a magnificent try, and those who saw it will not forget how he left Lieut Bryan (the Army wing three-quarter) practically standing still.

Signals were now playing wonderfully, and time after time the forwards rushed the ball down the field, well led by Lieuts Morrison, Edes and Thuillier. Sigmn Lawton was badly crocked in saving a certain try by Lieut Bryan, and on another occasion when the latter was in full cry for the line Lieut Hardy chased him and brought him down just in time.

The R.E. thoroughly deserved their win. The unfortunate crocking of Lieut Danby in the first minute or so of the game undoubtedly prevented the score being more even, though it is probable that the R.E. (who have frequently played together as a team this season) would have won in any case. For the R.E., Lieuts Lock and Sutherland played very well; and for Signals, all the forwards, Lieut Hardy and Sigmn Harbury were splendid. Next season the match will be played at Aldershot.

Team: Sigmn Lawton, Lieut Hardy, Lieut Gordon, Lieut Coryton, Lieut Danby, Sigmn Reeves, Sigmn Harbury, Lieut Morrison, Lieut Edes, Lieut Owens, 2/Lieut Thuillier, 2/Lieut Smyth, Sergt Squirrell, Sigmn Stearck and Sigmn Simm. The reserves were 2/Lieut Good, Lieut Burridge and 2/Lieut Bastyan.

**Catterick Carrison v. a Yorkshire XV.**—Played at the Scotton ground on February 16th. The County XV. won by 22 points to 3. Owing to the Middlesex Regiment and the Cameronians having left for China, the Garrison XV. was composed of one R.E., one R.A.S.C., two officers on the Regimental Course, and eleven officers and other ranks from Signals.

The game was very far from one-sided, as except for a bad fifteen minutes, when the County scored 16 points, the sides were very evenly matched. Yorkshire pressed at the start, but good tackling kept them from scoring; however, at half-time, they were leading by 2 tries to nil. About midway during the second half, the Garrison defence broke down, and Moore secured two very good tries, and directly afterwards two more were registered, the defence somewhere about the region of centre three-quarter being at fault. The Garrison were not yet done with, for Lieut Thuillier burst through and gave the ball to Lieut Hardy, who scored midway between the corner flag and goal post.

The Yorkshire pack were too heavy for us, and Bottomly (the County hooker) managed to get the ball in nearly every scrimmage. Thompson, the scrum half, was consequently often getting the ball out to his three-quarters, who ran straight and passed beautifully.

Lieut Owens, Sergt Squirrell and 2/Lieut Thuillier were the best of our forwards, the former being probably the best on the field. Sigmn Lawton, at full back, played splendidly until he was unfortunately rather badly kicked on the head, which caused his retirement. Lieuts Hardy and West seldom had any chance to use their great pace.

The visit of the Yorkshire side caused much pleasure to players and spectators. Mr. "Bob" Oakes, the old English forward and Yorkshire secretary, who brought the side, offered many useful criticisms, and was delighted with the hard clean fight put up by the Garrison. His comments on our fifteen minutes' lapse were both cryptic and instructive.

## Catterick Hockey Notes.

The final S.T.C. match of the season, against Bradford, should have taken place on February 5th, but our opponents had to scratch on account of flu. A match was therefore arranged with the Regimental Courses, supplemented by some Signals personnel. The result was an easy victory for the S.T.C. by 7—1, after an excellent and fast game on a heavy sodden ground.

The results of the S.T.C. hockey for 1926-27 were: v. Bradford, lost 1—2; v. Thirsk, won 2—0; v. Thirsk, won 6—1; v. Regimental Courses, won 7—1.



A promising lot of young players, both officers and other ranks, have been discovered during the season, which augurs well for the future of Corps hockey.

The following have been awarded S.T.C. hockey "Jimmies" for 1926-27: Capt Elsdale, Lieuts Malpass, Hatfield, Patterson, Boyd and Vulliamy, Sergts Carpenter, Moore and Tovey, Drivers Batcheldor and Conroy.

**Depot Battalion Hockey.**—This so far has gone very well, and the following is a list of results to date: v. Green Howards Depot, won 7—1. v. Preston, won 4—1. v. North Durham, won 4—1. v. Redcar, lost 1—3. v. Preston, lost 1—4. v. Green Howards Depot, won 9—1. v. 1st Borderers, lost 2—4. v. North Durham, won 4—2.

The following have been awarded Depot Battalion hockey "Jimmies" for 1926-27: Capt Elsdale, Lieuts Malpass, Hatfield and Patterson, C.Q.M.S. Haytin, Sergts Tovey and Moore, Sigmn Davis, Drivers Batcheldor and Conroy.

## Catterick Cross-Country Notes.

The fifth inter-Company run, a 6-mile road race, took place on January 25th. F Company won by a narrow margin of points from C. The latter's team was much under normal strength, flu being the chief cause. E Company was third.

On February 12th the S.T.C. team finished third in the North-Eastern Counties senior championship. The course was one of nine miles on the race-course. The five laps included grass, plough and stubble—flat, but decidedly heavy going the whole way. The distance was rather outside the capabilities of the Signals team, the last two miles telling heavily. Middlesbrough Harriers were the somewhat unexpected winners, with Heaton Harriers second by a dozen odd points from Signals.

Of our ten runners, the following finished: Corpl Cotterell 5th, Sigmn Broadly 8th, Sigmn Gosling 13th, Dvr Gaston 31st, L/Corpl Iveson 32nd, Sigmn Hall 39th, L/Corpl Stibbs 50th.

## Catterick Squash Racquets.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) v. R.E. (Catterick).**—This match, the first to take place on the new courts which have been put up at Headquarters officers' mess, was played on Thursday, January 20th. Unfortunately, Major L. G. Phillips, who spent so much time and took so much trouble over the arrangements for the building of the courts, was unable to be present, being on leave prior to his departure for India.

The game between the first strings, Major F. A. Drayson (easily the best player in the S.T.C.) and Lieut R. S. Pain, R.E., provided an excellent exhibition of squash racquets. Lieut Pain won the first two games by a small margin, but Major Drayson took the next three and the rubber. Of the remaining matches only one was lost by the S.T.C., who won by 5 matches to 1.

Signals were represented by the following in the order named: Major F. A. Drayson, Capt H. von S. Thorne, Lieut L. C. Boyd, 2/Lieut E. D. Good, 2/Lieut H. D. Mountford, Lieut E. J. Hatfield.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) v. No. 90 Regimental Course.**—This match was played on January 27th, and although individual matches were closely contested, the Regimental Course won by 6—0. Signals were represented by Major F. R. Cobb, Capt R. Elsdale, 2/Lieut E. S. Cole, 2/Lieut C. C. Danby, 2/Lieut J. F. Longfield, and 2/Lieut F. R. B. Moore.

## S.T.C. Rifle Club.

Much lead has splashed against the bullet-catcher since the last notes from the Rifle Club appeared in print; but then, we have been busy trying to make a name in the shooting world (wot's that, George?)

We are members of the Yorkshire League, and at present tie for third place on the table in the winter competition. It may interest many of the old members of the S.T.C. shooting team to know that the Depot Battalion and School of Signals are still keeping the flag flying, and (as in the past) are winning more matches than they lose.

The secretary, Mr. Darling, is looking forward to receiving the S.M.R.C. marksmen's national shield at the end of the present year.

Many interesting competitions have been shot during the year, with very satisfactory results.

The individual league, which finished at the end of January, resulted as follows:—

Officers' spoon—Lieut W. D. J. Harries.

Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion—R.S.M. Nolan; runner-up, Sergt Seabrook.

Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals—Sergt James.

Corporals' Mess, Depot Battalion—Corpl Miles.

Corporals' Mess, School of Signals—Corpl Baker.

Signalmen—Sigmn T. Smith.

A Company League has now started (teams of 4, of any rank), and the first shoot took place on Thursday, February 3rd. The results were as follows: A Coy, 363; C Coy. 364. Attached S. of S. 334; S. of S. 337. B Coy. 374; Attached S. of S. 302.

The secretary invites post matches for teams of 4, 6 or 8—all to count; open or peepsights, with use of sling.

## School of Signals, Catterick.

**Inter-Company Hockey League.**—The match with A and B Companies was played under bad conditions, the ground being very soft. Notwithstanding this, the hockey was of a high standard. During the first half the ball was nearly always in A and B's 25, but the School forwards were very unlucky with their shooting. After several efforts Lieut Hatfield scored from a good pass by Major Drayson. A and B's defence was very steady and gave little away. Lieut Hatfield scored a second goal after about fifteen minutes' play in the second half, and shortly before the end A and B replied with a good goal by Sigmn Sutherland.

School results to date are: v. C Company, drew 3—3; v. E Company, won 2—1; v. D Company, won 15—1; v. A and B Companies, won 2—1.

**Football.**—In response to a persistent challenge from the n.c.o.s of the W/T Course, we turned out our junior soccer team and won fairly easily, the score being 4—2—Sergt Hughes and Dvr Hellier sharing the spoils. Corpl Todd, L/Corpls Redfern, Gresham and Bray fought a valiant losing battle.

Our seniors, however, were not so fortunate. They took on the Regimental Course and lost by 2—1. It was a splendid game and our defence was brilliant against an attack which contained no less than three battalion centre-forwards. The victors did make things hum for any Company eleven.

The inter-Company league has not so far provided a win for the seniors, but the juniors have won all their games. Naturally the youngsters are getting quite "cocky," and noses are going up when the seniors go to battle.

We shall probably win the knock-out competition. We are the holders, and we mean to stick to it. Emulating some of the present-day exponents of the fistic art, we are "telling the world" now, so that if by chance we fail, we shall be able to "tell the world" why and how we failed—but we don't think there will be any need for that.

**Inter-Company Rugby League.**—After the match had been postponed for some weeks, we at last met E Company on Feb. 2nd. Sigmn Atkinson, at scrum half, played a great game for E Company. About mid-way in the first half he got the ball over the line and scored their only try.

Early in the second half Sigmn Wills broke away from a scrum in E's 25 and carried the ball over for a lovely try. Sigmn Lawton made no mistake about the converting part of the business. From then onwards our forwards could do nothing wrong, and another two tries came our way in quick succession, being scored by Lieut Thompson and C.Q.M.S. Flynn. Lawton, at back, was a tower of strength. Lieut Good made some fine attempts for E Company, but he was invariably held down by superior weight.

So far we have beaten E and F Companies, and drawn with C.

**Inter-Company Shooting.**—The School team fired against a C Company team on February 10th. The scores were good, but C Company were a wee bit too much for us, and we lost by 5 points. The best individual scores were:—L/Corpl Baker 96; Lieut Hall 92; Sergt Laws 92; Sergt James 87.

**Football (again).**—It has been brought to my notice, since writing the previous notes, that our senior team has actually won a match. Like you, I didn't believe it at first, but after making enquiries I find it is correct. Yes, they played A and B Companies the other day, but whether it was the superiority of our team or the inferiority of theirs that caused it, I can't say. Perhaps that also explains why the juniors have been taking them more seriously lately.

It goes without saying that the juniors won *their* match, which, by the way, placed them at the top of the junior league.

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## Royal Signals, Aldershot.

**Boxing.—Royal West Kent Regt. v. Royal Signals, Aldershot.**

On Monday, January 31st, the Royal Signals, Aldershot, met the Royal West Kent Regiment in the second round of the Command unit team championship. Boxing commenced at 5.30 p.m. in the Marlborough Lines gymnasium, before a crowded and enthusiastic audience, which included many officers and a small number of the fair sex. The programme was one of eleven bouts, three for officers and eight for other ranks. The result of each fight and a brief description follows:—

Officers—middle weight.—2/Lieut Burridge (2nd D.S.) v Lieut Booth Tucker (R.W.K.). Three rounds of good boxing, in which Lieut Tucker gained the verdict.

Officers—welter weight.—Lieut Lyddon (A Corps Signals), walk over.

Officers—heavy weight.—Lieut Glover (1st D.S.) v. Lieut Glover (R.W.K.). Lieut Glover received a k.o. in the first round from a fast opening and from an undoubtedly old hand at the game.

Other Ranks—bantam weight.—Sigmn Couldridge (1st D.S.) v. Pte Beech. The first round produced some good fighting, with the R.W.K. man landing some hard and straight blows. Royal Signals held their own. The second round saw Couldridge floored, but he recovered well. The third round found both weak but making for any opening. Verdict for R.W.K.

Other Ranks—feather weight.—Sigmn Thomas (1st D.S.) v. —. Smith (R.W.K.). In the three rounds of this contest a lively display of the fistic art was seen. Signals' man administered some punishing blows on the face of his opponent. Bout full of incidents, and both men well warmed to their job. Verdict for Signals.

Other Ranks—light weight.—Sigmn McCreeth (1st D.S.) v. L/Corpl Munn (R.W.K.). Munn had recently won the E.W. competition at N.S.C., was full of confidence, and commenced business right away. McCreeth, aware of this victory, appeared nervous and acted on the defensive throughout the round. The second round found both making things interesting and boxing well. McCreeth evidently showed signs of an old injury to his thumb—his right hand seeming to be ineffective. In the third round McCreeth was badly shaken. Verdict for R.W.K.

Other Ranks—welter weight.—L/Corpl Langley (1st D.S.) v. Sergt Munn (R.W.K.). Good fighting throughout, in which both exponents measured each other before getting to close quarters. In the second round we saw the old Langley very aggressive and landing some telling blows. Munn was not letting it be all-one-sided in this round. The last round saw the R.W.K. man down and very weak. Verdict for Signals.

Other Ranks—welter weight.—Second string, Sigmn Brunton (1st D.S.) v. Pte Morris (R.W.K.). Pluck of the first order in this bout. Brunton down on several occasions, but continuing to fight, although badly punished each time he came up. The referee stopped the fight in the second round. Verdict for R.W.K.

Other Ranks—middle weight.—Sigmn Taylor (1st D.S.) v. — Dennison (R.W.K.). R.W.K. man down in first few seconds. Fight appeared to be going in favour of Signals, although both appeared to be feeling the effects of a furious onset at the start. Taylor continued to be aggressive in second round, and put Dennison down; the gong saved the R.W.K. man. The final round found Dennison strong, and apparently all effects of former rounds disappeared. R.W.K. awarded fight. (N.B.—Many spectators on both sides expressed the opinion that the verdict should have been reversed.)

Other Ranks—light heavy weight.—Dvr Emblem (1st D.S.) v. Sergt Spooner (R.W.K.). Two old hands, who had met on a previous occasion, joined in battle. Signals attacked from onset, but R.W.K. saw to it that it was not a one man job. The second round found Emblem after his man—no quarter. Win for Signals by k.o. in second round.

Other Ranks—heavy weight.—Sigmn Cornall (1st D.S.) v. Pte Mortimer (R.W.K.). Thud! thud! thud! Staggering blows to the body of Cornall, which resounded throughout the hall. These seemed to have little or no effect on the Signals man. Mortimer continued to make terrific right swings throughout the bout. Cornall boxing well. Both very groggy in second round. In the third round the superior stamina of Mortimer, and severe punishment which Cornall received, told. Verdict for R.W.K. Cornall received congratulations of referee on his splendid show.

So came to an end what was undoubtedly a great evening's entertainment, with a win for R.W.K. on points—17 to 15. Rousing cheers were given at the close for winners and losers.

In surveying the number of supporters, it was noted in what strength the R.W.K. had turned up to encourage their representatives, but it did not seem that Signals were equally represented.

The arrangements made by the 2nd Divl. Signals for the welfare of boxers and ringside attendants was much appreciated.

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Hockey.**—Just one unit game to record this month, and that with our old friends the R.E.s. A very fast game, in which we played one short and a half-back stopped a lovely ball well on the nose. (It's terrible when your eyes go black, and unkind people think you have been doing other things.) The R.E.s won by 1—0. They deserved their win, having a superior forward combination.

An interesting event has been the award of unit colours for the first time under the Games Fund rules. For hockey the following have been awarded "Jimmies" for 1926-27, in the order in which the votes were recorded: Sigmn Cleaver, Sergt Smart and Sigmn Clinton (tied), Lts Wheatley and Burdett (tied).

**Boxing.**—On January 31st the Signals, Aldershot, boxed the Royal West Kent Regiment at Marlborough Lines gym. It would have been more thrilling if we had shown up in greater numbers, considering the whole of the "other ranks" fighting were provided by the 1st Divl. Signals.

### No. 3 Company.

**Command Knock-Out.**—A match that reflects great credit on a team which, apparently well beaten in the second half of the game, recovered to such an extent that they won by a clear two goals—and that with only ten men on the field, Sigmn Gardiner unfortunately injuring his knee and subsequently retiring. Bravo, No. 3 Company! let's have some more like that. The supporters of the team certainly deserve mention for the way in which they backed the "ten men" when losing. Moral: one man at the match is worth ten in the barrack-room.



**Rugby.**—The unit met C Company East Yorks Regiment in two matches, resulting in a win for us each time, by 10—0 and 8—3.

The undermentioned are to be congratulated on having won their "Jimmies" for rugby for this season: Signalmen Harris, Wadsworth and Rutherford, L/Corpl Lee, and Dvr Cleminson.

**Billiards.**—The Company met D Troop at billiards, the result being a considerable win for the Company.

## No. 2 Co. 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

**Sports.**—The inter-Company boxing took place on Thursday, February 10th, and was won by this Company, who secured three points towards the trophy. Although No. 1 Company came third, it must be admitted they were dogged with very hard luck throughout the evening, and deserved to have been better placed.

No. 2 Company's team is to be complimented on a creditable show—especially Sigmn Hutchinson, who won two splendid fights. We all wish him luck in the Corps championships.

The finals started with points even for all Companies, and interest was keen. Sigmn Wickert (bantams) beat his man on points. Sigmn McDonald (second string, feathers) was awarded the fight through his opponent fouling him. Signalman Hudson (lights) lost to Sigmn Templett, being knocked out in the third round. Signalmen Stackman (middles) and Sayer (light heavies) both lost on points, the former by a very narrow margin.

Now the boxers have set us an example, and put us firmly on our way towards the trophy, it is up to the Company to carry on until it is once more ours.

In the Command inter-Company knock-out football competition we are also doing well, having beaten H.Q. Co. Scots Guards by 5—3, No. 6 Company R.A.S.C. by 4—2, and No. 2 Company R.A.M.C. by 3—2.

We are making a start with rugby fixtures during next week, and the result should be satisfactory.

## E Troop Cav. Divl. Signals, Tidworth.

**Sport.**—Garrison league football is again in full swing, after a period of inactivity caused by the furlough season. Our first opponents on the resumption, the 7th Hussars, beat us by 6—3, but this was compensated for by our defeat of the 2nd Battn Cheshire Regiment by 5—1.

We are hoping for the pleasure of a return match with D Troop, when we shall do our best to reverse the result of our last meeting.

## 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

**Hockey.**—Despite frost, snow, rain, and influenza amongst our opponents, the hockey side is getting in every way stronger and stronger, in readiness to defend our possession of the Garrison hockey cup. The entries for this event are in, but the fixtures are not yet published. During this month we have played the 5th Battn. Royal Tank Corps and defeated them by 4—1. We also met the 2nd Battn. Cheshire Regt., who defeated us after a very close game by 5—4.

The following have been awarded their "Jimmies" for hockey:—Sigmn Burton (captain), L/Corpl Franklin, Signalman Semmence, Dvr Smith, C.S.M. Legg, Corpl Brown, and Sigmn Harry.

**Football.**—The Garrison league is again in full swing, and all three Companies have been giving a good account of themselves. Interest is chiefly centred in the first round of the Salisbury Plain Area cup competition. The unit has been drawn against the 3/6th Dragoon Guards. This match will be played at home on February 23rd, and we are confidently hoping to pass into the second round.

**Cross-Country.**—Serious training for the Command championships is in full swing, and much enthusiasm is shewn. The green sweater is quite a common sight in the neighbourhood within a radius of twelve miles of the camp.

Before the training commenced the little bird on Salisbury Cathedral (which gave away so much information last year to our Depot teams) was removed, and we are hoping that results will do all the broadcasting necessary as to what is really happening in the cross-country activities of the unit. It is not giving away any information if we venture to publsh our telegraphic address, which is "Red Hot."

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## Rhine Signal Units.

**Sports.**—Now that most of the football team have returned from annual furlough, things are looking very much brighter. Owing to the bad weather many matches have had to be postponed, but of those played during the latter half of the season we have won five and lost one. During the season to date we have won ten and lost ten.

We are at the moment anxiously awaiting the draw for the Rhine Army cup, and wondering if we shall meet a battalion team in the first round; but whoever it may be, we intend giving them a good run.

The inter-Section matches have been commenced, the first of this series resulting in a draw of 2—2 between Divl. H.Q. and Nos. 1 and 3 Sections.

Rugby is having a quiet time again, due mainly to bad weather and hard grounds. We are entered for the Rhine Army rugby challenge cup, and hope to surprise several teams this year.

Cross-country training is well advanced for the coming Rhine Army cross-country team run, for which we are cup holders. Our team does not appear to be as good as last year, but perhaps when we have dug out one or two of the dark horses, we shall not be much, if any, below last season's standard.

The unit committee has approved the award of a unit "Jimmy" to each of the following: Football, Signalmen J. Ford, Funnell, Mayer and Bartley. Hockey, L/Corpl Phillips and Sigmn Le Cocq. Rugby, L/Corpl Potter.

## Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

**Games and Sports.**—We were fortunate in the opportune arrival of a draft which brought us two stalwarts for the C.P. sports, viz., Sergts Griffen and Waghorn. With their aid we managed to secure third place. The splendid running of our relay team, on a bad track, is worthy of mention, their time for the mile being 3 min. 56 4/5 secs. In the Indian ranks' three miles, the winner's time was 15 min. 47 secs. These times are well above the average, the former being only 1 1/5 sec. outside

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the Army record, and the latter within a minute of world's record.

Despite the inflow of talent from Blighty, we are not doing too well in the football world. Perhaps it is that the players have not had sufficient practice as a team. In the final of the Porter cup we were outclassed by the 26th Field Brigade R.A., and only the superb work of our custodian kept the score from looking like Hobbs' batting average. Sergt Chumbley, who was in hospital through trying conclusions with a lorry, was sadly missed. It is well to note that a few days later we defeated the same team in a friendly match. Results of the various games are appended.

Central Provinces Sports.—1, 1st Battn Hampshire Regt., 31½ points; 2, 2nd Battn West Yorks Regt., 17½; R.Signals, 14.

Football, C.P. Tournament.—1st round, Royal Signals 5; 1st Battn Hampshire Regt., 2. Semi-final, Royal Signals, 1; 2nd Battn Gloucester Regt., 3. Porter Cup.—Final, R.Signals, 0; 26th Field Brigade R.A., 3. Friendly—Royal Signals, 1; 26th Field Brigade R.A., 0.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Command Individual Championships.**—The annual boxing competition took place in the R.H.A. ring, Abbassia, on Jan. 27th, 28th and 29th, but proved a very unfortunate fixture so far as the Corps was concerned, owing to the disablement of two of our three entries. Details are as follows:—

Feather weight—L/Corpl George (R.Signals) v. Pte Carter (1st Battn. Leicestershire Regt.). George well won a hard fight against a most experienced boxer, after the judges had decided that an extra round was necessary to award a verdict. Owing to a badly-cut nose, George was unable to go further into the competition; he should go far in subsequent fixtures.

Welter weight—L/Corpl Osborne (R.Signals) v. Corpl Barling 15/19th Hussars). Osborne, the better boxer, was not nearly so fit as the cavalryman, and the pace proving too hot, he lost a good fight on points.

L/Sergt Wheeler (R.Signals) v. L/Corpl Butler (Somerset L.I.). Wheeler sustained a severe cut over the left eye early in the first round, but despite this handicap he won a well-deserved victory on points. As, months before the competition, we were informed that the Somerset man was going to make a stir among all the light heavies in Egypt, we were all the more pleased that Wheeler won. Again the M.O., after putting three stitches in the cut over Wheeler's eye, put paid to his aspirations.

Lieut B. B. Kennett (R.Signals) v. Lieut Solly (R.I.F.). Kennett, in mixing it with a stronger man, received a knock-out in the second round. The crowd, with their lusty "one for the loser!" showed their appreciation of the fight.

We hope that when the 1928 championships come along, our luck will be reversed.

**Command Team Championships.**—The draw for this competition has just been published, and the Corps in Egypt meet the 1st Battn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the preliminary round.

**League Football.**—Just a slip, and we lost our unbeaten home record for this season. We fell before the R.A.F., who have since defeated the 1st Pack Brigade (their first loss this season), the 15/19th Hussars, and the 1st Battn. A. and S. H.

**Command Cup.**—Thanks to the team, we have added another 8 points towards that "jolly old Command pot," and also passed into the second round of the Command football cup. We defeated the R.A.O.C. in this event. We have now to play the 3rd Hussars on our own ground, so we are hopeful of collecting a few more points.

**League Results.**—

January 8th—R.Signals 6; Cairo City Police 0.
January 15th—R.Signals 1; Royal Air Force 4.
January 22nd—R.Signals 3; 12th Lancers 1.
January 29th—R.Signals 2; R.A.S.C. 0.

Played 21, won 14, lost 5, drawn 2; goals—for 63, against 32. Points 30.

**Cross-Country.**—A photo of the team which ran into second place in the Command cross-country event is appended.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Hockey.**—In this branch of sport we have always held our own, and although we have played very few matches this season, the results show that the team is still exceptionally good for a small unit. Our one regret is that there is no small units competition. The best result was against the 15/19th Hussars. This team obtained 8 points in the Command competition, thus proving the fickleness of fate, as our team failed to garner any. Results to date:—

v. 15/19th Hussars, won 10—1.
v. R.A.S.C. "A," won 9—0.
v. H.Q., R.A.F, won 6—5.
v. H.Q., R.A.F. and 216 Squad R.A.F., won 7—2.
v. R.A.O.C., won 3—2.
v. 216 Squad. R.A.F., won 7—3.

All these games were played away, as our ground is still under construction.



**Tennis.**—There is a great boom in this sport since our two new and excellent courts have been completed. The membership roll now totals 43 members, with Major G. E. Sampson as president. No matches have yet been played with outside units, but an American tournament is being run with great success, and budding Tilden's are to be seen distributing balls around the camp daily. With the talent we are finding there should be no reason why we should not gain a few points in this branch of sport towards the best-all-round unit competition.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—The Company team has done very well during the past month, and has reached the final of the C.E. Institute football cup competition for the second year in succession. About thirty teams entered, so the performance of the Company team in getting through to the final is a very creditable one. In the semi-final we beat C Company Norfolk Regiment by 3 goals to 2. This Company had already disposed of No. 1 Company Egypt Signals in an earlier round of the competition.

**Boxing.**—In the Command individual championships at Abbassia, L/Sergt Wheeler, though winning his first contest in the middle-weights, was unable to meet his next opponent, owing to a damaged eye which necessitated three stitches.

## No. 1 Section, No. 2 W/T Co., Sarafand.

**Sport.**—Congratulations to our C.O., Major Worlledge, on his well-deserved wins in the first race meeting of the year here.

**Cross- Country Running.**—Although we have been unable to maintain our early form in the league runs, we hang on to our position at the head of the table. In six runs we have been placed as follows:—1st, three times; 2nd, once; 3rd, twice.

League placings of the leading teams are as under: Wireless, 25 points; T. and R. Section, 23.5; Police, 21.5.

**Football.**—Many striking reversals of form have taken place in recent games, for in the league we have lost badly to teams we have hitherto beaten with ease, and yet we established a precedent in scoring a fine win over the almost invincible "Armcars" by a wider margin than the score indicates. Three games only have been played to date, results being as follows:

v. Palestine General Hospital, lost 0—3.
v. Transport and Repair Section, lost 1—6.
v. No. 2 A.C. Company, won 2—1.

Important friendlies with civilian teams have given our players chances to show a little of their real ability in leather punting, and it was no mean feat to record a fine win of 5—3 over the Maccabees of Jaffa, who are generally regarded as being the strongest Jewish team in the country. Against the International Sports Club of Jaffa we also recorded a fine win of 4—2; while following a tedious journey to Haifa on January 29th, we were unfortunate to lose by 2—1 to Hoepels in a game played on a veritable quagmire.

**Hockey.**—If, in the league games about to commence, our hitherto excellent team is able to maintain the standard it has set in a long series of friendly matches, there is no reason why we should not head the table at the conclusion of the season. Games of recent date have resulted as follows:—

v. Palestine Police, won 4—3.
v. No. 2 A.C.C., won 6—1.
v. P.G. Hospital, draw 4—4, and lost 3—6.
v. T. and R. Section, won 5—1.
v. Jerusalem Sports Club, draw 2—2.

No fewer than six of our players were chosen to play in the first two of a series of games, the object of which is to choose a representative Command team which, later on, will travel to Cairo to test its prowess against the several powerful combinations in that Command. Of these six it appears certain that at least Sergts Newman and Price will gain a much-sought berth among the élite, with Corpl Smith a good third.

## Iraq Signals.

**General.**—Our strength at Hinaidi is 54, and as only three members of the football and rugby teams play any other game, the results given below are much more creditable that at first appears.

**Hockey.**—In the league we have played 6 games, and won 3 and lost 3. Goals—for 15, against 12.

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A friendly match, No. 2 W/T Section and Hinaidi Signals (combined) v. the Casuals Club, resulted in a draw of one each after a keenly-contested game. L/Corpl Collier and Sigmn Dyball were conspicuous by their clever tackling and passing.

**Football.**—In the Hinaidi League we have played 26 games, and won 9, lost 11, and drawn 6. Goals—for 37, against 51.

**Rugger.**—For the first time we have been able to place a Section XV. in the field; and although our record does not seem very brilliant, when we won, we won properly—and when we lost, we were only beaten by a very small margin.

We have played H.Q. Wing 2nd King's Regt., Nos. 70, 30, 8 and 55 Squadrons, A and D Squadrons Iraq Aircraft Depot, and A.H.Q. (twice) so far, and our "record" is: played 8, won 1, drawn 3, lost 4; points—for 34, against 31. Tries were scored

The Section Team

by Signalmen Luther and Killian (3 each), Lieut C. D. Hinds, Corpl Gelder, and Signalmen Carpenter and Edgecumbe (1 each).

**Boxing.**—During the inter-Services championships, Sigmn L. Symons was given a special contest with L.A.C. Parkes, the open R.A.F. novices winner. He put up a good show, but was knocked out in the last round. After having been awarded the best loser's prize and presented with a cup by Sir Henry Dobbs, British High Commissioner of Iraq, it transpired that this was a mistake, as no best loser's cup was offered. Verbal congratulations and heaps of applause were his share of the spoils, with the promise of a prize at a later date. Better luck next time!

## Signal Section, Hong Kong.

**Football.**—In the Garrison shield, the small units have done quite well. Results: 1st round, v. H.M.S. "Titania," won 2—1. 2nd round, v. Submarines, won 3—1.

**Hockey.**—The R.E.–Royal Signals were "wheeled out" in the first round of the shield.

**Cricket.**—Luck has left us in this line. So far we have played and lost three games.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Boxing.**—On February 3rd a charity boxing tournament, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, was held at the headquarters of the 17th Tower Hamlets Rifles, Tredegar Road, Bow. The programme consisted of a special team contest between the Tower Hamlets Rifles and 54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals, four exhibition bouts by the Columbia Boxing Club, and three bouts by the Limehouse and Poplar Boxing Club. A very pleasant evening was spent, and many thanks are due to our friends the Tower Hamlet Rifles for the bountiful hospitality extended to us. The results of the team contest, for which a silver cup was presented, were as follows:—

Fly-weight—Dvr Mercer (Signals) beat Rifleman Cockrill by a knock-out in the first round.

Bantam-weight—Sigmn Detenon beat Corpl Sykes (T.H.R.) by a knock-out in the first round.

Feather-weights—Rifleman Leaver beat Dvr J. C. Scott (Signals) by a knock-out in the third round.

Light-weights—Sigmn H. Sawford beat Rifleman Goffey on points after an extra round. This was the best fight of the evening.

Welter-weights—Rifleman Everett beat Dvr Ashdown (Signals) on points.

Middle-weights—Corpl Mills (T.H.R.) beat Sigmn W. Sawford by a knock-out in the third round.

On team points we again drew with the Tower Hamlet Rifles. It was decided that the cup should be held by each unit for six months, the T.H.R. taking first turn.

The unit entered five men in the Divl. championships held at Clare Street Barracks, Northampton, on February 12th. We are pleased to record the return of one Divl. champion, Dvr Mercer winning the bantams contest. He was presented with a silver medal. Dvr Middleditch and L/Corpl McMenamin received bronze medals as runners-up. The results, as far as the unit is concerned, were: —

Light-weights—Sigmn Dent (No. 3 Coy.) lost to Pte Prickett (4th Northants) in the third round.

Welter-weights—Dvr Middleditch (No. 1 Coy.) beat Pte Dempster (7th Essex), winning on points. Middleditch then met Pte Marven (5th Essex), who was disqualified in the first round for hitting low. In the final Middleditch lost on points to Pte Taylor (1st Cambridgeshires), the referee stating that the loser had put up a very plucky fight.

Feather-weights—Dvr J. C. Scott (No. 2 Coy.) was disqualified in the second round.

Middle-weights—L/Corpl McMenamin (No. 3 Coy.) beat Gnr Turner (Suffolk Heavy Brigade R.A.), but lost on points to Corpl Ellis (4th Northants) in the final.

Bantam-weights—Dvr Mercer (No. 1 Coy.) drew a bye. In the semi-finals he beat Pte Southgate, and in the final beat Gnr Roberts (Suffolk Heavy Brigade R.A.).

Dvr Mercer will represent the 54th Division as bantam-weight in the forthcoming T.A. championships.


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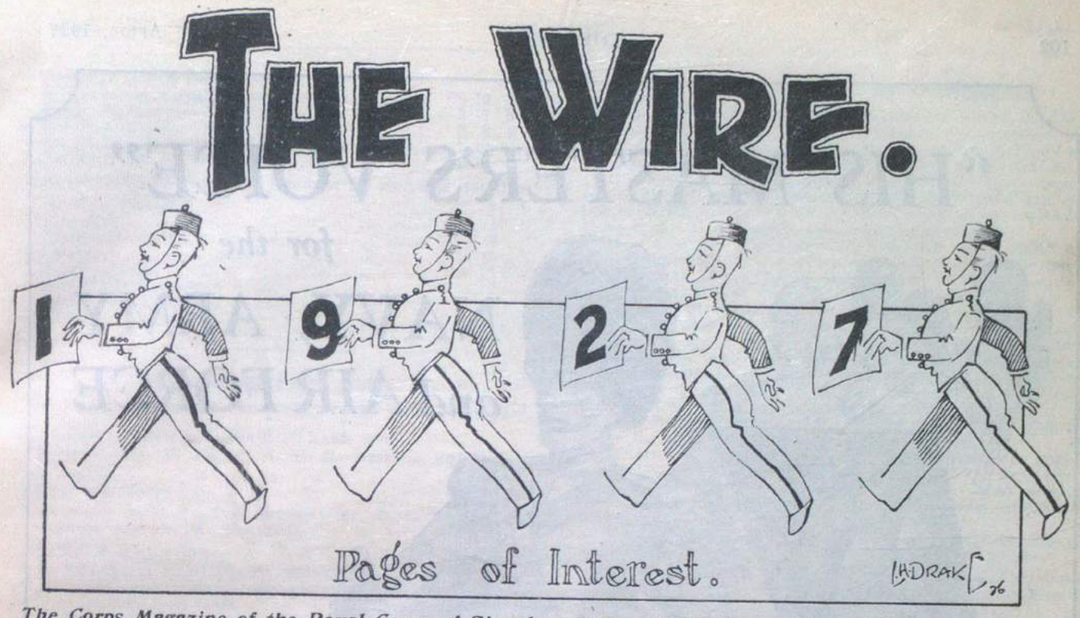



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VOL. VIII.—No. 86 APRIL, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


## Editorial Notes.

China, with the possibility of stirring times there, has occupied the attention of most of us during the past month. We take the opportunity of conveying our salutations to those of Royal Signals who are occupying "fronts seats," and reminding them that notes for publication in the Corps Journal would be greatly appreciated by all our readers.

Copies of THE WIRE are being regularly despatched to subscribers who are serving with the Shanghai Defence Force, and will, we trust, reach them in due course.

❀ ❀ ❀

May we direct the attention of E Divisional Signals, Meerut, India, to a few personal remarks in this issue from No. 2 Coy. A Corps Signals, Aldershot?

❀ ❀ ❀

A telegram was received at this office in January, asking us to hold all subscribers' copies for F Divisional Signals, Kohat, India, pending the arrival of correspondence which was stated to have been despatched by Air Mail. No such information has as yet been received, and we are still awaiting instructions as to the disposal of accumulated copies for February, March, and April.

❀ ❀ ❀

A regular reader has asked us to assist him in discovering the present location of "Taffy Owens," "Paddy Hunt," and "Jim Holdsy"—all of No. 54 Squad—who are asked to communicate direct with S. J. Baggaley (better known to his friends as Snowball), 80 South Avenue, Rainworth, nr. Mansfield, Notts.

We welcome the re-appearance of unit notes from the 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals, T.A., and trust the members of that unit will find much to interest them in a regular perusal of the Corps Journal.

❀ ❀ ❀

It is notified for general information that double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can now be obtained on application to this office. Price 2s. 6d. (postage 2d. extra).

❀ ❀ ❀

A handy illustrated booklet, entitled "To Canada—£2," has just been issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway. It contains a mass of useful information as to openings and situations vacant in Canada, wages paid, how to obtain a farm of one's own, useful travelling hints, etc. A copy of the booklet may be obtained *post free* on application to The Colonization Department, Canadian Pacific Railway, 62 Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following Bankers' Orders and amounts from Branches, etc.:—

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2/Lieuts J. J. Y. Scarlett, L. C. C. Harrison, and W. G. Tucker.

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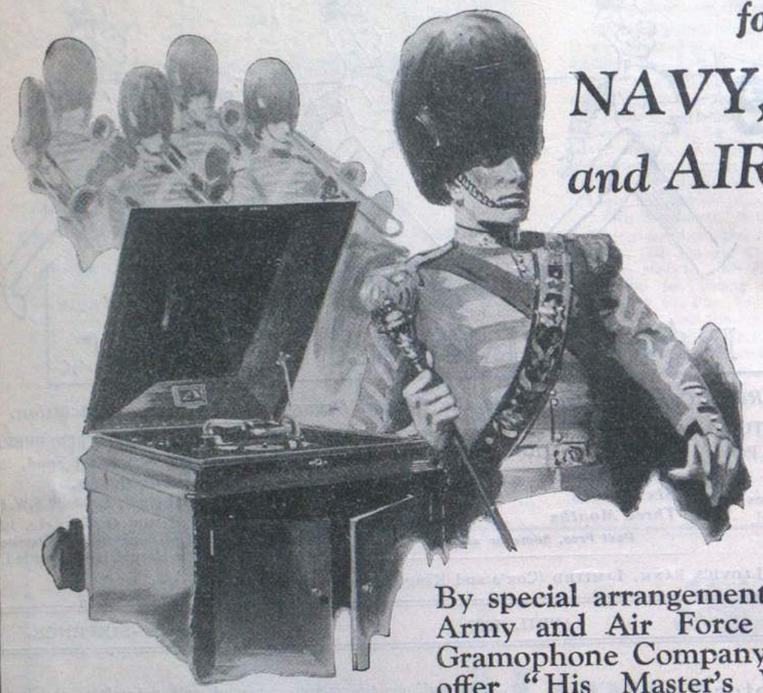

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## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKERS' ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
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Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl. Signals; Mr. D. R. Kirby; Mr. Floyd, and Mr W. Mansfield.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-sergeant Royal Signals, London. In need of financial guarantee to secure employment offered. £17 advanced on loan from funds.
2—Ex-sergeant Royal Signals. In difficult circumstances. £10 advanced on loan from funds.
3—Ex-signalman, London, down and out. Clothing, accommodation, and food provided; employment found; and £5 advanced from funds.
4—Ex-signalman, in temporary difficulties. £1 advanced from funds.
5—Ex-signalman, wife and family, emigrating to Australia. £11 11s. advanced from funds.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

## Appeals for Assistance by Ex-Members.

It is desirable that it should be generally known that the two recognised agencies for the assistance of ex-members of the Corps who are in need are—(1) The General Secretary of the Association, and (2) Provincial Branches of the O.C.A.

It sometimes happens that ex-members of the Corps representing themselves as in need of assistance make direct application to officers, n.c.o.s and others, whose addresses are known to them, or can be ascertained from telephone directories.

It is generally very inadvisable that such cases should be assisted financially by individuals when it is practicable to refer the applicant to the General Secretary of the Association, or to an O.C.A. Branch if one exists in the district.

The General Secretary is the proper person to deal with all applications when they occur in London or the Provinces, and such cases should therefore be referred direct to him. But when, outside the London area, there appears to be need for immediate help, the applicant should be told how to get into touch with the President or Secretary of the Local Branch of the Old Comrades' Association if one exists.

The officials of an O.C.A. Branch are generally best able to gauge the accuracy of an applicant's story.

Officers and others who give money to applicants who might reasonably have been sent to explain their need to the General Secretary, or to an official of an O.C.A. Branch, do so at their own risk, and must not rely on re-imbursement from Association funds.

The names and addresses of the official Association Representatives in the Provinces and elsewhere are as follows:

S.T.C.—Capt. S. C. R. Usher, M.C., School of Sigs., Catterick.
Manchester—Sergt J. McVittie, Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester.
Edinburgh—Sergt W. Ross, Drill Hall, Brandon Ter., E'burgh.
Fulham—Mr. L. F. Moorse, Fulham House, Putney Bridge, London, S.W.
Bulford and Larkhill—Capt C. A. Oliver, M.C., 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.
Chiswick—Mr. J. Horner, Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.6.
Birmingham—Mr. G. W. Barham, The Barracks, Great Brook Street, Birmingham.
Aldershot—C.S.M. R. Keevil, 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot.
Sergt N. Grant, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., A Corps Signals, Ewshott.
Capt E. J. Murphy, Command Signal Company, Aldershot.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**To be C.Q.M.-Sergeant—**
2307038 Gilbert, F. 1/1/27
2306164 Thompson, C. 1/1/27
2307262 Green, L. 15/1/27

**To be Sergeant—**
1850175 Tebby, C. 27/4/26

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**
2308555 Waghorn, C. 25/10/26

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**
2306656 Crockford, A. 11/11/26
1855586 Connelly, J. 18/11/26
2313509 Napper, H. 22/11/26
2313903 Jackson, J. 3/12/26
2309340 Barrett, R. 3/12/26
2312522 Buhlmann, F. 3/12/26
2314080 Price, E. 5/12/26
2311106 Coates, R. 16/12/26
2313908 Thomas, W. 16/12/26
2306319 Carey, E. 16/12/26
2311720 Hague, F. 16/12/26
2306507 Warren, C. 16/12/26
2311806 Standley, F. 16/12/26
2306838 Hoyland, V. 18/1/27
2310514 Wheeler, E. 18/1/27

**To be Corporal—**
2314009 Cartwright, C. 26/4/26
2311276 Porter, S. 26/4/26
2310549 Hayles, B. 26/4/26
2308533 Good, W. 10/5/26
735542 Kemp, A. 25/5/26
2311677 Webber, W. 27/5/26
1423167 Morris, W. 14/6/26
2310853 Cahill, E. 25/8/26
2313951 Redworth, F. 3/9/26
2311409 Guile, W. 11/9/26
2313635 Read, S. 18/9/26
2311689 Osborn, E. 21/9/26
2314489 Andrews, F. 1/10/26
2311302 Topp, R. 11/10/26
727793 Edge, M. 12/10/26
1858913 Shreeves, L. 16/10/26
2314313 Hart, R. 22/10/26
2314029 Brown, H. 25/10/26
2306824 Lemon, J. 25/10/26

**To be Corporal (appointed F/Corpl)**
2303360 Hawthorne, W. 13/2/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**
2310581 Prees, J. 2/11/26
2313030 Gresham, H. 2/11/26
2312479 Blower, J. 2/11/26
12233 Smith, C. 11/11/26
2314000 Gordon, S. 18/11/26
2314083 Walker, A. 18/11/26
2314317 Smith, J. 22/11/26
2313068 McCullough, N. 25/11/26
3437324 Tavner, R. 25/11/26
3123511 McDonald, W. 25/11/26
2315640 Reid, C. 25/11/26
394244 Betts, W. 29/11/26
2314684 Robertson, W. 30/11/26
2313807 Jones, C. 3/12/26
2313874 Eldridge, H. 3/12/26
2314365 Parish, A. 3/12/26
2314064 Springett, J. 16/12/26
2309741 Toogood, F. 16/12/26
2314096 Jones, R. 18/1/27

## Discharges.

2306062 C.Q.M.S. E. Shepherd, 12/2/27
2306113 C.Q.M.S. C. Hatton, 27/2/27
2306147 C.Q.M.S. C. Duffett, 28/2/27
1856236 Sergt W. Locke, 11/2/27
2306115 L/Sergt C. Burgess, 6/2/27
2306519 Corpl J. O'Donnell, 26/10/26
2306704 Corpl R. Butler, 21/2/27
5150 F/Corpl W. Dobson, 12/2/27

## Transfers to Army Reserve.

2313859 Corpl A. Kidby, 2/2/27
2312900 Corpl H. Elford, 6/2/27
2309739 Corpl C. Heitman, 14/2/27

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Exeter—Capt W. A. Roberts, M.C., The Priory, The Friars, Exeter.
Liverpool—Major A. M. Webster, M.C., The Barracks, Mason Street, Liverpool.
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Derby—Capt J. C. Bray, Drill Hall, Phœnix Street, Derby.
Darlington—Capt P. Jennings, M.C., Drill Hall, Darlington.
Glasgow—Capt A. Beatson Bell, 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.
India—A Divl. Signals—Corpl F. G. Smithers, A Divl. Signals, Peshawar.
B Divl. Signals—Sergt S. Dolbear, B Divl. Signals, Quetta.
C Divl. Signals—Sigmn H. W. Hutchinson, C Divl. Signals, Dera Ismail Khan.
Rawalpindi—Capt T. B. Ferriday, B Corps Signals, R'pindi.
E Divl. Signals—Corpl D. McMillan, E Divl. Signals, Meerut.
F Divl. Signals—Sergt W. D. Peerless, F Divl. Signals, Kohat
Jubbulpore—Maj. E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore.
Karachi—Sergt A. R. Godbold, A Corps Signals, Karachi.
Sialkot—Sigmn B. O. Mayson, B Cav. Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.
Egypt—Sergt W. Markham, R.Signals, Headquarters B.T.E., Eden Palace Hotel, Cairo.
Malta—Sigmn W. Vise, Command Signal Office, Valletta, Malta.
Palestine—Major J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand, Palestine.
Rhine—Major R. C. Nixon, Rhine Signal Units, A.P.O., S/40 British Army of the Rhine.
Singapore—Capt E. G. Sinnott, Signal Sect., Malaya, Singapore.
Bermuda—C.Q.M.S. P. A. Simmonds, Prospect, Bermuda.
Baghdad—L/Corpl F. Brudenell, Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi, Baghdad, Iraq.
Belfast—Capt P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., M.C., Northern Ireland Signal Company, Victoria Barracks, Belfast.
Hong Kong—Sigmn A. Durand, Royal Signals, Wellington Barracks, Hong Kong.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—
Major P. B. D. H. Foot, from Catterick to Woolwich.
Lieut W. D. J. Harries, from Catterick to Blackdown.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 15/2/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Majors to be Lieut.-Colonels, 15/2/27:—
R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C.
J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O.
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors:—
R. Elsdale, M.C., 10/2/27; G. E. Mansergh, M.C., 15/2/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
55th (W.L.) Divl. Signals—J. W. Carter (late Officer Cadet Nottingham Univ. Coll. Contgt., Sen. Div. O.T.C.), to be 2/Lieut. 1/1/27.



War Office, 22/2/27.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
R.E. Stores—The undermentioned temporary appointment is made:—
Inspector (Cl. Z.) Major P. B. D. H. Foot, R.Signals, vice Major J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.Signals, 10/2/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
52nd (L.) Divl. Signals—2/Lt R. N. Houston to be Lt. 1/2/27.
2/Lieut A. S. Maclaren to be Lieut. 1/2/27.
56th (1st London) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut R. W. G. Freeman to be Lieut. 6/12/26.

War Office, 25/2/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Major P. B. D. H. Foot is seconded whilst employed as Inspr. R.E. Stores, 10/2/27.
Capt C. H. H. Vulliamy to be Major, 15/2/27.
Capt R. G. Williams, M.V.O., on attaining the age fixed for compulsory retirement is placed on retired pay, 24/2/27, and is granted the rank of Major.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Major R. G. Williams, M.V.O. (Captain, retired pay), to be Major, 24/2/27, with seniority 25/8/26.

War Office, 1/3/27.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut C. W. Newsam, late Temp. 2/Lieut. General List, Royal Signals, to be Lieut. 8/12/26, with seniority 28/9/25.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieuts. to be Captains with regimental seniority 17/4/20:—
C. A. Oliver, M.C., 15/2/27.
W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., 15/2/27.
E. G. W. Pearse, 19/2/27.
H. M. Sylvester, M.C., 19/2/27, and remains seconded.
V. J. E. Westropp, 19/2/27, and remains seconded.
R. G. L. Giblin, 19/2/27.
J. R. Patten, 19/2/27.
E. L. Farnell, 19/2/27.
Such seniority not to count for Army seniority, pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay.
Capt A. J. Hannah, from the Indian Army, to be Captain, 2/3/27, retaining his present seniority.

War Office, 4/3/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Major L. Griffith, D.S.O., to be Lieut.-Colonel, 14/2/27.
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 15/2/27:—
H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., and remains seconded.
J. R. Carter, O.B.E.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
School of Signals—Capt (now Major) R. Elsdale, M.C., Royal Signals, relinquishes his appointment of Instructor (Cl. CC) 10/2/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cav. (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl. Signals—Hon. J. E. Bingham (late Officer Cadet Cambridge Univ. Contgt., Sen. Div. O.T.C.), to be 2/Lieut. 21/2/27.
52nd (L.) Divl. Signals—J. M. Wilkie to be 2/Lieut. 1/2/27.

War Office, 11/3/27.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut C. L. Chapple, from R.W. Fus., to be Lieut. 12/3/27, and retains his present seniority.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Officer Cadet A. Wilson, from Nottingham Univ. Contgt., Sen. Div. O.T.C., to be 2/Lieut. 12/3/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—E. L. Ellis to be 2/Lieut. 12/3/27.
56th (1st London) Divl. Signals—Lieut A. J. Skinner, M.C., late R.E., to be 2/Lieut. and relinquishes the rank of Lieut. 3/1/27.

War Office, 15/3/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
47th (2nd London) Divl. Signals—Lieut. L. M. Joseph to be Captain 31/12/26.


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Armour's

BEEF

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## NOTICES.

### Army Educational Courses.

War Office, March 15th, 1927.

The next Course of Instruction for Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers at the School of Education, Shorncliffe, will begin on April 8th and terminate on June 17th. The provisional allotment of vacancies for this Course gives 44 to Aldershot; 20 to the Southern Command; 19 to the Eastern Command; 11 to the British Army of the Rhine; 9 to Northern Ireland District; 7 to the Scottish Command; 6 each to the London District and the Western Command; and 5 to the Northern Command.

### Nearly 300 Commissions—Army Entrance Examination.

War Office, March 17th, 1927.

The next Army Entrance Examination is announced to begin on June 28th. There are open for competition at the examination at least 94 Cadetships at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and 200 Cadetships at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. To be eligible, candidates must not have reached the age of 19 years on July 1st, 1927, but must have reached the age of 18 years on that date. Successful candidates will, if physically fit, join their respective Institutions on the ensuing 2nd September, and will undergo a course of training there of approximately 18 months' duration.

Of the 90 or more Cadets who will enter the Royal Military Academy as a result of this examination, about 14 will be allotted to the Royal Engineers, and of the remainder 75 per cent. will be allotted to the Royal Artillery and 25 per cent. to the Royal Corps of Signals. The 200 Cadets entering the Royal Military College will receive commissions in the Cavalry, Foot Guards, Infantry, Royal Tank Corps, and Royal Army Service Corps of the British Service, and in the Indian Army.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1, and should be completed and forwarded to the Commissioners in time for delivery on or before May 4th, 1927. No form of application received after that date will be accepted in any circumstances.

### Promotion in the Territorial Army—Possession of Certificate "A"

War Office, March 18th, 1927.

It has been decided that the provision made by Army Council Instruction in December last, under which an officer of the Territorial Army who holds Certificate "A," Officers' Training Corps of one branch of the Service, but serves in a different branch, is required, before being eligible for promotion to Lieutenant in the latter branch, to convert his certificate by passing in subjects applicable to his new branch, shall not apply to officers who become due for promotion between December, 1926, and January 1st, 1928. Such officers will be promoted under conditions existing prior to December, 1926.

## Wedding.

A wedding of a military character was recently solemnised, the contracting parties being Sergt John Angell (eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Angell, of Winchester Cottage, Hawkhurst) and Miss Lilian Mary Harrison (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harrison, of 49 Burrage Road, Plumstead).

The bridgegroom is in the Indian Corps of Signals, having served in India for six-and-a-half years. It was in that country that he made the acquaintance of the bride, whose father has seen service in India in the Royal Army Service Corps.

The bride, given away by the bridegroom's father, wore a white crepe-de-chine dress, veil and orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of choice white chrysanthemums and hyacinths, tied with the colours of the Signal Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps.

There were four bridesmaids. Miss Nellie Harrison (sister) and a friend of the bride were attired in green dresses. Miss Jessie and Miss Jean Angell (sisters of the bridegroom) wore blue marocain. All the bridesmaids had silver wreaths on their heads, and carried bouquets of white chrysanthemums.

The Rev. C. Compton officiated, and Pte William Angell (Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Tidworth) the bridegroom's brother, acted as best man.

Malay Boys, Pulau Brani.

These two earn a living by ferrying people to and from Blaking Mati—the home of the R.A.

As the car containing the bride and bridegroom returned from the church, a Union Jack was hung on the back. Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Angell entertained a number of relatives and friends, and later in the day the bride and bridegroom left for their honeymoon at Windsor. They have received many useful presents, and they return to India very shortly.

## Random Reflections—Dogs and other Pets.

In his inimitable "Souvenirs Entomologiques," Jean Henri Fabre ("the Insects' Homer") says: "When man's society is lacking, we take refuge in that of the animals—without always losing by the exchange."

This sentiment has been expressed in varying form, and in all ages and climes; and the receipt of a letter from a Belgian friend shows that even to-day, with all the distractions of the modern world to absorb our attention, the thought still comes to the surface. In this case my friend—who had just recovered from a somewhat disillusioning experience, in which a member of the fair sex was involved—said: "Les bêtes, surtout les chiens, sont les meilleurs amis des hommes."

With this I agree—and so, I doubt not, will many of my readers. Pets are usually acquired by those who are driven in upon themselves by lack of congenial society, or want of opportunity for the exercise of the particular talents with which they may happen to be blessed. The loneliness of a crowd can be very awful sometimes, and the possession of some humble member of the lower creation forms a very useful and efficient safety-valve for emotions which might easily find vent in a less harmful manner.

Sailors, especially, have reduced the pet-collecting habit to a fine art; and many interesting and appealing tales are told of the days when ships set sail with a complete farm-yard aboard. The primary object of the live-stock was, of course, to provide delectable dishes for the mess-deck; but as the voyage progressed, the members of the crew usually formed a sneaking fondness for one or more of the fowls and animals, which thereby failed to come to their appointed end in the ship's galley.

In the Army, circumstances are different, except in one respect: the heart of the soldier is as susceptible as that of the sailor where the humbler creation is concerned. In India our opportunities of acquiring pets are generally more plentiful than at home. The dog, of course, predominates—pariah and pedigreed, ornamental and useful. But the sentiment behind it all is still the same as that which inspired Byron, Wordsworth, Burns and Scott to pay homage to our four-footed friend.

The monkey comes a good second. We have one enshrined in memory's halls, who breakfasted one fateful morn on a tube of tooth-paste, two indelible pencils, and a 50-rupee note. Thereafter she found her way into the bungalow and "arranged" our kits for inspection. At the time we were attached for accommodation to the Welch Regiment, and as a result of "Jeannie's" activities we had, sorrowfully, to give her away.

Birds of various sorts find favour, also. In one station I used to have the honour of taking my superior officer's aviary by motor to the seaside for the fresh air. Truly has it been written, "One man in his time plays many parts!"

At different times we have met men who have been the proud possessors of such varied friends as a mongoose, a hen, a rock-lizard, a spider, a cat, and a guinea-fowl.

Apart from the companionship afforded by these creatures, there is another aspect of the case. A careful study of the habits of any animal repays a thousand-fold the time and patience expended. Man is placed on a higher plane than animals because of his reasoning powers—often, alas! sadly deficient. But we still have much to learn, and many a useful lesson is taught by the creatures which are supposed to be guided by instinct. I say "supposed," because in spite of experts, I am quite convinced, after the careful observation of the ways of one "lady-dog" over a period of five years, that "instinct" does not supply the answer to every question in this connection, and that we must admit a certain amount of reasoning power is possessed by those over whom, "in the beginning," man was given dominion.

"He knows, Who gave that love sublime,
And gave that strength of feeling great
Above all human estimate!"

Peshawar, N.W.F.P. A. G.

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## Plain Tales.

**To Start With.**—What shall I talk about? It really is difficult to dig up a subject these days. There is someone to tell you about the sports; another to report departures, etc.; and yet another who renders a brief account of social life in your unit. Here I am, sucking a pencil (blowed if it isn't indelible, too!) and all I can think of is the frightful manner in which the Ellis-Barl violinist wrecks his bows. The Ellis-Barl Dance Band plays umpteen times a week (some weeks), and George manages to make one bow last nearly all the evening! I think he must put the resin on upside down. However, he has now acquired a Stroh violin, and will doubtless be able to extract the melody with less manual labour than hitherto. I will not say too much about this band, lest I wake up one morning to find the entrance hall of my quarters blocked with rude letters from Catterick—that home of struggling musicians, motor-cyclists, and hairdressers.

* * * *

**Hammers, W/T, Folding.**—This has nothing to do with what follows, and the fact that you can't see anything funny in it doesn't influence me a scrap. I can think of no other heading for this paragraph, anyway.

I have had one thousand four hundred and sixty-two applications for information on "getting rich quick." People seem to think that because a chap gets a foot in the Quartermaster's office, he automatically becomes a capitalist. All wrong! The "clutching hand" of the war is no more: let this profound thought sink in. "That which is gone before is a thing of the past." I don't know who wrote that, but I guess it took some thinking out. The Q.M. of 1927 is a philanthropist. The methods and ruses by which Q.M.s manage to retain their status as phil—what I said cannot possibly be discussed in these pages. Seekers after knowledge should equip themselves with a copy of Dr. Winterbottom's "Giving and Receiving," Stoard, Stoard, Houten and another bloke, 7/6 net. Keep in a cool place.

## THE FAT OF THE LAND.

We regret that our Cartoonist, who has been on holiday, has developed so many chins that he is quite unable to draw anything this month—not even his breath, lest the few remaining buttons prove unequal to the strain!

---

**A Mis-spent Evening.**—On Sunday, March 6th, a film entitled "The Mountain Eagle" was shown in the Garrison Theatre, Bulford. I saw it. I paid a perfectly good shilling and two tolerable pennies for the privilege, and therefore consider myself entitled to make the following remarks. It served me right for going to the pictures on Sunday, anyway.

If there is a duller, slower or more uninteresting picture in the country, I shall be glad to have warning. "The Mountain Eagle" appeared to me to consist of about twenty-seven million feet of film showing a weak man trying hard to look strong and terrible. The loud and pointed remarks of the troops during the "sob" portions of the film were mostly justified. Have you ever felt you wanted to scream with sheer ennui?

Those responsible should get to know something about the films they book, and firmly decline to accept junk of the sort referred to above. I don't know anything about booking films, but an arrangement whereby a manager *has* to accept stuff like that is obviously all wrong.

And that's that. Now I feel less moody about my shilling. I don't begrudge the two pennies.

* * * *

**In the Carden.**—Specially contributed for the benefit of those queer people who dig, plant and swank.

April 6th.—Throw all the tins, stones, cabbage stalks, etc., back on the next allotment. Take hammer and jumper, and jump holes ready for early rhubarb.

April 10th.—Plant celery bulbs. Roll the lawn. Think of an excuse for keeping Harry's fork.

April 18th.—Old tins, stones, decaying vegetables, etc., over the fence again. Any carnations attempting to push through now should be forced back with a small hammer. Prune watermelons. Prepare sites for planting out castor oil, Fuller's earth, geraniums, delphiniums and harmoniums.

April 24th.—Sow potato seeds, taking great care not to mix the baked with the mashed. Chips may be planted horizontally, in spite of what other experts say.

April 29th.—Trim chutney bushes. Thin out pâte-de-foie grass. Curse the dandelions, chick-weeds, guaiacum (lignum vitæ), and the day you started gardening.

April 30th.—Prepare excuses and apologies for your allotment. Run over the dimensions of your produce in the garden you had the year before last, first ensuring that there is no one about who really knows.

I shall explain next month (perhaps) how to grow cavaire with a fair measure of success.

* * * *

**Ladies Only.**—For heaven's sake don't keep asking me how I got this scratch on the cheek! How was I to know the woman was going to try out my idea for getting shingled? Let us say no more about it.

Some of you cut rather a weird figure in your attempts to do the Charleston, but do not be disheartened. Stick it! I will describe the dress of the best lady Charlestoner next month. I may also do the same for the worst, but I won't promise—or should I say threaten? They still try hard to stop the Chaston (as it is now called in the best circles) when a fox-trot is announced. Pretty hopeless and old-fashioned, isn't it? What a sensation at a well-known Bulford club!

Do you know that your dance frock is too long? Don't be windy. Off with about four inches at the hem. I will tell you next month whether to tack on another twelve.

No doubt you wonder how it is that I can write with such confidence on matters concerning the fair sex. The fact of the matter is, I am equipped with all the necessary text books. Let me give you a spiffing recipe for a meat rechauffe.

Take a clean dish (I bet that's got you groggy). Into it sprinkle one ounce of Persil. Add a little manganese dioxide and some small pieces of meat well crushed. Grate 1 lb. of marg., a little mustard, some resin, sulphur, and a pinch of painter's colic. Stir thoroughly, place on a fierce fire, and leave till the dish cracks. Swing round and round, and release suddenly. Then sit down and have a good cry until the "old man" comes home.

Don't try this until I have verified it. I am afraid some of the pages are missing from my Cookery Book.

* * * *

**A Good Idea.**—I think this idea of a competion competition for correxs correspondens is sim.ply spl3ndid % however i am in a tempe5 tofdayand as ebveryome knows iam a pergfect litttle ro rip weww when i gebt my mafd up. Tg The Editot wants is us to ix use a typeqwr typewriter does he£. well im usibg one. Icant fimd any commaas yet—I love a typwriyet r I use it witj gusto7 and wherex the bligkimg z yes zest. Ive got thrm,,,, watchmeao fahfatgheytst662345

It is no good. I can't get along so well as I thought I could. I am doing this with red ink on pink blotting paper. I'll give 'em printers.

Grammar? What's that? I am going to split every infinitive I find into sixteen pieces. What is an infinitive, anyway? and what does it look like when it has been maltreated?

"Without scarcely recovering." I found those words on page 77 of THE WIRE for March, and had no sleep last Thursday night through trying to untangle them.

However, this competition is a brainwave, and I may say, without fear of contradiction, that when I have become a shade more proficient on the typewriter, I shall be just as far from winning the coveted prize as I am now.

Yours, still practising. qwertyuiop. 234567 £ & ?

BARLEUX.

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Oh, Barleux dear!
What *do* we hear:
A grave mistake you've found?
Printer! 'tis clear
*Your* end is near—
You must be shot or drowned!

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### A Company, Depot Battalion.

**General.**—

Welcome, wild North-Easter!
Shame it is to see
Odes to every zephyr—
Ne'er a verse to thee.

I feel certain that Kingsley, when he wrote the above lines, had never been to Catterick. One could make a beautiful verse about the north-easter after a visit to the Hipswell neighbourhood, but *not* in the same strain as Kingsley. The strain would be too great! Nevertheless, one has to put up with these little inconveniences, if only to welcome the forerunner of spring.

Which reminds me. Our gardens are now having the careful preparation and cultivation that is needed to bring forth, we hope, May flowers. The roads and paths, too, are undergoing great changes. With the aid of many cartloads of stones, a few tons of cinders, and a roller, the Catterick mud is gradually disappearing. Why, who knows! before very long it may be possible to take your best girl for a walk round the camp without having to emulate the deed of Sir Walter Raleigh.

**Recruits' Trophy.**—Once more we are the proud possessors of the sports shield—this time through the noble efforts of No. 97 Squad. Congratulations, L/Corpl Lambert and the squad. Keep it up!

We have now won the shield six times against B Company's five, and there is one more month to go. That means the least we can do is to tie at six all. What odds about winning, B?

**The More We Are Together.**—Rumour is still persistent that the Depot Battalion is shortly to be re-organised. Beyond the fact that the two Drill Companies will amalgamate, little is known of the actual outcome of the scheme. There is much speculation in certain quarters as to the allotment of the new cadre; and while many are hoping for a change of climate, there are others who have become so thoroughly acclimatised that they have joined the Ancient Order of Frothblowers, and find much comfort in singing their National Anthem.

**101 Not Out!**—It may be of interest to all who have passed through the process of recruit training to know that we have now reached the century mark. No. 101 Squad are very busy learning their Corps history, and seem not at all perturbed by the importance of their number.

**Not Yet, Son.**—Talking of Corps history. If anything happens in China, the future recruit of the Corps will have a much harder job in learning his Corps history than the present rookie. I can well imagine a recruit of 1940 asking of another (under his breath, of course) at an examination: "Was it General Who Flung What or General Sun Set Soon that gave us the bowls they dropped the heads in?"

**Departures.**—Corpl Mansfield and Sigmn Pearcy have left us for civil life, and with them take our heartiest wishes for their success. In Corpl Mansfield we have lost a very good n.c.o. of the old school. A keen disciplinarian and a hard worker, the cook-house will certainly miss him.

**This Month's Happy Thought.**—Just because you see a burst of sunshine, don't think summer has come and start leaving off your cardigan. Remember, you will only have to show it on kit inspection.

G. R. S.

---

### C Company, Depot Battalion.

Apologies are offered for the absence of notes last month. Pressure of work is still very great, and sometimes we do not know where to turn for fatigues. Unfortunately no drivers are being enlisted, to make up for those leaving us for more reasons than postings. During the last two months many changes have taken place, but we are hoping to settle down soon to a quieter time.

**Promotions.**—A/Corpls Webber, Morris and Read to be Corporals. Sigmn Carnell to be L/Corpl. w.e.f. 26/10/26.

**Departures.**—Drivers Studd, Videgrain, Hooker, Vaney, Chesterman and Sigmn Carman, all to civil life. Dvr Barber has left us to settle in Australia under the Government scheme. L/Corpl Smith has left us for the West Indies, also to civil employment. Sigmn Rice (Tishy) to 3rd Divl. Signals. We wish them all the best of luck.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl Brewer and L/Corpl Rosie from A Coy.

**Births.**—To Lieut and Mrs. C. Knowles, a son, on February 7th. To Corpl and Mrs. Battrick, a son.

**Marriages.**—Sergt Terrell to Doris Winifred May Carthy, of Middlesex, on December 27th. Dvr Parkes to Louisa Clive Cowper on February 22nd.

We are now keenly looking forward to the arrival of summer and decent weather, and as usual at this time of the year we find ourselves well hemmed in with mud. The point-to-point races are soon to take place, and we hope to give a better account than last year. Some hopes are expressed in the stables of some of our possibles, and from accounts received, those who are fortunate enough to get any information use it. The Company are finding their sports legs again, and we hope to give as good a display in the summer sports as we did in the winter ones.

By the time these notes appear we shall be nearing Easter leave, and the thrifty will put aside a little nest egg, especially if they anticipate travelling to the south. One well-known Harry of the Company passed the remark that he will have to save his breakfast for his lunch, as, with the approach of Easter, he will not be able to borrow or buy his char and wads.

## D Company, Training Battalion.

**General.**—Our C.Q.M.S. has earned the thanks of many in the Training Battalion for the able way in which the popular weekly dances in the N.A.A.F.I. have been conducted.

With spring upon us, our fancy once more turns to gardening, and to all appearances the Company hut gardens should blossom forth in the riot of colour that was the pride of S lines last summer.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—L/Sergt T. Adams from Egypt. Corpl W. Cornish from F Company. Thirteen other ranks from B Company and fifteen from A Company. We wish them a long and happy stay in this Company.

To all those who have left for field units, we wish the best of success.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to the following: Corpl F. Hague to be L/Sergt w.e.f. 16/12/26. A/Corpl R. Topp to be Corporal w.e.f. 11/10/26. Sigmn W. Marler to be L/Corporal on the Corps roster w.e.f. 18/1/27.

**Agony.**—D Cadre would like to hear from Sigmn (Spud) Marsden, late of D stores.

DON.

## E Company, Training Battalion.

**Good Wishes.**—It is with regret that we bid farewell to Major P. B. Foot, R.Signals, who has left us to take up a position in the Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich.

The command of the Company has been assumed by Capt. D. A. Brown, M.C., R.Signals, and we hope he will spend many happy days with us.

**Departures.**—Signalmen R. Bielby and W. Jones to A Corps Signals, Ewshott. Sigmn D. Jaggard to 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot. Sigmn H. Corbett to 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester. Sigmn R. Daniels, transferred to the Army Reserve, w.e.f. 2/3/27.

**Re-Engagement.**—Corpl A. J. Turner to complete 21 years with the Colours.

**Marriage.**—Congratulations to Corpl A. J. Turner upon his marriage at Bedford on March 5th.

L. H. D.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

**HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS**

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

# ALDERSHOT NEWS.

## A Corps Signals.

### Unit Headquarters.

Ewshott Camp, March 15th.

**General.**—Despite the cold weather, we have been glorying in an occasional sun-bath near the office window, and not a few individuals of the unit have been making preliminary tours of inspection at the tennis courts, which are being extended this year to allow comfortable play on three courts. Now then, F—, have you ordered your Oxford plus nines?

**Corporals' Mess.**—The corporals held a very successful whist drive and dance on Friday (note the day, gentle reader), March 4th, in the Camp dance hall, thus providing many here with a most enjoyable evening. The committee, under the supervision of Corpl Perryman (who, we fear, will soon be leaving us to rejoin D Troop, Cavalry Divl. Signals, at Aldershot), are to be congratulated on the excellence of the show.

**Jazz Band.**—Ah! ha! I thought my reference to a general desire for a jazz band in the unit would bring some of our many musicians to light. I am able to announce, authentically, that every effort is being made to form a band at an early date: all we need is a rattling good pianist. Applicants may hand their names in at the unit office, and interviews will be arranged with the prospective leader, or shall I say, organising secretary. Now then, lads, don't be timid.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—A farewell smoking concert was held in the mess on Saturday, March 5th, in honour of Farrier-Staff-Sgt. W. Lloyd and Sergt F. G. Lane, who have now left us for civilian life. We all enjoyed the concert very much, but it was with the deepest regret that we said au revoir to two good old pals. However, we shall see Mr. Lane very frequently, as he has honoured us by taking up his residence a little nearer the stables—geographically speaking, mind you.

**Attachment.**—Sergt P. H. Thompson, of the Scottish Command Signal Company, is attached here for three weeks, and by the time these notes are in print, we hope he will have pleasant memories of us.

PETER.

**Stop Press.**—I was in such a hurry last night that I overlooked the following, which I hope the Editor will publish (with an apology to William Shakespeare's "Sylvia").

LORD BRASSINGTON.

Who is Brassington? what is he,
That all the chaps commend him?
Smiling, fair and wise is he;
The "Old" such grace doth lend him
That he shall admired be.

Is he kind, as he is fair?
For beauty lives with kindness;
"Old" doth to his eyes repair
To help him to his blindness;
And being helped, inhabits there.

Then to Brassington let us sing,
That Brassington is excelling;
He excels each mortal thing—
Snurdges, skittles, tale-telling;
To him let us Old Ale bring.

By the way, who *is* Brassington?

### No. 1 Company (Ewshott)

**General.**—Annual furlough is at its last ebb, and having our M.T. Section back from the Isle of Wight, we are once more a happy family.

Training is in full swing, and improvements are already obvious all round. The only thing against us is the weather. Another few downpours and we shall want punts to get about in, but we hope not: we might have to polish their rims.

The most interesting topic of conversation at present seems to be our future move to Smallshot, and rumours are quite numerous as to when this will take place. So far nobody has volunteered to ride the llama to our new quarters, but we are hoping our trumpeter will come forward, providing he has a special saddle made for him.



The corporals held a whist drive and dance on March 4th, and this was voted a great success. Many of them came home with the milk!

Congratulations to the following on their appointments:—L/Corpl Blower to A/Corporal. Signalmen Fiford, Pople, Brooke and Spearpoint to the first rung of the ladder. No wonder Jock fell off the stage!

**This Month's Excitement.**—The appearance of the two employed men on parade in marching order. Why was Bandy more delighted than the others? Does anyone know the reason for the congregation of Signals at the "Oaksheaf" nowadays?

**Warning.**—When on furlough, avoid Shrewsbury. P.C. C. J. Jones is sweating on promotion.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt McDonald from 4th Divl. Signals. Signalmen Gregory, Thomas, Bielby, and Trumpeter Kirk from T.B., S.T.C. Sigmn Cole from India. Here's hoping their stay with us will be a happy one!

**Departures.**—Signalmen Glynn, Lowe, Phipps, Rushton, Steer, Carruthers and Day to India. L/Sergt Smith to 1st Divl. Signals. Corpl C. J. Jones, Signalmen Edginton, Stevenson, Griffiths to civvy street.

**Births.**—To L/Sergt Betts, a son (Dennis Alwin). To Sigmn Goldberg, a son (Ralph Morris). To L/Corpl Brown, a daughter (Ivy Maud). To Sigmn Yardy, a daughter (Dawn Irene). Just little things to try us!

**Marriage.**—Sigmn Wyatt to Agnes Lillian Windsor. We wish them luck in their great adventure.

AKOR.

### No. 2 Company (Crookham)

After reading the conditions of the Competition for Correspondents, and mentally reviewing the notes which I have submitted during the last three months, I have arrived at the conclusion that editors and compositors must be long-suffering individuals.

The competition is certainly a very ingenious move on the part of THE WIRE staff, and should result in some literary talent being discovered which has hitherto been lying dormant.

"Mac's" letter in last month's issue of our admirable Journal bemoans the "dis"-ness of a certain Signal unit in India. I wish to register another moan with regard to E Divl. Signals. Month after month I have looked for notes from that unit, but up till now the nearest I have noticed alphabetically are D and F Divl. Signals.

We are now in the thick of Section training. It is so thrilling, these lovely mornings, to watch the slender steel masts swing rapidly into the morning air, accompanied by the rollicking "Mast Shanties" (copyright reserved) sung by Detachment and Section n.c.o.s, urging their gallant crews to renewed efforts, and to listen to the gentle murmur of soothing voices when the mast crashes because some poor fish forgot to hold on to something or other. How pleasant, too, are the sounds of "marching order" being cleaned for the next morning's parade. However, what are a few marching orders more or less—what are they? (Any correspondence with regard to the last question should be accompanied by A.F.B.252 for reply.)

**Congratulations.**—To C.S.M. A. Robertson on obtaining the "rootie." To Signalmen A. Williams, H. Simpson, and T. R. Brett on being promoted to A/U/L/Corporals. To L/Corpls R. Blakeman and Gallagher on being presented with a daughter apiece.

**Drafts.**—We sent a large draft to the Rhine last month, and our best wishes go with him. It's not "On the banks of the Nile" now, is it, Tubby?

**Miniature Rifle Range.**—We are at present deeply interested in an inter-Section competition which is going strong under unit arrangements. C.S.M. Robertson has gained more fame in the medal sphere by winning the Lord Roberts and the Bell medals.

**Query.**—What is a cup-tie, Taffy? And who is this "Cardiff"?

**This is a Joke.**—

Orderly Officer: "Do you strike the gong with the guard-room clock?"
Sentry: "No, sir—with that iron bar."
Orderly Officer: "Is that the order?"
Sentry: "No, sir; it's the slope."
Orderly Officer: "H'm! you're smart, aren't you?"
Sentry: "No, sir—Dvr Jones of P Company."

YOUR NEW H.Q.

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## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Feb. 28th.

**Up the Hill.**—It is always a pleasure to record that one or more of the "family" has progressed. How delightful, then, to tell the world that Sergt Goldman is now C.Q.M.S.; A/Corpls Redworth and Thorne are Corporals; L/Corpls Atkinson and Parish are A/Corporals; U/L/Corpls Newbery, Elmes, Cripps and O'Flannagan are paid Lance/Corporals; and Signalmen Wiggins, Mortimor and Allston are unpaid Lance/Corporals. We of the Firstdivsigs read with pleasure the good news that L/Corpl Ashford has again been endowed with his stripe; may it soon be "paid."

**Ins and Outs.**—We miss the following familiar faces: Corpl Winter, Signalmen Ford, Lancaster, Patrick, Gordon, Collings, G. Drake, Harper, Burdett, Ware, Wall, Brooks, Dore, Joyce and Stephens to India. C.Q.M.S. Foster to discharge. L/Corpl Ridgeway, Signalmen Hutchins, A. Moore, E. Smith, Hardman, Seward, Coker, McMahon, Pidwell, and Drivers Compton, J. E. Smith, Wright, and Alcock to the Army Reserve. Sigmn File to the Training Battalion, S.T.C.

A welcome to those who have been posted to us during the month: Signalmen Jahme, S. Smith, Phillips, Teanby, Wilson, Wood, Haynes, Goddard and Port from the Training Battalion, not forgetting also the little Trumpeter Walsh. Signalmen Morrison, Mycock, Walker, Lane, Day, Knowles, and Drivers Maycock, O'Neill, Rhodes and Robinson from the Depot Battalion. Sergt Goldman from the 2nd Divl. Signals.

**Ding-Dong.**—Sigmn Rich and Drivers Gullon and Rogers have now solved the mathematical problem "when two are one," and receive our congratulations on their marriage.

**Daddies.**—Sergt Goodman and Corpl Mackie have smiling faces these days, having been made the proud possessor of a daughter and son respectively.

**Making Hay.**—Those whose names follow are patting themselves on the back, having entered the fold as assistant tradesmen. A/D.R.—Sigmn Mullard. A/Linemen—Signalmen Dalli-

more, McNeilage, Hamilton, Taylor and Greenaway. A/O.V.—Signalmen Airey, Anthony, Bissicks, Brown, Murray, Bethell, Andrews, Beminster, Blake, Couldridge, Watkins, Coles, Cox.

Let "Pip, pip, pip, on and on" be your motto. Class i. is the goal, and perseverance, progress, and prestige your three "pips."

**Pals.**—The affiliation of T.A. Signal units to Regular Signal units has been arranged. We are fortunate in being linked with the 46th (North Midland), 47th (2nd London), and 51st (Highland) Divl. Signals, T.A. May we hope that they will some day occupy a camp in this neighbourhood, where we would show our Terrier pals how much we think of them. For the present we leave it to those of Firstdivsigs who join their P.S., T.A., to tell them how welcome they will be at Aldershot if ever they pass this way. We are keen to see notes from the 46th and 47th in THE WIRE.

**Merited.**—A pleasing ceremony took place a short while ago at a unit parade. Q.M.S. Fegan had the honour of receiving from the hands of our commanding officer the L.S. and G.C. medal, and Sigmn Cole the General Service medal with "Kurdistan" clasp. "Gratters" to them on the distinction.

**Flotsam and Jetsam.**—Jake, who is attending the 25467th Jew's Course, is now able to do eight guards in a week, and puts in full overtime on the "buck" grub.

What is the special attraction for Signals at "Oakdene"?

To "L.H.D."—Our sincere thanks for kindly sentiments in March WIRE.

D.S. ONE.

## Sergeants' Mess.

February 25th will be well remembered for the very successful dance held in the Albuhera Theatre. The Chief Signal Officer (Col. Prickett), the O.C. Signal Units, Aldershot (Col. Powell), Col. and Mrs. Willan, and many other officers of the unit were present, and upwards of 250 others. The Buffs orchestra provided good music, and the dancing, amidst gay decorations, appeared to be enjoyed by everyone.

Some enjoyed the community singing in an ante-room, but one wonders if the smoke is still going up the chimney—and if the damper is yet unserviceable? However, it all led to a merry evening,and doubtless many were sorry when 2 a.m. came.

Behind the scenes of an event of this kind there is much hard work to be done. Our best thanks, then, to those who did so much to make the evening a success.

Mention must also be made of the support we received from A Corps Signals and 2nd Divl. Signals. "The more we are together, the merrier we shall be" is true of Signals, Aldershot.

On February 28th opportunity was taken to combine the finals of the mess billiard and snooker tournament with a farewell smoking concert to C.Q.M.S. Foster, who was leaving us on discharge.

Sergt Dunphy took the billiard honours. In a pitched battle between Mr. Winter and our genial R.S.M. Lawrance, the latter lost the snooker show by a small margin.

A short respite, and we were entertained with songs at the piano, tales from France (O! la! la! oui! oui! très chaud), and excellent card tricks by several of our friends.

During the proceedings R.S.M. Lawrance spoke of the regret which the mess felt at the departure of Arnold Foster, and said we all trusted he would soon find a comfortable billet outside the Service. At the conclusion of the speech, C.Q.M.S. Foster was presented with an engraved clock from the members of the mess.

Responding, he said leaving old friends was one of the things which touched him most, but with the passage of time memories would grow more dear. His sentiment was "Once a Signal always a Signal." This would be much impressed upon him, as he intended settling down in Bedford.

Overheard after the dance on February 25th: Perplexed Waiter: "We are fourteen cups short." Fair Lady: "There's trouble in China."

D.S. ONE.

## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 Company.

**Postings.**—We welcome to the command of A Section, Lieut W. D. Horniman, posted from No. 3 Company. We lose during the month of March A/Sergt Penfold, Signalmen Billing and Harbury, and Dvr Brooks, posted to Rhine Signals.

**General.**—Section training is now in full swing. A and B Sections are busily engaged in their respective exercises on the renowned "Dustheap." Fond memories of this famous training ground will linger in the minds of all who have trodden its sympathetic soil.

The 120-watt lectures of Sergt Radford are much appreciated, and the programme of lectures by him and Sergt Tolley will be a big aid to the Wireless Section.

A number of ceremonial parades will be held during the coming weeks, in preparation for the King's visit in June.

The introduction of the Company messing system, made possible by the allotment of a separate mess-room to each Company, has proved a great boon and is much appreciated.

**Discharges.**—The best of luck in their civilian venture to the following, who have recently been transferred to the Army Reserve: Sigmn W. Phillips and Drivers E. Masterman and R. Millgate.

**Our Local Diary.**—The "Chink" was strongly escorted to the platform at Waterloo when leaving for Aldershot on a certain Sunday in February. Judging by the number of platform tickets bought, he must have feared drastic exposure by that "Horrible Gloom' Club." He was relieved of his worry when he discovered the agent in a semi-comatose condition. Maybe he needs to watch the butler, for he certainly relished his last visit to the old soldier's home.

The motor and push-cycle craze has been very much in evidence since the advent of spring. Tales of phantom motor-cycles are received with a pinch of salt when we find the teller using a concoction of nuts and bolts for his own personal conveyance. One of the push-cycle fiends spent a whole afternoon in the endeavour to christen his "While you pay you ride" with an appropriate name. The Gunner suggested "Dan," but that was too strong for words; but whether the adopted "Flying Fox" justifies the rider must be left to the Record Breaker. Since the "Eagle" driven by Joe mistook the unit stores doorway for a roadway, Mac prefers to walk.

The Aggler deplores the recent alterations in accommodation arrangements, for he has another burden added to his almost superhuman daily task. His old hut-mates miss his eternal nagging and his disturbing clodhoppers at reveille.

Porky informs me that Ookham is using a mysterious bottle of hair restorer, and already promising results have been obtained. Maybe he is oiling up for the eventful day that is ominously foreboding. The "Nut" fellow, with his fluence, is trying to assist him to a more friendly path.

A number of our comrades are very particular with their civilian clothing. Judging by the number of pilgrimages made during the early part of the week, the Presser of Clothing must be doing excellent business. Does the iron give vim to the clothes, or do the owners get vim with the iron?

I wonder what the dentist thought of Cordelia when he said my weight is 10 stone, after being told to wait in the queue; and whether the spirited Morse really instilled honest blushes into his fairy countenance.

Jock of haggis fame informs me that the other Jock has been doing intensive study in preparation for a forthcoming examination. His tale that he measures the latitude and longitude of his razor strop for practice needs some believing.

The Siamese Twins are at last being parted. One of the almost inseparable companions has been posted to the Rhine Signals. For years they have clung together, and it is feared that the sock fiend will have to find another half-section to be able to replenish the well-known sock agency of North Kensington.

Valencia has paid another visit to the locality. There has been much burnishing amongst the eligibles in the race for capture. Why did a certain driver wear a gloomy look one Sunday evening?




# E.D.S. for every Mess

There is nothing so good on a cold day, when you are extra hungry, as a steaming hot E.D.S. stew. It is as good as a second ration, and *what* a difference it makes to the flavour!

Use E.D.S. for all made-up meat dishes—stews, pies, hashes, mince—it puts goodness and flavour into already cooked meat

# EDWARDS' DESICCATED SOUPS

*Ask for it at the Canteen. Three kinds—Brown, White and Tomato. The Brown is prepared from best beef and garden vegetables, and the others are purely vegetable.*


The fellow with the nice legs sure had a shock when he scanned the local journal. We are sorry the sweet dreams of the future were shattered.

A member of the Section has an unlimited assortment of baby grands and motor-cycle catalogues for disposal without reserve. The check action of these pianos is unbelievable.

Leg Iron Lizzie is the cause of unusual excitement amongst the members of B Section. This demon, apparently, is endangering the safety of certain drivers and wagon numbers.

The Remnant would like to inform Lofty of N.W. Frontier that the flagstaff still remains in position. Would he like another Odiham scheme?

The lads wonder whether the Admiral's stock is easily disposed of in the Catterick area.

Is young Harold of York, now in Iraq, wishing for another general strike?

**Correspondence.**—Sigmn Mackintosh (late of Lenton, Notts, and now of this unit) would like to hear from L/Corpl Purcell, Hong Kong Section. Does he remember H and S?

**Agony Column.**—Niku, what's happened to you? Don't keep me in agony.—Xerxes.

## D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot, March 15th.

**The Cap Fits.**—It is not without a pang of remorse that I write these few notes this month. Whilst reading the March issue, I noticed that many people were asking about someone else; the letter from "Mac" to C Divl. Signals quite touched me on the mark.

If my wife knew that I wrote these notes, I am afraid I should have to volunteer for the Shanghai Defence Froce, or call them up to defend me! Anyhow, here goes.

**Postings, etc.**—A number of changes have occurred in this unit since my last notes were written, and I am afraid these will be largely a replica of our Part II. Orders.

Lieut R. Sutton-Pratt, R.Signals, is now our O.C., having relieved Lieut E. L. Ridley-Thompson, Queen's Bays. The latter has now rejoined his regiment at Colchester.

The following have left us for sunnier climes: To Egypt, Dvr Martin; to India, Sigmn Coton. The following have left us for civvy street: Sergt Wells, Corpl Butler, L/Corpl Hammond, Sigmn Russell, and Drivers Stewart, Rhodes and Andrews.

The following have filled the gaps left by the recent departures: A/C.Q.M.S. Atkins, wife and family, L/Sergt Duggan, L/Corpl Ives, Signalmen Mott, Stocks, Sutherland, Lyon, Ellis, Seaton, Ferguson, Macey, Watkiss, Marsh and Muir, and Drivers Baker, Batley, Binks, Diment and Gutteridge.

To all who have left us, we wish the very best of everything; and to those who have joined our happy band, we extend a hearty welcome, hoping that by now they have settled down in their several spheres of labour.

**Promotions.**—To the following we extend our heartiest congratulations, wishing them success in their new ranks: A/Sergt Colley, 11/11/26; A/Corpl Smith, 22/11/26; L/Corpl Forrest, 21/2/27.

**Training.**—Now that our furlough season has ended, everyone is settling down to training. The wirelessops are at present wrestling with the free electrons, and wondering why some should stick to the grid while others fall through it.

The visualops are investigating the problem of whether the station or the hill should be shifted. All the others are finding out (?) and trying to remedy their own particular species of trouble.

It is said among the stable party that a slow-motion film is to be taken, to find out whether our latest remount kicks with one foot or two. In any case it won't alter the fact that a little bit of something flashes out, and—down you go. (Ask Bill.)

**Dame Rumour hath it.**—That Jock is not going to join the Froth-Blowers, not because of the entrance fee, but because there is no froth on whisky!

# More Enjoyment from Smoking

HAVE you ever suffered from a dry parched throat which comes from continuous smoking? Then take a package of Wrigley's and see how cooling and refreshing to the mouth and throat the delicious flavours are. Your whole system is toned up by the use of Wrigley's after every smoke.

At the same time your digestion will benefit by the flow of gastric juices caused by the use of Wrigley's.

It is good for the kiddies, too . . . . keeps their teeth clean and improves their appetites.

**WRIGLEY'S**

**1p PER 4 PIECE PKT.**

E.H. 21


That the following dialogue occurred on a recent kit inspection: Captain: "Where's your toothbrush?" Signalman (producing scrubber): "Here, sir." Captain: "However do you get that thing into your mouth?" Signalman: "I don't, sir; I takes me teeth out!" (I believe he was excused kit shows, but I am not sure.)

That Smallshot is not so far away as some people think (about twelve months, perhaps).

**Agony.**—To Murrell—L/Corpl Forrest has received your *missile*, and will return one shortly.

To Indian Draft—It caused quite a sensation!

To Sandy—Glad to see your notes again.

To the Troop—If you want to know anything about the Association, ask L/Corpl Forrest; if he doesn't know, then he will find out for you.

'OWDAM LAD.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals

Tidworth, March 15th.

**General.**—Once more we make our appearance and save our apologies.

Everybody is busy on trade training and riding drill. Despite the multiple number of trades and shortage of instructors, we are making good by attaching a certain number of our strength to the 3rd Divl. Signals, whose efficient training should get our lads those much-coveted higher ratings. In return we have lent them our inimitable Jim to help the "Breezes" through. We wish them the best of luck.

Riding drill is progressing quite favourably. One member of the ride is not quite certain whether it is riding practice or practising parachute descents without the parachutes. Try gum arabic on the saddle, Taffy; you'll sit tight enough.

**Visitors.**—On the 26th inst. we are being visited by the football team of D Troop Signals from Aldershot, and hope to convert last year's defeat at their hands into a win. D Troop, we welcome you!

**Education.**—At the time of writing two of our lads are strenuously trying to capture that very elusive 1st. The rest of the Troop wish them the best of luck.

**Barrack Rooms.**—Home from home. As time passes, so our barrack-rooms get more like home, thanks to our O.C., who takes as much interest and pride in the comfortable appearance of the barrack-rooms as he does in their cleanliness and tidiness.

The whitewash has disappeared from the windows, and blue curtains drape their full length. Shortly the bareness of the cupboards will follow the whitewash, as blue borders will be added. The Troop extend their thanks to Mrs. Adcock for the number of hours she spent in making them.

Is it true that Jim had to have his meals on the fly-leaf of the sewing-machine whilst turning the handle? Never mind, Jim—esprit de corps.

**Congratulations.**—To 3rd Divl. Signals on coming in second in the Southern Command cross-country run. We wish them the best of luck when they compete for the Army championship.

**Postings.**—L/Sergt Rhodes to 3rd Divl. Signals (good luck, Dusty). L/Sergt E. Adams to Tidworth from S.T.C. (may his stay with this unit be a long and happy one).

**Re-Engagement.**—Sergt C. V. Smith, to complete 21 years with the Colours.

**Marriage.**—Congratulations to ex-Sigmn Price, late of this unit, who has joined the happy throng.

**Sport.**—Owing to the postponement of matches by our opponents, news regarding sport is practically nil; but as this leaves us with several games in hand, maybe we will rectify this in next month's issue.

SMUDGER.

## No. 1 A.A. Signal Company.

Blackdown, March 14th.

**Association.**—It is very pleasing to record that over 74% of the unit are now subscribing members of the Corps Association. The number has been gradually creeping upwards, and it is hoped that the increase will continue until it reaches 100%.

**Arrivals.**—Lieut W. D. J. Harries, The Welch Regt., joined the Company for duty on March 7th. We wish him all the best during his stay amongst us. Sigmn Dewhurst joined from Catterick on March 2nd.

**Army Reserve.**—Yet another of the old hands of the Company has left us for civil life, Sigmn S. Smith having been transferred to the Army Reserve. We are very glad he was able to obtain congenial employment, and we wish him the best of luck.

**Education.**—Of the seven candidates who sat for examination for 2nd class certificates, the following were successful, and are congratulated: Signalmen Purdy, J. Smith, Channing, Cooper and Hunt. Sigmn Jones obtained his 2nd class certificate at Catterick prior to joining the Company.

ACK ACK.

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With apologies to Mr. Milton Hayes and especially to Sergt.-Instructor D. Garrad, A.E.C.:—

There's a one-eyed dismal borough south-west of Waterloo.
There's a training camp which helps you find the town.
There's a would-be first class pupil on a course he won't get through,
As geography for ever gets him down.

He is known as Old Napoo, and he's earned the title, too;
And the reason isn't very hard to tell—
For despite the way he swanks, his ideas are mostly blanks,
And every teacher curses him as well.

Every evening, after class, Old Napoo hops on a 'bus
Bound for Woking, with its lights and liquor bars—
Leaves the other mother's sons swotting geography and sums,
While he strolls along the High Street, 'mongst the "stars."

He returns before the dawn, with his thinking gear in pawn,
And his mind a blank on what he should have read;
It's a penny to a pin, when he hands his papers in,
That he might as well have spent the night in bed.

There's a one-eyed dismal borough just south-west of Waterloo.
There's a training camp which helps you find the town.
There's a would-be first class pupil on a course he won't get through,
'Cause the lure of Woking's lights has got him down.

X. Y.



## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

**Excelsior!**—We offer our heartiest congratulations to the following officers on their recent promotions: Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E., Royal Signals, Captains C. A. Oliver, M.C., J. R. Patten, M.C., Lieuts F. J. Wall and E. F. Maltby.

**A Good Show.**—On Tuesday, March 1st, the Imperial Players (under the direction of the N.A.A.F.I.) presented a show, the equal of which is seldom if ever seen outside the large cities. The recreation room was filled to its capacity, and the concert party established themselves immediately with an audience that had come prepared to criticise. Mr. Leslie Hyde is quite as good as most of the comedians who have their names picked out in electric lights. Indeed, each member of the party of five was surprisingly versatile. It is hoped that the N.A.A.F.I. will arrange for the Imperial Players to visit us again in the near future.

**Fancy Dress Dance.**—On March 9th a fancy dress and carnival dance was held. There were more people in fancy dress than I expected, but not so many as Sergt.-Major Doust looked for—pessimism and optimism as usual. The recreation room was comfortably full. Major and Mrs. J. R. Carter arrived at 9.30 p.m., and Mrs. Carter very kindly presented the prizes for fancy dresses. There were six children, and as all of them were good, each received a small prize. The other prize winners were:—Ladies: 1st, Miss Dacombe; 2nd, Mrs. Quint; 3rd, Mrs. Nicholson. Gentlemen: 1st, Sigmn Craft; 2nd, Sigmn Wright. The Ellis-Barl five "handed out" the melody.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The fortnightly whist drives and dances are not being so well patronised as they should be. The few who attend these cheery social affairs enjoy themselves thoroughly, but some are "swinging it."

**Personal.**—C.Q.M.S. Sweeting wishes to assure Sergt Frost (Abbassia) that he will write immediately he can borrow someone's writing pad.

**Obituary.**—It is with great regret that we record the death of Mrs. Grist on March 2nd, after a short illness. We offer our very sincere sympathy to Sergt.-Major Grist in his sad bereavement. Mrs. Grist was laid to rest in the Military Cemetery, Tidworth, on Saturday, March 5th.

**Exodus.**—Sergt S. J. Spreadborough gathered his property and reluctantly shook the dust of Bulford Camp from his "size nines" on March 11th. He has not been in the best of health for some months, and has come to the conclusion that civilian life will suit him better. Sammy will be remembered chiefly as a shining light in the School of Signals at Maresfield. He has not told us what he intends to do, but we feel confident that whatever he attempts he will deal with efficiently. We know that our good wishes for his future will be echoed by his many friends in the Corps.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Jenks, Lumby, Curry, Hassell, Willey, Roumain, Greatorex, Holliday, and Brown from the T.B., S.T.C. Signalmen Higgins, Jelley, Lewis, Morris, Mizen and Graves from the Depot Battalion, S.T.C.

**Departures.**—Sergt Harrison to 43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals (T.A.). L/Corpl Ives to D Troop Cavalry Divl. Signals. L/Cpl Jones and Signalmen Dale, Hobbs and King have left us for civvy street, on transfer to the Army Reserve.

**Marriages.**—Corpl W. F. Wigzell to Doris Maud Ada Vail, at Uckfield, on February 28th. (Depot-ites, please note: no flowers, by request). Dvr Machin to Sarah Jane Taylor, at St. George's, Altrincham, on March 5th. Sigmn Cotterell to Florence Attwater, at Uckfield, on February 21st.

**Education.**—Sigmn C. Stanton was awarded the 1st class certificate of education at Bulford on October 13th.

**Course.**—Corpl N. Crabtree (plus a buckshee stripe) proceeded to Porton on a course of gas instruction.

**Transfer.**—Sigmn L. Porter transferred to the R.A.S.C. on 22/2/27.

**A.I. Certificate.**—Corpl P. Johnson was awarded the A.I. certificate on completion of a course at the School of Signals on December 16th.

**Promotion.**—A/Corpl Lemon to be Corporal, 25/10/26.

**Extension of Service.**—Corpl W. Sewell to complete 12 years, on 23/2/27.

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## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, March 14th.

Old members of the 4th Divl. Signals will read with pleasure that we are at last able to welcome back to duty our adjutant, Capt C. G. Wheeler, R.Signals, after his long absence due to illness.

**Arrivals.**—We extend a hearty welcome to the following, lately arrived from the S.T.C.: Signalmen C. Burke, S. Ross, A. J. Luxon, C. R. Evison, H. Corbett, W. Annison, E. Stopps, and R. E. Humphrey.

**Departures.**—To civvy street: C.Q.M.S. E. R. Hole, Signalmen T. R. Aitken, E. Blank, J. Evans, E. Foster, A. C. Madeley (Kruschen) and A. Warman. Good luck to them all. May they soon settle down in fat jobs. To the Rhine, on 22nd March: F/Corpl W. Hawthorne and family, and Sigmn H. C. Borrow. To A Corps Signals, Ewshott: Sergt F. J. McDonald and family.

**Births.**—Congratulations to Sigmn F. Wilson (now in China) on the birth of a son (John James) on January 21st; and to Sigmn L. Allies on the arrival of a daughter (Valmai Valetti) on February 22nd.

**Odds and Ends.**—It is perhaps a trifle early to talk of spring, but signs of the joyous season's advent abound already. Only yesterday, as I walked down the road, I heard the gay song of the Stable Warbler calling his mate; and on every hand there meets the eye the gaudy plumage of the Wee-Kenders, resplendent in Mr. H——n's new spring suitings.

It is rumoured that one of our horses was distinctly observed to toss its head. For one of our animals to do such a thing is sufficiently startling, but should further evidence be needed, R.G.S. has bought a tunic, and B.J.B. is allowing a fungus to grow upon his upper lip that reminds one of the Bairnsfather cartoon, "What time do they feed the sea lions, Alf?" (This in itself is sufficient to retard the arrival of spring indefinitely.)

**Ancient Relics: No. 2.**—Last month I wrote of an ancient relic of Colchester, to wit, one motor-bike. To avoid jealousy I am bound to mention, this month, the equally ancient and no less faithful Mercedes typewriter, now gracing the unit orderly room. Brought over by the Phœnicians long before Sergt Campbell joined up, this striking example of our forefathers' ingenuity served for some time in Queen Boadicea's orderly room. Ancient records prove this to be the identical machine which carved the quotation on that Queen's statue:—

"Regions Cæsar never knew
Thy posterity shall sway."

Long years of papyrus engraving have taken off the sharp edge from the letters, but the springs are still in splendid condition (am I not still suffering from a sprained wrist, as a result of a murderous swing-back of the carriage?)

**Overheard.**—*A*: "The China draft must be well through the Suez canal by now." Sergeant C.: "My boy, when *I* first went East, there was *no* Suez canal. That was when the 'Assaye' was a birch-bark canoe."

I came round just in time to hear him finish with: "Yes, I was in the crow's nest when Nelson gave his historic order, 'Heave the main deck overboard.'" (This chap *has* seen some service!)

**Dancing.**—Our Monday night dances in the regimental institute are again an established success. The attendance is nearly the same as of old, but many of our star jazzers have unfortunately departed. However, the news travels fast, and only last night I heard that at least one dance down town went smash in consequence of our brilliant counter-attraction.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

When in last month's notes we announced the arrival of our long-faced chums, little did we realise the magic spell which was to be cast over us by those noble friends.

Men are becoming deformed. Yes, already I can hear someone crying "Friar" (I *think* it is "Friar"), yet I am not a friar. I am speaking the sad sober truth. Their toes are turning in—not *up*, mark you: that may come later. We can now walk about with that air of infinite superiority which only the mounted man knows—chest out, toes in, spurs twelve inches apart: something between the dignified righteous march of a policeman and the intrepid dash of a city clerk boarding a tube train. You know the gait!

Not only is this magic spell spreading itself octopus-like over our bodies, but it is getting a strangle-grip upon the minds (I nearly said brains) of many of us. Take the sad case of a certain n.c.o. on test for higher rating. He designed a three-stroke Lister by the simple expedient of forgetting the exhaust stroke. Just as "necessity is the mother. . ." simplicity is the key-note of all great inventions. Take the case of the signalman who pulled the horse's tail to make it spit out a button! He has since been promoted.

Well, friends, Signalmen and Frothblowers, more of this anon. Let us to business!

We have to record the departure of L/Sergt H. Hall for the School of Signals, and of Corpl Toogood for Ewshott; and as I write, sad news comes to hand of the forthcoming departure of Corpls Irving and Springett to Spike Island, and of Corporal Heath to Ewshott. I am sure they will be missed by all ranks, and we wish them all the best.

We are pleased to welcome to the fold Sergt Sheale from Blackdown, and L/Sergt Huggett from the School of Signals. We also greet L/Corporal Roberts who has returned from the School. His hair is still red.

All who knew Corpl "Toc" Hall will congratulate him on the recent arrival of—hold your breath!—a daughter.

Dame Rumour has it that a member of the Company (not an Englishman) is making determined efforts to become a naturalised "Newtownardsian"; while we hope to record in the near future that more than one of the flock has "tied the knot." Now, "Cork"!

L/Corpls Millen, Barrow and Wootten are to be congratulated on their recent inclusion in the Corps roster. So also is the gentleman at Newmarket who recently heard at his club that some of us were interested in racing. I mention that just as a final warning against the way in which men become demoralised after doing a couple of stable picquets. Take warning, all ye who have not yet met one "noble friend."

**Personal.**—L/Corpl E. G. Roberts would like to hear from Sigmn Dave White, last heard of at Wiesbaden.

Someone wonders if the sea voyage to India has affected Sigmn Heally's handwriting.

WUT.

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## Rhine Signal Units.

March 14th.

Having recovered from the arts and crafts fever, it is with great pleasure that I now record the happenings of Signals on the Rhine during the last month.

Before leaving the question of arts and crafts, I must mention the support accorded by these two small units, forty-three exhibits having been put forward, in all of which the Corps can take pride. We wish every entrant success.

Things have been quiet around this place of late, except training, which is making rapid strides; and we are now looking forward to camp in April, which will prepare us for bigger things.

I must not forget to mention that the Command Signal Coy. has reached 100% *voluntary* membership in the Signals Association, but the Field Signal Company still has seventeen non-members, bringing the total percentage down to 89%. We hope to bring *both* Companies to the 100% mark before long. Should any non-member require enlightenment, he will be only too willingly obliged.

A re-union dance and concert is to be held on March 25th, and this promises to be as great a success as the last. I will give full particulars next month.

A dance has been suggested, to take place about a fortnight after the dinner—perhaps in the form of a fancy dress affair, but more anon.

A word of praise must be given to our P.R.I. and entertainments committee for the excellent manner in which they carry out their duties. There is always some entertainment on, ranging from ping-pong to dances, and this is appreciated by all who attend.

Indoor games tournaments are all the rage, other units being challenged. We have met with great success so far, and the practice we are getting should soon make us the indoor games champions.

The n.c.o.s' mess spent a very pleasant evening recently at the R.A.V.C. mess, their object being a games tournament. I am unable to report the result, as no one seems to know what happened.

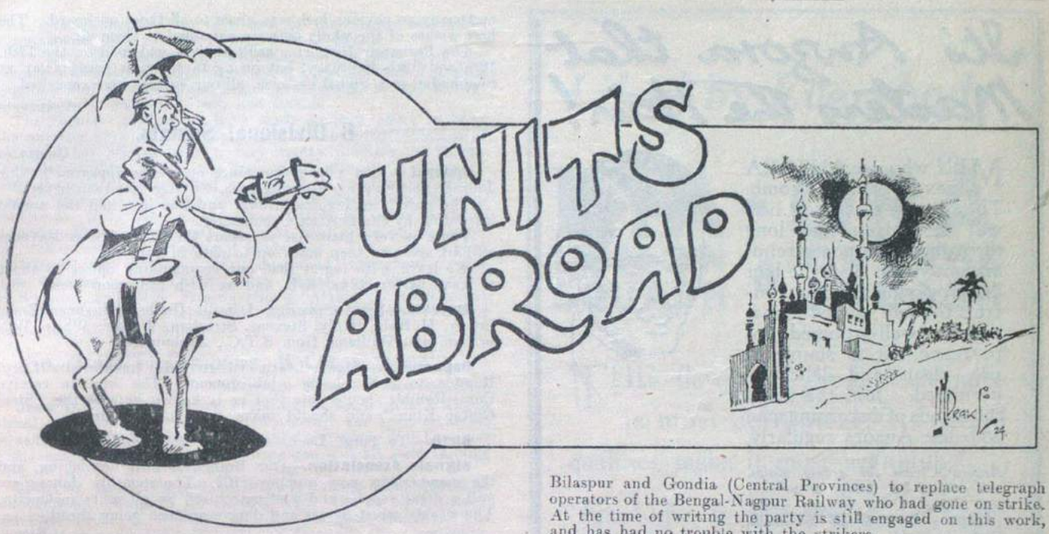
We are awaiting the arrival of forty-nine O.R.s from the U.K. on March 23rd. Looking through the list we find many old friends, and all of them should feel at home in Rhineland.

Sigmn Ross, known to many Maresfieldites, has been returned to the Corps from the Corps of Military Police, after a lengthy term of service with them.

Sigmn C. Willis and Dvr H. Hoyle left us for F Company, Training Battalion, S.T.C., prior to discharge in the near future. We extend our best wishes for their success in civil life.

Our congratulations go to L/Sergts A. Crockford and E. J. Price on their appointment to that rank; also to L/Corpls A. Potter and G. F. Phillips on being placed on the Corps roster.






## Signal Training Centre (India).

Jubbulpore, February 24th.

**General.**—Col. Barker has left the Signal Training Centre for the time being for Army Headquarters, where he will officiate as Signal Officer-in-Chief in India in place of Colonel Hawtrey, who is going on leave to England. In the meantime Lieut.-Col. J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., will officiate as Commandant Signal Training Centre (India) until the return from leave of Lieut.-Col. P. Paulson, O.B.E.

At the end of this month the station is bidding farewell to the Brigade Commander, Col.-Commandant W. H. Beach, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., late Royal Engineers, who will have completed his four years in command of the 21st Indian Infantry Brigade at Jubbulpore. Col. Beach will be greatly missed by Signals in Jubbulpore, because he is known to the majority of them personally, and he always remembers those with whom he is brought into contact.

On February 21st a party of one British officer (Lieut L. H. Tomkins, I.A.) and forty-four British other ranks was sent to Bilaspur and Gondia (Central Provinces) to replace telegraph operators of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway who had gone on strike. At the time of writing the party is still engaged on this work, and has had no trouble with the strikers.

Corporals and Lance/Corporals of the S.T.C. (India)

*Back row*—L/Cpl Buckby, L/Cpl Pope, Cpl Watterton, Cpl Murphy, Cpl Deitrich, Cpl McKee, L/Cpl Roberts, L/Cpl Littlefield, F/Cpl Garnett, L/Cpl Browne, Cpl Holmes
*Centre row*—L/Cpl Ritchie, Cpl French, L/Cpl Boyle, Cpl Snow, Cpl Williams L/Cpl Martin,Cpl Richardson, Cpl Woolley, Cpl Taplin, L/Cpl Stanley
*Front row*—L/Cpl Harrison, L/Cpl Lynch, Cpl Greed, L/Cpl Litchfield, F/Cpl Archer, R.S.M. Capel, Capt. Holland, L/Cpl Prickett, L/Cpl McPherson, L/Cpl Welch, L/Cpl Champion, L/Cpl Brunton

The Chinese war has not affected us to any extent up to the present, the only unexpected casualty being a certain n.c.o. who absented himself from parade one day, and was found on a draft of G Divl. Signals which left Jubbulpore for Shanghai the same evening. Further investigation proved that he was there officially, which shows how swiftly and quietly mobilization is carried out in this country.

Tigers have been shot recently by Lieuts J. A. S. Crum and H. Golden. The latter is rapidly making the jungle round here safe for the local inhabitants by his effective shooting.

**Corporals' Mess.**—A whist drive and dance was held in the regimental institute on February 9th, and was very successful. It is worth noting that this function was the first for a considerable time to show a credit balance.

**Signal Training Battalion.**—Platoon competitions, under the direction of the O.C. A Company, are now in full swing, and great keenness and rivalry is being shown. At present No. 1 Platoon is leading, and the points are as follows:—No. 1, 21; No. 2, 17; No. 5, 17; No. 3, 16; No. 4, 15; No. 6, 10.

**Birth.**—On January 26th, at Jubbulpore, to L/Corpl and Mrs. Stanley, a son (Ronald).

**Marriage.**—On January 15th, at the Afghan Church, Bombay, Corpl Kenneth Thomas John Snow to Miss Edith Emily Holburd.

SIGTRAIN.

## A Divisional Signals.

Peshawar, February 22nd.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—U/L/Corpl C. Beard and Sigmn A. Grant, M.M., to be L/Corporals (paid) on the I.U.L.

**Marriage.**—Corpl G. Smithers to Rose Ellen Denton, at St. Michael's Church, Peshawar, on February 2nd.

**General.**—Among the numerous arrivals who have wended their way to this healthy spot, and to whom a hearty welcome is extended, we must make note of a certain individual whose fame is known throughout the Signals, to wit, Sigmn Hadfield of E Company. His "Nah, then, yer crab," and "Keep yer toes up, crab," are an everlasting memory to many a youthful Steve Donoghue.

On January 15th a farewell evening was given to the members of the Company who were leaving the land of the blazing sun—some to work hard for a living in civvy street, and the others for the comparatively easy life on the home establishment.

The evening commenced with a whist drive, at which about sixty members sat down to the tables. After that a concert given by the Bohemians was held, and all the artistes are to

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be complimented on their splendid performance. At the conclusion of the concert the room was cleared, and dancing commenced which lasted well up to 1 a.m.

When the morning of January 16th dawned, all that could be heard was the moving of kit boxes and kit bags and the dashing about of those lucky ones due to depart. At 9 a.m. they marched away to gaze for the last time at the beautiful scenery in Peshawar station. Promptly at 11 a.m. the train slowly steamed out, and many an envious look was given to all those on board. The best wishes of the whole unit are extended to them all.

The Peshawar District assault-at-arms was held on the 17th, 18th and 19th February, but owing to the unit being away at Shabkadar on a Signal exercise, all our entries were cancelled.

ACKDIV.

## B Divisional Signals.

Quetta.

**General.**—It is a long time since our notes appeared in this Journal, but as the old saying goes, "better late than never."

The unit is still going strong, and has just had the annual inspection by the District Commander.

There is very little else to report this time, but endeavours will be made to keep notes up to date in future.

We learn with regret that our commanding officer is about to leave us for Rawalpindi, and we wish him good luck.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt Spindler, L/Sergt Goble, Signalmen Bray, Couch, McHale, Healy, Stevens, Strachen, Walker, White, Wilbraham and Williams from S.T.C., Jubbulpore.

**Departures.**—Sigmn Learmouth to U.K. (invalided). Corpl Rumble to U.K. (home establishment). The unit to receive Corpl Rumble should note that he is known here as the "Steel Guitar King," and should make good use of him.

**Birth.**—To Sergt Lane, a son, on 28/2/27.

**Signals Association.**—Our Branch is still flourishing, and the membership now numbers 102. The monthly dances are still a great success and well patronised by all units in Quetta. The weekly whist drives and dances are also going ahead.

BEE.

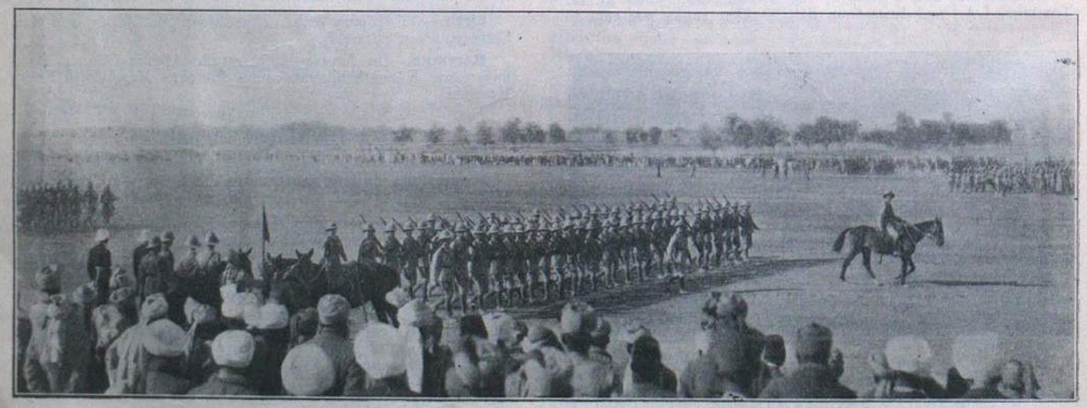
## F Divisional Signals.

Kohat, February.

Our first word this month must be one of welcome to Major R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., who assumed command of the unit on the 4th inst. Major Henderson is already well known in the Corps at home and in Association activities, and we feel sure that his stay with us is going to be for the good of us all. In our welcome we must include Mrs. Henderson. We trust her stay with us will be a pleasant one.

Major R. H. Rayner, who handed over the command to Major Henderson, left us for Delhi and long leave. It doesn't seem two years ago since Major Rayner made his introductory speech to the unit in the mess-room in Jubbulpore at Christmas time. The time has been a busy one, but we feel certain that he hasn't regretted one day of it. All wish him a very pleasant time at home.

Talking about departures recalls that a draft left us for the U.K. on January 15th. Sergt "Chota" Hoyland was one (for



The British Ranks of A Divisional Signals passing the Saluting Base at Peshawar on the Annual Proclamation Parade, 1st January.

The officers are:—Mounted, Capt. E. P. C. Collin, R.Signals; dismounted, Lieut. J. A. I. Watts, R.Signals.

The Indian Ranks are to be seen following as a second Company.



home establishment). He is a loss to the rugger team, but an acquisition to any tailor to keep him in clothes.

We have to welcome the following to the unit from the Depot at Jubbulpore: Sergt Overington, Corpl Murphy, L/Corpls Hamilton and V. Little, and Signalmen Ryalls, Brand, Bilsby, Back, Ranson, Baynes, Broad, and Burton.

The Signals Association have made another effort at last! The question of a suitable place in which to hold functions of any kind has always been a very knotty problem in Kohat. There is no place within the lines where dances, etc., can be held; there is no cinema hall or some such building in cantonments. However, with the permission of the Deputy Commissioner, we have been able to use the local Town Hall, or Memorial Hall. A carnival ball was held there on February 5th, and a very nice evening it made, too. There was a good attendance, and a cheery spirit prevailed throughout. The prize winners were:—Ladies: Mrs. Elmes and Mrs. Pearson (F Signals), and Mrs. Francis (Royal Artillery). Gentlemen: Signalmen Fraser, McFarlane and Tracey (F Signals), and Gnr Nancarrow (Royal Artillery).

## No. 2 (W/T) Company, B Corps Signals.

Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi.

**General.**—Won't it shock everyone to learn that B Corps Signals will really come into existence soon? On April 1st (now, no sauce there!) the Line Company and ourselves will have our first combined birthday—and we hope you will all send suitable gifts.

Major G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., is coming from Quetta to command us. Captain W. D. McGregor will be his adjutant, and Capt F. R. L. Goadby, M.B.E., his quartermaster. The rest of H.Q. personnel will be found from the two Companies. All storekeeping, pay, messing, and general correspondence will be done at H.Q., and the Companies will cease to use pen and pencil except for writing messages and calculating credit-balances. Doesn't it sound nice?

We started joint messing with the Line Company on Feb. 1st, and are steadily shaking it down—I mean, shaking down to it (oh, those Lal Coorti cakes!) Corpl Bremner has been our messing corporal for three months, and now Corpl Parrack has taken over the job. A new cookhouse is being prepared for us—slowly but surely, in the true military works way—and we hope soon to put D Division's cookhouse in the shade.

**Inspections.**—The District Commander, Col. H. L. Knight, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant, inspected all 'Pindi Signal units on February 2nd. We made quite a brave show on parade, but luckily the locusts came later, and so did the hail and rain. (It is whispered that we were privately photographed, but nobody has yet seen any pictures.)

About ten days later the A.D.M.S. inspected the lines, and he didn't like the Oriental savour of our drainage system—particularly the "Suez Canal" and the "Bitter Lakes" between the Indian quarters and the golf course. Rumour saith that the A.D.M.S. had lost a brand new golf-ball in one of the lakes, only a few days before. Anyway, he is going to see that a pukka drain is made there for us, at last!

The A.D.M.S. said we had the best barrack-room in the Signal units here. So there! Our Japanese rush-mats dazzled him.

**Departures.**—We regret to report the impending departure of our commanding officer, Captain H. D. Beadon, M.C., for England, on reversion to the home establishment. We shall not forget all that he has done in and for the Company. All ranks join in wishing him and Mrs. Beadon the best of luck in the future. With them goes Lieut J. Brown, of the Line Company—and with him, too, go our good wishes. We shall not forget the work he has done in running sports amongst us, and we *can't* forget his figure!

Sergt Bushnell is off to Catterick for the Foreman-of-Signals course, and the wires are warming up under the strain of efforts to secure him a passage so that he shall get there in time. We wish him "all the best."

**Arrivals.**—Capt M. V. Smelt returned to India from Catterick in December, and has come to take over command of this Company. Capt T. B. Ferriday arrived from Sarafand—in the "land flowing with silk and money"—in the middle of January, and was soon installed as adjutant. We extend to both officers our good wishes for a long and happy stay.

Sergt Ellerbeck came with one of the new drafts from Jubbulpore. He found a number of old friends up here. We are sure that he will find a lot of new ones.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**Signals Association.**—Some energetic "Sigsociates" have recently arrived from England to join the small band of S.A. workers here, but at present the oscillation of enthusiasm that we ought to see hasn't put in an appearance. Are we waiting for the H.T. to be inserted at the top?

The whist drive and dance on January 26th was not well attended. C.S.M. Bevan had arranged gay decorations, and Mrs. Bevan was present. Not half a dozen other ladies came. Why? And as for the *lads*—well, remember that it is when you finish your time in India and go home to civvy street that you will be glad to have the S.A. at your back. Come along, Pindi Signals! Come and support the Cause!

ALEX.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters, B.T.E., Cairo, March. 5th.

There is very little to relate this month, as a goodly number of personnel have been away at the training camps. Command manœuvres commence on Tuesday next, most of the Signals having left for the scene of battle, namely—Helwan.

**Courses.**—We heartily congratulate Corpl A. White on his being selected to attend No. 5 Foreman-of-Signals course at the School of Signals, Catterick. We wish him the best of success. Congratulations also to Sigmn L. E. T. Clark, who is proceeding on an instructional course at the School of Education, Shorncliffe.

**Agony.**—L/Corpl Bennett would like to have some news from Sigmn L. Wilson (late of 4th Divl. Signals), who has probably gone to China.

BEN.

## Sergeants' Mess.

**Opening Chorus.**—The collective training season has for the time being caused us to lose a few mess members, who have departed for Helwan and El Saff; and it has also brought the Canal Brigade under canvas, at the doorstep of our barracks.

The mess members of that Brigade have preferred our mess to "they rag huts," and therefore we have had a goodly number in mess each evening. But, like Arabs, they "packed up their tents and departed in the night" for Command manœuvres.

**Shorts from the Courts.**—Have we ever mentioned tennis? We don't think so. So perhaps we'd better not. But then, why not? There's a catch in this, somewhere. Once upon a time the Signals moved into their new barracks, and it was then discovered that the sergeants' mess had no tennis court. It still hasn't!

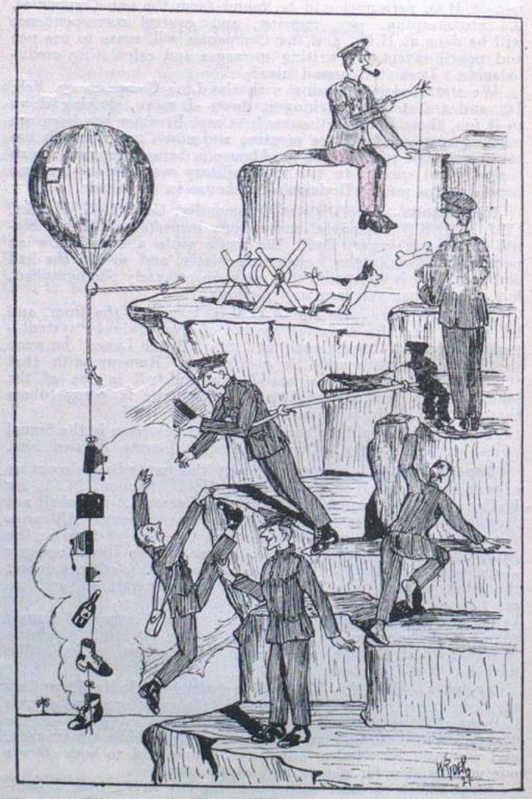
**Hops.**—The last whist drive and dance was held on a Friday instead of Saturday as usual. As our special correspondent was absent, we are unable to give any details. When tackled about his absence, the said reporter replied that "he was attending a Calithumpian meeting conducted in Esperanto." Art must be served!

**The More We Are Together.**—When the "Assaye" called at Port Said on February 7th, en route for China, we took the opportunity of paying respects to those of the Corps on board, and had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with C.S.M.s Stockwell and Shenton, C.Q.M.S.s Biart and Hall, and Sergts Linder and Thomas.

**Congratulations.**—Of late we have thoughtfully noted the number of congratulations tendered to mess members upon entering married life, and so we take this opportunity of offering hearty good wishes and congratulations to all mess members who remain single. May they never be troubled by "little ones."

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Manœuvres.**—The Wireless Detachments are away at Helwan, leaving quite a small personnel to hold the fort at the base. Still, we said we could do it. Why do these people volunteer for Helwan? We wonder if the mystic silence of



The Camera Club ascending the Great Pyramid
(With apologies to W. Heath Robinson)



the Eastern nights has anything to do with it. It is indeed a spectacle worth seeing: hundreds of British soldiers rising in the small wee hours to catch a glimpse of the moon rising over the ancient edifice erected by King Wozer and sending its shivering light on the winding Nile. Tourists pay £s to see it, whilst we——

Then, again, the sulphur baths may be an attraction. Having participated in aquatic displays (much displa-cement) in the said baths, I must emphatically refute this supposition. We invite replies for the solving of the above.

**Change of Air.**—Why is it that two notables in the Company, L.M. by trade, frequent the seaside resorts? Port Said is a favourite rendezvous, with Alexandria taking second place. They are away at the present time (someone suggests the missing of manœuvres). When are they likely to get back in harness?

**Concert Party.**—The Morse-Key-Toes are undergoing a very trying and painful time, and are sadly depleted in numbers. Next month (March) our shining light will be shining no more, Corpl White having been successful in passing the examination which qualifies him for the next Foreman-of-Signals course. I am sure all will miss him, but here's to when we meet again!

## Wireless Camera Club.

The delay in the delivery of these notes is due to the fact that our regular scribe has not been present at the last few outings. I am asked to state that this will not occur in future, and also that there is no truth in the rumour that his knowledge of Egyptology is so complete that he does not wish to see any more strange sights.

A highly successful outing was run to the Giza Pyramids, the idea being to introduce our newly-acquired members to the greatest of Egypt's wonders. On arrival a short inspection of the Pyramids and the Sphinx was made, prior to the mid-day meal. It is strange, but nevertheless true, that the thirty-two members present seemed to have far better appetites for the meal provided than they have in barracks.

Shortly after dinner the party divided into two groups, and starting from opposite corners, the ascent of the Great Pyramid was commenced. This pyramid is 480 ft. high, and is composed of blocks of stone set in the form of steps, the average height of each being 4 ft. The first to reach the top was our South African mountaineer. His description of the climb was "meat" —presumably his native slang. The ascent and descent were completed with only one casualty. This, I understand, was due to the mislaying of a pair of boots.

The remainder of the day was spent in visiting the Sphinx, getting rid of innumerable guides, and playing games. After partaking of tea the party left for Cairo at sun-down. Thanks are due to our orchestra, Signalmen Ransom and Perry, for the way in which they livened up things.

A graphic illustration (by an eye witness) of the method of ascending the Great Pyramid is forwarded herewith for reproduction, and for the information of any aspirants.

Another interesting day was spent at Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt. Two members at least had decided ideas on how they were going to spend the day. The forenoon was occupied by an inspection of the statues of Rameses V. and the female or "Floating" Sphinx.

In the afternoon a visit was made to the village school, and lessons in Arabic and drawing were given by two members well up in those subjects. Although not present, I am led to believe that great politeness and endurance were shown by both teachers and pupils during the occupation. In conclusion, a bit of well-meant advice might be given. When travelling on the Egyptian State railways, remember that walls have ears.

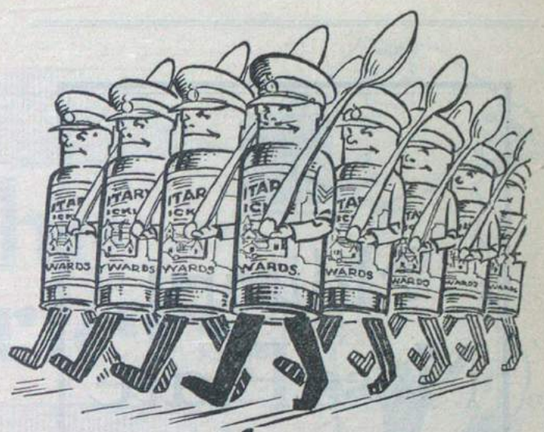
W. E. C.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Cairo, Feb. 28th.

The greater part of the Company is at present under canvas on the annual Brigade training and manœuvres. The weather during the earlier part of the month was not all that could be desired, sandstorms and gales with sharp showers of rain being very prevalent; it was also very cold at night—and judging by the remarks of some of those recently arrived from Catterick, the weather was quite reminiscent of that Yorkshire health resort's summer days.

Cairo, just at present, is very crowded with tourists, and some of them must have had divided opinions on this "land of

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eternal sunshine" when they were greeted with sand-laden winds and showers of rain. However, the weather is now on its best behaviour, and already swimming costumes are being sorted out, and clothing is getting scantier in bulk. Some of the last draft, who happened to remark that they had seen the barometer already nearly 80 in the shade, were quite shocked to hear a certain old sweat (he's been out here since 1926) casually remark on the number of barometers he'd seen boil over during his sojourn out here.

No. 2315484 Sigmn H. Richards and No. 31889 Sigmn E. Barter left this unit on February 15th, prior to embarking at Port Said for Iraq, via Karachi.

No. 3299668 Sigmn H. Wilson is at present undergoing a probationary course with the N.A.A.F.I., with a view to securing employment as an institute manager on discharge.

The Imperial Airways, of whom quite a lot has been said recently in the daily papers owing to the newly instituted Cairo-Karachi air service, have their landing ground and aerodrome less than half-a-mile from these barracks. This has enabled our camera fiends to get snaps of the prominent personages who have been recently arriving in Cairo from England or from Karachi.

ART.

## Signal Section, Hong Kong.

Wellington Barracks, February.

**General.**—Hong Kong is a very important place these days. With rumours of war and the arrival of more Navy and troops, the Chinese population, as well as a few of the European residents, are very excited.

We were delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming a few of the Corps, namely, a detachment of G Signals from Jubbulpore, who called in on their way to Shanghai. A few spare copies of the January WIRE were much appreciated.

Our W/T Ham took to heart my remarks in the January WIRE, and on one cold and dirty morning (while the linemen were not looking) he moved his carcass and the offending entanglements to more commodious premises—and woe to him that trespasses therein. Warraya want?

During the past few days the barracks have been invaded by an army of fortune-tellers, and if everything comes along as predicted there will be quite a number of discharges by purchase from here.

**Arrival and Departure.**—Sergt and Mrs. Smith arrived from Tientsin on January 31st, and left for home on February 12th. Cheerio, Smudger, and the best of luck.

**Signals Association Sport.**—Two tennis matches have been played since our last notes, resulting in a win for us on both occasions. It is hoped to arrange a billiard match with the Y.M.C.A. at a later date.

JOINT BOX.

## Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta, March 1st.

**Nuts and Wine.**—An event unparalleled in the history of the Malta Signal Section occurred last month, in the enrolment of every n.c.o. and man in the Signals Association. Units are informed that this record is to become a permanent fixture.

Now that two infantry regiments, the 1st Battn. Beds. and Herts and the 2nd Battn. Dorsets, have left us for service in China, our island has a deserted appearance. Our outlook regarding social possibilities will be very limited for the coming summer months.

Rumour has caused no little controversy concerning the possibility of a certain junior n.c.o. joining the Order of the Benedicts in the near future. It all depends upon Southampton and the blue riband, we understand.

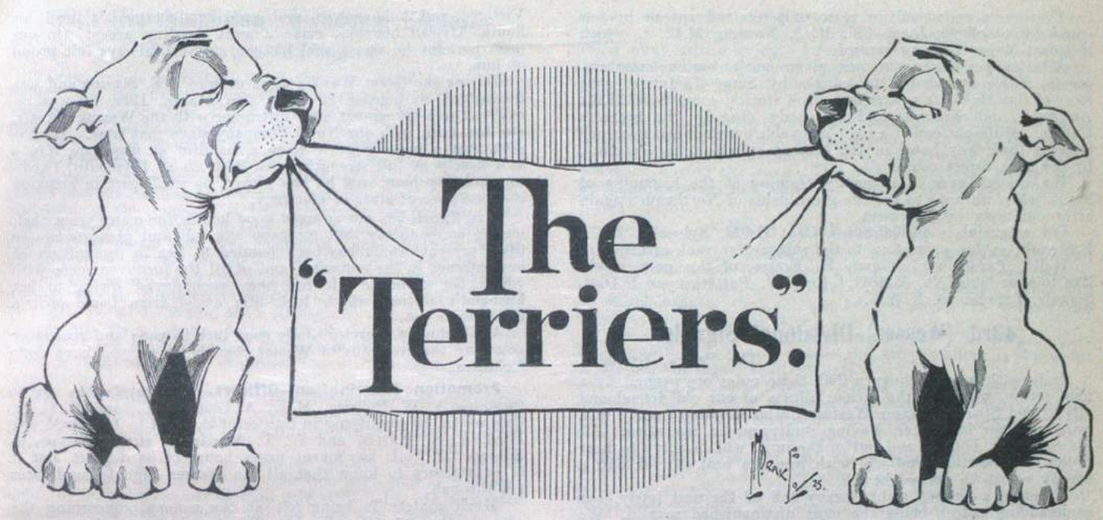
**Extension of Service.**—We see that several of the Section know which is the safest and surest means of employment nowadays, and are not desirous of stepping into civvy life. 2312853 L/Sergt Bent, 2311698 Corpl V. Osborne, and 2308586 Sigmn Chapman, Royal Signals, have extended their present service to complete 21 years with the Colours.

**Promotion.**—Our congratulations are extended to Corpl V. Osborne upon being substantiated in that rank.

**Malta Calling School of Signals.**—Congratulations, George (Porky), upon the two "D's" affixed to your special. What is going to be the next item on the education programme?

ALGY.






## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

**(Middlesex Yeomanry)**

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

It is now many long months since any notice of our doings appeared in the columns of THE WIRE, but we hasten to inform our readers and all our friends in other branches of the Signals family that we are not holding any obsequies just yet, and that any enquiries as to our favourite flowers will be considered as unfriendly.

Like many other units whose whole functions have been completely changed, our position regarding establishment, equipment, duties, drill, etc., has been what Marryatt has described as "precarious and by no means permanent." Now, however, with many difficult matters settled, we are looking forward to a long period of increasing activity in all directions, and hope that our doings may be regularly reported in THE WIRE.

As a Cavalry Signal unit, it follows that riding is of equal importance with technical work in our training, and a great deal of careful attention is being given to the riding school, where our recruits are put through it weekly. Some of these recruits, I am sure, would wish that *less* careful attention were paid to them in the riding school. There are times when one would wish to be alone! In addition to the riding school at Chelsea, arrangements have been made whereby trained men can get a ride on Wimbledon Common on alternate Sunday mornings, and these rides are always fully attended.

In connection with these rides, it is rumoured that on one occasion a member of the riding instructional staff had to make a forced landing, and on another occasion a senior member of the sergeants' mess was compelled to come down—in both cases, through engine trouble. A code of rules dealing with such cases is now being drawn up.

No one, however, takes any serious notice of these incidents, and to plagiarise the Air Force motto, it is only "per ardua" that we can hope to arrive "ad astra"; and however we may disport ourselves on horseback at the present moment, we here and now issue a challenge to any Territorial units within reasonable distance of our camp at Windmill Hill in August next, to meet us in friendly competition in all the usual forms of mounted and dismounted sports. (We hope to secure the same admirable management for our canteen and mess, and can guarantee an inexhaustible supply of the best refreshments).

With regard to technical training, we are extremely busy now in dealing with recruits, all of whom are showing the greatest possible keenness in their work, augurING well for the future. The Wireless Troop are especially busy, and are looking round for fresh worlds to conquer. They would be pleased to hear from any unit which would co-operate with them. Units who would like to open up communication with our Sparks Branch are kindly requested to write to Sergt Walsh, 2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry) Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Socially we have been fairly busy. Each month a dance has been held at the Westminster Dragoons' headquarters, which has been very well attended; and in addition whist drives have been held at our own headquarters, as well as an "at home" by the sergeants' mess to their many friends.

There are rumours afloat that we may be indulging in some community singing shortly, when we hope to be led in song by our recently-acquired R.S.M.—a man of small stature but great purpose, who has already made himself a great favourite with all ranks, and has effected many changes for the better in the regiment. More power to him!

Arrangements have been made for members of the regiment who can manage it, to go to Windsor for the Easter week-end and get a little training with our very good friends of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards. Whatever else may happen, it is certain that those who go will have the time of their lives. At much cost, and after long experience, the writer has amassed peculiar knowledge of the local geography of the Royal borough, especially of the out-of-the-way and artfully-concealed ports of call; and such knowledge is entirely at the command of recruits and others who have not previously made a visit—of course, for a small consideration!

Lastly, but by no means least, we have established a Signals Vat in the Ancient Order of Froth-Blowers, being (I believe) one of the first of the Territorial units in London to do so. Our Blaster is, I venture to think, the best-equipped man for the job, and works without fear or favour. It is a bad day for any Blower who happens along without the outward and visible signs of his blowership.

Our drill nights are Mondays and Wednesdays, and on these nights we invite any member of the Signals family to our headquarters at Chelsea, assuring him of as good a time as our accommodation permits.

Many will be interested to learn that, after a short rest from the army, our old friend Percy Simnett has once more entered the riding school—this time as a Territorial and a serving member of this unit.

MONTY.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

With the exception of an event on Saturday, March 12th, all has been quiet on the East Lancashire front. On that date the sergeants gave a hot-pot supper and social in the mess, and invited members of the old 7th Battalion Manchester Regt., who formerly occupied our quarters.

They were welcomed in a warmly-received speech by our commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. R. S. Newton, M.C., to which Sergeant-Major Combey replied.

After supper the evening was given over to various entertainments, which included a monologue by Sergt J. Little, some more of Sgt McVittie's extremely droll stories, songs by C.M.S.s Anderson and Keenan, and a comedy duet by the brothers Cullan. Midnight ended a most enjoyable evening, and everyone wended their way home in the best of spirits—and, we trust, by the most direct route.

We change over to Company training at the beginning of April, when we hope to see the green fields of Northenden again after our long estrangement.

We congratulate our adjutant, Capt H. M. Sylvester, M.C., R.Signals, on his promotion to the substantive rank of Captain.

Hello, Parachinar! Sigmn H. Fraser, of this unit, would like to hear from No. 3511811 L/Corpl J. Patterson, of F Divl. Signals, Parachinar, N.W.F.

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

It is with much diffidence that these notes are penned by a new scribe, owing to the serious illness of our old friend and ally, "Old Spark" (Major Western), who is unfortunately in a nursing home in Exeter, having undergone an operation. All his comrades, both in and out of the unit, will be sorry to hear of his indisposition, and will wish him the best of luck and a speedy return to normal health.

Illness has claimed rather heavy toll of the unit lately, our commanding officer being the most distinguished invalid. We are pleased to say that he is again fit and well.

We welcome the arrival of Sergt C. Harrison from the 3rd Divl. Signals (Bulford) in relief of C.S.M. Leach, and hope that his stay will be a long and happy one.

These notes must close now, or we shall require the Corps Magazine to ourselves! It is hoped that "Old Spark" will shortly re-commence the unit notes.

Best wishes to all, especially our parent unit at Bulford.

NEW SCRIBE.

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[Since the above notes came to hand we have received "Old Spark's" contribution as usual. It was inevitable that our two correspondents should more or less cover the same ground in writing; but as "we must have some of each," we have condensed and used both sets of notes, so that the Wessex news, for once in a way, is given in two chapters. We hope that Capt. Western will speedily recover his usual health, and so be able to relieve "New Scribe" of his unfamiliar duty.—EDITOR.]

The Priory, Exeter.

The n.c.o.s course was this year held at Southampton—the headquarters of our No. 2 Company—during the week, February 20th–26th, and the attendance was quite up to the standard of former years. The course has hitherto been held at Exeter, but the change was on the whole appreciated.

On Friday, February 25th, the w.o.s and n.c.o.s of the unit held their fifth annual dinner, and this also was for the first time held at Southampton. C.S.M. H. Cole (No. 2 Coy.) presided over a large gathering at the drill hall at Totton, which had been suitably decorated for the occasion. A capital dinner was served, and a really jolly evening was spent. The speech-making was of a high standard, and the musical programme excellent. Master Harry Hoare (son of Sergt Hoare, No. 2 Company) brought down the house with his songs. He is a very clever lad, and will no doubt do well in this line after completing his training.

C.S.M. A. Leach, D.C.M., who has now retired from the Wessex Signals, came in for a tremendous ovation, and deep regret was expressed on all sides at his departure.

Sergt.-Major Leach has a fine army record, and is the type of soldier of which any unit might well feel proud. We in Wessex Signals will always think of him with deep affection. I wish I could do justice to his sterling qualities. To sum him up briefly, he has been a loyal and faithful friend to us, and never shirked his duty in the smallest degree.

He joined the Devonshire Regiment at Exeter in May, 1897, and has completed 28½ years pensionable service. He served in the South African war and wears both the Queen's and the King's medals with clasps. During the Great War he was awarded the D.C.M., which with the 1914 Star, British war, Victory, and long service and good conduct medals, and his South African honours, make a most dazzling array. On our posh parades he was a real picture, and we always felt proud of him.

During the Great War he came over to R.E. Signals and was discharged to pension in 1919. In March, 1921, he was re-enlisted as a permanent staff instructor with the Wessex Signals, and has been with our No. 3 Company since that time. He has seen that Company grow from a handful at Topsham into a unit nearly at full strength, with Sections at Plymouth, Crediton and Topsham, and he has played no small part in bringing it to its present state of efficiency.

Mrs. Leach has not enjoyed good health for many years past, we are sorry to say, but we hope she will find pleasure in the little present which has been handed to her in recognition of her patience in her suffering, and of all the inconveniences with which her domestic life has been encumbered owing to her husband's duties, which took him away from home such a tremendous lot.

Well, cheerio, Leach! Jolly good luck to you; and remember you have the gratitude of Wessex Signals for all you have done for them.

**Promotion Examination—Officers.**—Congratulations go to Captains A. W. Roberts, M.C., A. Grist, M.C., and R. C. A. Cummings, on qualifying in Subject "C," and to Lieuts M. N. Ford, P. A. Harris, and W. T. Martin on similar success in Subject "A." It has meant many hours of hard graft, but it is satisfactory to know that all the Wessex Signals candidates got through.

Much anxiety is being felt at the moment concerning the cuts in the estimates for the Territorial Army. One almost wonders whether there is really much more to cut at. It surely will not need an *axe* in future to make cuts—a sharp razor blade will suffice! However, we hope for the best.

OLD SPARK.

## 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, March 15th.

**Training.**—The unit (having spent the winter at Monte Carlo) have now recommenced serious training. The keenness shown has been so great that voluntary classes are being held on Sunday mornings for the purpose of "punching up."

Q Branch have been busy issuing D.iii's (on chains) to the students for "up and down" working in Leakley Square.

Drivers are studying the noble art of looking pleased, although somewhat sore, and have been encouraged to take up a correspondence course with the famous Tom Mix.

The Signalman recruits (foot-sloggers) are busy preparing the drill hall floor for next season's dancing.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The Legion of Frontiersmen entertained the mess to a first-class concert which was highly appreciated by all. Lieut Whincup, of the Frontiersmen, announced that they would pay us a visit during our first Sunday in camp. This was received with great applause, the Frothblowers supping up.

We participated in the Billiard League for the Nicolson cup. By defeating the R.A.S.C. we advanced one stage, but received a shocking reverse at the hands of the Medicos.

Sunday night concerts, held fortnightly, have proved very successful, and our thanks are tendered to the entertainments committee for their good taste in the selection of artistes.

**O.C.A.**—We are all longing to know why there have been so many secret sittings behind closed doors recently. Even their orderly will not divulge the mysteries that surround the Glory Hole. Rumour has it that these meetings are preliminaries in conjunction with the League of Nations Conference at Geneva, but owing to the frequent requests for beverage, we conclude that they must be telling the tale.

Ex-C.S.M. Lapping (Fayther), who is now a convalescent at Southport, wishes to be remembered to R.S.M. Craig and Co.

We understand that Simmo is attending evening classes for tuition in dominoes, so that he can compete with confidence against the domino sharks.

**Departures.**—C.S.M. F. Hurn (P.S.) to civvy street, for the purpose of studying for the bar. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

Sergt A. Hughes to R.A.V. School, Aldershot, for a six weeks' course and rations.

THE ATOMS.



## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Darlington)

"Considerable activity on all fronts" would be a fitting bulletin for the unit at present. The spring training opened with a visit to the O.C. No. 1 Company in Newcastle, on Feb. 14th, by the commanding officer and adjutant.

The following week all the permanent staff instructors came into headquarters for a five days' course under the adjutant.

A regimental exercise for the officers of Nos 1. and 2 Companies and the 206th Signal Section, with their permanent staffs, was held at the Imperial Hotel, Darlington, on Saturday and Sunday, February 26th and 27th. All the officers were present, and a lot of useful work was completed, especially with regard to the more up-to-date methods of tackling training problems.

Our thanks are due to Lieut.-Col. H. A. B. Salmond (Royal Signals, C.S.O. Northern Command) for coming to see us, and to Lieuts D. A. L. Wade, M.C. (R.Signals) and E. J. Hadfield (Devonshire Regt.), both of the staff of the School of Signals, for their very interesting and instructive lectures on "Service wireless sets and their evolution," and "Procedure, 1927," respectively.

The second day was spent under the adjutant in discussing the new methods of supplies in the field, co-operation with the R.A.F., and a good deal of routine procedure which required attention.

The following week end, March 5th–6th, Nos. 1. and 2 Companies and the 206th Signal Section each had a week-end camp, held in the vicinity of their own drill halls. In each case the attendance was excellent, and the work well organised. The adjutant visited each Company on behalf of the commanding officer (who was unavoidably unable to be present), and congratulated the O.C.s on the excellent turn-out and the smart appearance of their Companies.

We congratulate Captains P. Jennings, M.C., Royal Signals (adjutant), and T. T. J. Sheffield, Royal Signals, T.A., on qualifying for promotion (sub-heading C) at the examination held at Lichfield on March 2nd–3rd.

We also congratulate Capt. Sheffield on the birth of a daughter at Hurworth-on-Tees on Tuesday, March 8th.

### No. 1 (Gateshead-on-Tyne) Company.

**Training.**—We have already completed one month of our pre-annual training, in which all ranks have materially helped both in attendances and progress made in an effort to bring the Company to a first class standard of efficiency. A very keen inter-Section competitive spirit is much in evidence, all ranks striving with good will to make their respective Section the great "it."

**Week-End Camp.**—A very enjoyable and interesting week-end camp was held on March 5th–6th. The first day was spent around the drill hall in performing numerous interesting items of work. The second day we went further afield to a specially selected site at Lamesley, and much profitable work was accomplished by each Section. The writer is now beginning to understand why so many of the Wireless Section need an extra size in hats.

**Recruits.**—These are steadily coming forward. We have already enlisted seven (under old conditions), and a further twelve are on probation.

**Footnote.**—It is with regret that we heard the rumour of our popular R.S.M. leaving the Division. We hope that instead of leaving us altogether, he will be able to stay with us for some time to come in some other capacity.

G. S. S.

### No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

**Training.**—Now that the social functions for this season have been wound up, we are getting seriously down to training. The Sunday morning parades we are holding are proving very popular, especially among the recruits of the Company.

We have just completed an n.c.o.s intensive training course, and I feel sure those who attended found it very beneficial to them.

We are now holding voluntary evening classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, so that the n.c.o.s may pass on what they have learned to the younger hands of the Company.

We held a week-end camp on March 5th–6th, at which 70% of the Company attended. Owing to the weather being very unkind to us, most of the training had to be done indoors, but thanks to the programme of work being so well organised everything went with a swing. I feel sure that the n.c.o.s and men who attended went home on Sunday evening feeling quite happy and brimming over with knowledge they had acquired during the week-end.

**Cups.**—We now have two new cups in the Company to be competed for during the training season. One is for the highest score in the annual musketry course, and the other for general efficiency during the year. The lucky individual whose name first appears on each of these cups will feel very proud of himself.

A. C.

### No. 3 (Hull) Company.

**Training.**—This commenced in earnest on March 1st, and the attendance has been satisfactory. Still, we should like to see a few more turn up to make a 100% attendance. This will no doubt happen when the weather begins to get warmer and outside training can be done.

This year the Company are training solely as Brigade Sections, and flag drill and buzzer and lamp reading is the order of the day (or night, shall we say).

Voluntary physical training classes are now being held on Monday nights, and it is hoped that members of the Company will appreciate the efforts of the instructor (L/Sergt J. S. Coutts) in getting the class going.

**Social.**—On February 18th the members of the 73rd Field Brigade R.A. w.o.s and sergeants' mess were the guests of the w.o.s and sergeants of this Company in friendly games of billiards and dominoes and shooting competitions. Needless to say, our folks "saw them off." I have forgotten the scores at the moment.

During a little friendly argument over the shooting competition, we were threatened by the R.A. mess president that at the next meeting we would be expected to shoot with 18-pounders.

**Dances.**—Alas for the Charlestonites! The dancing season is drawing to a close. All through the season our Company fortnightly dances have been successful, and it is hoped that one or two more may be held before the end of the month.

**General.**—We regret very much to learn of the intended departure of Sigmn Woods, who is emigrating to British Columbia at the end of the month. A farewell smoking concert is being held in the barracks on Monday, March 14th, in order that his many friends may wish him every success—which I am sure he deserves.

A. Q. Z.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

Fonthill Barracks, March 14th.

Training for recruits commences on March 15th, and by the 22nd the whole Company will have started to train in earnest. Divisional Headquarters approving, the whole system of training will be re-organised on much better lines, and by camp time the benefit of this should be very much felt.

Everyone is looking forward to the scheme which will permit of each Section being trained absolutely as they will be expected to function when the Chinks arrive at Aberdeen to "shangei" a few of the people who have not yet ordered their copy of THE WIRE. May they suffer the torture of having to sit with their eyes propped open whilst a few lucky individuals loll at their ease and inwardly digest this splendid article (?) in silence. An ignorant fellow has suggested that a greater torture would be to make them read it, but of course I take no notice of such silly remarks. Pure jealousy!

Our last dance of the season was held on Friday, March 11th, and of course was the usual brilliant affair, about one hundred couples being present. The gay dresses of the ladies and the many different tartans and mess dresses of the officers must have been a feast to anyone who really appreciated colour. Tea was afterwards indulged in—all free, hence the crush.

On behalf of the Company I take this opportunity of again thanking the committee for the splendid work they have performed in making these dances so thoroughly successful. Don't get a swollen head, Andy.

The C.O., Adjutant, and R.S.M. had previously accepted an invitation to be present at the annual ball of No. 2 Company at Stirling, and their absence was regretted by all.

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

After the threat in the March issue, I make my bow with all humiliation to the powers-that-be, and commence.

Three of our senior n.c.o.s took the plunge into the icy depths of the n.c.o.s examination for further promotion, and came up bubbling somewhat. After the necessary information had been kindly but firmly extracted, they did *not* sing "Another little exam. wouldn't do us any harm." The congratulations of the Company go to them on passing.

Owing to the departure of ex-C.S.M. Millar of this unit to the metropolis for employment with the Civil Service, a vacancy was created for a w.o. class ii. This has now been filled by C.S.M. T. Morrison, whose capabilities and popularity will enable him to carry out his duties without any undue strain. Hearty congratulations, Tommy. May your shadow never grow less.

A hearty welcome is given to our latest-joined, L/Sergeant Thomson (ex-Staff-Q.M.S., R.A.S.C.) whose services as pay and orderly room sergeant will be greatly appreciated by all ranks, especially on pay days. (Can I have an advance, sergeant?)

It is with regret that we have to notify that our very able C.Q.M.S. is down with the "flu." When paid a visit, he was engaged in trying to crawl out from under his beard. It was at first thought that he was hibernating, but after a few kind words the smile appeared and we knew then that all would be well. We all hope that you will soon be on your feet again, Willie.

Some very enjoyable evenings are being spent by the members of this Company in competing in the local miniature rifle clubs' competition. Although no great success has yet been attained, the shooting is improving, and we are now giving the local clubs a run for it.

Our monthly whist drive was a success as usual, thanks to our energetic committee. About 110 were present. The prizes were kindly presented to the winners by Mrs. Laing, wife of 2/Lieut J. Laing of this Company. The usual refreshments were dispensed, and an hour's dancing indulged in: altogether a very enjoyable evening.

THISTLE.

### No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

**Training.**—All officers and n.c.o.s are busily engaged in discussing "Training Instruction, No. 1," recently issued from headquarters, and getting their notes in order for individual training. The new system of training should prove much more satisfactory, and it is hoped that all ranks will take every advantage of it.

**Pipe Band.**—The n.c.o.s and men of the pipe band are eagerly looking forward to receiving their new uniform, and it is expected that their ambition will be realised at an early date.

**General.**—It is expected that the new quarters, consisting of offices, stores, drill hall and wagon sheds, will be ready for occupation before the annual camp. This important improvement will add greatly to the convenience and comfort of the personnel at Kirkcaldy. It is hoped to celebrate the event with a whist drive and dance.

We offer congratulations to Sergt Mackay and L/Sergt Smith on their added responsibilities. We also wish the best of luck and every happiness to Corpl and Mrs. Stephen.

The Company "wag" says that the bounty business is a blow, and wonders how the Aberdeen folks are taking it.

**Conclusion.**—We all regret to hear that our commanding officer, Major R. B. Lockhart, has been ordered by his medical adviser to the north of Scotland for recuperation after his long spell of convalescence. Major Lockhart will be greatly missed during the present training season, and also at the annual camp this year. We all wish him a speedy recovery and an early return to his duties.

THREESOME.

## 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

### Edinburgh Detachment.

**Training.**—The season has now commenced. Our first-year lads are making a fine start at foot drill, and also in the riding school. We trust they will make as good a show when they come to manipulative and technical work, and thereby qualify for a trade rating.

**Bounties.**—We were beginning to feel assured that we would be able to go into annual training as a Company when the "axe" fell. Falling as it did just before the closing of the evening continuation classes, we feel we have been robbed (let us hope temporarily) of several promising young recruits.

**Au Revoir.**—We have recently lost several good men who have sought pastures new. Sergt Freddy Stokes is off to Khartoum to take up an appointment with the Sudan Government Telegraphs.

Signalman Jordan (formerly of G Company, Crowborough) accepted a position as wireless operator with the Imperial Airways, and after a short training he is now somewhere in Persia.

Still another of our young lads has gone to London, having secured a P.O. appointment there.

Sigmn J. Baird, having joined the Royal Signals, has proceeded to Catterick.

AULD REEKIE.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, March 12th.

With the advent of lighter evenings the number attending drills increases steadily; the average attendances for January and February are well above anything we have had in previous years. Our flag and buzzer squads are making excellent progress, and the drivers, too, are putting in a lot of work.

Our February week-ends had unfortunately to be limited as regards the number attending, owing to the shortage of funds. A great deal of very useful work was carried out on both the week-ends. This month we are to have two further week-ends, and comments on these will be made in our next notes.

The officers carried out a small tactical exercise under the adjutant. We understand that the work was found of great interest, and that in future the Saturday afternoons of week-end courses will normally be ear-marked for this purpose—as many officers as can be spared from Company duties to attend the exercises.

The officers are holding their annual dinner on March 19th, and no doubt our C.O. will have some stories suitable for the occasion.

We have just heard that this unit is to be affiliated with the 3rd Divl. Signals, to whom we shall look for advice and help, and whom we hope we shall get to know. It is rather nice to feel we have a sort of elder brother of the Service to keep an eye on us.

The site for our annual camp has been decided on, and we shall once more lighten the hearts and fill the pockets of the tradesfolk of Porthcawl. We are all pleased, as the training ground is good, our camp site excellent, and the dancing at Coney Beach (according to the experts) delightful.

One important note was omitted from our last issue. "Old soldiers never die," they say. We have two of them in the unit whose fading away is, we are very glad to know, to be a slow process. R.S.M. Pease, D.C.M., and C.S.M. Gadsby, D.C.M., have both been allowed to continue in the Service beyond twenty-one years.

The announcement of these extensions was made at the annual w.o.s and n.c.o.s dinner, and the applause that greeted the news of the R.S.M.'s continuance with the unit for an extra year showed the great esteem in which he is held by the n.c.o.s. C.S.M. Gadsby, of course, is a dark horse as yet, being our last-joined P.S.

It was a great pity we missed our notes in the December WIRE, as we had intended to say a good deal about the n.c.o.s dinner. It is too late, now, to say more than that it was the best they've had.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.

March 15th.

Training having re-commenced, activity at headquarters has increased, and we are pleased to see such strong musters on parade nights. The special course held during February was very successful, and recruits have come along wonderfully. This augurs well for the forthcoming Trade Board, which it is whispered will be held in May. Hopes are rising all round.



The publication of the Army Order dispensing with the bounty has had little effect on us so far as recruiting goes, for recruits still dribble in. The astonishing thing is the number who rushed to re-engage for four years before February 28th.

A recruiting week is being carried on this week, commencing with a small scheme and demonstration on Wanstead Flats on Sunday, the 13th. This proved a very successful affair. Communication was maintained with all apparatus. A sets, with a slight conversion, were used for wireless telephony. The most interesting part, so far as the public seemed to be concerned, was the mounted display under R.S.M. Adams, M.M. Cossack riding, vaulting, jumping, and tent-pegging with lance and sword made up a very interesting programme.

It is really wonderful: the way in which the mounted men have come on in vaulting in such a short time. It is difficult to praise one more than another, but L/Corpl Parker, Dvr E. Moody, and Signalmen Warner and Bates, I think, are deserving of a clap on the back.

To-night a regimental dance is being held at the Burghley Hall, Leytonstone, and on Saturday, 19th inst., a route march with demonstrations at various points will take place, finishing up with a Bohemian concert on our return to headquarters. Of this, more anon.

The young soldiers' boxing tournament for Territorial Army units in the County of Essex was held at the headquarters of the 6th Battn. Essex Regiment, West Ham, on February 26th. The winners of this tournament go to Colchester on the 18th inst., to meet the winners of the Regular young soldiers competition. We are pleased to record that this unit sends three men out of five, and we hope to bring back some more pots.

A whist drive was held here on February 24th, which, though not too well attended (the weather being "putrid"), provided an enjoyable evening. The tit-bit of the evening was the R.Q.M.S. winning the booby prize, after wrapping it up into a dozen or more parcels for someone else. This had to be opened in the presence of the players, but knowing what was inside, he didn't mind a scrap! Mrs. R.Q.M.S. collared the prize "ek dum," and said "I'll have a drop in my tea in the morning."

**S.O.S.**—Happy days, Brownie, 49th Signals, from Tich, Barney and Co.

Y. E. D.

### No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

March 16th.

**General.**—Speculation is rife amongst the Company busybodies as to where we are going for annual training this year. Some say that we are going to A.B.C., whilst others will have it that we are going to X.Y.Z. My motto is: "A rolling stone is worth two in the hand," or as that poet of world fame is supposed to have stated, "Wait and let live" (something wrong here!) But wherever we go, lads! you can bet your sweet life we shall have a jolly time and gain fresh laurels for the Company.

Let us, however, deal with the things that we are most concerned with at the moment. What do you think of the special classes of instruction? This is what I think, and I hope those who are affected will let these remarks soak well in.

Although we are only in the second week at the time of writing, it is opined that the classes are doing a lot of good technically. It is obvious also that the old timers who may think themselves secure as the leading technical lights of the Company will, unless they attend more regularly, have to take a very back seat to the new blood. Some of the newcomers have progressed so far that it can be safely said they have caught up, and in some cases passed, those who have been with the Company for a much longer period.

All should remember that we hold the efficiency cup, and that it is up to all to do their bit and help to retain it indefinitely. All the officers and n.c.o.s are turning up regularly to instruct, and so far goodly numbers have attended to encourage their efforts.

**Social.**—It is very pleasing to know that the signalmen have the social life of the Company at heart. It was chiefly due to their efforts that a select dance was held on February 2nd in aid of the Company sports fund. L/Corpl Loades and Sigmn Walters took the matter in hand, and the function was a great success. We hope another one of the same calibre will be forthcoming ere long.

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**Personal.**—A welcome to Recruits A. Clarke, Pavey, Long, Bailey, and Punt. Goodbye and good luck to Signalmen W. R. Foster and H. V. Rossi. Many happy returns to our "Brookie." May he have many more. We have in mind March 14th.

Don't forget to turn to the sports page.

## No. 3 (E.L.) Company, 2nd Corps Signals.

Burlington St., Manchester, March 14th.

Sunday, February 6th, decided to be a fine day, and the D.R.s scheme owed a great deal of its success to this fact. The roads were still wet from Saturday's rain when the roll was called at Burlington Street, but by the time the second scheme started they were quite dry (the roads: *not* the D.R.s).

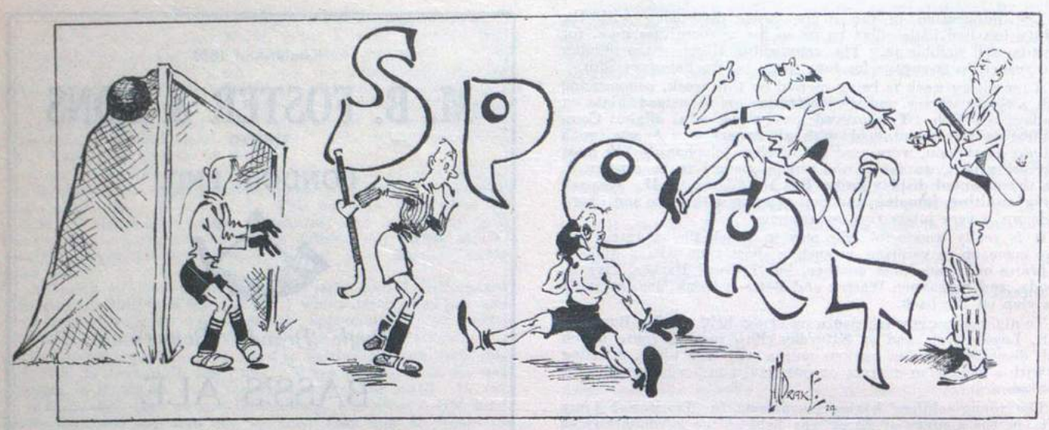
Two schemes were worked in the morning, as the timing allowance turned out to be too generous, and a formation ride occupied the afternoon. Certain n.c.o.s were lost on the second scheme, but like bad money, they duly turned up at the rendezvous, albeit rather late.

Only one spill marred the day, the result of a "dust-up" between two members of the party—due to a high stone wall appearing nearer than it really was. One of the two decided that the grass by the roadside would be softer, and after a hectic skid, he somersaulted himself there. It was really "wind up," I think. However, he got up again, but the machine required some little attention before he arrived home more or less safely.

Our O.C., Major Roby, and Lieut Bottomley, are spending three *whole* weeks with A Corps Signals, and from all accounts they are having an interesting and instructive sojourn with them. We await the yarns with keen anticipation, and doubt if the end of the camp will find them exhausted. Who goes next?

We extend our deepest sympathy to the adjutant, Captain Silvester, in the loss of his father.

ACK ACK ACK.




## Catterick Rugby Notes.

**Signals (Catterick) v. Ripon.**—Second round, first stage of the Yorkshire challenge cup. Played at Catterick on February 19th. Won by Signals by 43 points to 6.

**Signals (Catterick) v. Harrogate.**—Third round, first stage. Played at Harrogate on February 26th. Won by Signals by 11 points to 6.

**Signals (Catterick) v. Old Dewsbruians.**—First round, second stage. Played at Catterick (Highlands) on March 5th. Won by Signals by 11 points to 6. At half-time the score was 6—5 against us. Midway in the second half, Lieut Hardy scored from about half-way. Near the end Lieuts Owens and Thuillier started to dribble from inside their own half, and the latter scored a really splendid try.

On March 12th we visit Bramley Old Boys, and the winners will play Halifax on March 19th at Halifax. The winners of that game will then go into the semi-final.

Next month the season's fixtures and results will be published, together with notes on players, etc.

## Catterick Cross-Country Notes.

The final inter-Company run of the season, which was also the S.T.C. individual championship, was held on February 22nd. The course was one of seven miles, over two laps, and exceptionally heavy on that day. Colonel H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., kindly consented to start the field.

The first twenty to finish were: 1, Sigmn Broadley; 2, Dvr Gaston; 3, L/Corpl Ivison; 4, Sigmn Beale; 5, Sigmn Gosling; 6, L/Corpl Stibbs; 7, Sigmn Rushmere; 8, Signalman Blades; 9, Sigmn Moore; 10, Corpl Palmer, 11, Corpl Morris; 12, Sergt Curtis; 13, Sigmn Nix; 14, Sigmn Pells; 15, Sigmn Hall; 16, L/Corpl Carnell; 17, Dvr Stokes; 18, Dvr Newstead; 19, Lieut Keddie; 20, Boy Laves.

Corpl Cotterell was unable to run, owing to a poisoned foot.

C Company won this run, with F and the School second and third respectively.

The final order of Companies over the whole season is:—1st, F Company, 26 points; 2nd, C Company, 25; 3rd, E Company, 20; 4th, School of Signals, 12; 5th, D Company, 7.

The Northern Command championships took place on Friday, March 4th, over the same course. This run resulted in a win for the Training Battalion with 141 points. The Depot Battn. were second (174), and the 4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps third (401). These were the only units competing.

Major-Gen. F. A. Dudgeon, C.B., started the race, and afterwards presented the Fattorini shield and medals to the winning team.

The placings of the winning team were: 1, Corpl Cotterell; 2, Sigmn Broadley; 4, Sigmn Beale; 5, L/Cpl Ayres; 6, L/Cpl Ivison; 8, L/Corpl Stibbs; 9, Sigmn Hall; 14, Sigmn Stenning; 20, Sigmn Nix; 21, Sigmn Gosling; 23, Lieut Keddie; 28, Boy Knight.

## C Company, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Soccer.**—In the Company League our last match was with A and B Companies. We won by two goals to nil. Our representatives played very well and were the better team, and deserved the honours. This now places us as winners of the senior soccer league, having won all our five matches.

In the junior league our last match was also with A and B Companies, and in this fixture we won to the tune of 10—2. During this game Dvr Ford had the misfortune to break his arm in a tussle in front of our opponents' goal. In this league we have won three out of five matches, which places us third in the list.

**Boxing.**—We were fortunate enough to have a few runners-up in the Corps championships, and congratulations are extended to L/Corpl Howard on winning the Corps middle-weight. Sigmn Pyke must be congratulated on his fine performance in reaching the semi-final, only to be beaten after a very hard fight. With more training he will be above the probable class and return with the laurels. Sigmn Lee fought well, but was just behind when points were considered. 2/Lieut P. R. Hyde also won the Corps officers' heavyweight championship. This was a very creditable performance, as he has only been in the Corps a short time.

**Rugby.**—In our last match, with E Company, we carried off the honours by 20—0 points. Some excellent play was witnessed, and the forwards used their weight with good judgment. We have very strong hopes of winning this league. In the team we have four S.T.C. players, Lieuts Thuillier and Denholm-Young, Sigmn White and Dvr Reeves. (If anyone is talking about a spectacular try scored by Mess-Room Charlie, answer that "he did it for the papers."

**Cross-Country Running.**—The Company were unfortunate in losing the S.T.C. cross-country championship and shield by one point. F Company won with 26 points over the whole season's running. Dvr Gaston must be congratulated on being first man home for the Company. Our tyro Sigmn Rushmere did very well indeed in obtaining seventh place in the final run, and with training and a little more experience he should do well. Lieut. Thuillier must be congratulated on having run so remarkably well.

**Shooting.**—In this we are leading the Battalion League, and hope to be able to hold on longer. We have so far fired six matches and won them all.

## D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

**Sport.**—In the S.T.C. inter-Company senior league we managed to finish third in the table. The junior league team were more successful, and were second, only losing one game—to the School of Signals.

A competition to encourage all players has met with great success. Fourteen huts turned out teams for the competition, which is on the knock-out system. The finalists are No. 19 Hut v. winners of Nos. 12 and 16 match. A cup will be presented to the winners. Although the football has not been up to professional standard, some very exciting games have been played, extra time being necessary in several matches.

It is hoped to commence an inter-hut competition in athletics, to prepare for the S.T.C. inter-Company competitions.



## F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

**Cross-Country.**—Well done, the Boys' Company! Greatly helped by some of our old veterans, the boys themselves ran splendidly, and although beaten in the S.T.C. seven miles race, we managed to win the S.T.C. cross-country by one point from C Company.

F Company (including the time when it was old G) have now won the cross-country for four seasons running. Incidentally we noticed four old G Company running for C: Sigmn Moore (8th), Sigmn Blades (9th), L/Corpl Carnell (16th), and Sigmn Avis (not so high!)

Heartiest congratulations to the T.B. on winning the Northern Command cross-country, to which team of fifteen we supplied ten runners. The best of luck in the Army championships!

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Hockey.**—A genuine surprise awaited No. 1 Company in a unit hockey league game with No. 3 Company. A win of four goals to one by the latter caused consternation throughout the unit, No. 1 always having been victorious in these games.

We again encountered the R.E. in a unit game, which was very fast. Play took place on a ground as nearly ideal in condition as possible, and we lost by 4—1.

**Boxing.**—Unit colours are awarded to L/Cpl H. V. Langley, Signalmen S. Couldridge, P. McCreeth, F. J. Thomas, and A. Taylor, and Dvr C. Emblem.

**Rugby.**—The following were also awarded unit colours for this game: L/Corpl Lee, Signalmen A. Harris, Wadworth, G. Moore, Rutherford, Garside and Clinton, and Dvr Cleminson.

**Football.**—The following have been awarded unit colours for the Association game: Signalmen Dobinson, W. Bennett, W. Kneller and J. Nicholls, and Dvr Entwistle.

No. 3 Company Football Team.

*Back row*—Eyre Taylor Harris Watts
*Centre row*—Nicholls C.S.M. Keevil Dobinson Major Vyvyan Cleminson
*Front row*—Wadsworth Bennett Wills Battle Beadle

## No. 1 Co. 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

**Cross-Country.**—The inter-Section cross-country run is due to take place during March, and this should provide much excitement in the attempt to win the Section trophy. Numerous runners are having early morning exercise under L/Corpl Evens, and good results are expected.

**Swimming.**—The Command baths, opened again after being closed for ten months, are attracting numerous members of No. 1 Company. Judging from the enthusiasm shown, we shall be able to select a good team of swimmers this year.

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## 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

**Football.**—Since writing the notes which appeared in the March WIRE, Signals have been creating quite a stir in the soccer field. We have a vastly improved side, a fact which other units on the Plain are beginning to realise to their cost.

In spite of wind, rain and mud, the match versus 3rd/6th Dragoon Guards, in the first round of the Salisbury Plain Area cup, was played on February 23rd. A very keenly contested game resulted in the full-time score of 4—4, the cavalrymen being rather fortunate in obtaining an equalising goal in the last five minutes. Extra time was played, but although there were several exciting moments in both goal areas, no further scoring took place. The goal scorers were King, Wesselby, Evans and Worthington.

On the following Monday, February 28th, the struggle was continued at Tidworth in driving rain. The unit made no mistake this time, and passed through to the second round by the odd goal in three, King and Worthington being responsible for the goals. The team has seldom shown better form under the most adverse conditions, and well deserved the victory. It was pleasing to see so many spectators, over a hundred officers, n.c.o.s and men of the unit turning out.

Fortune favoured us in the draw for the second round, which resulted in our meeting the 2nd Battn. Somerset Light Infantry at home. Minor injuries to several members of the team had caused a certain amount of apprehension that we should be unable to put our full team in the field, but thanks to intensive massage our fears were not realised. The match was played in fine weather on March 11th (it does stop raining, very occasionally, in Bulford). A clean fast game was watched by a large crowd, and once more the Signals showed their mettle and gained a decisive victory by 3 to 1 (Stagg, Evans, and Higginson from a penalty).

Our next appearance in this competition will be in the semi-final, the draw for which will take place towards the end of the month. It is hoped that we shall be able to record still further success in our next notes.

With much regret we have had to part with our team captain, Sigmn King, who has gone to the Reserve. King has been one

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of the mainstays of soccer in this unit, and his departure on the eve of the match with the Somersets was a real loss to the side. We all wish him the best of luck in his new job. Sigmn Higginson, who is leaving us shortly for the Rhine, is a further loss. He has proved himself a great asset to the side, and his goal-keeping has contributed very largely to the success of the team.

"Jimmies" have been awarded to the following: Corpl Lannigan, Signalmen King, Dean, Higginson, Hall, Wesselby, Sinclair, Evans, Huson and Worthington.

**Cross-Country Running.**—In continuation of our last month's notes: the results of the Southern Command championships did all the necessary broadcasting. A second place was no mean effort, and having our tails well up, we are hoping to get the same in the Army. It will be a good team that will push us out of that position.

The order of finishing in the Southern Command championships were:—20, Wood; 29, Lapper; 32, Marples; 33, Salter; 35, Lynton; 39, Hawthorne; 41, Tibbitts; 46, Goodliffe; 47, Ward; 54, Strickson; 60, Miller; 62, Carnell.

This is the third season of cross-country running in the unit, and our record is as follows:—

1925—Southern Command 4th; Army —.
1926—Southern Command 3rd; Army 7th.
1927—Southern Command 2nd; Army (?)

**Billiards.**—Since writing our last notes, an inter-Company billiard tournament has been played, which proved a great success. The final was fought out between the "A" teams of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies on March 7th, and resulted in a win for No. 2 by 43 points.

Thanks are due to the officers, w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men who arranged and played in the tournament. No. 2 Company are to be congratulated on their success, and must do their best to keep a tight hold of the trophy.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

**Boxing.**—In the recent N.I.D. championships we again managed to hold our own. After a series of fights our two entries—L/Corpl Brewster and Sigmn Mayer—gained two handsome cups, each being a runner-up.

**Football.**—Inter-Company matches have been going on apace, and progress is being made in selecting likely players for the forthcoming inter-unit competition.

## Rhine Signal Units.

We have made great strides since our last report, and we are feeling quite proud of ourselves.

In football we have won the last ten matches, and at the time of writing we have only two more to play to complete our league fixtures. There is the cup still, a bye having been drawn for the first round. The match of the season, versus R.A.O.C. (league champions), finished in our favour by the odd goal in five. We must congratulate our team on their hard fights and victories during the latter half of the season.

The rugby team encountered and defeated the R.E.s in the first round of the cup, and we now eagerly await the next round, when we have the Royal Berks in opposition. As they are the holders, our hopes are small, but Rhine Signals have never gone under without trying.

A novices' boxing competition was staged in the regimental institute, and brought to light many good sportsmen. Our O.C., in a short speech, informed us that another competition would take place much earlier next year—a statement which assures us of the great interest he has in this sport.

Inter-Section football for the knock-out shield still continues amidst great interest, and in my next notes I shall be able to announce the winners.

Hockey still lags behind, due to the shortage of grounds, and one often wonders why we haven't a ground on the Exerciez Platz.

The unit committee has approved the award of unit "Jimmies" to the following:—Football, Corpls Ribs and McCormick, Sigmn Roby and Dvr Barnes. Rugby, Corpl Low, L/Corporal Critchley, Signalmen R. Knight and Morris.

## S.T.C. and Depot (India), Jubbulpore.

**Cricket.**—In the Central Provinces and Berar quadrangular cricket tournament, this month, Major J. A. Pocock, Captain A. J. Harris, and Sergt C. Eynott played for the Europeans versus the Parsis. The Europeans won by ten wickets, Major Pocock taking four wickets for 50 in the Parsis' first innings, and six for 54 in the second. Capt Harris scored 44 for his side.

In the final of this tournament the Europeans played the Hindus, and won by a good margin. Captain Harris and Sergt Eynott played for the Europeans, but Major Pocock was unable to play, being away from the station. The scores in this match were: Europeans, 389 and 220 for 5; Hindus 180 and 226 (Sergt Eynott three wickets for 41 and three for 44).

In a game against Christ Church School, the S.T.C. won by two wickets and 54 runs, after their opponents had declared their innings closed. Christ Church School, 219 for 4 (declared); S.T.C., 273 for 8 (Capt Harris 129).

**Football.**—In games against the 71st Field Battery R.A. and 26th Field Brigade R.A., we were beaten by 2—1 and 2—0 respectively.

**Hockey.**—In the first round of the Chaube cup, we lost by the odd goal in three to Christ Church School after a very hard game. Our opponents' win was well deserved on account of their superior team work.

**Racquets.**—In the Jubbulpore racquets tournament, held this month, Capt. A. J. Harris, O.B.E., R.Signals, playing with Lieut J. L. Spencer, M.C. (1st Battn. Hampshire Regt.), won the open doubles; and the same officer was also one of the winning pair in the representative pairs final.

## B Divisional Signals, Quetta.

**Sports.**—The Baluchistan District cross-country run took place on February 18th, with the following result:—1st, B Divl. Signals, 53 points; 2nd, B Coy. 1st E. Lancs Regt. 52; 3rd, A Coy. 1st E. Lancs. Regt., 50; 4th, D Coy. 1st E. Lancs. Regt., 44; 5th, H.Q. 1st E. Lancs. Regt., 38; 6th, C Company 1st E. Lancs. Regt., 34; 7th, A Coy. 2nd Cameronians, 32; 8th, H.Q. 2nd Cameronians, 32; 9th, 1st Armoured Car Coy. R.T.C., 1.

It was unfortunate that our best man (Corpl F. A. Jones, last year's winner) was admitted to hospital two days before the race, as well as six others of the team of thirty. The members who did run are to be congratulated on their success, particularly those who volunteered at the last moment to fill vacancies caused by illness. To win with seven regular members of the team absent, including several of the best runners, is a great performance, and means that the unit would have won easily if all had been present.

Our first man home was L/Corpl N. R. Andrews, closely followed by Corpl Campbell and L/Corpl Whittall. These secured second, third and fourth places respectively. The distance was approximately 3½ miles, and the last man of our team arrived with 1½ minutes to spare before the closing of the pens. This is our first success this year towards the District assault-at-arms cup, which we have now held for two years, and we hope to continue this success.

Although we report success as above, we have had reverses in being knocked out of the District inter-unit and inter-Company hockey and football tournaments. But cheer up; better luck next time.

## F Divisional Signals, Kohat.

**Sports.**—For the past month sport, with the exception of the Kohat District football league and a few matches of the rugby league, has been at a standstill, due chiefly to the Indian tournaments which have taken place.

Two hockey tournaments have been played—the Kohat District tournament, and the Frontier Force tournament (open only to Frontier Force regiments). Both produced some keen struggles and very skilful hockey. Our Indian team entered for the former, but after beating the 2/9th Jat Regiment they were disposed of by the 113th Indian Pack Battery R.A.

In the Indian football, however, we were more fortunate, eventually winning the shield for the second year in succession by defeating the 5th (K.E.O.) Probyn's Horse in the final. The football in this competition did not reach a very high standard—the general idea being that the team that kicked the hardest and had the heftiest set of players would win.

In the Kohat District league our "B" team continues to do fairly well. At present they head the table, but have played two matches more than their nearest rivals, the R.A.F. "B." "A" team has, as expected, done little. The last draft to U.K. took some of their players, with the result that their present position in the table is not surprising.

The present trooping season has, I'm afraid, hit our football and hockey teams pretty hard, but providing the Depot can send us along a few of their footballers, we should not be long in again building a team.

The players lost this year are as follows:—C.Q.M.S. P. H. Smithies and Sergts S. A. Stevens and W. Wall, on leave; L/Sergts W. W. Page and A. J. Costello to the home establishment; L/Sergt E. Kingham, Corpl E. W. Smith, and Signalmen W. A. Archer and C. Reeves to the Army Reserve. The players on leave, of course, return in six months time; but to the others we wish them all the best, and hope that when they are kicking goals for someone else they will give a thought to the Kohat District League.

Our rugger team, whilst not doing anything startling, have performed quite creditably. As yet the majority of the new players are young to the game and lack experience. They are, however, keen—which is the main point. With the departure to the home establishment of Sergt H. Hoyland (Hefty) the mainstay of the pack fell out. We are hoping that in Sergt L. Overington we have discovered a useful substitute.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Boxing.**—The Corps boxing team have done well in the Command cup by defeating the 1st Battn. A. and S.H. at the Citadel. Particulars as under:—

Flyweight—Sigmn Burnham w.o.
Bantam-weight—Sigmn Holmes lost to Pte Gibb.
Feather-weight—L/Corpl George beat Bandsman Andrews.
Light-weight—L/Corpl Soloman beat Pte Dunn. Reserve: Sigmn Dawson beat Pte Campbell.
Welter-weight—L/Corpl Wales lost to Pte Holland. Corpl Rushworth beat Pte McGiuggan.
Middle-weight—Sigmn Andrews lost to Pte Quorn.
Light-heavy-weight—Sigmn O'Donnell lost to Pte Cartwright.
Heavy-weight—Sergt Wheeler beat L/Corpl McQuade.

We have to meet the Faughs in the next round. Best of luck, the Corps.

**Football.**—The league matches during February have been as follows:—

Royal Signals 3; 15/19th Hussars 2.
Royal Signals 1; 1st Pack Brigade 1.
3rd Hussars 1; Royal Signals 2.

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We have yet to meet the 3rd Hussars in the Command cup. Keep it up, Signals!

**Billiards.**—We are doing rather well in the sergeants' mess league, but unfortunately we cannot possibly win it. The results of matches played on February 22nd were:—

3rd Hussars 6; Artillery Brigade 0.
Royal Corps of Signals 6; 216th Squadron R.A.F. 0.
R.I.F. 6; R.A.P.C. 0.
15/19th Hussars 2; R.A.O.C. 4.

The League results to date are appended:—

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | Games for | Games agst. | Pts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R.I.F. ... ... | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 54 | 12 | 21 |
| R.A.O.C. ... ... | 13 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 45 | 33 | 19 |
| 3rd Hussars ... ... | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 41 | 19 | 17 |
| 15/19th Hussars ... | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 24 | 13 |
| Royal Signals ... | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 35 | 24 | 13 |
| R.A.S.C. ... ... | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 38 | 8 |
| R.A.P.C. ... ... | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 24 | 35 | 7 |
| R.E. ... ... ... | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 31 | 5 |
| Norfolk Regiment ... | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 34 | 5 |
| 216th Squad. R.A.F. | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 41 | 5 |
| 12th Lancers ... | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 4 |
| Artillery Brigade ... | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 50 | 1 |

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—Owing to several members of the Company team being at present out of camp on manœuvres, no matches have been played during the past month.

**Athletics.**—At the National Sporting Club's open athletic meeting at Cairo, on February 24th and 27th, Sigmn Beeton won both the 10,000 metres cross-country and the 1500 metres track races. Runners of various nationalities competed in both events. Beeton's time for the latter event was 4 mins. 29 secs.

**Boxing.**—Congratulations to the Corps boxing team on their fine win over the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the

Command boxing championships. The Corps now meet the Royal Irish Fusiliers—a team who have given the Depot team in England many a hard tussle.

## Malta Signal Section.

**Sport.**—Football and hockey completely fill the sport programme just now, and up to the present the Section teams are doing quite well in the inter-Section league recently introduced by the 24th Company Royal Engineers, to whom we are attached. To date we have fulfilled two football and three hockey fixtures. The results I append below:—

Football—Versus No. 3 Section, won 4—0; v. No. 4 Section, lost by 3—1.

Hockey—Versus No. 4 Section, drew at 2—2; v. No. 3 Section, lost by 4—2; v. No. 2 Section, won by 1—0.

In addition, two of our number assist the Sappers in the Command senior league, namely, L/Corpl H. Bevis and Sigmn W. Johnson. They also represented the Signals in a "mystery team" known as the Corps United (comprising players of the various amateur Corps stationed on the island) versus the Floriana F.C.—a strong amateur team of Maltese. The score of two goals each was a very befitting result to a clean and interesting game.

It is not unlikely that in the near future the men of Malta may be seen meeting the representatives of other nations, so advanced now is their class of football.

A series of interesting fixtures has been played recently with civilian teams and various details. The results are as follows:—

Versus Military Foot Police, won by 4—0.
Versus R.A.S.C. Transport, won by 2—1.
Versus Beds and Herts, won by 3—1.
Versus St. Joseph's F.C., lost by 4—2.

Considering that the strength of the Section is only eighteen n.c.o.s and men, we do not fare too badly!

## No. 3 Co. 51st (H.) Divl. Signals, Kirkcaldy.

**Boxing.**—The Fife County Territorial Army boxing tournament was held on Saturday, March 5th, and five of our boxing enthusiasts entered with the following results:—

Novices—8 st. 6 lbs., Sigmn D. D. Spence, 1st. 9 st. 9 lbs., Sigmn G. Forbes, 1st. 10 st. 7 lbs., Sigmn J. Brown, 1st.

Open event (for Territorials)—8st. 6lbs., Sigmn J. Harvey, 2nd It was regretted that the fifth entrant, Sigmn J. Spowart, was compelled to withdraw owing to illness.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Boxing.**—Our Divisional champion, Dvr Mercer, lost his fight at the Holborn Stadium on March 9th. Drawn against last year's Stadium champion, Pte Edmunds, he put up an extraordinarily good fight, and a good many thought that an extra round would be necessary, but the verdict went to Edmunds.

At the young soldiers' tournament for T.A. in the county of Essex, we did remarkably well. Out of twenty-three entries, ten were Signals. On team points we led easily with 24, followed by the 309th A.A. Searchlight Coy. R.E. (10), 6th Essex (9), and 5th Essex (2). Medals were presented to the winners.

Signalmen T. McCall (fly-weights), Langley (feather-weights), and Sawford (welter-weight), of this unit, were the winners of their weights. Sigmn Dent, who lost to Pte Murray (6th Essex), was congratulated by the referee on the splendid fight he put up. Dvr Gosling is also to be congratulated on the good show he made against Sigmn Sawford (Southend Company).

## No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

On January 22nd we comfortably outpointed D Company 6th Essex Regiment. Our winners were L/Corpl McMenamin, Signalmen Taylur, Johnson, W. Sawford, and H. Sawford. Although they lost, Signalmen Dent and Langley gave a good show.

It is very pleasing to know that we have two representatives in the Essex young soldiers' finals to be held at Colchester on March 18th. Signalmen W. Sawford and Langley, good luck to you both!

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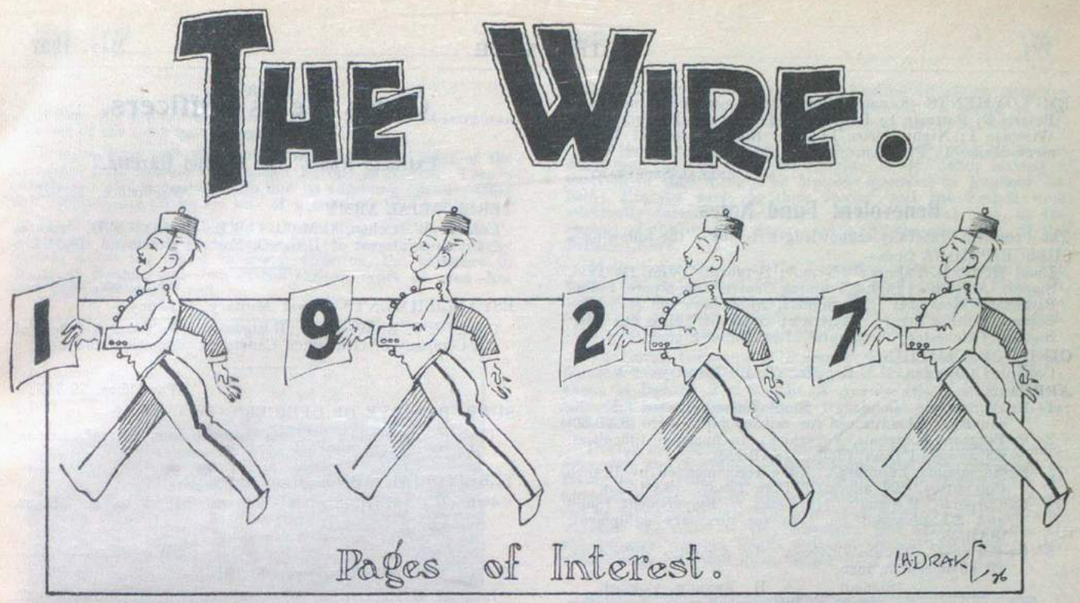



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VOL. VIII.—No. 87 MAY, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


## Editorial Notes.

We have been asked to give publicity to the following paragraph concerning Canadian emigration, and also to assist any reader who may be desirous of instituting further enquiries relative to employment in the Dominion. Full particulars can be supplied on application to this office.

**CANADIAN EMIGRATION.**

**More Pioneers.**—"Those who allege that the British people are losing their adventurous spirit will be surprised to learn that the number of applicants for virgin homesteads in Western Canada last year totalled 6106—an increase of 2285 over 1925," says the Canadian Official Press Bureau.

These homestead lands, owned by the Dominion Government, are situated in the Prairie Provinces, and to a smaller extent in British Columbia. They are given away in quarter sections of 160 acres to British subjects, or to those declaring their willingness to assume British nationality, on payment of a registration fee of £2 and the fulfilment of certain conditions as to residence, cultivation, etc.

These free lands are now situated for the most part at a considerable distance from railways and markets. They call forth all the powers of endurance and application of the pioneer cultivator, but give him in return a comfortable livelihood and, in a few years, security and independence.

A large number of last year's entrants were from the Old Country.

❀ ❀ ❀

We acknowledge the receipt of an interesting set of descriptive snap-shots, for reproduction in THE WIRE, from E. R. Bowles, of F Divl. Signals, Kohat. These will be published at the first available opportunity.

❀ ❀ ❀

Many of our readers will be interested to know that the Corps have recently organised and formed a Fencing team amongst officers, n.c.o.s and men of the Signal Training Centre, Catterick. A preliminary report of their activities will appear in our next issue.

❀ ❀ ❀

*Royal Signals Corps Ties.*—It is notified for general information that double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can now be obtained on application to this office. Price 2s. 6d. (postage 2d. extra).

EDITOR.

❀ ❀ ❀

[LATE EDITORIAL.]

The officers' annual dinner of the Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club will take place at the Hotel Cecil, London, on July 27th.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts from Branches, etc.:—

Major H. Carter, 5s.; Capt G. C. Wickens, 5s.; Capt G. J. M. Peel, 5s.; Capt A. Hemsley, 5s.; Lieut A. H. Croucher, 5s.; Capt H. S. Baker, 5s.; Chiswick Branch, 10s.; Sierra Leone Branch, 12s.; Chiswick Branch, 12s.

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month:—
Porters 2; Postman 1; Barmen 2; Turner and Fitter 1; P.O. Wireman 1; Night Porter 1; A.A. Road Patrols 3: Instrument Maker 1; P.O. Lineman 1; Labourer 1.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
Lieut H. N. B. Palmer; "Nemo"; Sergeants' Mess 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot; Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, India; Sergeants' Mess 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot; Officers' Mess Signal Training Centre, Catterick; Sergeants' Mess 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester; Sergeants' Mess Rhine Signals.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from—
Capt J. G. Deedes, M.B.E.; Mrs. T. B. Graveley; "Nemo."

APPEALS dealt with:—
1—Ex-Signalman, London. Employment secured in the country. £1 advanced for railway fares, etc. (SAB/59)
2—Ex-Sergeant R.Signals, Yorkshire. In financial difficulties. £5 allocated from funds. (SAB/233).
3—Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh. Case recommended by Branch Committee. £4 allocated from funds. (SAB/235).
4—Ex-Corporal, R.Signals, Middlesex. Employment found and £3 advanced on loan for necessary equipment. (SAB/236).
5—Ex-Corporal, R.Signals, Essex. In domestic difficulties. £3 advanced on loan.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

## Ju-Jitsu to the Fore.

The Japanese art of self-defence, ju-jitsu, becomes more popular in England every day. The British Ju-Jitsu Society, which is not a very old one—having been formed just over a year ago—is enrolling members nearing the 300 mark monthly, which goes to show that it is becoming one of our leading sports.

There are many classes of enthusiasts: doctors, barristers, clergymen and policemen, to name but a few. Women also are very interested, hundreds throughout the country attending classes, becoming very quickly proficient and keen learners.

Ju-jitsu is not strenuous, and there is no danger: so little wonder that so many are taking it up so keenly. It has an invaluable defence, and gives a great amount of fun with its surprising swiftness. One of the women members of the British Ju-jitsu Society was recently attacked from behind, but in a flash the surprised man found himself lying on his back in a ditch, which goes to prove the value of this Eastern art.

# Corps News—Officers.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 18/3/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—
Col. J. W. Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., vacates the appointment of D.C.S.O. Eastern Command, 19/3/27.

War Office, 22/3/27.

ESTABLISHMENTS—Royal Military Academy—
Capt. V. J. E. Westropp, R.Signals, to be Class A Officer of a Company of Gentlemen Cadets on promotion, 19/2/27.

War Office, 29/3/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned 2/Lieuts to be Lieuts.: B. V. Leleux, 11/2/27. J. G. T. Hiley, 17/2/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—William Gilbert to be 2/Lieut. 29/7/25.

War Office, 1/4/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut H. E. Rance to be Adjutant vice A. E. L. Brown, 1/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut F. C. Watts, M.M., to be Lieut. 24/2/27.
L. E. List (late Officer Cadet Univ. of London, Sen. Div., O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 10/2/27.
56th (1st London) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut F. White (late R.A.F.) to be 2/Lieut. 1/2/27.

War Office, 5/4/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut L. Willment to be Lieut. 23/3/27.

War Office, 12/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
56th (1st London) Divl. Signals—Lieut Guy Mills Welsford (late K.R.R.C. Spec. Res.) to be 2/Lieut., and relinquishes the rank of Lieut. 1/3/27.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**Appointed Acting C.Q.M.S.—**
2307802 Hyson, H. 1/1/27
1851563 Smith, R. 15/3/27
1852381 Devereux, A. 15/3/27

**To be Sergeant—**
2311622 Mason, A. 22/10/26
1850272 Rhodes, J. 25/10/26
1852766 Hoare, C. 25/10/26
2307631 Penfold, A. 18/11/26
2309062 Carpenter, A. 22/11/26

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**
1850289 Meredith, C. 11/11/26
4379155 Grimbly, B. 11/11/26
2311556 French, H. 11/11/26
2306656 Crockford, A. 16/12/26
2311441 Finney, W. 16/12/26
2306510 Callegari, F. 16/12/26
2306327 Keane, A. 21/1/27
2306748 Walker, L. 22/1/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**
2313750 Knox, G. 3/12/26
2309261 Cowan, N. 18/1/27
2312645 Farmer, F. 18/1/27
538351 Norton, G. 18/1/27
1850248 Palmer, H. 18/1/27
3438039 Boon, F. 22/1/27
2314204 Laws, G. 23/1/27

**To be Corporal—**
2308501 Baker, L. 1/11/26
2311248 Tucker, R. 1/11/26
2310581 Prees, J. 2/11/26
12233 Smith, C. 11/11/26

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**
2314946 Atkinson, E. 2/11/26
2307582 Horsey, H. 5/12/26
2313937 Salmon, G. 18/1/27
2312080 Pattenden, A. 18/1/27
2313839 Steele, P. 18/1/27
2315121 Jones, D. 18/1/27
735283 Ives, P. 18/1/27
2312805 McBride, J. 18/1/27
2313756 Chalmers, R. 18/1/27

**To be Sergeant (apptd. F/Sergeant)**
1850144 Townley, V. 16/12/26
2308789 Webb, F. 27/3/27

### Transfers to Army Reserve.

2311106 L/Sergt R. Coates, 2/3/27
2309340 L/Sergt R. Barrett, 31/3/27
2311117 Corpl J. Burton, 17/2/27
2311276 Corpl S. Porter, 17/2/27
2310821 Corpl J. Wright, 17/2/27
2310997 Corpl C. Stickland, 1/3/27
2310924 Corpl A. Thorpe, 2/3/27
1850113 Corpl F. Clark, 3/3/27
2313807 A/Corpl C. Jones, 19/2/27

### Discharges.

1850123 F/S/Sergt W. Lloyd, 26/3/27
1850266 C.Q.M.S. E. Hole, 14/3/27
2311226 C.Q.M.S. E. Foster, 14/3/27
2306086 C.Q.M.S. W. Hill, 25/3/27
2308638 Sergt F. Hurn, 5/3/27
2313061 Sergt A. Leach, 7/3/27
2306737 Sgt S. Spreadborough, 11/3/27
1857265 Sergt F. Lane, 20/3/27
2555232 Sergt H. Jones, 23/3/27
2307782 Sergt G. Mitchell, 31/3/27
2306760 L/Sergt T. Cobb, 30/3/27
2306187 Corpl J. Hincks, 21/3/27

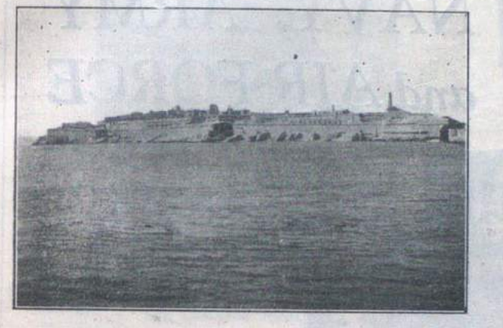


## Malta.

Malta—the pre-historic Sacred Island of the Mediterranean—is one of the most interesting spots in this sea.

In ages long past the Maltese islands formed part of the numerous land bridges that united Europe to Africa. Then a cataclysm took place, and Malta and its adjoining islands—Gozo and Comino—are all we see now of a one-time land bridge.

Apart from the valuable but rather baffling evidence of man's migrations furnished by the cart ruts cut deep into the rocky surface across the island in every direction, the existence in Malta of Neanderthal—one of the earliest types of man—has been definitely established.



Valletta, the Capital of Malta, from the Ricasoli Breakwater.

The definite history of Malta begins at about 1450 B.C. The Phœnicians were then at the height of their power and prosperity, and Malta naturally became Phœnician. On the wane of the power of the Phœnicians, Malta passed into the hands of Carthage; and during the second Punic war, Rome gained possession of the island, as evinced by the existence of magnificent Roman temples.

In the 58th year of the Christian era, St. Paul was shipwrecked at Malta and converted the island to Christianity.

After the downfall of the Roman Empire the island underwent varying fortunes until the end of the eight century, when it was captured by the Arabs.

During the sixteenth century the Mediterranean was the scene of the struggles between the Cross and the Crescent. The chief defenders of the Cross were the Knights of the Order of St. John, who from their home in Rhodes were a thorn in the Sultan's side. Soliman decided to drive them out, and after repeated attacks he succeeded in 1522. The Knights were then homeless; but after years of wandering, the Emperor Charles V. gave them the island of Malta as a home.

Porte Reale, the Main Entrance to Valletta.

In 1565 Malta was besieged by overwhelming hordes of Turks under pirate chiefs, but its inhabitants, led by the Knights of St. John, succeeded in beating off all the attacks; and the year following the siege witnessed the laying of the foundation stone of Valletta, the present capital of the island.

On the way to Egypt in 1798, Napoleon captured Malta and drove out the Order of the Knights of St. John, leaving a garrison of 8000 men. The Maltese appealed to England for help; England came to their rescue, and the French were eventually forced to surrender. The island was then, at the request of the inhabitants, placed under the protection of the British Crown.

Malta possesses one of the finest deep-water harbours in the world, and is the headquarters of the Mediterranean Fleet. It also has a military garrison and a large R.A.F. base, and has become of increased importance since the Great War as a link of the Imperial air routes to the East.

The mean temperature in winter is about 55 degrees, and for the whole year about 66 degrees. The annual rainfall is about 14 inches. The months of August and September, and part of October, are apt to be trying, not on account of the extremity of the temperature but of the damp heat.

During the summer, when there is no rain, the island becomes very dry and burnt-up in appearance, and the sun glare is trying to the eyes; but the island has ample facilities for all kinds of games, and in addition, bathing—which is as good as can be found anywhere. On account of its extreme saltness and warmth, the water is very buoyant. One of the features of the summer months is the bathing picnics organised in the many pretty bays and inlets round the coast of the island.

Auberge de Castille: Command Headquarters, Valletta
(taken from the Command Signal Office)

Ghain Tuffieha, the nearest approach to an English seaside resort, is situated on the west coast approximately fifteen miles from Valletta. This secluded area is very much patronised by members of the three Services, who with their families spend many enjoyable and restful holidays by the sea.

Through the medium of the N.A.A.F.I., Y.M.C.A., and Salvation Army, the English quarter is amply provided with both indoor and outdoor amusements. Outings are organised throughout the summer months to every part of the island, and even to Gozo and Comino, the two small islands adjoining Malta. During the winter months, dancing, whist drives and socials fill the nightly programme of those interested in the brighter side of life.

The Y.M.C.A. provides the Garrison with news of what is going on in the cinema world, there being no other cinema in the island controlled by English management.

Of theatres and music halls we have none, but the Grand Opera House in Valletta amply fills the breach. The Malta Amateur Dramatic Society, comprised of officers and their families, occasionally produces excellent fare in theatricals at the Opera House.

With roughly thirty thousand of H.M. Forces stationed on the island, the sporting world is very much in evidence. Soccer, rugby, hockey, and in fact every form of sport is entertained, and many fixtures of an exciting nature are fought out between the three Services.

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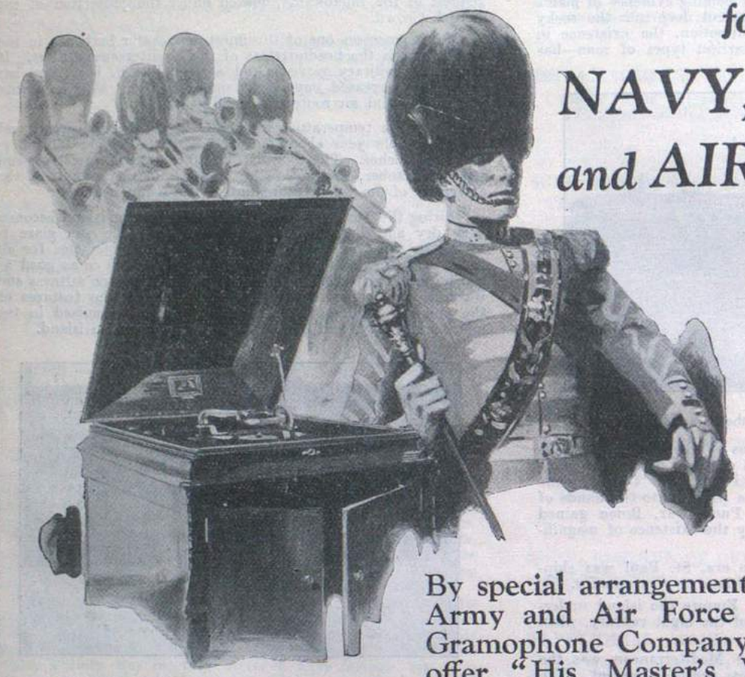

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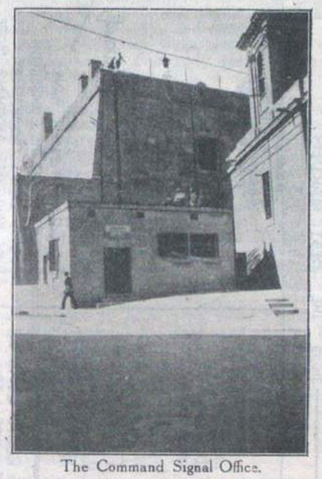
Although the Malta Signal Section numbers only eighteen n.c.o.s and men, the attempt to make itself known and felt amongst other units is clearly defined, as recent results published in the Sports pages have shown.



The Command Signal Office.

Our home is with the 24th Company Royal Engineers in St. Francis Barracks, Floriana, and a happier little band could not be found elsewhere.

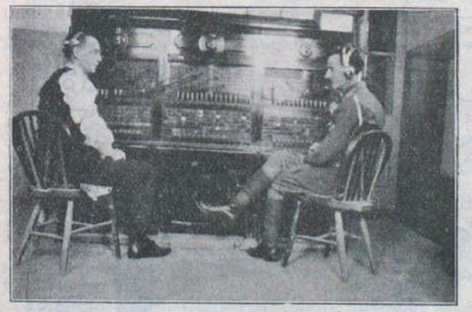
In conclusion, the retention of these notes and photographs by those anticipating a passage in the "big boat" this year might be useful, should Malta be their destination.

The writer is greatly indebted to Sigmn Clark for the accompanying photographs, and also for those in the article on "The Work of a Fortress Signal Section in Malta."

VIC. H. VIC.

## The Work of a Fortress Signal Section in Malta.

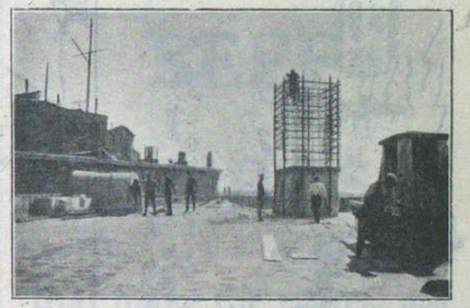
To Signal personnel in general, work in a station of this kind comes as a complete change to anyone who has only served in a field unit. Nothing is constructed without long and mature reflection, and when it *is* constructed it is built to last. Movement or offensive do not figure in the list of points to receive consideration—the word "Defence" and reliability are the main factors.



Switchboard in Fortress Exchange (Signal Office), operated by Military and Civilian Operators.

The general system of communications divides itself into two main compartments: (a) the administrative system, and (b) the fixed electrical communications.

The first serves all the Command headquarter offices, units of the Garrison, the various departments and services and military institutions. In Malta this system is carried out by means of permanent line routes connected to the Fortress Exchange—which is our main exchange close to Command headquarters. In addition, we have on this system a number of service rental subscribers.



Junction Pole on the top of the Fortress Exchange.

The second cater for the needs of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers and form an entirely separate system, centralised at a centrally-placed fire control post from which all the batteries of the coast defences are placed under co-ordinated control. In addition, on this system a large number of lines are required by the Royal Artillery for the electrical controls of the many instruments used for the control of the guns and for a system of alarm circuits.

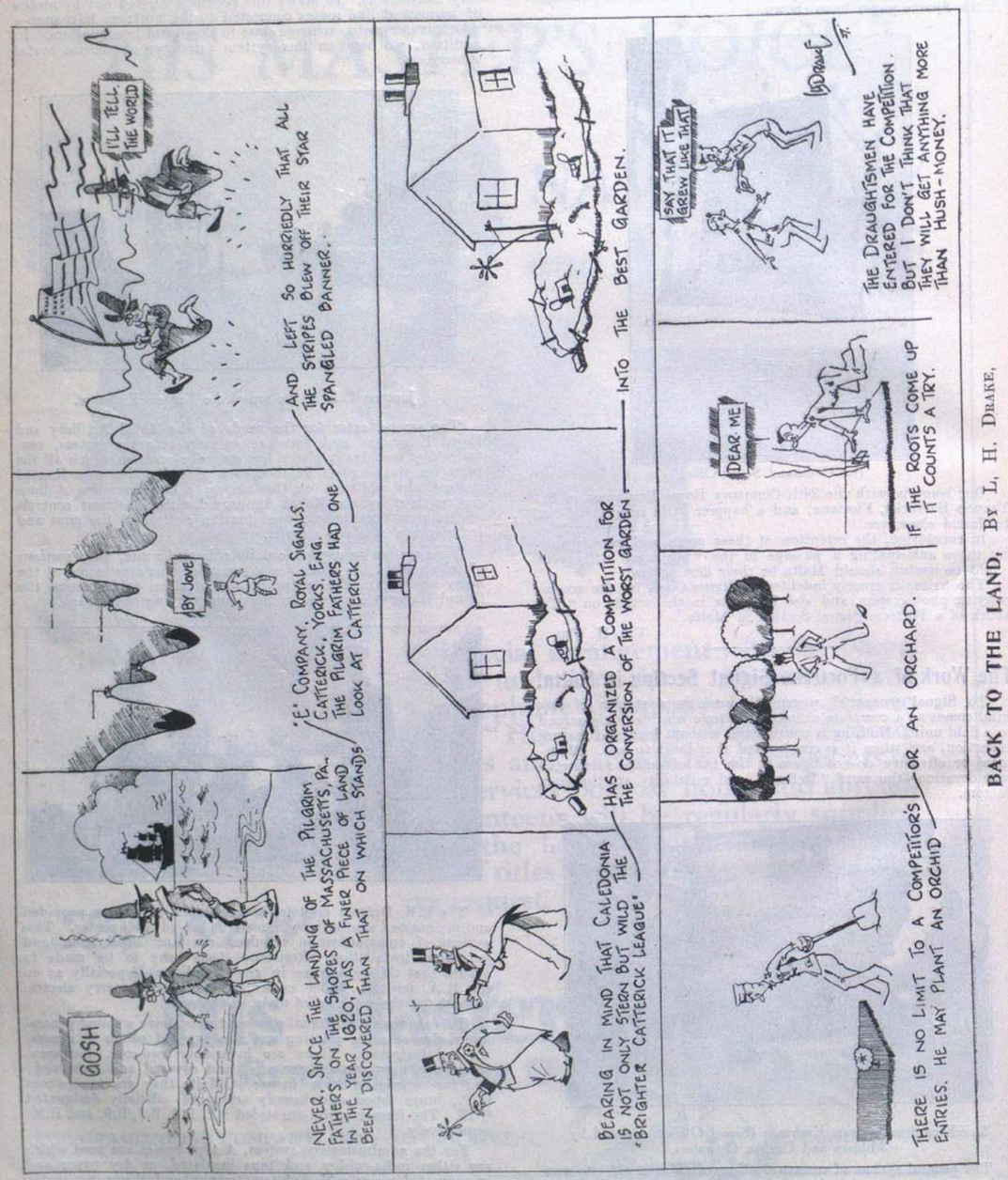
This system is carried out by a buried route, with sections of submarine cable where the communications cross some of the many harbours. The laying of one of these cables across the Grand Harbour is shown in the accompanying photograph.

The R.E. Defence electric light communications are provided and maintained similarly by Signals on buried cable routes. This system of communication requires constant supervision and periodical installation. Resistance tests have to be made to ensure that the cables are in good condition—especially so on the R.A. position finder cables, which have to carry electric current for the working of dials on the guns.

This requires that Signal personnel must have a sound general knowledge of cable jointing and the type of cables in general use in fortresses. These are invariably two-core, four-core, seven-core, nine-core and ten-core, lead covered and armoured; and for submarine cables in use at Malta they are twelve-core G.P., brass taped and heavily armoured, officially designated G.12. The former cables are styled B.2, B.4, B.7, B.9, and B.10, respectively.

For the administrative system, A type cables are used which are either india-rubber and tape insulated, or dry paper and impregnated paper cables of ten, twenty, and thirty-two cores.

VIC. H. VIC.




BACK TO THE LAND, By L. H. DRAKE.



## Plain Tales.

**Guarantee.**—Once again I find it necessary to emphasise the fact that, except when mentioned by name, no intentional reference to any living person is ever made in "Plain Tales."

Uncle Alf, George, Darky, and Shaky are all known to us, and they don't mind; but when something is written about nobody in particular and everybody generally, as it were, it is bound to fit somebody. See what I mean? Read it again if you haven't quite grasped it!

Remember in future, then, that unless your name is quoted (or at least, a nickname by which you may be identified), whatever you find in these paragraphs doesn't concern *you*. Anyway, if you should find a sting in a paragraph of "Plain Tales," its purpose will have been achieved. (Sensation!)

**Hoo Flung Pi.**—Affairs in China are arousing considerable interest these days, and most of us are astounded to observe that the *Daily Mail* has not settled the whole business.

The 56th Company Royal Engineers left here for China on the morning of April 11th. They had a good send off. Several of the Erbs near the rear of the Company appeared to be suffering from the effects of the previous evening's "gug-nunc" meeting.

We shall be glad to have news from Signals in Shanghai. Our Farrier-Staff-Sergeant has been studying the language, and would like to be re-assured as to the correctness of his style. He may now be heard holding forth thusly: "Oh! draggers of dead dogs from obscure gutters! Stand back, for I am about to attend to the heaven-sent off-hind of this honourable beast of burden."

I shall have to admit that I pinched that from the Chinese play, "Hoo Kan Sing," so skilfully presented by the "Breezes" concert party at Bulford last month.

**The "Breezes."**—Once again this very successful concert party of the 3rd Divl. Signals have made their mark. Under the energetic management of Capt. C. A. Oliver, M.C., anything is possible; so we were not surprised when, at the end of about six weeks' diligent rehearsing, the "Breezes" presented their 1927 show. I am unable to go into full details here, but believe me when I say that if their opening night was not exactly a roof-lifter, their subsequent performances were "the goods." They played at Netheravon, Weyhill, and Salisbury, in addition to several shows in Bulford Camp.

One doesn't set out to criticise overmuch on these occasions, but I would like to place on record that a large number of people considered that Sigmn Pearson (tenor) should have been given a little more to do. However, there you are! Altogether a credit to Capt. Oliver, Lieut. Maltby and everyone concerned, not even omitting the chaps who poshed up in bandoliers to join "Britannia" in the grand finale.

Here we add a special paragraph of appreciation of the ladies of the party, Mrs. Jee and Miss de Vanney. Both worked hard and acquitted themselves nobly.

**Those Who Wait.**—You know what happens to these people. Everything comes to them. Or at least, so Gladstone (or somebody) said at Copenhagen (or somewhere) about 1750 (or thereabouts). Sorry about those para—paren—dash it, brackets. I hope you haven't run short. No doubt you are wondering what I am driving at. So am I.

Space here, while I think (more sensation).

S-s-sh! I know. I said, last February, that I was waiting for someone to send me a buckshee calendar. Imagine what a pleasant surprise I had when I found a beauty had arrived from the N.A.A.F.I. via our Editor. Very many thanks! Apparently the N.A.A.F.I. Publicity Department were up in arms against the Editor, poor man. He told me he had to be revived with a glass of cold water! Ha! ha!

I crossed that out, of course. Typing error, I expect. However, "all's well that gathers no early bushes," if that's what Byron said.

It appears that the N.A.A.F.I. very kindly forwarded about a dozen calendars at the beginning of the year, but the orderly room pinched the lot.

**Lesson in French.**—On the 17th April, 1917 (open the window), there sat a British soldier counting his money. Few people realise the number of pitfalls that await the story-teller. Now, I don't mean that the soldier was sitting on the 17th of April, though in a sense he was. He was also sitting on a stool in the Cafe des Chiens Sales at Arras.

To him came his scrounging partner: "What cheer, mate; what yer looking serious about?"

*(Continued on page 141)*

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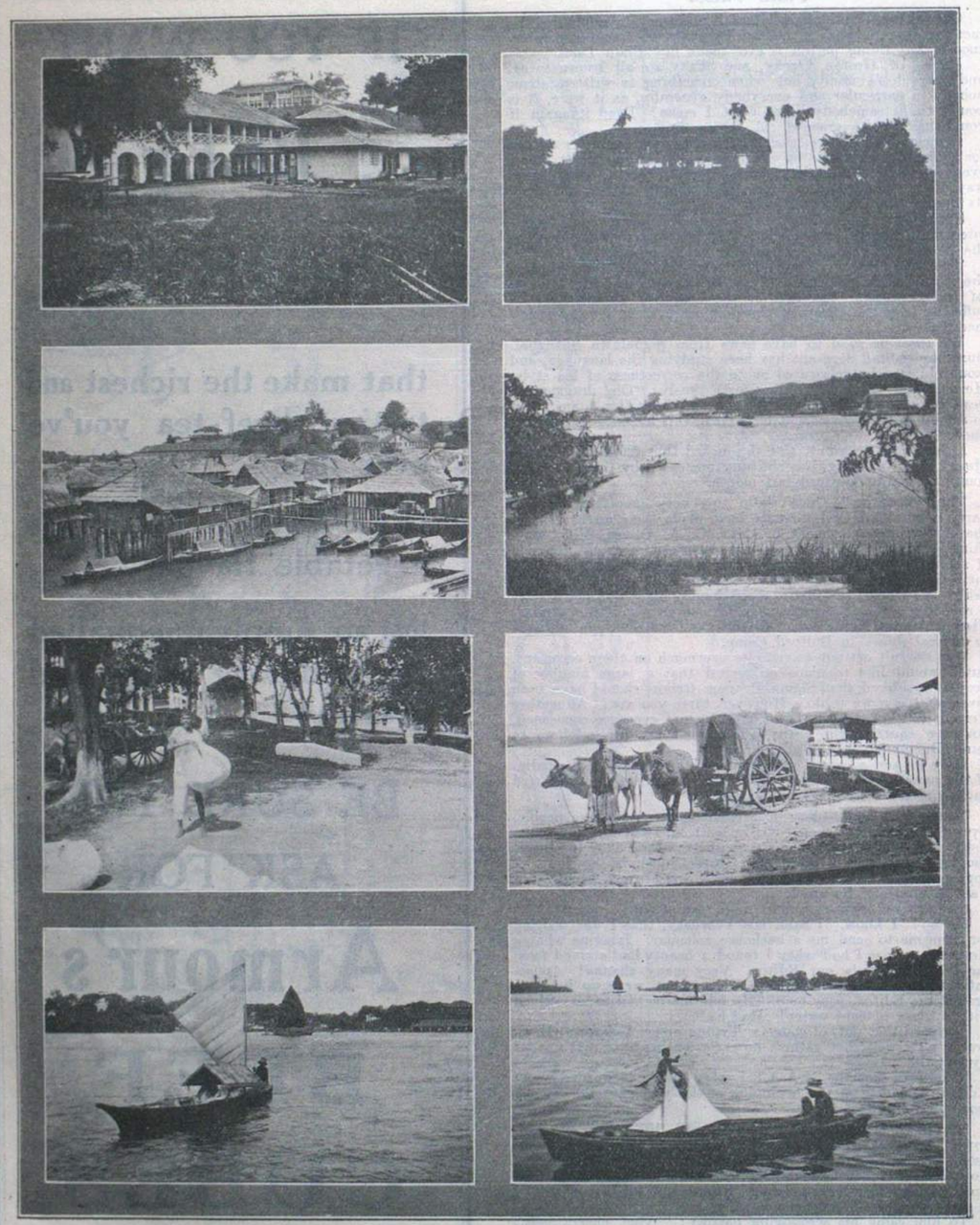


Notes on these interesting Views of Singapore will be found on opposite page.



## Singapore Illustrated.

We are favoured by our Singapore correspondent with a few photographs of that Station, reproduced on the opposite page. Reading down the columns, the following notes give a brief description of each illustration:—

1—The Bungalow, Pulau Brani.
2—A Malay Village. The Royal Army Ordnance Depot and Officers' Quarters in the background.
3—The Native Laundryman—the Dhobi.
4—A Sampan—our means of conveyance to and from Singapore.
5—The Married Quarters by Moonlight (taken at 10 p.m.).
6—Keppel Harbour, Singapore, from the Section Office steps.
7—The Ambulance. If you are not ill when you get in, you are when you get out.
8—Native Canoes. The natives control these craft with remarkable skill. As some of them are only 9 ft. long, 1 ft. deep, and about 15 ins. across at the widest part, great skill is required to paddle them.

## Plain Tales (*continued*).

"I reckon I been done over me change," replied the serious one.

"Huh! watch me fix it," said the other, striding across to the bar full of confidence. "Hi! Monseer!" he yelled, fondly imagining that the louder he shouted the greater the chance of being understood. "Parlez vous français?"

"Mais certainement, Monsieur," replied the astonished Frenchman.

"Well, then, what about my mate's blarsted change?" was the staggering rejoinder.

**Why?**—I'll tell you. I am only leading up to the point where I can point out to those people who know the difference between "cela ne fait rien" and "ça m'est egal," that the letter "a" only occurs once in "Barleux," and that the word itself does not rhyme with piccolo.

"Tempus waits for no tides" (everyone envys me my stock of quotations). I am about to dash off on Easter leave, so we will get on with our little chat to the girls. Craving your indulgence while I change into a pearl necklace and Charleston shoes. Thank you!

**Talks to Ladies.**—Here are a few tips from my collection of cuttings from ladies' journals. Do you ever get a back view of yourself? What is your hat like, at the back? What about the back of your neck? Are you sure there isn't a tiny hole in the back of your stocking?

Study your back view in the mirror; then your side view. Stand on your head and wave your feet. Study this coldly and critically, as though you were examining the lady from next door, and not yourself. You know. "Really, my dear, I don't know how she can do it on the pay her husband gets!"

What are your movements like? How are your poor old feet?

In view of the fact that I have got into considerable difficulties with irate ladies who do not see eye to eye with me on certain subjects referred to in these pages, I have decided to discontinue "Talks to Ladies."

Just as I was getting into my stride, too. Keep your Christmas pudding!

BARLEUX.

## Mobilisation.

Although by now many readers of THE WIRE will have first-hand and recent knowledge of mobilisation, owing to the formation of the Special Divisional Signals for service in China, it is thought that the experiences of a unit of the Indian Signal Corps in the same situation may be of interest.

As is well known, the main task of the Army in India is the defence of the N.W. Frontier, and it is distributed and organised with that object in view. From its situation it is probable that the Division to which this unit belongs (the 4th, or Mhow Division) would be the last to be engaged on the Frontier, and at the same time the first for any overseas expedition, as it could be withdrawn without leaving any gap in the all-important Frontier. It is clear, therefore, why troops for service overseas were chosen from this district.

It follows that it is necessary to maintain two mobilisation schemes: one for general, and the other for partial mobilisation. It was the latter which was brought into operation, though with considerable variations. This, I may say, is usual in India, where things seldom happen in the way they are supposed to.

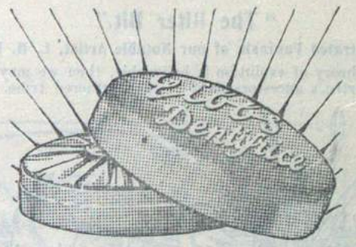
Telegraphic orders (fourteen pages of them) were issued by Army Headquarters, Delhi, on the evening of the 20th January. They were not received by the unit until the next morning. Thus mobilisation actually began a day behindhand. As far as this unit was concerned, one Brigade Section was ordered for service.

A Signal Section was actually on manœuvres with the 20th Indian Infantry Brigade, which was ordered for service; and at first it was proposed to send this Section as it stood. They were, however, some three hundred miles distant from headquarters, and it was found impossible to get them in in time. So many things have to be done which cannot be carried out unless the actual men are present. It was decided to make up another Infantry Brigade Section from the remainder of No. 2 Company.

Here a complication peculiar to Indian Signals appears. Most Signal units contain British and at least two classes of Indian other ranks. The same cooks cannot prepare food for all three. In a small unit such as a Brigade Section, it is therefore not practicable on active service to mix the classes of Indians: its Indian ranks must all be of the same class. There were not enough Hindus in the unit, of the correct trades, to fill the numbers required. The necessary men were therefore hurriedly posted from the Signal Training Centre (India), which is fortunately in the same station.

It should be understood that this unit is on what is known as lower peace establishment, i.e., it is designed (if up to strength) just to "tick over." As it is never up to strength, the difficulty in finding the necessary men will be realised. Maintaining Signal units at lower peace establishment is a method of keeping a cadre which it is hoped, in the event of war, will be filled up; but where it is to be filled up from is not quite clear. Also, it is a cheap method of maintaining a Divisional Signals, which although on lower peace establishment, is expected to, and incidentally does, perform the entire functions of a Divisional Signals—how, is again not quite clear.

*(Continued in column 2 on next page)*

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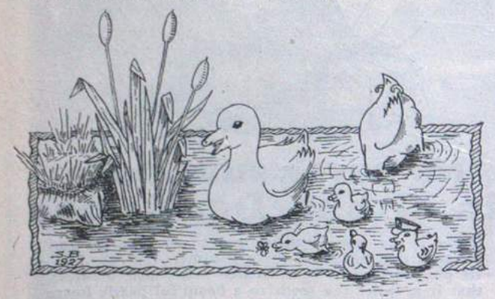
## "The Biter Bit."

**An Illustrated Fantasia of our Notable Artist, L. H. Drake.**

If the theory of evolution is believable, then we may take it that our artist's ancestors were of the feathered tribe.



However, without worrying about the Missing Link or whether in the dim and distant past his forbears moulted naturally or were plucked, we would like to think that he has some connection, necessarily remote, with that famous sea-dog whose name he bears.

Nevertheless, as THE WIRE cartoonist, he is every bit as well known, and wields his pen without fear or favour and devoid of rancour and rant, to the amusement of all and the discomfort of none.

When it was rumoured that "Drake was coming North," the crew of the S.T.C. drawing office cleared the decks for action with fear and trembling, so great was the reputation which preceded him; but the old adage, "Never trouble trouble" justified itself, as I have endeavoured to show in this little rhyme, with which I will conclude these mediocre memoirs:—

"The Drawing Office staff did quake
When first they heard of Corporal Drake:
But now he's here, they bless their luck,
For Drake turned out to be a Duck."

With thanks to the Editor for his condescension, and best wishes to the Signals at home and abroad, I beg to remain his humble contemporary, S. BAINBRIDGE, Signalman.

---

**Mobilisation** *(continued).*

It is unnecessary to follow the various steps in the mobilisation of the Section, as they are the same in any unit.

The unit was given, in the first orders issued, eight days in which to complete the mobilisation. This was subsequently cut down to five, i.e., the completion report had to be sent in on the 24th January.

Late on the 22nd January, the written orders for the mobilisation were received, from which it was found that a D.R. Section was to accompany the Brigade Signal Section. This was to consist of one sergeant, one fitter, and three despatch riders. The unit was unable to find the personnel, and application had again to be made to the Signal Training Centre (India), who rose nobly to the occasion and posted the n.c.o. and men required, with motor cycles and tools complete.

As regards equipment, no difficulty was encountered, as the unit holds in peace time its entire stock of war equipment.

Mobilisation clothing was not, however, in possession, and this had to be wired for from Ordnance, Lahore, to meet the Section at Bombay, which was then to be the port of embarkation. Suddenly embarkation was ordered for Calcutta, and a second stock of mobilisation clothing was despatched there, which was duly received. Six months' spare parts for motor-cycles were also demanded. Latest advices from the Section state that these never were found. It is hoped that they have proceeded overseas with the M.T. Repair and Stores units accompanying the Force.

The completion report was sent in on the evening of 24th January, and nothing remained but to await orders to entrain, when a telegram was received from Army Headquarters ordering a large amount of extra stores to accompany the Section: Cable D.8, sounders, poles, exchanges, telephones, etc., etc.—roughly four small offices and about thirty miles of line stores. This involved work until about 10 p.m., when it was thought that at last all was over. In India, however, one never knows; and up to 2 a.m. no less than five copies of the telegram were received from various sources.

The Section entrained on the following day (January 25th). The S.T.C. (India) pipe band played it down to the station, for which thanks are due to Col. E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., the Commandant; and the band of the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment attended at the station to play it out. The Section had a great send-off, nearly the whole of the station being present. Few would not have been glad of the chance of going too, and great hopes were entertained by the rest of the unit that it would soon follow them. For some considerable time, anyhow, we are, I fear, doomed to disappointment. But we still hope that we will join up with the Section again, and orders were given to the Officer Commanding Section to reserve places for us at the Long Bar, Shanghai, which we have all heard of, and hope to see—and a proportion of the loot, if any.

Since the departure of the Section, news of it has been practically nil. One letter has been received from the Officer Commanding Section, in which he mentions a two days' stay at Hong Hong, which apparently met with the entire approval of the Section. I take this opportunity of thanking the officer commanding and the other ranks of the Hong Kong Signal Section for their great hospitality and kindness in entertaining the B.O.R.s of the Section in the way they did. We can only hope that we may, some day, be able to do the same for them.

The following were the personnel of the Section: Officer commanding, Capt. C. A. Murray, R.Signals; Capt. B. S. Watkins, I.A.; Sergts Wise, Lemon and Tellery; fourteen B.O.R.s. I.O.R.s.—Havildar Attar Singh, twenty Naiks and Signalmen, thirteen Drivers, four Followers. D.R. Section—Sergt Millross, one Fitter, and three D.R.s.

In connection with the mobilisation, the following correspondence took place: Letters sent and received, 149; telegrams received, 57; telegrams sent, 47.

GEE SIGS.

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### A Company, Depot Battalion.

**General.**—April has arrived, and, true to tradition, has brought with it rain—rain, cold, ceaseless and miserable. But why worry? Every cloud has a silver lining; and what does it matter if we are chilled to the bone, or have to pass out in the drill shed? There is Easter to come, and with it six all-too-short days of leave.

No. 99 Squad, unfortunately, had to find six men for guard over the Easter period, but like true sportsmen—and remembering the esprit de corps which associates itself with Signals—decided to draw lots as to who should do the guard. We extend our sympathies to the unfortunates.

However, by the time these notes appear in print it will all be over, and we shall have come back again, refreshed and eager to carry on with the usual daily routine.

**Tips.**—Ack Company have every reason to be proud of its record for the current month, for not only have we won the shield again (restrain your cheers for one moment, please), thus beating Beer Company on the season, but we have also won the shooting cup.

Notwithstanding (please sit !), perhaps the finest performance was that of No. 93 Squad, who in firing their musketry course made the magnificent average of 91.4, thus establishing a new record. Needless to say it was No. 93 Squad that won the cup, and no one will deny that they thoroughly deserved it. Driver Lynch was the best shot with a total of 106. I ask you: "Who'd have thought it?"

My appeal last month to No. 97 Squad to keep it up was not in vain, for once more they are responsible for bringing the shield to the Company. L/Corpl Lambert has every reason to be proud of his squad. I suppose that accounts for the increase in chest measurement, Jack?

Field and track events have now taken the place of cross-country running and boxing. We have every reason to believe that we shall continue to carry on our victorious career through the athletic season. Now then, Ack, it's up to you.

**Arrival.**—We extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Manley, who has arrived from Ireland. We hope that he will soon settle down to the climate of Catterick, and that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

**Agony.**—Oh, B Company! why are you so quiet? I have looked in vain for your notes in the last two issues of THE WIRE—but, alas! there's nothing doing. Is it overwork? or have our many successes of late perturbed you at all? Do write something, if it's only to tell us how you won the shield. Ancient history can be very interesting.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to L/Sergts Cowan, Boon and Knox on attaining that rank, and also to L/Sergt Wheeler. Unfortunately I forgot the latter last month, but hasten to make amends. I would also like to wish Pip Wheeler many happy returns.

**Answers to Correspondents.**—With the permission of the Editor I intend to start a paragraph under this heading.

Please let me know of any little problem with which you are faced. I shall be delighted to try to help you out. While this is intended for A Company, I will try to oblige B, and perhaps others may wish to take advantage.

I have only had two queries this month, and I append the answers herewith.

"Perplexed."—No, son; you do not turn out the guard to the barrack warden.

"Fair One."—I am afraid you are getting a little mixed, my dear. The Cantonese are *not* in the cup final.

G. R. S.

### B Company, Depot Battalion.

Before proceeding I must apologise for the absence of B Company notes last month. I can only say that it shall not occur again.

I take this opportunity of congratulating all the individuals taking part in the gardening competition. They certainly have made B Company lines habitable. Captain Collings will have something to be proud of when everything is in full bloom.

It has often been asked, "Why is it that when any individual takes over orderly corporal duties he automatically acquires the name of 'Dizzy?'" The sergeant-major could probably answer that question. Speaking from an office point of view, I could throw light on the case of Ginger.

**Departures.**—L/Sergt Barrett has at last left us to fight and fend for himself in the cold, cold world. Perhaps—who knows?—someone else will now take up his battle cry, "Who will find the necessary?" Corpl Jennison has gone back to the land of Allah Buckshees. Cheerio, Jenny!

**Arrival.**—Corpl Bogg has joined us from L Detachment, Jubbulpore, and has taken over the reins of chief clerk in the Company office. What did you say, Ginger?

**Extensions of Service.**—Corpl Cook extends his service to complete 12 years with the Colours. Perhaps you will stop at

Blackdown a bit longer this time, Tom! Corpl Palmer has re-engaged to complete 21 years.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to Sigmn Durke on reaching the dizzy height of U/L/Corporal.

S. I. D.

## C Company, Depot Battalion.

**Arrivals.**—Lieut F. J. B. Rutherford (Royal Artillery) has joined us in place of Lieut J. R. C. Christopher (Royal Artillery), who has sailed for Egypt. We hope his stay will be pleasant in the Depot Battalion. L/Corpl Rosie from overseas.

**Departures.**—Corpl Battrick to 2nd Divl. Signals. Sigmn Marsden to 4th Divl. Signals. Sigmn Northway to 3rd Divl. Signals. We wish them luck in their new stations.

Sigmn G. H. Cuthbert transferred to the Corps of Military Police.

Sigmn W. Ternent has left us for civil life, being medically unfit as the result of an accident. We hope he will be more fortunate outside.

**Promotions.**—F/Corpl J. Webb to be Sergeant, w.e.f. 27/2/27. Corpl H. A. Palmer to be L/Sergt w.e.f. 18/1/27. Sigmn Brassington appointed U/L/Corpl w.e.f. 22/3/27. U/L/Corpl Carnell (attached) to be Lance-Corporal. Congratulations are extended to them.

**Birth.**—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Oliver, a son, William Thomas.

## D Company, Training Battalion.

**General.**—We must be excused these short notes, but owing to arrivals and departures, overshadowed by thoughts of Easter leave, we hardly got a chance for observation.

The inter-hut football competition cup was won by No. 19 hut after a strenuous game against the cadre, whom they beat by 3—1 (keep it up, George; we didn't know the old ones could do it).

Training for the inter-platoon athletics cup has now commenced, and many an aspiring champion may be seen creeping out after dark in running kit.

Congratulations to the Training Battalion boxing team on their fine performance in the Army boxing championship.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Corpl W. Cornish, from F Coy. (ex India). No. 93 Squad from A Company, Depot Battalion. A hearty welcome is extended to them.

Our best wishes go with L/Corpl E. Turner and Sigmn R. W. Griffiths on their return to civvy street. Our departures to Field units have been too numerous to mention by name, but we wish them the best of luck in their new sphere.

**Promotion.**—A/Sergt J. M. Laing to be Sergt w.e.f. 2/10/26.

**Congratulations.**—To Sergts A. F. Herbert and J. M. Laing on becoming the "dad" of a son and daughter respectively.

DON.

## E Company, Training Battalion.

**Oscillations.**—What howls of righteous indignation! And how well I deserve my chastisement. But there, as I so frequently pointed out to the riding instructor, we all have our off days.

Eddy Company's notes last month *were* rather like the present day skirt, but "Nominis umbra," or whatever it was some idiotic fool said at some time or another.

And so, whether you like it or not, I am going to write about

**Horticulture.**—A perfect ferment of enthusiasm. Hardy annuals, hardy perennials, half-hardy what-nots, and Bee's selected mixed choice nasturtiums, all laid out in rows and dressed by the right.

Perfectly wonderful. Even the draughtsmen have made an attempt to cultivate the patch of No Man's Land outside the drawing office. They say that it is going to be a natural rockery. I can quite believe it.

We have planted some choice rainbow mixture Virginia stock at a depth of three-eighths of an inch. The directions on the back of the packet said one inch, but after digging to a depth of three-eighths of an inch our strata of earth gave out. So we have planted our choice rainbow mixture Virginia stock on a seam of asphalt. I don't think it will bloom July–October at all.

A prize has been offered by the Officer Commanding for the best garden.

I am going to Richmond this evening to buy some of that fuzzy, frizzly stuff. Awfully pretty round the borders, you know. Very fond of it, myself. Going to have one of those long wobbly things hanging over the door. It has petals and things stuck here and there. Looks fine about August.

**Men May Come and Men May Co**—and I am really very sorry and all that, but I cannot possibly enumerate all our arrivals and departures. Quite out of the question. The Editor would be down on me like a shot.

But to those who have left us for other spheres we offer the best of good wishes; and to those who have joined our merry ranks, a hearty welcome.

**Congratulations.**—To Sergt R. Smith upon his promotion to C.Q.M.S.; A/Sergt A. Carpenter upon his promotion to Sergt.; A/L/Sergt G. Norton upon his appointment as L/Sergeant; and also to Sigmn C. G. Taplin upon his attaining the L/Corporal rung of the ladder.

**Discharges and Transfers.**—Our good wishes to Sergt G. Mitchell, who left us on discharge on March 31st; and also to Sigmn R. E. Scarles, who has been transferred to the Army Reserve, April 24th.

**Re-engagements.**—Sigmn S. O. Lock to complete 21 years with the Colours; and Signalmen R. Lloyd and W. J. Green to complete 12 years with the Colours.

**Shawly Not!**—I am piqued. Quite put out. You see, last week, at the invitation of the British Broadcasting Company, a Mr. Henry Shaw occupied the microphone for a few minutes, during which period Mr. Henry Shaw babbled to those of us who didn't throw down the headphones in disgust and say "Bother the man"—babbled, I repeat, about the soldiers at Catterick Camp who may be seen at either of our two cinema theatres here, "tensely thrilled at the exciting part of a picture that had 'impossible' written all over it."

Oh! come, come, Mr. Henry Shaw, that will never do. Surely you noticed the high standard of intellectuality among the troops during your visit to our mountain fastness? Surely you felt the necessity for that extra woollen vest during your stay with us in this bleak part of the globe? Surely it did not occur to you that the Tommies were clapping their hands not so much in appreciation of the films, the "impossible" films, as in an effort to restore the circulation of the blood?

Tut! tut! Mr. Shaw, I am going to throw away my cat's whisker. So there!

**Usual Disclaimer.**—Subscriber (on trunk call): "Hullo, is that Leeds?"
Exchange: "Speak up, please."
Subscriber: "HULLO, IS THAT LEEDS?"
Exchange: "Speak up, please."
Subscriber: "HULLO, IS THAT LEEDS?"
Exchange: "Speak up, please."
Subscriber: "Look here! if I speak any louder, I shall not require a telephone."

**Eddy Calling.**—Sergt Binham of this Company is desirous of establishing communication with one Badgy of 1st Divisional Signals, and a Smudger Smith believed to be with D Troop Cav. Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

L. H. D.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

**HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS**

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor



## F (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

**Departures.**—We were really sorry to say goodbye to Corpl R. P. Jones. He leaves behind a host of friends of all ranks, and we wish him the best of luck in every way. He started boxing in this Company, and has won both the Army and I.S.B.A. light-weights for the last two years. We hope that he will secure the A.B.A. championships next year. What is our loss is the 1st Divl. Signals' gain.

P.I.P.

Now he has gone:
The lad who hit so straight
And hard
That all who boxed
Against him
Bit the dust,
And swore
It was a silly game!
Our loss is great.
The Company
Mourn the loss
Of one
Who played the game throughout
In every way.

## School of Signals.

During the past few weeks, many and various rumours have trickled through our happy home; and strange to say, they have all had for their theme—if a rumour can be said to possess such a thing—a rather large piece of land just round the right-hand corner of India.

To the ordinary common or garden mind, a rumour stating that we should have to proceed at once, if not sooner, to China would, I suppose, cause some feeling of alarm; but apparently the personnel of the School are out of the ordinary—out of the three mile limit, in fact. The only remarks passed were to the effect that if the powers-that-be would only wait until after Easter leave, the School would willingly leave "en bloc" for some place a few degrees warmer than China.

But Easter is nearly upon us, and we are still here; so it seems quite likely that the next remark we shall hear will be something like this: "If the powers-that-be will only leave it until after Whitsuntide," etc., etc.

Speaking about the national debt, we wonder: Will the budget budge it? (copyright reserved).

Gardening is now in full swing. By full swing I mean when the weather permits—which, to anyone who knows Catterick, means nothing at all. However, the gardens are beginning to look worthy of the name, and the gardeners to wear that look which tells the world that they (the gardeners) are in touch with or—to "signalise"—are on the same wave-length as Mother Earth. In fact, they are pukka swedes.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—A/Sergt Rhodes promoted to Sergeant, w.e.f. 25/10/26. Corpl J. Jackson appointed L/Sgt. w.e.f. 3/12/26. Corpl W. Thomas appointed L/Sergt. w.e.f. 16/12/26. Corpl G. Laws appointed L/Sergt. w.e.f. 23/1/27. L/Corpl S. Gordon appointed A/Corporal, w.e.f. 18/11/26. Sigmn J. King appointed L/Corporal (paid) w.e.f. 21/2/27. Sigmn C. V. Davis appointed A/U/L/Corporal w.e.f. 19/3/27. We congratulate them.

**Arrival.**—L/Sergt H. F. Hall arrived (on posting from Northern Ireland Signal Company) on March 3rd. We hope that his stay with us may be long and pleasant.

**Work.**—Early this month, all our N.F.R. men were dug-out and stuck on an Assistant Signals course; and all one can hear at present is "dit dit dah dit, dit dah dit," etc., etc. They mean well, of course; but when speaking of themselves, I don't think they're quite justified in mentioning Foreman-of-Signals course. I suppose it is just a matter of opinion.

However, it is only a spare-time kind of course, so I suppose we must class the A's among the little things sent to try us, and wish them the best of luck.

**Smoking Concert.**—A smoking concert was held in the corporals' room on April 12th. It is regretted that, owing to lack of accommodation, a general invitation could not be sent out. As it was, the room was full to overflowing.

Bdr. Lamer started the ball rolling with the song, "There's a catch in it somewhere," which was jolly well sung and applauded accordingly.

The few members of the Terriers at present hanging out with us turned up trumps, and gave us one or two good numbers.

*Liked by Everybody*

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Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; Toronto, Canada; India; Ceylon; Egypt; East and West Africa, etc.

The favourite of the evening was Corpl White, late of the S.T.C. concert party, who is with us from Egypt on a Foreman-of-Signals course.

C.S.M. Green, in his usual inimitable style, proved that although "humorist" has no place on his Q sheet, it is nevertheless one of his qualifications.

Lieut Curtis upheld the honour of the officers present with a little talk dealing with limericks. You know, something after this style, but probably a little further advanced:—

An officer of Signals named Curtis,
A true-blue good sport for cert is;
He makes poor old Chloe
Appear anything but slow,
And in telling, admirably curt is.

Very weak, very weak; but never let it be said that I didn't do my best.

Our worthy friend on my right, Corpl Shipcott, graced the chair with his presence; and taking things all round we spent a very pleasant evening.

Heavens! I was nearly forgetting to mention the main star of the evening—the evening star, in fact, who shone (or should I say twinkled?) all the evening on the ivories. Sergt Holmes (who, to quote one of our leading R.S.M.'s, has been in the Depot ever since it was "depoted") filled the position of pianist in chief—and what is more, filled it well. He has our sincere thanks for his contribution to the evening's enjoyment.

The next smoking concert we shall hold will be a dance. No, I am not Irish. And we hope to be able to issue the invitations in the near future.

BANGER.

## Sergeants' Mess.

**Events.**—L/Sergt H. F. Hall, an erstwhile School "big noise," has returned to us after a two years' stay in North Ireland. He is heartily welcomed, for besides being a great acquisition in sporting circles, he adds to the lustre of the blue-room. That infectious grin, boasting nothing of the beautiful, gladdens the hearts of the saddened, Catterick-seared rest of us.

Sergt Hamblin, possessor of the elusive long-service and good conduct medal, is puzzling his brain to find a method of giving that token a tarnished appearance. C.S.M. Green could tell him, *his* being mouldy nowadays.

We welcome Sergt Curtis of the R.B.s. May his stay here be pleasant.

Another new member is S/Sergt W. Thomas (on promotion)—a real fan.

For the recent filling of our library we have to thank George, who overcame innumerable difficulties and eventually ran the S.T.C. librarian to earth. No mean feat, dear people!—the redoubtable vanquished being no less a person than L. H. D.!

**Stoics.**—Honour to the few aged members and R.S.M. Anderson, who, after being on the shelf for divers periods, turned out to play footer once more. For the R.S.M. is the glory, our awe, and, alas! after the match, our sympathy.

**Social.**—The dance we had recently was as great a success as any of its forerunners. Our popularity lies in the mess band, and our own inimitable interpretation of each and every dance; likewise in the lubrication of the wheels. We are indeed lucky to have such a small dance floor, so I won't brag about our adept "Charleston" hopping in a space of, say, one square yard.

**Education.**—To the seekers after 1st class honours, we wish luck. Perhaps the concentrated course at York will bear fruit, and a couple of notable members will again breathe freely.

# ALDERSHOT NEWS.

## A Corps Signals.

### No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

**Departures.**—Much excitement prevailed in our midst a fortnight ago. We said goodbye to nine wireless operators, one fitter (Signals), and one operator, line. For information to their friends in other units, herewith are their names: L/Sergt Ratcliffe, Signalmen Allen, Gadd, Laurenson, Pennington, J. E. Rice, Souter (Haggis), R. E. Wood (Timber), Slater (Badgy), Whiting, and H. Williams. Do not forget the cross-eyed straight banana, Harry, or the postcards for the "whistley" one.

Another draft to the Rhine consisted of L/Sergt Minion, Corpl Devey, Signalmen Hale, Moorhouse and Gilding. Our best wishes follow them to the Fritzy region.

Signalmen Elphick, Powell and Hallam left us for 3rd Divl. Signals on April 1st. Our loss is but another's gain. There seems to be plenty of activity in the Records Office lately in repostings away from A Corps, but the old hands still stay on here. "Men may come, and men may go, but we'll stay here for ever!" (with apologies to Tennyson, of course).

Capt H. W. Hose, M.C., is due to leave the Company any time now; and through the medium of the Corps Journal we all take the opportunity of thanking him for the good solid work he has put in on the technical side, and the interest he has displayed in our training as a whole.

**Arrivals.**—In the place of Capt. H. W. Hose, we welcome back from hospital Capt. W. V. G. Fuge, M.B.E.

Another officer to taste the climate of Crookham will be Capt. M. F. M. Parkes, M.C. We hope that he will enjoy a rest cure after the strenuous duties he has been employed upon for the past two years.

C.Q.M.S. Brown, from Brighton. Hum, hum! How did you manage that, Quarter?

Sergt F. C. V. Harris, from the Command Signal Company—by the way, our new pay-sergeant. Tee hee, sergeant! To remember the names of all the signalmen who have joined the Company recently, one would need a course in Pelmanism and to apply the ice-bricks intermittently.

**Agony.**—Ticky enquires of Sergt McLoughlin (boys) if the syndicate is still in funds, and whether he remembers the 2 lbs. of buckshee meat?

Lulu asks of Betty (of 1st Div.) if bygones are bygones?

**General.**—The annual Aldershot races took place on April 12th and 13th. Needless to say the attraction proved too much for the troops; and many were the wailings and gnashings of teeth as the wrong moke sped past the post first. The chuckles of the wily bookmakers, combined with the raucous "Buy my race-cards" of the touts, made sweet melodies only to be beaten by a certain adjacent picture house's appropriate accompaniments.

Seventy per cent. of the Company have been granted Easter leave, but of course there are the usual unfortunates who always seem to enjoy the experience of holiday guards and picquets. "Sic est vita!"

On April 8th we supplied nine-tenths of a boxing team to oppose the R.A.M.C. Depot novices. Considering the training the rookies had had, we did well to make an honourable draw. The bright features of the affair were a lance-corporal beating his opponent (knock out, too) after taking a hard gruelling, and the way our burly bruiser Sigmn Nicklin put his man to sleep. Sigmn Day had hard luck in experiencing a sudden attack of toothache. Better luck next time, Bill.

At the request of many readers, I am to ask whether the orthodox fee for learning the intricacies of the rope trick on a race-course is £1. Would it not be cheaper at half the price?

LULU.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**Perseverance and Progress.**—The individual training season having now ended, it is a source of satisfaction that many who once ranked among the "Neffers" (N.F.R.s) are now in the "assistant" stage of their career.

It is hoped they have set their eyes and brains on getting to class iii. stage. There are others we know who are not content with their present rating and aspire to class i. That is as it should be; may you get your reward, those of you who have been before the Trade Board.

During the past month we can record Signalmen Weston, Hayward, Clark and Cleaver as assistant operators, visual; Sigmn L. G. Saunders as assistant operator, wireless; Signalmen Halliwell and Harris as assistant linemen; and Sigmn Best as assistant electrician, wireless. To the latter a word of praise may not be amiss. It is, then, to his credit that he has obtained this classification, seeing that his life as a driver, owing to mechanisation, might possibly be a short one. He made his motto the three "pips" we spoke of last month, and has duly reaped the reward.

Apart from technical training, a few of us have progressed in other spheres. We congratulate Corpl Atkinson on being substantiated, and Signalmen Balch, Greig, Wardley and Evans on receiving their lance-corporal (unpaid) stripe. We hope they all feel well pleased with themselves.

**Years and Years.**—L/Corpls Utting and McLachlan, with Sigmn Burgess, have been permitted to extend their service to complete twelve years with the Colours. How quickly the time passes! 1920 seems such a little while ago, and things change very little, even if faces do.



**Clarion Calls.**—Those of the family quartered in McGrigor Barracks are now entertained with blasts from a trumpet. Poor little trumpeter! One hopes you are not "blasted" too much by big bullies for those sweet little calls with which you delight us. "Stout fella," keep it up—the trumpet, I mean.

**Seeking Knowledge.**—L/Corpls Brown and Evans were successful in their preliminary test, and have now gone to Shorncliffe for instruction at the School of Education. They are very fortunate, and we hope on their return they will give of their knowledge with a free hand to those who will be striving for education certificates.

At the School of Hygiene we continue to keep our end up, the latest successful candidate being Sigmn Elliott.

**Visitors.**—The G.O.C.-in-Chief was with us on March 30th, viewing the horses of the unit. His report as given in the unit orders of the day reads: "The G.O.C.-in-Chief, at the inspection of horses to-day, expressed himself as well satisfied with their condition and turn out." Our thanks are due to the weather clerk, as he was undoubtedly kinder than on the occasion of the visit of the D.A.D.R.

We were also visited during the month by the Divisional Commander, who came to see us carrying out technical training.

**Birds of Passage.**—We do not seem to lessen our moves as the months go by. At a very early hour one morning towards the end of March, we gathered together to see a few more of the Firstdivsigs depart for the Rhine. L/Sergeant Lewis, Corpl Nicholson, Signalmen Field, Blackett, Smith, Beadle, Appleby, Attrill, Webb and Godfray, and Drivers Linton and Cave, are now acquainted with Germany.

L/Sergt Farley has left us for A Corps Signals, and C.S.M. Williams and Sergt Davey for P.S.T.A.

The Reserve gets its full quota from us, it seems, and we are sorry to lose such a splendid lot of men in Drivers Bain, Vince, Clarke, Knight, Entwistle, Vale, Norman and Squires.

In the February WIRE it was reported that one of the family had been removed to Netley, and we hoped he would soon rejoin us. It was not to be, and the medical authorities have now invalided Sigmn Pottinger. We are sorry for you, old fellow, in your misfortune!

We welcome from other units: L/Sergt Smith (A Corps Signals), Corpl Oliver (No. 1 A.F.A.), Signalmen Jaggard, Holt, Soames, McLoughlin, Richardson and Edward-Cecil (Training Battalion), Massey, Midgley, Nunn, Thompson, Trevenna and Pattit (Depot Battalion), and Corcoran (India).

**The Great Adventure.**—An old friend of ours is now on the high seas, on the way to that country of vast possibilities, the Commonwealth of Australia. He is going out under the overseas settlement scheme as applied to the Army.

Every good wish that can possibly follow you, Hutchins, has been sent from your friends in the old unit. We shall be glad to hear of your success.

To those who wish to get in touch with "T.G." the address, "c/o Immigration Officer, St. George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia," will find him.

**News is Welcome.**—L/Corpl Cargill wishes to hear from Signalmen Baron and Collins in India.

D. S. ONE.

## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 2 Company.

Here we are again! You must excuse me for omitting to send notes last month, but I was on an early Easter leave.

We are back to the old style of things: schemes, and the drivers (poor things) to harness cleaning. In Cable Sections there is room for some of the old spirit. Our new hands appear to be nervous and not sure of themselves when up a stick, tree or ladder. We may be able to instil the right stuff during our stay in Devonshire, amid the cheerful surroundings of Princetown. Some very good schemes have already taken place, and I think there is an improvement on last year. D.R.s have been known to be lost and found, and I even know of one who lost his map.

D Section are expected shortly to lose their four-legged friends and take over the four-wheeled transport. I believe Corpl J. Cave is still checking his harness after the rummage sale held in his harness-room by the Section n.c.o.s.

Our sports news should make old No. 2 Company hands smile. I might add that we have sealed the trophy in a fine cage, and it does not seem likely to leave the Company.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

YOUR NEW H.Q.

are being constructed by

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*Specialists in Construction*

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**Arrivals.**—Lieut C. E. Feneley, R.A., and Lieut J. H. Fell, R.A., attached. Lieut D. A. Campbell, R.Signals, from T.B. Signalmen Mullins, Steel and Watson, from Training Battalion. Signalmen Nash and Webster from No. 3 Company. May they enjoy a long and happy stay with us.

**Departures.**—Lieut D. W. R. Burridge, R.Signals, to No. 3 Company. Sigmn W. Roberts to No. 3 Company. Signalman Meadows to civil life.

NICK.

## No. 1 A.A. Signal Company.

Blackdown.

**General.**—The individual training season having closed with some success, the unit is now employed in the construction, etc., of permanent routes for searchlight positions.

This year the Company proceeds to Manston, Kent, on May 29th, to construct the lay-out of communications for the summer Territorial searchlight units camps.

**Arrival.**—Corpl Thorpe joined the Company from India on April 7th, ex s.s. "Nevassa." We extend to him a hearty welcome, and trust he will have a happy stay with us.

**Departure.**—It is with great regret I have to report that Lieut F. Goldsmith, R.A., who has been attached to the Company for about eighteen months, proceeds to China on April 19th. We are very sorry to lose him, and our loss is the gain of the Intelligence Department at Shanghai. We wish him a successful tour of duty and the very best of luck.

**Trade Test.**—Eleven other ranks were successful at the recent trade test by the Command Testing Board. They have our congratulations.

**Course.**—L/Sergt Green and Corpl Gristwood are attending a course in mechanical transport at the Artillery College, Woolwich, and we wish them the best of luck and success.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Sergt Fleet, Corpl Betts (Egypt Signals, please note), and L/Sergt Green on their promotion and appointment to those ranks.

ACK ACK.

## D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot.

**Training.**—Whilst yet in the throes of didahdits, dull emitter aerials (some are, *I* can tell you), folding valves, twisted keys, overhead earth-nets, sliding hetrodynes, super-pneumatic condensers, etc., there comes to us a voice: "Thou shalt make beginnings upon the period wherein all are taught that muskets are made wherewith to *shoot*. At the sunrise of April 13th and 14th, each will take unto himself umpteen rounds of cartridges, small arm, ball, .303, Mark VII., and proceed to rid his particular target of that elusive animal, the *bull*" (what hopes!)

Until the completion of this period, instructors endeavour to initiate all and sundry into the art of drill by pokes. "Close the dis-engaged sight, eyes upright, tip of the foresight cutting the magazine at 16 degrees, cease to pollute the atmosphere (not long enough to deprive the country of your services), then, with the bull-making rings around the muzzle of the bondook, exert the requisite 40 lbs. heave on the trigger. Whereupon the bullet will leave the aforesaid bondook (don't ask *where;* I've heard it), cause one to utter a grunt as the butt (of the same gun) catches the chin and literally knocks one a yard down the bank, and proceed by the most direct and cheapest route to the bull. The latter, with that marvellous instinct of its species, will duck into the butts, "moo" to the marker for a series of 100 dashes with the flag, marking, washout, one, and re-appear with that sarcastic leer common to its type.

But pardon me! my enthusiasm runs away with my common sense (hear! hear!), and I refuse to discourse further on this captivating art. Queries are welcomed, but must be accompanied by writing, demy, whole sheets, second, ruled, etc., reams, 2, and 10s. in stamps for reply.

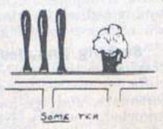
Meanwhile, speculation is rife as to whether results will bring us a glut of "beef" or a troop of proficient "flag-bashers."

**Arrivals.**—Under the modest titles of Corpl Perryman, L/Corpl Forster, and Signalmen Foy and Parrington, four more picked men have been posted here. The gallant band already assembled extend them a big, wide-open, rough and ready welcome, and trust that they find the corrals and bunk-houses to their satisfaction.

**Departures.**—Sgt Bellew, who re-joined us from the G.P.O., Birmingham, on Jan. 4th, left on the 5th inst. for Colchester, where, rumour hath it, men are trained to become skilled in the use of sticks, chop, and learn to digest bird's-nests, cats, frogs, etc. Wherever he may go, our wishes go with him; and remember when you read of his exploits, you who are envious, that he was once of "The" Troop.

Sigmn Towndrow, an ardent and active member of the Pioneers' Labour and Protection League, will be signing on (at the Labour Exchange) on April 19th. Our good wishes follow him. He promised, with tears in his eyes, that *if* ever he becomes a wizard of Wall Street, he will remember us all—*in his dreams.*

**Phew!**—On Saturday, March 26th, we visited our colleagues of E Troop, Tidworth, and in the replay of a soccer match we had with them last year, we were fortunate enough to win by 3 goals to 1.




Immediately after the game we accepted an invitation to tea—and *some* tea, too! On behalf of D Troop, I would like to thank Eddy once again for the magnificent spread prepared for us. It was ample repayment for an afternoon spent in the drizzling rain which fell practically the whole time the game was in progress.

A good game, a splendid welcome; but—since I am a non-player, my memories of E Troop will recall the jolly good fellows, and—*that tea.* Phew!

**R.E. Point-to-Point Meeting.**—Held at Lordland's Farm, Hawthorn Hill, on March 29th. First on the card was the Royal Signal's race, run at 1.40 p.m., and open to Government horses qualified to run in point-to-point races.

Associated with this race are the Royal Signals (Reg. M.) challenge trophy, presented by Col. C. R. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., and a challenge trophy presented by Mr. E. L. Ridley-Thompson (The Queen's Bays) to the Royal Signals subaltern first post the post.

Of the undermentioned entries, No. 5 was the only non-starter: 1, Mr. M. S. Wheatley's b.g. "Wyck" (Capt E. J. Murphy, rider). 2, Capt R. F. H. Nalder's b.m. "Polly" (owner). 3, Major O. P. Edgecumbe's b.g. "Michael" (Capt W. R. C. Penny). 4, Mr. H. P. Glover's b.m. "Mischief" (owner). 5, Lieut.-Col. R. H. Willan's b.m. "Wanda" (Mr. A. H. Burdett). 6, Mr. R. Sutton-Pratt's b.g. "Viscount" (owner) 7, Major E. N. F. Hitchins' b.m. "Olive" (Capt D. D. Bannerman). 8, Capt C. M. F. White's b.g. "Robin Hood" (owner). 9, Capt C. P. Prescott's b.m. "Wag" (Mr. M. S. Wheatley).

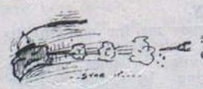
The course (3½ miles of grassland) included twenty-eight jumps, of which six were "in and outs." Rain, which fell almost without intermission throughout the day, caused the going to be extremely heavy. This, however, had its advantage in that it made for "soft falling."

The four to complete the course finished thus:—1, Capt W. R. C. Penny, who won the Clementi Smith challenge trophy. 2, Mr. R. Sutton-Pratt, who took the Ridley-Thompson challenge trophy. 3, Capt C. M. F. White—who, it will be remembered, ran third last year. 4, Mr. M. S. Wheatley.

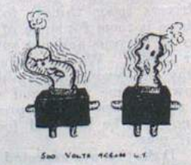
Mr. H. P. Glover (winner of the Clementi Smith challenge trophy in 1926) was unfortunate in having a spill half-way round the course, when running well.

### HINTS FOR WOULD-BE'S.

1.—**Faults in W.D. Apparatus.**—A remedy usually found effective is to jab the instrument in question with a large-sized piece of re-inforced concrete.




2.—**Noisy H.T. Batteries.**—Try stabbing the battery with a hypodermic syringe loaded with ether.

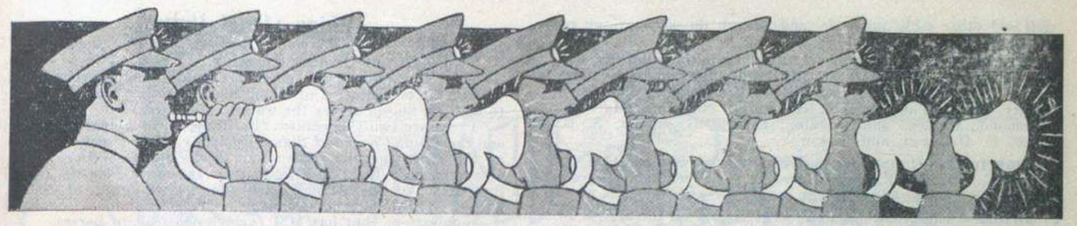



3.—**Screeching Valves.**—Connect 500 volts across the L.T. terminals, wait for the flash, then "listen in." If anything is heard (except from the i/c), "pinch" those particular valves and *patent* 'em.

4.—**Broken Insulators.**—An extra large diamond or a set of old false teeth will serve as an excellent substitute.

'OWDHAM LAD.





Jump to it!

On parade! The usual hurry and scuttle. A hurried glance to see that everything is absolutely right. However, there is no need to trouble about badges and buttons, etc., if these have been cleaned with Bluebell because

BLUEBELL

*brings brightness and brings it quickly.*

RECKITT AND SONS, LTD. (BLUEBELL POLISH CO., FULHAM, S.W.)

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Tidworth, April 13th.

**General.**—Once again that leave feeling prevails; one meets it at every turn. Can I get permission for "civvies"? How much money do I draw? etc., etc. For those staying behind the chief concern is "How many horses do I get?" and "How often do I click for picquet?" etc., etc. What a life!

**Affiliation.**—All ranks welcome the affiliation of the 2nd (London) Cavalry Divl. Signals with this unit, and hope it will prove fruitful during annual camp at Windmill Hill.

**Greetings.**—Sandy Adcock wishes to be remembered to the R.S.M. and all members of the sergeants' mess, 2nd (London) Cavalry Divl. Signals, and can assure them that, during their period of camp at Windmill Hill this year, he will renew their acquaintance; and should they require any tickets for the Southern Command searchlight tattoo, he will fix them up with a few second-hand ones at a "bob."

**More Greetings.**—Once more our office-boy is back in the office, so Sandy has had to hide all the cardboard boxes. What is a red rag to a bull, compared with a cardboard box to our office lad?

**Visit of D Troop.**—D Troop have come and gone, and have taken the soccer laurels with them. All ranks sincerely hope that the visitors enjoyed their short stay, and are enthusiastically looking forward to the next meeting. The match was a clean sporting event enjoyed by spectators and players alike, D Troop winning by 3—1. Better luck next time, Eddy Troop.

The match was followed by a tea, given at the Ian Hamilton Institute, to the rival teams and the spectators. After tea the members of D Troop strolled around the unit area unofficially inspecting and criticising the barrack-rooms, gardens and stables. Criticisms were few and expressions of admiration many, especially when the burnish and polish of the harness smote them on opening the harness-room door.

**Signals Point-to-Point.**—Our C.O. had hard lines once more in only finishing third in this event. Better luck next time, sir!

**Arrivals.**—L/Sergt and Mrs. Adams from "The" Signal Troop, Egypt, via S.T.C. We shall be able to get our A.F.G. 1098 up to date as per *the* Signal Troop.

**Personal.**—Daisy would like to hear from Charley and Norry.

**Transfers to Army Reserve.**—Corpl Elphick and L/Corporal Paddy Comyns to civvy street. Everyone wishes them the best of luck.

**Vocational Training.**—Sigmn Bonnor has gone to Catterick for a course of brick-laying.

**Late Press News.**—Just as our typist was banging out these notes, news was received that our C.O. had been presented with a daughter. All ranks join in congratulating Capt. and Mrs. C. M. F. White on this happy occasion.

SANSMUDGE.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Our main item of news this month is the formation, from our already sadly-depleted ranks, of another Signal Section for China—the 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section, comprising Lieut M. Duncan, R.Signals; Sergts Bellew (from D Troop) and Ratcliffe (from A Corps); Cpls Nelson and Daniell; L/Cpls Ward and Burrell (our congratulations to these two on being "paid" from the date of embarkation); Signalmen A. Holloway, Metcalfe, Warwick, Weekes, Horsey, Baldwin, Holcombe, Finch, Fowler, Honey, Worthy, Lipsham, T. Wells, Dodson, W. J. Johnson, Stopps, Spiller, Bridges, Seager, S. Read, and A. V. Smith. From other units: Signalmen Rice, J. Gadd, Whiting, R. Wood, Pennington, Souter, Laurenson, Williams, and Allan. The date of embarkation is, I believe, April 11th.

This makes a total of roughly 300 other ranks sent to China from the 4th Divl. Signals, so we are getting used to these "alarums and excursions," as William Shakespeare would say. We hope that his "exit fighting" will not also apply.

It is a peculiar fact that orders to form drafts always manage to reach us on a Saturday, of all days, and it is beginning to have a bad effect on the digestion of the office staff, and (I fear) on their tempers also. However, if we are called on to send still another draft, it will perforce be composed of the office

staff and other odds and ends, and we can do our moaning on the water (over the lee rail!)

**Arrivals.**—We extend a hearty welcome to the following, and trust they will soon settle down, despite the troublous times chosen for their arrival: Sergt N. Molyneux and Signalmen Gallery, Langham and Pulman, from India. Signalmen Marsden, Hammond, Horsey, and Gooding, Drivers Goldingay, S. B. Smith, C. Helliwell, and Taylor.

**Departures.**—On transfer to Army Reserve: Signalmen E. R. Bailey, E. Daniels, E. Crownshaw, T. G. Perrit, and Drivers Jordan and G. Shaw. Our best wishes go with them.

**Births.**—Congratulations to F/Sergt Harris on the arrival of a daughter (Mary Elizabeth) on February 23rd, and to Corpl C. Nelson on the birth of a son (Charles James) on March 18th.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The arrival of Sergts Bellew and Ratcliffe brings the number in mess up to the huge total of four. With their departure to China on April 11th the mess will sink into the oblivion that has been its lot since the Chinks started asking for trouble. (Incidentally, having regard to those who have already gone to China, they won't ask in vain!) Sergt Molyneux and L/Sergt Cayley will have ample opportunity of improving their acquaintance—but not, I am afraid, just yet, as the former is perforce putting in a lot of overtime in the office, and the latter—well, he just isn't there!

**Rural Ruminations.**—There is as yet no trade of "gardener, Signals," but our allotments are looking well. Eager sons of the soil may be seen making careful measurements of their seedlings with micrometer and calipers; and many and varied are their bird-scaring devices, ranging from a thousand sheets of *Daily Mail* to a score or so of hoof-prints. (Was it wise, corporal, to employ a real live horse? or was it another example of equine sagacity?)

In *my* allotment I have discovered one large slab of concrete and one section of honest-to-goodness Roman road. Either may be had on application.

**Orderly Room Query.**—What is a horse file? (No, hang you! I have *not* had it—ask the Q.M.)

**Latest from China.**—Whilst in mid-ocean, en route to China, an orderly sergeant (no names, no pack-drill) addressed a defaulter as follows: "—and remember, you are not allowed to leave the ship." (Ow, ow.)

**Answer to Bulford Correspondent.**—No, Rudolph, although you have often collected the *ashes*, you are not allowed to call yourself a cricketer. Neither, for the matter of that, am I allowed to call myself a scenic gardener, despite the fact that I have cut the grass at Bulford with a dinner knife, and dug a hole in a rugby field in order to fill in a depression in the other side.

**A Bloodless Victory.**—Seated at a table in the orderly room, a pay-corporal busily scratches away at his calculations, pausing ever and anon to stab with his so-called fountain pen at the ink-well. Save for the scratch of his pen and his occasional sighs, the atmosphere is one of peace.

Comes a gentle, furtive tap at the door. No response. Another tap. Still no response. The door is quietly pushed ajar, and the face of Sigmn Bumbleshay peers in. Tense with emotion, he tiptoes to within two yards of the seated figure, and coughs—a wee small cough. Silence. Another cough. Silence—more silence.

Sigmn Bumbleshay edges nervously toward the door. A small bead of perspiration forms on his nose, and trickles unheeded down his chin. A look of desperation comes on his face. He draws a deep breath, and breathes a hoarse word: "Corporal!"

The pen ceases to scratch. Gaining confidence, Bumbleshay speaks again. "Please, C–C–C–Corp'ral, would you mind p–p–p–paying me my cred——" He stops, staring with fascination at the angry flush that is slowing spreading above the corporal's collar. Without haste, the corporal rises from his chair, his fingers gripping the edge of the table as though to restrain him from hurling himself at the intruder. "Did you want *me?*" he bellows.

Bumbleshay gulps twice—and makes a break for the door. The frantic clatter of his boots dies in the distance. The corporal shrugs his shoulders, lights a cigarette, resumes his seat, and stabs at the ink-well. Peace! A bloodless victory!

**Mac Calling.**—Will Sigmn W. J. Lewis, last heard of at Spike Ireland and believed to be now in India, please communicate with Mac at this station?

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

## Rhine Signal Units.

April 12th.

"No. 4711" of Germany speaking.

As a foreword to my notes I should like to give a rough idea of the organisation of Rhine Signals, seeing that it appears to be little known across the water.

There are two Companies: the Rhine *Field* Signal Company, and the Rhine *Command* Signal Company. The Field Company, as the name suggests, consists of Field Signal Sections, Divl. Headquarters, Field Wireless, two Infantry Brigade Signal Sections, and one Artillery Brigade Section—and, of course, horses. The Command Company is responsible for Command communications, but has M.T. vehicles instead of horses.

There is an O.C. Signal Units, who is the senior Company commander. He is called upon to carry out the administration of barracks, fuel and light, and keep the roster for all regimental duties.

The Rhine is included under the heading of Home Stations, but one finds "W.O.A.S." confronting every charge entered on that well-known Army Form B. 252; so you can have it which way you like.

Married personnel posted to these units are advised to place their furniture in store, as everything is supplied here in the way of a home; the same, of course, applying to officers.

We have been well entertained of late, the men having had two well-attended dances, whilst the n.c.o.s mess treated us to a whist drive and dance which proved a nice little function; but we would like to see them more often if they are to become popular within the garrison.

The Signal units "Brickettes" concert party gave us a real treat on the occasion of their first appearance, and I am sure the party will go far. Thanks must be given for the whole-hearted work put in by the management and party, for the whole show went off without a hitch. We have waited many months for this, but we have come to the conclusion that it was worth it. Perhaps we shall be favoured again in the near future. When *The Cologne Post* pays a tribute, it is time to sit up and take notice.

The Branch Association re-union dinner and concert, which took place on March 25th, was attended by 150 officers and other ranks, and proved a great successful evening, everyone going home happy and fully contented.

It gives me great pleasure to say that the whole draft of forty-nine recently arrived from U.K. are Association members, which shews that the good work is being well carried on in Blighty. Space does not permit of giving the names of all the arrivals, but we welcome them with open arms and wish them a happy stay.

Whilst these notes are being read the Artillery Section will be toiling at camp, and the remaining Field Company Sections preparing for it. May we have better weather this year than we did last, so that our training will allow us to take the reward we have earned.

Musketry has taken us by storm of late, both Companies having done excellent work with rifle and revolver. L/Sergt W. E. Minion and Sigmn E. W. Knight each obtained 113 points out of a possible 115.

The Field Company have started a savings certificate scheme, which should do well. To buy a certificate every week and in ten years' time onwards draw the compound interest of 8s. per week, in addition to having the certificate to get further interest on, is a grand scheme and well worth considering.

The men's indoor games tournaments with other units still carry on, and have met with much success, many an evening being passed quite pleasantly. Impromptu sing-songs after the games tend to brighten the atmosphere.

Departures have been but few of late. Corpls Challenger and Marchant (Chong), Signalmen A. Ford, J. Raffo, H. Beswick, J. O'Leary, and Dvr. H. Hoyle have proceeded to Training Battalion. Sigmn S. J. Brooks has returned to 4th Divl. Signals. We wish them success in their new surroundings.

Stableman: "Someone's stolen three sets of harness, sir!"
Sergeant-Major: "Have they left any traces behind?"
Stableman: "No, sir! They took them too."

Question: "How would you set a map?"
Answer: (1) "Put the airline of the compass on T.N."
(2) "Select two or three points which are visible and draw a triangle."
(3) "Set the hands of a watch, the small to 12 and the large to 3, and the sun's shadow nearest the small hand is true North."

## Signal Training Centre (India).

Jubbulpore, March 23rd.

**General.**—Lieut.-Col. J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., Royal Signals, arrived from England on March 2nd, and has taken over command of the Signal Training School and officiating command of the Signal Training Centre.

Lieut. J. B. Oatts, Highland Light Infantry, joined the Signal Training Centre on March 5th for a tour of duty with the Indian Signal Corps.

The last draft from home this trooping season has now arrived, and the weather (after a certain amount of difficulty in making up its mind) has now decided to get warm. During the hesitation period we got a week's rain, followed by three or four days of best September stickiness, which was as unpleasant as it was unusual.

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. Noel Brown on winning the mixed doubles (handicap) in the Jubbulpore tennis tournament in February.

In the Bhopal cup tournament, played at Jubbulpore in March, Major J. A. Pocock and Capt. A. J. Schofield played for the Nondescripts, who were beaten by the Maharajah of Alirajpur's team.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—This month, again, we have to welcome many new arrivals from home. We hope they will enjoy their stay here and help us at our dances. That reminds me of the glorious whist drive we held on February 23rd, when so many of our members sat out in the saloon—making the excuse that they could not dance—that something had to be done.

The result was that a bachelors' dancing lesson was organised on March 2nd. The day and hour arrived, and many beaming faces. R.Q.M.S. Ryder kindly consented to be the instructor in the lancers. His detail was exquisite, but unfortunately we could not find a pianist, and had to rely on the gramophone. The poor dear thing was quite an innocent offender, and when the dancers were ready, the gramophone was not; and when the gramophone was ready, the dancers were not. Really, to say the least of it, the lancers and music were not very isochronous. However, our instructor was very patient, and I think it was only twice that he imparted the knowledge to us, in real professor's language, that we were altogether devoid of normal intelligence.

The star turns of the evening were Tocko, Admiral and Willy. Tocko's footwork in the Charleston, Admiral's admiration of same in nautical language, and Willy's disgust at the latter, were perfectly topping. The dance finished, and fortunately it was a holiday next day.

We bid adieu to many old friends this trooping season, and wish them the best of good fortune in their several new spheres.

Many of our members have joined the Mustard Club, but unfortunately there is the Bolshevik element who have started in opposition and are forming a Curry Club.

We have just had the tail-end of the cool weather, and in a few months time that "schoolgirl complexion" will be a treasured memory. Not even a liberal application of a well-known brand of soap will help to retain it.

A diversion was caused by a strike on the Bengal-Nagpur railway, which necessitated a number of wireless and line operators being sent to maintain communications at various places between Nagpur and Bilaspur (some more regimental history made). Incidentally, many of these lucky individuals received valuable vocational training as porters, shunters, etc.

**Casualties.**—Sigmn Chettlebrough to United Kingdom, and Signalmen Day and Bristow to Aden.

**Corporals' Mess.**—We are hoping to hold our dances bi-monthly. This month we had two. The first was only moderately attended, but the next was crowded out. Our functions are becoming quite popular nowadays.

The Corporals' Mess, S.T.C. (India), met the Corporals' Mess, Hampshires, at cricket, and defeated them by 58 runs (142 to 84).

Corpl Woolley has gone to Rawalpindi, and Corpl Broardhead to Meerut.

Nat recommends "the burning plains of India" to Bones as an antidote for that strawberry-hued proboscis.

SIGTRAIN.

## E Divisional Signals.

Meerut, March 24th.

**General.**—We have not sent any news to THE WIRE this year, and therefore we must give a brief account of events from the New Year onwards.

The 7th Field Brigade R.A., the 21st Pack Artillery, and the 19th Indian Infantry Brigade Sections, which went to camp during December, returned by the beginning of February, after a strenuous time.

The unit has had several visits of inspection. It has been inspected by Field-Marshal Sir W. R. Birdwood, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief India; Major L. H. Morse, M.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command; General Sir G. de S. Barrow, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command; and Col. E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., Officiating Signal Officer-in-Chief India—and all of them expressed great satisfaction.

The weather has been most exceptional. Strong winds and heavy rain have helped to keep the temperature down, and up to the time of writing the weather has been splendid.

Major F. O. St. John, D.S.O., M.C., has gone to Naini Tal on temporary duty as C.S.O. Eastern Command, and Captain W. M. Miller, M.C., has now taken over the duties of Commandant of the unit.

**Entertainments.**—Several dances have been held in the unit lines, and they were all very successful.

**Fit & Fresh on Wrigley's**

It's thirst and a parched mouth that make a man feel tired and slack.

Wrigley's allays thirst, refreshes the mouth and generally tones you up. Specially useful when you can't smoke. Also keeps the teeth clean and helps digestion.

All this for one penny. What other sweet costs so little and does so much?

**WRIGLEY'S**

E.H. 32


The sergeants held four whist drives and dances, to which the unit junior n.c.o.s were invited, and everyone enjoyed them. The corporals especially declared them a great success.

The dance orchestra formed in the unit contributed a great deal to the success of the above-mentioned funotions, and judging by the amount of practice the members indulge in, it should be one of the best in the station.

It was hoped to hold a Signals Association dance at the Rink prior to our move to the hills. This was found to be impracticable, so it has been decided to postpone the function until the unit is in "summer residence" in Ranikhet.

**Obituary.**—It is with deepest regret that we have to record the death of Capt. R. Brennan, M.C., 5th Gurkha Rifles (Indian Signal Corps) on January 5th, after a very short illness. Capt. Brennan had only been with us a few months, and he was a very popular officer.

**Arrivals.**—From Signal Training Centre (India): Corpl Rice, A/Corpl Lee, L/Corpl Barrass, Signalmen Murrell, Morrison, Shaw, Stedman, Read, Wiltshire, Woodward, Tranter, Turner, Townsend and Parrish. From A Divl. Signals, Peshawar: Signalmen Rooney, Thompson, Spencer, Rudrup and Brooks.

Officers: Capt. W. M. Miller, M.C., R.Signals, from 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford.

**Departures.**—To Army Signal School, Poona: Sergt Maynard. To U.K. for home establishment: Corpl Warner, L/Cpls Youngson and Bygrave, Signalmen Gallery and Knight. To U.K. for Army Reserve: Sgt Milam, Signalmen Austin, Dennett, Temple, Robertson and Shields. To U.K. for leave: Sergeant Shaw, L/Sergt Todman and Sigmn Fletcher. To A Divisional Signals: Signalmen Bowering, McAuliffe, Greatorex, Wiltshire and Scratcher.

Officers: Major F. O. St. John, D.S.O., M.C., to Naini Tal. Capt. W. F. Herdon and Lieut B. Middleton for leave in U.K. Lieut F. H. Bury from Q Course, Catterick.

**Discharge.**—R.Q.M.S. T. Gilmore.

**Births.**—To Sergt Urquhart, a son, on January 7th. To L/Sergt Kelsey, a daughter, on February 24th.

**Transfer.**—Capt A. J. Hannah, from 6/7th Punjab Regiment, to Royal Corps of Signals.

## No. 2 (W/T) Company, B Corps Signals.

Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi.

**Weapon Training.**—This is now over. After three strenuous weeks of rifle training (don't the Hythe people hate to hear it called musketry?) we spent a week on the range. Revolver training followed in the next week, and we fired revolver-practices and rifle casuals last week. (Contrary to one report, attributed to a high official of the Company, we are glad to state that there are *no* "casualties.")

We had a few juicy days, and once or twice a capful of wind and an earful of dust; but all the locusts which had arrived only three weeks before had moved on—and we were spared the experience of our C.Q.M.S. fourteen years ago, during the last Pindi locust-plague, of finding eleven locusts, in series, packed in his rifle barrel.

**Summer** "is acomin' in."—The following signs have been observed by people with "eyes on the mark":—

A. Signalman Thomas wore no sweater while he was making seventy runs in the final of the Jamasjee cricket cup.
B Fourteen unpaid lance-corporals, with names ranging alphabetically from C to M, have been appointed in the last fortnight.
C The barrack-room coal issue has ceased.
D The military works wallahs have been creating drains all over the place, and the charging-shop personnel have been studying their series-parallel drainage-system to pick up tips for recharging dud "S" cells.
E Drill clothing is to be worn on and after Wednesday next.
F Early parades start to-morrow.
G A housefly has been seen in the new cookhouse.

**Drains.**—These are mentioned in para. "Summer," sub-para. "D" above, but you must have more complete details of the drain by the golf-course, of which you read (at least, we *hope* you read) last month. Military works have made a beautiful drain in white cement, with brown earth edging. It has an embankment, a cutting, and a tunnel right under a road. (You have to have these things before you can induce water to flow up-hill, in this backward country.) We are convinced that the Romans could hardly have done better.

**Training.**—This still continues. There has been a crescendo in educational training. The *fortissimo* in study was raised to the power *x*, and now goes up in smoke, or down in the examiner's w.p.b. First-class certificate examinations are over, and the seconds get down to it to-morrow.

Technical courses for Group E electricians and operators have started, and we see them applying their noses to the oilstone and the anode-tap respectively. Many old friends will be glad to know that Signalmen Ouzman and Silverthorne are amongst the "startees."

**Queries.**—For the motoring and mechanical adviser, "Barleux."

1.—Our junior fitter has a Rolls in the shop for repair. Every time he applies the footbrake (it is a car, not a razor) the radiator-cap blows off. He says that he really wouldn't let that worry him, or you, but the cap is embellished with a solid silver statuette of an Indian postman—a pre-war *dak*-runner—and the excursions that this gentleman takes into the upper atmosphere, and the bumps that he gets when he hits the ground, have unwrapped his puttees, torn off his puggaree, given him housemaid's knee, and more or less disturbed the pristine symmetry of his original self. Pending the publication of a reply, the fitter is saving up.

2.—The fitter's own push-bike is not quite o.k. either, for every time he rings his bell his chain breaks (his driving chain not his watch chain). Until he gets expert advice from "Barleux," the fitter has decided, as a temporary measure—

(A) To use those cantonment side-streets where the wind will always be behind him, and where he will always travel down hill; and
(B) To borrow the horn from the Rolls, or whistle.

ALEX.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, Punjab, March 6th.

**Musketry.**—The second half of the Troop fired the annual course during the first week in February. The shooting was mostly of a very high standard, and a decided improvement was noticed among the Indian ranks. There was a time when drivers, as a rule, seemed to have little aptitude for the rifle; but the fact that the I.O.Rs. won the Section shoot proves that a change has taken place. The highest individual score was made by Corpl Brice (105). The unit average was 84.2.

In the shooting matches which took place when the course had been completed, the corporals defeated the sergeants, and the B.O.Rs. lost to the I.O.Rs.

**Horse versus Car.**—The new Morris six-wheel wireless cars, fitted with C sets, competed with a Cavalry Pack Section early last month. The test, which was exhaustive, lasted three days, and was subsequently extended over the manœuvre period. The cars gave a creditable display and proved their adaptability, but they did nothing that our pack horses could not do. We, who saw our animals going well over the roughest of country, are inclined to think that we are efficient enough as we are.

**Manœuvres.**—The unit returned from Brigade manœuvres last week. During the eight days we were much to the fore, and certainly put in some useful work. At times things were trying, but all ranks rose to the occasion in a cheerful manner. Now we are back to normal, although we are still mindful of the praise we received from the Brigade Commander.

**Sport.**—The reader's attention is drawn to the Sports Section of this month's issue. We have been busy in this direction all the season, but owing to an oversight no reports have been made.

**Kudos.**—Congratulations to Corpl Mitson, who did so well on his course at Jubbulpore. Also to the unit hockey team on their decisive victory over the 4/7th Dragoon Guards.

**Education.**—Sigmn B. O. Mayson was awarded a 1st class certificate of education ("distinguished" in English).

**Appointment.**—Sigmn B. O. Mayson appointed U/L/Corpl with effect from 1/2/27.

**Komic Kuts.**—What about the person who, on learning that the Brigade had to swim the river Chenab, provided himself with a pair of water-wings?

What is this "acrobatitus" we hear so much about?

The other day we bought some sets of chess for the recreation room. One individual was heard to remark that he was keen on learning the game, but he always got mixed up with the "prawns." He is as bad as the person who maintained that Mussolini is the world's strongest man.

Another gleam of brightness. One of our members, who is leaving us shortly, wrote home to his friends informing them that he would be sailing on H.M.T. "Neuralia." In return he received a letter of sympathy from his friends, saying they were sorry to hear that he had had *neuralgia*.

A "catchword" of to-day (modified for Sialkot): "Join the Malage Club."

B. O. M.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters B.T.E., Cairo, April 12th.

**Training.**—Command manœuvres are over, and everybody is settling down to the new "Q" sheet, hoping against hope that they will obtain the "nearly impossible."

General Sir Richard C. B. Haking (G.O.C.), on conclusion of the "war," issued an order of the day in which he expressed to all ranks his satisfaction in the result of the year's training, and his congratulations on their soldierly and cheerful bearing when operating in heavy sand during long hours in the desert.

Col. H. L. Mackworth (our C.S.O.) also expressed to the two Signal units his appreciation of the keenness displayed and the gratifyingly high standard reached in signal work. The Colonel congratulated all ranks on the result achieved. We hope that the individual training period will bring forth equally good results.

**Leave.**—Col. H. L. Mackworth, C.M.G., D.S.O. (C.S.O.) proceeds to England on leave during this month. We hope his stay in the land of "Eng" will be a sunny one.

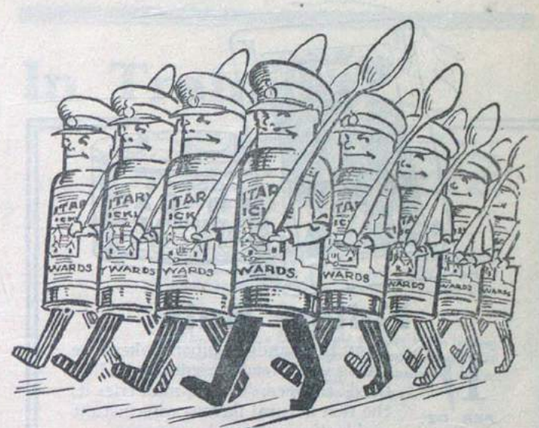
Four other ranks sailed per H.T. "Megantic" on April 9th, having been granted leave to England, and incidentally indulgence passages. We would say they were having a bid of "bad."

**Promotion.**—We heartily congratulate Capt R. G. L. Giblin, R.Signals (No. 1 Company), on his promotion to that rank.

**Promotion Examination.**—We congratulate Captains R. A. Bagnold and H. G. Henderson, R.Signals, on being successful in subject (c) of their examination.

**Obituary.**—We regret to announce the death of Margarita Nina, daughter of Sergt Honor, at Moascar on April 3rd. This



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n.c.o. desires to thank the 42nd Field Company R.E. and the R.A.S.C. Detachment for floral tributes received.

**P.T. Courses.**—Corpl Jennison has returned from the course at Aldershot, looking none the worse for his convalescence, and we are looking forward to his capabilities in the Command athletic meeting which takes place this month.

**This Month's Fairy Tale.**—Once upon a time a Guardsman went forth into the land of Egypt to conduct cooks' courses, and on completion of same he journeyed back whence he came—and the Signals messed happily ever after.

BEN.

## Sergeants' Mess.

**Higher and Higher.**—Hearty congratulations to Sergt Brett on his promotion to that rank, and to L/Sergts Connelly, Bland and Vignaux on becoming mess members. Now you will see something!

**What's in a Name.**—We regret that we are not yet able to reply to the WIRE contributor who required information on the derivation of names in Egypt; but we *can* state that the mystery of cloudy beer has remained unsolved for over 2000 years. To colloquialise, get cracking!

**Billiards.**—We have succeeded in lowering the colours of the R.I.F.—and in their own mess, too. This is their first defeat in the league.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signals Barracks, Polygon, April 6th.

**Departures.**—'Midst weeping and wailing, Corpl White (of "Mossie" fame) has departed hence to take his place on the fifth Foreman-of-Signals course. Sailing on March 17th, he was accompanied by Colour-Sergt Bolton, Grenadier Guards, maker of Aldershot ovens and sausages. "Gone but not forgotten."

**Arrivals.**—Corpl Jennison, our wandering boy, has returned from the muscle factory, wearing strange pieces of brassware on his arm. By his opportune arrival, we are peering at the Command all-round trophy through rose-tinted glasses. With his valuable help in the athletics, we should gain enough points to—touch wood!

**Promotions.**—We cheer, and fill the cup to the undermentioned n.c.o.s on going up one: L/Corpl Wales to A/Corporal; U/L/Corpl Ward to L/Corporal on roster.

**Company Zoo.**—Several unique specimens of Egyptian wolf dogs have arrived. The cages are not yet to hand, but will arrive by the 9th April.

The monkey section is already full. One of these delightful creatures frequents the w.o.s and sergeants' mess. Its tastes are certainly not plebian—only spirits and higher class cigarettes consumed.

The aviary, adjacent to the acid store, is a magnificent structure containing four birds.

The Indian Signals, if they desire, may contribute to and make this menagerie second only to Giza.

**Inspections, and Rumours of.**—The G.O.C. inspected this unit at work on the morning of the 1st inst., and was extraordinarily pleased with the whole turn-out. The Cable Section were specially commended, and the sergeant-major is highly delighted. Still, we have another one in the offing. About this, more "barden."

**In Reply To.**—Colour-Sergt Bolton, Grenadier Guards: Yes, the papers have definitely stated that the Guards did go to China.

W. A.—Brigandism is a synonym of the word you mentioned.

A.J.B.G.—Corpl Jennison did not push down the walls of No. 1 ablution room. The D.O.R.E. had—sorry, but this subject is taboo.

**In Memoriam.**—A tombstone has been erected to the memory of the late Sigmn White, of this Company. We deplore that, excluding officers, n.c.o.s and the Cable Section, only nine members of the Company contributed. This, surely, is not esprit de corps! We await your spare piastres, sil vous plait.

CROAK.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, April 5th.

Congratulations to Signalmen D. Green and S. Gratwicke on being appointed to the dizzy height of lance-corporal (unpaid).

Ptes Playfair and Burton, Leicester Regiment, have transferred to this unit with effect from 4th April.

L/Corpl H. Sunderland returned from a course at the School of Signals, Catterick, on March 21st. We notice how nice and brown he looks after a few months in the warm sunny climes of that place.

Signalmen C. Whitfield, L. Clark, and B. Argent embarked for U.K. on March 17th. Sigmn Whitfield is posted to the home establishment. Sigmn Clark is on a course at the School of Education, Shorncliffe, with a view to transfer to the Army



Educational Corps; he will be greatly missed in next season's cross-country team, as he was one of the most reliable runners.

Driver Harris has also embarked for U.K., being invalided home.

St. Patrick's Day was well and truly celebrated by all our Paddies. The Royal Irish Fusiliers are stationed near here, and our Shoey, a staunch Irishman, participated in their festivities until the early hours. The following morning, when he returned, he declared that he'd seen some *green* dogs on his way out of the Fusiliers' barracks. Funny they only appear on St. Patrick's day!

The G.O.C.'s inspection took place on March 31st, and everything passed off o.k., the General being highly pleased with all he saw.

On the occasion of the Company sports meeting, of which full details are to be found in the Sports pages, much amusement was caused by the inclusion of a hundred yards blindfold race (no guides). One of the competitors strayed from the course and finished up on the hurdles crack with a hurdle round his neck.

The following conversation actually occurred recently in one of our barrack rooms:—

1st Signalman: "Say, Paddy, you must be mustard on a bike."
2nd Signalman: "How d'yer mean, mustard?"
1st Signalman: "Well, it says in Part II. Orders that you've mustered as a D.R."

An ardent worshipper of strong silent men was displaying a photo of a well known strong man in muscular pose.

1st Signalman (glancing at photo): "My! ain't he thin?"
2nd Signalman (the ardent worshipper): "What d'yer mean—thin?"
1st Signalman: "Why, he's got no innards."
2nd Signalman: "Garn: he's evacuating his muscles."

ART.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

March 14th.

**General.**—During the past month all ranks of the Section have been hard at it in the work line—"rush jobs" being the order of the day—and earning for ourselves the name of "Shaforce Labour Corps."

Troopers keep coming in, and the L.C. has quite a busy time going aboard to see "who's who" in the Signals. Quite a number of old friends were found, and after the stories we have heard about the Depot, I don't think we will like it. We were pleased to see two old Hong Kongites in Sergt Gent and L/Corpl Upton, and hope to see them again on their return journey.

The 4th Divl. Signals arrived during the past month, and we wish them a happy sojourn out East. Part of the Division (the lucky ones) have gone to Shanghai, the remainder staying around Hong Kong.

**Welcome.**—A hearty welcome is extended to the following, who are attached to us for temporary duty: Sergt Withers, Signalmen Holden, Jardine, Wilkins, Prichard, White, Ward and Strevens, posted to Fanling; L/Corpl Onyet, Signalmen Edwards, Hogg and McKenzie posted to H.Q.C.C. May they have a rattling good time and not want to go home again.

**Sport.**—When things get normal we may be able to take part as a Section in some form of sport. Anyway, we are looking to the 4th Division to get going and leave a good record behind.

The eight-a-side Garrison billiard tournament commences shortly, and the R.E.-Royal Signals team hope to retain the cup. All units will be watching us with interest, as the old team have left for the U.K. and the new blood have something to play for. Good luck.

**W/T.**—The efforts of Q.M.S. Roberts and Sigmn Holland have been crowned with success, W/T working with Shanghai and other stations being carried out o.k. Q.M.S. Roberts has promised a few notes on the subject which should be of interest.

**Congratulations.**—Dido proffers the esteemed mitt to Mutt on obtaining the 1st.

JOINT BOX.

## North China Signal Section (Peking Detachment)

British Legation Guard, March 16th.

We apologise for the absence of notes from North China in last month's WIRE, and can only plead pressure of work as an excuse.

**In Training?**

KEEN on winning the Regimental 440, one or more of the Sprints, or a distance race? Then it's essential to estore the tissue broken down by the strenuous exertion of train ng, otherwise there will be a danger of staleness and strain.

* * *

One of the great secrets of success in Athletics lies in this building-up process, and nothing does it half as well as Horlick's—the Ideal Training Diet.

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**Ask for and see that you get Horlick's.**

Our short wave set arrived from Hong Kong on January 24th, and after three or four hectic days and nights of experimenting to find the most suitable types and lengths of aerials, we settled down to serious work. Regimental signallers from the East Yorks were sent from Tientsin to run the telegraph office, and Signals personnel concentrated on W/T.

Traffic to and from Hankow was very heavy during the period of negotiations between Mr. O'Malley and the Nationalist Government, but slackened off somewhat when the agreement was signed. Now Shanghai is the storm centre, and our naval friends on the "Enterprise," "Carlisle," and "Vindictive" must be cursing the day UBA opened up, as we are occupying their time for the greater part of each twenty-four hours.

Congratulations and thanks to Q.M.S. (F. of Signals) Roberts, of Hong Kong, for designing and erecting our s.w. set, which has enabled Signals to keep their tails very much up during a critical period.

By the way, would any unit or individual who has short wave gear please report if they have heard UBA. We have communicated with naval stations in England and Australia, but would like to get in touch with army operators on 35 and 25 metres.

We are hoping to welcome, within the next few days, two linemen who have arrived in Shanghai ex s.s. "Khyber." There are eighty-five miles of line awaiting their attention, so they will have to get their seven-league boots on, as the whole lot must be done on foot, no other means of locomotion being available.

PEICHING.

## Malaya Signal Section.

Headquarters, Fort Canning, Singapore,
February 28th.

Again we have to be reminded about our WIRE notes. Still, it is good to hear our existence is not quite forgotten.

And now we are led to believe that Sierra Leone is an ideal place in which to finish a "pontoon." (Voice of Sigmn Barton) "Again that joke." Evidently someone must have told him the same of Singapore.

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the N.A.A.F.I.

After an abundance of the usual "wind," prophecies, rumours, etc., the great exodus of the Section from Pulau Brani to Fort Canning has taken place—and, as usual, the prophets and Dame Rumour were wrong. The only one to move was the "nap" enthusiast—our office scribe.

On the 10th, 11th, and 15th of this month, the ex-Service men and townspeople of Singapore entertained the Garrison to a free tea and performance of "No, no, Nanette" in the Victoria Hall. The entertainment was a great success, and it can safely be said that the artistes—a local amateur company—have never before heard such applause.

Though I do not wish to suggest that it is a record, I think that a certain signalman whose name begins with "Mac" put up a very creditable performance at the tea. He managed to see off five ices.

Unfortunately sport in the Section is at a standstill, though the soccer and hockey enthusiasts are regular members of the R.E. teams. It is, however, hoped to commence the competition for the Vyvyan cup shortly, and as the events comprise swimming, running and shooting, some close results are anticipated.

Even our carrier pigeons seem to be "browned off." Last week we had fourteen deserters, and those that did return from the 62-mile flights took four-and-a-half hours. There is no truth in the rumour that Joe Cotterell has challenged them to a ten-mile road race.

Of course, I am privileged to call him Joe, and to call "The Parson" Tommy, having given several fags to the former and scrounged twice as many from the latter. Particulars of this profitable system may be obtained on application to Messrs. Ike Fuller and Ruben Marriott, E Company, T.B.

Having got over the rainy season, we are now feeling the effects of the sun—some more than others, of course. This possibly accounts for two signalmen having been seen running round Fort Canning waving their shirts, and trying (so they say) to catch butterflies; but why one of them should throw his shirt up in a tree, and climb up after it, when catching butterflies, I cannot understand.

Sigmn Skiffins of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Bond, now in residence at Ewshott.

Sigmn (Busty) Barton is desirous of hearing from Doughy, late of Northern Ireland Signal Company.

THE SCRIBE.

## Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, March 28th.

**All Square.**—With the completion of repairs to the Warwick Camp route on February 26th, we are now back to pre-hurricane conditions. The lines are things of beauty and a joy to behold—so much so, that it is whispered the n.c.o. i/c lines spends his Sundays admiring the "regulation" of those same lines at which, only a short time ago, he had glared so balefully.

**We Shoot.**—On March 1st half of the Section marched out to Warwick Camp with the 27th (F) Company R.E., to undergo annual weapon training. After a few crowded days, which included musketry, route marches, football, tug-of-war, and (last, but not least) cross-country running, our lads returned home to relieve the other half of the Section. This party, although at camp longer than the first, had not the same strenuous experience. Their evenings, I hear, were made the merrier by a party of Royal Marines from H.M.S. "Calcutta," who arrived at Warwick on the day the first party left. Just our luck!

Despite this added attraction, *both* parties averaged as 1st class shots, with an average score for the Section of 82.4. No! we did *not* do our own marking.

**Worthy of Record.**—A "short" being reported on the Government House line, our linemen went out to investigate. At the back of a certain hotel in Hamilton, the lines run very close to some of the windows. In front of one of these windows, the lines had been brought together and held, by—safety pins. This is not all; for pegged out nicely across the lines were some silk hose and er-er other silk articles of clothing. We suggest that in the lineman who "cleared" this fault there is the making of a great ambassador. "Old hands" will remember the windows in question.

**Congratulations.**—To Corpl H. Horsey upon attaining that rank; also to L/Corpl R. F. Piper upon his first step up the ladder of promotion—paid, too! There is now no excuse for charging me a penny a box for matches, Pip.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

## Tips.

Married eight times in five years. Wedding bells become an alarm clock.

* * * *

We read that no man can serve two masters, but recently we heard of thirty-seven men charged with bigamy.

* * * *

Doctor: "How did you get here?" Patient: "Flu."

* * * *

The moth is an economical pet, as it only eats holes.

* * * *

Summoned for being a champion light-weight. No, not boxer—grocer.

* * * *

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Two apples, perhaps, keep the dentist away.

* * * *

Germany watches our watch on the Rhine. No wonder they have cheapened.

* * * *

"We must get along to our car now." "I do hope we shan't have to go on top, dear."

* * * *

His last words: "Now, just watch me overtake that car."

* * * *

Women spend three-quarters of every pound spent, so we read. They do their "share" towards helping the Budget.

* * * *

"A stitch in time saves nine." A batchelor's button put on to-day lasts a lifetime.

* * * *

Late arrival: "Have I missed much?" Ardent supporter: "Nothing at all—there's no score yet."

## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea,
London, S.W.3, April 12th.

Once one has started compiling notes for THE WIRE, it has to be kept up. Press day seems to come round once a week, and here we are again, faced with the job of finding something to help fill the pages of the magazine.

In this case the writer is singularly fortunate in having received very copious notes from "Sparks 2," which transforms his job into the careful typing of copy instead of setting to work to exercise a fertile imagination and transfer the results to paper.

During the past month the outstanding feature has, I think, been the trade-tests held at our headquarters under the eye of our C.O., which brought a very large number of budding Field-Marshals to be tested and obtain their ratings.

The tests held covered both visual operators and linemen, and the results were, I think, quite as staggering to the participators as to the examiners; at least 98 per cent. of the field romped home.

The greatest possible praise is due to those who had the unlovely job of deciphering and decoding the messages sent to the test class by means of buzzer. In some cases, at least, the words were all run one into the other with the weirdest effects, and required no little patience to disentangle the mess. Incidentally, anything more uninspiring than Morse code on a husky buzzer, at the rate laid down for the test purposes, is difficult to imagine, and I for one would not like to imagine it.

The result of the trade tests showed even better efficiency than was anticipated, which reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. We would specially mention Sergts Gamble, Walsh, Hope and Hayton, and Corpl Biggin. Long may they be with us, like the leaven of Holy Writ. A little leaven liveneth the whole, which is just what we want.

However, the test has served at least one good purpose other than its primary object. It has fired youth with enthusiasm, with the result that we have speed kings punching up their speed on buzzers, etc.; and our latest indent for key contact renewals has been turned down as excessive.

The advent of summer time is always an important event with us, as the lighter evenings mean that we can get along with a good deal of work outside, and start to put into practice some of the precepts that have been pushed into our noddles during the dark evenings. Another sign of the times is the sight of a gang of navvies mooching round the place with hammers (R.E. sledge, 15 lbs.) and jumpers, looking for a spot which they can desecrate, and getting out quickly before the sports groundsman spots them. It is strange how the advent of spring affects certain people, and the Cable Troop are notoriously different from ordinary normal mortals.

Our friend Percy Simnett is evidently making his presence felt in the riding school, judging from the stage asides that one has heard from time to time, and the arguments as to the relative advantages of arnica, Zambuk and Sloan's.

Perhaps the acid test of the riding efficiency of the unit may be applied when they get out into Windsor Great Park on the well-fed and pampered horses of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards. It is one thing to control a mount when there are four walls and a roof all about you, but quite another thing when the springy turf is under foot, that Kruschen feeling pervading both mount and man, and miles of open park-land around. There are some fine jumps and wonderful ditches in Windsor Park, and all the horses know their way home perfectly. But there, I am anticipating.

The other outstanding feature of the past month was the very impromptu concert that took place at headquarters. The moving spirit was our little R.S.M., and his enthusiasm was well responded to. In addition to excellent vocal talent, both in song and recitation, we had a singularly good jazz band as well as instrumental soloists.

Besides the attractions already mentioned, we were favoured with a demonstration of the Charleston by one of our indiarubber men; the combination of knocking knees and Oxford bags simply passes all description.

But the star turn of the evening was the story-telling competition open to members of the permanent staff. For a while there was very little to choose between the R.S.M. and S.M. Willis, but the former began to draw ahead a little; and when S.M. Willis accidentally knocked over his pint, he was temporarily rendered speechless and threw up the sponge, withdrawing from the fight. Seldom has a finer battle been waged, and (leaving out the R.S.M.) I would back S.M. Willis against any other story-teller I know of.

It is hoped that this will prove the first of many similar smokers, as I think all who were present thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Our annual training will take place at the same spot as last year, namely, Windmill Hill, Tidworth; and with the knowledge of the ground acquired last year, we should be able to make the most of every minute. There is a persistent rumour that the authorities are considering placing Rum Row out of bounds. From slight events big things spring, and I have known of a general strike threatened for less—very much less. One thing seems sure: that had Rum Row been out of bounds last year, the sergeants' mess might have had some salt and pepper before they did. The waters of Lethe seem to have their fountain-head somewhere in Rum Row, which has been the grave of many good intentions.

Our congratulations to Sigmn J. Evans-James on his fine performances in the Territorial Army fencing championships. He gained second place (winning a silver cross) in the epee, and third place (bronze medal) in the foils. Well done, James! one better next time.

MONTY.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

It is with very great sorrow that we report the death, after a sudden illness, of Lieut Sidney Yates, of No. 1 Company. He was one of the older members of the unit who served with us during the war in Egypt and France. The loss of this very efficient and popular officer will be sincerely felt by all ranks.

## 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, London, S.W., April 9th.

**General.**—We thank the 1st Divl. Signals for their kind remarks in THE WIRE of April, and we sincerely trust that we shall have the opportunity of availing ourselves of their offer sooner than anticipated. From our past experience we know that we should have a warm welcome, such as all members of the Territorial Army receive whenever they come into touch with Regular Army members of the Corps. We can assure them that we appreciate this, probably more than they think.

We shall always be delighted to see members of the Corps at these headquarters whenever they may care to call, especially those of the 1st Divl. Signals, with whom we hope to come in contact in the very near future.

Now we are approaching the training season, we are starting to see larger parades.

**Retirement.**—We are sorry to state that we have lost our commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. W. F. Bruce, D.S.O., M.C. He has been with this unit since 1911, and has been in command since 1916, thus creating a record for retaining his command. All ranks wish him the very best of happiness and prosperity at all times, and hope that we may see him from time to time.

**Recruiting.**—We took part in the Fulham Civic Week in February last, and attended the special service held in the grounds of the Chelsea Football Club on the Sunday. Later we erected a recruiting stand at the exhibition which was held at the local baths. We displayed a 120-watt set and various photos of the unit at work.

Owing to the large number of dynamos in the building, we could not receive 2LO for reproduction on the loud speaker, so a D.3 telephone, hidden behind a curtain, was attached to the set and amplified to the loud speaker. An operator went behind the curtain and sent out Morse messages. In front we had a blackboard headed "News broadcast in Morse code from Fulham House." One of the P.S. stood alongside, and as the message was tapped out so he wrote it on the board. This caused large crowds to collect; so much so, that a policeman was employed to keep them moving.

Several civilians remarked on the clearness of the reception, and others asked various questions about it, but our P.S. were ready for all conundrums. We have since had a few recruits of a good type.

**Unit Dinner.**—The annual dinner was held at these headquarters on February 11th. We were sorry there were so many absentees. The dinner was a big improvement on previous years. After the tables had been cleared away an excellent entertainment was given by a professional concert party. Altogether a very pleasant evening and a well-organised show. Our heartiest thanks go out to members of the committee for their very fine efforts. Might I, however, offer a suggestion for future occasions: that a few more "community" songs would be appreciated.

**W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' Dinner.**—This was held at the usual haunt on March 5th. Again it was noticed that many members were missing. However, there was a fairly good attendance owing to the number of guests, among whom were several of the officers.

During the evening two presentations were made. The first was a handsome three-bottle cut glass tantalus, presented to the commanding officer on his retirement. In acknowledging the gift, Col. Bruce stated that on several occasions the n.c.o.s had tried to get him under the table, and he presumed that this was their parting effort. The second presentation was to ex-C.S.M. F. Gillin, one of our late P.S., on his retirement from the army, in the form of a very handsome gold demi-hunter watch.

After the usual speeches, the evening finished with a musical entertainment, at which R.S.M. Tich Adams (of the 54th E.A. Divl. Signals) gave two very well rendered cornet solos which were much applauded. Those responsible for the arrangements are to be highly complimented.

**Officers' Dinner and Dance.**—The second annual dinner and dance took place at the Criterion, Piccadilly. There was a very good attendance, the number being over sixty. During the evening a presentation was made to the commanding officer, on his retirement, of a lantern clock suitably engraved.

At the end of the dance several proceeded to the *Daily Telegraph* office and saw the paper go to press, each guest receiving a paper hot from the machine. Thus closed a very convivial gathering. The organisers are to be thanked, and we hope to have as good an evening next year.

**Casualties.**—We are sorry to hear that Sergt Bradbury is in Westminster Hospital, having undergone an operation for rupture. We sincerely hope he will soon get over it, and be with us in the very near future.

C.S.M. F. Marshall, of the P.S., to the Vocational Training Centre. We wish him the best of luck when he enters civvy street.

**Dance.**—A ball was held on St. Patrick's Night from 9 o'clock till 4 a.m. There was a record attendance. The committee are to be complimented on their artistic decorating of the hall, and also on their successful efforts in the general arrangements.

LEMJAY.

## 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds.

**Obituary.**—It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of ex-C.S.M. G. Lapping, after a sudden relapse whilst convalescing at Southport. He was laid to rest in Woodhouse Lane Cemetery. The funeral was of a semi-military nature (by request), being attended by the commanding officer, officers, and O.C.A. and serving members.

"Fayther," as he was generally called, was one of the most popular members of this unit, and his loss will be very keenly felt by all. The whole unit offer sincere sympathy to his wife and relatives in their sad bereavement.

The late C.S.M. G. Lapping.

The son of an old Dragoon Guard, ex-C.S.M. Lapping served with the old Volunteer Signals, and later with the Territorials for thirty-three years. An injury received during childhood prevented him from joining the Regular Army, but at the age of sixteen he joined the Volunteers as a sapper. Although he was above the age for active service when the great war broke out, he remained in the Service as a musketry instructor, being stationed first at Birmingham and later at Bedford. He held the Volunteer long service medal and the Territorial efficiency medal.

**Training.**—This is progressing very favourably, and all ranks are materially helping by their attendances and good work to bring the unit to a high standard of efficiency, upholding old traditions.



It is rumoured that No. 2 Company "and Jack's cup" will be adopted by their allotted Artillery Brigades during the camp period. The Sections concerned are busy making the necessary preparations.

**General.**—The unit held their last whist drive and dance on April 2nd, closing the winter festivities programme. It was the most successful of the series, being well patronised. Prizes were numerous, being the gifts of our commercial tradesmen, to whom we tender our appreciation and thanks. The committee who had the organisation in hand fully qualified for a free ticket to the dinner, but not a (Corp's tie).

The cross-country team journeyed to York and gained second place in the Northern Command (T.A.) run. We congratulate those who represented the 49th, and we are looking forward to being first in the next run.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The final concert was held on April 3rd, and was a fitting conclusion to the fortnightly smokers held during the winter months. Members of the staff of G. Bray and Co., Ltd., visited the mess for the purpose of competing against us in indoor games and froth-blowing, and the competition ended with even honours. The evening's sport was thoroughly appreciated by all, and we would gladly welcome another such visit to play off the rubber.

In the Nicolson billiard cup competition we are doing very well, having won four games out of six played to date. We trust that the cueists will follow Reece's latest achievement and master the anchor stroke.

**O.C.A.**—Hearty congratulations to Lady Simpson on winning a large pocket handkerchief at "whisting." We hope she will use it freely to wipe out her recent defeats in the noble game of dominoes.

The serving members would welcome a challenge for any games under Northern Union rules.

**Promotions.**—Heartiest congratulations to R.Q.M.S. J. Brown on his recent promotion.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt A. C. Storey and his cup from the Depot Battalion. A warm welcome is extended to him and his family.

## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Darlington)

Training has been continuing steadily since our last letter. A new innovation by the O.C. No. 1 Company (Newcastle) of a week-end camp for n.c.o.s only, out in the country, is being tried out during this month. We hope the results will be good.

Naturally, the annual camp is now being thought of. The following preliminaries have already been arranged for Companies, so we can make sure of having an excellent show at Ripon in June: Week-end camp for n.c.o.s only, No. 1 Coy., April 23rd and 24th. Week-end camp for all ranks, No. 3 Coy., May 14th and 15th. Week-end camp for all ranks, No. 1 Coy., May 21st and 22nd.

A regimental exercise for all officers, at the Imperial Hotel, Darlington, on Saturday and Sunday, May 28th and 29th, will conclude the preliminary pre-camp training for this year.

Note—The headquarters of this unit is moved temporarily to Fenham Barracks, Newcastle, until Friday, May 6th, for the annual spring regimental signalling course for 50th Division units.

### No. 1 (Gateshead-on-Tyne) Company.

**Training.**—This goes on apace, and we have already completed half of our pre-annual training. The Visual and Wireless Sections are making rapid strides towards the required standard of efficiency, and it is expected that now light nights have arrived, the Cable Section will be able to come into their own. The first riding school of the season was held on Monday night, April 11th, and riding is to be continued each drill night.

**Social Efforts.**—Very little in this line has been done during the last two months, but it is hoped to run at least one more dance before the season closes.

**N.C.O.s' Mess.**—Things are very quiet in the mess at present, but the writer has noticed one or two members getting prepared for "A.T.," and apparently in strict training with a view to supporting home industries. Some of the others have been caught in the act of airing their voices and learning little ditties to inflict upon us at camp.

G. H. S.

### No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

**Training.**—We are now very busy with early summer training, preparing for the forthcoming annual training, which takes place on June 19th at Ripon Camp, Yorkshire—a place very well known to a number of our readers. We are all eagerly looking forward to summer time commencing, so that we may get outdoors and down to work.

**Trade Test.**—There are a number of n.c.o.s and men at present under instruction for the forthcoming trade test. We wish them the best of luck, and hope they all pull through.

**Musketry.**—Next month will see us at Eston ranges for the annual musketry course. There should be very keen competition for the cup which is to be presented to the individual obtaining the highest aggregate at both the miniature and open ranges.

**Courses of Instruction.**—A course of instruction in signalling is being held at Newcastle from April 23rd to May 3rd, at which a few of the younger hands of the Company are attending. I am sure they will return brimming over with the knowledge acquired on this course.

A. C.

### No. 3 (Hull) Company.

**Training.**—This is now in full swing, and it is pleasing to note the good numbers attending. Tuesday and Wednesday nights are set apart for signallers, in addition to which drivers are at the riding school on Fridays.

The change over to Infantry Brigade Signal work will, it is believed, prove popular, and thanks to the interesting programme, we hope, by the time we depart to annual camp, to be able to put up a good show.

**N.C.O.s Lectures.**—These are still being continued, and are held each Sunday morning. The lectures are given by our permanent staff instructor, and cover the work that is to be carried out by the Company in this year's training.

**Week-End Camps.**—It is hoped to hold the first of these towards the middle of May. During last season's training, week-ends, besides attracting good numbers of n.c.o.s and men, proved highly successful from a training point of view.

**Musketry.**—Sunday, April 10th, will see J and K Sections at Hornsea, firing their annual musketry course. Dates for other Sections are being arranged.

**Social Side.**—The winter of 1926-27 has undoubtedly been the most successful "close season" we have yet experienced. Thanks to the efforts of our sports and entertainments committees, not a week has passed but there has been something to interest our serving members and their friends. Concerts and dances have been well attended, and have proved the means whereby it has been possible to hold the men together during the long winter months.

**Company Dances.**—The last of the season's dances proved an even greater success than was anticipated. The numbers attending were a record, and with an excellent orchestra, efficient m.c.s, and the distribution of special carnival novelties, the whole evening's entertainment was one that will long be remembered by those present.

Whilst on the subject of winter social items, it is pleasing to record the way in which several members of our Company have worked.

**Signals A.F.C.**—Though not having got amongst the medals, so to speak, the team have nevertheless played good football, winning a fair number of the matches played. Only two more remain to complete this season's fixtures, and with this in view I hope to record more of their doings in next month's notes.

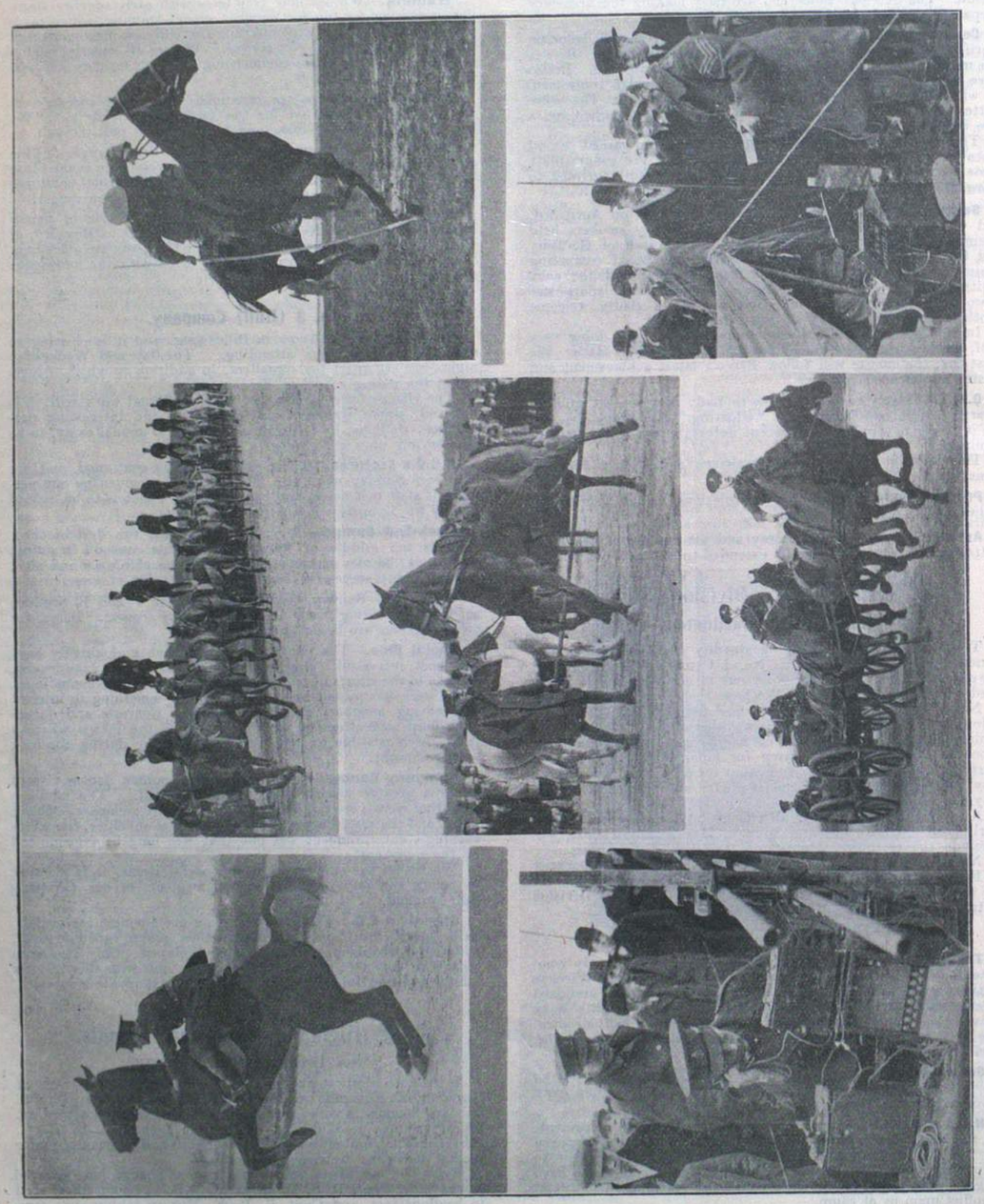
A. Q. Z.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Sigmn A. E. Edmonds on April 9th. He was buried with full military honours, a very large number of his comrades attending. Floral tributes in blue and white from Lieut.-Col. F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., and officers, permanent staff and sergeants, junior n.c.o.s and men, decorated the coffin.

Since our last notes were sent, a great change has occurred in the unit, Capt. D. S. P. Douglas, M.B.E., being transferred to headquarters, and Capt T. P. E. Murray taking over command of the Company. We take this opportunity of assuring



54th (E.A.) Divl Signals Demonstration on Wanstead Flats, Sunday, March 13th.



him of the unswerving loyalty of all ranks. We are sure his command will be a happy one.

Owing to business calls, C.Q.M.S. A. Milne has reverted to the ranks and been granted six months' leave. Sergt G. McRobb has been promoted to C.Q.M.S. Congratulations, Mac! Please don't ask *me* to "sign here" after all I've done you for.

The bounty has gone, and with it our expected recruits. Happily, Headquarters and No. 1 Company are up to strength; indeed, No. 1 is *over* strength—a fact which speaks volumes for the popularity of this Company. Enthusiasm runs very high, there being an average attendance of 80 per cent. on parade, and on special occasions we have a job in getting them all on the square—so many turn out. Kirkcaldy's anxious enquiry as to how the Aberdeen folks will stand the blow is answered. It doesn't need standing: that is the reason we have taken it so well (this is a pun).

Knowing how difficult it is to obtain civil employment in Aberdeen, we are sure that ex-Sergt Connor (late of the 1st Divl. Signals) feels most grateful to our commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Forsyth, for the help which resulted in such a good job being obtained for him.

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

The activities of the committee had a fitting climax in the whist drive and dance on March 11th, when we had as guests our commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Forsyth, Capt B. H. House (adjutant), and R.S.M. Andrews, M.B.E., and his wife. We trust they all enjoyed the maximum of pleasure. We know Mrs. Andrews did, because she walked away with one of the prizes (booby). Have you got your Easter egg yet, Mrs. Andrews?

Training is once again in full swing, and we are hopeful that during camp the fruits of our activities will be gathered.

We are all very grateful for the keen interest in the Company shown by our adjutant. His lecture was greatly appreciated, and for the next one we must have a full house!

### No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

This Company has fallen into sweet silence this month. I *have* heard that the correspondent died of grief when he was told the bounty was cut off. Try and get another, Harry; we do love to hear from the Fifers.

SMUDGE.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, April 14th.

The past month has been a busy one, but with little out of the ordinary.

Two very successful week-end courses were held on 12th/13th and 19th/20th March, when nearly three hundred men attended. The first was devoted to Company training, working from headquarters; but the second was carried out near Ely race-course, and comprised a small Signal scheme carried out by No. 3 Company, with No. 1's Cable Section providing the lines. It was an instructive week-end's work; and messages really do get through, even if they sometimes take their time about it!

Our C.O., second-in-command, and adjutant went down to Lulworth to see a demonstration by the Tank Corps, and seem to have come back convinced that a cable waggon is as good as a tank any day!

On the 21st inst., H.M. the King is visiting Cardiff, and the unit hopes to provide the bulk of the T.A. troops who will line the route, as well as the band which will parade with one of the infantry Guards of Honour.

There have been no changes in the personnel of the unit, but we hear rumours that we are shortly losing one of our oldest stalwarts in C.Q.M.S. W. Williams of No. 1 Company. If this is true, the unit as a whole will regret the departure of one who helped to build it up.

An item of great interest to T.A. Signals is the sanction to enlist up to thirty boys in each Divisional unit, for training as operators. As we have only twenty vacancies now, this means that if we take on the boys—as we shall do—there will be a 100 per cent. establishment by the end of the month.

Our annual administrative inspection by the G.O.C. Welsh Division having been carried out with very satisfactory results, the adjutant now appears much more light-hearted, and the P.S. instructors, thanks to a remark of the G.O.C.'s, have outgrown their caps and jackets.

**Wanted.**—A few more readers of THE WIRE. Apply to the R.S.M. at any favourable moment.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.
April 13th.

"Q" having been extremely busy this month, balancing ledgers, etc., there has not been much time to collect notes for this month's issue. Our regimental dance, held at Burghley Hall on March 15th, proved a most successful affair, and a very happy evening was spent. We regretted the absence of our commanding officer at this function, but business detained him elsewhere.

The march out on March 19th was also an interesting affair, and the unit showed itself in places where its existence was unknown. On return a Bohemian concert was held in the lecture room, and a pleasant evening was spent by the members of the unit, their wives, sweethearts and friends. Many thanks are due to C.S.M. Hooper and his committee for the very able manner in which this concert was arranged.

A few photos taken during the Sunday demonstration on Wanstead Flats are reproduced on the opposite page.

Training is proceeding smoothly under the Company officers, and our latest recruits are showing up very well. The offer made in January of extra recruiting awards has had a good effect, and we are well on the way to being up to strength. We must have broken the funds, as the awards will be withdrawn after the 26th inst. We shall now rely on esprit de corps for further recruits—and to "Wapping" with the filthy lucre.

Our boxers made a very good show at Colchester, about which more will be found in the Sports columns.

A good deal of disappointment has been felt in the unit owing to the publication of an order changing the site of our camp from Clacton to Brentwood. This has apparently been done for economy's sake. Still, the unit will make the best of it, and we feel sure that we shall have a pleasant time, weather permitting. Buses to town will be taboo.

R.S.M. Adams and R.Q.M.S. Sharp accompanied the boxing team to Colchester, and during the interval they nearly broke their necks—and lost their wind—in sprinting to the 4th Divl. Signals sergeants' mess in the hope of seeing one or two old faces. Result: mess closed, and no one at home. Where were you hiding, Kneebone? However, they were revived at the Leicesters' mess, and we hereby extend our hearty thanks to the R.S.M. and the caterer of that unit for their kind hospitality to the above w.o.s and also to the team.

**S.O.S.**—Sharp, Rhine: Let's hear from you. Sharp, Stratford.

Y. E. D.

### No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

Milton House, Station Road.

**General.**—The special classes of instruction finished on April 1st. Interest throughout was very keen, especially amongst the wireless personnel. The recruits, under Sergeants Brook and Maries, made good progress. All the lectures were well attended, and were made interesting by the O.C. Company and Lieut Lilley. Halfway through the course, a day scheme was held at Kenilworth Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea. This was on a Sunday,

and a happy crowd took part in the scheme. A better day could not be wished for; it was quite warm. This probably accounted for one or two strange faces. Ricko did quite a trade with the mobile canteen. This institution, of course, was the centre of attraction during the lunch hour.

Now that we have the extra hour of daylight, the visual class can flap a bit, and the W/T squad will be able to see what they are doing. The latter intend to find the valve that was lost in 1925, whilst the former are discussing the possibility of running a chain of stations to Australia. They are confident that if the stations are properly manned, messages could be transmitted just as rapidly as by the more modern wireless beam system. Who knows?

Sigmn W. G. Littlechild must be congratulated on winning the drill cup presented by Major W. V. Weber, D.L., for the highest number of drills performed during the 1926/27 season. It was a very near thing, however, for Littlechild, because Sigmn Rixon ran him very close indeed. The latter, I am told, will get a consolation prize in the shape of a "dog's leg."

**Social.**—A jolly evening was experienced at the Regal Hall on Friday, April 8th. Capt and Mrs. Bowling, Lieut Weber, Lieut and Mrs. Lilley, and Lieut Tweedie-Smith, were among those present. Under the chairmanship of C.S.M. Turner, the following items contributed towards the evening's enjoyment: Songs by the "Two Macs" (Messrs. Baldwin and Williams); monologue, "Spotty," by Mr. F. Pead; Mr. Harris and his dog; skit by Mr. Wybrow. There were many others, but space does not permit of a lengthy description. Suffice it that the audience fully appreciated their efforts.

Capt Bowling, O.C. Company, presented the cups and medals won by members of the Company, and each proud recipient was accorded warm appreciation. Capt Bowling mentioned in his speech that a few vacancies existed in the Company—vacancies which he hoped would soon be filled, now that something definite had been promised regarding a drill hall for the Company. Nevertheless, it is generally recognised that Signals are numerically the strongest Company in Southend, and we are sure that the gallant Captain would not have to *ask* for recruits had he a drill hall at his disposal.

After the prize distribution, dancing progressed until 11 o'clock. The M.C. (C.S.M. Leckie) saw that the dances were popular as well as numerous. There was not a dull moment.

Special mention must be made of the Post Office Engineers dance band, under the directorship of Mr. Pepper. We understand that this band has only just started accepting public engagements, but in view of their fine performance this evening, we are sure that they will soon have many calls upon their services.

DREITER.

## 56th Divisional Signals (T.A.) and S.R.

Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

It is a long time since notes from the 56th Divisionals appeared in THE WIRE; but although our scribe has been taking things easy, his comrades have not been idle.

Training is in full swing, and on all sides one hears talk of Don threes, chokes, and condensers, and many other gadgets which—but for their signal training—would have remained mysteries to members who probably follow occupations dealing with tins of apricots and jars of plum and apple jam, etc. It is hoped, however, that their keenness will not cause them to start measuring the capacity of jam jars in micro-farads.

Although having no long-faced friends of our own, we are fortunate in being able to obtain the use of riding schools on two evenings each week, and some good work is being done by our amateur jockeys. It is a peculiar fact that the recruits seem to love the horses less each week, and instead of cuddling them round the neck and whispering words of love (?) in their ears, they now assume an air of superiority and try to look as if they had never cuddled a horse in their lives.

**Social.**—Company dances have been held at headquarters three times a month (the last Saturday being reserved for the sergeants' mess), and much praise is due to the organisers of these highly successful functions.

Blue uniforms are being eagerly offered for sale, almost for the price of a decent cap-strap. The reason? Listen, comrades, and I'll tell you. During a mess dance a sergeant, resplendent in blue and gold, approached a damsel and asked for a dance. The fair one looked surprised, and murmured, "Oh! fancy them letting the attendants dance."

**Easter Training.**—The unit is proceeding to Aldershot for training, and we shall make the acquaintance of our Regular comrades of the 2nd Divl. Signals, to whom we are attached for training purposes.

We intend to make many new friends, in addition to meeting an old one—Sergt.-Major Purkis, to wit; and in view of our previous successful visits to Maresfield and Colchester, I am convinced that our short stay at Aldershot will prove very enjoyable and beneficial.

**Boxing.**—I am pleased to report that our advent into the 56th Division championships was quite a successful one. We had two entries, Sigmn Rokes (light-weight) and Sigmn Morris (fly-weight). Rokes could not do the weight, and was disqualified; but Morris won the fly-weight title handsomely, his longest journey being one-and-a-half rounds.

This is a good start, and our fighters are already looking forward to the next chance.

Will members who have any news of interest for insertion in THE WIRE please hand them to Sergt Boyes of No. 2 Company.

**Cricket.**—Members desiring to join the unit cricket club should get into touch with Corpl Hill of No. 1 Company.

## No. 3 Company, 2nd Corps Signals (S.R.)

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Major Roby and Lieut Bottomley wish to thank A Corps Signals and the R.A.M.C. Mess, Crookham Camp, for their kind hospitality. Their three weeks' stay was all too short, and they hope on the next visit they will be permitted to bring the whole of the Company!

## Correspondence.

Headquarters, G Divl. Signals,
Jubbulpore, March 4th.

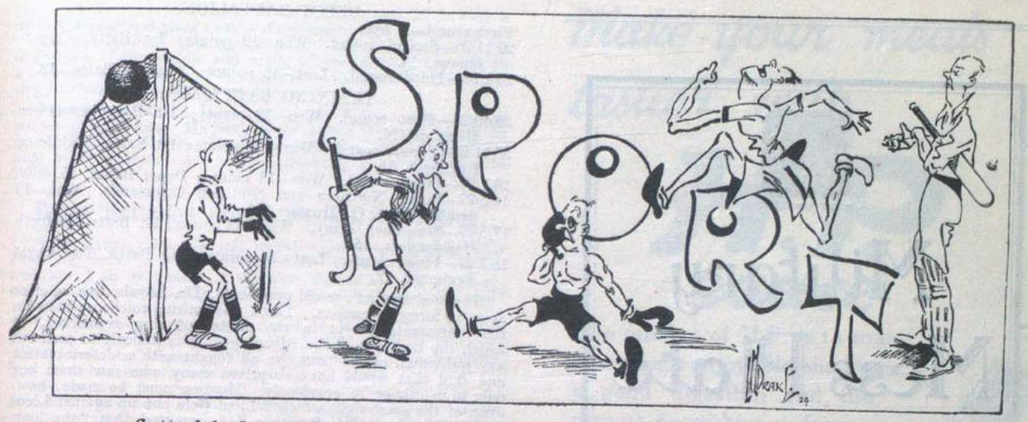
*To the Editor of* THE WIRE.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the article in your January issue on the Murree Brewery polo tournament held at Rawalpindi during the winter. While heartily endorsing the sentiment expressed in the last paragraph, I would venture to point out that the statement contained in the third paragraph is not quite correct.

In February, 1923, a polo team of officers of G Divl. Signals played in, and won, the Fagan cup tournament in Kohat. This cup was held by the unit for two years, but was unfortunately lost in the tournament of the winter of 1924-25.

A. D. M.






## Catterick Sports Notes.

As far as competitions are concerned the winter season is over, and we are now able to forward all results of leagues, etc. We feel certain that everyone will join in offering hearty congratulations to C Company on their well-deserved success in winning the Mackworth trophy. They are, we believe, the first Company ever to win the senior Association League and the Rugby League, to say nothing of the Association knock-out competition.

Actually, the competition for the Mackworth trophy this year has been just as close as is possible, C Company getting home from the School of Signals by one point only. The results are as follows:—

**Soccer Senior League.**

| | Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | Pts. | Points to Mackworth Trophy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C Company ... | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 | ... 12 |
| E Company ... | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | ... 10 |
| D Company ... | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | ... 8 |
| School ..... | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... 5 |
| F Company ... | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... 5 |
| A & B Coys. ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | ... 2 |

**Soccer Junior League.**

| | Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | Pts. | Mackworth Trophy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School ..... | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 | ... 12 |
| D Company ... | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | ... 10 |
| C Company ... | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | ... 8 |
| F Company ... | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | ... 6 |
| E Company ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | ... 4 |
| A & B Coys. ... | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | ... 2 |

**Hockey League.**

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Pts. | Mackworth Trophy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School ..... | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | ... 12 |
| D Company ... | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | ... 8 |
| E Company ... | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | ... 8 |
| F Company ... | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | ... 8 |
| A & B Coys. ... | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | ... 4 |
| C Company ... | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | ... 2 |

**Rugby League.**

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Pts. | Mackworth Trophy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C Company ... | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | ... 12 |
| School ..... | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | ... 10 |
| F Company ... | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | ... 8 |
| D Company ... | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | ... 6 |
| A & B Coys. ... | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | ... 4 |
| E Company ... | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | ... 2 |

**Soccer Knock-out.**

First round—C beat E by 2—0. D beat A and B by 3—2. F and School, byes.
Semi-finals—C beat D by 5—0. School beat F by 3—2.
Final—C beat School by 5—3, after extra time.

**Hockey Knock-out.**

First round—School beat E by 2—0. A and B beat D by 5—3. C and F, byes.
Semi-finals.—School beat A and B by 5—1. F beat C by 2—1.
Final—School of Signals a walk-over, F Company scratching.

**Mackworth Trophy.**

The final points and placings for the trophy are as follows:—1, C Coy., 75; 2, School, 74; 3, F Coy., 70; 4, D and E Coys., tie, 60; 5, A and B Coys., 32.

## Catterick Rugby Notes.

A very successful season has, alas! ended. Results alone do not convey the great strides rugger has made, as promising young players have often been put into the Signals (Catterick) and Battalion XVs., with the result that they have gained experience which will be of benefit to the Corps, to their future units, and to themselves.

Forty-five matches have been played by various XVs. Unfortunately, both matches v. Hartlepool Rovers were scratched owing to frost. The injury sustained by 2/Lieut Danby in November has been a great handicap, and the departure of Lieut Edis to China robbed us of a very good forward.

2/Lieut Thuillier has set a splendid example by his hard play in the pack. Lieut Owens and Sergt Squirrell have also proved themselves to be forwards a good deal above the average.

Sigmn Reeves at fly-half has on occasions played brilliantly. 2/Lieut Hardy has been the dangerous man in the three-quarter line, and has rarely failed to score at least one sensational try in each match. Sigmn Lawton has shown great improvement at full back, and next year we hope a "county" may come his way. The tackling of 2/Lieut Good has been excellent.

The following have all had an excellent season: Lieuts Milner, Hoblyn, Severen, Bastyan and Smyth, Corpl D. Jones, L/Corpl King, and Signalmen Cale, Atkinson and R. Barnett.

Young players who have shown great promise are Signalmen Sutherland, Smee, Hodgkinson, Stennings, Freeman, Taylor, Davies (D Company), Davies (School), and Boys Brice, Sadler, Sherwood, Brennon, Kelly, Broom, H. J. Jones, Kerr, Jenner, Vickery, Teal, Healy and Jenkins.

The Company League matches have produced some very good games. The last one to be played was between C and F Companies. This was a match of great importance, as if F (Boys') Company were successful, it meant that they would win not only the rugby shield, but also the Mackworth trophy. However, C Company were too heavy, and after one of the best games ever seen at Maresfield or Catterick, they scored a try in the last few minutes and so won the rugby shield.

## S.T.C. Boxing Notes.

The past season can be looked upon as a most successful one, both from the point of the boxing and the entertainment it provided for the crowded houses that it attracted.

**Army Team Competition.**—The record of the Depot and the Training Battalion teams is as follows:—

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DEPOT BATTALION.

First round—A bye.
29/11/26—Second round. Won—19 points; 1st Battn. Cameronians, 14.
18/1/27—Third round. Lost—15 points; Training Battn. 18.

TRAINING BATTALION.

26/10/26—First round. Won—18 points; 1st Battalion Green Howards, 14.
23/11/26—Second round. Won—17 points; 1st Battn. Middlesex Regiment, 16.
18/1/27—Third round. Won—18 points; Depot Battn. 15.
14/3/27—Final, Northern and Southern Commands. Won—19 points; 7th Q.O. Hussars, 14.
17/3/27—Semi-final, Army. Won—17 points; 1st Battn. Seaforth Highlanders, 16.
18/3/27—Final, Army. Lost—16 points; 2nd Battn. The Loyal Regiment, 17.

The final against our old opponents, The Loyals, was as close as on all former occasions. There was nothing to choose between the contestants except in the matter of ring experience, in which the Loyals held the advantage. It is difficult to pick out any individual of the team, as all fought with a determination and skill that would have surprised many who saw them box only a month or so previously. Mention must be made, however, of the great fight which 2/Lieut Cole put up against Lieut Paddy Schoales. The *Sporting Life* reported that "the loser gave the Army champion as hard a fight as he wanted"—and he did.

The names of our representatives this year are as follows: Bantam, Sigmn Fowler. Feather, Sigmn Govier. Light, Corpl R. P. Jones. Welter—1st, Sigmn Wheeler; 2nd, Sigmn Williams. Middle, L/Corpl Tapley and Sergt Payne. Light-heavy, Sigmn Rodda. Heavy, Sigmn Stuart. Officers' welter, Lieut Spencer and Lieut Keddie. Middle, Lieut Cole. Heavy, Lieut Pargeter and Lieut Campbell. Reserves—Light, Sigmn Ryan; feather, Boy Brice.

**Novices' Competition.**—Held on 7th, 8th, and 9th December, 1926. Results: Bantam, Boy Brice (F Coy.) beat Boy Hardy (F). Feather, Sigmn Tavender (D) beat Boy Fraser (F). Light, Sigmn Walton (D) beat Boy Berry (F). Welter, Sigmn Morris (D) beat Dvr O'Neill (C). Middle, Sigmn Cooke (C) beat Sigmn Holme (D).

**Team Match.**—Held in aid of the Y.M.C.A. Movement on November 4th, 1926. The Training Battalion beat the Depot Battalion in this match.

**S.T.C. Championship.**—Arranged for February 15th, this had to be abandoned owing to lack of entries—due, no doubt, to the fact that certain boxers in the S.T.C. were far above the average of the majority. A series of contests was, however, put on, and the following were nominated S.T.C. champions for 1927: Bantam, Sigmn Fowler (T.B.). Feather, Sigmn Govier (T.B.). Light, Corpl Jones (T.B.). Welter, Sigmn Wheeler (T.B.). Middle, L/Corpl Howard (D.B.). Light-heavy, Sigmn Rodda (T.B.). Heavy, Sigmn Stuart (T.B.). No fly-weight was awarded.

**Royal Signals Championships, 1927.**—Held on 1st and 2nd March. The expense of the journey to Catterick kept away a number of would-be entrants. It was a pleasure to see representatives from Bulford, Aldershot, Colchester and Newcastle; and a further pleasure to see that they didn't all go away empty-handed. An officers' championship was started this year, and they put up some of the best bouts on both evenings. Results:

Officers—Feather, 2/Lieut Tucker, walk over. Middle, 2/Lt. Cole. Heavy, 2/Lieut Hyde. Welter, 2/Lieut Seely.

Other Ranks—Bantam, Sigmn Fowler (E Coy.). Feather, Sigmn Govier (D). Light, Corpl Jones (F). Welter, Signalman Wheeler (E). Middle, L/Corpl Howard (C). Light-heavy, Dvr Emblem (1st Divl. Signals). Heavy, Sigmn Stuart (D). Two best losers: Sigmn Pope (No. 1 A.F.A. Section, Newcastle), and Sigmn Charles (3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford).

**Individual Performances.**—Cpl R. P. Jones had the honour of representing the Services on a boxing tour in Scandinavia in January of this year. He won this year's Army and I.S.B.A. championships, and represented the Services in the amateur championships.

Sigmn Rodda won the Northern Counties A.B.A., Army and I.S.B.A. light-heavy weight championships. He also represented the Services in the A.B.A. championships. His success is all the more meritorious when it is remembered that he is only a middle-weight and gives away a stone weight each time he fights.

L/Corpl Howard and Sigmn Stuart both lost in the Army semi-finals of the middle and heavy-weights respectively. With a little more experience, they ought to bring two more championships to the Corps next year.

**Departures.**—Corpl Jones has left the S.T.C., and our good wishes go with him. He has greatly helped the cause of boxing in the S.T.C. Always cheerful in the grind of getting fit, he kept others cheerful, and lent a helping hand to others not so skilful.

## Depot Battalion (Royal Signals) Rifle Club.

The absence of notes last month need cause no fear that there has been "a regrettable incident" on the range. On the contrary, I am very much in evidence, full of the joy of spring, with an eye as clear as the "cold grey dawn of the morning after"—and now to business.

The inter-Company League closed on March 31st, resulting as follows: 1st, B Company (aggregate 2982); 2nd, C Company (2974); 3rd, A Company (2932); 4th, School of Signals (2841); 5th, Attached personnel School of Signals (2650).

We entered the National team championships held by the S.M.R.C., and beat Torquay Town in the first round. In the second round we met a team from New Malden, but the result of this match is not yet to hand.

Entries have been forwarded for the Yorkshire Summer League, but shooting has not yet commenced.

Seven aspirants have entered for the Queen Alexandra's cup, the first stage of which is due to be fired almost immediately.

Next month I hope to be able to give the result of an elimination shoot to decide on a Battalion team of eight to be put into training for outside competitions.

## B Company, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Football.**—A and B Companies had rather hard luck against D Company in the knock-out, losing by the narrow margin of 2—1 after a very hard and exciting game. Sigmn Hadfield had the misfortune to sustain a fractured ankle during the latter portion of the game.

## C Company, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Football.**—Having won the inter-Company League, we have further added to our honours by winning the inter-Company knock-out cup. In the preliminary rounds we beat E Company by 2—0 and D Company by 5—0. We met the School in the final, and defeated them by 5—3 after playing extra time. It

was a very interesting game, and the defence must be complimented on their fine display. This is a real good wind-up to the football season, and the team have done extraordinarily well. Well done, C team! These players have functioned in nearly all the matches.

**Hockey.**—In the hockey knock-out, F Company proved rather too good for us, and beat us by 1—0. This has been our weakest winter sport.



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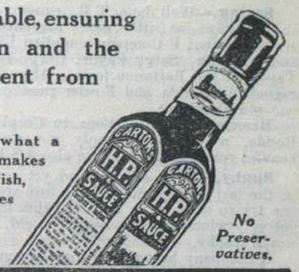


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**Rugby.**—Still more honours! By beating F Company by three points to nil, we won the inter-Company rugby shield. In this match we saw quite a lot of old hands, whom we thought had retired from the rugger field, turn out and play a very hard game. We congratulate the losers on the very fine display they put up.

**Track Events and Swimming.**—Everyone is satisfied with the result of the winter sports. It is to be hoped that we will all do a little towards building up a good athletic team for the track, and support the swimming as much as we can. We shall then, in all probability, be able to record still further honours.

## F (Boys) Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

**Cross-Country.**—We congratulate the T.B. team on finishing fifth in the Army cross-country, and especially Sigmn Broadley and L/Corpl Ayres on being fourth and tenth respectively.

F Company managed to win the S.T.C. cross-country championships again, for the fourth season in succession—but this year, only after a hard struggle with C Company.

**Boxing.**—Well done, T.B., runners-up in the Army championship! Only one little point prevented us from winning. We are proud that F Company supplied Lieut Keddie, 2/Lieuts Cole and Pargeter, Sergt Payne, Corpl R. P. Jones, and L/Corpl Tapley of the Battalion team. Also, we have not forgotten that Signalmen Rodda and Fowler (now of E Company) are two of our old stand-bys.

Heartiest congratulations to Corpl R. P. Jones and Sigmn Rodda, who have not only won the Army lights and light-heavies respectively, but are also I.S.B.A. champions.

**Rugby.**—Alas, so near and yet so far! We played C Coy. in the last league match, and lost after a magnificent game by one try to nil. If we had won this match we should have been not only winners of the rugger shield, but holders of the Mackworth trophy.

C Company brought up their big guns for the match, and the "resurrected" Lieut Knowles, Sergt Goodman and Sergt Hoare just turned the scale against us. The match was fought out before a large number of spectators—a clean but very hard sporting game, in which quarter was neither asked nor given. We are convinced that, next morning, certain forwards on both sides realised that there *had* been a game of rugger the day before!

There was no fluke about C Company's victory: they were just the better side, and we congratulate them heartily on winning the rugger shield.

**Hockey.**—We managed to beat C Company by one goal to nil in the hockey knock-out. The game was very even. Lieut Boyd passed to Major Cobb, and the latter scored just before time.

**Soccer.**—We are not saying much about our record in the two soccer leagues. In the knock-out, the School of Signals beat us by 3—2 after a really good game.

**Racing.**—F Company now has a real live race-horse! Our O.C. (Major F. R. Cobb) bought a two-year-old named "Can Louis." He is by St. Louis (winner of the Two Thousand and Grand Prix, and fourth in the Derby when starting favourite) out of Canella, daughter of Steadfast. So he has priceless people!

He runs at Stockton and Thirsk during April, and we wish him the best of luck. The owner says he'll want it! Can Louis win? Ah, that is our secret.

## No. 2 Co. 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Our record of winter sports leaves little to be desired. Results are as follows:—

**Hockey.**—We beat No. 1 Company twice, and we beat No. 3 Company once and drew once, thus winning the hockey cup.

**Rugby.**—We beat No. 1 Company twice, and beat No. 3 Company once, but lost once. We therefore gained another cup.

**Football.**—We have played four games, winning three and losing one. We lost to No. 3 Company for the first time; but in spite of losing our right wing at one blow, we were able to beat them in the second match.

**Cross-Country Running.**—Again No. 2 Company were on top, the placings being as follows:—1st, No. 2 Company, 100 points; 2nd, No. 3, 289; 3rd, No. 1, 368.

Sigmn Turner, of No. 2 Company, was first man home, and the twelve men to count cantered home among the first fifteen.

This, with the boxing, counts 14½ out of a possible 15 points towards the trophy.

## Rhine Signal Units.

League football having been completed, we find our final league position seventh from top out of fourteen clubs. This is very good considering the start we made, and if only we had won the last game of the season, it would have made a two-place difference.

In the Rhine Army football cup we were beaten by 2—0 by the Worcesters, on their ground, after making a plucky fight.

The inter-Section football shield competition still continues. The finalists—who have already played one match which resulted in a draw of 1—1,—are the 19th Brigade Section and Nos. 1 and 3 Sections. Another attempt will be made in a week's time. We extend our sympathy to Nos. 1 and 3 Sections in their bad luck last time, as all through the second half they were simply "shooting in."

The Rhine Army athletic meeting is due on July 22nd and 23rd, and Rhine Signals covet the haunted cup. It will mean that training will have to be started in camp, but that will help to pass the idle evenings.

The units carried off the "B" League cross-country cup, winning easily with 32 points—the minimum being 28. The first six men home out of a possible seven testifies to the abilities of the team. The whole team were awarded a unit Jimmy, and rightly they earned it. Rhine Signals are now the proud possessors of the 1923, 1924, 1926 and 1927 Rhine Army cross-country cups.

At rugby we were knocked out of the cup by the Royal Berks Regt., the holders, and winners again this year; but this makes us all the more keen for next year. We appreciate the kind letter from the R.A. rugby secretary on our gallant fight against such odds.

We have now turned our attention towards cricket, having entered for the knock-out cup. Owing to the scarcity of grounds, no league will be run.

## S.T.C. and Depot (India), Jubbulpore.

**Boxing.**—This provided the main attraction of the month in the finals of the Central Provinces championships, which were held at Jubbulpore. Through a misunderstanding as to rules of entry we were not represented, though we had some good men available.

The matches provided three evenings' entertainment. The bout between Pipe-Major Bendy, Highland Light Infantry, and Pte Huggins, Hampshires (our neighbours), was the cause of much anticipation and excitement. The latter won in the third round, after much hard hitting on both sides.

**Football.**—Hampshires beat A Company, S.T.C., by 2—0.

**Hockey.**—A Company drew with the Rajput Rifles, there being no scoring. A Company lost to Christchurch by 5—2.

**Cricket.**—S.T.C. (160 for nine wickets) defeated the Jubbulpore Gymkhana (82).

**Inter-Platoon.**—In addition to the league games, we have had two evenings devoted to field events during the month. Some amusement was provided by novices trying to break records with the discus and shot.

Next month the league tables will be forwarded.

## E Divis'onal Signals, Meerut.

**Sport.**—A number of games have been played between the members of the sergeants' and the corporals' messes. They were quite enjoyable, and so far have resulted in a majority for the corporal.

Football—sergeants 2 goals; corporals 1.
Hockey—sergeants 1 goal; corporals 3.
Tennis—sergeants 7 sets; corporals 9.
Football—sergeants 1 goal; corporals 4.
Tennis—sergeants 10 sets; corporals 6.

The annual eleven-a-side tournaments are now in full swing, and the hard working finalists will soon have a medal to add to their trophies.

**Boxing.**—The Meerut District annual boxing competition was held on February 24th, and the unit entered a team. The competition was won by the 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regt. with 30 points; the Royal Scots Greys were second with 29; and the unit was third with 27. Some good fights were witnessed, and in view of the good show put up by the team (the first to be entered by the unit in a boxing competition in Meerut) we must congratulate the members on the hard and careful training they put in for the honour of the unit.

Corpl Mitchell—light-heavy runner-up cup.
Sigmn Powell—welter-weight runner-up cup.
Sigmn Cleary—light-weight runner-up cup.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The mess cups have now been competed for, and the results were:—

Tennis—Sergt Fair (A.E.C.).
Billiards—Sergt Wheeler; runner-up, Sergt Richardson.
Shooting—Miniature cup, C.S.M. Rendall. Medal, runner-up, C.Q.M.S. Hall. Medals—200 yds. C.Q.M.S. Hyson; 300 yds. L/Sergt Kelsey; 300 yds. (rapid), C.S.M. Rendall; 400 yds. C.S.M. Eldridge.

C.Q.M.S. Hall and L/Sergt Pinkstone tied as runner-up, and in the deciding shoot (400 yds.) C.Q.M.S. Hall won.



## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

**Hockey.**—Lahore District Eliminating Rounds. Cavalry Signals v. The 4/7th Dragoon Guards. Our team came up to its usual competition standard, and we won by 4—0. Corporal Bryant managed the hat trick, and L/Sergt Standen brought the score up to four. Our team now goes to Lahore, and we have every hope of announcing further successes.

**Football.**—Lahore District Eliminating Rounds. Cavalry Signals v. 4/7th Dragoon Guards. Football is not our strong point, and we lost by 5—0.

**Hockey.**—Wireless Section v. Visual Section. The points for this match, won by the Visual Section (5—2), counted towards the Section cup.

Cavalry Signals v. Sappers and Miners (33rd Field Troop)—The Sappers won by 4—1.

Cavalry Signals v. The Rest—The Troop team won by 5—1.

**Football.**—Wireless Section v. Visual Section. This match also counted towards the Section cup. The Visual Section won easily.

Cavalry Signals v. R.A.M.C.—We had no difficulty here, winning by 6—1.

Cavalry Signals v. The D.L.I.—The Durhams' regimental team having gone to China, we won this by 4—0.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Football.**—Alas and alack! although we defeated the 3rd Hussars in the second round of the Command cup and passed into the semi-final, we were unable to defeat the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots. It was pure bad luck. We thank the team for adding twelve points towards the best-all-round unit cup.

Hearty congratulations to Sigmn (Farr.) Terry, who has brought added laurels to the Corps. He was selected to play outside left for the Army, and delighted the committee by scoring a goal. He was then placed in the same position in the inter-Services team against the whole of Egypt, and scored twice.

**Boxing.**—We were once more unlucky in bumping up against the R.I.F. in the first round of the Command team championship. They proved the better team, only two verdicts being in our favour. Sergt Wheeler handed out the "haymaker" in the first round of his fight, and Sigmn Richmond won on points.

Sergt Wheeler was due to fight Pte Butler (S.L.I.) in a special contest at the conclusion of the Command team finals, but the latter was unable to appear, much to the disappointment of all. Sergt Wheeler appears to be very much annoyed because nobody will fight him, "middles to heavies," and we would not be surprised if he gets below middles just to liven up the proceedings.

At the same meeting, Sigmn Richmond lost on points to L.A.C. Williams (R.A.F.) in a special contest, but was not up to his usual form.

We would like to congratulate the Corps in England on their splendid performance in the team championships. That odd point again—hard lines!

Congratulations to Sigmn Rodda and L/Corpl Jones on winning an Army championship. Well done, Signals!

**Tennis.**—The team events for the 1927–28 season have commenced, and the R.A.M.C. put us out in the first round.

## No. 11 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Sports.**—On Thursday, March 24th, we blossomed forth with our annual athletic meeting, which was quite a successful show. With the addition of the new talent found, and creditable performances by the old hands, we are optimistically looking forward to the Signals' colours being in prominence at the Command athletic meeting; and all efforts are now concentrated on the best all-round competition shield. The full results of the events are as follows:—

100 yards—1, Corpl Rushworth (3); 2, Sergt Barnham (H.Q.); 3, L/Corpl Dunn (2).
220 yards—1, Corpl Rushworth (3); 2, Sergt Barnham (H.Q.); 3, L/Corpl Dunn (2).
440 yards—1, Lieut Kennett (1); 2, Corpl Rushworth (3); 3, L/Corpl Dunn (2).
880 yards—1, Lieut Kennett (1); 2, L/Corpl Soloman (H.Q.); 3, Sigmn Andrews (3).
One mile—1, Dvr Stillwell (B); 2, Sigmn Andrews (3); 3, Sigmn Chambers (3).
Three miles—1, L/Corpl Soloman (H.Q.); 2, Dvr Stillwell (B); 3, Sigmn Andrews (3).
High jump—1, Sigmn Passant (1); 2, Sigmn Perry (2); 3, Sigmn Adams (B).
Long jump—1, Sigmn Connaughton (1); 2, Corpl Udell (B); 3, Sigmn Perry (2).
Putting the shot—1, Sigmn Connaughton (1); 2, Sigmn Adams (B); 3, Sigmn Poole (3).
Hurdles—1, Sigmn Connaughton (1); 2, Sigmn King (B); 3, Sigmn Brice (3).
Inter-section relay—1, No. 3 Section; 2, Nos. 1 and 2 Sections; 3, H.Q. Section; 4, B Cable Section.
Inter-section tug-of-war—Nos. 1 and 2 Sections beat Headquarters; No. 3 Section beat Cable Section. Final, No. 3 Section beat Nos. 1 and 2 Sections.
Section athletic championship—Nos. 1 and 2 Sections, 36 points; No. 3 Section, 31; B Cable Section, 17; Headquarters Section, 16.

The position of the inter-section competition is now as follows, and competition is quite keen for the ultimate championship.

| | H.Q. | Nos. 1 & 2 | No. 3 | B Cable |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swimming | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Water Polo | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Cricket | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Musketry | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Boxing | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Hockey | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Football | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Cross-Country | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Athletics | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Totals | 18 | 26 | 20 | 26 |

**Football**—By the time these notes appear in print we shall have done our best to oust the 6th Pack Brigade R.A. from the Command small units championship, as we meet them at Helmieh in the second round on the 11th April. Although we were knocked out of the C. of E. cup, we are holding our own in this competition, as will be seen from the following results:—Games played, 10; won 9; lost 0; drawn 1. Goals—for 60; against 12. 19 points.

We sympathise with No. 3 Company in being knocked out at the first hurdle, but will endeavour to avenge their defeat by winning this cup, as the C. of E. cup appears very lonely in the mess, to say nothing of the jubilation of filling it.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—The Company football team scored a splendid victory in the final of the Church of England Institute football competition. This match was played on the Slade ground at Abbassia, in the presence of a large crowd of spectators, Signals supporters being very much in evidence. The number of teams who entered the first round was about forty, and our opponents in the final were K Battery R.H.A. Last year we reached the final, but lost to a team of the K.O.S.B.'s.

The game, which was a very exciting one, ended in a win for us by two goals to one. The fine challenge cup, presented immediately after the conclusion of the game, is one of the largest trophies presented for competition in Egypt. Possibly

I can convey some idea of its size by stating that its holding capacity is eighteen pints (without froth); and this was proved to the satisfaction of the team and supporters in the canteen the same evening—there being no lack of volunteers to fill up the cup.

**Athletics.**—On the occasion of the annual cross-country race organised by the Amateurs' Athletic Club of Alexandria, Sigmn Beeton unfortunately went off the course when only two miles from the end of the 8½ mile journey. He was running with two others at the time, and these three were over a quarter-mile ahead of the field of eighty-seven competitors. Sigmn Beeton was the holder of this event, having won it in 1925 and in 1926.

At the Military Police Command sports at Heliopolis on March 31st, the Corps relay team finished fourth in a field of fourteen teams. Sigmn Beeton won the open mile race and the open 3½ miles the same afternoon.

When the Maspero Freres Cigarette Company's sports were held at Gezira on April 4th, Sigmn Elliott created a big surprise by the easy manner in which he won the 400 metres from a field of about a dozen runners, mostly Egyptians and Greeks. He took the lead at the start and, running strongly, held it to the end. In the open 1500 metres event, Sigmn Beeton was the individual winner, leaving his field in the last 220 yards.

The Company sports meeting took place during the past month, and very good entries were received for the various events. Two or three very promising novices were discovered, and it is to be hoped they will train on with a view to being included in the Corps team to compete in the Command championships next month. Detailed results are as follows:—

100 yards—1, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 2, Sergt Wheeler; 3, Sigmn Holman.
220 yards—1, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 2, Sergt Wheeler; 3, Corpl Guile.
440 yards—1, Sigmn Holman; 2, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 3, Sigmn Elliott.
880 yards—1, Sigmn Beeton; 2, Sigmn Milsom; 3, L/Corporal Backhouse.
One mile—1, Sigmn Beeton; 2, L/Corpl Backhouse; 3, Sigmn McBain.
Three miles—1, Sigmn Silverstone; 2, Sigmn Milsom; 3, Sigmn Bazley.
High jump—1, Sigmn O'Donnell; 2, Sigmn Brooker; 3, Driver Cheal.
Long jump—1, Sigmn Harmsworth; 2, Sigmn Elliott; 3, Dvr Hemings.
Putting the shot—1, Sergt Wheeler; 2, Sigmn Harmsworth; 3, Sigmn R. Brown.
Hurdles—1, L/Cpl Gratwicke; 2, Sigmn Goble; 3, Sigmn Miller.

The sprint races were notable for the absence of L/Corporal Matthews, who is in hospital with a badly injured knee, received whilst playing football. It is very doubtful whether he will be out in time to assist the Corps team in the sprint races at the Command championships.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Boxing.**—The finals of the young soldiers' boxing championships were held in the Garrison gymnasium, Colchester, on March 18th. A team of five competitors, representing the T.A. of the county of Essex, fought a team representing the Colchester Garrison.

A challenge cup was presented by the Essex T.A. Association to the team scoring the highest number of points. This was won by the Regulars, they winning four of the five fights.

Four members of this unit, who worked their way into the finals, together with a sapper from the 309th A.A. S/L Company R.E., represented the T.A.

Sigmn Sawford (Southend Company) won his fight, and was presented with a silver cup. Signalmen McCall, Langley and Bates were presented with gold medals as runners-up. The above are heartily congratulated on their splendid show, and the great credit they have brought to the unit.

About ten more fights were put up between a team of the Colchester Police Force and a team representing the Colchester Garrison, other than young soldiers. We were very pleased to see the 4th Divl. Signals represented in this team.

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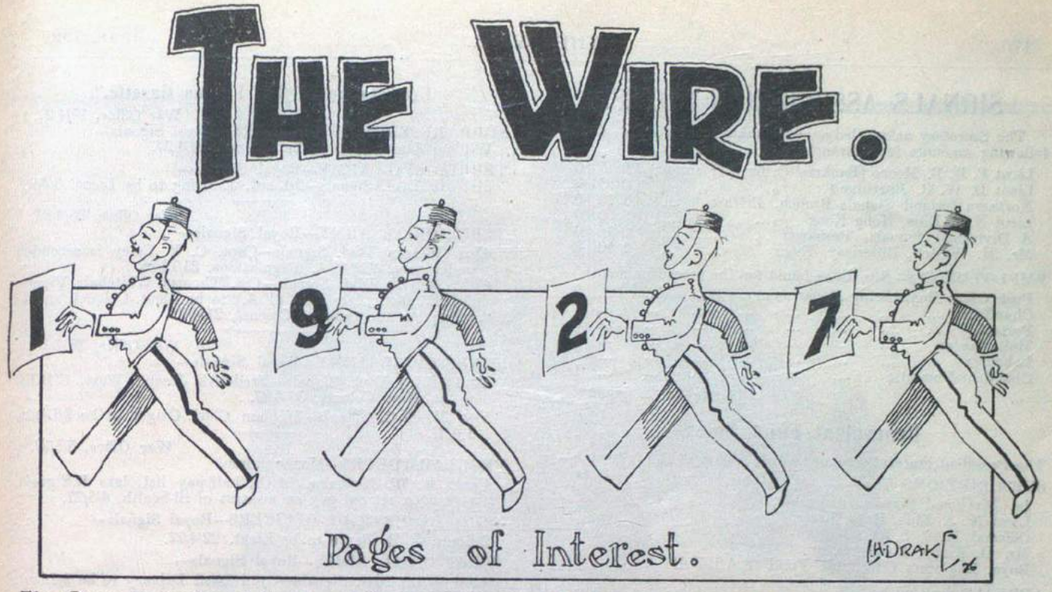


*The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.*

SECRETARY AND EDITOR: Mr. W. BUTLER, Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.6, to whom all Subscriptions and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. VIII.—No. 88 JUNE, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE

## Editorial Notes.

In response to the many enquiries concerning the publication of a revised edition of the Corps Promotion Roster, it is notified for general information that the compilation of this publication will be undertaken as soon as possible, but that owing to unforeseen circumstances, it cannot be contemplated at the moment.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are able to publish in this issue the first of a series of interesting unit notes and illustrations from Shanghai Defence Force Signals. In conveying our salutations to the unit in question, may we take this opportunity of wishing them all the best of good fortune during their stay in the Orient, and of assuring them that news of their activities is eagerly anticipated by our large family of readers.

Whilst on the subject, may we convey the warm appreciation of the unit concerned to those who were instrumental in giving them such a rousing "send off" when they left Colchester. We learn that the band of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment not only played them to the station, but also entertained them with dance music for two hours whilst they were waiting to entrain. Royal Signals with the Shanghai Defence Force send their cordial greetings to the band in question, and hope that they may be available to welcome the unit home again with the same familiar melodies.

❀ ❀ ❀

Numerous letters have been received at this office, asking for further information concerning emigration to Canada. Will those interested kindly communicate direct with the Director, Canadian Official Press Bureau, 9 John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2, from whom full information will be received upon application.

❀ ❀ ❀

In the April issue of our Corps Journal, we published a list of Association Branch Representatives. Particulars of the Colchester Branch were inadvertently omitted, and should be included to read as follows:—

Corpl F. S. Andrews, R.Signals, 4th Divl. Signals, Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

❀ ❀ ❀

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS TIES.—It is notified for general information that double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can now be obtained on application to this office. Price 2s. 6d. (postage 2d. extra).

EDITOR.

# SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts from Branches, etc. :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lieut F. R. B. Moore (Bankers' Order, per annum) | £0 | 5 | 0 |
| Lieut D. W. R. Burridge ( " " ) | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Northern Ireland Signals Branch, Belfast ... | 1 | 10 | 9 |
| Lieut N. S. Ellis, Hong Kong ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| A Divisional Signals, Peshawar ... ... ... | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Mr. H. Weston, Billericay, Essex ... ... | 1 | 10 | 0 |

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Post Office Engineering Department ... ... ... | 9 |
| Chauffeur ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Porters ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Hall Porter ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Labourer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Chauffeur-Domestic ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

SUBSCRIPTIONS from—

1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Lieut N 3. Ellis, Hong Kong.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C.
Mr. D. Kirby, Rochester.
Royal Engineers Charitable Fund (S.A.B/214)

APPEALS dealt with :—

1—Sergeant, Royal Signals, in domestic difficulties. £5 loan from funds (S.A.B./238)
2—Mother of ex-Signalman, latter recently deceased. £3 allocated from funds.
3—Ex-Signalman, Colchester, in domestic difficulties. £2 from funds (still under consideration) (S.A.B/240)
4—By G Divl. Signals, Jubbulpore, India :—Ex-Signalman, unemployed owing to failure of A.C.B. India. 50 rupees allocated from Branch funds.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Lt.-Col. T. H. L. Spaight, D.S.O., from Colchester to Chester.
Lieut. J. H. Brown, from India to Catterick.
Lieut. M. Duncan, from Colchester to Shanghai Def. Force.
Lieuts. D. C. P. Hall, C. C. Danby, E. S. Cole, H. A. C. Stallon, and A. S. Milner, from Catterick to Aldershot.
Lieut. J. Vickers from Catterick to Bulford.

## Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 19/4/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
William James Hall to be 2/Lieut. 20/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
51st (H) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut. J. Laing to be Lieut. 8/4/27.

War Office, 26/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals—Capt. C. F. Coley is seconded under para. 137 T.A. Regulations, 23/12/26.
47th (2nd L.) Divl. Signals—Col. Thomas Whitehair Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., late R.E. (T.A.) to be Lieut.-Colonel, and to relinquish the rank of Colonel, 21/4/27.

War Office, 29/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—Frederick Joseph West, C.B.E., to be Hon. Colonel, 30/4/27.
51st (H) Divl. Signals—William Clark Grigor to be 2/Lieut. 1/4/27.

War Office, 3/5/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Memorandum.
Capt. R. W. Newman, M.C., half-pay list, late R.Signals, retires on retired pay on account of ill-health, 4/5/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut. J. R. Beard to be Lieut. 22/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—Cyril Basil Delaney to be 2/Lieut. 4/5/27.
51st (H) Divl. Signals—Ross Robertson Cowie to be 2/Lieut. 29/3/27.
56th (1st L.) Divl. Signals—Lieut. M. F. W. Dawson, late Service Bns. Northumberland Fusiliers, to be 2/Lieut. and relinquishes the rank of Lieut. 8/3/27.
26th (London) A.A. Signal Co.—Edward Boggis to be 2/Lieut. 4/5/27.

War Office, 6/5/27.

REG. ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut. R. J. Reese resigns his commission, 19/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
55th (W.L.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut H. G. P. Taylor to be Lieut. 23/2/27.

War Office, 10/5/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains and remain seconded 10/5/27, with seniority 28/6/20 :—
W. H. G. Rogers and J. F. Charlesworth.
Such seniority not to count for Army seniority, p. and a. increase of pay or retired pay.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—**

2307802 Hyson, H. 1/1/27
2306331 Goldman, C. 15/1/27

**To be Sergeant—**

1857466 Hawley, A. 17/9/26
2311694 Laing, J. 2/10/26
2306425 Colley, A. 11/11/26
2306646 Fleet, W. 3/12/26

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**

1858869 Carney, A. 18/11/26
2306663 Wheeler, E. 3/12/26
2307983 Duggan, J. 16/12/26
2310350 Brett, L. 23/1/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**

1854108 Hunt, R. 3/12/26
2311220 Weeks, W. 3/12/26
1856960 Lister, J. 3/12/26
1857189 Swaine, J. 3/12/26
1859106 Philpott, V. 15/12/26
1850421 Patheyjohns, C. 16/12/26
2307607 Green, G. 18/1/27
2311404 Bland, R. 21/1/27
2306412 Barlow, R. 23/1/27
2308821 Lannigan, T. 1/2/27
1417130 Vignaux, S. 1/2/27

**To be Corporal—**

2313898 Holmes, W. 16/8/26
2310676 Thorne, G. 20/9/26
1849706 Williams, L. 1/10/26
2315014 Manning, J. 1/10/26
2314280 Fox, R. 1/10/26
2312989 Church, W. 2/10/26
394244 Betts, W. 29/11/26
2312080 Pattenden, A. 18/1/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**

2314903 Butler, W. 3/12/26
2310689 Emblem, R. 3/12/26
2312070 Dellor, H. 16/12/26
2314631 Humphrey, L. 16/12/26
31227 Handford, J. 16/12/26
2314992 Wales, A. 18/1/27
7807408 Barrett, A. 20/2/27

### Transfers to Army Reserve.

1662353 Corpl W. Elphick, 1/4/27
3437561 Corpl W. Cogswell, 5/4/27
2311026 Corpl A. Hann, 13/4/27
2311341 Corpl E. Margrain. 16/4/27
2311265 Corpl E. Lingham, 16/4/27
2311433 Corpl E. Smith, 18/4/27
2312288 Corpl D. Fullerton, 18/4/27

### Discharges.

2313852 Corpl T. Mansfield, 24/3/27
1853137 Corpl F. Burney, 30/3/27
2309160 Corpl G. Hickey, 22/4/27

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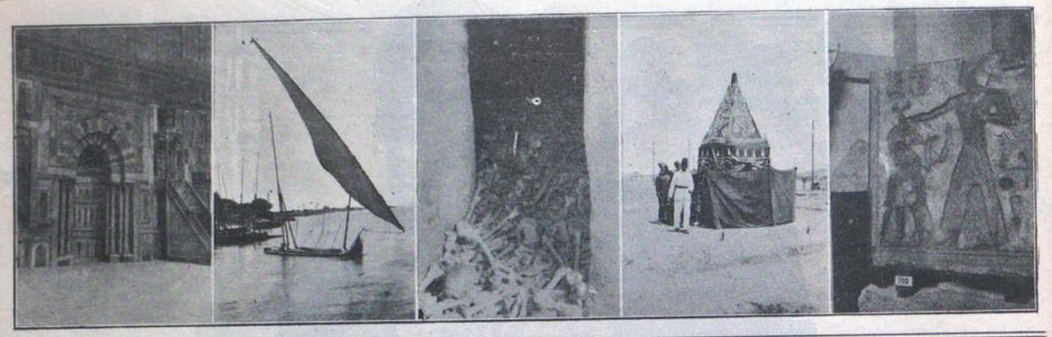

## Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club.

The annual dinner will take place at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London, on Wednesday, July 27th. Dress: Evening dress with miniature decorations. Price of tickets: Members, 12s. 6d.; Regular Officers of the Corps who are not members, 35s.; hon. members, 21s. Drinks at dinner are included.

Applications for seating should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, S.D.6, War Office, S.W.1. Attention is drawn to Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 Bye-laws of the Club.

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## Wireless Camera Club.

### No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals, Cairo.

We publish herewith another photographic contribution from our friends in Egypt, which it is hoped will prove of interest. The photographs are taken from the collection of Corpl Corbett, and a brief description of each is given in the following notes. Nos. 1 to 5 are shown above, and Nos. 6 to 14 on the opposite page (in each case, the numbers run *across* the page).

**1.**—The altar and prayer niche in the Sultan Hassan Mosque, Cairo.

**2.**—A felucca, or flat-bottomed Nile boat.

**3.**—One of the numerous tombs at Sakkarra, where the great care usually manifest in the burial of Egyptians is markedly absent. Presumably the tomb contained the bodies of prisoners and slaves.

**4.**—The Mahmal, a pyramidal wooden erection hung with beautifully embroidered cloths, which is carried by a camel as a symbol of royalty on the pilgrimage to Mecca. Often erroneously stated to contain the Holy Carpet. The interior of the Mahmal is empty, and to the outside of it are attached two copies of the Koran. This photograph was taken at Abbassia last year, prior to the departure of the caravan for Mecca.

**5.**—Wall carvings in the Cairo Museum, showing a Pharaoh thrashing a slave.

**6, 8, 9, 11.**—Views of the interior and exterior of the Slave Market, Cairo.

**7.**—An unusual view, taken from the nose of a Vickers-Vimy bomber, showing the Signals barracks in the left bottom corner.

**10.**—The Coptic Church, Old Cairo. Years ago the Christians in Egypt banded themselves together and founded what is now known as the Coptic religion. The photograph gives a poor idea of the marvellous inlay work of the altar screen, which is carried out in wood from the hills of Lebanon and ivory.

**12.**—A Vickers-Vimy bomber passing over Old Cairo.

**13.**—A photograph of interest to any of the old inhabitants of Red Barracks, showing the demolition work carried out to make room for the new Sharia Abbass.

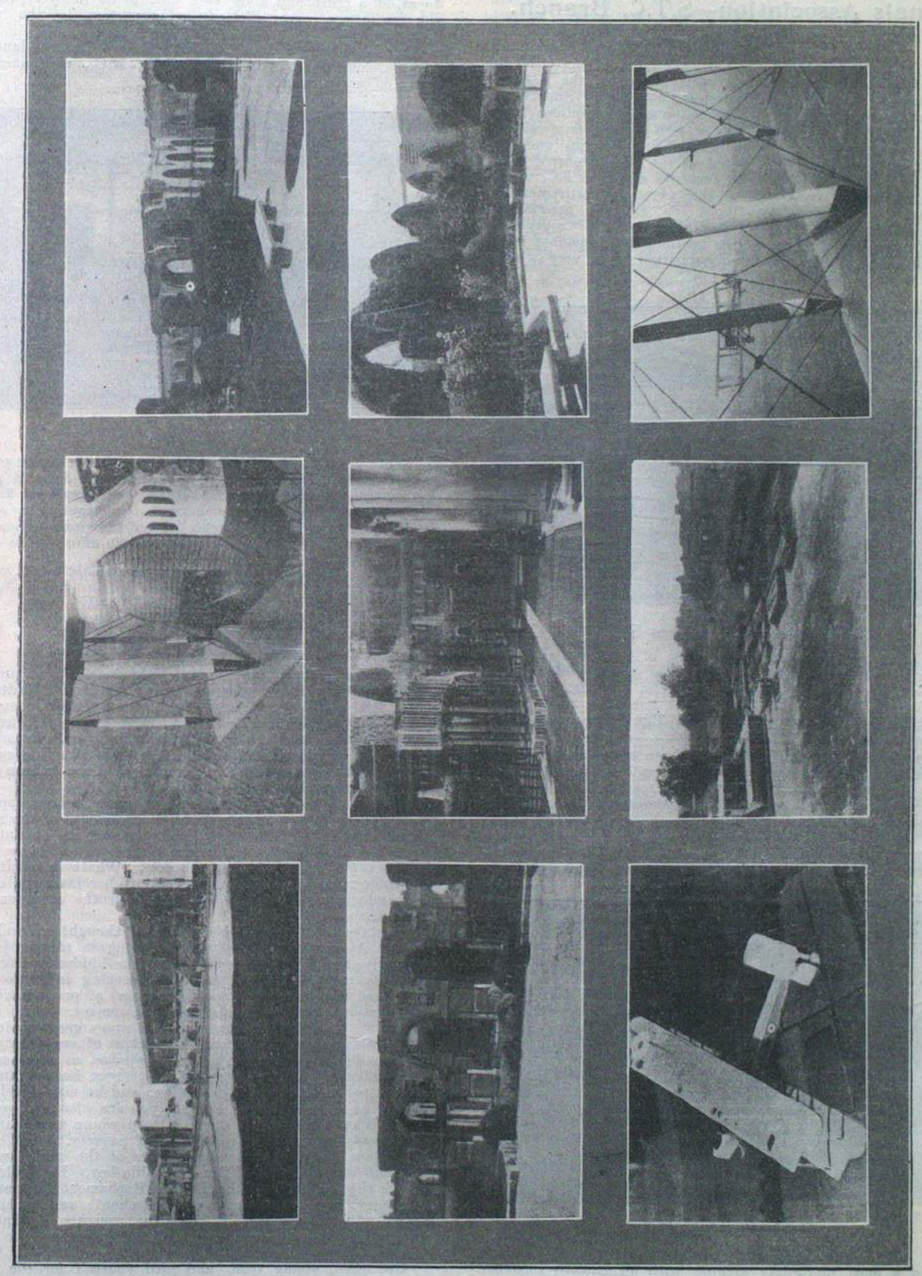
**14.**—"Ack" fighters in flight. The plane from which this photograph was taken crashed outside our wire a few days later.

## Competition for Correspondents.

We would remind unit correspondents that the competition announced in our March issue commences with the notes submitted for next month.

The MSS. submitted for this issue shows that some correspondents have evidently been studying the requirements set out for their guidance. We are hoping that the competition will result in an all-round improvement in the preparation of notes, and that our Printers will have to maintain a very careful scrutiny of the copy submitted during the next six months, before awarding their prizes to the winners after the December issue has been printed.





For a brief description of these Snapshots in Egypt, see opposite page.

## Signals Association—S.T.C. Branch.

### Catterick.

It is pleasing to record the commencement of activities in connection with the social side of this Branch of the Association. Since the move from Maresfield, nothing of importance has occurred except the regular collection of subscriptions from members. Here it may be said that all and sundry are members!

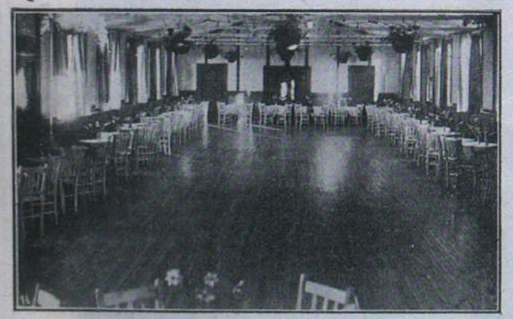
Many paragraphs on the subject of membership and the sale of THE WIRE have been noted in the Corps Journal from time to time, but little has been recorded of the S.T.C. units. Maybe, as madam remarked to the sweep, advertisement is unnecessary! Nevertheless, without the Editor's permission, we take all the blame for the initial success of the "ninepenny scheme"; and even the most pessimistic S.T.C. member must admit that the scheme has been supported in a very wholehearted manner from the start.

Main Entrance to Newbigging Hall.

This is more praiseworthy in view of the fact that the majority of members are either recruits or young soldiers, and that there are comparatively few energetic workers. Old and willing hands, please note: Shelve the "moans" and "party feelings," and let's all pull together as THE SIGNALS. All for each, and each for all!

The question of entertainments has been under consideration for some time, but the main drawback has been the lack of a suitable building to accommodate our large family. Incidentally, it is no easy task to make arrangements to entertain or cater for, in any shape or form, say a thousand members.

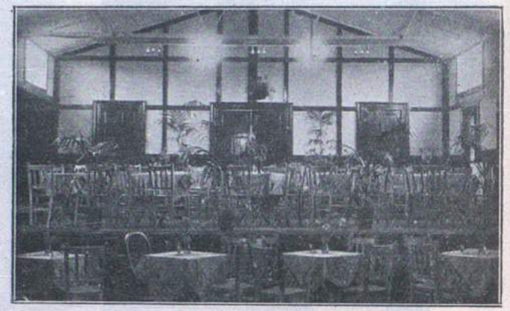
But the fun has commenced, and on the occasion of the opening of "Newbigging Hall" on April 29th, a dance was held—not an ordinary common or garden dance, but a *real* one.



The Interior of the Hall.

The hall, which is an S.T.C. fixture, is an ideal building fitted in a most up-to-date manner with all modern conveniences, and is suitable for the holding of either dances or concerts. Of course, it would not accommodate *all* members; so to avoid a crush and allow each unit to be fairly represented, the invitations were allotted in proportion to the various strengths.

Col. H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O. (Colonel-Commandant), and Lieut.-Colonel A. Lloyd-Owen, O.B.E., M.C., were among the many officers present.



The Stage.

The hall was tastefully decorated, and to the music provided by the Signals band, dancing was carried on from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. During the interval, supper was served in fine style under the N.A.A.F.I. management. Altogether a splendid show—and great credit is reflected on the promoters and the dance committee for their energetic work in affording so successful an entertainment.

Thanks are due to A. G. Deeks, Catterick Camp, for the photographs of the hall. Q.

## Mind, the Glory of Man.

The mind is the glory of man. No possession is so productive of real influence as a highly cultivated intellect. Wealth, birth and official station may, and do, secure to their possessor an external superficial courtesy; but they never did, and they never can, command the reverence of the heart. It is only to the man of large and noble soul, to him who blends a cultivated mind with an upright heart, that men yield the tribute of deep and genuine respect.

But why do so few men of early promise, whose hopes, purposes, and resolves were as radiant as the colours of the rainbow, fail to distinguish themselves? The answer is obvious: they are not willing to devote themselves to that toilsome culture which is the price of great success. Whatever aptitude for particular pursuits Nature may denote to her favourite children, she conducts none but the laborious and the studious to distinction.

Great men have ever been men of thought as well as of action. As the magnificent river, rolling in the pride of its mighty waters, owes its greatness to the hidden springs of the mountain nook, so does the wide-sweeping influence of distinguished men date its origin from hours of privacy, resolutely employed in efforts towards self-development. The invisible spring of self-culture is the source of every great achievement.

Put away then, young man, all dreams of superiority, unless you are determined to dig after knowledge, as men search for concealed gold! Remember that every man has in himself the seminal principle of great excellence, and he may develop it by cultivation if he will *try*. Perhaps you are what the world calls poor. What of that? Most of the men whose names are household words were also the children of poverty.

Captain Cook, the circumnavigator of the globe, was born in a mud hut, and started life as a cabin-boy. Lord Eldon, who sat on the woolsack in the British Parliament for nearly half a century, was the son of a coal merchant; and multitudes of others, of high distinction, knew the pressure of limited circumstances, and have demonstrated that poverty is no insuperable obstacle to success.

Up, then, young man, and gird yourself for the work of self-cultivation! Set a high price on your leisure moments: they are sands of precious gold. Properly expended, they will procure for you a stock of great thoughts—thoughts that will fill, stir, invigorate and expand the soul. Seize also on the unparalleled aids furnished by electricity in this unequalled age.

The great thoughts of great men are now to be procured at prices almost nominal. You can, therefore, easily collect a library of choice standard works. But above all, learn to reflect even more than you read. Without thought, books are the sepulchre of the soul—they only immune it. Let thought and reading go hand in hand, and the intellect will rapidly increase in strength and gifts. Its possessor will rise in character, in power, and in positive influence.



## Plain Tales.

**Those Bulford Blues.**—The end of the season has arrived, and although there is an occasional hop, the numerous dance bands that have sprung into existence during the past twelve months are having a slack time. I believe there are one or two people who are labouring under the delusion that dance bands have been making pots of money.

Stuff! my good sirs. Not only stuff, but nonsense! Study these facts.

The usual fee in this area is from two shillings to two-and-sixpence per hour. Music is mostly two shillings per copy. A moderate price to pay for a saxophone ("C" melody, for instance) is twenty-two guineas. A Stroh violin is twelve guineas. A decent set of drums will range to upwards of £10. A banjo will cost £6.

Local bands consider they are doing remarkably well if they get three jobs in a week. The majority of dance bands, composed of soldiers, play as much for the fun of the thing as the fees, but at the same time they appreciate the little help towards the purchase of decent instruments.

* * * *

**After the Ball.**—A certain young lady was staying with her uncle and aunt in the married quarters. Her knowledge of army life was NIL (in block letters). On returning from a certain brilliant annual function, auntie asked her how she had enjoyed it. "Oh! simply topping; and what ducky little red jackets the waiters wore; but really, auntie, don't you think they would get about better without their spurs?" Auntie is said to be doing very well.

* * * *

**Fag Cards.**—A well-known firm of cigarette manufacturers supplies an interesting card with each packet. These cards show the war medals of umpteen nations (loud cries of "Tips"). But wait a minute. All I want to point out is that they call the British war medal the "general service medal." I say they are wrong. Is anyone going to contradict me? If so, I will furnish them with the number of the Army Order approving the introduction of the British war medal. Come! come! Mr. Players.

* * * *

**C Divl. Signals.**—I thought you would notice this. A gentleman known as "Coir" wishes the above-named unit a merry Easter and all that. He didn't say they were a mouldy lot. On the contrary, I gathered from his remarks that they were well worthy of a column in THE WIRE. What about it? "Coir" adorns an office in H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.

Whilst I was there (for an hour) Sergt Graham gave me the name of a spanking book (which I've forgotten) by an author (whose name has slipped my mind). However, anyone who enjoys a good laugh, is advised to get it.

Later—I thought of the name of that book after I had posted these notes. I dashed round to the Post Office, but they wouldn't give me my letter. Quite nasty about it, too. Never mind, I will tell you next month, if I don't forget.

* * * *

**Looking Ahead.**—Before we know where we are, so to speak, summer will be upon us. In fact, several units have already commenced to hold the time-honoured clout-casting parades, in spite of the fact that the end of May is yet to come.

There has not been a great deal of rain on Salisbury Plain just lately, and farmers are enjoying a well-merited grumble. The champion grouser was the man who started fairly early by saying "H'm! *second* day of the drought."

One thing to look forward to is annual sports. We hope that committees will study the fifty-day weather forecasts in *The Daily Mail*. These forecasts have proved to be remarkably accurate. In any case, to fix the day on one of those clearly marked "considerable rain" is merely "tempting a gift horse down a long lane before you jump," as the old proverb has it (or should have had it).

* * * *

**Mechanics (Assorted).**—In the spring a young man's fancy turns, with considerable gusto, to thoughts of—petrol, taxes, Nortons, Ariels, Triumphs, Enfields, and possibly B.S.A.'s. They tell me there are one or two other motor-cycles on the market. I expect they are for old ladies and invalids, such as the Brough superior bath-chair and the Coventry Eagle Fairy cycle.

Quite a few of the 3rd Divl. Signals are now equipped with private motor-cycles; some solo, some duet—and a few not unlike young Wilts and Dorsets. The private garage within the unit lines is now in use, and will prove to be a very great advantage. (Catterick motor-cyclists to note: Why sleep with your motor-cycle under your pillow?)

There is not the slightest doubt about the new owners becoming experts in time. At present they are apt to pull the engine to pieces as soon as it stops, never thinking to notice that the petrol tap is turned off.

Motor-cycling is very exciting. More so than messing about with wireless. You may get a shock from your wireless set, but you will get a better one if you test your sparking plug (at 12,000 r.p.m.) with your finger. I am expecting several letters containing the interesting information that sparking plugs do not revolve. I shall contradict them. Mine made three complete revolutions at right angles to my proposed line of travel last week. As the plug remained attached to the cylinder, and the cylinder to the cycle, the local mechanics reaped the benefit.

There are some light cars in the unit, too. We know they are cars because they have four wheels on the ground. Of course, everyone is not so intelligent as us, and the lad who started putting the Company washing in one of them probably mistook the car for a wheel-barrow.

At some future date, and for the benefit of a fitter in Rawalpindi, I will discuss the serious question of loose radiator caps. This is a matter about which very little is known. So little, in fact, that I can say what I like without fear of contradiction.

It was my intention to give an account of a test I made once with a Morgan. However, I won't. Jolly decent of me, I think!

* * * *

**Further Gardening.**—We are now well into the spring, and there is much to be done. The point is, have you done it? Of course you haven't. You didn't know what to do. I have to apologise (though I'm not going to) for letting the garden notes slide last month.

I understand that thousands of gardeners were severely handicapped for want of advice. I can well understand the difficulty of running an allotment without someone like me to suggest and advise. It must be awful.

I was going to describe the methods by which caviare is grown, but after reading an eye-witness's account of the horrors of a Russian caviare mine, I have decided to go a little more closely into the question before committing myself.

Up to the present, it has been a splendid year for wallflowers, wall-nuts, primroses, dandelions, macaroni, bananas, hops, saxifrages, saxophones and Dunlop tyres

Now is the time to plant young cabbage bushes. Many amateurs make the fatal mistake of planting them on Christmas day. Guard against this. Any good make of calendar will prevent this error.

Thin out gypsophila (if you know what that is) and nutmegs.

If you are resident in the Bulford area, take no advice on horticulture from Joe Sweeting or Johnny Freemantle. They know as much about raising flowers as they do about fishing. The former tickles trout near Winchester until they laugh so much that they can't swim a yard. The other sprucer then picks them up by the scruff of the neck. At least, so they say. For my part, they can have all the belts I ever won.

However, we seem to have wandered away from the subject. In next month's WIRE I propose to give very definite advice as to the disposal of all your surplus potatoes, cabbages, onions, carrots and marrows. Don't miss this!

* * * *

**Talks to Ladies.**—G-r-r-r-r!!

BARLEUX.

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### A Company, Depot Battalion.

**Climatical.**—Summer duly arrived here at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, May 8th, and stayed the day. Great were the scenes of rejoicing, therefore, and wonderful the many-hued raiment worn by the fair ones who came to witness this marvellous spectacle. The hills and semi-detached villas (see below) were bathed in glorious sunshine; and as one felt the soft glow of warmth tingling through one's body, one had nothing else to do but to "have one."

However, all good things must come to an end, and the usual climatic conditions prevailed again on the following day. It is rumoured that another visit may be expected shortly; but for the present we must content ourselves with the wonderful thoughts of this primary disturbance in our peaceful lives.

**Seeing the World.**—On a bright crisp morning, not so very long ago, a certain recruit who shall be nameless was wandering aimlessly and dejectedly along the road with his eyes on the ground in front of him. That he was utterly fed up with the world, and in fact everything in general, was perfectly obvious to the human eye.

The "human eye," in the shape of a certain corporal who shall also be nameless, decided that it was up to him to bring the dejected youth back to earth—whereupon the following dialogue too place.

Corporal (in his loudest possible voice): "Hi!"

Recruit (coming back to earth with a start): " 'Ullo"—and then suddenly realising whom it was he was addressing, "Yes, corporal."

Corporal: "What did you join the army for, lad?"

Recruit (proudly): "To see the world, corporal."

Corporal: "Well, lift your blinking head up and see a bit more of it!"

**Departure.**—C.S.M. Wray has left us on being posted to the 1st Divl. Signals. His departure is keenly felt by all ranks, for not only did he take an active interest in the welfare of the recruits, but he was also instrumental in arousing enthusiasm to do likewise among the n.c.o.s of the Company. However, one unit's loss is another's gain, and he takes with him the best wishes of the Company for a successful and happy stay.

C.S.M. Harrison has taken over the duties of sergeant-major to the Company, and already we feel that he has been doing the job for years, so ably has he settled down to the task.

**Miscellaneous.**—I spoke too soon, in my notes last month, regarding the absence of news from B Company, for, lo and behold! they duly appeared in the current issue. Thank you, S.I.D. I was very interested in the doings of Ginger and the chief clerk.

There was no trophy competition last month. Owing to Easter leave and other minor details, it was found impossible for the squads to compete.

The field and track events are proving a great success, and every interest is being taken by all concerned. Our combined team (A and B) did rather well in the first of the inter-Company competitions; and we are greatly indebted to 2/Lieut. Holmes, who has taken over the duties of Battalion sports officer, for turning out such a splendid team.

**Answers to Correspondents.**—"Bozie."—It was very unreasonable of your squad commander to expect you to read the Company orders every evening. Perhaps, if you inquire at the Company office, they may send you a copy every evening instead; anyhow, it's worth trying.

"M.W., O.R.S."—The usual procedure, in the case of spare W.D. property found lying about, is to take it to the Battalion orderly room. This does not, however, apply to horses.

"Minnie Ha Ha."—Your question, 'Can Louis win?' is rather a difficult one to answer. However, if you can manage to see Cresta run, perhaps it may help you to decide for yourself.

**Diversion.**—There is no barrack-like air about the camp. It conforms more nearly to the idea of a pleasant and well-spaced garden suburb, with much open ground lying round about detached and semi-detached houses.

The above extract from an article on Catterick Camp, in a daily paper of May 5th, has driven me to poetry.

THE GARDEN (CITY) OF CATTERICK.

*(With apologies to A. C. Swinburne.)*

Here, where the world is pretty;
  Here, where the flowers grow;
In a humble garden city
  Where the birds sing sweet and low;
I watch the green field growing,
For reaping folk and sowing,
I learn a thing worth knowing—
  And the gentle breezes blow.

* * * *

I am tired of huts and canvas,
  And men that laugh and weep;
Of barracks where they land us,
  Where insects love to creep;



I am weary of days and hours,
And of artificial flowers
Bought for the canteen bowers,
  And everything, but sleep.

* * * *

Here soldiers live, and still are
  Living a life so free,
In a semi-detached villa,
  With a garden near the sea.
There they sit a-reading;
There's nothing they are needing,
Except a little feeding—
  Oh! what a place to be.

* * * *

And when we hear the gate click,
  Toward the close of day,
Of our villa up at Catterick,
  We hear the sergeant say
(With lips but half regretful)
"What! art thou so forgetful?
Why! what about my glassful?
  Come, let us out and play!"

Of course, I could write a lot more, but I think that's enough. Don't you? (Yes.—Editor.)

G. R. S.

### B Company, Depot Battalion.

**Shooting Cup.**—Last month A Company had the luck to win this coveted trophy, but B have once again taken it from them, thanks to 95 Squad. Both Companies have now won it five times. Who will win it next month? Personally, I can only see one Company in the running—no, you are wrong; it's *not* A.

**Agony.**—No, A Company, it is not overwork (though we do plenty) that prevents us from pointing out our achievements. It's just that we don't like to brag.

**Cricket.**—We have started at the nets, and if one can judge by the last practice, A and B look like having a very formidable team.

**Athletics.**—A and B had hard luck against E, losing by a narrow margin. I should like to congratulate the individual runners on their splendid performances. Keep it up!

**Promotion.**—Congratulations to Corpl Waight on attaining that rank.

**Departure.**—By the time these notes are in print we shall have said goodbye to Mr. Ralston, who is, I understand, leaving to rejoin his regiment. We all wish him the best of luck.

S. I. D.

### C Company, Depot Battalion.

**Arrival.**—Corpl Dellor has joined us from India.

**Departures.**—F/Sergt Webb has left us for 1st Divisional Signals. (Your stay with us was certainly curtailed). F/S/Sgt Dowty has left us for civilian life with 21 years' service to his credit. Driver Hancock and Corpl Wren have also left us for civil life. We wish you all good luck in your new adventures and occupations.

**Promotions.**—A/Cpl H. R. Dellor to Corpl. 16/12/26; L/Cpl G. Browne to A/Corporal, 12/3/27. Congratulations to them.

**Marriages.**—Corpl A. R. Francis to Edna May Brazier, at St. John's Church, Hipswell, 28/4/27.

L/Corpl C. May to Violet Coe, at St. John's Church, Hipswell, 28/4/27.

**Birth.**—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Palmer, a son (William Henry).

**Re-engagement.**—Corpl A. W. Dodds to complete 21 years.

All in the Company who have helped towards winning the Mackworth trophy are congratulated by our gallant supporters. It is time that the trophy returned to this Company, its original home, and we hope to hold on to it for another season or two. The truth is that we are finding our feet again, and though we have lost such sportsmen as Cutler, Cayley, Richardson, Barby, Brundel Smith and With, we find new blood able to take their places and carry on the good work.

Wedding bells surely rang on the 28th April! No doubt we shall see you, with your ration bags, taking a somewhat different direction from that of bachelor days. The report that, when asked who was taking the bride, the reply came "Orderly Corporal," is contradicted.

Many of the old cadre enjoy an hour or two during the week in the riding school, in preparation for any forthcoming displays to be given during the season. A course has started for lance-corporals of the S.T.C. to undergo riding, and the slogan now is "If you never have, you will now." If only our long-lost Rough-Rider Sergt H., or H., or Mr. T. could see you!

### E Company, Training Battalion.

**Our Garden Suburb.**—With a right royal flourish of my headgear and the subdued sounds of a merry fanfare (off), I present my compliments to *The Daily Mail*, and republish hereunder a paragraph culled from an article in their publication of May 5th.

"Catterick Camp," writes their Special Correspondent, "will be the heart of a training area that extends over twelve square miles—territory that is mostly high-lying, healthy, breezy grouse moors. There is no barrack-like air about the camp. It conforms more nearly to the idea of a pleasant and well-spaced garden suburb, with actual gardens and with much open ground lying round about detached and semi-detached houses."

And now, where are our morbid pessimists? Where are they, I demand? If you search you will find them, utterly confounded, hiding their scowling visages behind yonder detached or semi-detached house. Perchance, some roam abroad upon the open spaces, disconsolate. I have no sympathy for them. "Honi soit droit." So there!

**Promotions.**—We offer our hearty congratulations to L/Cpls J. Coppack, R. Cobbing and H. Neal upon their respective appointments to A/Corporal.

**Marriage.**—Further congratulations—this time to Sigmn R. S. Cassin upon his marriage at Docking, Norfolk, on 24/4/27.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen G. Anderson and E. Frarey from B Company, Depot Battalion, 7/5/27. Signalman T. Blades from School of Signals, 6/5/27. Signalmen W. File and W. Morris from A Company, Depot Battalion, 23/4/27.

**And Departures.**—L/Corpl A. S. Tate to the Boys' Technical School, Chepstow, 30/4/27. Sigmn P. Hampton to North Ireland Signal Company, Belfast, 25/4/27. Signalmen J. Henderson and M. Dale to A Corps Signals, Ewshott, 19/4/27. L/Corpl A Barraclough to Rhine Field Signal Company, Wiesbaden, 4/5/27. Sigmn J. E. Ferguson to 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford, 6/5/27. Signalmen J. Ayling, E. Dalley, E. Faulkes, C. Richards and W. Wallace to 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester, 6/5/27. Signalmen R. Fawcett and N. Ingle to No. 1 A.A. Signal Company, Blackdown, 22/4/27.

**Education.**—Congratulations to all who have recently obtained their certificates.

**Ancient Perspirations.**—Corpl H. S. Nokes re-engages to complete 12 years with the Colours on his present engagement. Whang ho, Nokey!

**An Apology.**—I had hoped to report this month in the Sport pages of THE WIRE. The amazing rapidity of the arrival of the "16th" each month has necessitated a cancellation of my hopes as far as the June publication is concerned. Accept my apology, and see what happens in the July number.

**S.O.S.**—Will Sigmn Tom Sherris, "somewhere in India," please communicate with L/Corpl F. E. Newman of this Coy.?

L. H. D.

### School of Signa'ls.

Now that summer is a thing of the past—it came and went in two days, last week—we can now replace the clouts which undoubtedly some of us cast.

"R" Lines are now one mass of colour, the predominating shade being a golden-yellow. Perhaps some of you amateur gardeners wonder how we produce such a fine array, not belonging to the Gardeners' Union. I'll let you in on the secret.

First of all, you want only the best of seed; this can be obtained anywhere. When we first arrived here we had only one dandelion growing, but by a clever system of propagation

and with the aid of the sun, wind, rain, etc., we have produced the said mass of golden-yellow, etc., etc. To put it briefly, "R" Lines are now the rabbits' paradise; and that's how we did it. Any questions? Yes! Righto, ask the editor, but leave me in peace.

Now, the summer reviving old desires, certain of our enlightened brethren thought that what they didn't know about painting offices wasn't worth knowing, and they got stuck. You'll notice I said "got stuck." Methinks I will say no more about that painful episode; but if anyone possesses any books on the subject which they want to get rid of, I should be much obliged if they would forward them to C.S.M. Green for distribution.

After reading the notes sent in by our sergeants' mess last month, I fell to musing on the wherefor, whyfor, and all the rest of the "for's" of that beautiful smile of which they gave such a glowing account. I claim no relationship to Sherlock, Sexton, or Tinker, but I think I can explain that smile.

'Tis said that music soothes the savage breast, and thinking thusly, I thought I had a clue, but the question then was, *what* music? Not Uncle Alf's: he was ruled out, for does not the saying say music? Most certainly it wasn't Uncle's. Then, whose was it? Not Tiny's singing: no one with any hoss sense would consider that soothing. And then, after much tiresome thought, I stumbled on the solution. All great mysteries are cleared up by stumbling, and this is how I stumbled.

Proceeding to work (ahem!) the other morn, I heard sounds denoting mental anguish—you know what I mean: blubbing and sniffing—and rounding a corner, who should I see but one of our admired sergeants. Telling him to dry his tears, I asked what was the matter; and believe me or not (please yourselves), he was lamenting the loss of his breakfast. Yes, he'd lost it because it was his turn to clean out the canary and change the water, and it had made him late. Hence that beautiful emile, gentlemen.

A dance was held by the corporals' mess in Newbigging Hall on Friday, May 13th. It was well attended, and voted a huge success by everyone present.

We wish to congratulate C.S.M. Green, Sergeant Mays, and L/Corpl King on obtaining the much-coveted "1st." To those who failed, we wish better luck next time.

Drivers Andrews, Joy, Blackburn, Marshall and Booker left Catterick on May 17th, being posted to various Divisions. We don't know whether to congratulate them on leaving Catterick or to give them our sympathy for having to leave the School. However, the best of luck to them all!

A hearty welcome is extended to those who have arrived to fill the vacant chairs.

I must apologise for the lack of Sports notes, but promise a glut next month.

BANGER.

### W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, Training Battalion.

**General Nonsense.**—These notes are compiled by a very young sergeant, with very little experience of compiling notes of any sort except those which he makes from time to time on A.F.B. 252. But I saw our Editor one day last week, and he had a drink with me, and I let him and his partner (who is a very good snooker player) win a game, of which I will tell you later on.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

**HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS**

**Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.**

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

**A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.**

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

Our Editor is not such a fearful fellow as I thought; in fact, I think he is a very nice man indeed. But I don't know how he stands that fellow Barleux, who writes such very rude things about very nice people, and then writes to say "No, I did not!" No wonder the ladies get irate. I see he is telling them to stand on their heads, this month. I hope they will treat his suggestion with contempt.

In fact, Mr. Editor, if you will just say the word, I will get a millboard and write a "very stiff letter" to Barleux about his rudeness. Oh! yes! I know him, because we were very junior n.c.o.s together for three years.

**Indoor Sport.**—The following were played for during the last quarter, the organisation and arranging of all matches being very ably carried out by C.Q.M.S. Norton:—Billiards: Winner (cup and silver medal) Sergt Dempsey. Runner-up (silver medal), Sergt Boulter. Snooker: Winner (cue and case), C.Q.M.S. Norton. Runner-up, Sergeant Dempsey. Darts: Winner (small prize in packets from the bar), Sergt Dempsey. Runner-up, C.S.M. Gibson. Dempsey! you ought to be ashamed of yourself!

**Tennis.**—Our tennis court is going great guns, and during the fine weather we have had lately we have spent some very enjoyable evenings on it. Now, you know, you married fellows should come up a little more often now that the weather is good! We have had some very enjoyable Sunday afternoons and evenings lately, and, as I say, we would like to see more people come to them.

**Gardening.**—C.Q.M.S.s Norton and Ansell and Sergt Whittle are doing the garden again this year. I know that W.O. Le Grys (education) will be glad to hear this.

**Dancing.**—We ran our first dance in the Newbigging Hall on Friday, May 6th. This function was organised by our entertainments committee (Sergts Payne, Webster and Hague), and was a huge success from every point of view.

**Departure.**—I regret to announce the departure of C.Q.M.S. G. Jones from our mess. He has gone to the A.V.T.C., Hounslow. We all wish him the best of luck, and hope to see him before he goes away finally.

**Visits.**—As I said at the beginning of these notes, we had a visit from our Editor on Saturday, and he stayed until Sunday morning. Now, really, Mr. Editor, I thought you were a great big man, with horn-rimmed glasses on your nose, a pair of scissors in one hand and a large blue pencil in the other—and I felt almost sure you had a nasty temper. I'm glad you won that game of snooker. Come again some time—I think we like you.

P. N.

### The Storm.

Being a rhymed recollection of a recent elemental disturbance in the Catterick area.

The weather is sultry, the air quite still. Just look above yon distant hill. That little cloud has bigger grown, and the restless rooks to the rookery flown. The sky overhead has a coppery tone, and the wind in the trees is beginning to moan. Away to the south-west a rumbling is heard, and the sound puts to silence the song of a bird. All life's at a standstill, the wind has died down, and the firmament's wearing an ominous frown. In a twinkling—the lightning, a vivid blue flash; then a few seconds later a terrific crash! And the deep rolling thunder resounds from afar; the noise grows apace till it comes where you are. Then away in the distance it quieter grows, until all that is heard are the faintest echoes. Soon the rain is descending in bounteous showers on the valleys and uplands, the fields, woods, and flowers. The parched dusty earth is refreshed once again, whilst the streams, flowing full, make their way to the plain. Now Heaven's artillery no longer flashes, the lightnings cease, and the thunder passes. Then there appears across the sky a rainbow arch both broad and high—a semi-circle of many hues of the brightest colours that you could choose. The sunbeams shining through the rain are thus reflected back again. It is the sign from God to men that He will not flood the world again.

So the lesson of the storm must be: "In wrath, remember mercy." Once more the sky is clear and bright where soared dense clouds as black as night, and Nature soon forgets the storm with atmosphere so sweet and warm.

S. BAINBRIDGE, Signalman.



## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### 1st Division.

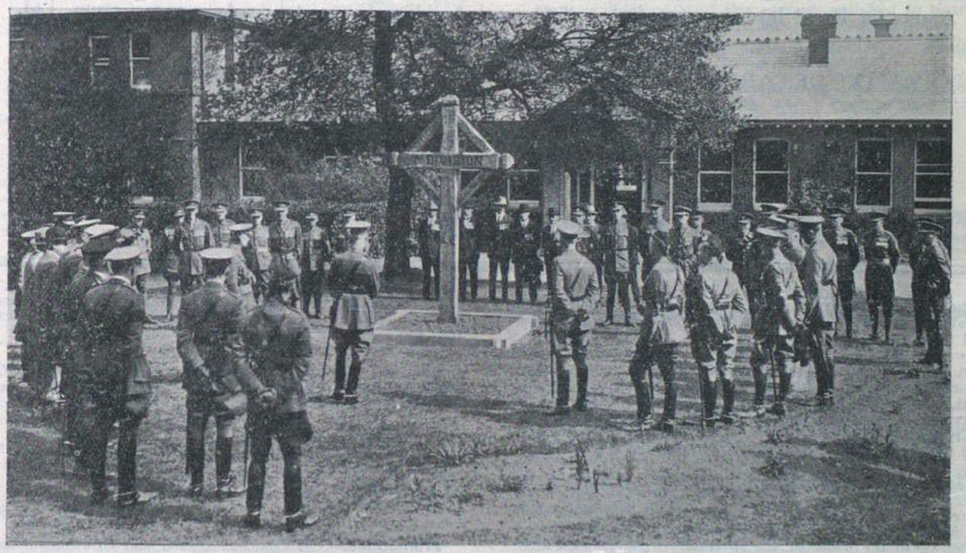
### Le Cateau, 1914—High Wood, 1916—Aldershot, 1927.

**"Pro Patria."**

"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them."—*Lawrence Binyon.*

May 3rd, 1927, will hold precious memories for the chosen few who had the honour to take part in a simple but impressive ceremony at Aldershot. One cannot do better than reproduce the account of the ceremony as given in *The Aldershot News.* Representing Signals of the old and new 1st Division were Lieut.-Col. R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. C. P. Prescot, R.S.M. Lawrance, C.S.M. Wigglesworth, C.S.M. Keevil, Sergt Smart, and Sigmn Webb. Included in the gathering and members of the old 1st Company were ex-C.S.M.s Chidgey, Barwell, Barker and Winter.

D.S. ONE.



Handing over the High Wood Memorial Cross to the 1st Division at Aldershot.

Photo by Gale & Polden, Ltd. Aldershot] [Block lent by *The Aldershot News*

#### HIGH WOOD MEMORIAL CROSS.

HANDED OVER TO THE 1ST DIVISION.

A simple ceremony of the greatest interest and significance to all officers and men who served in the 1st Division during the Great War, and more particularly to those who fought at High Wood, took place outside the Divisional Headquarters in Pennefather's Road on Tuesday.

A simple wooden cross erected near High Wood by the Division in 1916, which has now been moved to its present position at Aldershot, was handed over to the 1st Division for safe custody by Lieut.-Gen. Sir E. Peter Strickland, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., who commanded the Division in the war, and it was received on behalf of the present 1st Division by its commander, Major-Gen. Sir Cecil F. Romer, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.

The cross, which has been placed in front of the headquarters, bears the following inscription: "In Memory of Officers, N.C.O.s and Men, 1st Division, killed in action near High Wood during September, 1916. R.I.P."

A MINIATURE RE-UNION.

Among the small gathering were a number of officers and men who served in the old 1st Division. Those present included Major-Gen. Sir Percy Hambro, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., Major-Gen. Sir Cecil F. Romer, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (M.G.A.), Major-Gen. C. E. Corkran, C.B., C.M.G. (Commandant R.M.C.), Col.-Commandant A. J. McCulloch, D.S.O., D.C.M. (commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade), Bt.-Colonel T. G. Dalby, D.S.O., 2nd K.R.R.C., Bt.-Colonel D. J. C. K. Bernard, C.M.G., D.S.O., Rifle Brigade (G.S.O. (1) 1st Division), the Rev. J. D. S. Parry-Evans, C.M.G. (A.C.G.), Col. A. W. Pagan, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. (commanding 1st Division Signals), Col. Gerald Turner, R.A., Col. Clowes (London Scottish) Lieut.-Col. V. M. Fortune, D.S.O. (commanding 1st Seaforth Highlanders, formerly of the Gordon Highlanders), Col. Crocker (late Welch Regiment), Major R. L. Bond, D.S.O., M.C., R.E., Major F. G. Chalmer, D.S.O., M.C., Black Watch, Major Brudenel Bruce, D.S.O. (late G.S.O. (2)), Major J. M. Rodd, M.C., R.A.O.C., Capt. T. G. FitzHenry, M.C., R.E., Capt. H. F. Smith, D.S.O., K.R.R.C., Capt. M. Wallington, M.C. Royal Sussex Regiment (who served with the Division during the whole of the war, except for three months), Capt. E. J. Upton, M.M., Capt. J. G. W. Hyndson, M.C., Loyal Regt., and several other officers, also detachments from the 23rd Field Co., R.E., 1st Division Signals, 2nd K.R.R.C., 1st Royal Sussex Regiment, and other units, and a small party of former members of the units in the Division.

BITTER FIGHT FOR HIGH WOOD.

In handing over the cross to the safe keeping of the 1st Division, General Sir Peter Strickland said that during the battle of the Somme the 1st Division was longer in the line and had more casualties than any other division, and was opposed to the best fighting troops of the German Army. There was bitter fighting in High Wood, and the Division suffered very heavy casualties. When it left there the Engineers of the Division made that cross, and left it there in memory of those who died.

When, recently, they erected the Divisional Memorial near Le Cateau, they were told by the French Government that they could not have two memorials in France, and they either had to leave the cross there to rot or to bring it away. It was felt

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GREAT NORTH ROAD (NEXT AERODROME)

CATTERICK, YORKS

that they could not leave it there derelict, and it was a matter of great satisfaction to them when the 1st Division in Aldershot agreed to its being placed there.

The cross was of great significance to all who were in the old 1st Division, and it gave great satisfaction to know that it would remain outside the present Headquarters for all time, or at least, as long as it lasts. It would be a symbol to the present 1st Division of what their predecessors did at High Wood, and would remind them of how that wonderful fighting force worthily upheld the glorious traditions of the 1st Division of the British Army.

In accepting the memorial cross on behalf of the present 1st Division, Major-Gen. Sir Cecil Romer said how much they honoured the cross, and that no better place could have been found for it than the Divisional Headquarters. He thought he could speak in the name of his successors when he said they would do their best to keep it in good order, but he must warn them that the wood was not likely to last, though they would do their best to preserve it.—*The Aldershot News.*

## A Corps Signals.

### No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Skidmore and Hutchinson, and Corpl Jessop (b-r-r-r), the man with the bass voice—the former two from the Depot Battalion and the choirboy from the Training Battalion. We extend the usual welcome, and hope their stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

**Trades.**—The following are to be congratulated upon adding another step to their ratings: Corpl B. S. Todd to B.i. Signalmen W. C. L. Harvey, R. E. Wood, A. Burgess, H. Slater, and Parsons to B.ii. Signalmen A. E. Leake, J. J. Kelly and E. Dickenson, to B.iii.

We sure know some stuff in No. 3 Company. Let us turn out an equal number of passes in the next Trade Board. If at first you do not succeed——

**Attachments.**—The Tank Signal Section left the Company, for the training season period, to be attached to the 2nd Tank Battalion, Pinehurst, w.e.f. 5/5/27.

"'Ow be 'ee, Spud?" When you are picking daisies on Frimley Green, think of Oxy. Have you had a kit inspection yet, Banshee? By the way, we expect a few notes in this Journal from you all. Liven them up, Nobby.

**General.**—The jackals are getting persistent of late. They obtained a few victims lately. Clean swoop. The unfortunates had no chance. Innocent creatures, too.

"Oh! what doughty men are those jackals!
Their rapacity really appals.
When seeing them dine,
We are forced to a whine,
And then on us the blame always falls."

Truly terrible, but still, better a frier than a trier. Eh, Nathan Parry? Does anyone know the identity of these jackals?

**Promotions.**—The Company trainer and enthusiastic sportsman has reached the lofty height of police sergeant. My word! he is making a success of it, too. Snip, isn't it, Tich? I hope he does not bite. Least said, soonest mended.

A certain modest lance-corporal has attained the responsible situation of mess room corporal. I had better not say much about this young man, or *else*, if he is in a pugilistic mood when he reads this, there will be a sudden dive and squash. 13 stones is your weight, isn't it, Sid?

**Re-Engagement.**—L/Corpl A. Williams to complete 12 years with the Colours. Can't beat it, can you, Taff?

**Query.**—Do swedes turn over potatoes, to encourage the growth and abundance? If anyone knows, please tell Percy of this Company. He seeks knowledge on the subject.

**Mercury's.**—By all appearances, the Company seems to be sporting "a flying squad." All one sees and hears of, nowadays, is motor cycle theory. The only drawback for these enthusiasts is that the space around the huts does not emulate Brooklands. We shall have to hire the race-course for some speed trials, as there are plenty of bets floating around as to whose machine is the best.

**Sports.**—The sports news will be found on the usual pages. We have been bouncing lately.

LULU.



## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**"Oh to be in England now that April's there"** (BROWNING)—Those words have passed through the minds of many during the past month, which has given us such glorious days. It has made Section training a great pleasure—the schemes and all the little extras connected with such training tending towards fitness for more strenuous times to come. G Section went off one fine day to join their Artillery Brigade at Bordon, and E Section journeyed to Larkhill for a stay at the practice camp, and incidentally to make themselves acquainted with the Plain.

**"Who doth ambition shun"** (SHAKESPEARE).—The February-April quarter for trade testing having closed, a survey of the results shows that progress in the right direction continues. From a total of nineteen candidates, only two failed to pass. Space will not permit of individual reference, but those who were among the successful are to be congratulated.

Education instruction throughout the winter has resulted in the award of one 1st class, with a "D" for mathematics. Two candidates were unsuccessful in one subject only, and we wish them luck in the next effort. Twenty-three of the Firstdivsigs received the award of a 2nd class certificate, but again space does not permit of names being given.

Signalmen Meldrum and Neal have rejoined from an equitation course at the S.T.C. Both obtained a satisfactory report. Sigmn Wink found his course in cycle repair at Woolwich very interesting. Sergt Lombard has returned from Brighton Post Office, where he apparently enjoyed himself. Sigmn Baddeley is endeavouring to "forge" ahead at the School of Farriery. Sigmn Clayton is being instructed in the art of cookery at the School here. Corpl Parish, following his visit to the R.A.V. School, can now produce a certificate for "animal management." L/Corpl Wiggins has joined the School of Signals for an A.I. course, at which we trust he will get full honours and his flags.

**Carry on! Carry on!** (R. W. SERVICE).—Records have been kind to us, and we are not to lose our R.S.M. for some years yet. The news was received with delight not only by the Firstdivsigs, but by his numerous friends in and out of the garrison. Dvr Sharpe, finding life very agreeable in the Service, is also remaining for another six years.

**"Many a Man's Destiny"** (R.L.S.)—To L/Cpl O'Flannagan, Sigmn Phillips and Dvr Sharpe, we offer our congratulations on their marriage. May they be very happy, and find the way to the M.Q. roll not too lengthy.

**Distant Friends.**—The kindly sentiment expressed in the "General" notes paragraph of Y.D.G. is very much appreciated. Many of us who were on the Rhine remember your late C.O., and we would like to associate ourselves with your very good wishes for his future.

Y.D.F.—We are still calling you, but no response. Can we wheedle a small paragraph from you for the next WIRE?

Y.E.A.—In your notes we have observed the reference to an old Firstdivsig (Sergt Connor), and that he has been found employment through the kindness of the C.O. of the 51st. "Smudge," did you really mean all that you say about the bounty? It seems strange that such grief should come from Scotland!

**And Merry Men are We** (CUNNINGHAM).—For the last day of April an all ranks dance was arranged, the proceeds to be forwarded to the Signals Benevolent Fund. It was, indeed, a successful affair, and we were especially fortunate in obtaining the new R.E. theatre for the occasion. Judging from appearances, everyone was keyed up to the highest point of enjoyment. Many expressed the hope that next winter unit dances might be made a regular feature each month. Our thanks to those who worked so hard to make the evening such a successful one!

Towards the close a little group was overheard discussing Silesia and a little "Union Jack"—around which there seemed to be a very good story. Mention of this will possibly bring to the mind of those who served with the "Britsilforce" some exciting episodes in Tarnowitz and vicinity. The group aforementioned have not yet decided whether it *was* really cold, and whether the snow was six inches or six feet upon the ground.

**"Men may come and men may go"** (TENNYSON).—Lieuts Hall and Danby have joined us from the S.T.C. In welcoming them, may we say that we trust they will have many happy days in the 1st Divl. Signals. Major Neeves, D.S.O., M.C., and Capt. Price have been with us for their annual training. Capt. Titterington of the T.A. also joined for short attachment.

With a note of relief, the slackening off of moves from the unit is reported. Corpl Thorne we sadly let go one day to the benefit of the Training Battalion, and Sigmn Button to E Troop. Drivers Gullon, Spearing, Chesworth and Pearce have donned civilian clothes, and it is hoped have found pleasant and remunerative employment.

Our lucky star is in the ascendant, for Corpl Jones, with Signalmen Hills, Gilliver, Reilly, Gosling, Bartley, Beckett, Tizzard, and Smith, have joined us from the Training Battn. C.S.M. Wray has joined No. 2 Company from the Depot Battn., also F/Sergt Webb (we are sorry to report he is lying ill in the Cambridge Hospital) and Sigmn Hills. Sergt Duggan, from D Troop, and L/Corpl Smith, from India, complete the list of arrivals.

Just one other of the unit is now on the way to Australia—Sigmn Judge. The best wishes of us all follow him in his adventure.

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## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 Company.

**Training.**—A and B Sections have been busily engaged in their respective exercises on the familiar training grounds in the near vicinity. A Company scheme on Tuesday and a unit scheme on Thursday is included in the weekly training programme.

A number of wireless operators, including L/Corpl Hamilton, Signalmen Reeves, Thomas, Chidgey, Yalden, Rickard, West, Myddleton and Dominey, have been detached from A Section, and are now performing various duties in connection with the Signal Centre offices under Capt. C. E. Sketch, R.Signals, O.C.

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No. 1 Company. Their new work will give them plenty of experience in connection with line operating, and they are receiving plenty of useful instruction from the O.C. Signal Centre and O.C. B Section, Lieut S. L. Collier, R.Signals.

We were pleased to welcome the detachment of the 56th Divl. Signals who were attached to this unit for training during Easter. The Cable Detachments were taken in hand by Lieut S. L. Collier, and the operators, electricians and fitters were under Sergt Tolley. A good programme of hard work was commenced on the afternoon of their arrival, and concluded at noon on Easter Sunday. We hope they benefited by their short stay, and that we may welcome them again in the near future.

**Leave.**—Half of the Company were fortunate in obtaining Easter leave, returning on the Monday evening.

**Messing.**—The Company mess room, resplendent with jazz curtains, plate racks, and creations of local artists adorning the walls, makes a contrast with the old system of messing. A portion of the room at night is devoted to reading and writing, and with the aid of a voluntary subscription, pens, ink and other materials are provided. It is believed that if a certain person brings his "inspiration" to add to his reasoning, the period of opening will have to be extended. Thanks are due to all who have assisted in the decorating and arranging of the place.

**Marriage.**—Congratulations to Sigmn and Mrs. A. Christie on their marriage, which took place on Easter Monday. A suitable present from the Company, in honour of the happy event, carried with it all best wishes for their future happiness.

**Extensions of Service.**—Someone said this was one better than a marriage notice. Anyhow, we can record two on our list during the past month. Corpl J. Anderson to complete 12 years with the Colours (more cracking, Jock). C.Q.M.S. Ruffle is permitted to continue in the Service beyond 21 years until 1931.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome the following, who have joined us during the past month: Sergt R. Watts (of "Khelia" fame) from permanent staff, 55th Divl. Signals, T.A. Corpl H. Battrick from Depot Battalion, Catterick. Sigmn E. White from Training Battalion, Catterick. Sigmn A. Chettleburgh from No. 2 Company. Sigmn Johnson from No. 3 Company. L/Corpl Ayton from India.

**Postings.**—Sergt A. Johnson and Sigmn A. Batchelor to Catterick. Signalmen Gray, Neale and Holliday to No. 2 Coy. SergtsWalker and Radford and Sigmn C. Bickers to No. 3 Coy.

**Discharges.**—Transferred to Army Reserve, Signalmen Jennings and Young, and (prematurely) Sigmn G. F. Edwards.

**Courses.**—Signalmen Hillier and Cordell attended stretcher bearing classes and obtained a satisfactory standard of proficiency. Sigmn R. Dominey obtained a good report whilst on a butcher's course with the R.A.S.C. Sigmn Wood returned from a mechanical traction course at the Royal Artillery Training College

**Other News.**—"Satan," the treble-action "Butler" of our mess room, will be greatly missed by all who remember that familiar fag and hat. His old hut-mates were glad to know that Darlington forgot his past exploits and received him with open arms. They hope he will give the "hesitation waltz" a wide berth and only play one tune at a time.

With regard to the suggestions in connection with the formation of a local broadcasting party, I have received a few offers of help. Sciatica and that famous leg will broadcast the weather report; general news and gossip by the Aggler; "My adventures on Brooklands," by the Flying Eight; "Advantages of a week-end pass," by Posh Percy and his gamp; song, "The Farmer's Boy," by the Mayor of Swedeland; "Why I shall always eat rissoles," by Young Sparrow; "A Study of Form," by Porky. We have yet to discover a suitable wave-length that won't annoy the police.

The two vampires are still dogging the footsteps of—(?)

We should like to hear more of old 2nd Divites' doings at home and abroad.

Our Savings Secretary still deplores the fact that there is no great demand for his wares. His old customer is breaking off the habit since he left the pay office.

The widow is patiently waiting for a letter from Charlie of Egypt Signals.

HAMO.

## No. 3 Company.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome to this Company Sergts Radford and Walker from No. 1 Company; also Signalmen Morris and Walton from Catterick; and trust that their stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

**Easter Leave.**—Leave was generously granted throughout the Company, and many took advantage of the spell of sunshine to get as far as possible from military surroundings, especially the more fortunate individuals who had a spare fiver or snapper at the recent Aldershot race meeting. All have returned prepared to do their bit towards the efficiency of their respective Sections, prior to our Divisional training in Oxon.

**General.**—The soccer "match of the season" took place on April 19th between the officers and senior n.c.o.s of the unit. Many amusing incidents brought full-throated yells from the spectators, and towards the end of the game the players seemed to "geit their eyes down" and played good football; but we touch-liners by far preferred the first thirty minutes of the game.

**A Rumour.**—It is rumoured that the happiest man in the Company is a certain signalman of K Section, who has recently entered that blissful state known as marriage. We one and all wish both him and his wife every happiness in their new venture.

**Things We Hear.**—Scene, Company Office. One individual to another: "What have you done in the 2.30?" Answer: "Close d'Or." Voice in distance: "Can't, sir; the latch is broken."

Overheard on the Allotment: "If I can only keep the rats and birds off the garden; the children from digging the spuds up; the mules from treading in the seeds; the cattle from eating the cabbage; the dogs from scratching up the shallots; and the rain off—then I shall grow some decent sweet peas in my window box at home."



Scene, Unit Wagon Sheds. One Section Sergeant to another: "How many grease-caps have you got?" (referring to grease-caps on wagons. L.G.S.). Answer (individual meanwhile removing his cap, S.D. stiff): "Only this one, and a soft one at home."

THREECO.

## D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot.

**Training.**—Musketry produced quite pleasing results this year. It has since come to light that several aspiring "cracks" were in the habit of visiting the ranges at night and annoying the bulls after the fashion of the matador.

Now, no self-respecting bull would tolerate that kind of thing, and consequently the whole gol'-darned bunch got annoyed. On the great day, instead of leering over the butts at us in the conceited and placid manner peculiar to male cows, they all appeared to have lost their usual deliberate coolness, equilibrium, and nerve, and could only squat there in a frenzy of helpless rage. As a result they were naturally too slow in ducking (or, I am inclined to think, they actually leapt in the way of oncoming shots) and large numbers were literally mown down by "Bull" Shelley, who finished with 103 notches on the butt of his shootin' iron.

Thanks to our umpires, we concluded with 32 firsts, 19 seconds and 5 thirds. Gee! but I'm ashamed to admit that we allowed one steer to make a clean getaway.

Only one incident marred a perfect round-up. Marker Blank got a leg over his gun-belt, and failed to jump clear of a 30-cwt. cow as it threshed its last in the butts.

**Believe Me.**—But our close rivals appear to be suffering from that dreaded complaint, "illushonitis," accentuated by hallucinations. That "expressions of admiration were many" is true in a sense, since we hardly believed that another unit could run us so close.

Dakota Crack (the famous cowboy poet) once said "that he who rides upon the polished leather shall surely bite the dust." Yet these rivals did not appear to be very bruised; but then, perhaps, they ride *without* saddles, with the optimistic idea that a few months' practice will enable them to see our boots off.

Come one, come all, and feast your tired optics upon used-every-day saddles, still in the same condition as when we beat the Crossacks at Olympia for turnout and style.

**If——!**—A recent experience of mine was to discover a bandolier, cotton, full of diamonds, when issuing .303 from a freshly-opened ammo' box. It may interest all quartermasters to know that, after considerable controversy between the O.O. and myself, the case was thoroughly thrashed out, and the decision reached that the diamonds were to be returned to Ordnance Pronto. From thence, it is understood, they will be distributed among deserving quarterblokes. (Our Q.M. says he couldn't possibly accept them.)

**Arrivals.**—Amidst clouds of dust, the odour of sweat as associated with hard-ridden ponies, the jingle of spurs and harness, and gruff swearing voices, Sigmn Marsden arrived from Colchester on April 19th; L/Sergt Bardoe from Aldershot Command Signal Company on the same day; and Signalmen Thomas and Tilcock from D Company T.B. on the 22nd. Say, buddies, you're share welcome. Put 'er ther'.

**Departures.**—Despite the fact that we're a hard-riding, cursing lot of bhoys, some were seen to pipe their eyes when A/Sergt Duggan left for 1st Divl. Signals (one time, the bar-one outfit) on April 19th.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—To be Corporals: A/Corpls Smith w.e.f. 22/11/26, and Ives w.e.f. 18/1/27. Sigmn Barbour appointed F/Corpl w.e.f. 13/2/27. Wonder if they got the same sensation as I did when they jumped me from cow hand ter fence rider?

**Birth.**—F/Sergt Vanstone has been presented with an understudy: Peter William—two as fine names as any. May we see the day when Little Bill 'll be the foreman o' this ranch.

**Extension of Service.**—Corpl Jim Perryman has evidently realised the fact that being among men and roughin' it isn't so bad after all. He has extended to complete 12 years with the Colours of the Royal Signals outfit. Once again, put 'er ther'.


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**More Ifs—!!**—A reader writes to say that he had occasion to try out my "Hints for Would-be's" (May) and—they were successful. (Post-marked Colney Hatch.)

Signalman 1: "Have a cigarette, old man." Signalman 2: "No thanks."

A rooky once asked an old sweat, "Have you ever been to India?" The old sweat said, "Yes, but that's nothing to shout about."

"Dear——, I am making you an allotment of 18s. per week, and keeping the other 1s. 3d. for myself."

**Finis.**—Mebbe ah doan't gahnd as 'Owdam as ah mai bi-at ahw, shushow ahm allus

'OWDAM LAD.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—Notes from this unit must of necessity be short, as very little has transpired since the last issue of THE WIRE.

**Arrivals.**—We give a hearty welcome to Sigmn Button from the 1st Divl. Signals, Corpl Chalmers from Spike Island, and Corpl Crowhurst from India. May their stay be a long and happy one.

**Training.**—Great strides are being taken by the personnel of this unit in regard to training, especially amongst the wirelessops, since practical work is gradually displacing theoretical. Inter-unit schemes with the 3rd Divl. Signals have more than proved the usefulness of the C set and the efficiency of the operators. The inter-unit scheme with D Troop Cavalry Divl. Signals has not, however, met with the same unalloyed success.

**Equitation.**—Riding drill is still the order of the day, and owing to the introduction of vaulting and physical exercises, greater enthusiasm is being shown by individuals taking part, in spite of a number of bruises. The enthusiasm among those recently joined subsided when jumps of abnormal size appeared, but a general recovery took place after it had been explained that they were built only for horses that could really jump.

The commanding officer, who is taking a big personal interest in the training in both riding and jumping, is also taking great pains to teach the art of the forward seat, which greatly enhances the horse's chance of clearing an obstacle (also the man's chance of remaining in the seat).

**Troop Gardens.**—Hitherto, and for some unknown reason, this has never been treated by this unit as a subject for THE WIRE. But when the adjutant of another regiment (which possesses wonderful gardens *and* a professional gardener) stops to praise our display to the detriment of his own, I consider it time to shout—and shout loud. Great credit is due to our commanding officer for the taste he displayed in planning them, and to the gardeners who worked hard to make those plans a success.

SANSMUDGE.

## No. 1 A.A. Signal Company.

Blackdown.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl Saul and Sigmn Randall joined the Company from India on April 23rd ex H.M.T. "Kildonan Castle." We extend to them a hearty welcome, and trust they will have a happy stay with us.

**Promotion.**—Congratulations to Corpl Barrett on his promotion to that rank.

**Obituary.**—It is with deepest regret that we have to announce the death of the wife of C.S.M. Hunt, after a very short illness.

**Education.**—Congratulations to Sigmn Richards on obtaining his 1st class certificate of education.

**Marriage.**—Sigmn A. Walker to Elizabeth Gainer, on April 16th. It is said that a Froth-blower will shortly be joining the roll.

ACK ACK.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

**That's Why.**—Threats, appeals to good nature, pleadings and exhortations of all shapes and sizes, having failed to wring an apology from the unit scribe for his failure to furnish notes last month, it remains for us to carry on in silence. He (the scribe) says he crept quietly away on Easter leave, but the word "quietly" is only a figure of speech, because with a motor-cycle like his—well, have you ever heard a sack of nails being emptied on to a corrugated iron roof?

**Wembley Trip.**—Three bus-loads of troops, numbering approximately 75, set off for Wembley at 6.15 a.m. on April 23rd. This was a much happier affair than the check parade usually held at the same hour. Their objective was the cup final, and thanks to the arrangements of R.S.M. Adams they had seats almost on the touch line, with the minimum of bother. Just walked in, sat down, and proceeded to peel oranges until the great moment arrived. This trip is now looked forward to as an annual event, and so long as we can have things arranged as well as the one referred to above, it will continue to be one of the most successful.

3rd Divisional Signals Concert Party.

*Back Row (left to right)*—Sergt Nicks, Sigmn Raiman, Sigmn Runeckles, Corpl Walker, Sigmn Martin, Sigmn Harry, Sigmn Garratt

*Middle Row*—Sigmn Newberry, R.S.M. Adams, D.C.M., Sergt Adcock, Sigmn Rankin, L/Corpl Harding, Sigmn Berriff, L/Sergt Barlow

*Front Row*—Mrs. Fee, Captain C. A. Oliver, M.C., Miss de Vanney, Major A. C. Allan, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut Maltby, L/Corpl Harris, Sigmn Pearson

**Speedy Kids Again.**—A party was detailed in unit orders, recently, "to proceed to Bulford station at 7.30 a.m., to catch the 8 a.m. train *from* Waterloo." No definite news has since been received, but several vague messages state that the train was seen meandering through Woking.

**Accident.**—Sigmn E. Greatorex, of No. 2 Company, had the misfortune to arrest the passage of a horse's hoof with his face recently, thereby losing several teeth and some blood. All ranks wish him a speedy recovery, and trust that his features will not be unduly re-modelled.

**Personal.**—Corpl Chandler, of the "chippy" fraternity, wonders whether old Alf of the "shiny eighth" has forgotten him.

Several other people wonder whether their friends have forgotten them; but as they failed to provide details for publication, they may continue to wonder until next time.

**Arrivals.**—From Training Battalion: L/Corpl Ivison, Signalmen Deighton, Pickles, Shone, Southey, Osborne, Ferguson, Davis and Cassidy. From Depot Battalion: Corpl Diggins, Signalmen Northway, Adkins and Smith. From India: Sergts McEwan, Drew and Branden, Corpl Andrews, L/Corpl Tennant, and Sigmn Pridmore. From South Ireland Signal Section: L/Sgt Standley and Corpl Kelly. From the Rhine: Sergt Freemantle. From E Troop: L/Sergt Rhodes.

**Departures.**—To the Army Reserve: L/Corpl Jones, Signalmen King, Riley and Hodges, Drivers Franks, Spurway, Merritt, and Chamberlain. On Discharge: Sigmn Purchase. To A Corps Signals: F/Sergt V. Townley.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—To be F/Sergeant, F/Corpl V. Townley. To be A/Sergeant, L/Sergts Keane and Vokins. To be L/Sergeant, Corpls Barlow and Lannigan. To be A/Corpl, L/Corpls McBride, Ivison, Hinks and Crummey. To be L/Corpls (paid), Signalmen Brookes, Basted, Chesters, Wakefield, Slater, Keast.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome to the following: From Tientsin, North China: Sergt H. Smith. From Catterick: Signalmen J. E. Ayling, E. R. C. Dalley, E. F. Faulkes, C. E. Richards, I. H. T. Nicholls, W. P. Wallace, G. R. West, R. A. Lowes, W. H. Gee, C. W. Hinchcliffe, G. A. Rawlinson, J. Watson, N. P. Shepherd, A. W. Weeks, E. H. Gear, L. Rooks, A. C. Taylor, J. Whalley, W. Parker, H. J. Pratt, J. Robinson, P. Stone, R. H. Wheeler, N. Ellis, F. J. Turpin, C. Watson, and J. Milne. From Egypt, via F Company, S.T.C.: Sigmn E. Whitfield. From India, via Depot and Newcastle: Sigmn M. Meehan and family.

**Departures.**—Our good wishes go with the following: To 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot: Dvrs J. Franks, G. Goldingay, C. Helliwell, W. H. Hill, W. Jenner, P. C. Mills, J. Ogden. To 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot: Dvrs T. Setchfield, E. G. Radford, L. C. Sharpe, W. L. Shillibeer, J. Simpson, and C. H. Smith.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—The following are to be congratulated on their first step up the ladder of fame:—

Sigmn Walmsley to be F/Corporal, w.e.f. 13/2/27.

The undermentioned are appointed L/Corporals on the Corps roster, with effect from the dates shewn against their names: L/Corpls S. J. Poole, M. A. K. Smith, J. H. Johnson, and W. J. Green, 1/10/26. L/Corpl H. S. Hodgson, 2/10/26. L/Corpl L. J. Peerless, 11/12/26. L/Corpl L. Higginson, 1/4/27.

F/Sergt G. W. Harris has the hearty good wishes of all ranks in this unit on gaining his 1st class certificate of education on March 16th.

**General.**—Beyond the few arrivals and departures noted above, the unit is extremely quiet just now. All hands are undergoing the annual agony of musketry. Some of us have had a few shots on the 30 yards range, and the results are on the whole fairly good. However, we hope to see better results at Middlewick. I wonder if any of our confreres in China are getting any real honest-to-goodness practice? By the way, we are still looking for their promised notes in THE WIRE. Perhaps they will appear in this issue. [They do—Editor.]

Our sympathies go out to the relatives of Sigmn Scarlett, who (as reported in Shafarce Signals Part II. Orders) was drowned in Hong Kong harbour.

We have noticed a very posh aerial erected behind the sergeants' mess, and on inquiry we find that its t'other end is connected to a three-valve receiving set of great power and clarity, through the medium of which Sergt Molyneux and the other two members of the mess are now and again prompted to rise and give an exhibition of the Charleston and Black Bottom.

The Signals Association Monday night dances are still a great success, their popularity increasing week by week. The well-known Sanger's syncopated band—the best jazz band in the town—keeps the fun going, so that even the aforementioned wireless set is entirely deserted on Monday nights. Despite the out-of-the-way locality of our regimental institute, the dance is quite popular among the ladies of the town. We suspect that an added attraction is provided by Benje and his masterly performance of the Black Bottom. His head can be seen high above the crowd, swaying (sometimes) to the rhythm of the music.

**Bumbleshay at it Again.**—With fast-beating heart, Bumbleshay leaned from his perilous perch and groped along the edge with nerveless fingers. The horror of the night was accentuated by the knowledge that here, close to his hand, lay the body which but a moment before had been pulsating with life, and was now lying in ghastly proximity, crumpled and horrible.

A low groan escaped his trembling lips. How could he spend the night with death at his shoulder? If he could but reach the body and push it from the ledge, all would be well. With the courage born of desperation, he made up his mind to make one more effort. Reaching behind him he caught at the projection with one hand, again leaned out, and at last touched the body. His heart turned to ice at the contact, and he experienced an uncanny rising of his back hair. He gritted his teeth and gave an outward thrust. The body rolled to the edge and—over!—down!—thud!

At dawn next morning, Signalman Bumbleshay leaned from his bed, pulled his box aside, and surveyed with mingled feelings the remains of a huge spider he had killed just at "lights out" the night before. "Never could a'bear 'em," he muttered.

**Agony.**—Sergt Cayley would like to know if Batt is still on the inventory board.

Andy would like to know how Tappy likes the extra weight on his arm.

Will George Saint drop that promised line to L. J. P. at this station? (The same line that was overdue at Maresfield two years ago.)

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Belfast.

I must apologise for the absence of notes last month. I can only say that it shall not occur again.

**Musketry.**—The Company have just completed their annual weapon training course. The shooting was mostly of a very high standard, the Company average being 74.14. A prize was put up by the commanding officer for the best score, being won by Sigmn Garrad, with 96 points out of a possible 115.

**C.O.C.'s Inspection.**—The G.O.C.'s annual inspection is due to take place shortly. It has caused great consternation amongst the boys, the greatest moan being about posh collars. Now, the fellows out here *are* posh. Therefore, the stiff single collars that adorn their worthy necks have to be removed and substituted by the dearly-loved "butterfly"—or the alternative is to visit the C.Q.M.S. stores.

There is a kit inspection for two rooms to-morrow (why only two, the most learned members of our assembly cannot imagine). One of the oldest inhabitants remarked (and I, being fresh from the Depot, fail to understand his remark!) that he could now "work his system," and when asked about the said system, whispered "Bags of spare kit downstairs." It is, however, unnecessary to state that it was his most expensive morning for many moons.

**Marriage.**—I don't know whether to blame the weather or the Irish atmosphere, but recently another member of our flock has tied the usual knot. Sigmn C. Stone has the best wishes of the Company and a very suitable present. Being a member of the Radiators concert party, he also received a present from them. We hope, some day, he may be able to use them. The wedding went off in great style, and so did most of the spectators when it started to rain. Sigmn Cowan wished he could have gone too, but being "best man" he couldn't. Of course, Ginger stayed to shout.

# —has the Largest Sale

Why has Kia-Ora the largest sale of all fresh fruit beverages produced in the British Empire?

*Because more people like Kia-Ora than any other kind—several kinds put together, in fact.*

But why do so many people prefer Kia-Ora?

*Because in making Kia-Ora fresh ripe fruit juice and cane sugar are used exclusively, and fresh fruit juices make beverages of the most captivating flavour, health-giving and enjoyable. Good for everybody at all times.*

The sales of Kia-Ora grow rapidly; every year the increase is a large one. Long-continued success is the best proof of quality—so if you want high quality and real enjoyment for your family and guests—you will buy, and continue to buy:

**KIA-ORA**
**LEMON SQUASH OR ORANGE SQUASH**

Sold everywhere at 3½1 and 2/- per bottle (24-30 glasses).

SOLE MAKERS: KIA-ORA, LIMITED, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON, S.E. 1


**Transfer to Army Reserve.**—Corpl H. Eldridge on 5/5/27. We all join in wishing him the best of luck on his return to civvy street.

**Promotion.**—We congratulate L/Sergt Huggett and A/Corpl McDonald on their recent promotion to A/Sergt and Corporal respectively.

**Education.**—Congratulations to Sigmn J. P. Whittaker on gaining his 1st class certificate of education at the March exam.

**Belfast Calling.**—Old Dean Swift would like to hear from C.Q.M.S. H. Hyson, one whom he initiated into the mysteries of "the clutching hand" and who proved an apt pupil.

**Heard in the Office.**—"I belonged to the only Royal Regiment, and now my son belongs to the only Royal Corps." Answer: "Shall I open the window, Dean? rather stuffy in here."

A fellow recently posted from E Company, Catterick, moans at all hours of the day and night for a friend called Chicko. Now, Slim Laye, can't you use a little gentle persuasion and get this person transplanted.

Is the inner circle at Catterick doing any big beats? K Lines is a long way, Ginger. Now Tubby hasn't to walk far, has he?

RASTUS.

## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, May 13th.

At the time of writing the Field Company are having a spell in camp, whilst the Command Company are keeping the flag flying in barracks.

The camp at Tier Park is not all that could be wished for, the nearest village being at least two miles away. There is a long walk to the station, and in addition there is very little scope for sports, dances and numerous other items.

The Signal units "Brickettes" concert party gave another show, this time in the Y.M.C.A., which was appreciated by the large number who attended. Owing to the Field Company being at camp, we shall have to wait a month for their appearance again.

The article on Malta was read with great interest, and if we had something like that every month, I am sure it would improve our Journal immensely.

"Jimmies" Vat of the A.O.F.B. was opened in the n.c.o.s mess on Monday last, when a very enjoyable evening was spent. We are informed that there's more to come.

The annual sports day has been arranged for June 28th, the programme this year to include numerous mounted events. It is hoped that the side shows will be as good as those of the last sports day.

At a recent 2nd class certificate of education examination, twelve candidates proved successful—but we should have liked to see more! Still, if at first you don't succeed, etc.

Higher trade ratings appear frequently in Orders these days, which is very pleasing—and the reward of hard work during the individual training season.

Signalmen W. A. Marson, H. C. Borrow, and L. W. Williams have our congratulations on having each taken unto himself a wife. Every success is wished them.

L/Corpl Barraclough has re-joined us from E Company, having missed the boat for India. Signalmen J. Alden and J. R. Jordan have left us for F Company prior to discharge; Signalmen F. R. Clarke, P. R. Owen and H. Gough to Vocational Training Centre, Catterick; Sergt J. Freemantle to 3rd Divl. Signals; and Corpl F. Varley, Signalmen W. Lovett and W. E. Hunter to 2nd Divl. Signals. We wish them every happiness in their new spheres.

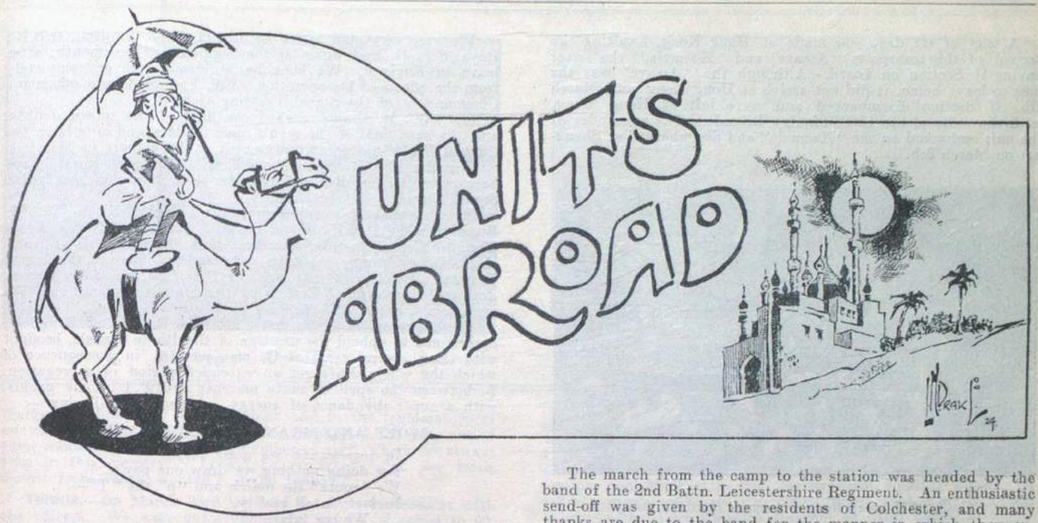
Sigmn Taylor-Smith has returned after a lengthy Post Office course at Leeds, looking more intelligent.

We extend our hand to Sergt A. Crockford on his promotion to that rank; Corpl W. Pronger to L/Sergeant; and to L/Corpls L. R. Morley and C. F. C. Wheeler on being added to the Corps roster. Everything comes to those who wait.

A nice little party was present at the whist drive which was held in the regimental institute, and the following came out winners: Ladies: Signalmen Bowden, Vigurs and Le Cocq. Gentlemen: Dvr Metters, Signalmen Moffitt and Lovell.

ARMAC.






## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

Instructions were received on the afternoon of January 22nd that the 4th Divl. Signals were to proceed to China. Considerable excitement was caused by the news, the younger bloods of the unit shewing the "Let's get at them" spirit, whilst the married men (thinking of what their wives would say) kept quiet. Arrangements were made for the unit to embark on various dates between January 28th and February 3rd.

Headquarters, A Section, and No. 3 Company entrained at midnight on 27/28th January, at St. Botolphs, Colchester, and proceeded to Southampton, embarking the next morning.

Capt. T. H. L. Turner and Lieut. H. P. Hart, M.C.

The march from the camp to the station was headed by the band of the 2nd Battn. Leicestershire Regiment. An enthusiastic send-off was given by the residents of Colchester, and many thanks are due to the band for the manner in which they enlivened the time of waiting for the train to depart.

Headquarters, H and K Sections embarked on H.M.T. "Kildonan Castle," and the remainder on H.M.T. "Assaye." The "Assaye" moved off at 3 p.m. and proceeded straight to sea in the face of a strong south-westerly gale. The "Kildonan Castle" anchored in midstream until the next morning. A memory of the next three days is just sufficient. The number of times the "Assaye" was on the point of sinking is also common knowledge!

The accommodation on board the "Kildonan Castle" was excellent; the men were allotted four-berth cabins and all were made very comfortable. Conditions on board the "Assaye" were somewhat different, and those who travelled on this boat have announced their intention of taking off their hats in token of respect to every sailor they meet.

Barricade through which defeated Northerners tried to pass.

Exceptionally fine weather was experienced after the first three days, and everyone enjoyed the voyage. The "Kildonan Castle" reached Colombo on February 17th, and whilst coaling operations were in progress the men were allowed on shore, being accommodated under canvas for the night and embarking again at midday the following day. Hong Kong was reached at 4 p.m. on February 27th, the voyage out having taken thirty days—a very good performance.

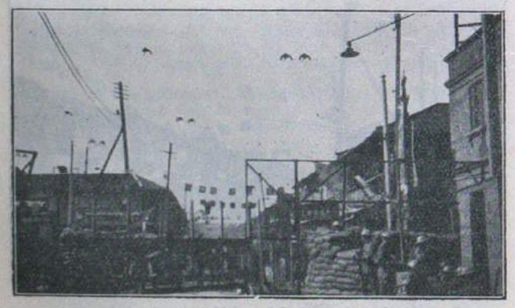
During the voyage, sports, boxing, and community singing were held. The community singing competition was easily won by the Signals team—quite a new departure in Corps achievements.

A stay of six days was made at Hong Kong, awaiting the arrival of the transports "Assaye" and "Karmala," the latter having J Section on board. Although the "Assaye" was the first to leave home, it did not arrive at Hong Kong until March 4th. J Section disembarked and were left at Hong Kong, with the units of the 13th Infantry Brigade. The remainder of the unit embarked on the "Karmala" and disembarked at Shanghai on March 8th.

Group of Prisoners from the Chinese Northern Army.

Work was commenced in earnest, and before long detachments were working in every part of the International Settlement. This being a combination of peace and war, the work of Signals is made very difficult. Civilian lines are being used to a very great extent, and where cable lines have to be laid the work has to be done along roads crowded with traffic of every description.

On March 22nd some little excitement was caused when we had to turn out to support a small detachment of the Durham Light Infantry, who were having a hot time in trying to prevent about six hundred Shantung troops from entering the Settlement. We helped in rounding up and disarming the prisoners, and finding the guard until they were all safely under lock and key. Some of the men obtained a little rifle practice, taking pot shots at the snipers who abounded in the district. The effort was a good one, and the unit was congratulated on the part it had taken in the emergency.



A General View of the Barricade.

The language difficulty causes a great deal of amusement, but the British soldier is gradually overcoming the difficulty in the same manner that he did in France.

WUN LUNG.

## Signal Training Centre (India).

Jubbulpore, April 20th.

**General.**—The temperature has touched the 100 mark during the daytime, and it's really warming up, though the nights are reasonable.

We were very glad to see Lieut.-Col. P. Z. Paulson, O.B.E., Royal Signals, back again at the beginning of the month, after leave in England. We hope he will soon recover completely from the effects of his operation. Col. Paulson is now officiating Commandant of the Signal Training Centre.

Capt. W. M. Clapp reached the final of the mixed doubles and the semi-final of the men's open doubles and singles in the Central Provinces tennis tournament at Jubbulpore in March.

Jemadar Nur Mohammed and C.Q.M.H. Abdul Rashid have been promoted Subadar and Jemadar respectively in the Indian Signal Corps.

By the time this appears in print Major E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Signals, will have left the Signal Training Centre to take command of A Corps Signals at Karachi. Major Bradley has been commanding officer of the Signal Training School for a year, and, as President, has done a great deal to help the local Branch of the Signals Association. We wish him the best of luck.

Certain members of the last draft from the United Kingdom, determined to uphold the prestige of the Rhine Signals, brought with them several cases of German measles, in consequence of which the whole draft got an extended period of segregation. In between the spell of route marches and P.T., some genius, with a super-abundance of energy, evolved the following:—

WOES AND MOANS OF SEGREGATION.

In segregation we must stay;
For doing nothing we draw our pay;
We "route" the march and "p" the "T"—
In fact, in all reality,
We are taboo.

In tents and bungalows we remain,
For reasons which to us are plain;
For if to town we wish to trek,
We do so but to risk our neck,
And so disdain.

If a petition we should send
To our M.O., his heart to rend,
He may scorn our application,
Nor heed our urgent supplication,
And our time extend.

If all our efforts, then, should fail,
And we must plod our segregated trail,
We then may find, on meditation,
That we must sign our "pontoons only"
To complete our segregation.

Corpl Wooldridge has soon become Indianised. He has joined the I.U.L. Readers in the S.T.C. at Catterick will be pleased to hear that the rotund "Harry" (of cap fame) has once again dug himself in.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Sigmn Fookes has been made an A/U/L/Corporal.

Congratulations to the following on their Corps promotions to L/Sergeant: Corpls Hunt, Lister, Swaine and Patheyjohns; also to A/Corpl Holmes on being made Corporal, and L/Corpl Humphrey on being appointed A/Corporal.

**Certificates of Education.**—Congratulations to Sigmn Lewis on obtaining a "special" (distinguished in geography).

**Extension of Service.**—India has still charms for some. L/Corpl W. J. Prickett has extended his service, preferring India's sunny clime to being on the dole.

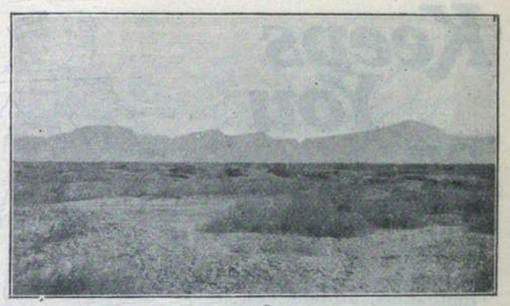
**Marriages.**—From a casual perusal of Part II. Orders there is likely to be a sudden rush to join the ranks of the benedicts in the near future. To mention only a few: L/Sergt H. A. Wright, L/Corpls Prickett and Brown.

**Departures.**—Sigmn Staff and family proceeded to Rawalpindi. C.Q.M.S. Betts has gone to swell the ranks of the unemployed, but we wish him the best of luck. The regular compiler of this part of WIRE notes has gone to Belgaum on a course of brain burnishing, and his task has fallen on the shoulders of a poor unfortunate. If by any chance readers discover a falling off in talent, their forgiveness is requested.

### W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

For the last time this season we welcome one or two new members from home, and sincerely hope they will find life here to their liking. There are a couple of landmarks among them

Kut, from the river Tigris.



Part of the Kut Battle-fields, with the Push-i-Kuh Mountains in the background.

(Sergeants Dillon and Loton) which add to the temperature of our climate. On their draft was one bright lad. During one of their route marches he espied a number of oxen, which are always thin in this country. "Look," he remarked; "if you made Bovril from them, wouldn't it be tough?"

**Tennis.**—On March 23rd we held a tennis tournament with the officers. We were unfortunate and lost by 52 games to 40. We were, however, very pleased to have the company of the new C.O. of the Signal Training School, Lieut.-Col. J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., on this occasion.

Our tennis battle with the Phœnix Club resulted in a second defeat for us from that club: by 62 games to 52. The club, however, are able to turn out some brilliant players; and at present we bow to superior form.

**Entertainments.**—On March 23th our lounge echoed and re-echoed with joviality, on the occasion of a whist drive. On the 70th we held another whist drive and dance, in the open, on our tennis courts. It was rather a quiet affair, but decidedly select. The outstanding feature on this occasion was a wonderful violin solo by our band violinist. As the strains of music floated on the still night air, one felt "the call of the East" in a compelling manner, with the result that some of us moved slightly westward—to allay the thirst for adventure.

**The Garden.**—Great praise is due to our garden committee, and every member fully appreciates the results of their efforts. The only black spot on the whole of the mess grounds is the gardener.

**Music.**—Our gramophone is indeed a great friend, and has a refreshing tune about ice. We've only had the record about a week, and already it shows great signs of fair wear and tear. It is thought that the ice is the attraction.

**Psychology.**—Has a certain Quartermaster learnt the Chinese for "Mine's a double," or "I've come out without any change"?

**Messing.**—We must not forget the messing committee. I am sure they fulfil the motto "Carpe diem." As for myself, "dum spiro, spero," and at present "de gustibus non est desperandum." To the younger members of the committee "experientia docet," and no doubt they now fully realise "esse quam videri," but "humanum est errare." Above all, our committee do uphold "esprit de corps," and are now "fortiter in re, suaviter in modo." "The Admiral's Arms" is going strong, and is the one gay spot in Jubbulpore. It is already widely known as the modified Leicester lounge.

**Personal.**—Sergt J. E. White would like to hear from some of his old friends in the 4th Signals, last heard of in China.

### Corporals' Mess.

Several successful social functions have been held during the past month, to wit, two whist drives and dances; two billiard matches; and socials with the corporals' mess of the 1st Battn. Hampshire Regiment. With regard to the latter, honours are even, as the "Swedes" saw us off in their mess, but on our own ground we won by the handsome margin of 100 points.

Much talent (?) was discovered at the socials. Brothers Dipple, Wooldridge, Watterton, and Welch are the leaders in the singing of the "Frothblowers' Anthem." In connection with the whist drives and dances, our thanks are particularly due to Corporals French and Ritchie for their excellent services at the bar; Corpl Watterton, our president; and Corporals Taplin, Onslow and MacFarlane for the excellent lighting effects. It reflects great credit on the committee for showing a credit balance after many "tomato seasons" of debit balances.

Tennis has had quite a fillip lately by the advent of the ex-Blighty Pattersons and Tildens, who I understand are prepared to give lessons to the uninitiated. Corpls Archer and Williams, however, still hold the mess championship pots at tennis. Corpl MacFarlane has just taken on his pugilistic shoulders the duties of vice-president, and L/Corpl Lynch the financial side, as treasurer for the ensuing quarter. We hope they will give us plenty of functions, and "no beer" by special request of the Froth-Blowers.

## A Corps Signals.

Karachi, April 12th.

**General.**—We offer our apologies for the absence of unit notes in recent issues, but will endeavour to keep all informed of our movements in future.

Since our last "scribings" in THE WIRE, several of the old lads have left our midst to re-enter civilian life, and our best wishes are extended to all of them.

His Excellency Field-Marshal Sir William R. Birdwood, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., G.I.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief in India, visited Karachi, and on Friday, April 8th, presented to the Sherwood Foresters their new colours, this being a very impressive ceremony.

On Saturday, the 9th, the unit was paraded in full force and inspected by him. The unit turned out with its usual smartness, thereby making a great success of the parade. The C.-in-C. conversed with several of the officers and men during his inspection.

We have done very well at sports held in the district, and special praise must be given to our boxing team, which excelled itself, and should go far in the future. The facilities offered for swimming are fully used by the Corps, and will become more popular as the warmer weather progresses and prickly heat becomes prominent. Many Scots will take advantage of this free stimulant.

**Departures.**—C.S.M. Cates and family to the United Kingdom, on furlough. May their stay be pleasant. We regret to say goodbye to Sergt J. Clarkson, who has left us for A Divl. Signals; he was one of the pioneers of the present Corps. Our loss is their gain.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to Mesdames Pillenger, Kuell, Edmondstone and Steed. May their stay be long and happy.

**Congratulations.**—From Stan to Jerry, of No. 2 W/T Coy. (Sarafand), on his speedy rise to the dizzy height.

**Social.**—We still continue our fortnightly whist drives and dances, which are popular. These dances entail a lot of work, and special mention should be made of the committee who make

**Keeps You "on your toes"**

Thousands of leading sportsmen—cricketers, footballers, athletes, etc. use Wrigley's to keep them fresh and fit. Wrigley's allays thirst, freshens a parched mouth, shakes off drowsiness and steadies the nerves. It tones you up all round.

Specially good after every meal—keeps the teeth clean and helps digestion.

All this for one penny!

**WRIGLEY'S**

EH 39


them such successful functions. If any unit at home has some Charleston teachers they could spare, we should be pleased to receive them before the committee start issuing ankle pads to the present non-Charlestoners amongst our dancers.

**This Month's Agony.**—Will Sigmn E. Knight, late of Colchester, communicate with Sigmn Adams, of this unit, as the latter is eager to impart to him a lecture on "How to keep poultry."

Will Sigmn P. Bridges, of the same Division, communicate with Sigmn E. Gee, of No. 2 W/T Company?

**Howlers.**—Question: "What is the effect of cells joined in series and cells joined in parallel?" Answer: "Cells joined in series give a direct current. Cells joined in parallel give an alternating current."

Instructor: "What would you expect if you pressed the pressel switch of a 110 phone in working order?" Pupil: "A loud buzz in all receivers." (Collapse of Instructor.)

AYCORE.

## F Divisional Signals.

Kohat, April.

Since our last notes, events in the unit fall under one category: comings and goings. The big draft for home left us on March 6th—twenty-six all told, including Sergts S. A. Stevens, W. Wall, and A. Keepen for six months' leave. On April 2nd, C.Q.M.S. P. Smithies and Sergt C. Pearson also departed for a six months' rest at home. Altogether we have lost thirty-eight of the old faces since last January.

The following have been posted to the unit: Sergt L. Overington, Corpl J. Nesbit, M.M., L/Corpl V. Little, Signalmen E. Beck, A. Broad, A. Pidgeon, W. Grimshaw, L. Kennedy-Smith, V. Bilsby, A. Burton, J. Ranson, G. Ford, F. Hicks, J. Baynes, H. Brand, W. Greig, E. Ryalls, J. Yaxley, and W. Beaumont.

We have also to welcome Mrs. F. Murphy, Mrs. J. Hamilton, and Mrs. C. Garner to our family circle.

Our condolences are extended to Corpl and Mrs. F. Murphy in the loss of their only daughter, Joan, on April 9th—a very sad bereavement almost immediately on their arrival in India.

The annual migration to cooler climes has already commenced. The detachment of the unit to spend the summer at Parachinar left on April 21st, by march route, under the command of Capt. F. A. Levis. This party is due at P.C.R. on the 28th. A small number of clerical staff and wirelessops remain to brave the elements in Kohat.

The married families fold up their bungalows ("neatly, as per diagram"), pick up their boxes, and depart to the regions of Murree this month.

The following obtained 1st class education certificates at the examination held in October last: C.S.M. T. Jones, Sergt A. Keepen, and L/Corpl E. Cole. Sigmn H. Bruce passed the Urdu qualifying examination held in January.

A whist drive and dance, organised by Mrs. R. A. C. Henderson, assisted by C.S.M. and Mrs. T. Jones, was held in the dining hall on April 16th. It proved a very cheery show, and we have the promise of more such functions during the next cold weather. The prize-winners were: Ladies. 1st, Mrs. T. Jones; 2nd, Mrs. J. Hamilton. Gentlemen: 1st, Sigmn B. Myerson; 2nd, Sigmn W. Brookes.

## No. 2 (W/T) Company, B Corps Signals.

Rawalpindi, April 21st.

**Arrivals.**—We are glad to welcome Major Le Cornu, M.C., Royal Signals, and Major Pollard, M.B.E., Royal Signals, to the Corps Signals.

Major Pollard has come to command, and (like ourselves) is awaiting the day when orders for the amalgamation of the Line Company and our own will appear.

Major Le Cornu is back from the Chinese front. He arrived during the Northern Command Signals sports week, just in time to see the soccer final and to present the prizes on the last night of our boxing.

**Training.**—All operators, electricians, and fitters on courses are well down to it for the higher rating. New styles of operating are being evolved; new sets and new car-aerials are being made and tested; and there are now hopes for people with cars and motor-cycles for repair. Schemes are in great favour, especially when stations are located in Murree!

**Messing.**—It was unanimously decided at a general meeting, held on April 14th, that the local contractor (who has taken the place of the A.C.B. as far as Cambridge Barracks are concerned) should also run the Company messing. Arrangements have been made for this to take effect from May 15th. The present messing officials are hugging themselves!

ALEX.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, Punjab.

**General.**—Our worthy scribe, B.O.M., having proceeded to Belgaum on an educational course, the "dufter staff" have taken over the compilation of these notes; but as there is no regulation order or form prescribed for this sort of work, I am afraid we shall not qualify for the WIRE editorial competition. Still, all we are hoping for is to be able to dodge the bouquets that will be flung at us for having composed them.

The hot weather has now commenced in earnest, and like the modern female we are reducing our wearing apparel to a minimum. Our old friend, the mosquito, has put in an appearance. War has been declared on him before he can mobilise his forces, so maybe our malaria figures will be even lower than last year. We shall soon see the "staff wallahs" wandering around with their squads and pouring oil on troubled waters.

The Troop is at present divided into two camps: those who hope to go to the hills, and declaring to all new drafts that to remain in the Plains means untold horrors, whilst the others bravely declare that they'll "soldier on" in the Plains.



I did hear someone say, "Of course when I was in Mespot"—but as I've heard it umpteen billion times, I ran away before he really got wound up. Naturally, the sun does make one feel very faint; rather convenient, too, when collection time comes round, and one is a married man.

We have recently received some large drafts, and speculation is rife as to whether we have any of the Corps players to reinforce our football and hockey teams. If rumour is correct, we have umpteen internationals and Corps representatives. Some of our old reliables are beginning to look to their laurels, wondering if they will get a chance in the teams. Still, time will tell.

The musketry figures for the year 1926–1927 were extremely pleasing, and we wonder if any Signal unit can beat our average. Of eighty firers (British *and* Indian) we have fifty-five 1st class shots, twenty-four 2nds, and one 3rd. That is with the rifle.

With the revolver, we have three marksmen, six 1st class shots, and two 2nds. The average score with the rifle was 83.7, and with the revolver 87.8.

Several optimists are speculating as to where we shall put the Scissors cup. One even went so far as to say it was useless for other units to waste paper in sending in their returns for it.

**Arrivals.**—We pay our salaams to the following, who have joined us from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore, and have warned the canteen to get in a stock of blanco: L/Corpl J. Haisell, Signalmen Middleton, W. Shorter, W. Stone, L. Beech, G. Few, W. MacDonald, G. Nother, H. Perkins, A. Pfaff, F. Pipe, V. Robinson, J. Burdett, L. Pezare, and Pte A. Ellis.

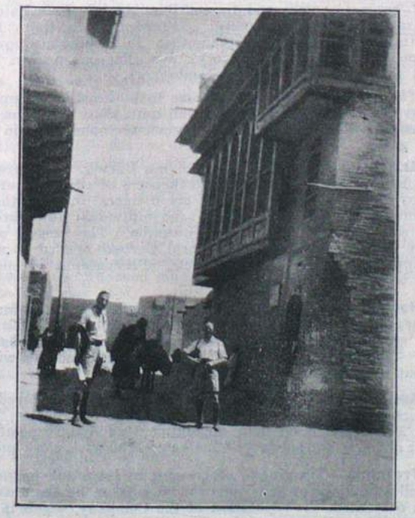
Sigmn J. N. Robinson has achieved a long-cherished desire and has joined us from No. 1 Line Company B Corps Signals.

**Departures.**—By the time these notes appear in print, Sigmn Caton and family will have left us for No. 1 Line Company B Corps Signals; and in bidding them farewell we tender our thanks for the splendid cakes Mrs. Caton has provided at our various social functions.

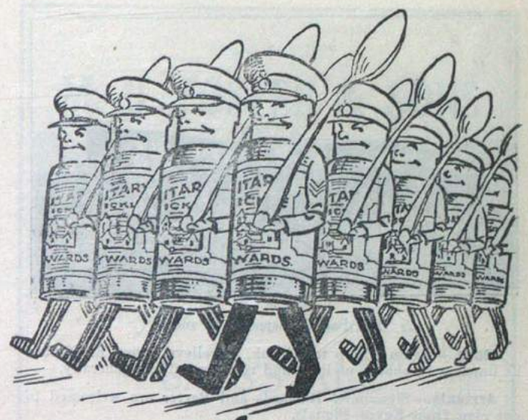
W. C. M.

## Iraq Signal Section.

A trip to Kut was organised by the C.O. for the Easter holidays. The party consisted of twelve, who went by car across the desert, a distance of about 125 miles each way. The enclosed snaps, taken by Sigmn Phillips, may be of interest to WIRE readers.



The House in which General Townshend had his H.Q. during the historic Siege of Kut.

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The Party "snapped" en route.

**Move.**—Sigmn Allsop to Kirkuk, to relieve Sigmn E. Dunbar as lineman in charge of lines and communications generally.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Richards and Barter are welcomed to our clan from Egypt Signals.

**Promotion.**—Congratulations to Sergt French on being substantiated in that rank.

Kut Cemetery.

A hearty hand-shake to L/Corpl Jones and Sigmn Rodda on winning their respective weights in the Army championships!

It may interest some of the Corps to know that Jock Jordan (late sergeant in G Company) who is now an officer of the Imperial Airways, paid us a visit on his arrival here, and wishes to be remembered to all his old friends.

**Agony.**—Will L/Corpl Higginson, late 4th Divisional Signals, communicate with J. K. of this unit.

IRAKSIGS.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters, B.T.E., Cairo, May 4th.

**Transfers.**—Congratulations to Signalmen Burton and Playfair on their transfer to the Corps from the 1st Battn. Leicestershire Regiment.

**Well Done!**—On behalf of the Corps in Egypt, we tender our congratulations to the athletic team on running into third place at the Command meeting this year, thus obtaining thirteen points towards that "best allround." This is a very creditable performance considering our small numbers, and it is only by sheer bad luck that we are not now in possession of the Command cup. Perhaps one day we shall be fortunate enough to carry it away, but for the last five seasons we have taken up position as runners-up in 1923-24-25 and third in 1926-27. It is not deemed necessary to mention any individual, as one and all did splendidly, and we trust that the wind will be in our favour next year. Full details of the events are given in the Sports pages.

**Trooping Season, 1927-28.**—It has again been ruled that personnel due for discharge or transfer to the Army Reserve during the forthcoming trooping season, will be required to remain in Egypt for a further twelve months. It is heart-breaking to hear the wailing and gnashing of teeth by the unfortunates, but they must not forget that it means one more year of clover before they have to approach that Labour Exchange counter with hungry eyes. "The troopship's on the tide, my boys; the troopship's on the tide"— à la Sporty.

**Motor-Cycle Racing.**—We congratulate Corpl Pickering (No. 3 Coy.) on his recent successes on the track at Khanka. This n.c.o has apparently been making a habit of breaking records (not gramophone) for this country on his renowned 3½ h.p. Norton. It is rumoured that the canteen manager will shortly be seen racing his sports model, but really, you can't believe all you hear.

### Sergeants' Mess.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Cairo,
May 4th, 1927.

If nil returns could be rendered, we would certainly render one this month, but as they are not permissible, we must write something.

**Tips!**—We have had a sealed handicap on twenty minutes' play, and congratulate Sergt Donaghy upon defeating C.S.M. Britton in the final, and further upon scoring 130 in the twenty minutes.

**Taps!**—Congratulations to L/Sergt Wheeler on being selected to represent the Army against the R.A.F. on May 6th. It's a case of "one fight a year gathers no moss."

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signals Barracks, Polygon, Cairo, May 4th.

**General.**—Having had a twelve months' rest cure in Blighty, the C.S.O.'s inspection proved too much for Corpl Jennison, and hearing that a big game party was leaving for Upper Egypt, he decided to accompany same. L/Corpl Dunn and Signalmen Panter and Passant left on the same train for the same destination; appearance when leaving—American tourists. Parties in future please interview "Silas K," as his sartoral advice is worth taking when on such expeditions.

L/Sergt Connelly and Sigmn Barzilay left Port Said for a cruise in the Mediterranean. Proceeded on the "Kilfaun Castle." Third stop, Southampton. It is peculiar how some people cannot stay the distance. We offer our prayers nightly that they may return less encumbrances.

The Company football team are to be heartily congratulated on getting into the final of the small units cup. May the success which has attended during the previous rounds remain in the last game.

**Arrivals.**—On the arrival of Sigmn Burton, transferred from the 1st Leicestershire Regt., the keepers of the Zoo hurried to Cairo station, fully expecting a green tiger. Imagine their disappointment when a perfectly sane individual addressed them and said he was the animal in question. The keepers are now more or less contented since Corpl Corbett opened a museum equipped with reptiles and insects. Photographs of specimens can be had on application.

**Horticulture.**—The grounds are undergoing a transformation scene, B Cable Section being the shining lights. The flower beds are laid out with wonderful care, and exotic blooms charm the eye. H.Q. Section come second, with Sergt Barnham's windows. About this—'nuff said.

**Appointments.**—Field-Marshal's batons have appeared in the haversacks of Signalmen A. J. Norman, A. J. Thomas, McKail and M. S. Walsh on their appointment as A/L/Corporals. Let their climb up the ladder of fame be covered with glory and duty.

**Training.**—Training is progressing by leaps and bounds, and if full advantage of the courses is only taken by the n.c.o.s and men concerned, the reputation of the Company, which is indeed high, will reach a still higher plane.

**C.S.O.'s Inspection.**—The annual inspection by the Chief Signal Officer, Col. H. L. Mackworth, C.M.G., D.S.O., took place on April 20th. Everything passed off satisfactorily, and both Companies were highly commended.



**Replies to Correspondents.**—"Darkest Africa": There is no need to be jealous of Corpl Jennison. He has not gone to the Sudan.

CROAK.

### Sakkarra.

**Wireless Camera Club Outing.**

The journey from Badreshein to the burial ground at Sakkarra would lead few to believe that the country through which they had passed was the scene of the world's first civilisation. Memphis, once the greatest town in Egypt, has entirely disappeared, the ground now being covered with palm groves, under which the natives carry out their tasks in the same way and with the same tools as they used thousands of years ago. The disappearance of this historic town is due to the fact that most of its buildings were built of Nile mud.

Leaving Mit Ranieh (Memphis) behind, we strike into a patch of cultivated country. On the edge of the Lybian desert, a mile away, rises the plateau of Sakkarra, crowned by eleven pyramids. The majority of them are now crumbled masses of mud and stone, but three stand in lonely grandeur as they did 4000 years ago.

The first noticeable monument, on reaching the plateau, is the Step Pyramid. This edifice is said to be the oldest of its kind in the world, dating as it does from before 2500 B.C. The pyramid gains its name from the fact that it rises in six receding steps.

Continuing along the track we reach Marriette's House—a crude structure once owned by Marriette Pasha, the French Egyptologist. It was here that the twenty-two members of the Camera Club made their headquarters during the four-day visit.

The various tombs have been described before, but a passing commentary on a few may be of interest to those who missed the notes in question. A short distance from Marriette's House lie the tombs of the Apis bulls. Apis, the sacred bull of the god Ptah, was worshipped in a special temple at Memphis. After death the bulls were mummified, decked with precious jewels, and buried with great pomp. The tombs comprise a great underground cavern, the sides of which are flanked by chambers containing the huge stone coffins. Twenty-four bulls were interred here. Each of the coffins was made of one piece of polished granite, 65 tons in weight. This weight does not include that of the cover. All the tombs, with the exception of one, had been rifled by brigands prior to their "discovery" in 1851.

A short distance from the Step Pyramid is the ruined pyramid of King Unis. A low sloping passage leads down into the interior. Four empty burial chambers are joined by narrow passages, their only interest lying in the wall paintings and hieroglyphics. An attempt at flashlight photography by the writer proved a dismal failure, evoking laughter on one side, and on the other questionable language, such as has probably never disturbed the silence of that tomb before.

The area covered by the tomb of Queen Helmira, the street of tombs and cats' burial ground, is in the opinion of many the most interesting part of Sakkarra. Mummies lie around in the sand, and a few of the tombs contain undisturbed sarcophagi. The contents of most of the tombs have either been stolen or removed to various museums. The entire necropolis, four miles long and a mile in width, contains monuments the like of which have never been produced since. The ancient Egyptians were undoubtedly a fine race.

The day's wanderings developed appetites which required some satisfying. I take off my hat to some of those present for their performances in this and other directions.

On the second day, the C.S.O. (Col. Mackworth) and our O.C. (Major Sampson) paid us a visit, with their ladies.

Sleep at night was disturbed by the howling of numerous pariah dogs, intense cold, and an invasion by an army of fleas. The party were limited to one wash per day; half a bucket of water between eleven men. Notwithstanding this, the members kept up a respectable appearance which attracted the attention of numerous tourists—one of whom took a great liking to a certain member who ably performed the Sheik act in the shadow of the pyramid.

It is hoped that these notes meet the requirements suggested by "D.S. One" in a previous issue.

W. E. C.

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## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Cairo, May 2nd.

**C.S.O.'s Inspection.**—The annual inspection by the Chief Signal Officer was carried out on April 20th, and passed off very satisfactorily, the C.S.O. expressing himself well pleased with the general turn-out.

**Searchlight Tattoo.**—The annual searchlight tattoo is now in course of rehearsal, in readiness for production on the Gezira racecourse, Cairo, from May 11th to 14th. A number of the Company are being employed in some of the scenes, in addition to others doing their bit behind the scenes.

**Trooping Season, 1927-28.**—The recent appearance in daily Orders of the names of certain n.c.o.s and men liable to be caught for the "buckshee year" in this country, instead of being returned to the U.K. this coming trooping season, caused much heartburning and sighing among the unfortunate ones affected. Just as they were preparing for the daily "Roll on that boat," too!

**Swimming.**—Now that the hot weather has set in, swimming is the most popular pastime, and the baths are well patronised by members of the Company. One of the finest open-air swimming baths in Egypt is situated only a short distance away from these barracks, and full advantage is taken of the facilities provided.

**Muscles, Development of.**—L/Corporal W. Backhouse is at present undergoing a local course of physical training at the Garrison gymnasium.

**Transfer.**—No. 1421538 Gunner T. Dicken has transferred from the Pack Brigade, R.A., to the Corps.

**Extension of Service.**—Driver W. Lister has re-engaged to complete 12 years with the Colours.

**Leave to the U.K.**—Signalmen J. S. Pitt and A. C. Cooper (Buck) are at present enjoying three months' leave in the United Kingdom. They departed via Port Said on April 9th. Vivid

accounts of our bronzed and slightly sunburnt hero's homecoming at Uckfield, and the reception accorded him on his arrival, have been circulated, but up to the present no copies of the "Uckfield Gazette" have arrived to substantiate these statements.

For the first week or so after Buck's departure, the Troop were at their wits' end in their spare time: no one to argue with—no one to take the nightly P.T. class. Even the horses in the stables looked dejected when no Buckie appeared at water and feed times. It was with the greatest difficulty that Massa and Paddy were restrained from committing suicide through their loneliness in this "far, far land, where men *are* men," etc. Never has the truth of that well-known saying, "What is home without a—Buckie," been so well brought home to the sorrowing occupants of No. 8 Bungalow. However, elaborate preparations are being made for welcoming back our hero at the expiration of his three months' lecturing tour on "Life in the Far East and sight seeing at Port Said."

**Agony.**—Driver G. Mayhew would like to hear from Driver Marshall, last heard of at Maresfield, way back in '25.

**Stop Press.**—Buckie: "Return at once: all is forgiven—Massa." Martin: "How does a *green* dog bark?"

ART.

"SWADDIE" LAD.

On perusing a daily, the other day,
I read of an incident where one did say
That it made him weary to hear the way
How some folks pity the soldier.
Monarch is he of his own domain;
Nothing to do but to rest his brain.
The life of a swaddie, harsh and rough?
Tell me, where do they get this bluff?
After reading this matter, I decided to write
In defence of the swaddie, the Empire's might—
Cheerful and helpful, modest and crude,
Doing his bit, trusting not to intrude.
Our daily round, though not a vacation,
Turns our fond thoughts to another station
Where civvies, free from that national pride,
Remember, forget, till fate shall decide.
At work and at play, you are taught to obey,
That the fairest and the aged are respected,
That the finest and foremost dues they repay
Are the thanks that can never be bested.
In war-time, in peace-time, in trouble and woe,
It's your duty to please wherever you go;
It's your duty to stick to traditions of old,
And return with the stories your fathers have told.
With the songs of old England, you'll keep merry and bright,
And will never forget, when the corner is tight,
That traditions of old England require you to know
You're the master of fairness, good luck to the foe!
With your duty well done, on your homeward return,
Your folks will greet you, and then they will learn,
Though the life of a swaddie is harsh and rough,
You've returned from your ordeal without a rebuff.
You're a man, swaddie lad! and your country will see
You'll confound all the critics, and you always will be
As the guardian of old, who the dragon did fight:
You'll always be proud of your Empire's might.

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Old swaddie, young swaddie, Airman and Jack!
Smile all the while, while the going is slack;
Yet when the call comes, and your country has need,
You'll be right there, swaddie lad—a swaddie indeed!

ESSES VICK ESSES.

## Malaya Signal Section.

Military Headquarters, Fort Canning,
Singapore, March 31st.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new lineman—Signalman Robins—who arrived on the 8th inst. on the P. and O. "Khyber."

A general meeting of members of the Association was held on the 2nd inst., when Sigmn McDowell was appointed secretary of the Branch vice L/Corpl Davis, resigned.

The usual monthly dance was held in the Lower Bungalow on the 26th inst. A fairly large number of civilian ladies and gentlemen were present, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

No start has yet been made for the Vyvyan cup, though a revival of the longstanding feud between the R.E. and ourselves provided two very good games. The Engineers, who were full of confidence and had thoughts of easy prey, received quite a shock. With the aid of one or two of the R.A.O.C., we beat them to the tune of 4—0 at soccer, and by seven wickets at cricket. Now what about taking off their socks at hockey?

Another very interesting game was a soccer match between the Royal Artillery from Blakang Mati and the combined R.E.s and Signals. As the match was for the purpose of selecting players to meet the 2nd Battn. Duke of Wellington's Regiment, everyone did his best to catch the eye of the selectors. The result was an overwhelming defeat for the combined Corps by a margin of five clear goals.

Our only representative selected to meet the Infantrymen was Sigmn Anderson, who eventually was given his place in the Services eleven v. Singapore. This match resulted in a narrow victory for the Services by the odd goal in three. Sigmn Anderson played a marvellous game in goal, being only beaten from a penalty kick. Well done, Andy!

THE SCRIBE.

## North China Signal Section (Peking Detachment)

British Legation Guard, April 16th.

Notes must of necessity be brief this month, as pressure of work is still too great to admit of many idle moments.

We have not been clear of traffic for about eight weeks, but by constant "brass-pounding" (to borrow a term from our American radio friends) we have managed to keep our heads above water. There was a period, a while ago, when the daily average of traffic handled was around seven thousand words—all code messages. Truly, if Mr. Newton of generator fame wants any recommendation for his wares, he should apply to Peking. However, Signals stock is booming in North China, and we are very pleased to have a hand in keeping the Corps in the limelight.

Great excitement was caused last week by the raid carried out on the Soviet Embassy, which adjoins the British compound. Wild rumours were flying about as to what was taking place, the general impression being that Nationalist agitators, known to be in the Russian compound, were preparing to make an attack on us.

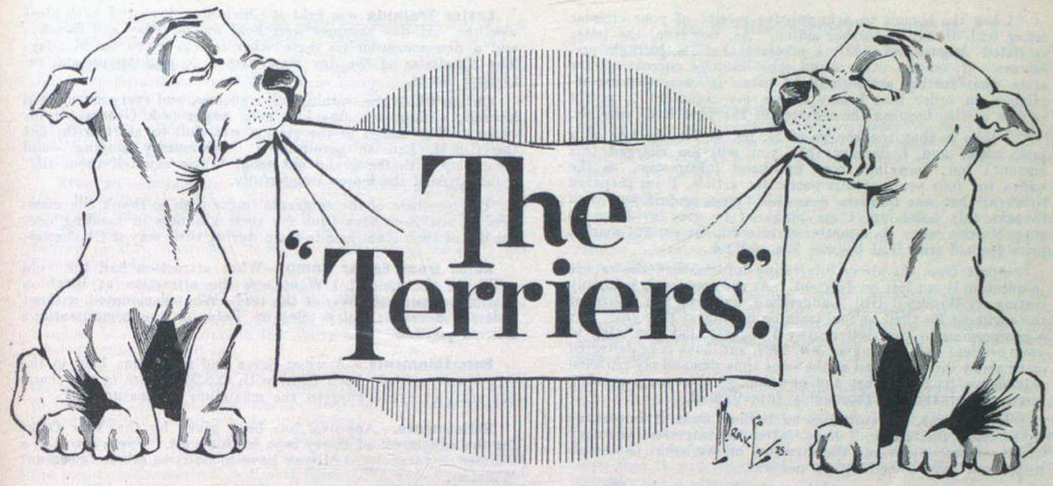
The breeze was decidedly vertical, and although the raid was being carried out only some hundred yards away, no definite news was available until late in the afternoon. It was with a feeling of relief that we learned that a hot-bed of anti-foreign propaganda had been cleaned up.

Our strength has been increased by the arrival of Sigmn Hornal, who with Sigmn Renals joined the Section a fortnight ago. They spent a few days in Shanghai before proceeding north, and they tell us that Signals are very much in evidence down there.

Will someone please enlighten us as to the appearance and habits of that recently-discovered bird, the "operator, Signals"? Beyond the fact that the species became known in October last, we are absolutely in the dark.

PEICHING.






## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea,
London, S.W.3, May 15th.

It is amazing how rapidly the fatal 14th comes round each month, and how it invariably finds the insatiable WIRE awaiting its quota of information of our various doings and undoings for the month.

The Easter training at Windsor with the 1st and 2nd Life Guards was easily the most important event of the month; in fact, after annual training at camp, Easter training is the most important training function in the year, as it enables us to gather together for the best part of four whole days for the purpose of training and nothing else (that is, during the normal working hours).

Several quite unexpected events happened during the Easter training, which show how easily keen men are overlooked. We are informed on unimpeachable authority that one keen recruit was discovered cleaning his bandolier and boots at midnight, by the sickly light emitted by a petrol cigarette lighter. Having arrived late at Windsor, he had no idea of making that an excuse for not turning up clean on parade the next morning. All honour to him, whoever he may be.

Another outstanding case of extreme keenness was shown in the riding school, where some embryo jockeys, not contented with the jumps provided, put in a few on their own account. A maliciously-minded individual has suggested that possibly these additional jumps were entirely due to a desire on the part of the horses to show just what a Household Cavalry horse *can* do in the way of jumps, in spite of its passenger—I should have written, rider.

Some people are born to greatness; some achieve it; and others, again, have it thrust upon them. However this may be about greatness, there is no doubt that one of our corporals, whose name is a household word in the publishing and newspaper trades, has achieved distinction at Combermere by the extraordinary agility shown when grooming his horse, which attracted a large number of envious sightseers.

If this corporal achieved distinction, what can be said of a member of the permanent staff who gave a display of vaulting in the Great Park on the first day of training, that can only be described as tremendous. He was literally the cynosure of all eyes, and I think that it can fairly be said that in this case the distinction was *thrust* upon him. The obvious question arises as to who it was, and here we realise that we are on very delicate ground; but the only information we have is that it was not the R.S.M., and that "Paddy, the next best thing," was segregated at the home front. By the way, no prizes are awarded for a correct guess.

Considerable praise is due to the recruits' ride, which did extremely well at Windsor; and the praise is due not only to the riders, who were obviously doing their best, but to the instructors to whose efforts their progress is due. Sometimes it is difficult to realise that these youngsters only get one hour per week (perhaps) for riding; and readers of THE WIRE who are engaged in the training of Regular troops in riding, and have them all day and every day, will realise the difficulties that the unhappy Terrier is up against when it comes to equitation training of one hour per week.

The Easter training cannot be passed over without reference to the work done by the Cable Troop, which was excellent in every way. Of late this Troop has been showing marked improvement, and it has been whispered in our editorial ear that if this improvement is maintained, they wll prove a difficult team to beat either at work or play when at camp—though doubtless they will have to put up a sturdy fight.

At Headquarters, Friday nights are now known as "decoration" night, owing to the very enthusiastic if somewhat crude exhibition now being given by the boxing class. There is no doubt that, after a time, the exhibition will become more finished without losing any of the enthusiasm; and our lads will have the solid satisfaction of knowing that they can handle their mitts well, and having entered a quarrel can so acquit themselves that their adversaries will have every cause to beware of them.

Another informal smoking concert was held during the month, which was notable more for noise than for talent; but the right spirit was there, and the general consensus of opinion was that it was a great night.

Our old friend Ginger Adcock, of Tidworth, has advised us that he has for disposal, at very advantageous rates, a few second-hand tickets for the tattoo. We have gratefully accepted this offer, but on the clear understanding that the seats are front ones and favourably situated with regard to the refreshment bar(rel).

The permanent staff are generally regarded as being half-bred soldiers and civilians, combining the advantages of both and the disadvantages of none, and having no particular cares or worries to contend with, their lives being entirely regulated by forms and procedure. That they do, in effect, have very troublesome matters to deal with, may best be judged by the following extracts from a letter received in reply to a request to an ex-member of the unit to make payment of 1s. 9d. for one knife, jack, deficient.

"I beg the honour to acknowledge receipt of your circular letter with threat of further action. As, however, the letter is dated August 3rd, 1927, I presume that its birth is premature. If, on the other hand, the letter is current, please state what further action will be taken in case of non-compliance, in order that I may advise my solicitors to accept service and so bespeak the services of the best K.C. possible.

"I take it that the charge of 1s. 9d. is for the loss of a jack knife, and I daresay that you will be charged this amount; but, speaking from first-hand information as the bailee for four years of this particular article, I am prepared to swear that was nowhere near this figure, and if you wish to take this point up, I am prepared to give evidence to support your case. As a matter of interest, the present market price for old iron is, I believe, 25s. per ton.

"Apart from the above interesting information, the article in question is not lost or deficient. At the moment it is simply resting on Windmill Hill, Ludgershall, awaiting the return of the regiment for their annual training in August this year. As a compromise to your letter, may I suggest that you stick to your original date of August 3rd, 1927, and have it re-delivered on or about this date, and at the same time demand my personal attendance in order that the question of this same missing piece of ordnance be thoroughly investigated.

"If, however, the custodian of bullion finds it impossible to sanction this delay, I hope (after an interview with my chartered accountant and the directors of my bank) to be able to let you have something on account.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your obedient servant, ——,,

Now, what about the unhappy permanent staff? Can any reader put forward any suggestion for dealing with this sort of correspondence, the w.p.b. excepted.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

We are proud to welcome our hon. colonel, Alderman F. J. West, C.B.E. He is well known to most of us, having been Lord Mayor of Manchester a few years ago. We hope that we shall have the pleasure of seeing him during annual training at Troutbeck.

A welcome is also extended to Lieuts. C. B. Delaney and E. L. Ellis. Mr. Delaney needs no introduction, as he was with the unit at Ripon in 1925. Mr. Ellis served in the Royal Navy during the war, and took part in the battle of Jutland.

All three Companies have now fired the annual musketry tests at Holcombe rifle range. Nos. 1 and 2 Companies had terrible weather, and were all—even the markers—soaked to the skin after the first two practices. It was extremely cold and the visibility was very poor. On the other hand, No. 3 Company were lucky in striking a really glorious day. It is true that a rather gusty crosswind somewhat upset the delicate aim of the Company's cracksmen at times, but they have unanimously agreed to forgive and forget. Incidentally, it is to the cracksmen aforesaid that a small dog owes its life. It ambled into the fire zone with a nice disregard for low-flying bullets until it realized that bulls were preferred to mongrels.

All Companies are now working hard for annual training, and by the time this appears in print they will be proving that their work has not been in vain. The messing officer, the permanent staff and the quartermaster-sergeants all "age" considerably at this time of the year. Kippers, marriage licences and baskets, T.O.B., 5-gallon, are not, in these enlightened days, considered to play a large part in the life of a man; but three weeks before camp their influence can be tremendous, especially the kippers. We are looking forward to a glorious fortnight in a glorious part of England, and we hope to have some interesting notes and photographs for next month's issue.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

With spring upon us, training is in full swing, and everybody is busy jerking back, preparatory to annual camp. Weekly attendances are much greater, and keen interest is being taken in the different classes of instruction which are held each evening.

**Easter Training** was held at Chichester, favoured with ideal weather. All-day schemes were held on Saturday and Sunday, and a demonstration on these schemes was given on Monday. The remainder of the day was devoted to packing up and returning stores.

On the whole the training was a success, and everyone enjoyed himself, wishing the stay had been longer (ask George for his views!) The march to the station was dull to start with, but the C.S.M. had an inspiration: "Community singing"—and struck up with the grand old song, "You can tell them all," which livened the march wonderfully.

The members of the sergeants' mess wish to thank the members of the Rousillian Club for their kindness in handing over the use of their club-room to them during their stay at Chichester.

**Notes from Easter Camp.**—What attraction had the "old mill" for the n.c.o.s? What was the attraction at Brighton Station restaurant? Was it the tea? Who dismounted without orders? Reveille: Fairy tales by Pete, or the commissariat's talk on politics.

**Entertainments.**—A whist drive and social was held in the sergeants' mess on April 30th, with C.S.M. Geere in the chair. We trust everyone enjoyed the maximum of pleasure.

**Enlistments.**—Approval has been given by the War Office for the enlistment of thirty boys in this unit. There are still a number of vacancies. All you have to do is to ask for Sergeant Williams.

**Musketry.**—The annual musketry course has just started. The first party proceeded to the ranges on May 8th, and some very good results were obtained. The adjutant made top score with 97. We hope to get a higher score than this for our next report. Gambling is not allowed on the ranges, yet one of the greater fry managed to get a "4 home and 1 away."

A successful week-end scheme was carried out on the 14/15th May, at Ruislip, the party numbering three officers and forty-two O.R.s.

No news from Brighton this month, but we hope to hear from Bob before our next report.

## 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds.

**General.**—Doubts that existed in the unit as to when we would proceed to Catterick for annual training have now vanished. It is definitely settled that we go into camp from July 31st to August 14th—the exception being No. 2 Company, who will be moving off independently to train with their allotted Artillery Brigades.

Regret is felt at being denied the pleasure of their company at camp, but we know that we can rely on them to uphold the old traditions of "through." It is rumoured that they will be camped approximately four miles from unit headquarters, so it is more than likely that we shall frequently meet, as there will be various raids from both sides, there being plenty of conveyances, petrol driven and otherwise.

We are sure that all ranks will take full advantage of being camped near the S.T.C. to renew acquaintance with their old friends who are still serving in the Regulars, and it will be a great opportunity to extend that esprit de corps feeling which exists between Regulars and Territorials of the Corps—so we should all be prepared for an enjoyable fortnight's training.

**Training.**—This has been going on unceasingly since we commenced the season's programme, with great activity. The trained men are getting instruction in their various trades, preparing for the serious work lying ahead. Our signalmen and driver recruits are forging ahead wonderfully, and we are eagerly awaiting their dismissal from drill and rides, so that the Section n.c.o.s may enlighten them on the technical side necessary for the Q sheet.

No. 1 Company fired their annual musketry course at Strensall on May 1st, and we feel confident that the scores registered will make Nos. 2 and 3 Companies go all out to secure top position. Probably a few senior n.c.o.s would have done a lot better had they not fired their course overnight at the dinner. Number 58 target recorded some excellent shooting and marking, which gave the impression of past visits to Bisley.



**Sergeants' Mess.**—A very happy family rallied to our annual dinner on Saturday, April 30th, there being about 160 present. The chair was occupied by R.S.M. F. Brown, D.C.M., the chief guest of the evening being our C.O., Lieut.-Col. W. Boyle, O.B.E., T.D. We were also honoured with the presence of Col. A. Bray, T.D., Col. D. Hey, M.C., T.D., D.C.S.O., Major J. Campbell, adjutant, and the O.C.s Companies.

After an excellent dinner, which was exceedingly well organised, advantage was taken of the occasion by Lieut.-Col. Boyle to present ex-C.S.M. F. Hurn with a useful present on behalf of the mess, and to thank him for the good work he had performed as P.S. instructor in the unit—this being cordially endorsed by all.

The C.O. also presented R.Q.M.S. Jock Brown with his own shooting cup (Scotch instinct), and Sergt A. E. Beckley with the mess billiard handicap cup. C.S.M. J. Johnstone and Sergt A. Hughes, being runners-up in the above mentioned competitions, received consolation prizes.

Appropriate speeches were made, dealing particularly with the growth of the unit to its present strength (which is a record to be proud of), bounty reductions, and the forthcoming annual training (which promises to be interesting).

Really, when one surveyed the wonderful harmony and comradeship which prevailed among those present, we feel sure that the bounty reduction will not sever them. We were very pleased to see old friends in R.S.M. Anderson, C.S.M. Green, and C.Q.M.S. Ansell, from Catterick, and representatives from the 46th Divl. Signals.

**Mechanicalization.**—On a rather dull afternoon, when "Flammingo" won "the 3.30," the atoms were spending a few minutes out of those twenty-four hours in the vicinity of Q Branch, erecting A sets for the W/T students.

Everything in the garden was working smoothly, when without warning of any description we heard *such* a tornado coming forth from old Q himself! Approaching his den on tip-toe, we heard weird noises and a language that was unintelligible, so we thought he must be in conversation with a fellow Quartermaster.

On a closer inspection, we perceived Q surrounded by all kinds of bicycle accessories, including a few forks, spoons, etc., borrowed for the occasion, with perspiration streaming down his grimy face (which left no doubt that it must have been white once). Manipulating forks, spoons and teeth with remarkable skill, he was busy inserting bicycle tubes, inner, into tyres, bicycle, covers Dunlop, on to wheels front and rear, bicycle Mk IV.; and we had nothing but admiration for this superhuman being.

After a lapse of about twenty minutes his foreign vocabulary began to wane, and by chance he stopped to wipe the sweat from his noble brow, discovered our presence, and immediately returned to earth, normal once more.

This strange person who converses with tyres, tubes, etc., noticing our looks of sympathy, volunteered the information that it was part of a scheme to mechanicalise this unit, to enable them to take part in the mobile warfare promised as part of our training this year.

The conclusion we draw from this terrible battle enacted in our presence is that Q will be joining a much warmer unit when he receives his call.

## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Darlington)

There is very little to report this month, owing to Headquarters moving temporarily to Newcastle-on-Tyne for the annual regimental signalling course which has now concluded.

It is just possible that Headquarters and Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, together with No. 206 (M.A.) Brigade Signal Section, may not go to Ripon in June, as arranged, for their annual training, as the 50th Divisional Signals (T.A.) will probably furnish the communications for the annual collective training of the 4th Division, in the vicinity of Shorncliffe, East Kent, during September—the 4th (Regular) Divl. Signals having gone to Shanghai.

### No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

**Training.**—We are still busy with early summer training, and now that the light evenings have come, we are getting down to outdoor training in the field adjoining the drill hall.

**Courses of Instruction.**—We have just completed the signalling course at Newcastle, and are pleased to say that everyone made excellent progress during the fourteen days with us. The clerk of the weather was not too kind to us, as we did not expect snowstorms in May.

**Week-End Camp.**—We held a week-end camp on May 7th/8th, at which 70 per cent. of the Company attended. Some excellent training was put in, especially on Sunday, when we held a signal scheme in Marton Hall Park. We are all eagerly looking forward to the next one.

**Musketry.**—We fire our annual musketry course at Eston ranges on May 15th and 22nd. There should be some very keen shooting to see who is the lucky individual to have his name engraved on the cup to be presented, for the first time, for the best score.

**Annual Training.**—Our annual training, which should have taken place at Ripon in June, is now cancelled, and will take place at Shorncliffe in September with the 4th (Regular) Division. We all feel very highly honoured to think that this unit has been selected to undertake work of such high importance, and feel sure that it will be carried out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

**Trade Tests.**—Congratulations to L/Corpls A. M. Gibson and C. C. Mayo on passing the test for Class ii. visual, and also to Sigmn C. Lovett on qualifying as Group E lineman.

A. C.

### No. 3 (Hull) Company.

**Training.**—For this month, at least, notes from our part of Yorkshire must necessarily be somewhat shorter than is usually the case, as outside general training there is little to report.

Since the commencement of the present training season, we have gone steadily ahead. The change over to Brigade Section work has proved popular.

**Week-End Camp.**—This coming week-end will see the Company on the first of this year's camps, which will be held in barracks. We are hoping for a good muster of the troops, in order that more practical work can be done in readiness for annual camp.

**Annual Camp.**—To say that all ranks are looking forward to our visit to Ripon for annual training (June 19th–July 3rd) is only putting it mildly, as it is well known throughout the Services what annual camp means to a Terrier.

**Musketry.**—April 10th saw J and K Sections journeying to Rolston rifle range, Hornsea, where their annual musketry course was fired. In addition to the business side of the day's work, much enjoyment was derived as a result of motor charabancs being used in place of the usual train arrangements. A number of good scores were noted, and it is rumoured that one or two of our marksmen have their eyes on Bisley!

L. and S. R. Sections are due at the same place on May 22nd.

A. Q. Z.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

It's a d——l of a job getting a start to write (or type). One doesn't know really where to begin. Will the R.S.M. get offended if one doesn't record the fact that his pet canary died of croup last week? Will Sergt W. pass us by with uplifted brows because we forgot to mention that his beans are now showing (after being dug up to see if the little beasts were really making an effort)? These are the things a correspondent has to bear in mind when compiling his notes. Now we are off!

Some poet or philosopher once said, "A policeman's life is not a happy one." One wonders what he would have said had he been posted to a Divisional Signal Company: that is, the philosopher—not the policeman. What with 60 hour courses,

Saturday afternoon schemes, Sunday preparing of the coming week's programme, etc., it is no wonder that hot air flies around sometimes—but when one looks around, the results of their labours are fully justified. Now to business.

A smoking concert was held in the sergeants' mess on April 9th, at which our commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C.), Major R. Nicol, O.B.E., Major Stuart Gordon, Capt. B. H. House, Capt. T. P. E. Murray, Lieut J. W. Levack and Dr. Levack—to say nothing of a full house of the lads—were present. A very pleasant evening was spent in song and story. The music by the Aberdeen Post Office band was a real treat, and we only hope they won't be long in paying us another visit. One wonders where all the yarns come from. I am told that the tit-bit of the evening was the story of the two Aberdonians who were heard cursing their luck at having to spend their youth together. That's from Aberdeen's joke factory.

An examination for n.c.o.s is to take place shortly. We hope everyone will pass the exam. and be ready for promotion when it becomes due. We expect a 100 per cent. parade for this occasion, as we Aberdonians believe in having a shot at everything free—and after all, if one is unlucky enough to go down, well, "'tis better to have been examined and failed than never to have been examined at all." Given fair weather, we can usually come up to scratch. Remember the Holmes shield is at stake, lads, and we mean to *keep* it!

The affiliation of the 51st (Highland) Divl. Signals T.A. to the 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot, is but one step higher on the ladder of fame. That we should be joined to the 1st is an honour, but to be practically part of them is more than we had ever hoped to achieve. We feel sure that some day, in the near future, we shall come into personal contact with each other; and I take this opportunity of assuring the 1st Divl. that in the event of such taking place, so great will be the welcome extended to them, they will never want to leave us. We will forego all traditions and stand a round! I don't mean stand around, waiting for one, but really, we will disburse (if we have it).

Our C.S.O. (Col. P. R. Bald, D.S.O.) and our adjutant (Capt B. H. House) having at one time sojourned in the 1st Divisional Signals, this brings us even more together, not to say merrier. To any of the 1st on leave to Aberdeen, Stirling, or Kirkcaldy, we extend the welcome hand, and hope they will pay us a visit—because we are coming to see *you* some day; and like the skater who ventured on the thin ice, we would like you to be first.

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

**Congratulatory.**—The heartiest congratulations of all ranks are offered to Lieut. J. Laing on his promotion. To our new 2/Lieuts Grigor and Cowie we offer a hearty welcome, and trust that they will find the work of the Signals congenial.

**Training.**—The work of the Company goes on apace, although handicapped for the want of room—a handicap which is likely to vanish when the additions and improvements to the drill hall are complete. The arrival of the 120-watt set coincides with an increase in the Company's activities, and an impetus has been given to the wireless fans.

### No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

**General.**—The Company is gradually recovering after the recent reverses from the general order of things. The cancellation of the proposed whist drive and dance has been digested by all ranks with the usual kind remarks. The C.Q.M.S. has now completed all his letters of explanation and apology to the various tradespeople at Montrose for having had to cancel his contracts, and is looking forward to the annual camp, when he will have the pleasure of facing the music in person. A.F.G. 968 has been recompiled and includes articles under A.C.I. 39/27, one of which is to be placed under the Q.M.s table next to his leggings.

**Training.**—Individual training is now drawing to a close, and all ranks are busily engaged in punching up for the coming Trade Testing Board, when it is hoped that the Company will carry off some of the various trophies under the unit competitive training scheme.

Section training, which commences on May 16th, will be carried out with great competition among the Sections. The section officers are already showing considerable enthusiasm, and are patiently waiting to take over control of their respective Sections.

**Musketry.**—The Company has completed the annual musketry course during the past three weeks. The weather conditions were ideal, and owing to the heat wave, ice cream and lemonade were generously provided by the officers. The Company turned out at their ranges in full strength, and the general average shows a marked improvement on the 1925 standard.

**Boxing.**—Considerable progress is being made under the new boxing instructor, and the men are hopeful of giving a good account of themselves at Montrose this year.

**Pipe Band.**—In spite of the two years' struggle and the usual financial opposition, the pipe band has now been equipped with a modified walking-out dress, much to the satisfaction of all concerned. The Company is extremely grateful to Lieut. J. Laing for his whole-hearted support and great interest in this matter. We also take this opportunity of extending our warmest thanks to the Fifeshire and Stirlingshire Territorial Army Associations for their financal support.

**Lapse.**—The late correspondent requests me to assure Smudge that he is not dead, but sleepeth, and that in many cases it pays.

THREESOME.

## 55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Mason Street, Liverpool.

With the advent of a new G.O.C. in the Division, one can easily understand the extra strain involved on all ranks in training; and though it is a very poor one, this is the only excuse we can find to answer for our long silence.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.,
inspecting the Guard of Honour at the opening of the New Drill Hall for No. 3 Company at Prescot.

Like many other T.A. Signal units, I suppose, we find it necessary to carry out winter as well as summer training; and all those endowed with literary talent are kept fully occupied in trying to keep their Part VI. amended up to date. I say "trying," as this actual accomplishment is of course beyond even the powers of a Terrier. Unless the new pamphlet is received very soon, I am afraid there will be a few excellent A.I.s completing their service on account of premature old age.

We have now commenced the summer training, and things are going with a swing. Distributed as we are between Liverpool, Prescot and Horwich (some thirty-five miles away), we are somewhat up against it so far as group training is concerned. However, everybody tackles the difficulties in the true Lancashire fashion by "getting down to it," and this is shown by the excellent progress made by recruits in operating.

We have just completed the tests under the operators' bonus scheme, and it was gratifying to see sums varying from 5s. to £4 10s. paid out for operating efficiency.

A Section are very keen to open up communication with anyone who would care to give them a call. Their call signal is "CAR," and wave-length 970 metres. Monday and Thursday evenings, 8—9 p.m.



Great enthusiasm is shown in the riding classes, of which we run three weekly, and also an officers' ride under the adjutant.

Our No. 3 (Prescot) Company has at last taken possession of its new drill hall, in which every facility is provided for training as well as comfort. The sergeants' mess is a most expensive affair, and strikes a note of great opulence to those who are privileged to enter within its portals. Seeing that this unit is but a comparatively young one, great credit is due to their foresight and thrift in accumulating sufficient funds to provide all these luxuries. On the whole, I think these headquarters must rank as ideal in every way, and we are hoping that the result will be greater efficiency.

By the way, we run a Regimental Gazette of our own, and would be glad to exchange with other units who do likewise.

RED ROSE.

## 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

Since our last notes appeared, the unit has passed through a very enjoyable period. I refer, of course, to the Easter training, which was carried out with the 2nd Divl. Signals at Lille Barracks, Aldershot.

We arrived on Good Friday, and immediately set about making ourselves acquainted with the barracks, and making friends with the occupants; and in the latter, I am pleased to say, we were very successful.

The weather was very kind to us, and we had every opportunity to put in some very useful work. This consisted chiefly of cable laying, cable waggon drill, riding and driving, and gave us a chance of making practical application of the lectures which we get while in London. Many signalmen were heard to declare, after practising hammer swinging, that they preferred to stick to their old occupation of lead-swinging. I suppose it must be easier!

However, it was not all work. Two football matches (in weather hot enough to cause even drivers to perspire) were played between teams representing the Regulars and the Terriers, victory going to the Regulars in each case by 5—0 and 3—2 respectively. The keen and sporting contests were enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience, who encouraged the players with every ounce of vocal energy.

Before leaving the subject, I should like to express our appreciation of the interest shown, and the work done on our behalf, by our Regular comrades during our stay. We are looking forward to August, when we intend trying our skill with them on the cricket field. Look out, Darkey and Co.

Our trade classes are now re-started, and we hope to see a greater number of n.c.o.s and men attend, in order to prepare for annual training.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The mess will long remember this visit to Aldershot. It was our first visit to the 2nd Divl. Signals, and it must be recorded that we were received as old friends. Indeed, there were numerous meetings of old friends, and many happy hours were spent in discussing old times.

A social evening was organised, and was so successful that the holding capacity of the mess was taxed to its utmost; but nobody minds being jostled on such occasions. Here's to the next one!

A very pleasant evening was spent with the R.A.F. mess at Farnborough, but this, like the others, was all too short. By the way, speaking of Farnborough, I understand that an outsize in hats is issued to certain members who posed nicely on horseback while the camera man did his worst.

Another result of this visit is that members are being terrorised by an enormous hound (we don't know whether it is of the blood or wolf variety) which prowls at large in the mess. I wonder if "Death's Head" knows anything about it!

I could tell of an optimist (no names, no pack drill) who bought a platform ticket at Aldershot Station in order to get a cup of tea!

**Agony.**—A letter from Sigmn G. Homer, believed to be in Egypt, would be appreciated by his old pals in No. 2 Company.

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## Army Golf Meeting, 1927.

Seven officers from the Signal Training Centre attended the above meeting—a record number, so far, for the Corps. The meeting was held at Deal from May 9th to the 13th.

In the individual competitions, Major H. A. J. Parsons tied for third place in the Army championship with scores of 84+80=164 for the two rounds; while 2/Lieut J. F. Longfield accomplished a very good performance on the first day with a round of 83, making a nett score of 73, allowing 10 strokes for handicap.

In the Army golf challenge cup, a knock-out competition for teams of four—and played by holes, not matches—the S.T.C. team was unlucky in meeting the Black Watch (who finally won the competition) in the first round. The result of the match was:

S.T.C.—Major H. A. J. Parsons, 3 holes; Major F. G. Drayson, 0; Capt. J. F. Charlesworth, 2; Lieut. P. H. Owens, 0; total 5.

Black Watch.—Lieut Britten Jones, 0 holes; Capt. Montgomery, 2; Lieut. Rusk, 0; Capt. Macleod, 7; total 9.

Only one other team succeeded in making a closer match with the Black Watch than the S.T.C., and as the combined handicaps of the latter aggregated some ten strokes more than the former, the Corps team put up a pretty good fight.

## Catterick Cross-Country and Athletic Notes.

In the Army cross-country championship at Colchester, on March 22nd, the T.B. finished fifth out of sixteen competing units. Corpl Cotterell, Sigmn Broadley, and L/Corpl Ayres are to be congratulated on finishing third, fourth and fourteenth respectively, and thus winning their Army colours.

The interval between the end of the cross-country and the beginning of the athletic season has been bridged by two events.

On Good Friday, fourteen teams competed in the road relay race, from Sunderland to Catterick, for the Royal Signals trophy—an imposing "Jimmy." The total distance was about 63 miles. The ten relays varied in length from four to eight miles. Considering that this is the first event of the kind to be held in the north, it was a triumph of organisation on the part of the North-Eastern Counties Cross-Country Association, under whose auspices the race was held.

Heaton Harriers finished first, with Middlesbrough Harriers and Royal Signals second and third. Mention must be made of the fine effort on the part of Corpl Cotterell, who in the last relay pulled up two places and gained 3 min. 28 secs. on the Heaton last string. At the conclusion of the run, the competitors were our guests for tea, and Col. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., presented the trophy to the winning team.

On Easter Monday, the Royal Signals team finished second to Heaton in the road race, at Newcastle, for the Maconachie cup. The existing record was broken by two men—A. Burns, of the Elswick Harriers, by 8 seconds; and Sigmn Broadley, our most improved and promising runner, by 3 seconds. The following were the counting six for Royal Signals: Sigmn Broadley 2, Corpl Cotterell 12, L/Corpl Ayres 15, Sigmn Hall 19, Driver Gaston 24, L/Corpl Stibbs 27.

## Catterick Fencing Notes.

During last winter the Corps formed a fencing team. This is the first time in its history that the Signals have been represented in this sport, and the results of the matches have been most satisfactory. The fixtures were as follows, foils and sabres being fought in each case.

February 12th—Bradford Fencing Club (away), won by 6 fights.
February 24th—Sedbergh School (home), lost by 6 fights.
March 12th—Bradford Fencing Club (home), won by 4 fights.
March 19th—Sedbergh School (away), won by 2 fights.

The following have fought for the Signals: Major R. P. A. Helps; 2/Lts. G. B. Bell, L. W. J. Dryland, E. D. Good, W. M. Ponsonby, E. F. Heap, L. D. M. Patterson; S/Sergt Hart; L/Corpls Frampton and Tanner.

The Training and Depot Battalions entered teams for the Northern Command tournament at York on April 5th. The entry was smaller than usual, owing to the 15th Brigade having left the Command for China. The following fought:

Officers.—Epée, Major R. P. A. Helps. Foil, 2/Lieuts E. D. Good, W. M. Ponsonby, and E. F. Heap. Sabre, Major R. P. A. Helps, 2/Lieuts G. B. Bell, L. W. J. Dryland, E. F. Heap, and L. D. M. Patterson. Bayonet, 2/Lieuts J. M. C. Hoblyn, H. G. Pargeter, E. C. Drewe, C. P. S. Denholm Young, D. M. Smyth, and L. M. Thuillier.

Other Ranks.—Epée, Corpl Frampton. Foil, Cpl Frampton. Sabre, Corpl Stickley and L/Corpl Tanner. Bayonet, Sergeant Payne, Corpls Jessop and Palmer, L/Corpls Tanner and Allison; Sigmn Javins.

Results—Officers: Epée, Major R. P. A. Helps, 1st. Foil, 2/Lieut E. D. Good, 2nd. Sabre, 2/Lieut L. W. J. Dryland, 1st. Bayonet, 2/Lieut J. M. C. Hoblyn, 1st. Other Ranks: Epée, L/Corpl Frampton, 2nd. Foil, L/Corpl Frampton, 2nd. Sabre, L/Corpl Tanner, 3rd. Bayonet, Sigmn Javins, 1st.

The winners of pools—Major R. P. A. Helps, 2/Lieuts L. W. J. Dryland and J. M. C. Hoblyn, and Sigmn Javins—will fight at the Royal Tournament in May.

## C Company, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Cricket.**—The Company are hoping to improve their position regarding the standard of cricket, and hope to show a 100 per cent. improvement. In previous years we held the cup for cricket, and we hope to re-establish it on its old stand.

**Athletics.**—We met F Company on May 9th and 10th, and were beaten by a better team. We are slow at getting off the mark, but by the time we have trained a little more, we hope to make amends with you, F, on the final day! You were the better team, and we congratulate you. In the hurdle event you were unfortunate, and may your string be better fitted next time.

**Tug-of-War.**—In this we beat F Company comfortably, and hope to repeat our feat of last year. The team is pulling well under the instruction of our old and experienced trainer.

**Swimming.**—In this we hope for the best and some warm weather. At the moment, a heat wave would be greatly appreciated.

**Sports.**—The following is a table showing the Company's placings in all sports:—

| | Points | Place |
|---|---|---|
| Athletics | 8 | 3 |
| Cricket | 4 | 5 |
| Rifle Shooting | 10 | 2 |
| Soccer (Senior League) | 12 | 1 |
| Soccer (Junior League) | 8 | 3 |
| Soccer Knock-out | 6 | 1 |
| Hockey League | 2 | 6 |
| Hockey Knock-out | 3 | 3 (tie) |
| Rugby League | 12 | 1 |
| Cross-Country | 10 | 2 |

Extract of O.C. Depot Battalion's Remarks in Orders.—"The officer commanding heartily congratulates C Company on winning the Mackworth trophy for the fourth time since its presentation in 1919. He notes with satisfaction the good all-round standard, and is particularly pleased with the result of the Association football, as the Company lost one of its best players in the final."

## No. 3 Company, A Corps Signals, Crookham.

**Cricket.**—On May 9th we played No. 1 Company on the unit sports ground. The result was that we won by 55 runs—a really excellent match.

No. 1 COMPANY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sigmn Hall b Morphew | 0 |
| Sigmn Theobald b Gregory | 1 |
| Sigmn Bond b Morphew | 1 |
| C.Q.M.S. Todd b Morphew | 0 |
| Lieut Lyddon b Morphew | 12 |
| Capt. Hose, M.C. b Morphew | 0 |
| Sigmn Thomas b Marsh | 4 |
| Sigmn Marden not out | 2 |
| Sergt Chumbley c Marsh b Todd | 1 |
| Sigmn Harrison b Todd | 4 |
| L/Corpl Thomas c Simpson b Bevan | 9 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 36 |

No. 3 COMPANY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Corpl Todd retired | 51 |
| Sigmn H. Carter b Harrison | 0 |
| Sigmn Marsh c and b C.Q.M.S. Todd | 0 |
| Corpl Morphew c Theobald b C.Q.M.S. Todd | 0 |
| Sergt Bevan b Theobald | 3 |
| Lieut Lemon b C.Q.M.S. Todd | 25 |
| L/Corpl Bygrave b C.Q.M.S. Todd | 3 |
| Sigmn Gregory c Chumbley b C.Q.M.S. Todd | 3 |
| Sigmn E. A. Carter not out | 1 |
| L/Corpl Simpson c Thomas b C.Q.M.S. Todd | 0 |
| L/Corpl Larkham lbw Theobald | 1 |
| Extras | 4 |
| Total | 91 |

The best bowling averages were: C.Q.M.S. Todd, 7 wickets for 12 runs; Sigmn Theobald 2 for 19; Corpl Morphew 5 for 4; Sigmn Gregory 2 for 10; Sergt Bevan 1 for 6; Corpl Todd 2 for 1.

Corpl Morphew and L/Corpl Bygrave are to be congratulated upon being chosen to play for the Royal Signals (Aldershot Command) cricket team.

## No. 1 Co. 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Lieut. S. L. Collier, R.Signals (our Company sports officer for the past three years) handed over that appointment to Lieut W. D. Horniman, R.Signals, on April 1st.

An interesting match between the officers and sergeants' mess of the unit was played on April 10th. The game was full of amusing incidents from start to finish, and attracted a number of spectators. Capt. C. E. Sketch, Lieuts S. L. Collier and W. D. Horniman, C.S.M. Eves, C.Q.M.S. Ruffle, Sergts Johnson and Tolley, of this Company, were included in the respective teams.

After the lapse of several months, a Company sports meeting was held during the second week in May. Several suggestions from various members of the Company were criticised, and a responsible committee was formed to prepare volunteers for all events.

It was decided that the Company sports be held during June, and that a tea be provided on the ground and prizes given. To meet these expenses the Company unanimously agreed to pay a voluntary subscription. Section representatives were appointed: A Section, Signalmen Hill, Staerck, Thomas and Dominey, and Driver James; B Section, Signalmen Webb, Temlett, Hunt, Fuller and Warner, for both mounted and dismounted events. Representatives for swimming: Signalmen Powell and Stubbs. Cricket secretary, Sergt Hoare.

A Section cricket match between A and B Sections was played on Wednesday, May 11th. The game was very interesting for a first match of the season. Tea was provided on the ground by the Section officers. A Section won by 94 runs to 29. The teams were: A Section, Lieut Horniman, Sergts Tolley and Hoare, Signalmen Staerck, Cordell, Hillier, Cole, White and Osborne, and Drivers Donovan and James. B Section, Signalmen Webb, Varey, Warner, Tom Innes, Walton, Fox, Fuller and Chiverton, and Drivers Dimmer and Leaver.

## 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

**Rugby.**—A highly successful season was brought to a close by an inter-Company League match to count for the unit shield. After three first rate matches, No. 1 Company came out on top, followed by No. 3 Company as a close second. If all goes well, we hope to be much heard of in higher rugger circles next season.

**Boxing.**—The Garrison inter-unit boxing competition was held in the Garrison theatre at Bulford on April 6th before an excellent attendance. Our men put up a splendid show, and it was just the luck of the draw which prevented their winning the competition.

Semi-Finals.—Sigmn A. Field won by experience and strength against a very game opponent. Sigmn Charles was knocked out in the third round, after a very plucky fight. He was awarded the prize for best loser. Sigmn Lapper obtained the verdict on points after a very even fight. Sigmn Potter knocked out his man in the third round after a hard-hitting bout. Sigmn McCarthy won his fight easily; his opponent gave up in the second round. L/Corpl Walby only lost his fight by a very narrow margin. Driver Carter was knocked out in the second round after putting up a very plucky fight against a much stronger opponent.

Finals.—Bantams, Sigmn Field won easily in the second round, the referee stopping the fight. Officers (11 st.), Lieut F. J. Wall won fairly easily on points. Feathers, Sigmn Lapper lost a good fast fight on points. Light-Heavies, Sigmn Potter knocked out his man in the second round after a very game exhibition. Light-Weight, Sigmn McCarthy beat his man in the first round, his opponent retiring.

Team points.—9th Field Brigade R.A. 25; 3rd Divl. Signals 22; 6th Field Brigade R.A. 15; 2nd Pack Brigade R.A. 13.

**Soccer.**—Inter-Company matches for points for the unit shield were played off recently. The games were contested in a fine sporting spirit, and gave a fillip to the interest of all ranks at the tail-end of the season. Results.—Seniors: No. 2 Company, 3 points; No. 3, 2; No. 1, 1. Juniors: No. 1 Coy. 3 points; No. 3, 2; No. 2, 1.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

We have now turned our attention to cricket, and are keenly looking forward to a good season. All are busy at the nets, trying hard for a chance in the team.

After an inter-Company practice match, a team was selected to play against the R.A.S.C. at Cliftonville on May 10th. This proved a very interesting game, doubtful at first but ending in a win for us by seven wickets and nine runs. As the R.A.S.C. have one of the best teams in the Garrison, we are very pleased with our opening match.

With a little more practice and coaching by Sigmn L. Williams, our team will be quite able to play some of the civilian cricket clubs, which we hope and intend to do during the coming season.

I think musketry should come under the heading of sport. From the results of our recent annual firing, we have been inspired to start a Musketry Club, Lieut Morton kindly offering to superintend and act as secretary. With this advantage, and a few good shots, we hope to tell you more of this anon.

## S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore.

**Sports.**—We have had a most successful month at sports. Strengthened by talent from England, our teams are going great guns amongst the locals. We are hoping to lift many pots this season, and to have a representative team at Calcutta.

**Football.**—Royal Signals v. Hampshire Regiment, won by 4—1; v. 71st Battery R.A., draw, 2—2; v. 40th Battery R.A., won by 6—0; v. 71st Battery R.A., won by 2—0; v. Hampshire Regiment, won by 2—0.

**Hockey.**—Royal Signals v. Central Provinces Police, draw, 0—0; v. R.F.A., lost by 1—2. Next month, under this heading, we hope to report the devastating rush of the Centre through the Chitam League fixtures.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

**Hockey.**—We have lost a few of our best players, due to posting and courses, etc., but despite this disadvantage we entered a team in the Dewar shield hockey tournament. We met the G.P.A. Sports Club in the first round and drew at 1—1, but were beaten in the replay by 2—1. The G.P.A. went on to win the tournament.

We have had a few practice matches for the purpose of finding fresh talent. Herewith results: Line Company v. W/T Coy. draw, 1—1. Officers and senior n.c.o.s v. junior n.c.o.s and men, 3—4. Senior n.c.o.s v. junior n.c.o.s and men, 3—4.

A Corps Signals Boxing Team.

*Back Row (left to right)*—Sigmn Sewell, L/Sgt Lynch, Sigmn Coates, Sigmn Beavan, Sigmn McKenzie, L/Corpl Podger.

*Centre*—Capt. Tobin, Capt. Smith, Lieut. Crouch.

*Front*—Sigmn Davies, L/Sgt Newmarch, L/Sgt McIntosh, Sigmn Hutchison

**Boxing.**—In the recent District boxing championships, A Corps Signals won the team championship by 8 points. Our team comprised: Fly, L/Sergt McIntosh; bantam, Sigmn Hutchinson (who won his weight and beat the individual winner); feather, L/Corpl Podger (who won his weight and also beat the individual winner); light, Sigmn McKenzie; welter, Sigmn P. Bevan; middles, Sigmn Sewell (beaten on points in the final); light-heavy, Sigmn Coates (beaten on points in the final); heavies, L/Sergt Lynch (the father of the team, who was congratulated by the G.O.C. on his fine sportsmanship).

**Football.**—Since our last notes, we have been successful in winning the Shivajee football challenge cup. We then decided to have a "cut" at the Union Jack football tournament, the last competition of the season. We met E.R.S. Royal Air Force in the first round, and were beaten by 2—1 after a hard game.

**Cross-Country.**—At the recent Sind Rajputana District assault-at-arms, A Corps Signals were placed third in the cross-country run. L/Corpl Podger was beaten by a few yards for first place.

**Tent-Pegging.**—C.S.M. Cates was successful in winning the individual tent-pegging competition for B.O.R.s of the District at the assault-at-arms. Sigmn Gheba Khan won the individual tent-pegging competition for I.O.R.s.

**Athletics.**—At the recent sports held at St. Patrick's College, Karachi, A Corps Signals relay team (L/Sergt Halfpenny, L/Cpl Podger, Signalmen A. G. Browne and M. W. Davies) won the open relay race.

L/Corpl Podger won the open mile, and Sigmn A. Browne won the open quarter-mile. L/Corpl Podger also won the open mile at the Royal Air Force sports. We must congratulate him on such a fine all-round display.

## Signals, Northern Command, India.

**Boxing.**—This year the boxing was held in the regimental theatre, Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi. The results of the final night are as follows:—

Light-weight—Sergt Richardson beat Sigmn McDonald on points, after a very good fight. Great credit is due to the loser, who put up a remarkable show against such a redoubtable opponent, and was awarded the prize for the best loser in the tournament.

Feather-weight—Sigmn Sweeney (A Divl. Signals) won on points against Corpl Stevenson (W/T Company), who had to retire in the second round with a damaged thumb.

Fly-weight—Sigmn Rodger (W/T Coy.) knocked out Sigmn Carter (A Divl. Signals) in the second round.

Welter-weight—Sigmn Nobby Clark (W/T Company) a walk-over; his opponent had to scratch on the advice of the M.O.

Welters (Novices)—Sigmn Bell beat Sigmn Walker (W/T Company) on points. Walker has a very good left, but he seemed rather afraid of using it, otherwise the verdict might have been reversed.

Exhibition Contest—Sigmn Dollie Gray v. Sigmn Clark (both of the W/T Company). Gray gave the audience (to Clark's sorrow) a demonstration of the left and how to use it; nevertheless, Clark refused to let Gray have it all his own way. A very good fight indeed.

Bantam-weight—Sigmn Pascoe (A Divl. Signals) beat Sergt Standem (B Cavalry Troop) on points. Standem put up a good fight against a much more experienced boxer.

Battle Royal—This was a very good fight, young Jock Rodger (the Darjeeling wild cat) being the best man, knocking out Dollie Gray (middleweight champion, Northern Command). There were eight competitors in the ring during this bout.

On the conclusion of the boxing, Major C. J. S. Le Cornu kindly presented the prizes, and remarked on the very good spirit shown by the competitors and the spectators. It is hoped that the football team will take his remarks to heart.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

**Sports.**—During the past month the unit has been quite busy in the sports line, and although not able to repeat the successes of last year, have rendered a good account of themselves.

Having won the Sialkot Brigade eliminating round of the Lahore District tournament by beating the 4/7th Dragoon Guards, the hockey team went to Lahore to compete against the winners of the other Brigade Areas. Two of our best players proceeded to U.K., and the re-organised team lost in the semi-final to the eventual winners of the tournament, the 2nd Battn. Royal Scots Fusiliers. Considering that all the opposing teams were representatives of regiments, it was quite a good performance for practically the smallest unit in the Lahore District to get so far as they did.

In the Sialkot Brigade Area football eliminating round, we were beaten by the 4/7th Dragoon Guards, who eventually won the District tournament.

During the first week in April we sent fifteen n.c.o.s and men to Rawalpindi for the Signals sports week. From this number we found a football team, a hockey team, three entries for the individual jumping, four for the individual tent-pegging, and three for the boxing.

The hockey and football teams lost, but gave a good account of themselves. We captured second and third places in the jumping, and had a finalist in the tent-pegging and two in the boxing.

Corpl Mitson was awarded a prize as a good loser; and considering this n.c.o. had run off heats in the jumping and tent-pegging, played in the football match (extra time), and fought and won a fight at 9.30, we think he is to be congratulated on putting up a good show in his second fight an hour later.

The tennis club have been busy during the past fortnight, and the n.c.o.s played the n.c.o.s of N Battery and won by 75—44. Last Sunday a return match was played, and the tennis club ran out winners by 75 games to 50. A singles open tournament is now in progress, and some surprisingly good tennis is being played.

Interest has been awakened in boxing by the proposal to run a novices' boxing competition next week.

## Iraq Signal Section.

**Sports.**—Sigmn Edgecombe won the open 100 yards in the R.A.F. championships in 10 2/5th secs., and gained second place in the All Iraq open 100 yards. The winner of this, it should be noted, finished in a straight ten seconds.

In the open military sports meeting, the Section did well by getting into the final of the tug-of-war, their opponents being practically a regimental team. Corpl Schofield was a very able coach.

**Cricket.**—So far we have played four matches, and won two and lost two. Our gains were against Works and Buildings and I.A.D. Clerks, and we lost to No. 30 Squadron R.A.F. and the Casuals Club.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Athletics.**—The Command athletic meeting was held during the third full week in April, and although we finished third, we were only two points behind the winners of the best all-round unit cup. The R.A.S.C. carried it away, but at the athletic meeting they only once obtained a place, this being fifth of six competitors in the 100 yards relay race. The individual championship results are as under:—

3 miles (track) Sigmn Beeton (15 min. 32 secs.)
1 mile (track) Sigmn Beeton (4 min. 47 secs.)
Long jump, Sigmn Harmsworth (21 ft. 0¼ ins.)
120 yards hurdles, Sigmn Harmsworth (16 secs.)
Half mile, Sigmn Milsom (2nd).
Long jump, Corpl Jennison (3rd).

Our team placings were:—Long jump, 1st. 220 yards, 2nd. 880 yards, 3rd; 120 yards hurdles, 3rd; 440 yards, 3rd. 1 mile, 4th; 3 miles, 4th.

Putting the weight, we must confess, is our weak point, but in the high jump, 1 mile and 3 miles, perhaps we might have fielded a stronger team (only perhaps). The tug-of-war was a catastrophe, as insufficient men were trained, owing to a misunderstanding that teams consisted of eight instead of ten men.

We heartily congratulate Sigmn Beeton on the skilful manner in which he ran his heat in the 880 yards. He took over the baton as sixth, and ran into first place to give us one of the most thrilling finishes witnessed on the Slade ground. We have at last seen him "all out."

The final placings in the Command athletics and the best all-round unit competition are appended.



**Command Sports.**—The following were the points gained at the Command Athletic Meeting, 1927:—

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | Ttl. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R. Irish Fusiliers | 2 | 3 | 5 | – | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | – | 4 | 3 | 37 |
| A. and S. H. | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3½ | – | 3 | 3 | – | – | 27½ |
| Royal Signals | – | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | – | – | 5 | – | 22 |
| 3rd Hussars | 5 | 2 | – | – | – | – | 4 | – | 4 | 3 | – | 18 |
| Norfolk Regiment | – | – | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3½ | – | – | – | – | – | 16½ |
| Military Police | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | 5 | – | 5 | 12 |
| Royal Scots | – | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | – | – | – | 2 | 1 | – | 8 |
| Leicester Regiment | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 2 | – | 1 | 2 | – | 6 |
| 1st Pack Bde. R.A. | 3 | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | 1 | 6 |
| Somerset L. I. | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 4 | 4 |
| 2nd Bde. R.H.A. | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | 2 | 3 |
| R.E. | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | – | – | 2 |
| Royal Tank Corps | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | 2 |
| R.A.S.C. | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |

[A: 100 yards B: 220 yards C: 440 yards D: 880 yards E: 1 mile F: 3 miles G: 120 yards hurdles H: Tug-of-War (110 stone) I: High Jump J: Long Jump K: Putting the Weight.]

**Result of "Best All-Round Unit" Competition, 1926-27.**

| | L.T. | C | S | H | B | C.C. | F | R | A | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R.A.S.C. | 10 | 20 | 20 | 12 | 12 | — | — | 12 | — | 86 |
| Royal Irish Fusiliers | — | — | 9 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 8 | — | 20 | 85 |
| Royal Signals | 2 | 8 | 13 | — | 8 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 84 |
| 1st Btn. Leicesters | — | 12 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 20 | 3 | 72 |
| 3rd Hussars | — | 8 | 16 | — | 12 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 71 |
| 1st Pack Bde. R.A. | — | — | 7 | 8 | 20 | — | 12 | 8 | 3 | 58 |
| 2nd Btn. Royal Scots | — | — | — | 20 | — | 9 | 20 | — | 7 | 56 |
| R.E. | 1 | 16 | — | 16 | — | 6 | — | 16 | — | 55 |
| 1st Btn. Norfolks | — | 8 | — | — | 8 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 52 |
| 1st Btn. A. and S. H. | — | — | 8 | — | — | 13 | — | — | 16 | 37 |
| 15/19th Hussars | — | — | — | 8 | 8 | — | — | 8 | — | 24 |
| R.A.O.C. | — | 12 | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | 20 |
| R.A.M.C. | — | — | — | — | — | — | 16 | — | — | 16 |
| 2nd Bde. R.H.A. | 3 | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 9 |
| Military Police | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8 | 8 |

[L.T.: Lawn Tennis C: Cricket S: Swimming H: Hockey B: Boxing C.C.: Cross Country F: Soccer R: Rugby A: Athletics.]

**Note.**—To the young athletes at home who now have a chance of volunteering for service overseas, we take this opportunity of pointing out that every possible kind of sport or recreation is offered them in Egypt, and as our teams will be sadly depleted during the next trooping season, we shall be delighted to welcome them to this Command. The Corps *must* win that best all-round unit cup for the 1927-28 season.

**Tennis.**—Congratulations to Major G. G Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., Royal Signals, upon reaching the final of the Army individual championship. We sincerely wish we could have congratulated that officer upon winning the event.

Hearty congratulations to Major G. G. Rawson and Major G E. Sampson, D.S.O., R.Signals, upon winning the Army doubles championship from Lieut.-Col. Hill and Capt. Faris, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—Since our last notes went to press we have been quite busy in the sports world, and have continued to hold our own in the small units football competition.

As indicated in our last notes, we played the 6th Pack Battery R.A. at Helmieh on April 11th. This was quite a keen game, and resulted in a draw of two goals each—quite a creditable performance, as everyone can appreciate who knows the Garrison ground at Helmieh.

The replay took place on the Signals ground on April 14th, and with the ground advantage we made no mistake and ran out winners by 3—1, our goals being scored by Jennison, Edge and Terry.

Great excitement reigned in the camp when the draw for the semi-final was published, as we were pitted against A Company 1st Battn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. As this was the

team which defeated No. 3 Company in this competition, a very keen struggle was anticipated.

The match was played on April 29th on our own ground. It was not a good day for football, as a strong wind was blowing straight up the pitch. We lost the toss and were set to face this wind, but our defence rose to the occasion, and half-time arrived with the score sheet blank. Given the advantage of the wind in the second half, our vanguard soon made frequent raids on the visitors' goal, and maintaining their supremacy, ran out winners by 2—0, in spite of the great efforts made by the Argylls to retrieve the match. We thereby avenged the defeat of No. 3 Company, in addition to winning the right to appear in the final.

For the final we shall meet the winners of the tie between C Company 1st Battn. A. and S. Highlanders and D Company Royal Scots; but as that match will not be played prior to these notes going to press, we must leave that over until next month.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—No Company games have been played during the past month, and there is only one outstanding match to be contested: the inter-Company Pritchard cup with No. 1 Company. No. 1 are in great form just now, and we congratulate them on reaching the final of the small units football competition. Our C. of E. cup needs a partner!

**Rugby.**—The following have been awarded "Jimmies" for representing the Corps during the past season: Lieut H. Bartlett, L/Corpls Fleet, Osborne and Gratwicke, Signalmen Hewson, McBain, C. Edmunds, and Harmsworth.

**Boxing.**—"Jimmies" have been awarded to the following boxers for representing the Corps in the Command team boxing championships: L/Sergt Wheeler, Signalmen Holmes, O'Donnell and Silverstone, and Driver Burnham.

**Athletics.**—The past month has been a very busy one for our athletes. The inter-Company athletic and Corps championship meeting was held on April 13th, and resulted in a win for No. 1 Company with 32 points to our 28. Our athletes gained the following placings in the sports:—

L/Corpl S. Gratwicke, first in the 100, 220 and 440 yards.
Sigmn Harmsworth, first in hurdles and long jump, and third in 100 yards.
Sigmn Beeton, first in 1 mile and 3 miles.
Sigmn Milsom, first in 880 yards.
L/Corpl Backhouse, third in 1 mile.
Sigmn Goble, third in hurdles.

In the two comic events held at the meeting, Signalmen Beach and McBain won the six-legged race, and Sigmn Beach also won the backwards race.

"Jimmies" have been awarded to the following for representing the Corps in the Command team championships: L/Corpls Backhouse and Gratwicke, Signalmen Beeton, Harmsworth, Milsom, Goble and Elliott.

In the Command individual championships, Sigmn Harmsworth put up a very fine performance in winning the hurdles in 16 secs., and also the long jump with 21 ft. 0½ ins. Sigmn Beeton won the mile championship in 4 mins. 47 secs., and the three miles in 15 mins. 32 secs. Both Harmsworth and Beeton won these events last year. Sigmn Milsom surprised everyone by his splendid running in the final of the half mile, finishing a close second to a much more experienced opponent.

Sigmn Beeton won the open half mile at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders sports, and finished up the season by competing at the Egyptian open athletic championships at Alexandria and winning both the 1500 and 5000 metres individual events. In the 5000 metres he broke the Egyptian record for that distance by 16 3/5th seconds, winning the race by 150 yards. The holder, an Egyptian Olympic representative, was second.

On the occasion of the Royal Air Force sports, an open mile and hurdles races were included in the programme, and Driver Ratledge and Sigmn Chaloner finished a close second and third respectively. According to Ratledge, a bare half-inch separated the first three, but the difference in the size of the cups awarded was rather more than this measurement.


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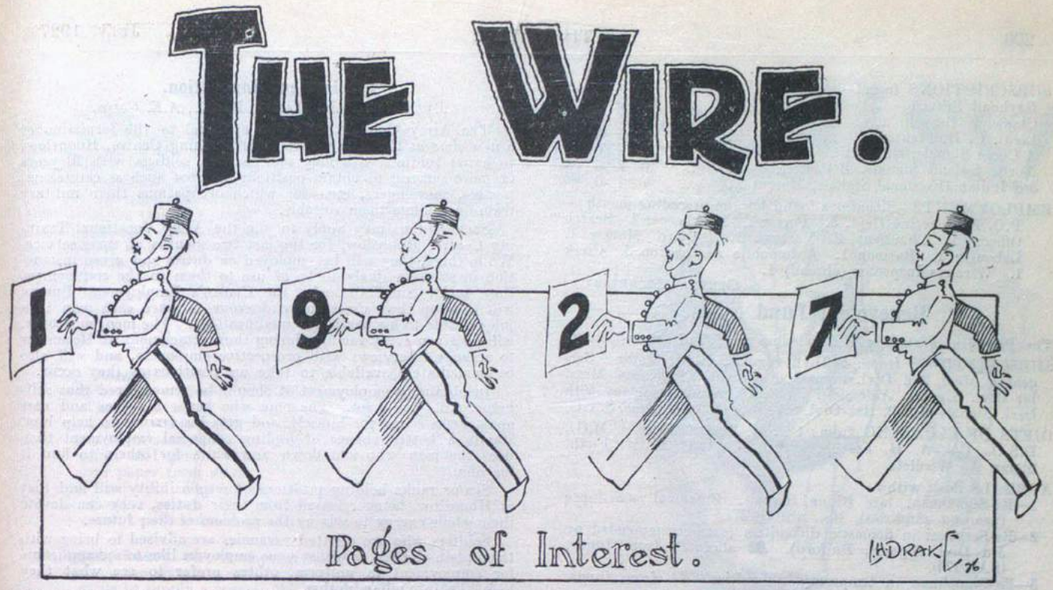



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VOL. VIII.—No. 89 JULY, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


## EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have to apologise for an error appearing under the Shanghai Defence Force Signals notes in our June issue. The names of the two officers photographed should have been Lieut.-Quartermaster E. A. Winton and Lieut H. P. Hart, M.C., and not as shown. Another mistake appears in the photograph, for which we also offer our apologies. The medal ribbons and equipment have been switched over to the wrong side—our worthy block-maker having inadvertently taken his print from the *reverse* side of the negative sent by our correspondent.

These mistakes were not noticed in time to correct them, and we trust that the publication caused no annoyance to the officers concerned.

Greetings to Waziristan District Signals, India! Apropos our Editorial notes in the March issue, and the implication that a certain hitherto well represented unit of the Royal Signals sojourning in India had been "called in and done away with." We rejoice in being able to herald their re-appearance in this issue under the above heading, and trust that having resumed their appointed place in the columns of the Corps Journal, the unit representatives will be able in future to keep us regularly supplied with news and a record of their activities. "Coir" and "Mac," please note!

We would again call attention to the fact that the closing date for all matter intended for publication in the following issue of the Magazine is *the 16th of each month*, and that space cannot be guaranteed to contributions received after that date.

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS TIES.—It is notified for general information that double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can now be obtained on application to this office. Price 2s. 6d. (postage, 2d. extra). EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The following changes of designation have been made to Units and Branches in India:—

A Divl. Signals, India, becomes Peshawar District Signals.

B Divl. Signals, India, becomes 2nd Indian Divl. Sigs., Quetta.

C Divl. Signals, India, becomes Waziristan District Signals, Dera Ismail Khan.

E Divl. Signals, India, becomes 3rd Indian Divl. Signals, Meerut.

F Divl. Signals, India, becomes Kohat District Signals.

G Divl. Signals, India, becomes 4th Indian Divl. Signals, Jubbulpore.

Hon. Branch Secretaries are asked to assist in the general administration of Association affairs by notifying other Branch administrations of all membership transfers from their own unit, shewing date of transfer, particulars of membership, and the last date on which each member paid his subscription.

We welcome a new Branch formation designated the "Hull and District Branch," and extend cordial greetings to its committee and prospective members. All correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Branch Secretary: Corpl E. Palmer, 63 Middleton Street, Hull.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts from Branches, etc.:—

BANKERS' ORDER (5s. per annum) from:—
Lieut. R. F. B. Moore.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Baghdad Branch ... ... ... ... ... | £2 | 0 | 0 |
| Chiswick Branch ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Lieut. C. H. Manton ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| A Corps Signals, Ewshott ... ... ... ... | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| North Ireland Signals, Belfast ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut ... ... | 7 | 4 | 0 |

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month:—P.O. Engineering Dept. 3. Porter 1. Bookkeeper 1. Search Officer 1. Chauffeur 1. Vanman 1. Billiard Marker 1. Labourer 1. Barman 1. Automobile Association 3. Clerk 1. Wireless Inspector (abroad) 1.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

SUBSCRIPTIONS from: F Divl. Signals, Kohat, India. Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot. Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot. N.C.O.s, No. 3 Company 50th Divl. Signals (T.A.). 1st Divl. Signals. Officers' Mess, S.T.C.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from: Col. H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O. Col. A. H. French, D.S.O. Capt. C. R. H. Firth. Sigmn A. Woollett.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, late Rhine Signals. Financial assistance (pending enquiries), 10s. (SAB/237).

2—Ex-Sergeant in domestic difficulties (case recommended by 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford). £2 allocated from funds. (SAB/174).

3—Ex-Signalman in temporary difficulties. £1 from funds. (SAB/245).

4—Ex-Signalman, with offer of employment in South of England. £1 advanced for railway fare, etc. (SAB/192).

5.—Farningham Boys' Home, Hampton Girls' Orphanage, and Princess Mary's Home for Girls, Addlestone, Surrey. Quarterly payments for the maintenance of four children, £36 5s. (Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel, President Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

## Employment Innovation.

BY MAJOR F. K. HARDY, D.S.O., A.E. Corps.

The Army Council has given approval to the formation of a new class at the Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow, to assist soldiers with long service (i.e., soldiers with 18 years or more service) to obtain positions of trust such as caretakers, porters, messengers, etc.—for which occupations their military training renders them suitable.

Such soldiers may apply to join the Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow, for the last two months of their service. While there, they will be employed on duties and given instruction in subjects likely to be of use to them in the employment they seek. Simultaneously, the Centre's Employment Bureau will take up their cases and endeavour to place each man in a job suitable to his particular qualifications. The men, moreover, will be given every facility during their attachment at Hounslow to arrange interviews with prospective employers, and will also be immediately available to take up positions as they occur.

In obtaining employment it should be remembered that self-help counts for a lot. The man who keeps his eyes and ears open, looks round for himself, and gets his friends to help him, stands a better chance of finding congenial employment than does the man who sits down and waits for others to find it for him.

Senior ranks holding positions of responsibility will find that at Hounslow, being released from their duties, they can devote their whole energy to solving the problem of their future.

Soldiers who are allotted vacancies are advised to bring with them plain clothes, as whilst some employers like to see applicants for employment in uniform, others prefer to see what they look like in civilian clothes.

It must be remembered that a discharge certificate of service is not available until within a few days of the expiration of Colour service. Before a soldier obtains this he has nothing to prove to employers what his record is. For this reason, w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men are advised to bring with them any "chits" they may have received from officers under whom they have served, and, if they wish to take up a dual post with their wives, copies of any references the latter may possess.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**To be Sergeant—**

2308157 Chenery, A. 12/10/26
1857194 Lyon, G. 22/10/26
2308555 Waghorn, C. 25/10/26
1850289 Meredith, C. 11/11/26
4379155 Grimbly, B. 11/11/26
2311556 French, H. 11/11/26
2306665 Leath, G. 3/12/26
2308008 Hodges, R. 15/12/26
2306656 Crockford, A. 16/12/26
2311441 Finney, W. 16/12/26

**To be Sergeant (apptd. F/Sergeant)**

1854168 Ind, W. 16/12/26

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**

4693127 Beverley, E. 12/2/27
2309345 Massey, S. 12/2/27
2308352 O'Connor, D. 12/2/27
2308799 Lombard, W. 12/2/27
1034344 Vokins, H. 6/3/27
2306393 Huggett, E. 12/3/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**

1850386 Hoyland, H. 3/12/26
1863113 Brown, J. 3/12/26
1856952 Chimes, A. 3/12/26
2309827 Storr, P. 3/12/26
1856412 Fahey, W. 21/1/27
2311786 Malcolm, A. 12/2/27
5662609 Huxtable, J. 6/3/27
2309312 Thomas, R. 12/3/27
2309703 Drake, L. 21/3/27
2308517 Pronger, W. 31/3/27

**To be Corporal—**

2314968 Bell, S. 15/6/26
6837724 Lee, A. 22/8/26
2313998 Marchant, M. 1/10/26
2314946 Atkinson, E. 2/11/26
2313030 Gresham, H. 2/11/26
2312479 Blower, J. 2/11/26
2314000 Gordon, S. 18/11/26
2314083 Walker, A. 18/11/26
2314317 Smith, J. 22/11/26
3437324 Tavner, R. 25/11/26
3123511 McDonald, W. 25/11/26
2314684 Robertson, W. 30/11/26
2313874 Eldridge, H. 3/12/26
2314365 Parish, A. 3/12/26
2312070 Dellor, H. 16/12/26
2314064 Springett, J. 16/12/26
2309741 Toogood, F. 16/12/26
2314096 Jones, R. 18/1/27
2314992 Wales, A. 18/1/27
2313937 Salmon, G. 18/1/27
2313839 Steele, P. 18/1/27
2315121 Jones, D. 18/1/27
735283 Ives, P. 18/1/27

**To be Corporal (appointed F/Corpl)**

2312122 Walmsley, J. 13/2/27
5448 Barbour, J. 13/2/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**

2314511 Steed, H. 25/11/26
2312400 Grose, C. 3/12/26
2310914 Wintermere, H. 15/12/26
2309798 Little, V. 16/12/26
1860298 Todman, A. 16/12/26
724953 Pearce, E. 16/12/26
2310544 Gardner, J. 16/12/26
2311078 Creaton, S. 18/1/27
2308070 Finley, F. 18/1/27
12586 Gould, T. 18/1/27
5374404 Tellery, S. 18/1/27
2315675 Russell, J. 19/1/27
2314701 George, M. 3/2/27
6000468 Tapley, P. 7/2/27
1858980 Coppack, J. 12/2/27
2306722 Westwood, F. 12/2/27
1860296 Waight, T. 14/2/27
2315515 Ivison, R. 15/2/27
5488940 Hinks, W. 15/2/27
1859005 Tate, A. 15/2/27
1850317 Bygrave, S. 15/2/27
2310734 Ayton, A. 22/2/27
2310858 Crummey, B. 6/3/27
1404826 Browne, G. 12/3/27
2314874 Cobbing, R. 19/3/27
2309047 Warren, W. 21/3/27
2311334 Clarke, C. 25/3/27
2310845 Neal, H. 31/3/27
2555422 Barnes, R. 31/3/27

## Transfers to Army Reserve.

1854461 Sergt A. Scott, 29/4/27
2313874 Corpl H. Eldridge, 5/5/27
727793 Corpl M. Edge, 6/5/27
2313908 L/Sergt W. Thomas, 26/5/27

## Discharges.

2309526 Sergt A. Trayner, 7/5/27
1850121 F/S/Sergt J. Dowty, 8/5/27
2306763 Corpl F. Dadson, 10/5/27
2306161 Sergt W. Diffey, 17/5/27



## Plain Tales.

**A New Leaf.**—"P. N." strikes the right note in his remarks about me. I confess that in the past I have made some rude remarks about quite nice people—if you can call them nice people. In future I am going to be very circumspect. Mind you, I am not sure what that is, but I will look it up. Two virtues I *do* claim, and they are truthfulness and accuracy. These notes are the most truthful and accurate in all THE WIRE, and I reluctantly admit it. Since blowing my own trumpet, I have made it look like a post horn. I yield only to *The Daily Mail* in modesty.

Well, "P.N.," we are glad to see you in print. You might just as well have put in the other initial. For the benefit of those who do not know this scribe of the sergeants' mess, T.B., I will say that he is a good lad. He means well, and of course, can't help his moustache.

* * * *

**Name Wanted.**—The Artillery have their "dragons." The Signals have their "Morris six-wheelers": an unwieldy name, chaps. These travelling wireless stations have been dubbed "gin palaces," "caravans," "squeelers," and "radibuses," but none of them seems to hit the mark. Give these cars a brief snappy name, and get it officially adopted. First prize: one ball of silver paper from small "Players." Second prize: ditto, but slightly smaller. Third prize: ditto again, but still smaller. Millions of other prizes. No entrance fee. Simply write your effort on a blank postcard and burn it not later than August 30th.

* * * *

**Baldness, Cause of.**—A correspondent writes to ask if I have observed the alarming increase of baldness amongst soldiers. Whilst unable to supply a remedy for this (strange to say), I can explain the cause. The army of to-day consists of more highly trained men than during the time of Edward II. There are a great number of brain workers, if you can find them, especially in the technical corps. Excessive work with the brain destroys the roots of the hair. One is tempted to point out that you don't find grass growing in a busy street. One is even more strongly tempted to add that you seldom find hair growing on a woman's chin. Fortunately, I am gifted with any amount of tact, so it is extremely unlikely that I should make any such rude remark.

* * * *

**Excitement.**—Catterick Camp is in the limelight just lately by virtue of its forthcoming plunge into the gloom of an eclipse of the sun: all by special arrangement with a great London daily. This magnificent gift to the nation will not be passed over lightly, I hope. The remainder of the day will probably be observed as a holiday. If not, then otherwise. The last total eclipse visible in England was about 1779. I can only remember it with difficulty myself. The War Office was a bell tent at the time.

I think it is a mistake to have the eclipse so early in the morning. I trust that when the next affair of this sort is arranged in 1989, the newspaper in charge of the details will fix totality for 3 p.m.

However, by the time you get this, the 1927 eclipse will be all over. I hope you used a piece of broken glass or a smoked haddock, or whatever it was they advised us to look through.

* * * *

**July Gardening.**—Gardening at this time of the year consists chiefly of strolling round with your friends and explaining why the cabbage looks like parsley. An occasional poke with a rake or hoe will convince any scoffers that, at least, you know where the stuff is planted.

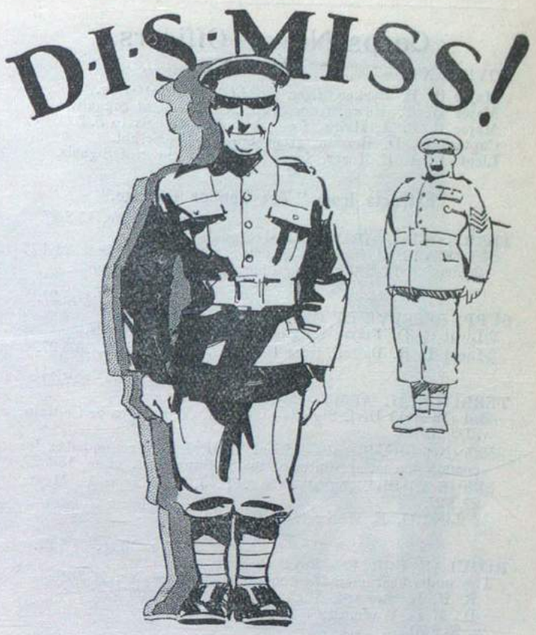
In a short time, I shouldn't wonder, you will have a little produce from your allotment, and will no doubt wonder what to do with it. On receipt of five shillings (5s.) in stamps or Treasury notes, I will give exclusive and definite instructions as to handing it all over to an individual whose name will be disclosed in the document. This offer cannot be kept open indefinitely.

Now is the time to concentrate on your flowers. If you have no flowers, it is useless to concentrate on them. I say this knowing full well that it is not the opinion of many other experts.

Antirrhinums and pentstemons should not be disturbed for another week or two, even supposing you knew them if they were under your nose.

A certain gentleman tried to sell me a whole garden the other day. I haven't stopped laughing yet. Mind you, gardens are all right, but what is the use of one to me? I haven't a spade. If I had, I should sell it.

*Continued on page 210*


And Then to the Canteen for a Tin of Armour's Veribest Fruit

*Apricots, Peaches, Pineapple, Pears, Fruit Salad*

What could be better, after a hot spell of work, than juicy, luscious fruit, full-flavoured, melting in the mouth, drenched in delicious syrup?

Apricots, peaches, pineapple, pears, fruit salad—choose what you like, but be sure you say "Armour's Veribest," if you want the finest fruit ever put into tins.

Armour's Veribest Tinned Fruits

ARMOUR & COMPANY LTD.,
Queen's House, Kingsway, London, W.C.

# Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major R. E. Barker, from Colchester to Catterick.
Major W. T. Howe, from S.T.C. to School of Signals.
Major R. P. A. Helps, from School of Signals to S.T.C.
Captain H. D. Beadon, from India to Aldershot.
Lieut. L. A. E. Tozer, from S.T.C. to School of Signals.

## Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 13/5/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut C. Rowe, to be Lieut. 28/4/27
2/Lieut J. L. Lilley to be Lieut. 29/4/27.

War Office, 17/5/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut G. D. Frazer resigns his commission, 18/5/27.
2/Lieut T. H. Dalton, from the T.A., to be 2/Lieut. 18/5/27.

War Office, 20/5/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals—Lieut M. N. Ford to be Captain, 21/5/27.
50th (N.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut T. H. Dalton relinquishes his commission on appointment to the Supp. Res. of O. 18/5/27.
54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals—Capt. P. J. Bowling to be Major, 27/3/27.
Lieut G. E. Weber to be Captain, 27/3/27.

War Office, 27/5/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 26/5/27 :—
R. H. R. Steward, M.C., with seniority 28/6/20.
D. A. L. Wade, M.C., and remains seconded with seniority 28/6/20.
L. C. Bell, M.C., and remains seconded with seniority 28/6/20
W. A. Dimoline, M.C., and remains seconded with seniority 13/7/20.
Such seniority not to count for Army seniority, pay and allowances, increase of pay, or retired pay.

The undermentioned Captains from the Indian Army to be transferred, 28/5/27, retaining their present seniority :—
J. H. Cameron-Webb and G. St. J. Martin.

The undermentioned appointment is made :—
School of Signals—Instructor (Cl. CC.)—Capt. D. A. L. Wade, M.C., R.Signals, from Instructor (Cl. GG.), 26/5/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

Lieut.-Col. A. S. Angwin, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., from 44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals, to be D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Eastern Command, 28/5/27.
Lieut.-Col. W. F. Bruce, D.S.O., M.C., from 47th (2nd London) Divl. Signals, to be D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties, London District, 21/4/27.
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—Capt. W. S. Ashley, from 211th (M.A.) Signal Section, to be Captain with precedence as in the T.A. 28/5/27.
Capt. H. Andrews, from 6/7th Battn. Manchester Regt., to be Captain, 28/5/27.
50th (N.) Divl. Signals—Lieut H. C. Tomlinson resigns his commission, 28/5/27.

India Office, 27/5/27.

The following appointments have been made in India :—
Chief Signal Officer, Western Command—Lieut.-Colonel R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, 13/3/27.
Commandant, Army Signal School—Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., 13th F.F. Rifles, 23/9/23.

The following officers have vacated appointments in India :—
Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, Major C. W. M. Firth, M.C., R.Signals, 13/3/27.

War Office, 31/5/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

43rd (W.) Divl. Signals—Capt. H. D. G. Foord having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commission and retains his rank, 1/6/27.

War Office, 3/6/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut D. C. M. Johnson to be Lieut. 24/5/27.

War Office, 7/6/27.

ESTABLISHMENTS—School of Signals—

Lieut R. L. K. Allen, Norfolk Regiment, to be Instructor, 19/5/27, vice Lieut J. A. E. Ralston, H.L.I.

War Office, 10/6/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

52nd (Lowland) Divl. Signals—Capt. (Prov.) R. J. Reese is confirmed in his rank, 1/10/24.
53rd (Welsh) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut L. H. Howard-Jones to be Lieut. 2/3/27.

## Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club.

The annual dinner will take place at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London, on Wednesday, July 27th, at 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Dress: Evening dress with miniature decorations. Price of tickets: Members, 12s. 6d.; Regular Officers of the Corps who are not members, 35s.; hon. members, 21s. Drinks at dinner are included.

Applications for seating should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, S.D.6, War Office, S.W.1. Attention is drawn to Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 Bye-laws of the Club.

J. G. DEEDES, Capt. R.Signals,
Hon. Sec. Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club.

# Wireless Camera Club.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals, Cairo.

We publish herewith a further photographic contribution from our friends in Egypt, which it is hoped will prove of interest. The photographs are taken from the collection of Corpl Corbett, and a brief description of each is given in the following notes (in each case the numbers run *across* the page).

**15.**—The Cairo armoured train, used for patrolling the main lines during riots, etc. The front and rear trucks carry quick-firers and machine guns. The control (wireless) truck is shown with the special aerial erected. A 120-watt set maintains communication with Cairo whenever the train is turned out. The train might be referred to as "a relic of the past."

**16.**—Native girls. The face-covering worn by one is known as a yashmak, and besides denoting that the wearer is married, it is supposed to protect her from the evil glances of passers-by. A rumour is current that it is worn out of consideration for other folks' feelings.

**17.**—A "sakiyeh," or pre-historic means of raising water, still in general use in Egypt. A blindfolded water-buffalo or cow is used to turn a wheel, to which are attached a number of "chatties" or jars. The water thus raised is poured off into a trough placed at a higher level, and run off as required.

**18.**—Mummy of Tuiu, mother of Queen Tiyi, in the Cairo Museum. Although nearly 3500 years old, the skin, hair and eyebrows are in a state of perfect preservation.

**19.**—A view taken from the spot on Rhoda Island where Moses is supposed to have been found in the bulrushes. This story is treated as a national joke amongst the natives.

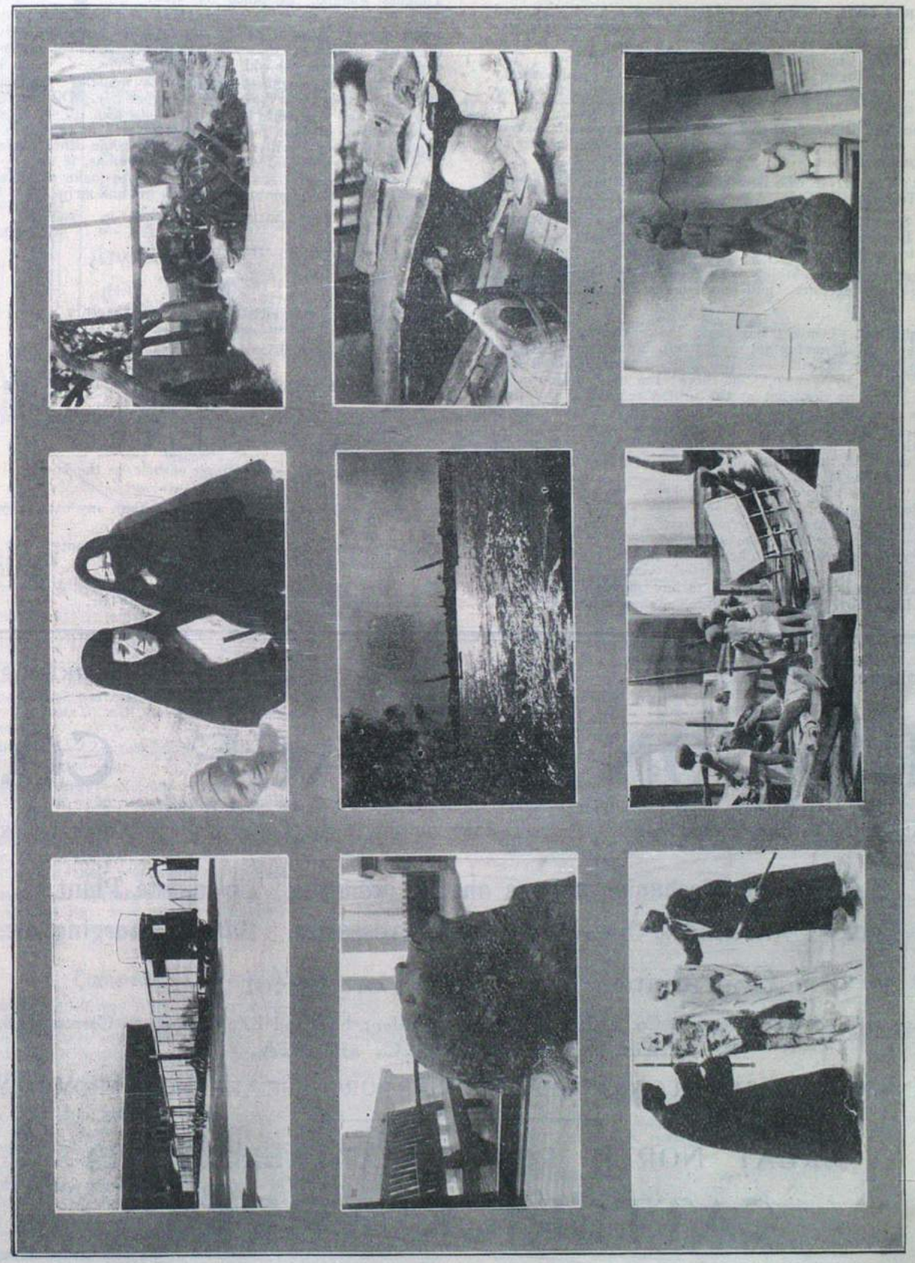
**20.**—Sarcophagus in the tomb of Kegemni, Sakkarra, showing the mummy remains inside. The face of the coffin is provided so that the deceased can see what is happening in the world around him.

**21.**—Two "old timers" at Sakkarra.

**22.**—When an Egyptian of any note died, a number of boats (similar to the one shown here) were buried with him, to convey his soul and personal belongings across the "Great River in the West."

**23.**—A representation of a Pharaoh leading a slave to sacrifice (Cairo Museum).





For a brief description of these Snapshots in Egypt, see opposite page.

PLAIN TALES - *continued from page 207.*

**Odds and Ends.**—They had evidently had a good time, and were rolling home about 2 a.m. from the sergeants' mess sports dance. "Here y'are, Bill," said one. "A s'hun-dial. Betcher can't tell me the time with it, and you a 'stronomer, too!" The same two were found later, trying to roll up the white safety line at the cross-roads, with the object of using it as a frieze for the bathroom.

Patience and Determination: The Christian names of the two signalmen who were discovered clipping a lawn with a pair of nail scissors each.

Swank: The driver who boasted that he received his education at Harrod's.

More Swank: The senior n.c.o. who has labelled his dog kennel, "Beware of the dog." It is necessary to see the animal in order to appreciate this.

And yet more: The athlete who took his first smack at the high jump, wearing slacks, and knocked the slat down.

* * * *

**Ladies' Chat.**—I might have said ladies chatter, which of course they do, but having got myself into hot water with these "Talks to Ladies," I will leave it as it is. I thought about calling this "Talks to Women," but there! I'm not vindictive. I am only including this chat at the urgent request of countless thousands of readers. They both assured me that ladies require talking to occasionally, and as the only way to talk to a lady at any length is via the printed page, I hope all ladies will peruse this very excellent, tactful and illuminating paragraph. (Ahem!) I haven't written it yet.

That "A still tongue counts no chickens," no one will deny. If they do, blow them. Equally true is the well known saying, "Idle chatter is another woman's poison." Let me give you a little illustration of what I am aiming at. You can't stop me.

A certain married lady walked down the road with another lady, a spinster. They met the latter's young man. A little further along, the spinster decided to buy some sweets for her friend's little boy. She dashed into a shop with the child, leaving madam talking to the gentleman. They were seen. Tongues wagged. So much for that.

A few days later, the same lady and her little boy went across country to meet daddy coming home on a bus. Going in the same direction, to *catch* this particular bus, was one of daddy's pals from the old home town.

Did he walk across the fields with madam? Of course he did Were they observed? You bet your life. Did any tongues wag? I'll tell the world!

Well, none of us is perfect, nor ever will be, but it is rather a pity that people will not try to seek some other explanation of what often appears to be perfectly obvious, if only to be on the right side. You see how easy it is to make a mistake? I suppose we can't alter human nature in one swipe.

Yours, awaiting the inevitable storm,

BARLEUX.

## "Tips."

434,000 Americans visited Europe last year.

* * * *

There is no pier in Wigan.

* * * *

The nightingale seldoms sings after the middle of June.

* * * *

The largest battleship in the world is H.M.S. "Nelson," with a tonnage of 35,000.

* * * *

Swimming exercises every single muscle in the body.

* * * *

The King of Spain owns more yachts than any other royalty.

* * * *

The best reviver on a hot day is a change of boots. Try it.

* * * *

The Corps colours—green, dark blue and light blue—denote activities on land and sea and in the air.

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GREAT NORTH ROAD (NEXT AERODROME)

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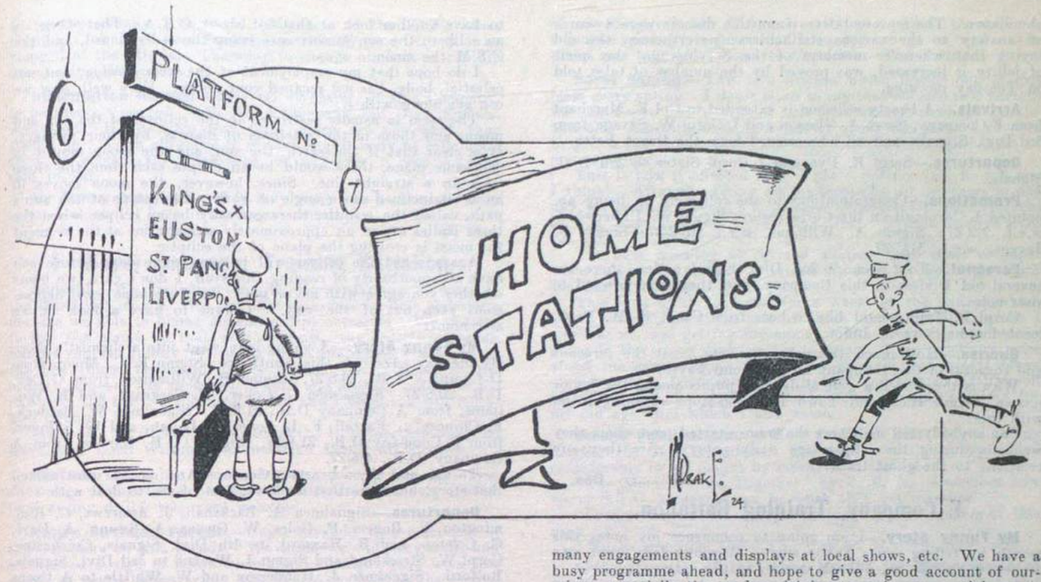



## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### A Company, Depot Battalion.

**General.**—It is regretted that the notes of this month are so short, but owing to the fact that our numbers have greatly diminished, it naturally follows that news is scarce. There are at present, only three squads in training from this Company. However, by the time these notes appear, there is every reason to believe that the actual amalgamation of the two drill Companies (A and B) will have been completed. So—more news next month.

**Education.**—Congratulations to Sgt Eastes on being awarded the much coveted 1st.

**Sports Trophy.**—No. 103 Squad have won the shield for the current month, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to L/Corpl Ellison and the Squad on their achievement.

**Departures.**—C.S.M. Manley to the 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester. Corpl Gunnell to civil life. Both take our best wishes for success in their respective environments.

**Answers to Correspondents.**—"Punter": My tip for the Derby is Call Boy, most danger coming from Hot Night. The best each way bet is Shian Mor.

G. R. S.

### C Company, Depot Battalion.

**Discharges.**—Corpl Wren has departed for civil life, to take up employment with the G.P.O. Let's hope that the work will not be so strenuous as with the A.V.T.C., and that the knowledge he has acquired in the Signals will be of use to him.

**Marriage.**—L/Corpl W. R. Jones to Florence Violet Hutton, at St. Peter's Church, Hereford.

**L.S. and G.C. Medals.**—Congratulations are extended to C.S.M. W. H. Horner and Corpl Dellor on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal. Perhaps it was a long sweat, too?

**Trade Tests.**—Sigmn W. Wolsey has returned from a course at Cosham, having successfully passed as a Class i. saddler and harness maker. Signalmen Avis, Ives and Pease passed a course for despatch riders—after, we believe, keeping the fitters busy.

**Mounted Cymkhana, etc.**—The riding school staff find themselves very busy getting ready for the gymkhana and for the many engagements and displays at local shows, etc. We have a busy programme ahead, and hope to give a good account of ourselves, especially the tandem driving team in our special event.

The entries for the gymkhana are quite up to expectations, but I have been asked not to mention names. Many new horses will be run this year, likewise riders, though the old favourites still exist. The gymkhana is to be a separate show this year, and not run in conjunction with the athletics as last year.

It is interesting to note that the Shanghai party seem to be making their orders according to the locality, though perhaps the wearing of medal ribbons on the *right* side may be due to Chinese photography or printing (?)

We have completed the annual musketry with very good results. The standard obtained is the best this Company has had, and we hope that the casuals yet to fire will improve the average. More 1sts were obtained than were expected, so perhaps the 30-yards range is not so difficult as is made out.

Dvr Cherry is leaving us on transfer to the Highland Light Infantry. His choice of the "Kilties" was rather unexpected, though he will perhaps be able to "Charleston" rhythmically to the bag pipes, as undoubtedly one is the origin of the other. We wish him luck, and Harry hopes the sun will keep out of his eyes.

On May 27th the Colonel-Commandant presented the shields and cups for the different sports events for the year. This Company was well to the fore, and received the rugby, soccer and tug-of-war shields, and a cup for shooting. At the end of the meeting the O.C. was called upon to receive the Mackworth trophy for the year ending 1927 from the Colonel-Commandant. This was handed over amidst great applause, and those present who had helped in winning the trophy must have been filled with pride and satisfaction. A photograph is to be taken, and will be published in next month's Journal.

"Batt" wants to know why "Cabbo" is in favour of trackless tramcars, and what's wrong with the junior T.T.

OLIM.

### D Company, Training Battalion.

**Apologies.**—I must tender apologies for the non-appearance of notes from this community last month. It shall not occur again.

**General.**—Owing to the coming inspection by the Col.-Commandant, the order of the day is (no, it is nothing at all fresh) the same as usual. The competitive spirit is much keener than ever, and the rooms begin to look like "home."

During the Whitsun holidays, revelry reigned supreme in the ancient and historic town of Richmond. All the latest attractions, including roundabouts and cokernut shies, were in

abundance. The representatives from this domain were a source of anxiety to the various stallholders; nevertheless, the old saying that wherever members of the Services go, the spirit of jollity is increased, was proved by the number of tales told on Tuesday morning.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to Cpl E. Marchant from F Company, Sergt A. Glossop and L/Corpl W. Savage from 3rd Divl. Signals, and all who arrived from the Depot Battn.

**Departures.**—Sergt E. Pye and L/Corpl Slater to 3rd Divl. Signals.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to the following on being appointed L/Corporals on the Corps roster: Sigmn W. Underwood, w.e.f. 7/2/27; Sigmn A. Williams, w.e.f. 13/2/27; Sigmn P. Javens, w.e.f. 31/3/27.

**Personal.**—To "Hamo,"[1] 2nd Divl. Signals: Yes, there are several old Divites in this Company, and they look forward to your notes.

Corpl R. Topp would like to hear from Corpl E. W. Pack, located somewhere in India.

**Queries.**—How much the cokernuts, etc., cost the sergeant and corporal of this Company at Richmond Fayre?

Why is there such a glut of dancing pupils among the junior n.c.o.s? Have Richmond Town Hall non-stops anything to do with this?

Can anybody tell me where the trams started, and where they went to, during the eclipse (see daily paper)? Are they any relations to the ghost train?

DON.

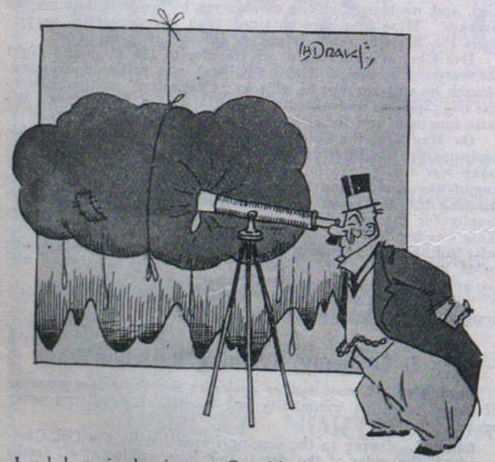
## E Company, Training Battalion.

**My Funny Story.**—I am going to commence my notes this month by telling you a funny story. A young lady went into a chemist's shop—no, I'll tell it later in the notes.

**The Eclipse.**—With the approach of the 29th June, I am determined, whether it meets with your approval or not, to treat of matters astronomical. I have been working up to this theme for months.

Grinding, as it were, with pestle and mortar, I have reduced the subject to pulp, and on the morning of the 29th June I am going to Richmond to turn it loose on the first astronomer I meet. And it will serve him right, too.

Now, eclipse (Gr. *ekleipsis*, failing) is the astronomical term, as no doubt you are aware, applied to the passage of one celestial body between another and the observer. Permit me to give you you an illustration.



Local depression hanging over Catterick, 4 a.m., 29th June, 1927.

You are, let us say, reading daily orders. Just as you arrive at the paragraph about kit inspection being cancelled, a foreign body looms up and completely obscures the whole of the order board. It is the Company sergeant-major who has come along to have another look at that bit about C.R.A. That, then, is an eclipse: the sun in this case being the order board, and the C.S.M the moon.

I do hope that my employment of the term *foreign*, and not celestial, body, has not escaped your notice. Very well, now we can get along with it.

The term is usually restricted to the eclipses of the sun and moon, and those of the satellites of planets, by their primary. It is clear that if the earth, the sun, and the moon moved in the same plane, there would be an eclipse each time the three were in a straight line. Since, however, the moon moves in an orbit inclined at an angle of 5° 8′ to the plane of the sun's path, called the ecliptic, there can only be an eclipse when the three bodies are in an approximately straight line at the moment the moon is crossing the plane of the ecliptic.

Again, since the eclipse will be over some days before you have an opportunity of reading this stuff, I don't care two hoots whether you agree with me or not. But I do hope local depressions keep out of the way. I want to have a look at an astronomer.

**My Funny Story.**—A young lady went into a chemist's shop. By the way, *Arrivals* this month are: Sigmn E. C. Moore from D Company T.B., 18/5/27. Sigmn H. Williamson from C Coy. D.B., 20/5/27. Signalmen G. Coker, W. Sargeant, and E. Williams, from A Company D.B., 21/5/27. Signalmen W. Baldock, F. Chinery, —. Farrell, F. L. Jones, S. Lough, and W. Skinner, from B Company D.B., 21/5/27. Sigmn C. H. Barnes, from A Company D.B., 4/6/27.

To one and all, a hearty welcome. And now I want to tell that story, but I see that we have, first of all, to deal with

**Departures.**—Signalmen A. Backshall, J. Andrews, C. Rimmington, R. Rogers, P. Coles, W. Owens, A. Swann, A. Dart, C. Colston, and R. Hazzard, to 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester. Corpl W. Strickland and Sigmn J. Wrench to 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford. Signalmen J. Henderson and W. Whittle to A Corps Signals, Ewshott. Signalmen H. Bartley and R. Tizzard to 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot. Signalmen J. Lightbody and C. Woodgate to 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot. Sigmn C. Semple to North Ireland Signal Company, Belfast. Our best wishes to all in their new units.

**Health, Wealth and Happiness.**—All ranks of E Company join in wishing every happiness to Capt. D. A. Brown, Royal Signals (O.C. E Company) on the occasion of his marriage.

**Congratulations.**—Hearty congratulations and good wishes to Corpl S. Lewis on his marriage, at Sheffield, on 21/5/27. To Corpl H. Neal upon the birth of a son and heir. And, lastly, to Signalmen L. Nix and V. Tilcock on obtaining the 1st class certificate of education. The former gained a "distinguished" in mathematics.

**My Derby "Tip."**—Last month, by a regrettable oversight, I omitted to publish my forecast of the Epsom classic, which error I hasten to rectify. Here is my final selection: 1, Call Boy; 2, Hot Night; 3, Shian Mor.

**More about our Garden Suburb.**—The first prize of £1 for the best garden has been awarded to No. 2 Hut (L/Cpl Newman). A very nice show indeed, although I take exception to their rhubarb. Tried to pass it off as clematis, too! Tut! tut! do you think I cannot tell one from the other?

The second prize has been divided between Nos. 6 and 20 Huts.

July 9th is the date fixed for the second judging of the competition. I think that the n.c.o. i/c No. 20 Hut is going to scrub his overalls and pretend he is a dahlia.

**My Funny Story.**—A young lady—ah! I knew there was something I wished to mention. It concerns old friends, and if you turn to page 180 in last month's WIRE you will find an advertisement about

**The Beacon Garage Co.**—Those of us who enjoyed the bracing air of Sussex away back in '20 and '21 will recollect the Handy Stores. The proprietors have established themselves in the north, and if any of you chance to roam in the neighbourhood of Catterick, you will find a visit to the Beacon Garage Co. Restaurant, which adjoins the garage, is well worth while.

**Eclipse Mistakes.**—The rumour that the Eclipse Stakes will this year be run off at Catterick Bridge is, I am delighted to say, without foundation.

**The T.T. Races.**—Keen interest is being taken in the 1927 Tourist Trophy races, over the Isle of Man course, where practising has already commenced. Members of the W.W. Lines Cycling Club have been lapping consistently, and No. 3, who stopped at the pits last Thursday to change his bell, is rapidly overhauling the leaders.



**Information Wanted.**—Sergt H. Webster, of this Company, is decidedly "peeved" with No. 3 Company 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot. He declares that their notes are not what they should be. As an old member of that august body he calls upon them to elevate their half-hose, or whatever it was someone said in '68.

**My Funny Story.**—A young lady went into a chemist's shop—but I think I'll keep it until next month.

L. H. D.

## F (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

**General.**—We apologise for the non-appearance of notes in the WIRE last month. We can offer no excuse for this omission; nor are we able to blame anyone except ourselves. We did try to put the blame on that worried n.c.o., the orderly corporal, but he replied quietly yet firmly that this absence was one of the few things he would *not* be blamed for. However, the orderly sergeant has promised to type and amplify notes for us. (Note by the O.S.: I did, and I will, and I hope you will recognise them.)

Major F. R. Cobb, M.C., our O.C., is at present away on leave, and Lieut Wilson is in command during his absence.

**Whitsun Leave** has come and gone. A very few boys took advantage of this leave, but the relaxation from ordinary routine (and spring drills) was very welcome.

**King's Birthday Parade.**—Capt. Straight took command of the Company on this parade. We think we did very well, and we heaved a sigh of relief when Capt. Straight gave us a few words of praise afterwards. We like to do well on these occasions.

**Departures.**—The following have left us for Colchester on promotion to the ranks as Signalmen: Signalmen Rooks, Gear, Shepherd and Berry. We wish them the best of luck in their new station.

**Arrivals.**—The following have arrived from civilian life, and we give them a hearty welcome. We hope they will be as happy in the Company as we are. They are at present doing foot drill under Sergt Payne, so they are in good hands. In order that you will be able to pronounce their names, we have put them as follows:—

If you don't know a word which rhymes with Simms,
Come to Catterick and do some Gyms.
Three young lads, Smith, Boulter and Hutty:
They stick to their drills as glass does to putty.
There's a lad from far India named De-la-hey:
You should see him smile when he draws his pay.
There's Pearson, Johnson, Fox and Ten-Broke:
All bar the last are ordinary folk.
Remains Gartry, Roake, Couch and Mills,
For pale people always buy Beecham's Pills.

**Appointments.**—We congratulate L/Corporal Boys Jenner, Brice, Pearse, Collins, and J. H. Jones on their appointment as such.

**Congratulations.**—We congratulate the following on their respective marriages: Sergt Payne and Corpl D. Jones; and L/Sergt Buhlmann, Corpl D. Jones and A/Corpl Tapley on their recent promotion to the rank shewn.

EFFRATS.

**[Note by the Typist.**—I am an old man, worn down with the cares and sorrows of this life, but if I could not compile better notes than those you gave me to type, I would eat my hat. I hear you in the barrack giving out witticisms and criticisms on all kinds of current events. If you would put some of these into decent English, perhaps the Editor would get the result printed for you.—O.L.]

## Training Battalion, Sergeants' Mess.

**Apology.**—I have been informed by several people that I should, when compiling these notes, give the printer something which is called "double spacing." I have issued instructions accordingly to my typist, and I am sure that he will be able to do it all right. You, Mr. Printer, can have a double of anything you like if I ever meet you. [Yes, thanks! the "double spacing" *is* just what I wanted—to go on with. The other can wait till I come to Catterick.—The Printer.]

**Horse Racing.**—This is a disease which breaks out in this mess every spring. I don't mean to say that we *own* race horses: we don't—we bet a few of our hard-earned shillings on the animals. Knowing nothing whatever about the game, I propose to give a few tips to those who may wish to have the benefit of my experience.

This is how it affected me. I got a partner (no, he got me, I think). After discussing all the horses in all the races in one day, my partner covered a large sheet of paper with such remarks as "2s. each way Can Lose" (and *did*) I then handed over 12s. 6d.

The next morning he covered another large sheet of paper with figures, and calmly informed me that we would get back 19s. 6d. for our 25s.

This kind of thing lasted for a week, at the end of which time I was amazed at the rate at which some individual, whom I don't know, was getting my money. The profit appeared to be going in the wrong direction, so to speak. I can't tell any more about the game, except that in my case, it very nearly broke up a five years' friendship which I value, and created a falling-off in the balance of a small account which I am accumulating for my old age, and which I also value.

**Recent Publications.**—"How I added nine inches to my height," by Boy Broadbent. Describes how the writer added considerably to his height by means of a small box.

"The More We are Together," by P. E. N. Describes how merry S.T.C. sergeants can be when they get together.

"Cricket," by Y. O. Should be read by all sergeants of this mess.

"My Escape from the S.T.C." by P. N. All copies sold.

**Amalgamation of the three Messes for the purpose of Entertainments.**—A meeting of the three messes (Depot and Training Battalion and School of Signals) took place in the large lecture-room at the School of Signals on May 12th. Eighty-four were present, under the chairmanship of R.S.M. Nolan. The following suggestions were put to the meeting:—

1—That the messes amalgamate for the purpose of all entertainments (all for it).
2—That the cost of such entertainments be borne by each mess in proportion to its strength (all for it). R.S.M. Anderson was appointed president of a central committee of eight (carried by a majority vote of the meeting).
3—That an annual dinner be held (carried).
4—That a meeting be held each quarter (carried).

That is all of importance that happened, I think, except that the business was prefaced by a very able speech by the chairman, in which all the advantages of the scheme were outlined. The meeting broke up in very good humour with itself.

I see by our notice board that the central committee have arranged the following: The first annual dinner will be held on the evening of the 28th June (this is the anniversary of the formation of the Corps). A dance has been arranged for July 7th. An "at home" to the members of the three messes, their wives, families, and friends, for Gymkhana day—which also falls on July 7th. So that's that!

**To Barleux.**—Don't growl at them; they love that. It makes them smile and say, "Isn't he a caution, dear?"

P. N.

## School of Signals.

Every time I take up the jolly old quill to indite a few notes re the School, the thought strikes me, "How many readers of THE WIRE could sit down and write about five hundred words about nothing and make it interesting?" I happen to be one who can't, but I try hard. Well, if I keep on trying, probably in time I might be something like an expert.

Most of the Companies and Divisions have done a deal of trumpet blowing about one thing or another in the past, so perhaps I stand a chance of forgiveness if I take a blow.

Can any Company beat this record? One man has walked from Darlington to camp three times, and five others have each done it once. Taking the strength of the Administration Company to be sixty, we can say that ten per cent. of the Company have walked that distance. Can A Company boast of this? can B? can C, D, E or F? I think not! Then why shouldn't

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we be allowed points towards the Mackworth trophy for it? Walking seventeen miles is quite as good as running seven, is it not? Yes, thank you!

**Arrival.**—L/Corpl Crozier from the 3rd Divl. Signals on May 25th. May his stay be long and pleasant.

**Medals.**—A/C.Q.M.S. Hayter was awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal in April. We understand he is now going to write a book on "Crime, and how to dodge it; or, the wreck of the 252." However, we congratulate him on his achievement.

**Extension of Service.**—Corpl Gordon to complete twelve years with the Colours. Thoughts of having to travel south got him down. Catterick is such a homely place. I only hope I don't have to report his reception of the L.B. and S.C.—as you were! I mean, the L.S. and G.C. (very feeble). However, we wish him the best.

In closing, I should like everyone to know that the much-talked-of beautiful smile mentioned in last month's WIRE has disappeared, with the canaries. In exchange we have that worried frown of the much-harassed C.S.M. I wonder: do you know where you're going?

BANGER.

## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### A Corps Signals.

#### No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Whittle, Henderson, A. W. Baker, Alwin, Nash, Kent, Holford, Huitson, Stoddart, S. King, Sankey, Thorley, Ferris, Tyrrell, from our depot health resort—the last six reaching us via R.A.S.C. Depot, Feltham. A/C.Q.M.S. Devereux from the Eastern Command Signal Company. 2/Lieut A. S. Milner from the S.T.C. (another sportsman into our midst). A hearty welcome is extended to the above, with the hope that their stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

**Departures.**—Corpl Morphew ("Bob" of the old G and F Companies), Signalmen Bodkin, McCullum, Rose, Lyon and E. A. Smith to the Army Reserve. Our best wishes follow them in their future civilian lives (no more "*Get* those laces in your shelf boots; *get* these windows cleaned," eh, Bob?) Sigmn Gill to 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester.

**Appointments and Promotions.**—Congratulations to L/Sgt Hoyland upon his recent appointment to that rank. Better late than never, eh? L/Corpls Bygrave, Clarke, Westwood, to be A/Corporals. A/Corpls Tavner and Toogood to be Corporals. Heartiest congratulations to all.

**"Road Hogs."**—I cannot resist the temptation to write a few more lines about the Company's flying squad. There is one fellow with a contraption which resembles an Aerated Bread Company's pastry machine. He calls it an A.B.C. model. I bet it *was* before B.C., too. What wheezes and wailings he induces out of it! Oh! Charlie, take it away! As it happens, he is the latest addition to the squad. There is a rumour that it is going to be mobilised into a motor cycle club, with the pay clerk as secretary. Not a bad idea, eh, Charlie?

**Education.**—Congratulations to the following upon obtaining their 1st class certificate of education: Sigmn E. A. Carter ("distinguished" in mathematics) and Sigmn H. C. Alldred.

**Marriage.**—Sigmn W. Denny to Rachel Dorothy Turner on June 6th. Our best wishes for a happy state of wedlock, old fellah!

**Speed.**—Who was the D.R. who took seven hours to mend a puncture? Maybe the "whale" swallowed him.

**General.**—In conjunction with the 5th Pack Brigade R.A., we celebrated the King's Birthday on June 3rd. The cheers were deafening!

Having digested this attempt at literature, now cast your optics on the Sports pages. We have a defeat to record this time, though!

LULU.

### 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**The Merry Month of May.**—We have had a month of unit training. Day and night schemes have been the order, and the ideal weather conditions have made things most agreeable. Those who have experienced a good wetting on occasions will appreciate what is meant.

On the 27th, E Section renewed acquaintance with familiar haunts in McGrigor Barracks, after their excursion to West Down. Their appearance indicated that life on the open plain is good—for they looked well bronzed and happy on their return. F and G Sections have now gone West Down-wards, and we hope they will also find the spot delightful.

A little party of ours paid a visit to Odiham for air co-operation work. Report has it that one n.c.o. was so delighted with his trip in the air that he wanted to visit Odiham *every* day.

**Who doth ambition shun** (SHAKESPEARE).—We congratulate Lieut F. T. Pope on obtaining his "1st class" as an instructor at the anti-gas course; L/Corpl Binder on obtaining a coveted "1st" on a P.T. course; and Sigmn Bastin on passing his cycle course.

L/Corpl Cripps is preparing for civilian life by sojourning at the V.T.C., Hounslow, for six months.

L/Sergt Lombard is congratulated on his appointment to A/Sergeant, as also are A/Corpls Parish and Jones on being substantiated.

Sergt Bishop has now to spend a little more of his clothing allowance on ribbon for his L.S. and G.C. medal, which we are very pleased to report has been awarded him.

**Men may come and men may go** (TENNYSON).—Major Stanley, Lieuts Gartland, Philcox and Smith (of the Supplementary Reserve) have renewed their annual acquaintance with us, and we were delighted to see them once again.

The Depot have sent us Signalmen Bassett and Turner, Dvrs Price, Richards and Sainsbury. From the Training Battalion have arrived Signalmen Clarke, Collier, Stokes, Williams and Lees.

The School of Signals sent us Dvrs Andrews, Blackburn and Booker, and the 4th Divl. Signals passed on Dvrs Smith, Spargo, Franks, Goldingay, Helliwell, Hill, Jenner, Mills, and Ogden.



We have said au revoir to Signalmen Eyre and Indermaur, who are now with the School of Signals. Sigmn L. W. Wheeler has been transferred to the Military Foot Police, and Signalmen Connelly and Greaves have joined the Reserve. The balance this month can be seen to our advantage.

**Troopin', troopin', troopin' to the sea** (KIPLING).—Well did Kipling know the excitement and the many visions of distant lands which float through one's mind, with the probability or possibility of a "move," when he wrote the "Troopin'" ballad. So, now, we—knowing that the drafting return is under the eye of Records—experience similar feelings. Are we or are we not for abroad? Time will tell, but it is exhilarating to be kept in a state of uncertainty for a while.

**Appreciation.**—Many thanks, W.E.C. Your Camera Club outing to Sakharra must have been enjoyable. The notes *were* interesting, and your collection of photographs is much appreciated and admired.

D.S. ONE.

### 2nd Divisional Signals.

#### No. 1 Company.

**Training.**—A and B Sections have been engaged in a number of unit signal exercises and traffic schemes in appropriate localities during the past month. They will play an active part in a Staff College exercise on June 21st, and a Divisional exercise beginning on June 27th.

**Horse Show.**—A number of horses and riders from this Company are competing under unit arrangements at the forthcoming Command show, and it is hoped that the efforts of those responsible for the entries, and the entrants, will be rewarded when the judge's decision is given. This show has attracted quite a keen interest this year, and ample facilities have been granted for the purpose of visiting the ground. Our entries are published below:—

Best-trained troop horse—C.S.M. J. Eves.
Pair-in-hand—Driver Joy.
Mounted unit transport (two teams of four)—Dvrs Watson and Somers; Dvrs Joy and Leaver.
Unit jumping—Sigmn Warner.
Driving drill (two teams)—Drivers Dine and Hunt; Sigmn Warner and Dvr Temlett.

**Death.**—We sympathise with Sigmn G. Chapman in the loss of his only child, at Belfast, on June 4th.

**Accident.**—We were sorry to learn that Sigmn Chettleburgh, of this Company, had met with a serious accident at Frimley, whilst proceeding to his home on his motor cycle during Whitsun. It is hoped that he will make a speedy recovery.

**Extensions of Service.**—L/Corpl McCullough and Signalman Webb, to complete twelve years with the Colours.

HAMO.

### E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—Nothing greatly exciting has occurred in this station during the last month, with the exception of the Whitsun leave and a kit inspection. With regard to the former, one wonders where the Troop get the necessary to proceed on leave. Of course, they may all be following Long 'un's example ("jewing" up for that long-looked-for ticket). As to the kit inspection, we would like to know if our health and strength merchant really did have his clasp knife numbered, and if so, how did it come to have a razor-like handle?

All trades are eagerly looking forward to the classifications which will take place shortly. W/T schemes have recently proved great successes: in one instance communication was established between the barracks and Bath. How about it, D Troop?

All ranks take this opportunity of thanking the commanding officer and officers of the 3rd Divl. Signals, and the officers of the Corps in the Southern Command, for their kindness in inviting us to join in the annual sports held at Bulford.

For a small unit, it was a very creditable performance for us to have thirty-nine successful competitors out of a unit strength of fifty-two. Of course, that number includes those who entered several events. We were extremely unlucky, in the jumping competition, in not winning the cup kindly presented by Capt. C. M. F. White. Sergeant C. V. Smith, after a clear first round, while on the second was knocked completely out by his horse throwing its head back, and he had to be carried out of the ring. Hard luck, Smudger, but "the pot" will be ours next year.

Our searchlight tattoo experts have once more got into swing, and such questions as "Quick, how much is ten times 5s. 9d.?" and "Shall we beat last year's record?" are heard daily. For the benefit of readers who might be interested, performances are to be given on the nights of July 30th, August 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th; and a good show it will be, too, although I sez it meself.

**Arrival.**—Corpl Crowhurst from India via S.T.C.

**Birth.**—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Adams, a daughter (Marian June). Congratulations, "Daisie." Don't forget the policemen (safety first).

**Agony.**—L/Corpl Mansfield (Flannel Feet) would like to hear from Toot, late of Northern Ireland Signals.

**Heard on a Scheme.**—Signalman: "Have you got a synchronised watch?" Signaller: "No, but I've got an Ingersoll."—Collapse of signalman.

### No. 1 A.A. Brigade Signal Company.

June 11th.

Our proper place is Blackdown, but for the last two weeks we have been erecting lines for the T.A. summer camp just outside Margate. When the work is completed, which should be in a day or two, we shall proceed to Watchett in Somerset for collective training with the 1st Air Defence Brigade, leaving behind a party of twenty-eight men for maintenance.

We travelled down in our own lorries by the Guildford-Maidstone-Canterbury road. The weather was fair, the cars were in good trim, and the roads were splendid but very much crowded with trippers. We left Blackdown at 8 a.m. on May 28th, and arrived at Manstone Camp at 4 p.m. without mishap. The eyes of most of the drivers were inflamed and swollen from the effects of the glare and dust, and had to be treated for several days by the medical officer.

The Company is attached to the R.A.F., and find the barrack-rooms very comfortable: linoleum on the floor, chairs by each bed, a mirror per man, and bunks for the n.c.o.s. The cook-houses, baths and institutes are also well equipped.

The camp is situated on the Ramsgate-Canterbury road, about three miles from the coast, and from our position we gain a view of the sea on either side and of Margate in front. It is certainly a very desirable place to serve in, especially in summer.

**Casualties.**—Sigmn Pounds met with an accident while out on his motor cycle, and is now in Herne Bay Cottage Hospital. I understand that his injuries are not very serious, and all in the Company are hoping he will have a speedy recovery.

The old boys of the unit learnt with pleasure of the promotion of Capt. W. Rogers.

Sigmn Hawksworth has signed on "for life" with a young lady from Oxford. We wish him every happiness.

Sigmn Hawkins was discharged from the Service as a result of his accident. We hope he finds civil life more to his liking, and that he will secure congenial employment.

Sigmn Botwood reported to this unit from the S.T.C. We extend to him a hearty welcome, and trust he will enjoy his stay with us.

Thirteen of the fifteen candidates succeeded in obtaining a 2nd class certificate of education at the last examination. The results certainly reflect great credit on Corpl Barrett and L/Corpl Cockings, their instructors.

### Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, June 14th.

**General.**—I believe this is the first appearance of this unit in THE WIRE, and it is hoped to keep up a summary of events in the future.

The unit's activities extend from Land's End to Portsmouth and Birmingham. The military personnel consists of two officers and five n.c.o.s, and the harmony and goodwill that exists at all times is remarkable. One w.o. is stationed at Devonport, one n.c.o. at Salisbury, another at Bulford, and two others tour the Command individually on classification duties. The remainder of the Company is composed of about sixty civilians. These are also scattered throughout the Command.

**Re-Engagement.**—C.Q.M.S. Heyward (Foreman-of-Signals), Salisbury Plain Area, to complete twenty-one years with the Colours.

**Obituary.**—It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr. R. H. Neale, of this Company, in the Salisbury Infirmary, on Sunday afternoon, May 29th, after three months' illness. Mr. Neale had been employed as telephone exchange operator at Larkhill Military Exchange for the past four-and-a-half years. He was laid to rest in Bemerton Cemetery, near Salisbury, on June 1st. We offer our very sincere sympathy to his relations in their sad bereavement.

**Sport.**—No collective sport has been possible to date, but sanguinary efforts have been made during the football season to raid the competition funds by getting twelve right (Tientsin, please note).

The members of the Company who attended the 3rd Divl. Signals sports at Beacon Hill spent a very enjoyable afternoon. Some very fine performances were seen, and the inter-Company all-ranks race, won by E Troop, produced a thrilling finish, Capt C. M. F. White coming up on the enclosure side to win a great race by the narrowest of margins. All were pleased to see Joe Sweeting harness up for the veterans' race: it appeared to warm him up for the inter-Company race later on.

**Personal.**—Sergt Graham wishes to remind Barleux that the name of the book is "Warriors at Ease," by "A.A."; and Coir wants to know why he did not come back for his cup of "mother's ruin" (? Joined the Frothblowers!)

K. G. COIR.

## Tank Signal Section.

Pinehurst Barracks, Farnborough,
June 9th.

**General.**—"Hello! hello! hello! Tanks calling." Once more the old war-cry is heard across the wild wastes of Laffan's Plain. Having answered the call of duty nobly, and sent our embryo B.B.C. announcers to all parts of the Empire (including China), the Section was in a "state of discrepancy," as a certain n.c.o. of our acquaintance was frequently heard to say. However, after much heart-burning on the part of many Section Commanders, we have gathered to our fold an enthusiastic if inexperienced band of young hopefuls, and so completed our establishment.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., 2/Lieut. H. A. C. Stallan, from the School of Signals. We hope his stay will be much longer than his predecessor's—and as enjoyable. He makes the fourth O.C. in less than two years, which I think is something of a record.

At the same time we sincerely regret to lose Lieut P. M. H. Lemon, as the success of the Section was due in no small measure to the valued and energetic services rendered by him. Evidently the powers-that-be have had the proverbial eye upon him, as he is soon to superintend the wireless operations of the first Mechanised Brigade assembling at Bulford.

**Training.**—So far we have not attempted any really ambitious projects, but we hope to eclipse all our previous efforts this year: at all events, we are working very hard towards that end. Apart from our technical work, we have kept the reputation of the Corps well to the fore in matters military. That is to say, we have frequently afforded the spectacle, to the rank and file of the 2nd Battn. R.T.C., of the Signals at drill. Quite an edifying show, I can assure you.

Of course, I cannot vouch for the veracity of the statement that the R.S.M. of the 2nd Battn. R.T.C. was seen watching us and taking copious notes of our movements; but it was noticed that the battalion was engaged in "saluting drill" soon after our arrival. 'Nuff said.

**Remarks.**—It came as a great shock to us to learn how unduly harassed was the n.c.o. in charge of the dining hall, mentioned in A Corps Signals' notes. It is to be hoped that a nervous breakdown will not result. Personally he always aroused my admiration by the manner in which he answered duty's call so unstintingly. The sympathy of the Section goes out to him.

Spud, the misguided one, is shocked at the frivolous manner in which you treat that beehive of industry, Frimley Green, Lulu. He hopes it will not occur again. For Oxy's benefit, he adds that he does not pick daisies: it is buttercups that attract his botanical mind.

Your base insinuations about my famous case of French extraction is treated with the withering contempt it deserves, Lulu. You have evidently been misinformed about myself being seen to buy cleaning kit. Pah!

The Gang (no need to mention any names) hopes that no B. and B. is attempted by Messrs. Gadd, Wood and Souter when dealing with their Chinky friends. Incidentally an account of their exploits in the land of mysticism would not come amiss. What about it, Johnny?

**For Sale.**—Twin cylinder A.J.S. combination. Does everything that a motor cycle should not do. Has been known to start, but the person witnessing this phenomenon was afterwards found to be suffering from D.T.s. Intending buyers should have an extensive knowledge of Chinese puzzles, and belong to that queer tribe known as "the Optimists." Reserved price 4d. Apply to L/Cpl E. T. Sanley, Pinehurst Barracks, Farnborough.

BANSHEE.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

**Annual Sports.**—The annual athletic sports meeting was held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 8th and 9th, on the Beacon ground. Thursday, of course, was the big day, when all the local world foregathered on the ropes. The results will be found elsewhere in this issue, so we won't go into details here. I would, however, ask you to notice that No. 3 Company gave the majority of their opponents a terrific "bending." I wonder how much it cost to get all those athletic stars in one Company? Altogether a very successful business, with blue skies tastefully decorated with fleecy clouds by the Quartermaster, who also furnished the bangs on the starting pistol. A dance followed Thursday's meeting, for the w.o.s and sergeants' mess, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. This was also a huge success, and then some!

On the following Saturday, the mounted sports were held on Bulford fields. A dull sky and a promise of rain kept the attendance down a little, but there was a considerable crowd present, for all that. The rain arrived as per schedule, but did not last long. Some excellent riding was seen. Sigmn Edwards gained first place in the individual jumping. His mount, "Ted," from No. 3 Company stables, had something to do with it. Sergt Smith of E Troop was unfortunate enough to sustain a wallop on the chin (I think) from his horse's head, which put him out a few minutes. He was almost a "dead cert" for first place. Hard cheese!

**"Darky" Warden.**—If any of you who served at Maresfield Park during the period 1919 to 1923 do not know who Darky Warden is, I can only advise you to keep it a secret. I fancy it was Lord Tennysworth who wrote "Old soldiers never die! they only fade away." Well, Sergt Darky Warden left this unit after umpteen years' service, and the Royal Signals thereby loses a character! He told me he was going to creep quietly away. He may have done so, but the preliminaries to the creeping were attended by a fair measure of noise and conviviality in the shape of a smoker to speed the immortal Darky on his way. His rendering of "She was only a cabman's daughter" in three flats brought tears to our eyes, whilst his speech, after being presented with a gold watch from the sergeants' mess, held us spellbound by its impressive and significant silences. Good luck, old soldier! Do not forget the lads; they won't forget you.

**Carts, Water, Hot, Mk. 1.**—We have always understood that the N.A.A.F.I. girls were trusting and credulous, but we hardly expected the following, which actually happened on the sports ground. A N.A.A.F.I. girl emerged from a marquee carrying a large jug and a perplexed frown. She asked one of the sergeants where she might obtain some hot water, and suggested that she might be allowed to get it from the water cart. "Why, my dear, you want the *hot* water cart; go up there behind the officers' tent, and you'll see it." She went. She did, really. However, it tickled her sense of humour, and she caused a steady stream of girls to pass, all bent on obtaining water from the hot water cart!

**Personal.**—Sergt A. Black would like to hear from Sergt Tom Tolley, last heard of in Sarafand in 1926.

**Arrivals.**—L/Sergt Pye, Corpl Strickland, L/Corpl Baker, Signalmen D. T. Smith, H. Wilkinson, H. Sowerby, Wrench, H. Moore, and C. Washbrook, arrived from Signal Training Centre. F/Corpl F. Jagger from 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester. Signalmen C. Knight, N. Rashleigh, C. Hinton, J. Headley, and F. Cogger, from Northern Ireland Company.

**Departures.**—L/Sergt A. Glossop to Signal Training Centre. L/Sergt A. Warden, discharged on completion of service. L/Cpl Crozier to School of Signals. L/Corpl W. Savage to Training Battalion. Sigmn M. Burton to A.V.T.C., Hounslow. Sigmn A. E. Mason to North Ireland Signal Company. Sigmn T. Evans to Army Reserve.



**Education Certificates.**—Congratulations to the following on obtaining certificates of education shewn: Sergt McEwan, Signalmen Twigger, Shaw and Nichols, 1st class. Sergt Freemantle, all subjects for 1st class except mathematics. Corpl Sewell, all subjects for 1st class except geography ("distinguished" in mathematics). Signalmen S. V. Jones and G. A. Shone, 2nd class.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to the following on taking the first step up the ladder: Signalmen Harrold, Berriff, E. Romain, and C. Stanton, to be L/Corporals on the Corps roster. Sigmn N. A. C. Clubb to be A/U/L/Corporal.

**Births.**—To Sigmn "Polly" Perkins, a daughter (Edith Beryl) at Lewes, Sussex, on 9/4/27. To Dvr Pigg, a daughter. To Sigmn A. Ward, a son (deceased).

**Marriage.**—Sergt W. Nicks to Ada Florence Madge Cartwright, at the Parish Church, Uckfield, Sussex, on 8/6/27.

**Courses.**—Sigmn N. Clubb proceeded to the School of Cookery, Aldershot, for a sergeant-cook's course on 4/6/27, accompanied by his A/U/stripe.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

**Obituary.**—It is with deep regret that I record the death, at the Military Hospital, Colchester, of 2317801 Sigmn E. C. R. Dalley. He arrived on posting from the S.T.C., on May 6th, and was admitted to hospital on the 21st. He died at 4.25 p.m. on June 1st of acute pulmonary tuberculosis. His funeral, with full military honours by the 5th Battn. Gloucestershire Regt., took place at Gloucester on June 4th. (The late Signalman's father, the late Lieut and Quartermaster Dalley, was associated with the Gloucester Regiment for some considerable time.) All ranks of the 4th Divl. Signals extend their deepest sympathy to his relatives.

**General.**—We have a goodly number of arrivals to welcome each month, and the old A.B.70 is gradually filling up. There is plenty of room for 'em, as our strength is now only around 170.

By the time the July WIRE appears, the annual musketry course will have almost faded from the minds of all but those old sweats who like to entertain the company at the "Angel" with a stirring account of how they pipped so-and-so by scoring a possible at 500 yards, with a rifle possessed of a triangular trajectory.

Of course it will long remain in "Jonno's" mind, for did he not collect a puncture? and did he not, as a direct consequence thereof, march—yes, *march* to the ranges? I know for a fact that he simply refused to budge from his chair for a week afterwards.

The scoring on the whole was not too bad (by the way, aren't markers rotten sweeps?) The top score was gained by Sigmn Gallery with 97, while the n.c.o.s sweep was raked in (literally) by Sergt Cayley.

The unit was inspected on May 25th by the C.S.O. Eastern Command. There was an appreciable absence of the wind which usually precedes an inspection of this nature; but the C.S.O., when addressing the parade, expressed his satisfaction with the turn-out, so we aren't such a "riff" crowd after all!

Judging by letters received from members of the Shanghai Defence Force Signals, they are being bored to tears. I gather that a certain well-known combination is the cause of this boredom. I also gather that English girls are suddenly much more appreciated than heretofore. Would any of the China Signals like a few tips on how to fold clothes for the shelf, etc.? Markers! steadoi!

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome to the following: From S.T.C., C.S.M. A. R. Manley, Signalmen J. E. Andrews, A. Backshall, T. Berry, P. Coles, A. R. Dart, C. H. Rimmington, R. N. Rogers, W. H. Owens, A. H. Swan, H. E. Clements, S. Tatham, P. H. Starke, J. G. Gear, A. Learmouth, H. F. Colwell, H. Greig, L. H. Etheridge, E. A. Green, L. E. Guest, C. J. Hughes, and E. Jordan. From 2nd Divl. Signals: Sigmn G. Cosgrave.

Sigmn Traynor has rejoined on completion of his course at the School of Cookery, and the man who went up and complained that his neighbour's baked potatoes were larger than his should now have a more rigorous test of his ingenuity in finding faults with Sigmn Traynor's cooking.

Meet the M.P. for Coldmeet

the amazing character who appeals both to the Epicure and the Plain Man. He is elected because he keeps what he promises—a warm glow of satisfaction with every cold meal. He is a hale and hearty Army Man—Kernel of the Domestic Happiness Regimen. Meet him at your table to-night. You will enjoy his ripe, juicy tit-bits and his mellow personality. He is full of simple charm—ask your Mess-Caterer for an introduction.

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*Of all Grocers*
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**Departures.**—To 1st Divl. Signals: Drivers S. Smith and W. M. Spargo. On transfer to the Army Reserve: Corpl G. Perryman, L/Corpls W. J. Hall and W. J. Mannion, and Sigmn W. Treadwell. On discharge: R.Q.M.S. H. J. Berry, L/Sergeant C. Campbell (of these two, more anon), Dvr S. S. Burton, and L/Corpl W. J. White. Here's wishing them all the best of luck outside.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The sergeants' mess members have shed a tear over the departure of two staunch supporters of the mess—R.Q.M.S. H. J. Berry and L/Sergt Campbell; and as a mark of their esteem have presented them with a canteen of cutlery and a silver-mounted oaken inkstand respectively. I believe that many drinks were had with members of the China Signals—by proxy.

Old members will hardly recognise the mess now. It has been painted throughout in the Corps colours, and "Jimmies" are prominent on the windows, etc. As for the stage, if C. B. Cochrane sees it, he will bring his next revue to Colchester.

**Song of the Shirt—or nearly so.**—In days of old it was the chivalrous custom of young men to go into battle wearing a glove, or a kerchief, in honour of their beloved. Indeed, if memory serves me rightly, a certain knight even went as far as to fight in a tournament, with his loved one's night dress as his sole armour. As a result of that noble action a minstrel was prompted to "get cracking," and forthwith composed a ditty (see Scott) entitled "The Lay of the Bloody Vest." Now the age of chivalry is supposedly defunct. Judge then of my surprise the other day, on walking into the cookhouse for a cup of —er—water, to see our stoker togged up in the customary slacks, S.D., slippers, and an article of feminine attire called (I believe) a vest. If you want to know his name, it rhymes with canister.

**Stranger than Fiction.**—I have seen wireless operators sending with one hand whilst holding various parts of the transmitter in place with the other; I have seen a despatch rider tie his magneto in place with a boot lace; I have seen a Company clerk attempt typewriting on a machine that resembled a cross between a mangle and a lawn mower. Yet the prize for dogged pluck and endurance must, I think, go to Benje, who tempted the Fates by popping down to Ordnance (or wherever it is that Q.M. clerks do periodically pop down to) on our antiquated motor-bike and side-car. I understand that the sole coupling between the side-car and the bike, on the return journey, was the strong right arm of Benje himself.

**The Cink from over the Water.**—Scene: Colchester Castle. [The Warden is conducting a group of sightseers round the castle, the said group consisting of one obvious Yank, equipped with half a dozen "Guides to Colchester," etc. (which he apparently had no intention of consulting), two learned-looking old gentlemen, two soldiers, and the usual couple of complete families.]

Warden: "Now, ladies and gentlemen, this 'ere castle was built about the year ten-eighty—"

1st Soldier: "Ah! 'bout fourteen years arter 'Astings."

2nd Soldier: "Shut up, and let the bloke get on wiv 'is piece."

Warden: "If you've *quite* finished—built on the foundations of the old Temple of Claudius, the castle was originally three times its present height, and—"

Yank (spitting his gum over the battlements): "See here, Mr. Showman, that ain't nix to chirrup about. Why, our li'l ole Woolworth building is—"

1st Learned Gent (witheringly): "Sir, the Woolworth building was a mud hut when this castle was a ruin."

1st Soldier: "Har har! That's a good 'un."

2nd Soldier: "Shut up, and let the bloke get on wiv 'is piece."

Warden: "To continue, the castle was purchased in eighteen-ten by a builder for the sum of (dramatically) one 'undred and ten pounds!"

Yank: "Sufferin' spiders. Do I unnerstand that this whole cassel was bought out for less than the old man's car cost? Who does it belong to now?"

Warden: "The Corporation, sir."

Yank: "Now, see here, bo. I guess I got a number one size idea that will sure make the old pop jump for joy. Listen, Mr. Showman. I hereby offer you one thousand dollars for your cassel!"

2nd Learned Gent: "But, sir, what would you do with a castle on your hands?"

Yank: "Waal, I guess my pop and me will cart the whole durned cassel over the water to Boston, Mass., and stick it up on the corner of Broadway. Then we'd advertise it—somethin' like this." (He scribbles on the back of a "Guide" and hands it to the 2nd Learned Gent., who reads aloud.)

Sure enough Old European Castle, brought from Colchester, Eng., by Silas F. Schwartzburg and Son.

Admission—One Dollar.

This is the identical Castle where wicked King John wooed and won Anne Boleyn, and beheaded the notorious gunman, Magna Carter, afterwards mounting his head on a pike and hurling his body from the battlements into the Wash!

It was in this Castle that Hereward the Wake burnt the cakes.

Walk up and see the Banqueting Hall, where Oliver J. Cromwell poisoned good King Hal by putting water in his wine.

Walk up—One Dollar Only.

[Led by the Warden, the entire assembly close on the Yank and heave him over the side. His body hit the grass with a thud. The Warden takes a look at the writing, creeps into a corner, and weeps hysterically. The two Learned Gentlemen throw themselves after the Yank. Remainder of company fade quietly away.]

2nd Soldier (in distance): "'E might 'ave finished 'is piece, 'Erb."

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Belfast.

**General.**—The annual inspection being over, with which the G.O.C. was very pleased, we are again looking forward to those blue forms sent by the Officer i/c Records warning members of the fraternity for service overseas. Our numbers have already diminished by five, as Signalmen Coggar, Hinton, Headly, Knight and Rashleigh have left us for the 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford. The latter is sadly mourned, as he was a member of the concert party.

Early next month most of the Company will be at Ballykinlar for the concentration of signallers, and we are hoping that the weather will keep up to its present standard, as this event is much looked forward to.

**Discharge.**—Sergt H. A. Davies left us on June 19th to swell the civilian populace. We extend to him our heartiest wishes for his future success. Some people will be surprised when I say that he enlisted so long ago that he has forgotten the date.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to Sigmn Stockton on being numbered among the U/L/Cs.

**Extension.**—Corpl T. Hall, after many days of careful consideration, has extended to complete twelve years with the Colours.

**Arrivals.**—Sigmn Mason from 3rd Divl. Signals. It is whispered that you are a cook—keep it dark, old man, or you may be shortly wrestling with the rissoles and messing committee. Sigmn Semple, who was held on command with E Company, Training Battalion, has arrived at last, and is enjoying himself in right good style. Why? Being a native of the Emerald Isle.

**Nuts and Wine.**—Once upon a time a party of wireless and visual lads left Belfast for a scheme. It was a hot and sultry afternoon, and the lineman was lounging about in a state of perfect boredom; so the officer in charge, wishing to test his ability at fault-finding, decided to cut the line at a certain point. This is the conversation that followed.

Officer (going by stealth to a group of wireless operators): "I say! any of you fellows got a pair of pliers? I want to cut that line."

Smart young wireless "Op.": "No, sir, but the lineman has." Thereby adding insult to injury.

**Stop Press News.**—I have just heard that six of the Company are warned to proceed to Wiesbaden in the near future. Aha! is this a prelude to those little blue forms?

With best wishes to all the shareholders in the "Rose and Crown," Fairwarp.

RASTUS.




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## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, June 14th.

The Field Company returned to barracks on June 11th, after a month's stay in camp, with many tales of woe, of the hardships suffered, ordeals, the using of air-line poles for visual signalling, placing of three A sets together to share the atmospherics—in fact, THE WIRE isn't large enough to record all the incidents, comical and otherwise.

The training was strenuous, and hardened by severe weather; but in spite of snow storms, rain and cold weather, the work was carried out extremely satisfactorily. The Chief Signal Officer praised the work of the unit on the general staff exercise, which goes to prove that the staff were well contented with everything that took place.

The 19th R.A. Brigade Signal Section joined the unit in camp on May 29th, after a month's absence at Bitche Camp, France, with the 19th Field Brigade R.A. Tier Park could not be described as a glorious place for a camp, at least under such wretched weather conditions as were experienced; but despite all obstacles the men kept themselves happy with impromptu concerts, sing-songs and smokers—for which we owe our gratitude to Sigmn L. W. Williams for so ably arranging, and the O.C. Field Company for granting the necessary time extensions.

L/Sergt F. J. Curtis having qualified as a Class I. instructor at the Chemical Warfare School, we can now look forward to a little gas drill.

During the absence of the Field Company, we were supplied by the Command Company with entertainment in the form of a dance on each Friday. That the evenings were pleasant is emphasised by all who attended.

The Signals Association dance held yesterday was appreciated by all present, and it is hoped to hold another in the near future.

"Jimmies Vat" of the A.O.F.B. still continues amidst merry surroundings, the name "Frothblowers" seeming to fill the bill adequately.

At the time of writing we are engaged on extensive training for the forthcoming annual sports, which will have taken place by the time these notes appear. Full details will be given in the next issue.

Congratulations are extended to Sergt Penfold and L/Corpl Morley on obtaining their 1st class education certificate; also to Sigmn F. H. Clark and Driver W. E. Osland on gaining a 3rd.

I notice a great number of extensions of service, and after all the Service is not too bad—but what a long step between twelve and twenty-one years.

There are only two departures to record this month, namely, Corpl G. F. Ibbs and Sigmn A. E. Wells, who have left us for discharge. We wish them every success.

We read with interest that summer commences in England on June 22nd, but we should be greatly pleased if any reader could inform us on what day we may hope to expect it in *this* part of the world. The average to date is one day's sunshine to ten of rain.

The n.c.o.s' mess are looking forward to August Bank Holiday, on which day they are to hold a Rhine trip. This was voted the best outing last year, and it is just as sure to be this.

ARMAC.

## A FEW MORE "TIPS."

The Steward's Cup is run on Tuesday, July 26th.

* * * *

Now is the time to get your cricket bats for next season.

* * * *

Fruit should be cheaper now than it was two months ago.

* * * *

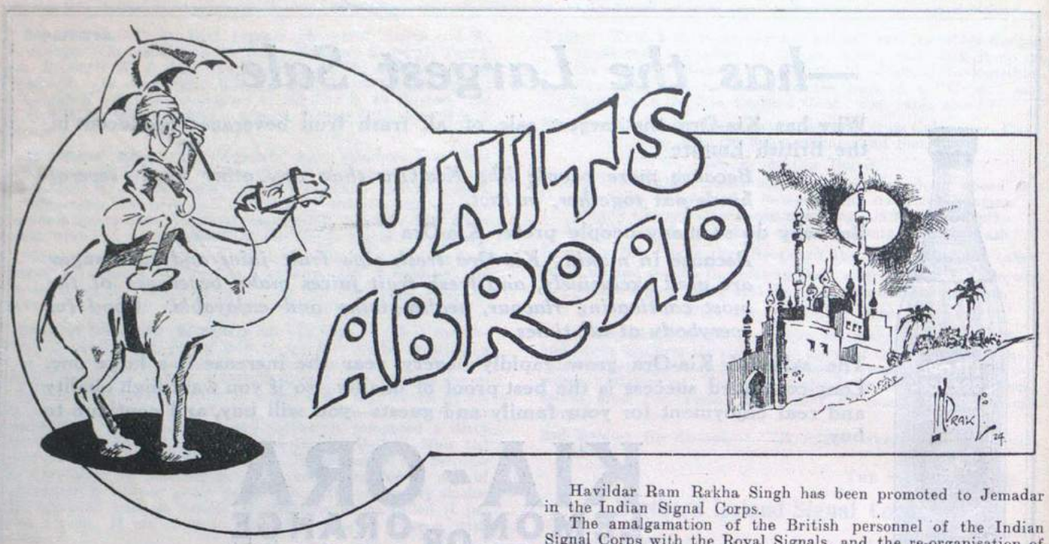
It is on the cards that the coach of a winning tug-of-war team will in future receive a prize.

* * * *

A cricket bat should not exceed 38 ins. in length, or 4½ ins. in width.

* * * *

Corps coloured sports shirts should always be washed in cold water.




## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

The warlike atmosphere of the first few weeks having subsided, there is very little of outstanding interest to report in these notes. Nevertheless work has been plentiful, and the unit has been unobtrusively strengthening the defences of the city with a network of cable lines. The usual migration of Headquarters Staff has taken place, and the change-over was effected without interruption in communications.

During the month, the 13th Infantry Brigade Signal Section and the Field Artillery Brigade Signal Section have joined us from Hong Kong, and we are once again a complete unit.

We have been fortunate enough to obtain a billet opposite the racecourse, and now that it is used as a flying ground, we are looking forward (John Chinaman permitting) to a pleasant and interesting summer. In the event of flat racing being allowed, a certain n.c.o. is already contemplating installing a totaliser in the canteen.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—A sergeants' mess has been established, and although most of the home comforts are lacking, we manage to get on fairly well on imported substitutes.

We have been fortunate enough to secure a good Chinese cook, who does us really well. The first meal he served up was a three-course lunch, or "tiffen" as it is called out here. The first course to arrive on the table was the sweet. Many comments were passed, but it was accepted as a national custom, it being a well advertised fact that the Western order of things is always reversed in China. When it was discovered that the mess waiter had made a mistake, our knowledge of China and the Chinese received another serious reverse!

The latest delicacy in the vegetable line is bamboo soup. This is somewhat similar in taste to a well-stewed muddy haynet.

WUN LUNG.

## Signal Training Centre, India.

Jubbulpore, May.

**General.**—The weather is now "hitting it up" quite pleasantly at about 107 degrees a day. Contrary to what one would expect, this is having a beneficial effect on our games and on our entertainments. We have won the Wallace football cup for the second time in four seasons, and the entertainments are distinctly more numerous than in the cold weather.

During the month two officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, Capts. J. F. Maxwell and J. L. Lander, have joined for service with Signals, under the new scheme for the employment of officers of the A.I.R.O. wtih the Indian Signal Corps for periods of from twelve months to three years.

Havildar Ram Rakha Singh has been promoted to Jemadar in the Indian Signal Corps.

The amalgamation of the British personnel of the Indian Signal Corps with the Royal Signals, and the re-organisation of the Indian Signal Corps, are proceeding rapidly. Several well-known units now have new names, and some of the well-known personalities have new ranks. Of the S.T.C., India, we have to congratulate R.S.M.s J. B. Sutherland and G. Ryder, and C.Q.M.S.s G. Mayes and Stevens, on their promotion to those ranks, though it means that all except C.Q.M.S. Mayes leave for other Signal units in India.

Capt. A. J. Schofield, I.A., has left on eight months' leave, and Capt. F. W. S. Jourdain, R.Signals, officiates as adjutant of the Signal Training Battalion.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—We have so little to relate for the past month that one blushes from pure modesty. To think that the hub of the Signal Service in India is so peaceful makes one wonder what our entertainment committee are doing. I have spoken to several prominent members with a view to finding out the cause of this tranquillity, but alas! we can only hope that the committee are storing up their energy for a real burst before the monsoon.

Our weather is now getting distressingly warm, which no doubt accounts for the amount of work performed in the mess instead of the proper place. The other night a certain member erected so many wireless stations on our lawn that it was difficult to dodge the mast stays. Another rushed round the mess with a cable wagon until you couldn't see his wagon for dust.

A hearty welcome is extended to L/Sergts Wooldridge, McKee, Ellis, Handlay and Creaton—and burra congratulations on their recent promotion.

It is with great sorrow that we say adieu to Sergt Gamester, but at the same time we wish him every success in his new station. He has been one of the pillars of the S.T.C. for a great many years, and the lack of his support will shake our foundations for some time to come.

We held a tennis drive on the 10th May. What a tennis drive really is, is this: that it is like a whist drive, somewhat. The connecting link is the card. Both games are played with cards, and some of the cards which turned up at our drive were anything in ascending order from the deuce to the ace. The Kings brought their Queens, etc., etc. However, that is a tennis drive. When you are not actually playing the game, you are talking. We hope to have some more!

**Corporals' Mess.**—On the writer entering the mess the other evening, there was silence deep as death, and the boldest held his breath. Please don't be alarmed: I am not breaking forth into poetry—but we do miss Corpl "Billy" Williams and his 2.L.O. voice. However, the 2nd Indian Divl. Signals (Quetta) gain is our loss. We wish him luck.

Our new vice-president has stepped into the shoes of his predecessor without the slightest signs of a "misfit," and the only function of the month—a whist drive and dance—has been voted the best yet. Corpl Dipple and his jazz band deserve our special thanks.

The most interesting mess meeting for many months was held last Wednesday, when the question of a billiard table was brought up, and it was decided that the Commandant should be approached for a loan, to be repaid in monthly instalments, to purchase same. If it were only possible to run our own supper and liquor bars at the mess here, it would indeed be a "home from home." We will see what can be done.



## A Company, Signal Training Battalion.

We heartily congratulate our soccer team on winning the Wallace cup. The game was up to the usual standard served up by Signals, and the spectators were quite satisfied. The proceedings were livened by spasms of "community" singing, ably led by Drum-Major (?) Browne and an impromptu band. We are now wondering if the weird noises produced had any effect on our opponents' play.

After the match the skipper of the team (Sergt Kitchen), junior n.c.o.s and men were enabled to enjoy a jazz and sing-song in the Regimental Institute, and a very merry evening was passed, thanks to the kindness of Capt. Humphries, who filled the cup. It was a fitting end to a great day.

Having successfully disposed of the last draft from the United Kingdom, and passed through the excitement of the cup, the S.T.C. is now basking peacefully in the sun. To the naked eye, everything is calm and peaceful, but to those in the know everything is in a turmoil. The great attraction is the amalgamation of the Indian Signals with "the Corps." This is now no longer a dream, but well on the way to becoming an accomplished fact; and readers will join with me, I am sure, in voicing the sentiment that the Corps will now become "a very big noise" indeed.

**Posting.**—Corpl Williams to the 2nd Indian Divl. Signals, Quetta.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to the following on attaining their respective ranks in the Royal Corps of Signals: A/Sergts Chenery, Waghorn, Meredith and Grimbley to Sergeants. L/Corpls Creaton and Gould to A/Corporals.

The following recipients of promotion in the Indian Unattached List are also congratulated: L/Sergts Watford and H. A. Wright to Sergeants.

**Personal.**—Congratulations to Corpl Gould on killing his snake. We have it on excellent authority that this is not the first one he has seen, but it *is* the first one he has succeeded in killing.

SIGTRAIN.

## A Corps Signals.

Karachi, May 16th.

**General.**—We extend a hearty welcome to our new C.O., Major E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., who came to the unit on the 8th inst. His arrival brings back remembrances of X Company, Crowborough, and those who remember him on the rugby field are already planning a glorious future, with visions of scrums and tackles.

For two nights the Jack Tars of H.M.S. "Lupin," which called here, were our guests. We played them at hockey and football, which went off very successfully. After these matches, "at homes" were held in the corporals' mess. The gramophone record of "The Frothblowers' Anthem" was worn right out, and after a merry time they departed, promising a return visit in the near future with a new record.

**Vocational Training.**—Many times have we heard such remarks as "And who is that civvy?" "Oh, that is so and so on a vocational course." "Good heavens! I thought there was a dance on." From what we can see of it, Karachi is being run by A Corps Signals vocational training admi's. We have men in the operator's boxes of the two principal cinemas. If we require a suit to be made, we find the chief cutter (!) is a Signals man. If we listen to the local radio, we recognise that distinctive Signals touch. Even if we go to the docks to be nearer home, we see old "90" there. It just shows one what the Signals can do.

**Fire Alarms.**—Whilst enjoying our hard-earned breakfast (espud cutlets) the other morn, we heard the distant sound of a gong being frantically beaten. With great intelligence we all came to the conclusion that it must be the fire alarm, so regretfully casting our cutlets aside, we tore to our respective posts. That was quite alright for the ordinary personnel, but we sympathise with the poor Fire Picquet, who, after dashing miles over the Sind Desert with fire buckets full of sand, discovered that it was only the Grass Farm manager testing our efficiency.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—The sergeants' mess has considerably brightened up of late, and the new entertainment committee has started well by arranging an invitation dance on April 27th, and a billiard tournament with the 19th M.T. Company sergeants' mess on May 11th. Both these affairs were very popular, and we hope there will be many more.

**Arrivals.**—From leave in U.K.: L/Sergt B. Cheverton, Corpl R. Newman, and L/Corpl Jervis (and they all weigh about 12 stone at the present weight of exchange). From S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore: Signalmen S. Brown, A. Brown, J. Brown, J. Jackson, J. Ralph, J. Steele, J. Hubbard, E. Mills, and S. Vosper.

**Departures.**—Capt. and Mrs. J. Butcher to U.K. on leave. We wish them both a rollicking good time during their stay in the promised land.

**Promotions.**—The following to be L/Sergts: Corpls Cheverton, Crichton and Morgan. To be Corporals: L/Corpls Ford, C. Knox, R. Boak, R. A. Lawson, Hatch, Hayes, F. Finley, and J. Lee.

**Social.**—Our usual fortnightly dances are as successful as ever. Last week a fancy dress dance was held, the first prize (ladies) being won by Mrs. Autie of this unit, whose costume represented "The Signals Jazz Band," complete to the electric dance announcer. The first prize (gentlemen) was won by Pte Frost of the Sherwood Foresters, who was dressed in a suit of "Four by Two," and represented Musketry. As we had just held our anuual musketry course, this was very original.

**Agony.**—Wilf Sigmn J. Manning, of No. 1 Signal Company, Belfast, please communicate with Sigmn Hockley of this unit.

AYCORE.

## Peshawar District Signals.

April 26th.

Several weeks having passed and still no news on my scribbling pad, I shall have to emulate some of those eminent statesmen who prepare a two hours' speech in about ten minutes, and try to think of all the happenings in this unit within the last month or so. So here goes for a few notes!

**General.**—Congratulations must be offered to the undermentioned, who obtained their 1st class certificates of education at the examination held at Peshawar in October: Sergt Powell, L/Sergt Goodyear, L/Corpls Knight and Freemantle. Sergeant Hanby was awarded "distinguished" in map reading. Sergeant Osborne (A.E.C. attached to this unit) was awarded "distinguished" in mathematics.

The March examination has recently finished, and it is hoped that all those who sat have fully justified their hours of patient study. Many a night, when the orderly sergeant came round to see the lights put out in a certain room, he found four or five studious youths poring over books of study, and smitten with pity he allowed them to keep on the lights.

Within a few weeks the majority of the Company will be at Upper Topa, enjoying the glorious scenery, dances, etc., and incidentally striving to get higher ratings. Of course a select few will be sweating on the Plains of Peshawar during the summer, but that is just their luck. They might get a chance next year to learn all about the Charleston, etc., at Utopia—sorry, I mean Upper Topa.

**Officers.**—We have to offer the heartiest of welcomes to Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., R.Signals, who arrived from England on March 14th to take over the command of the unit vice Major E. R. Nason, transferred to the Indian Army Service Corps. Our best wishes are also extended to our departing commanding officer, and we trust that he will always remember the times that he spent with us.

Lieut. C. Childs and Capt. E. L. Farnall proceeded to the United Kingdom, on furlough, on March 20th and April 10th respectively. We trust that they both have an enjoyable time.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome the following to our fold, and trust that they will always be contented in the land of Ackdiv: Signalmen Romaine, R. Browne, G. Drake, R. Davey, A. Knowles, C. Webster, T. Keough, and D. Simms.

ACKDIV.

May 17th.

**Promotions.**—The undermentioned corporals have our congratulations on being appointed lance-sergeants on the India Unattached List, thereby qualifying to enter the sacred precincts of our esteemed sergeants' mess with impunity: Cpl W. Squires, w.e.f. January 2nd; Corpl A. Oates, w.e.f. February 3rd; Corpl H. Sneddon, w.e.f. Jan. 19th; Corpl V. Brown, w.e.f. April 1st.

The first-mentioned two are at present enjoying six months' leave in Blighty, and no doubt they will honour their promotion in the time-honoured style with "drinks to the house." Now then, Squibs, don't forget the sacred precincts, and do not return a member of the corporals' mess.

The following, although only putting their foot on the lowest rung of the ladder, also come in for a share of our congratulations. Sigmn A. Benfield, to be U/L/Corporal, w.e.f. March 21st. Sigmn F. Lingard to be U/L/Corporal w.e.f. May 7th. You two may enter the sacred precincts one of these days.

**General.**—Of course everyone has noticed our new official designation at the head of these notes. It looks as if we do stand a little to the fore in the eyes of the military world.

The annual move of the married families to the Hills for the hot season took place on May 2nd, and by this time they will all have settled down to the joys and amenities of life in the khuds at Upper Topa, Khanspur and Upper Barian. But we must admit that road warrants, rail warrants, toll passes, etc., are handy things for those heads of the families who are doomed to stay in Peshawar.

Apropos the annual move, the storyette entitled "The Families will move to the Hills" (written by a striving author who wishes to hide his identity under the nom-de-plume of "Adsum") is very deserving of mention. 'Tis quite a masterpiece, and no doubt, if prizes were offered by the Editor of THE WIRE for story-writing, our budding author would be well in the running. [This article will be published as soon as space can be provided. —Editor.]

We are sadly depleted in strength owing to the majority of the unit being away on courses at Upper Topa, Jubbulpore and Rawalpindi; but it will be gratifying to note, say in about four months' time, that all who left us to sweat during the summer on the Plains of Peshawar successfully passed for their higher ratings. But what applied last year is also applicable this time, that "dances are not included in the tests on a Q sheet."

Some people do have the luck, though! Who is going to think of all the stable hands grooming untractable remounts with a temperature of 120 degrees, whilst others are enjoying the cool breezes of the Murree Hills?

Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., has left us temporarily to assume the duties of Administrative Commandant, Signal Units, Upper Topa, and of course, having only seen him for a few weeks prior to his departure for the Hills, we are naturally anxiously awaiting his return.

**Arrivals.**—From the Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore: Sergt Gamester, 10/5/27; Sigmn D. McPherson, 29/4/27.

The following from B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot, on May 14th: Signalmen C. Cleary, C. Bazin, Sharples, W. Pye and J. Smith.

**Birth.**—A daughter born to the wife of Sergt Blunden, at the Military Families Hospital, Cherat, on May 2nd.

PESHDIST.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, Punjab, May 18th.

**General.**—Brevity will have to be our strong point this month, as nothing of great importance has taken place, and even a keen newspaper reporter would be unable to find sufficient copy for an editorial.

The hill party have left for Upper Topa, and we are wondering how many casualties occurred during the march there from Rawalpindi.

A party have also left us for Peshawar District Signals and 1st Indian Divl. Signals on re-posting, and one of the "old contemptibles" has departed. Have you had one on the book yet, Mac?

A great many changes have taken place during the past twelve months, and there are very few of the men forming B Troop on arrival in Sialkot who remain now.

We are also promised a few more changes in view of the reorganisation of Signal units in India, and in the near future expect to welcome our new T.S.M. and T.Q.M.S.

**Departures.**—To Peshawar District Signals: Signalmen Pye, Cleary, Smith, Bazin and Sharples. To 1st Indian Divl. Signals, Rawalpindi: Signalmen McNeill and Burdett.

**Congratulations.**—To Sergt Peters, Corpls Collins and Nimmo on attaining their full rank on the I.U.L. To L/Corpl Carter on being appointed "paid" on the I.U.L. To U/L/Corpl Coffee on his first step towards the Field-Marshal's baton. To Signalmen Jackson, Johns, McLintock, Abbott, Pye and L/Corporal Carter on obtaining their higher ratings.

**Mess-Room Reminiscences.**—Just recently there has been one table in the men's mess that has been occupied daily by those devoted to relating their past experiences, employment, etc. Amongst their number are ex-seamen, ex-aircraftsmen, ex-motor engineers; and as a matter of fact, to listen to them, one would think every calling under the sun was represented.

Some of the yarns that are told are—well, not impossible, but highly improbable. One certain ex-marine (mercantile type) told us of a man who was attacked by sea-sickness and threw his arms round the ship's funnel, yelling, "Stop, or I'll choke you." Naturally, he won the cup that day. He also told us of the loss of the key of the fog locker. Do such things exist?

The riding instructors are cultivating the following terms when dealing with this person: Hard to port, hard to starboard, for right or left turn. Should anyone require married anecdotes, we have two star performers, as our remount instructor will testify. When they tell us some of their yarns, we are inclined to think they are guilty of handling the truth rather carelessly.

Amongst this little group is the strong man of the Troop, who often explains how to tear 'em up. We often wonder what would happen if this same strong man were to stroll into a drawing-room with modern furniture, for anything of a fragile nature excites his desire to break it.

The journey back from Lahore will not be forgotten by those who participated in it. By the way, who was the n.c.o. who was so obsessed with the idea of blanket exercise that he, overnight, prepared his bicycle by removing the saddle? Of course he blames the other two n.c.o.s, who deemed it advisable to keep their door locked for some hours. Still, the idea of blanket exercise on bicycles appears rather unique, but very painful.

W. C. M.

## C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Risalpur, N.W.F.P., April 16th.

After a somewhat lengthy absence from THE WIRE, owing to numerous changes and movements in the Troop during the past year, we again make our appearance. Nevertheless, our sincere apologies are offered, and we hope to contribute a few notes regularly henceforth.

The strength of the Troop is being re-inforced by late Blighty enthusiasts, who are endeavouring to fathom the ways and means of a prosperous and interesting tour in the "land of curry and rice."

L/Corpl Barclay proceeds on the 25th inst. to Poona on an A.1 course. We wish him the best of luck. Sigmn Farrell (late Geo. Washington and rough rider?) left us recently for Aden. We hope his legacy is still non-mythical, as it was in India.

We entered six trusty steeds in the 'Pindi sports, and succeeded in obtaining third place in the horse parade: the Troop polo trainer, Sigmn Barton, mounted. His disappointment was much marked by the absence of a big feed (not for the ghora) after the event. Better luck next time, Pate.

Sports is a minor detail at present, owing to the aforesaid changes and lack of talent for full teams, but we expect to shine in the near future.

**Agony.**—No. 744386 Sigmn G. Walton would like to hear from Sigmn Thomson, late E Company storeman, Catterick. Sigmn S. F. Raley would like news of No. 2315672 Sigmn W. S. G. Lewis, late of 3rd Division.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl Rowden, L/Corpl Dawes, Signalmen Burfield, Martin, Raley, Wolfe, P. Wright, F. Winton, Joyce, and Wall, Rifleman Hayes, Pte Cobb, and Gunner Burr, from Jubbulpore.

**Departures.**—Sergt Nicholson to D Divl. Signals, Rawalpindi. Corpl Chappell on furlough to U.K. Sigmn Lawrence to U.K. for discharge. Our good wishes go with them.

C. CAV. SIGS.



May 11th.

The Troop is now about to settle down to the routine during the "punkha season," and as we have several ranks leaving us for a temporary period "up the khuds," we expect certain members on the horse lines will be perspiring in a different direction than for the Blighty boats.

Congratulations to L/Corpl S. Bibbings on his promotion to Corporal. We hope the further responsible duties that have been bestowed upon him will not weigh him down. It is rumoured that the mess is presenting him with a tennis racket in honour of his entry therein.

The following startling episode took place quite recently. A certain signalman, finding his horse's tail persisted in swishing his face whilst grooming was in progress, affixed a brick to the tail. We are given to understand he has escaped from having a broken jaw, but is likely to be charged with sleeping on parade.

**Departures.**—F/Corpl Scullion to Upper Topa, on duty. Signalmen Mitchell, Walton, Wolfe, Wright, Martin and Macey to Upper Topa, on visual and D.R. courses.

C. CAV. SIGS.

## 2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

### Corporals' Mess.

**General.**—A "phat" drive and snooker tournament were held in the mess on March 19th. The evening opened with some very nice pianoforte solos by Sigmn Strachan. The first teams to arrive were those engaging in the strenuous game of "phat," and it is said that one or two of them fully kept up the "name of the game," except that they spelt it slightly differently. It is rumoured that the team from the senior mess had been training very conscientiously for the past week. Some of them did, I believe, even go so far as to purchase some "McEwan's weight increaser." Oh, what weeping and gnashing of teeth when they discover that they have lost.

By the way, speaking of the juniors winning, who was the certain lance-corporal who suggested that the code used by the corporals' mess "phat" team should be: One kick is Clubs, two kicks is Hearts, etc., etc.? Now then, Gerry, don't start blushing, please. Again, who was the corporal who had his wrists massaged before attempting to deal the cards? It's rough luck, but you cannot head them in this game, Ginger. But never mind, we *did* win after all.

**Snooker Tournament.**

First Game: C.Q.M.S. Harley v. L/Corpl MacKinnon.—The C.Q.M.S. opened the scoring with a single red. Mac was the first to drop a colour after manœuvring very nicely for the brown. Play was very close indeed right through the game, Mac eventually running out winner by 15 points (37—22).

Second Game: Sergeant Brown v. L/Corpl Cooper.—Cooper opened the scoring with a very pretty six away. However, we will not be down on him, as Brown immediately followed suit. Play in this game was not quite so superior as in the previous one, but it was nevertheless a very close affair, Cooper eventually winning by the narrow margin of 7 points (47—40).

Third Game: Sergt Woodcock v. Corpl Woolhouse.—This was the most looked-for game of the evening, both men being the player-elect of their respective teams. Woolhouse opened up with a nice cut-in, narrowly missing the black. Both players showed some good points, and left very little for each other. Play remained fairly even until the reds had all disappeared, when Woolhouse suddenly found his form and ran away from his opponent, finishing up with a lead of 26 points (62—36). Undoubtedly Sergt Woodcock was lost on our table.

Fourth Game: Sergt Reid v. Corpl Powell.—Reid had the misfortune to miscue in the opening stages of the game, and gave away a very valuable black. However, he did not allow this to happen again, and as even the most perfect players do sometimes have accidents, we will excuse him. Powell made some very nice strokes, and was a little too good for Reid, who has apparently not played much snooker before. Once more the corporals proved victorious, winning by 6 points (37—31).

Fifth Game: R.Q.M.S. Turner v. L/Corpl Yates.—This was another looked-for game, both players having a fairly good reputation. Neither player seemed anxious to break the pyramid too much. Play continued for some time on loose balls. Eventually the pyramid was smashed by Yates. The R.Q.M.S., like the rest of his team, was apparently lost on our table. Yates eventually won by 24 points (67—43).

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Sixth Game: C.S.M. Sewerin v. Corpl Bates.—In the opening stages Bates gave away one or two points. The red play was fairly even, and when the colours were reached both seemed to be playing for snooker positions. One or two very nice snookers were put on, but the players seemed to have the game well in hand. Bates won by 6 points (44—38).

The snooker tournament resulted in a win for the corporals' mess by 84 points, the aggregates being: Sergeants' Mess, 210; Corporals' Mess, 294.

Watch out for the return match on the sergeants' ground, or should I say "course." If rumour is correct, the result will be a case of a "hole in one," using a driver. However, everybody had a good evening and went away quite happy and contented, so we will not be too hard on "Molly and Co.," our long-dormant entertainments committee. I think all will join with me when I say that now they have got going, we hope that they will keep going.

BEEDIV.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

May 16th.

**General.**—Hullo, everybody! Waziristan District Signals calling. C Divl. Signals are dead—long live Waziristan District Signals. This is the title that C Div. has now taken unto itself. That is why the dhirzi has been busy replacing buttons on the fronts of various tunics.

We are afraid we have been awfully slack of late in our contributions. However, our new president, Capt. G. C. Winckley, M.C., has started to make things hum, so we hope to contribute regularly in the future.

The weather has begun to get warm, and the "Sandfly Follies" are mustering in full strength for their summer performances.

We have had one or two fans on fire lately, owing to the terrific friction set up by the rapidity of rotation. They were propelled by a broom handle!

Khirgi Camp and Fort.

On April 12th, His Excellency Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief in India, inspected all ranks. H.E. spoke to several of us individually, and although we have heard nothing, we think the turn-out was good. Anyhow, we were not "chased" on the following parade, so we suppose it was o.k.

At a meeting held by the local Signals Association, the following elections took place: President, Capt. G. C. Winckley, M.C. Vice-President, R.Q.M.S. May, D.C.M., M.M. Hon. Secretary, Sigmn V. Wade.

The Association held a whist drive on the 29th of last month, but unfortunately, in the statement of accounts, the larger amount appeared on the left.

Naturally, things are getting a bit dull now the summer is approaching. The ladies of the station have left for the hills; and various members of our tribe can be seen, draped gracefully across the bar imbibing "iced lemon" (?), whilst murmurs in various cadences are heard, "Roll on, that leave!"

It is noticed that the members of our tennis club are turning out in any old clothes now-a-days. Where are the immaculate flannels, the pungent perfume of "4711," and "Saban aw Pani" brilliantines? Is it due to the heat, or because the fair sex have left us?

On January 16th we welcomed from home our new commanding officer, Major J. A. F. Mair, M.C. We hope his stay will be a long and happy one.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—The undermentioned have left us for Quetta. We wish them the best of luck, and may they "B" delighted with their new station: Sergts Dilley, Ellerton-Long and Hay, Corpls Goodison and Copp, and Sigmn Hutchinson.

Sergts Whittingham and Robertson, Corpl Smith (Yimp), and Sigmn Bishop have joined us from Quetta. We bid them welcome, and hope they settle down well.

We welcome the arrival of Capt. G. C. Winkley, M.C., and C.S.M. J. W. Chitty, D.C.M., from Razmak, and hope their sojourn with us will be long and happy. I did not catch the S.M.'s remarks. We understand that Capt. Winckley is a "Blaster." Oh! for a sandstorm!

Mahsuds.

**Birth and Marriage.**—To R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. May, a son and heir (Harold Stanley). Congratulations! We announce the marriage of Miss C. Cleaver, stepdaughter of Sergt and Mrs. Gibbens, of this unit, to L.A.C. Holmes, R.A.F. We wish them the best of luck.

**Personal.**—Congratulations to L/Corpl N. R. Andrews, of B Divl. Signals, on attaining the first place in the Baluchistan assault-at-arms cross-country run, and also to the remainder of the team. Well done, Oscar! The next I want to hear is that B have won the trophy outright—F.R.C.

**Special Stop Press.**—If any lady of our married families would like to know what her husband is doing down here, please write to the hon. secretary. He will tell her.

VAT.

## Bannu Detachment.

May 6th.

Some considerable time has passed since we were last in print, but many readers will remember us as "Signals, Tochi and Khaisora." This sector consists of four Sections: Operating, Brigade, Construction and Wireless. Until the 1st April last the Signals maintained the communications in the area, on which date the Civil Telegraphs took over from us.

By the time these notes appear in print we shall have lost the greater portion of the sector, who are proceeding to Upper Topa to attend the various courses held there during the summer months.

**Arrivals.**—L/Corpl G. Elliott, Signalmen M. Russell, Smith, Stevens and Simpson from Headquarters, D.I.Khan. Sergeant Giles, L/Corpl Raymond, Signalmen Bridgeman, Clarke, Garrard, Hamshire, Meadowcroft, Remington, Taylor, from No. 1 Sector, Razmak, en route to Upper Topa

Section of Jandola-Khirgi.

## Manzai Detachment.

May 16th.

**General.**—Observing the heartrending appeal for news of Dera Ismail Khan in your last issue, our noble gathering here were, to put it mildly, greatly perturbed.

The sector is greatly changed from what it was in 1924, that year being the last time this Section contributed to THE WIRE, I find it difficult to get a footing again after the lapse of three-and-a-half years. The whole of the Section, with the exception of two, have emigrated to Australia or returned to the United Kingdom.

On the 7th March, Lieut Dinsmore, whom we were sorry to lose, was relieved by Lieut Cottell, late of the S.T.C. and Depot (India). Their loss is our gain.

On the 8th March we started our training for higher rates, which was keenly supervised by the C.O., the keenness being greatly appreciated by the lads.

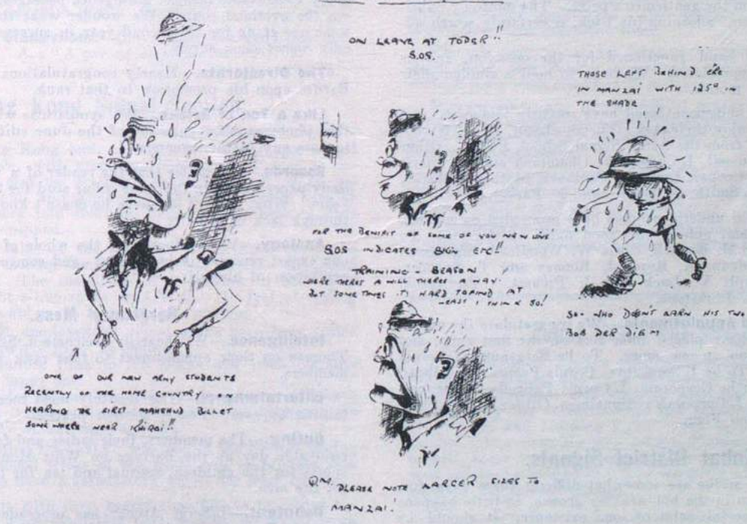
No. 2 Brigade Signal Section, with "Fivepack" Wireless, proceeded to Khirgi on the 31st March, and they arrived back with heads full of fresh knowledge and their boots full of fresh blisters (does 'em good, you know). No! I did not go myself! Sigmn Annells (mounted) did his best to encourage them on their daily marches (easy, ain't it, Jimmy?)

Home-Coming of the Column.

On our return from Khirgi, we were visited by Major Mair, M.C., our C.O., on April 8th, and by the Commander-in-Chief in India on April 21st. In both cases we kept the flag flying and supported our reputation.

At the time of writing, everyone is getting well down to work. The people for Class II. ratings have left for Upper Topa, others have gone on leave, and the unlucky ones have to remain in Manzai for the summer.

A few sketches by that well-known artist "Perk" are appended.




**Arrivals.**—L/Corpls Mansfield and Clarke, Signalmen Brown, Bromfield, Coles, J. Cleal, and T. Cleal from Jubbulpore via D.I.Khan. Signalmen Hurst, Pearson and Greenstock from Quetta via D.I.Khan.

**Departures.**—Corpl De Jonge, Signalmen Hodgekins and Dyer to the Army Reserve. Sigmn Foster to the home establishment. Best wishes go with them from the unfortunates.

**Obituary.**—It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of L/Sergt Muddiman, of the W/T Section. He was well liked by all ranks, and his sudden death came as a severe blow to all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

**Agony.**—Sigmn J. Hurst would like to hear from Signalmen Callely and Cleary. (Shure and begorrah! when are yez going to give Vic Eddy?)

MERGLE.

## 3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet, U.P.

**Designation.**—For the information of other members of the Corps, the designation of E Divl. Signals has been changed to "3rd Indian Divisional Signals."

**The Migration to the Hills.**—Since we sent our last contribution, the migration to the hills has taken place. On previous occasions those people who went to the hills went as a detachment, and unit headquarters remained in Meerut; but this year the move was carried out as a unit, and only a few people were left behind. That being so, it was decided to take all section stores, some riding horses, a few mules, and a telephone wagon.

Prior to starting, it was rumoured that the four daily marches of approximately eleven miles each, from Kathgodam to Ranikhet, would not be made, but that we would proceed direct from the railhead by charabanc; but sad to relate, reliable information was later received that E Divl. Signals would march.

The usual packing and loading was carried out uneventfully, and at 6.30 hrs. on March 28th the mounted party left for the city railway station, followed soon after by the main party. The horses were entrained and the baggage loaded. At 11.0 hrs. we were clear of Meerut, and arrived at Bareilly at 16.0 hrs. Here we had to change over to the narrow gauge railway, and this meant unloading all stores and baggage and reloading them on another train—a little job which kept us busy till 21.30 hrs. At 23.0 hrs. the last stage of the railway journey was commenced, and it finished early the next morning on our arrival at Kathgodam.

March 29th.—The train was unloaded, and the stores were put into motor lorries which took them direct to Ranikhet. By 10.30 hrs. the chars-a-bancs conveying the married families had departed, and about half-an-hour afterwards the marching party under Capt. A. J. Hannah started on the thirteen mile march to Brewery, the first rest camp. We reached our destination without serious mishap, and shortly afterwards, when horses had been bedded down and the troops had had dinner, one could hear the strains of the banjo and mandolin coming from the long wooden huts which make up these roadside camps.

March 30th.—By 6.45 hrs. bedding was loaded on a lorry, which immediately left for the next camp. This was done each day during the march. At 7.0 hrs. the troops set off for Bowali—nine miles away—and by taking bridle paths the journey was soon completed, and by 12.0 hrs. we were settled down for the remainder of the day.

March 31st.—We were clear of Bowali by 7.0 hrs., and after a pleasant march of a little over eight miles we arrived at Ratikhat. Here Capt. H. S. Lewis Barclay took over from Capt Hannah, who proceeded to Ranikhet.

April 1st.—We left for Bomshaon, a distance of about ten miles, the greater part of which was up a steep gradient, and the journey was uneventfully completed.

April 2nd.—The O.C. decided on an earlier start, as the march was a stiff climb of fourteen miles. Accordingly we had struck camp and were on the last stage of the journey by 6.30 hrs. The last few miles leading into Ranikhet are over a winding road, with pines on either side which, in the early morning, as the sun creeps over the mountains, give out a lovely fresh smell reminding one of an English countryside. When we arrived in Alma Barracks we were speedily shown to our respective rooms in the bungalows which had been allotted to the unit.

Whilst we had been marching, those lucky people who had proceeded direct from Kathgodam to Ranikhet with the baggage had dealt with the stores, so that we were free to settle down for the seven months that we are in residence in the summer station. This we did by 16.0 hrs. Then a bath, dinner, probably a pint or two—and so to bed.

**Entertainments.**—The unit held a non-stop fancy dress dance in the Rink Theatre on May 4th, for the benefit of the O.C.A. All who attended voted it a great success, and asked for another in the very near future.

The officers attended in force, and Mrs. W. M. Miller, the C.O.'s wife, kindly presented the prizes, one of which came to the unit. Sergt Fair (A.E.C.) in his dress as the "Big Noise" of the A.O.F.B., won the gentlemen's prize. The motto: "Lubrication in Moderation," adorning his back, is certainly worth adhering to.

The unit dance band functioned for the occasion, and as usual it was well appreciated. We hope to hold a similar affair during the coming month.

**Arrivals.**—The undermentioned have recently joined us, and we hope they will enjoy their stay: Officers—Lieut. H. G. Niven, Royal Berks Regt., from the Army Signal School, Poona. Other ranks—Corpl J. Russell, L/Corpls W. Champion and F. Short, Signalmen Arrend, Cooper, Dore, B. Faulkner, Mathews, Marks, Mepham, Hunt, H. Smith, G. White, and F. Parker.

**Departures.**—The undermentioned have proceeded on courses, and will, it is hoped, uphold the good name of the unit: To S.T.C. (India): C.S.M. Rendell, Corpl W. Woodford, Signalmen W. Esther, A. Redrup, A. Read, J. Rooney and T. Spencer. P.T. Course: Corpls V. Luck and J. Pickett. Equitation Course: L/Sergt E. Pinkstone.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—We congratulate the undermentioned. Some have placed their feet on the first rung, and the others have gone up one more. To be Sergeants: L/Sergts Evans and Fawl. To be L/Sergeants: Corpls Pearce, Broadhead and McMillan. To be Corporals: L/Corpls Policella, Cross, and Trudgett. To be L/Corporals: Signalmen Gibson, Thompson, Stedman, Cooley and Figg.

## Kohat District Signals.

The duties of a scribe are somewhat difficult these days, for, having settled down in the hot weather groove, so little happens to disturb the peaceful calm of our existence. It should be noted that F Divl. Signals no longer exist, and that we are now "Kohat District Signals." The altered establishment will entail certain changes which will be noted in these columns as they occur.

The few details left in Kohat, by way of excitement, have developed a passion for gardening. One enthusiast, having carefully planted his seeds as laid down in the "Manual of Gardening," vol. x., was seen with a torch, at the hour of midnight, looking for results. And the time of planting was but a few hours before!

The Parachinar Detachment seems to have caught a similar fever, with better prospects, though, in the way of results. Parachinar is cool and calm, and the detachment has now settled down to individual training.

A party of twenty-four, under Sergt H. J. Lewis, left for courses at the Signal School, Upper Topa, on May 11th.

Sergt A. W. Lydamore gained a "distinguished" certificate at the Army Veterinary School, Ambala.

Congratulations to the following on their promotion in the I.U.L.: Corpl T. Madeley to be L/Sergeant. L/Corpls A. Clarke and P. Theobald to be Corporal.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters B.T.E., Cairo, June 11th.

**Change in Command.**—Our best wishes go with General Sir Richard C. B. Haking, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., on proceeding to the U.K. after relinquishing his appointment as G.O.C. British Troops in Egypt. Before leaving the country he presented to our officers' mess (appropriately called "Haking House") an excellent autographed photograph of himself.

We deeply regret that the arrival of our new G.O.C., Lieut.-General Sir E. Peter Strickland, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., should be slightly marred by a certain amount of political tension. We all sincerely hope that it will soon blow over, and that he will not experience the trying times our late G.O.C. must have had on some occasions.

**Shuffling Along.**—Quite recently the road leading to our barracks was crowded with what appeared to be refugees; but it was only our married families moving into their new quarters. The situation of these quarters is ideal, as they command the only road leading from (and to) the sergeants' mess, the corporals' mess, and the canteen; so "If Mr. So-and-So arrives home before one o'clock, why must *you* stay until two?"

**They're off!**—Our plutocrats are rushing off to England by every conceivable means: indulgence passages, lordly liners, and via the overland route. We wonder what the attraction is, as some are going for the second year in succession. A fellow can only marry *once*, surely!

**The Directorate.**—Hearty congratulations to A/Corpl R. G. Barnes upon his promotion to that rank.

**Like a Ton of Bricks.**—We sympathise with the Editor over that photograph on page 187 of the June edition, but we refuse to pass any further comment!

**Records.**—We notice that the reader of a well-known English daily paper has worn the same collar stud for the past forty-eight years. What a lot of language he doesn't know, or is "rusty" in through lack of practice!

**Apology.**—We apologise for the whole of the foregoing, but our expert reporter is indisposed—and someone had to make an exhibition of himself.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**Intelligence.**—We heartily welcome L/Sergts Huxtable and Thomas on their appointment to that rank and becoming mess members.

**Entertainments.**—The monthly mess meeting was as entertaining as ever. Peace, perfect peace!

**Outing.**—The members, their ladies and forbids spent a most enjoyable day at the Barrage on Whit Monday. There were sports for the children, scandal and tea for the ladies, and beer for the men.

**Debutant.**—L/Sergt Archer has proceeded via the overland route to England, on three months' vacation. This will be the first time he has appeared in public with his 1st class certificate of education and minus his "bint."

**£5000 Reward.**—This reward will be paid to any person, dead or alive, who can confirm the following statement made by a mess member: "Thomas a Becket murdered Henry VI." As it is the wish of this member to remain incognito, we are only at liberty to disclose that he was once so inconsiderate as to be born on the banks of the Ganges in Hampshire.

**We are Seven.**—A R.E.P. club has been formed, and seven members were enrolled on the first day. We understand that it is not proposed to increase this number.

**Perhaps so!**—The competitor who sent up the following in one of the weekly competitions was a trier: "A lame dog": Lance-corporal—blind.



## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signals Barracks, Polygon, June 4th.

**Arrivals.**—Captain R. A. Bagnold, R.Signals, is again with us, having returned from England on May 31st.

**General.**—Congratulations to the Four Just Men on their clever rendering of "I wonder where my Bebe is to-night." The sequel to this number is found in the Froth-blower's Anthem. The Vat was not responsible for the chasing of goats. May I add that these animals do not make suitable companions for dogs.

**Education.**—More laurels have been added to the Company by Sigmn Panter obtaining his special certificate of education, and L/Corpl Dunn and Sigmn Barnard passing in two subjects. L/Sergt Archer and Sigmn W. C. Jones have obtained the 1st class certificate, whilst Sigmn Whiting had hard luck, just failing in geography, which subject he will take next time.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—We heartily congratulate L/Cpl George on attaining the rank of A/Corporal, and the following on being raised to A/U/L/Corporals: Signalmen Walsh, A. J. Thomas, A. J. Norman, McKail, Thierrin, Panter and Edge.

The Company in general desires to thank Sigmn F. Richards for his musical numbers when rising in the early morning. Many say he should be with Carl Rosa. Having had my nocturnal slumber shattered by his heartrending melodies, I endorse the opinion, and allocate the position of chief stoker when he arrives.

**Gone, but not Forgotten.**—In loving memory of Sergeant Barnham's window-box, which departed this life in early May. Mais oui, nous n'avon pas le fleurs, dil watik!

**Birth.**—At Penge, Surrey, on May 15th, to the wife of L/Cpl Max Frommel, a daughter (Edith Alice).

**Heard in the Class-room.**—Q.: "Give the definition of a rotary converter." A.: "A parson on a joy wheel!"

CROAK.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, April.

**General.**—Hong Kong had, up to a few weeks ago, a real war-like appearance, with numerous implements of war or defence (as the case may be) scattered about, transport of all descriptions, D.R.s, etc., and (thanks to the weather clerk) bags of mud. One's memory (old soldiers, I mean) went back to days before some of us nipped.

The continual rains of the past few weeks have upset the camping grounds, causing the troops to move into the unfinished Peninsular Hotel. The installing of telephones in this hotel has brought to light a human fly in A.W.G. His feat of scaling the hotel walls would make a cat-burglar envious.

The native R.E. employed on signal works have been transferred to the Corps (N.P.). Ye gods!

We welcome Gunner Pink to the Corps and trust his stay with us will be a happy one.

Before these notes appear in print, the hot season will have arrived, and with it many discomforts which we hope will be lightened by plenty of bathing facilities.

Rumour has it that the G.O.C. will inspect the Section during next week. The usual tricks of the trade will be brought into use, and I hope to have a satisfactory report for next month.

**Obituary.**—It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of Sigmn E. C. Scarlett (4th Divl. Signals) by drowning on March 24th. Owing to his unit departing for Shanghai, the interment was carried out by the Hong Kong Section, accompanied by the band of the 1st Battn. Middlesex Regt. and a firing party. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family. A photograph will accompany the next notes.

JOINT BOX.

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Wellington Barracks, May 10th.

**General.**—Our esteemed Editor, in his notes of April, asked for news from the "front seats" of the China show. We hasten to assure him of our willingness to do all in our power, but candidly confess that more news of the Chinese situation is forthcoming from home papers than from local sources.

Of the Shaforce only a few details, and the 1st Cameronians, remain with us; but we are assured of high pressure with the arrival of Reforce. Heigho! hectic days!

**Arrivals.**—We welcome Signalmen Spedding, Sneed, Waters, Huchcroft, and Pattinson, all of whom are W/T personnel loaned from Shanghai for temporary duty.

**Departures.**—L/Corpl Onyett, Signalmen Edwards, Spedding, Pattinson and Waters have left us for Shameen, Canton, with a short-wave W/T installation. We hope that their sojourn, if not pleasant, will be an experience. May their call sign travel far on 40 metres!

**Establishment.**—The peace establishment of the Hong Kong Signal Section has been recently revised, showing an increase of one sergeant (lineman), one lance-corporal, one signalman (operator, Signal), and one signalman (I.M.)—and a decrease of one signalman (S.B.O.). To those who fill these vacancies we extend a glad hand and hope they will find much to interest them in our Colony. We certainly assure them of plenty of work.

**Congratulations.**—To Q.M.S. Roberts (our F. of S.) we offer our warmest congratulations on his winning the military amateur billiard championship of Hong Kong. Thus the trophy brought to us by L/Corpl McBride remains here. Well done, us! (See Sports Notes.)

**W/T.**—Since last November, considerable work with short-wave W/T has been accomplished. Being very much in the nature of an experiment, news was withheld until definite results were obtained. We are now able to state that our humble efforts have borne fruit—and, thanks to our brother Section in North China, most successfully.

Peking have already annihilated distance by obtaining R7 from England with approximately 100-watts anode inprit.

Hong Kong are working daily with Shanghai and Shameen with the same power, the signal-strength being adequate for twenty-four hour communication.

The call signs in use are those authorised by the War Office, Hong Kong and Peking respectively assuming the senior call. Hong Kong's wave-length is 40 metres.

Reports from any of our Signal Sections are earnestly requested, and should short-wave installations at such stations be going concerns, we will be most happy to arrange tests or exchange correspondence.

Whilst writing of short-wave W/T, there comes to mind our old friend the "loop sets," operating on sixty-five and eighty metres. "How near and yet how far!"

**"Juggled."**—What the Cameronian thought when an S.B.O. requested that a European should be called to the phone!

JOINT BOX.

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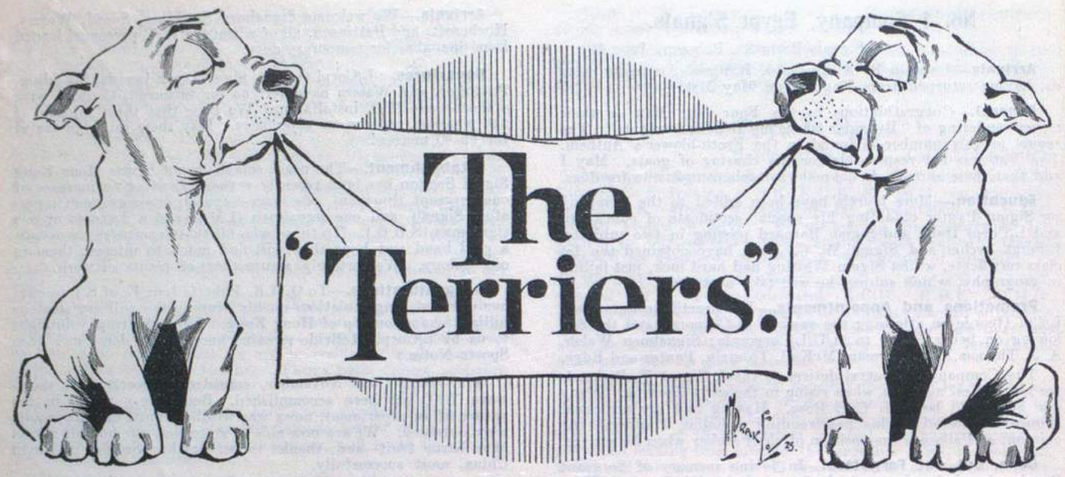
### Culled from "The Snapper."

"In a book of military reminiscences recently published, the following story is told of a General of the old school: 'One General, dissatisfied with a march past, roared out to the officer commanding the battalion that had misconducted itself: "Col. ——! night and morning I shall pray to the Almighty on my bended knees that He may send a Company of Sappers down to hell, there to dig a bottomless pit in which to bury you and your infernal regiment."' Now we know why our parent Corps adopted the motto 'Ubique.'"

---

Getting out a Magazine is no picnic!
If we print jokes, people say we are silly.
If we don't, they say we are too serious.
If we publish original matter, they say we lack variety.
If we publish things from other papers, we are too lazy to write.
If we are rustling news, we are not attending to the business of our own department.
If we don't print contributions, we don't show proper appreciation.
If we do print them, the Magazine is filled with junk.
Like as not, some fellow will say we swiped this from an Exchange.
We did!

—LANCASHIRE LAD.




## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea,
June 15th.

I am very much afraid that our notes this time are going to be rather like the official reports during the war: "On the west we have nothing to report." But as it is more than my job is worth (and that ain't much) to send in a "nil return," I shall have to make much of very little.

Our week-end training schemes are working out very well indeed, and as last time we had a report on our doings over the Easter week-end, this time our contribution will not be complete without some mention of our Whitsun week-end training. This took place again with our very good friends the 1st and 2nd Life Guards at Windsor.

This week-end, being of necessity shorter than the Easter one, it was not possible to do quite as much as we should have wished. The Cable Troop had to do without their beloved (?) wagon, and turn their attention to station work in Windsor Great Park and muck in with the Signal Troops. While some of the personnel were sorry not to have the wagon and their legitimate job, there were others to whom the absence of the said wagon came as a blessed relief.

There is no disguising the fact that it is a great deal easier and more pleasant to get up on a well-found charger, with nothing more irksome to carry than possibly a pair of flags, gallop across Windsor Great Park to some pleasant elevation commanding an extensive view, and then settle down comfortably for an hour or so, while the flag-wagging goes on—and just when you are getting a bit bored with the surroundings, to get mounted again and move off to a new and equally attractive spot. No, there is no doubt at all that such form of employment is a great deal better than creeping along a main road behind a wagon-laying cable and swinging a hammer, Tel., sledge, 16 lbs., with the jolly old sun well up in the heavens.

In addition to the actual signalling work carried out, a certain amount of cavalry training was done; and taking into consideration that nobody knows anything about it, with the exception of our Regular Army instructors, it might have been a great deal worse.

Once again the poor old recruits went through it in the riding school, and as previously made a very good showing. On the Monday all hands, young and old, turned out in the school and were put through a course of "sprouts," including various forms of stunt riding. This is where the "rooks" had a bit of their own back, watching the agonised expressions on the faces of their seniors while negotiating jumps and at the same time removing their serges.

There is nothing like this to take the conceit out of one, and many a young would-be-Olympia-aspirant has found out that there are still a few simple stunts that he cannot perform as easily as he talks about them. It further brings home to some of the older ones that anno domini is beginning to take its inevitable toll. Ask our R.S.M. what a one-man-flyer feels like, and whether the tan at Windsor has much or little sand in it. He should be a good authority.

The annual sports of the London Divisions are taking place at the Duke of York's School on Saturday next, and we are hoping to be able to put up *some* fight, as our Yankee friends would say.

The chief matter of interest now is the rapid approach of camp, which, as we have mentioned before, takes place at Windmill Hill, Ludgershall, on July 24th. And here and now, we again extend a cordial invitation to all our friends in that delightful neighbourhood to call in and see us during our sojourn there. We may be poor, but we trust that we are always pleasant.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Troutbeck Camp, Cumberland.

The photographs promised in the June WIRE are not available, but we hope they will be to hand for the August issue.

The camp is on rising ground nearly 1000 feet high, and although little rain has fallen, we have felt the full effects of biting north-west winds for upwards of a week. The advent of warmer weather at the beginning of the second week is therefore much appreciated. The health of the troops is excellent, and the crisp air has put a keen edge on appetites.

Hard work and inspections have been the order of the day, and we have had the great pleasure of welcoming our Hon. Colonel (Alderman F. J. West, C.B.E.) in camp, together with Major Roberts, M.C., late O.C. the Divisional Signals.

On the second evening of their stay, they and the other officers were entertained right well by the sergeants. The least said about the cricket match between these messes on the following afternoon, the better!

Lieut.-Colonel T. H. L. Spaight, D.S.O., C.S.O., inspected our work during the first week, and the Deputy C.S.O. (Lieut.-Colonel Dodd) during the second week. We have also been inspected by the G.O.C. Western Command and the Major-General commanding the 42nd Division.

The loan of the 5th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers' band for church parade on Trinity Sunday was much appreciated.

Numerous visitors arrived on Sunday afternoon—not all from Manchester; and if some wives see this WIRE, some husbands may "get the wire" also!

The presence of the troops must have had the reverse effect on the local fair sex, for owing to their non-appearance at an annual charity sale usually held on Whit Monday, the affair was a failure; and rumour has it that a claim for £20 compensation has been made on the Division for the loss thus sustained!



There is at least one distinction which Signals hold in the Division: ours is the largest flag in camp!

These notes would not be complete unless mention were made of Capt. Bannerman, who has come to this cold spot from the sunny climes of Aldershot and 2nd Divl. Signals to keep us in touch with our Regular foster-mother.

## No. 3 Company, 2nd Corps Signals (S.R.)

We appreciate our association with the 42nd Divl. Signals in camp, although from a training point of view a camp with several divisions would suit us better. With such a large proportion of older men the Company make a brave show on parade, and have earned the approbation of Capt. Bannerman of the 2nd Divl. Signals. Lieut.-Col Spaight was also pleased with our appearance.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

Notes for this month from Headquarters are rather short. Training is going on briskly each evening, and increased attendances are noticeable as the time draws near for camp.

Musketry was carried out on the ranges at Rainham on May 22nd and 29th, the greater percentage of the men qualifying. The highest score (97) has yet to be beaten. What's your highest, No. 2?

A whist drive and social was held in the sergeants' mess on June 21st. We hope everyone enjoyed the maximum of pleasure.

**Ealing Horse Show.**—On Whit Monday, No. 1 Company entered a Cable Section, and No. 3 Company two limbers for the above show. Prizes were awarded for merit as follows:—

4-horse team, cable—1st, Corpl Hancock and Dvr Hayward, silver challenge cup; 2nd, L/Corpl Greenaway and Driver Matthews.

Single mounts—1st, Sergt Horner, Sigmn Canning-Matthews; 2nd, Corpl Haley, L/Corpl Dearlove; 3rd, Sergt Speight, Corpl Bracey.

Limbers, pair-horse team—1st, Dvr Young; 2nd, L/Corporal Morton.

Individual entries—1st, Sergt Hunt; 3rd, Sergt Wallace.

Silver medals and "Order of Merit" from the R.S.P.C.A. were awarded to first prize winners, and silver-mounted walking sticks to second and third prize winners.

A very successful visual scheme was carried out on Sunday, June 12th, around the Ealing area, and favoured with fine weather everyone enjoyed the training.

Ex.

## No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

Drill Hall, Gloucester Road.

It was with sincere regret that we parted with C.S.M. P. Brown, who returned to duty with A Corps Signals at Ewshot on April 8th. The occasion was celebrated by a smoker, and the presentation of a very handsome clock by Major J. D. N. Molesworth, M.C., as a mark of the high esteem in which all ranks held C.S.M. Brown.

We extend our heartiest welcome to C.S.M. J. R. Bartlett, from headquarters, who takes his place.

We have, as a Company, been very fortunate in the permanent staff sent us by the Regular Service, and fully appreciate their worth. On many occasions have we been indebted to that Service for assistance on courses and at other times.

Annual training this year will be on that famous camping-ground of Shorncliffe of many memories.

RED SPOT.

**Whitsun Training.**—A very enjoyable week-end scheme was carried out during the Whitsun holidays in Henfield and district, and the results were very satisfactory, communication being maintained throughout the whole period by W/T and cable. V/T was given a rest on this particular scheme, with the idea, it is understood, of separating two of our experts!

**Musketry.**—We held our first meeting on Sunday, May 15th, and although bad weather conditions prevailed, every man qualified. It is very encouraging to see the younger members of the Company showing good form, and it is anticipated that a better show will be put up this year.

In Training?

KEEN on winning the Regimental 440, one or more of the Sprints, or a distance race? Then it's essential to restore the tissue broken down by the strenuous exertion of training, otherwise there will be a danger of staleness and strain.

• • •

One of the great secrets of success in Athletics lies in this building-up process, and nothing does it half as well as Horlick's—the Ideal Training Diet.

• • •

Why not follow the example of many of the leading World's and British Sports Champions and let Horlick's build up for you that superlative degree of fitness which wins Championships?

HORLICK'S THE ORIGINAL MALTED MILK
Made in England.

SERVED AT MESSES & CANTEENS

May also be kept for use in Training Quarters.

Ask for and see that you get Horlick's.

**Casualties.**—Sergt (Bill) King was married at Brighton on June 1st. Our sympathies are extended to both!

We were pleased to hear from headquarters that Records had been kind to all concerned in permitting R.S.M. W. J. Lovell to extend for another year. "The more we are together—"

**Finale.**—No, Jock, I am not of the opinion that the attraction at Brighton station buffet is the *tea*. Neither is a certain "combination" waiting to be collected.

B. B.

## 46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, June 10th.

After an absence of many months due to various circumstances, our notes are once again appearing in THE WIRE.

We are still a real live unit, despite the absence of our notes. Recruiting is brisk; a few of the old hands are leaving us, but more are coming forward to fill the gaps created. The newcomers are every whit as keen, if not keener, than the old blood.

All parades, Sunday schemes, and week-end camps are extraordinarily well attended.

On Empire Day a complete Cable Section paraded for the local demonstration, and proved by far the best turn-out of the whole town, evoking pæans of praise from the local press and the thousands of onlookers who lined the streets.

A week-end camp was held at Whitsuntide, at Chaddesden, through the kindness of Major J. D. Kerr, M.C., who as usual placed his ground at our disposal. Heavy rains on Sunday failed to damp the spirits of the men, who came up on Monday still smiling. Much useful work was done, and on the termination of the camp all ranks felt greatly benefited by the instruction gained.

The best news is generally at the tail end. It is so in this case! His multitude of friends will learn with pride and delight that Capt. J. C. Bray was among the recipients of the O.B.E. in the King's Birthday honours. No award was more richly deserved, and none can be prouder than the 46th (N.M.) Divl. Signals at the honour conferred upon their ever-popular adjutant.

MEREBIMUR.

**The more you use**

**H.P.**

*(Houses of Parliament)*

**sauce**

**the more you like it.**

*No one ever tires of its wonderfully appetising and delicious flavour.*

*Very tasty with bacon — fried or boiled — cold meat, fish, cheese and sausages. Try it also in your soups and stews.*

*All Canteens sell H.P.*

*No Preservatives.*

**RICH—THICK—FRUITY**

Hughes REG'D BIRMINGHAM **QUALITY BISCUITS**

By Appointment

**FOR ALL OCCASIONS.**

**TEA TIME (original) 1/8 per lb.**

**The Original Fancy Assortment.**

**BALTIC CRACKERS (Assorted) 1/- per lb.**

**Oval, Square and Finger. Delicious with Cheese.**

Hughes **BISCUITS ARE APPRECIATED BY ALL.**

## 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, London, S.W., June 8th.

**General.**—We welcome Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., who has now assumed command of this unit. He is well known to many members of the Corps, both Regulars and Territorials. We only hope that all ranks will copy his enthusiasm and keenness, to the betterment of the unit in general.

Lieut.-Colonel W. F. Bruce, D.S.O., M.C., our late commanding officer, has now been appointed D.C.S.O. London District. All ranks offer him their congratulations.

**Annual Training.**—This is being held at Colchester from July 10th to 24th. During this period we hope to meet the 4th Divl. Signals (what is left of them), and we sincerely hope that they will be frequent visitors to the camp during our stay.

**Training.**—This is now going ahead. Many outdoor exercises have been or are being held. The Wireless Section organised an afternoon exercise in Richmond Park with excellent results.

The Cable Sections held a week-end camp on May 21st and 22nd, near Leatherhead, and carried out a signal scheme in conjunction with No. 1 Company 1st Corps Signals S.R. We are much indebted to them for the facilities they gave us. The scheme was rather ambitious, but nevertheless it went through without a hitch. The 1st Corps erected airlines from Corps to a Division in the line, and laid cables to supposed Divisions in reserve, whilst we laid, maintained and worked lines from the Division in the line to two forward Brigades. Communication was by sounder, D.iii., and Fullerphone superimposed. All ranks learned a lot and had a most enjoyable time, and are anxious to go again.

**Whitsun Training.**—This was carried out at Aldershot. We were attached to the 1st Divl. Signals, who have been detailed as our official nurse. (And oh! what a nurse! I don't mind informing you on the quiet that you have effectively put some of our n.c.o.s to bed.) We cannot say enough about the kindness shewn to us, and the wonderful assistance they gave us. They put horses, wireless, cable waggons and instructors at our disposal (not to mention a sergeants' mess).

All ranks wish to thank Colonel Willan, Capt. Bull, R.S.M. Laurence and the various officers, w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men for all they did and the trouble they took. We think this appreciation was shewn at the time by the keenness of all ranks during our short stay. We were all sorry that it could not have been for a longer period. All derived a wonderful benefit from being with Regulars, and we are certain that this will be of great assistance to us when we proceed on annual training.

On the Sunday we "played" (?) a cricket match, or perhaps we had better say we had a game of cricket with the 1st Divl. Signals. I will say nothing about the match other than that both sides turned out a scratch eleven, but unfortunately for us our side was scratched the most.

Various sarcastic remarks were flying about, such as: Why does the wicket-keeper try to catch the ball with his ear—can't he use his hands? Come on, "Bricky," you're in this. Why don't you try marbles? You'd do much better; anyway, you couldn't do worse. Who is that wearing the Borstal School colours? Why don't they stop their butter ration?

I think perhaps I had better let sleeping dogs lie. Anyway, we shall not let things rest. So next time, 1st Divl. Signals, look out! We as challengers are allowed to choose our own weapons. The n.c.o.s state that it *will not* be held in the sergeants' mess. By the way, next time we play you at snooker we might remind a certain w.o. that when snookered you are not allowed to move the object ball to one side, neither are you allowed the use of a dog for this purpose.

Please inform "Oscar" that a home still awaits him.

We sincerely trust that we shall soon be with each other again (this does not apply to the sergeants' mess.) We earnestly ask that any officer, w.o., n.c.o., man, dog or cat belonging to the 1st Divl. Signals who may make a journey to London at any time, will give us a look up at our headquarters. If we know you, we can promise you a good time. If we don't know you, we want to know you; and we might inform you that we only drink out of quart jugs, so your pints aren't in it. Come along, Laurie, I'm in this!

LEMJAY.



## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Darlington)

June 10th.

Since the last issue of THE WIRE, we have heard officially that Headquarters, Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, and the 206th M.A.B. Signal Section (Sunderland), are proceeding to Shorncliffe Camp to take part in the annual combined divisional training of the 4th (Regular) Division, from September 11th to 25th inclusive.

In all cases, Companies have got well down to it, running divisional schemes, and practising "moves," etc., at evening drills. We live in hopes of having a great show in September.

The whole-hearted response to the commanding officer's appeal for all ranks to try and turn up for the sake of the unit, has been a matter of much satisfaction: over 90 per cent. in each case. Tempus fugit! So keep it up.

There has been another item of considerable importance to the unit since the last issue of THE WIRE, and it is that No. 3 Company (Hull) ceases to exist after July 31st, 1927, and is to be reformed in Darlington during the forthcoming autumn. It is unnecessary here to go into the whys and wherefors of this move, because the position is already well known regarding the very decentralised position of the 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals. We should like, however, to take this opportunity of thanking all ranks of the Hull Company for their loyal support in the past, and wish them the very best of luck in joining their new local units, as many transfers are taking place.

Major-General F. A. Dudgeon, C.B., G.O.C. 50th Division, Lieut.-Colonel A. MacLeod, R.Signals (commanding officer), and Capt. P. Jennings, M.C., R.Signals (adjutant) visited the Company on Tuesday evening, May 24th, to say good-bye. All officers were present, and there was a very strong parade.

**Week-end Camp.**—There will be a final combined week-end camp for Nos. 1 and 2 Companies and the 206th Signal Section, during the August Bank Holiday week-end, at Whitburn-on-Sea. It is hoped the attendance will prove a record. Let's try and have 100 per cent. from each Company!

Our R.S.M. (G. Burrows) will have completed his tour of duty with this unit before these notes are published. We thank him very much for all his hard and faithful work on behalf of the 50th Divl. Signals, and we are very pleased to hear that he is being appointed as our first R.Q.M.S., so it is not "good-bye" after all.

We extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. F. C. Legg, Royal Signals, who is reporting for duty from the 3rd Divl. Signals, as our new R.S.M., on July 1st.

**Training.**—Outside of general training, there is very little to report this month.

**Musketry.**—We journeyed to Eston ranges on the 15th and 22nd of May, and fired our annual musketry course. The clerk of the weather was very kind to us, and some good scores were recorded, the highest going to Sigmn A. W. Lythe (87), closely followed by L/Corpl A. M. Gibson with 86.

The miniature range competition has now to be completed, as the best average on both the miniature and open range will decide the lucky winner of the musketry cup.

A. C.

### No. 1 (Gateshead-on-Tyne) Company.

**Week-end Camps.**—A week-end camp for n.c.o.s took place at Felton, Northumberland, on April 23rd and 24th, all the Company n.c.o.s attending. A considerable amount of work was done, and judging by results some very big things are being looked for at our annual training this year.

The camp site was an ideal place for Signal work, and I have pleasure in saying that not a single one went astray. The place itself could be compared favourably with the great Catterick, with the exception that it *was* a little more desolate, it *had* fewer inhabitants, particularly of the gentler sex, and it *was* dryer in inner and wetter in outward aspects.

The sun shone, at any rate, when we were nearly home, after his appearance and disappearance during operations had given our operators no small annoyance in having to change visible methods of "getting through" as well as position.

We spent a record week-end at Whitburn from 21st to 22nd May, with an attendance of 66, that number not including many members of the 206th Med. Art. Signal Section who were also there. Some really solid work was done, and the obvious zest of our lads repeatedly manifested itself. There is no doubt they mean business.

***Bringing up Reinforcements***

At the right moment, that is the time when real help is wanted. Bluebell is ready always to lend a hand when polishing is being done. It is a service polish which gives a brilliant finish at the right time.

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**Musketry.**—The second musketry practice took place at Whitburn on Sunday, May 15th.

**Training.**—Our training is now getting to the advanced stage, and is almost up to the annual training standard, our quarters being rigged up in real Signal office style, with outlying stations scattered about the drill hall—and all are "buzzing as busy as bees."

The boys are getting keener weekly, and though we shall not be having that "ripping time at Ripon," I feel assured that this Company will perform its duties at Shorncliffe with great credit. Just now, however, it is a little chafing to see other local units preparing to "push off" for a good time in camp, while we have to stand by. We will get over that.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

Musketry has been and gone again, much to the relief of the permanent staff. The standard reached was very satisfactory; indeed, we are thinking of entering a team for the Wapinschaw, and I may say we are fairly confident of ourselves. Of course there was the usual wail, "Just on the target I was, when slap a blinkin' fly struck," etc., etc. This story is usually received with great sympathy, because the hearer has usually a better one to relate of how he missed a four-inch group. Needless to say, our R.S.M. and ever-faithful "Tug" topped the list with a capital score of 96 out of a possible 100—a really great performance considering the conditions. I may remark, in passing, that everyone got through.

My! what a hive of industry Fonthill presents these nights. The Aldershot air has certainly been imbued in the troops. I wonder if the affiliation has anything to do with it! I'm beginning to think there *is* something in telepathy after all. Everyone is keen as mustard, and the reason: Camp is coming, and that is enough to stimulate the laziest bounder into action.

A word in season. Beware, you flighty fellas! I shall have my eagle eye on you this time, and woe betide the luckless individual who comes under the spell. That yarn of "Oh, yes,

my cousin from Aberdeen for the day" won't hold water any more.

What this Company is waiting for is the day when we go to camp with the 1st Divl. Signals. Some idea, eh, lads? Why not! I have a scheme that would make the War Office sit up, and what is more, I am prepared to send them a copy free should this happen to catch the eye of any big-wig.

**Agony Column.**—To Dodger Green: S.O.S. Since Tug received your letter, he has evinced signs of great unrest. Sitting beside me, as he sometimes does, I hear suppressed giggles and mumbles of "Ho, ho! aged and grey; ha, ha! anything bar cash; I say, Smudge, listen to this bit," etc. I trust there was no evil intention, but really, you must desist or else we shall be losing our ever-green. Send him a sharp formal note: that will probably bring him back to his normal self.

**No. 3 Company, Kirkcaldy.**—Nothing has been heard of this Company up to the time of writing. A rumour has reached me that, owing to the fact that the candidates put up for trade testing got through o.k., the correspondent "Threesome" has made it a foursome and gone nap. What did I tell you, lads! it was simple, wasn't it? Tell your pals, and let us have a bumper for the next trade testing board.

SMUDGE.

## No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

We are at one with No. 1 Company. It *is* a d——l of a job getting started to write something which may be of interest to all concerned. Now we are also away, and heaven help us!

Having just had a look at the menu card for the lads at camp, we hasten to congratulate the originator, and trust the towels are now all dried and ice cream is once again on sale. Their exhibition in public would be a grand recruiting stunt. We offer the suggestion free!

The Company appreciates the choice of Lieut J. Laing, of ours, as messing officer.

Reflection induces a feeling of inquisitiveness as to why Jack is apparently so anxious to get Eddie out on the 'ard 'ard 'ighway with a 'oss! Well! well! the trade test is over. We have not done so badly, and the results have imbued us with the feelings of conquest. We seem to get all the shy lads, and they are afraid to go forward! However, we shall harden their necks for the next one.

Sectional training progresses very well. Our officers are showing considerable zeal. Fair or foul, we shall as always provide a run for the money.

The improvements in the drill hall are becoming more manifest each day, and we may yet, before camp, have a place wherein we can have a hectic wind up.

**S.O.S.**—We have lost our office sergeant. He is somewhere in the country, and Dame Rumour has it that he has buried himself, together with his pay and mess book! Even our 120-watt set has failed to reach him. Send a card, Jock, to say the books are o.k.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, June 11th.

Since our last notes appeared we have had a very busy time, and are now entering on the last stage of pre-camp training. There are so many things to comment on that my remarks on each will have to be very brief.

First of all, the visit of their Majesties the King and Queen must be mentioned. The unit had the honour of providing the band to mount with the guard of honour, and also found six officers and eighty other ranks for route-lining duties. The Divisional Commander was pleased to express his approval of the turn-out of band and troops.

Next—congratulations to our O.C., Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Llewellyn, O.B.E., M.C., on the appearance of his name in the Birthday honours list. During his seven years in command, he has done an enormous amount for the unit, and his O.B.E. is more than deserved. It should have been a K.B.E., sir!

Our adjutant has also to be congratulated on his promotion to substantive rank in the Corps. Bad luck it was: gazetted whilst away in another mess—it must have cost him a double round!

Musketry is going on apace, and about half the unit have completed their annual course. We have some good shots in the unit, and No. 2 Company are to be congratulated on the excellent show they made in the Victory shield competition, when they managed to get fifth place amongst all the units in the county. Not so bad for a technical unit whose annual course is twenty-five rounds, competing against infantry. Sgt Elliott's 22 at 600 yards, and Mr. Howard Jones' 19 at 200, were excellent under the terrible weather conditions prevailing.

No. 3 Company's unpaid week-end camp at Peterston during Whitsuntide was a great success. Congratulations to those stalwarts who devoted their holidays to military training. The camp was a picture—well laid out and the acme of tidiness—and Lieut V. W. Hawkins, who was in command, had every right to be proud of it.

Our last unit week-end course commences to-day, and we hope to have a record muster. A traffic scheme is to be carried out, as well as a lineman's course and a riding school. More of this next month.

We have, as we feared, lost the services of C.Q.M.S. W. Williams, but all ranks will be glad to hear that, although his promotion in civil life necessitates his giving up T.A. duties, we shall still see him fairly often. "Becky" has been part of the unit so long that No. 1 Company won't seem the same without him.

Congratulations to Sergt Griffin on his appointment as C.Q.-M.S., and also to Sergt Spillman on his promotion to C.S.M. Here's success to both of them!

Several of our n.c.o.s are going on attachments this month—four to Bulford and three or four to Catterick—and we hope that they and the unit will benefit as a result.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.
June 14th.

The omission of unit notes in the last issue is regretted, but the writer was so busy that the notes were absolutely forgotten. There is plenty of activity at these headquarters at present, and all are looking forward to annual camp at Thorndon Park, near Brentwood, on July 24th. The unit is making very good strides, and hopes before long to be up to full establishment. We hope to go to camp at a strength of 16 officers and 339 other ranks. One Section of No. 2 Company proceeds with the 86th Field Artillery Brigade to Okehampton on July 16th. To balance this, the 232nd F.A. Brigade Signal Section will come to camp with this unit.

The unit took part in a church parade held on the square at headquarters on May 29th—the day recognised as Territorial Sunday in the county of Essex. All units stationed in this area, together with representatives of Cadet units, Church Lad's Brigade, V.A.D.'s, Special Constabulary and Old Comrades, attended the parade. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. A. Gardner, M.C., T.D., M.A., S.C.F. 54th (E.A.) Division. The Rev. Gardner is a pukka soldier's padre, and it is always a pleasure to listen to his addresses. At the conclusion of the service the parade was inspected by Major-General Sir T. G. Matheson, G.O.C. 54th (E.A.) Division, who also read a message of congratulation and encouragement from Lord Lambourne, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex. At the conclusion, all units marched past, the G.O.C. 54th (E.A.) Division taking the salute.

A week-end camp was held during Whitsun at Upminster, and some very good work was put in. Companies were at the disposal of Company commanders on the Sunday, and on Whit Monday a Signal scheme wsa carried out. The G.O.C. visited us during the week-end, and appeared very pleased with what he saw. Apparently the troops could not sleep during the first night in camp, for footballs were out and the piano playing at 4.30 a.m.! We were very pleased to meet our friends from Westcliff (No. 3 Company).

Hearty congratulations to all recipients of promotion as published this week. There should be some "wetting" done on arrival in camp.

Musketry was carried out by Nos. 1 and 2 Companies on 22nd May and 12th June. The majority of n.c.o.s and men have been exercised, leaving a few casuals and a few "repeaters" to fire on June 19th. Some very good shooting has been put in. Corpl Coffey is to be congratulated on obtaining the top score of 97. Recruits Keppel and Inward also did very well with scores of 80 each.

Y. E. D.

## No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

Owing to the fact that the office cat had licked the date from the calendar on the 15th May, the scribe quite overlooked our notes for last month. I must explain that these notes are due



on the 16th of the month, and the 15th being the last day—anyway, the cat ultimately paid the penalty. Now to go on with the news.

Early in May an exercise for officers and n.c.o.s took place in the vicinity of Pitsea, Essex. The weather was not very warm, but quite a number were "sweating" during the exercise. The O.C. d.d put them through it! He asked quite a number of questions relating to the exercise, and also set many problems to be worked out. Several queer answers and more queer diagrams were put forward. Here is one of the questions, with answers:—

Question: "What is a back bearing?"

One answer: "Stand with your back towards the distant station, turn the head completely round, then draw a straight line through the centre of the body." Quite simple! Another suggested that a duplex mirror should be fixed to the compass, so as to get a back view of the distant station.

I should have been only too pleased to have published one or two of the diagrams submitted, but I have more sympathy for the printers—they are only human, after all.

At the conclusion of the exercise everyone voted that they had picked up quite a lot of stuff. All are looking forward to another such exercise.

The 29th May being Territorial Sunday, the Company paraded for church and afterwards for inspection. 'Twas a glorious day, and everything went off oh-kay. Our lads looked very smart and a credit to the Corps. It is suggested, however, that the local photographer should "take more water with it." The silly chump snapped the parade just as it was passing a refreshment kiosk and everybody had his tongue hanging out. Looked simply awful!

"We are now passing over Upminster. Can you see that camp between the trees over there?" "Well, that is the Signals camp for the Whitsun." The weather was not faultless, but nobody grumbled at the little rain on Sunday evening. Not much was done beyond pitching camp on the Saturday, but Sunday was set aside for Company schemes, during which the General visited the camp and saw the troops at work.

During Sunday evening the officers and n.c.o.s played the men at cricket, the match being watched by a goodly number of wives, kidlets, etc. Several good performances were put up during the match. C.Q.M.S. Smith performed with much credit behind the stumps until he received a "biff on the boko" from a rising ball. He was not the only unfortunate person, however. Sigmn Nutt got a knock on the nut during his batting performance. The seniors managed to win the match, but only by a small margin. After the match the unit jazz band was much in evidence, assisted by Sergeant Scrivens. The latter "rended" popular songs admirably, and was applauded vociferously for encores until his wonderful repertoire was at last finished. Behind the scenes, Inky gave a good imitation of Samuel Mayo with variations (fibber!)

Monday, being the last day of the camp, was devoted to a combined scheme, during which most arms of the Signal Service were put into use—even visual. This was in the morning. Afternoon—tea, tent rolling, packing, good-bye Upminster, weeping and wailing, finis. Who will forget those hectic halcyon hours?

Through the medium of this Journal, may the scribe offer hearty congratulations, on behalf of the w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men of the Company, to Major Bowling, Capt. Weber, and Lieut. Lilley, on their promotions.

Congratulations are also extended to the undermentioned on being promoted as shown: Sergt E. Miller, L/Sergts L. Cooley and A. Davies, L/Corpls C. Rixon, W. Pooley, and W. Dennison.

DREITER.

## 55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Mason Street, Liverpool.

Into the breach once more! Gee; how the time flies!—it moves almost as quick as some of our mechanised officers (without casting any aspersion on their manipulative skill). As we are told that Signals are to be completely mechanised (when Winston permits!) we shall be well prepared in the way of motor experts.

But what will happen to the man with the crook stick? Well, according to the Pyramids, about this time next year, we shall see; so here's hoping. Personally, if I can manage it, I'm going to smuggle something in the 2nd line transport, like the "Spirit of St. Louis," that can do a couple of thousand miles in one hop.

They tell me our sergeant-carpenter is inventing a machine guaranteed to do a thousand miles an hour—everything is finished now except the engine, which one of the P.S. Instructors is working on. He's looking for a "big-end" which apparently is missing from the last stock-taking. At a court of enquiry a witness suggested that the adjutant's setter may know something about it, as he was observed to have a lump in his throat when he parted from his master. There was no evidence to support this theory, so the setter was exonerated from all suspicion.

Apart from the engine, the only vital detail to be solved is the oil—this is being well tested out on private motor cycles at five bob a day, and so far we have only had seven machines seized up. Our sergeant analytical chemist has been told off to deal with this trouble, and it is hoped that in the near future we shall be in a position to report what progress is being made.

Well, well, coming back to the serious side of life, we've just had a great disappointment. Thanks to dear Winston, we have had to cancel all our week-end camps. The powers in being don't realise what domestic upheavals these sort of decisions are responsible for. Dear, dear! this money question: we're all getting the wind up here, especially the S.R., as it is rumoured that they are having their bounty stopped.

One informant went so far as to swear on oath that he had been told by someone in the House (?) that in the near future the T.A. would be expected to provide their own rifles. A sergeant clerk is reported to have volunteered to supply his own pen, and his offer is being carefully considered. The R.S.M. has also offered to provide his own Kensitas, as the W/T operators complained of a heterodyning effect in their receivers!

So we have to console ourselves with intensified training, and the prospect of a good camp in Anglesey.

We should like to know when the new "Procedure" will be out?

Would anyone like to work with us on short, medium, or long waves?

FIVE FIVE.

## 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

While writing these notes I am filled with a sense of martyrdom. It is a fine summer evening, and it seems that the world and his wife, also his sons, daughters, and everyone else who happens to be alive, are off to play tennis or to stroll in the parks while I sit alone, chewing my pen and trying to think of something to write about. But still, after all, there is honour in being a martyr, so I resign myself to my fate (and to some more chewing).

Training at headquarters has reverted to the system of Company nights, and it is to be hoped that members will attend regularly and thus assist in carrying out a comprehensive scheme of training, which is essential if the unit is to play its part when the annual training period arrives.

Companies have completed their musketry practices, and after listening to explanations by various recruits, I began to think that we owned a stock of rifles which were originally meant to be cricket bats or tin-openers. Great was my relief, however, when I found that this was not the general rule, and that some very good scores were made. The attendances were good, and this confirms my belief that musketry is one of the most enjoyable parts of our spare-time soldiering.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—There is little to report with reference to the mess, as the members just keep on messing; and as that is, I believe, the usual procedure, there is little reason to comment upon it. It may be interesting, however, to note that the hound which was mentioned in our notes last month will most likely have departed, having grown too large to be accommodated in a building. We hope that his new master will look after him as well as Freddie did.

The mess welcomes an old friend in Jack Basset, who is re-enlisting. Jack already has forty years' service to his credit, and is asking for another basin-full. We wish him all the best, and then some.

**Sport.**—The unit cricket team is competing in the Clapton and District League, and has played five matches to date, three being won and two lost.

We should like to hear from any T.A. unit which will be in Aldershot during the first two weeks in August, with a view to arranging cricket matches during that period. Letters should be sent to Sergt Boyes, at headquarters.

**Personal.**—Has the mess bar steward's relation returned from China yet?

ADSUM.

## Catterick Cricket.

**Depot Battalion v. Training Battalion, S.T.C.**—Played at Catterick on May 18th. The T.B. won by 135 runs.

DEPOT BATTALION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Drayson b Lieut Scott | 21 |
| Lieut Hatfield c Major Parsons b Lieut Scarlett | 14 |
| Lieut Campbell c and b Sergt Carpenter | 4 |
| Lieut Sproule b Lieut Scott | 19 |
| Lieut Harrison b Sutherland | 11 |
| Lieut Eve b Lieut Boyd | 7 |
| Sigmn Ferrier lbw Lieut Scott | 12 |
| C.S.M. Harrison lbw Sergt Carpenter | 9 |
| R.S.M. Anderson c and b Major Parsons | 10 |
| Lieut Malpass b Lieut Brown | 10 |
| Sigmn Thompson not out | 4 |
| Extras | 6 |
| Total | 127 |

TRAINING BATTALION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut Boyd b Lieut Malpass | 36 |
| Capt Pavey c Anderson b Lieut Harrison | 40 |
| Lieut Vulliamy c and b Lieut Hatfield | 12 |
| Major Parsons retired | 30 |
| Lieut Muir c and b Lieut Malpass | 10 |
| Sigmn Sutherland retired | 39 |
| Lieut Scarlett retired | 32 |
| Lieut Brown b Ferrier | 30 |
| Sergt Carpenter not out | 19 |
| Extras | 14 |
| Total for 8 wkts. (declared) | 262 |

Lieut Scott took three wickets for 27 runs, and Sergt Carpenter two for 15.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

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**Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.**

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

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A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

**Signal Training Centre v. Yorkshire Gentlemen.**—Played at York on May 25th. The S.T.C. won by 134 runs.

YORKSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

| | |
|---|---|
| Colonel Dunnington Jefferson b Lieut Scott | 0 |
| Mr. C. E. Anson c Major Drayson b Sigmn Payne | 9 |
| Mr. A. O. Elmhurst b Lieut Scott | 4 |
| Mr. G. L. Sowerby b Lieut Scott | 0 |
| Mr. J. P. Kitching b Lieut Scott | 4 |
| Mr. J. A. Machell not out | 6 |
| Mr. R. E. Warner c Lieut Harrison b Sergt Carpenter | 5 |
| Major Chichester-Constable b Lieut Scott | 0 |
| Mr. G. Ridsdell-Smith b Lieut Scott | 8 |
| Mr. K. Lister-Kaye b Lieut Scott | 9 |
| Colonel H. S. Kaye b Lieut Scott | 0 |
| Extras | 9 |
| Total | 54 |

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Drayson declared | 83 |
| Lieut L. C. Boyd lbw Chichester-Constable | 7 |
| Capt G. P. Pavey c Machell b Colonel Kaye | 33 |
| Lieut Hatfield c Smith b Colonel Kaye | 2 |
| Sergt Carpenter b Colonel Kaye | 14 |
| Lieut Vulliamy b Lister-Kaye | 12 |
| Lieut Muir b Lister-Kaye | 0 |
| Lieut Scott declared | 18 |
| Extras | 19 |
| Total for 8 wkts. (declared) | 188 |

Lieut Scott took eight wickets for 22 runs.

**Depot Battalion, Royal Signals v. R.E. (Catterick).**—Played at Catterick on May 28th. The Depot Battn. lost by 25 runs

R.E. (CATTERICK).

| | |
|---|---|
| Sergt Mitchell run out | 21 |
| Corpl Leathford b Reardon | 18 |
| Spr Coyne b Reardon | 5 |
| Lieut Monteith b Reardon | 28 |
| Dvr Benham c Lieut Guyer b Lieut Hatfield | 43 |
| Corpl Thompson c Lieut Hatfield b Griffiths | 0 |
| Lieut Payne b Ferrier | 9 |
| Q.M.S. Davey b Reardon | 5 |
| Sergt Harrison c and b Reardon | 11 |
| Spr Otley b Reardon | 4 |
| Corpl Cornelius not out | 12 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 158 |



DEPOT BATTALION, R.SIGNALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut Hatfield lbw Cloyne | 19 |
| Sigmn Ferrier st Leathford b Davey | 1 |
| Lieut Eve c and b Davey | 16 |
| Lieut Harrison lbw Harrison | 19 |
| Sigmn Reardon c Thompson b Lieut Monteith | 1 |
| Lieut Guyer c Cornelius b Davey | 43 |
| Colonel Osborne b Davey | 0 |
| Lieut Malpass b Cloyne | 7 |
| C.S.M. Harrison c Otley b Davey | 11 |
| Sergt Griffiths c Thompson b Davey | 1 |
| Sigmn Staples not out | 0 |
| Extras | 15 |
| Total | 133 |

Reardon took six wickets for 46 runs.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Darlington.**—Played at Catterick on June 6th, ending a draw in favour of Darlington.

DARLINGTON.

| | |
|---|---|
| M. Williams run out | 5 |
| Mr. Moore c Carpenter b Lieut Hatfield | 83 |
| Mr. Healey c Major Drayson b Lieut Hatfield | 54 |
| Mr. Dobson c 2/Lieut Vulliamy b Lieut Scott | 72 |
| Mr. Mackereth c Carpenter b Major Drayson | 5 |
| Mr. Taylor c Major Parsons b Major Drayson | 0 |
| Mr. Goodrick c Lieut Scott b Major Drayson | 7 |
| Mr. Leighton c Major Drayson b Lieut Scott | 10 |
| Mr. Blaycock not out | 21 |
| Mr. Hunt c Carpenter b Lieut Scott | 12 |
| Mr. Peat b Major Drayson | 16 |
| Extras | 5 |
| Total | 290 |

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK).

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Drayson c Williams b Dobson | 58 |
| Lieut Boyd c Goodrick b Williams | 3 |
| Capt Pavey c Goodrick b Williams | 4 |
| Lieut Hatfield lbw Goodrick | 27 |
| Sergt Carpenter b Peat | 21 |
| Major Parsons b Peat | 1 |
| Extras | 18 |
| Total for 6 wickets | 132 |

Lieut Scott took three wickets for 79 runs; Lieut Hatfield two for 71; and Major Drayson four for 42.

**Training Battalion, Royal Signals v. Boroughbridge.**—Played at Catterick on June 11th. The game was left drawn.

BOROUGHBRIDGE.

| | |
|---|---|
| W. P. Pearson lbw b Lieut Scott | 20 |
| E. T. Lea c Lieut Brown b Lieut Scott | 22 |
| T. P. Pearson b Lieut Scott | 0 |
| C. Skilbeck c Lieut Boyd b Carpenter | 39 |
| J. Burrell b Sutherland | 23 |
| J. Rallinson c Lieut Boyd b Carpenter | 6 |
| M. Whiteley st Capt Pavey b Lieut Scott | 12 |
| J. Pullan b Carpenter | 0 |
| T. Garbutt c Sutherland b Lieut Brown | 11 |
| L. Pickard run out | 5 |
| D. Morton not out | 9 |
| Extras | 14 |
| Total | 161 |

TRAINING BATTALION, ROYAL SIGNALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut Boyd b Morton | 38 |
| Capt Pavey c Burrell b Lee | 7 |
| Major Parsons c and b Morton | 24 |
| Sergt Carpenter st —— b Pickard | 4 |
| Lieut Brown not out | 4 |
| Sigmn Sutherland not out | 31 |
| Extras | 5 |
| Total for 4 wickets | 113 |

Lieut Scott took four wickets for 60 runs; and Sergt Carpenter three for 47 (performing the hat trick).

## Royal Signals (Catterick) Hockey Team, 1926-27.

*Back Row (left to right)*—Sergt Tovey, Driver Batcheldor, L/Corpl Davis, 2/Lieut F. R. B. Moore.
*Centre*—Lieut. L. C. Boyd, Lieut. D. A. L. Wade, Major F. G. Drayson, Major R. E. Elsdale.
*Front*—Lieut. E. J. Hatfield, Lieut. H. H. Malpass, Driver Conroy.

## S.T.C. Individual Championships.

The following are the results in the competitions held on June 9th, 10th and 13th:—

100 yards—1st, L/Corpl Murphy (F Coy.); 2nd, 2/Lieut Hardy (F); 3rd, Sigmn Pells (E); 4th, Sigmn Cassin (E); 5th, Sigmn Hicks (F). Time, 10 1/5 secs. Standards were obtained by L/Corpl Murphy, 2/Lieut Hardy, Sigmn Pells, Sigmn Cassin, Sigmn Beaumont, and Sigmn Marriott.

220 yards—1st, L/Corpl Murphy (F Coy.); 2nd, 2/Lieut Hardy (F); 3rd, Sigmn Pells (E); 4th, Sigmn Cassin (E); 5th, L/Corpl Craig (E). Time 23 2/5 secs. Standards were obtained by L/Corpl Murphy, 2/Lieut Hardy, Sigmn Pells, Sigmn Cassin, L/Cpl Craig, Sigmn Hicks, Sigmn Beaumont.

440 yards—1st, Sigmn Cassin (E Coy.); 2nd, L/Corpl Craig (E); ord, Sigmn Hicks (F); 4th, Sergt Curtis (School); 5th, Dvr Thompson (School). Time 53 2/5 secs. Standards were obtained by Sigmn Cassin, L/Corpl Craig, Sigmn Hicks, and Sergt Curtis.

880 yards—1st, Corpl Cotterell (E Coy.); 2nd, 2/Lieut. Good (E); 3rd, Sergt Curtis (School); 4th, L/Corpl Craig (E); 5th, Corpl Chignell (F). Time 2 min. 10 1/5 secs.

Mile—1st, Corpl Cotterell (E Coy.); 2nd, L/Corpl Ayres (F); 3rd, Sigmn Broadley (F); 4th, L/Corpl Stibbs (F); 5th, Sigmn Hall. Time 4 min. 48 2/5 secs. Standards were obtained by Corpl Cotterell and L/Corpl Ayres.

3 miles—1st, Corpl Cotterell (E Coy.); 2nd, Sigmn Broadley (F); 3rd, L/Corpl Stibbs (F); 4th, Sigmn Bergman (A & B); 5th, Sigmn Nix (E). Time 15 min. 38 4/5 secs. Standards were obtained by Corpl Cotterell and Sigmn Broadley.

120 yards hurdles—1st, L/Corpl Murphy (F Coy.); 2nd, L/Corpl Ellison (A & B); 3rd, Lieut Scott (D); 4th, L/Corpl Frampton (A & B); 5th, Sigmn O'Connor (E). Time 17 secs. Standards were obtained by L/Corpl Murphy and L/Corporal Ellison.

High jump—1st, L/Corporal Murphy (F Coy.); 2nd, L/Corporal Frampton (A & B); 3rd, 2/Lieut Scarlett (E); 4th, Sigmn Holden (D); 5th, Corpl Miles (C). Height 5 ft. 6 in. Standards were obtained by L/Corpl Murphy, L/Corporal Frampton, and 2/Lieut Scarlett.

Long jump—1st, L/Corpl Strugnell (A & B Coys.); 2nd, Boy Harbin (F); 3rd, Sigmn Avis (C); 4th, 2/Lieut Harrison (A & B); 5th, Lieut Malpass (School). Distance 20 ft. Standard was obtained by L/Corpl Strugnell.

Putting the weight—1st, Lieut Brown (E Coy.); 2nd, Sergt Mays (School); 3rd, Sigmn Honeybourne (E); 4th, Sigmn Twiss

(E); 5th, Lieut Smyth (C). Distance 36 ft. 1 in. Standard was obtained by Lieut Brown.

Pole jump—1st, Dvr O'Neill (C Coy.); 2nd, L/Cpl King (School) 3rd, Sigmn Knight (F). Height 8 ft. 6 in. Standard was obtained by Dvr O'Neill.

Throwing the javelin—1st, Lieut Scott (D Coy.); 2nd, Sigmn Twiss (E); 3rd, Sergt Payne (F). Distance 142 ft. 1 in. Standard was obtained by Lieut Scott.

Throwing the hammer—1st, L/Corpl Murphy (F Coy.); 2nd, Sigmn Twiss (E); 3rd, Dvr Burroughs (C). Distance 96 ft. 9 in. Standard was obtained by L/Corpl Murphy.

Throwing the discus—1st, Sigmn Gibbons (E Coy.); 2nd, Lieut Brown (E); 3rd, Sigmn Twiss (E). Distance 98 ft. 2½ in. Standards were obtained by Sigmn Gibbons, Lieut Brown, and Sigmn Twiss.

Victor Ludorum—L/Corpl Murphy.

Company points towards the Athletic Shield:—

| | Events | Standards | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| E Company | 66 | 15 | 81 |
| F Company | 57 | 11 | 68 |
| A and B Companies | 17 | 5 | 22 |
| School | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| D Company | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| C Company | 7 | 1 | 8 |

## School of Signals, Catterick.

We made a very good start in the Athletic League by beating D Company by 19—17 on May 9th.

On May 17th we met E Company, and came out of it rather the worse for the meeting.

Against F Company, on May 23rd, we fared nearly as badly as against E—owing to our two-mile team bunching too much, I think.

When we met A and B Companies, on May 30th, we thought it was time we pulled ourselves together. Unfortunately, we *still* thought so after the meeting.

If that is how things work out, next year we hope to lose to our first opponents—and then we might hope to stand a chance.

No games have yet been played in the Inter-Company Cricket League.

## Sergeants' Mess, T.B., Catterick.

**Cricket.**—The following matches have been won and lost. The corporals: two matches—we won both. The subalterns of the S.T.C.: we lost by 60 runs. Our team was not at its best in the latter match. I think *he* had been to a dance the previous night. We hope another match will be arranged.

## No. 3 Company, A Corps Signals, Crookham.

On June 13th we played C Company, R.A.M.C., at cricket. This time we lost by 23 runs, though. Better luck next time!

C COMPANY, R.A.M.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pte Smith, c 2/Lieut Milner b Carter | 27 |
| Sergt Rasmussen hit wkt. b Morphew | 16 |
| Pte Richards b Morphew | 8 |
| Pte Scott b Morphew | 2 |
| Capt King b Morphew | 0 |
| Corpl Barnett b Morphew | 0 |
| Corpl Coomes c and b Morphew | 0 |
| Pte Proud not out | 13 |
| Pte Brown b Morphew | 0 |
| Pte Grimwood lbw b Morphew | 3 |
| Pte Lathan b Carter | 1 |
| Extras | 1 |
| Total | 71 |

Bowling Analysis: Corpl Morphew, 8 wickets for 31 runs; Sigmn Carter 2 for 19.

No. 3 COMPANY, ROYAL SIGNALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Corpl Morphew b Proud | 9 |
| Corpl Bygrave b Proud | 4 |
| Sigmn Lomax lbw b Proud | 3 |
| 2/Lieut A. S. Milner b Smith | 2 |
| Corpl Todd b Smith | 10 |
| Lieut P. M. H. Lemon b Smith | 6 |
| Sergt Bevan b Smith | 0 |
| Sigmn Carter not out | 8 |
| Sigmn Marsh b Smith | 0 |
| Sigmn Tutt c and b Barnett | 0 |
| Sigmn Wood b Barnett | 0 |
| Extras | 6 |
| Total | 48 |

Bowling Analysis: Pte Smith took five wickets for 29 runs; Pte Proud 3 for 14; Corpl Barnett 2 for 4.

In Corpl Morphew we are losing one of the best cricketers in the Corps, as he has often played at the Oval as a representative of the home Signal units. A stylish batsman who revels in important matches, and an excellent left arm spin bowler, he should not be wanting for a game in civilian life. It is interesting to record that in his last appearance for the Aldershot Command cricket team, he scored 97 runs, and in his last match for A Corps Signals he performed the hat trick. Best wishes from No. 3 Company, "Bob."

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Cricket.**—"Challenge shield" is on the lips of those who wield the willow. On Fridays and Saturdays one Company battles against one of the others in the hope of adding victory to its credit and ultimate award of the shield.

No. 3 Company have arranged outside fixtures, the results of these to date being: Versus No. 1 Company, R.M.C., won by 2 runs; v. No. 3 Company, R.M.C., drawn; v. 38th Field Coy., R.E., won by 132 runs.

No. 1 COMPANY, R.M.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| Robertson c Binder b Lieut Glover | 55 |
| Warren c Lieut Glover b Hills | 0 |
| Reeves, st Tucker b Wadsworth | 19 |
| Richards, c Wills b Wadsworth | 0 |
| Compton c Taylor b Lieut Glover | 22 |
| Stocker, not out | 7 |
| Primrose st Tucker b Lieut Glover | 7 |
| Fitzpatrick b Lieut Glover | 0 |
| Extras | 12 |
| Total for 7 wkts. (declared) | 122 |

No. 3 COMPANY 1st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut Glover lbw b Robertson | 49 |
| Taylor b Robertson | 6 |
| Hart b Fitzpatrick | 2 |
| Wills b Fitzpatrick | 10 |
| Hills b Robertson | 11 |
| Bartlett run out | 16 |
| Lieut Weir c and b Robertson | 2 |
| Tucker not out | 15 |
| Binder b Robertson | 0 |
| Sergt Buttle c and b Robertson | 0 |
| Wadsworth run out | 8 |
| Extras | 5 |
| Total | 124 |

**Athletics.**—Lieut Danby has taken the athletes under his care, and they are getting practice on the sports ground each evening. Opportunity is taken to remind unit aspirants to championship honours that the track, jumps, hurdles, etc., are available each evening at No. 15 sports ground, opposite the officers' club.

**Tennis.**—A unit doubles team (one officer, one other rank) and a unit single (O.R.) have been entered for the Command unit championships. We wish them success in their venture.

**Rugby.**—L/Corpl Lee and Sigmn Wadsworth have received "station" colours, and we congratulate them on the award.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

**Cricket.**—Our team has started the season in good style, having played four matches and won them all. Keep it up, chaps!



**Bulford Sports.**—The following are the places obtained by our men:—

Dismounted—440 yards, L/Corpl Richardson, 2nd; Sigmn J. Woods, 3rd. 880 yards, Sigmn J. Woods, 3rd. All ranks relay, 1st (Capt C. M. F. White; Lieut Vickers; Sergeants Adcock and Smith; L/Sergt Adams; Corpl Crowhurst; L/Corpl Hill; Sigmn Richardson and Dvr Colley).

Mounted—Jumping, L/Corpl Hill, 3rd (see general notes). Obstacle race, Sigmn Shillitto, 2nd. V.C. race, Signalman Edwards, 1st; L/Corpl Hill, 2nd. Wrestling on horseback, 1st and 2nd. Tug-of-war, 2nd. Ball and basket race, 2nd.

## 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

### Results of the Unit Sports—Dismounted Events.

3 miles—1, Sigmn Wood; 2, Corpl Ivison; 3, Sigmn Strickson.
120 yards hurdles—1, L/Cpl Walters; 2, Sigmn Lucas; 3, Sigmn Frawley.
Putting the shot—1, Sergt Westwood; 2, L/Corpl Franklin; 3, Sergt Hailes.
Throwing the hammer—1, L/Corpl Franklin; 2, Sergt Westwood; 3, Sergt Hailes.
Inter-Section relay—1, L Section; 2, A Section; 3, J Section.
Mile (individual)—1, Corpl Ivison; 2, Sigmn Wood; 3, Sigmn Strickson.
Mile (team)—1, No. 3 Company; 2, No. 2 Coy.; 3, No. 1 Coy.
High jump—1, Sigmn Frawley; 2, Sigmn Harding; 3, L/Corpl Walters.
Inter-Company mile relay—1, No. 3 Coy.; 2, No. 2 Coy.; 3, No. 1 Company.
Long jump—1, Sigmn Harding; 2, Sigmn Vine; 3, Sigmn Thompson. (1, No. 1 Company; 2, No. 3 Company; 3, No. 2 Coy.)
100 yards (final)—1, L/Corpl Walters; 2, L/Corpl Wakefield; 3, Sigmn Camm.
440 yards (final)—1, Sigmn Camm; 2, L/Corpl Richardson (E Troop); 3, Sigmn Wood (E Troop).
120 yards hurdle relay—1, No. 3 Company; 2, No. 1 Company; 3, No. 2 Company.
220 yards (final)—1, L/Corpl Walters; 2, L/Corpl Wakefield; 3, Sigmn Thompson.
Veterans' race—1, Sergt Hailes; 2, R.S.M. Adams.
880 yards (final)—1, Sigmn A. W. Wood; 2, Corpl Ivison; 3, Sigmn J. Wood (E Troop).
All ranks relay—1, E Troop; 2, No. 2 Company; 3, No. 3 Company; 4, No. 1 Company.
Inter-Company relay (four, each 100 yards)—1, No. 3 Company; 2, No. 1 Company; 3, No. 2 Company.

### Mounted Events.

Jumping—1, Sigmn Edwards; 2, Corpl Lemon; 3, L/Corpl Hill.
Pair jumping—1, Dvr Smith; 2, Dvr Caddick; 3, Dvr Riley.
Obstacle race—1, Dvr Marshall; 2, Sigmn Shillito; 3, Dvr Brearley.
Pillow fight—1, Dvr Brearley; 2, Sigmn Edwards.
V.C. race—1, Sigmn Edwards and L/Corpl Hill; 2, Corpl Lemon and Tmptr Cairns; 3, Sergt Gregory and Sigmn Perry.
Tug-of-war—1, Dvr Brearley, Dvr Marshall, Sigmn Graves, Dvr Fuller, Dvr Caddick, Dvr Dickie, Dvr Humphries, and Sigmn Patience; 2, L/Corpl Richardson, Dvr Martin, Dvr Jackson, Dvr Wood, Dvr Groome, Dvr Wilkinson, Dvr Lancaster, and Dvr H. Jackson.
Wrestling—1, L/Corpl Richardson, Dvrs Lancaster, Wood, Mansfield, Martin and Jackson; 2, L/Corpl Mansfield, Drivers Colley, Jeffreys, Morgan, Cooper and Whisher.
Alarm stakes—1, Sigmn C. Smith, Sigmn Deighton, Sigmn Wainwright and Sigmn Allenden; 2, Corpl Sewell, Sigmn Lumby, Sigmn Wood and Sigmn Coles.
Clowns—Signalmen Gannon and Rule.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

Still more cricket—and much more to come, I hope. The clerk of the weather having smiled on us, we are taking full advantage of the sunshine, so very seldom seen over here.

Many inter-Company games have been played, in which great interest has been shown. Although badly handicapped by our only ground, all do their best. One great feature was the married versus single match, in which the single, though winning, did not by any means have it all their own way. In another game the Wireless beat the Visual, but in a single-innings event they were lucky to do so. If the Visual would only take a little more interest in the game, not only could they form a good team but they would be a great asset to the Company team.

June 8th saw us starting off to Aldergrove to play the Royal Air Force. Every part of the day was enjoyable, and many thanks are due to the R.A.F. for the way in which they entertained us. Even by their speedy method of conveyance they could not frighten us (though they tried hard), for the ground is at Muckamore. After a very exciting game we lost by 17 runs. Soon the return is to be played, but that will be another tale.

The big day came on June 11th. A more perfect day could not have been chosen, when we started off at 7 a.m. for Ballykinlar to play the Northumberland Fusiliers in the first round of the N.I.D. cup. Play started at 11 a.m. with the Fusiliers batting. When the wickets began to fall under the pressure of the bowling of L/Corpl Parker and Sigmn Williams, it looked to be very one-sided. However, the Fusiliers regained their confidence when the heel of Sigmn Williams' shoe came off and he had to retire for a while. More perfect fielding I have never seen, and the catches by L/Corpl Roberts and Sigmn Ward were really good. Not one hit went astray, and although the Fusiliers are splendid batsmen they were all out for 130.

The lunch interval over, the Fusiliers took the field. Owing to the bowling of Corpl Purcell our wickets gradually fell until we were all out at 70. In the second innings we did rather better, finishing at 97 for eight wickets. L/Corpl Fisher, our captain, made the biggest hit of the day, running a five.

Owing to the distance we did not have many supporters, but what few there were seemed well satisfied with our plucky stand. Though we are now out of the cup, there is no disgrace. Far from it, for we plainly showed them what a small unit of Signals can do against the pick of a Battalion. Well done, N.I.S.C.

## Rhine Signal Units.

As stated in my general notes, the main item of interest is the annual sports meeting which is being held on June 28th.

The programme has been improved upon that of last year, mounted events having come to the fore, headed by a tent-pegging competition open to the Garrison.

Tent-pegging seems to be an unknown art in the Rhine Signals, but every endeavour is being made this year to get together a good team, several open events having been entered.

At cricket we are making good progress, having won two of the three league matches played. The units should go far in the league and knock-out.

The Command Company have surprised a couple of teams, winning by a large margin in each case. The keenness displayed by the Company is immense, and at times they have turned out two good teams in opposition. When one knows that they are only about seventy strong, praise must be given to them.

The first rival match of the season, Command Company versus Field Company, takes place to-morrow—June 15th—but I am unable to give the result for this issue.

## Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

**Football.**—We are continuing our successful progress in this direction, as readers will have observed elsewhere. The appended table of results will show how we have disposed of our opponents in the Wallace cup:—

48th Battery R.A.—won by 3—0 (L/Corpl Welch).
A Coy. 1st Hants Regt.—won by 1—0 (L/Corpl Welch).
71st Battery R.A.—won by 2—1 (L/Corpl Welch).
D Coy. 1st Hants Regt.—won by 2—1, after extra time (Sergt Kitchen).

Followers of the Training Battalion team, Catterick, will be interested to note that Joe Welch is continuing his prolific scoring, so that their loss is our gain. Another point of interest is that although the victorious team included ten Royal Signal players, it was left to the "Foregn Legion" to supply the outstanding player—Sigmn A. H. Green, who was once a Gunner.

**Hockey.**—The interest in this has been kept up to a high pitch during the last month, as in addition to the fixtures in the Chitham League, we have had a quadrangular contest. For the latter we had six representatives in the practice matches: Capts Holland and Humphries, Sergts Johnson, Penney and Kitchen, and L/Corpl Rawson. Of this number three were successful in obtaining places in the European team: Sergts Johnson, Penney and Kitchen.

The hockey team is now emulating the football eleven, and is busy fighting for the Garrison hockey cup. They have started well in defeating B Coy. 1st Battn Hampshire Regt. by 1—0.

The results of the Chitham League games have been very satisfactory, as the table shows:—

April 21st—Mahrattas, draw of 2—2.
April 23rd—R.A.M.C., draw of 1—1.
April 24th—D.C.O. Lancers, won by 4—1.
April 29th—City Sports, won by 2—1.
May 11th—Christchurch, draw of 2—2.
May 16th—Police, lost by 0—1.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

**Football.**—The season is now over, but we entertained H.M.S. "Lupin," and after a keen game we beat them by 3—0.

**Cricket.**—This is now in full swing, and after a few trial games we have managed to pick a decent team. So far we have played seven games, winning four and losing three.

April 17th—B.M.H., Karachi, won by 39 runs.
May 8th—R.W.F., won by an innings and 55 runs.
May 9th—Mackinnon and Mackenzie's, won by 4 runs.
May 10th—H.Q. Wing Sherwood Foresters, lost by 19 runs.
May 12th—D Coy. Sherwood Foresters, won by 54 runs.
May 14th—Shewakrams, lost by 18 runs.
May 15th—Karachi Gymkhana, lost by 54 runs.

**Hockey.**—We entered the last competition of the season—the Union Jack hockey tournament—and met B Company Sherwood Foresters in the second round. The game that ensued was the finest seen between two military teams for a long time, and the end came with the result 1—1. Extra time was played, but no further score resulted.

In the replay another good game was witnessed. The Corps were all over their opponents, but B Company managed to score a lucky goal soon after the commencement, and they managed to hold on to their lead until the whistle went. The general opinion was that the Signals were very unlucky.

We have been running a second team, and they have been very successful, results being as follows:—

Versus A Company Sherwood Foresters, won by 4—2.
Versus Sind Brigade H.Q., won by 4—1 and 3—2.

**Billiards.**—Just recently a billiards handicap tournament was held in the unit. The preliminary rounds took a fortnight to get through, many of them affording quite a lot of amusement to the onlookers.

Eventually the final was reached, the contestants being Corpl R. E. Pierce (with a handicap of minus 50) and L/Corpl Hazell (scratch). This game was of 250 up. It was a good one throughout, and some noticeable breaks were made—26, 23, 19, 16 and 14; the highest being 31, made by L/Corpl Hazell. Corpl Pierce played very well under his heavy handicap, but lost a good game by 19 points. His opponent won the tournament a year previously.

R.S.M. Shepherd, in presenting the cup to L/Corpl Hazell, commented on the play and the good sportsmanship shown throughout, and hoped there would be many such tournaments in the future.

## Peshawar District Signals.

**Hockey.**—A most exciting match was witnessed on February 28th in the final of the Peshawar District Hockey League between the Northumberland Fusiliers and A Divl. Signals. It is especially gratifying to note that, although we were two goals down in the first half of the game, we did not lose our match-winning spirit, but bucked up and managed to win by three goals to two. That meant another cup for our collection.

**Boxing.**—The unit boxing team is also worthy of note. Entering four men for the Peshawar District boxing tournament, we managed to retain our sporting status with L/Sergt Child and L/Corpl Douglas winning their respective bouts, and Sigmn Sweeney being awarded the best loser's cup for the pluckiest performance of the evening. L/Sergt Luff was unfortunate in losing his first fight.

The Northern Command District Signals boxing tournament was held at Rawalpindi on April 6th and 8th, and our team consisted of L/Sergts Child and Luff, and Signalmen Sweeney, Moncrieff and L. G. Smith. The display of boxing was very fine, and it is pleasing to relate that L/Sergt Child won the open middles and Sigmn Sweeney the featherweights.

Boxing Team, Peshawar District Signals, 1927.

*Back Row (left to right*—Corpl Smith, L/Corpl Douglas, Sigmn Sweeney, Corpl Butcher.

*Front*—L/Sergt Child, Lieut. Childs (Royal Signals), L/Sergt Luff.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

**Sports.**—Football and hockey have been in full swing during the past month, although it must be admitted the losses are greater than the wins. Still, considering that out of sixty B.O.R.s and forty-seven I.O.R.s, we turned out a football team, a hockey team, and two I.O.R. scratch teams on the same day, the results were fairly satisfactory.

Our old friends the Battery certainly gave us a "licking" at football by 10—0. The return match resulted in another win for them by 2—1.

An all-day cricket match was arranged with the Battery, but the game had to be abandoned with the Troop all out for 37 and the Battery with two wickets down for 117.

The novices' boxing competition took place on April 27th, and considering some of the participants had never entered the ring before, some of the fighting was extremely good. It was very amusing to see the faces of the boxers the day after, for practically every one of them had black eyes or swollen lips, while two had to go in hospital to receive medical attention. The results were as follows: Middleweights, Corpl Nimmo; light weights, Sigmn Mervin; best loser, Sigmn Bazin. Lieut Saegert, Corpl Mitson, and Signalmen Rhodes and "Nother" gave exhibition contests.

The tennis tournament has been completed, and Corpl Nimmo won the challenge cup by beating Sigmn Rhodes in the final. On Thursday the Tennis Club are meeting the Volunteer Club (reputed champions of the station) in a tennis match. All predict a heavy defeat for us, but we shall see!

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

**Hockey.**—Sport has not been up to much of late; in fact, the only redeeming feature is our hockey team. A splendid eleven turned out the other day against the Railway, and after a good match we emerged victors by 2 goals to 1. Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich and Corpl Robson were our goal scorers.

It will be seen by reference to notes from Bannu that Lieut McOstrich is a good all-round sportsman. We should be sorry to lose him; although I have painful recollections of early morning "runs" at Razmak. However, these things have to be done.

Waziristan District Hockey Final: K.R.R.C. versus Signals in Waziristan.—We do not need to describe the game, as Bannu have given a good report in their notes. We would point out, however, that as the K.R.R.C. are champions in India, and we had to collect our team from various stations, a defeat by 3—0, and after a replay, was by no means severe.



### Manzai Detachment.

**Sport.**—Considering the facilities for sport here, the Section can be congratulated on its meritorious efforts in keeping fit. Our chief recreation of late has consisted of teasing a hockey ball between our own bungalow (O/Vs) and that of the office. This, unfortunately for us, has been stopped, owing (I imagine) to the fact that a letter "L" has been missed from the typewriter.

Anyhow we have found a new outlet for stored-up energy in the shape of a swimming bath (?) that has just been opened. A wonderful affair this, but very dangerous for a chap of "Stiffy's" size, as with a moderate plunge he is liable to catch his chin on the far side; and on the other hand, in trying to avoid this he is just as likely to stub his toes on the taking-off side. Nevertheless, the troops get a good amount of enjoyment out of this form of recreation, which would no doubt be increased tenfold by a certain individual if, as has been whispered, he lived up to his intentions and accidentally fell into the much longer bath close by, but which unfortunately contains drinking water.

**Hockey.**—This is the chief game here, and once this sport appeals to the new arrivals, we hope to field a team strong enough to hold its own with any in the district.

Our O.C., Lieut Cottell, has given much assistance to what was a short while back a much-depleted team, both morally and physically, and the 'Erbs are now looking forward to future matches with the greatest confidence.

Our last match to date has been a clash with a team styled "The Rest of Manzai," and it reflects much credit on an unorganised side to report a defeat by the narrow margin of 2—0. The team as a whole worked well, Sigmn Chandler playing a tireless game at back. Porky seemed out of form (forward is his best position). The O.C. was badly handicapped early on by a damaged knee, but stuck it out gamely to the end. Space is too short to permit of further details as to respective merits, and I conclude with the remark that every man was a trier.

### Bannu Detachment.

**District Sports.**—Hockey final, v. K.R.R.C., lost by 0—3. Individual Events: 880 yards, 1st, Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich. 440 yards, 1st, Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich. 100 yards, 2nd, Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich (10 3/5 secs.). Long jump, 1st, Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich (20 ft. 1½ in.). Cross-country, 4th man home, Sigmn Atkins (first of Signals team). Football: v. R.T.C., lost by 2—4.

In the hockey final of the Waziristan District sports, the Signals met the K.R.R.C. This match was by far the best of the tournament. The Signals team comprised: Thompson; Sergt Watts and Booth; W. Chambers, Corpl Channell and France; Corpl L. Smith, Fisher, Sergt McLean, L/Corpls Robson and Ferdinando.

Before the interval the game was mostly in our opponents' half. Both teams scored, the Signals centre forward scoring from a centre from the left wing. After the interval the game was continued with renewed vigour, and after a hard struggle both teams again scored. Our goal, scored by the centre forward, was the result of another centre from the left wing. The game closed with the score standing at two all.

Extra time was played that evening with no further score. The game was replayed the following morning, and again the spectators were treated to an excellent game; and although the team played up extremely well, we eventually lost to the Rifles by 3—0.

**Hockey.**—Versus Bannu Gentlemen, lost by 2—3 (Sergeant Gibbons); v. Frontier Police, lost by 0—4; v. 5/14th A Coy., draw of 1—1 (Sergt Gibbons).

**Football.**—Versus Brigade Headquarters, draw of 2—2 (Dawes and Lovell).

## 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

**Sports.**—In Ranikhet, football is the chief sport for which there are good facilities. The Ranikhet League football competition is now in full swing, and a game takes place every evening except on Sundays. The units stationed in Ranikhet besides ourselves are the D.C.L.I., the Buffs, the Royal Berks Regt., the R.A.M.C., and the Corps of Clerks. All have entered teams—some one and some three, according to their respective strengths. We have entered one team, and have done very well up to the present. We have played four matches, three of which we won, and this places us second in the league.

The tug-of-war team has commenced training for the Depot sports meeting, and we hope to do well.

A boxing competition will take place shortly, and we have started training competitors with a view of doing even better than we did in Meerut.

## Kohat District Signals.

**Football.**—With depleted teams, both at Kohat and Parachinar, we have played the following games:—

Parachinar—Versus Royal Tank Corps, draw of 0—0; draw of 1—1; lost by 2—5; won by 4—1.

Kohat—Versus Kohat District H.Q., lost by 2—3 (Blight); v. 2/12th F.F. Regt., lost by 0—2; v. 60th Squadron R.A.F., won by 5—4 (Sergt Peerless 3, Sigmn Hebbes 2); v. 60th Squadron R.A.F., lost by 1—2 (Corpl Hammond).

**Hockey.**—Only three games have been played, and with fairly strong teams. We won the first two. Then the loss of the party to Upper Topa left us with a very scratch team, but we turned out in response to a challenge by the 2/1st Punjab Regt. Unfortunately for us, they fielded their full regimental team, and they had a night out and considerable goal-scoring practice. However, our goalie did manage to prevent the round dozen.

Versus 2/1st Punjab Regiment, lost by 0—11.

Versus 5th K.E.O. Probyn's Horse, won by 2—1 (Major Henderson).

Versus 2/12th F.F. Regt., won by 2—1 (Major Henderson, Corpl Hammond).

**Stop Press.**—The Royal Air Force, to open their new ground, challenged us for the opening match. After being down by 1—3 at half-time, we pulled the game out of the fire and ran out winners by 5—4, despite the fact that we only had ten men in the second half. The goal scorers were: Sigmn Dudley (2), Capt T. Wood, Capt H. Orr, and Sergt A. Smith.

**Cricket.**—We opened the season at Parachinar with a game against the Royal Tank Corps, in glorious weather. After some very hard hitting and excellent bowling by L/Corpl Cole, who made valiant efforts to save the match, we lost by the narrow margin of two runs. Scores: 6th Armoured Car Coy. R.T.C., 135; Signals, Parachinar, 133. Corpl F. Berry scored a good 25, while L/Corpl Cole made 84 and took eight wickets for 33 runs. Will the Kent Selection Committee kindly note the name of the latter?

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Cricket.**—The 15/19th Hussars caused our stay in the Command cup to be very short, as they defeated us in the first round. We have a good team, but it does not enjoy the best of luck, especially in this competition.

**Rugby.**—The photograph shows the players who represented the Corps in Egypt and won their way to the Command semi-final, to be defeated by the 1st Battn Leicestershire Regt., who also defeated the Royal Engineers in the final.

The Corps in Egypt Rugby Team.

**Boxing.**—L/Sergt Wheeler gave us his usual thrill on June 3rd, when he defeated Pte Butler (Somerset L.I.) on points in a special six-round contest. Wheeler weighed in at 11 st. 7 lbs., and Butler at 12 st. 5 lbs.

Butler can be termed a real "one-round" man, and he *does* hit during that round. He floored Wheeler twice during the round, and quite a number of good boxers would still be on the floor from his second blow. It's a mystery how Wheeler survived it and fought back to win with ease on points. In fact, had it not been for the weakening effect of that unlucky blow, Wheeler would have won with a knock-out. So here's hearty congratulations to L/Sergt Wheeler.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—In the final of the small units knock-out competition, we were defeated by A Company 2nd Battn. Royal Scots on the 17th May. This match was played on the National Sporting Club ground.

The Scots scored five times, while Sigmn Edge registered our only goal. While it was a great disappointment to be defeated so decisively, it was very gratifying to know that our standard of football has been improved sufficiently for us to go as far as the final—and we were only beaten by a team of a higher standard of physical fitness than ourselves.

**Cricket.**—In the first round of the small units competition, we met and defeated A Squadron 3rd K.O. Hussars at the Garrison ground on May 30th.

We batted first. Yates and Ryan made 203 runs before Yates was bowled for 95. Collins came in, and with Ryan put on 129 for the second wicket, when Ryan was caught for 188, Collins being 44 not out. The innings was declared closed with the score at 332 for two wickets. The Hussars batted for two-and-a-half hours and made 127, leaving us winners by 205 runs.

## Signal Section, Hong Kong.

**Billiards.**—The R.E.–Royal Signals team were knocked out in the second round of the eight-a-side tournament by the R.A. We are sorry to lose the cup, but hope to bring it back next year.

In the individual amateur championship, both the Signals representatives have been knocked out, so we are looking to our R.E. friends to bring the cup to the mess.

In the R.E.–Royal Signals junior mess championship, Sigmn White walked away with the cup. Well done, Blanco!

The Hong Kong military amateur championship was won by Q.M.S. Roberts, R.Signals, as the result of the following games: v. Gunner Hodge, R.A., won 250—163; v. S/Sergt Royal, R.E., won 250—195; v. L/Bdr Trim, R.A., won 400—295 (semi-final); v. Q.M.S. Hall, R.A.O.C., won 500—394 (final). Q.M.S. Roberts also made the highest break.

**Cricket.**—Owing to the pressure of work caused by the Shanghai Defence Force, the R.E.–Royal Signals team were compelled to cancel all their fixtures in Division I. of the League. Division II. shield, won by us last year, was surrendered on our promotion to Division I.

**Rowing.**—Preparations for the Brown rowing cup proceeds apace. Of late years this competition has been entered only by the R.A. and R.E.s, but this year's event will be contested by most units in the garrison. We wish our crew the best of luck.

**Swimming.**—With the opening of the bathing season, we look to our non-swimmers to do their best, so that our clerk can render a "nil" return.

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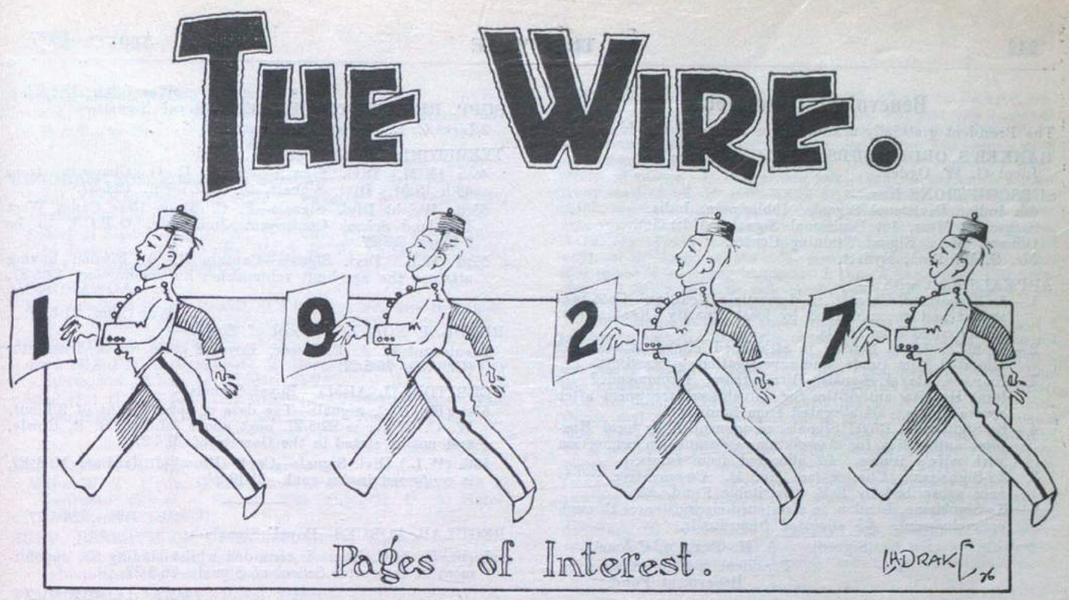


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## Editorial Notes.

**It is notified for general information that with effect from 1st SEPTEMBER, 1927, the Registered Office of the Signals Association will be removed to**

**4 BROAD STREET PLACE, LONDON, E.C.2.**

This will, from the above date, be the *only* address in London for the receipt of correspondence or the business of the Association—whether Benevolent Branch, Old Comrades Branch, or Publications Branch—and also for the receipt of remittances on account of the funds of the three Branches mentioned and of the Central Fund.

All correspondence and remittances should therefore be addressed accordingly, and all remittances made payable to "The Treasurer, Signals Association."

The above new address will *not*, however, be used for personal interviews with the Secretary. The office for them will be at

**95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W. 1.**

at which address all personal enquiries should be made.

❀ ❀ ❀

Will those units of Royal Signals who have not yet commenced to contribute monthly notes for publication in the Corps Magazine, or who for various reasons have been unable to keep their contributions up to date, kindly give the matter their serious consideration.

This appeal is made at the request of many readers who are keenly interested in the activities and welfare of their old units and comrades, and regularly peruse THE WIRE in the hope of finding news of their friends in other stations.

❀ ❀ ❀

Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can now be obtained on application to this office. Price 2s. 6d. (postage 2d. extra).

EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts from Branches, etc.:—

BANKERS' ORDER SUBSCRIPTION (5s. per annum) from:—
Lieut G. W. Ogden.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chiswick Branch | £0 | 8 | 0 |
| Sialkot, India, Branch | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Chiswick Branch | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Mr. R. J. Steel | 0 | 2 | 0 |

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Married Couple (Domestic) | 1 |
| Post Office Engineering Department | 5 |
| Barman | 1 |
| Railway Porter | 1 |
| Handyman | 1 |
| Domestic Service | 1 |
| Mess Waiters | 3 |
| Storekeeper | 1 |

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from—
Lieut G. W. Ogden.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore, India.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre.
Mr. G. W. Burt, Byfleet.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1.—Ex-Signalman, Chester, in domestic difficulties. Case presented and recommended by local Charity Organisation. £3 allocated from funds.
2.—Ex-n.c.o. Royal Signals in straitened circumstances. £4 allocated from funds, and investigations proceeding.
3.—Ex-n.c.o. Royal Signals, Birmingham, recommended by local Hospital authorities for convalescent treatment after severe illness. £4 allocated from funds.
4.—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, recommended by local Hospital authorities for Association assistance in connection with wife's illness. £2 allocated from funds.
5.—Ex-Signalman, Chester (see No. 1). Co-operative assistance subscribed by R.E. Charitable Fund, £2.
6.—Ex-Signalman, London, in straitened circumstances through unemployment. £5 allocated from funds.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Capt. J. L. Collings from Catterick to Aldershot.
Major R. G. Williams from Catterick to Colchester.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 14/6/27.

REGULAR FORCES—South Wales Borderers—
2/Lieut F. A. Pedlar, from Royal Signals, to be 2/Lieut. 15/6/27, with seniority 3/9/25.

MEMORANDA—
Capt. F. J. Allen, Indian Army, is seconded for service with Royal Signals, 15/6/27.

War Office, 17/6/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut C. L. Wicks to be Lieut. 13/5/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
46th (N.M.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut E. G. Chapman, from 48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals, to be 2/Lieut. 18/6/27.
53rd (Welsh) Divl. Signals—F. C. Moon (late Cadet West Buckland School Contingent Jun. Div. O.T.C.), to be 2/Lieut. 2/5/27.
55th (W.L.) Divl. Signals—Captain P. A. Buchan having attained the age limit relinquishes his commission, 18/6/27.

War Office, 21/6/27.

REGULAR FORCES—School of Signals—
Lieutenant L. A. E. Tozer, Royal Signals, to be Instructor (Cl. GG) 26/5/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
51st (H.) Divl. Signals—The date of appointment of 2/Lieut. W. C. Grigor is 29/3/27, next above 2/Lieut. R. R. Cowie, and not as stated in the Gazette of 29/4/27.
55th (W.L.) Divl. Signals—Capt. (Prov.) J. Jardine, M.B.E., is confirmed in his rank, 31/12/24.

War Office, 24/6/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut. L. A. E. Tozer is seconded whilst holding the appointment of Instructor School of Signals, 26/5/27.

War Office, 28/6/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., on completion of four years as a Regimental Lieut.-Colonel, is placed on the h.p. list, 26/6/27.
Major C. L. Day to be Lieut.-Colonel, 26/6/27.

War Office, 1/7/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 26/6/27:—
W. R. C. Penney, M.C., and remains seconded.
R. A. Bagnold.

MEMORANDA—
Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Fuller, O.B.E., R.Signals, to be Brevet-Colonel, 1/7/27.
Major E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, to be Brevet-Lieut.-Colonel, 1/7/27.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—**
1852381 Devereux, A. 15/3/27

**To be Sergeant—**
2306510 Callegari, F. 16/12/26
2306327 Keane, A. 21/1/27
2306748 Walker, L. 22/1/27
4680127 Beverley, E. 12/2/27
2309345 Massey, S. 12/2/27
2308799 Lombard, W. 12/2/27
1034344 Vokins, H. 6/3/27
2306393 Huggett, E. 12/3/27
1856991 Seabrook, G. 1/4/27
2306330 Curtis, F. 20/4/27

**To be Sergeant (apptd. F/Sergeant)**
1850134 Howells, B. 27/3/27

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**
2306457 Collyer, R. 21/1/27
2309071 Willis, E. 21/1/27
1856991 Seabrook, G. 1/4/27
2306330 Curtis, F. 20/4/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**
2307365 Shipcott, C. 1/4/27
2306767 Renecle, W. 1/4/27
2306266 Cooper, E. 1/4/27
2311229 Battrick, H. 1/4/27

**To be Corporal—**
2315640 Reid, C. 25/11/26
2312805 McBride, J. 18/1/27
2313756 Chalmers, R. 18/1/27
2315675 Russell, J. 19/1/27
6000468 Tapley, P. 7/2/27
1858980 Coppack, J. 12/2/27
2306722 Westwood, F. 12/2/27
1860296 Waight, T. 14/2/27
2315515 Ivison, R. 15/2/27
5488940 Hinks, W. 15/2/27
1859005 Tate, A. 15/2/27
1850317 Bygrave, S. 15/2/27
2313031 Parsons, J. 16/2/27
7807408 Barrett, A. 20/2/27
2310858 Crummey, B. 6/3/27
1404826 Browne, G. 12/3/27
2314874 Cobbing, R. 19/3/27
2309047 Warren, W. 21/3/27
2311334 Clarke, C. 25/3/27
2310845 Neal, H. 31/3/27
2311580 Askew, W. 1/4/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**
2313031 Parsons, J. 16/2/27
2311580 Askew, W. 1/4/27

### Discharges.

2306164 C.Q.M.S. C.Thompson, 15/6/27
2306165 L/Sergt F. Warden, 19/6/27
1856259 Sergt H. Davies, 20/6/27
2308693 Corpl A. Oliver, 23/6/27
2307347 A/C.Q.M.S. J. Atkins, 24/6/27
2308917 L/Sergt C. Campbell, 27/6/27

### Transfers to Army Reserve.

2313905 Corpl C. Wren, 25/5/27
2314096 Corpl R. Jones, 13/6/27
2312593 Corpl G. Perryman, 19/6/27
2313959 Corpl A. Gunnell, 23/6/27
2313967 Corpl R. Morphew, 29/6/27



TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut. E. S. Coombes, late R.A.F., to be Lieut. 4/6/27.

War Office, 5/7/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut. C. Knowles, from Rifle Brigade, to be Lieut. 6/7/27, retaining his present seniority.
School of Signals—Major W. T. Howe, O.B.E., R.Signals, to be Instructor (Cl. Z) vice Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, 15/6/27.

MEMORANDA—
Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., h.p. list, late R.Signals, to be Colonel, 28/6/27, with seniority 3/6/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—G. E. Garrard, late 2/Lieut Malay States Vol. R., to be 2/Lieut. 21/2/27.
52nd (L.) Divl. Signals—J. Miller (late Cadet Glasgow Acad. Contingent Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 15/2/27.

War Office, 8/7/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Major W. T. Howe, O.B.E., is seconded whilst employed as Instructor School of Signals, vice Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., 15/6/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut. W. K. Carroll, from T.A., to be 2/Lieut. 9/7/27, and relinquishes the rank of Lieutenant.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut. G. N. Roberts to be Lieut. 21/4/27.

War Office, 12/7/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
43rd (W.) Divl. Signals—L/Bombdr. E. C. L. Wright, from 56th (Wessex) Field Brigade R.A. (late Cadet Exeter School Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 7/6/27.
50th (N.) Divl. Signals—Lieut. W. K. Carroll relinquishes his commission on appointment to Supp. Res. of Officers, 9/7/27.

## Plain Tales.

**What would you do?**—I see by the papers I borrowed that the Derby is all over, and a lot of money has changed hands. There is a terrible fascination about huge sums of money, and most of us like to dream of how we should handle a few odd thousands. Myself, I think in millions. It costs no more. I spent a pleasant half-hour yesterday in arranging for the disposal of my dream million. It may interest you. On the other hand, it may not; but I am not bothering about the other hand to-day.

I don't like my newsagent. He lives next door to a tailor who charged me 1s. 6d. for permanent turn-ups to my new slacks. I told the newsagent, but he still lives next door to the tailor. Permanent turn-ups should not cost more than 1s. 4½d. If I had a million pounds sterling (not E.P.N.S., mark you) I would go straight and buy a brand new 1927 steam-roller, and drive it (after a few lessons) bang into the front door of the newsagent's shop. I bet that would teach him a lesson. This would be more effective than buying "The News of the World" and tearing it up under his nose. Blast him, and his nose!

I would buy an enormous quantity of work and sit down and laugh at it. Smoke ninepenny cigars and drink whisky straight out of the bottle. I would buy a lot of stones and throw them all at the work. Finally, I would hire 500 (five hundred) men to heave the blinking lot into the sea. I would buy Catterick Camp and double the rent of the married quarters. So would you if you saw those we have in Bulford. Well, I will not tell you what else I would do. I don't suppose the Editor would pass it for publication, anyway. What would *you* do?

* * * *

**General Knowledge.**—Now to something serious. This sort of thing is becoming quite a feature in the daily papers. We thought of it first, but we didn't say anything because the big papers are so easily peeved.

Do you know what a "Detector No. 2" is? I thought not. It is not extensively used in the Signals, but you may be asked one of these days, and it is always best to be prepared. Well, a Detector No. 2, as its name implies, is an instrument used for detecting things. When I say things, of course, I mean electrical things. It is a square box, about so big, with a glass front marked off in milli-watts or something. On the top, I think, are some terminals. If so, you join one of them to whatever you wish to detect, and one of the others to something else. A battery should now be connected to the two "whatsits" (if any), on the back, or the side, and a careful watch kept on the dial to see if anything happens. I hope I have made this quite clear. I don't want to talk above your heads, you know. So much for the purely technical side, then.

Now, we have two of these instruments on the books, and I set out to look for them the other day, not knowing whether I should find them in a ten-foot packing case or a small envelope. Of twelve people I asked, only one even made a guess. This one (heaven protect his genius!) suggested that it was a hazel twig for finding water. I pushed his body under the Section stores, and returned to my base to think things out. To cut a long story more or less short, I found what I have described by a process of elimination. For instance, I said, "Hammers, sledge, 16 lbs." (excuse the figures; time is short). The only thing they detect is what you were up to the night before, when you are trying to wield one at 8 a.m. Well, there you are. I give you the benefit of my experience. I forgot to say that these detectors are carried in a leather case, complete with strap which, if left long enough, becomes covered with a whitish-grey film—"caput mortuum" (Latin), sometimes called mildew

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**Crotchets and Quavers.**—The band of the Royal Engineers has been visiting Bulford, and we have all thoroughly enjoyed its usual first-class musical fare. We always expect good music from this band, and we are never disappointed. The Royal Corps of Signals band is coming on the 18th July, and we are also expecting some great things from them.

I am sorry Spud Marsden is not still with them. I always remember his threat, uttered one memorable pay night, to burst out in the middle of "Arioso I Pagliacci" with "Colonel Bogey" in fourteen flats. His instrument was the trombone, so I think the result would have been interesting had he been able to carry out his threat.

No one has ever accused me of being spiteful or vindictive. Wait a bit; I'll get my halo! However, I think there should be a special sticky kind of death for people who keep time to music by tapping their feet on the leg of your chair.

Whilst we are on musical subjects (are we?) let us mention dance bands again. How many of you remember King's famous syncopators at Maresfield in 1920? Alas! not all of you. Where is Shakespeare's band? Where are the Crowborough Five? Do you recollect Fruity Orchard? Well, well! Two sighs of resignation and one of despair.

Test question for admission to the Association of Musical Lamplighters: "If a man is playing an E flat alto saxophone (high pitch) with his brother on a low pitch piano, and the music is written in five flats, what would be the equivalent key on the bass drum if both heads were busted?"

* * * *

**Gardening.**—I am awfully sorry, but there are no gardening notes of any importance this month. The chief things to keep in mind for August, however, are as follow.

Mushrooming is now in full swing, or has just finished: I forget which. The only equipment necessary is a large basket, Russian boots, and a pair of nail scissors. You can trim your nails with the scissors while you wait for the mushrooms to come up.

Balance gardening ledgers, and negotiate for the sale of your holding at 100 per cent. profit to some "Joe Soap" who has not had the good fortune to read these very helpful notes.

Drown the kittens. Change back and front tyres on your motor-cycle. Renew H.T. batteries on your one-and-a-half valve set, which is so good; you can get New York easily. Liar!

Cut dahlias, fuchsias, alias, hydrophobias, dipsomanias and caustic sodas. Gather a bottle of Australian port. Those wretched people are bound to be along this evening. Buy a new pair of dance shoes. Get your hair cut. Keep off the grass, and stow away from boilers. Where on earth have I got to? Never mind. Cela ne ipse dixit paribus (French; or possibly Latin—I don't know).

**Nuts, but no Wine.**—A corporal paid a six-weeks-old billiard debt of three-pence, and demanded a receipt for same. I hope the Treasurer posted it to him in an unstamped envelope.

A signalman received a child's bucket and spade as a birthday present from his father. They tell me he has sent his dad a pair of knitting needles.

A drummer ordered a very nifty crash cymbal and a tom-tom about two years ago, so he says. Santa Claus must be pulling his leg.

A correspondent once reported some arrivals and departures in THE WIRE, and omitted to head them "Men may come and men may go." A perfectly ordinary and normal individual, otherwise, so they say.

A sergeant has acquired a new motor-cycle and sidecar. There is nothing to touch it in the district. There never is. "Oh! I'm keeping her down to fifties for a bit." Stand back while I giggle.

Another would like to mention a really fast machine and sidecar, but his innate sense of modesty gets him down every time. Besides, my bike needs no introduction.

* * * *

**For Housewives.**—A little crushed camphor and a spot or two of linseed oil make a wonderful difference to a mutton chop. Something off the Beeton track, as it were.

To prevent a cake sticking to a tin, make a meat pudding and boil it in a sandbag.

Should moths be found in your best carpet, at once alarm the guard. No, dash it, that's wrong! Here we are. Sprinkle lavishly with sulphuric acid, and press with a red-hot iron. The carpet will probably be ruined, but what a lesson for the moths!

Washing-day is not looked forward to by many, so the following tip will be appreciated. Sprinkle glue and sawdust amongst the coal to be used under the copper. Add one pint of English tomatoes to each gallon of boiling water. Mix painter's size with the starch. Make the week's washing up into a neat brown paper parcel and send it to the laundry. Put the fire out with the boiling water, and heave the starch compound over the next-door neighbour just as she comes out to see if it is raining. This will make you feel happy for the rest of the day.

A soupcon of grated lemon or orange rind adds piquancy to many a dish, whilst a handful of banana skins and a few cabbage stalks are only equalled by a shovelful of ashes.

If a kitten's feet are glued to a piece of board 12 in. by 5 in., and the board screwed to the kitchen floor, it will prevent the animal making dirty footmarks on the dining room floor.

When enamelling straw hats, use Barleux patent hat dyes. Shilling a square pint, complete with tooth brush and all mining rights.

Heavens! To think that I have to do this for a living!

BARLEUX.

## Some Reminiscences of Jubbulpore.

Most soldiers who serve abroad meet with experiences worth relating; and although I know most stories from India are relagated to the w.p.b., I write this in the hope that it may interest readers of THE WIRE and induce them to write similar narratives. The scene is set around Jubbulpore, where for two years I served at the Signals Depot.

"Jub," as we call it out here, is held in affection by all Signalmen as the place where they first learned the rudiments of soldiering in India.

What memories come to me as I write this up on the Afghanistan border! I only intended writing about myself, yet other threads seem to come unchecked from the tangled skein.

"Dear old Jub," the cradle of the Signals' destiny in the vast Indian Empire, where the drafts from home are welded into a worthy link in the Indian Army—"Jub," which sends gaunt round-eyed fellows to the barbed cages of Waziristan, to the crags of the Khyber, to Plain Stations such as Meerut or Rawalpindi, or to the far-flung reaches of Karachi, Quetta and Aden.

Last, but not least, it has sent some lads to defend our kith and kin in their hour of peril in far Shanghai, the "advance guard" from India to the good lads from England.

What stories could be told of those huge yellow bungalows of the Depot which housed British soldiers long before the Mutiny shook the foundations of British rule in this land. Yet I must fain tarry by the wayside and talk of *our* time.

In last month's WIRE I read of the retirement of Col.-Commandant Beach—"Old Bill," as he was affectionately known by the men in his Brigade. His great personality, his love of sport and dancing, etc., endeared him to us all. How well I remember his smile and handshake when I received my first boxing cup at the Manchesters' show! I was not by any means a great boxer, and my prowess was soon shattered by "Iron" Kelly of the above regiment.

Whilst up in the Punjab two years later, I saw in *The Times of India* an interesting picture of a memorial stone placed on the Jubbulpore–Saugor road, telling the passer-by that "Old Bill" and his Brigade once passed that way in a hailstorm. It was erected by the Manchesters before they transferred to Rangoon. What a fine tribute to a General we all knew, not only as a great soldier, but also as a personal friend.

I remember the early part of 1923, when owing to the Chanak crisis the first big draft of newly-enlisted "Royal Corps" fellows came out direct from Maresfield. What great lads they were, although they were "raw" in all things pertaining to soldiering. However, under the able training of Col. Princes, D.S.O., and Mr. (now Captain) Marshall, we were turned into as smart a unit as any in the Brigade.

"Joe" was the man to thank. An n.c.o. from our mother Corps, he made soldiers of us, so that in a few months many of the fellows were sent to units up country.

Oh, the long and dusty marches to the church parade service! the attestation parades of Indian signallers! and the reviews on the racecourse! How well our Depot marched past in the heat, on His Majesty's birthday that year, and what a fine sight it was! The Cavalry of the Scinde at the "charge," the Royal Gunners, F Division, and our boys.

Then I recall the Empire Theatre, "Ned's" concerts, the Bareilly shooting, and the famous "Dhurzies" table on No. 2 post of the Quarter Guard.

The Gun Carriage Factory Guard, with its "haunted" No. 4 post, also comes back to me. Never can I forget the trepidation I felt when I was first, at midnight, locked inside the lonely bastion, and the corporal's lantern disappeared into the darkness. It certainly gave me the "creeps," with the scurrying rats, its reputation of being haunted with ghosts of suicides, and the howling jackals and hyenas outside in the jungle. Once I challenged an enormous bat, only to hear from outside the wail of a native policeman, "Dandy wallah, sahib." It was the longest two hours I ever remember, and I was nearly overcome with joy when my relief came.

Little "Georgie" Sturman shamed us all by being found tobogganing down the steps on his greatcoat at two o'clock in the morning, to keep himself warm. The same small but daring youth is now with G Divl. Signals in China.

I have since served on the Frontier, and lost a taste for the dramatic, but I must own that that post is not very prosaic on a winter's night just after one has arrived in the country.

I well remember Lieut. Crawley's boxing tournaments at the Manchesters' barracks, and the fighting Irishmen, Merner and "Iron" Kelly; as well as the great football, hockey and rugby matches for the Wallace cup, and the Kamptee war cry, "Come on, the Black and Amboy"!

Several Signalmen "passed on" that year, during the heat-wave, and most of us out here can remember carrying a young comrade to his last resting-place in the hallowed acre along Bamboo Avenue. How we stood perspiring during the service and whilst the Artillery buglers rang out the "Last Post" (the requiem of all soldiers of the King)! and then left them, alone in their glory, beneath the palms and mangoes.

What great "characters" of the Royal Signals passed through "Jub" in those days—most of them now back in the "blessed" land! Rough and ready fellows some may have been, but they were "early-on" men of the Corps in this country.

There was the great R.S.M. who came from Rawalpindi, and is always spoken of with respect by Signalmen in India. His guard-mounting parades were ceremonies worth witnessing. Also Hansford, whose shattered and weak frame held a great heart, who for four years held the fort till he was called to his long home!

"Paddy" Hare, the musician, a splendid example of a Christian soldier, who was laid to rest in the thunder and downpour of a monsoon and walks with those other Signalmen in the Great Unknown.

Others strut across the horizon of my memory as I write: "Paddy the Untamed," who knew no master till he met "Hefty," the ex-R.E. boy, in an immortal combat outside F Division canteen.



Who remembers the giant trenchermen of those days, "Shankie the Silent," "Nolan the Tiger," "Maggie," and "Old Con." Also "Wee Taffy" Powell, who fought six rounds against the Jhansi "Slogger," a fellow who previously knocked out his opponents in the first round. "Taffy" is now farming in Australia.

"Old Kate" Carney always had the wings of a swallow after his "eighth," and "Joe" was the skittles fiend.

But the sweetest memory I retain is that of "Old Dan," the Visual storeman, who loved all men except the Guards—a prejudice dating from his recruit days, twenty years before. He was proud to say he was at Meerut in '08, at the Delhi Durbar in 1911, and that India was not what it was in his time, etc.

His was the redcoat regiment which gave the beautiful font to Meerut Church. It was also one of those which helped to stem the tide in 1914, when our dauntless and dogged "Old Army" fought against such great odds and hurled back the most steadfast and famous soldiers in Europe.

How well I remember him sitting with a crowd of us around a charcoal brazier in the gloomy bungalow, during the downpour of a monsoon night, the fire glowing on his tanned face. With his ancient pipe in his hand, he would tell of those stirring days, of the heroism of his officers, the bravery of his comrades, and such tales of the "Old Contemptibles" as would stir the heart of any Englishman.

Our knotted hands and flashing eyes told their own tale—we learnt more from him than from any history book. Let those who will talk of the incapability of the young soldiers of to-day; they have never seen them when for an instant the old enduring spirit of our race comes to the surface. I saw it those nights, and I am not so young or so foolish as to think that the courage and the discipline are not there.

Still, I must leave these memories, of which I could write many more, and tell of an episode in my own life at Jubbulpore.

Marble Rocks, as all Signalmen know, lie fifteen miles west from the cantonment on the Itarsi road. It is one of India's beauty spots, and is mentioned in Lord Roberts' book, "Forty-one Years in India." There the great waters of the Nerbudda thunder down past the Soapstone Rocks, on and on, through the western ghats, to the Indian Ocean.

One Sunday morning, about the time of the Jubbulpore riots, a young friend and myself decided to have a "spin" out there. We left barracks just after breakfast. The road lies through the Main Bazaar, over a level crossing, and alongside a railway line, over which the leviathan engines of the G.I.P. Railway haul an enormous traffic. It winds through flat, rocky, and wild countryside. Massive boulders, swampy "paddy" fields, overhanging trees, Dhobi ghats, and small shrines lie by the roadside.

About two miles out is the enormous edifice of Madan Mahal, a temple built by some Begum in the days of old. Near it is the famous "Balancing Stone," of which many legends are told, one being that a captain once took his Company on a fruitless errand to oust it from its precarious position.

We passed the Lake Temples, relics of a bygone empire, and the part of the road cut sheer through a hill. At "Monkey Corner" we stopped to allow some baboons to get out of our way. (We had been in India long enough to let well alone!)

We passed many outlying villages and grain fields, and after crossing the causeway, we halted and placed our cycles in the dak bungalow. After a wash, we went out on the verandah, and reclined in two long wicker chairs. It was just after the monsoon, the river was in "spate," and the countryside clothed in green verdure. I ordered drinks, and we yarned whilst watching the surging river far beneath us.

Suddenly a voice broke in on our talk. "Tell your fortunes, sahibs?" Glancing round I saw a typical native fakir, with a dirty robe, a coloured waistbelt, and a necklace of large coloured stones. His bearded wrinkled face was wreathed in a smile of senile expectancy.

Now, I had met this sort of individual at Deolalia, but before I could say anything, my friend had asked him how much he wanted.

"Eight annas, sahib," he answered, and proffered us some "testimonials." They were of the usual kind in possession of these charlatans, saying he was wonderful at revealing the past and foretelling the future, and was worth a trial, etc., and signed by some either good-intentioned or foolish persons.

I told Sidney to keep his money, but he said. "Oh, it's alright, Jack! we're out for the day; let's have it told, for sport."

He leaned forward in his chair whilst I lit a cigarette, and then lay back with an air of youthful arrogance.

The old native, with a professional manner, squatted on the ground in front of Sidney, and looked at the palm of his hand.

Now, this is where the strange part comes in. The old fellow shut his eyes, stretched out his arms, and lay back. It was quite unorthodox, and different from the way I had seen other "seers" tell fortunes. He swayed forward a little, and then spoke slowly and deliberately. "You are a good little man, sahib," he said; and pointing to me, he went on, "but your friend is a big fool and does not know it."

As can be imagined, I sat bolt upright as he said this, nearly bursting with indignation. Sidney was smiling, of course (he always was fond of a joke at my expense), so I had to smile as well.

"Yes, sahib; your friend has been bad to you—he thinks you small and silly, but you are wise," he went on. "Soon he will have great sorrow, but you will have joy, and then he will leave you. One day he will return, and you will have a bad quarrel with him, but you will save him from death, and he will be always your friend. One day you will go to another country, and then to England, and live long."

I cannot recollect any more of his dialogue, as I only noted such parts in which I was mentioned. When he opened his eyes, I asked him whose fortune he had been telling: mine or Sidney's. He made no reply, but honestly his forebodings made me smile; his knowledge of English was too much for me to think him genuine.

Sidney smirked, and gave the native eight annas. He gave a venerable "salaam," beamed a smile on me, and then gravely strutted away. By this time a native bearer announced that our "tiffin" was ready, and I dismissed the old "seer" from my mind.

But, stay! I must introduce Sidney. The reason I do not mention his surname is that he may not like it.

We were both typical young Signalmen of the "Royal Corps" who came from the same home-town, and enlisted about the same time. After about a year at Crowborough and Maresfield, we had been drafted to India together.

We had always been great pals, but he being small and frail, and I the opposite, I had not treated him as a friend should. Mind you, I had not thought him small and silly, but I had not always "played the game."

There were certain "unpaid debts," the result of small loans for—well, to be a man—drink. On one occasion I had kept him waiting outside a "bar" which, all honour to him, he would not enter, for two long hours. When he remonstrated, I had "tipsily" hit him in the eye.

His cheery personality and his jokes over our tiffin put us both in good humour. Afterwards I sent a native bearer for a guide, and we toured the place.

We climbed to the "Temple of a Hundred Steps," the name signifying that a hundred steps led up a hillside to it. For four annas we had the privilege of ringing the ancient bell, although since then I am wary of religious places out here.

From there we went to the graves of two Englishmen on the banks of the river. It appears they stirred up a hornet's nest, and to avoid their stings they dived into the river and were drowned.

We visited the Soapstone Quarries, where the glossy marble hangs in beautiful stalactites, glistening in the sun.

The best sight, however, was the waterfall two miles up river. As I have said, the river was swollen. The water rushes over the fall in a mighty cascade, roaring and surging into great rollers of seething foam, grand yet awe-inspiring. We climbed along a narrow breakwater which overhangs the falls, and watched the raging torrent a few feet below.

I have seen many beautiful sights out here since then, but except the "Mutiny" Memorials at Delhi, Lucknow and Cawnpore, none of them ever impressed me like Marble Rocks Falls.

We climbed back along the breakwater and returned to the dak, where I purchased some glossy stone curios which I still possess.

Now, I do not want my readers to think I am going to write of any dramatic fulfilment of the old native's predictions, as a peg on which to hang this story. Far from it, for by the time we reached barracks that night, I had forgotten him and his forebodings.

Still, strangely enough, by the next mail from home, I received news of an accident in a local factory. A friend of my

family had been maimed for life, and a bosom chum of my boyhood had been killed. I do not say that this prostrated me with grief, but it caused me no little anguish. By the same mail, Sidney got glad tidings that he was an uncle, and he was happy as he should be.

A few days later I was posted to Meerut, and after a few weeks there, my unit took part in the Delhi manœuvres and the review. From thence we did a five-hundred mile "trek" up-country through the heart of the Punjab, with the 11th Hussars, leaving them at Wazirabad for Sialkot.

I often had letters from Sidney, and although it is torn and faded, I can quote an extract from one: "We had a drill order last week, and had to drill on the verandahs owing to the heat. By the way, Jack, I saw that old devil who told us our fortunes at Marble Rocks that time. I went out with Bert, and he asked me where you were, so I told him you had gone to Meerut. He smiled, and said you were a 'pukka barbary wallah' (very wild man)."

Well, to cut a long story short, on our folks' wish—a few months later—I was able to get leave to see old Sidney. He was pleased to see me, of course, and I told him of all the "great" things I had done since leaving him nearly a year before.

He had bought a camera, and one hot Sunday morning we decided to go out for a long walk and take some photos of the "Balancing Stone" for his miscellaneous collection.

We went down past "Pepperbox" Hill, the native cavalry and infantry lines, till we came to the Leoni road. From there we took a "kutcha" path past a civil bungalow, over the "Dho pice" Railway, and through a deserted village. The path then wound over a small knoll. We were skirting some marshy ground on the other side when a tall native, armed with a "lathi," rose from behind a bank in front of us.

He approached us in a menacing fashion, his stick over his shoulder. It was a weird apparition to meet on a lonely path, and instinctively Sidney drew nearer to me, whilst I pushed forward to meet the fellow. As I drew near him, he asked in Hindustani where I was going.

Now I have always found boldness the best way of treating natives; but as any man who has served in the Punjab or on the Frontier knows, it pays to avoid them when they are out for trouble. I have my own opinion of regulations regarding the striking of insolent natives—still, I am a soldier.

Without answering, I brushed past him, but he caught hold of Sidney by the shorts, and pointing with his stick, he said, "Madan Mahal." The native became abusive, and from what I could make out, he said we had no right there.

I stopped, and he asked for "buksheesh." Sidney, ever a little gentleman, was going to oblige him, but I stopped him. The native raised his stick at me, so I gave him a "left" in his face which sent him sprawling in a puddle.

Sidney pitched his stick away, whilst I helped the man to his feet; but seeing he still wanted trouble, I assisted him on his journey with my boot. He ran off and disappeared over the knoll. We then went on through a rocky valley.

Now, Sid's love of natives (like my own) is not that sort which passeth women's, and it surprised me when he said, "Why did you hit him like that for, Jack? He may have been in the right for all you know."

"Well, I'm blowed," I replied hotly; "you didn't expect me to kiss him, did you?"

"Don't be funny, Jack," he said.

"Well, shut up; you always were a baby," I said; and that led up to a vicious quarrel.

Men in hot countries sometimes do foolish things to ease their temperaments, and this was a case in point. Without warning we flew at each other, smiting and cursing like maniacs. Of course, I had the advantage, but you have only to serve with Gurkhas to see if small men can fight. We soon stopped, however. I sponged my nose, and Sidney did likewise. We were not much hurt, but the camera-case strap was broken.

For company's sake we kept together, and walked on, both sullen and bitter. We threaded our way through some long grass, being wary of snakes, till we came to the foot of Madan Mahal. It was a stiff climb up the hill.

On reaching the top of the rocky slope, Sidney "snapped" the temple, whilst I looked for the poised rock. I soon found it, and called him over, and he took two "exposures" of it.

We had hardly said a word to each other up till now, but he said he had two more "photos" left. Looking round I saw a large rock, half stuck in a gentle slope ending abruptly in a chasm.

"Let's take each other over there," I suggested; and he agreed, muttering that he did not want to stop there all day. We went over to it, and found that a path about six feet wide lay between the rock and a forty-feet drop.

I snapped Sidney leaning on the rock, and whilst he wound the film, I looked over the edge. Far below I saw a dog of the type we soldiers call "pie-ards," and for devilment's sake I wrenched up a small boulder stuck fast beneath the large rock, and hurled it down at the creature. I am glad to say I missed it, but it went off yelping.

Sidney was ready with the camera, so I posed between the rock and the edge of the chasm. He stood about eight feet away, glancing at me and into the focus. "Ready!" he said, when—

It was a dreadful cry he gave: "Look out, Jack!" and his face blanched with terror. I was too surprised to move, but in the same instant he dropped the camera and hurled himself at me. He made me stagger backwards and fall on my head, he on top of me. Something loomed past us. Then I fainted!

The next I remember was Sid bending over me, saying, "Alright, old chap!" A crowd of curious natives were gathered round me, chattering like monkeys.

I lay for a time, gathering my wits, with Sidney's tunic as a pillow. When I sat up I found I was still on the path, but in place of the rock was a large patch of moist earth and a great dent in the edge of the path.

"What happened, Sid?" I asked, almost too shaken to speak.

"Oh, that rock started 'wobbling' as you stood there, and I knocked you out of the way just in time, or it would have taken you over with it. You hit your 'nut' on the ground and fainted."

I looked over the edge at the rock and shivered, but I saw what had happened. My taking away that stone which may have been a wedge, or the rains, had caused the rock to slip and fall. All I know was that Sidney had, by his prompt action, saved me from an untimely end.

Needless to say I gave him the thanks and handshake which only those who have been saved from an untimely end by a fellow-being can bestow. All bitterness was gone, and with the assistance of the natives I reached a road, where we got a "lift" on a bullock-cart to the civil lines.

As we jumbled back to the cantonments, Sidney turned to me and said, "Say, Jack! it's a year this Sunday that old brute told us our fortune. Do you remember? He said we'd have a row, didn't he; and—"

"Yes," I interrupted, "and that you'd save my life, Sid."

Need I repeat any more of our talk? We were just over twenty, and all of you have friends. We were not lovers, and this is not a romance, so I leave it at that. Whether it was a coincidence, or that old "seer" *could* tell the future, I leave to the reader's own reasoning. All I say is that I sometimes wonder what I should say to him if we met again.

Still, in one respect he was right. Since that day our friendship has never waned, and binds us as close as brothers. When, late in January this year, I received a telegram from him at Allahabad Station, telling me of his being en route for China, I could not help thinking over the old fakir's prophecy. He is now in Shanghai with G Divl. Signals, and I had a letter from him last week.

"As you can guess, Jack," he writes, "a fractured ankle—even in the service of one's country—is by no means a convenient thing to possess. Still, I hope to be out and at work soon (thank goodness)" Just a typical letter of a typical member of a great and noble Corps—a Corps worth being proud and jealous of, and zealous for.

Aren't our "boys" the same, no matter where they go: "all out" to help their units.

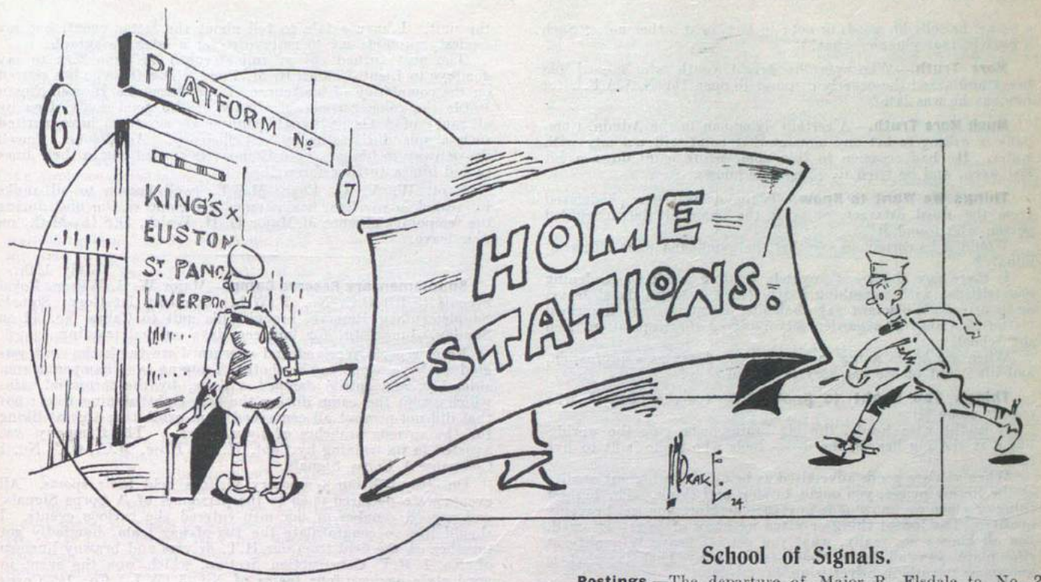
Well, I now draw this long-winded narrative to a close. I know it seems a little boastful, but I apologise, as I am quite aware of my shortcomings.

I am on guard to-night, scrawling this, and old "General" Gordon is offering me a "snifter" (no, not "chah"). Sergeant Overington (late of Aldershot) has just warned me for next "relief," and I can hear the clank of the rifle chain (this is on the Frontier) as the tired sentry "orders arms" to await my coming.

"Good night!"

E. R. B.






## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

We have now changed our name from "C Company" to "Mounted Wing," being the second time in two years, though this is certainly the most appropriate and suits well.

**Discharges.**—C.Q.M.S. Patrick has left us for civil life after completing his twenty-one years. We wish him the best of luck in the future; and perhaps we can now understand why he kept two Corps boxers in his stores for the last few months.

**Promotions.**—F/Corpl Howells to be F/Sergt. and A/Corpl Browne to be Corporal.

**Marriage.**—Dvr T. Dye to Beatrice Barker, of Darlington, on March 5th.

Having survived the eclipse, flying comet's tails, heavenly rains, and a flooded gymkhana, we are enjoying the few days' sunshine vouchsafed as a peace offering, presumably by the *Daily Mail* weather expert. Since our arrival in Yorkshire we certainly have not experienced so much rain, and the Swale has not been so full for ages.

However, we held the gymkhana on July 7th. It started raining in the early hours of the morning, and did not cease until five in the evening, and then we had the glorious sunshine of the past week: not a cloud to be seen, and the sun pouring forth in the most splendid manner imaginable. All but three events had to be left over for a future date owing to the field being under water. The events which were held took place after tea, and consisted of jumping only.

The subalterns' jumping cup was won by 2/Lieut Goode on Hotspur, with 2/Lieut Keddie second on Chance, and Lieut. Knowles third on Mystical.

Sergt Young won the n.c.o.s jumping on Chance, with L/Cpl Coles (R.A.S.C.) second, and Corpl Green third. With this competition was combined the Hassell cup, which was also won by Sergt Young.

The farmers' jumping was won by Mr. Fletcher with an exceedingly good round and no faults.

Though everybody must have been soaked to the skin, they enjoyed themselves nevertheless, especially with the appearance of the sun and other functions arranged for the evening.

Heard in the cookhouse: "Bones in liver."

OLIM.

## School of Signals.

**Postings.**—The departure of Major R. Elsdale to No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand, is regretted by all ranks. By his example he has done much to bring the sport of the School to its present standard. The vacancy in the hockey team caused by his departure will be hard to fill. We may fill his position, but we can hardly hope to better it: the age of miracles is past. We trust that his voyage will be as pleasant as possible, and although mere words inadequately express our feelings, we wish him the best of good luck and better than the best of other things.

The following are posted to the School to complete establishment: Sigmn S. J. Bevan from A Corps Signals; Signalmen P. H. Coles and H. E. H. Clements from 4th Divl. Signals. We hope that their stay will be as long and pleasant as they deserve.

**Discharges.**—July 1st saw the discharge of Sigmn G. A. Reynolds on medical grounds. We always thought that his heart was in the right place, but the medical authorities think otherwise, hence the discharge. Our best wishes for the future went with him, and also with Sigmn A. M. Dobbing, who was transferred to the Army Reserve on June 12th. Many have had the experience of being handed off by him on the rugby field, so no doubt there will be joy in the camps of our opponents at this bit of news—but there is no joy in ours. Good luck, Tony.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to L/Sergt Shipcott on attaining that rank. Third time does it, Perce!

**That smile.**—The true pukka reason for that smile has now come to light. On May 25th L/Sergt Hall was made a dad, and we congratulate him and his wife accordingly. May the smile be hereditary!

**Truth.**—What a world of tragedy lies behind the sentence heard in the Garrison Theatre during the showing of Pathés Gazette (Eve's Revue portion): "Yes, she packed me up because I wore ammos."

Ye gods! if I had only known that all it needed for one's best girl to throw one over was for the said one to wear ammos, I would never have been without a pair.

What a chance for some enterprising quarter-bloke: "Best romance-shattering ammos always in stock." Can't you imagine it outside the quad-emma's in huge red letters? Or we might go a little further and have: "Divorce made easy; try our greybacks"—or "Best hard-hitting almond rocks may be procured here; five decrees nisi obtained through this brand last month, and ten cases on the waiting list."

Atta boy, but I don't suppose any Q.M. will adopt my humble suggestion, for the very simple reason that he isn't bothered

whether he sells his goods or not; in fact, he'd rather not. "Such a beastly fag, y'know, what?"

**More Truth.**—Who was the bright youth who missed his break and asked the orderly corporal to open the N.A.A.F.I. for him, as he was late?

**Much More Truth.**—A certain signalman in the Admin. Company is willing to bet any amount that paint will not mix with water. He had occasion to thin some white paint down a bit last week, and he tried it, so now he knows.

**Things We Want to Know.**—Is the name Catterick derived from the word cataract, or is it the name of the misguided person who found it?

Would it be correct to say that the gymkhana went off swimmingly?

Is there any chance of anybody holding a S.T.C. gardening competition, with something useful (such as seven days' leave) as a prize? We might say that the journalist who described Catterick Camp as a garden city received the inspiration from the School.

When are ladies going to take up the Army as a profession, and lift it out of the category of lawful prey?

**Things You Ought to Know.**—He travels farthest who travels alone (?)

It is the wise heads, the big brains, who rule the world; but it is the big hearts, the d—— fools who make it fit to live in (?)

When you see goods advertised as being of the highest quality at the lowest prices, you ought to stop and think. The highest thing or place we know of is heaven; therefore you get heavenly quality. The lowest thing or place we know of is er—er—well, you all know; so, really, what you get is: heavenly quality at (the place you all know about)-ish prices. That is what is known as "truth in advertising."

It is exactly one hundred years ago that the battle of Navarino took place. I'm not going to insult your intelligence by telling you all about it, because you know as much as I do, now that I have told you when it took place. But a book dealing with this battle and sundry others was published 'way back in '24 by the Brookbarl Christian Uplifting Society, Ltd., at the ridiculous price of 2½d. (twopence halfpenny) to be paid in coppers.

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## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### A Corps Signals.

#### Unit Headquarters (Ewshott Camp)

June 26th.

**An Apology.**—We regret the spasmodic appearance of notes from Unit Headquarters in the Corps journal. Any excuse is better than none, so please blame the weather. Talking about the weather, the celestial clerks have contributed considerable volumes of rain during the last few weeks for the special benefit of the professional and amateur gardeners in camp.

**Local Summer—a Lament—**

Now the English summer's here
(All thunder, rain and cloud),
Troopship, welcome! bring us cheer,
And let us cast this shroud—
This shroud of an English summer.

O! El-Arish! where blue seas roll
'Gainst Mediterranean coast;
Call me from Old Cæsar's knoll—
From this sore stricken boast,
This boast of an English summer.

Hovering o'er Old Cæsar's Camp,
Rain clouds all for Ewshott;
Always damp—ne'er fit for tramp,
O! pity us our lot—
Our lot of an English summer.

Thank you for having read so far; but as I have said above, please blame the weather. I assure you it's not my fault that I'm indoors.

**Topical Events.**—On June 20th and 21st the unit took part in the Staff College signal demonstration and tactical exercise. The same week the G.O.C.-in-Chief inspected the animals of the unit. I have a tale to tell about the latter event, but my modesty prompts me to reserve it for a later paragraph.

The unit turned out at full strength on June 25th to say goodbye to Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., who has retired on the completion of his tenure of appointment. In well-chosen words the colonel spoke glowingly of the good work done by all ranks of A Corps Signals, and we are proud to have merited such a splendid testimony of efficiency. As Colonel Powell drove away in his car, both Companies turned out in their lines to bid him a further farewell.

Capt. W. V. G. Fuge, M.B.E. (well known to all ranks interested in wireless) has assumed command of the unit during the temporary absence of Major C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., on sick leave.

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July 11th.

**Supplementary Reserve Camp.**—Major W. G. Wilson, Royal Signals (S.R.) O.C. No. 3 (W.L.) Company 1st Corps Signals Supplementary Reserve, brought his unit to Camp No. 49 on Sunday, June 26th, for fourteen days' annual training.

From reports received and overheard we think the unit was glad to have come to Ewshott. Training was hampered considerably, and spirits damped a little, by the torrential rains which swept the camp during the first eight or nine days; but that did not prevent all concerned from exhibiting a great liking for the various branches of signal work. The Company was assisted in its training by Capt. H. W. Hose, M.C., O.C. No. 1 Company A Corps Signals.

On July 8th our temporary visitors held their sports. All events were declared open to the personnel of A Corps Signals, and a good number of our men entered the various events. I should like to congratulate the tug-of-war team, hurriedly got together on the field from our H.T. drivers and brawny linemen of No. 1 M.T. Construction Section, which won the event in good style against four teams of No. 3 (W.L.) Co. 1st Corps Signals.

**Arrivals: Officers.**—A welcome is extended to Lieut. D. L. Carnegie, who is attached to No. 3 Company for temporary duty vice Lieut. P. M. H. Lemon.

**Departures: N.C.O.s.**—I am not sure whether, after his having served in A Corps Signals for nearly four years, the departure of L/Sergt L. Simpson should not be recorded on a voucher as having been struck off the inventory. The Aldershot district appears to be very popular with this n.c.o. (I don't wonder why, because I know). Cheerio and good luck, Simmo.

**Jazz Band and Concert Party.**—As I sit typing these lines, the strains of an unmelodious accordion reach my ears from a nearby hut. It's positively painful to me.

Later.—Oh, gentle muse, I have just returned from a look at you and the admiring band of listeners clustered round your feet. Their taste in modern music must be depraved, for I'm sure the latest recruit has forgotten, long ago, "I'm for ever blowing bubbles." Please don't do it again! Remember the date; it is Monday, July 11th—and then weep.

Now to return to the jazz band and concert party. I should like to mention that the aforesaid accordion is in no way connected with the jazz band—thank heaven!

There have been a few rehearsals of the concert party recently, and I learn from good authority that it boasts a very charming lady. Incidentally (and don't forget it) he's a Corps boxer. Biff! How'ld that fellar.

#### Sergeants' Mess.

**An Invasion.**—We have had visitors in our midst, namely, "The Suppers." Preceded by an advance party of Sergeants Ginger Hobbs and Farrington, the mess members of No. 3 (W.L.) Company 1st Corps Signals Supplementary Reserve (marshalled under the fatherly wing of C.S.M. W. Hearn) arrived on Sunday, June 26th, for annual camp.

A few of our members have good reasons for remembering that evening and those of a like nature that followed. However, we should have liked to have seen a few more of our members at the mess more frequently. This applies generally to most evenings.

Owing to dull weather our hospitality had to be confined to indoor pastimes such as "Judge-talks" (across the bar), an impromptu concert, and a games tournament at phat, whist, billiards, darts and shove-ha'penny. We modestly announce that A Corps passed out with flying colours, particularly at darts and shove-ha'penny, under the captaincy of Lord Brassington I. and II.



Speaking of the impromptu concert, we wish to thank our own members for their contributions, but we feel that all members will agree that the Suppers "passed us out" at this style of entertainment. We haven't finished laughing yet over the humorous songs, monologues and tales of Sergt Tom Fagan. The excellence of Sergt Shepherd's tenor songs was proved by the applause given him and by the number of encores he was called upon to render. Be sure to come again next year, Tom, and you too, Ike.

Towards the close of the evening we had the pleasure of welcoming Capt. M. H. Williams (O.C. advance party). Alas! all good things must come to an end, and we were very sorry when "Auld Lang Syne" prepared us for "The King"—and pleasant dreams of a jolly good night.

We had one regret, and that was the absence of James, who, owing to pressure of business in private life, had to return to Liverpool at the end of seven days' training (he doesn't need much training with a "ham"). That recalls to my mind a promise I made, under the heading of Topical Events, to tell a tale. Well, I'm still blushing, so instead I will try to remember one of the hundred-and-one ditties with which Sergt Fagan bombarded us. I think it ran as follows:—

"We've had a very rainy camp,
But we don't care a d——;
We'll do our best our necks to damp
With bottles of 'Small Ham.'"

I hope the Editor will allow a little more ham (sorry, I meant space) in which to express our thanks to the members of No. 3 (W.L.) Company 1st Corps Signals for the enjoyment we had with them as our guests. We hope the 1927 camp is the forerunner of future camps with us.

**Other Impromptus.**—The spirit of hilarity was very much in evidence all last week, for in addition to the above we spent two evenings at the R.A. Mess (5th Light Brigade) and enjoyed ourselves immensely at each session. One of our own members was heard to say (in different words, of course) that he is very fond of these impromptu socials and dances. So am I. More please, but let the next move be from A Corps Signals mess.

**Tennis.**—An enjoyable evening's tennis was spent when the mess members played the officers in a friendly match. We won, but did not have the play all our own way. One set went as far as 18—19. I'm glad I didn't help towards that! Phew; a small one, please, in a large glass.

**Forthcoming Events.**—For Saturday, July 23rd, an outing to Bognor is being arranged. Of this, more next month, provided I'm not on

**Draft Leave.**—The suspense appears to be wearing a few away to a shadow.

PETER.

#### No. 1 Company (Ewshott)

**Apology.**—I take the responsibility of apologising, on behalf of this Company, for the absence of notes during the last few months. This will not occur again unless the Editor or the powers-that-be deem otherwise.

This is my second attempt at writing notes (under the same nom-de-plume); and after a rest of three years, I hope I have improved on the previous ones written whilst sojourning in the "Land of Fragrant Streams."

**General.**—We are in the throes of the annual weapon training. A pity we are too late for Bisley, as we expect to do great things this year owing to the encouragement given by R.S.M. Craig. "Cooks" the Tourists have arranged another delightful little tour for the Construction Section immediately the training is finished. More about this tour anon.

All members of this Section are allowed (according to the Mounted Wing) to use the initials A.O.J.S., which (I am given to understand) mean "Ancient Order of Jam Stranglers." What a peculiar society! I have often asked for the exact definition of jam strangler, but the answer has been rather vague and colorative. Likewise gee-potter.

**Society.**—We extended our xenodochy to No. 3 Company (West Lancs.) 1st Corps Signals S.R. a fortnight ago, on their arrival for their annual training. To our delight we found the one-time Corpl Johnsey of D Company, 1920, now a sergeant in the West Lancs. Signal Company. Also ex-Sergt Hearn, who gave such excellent lectures in C Company during 1920; he is now C.S.M. of the West Lancs. Company.

Unfortunately the arrival of this Company coincided with a spell of bad weather, which caused the usual hypochondria amongst the soldiers and semi-civvies. Being under canvas (and at times under water) they were the personification of Naiades.

We bade them au revoir on Sunday, July 10th, after having had some good and exciting athletics on the Saturday, concluding with the usual round-the-camp-fire yarns and frothblowing.

**All Stations.**—Those concerned: please acknowledge through the medium of this Journal the call of Soofoo, once a member of the "unlucky draft." Jack Rushton—We cannot get your wave-length.

**Education.**—Congratulations to Sigmn A. E. G. Kerr on obtaining his first, and to "Attaboy," who after seven years is still swotting for his third. What consistency!

**Congratulation** to Q.M.S. Roberts. That billiard cup was made especially for the Signals. Well done, L/Corpl Murphy; we may not say much, but we think a heap.

**Arrivals.**—Sigmn Jaggard from 1st Divl. Signals for convalescence with the M.G.s of the Construction Section. Sigmn Jenner from No. 3 Company, who is some babe in the unit office already.

**Departures.**—Lieut.-Col. R. M. Powell, D.S.O., R.Signals, has been placed on the half-pay list. We sincerely hope it will only be for a very short time, as he has done a lot of good work and helped us one and all, in his capacity of C.O., to do what A Corps is known for.

Sigmn Bevan to the School of Signals (a great loss to us). Sigmn Fiford to "Memory Lane." Two other signalmen have departed, but up to the time of writing they have not returned. L/Sergt Simpson, "the perfect clerk," to 2nd Divl. Signals. We *can* turn out some fine stuff!

**Motzers, Inc.**—Cohenboy was re-elected president for the fifth time.

**Baldness, Cause of.**—Buddy, that is the cutest explanation ever. You sure know some stuff.

**E Company, S.T.C.**—What really *did* happen to the young lady who went into the chemist's shop?

SOOFOO.

#### No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

**Farewell!**—It was with deep regret that we said goodbye to Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., R.Signals, whose work while with the unit did much to improve its all-round efficiency.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen A. Ellison, Beaver, Kent, Clements, Horne, Stoddart, Hughes, Kennion, George, A. W. Baker, Nash, Egerton and Worsdell, all from the S.T.C., Catterick. A hearty welcome is extended to them, and a hope that their stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

**Departures.**—Sigmn Vantoll to the Army Reserve. Signalmen Alwin, Ferris, Sankey, Gladwin, S. King, Thorley and Tyrrell to 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford, on 4/7/27.

**Promotions.**—A/C.Q.M.S. Devereux to be full blown w.e.f. 15/3/27. A/Corpls Bygrave, Clarke and Westwood to be Corporals. Our congratulations are tendered to the above.

**Attachments.**—Corpl Tavner to the 10th Railway Company Royal Engineers, Longmoor. No. 2 Light W/T Section to 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford, for the manœuvres.

A hearty welcome is extended to Lieut. D. L. Carnegie on his being attached to us.

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn A. K. Steel ("Taffy") now with No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand, please write to Sigmn E. A. Carter of this Company. I say, Taffy, Miss Smith says, "She turned up; why did't he?"

Sigmn Hamer of this Company wishes Sigmn Morrison (somewhere in India) to correspond with him.

I might as well make a correspondence bureau of this paragraph, and ask Sigmn Hale of the Rhine Signals to communicate with Sigmn Boughton of this unit.

**General.**—It is with deep regret that I have to record the passing away of the "Flying Soss." It was such a striking contrivance, with its external wirings and buckshee appliances.

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Its successor is a "U.N.," but it was not a 1922 model that won the T.T., Mac. The appellation you have bestowed upon it rather belies its actions, though. "E.la va goar," indeed. More likely you will be in debt before you have finished. By the way, Mac. Rather a bright idea of yours to used the "red canines" as control grips.

We have not heard of any disturbances lately from the "P" Triumph. In dock, Cecil? It has been whispered that in taking the Beacon Hill too fast in bottom, the machine continued its upward flight and landed, too hard for comfort, on Farnham Town Hall. Perhaps the devil has at last claimed his own?

**Annual Musketry.**—We have commenced our weapon training, prior to the firing of courses, and by the time these notes appear in print we hope to be aspirants for Bisley. At least, we ought to be, as it is, considering the practices and muscle exercises our "big noise" has given us. No. 3 Company should be composed of first class shots and modern Samsons by Bank Holiday.

**Personal.**—To L/Corpl E. T. Sanley of the Tank Signal Section. We have in this unit at least one individual who should welcome the A.J.S. combination. He is an expert at Chinese puzzles, or at any rate is an A.B.C. owner, which we understand is the same thing. He is willing to give 5d. in monthly instalments of 1d. or give part exchange.

LULU.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**L'ete.**—A poet tells us that "A dry May and a dripping June bring everything into tune." One is afraid the tune has not been exactly a joyous one this month. We in Hampshire have had more than our share of rain, it seems. This was most unfortunate, as we had visitors. Having them, naturally we wanted to show them the beauties of the place under the most favourable conditions. However, from page 230 of THE WIRE for July, it would seem they *did* enjoy themselves in spite of the weather.

We were very pleased to have you with us, Y.D.G. and all your bonny lads. We shall always be happy to welcome you when you come Aldershot-wards again. My feeble pen will not let words flow so eloquently as Lemjay's in recording all that one would wish to say. We of the Firstdivsigs do, however, appreciate all the nice things you say about us, and especially the spirit of the last paragraph of your notes.

The collective training season keeps one very busy, as all Signals in England know, but not too busy to observe all the nice points of training. Wandering along a very familiar stretch of road a few days ago—between the polo grounds, in fact—a very fine example of cable work was displayed which does credit to those who made the pole-crossings, tie-backs, and general placing of the cable. My hope is that the Section who managed it will see this and pat themselves on the back. Which reminds the observer that along the Fleet road, near Pystock Bridge, there was a line which one trusts was *not* laid by the Signals. There is a moral in this: "Do your very best—you never know who may see your handiwork."

The searchlight tattoo is now a thing of the past. The final night, which the King and Queen attended, was disastrous and unfortunate for all concerned. The rain descended without ceasing from 8 o'clock until midnight. It had little effect on the enthusiasm of the audience, who stuck it out to the end, in spite of the downpour. The programme was in advance of anything yet attempted, and to anyone living within fair distance of Aldershot when it is tattoo time, the advice is "Do not miss it."

This equally applies to the Horse Show—arrangements for which were as perfect as possible, only to be again marred by inclement weather. We entered for several of the competitions (one has still to be decided), and obtained a third in the troop horse class, and a second in the pair, L.D. horse class. This gave us satisfaction. We were very pleased to see the 2nd Divl. Signals take the second place in unit team jumping, after a run-off for first place with the combined Field Squadron-Mounted Depot team, R.E.

L Section, under Lieut. H. P. McG. Glover, M.C., R.A., proceeded to Bordon on June 8th and are comfortably settled. As their correspondent reports: "Everyone here seems to have the Bordon feeling, i.e., ukelele-ites, and then some (Corporal Drake, please note). Colonel Deedes, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant 3rd Infantry Brigade, inspected us on our arrival and expressed himself very satisfied with us."

**Who doth ambition shun** (SHAKESPEARE).—Lieut. Hall has attended a messing officers' course at the School of Cookery. Sigmn Clayton obtained a "very good" certificate at the same School. Sigmn Baddeley just missed a "D" by two points at the School of Farriery, but was compensated by passing as a farrier, class I. Sigmn Pyper as a wheeler, class I., is an important tradesman.

To Sergt Lombard on being substantiated, and to L/Corpl Minett on being paid, we offer our congratulations; also to Signalmen Meldrum, Harding and Kneller on having made their first advance in rank.

**Men may come and men may go** (TENNYSON).—Captain H. D. Beadon has joined us from India, and we hope he will find as much happiness here as in the East. Capt. Cree, Lieuts Brimblecombe and Martin completed their annual training with us, and we hope they found much of interest during their stay. Signalmen Blyth and Whatley have come south from the Training Battalion during the month.

Corpls Oliver and Jones were only with us a short while before leaving the Service, and Signalmen Connolly, Greaves, Clinton and Keates have left us for the Reserve. We miss you, but we wish you luck.

**Troopin', troopin', troopin' to the sea** (KIPLING).—Unit orders provided something of a sensation when the exempts were posted up. Why is it that there seem to be about 500 more in the unit on special occasions like this? The news spread like wild fire, and it almost required someone to direct the traffic. And we whose fate trembles in the balance await with some trepidation the appearance of warning orders!

**Obituary.**—It is with a feeling of sadness that we make known the death of Will Pottinger. We all hoped that on his discharge from Netley he would make a good recovery, but it was not to be, and on the 15th June he passed away at the early age of 23 years. His old friends, if ever they visit Nunhead, will find his grave in the cemetery there.

D. S. ONE.



## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 Company.

**Congratulations.**—We offer our heartiest congratulations, on the occasion of his recent promotion, to our commanding officer, Brevet-Lieut.-Colonel E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Signals.

**A Word of Praise.**—The turn-out of our entries in the recent Aldershot Command horse show did credit to all concerned. Owing to the state of the ground the driving competition was postponed until a later date, when we look forward to success in this event. The commanding officer issued a special order praising the efforts of those concerned in the preparation and training of the entries. He said the turn-out of the wagons, teams and pairs in hand was excellent, and the fact that we earned no special recognition was due to the make and shape of the horses—a condition over which we have no control. He further stated that, in spite of the advent of more mechanical transport, he was confident the horsemanship of the unit would be maintained.

**Miniature Rifle Club.**—This club, of which our commanding officer, Capt. C. E. Sketch, Royal Signals, is hon. secretary, meets on the 30 yards range on the dust-heap. Prizes are given to the best first, second and third-class shots at each meeting. Corpl Anderson and Signalmen Wood and Myddleton, of this Company, have won prizes in their groups, each having scored a possible.

**Section Outing.**—A Section were granted facilities for an outing on July 2nd, and about thirty members of that worthy body enjoyed a very pleasant trip in two comfortable cars to Southsea. They arrived at the Clarence Pier about 12 o'clock, and after light refreshment the party dispersed. Quite a number journeyed to the Isle of Wight. The corking competition and the donkey race proved refreshing and amusing, and a high standard of skill was reached with very little practice. Even Ookham and Porky gained extra weight during the time the Yank endeavoured to put the gramophone in working order.

The party arrived back in barracks about 2 a.m. the following morning, and all appeared to be well satisfied with the day's excursion. This is the first real Section trip we have had for a number of years.

**Shocks.**—During a terrific thunderstorm which raged in the neighbourhood of Aldershot on July 11th, several members of a B Section cable wagon on scheme experienced severe shocks. One was removed to hospital, but luckily his injuries did not make it necessary to detain him. The roads surrounding the camp were submerged, and hailstones about one inch in diameter were seen to fall.

**Scheme Songsters.**—For long the strains of a well-known song have haunted the listeners in the vicinity of a certain signal office at a time of general activity. Many have tried to fathom the reason why the singer should desire to exhibit his talent at such a time. I have been handed a few verses by the songster, which I think will set their minds at rest. As may be expected in a Company comprising a Cable and a Wireless Section, there is bound to be intense rivalry when one or the other attempts to blow its own particular trumpet. After all, it is this feeling which goes a long way in encouraging competitive work. The verses in question are not intended to cast any slur on the work of the Section concerned.

B SECTION SCHEME SONG.

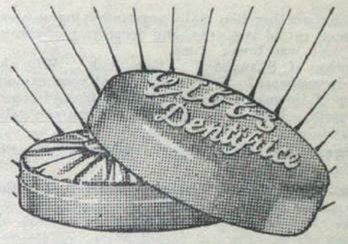
(Sung to the tune of "Am I wasting my time over you?")

Are we wasting our time
Laying each line
If offices cannot get through?
If they send "A B C" without juice through the key,
How the h——ll can they hope to get through?

When we lay them a line
We get there in time,
But they seldom—if ever—get through.
They say, "Send A B C while I look to my key,"
But "G.B." is all they get through.

P.S.—Any alterations or suggested amendments to be forwarded to O.C. B Section. Foreign correspondence invited.

Somehow a bright spark of A Section discovered the wording of B's song, so I am able to give an appropriate reply on behalf of the Sparking Section, sung to the same tune.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In neat aluminium cases: Large size, 1/-; De Luxe, 1/6. Refills, 11d.; Popular size 7½d.; Dental Cream in Tubes, 6d. and 1/.

*Your teeth are Ivory Castles—defend them with*

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ODE TO B CABLE FROM A.

Yes, you're wasting your time
By laying your line,
'Cause our (?) C sets can always get through—
We get all the praise on every good day,
When working away in the "blue."
We just stick up a mast and get through quite fast,
Whilst you're away miles further back.
Your lines are amiss,
So take heed of this—
You've got to depend on old Ack.

**Items of Interest.**—The receiver of the second issue of coolers desires to thank the sender, but would like to receive his christian name, as perhaps at some later date he could show the wearer's appreciation.

The Aggler now combines business with pleasure, for she has decided to make two tours a day. The second visit is extremely collective.

The Beau fellow has reached a turning point in his career, for he is now able to give unto others that which quite recently he could not give unto himself. (Foreign readers, please note).

Another queer object of motion has deposited itself against the fence in A lines. Its owner purchased it for a few clods, and the critics declare it resembles a glorified Primus stove. The owner of the Flying Eight and other well known models demonstrated its powers by giving such an exhibition of trick riding that the onlookers are now studying the papers for ride, while you pay machines to compete against him in a forthcoming reliability trial.

The Gunner still maintains that fondness for the other haversack ration, although he is very willing to dispose of his own when the mistake is discovered.

Jock of luncheon basket fame deplores the number of polo matches that the Crumbs play, although he gets the pick of the tackle during their absence.

In reply to Sergt Mac and Corpl Topp of D and E Companies, we are glad you keep in touch with us; and perhaps—who knows?—we shall meet again very shortly.

We wonder whether Ben really regrets having so short a ride in that famous car of last year, and whether he believes in the old motto, "No wad break" time.

To "Yorky of Shanghai." Gee, kid. Why keep the Marauders in suspense? Tell us a little of your exploits. The famous shop of lineman belt fame still exists, and the owner is hale and hearty. Beau is going strong, as you can gather from these notes.

**Discharge.**—The best of luck to Sigmn Whitworth, transferred to the Army Reserve.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome Signalmen Guest and Wilson, who have been posted from Catterick.

HAMO.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—As is usual at this time of the year, the Troop finds itself with just about as much as it can chew; ingredients—training, tattoo, riding drill, schemes, fatigues, stables, etc., etc. The etceteras are too numerous to mention, nevertheless tasting quite sweet.

**Training.**—At last the W/T operators, V/T operators, and D.R.s have qualified or have been disqualified for their higher ratings. To those who have qualified, congratulations; to the remainder, get your head down and better luck next time. Rome was not built in a day.

Riding drill is at present very much in the rear, owing to weather conditions.

**Schemes.**—The Troop, on the last scheme, was not what one might call a "qualified success"—at least, as far as limbered G.S. wagons are concerned, even though the latter are fitted with spring boards to absorb the force of vibration. However, the scheme provided the opportunity of testing the efficiency of wireless sets installed in motor vehicles, both for speed in erecting and for the well-being of the instruments.

**Tattoo.**—Despite the rough weather of late, our box office experts are clapping themselves on the back, as the receipts are looking very healthy. Any tickets wanted? Our Jim simply bristles with 'em; he only wants plucking. Too late? Never mind; buy them for next year. As for the show itself, according to rumours (well founded) it will easily surpass any previous performance.

**Aldershot Horse Show.**—We were rather unfortunate as regards our team entry for the open jumping competition, but the fact that one of our horses jumped the railings around the ring proved conclusively that it *could* jump, even if it did take the wrong turning. But you cannot keep a good man down. We are going to have another attempt in the Southern Command show.

We also hope to take away the first prize for the best limber turn-out, instead of "highly commended" as last year.

**Agony.**—Who was the smart youth who stated that Wallaby's wind galls were caused by the doors of the stable being left open during the day?

Is it right that our star twins, after crawling out of bed early one morning with the prospects of a fine mushroom expedition on the wide expanses of Salisbury Plain, returned with a fine display of "toad-stools?"

**Education.**—Signalmen Ellison and Morgan were awarded 1st class certificates of education on March 16th.

**Arrival.**—Sigmn Harris from D Troop, Aldershot. We hope we have found him enough work to make his stay an enjoyable one.

SANSMUDGE.

## No. 1 A.A. Brigade Signal Company.

July 11th.

This unit is now in camp at Watchet, Somerset, having moved from the vicinity of Margate, which had a disastrous effect on the pockets of the boys. The camp is situated in a pleasant valley close to the Bristol Channel.

We arrived here on June 12th, and excepting small detachments of R.A.S.C., R.A.M.C., and R.A.O.C., were the first in camp. Quite a busy evening was spent in drawing equipment and erecting tents. It was a fine day, and the local people turned out to gaze on the activities of the troops. During the process of settling down there was a renewal of friendships formed during the last two seasons, and fresh links were formed by the lads who had come down for the first time. Lines were laid to the gun positions, observation posts, W/T station and searchlights before the arrival of the main body. Altogether about five miles of cable were used.

The total strength in camp is about 560. This number comprises three Batteries of R.A.; a detachment of R.E.s for two searchlights and camp lighting; and the Signals for line construction, maintenance and switchboard operating. The W/T station is worked by the R.A.F. The whole Brigade is mechanised, and capable of moving from the west to the east coast in a day or two.

Though handicapped by rain, the Brigade had a fair amount of practice, including night operations. A squadron of the R.A.F. are co-operating, and in fine weather the gunners have had ample opportunity of testing their aim by firing at sleeves of silk trailed at a distance behind the aeroplanes. Several of the targets were riddled by shrapnel and Lewis gun bullets, and on one occasion a direct hit was registered. During night operations puff smoke is used and easily picked up by the searchlights.

Air defence receives special attention these days, and already the camp has been visited by several high military officers.

Two of the Batteries will return to Blackdown on Saturday, and their place will be taken by units of the Territorial Association.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Corpl Barrett and L/Corpl McKenzie on their respective advances.

**Discharge.**—Corpl Gough is at present enjoying fourteen days' leave pending transfer to the Army Reserve. We all wish him the best of luck.

**Posting.**—Corpl Betts has left us to visit the Rhine. We hope he enjoys his tour.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

**Don't Read This.**—I have a little note here from a man who was detailed for stable picquet, but who, being a stableman, wished to acquaint the R.O.S. with the fact, to avoid being marked absent. Having given the matter a good deal of thought, I have decided to present it to you as written and without comment. I feel sure the writer will not be so selfish as to wish this worthy effort buried from sight. It was written on the inside of a large Players' case. Here it is:

> "To R.O.S.—I, Driver ——— is on stabel picquet so will not be on prad as I am stabel man also hoping thiss will meat with your kind Regards Driver ———."

I am a bit doubtful about this, after all, you know. Perhaps it would be as well if you didn't read it.

**Nor This.**—Old members of this unit will be interested to hear that considerable structural alterations are being carried out all round us. Even the landscape has been altered. Firstly, the living huts are being converted into Christian dwellings, complete with all—or nearly all—modern conveniences. Hot water missing, I think. To do this, it is necessary to temporarily evict the occupants of the bunks.

The waste land that once stretched from the sergeants' mess to the wagon sheds and shops is now occupied by a huge macadam parade ground, flanked by a garage nearly 100 yards long. Several improvements are being made to the interior of the cookhouse. This, I am told, is necessary to keep level with the cooks themselves, who set a high standard, and I believe are very advanced in their culinary art. The road from the wagon shed to the Tidworth road has been remade and is much wider. An enormous hole is being dug, which is the first step towards building a petrol store. It is going to cost a lot of money, I believe! A petrol tank holding a great deal more fuel than a store, and costing considerably less to instal, will not do.

**Nor This.**—A glance at our Departures will reveal the fact that we have lost several of the old and bold. Q.M.S. Forward and C.Q.M.S. Setterfield completed pontoons, and were given a rollicking send-off at a smoking concert in the mess on June 25th. They were each presented with a useful souvenir bearing an appropriate inscription.



C.S.M. N. E. Legg (on his motor cycle) for Darlington, where he will take up duties with the Territorials. We hear he had a rough journey up, trouble opening firmly with a puncture sixteen miles from the start. Hard cheese, Jerry.

Corpl Sewell to the Rhine Signals—the lucky bounder!

Well, here's wishing them all the very best of luck. May they flourish mightily.

On the credit side we have to record the arrival of C.S.M. and Mrs. G. Wray from Aldershot. We hope they will take a liking to Bulford. We must also welcome their handsome Alsatian, a distinguished addition to the doggy fraternity here.

I don't think we said anything about the arrival of Sergt Johnny Freemantle and his wife. To Mrs. Freemantle we extend a hearty welcome; to John the same—but then he's been here before, and in any case he blew in one evening a few weeks ago and—well, we had to have coffee for the "break" next morning.

**Arrivals.**—C.S.M. Wray from 1st Divl. Signals. Driver Whittingstall from 4th Divl. Signals. Signalmen Alwin, King, Sankey, Thorley, Tyrrell, F. Carter, L. Ferris and W. Gladwin from A Corps Signals. Sigmn G. Howell from Training Battn.

**Departures.**—For discharge: Q.M.S. R. V. Forward and C.Q.M.S. Setterfield. To Army Reserve: L/Corpl A. Jago, Signalmen Francis, J. Jones and Young. For posting: Corpls Diggins and Sewell to Rhine Command Signal Company. C.S.M. N. E. Legg to 50th Northumberland Divl. Signals T.A. Sigmn F. Simmons to 1st Divl. Signals.

**Marriage.**—L/Corpl F. Slater.

**Birth.**—To Sergt Freemantle, a son, on 21/6/27.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

I am afraid there is nothing very exciting to tell you this month. A birth or so. A marriage. Two or three extensions of service. A few arrivals and departures. A little bird has whispered of the probable return, shortly, of some of the people recently sent to China (I have no reason to place any faith at all in the whisperings of this little bird, so don't take it for granted.)

Some of our lads now abroad will remember the consternation caused by the sudden appearance in our midst of a certain four-wheeled Yellow Peril which, by the way, has quite failed to live up to its name. Even more care must now be exercised when walking about the camp, as no less than *three* motor cycle combinations have been acquired by amateurs. I estimate that the man-power already expended in starting these three infernal machines would be more than sufficient to bring the mountain to Mahomet, or alternatively to shift the piano from the corporals' mess into the jazz hall fourteen thousand and three times.

One "Dodger" is in great demand these days. All he asks, apparently, is a couple of cylinders, a few wheels, a horn and a spot of petrol, and presto!—you can get on and ride the thing away.

"Anyone seen L/Corpl Green? Tell him that Andee's bus won't start, the C.S.M. has mislaid his side-car, and Sergt B—— has worn out his kick-starter."

I have it on good authority that the moment another bike comes to camp, we shall be the poorer by one despatch rider corporal. At one time our chief diversion was to lean on the railings and watch the unit gardeners at work. Now we fall in outside the wagon sheds and listen to the bad language inside, ever and anon fleeing in terror as somebody accidentally gets into gear and carries away a few feet of the door.

I see that somebody, in the July WIRE, mentions Cabbo and his bus. In justice to the said bus, I must protest against this. After all, the smash at Shrub-End was distinctly *not* Cabbo's fault, and if the thing did let him down outside the fish and chip shop the other night—well, we all have our off days.

Enough of these new-fangled inventions of the devil! Let me place on record an appreciation of Jonno's push-bike. This venerable machine, year in and year out, runs a steady two days out of seven. A couple of new tyres every other week, and it will be in use (if I know anything about Jonno) fifty years hence.

**Corporals' Mess.**—Yes: a whole heading all to itself! The idea being to bring to somebody's notice the fact that the laughter which attended the purchase of a wireless set was justified.

I switched it on the other day, and it positively gurgled at me. Oh, I know it might have been the batteries—probably *was* the batteries. I don't so much mind being gurgled at, but I do dislike being screeched at with a resonant "tinniness" that puts one off the potting of a black (not that I every do pot a black intentionally).

I think that on the whole, of the two evils, the gurgle is to be chosen; so let me hope that the batteries remain unchanged.

Talking of potting blacks! Benje is by way of becoming this season's champion. His performance wavered somewhat on the arrival of one Strugnall; but I understand that he has, as it were, now taken him in his stride. As for Higginson—before brekker.

**Geometrical Phenomenon.**—It is calculated that a line drawn, on a Saturday night, from the guard room, down Butt Road and through the High Street to the Casino, would bisect Sigmn Corbett and about ninety per cent. of the remainder of the unit. The same line, the morning after, would be clearly indicated both to the optical and olfactory senses, by sundry pieces of paper. "Tuppenny piece o' skate an' a pennorth, please." Who said we take our pleasures sadly?

**Classes.**—We have a linemen's and a visual operators' class in full swing. L/Corpl Higginson (of Maresfield fame) takes the former, while the visual 'erbs profit by the instruction of Sergt Rankcom and Corpl O'Rourke of the Eastern Command Signal Company (that is, when these two n.c.o.s are not away on classification duty).

In their absence, the V/T class is taken by an unfortunate devil of an erstwhile wireless operator, who has great difficulty in choking back a flow of accumulator and high-frequency current theory and talking instead of the peculiar behaviour of electrons in a Lucas lamp circuit.

Why can't we have a three-electrode valve in a Lucas lamp instead of a bulb? It is very difficult to confine yourself to the statement that electrons flow from neg. to pos., without diving into a lengthy argument as to why.

That's right, Ivison, Tapley, Chignall and Co. Have a good laugh at a bloke when he's down. Bah! yah! chut!

Talking of theory, Benje informs me that owing to the high velocity of corrugated iron, the price of insulators has risen threepence per megohm (free on board). Fie! Have at you, with a load of iron filings.

I really must ask your indulgence when reading this utter balderdash, and plead extenuating circumstances, i.e., a bad attack of WIRE contributors' elbow—a terrible complaint which causes a sudden flow of mush to the head about the 16th of each month.

**Arrivals.**—We offer a hearty welcome to Major R. G. Williams, M.V.O., R.Signals (R. of O.) who has recently joined us from the S.T.C., and to the following: L/Sergt W. J. Fahey, from India; L/Corpl R. L. Strugnall, Signalmen Cowley, Foster, Jordan, Chapman and Baker from S.T.C.; Sigmn Gill from Ewshott.

**Departures.**—Sigmn W. Leigh to the Army Reserve. Signalmen Blackburn and Evison to 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot. Sigmn Luxon to 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot. Dvr. Whittingstall to 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford. Sigmn Lamb to A Corps Signals, Ewshott,

**Birth.**—Congratulations to Dvr Whittingstall on the birth of a daughter (Joan Margaret) at Wandsworth on May 7th.

**Extensions** (Service, not leave—same thing, really).—Sigmn Cosgrave, Dvrs Biddle and Heightley, to complete twelve years with the Colours. You can't beat it, apparently.

**Marriage.**—Congratulations to Sigmn W. C. Watts on his marriage to Florence May Johnson, at Colchester, on June 6th. Good lad, Chippy. You may know a lot about filing away, but you won't find it easy to file away from this parade!

**Appointments.**—More congratulations: this time to L/Corpl B. J. Bryan on being paid for the tape w.e.f. 16/5/27, and to U/L/Corpl G. Langham on his appointment to that rank on 18/6/27. The latter has gone on a course at the muscle factory, and should show a nice time for the hundred yards on his return.

**For this Relief, much Thanks.**—We have been dreading an outbreak of fire for some considerable time, owing to the fact that we had no qualified fire-fighters in the unit. Since the return of U/L/Corpl Garratt from his course, however, we sleep more easily. Anarchists, incendiaries, wielders of fiery crosses, fire-flies and glow-worms, do your very darndest! Personally, I prefer the Salvage Corps. It does at least possess the salving

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grace of possible profit. Oh, dear! the mush is rising again. Alright, I've nearly finished.

**To F Company** (dear old F).—B.J.B. offers heartiest congratulations to F.S.B. on his marriage. Oh no! oh no! B.J.B. knows all.

Yours, revolving with incredible speed around the central or positive nucleus,

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

**N.I.D. Annual Small Arms Meeting.**—The Company was well represented at this event, held at Ballykinlar. There is an old saying that the best team always wins, but I think that luck plays a very prominent part.

In two events we were only just beaten. One of the teams (Lieut. F. K. Morton, Corpl MacDonald, Signalmen Cowan and Gandey) was beaten by a team of the R.A.S.C. by one point.

Sigmn Garrad lost the all-comers competition, open to Navy, Army, Air Force and Police, by the same small margin. He, however, won the other than infantry part, the O.C. coming second. In the officers' competition, the O.C. was first, and Lieut. Morton second. Corpl MacDonald was first in the corporals' competition, and Sigmn Quilter first in the privates' competition. In all, eight medals and numerous money prizes were won.

**Concentration.**—At the present moment the greater part of the Company is away at Ballykinlar for the annual concentration of signallers. Very little news has so far found its way from that quarter, but when they return on the 22nd of the month I may be able to collect some information as to how they fared whilst away.

**Arrival.**—L/Sergt McLoughlin from F Company T.B. We all join in hoping that his stay will be a pleasant one.

**Departures.**—Signalmen Gray, Sturgess, Youngs, Davis, Crewe and Coxon left us for the Rhine Field Signal Company on the 7th July, and they are sadly missed. Several of the weaker sex have been asking for a fellow by the name of Anthony. Strange, but I cannot see Anthony amongst this six! "Say, fella!"

**Promotion.**—We congratulate Sergt E. S. Hugget on his recent promotion to that rank.

**Strayed.**—Sigmn T. C. Peacock of this unit would like to have an answer to some of his last few dozen letters to Sigmn Vollans, last heard of in E Company T.B. Wouldn't it be far better to say "Goodbye and —— goodbye" when parting at the Depot? I've heard these promises about writing before!

RASTUS.

## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, July 12th.

It is with much regret that I hand over the duties of scribe to these units, having been selected to attend a course at the Army Post Office, B.A.O.R., prior to discharge. Men may come and men may go, but the Signals Association goes on for ever.

A signal exercise took place on the 6/7th inst., and proved a great success in spite of the heavy storm and scorching heat encountered during the two days.

At the annual sports meeting the weather took its toll on the well-arranged programme for a delightful afternoon, but in spite of all difficulties we got through it and ended the day with a grand sports night dance, which had to be staged in a local hall owing to the smallness of the regimental institute. Every one present seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening.

Twenty-six other ranks joined us on the 10th inst. from various units in U.K., and we hope their stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

During the month this Branch of the Signals Association held a dance and also a whist drive. The dance gave everything desired in the way of a pleasant evening, but a heavy storm prolonged the dancing from 12.30 until 1.45 a.m. The whist drive was well attended, sixteen tables being filled, and another six could have been filled with late-comers. The prize winners were: Gentlemen, Signalmen J. M. Smith and Appleby and Dvr White. Ladies: Signalmen Godfray, Brewer and Lace. Booby: Sigmn Westmoreland. Hidden number: Sigmn Porter.

C.S.M. Burgess of the Field Company, after a stay in hospital with an arm damaged whilst playing in the inter-Section football knock-out, has been discharged, and is at present on a month's light duty. We hope that he will soon be back in our midst.

The departures since my last notes are Signalmen S. W. Hall, Marson, Sankey and Candelin, who left us to try their luck in civil life, our best wishes going with them. Sigmn Lovell proceeded to the Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow, to undergo a chippy's course.

The members of the n.c.o.s mess are all agog at the forthcoming Rhine trip, which is to take place on August Bank Holiday. All arrangements are in the hands of C.S.M. Jones, so we can rest assured that a good day is in store.

Congratulations are extended to Sergeants F. C. Callegari and F. J. Curtis on being promoted to that rank, and to Sigmn R. D. Knight on being appointed L/Corporal (unpaid).

Will all those Rhine readers who are so interested in the publication of a revised edition of the Corps Promotion Roster please turn to the Editorial Notes in the June issue, where it is stated that this will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Our next big events are the Rhine Army horse show and the small arms meeting, the units being represented in both.

A large number attended at the marriage of Lieut. J. Wynn, Royal Signals, which took place at Wiesbaden on Saturday, July 9th. All ranks join in wishing him every success and happiness in his venture.

ARMAC.

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Fruits are Nature's "health salts."

* * * *

Bournemouth is a beneficial holiday resort for bronchial catarrh.

* * * *

Lighting-up time is half-an-hour after sunset.

* * * *

The length of a tug-of-war rope should be 140 feet, and its circumference 4 inches.

## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

Quietness prevails on the Far Eastern front, and those who have been looking forward to thrilling reports from Shanghai will be greatly disappointed.

Training is in full swing, and despite the handicap of the lack of instructional equipment, the majority of those under instruction are hoping to return to England with an increased rate of pay.

In honour of His Majesty the King, a grand ceremonial parade was held on June 3rd. The Coldstream Guards performed the ceremony of trooping the colours, and this was followed by a march past by the various units of the Defence Force. The Signals detachment acquitted itself in a manner that all expect of the Corps.

A torchlight tattoo was staged in the evening, with a repeat performance on the following evening. Here again the unit contributed towards making the show a huge success.

The canteen manager is now the custodian of all birds and fishes purchased as pets, and it is rumoured that the distinction of becoming a Fellow of the Royal Zoological Society will shortly be conferred upon him.

In connection with the tattoo, it will be understood that there must have been many thousands of Chinese who had not heard of the affair beforehand, and in any case would not have understood it; but it was a real surprise to learn that when the "1812" bombardment started, the troops in Nantao and Chapei stood to arms. Still better is the assertion, widely circulated, that the G.O.C. has "gone Tientsin more far" with the very useful proceeds of the tattoo.

The following amusing letter may be of interest to readers. Its authenticity can be vouched for by one of the officers serving with the unit.

"Dear ——When I writing my this application to you evening 14th. this is this month. My relation called me with he came here swill contract they were very greatful to you today. I am come here trouble you again I hope you are very generous please you write a recommending letter give me to other place troop I swill contract and I very gratefull you an never forget your pity me.

"Your obedient Servit, LIU HONG KOO."

**Personal.**—A.E.N. sends regards to A.J.K. and H.F.H.

WHANGPOO.

## Signal Training Centre, India.

Jubbulpore, June 23rd.

**General.**—The monsoon has broken—officially. Confirmation is still required.

Captains C. C. Armitage and H. S. Morris, M.C., A.I.R.O., have joined for service with the Indian Signal Corps.

Lieut. H. C. B. Rogers, King's Own Royal Regiment, has left for England to join the next course at Catterick.

Capt. J. H. Cameron-Webb, Royal Signals, left last month to join the 2nd Indian Divl. Signals, Quetta, and Lieut. F. Rodman, Worcestershire Regiment, is now in charge of the workshops.

Times have altered since the writing of last month's notes, and so has the weather. Instead of being able to take one's time in travelling from place to place, one has to watch for a break in the clouds and make a dash for it. Up to the time of writing it has been very considerate, and no real inconvenience has been caused, except to a few unlucky ones whose duty it is to destroy the haunts of mosquitoes in the barracks.

The dance club mentioned in last month's notes is now in full swing, and great enjoyment is being derived from the practice dances held every Wednesday night. On the 22nd instant we held our first gala dance, which was very well attended. The dance committee are to be congratulated on its success.

**Departures and Arrivals.**—The following have left us—and our best wishes for their success follow them:—Sergt Monk to 1st Indian Divl. Signals, Rawalpindi. Sergt Payne to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

The following have arrived: R.Q.M.S. Sewerin from 2nd Indian Divl. Signals. R.Q.M.S. Dixon from 4th Indian Divl. Signals. Sergt Bruce from 1st Indian Divl. Signals. Corporal Gilmour from A Corps Signals, Karachi. L/Corpl Boyle from Educational Course, Belgaum.

**Extension of Service.**—L/Corpl Stanley to complete twelve years with the Colours. L/Corpl Inglis has re-engaged to complete twenty-one years with the Colours. Continuance in Service: R.Q.M.S. T. Earwacher.

**Educational.**—Congratulations to L/Sergt Ellis and Sigmn H. V. Cooke on obtaining 1st class certificates of education.

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to S/Sergt Chandler on obtaining the appointment of R.Q.M.S., O.R. Sergeant.

**Birth.**—To Sergt and Mrs. Paskins, on 20/5/27, a son (Peter Edward). When will he take over pay from his father?

**W.O. and Sergeants' Mess.**—This month has again seen changes in our mess family; some very old faces have disappeared, and new ones have arrived to replace them. The best of good wishes go out from us to those old and well-known heroes who have left us on promotion, and a hearty welcome is extended to those who have been fortunate enough to replace them from other units. We congratulate all those who have been recently promoted to sergeant. The list is really too long to mention names, but as one looks around and hears the joyous youthful happiness, one is reminded of Shakespeare's all-time and wonderful quotation, "Young in years, in wisdom old."

Until one has spent a season in a mess in India, one is apt to be quite misled as to the correct interpretation of many words. Shikhari is perhaps one of the most glorious of studies; and when one is absorbed in a wonderful hunting yarn during normal conversation in mess, there comes a time when one holds one's breath and becomes fearful to look round quickly.

We are now in the jungle. Listen! it is coming! We have been out day and night for weeks to get it. We have arranged to have the skin cured and sent home. We have already an article written for a leading English magazine, telling how we got it. We can now hear the jungle undergrowth giving way before its advance. In a few seconds it will be upon us, and we level our guns to take quick aim at the spot where it is likely to appear. What is it? It might be tiger; they have been shot in India, we know. It might be really bigger game. An elephant, wild and rampant. It might be a buck. It might be——! Listen! nearer and nearer it comes, and we wonder if our ammunition is large enough to be fatal. A slight rustle of breeze makes our hair stand right up. The crackling comes nearer and nearer, the jungle thicket gives way, and there before us appears a monster "kiko." We all fire together. If it had been a bit nearer, and if we had aimed true, we should have certainly got it. No sooner had we fired than it turned and fled. The only thing left to do was to follow it for another three weeks. The natural history of the kiko will appear next month. Perhaps!

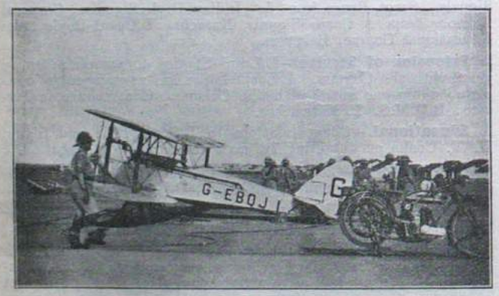
**Tennis v. A.O.F.B.**—On May 25th we spent a most pleasant afternoon, being guests of our officers at a "tennis at home." The tennis was played in excellent form, but before the result was made known to me for publication in these notes, I was captured by a certain captain who had interest in other important affairs. He informed me that his great aim in life was to be a "blaster," and that he needed one more recruit to exalt him to that honourable position. It took about two hours of explanation and a reading of rules before I became convinced that it was a really wonderful thing to be a "Froth-blower." During this two hours of lucidation my host was awfully kind, and exercised my full power of blowing, so much so that really I cannot remember whether I am likely to become a Froth-blower or not, whilst the result of the tennis is still an "X" quantity.

SIGTRAIN.

## A Corps Signals.

Karachi, June 23rd.

**Ceneral.**—The King's Birthday parade on June 3rd went off as successfully as usual. A Corps Signals turned out with their usual smartness, and of course, to obtain that smartness, we had to have one or two preliminary parades. We even provided our own artillery in the form of a staff-sergeant who gave a graphic representation of a battery of guns firing the royal salute.




**Leave.**—Manora, the famous island seaside resort of Karachi, still continues to attract its annual holiday makers from the Corps. Parties of n.c.o.s and men proceed there every fortnight for a hard-earned rest, and they generally return fit and hearty and looking like red herrings—the effect of the sea breezes and the tropical sun. The three chief pastimes of Manora are bathing, fishing and turtle hunting (oh, and Coir pressing).

**Topical.**—On the evening of June 20th we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Denis Rook, the intrepid airman who is flying from Croydon to Australia in his Moth aeroplane for a wager. He arrived at Karachi earlier than was anticipated, and consequently no ground flares were placed for him at the R.A.F. aerodrome; so, being a stranger to Karachi, he promptly landed on the first clear space he could see, which proved to be A Corps Signals cricket ground. Unfortunately he damaged the tail of his machine in landing, which will necessitate his remaining in Karachi several days. We gave him a hearty welcome, and assisted him in removing his plane to the front of the guard-room, where it was put in charge of a picquet.

A most peculiar thing was noticed on this occasion: numbers of men were eagerly volunteering to do sentry over the machine! Such is hero worship!

The photos of Mr. Rook's plane were taken by Sigmn Wade.

**Messes.**—The sergeants of this unit have had the good fortune to obtain for their mess the building which was previously the Overseas Rest Camp officers' mess, a very fine building with spacious rooms and a tennis court. The corporals have taken over the sergeants' old mess building for their own use.

**Arrivals.**—Capt. C. D. Clapp (I.A.) from Waziristan District Signals, and R.Q.M.S. Wassell, D.C.M., M.M., from Peshawar. We give them both a hearty welcome.

The personnel of the 4th (Medium) Brigade Signal Section have arrived from Muttra. Although this is a unit of No. 1 (Line) Company, this is the first time we have been able to see them en masse as a Section, they having previously been attached to other units for training.

**Departures.**—Major E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., our commanding officer, has gone home on sixty days' leave. F/Sergt Agar and family to A Cava'ry Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee. L/Sergt McIntosh to S.T.C. (I.), Jubbulpore. We shall sorely miss both these n.c.o.s in the field of sport.

**Promotions in the I.U.L.**—Corp's Andrews and Wedgebury to L/Sergeant. L/Corpls J. M. Evans and E. R. Walker appointed paid L/Corporals. Signalmen R. W. Amos and H. McKenzie appointed L/Corporals (unpaid). There are numerous promotions on the Corps roster which will no doubt appear shortly in the Corps Roster Supplement to THE WIRE.

AYCORE.

## B Corps Signals.

Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi.
June 20th.

**Amalgamation.**—The amalgamation of No. 1 (Line) and No. 2 (Wireless) Companies, which commenced on May 16th, has at last become more or less complete. For a time things were very mixed, and nobody knew who they were or where they belonged. Now we are sorted out, and know exactly where we are. There is a No. 1 Company, a No. 2 Company, and Corps Headquarters.

**Officers.**—We extend a hearty welcome to Major G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., who has taken over command of the new Corps, and to Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, who is now D.C.S.O. Northern Command.

Capt. W. D. McGregor recently joined us from Northern Command Headquarters, and has taken over the duties of adjutant. We trust he will enjoy his stay with us.



Lieut. C. T. Hughes, M.C., of the Wireless Experimental Section, has gone with his Section to Cherat, and will remain there for at least six months.

Capt T. B. Ferriday has proceeded to Bannu on three months' temporary duty with the Waziristan District Signal unit.

**Moves.**—No. 10 Pack Wireless Section has left this unit for Risalpur. We were very sorry to lose them, and hope they will have a good time at their new station. All the n.c.o.s and men who were formerly part of No. 2 (Wireless) Company, and were stationed on the frontier at Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Razmak, Razani, etc., have now been struck off our strength, and are posted to the Waziristan District Signal unit. In view of the above postings it is deemed inadvisable to mention an L.P.C. to the pay sergeant.

Sergt J. H. Dillon has arrived here from Jubbulpore, and has taken over the pay department. He came just at the right moment, and was presented with the task of getting all the aforementioned personnel off the books, and combining the two Companies into a new pay and mess bill. He *was* pleased. However, he has done well, and has got everything into a pukka position. Never let it be said that he even spoke under his breath, although I believe many of the Company did when they received a week's pay of Rs. 10. Still, there is nothing like teaching the young soldier how to economise.

C.S.M. Eldridge has arrived from Meerut, and he has our best salaams.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Our best wishes and congratulations to the undermentioned on their promotion to the following ranks: C.Q.M.S. Tourle; Sergt Collingwood; L/Sergts Batchelor, Morley, J. Jones, Busby, Watt and Bremner; Corpls Boynette, Hutcheon, Wilson, Trust, J. Beckett, Longwill, and McIntosh; L/Corpls Eisell, Heard, C. E. Smith, Cackett and E. C. Hale; Sigmn Kiddle on rising to the dizzy heights of U/L/Corporal.

**Hill Season.**—All the married families have now firmly established themselves at Upper Topa and other hill stations, and the poor hubbies have to content themselves with their annual spell of bachelor existence. Most of them seem cheerful enough, and give one the impression of having been relieved of some arduous duty. Well, poor chaps! we (representing the single establishment) are also only too glad to scrounge when an opportunity arises.

**Corporals' Club.**—The corporals' club has taken on a new appearance, and is now almost a home from home. All traces of the fire of last year have been washed away with whitewash and distemper. Quite a deal of praise is due to Corpl Finn for the able way in which he superintended and also participated in the work.

Strange and stirring moments are experienced on certain nights of the week when a certain Ancient Order holds its court in this most select club. Many and wonderful are the signs and words used, between the pauses of total silence. All the ceremonies are under a most respected and esteemed person, who bears the proud and well-earned title of Most Worthy Brother Rabbi. Shekels of most terrifying proportions are collected on these nights in fines and dues. More will be heard of this Ancient Order in due course.

**Frothblowers.**—Great is the strength of the Frothblowers in this unit, the number at present being over the hundred mark. No Vat has been officially formed, but many rehearsals have taken place, so that members may become accustomed to the correct method of blowing the froth.

Lieut. Talbot is the prime mover, or maybe I should say "Blaster" in the Signals here. He is at present in the hills, and doubtless we shall inaugurate the Signals Vat on his return. I have an idea I can prognosticate the feelings of the Blowers after the first Vat, even now; but I expect it will finish up with "He who blows the froth away will live to blow another day." There is no truth in the rumour that the Murree Brewery Company are contemplating extending their premises.

**Training and Courses.**—As a result of the recent courses and trade training, many B.O.R.s have succeeded in obtaining a trade rating in a new trade, whilst others have increased the rating they held. This is the kind of thing that makes life worth living.

**Agony.**—Sigmn A. V. Smith would be glad to hear from Sigmn L. G. Saunders, of No. 1 Company, Aldershot. Will Beau of Hesperus fame please communicate with Horses of Folkestone? L/Corpl Washburn would be glad to hear from Sigmn Ferguson of Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

ECHO.

**Proud of them.**

Badges are marks of distinction, and the wearer is justly proud of them, hence the popularity of Bluebell for it gives distinction to all badges, buttons, etc.

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## Peshawar District Signals.

June 21st.

**Postings.**—Consequent on the re-organisation of the Indian Signal Corps, we regret to announce the departure of the following to the various units named, to complete their establishments. We wish them all the best, and trust that they will have as good a time in their new units as they did in their old.

R.Q.M.S. J. Wassell, D.C.M., M.M., to A Corps Signals, Karachi

F/S/Sergt J Hamper to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

C.Q.M.S. B. Saville to Waziristan District Signals, D.I.K.

C.Q.M.S. Haigh to 4th Indian Divl. Signals, Jubbulpore.

The following arrived from other units to complete the establishment of Peshawar District Signals, and a warm welcome is extended to them: R.S.M. Sutherland and C.Q.M.S. Stevens from the Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore. F/Sergeant Whitehead from B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—These have been rather numerous of late, but for all that we trust that there are more to follow. Well, here are our congratulations to the following on their good luck:

A/C.Q.M.S. A. Disbrey to be C.Q.M.S. w.e.f 1/5/27
L/Sergts C. Storey and P. Clewlow, D.C.M., to be Sergeant, w.e.f. 1/5/27.
Corpl G. Baldock to be L/Sergeant, w.e.f. 1/5/27.
U/L/Corpl A. Benfield to be paid L/Corpl. w.e.f. 1/4/27.
Sigmn S. Hadfield to be U/L/Corporal, w.e.f. 12/6/27.
Sigmn R. Waite to be U/L/Corporal, w.e.f. 18/6/27.

I'm sure all the old hands of the Signals will be glad to see Sigmn Hadfield get a footing on the proverbial ladder once again, and we hope it will not be long before the pice for his stripe comes along.

Having had some delightful remounts posted to this unit recently, it seems quite like old times to hear Jimmy's melodious voice chirrup up, "Git up, yer ——."

L/Corpl Waite exercises his authority to a marvellous degree, and it is well worth coming to India to hear him "boloing the bat" in cockney Hindustani, such as "Nah thin, cildi karo."

**Zero Hour.**—On June 4th excitement in Peshawar was rife when the order to stand to came through on account of trouble and disturbances on the Mohmand border.

A special flying column from Peshawar Brigade was despatched to Shabkadar Fort, where the raiding tribes—the Lashkars—were causing the disturbances. With this column was a small Signal Section composed of eight B.O.R.s and a few Indian ranks. They left Peshawar by lorry and arrived at Shabkadar Fort about 5 p.m., where they set up a visual station and maintained communication with another in Peshawar which was situated on the roof of the barracks. The distance from Peshawar to Shabkadar is about twenty miles, and during the day it was practically impossible to get communication with helios, but at night communication with Lucas lamps was excellent.

There was practically no work for the infantry but to wait for the tribes to come out of the hills where they were hiding; but seeing they would not do this, the Royal Air Force took a hand in the operations and commenced bombing. This brought them back to their senses for a few hours, but the following day they again became troublesome, and the R.A.F. once more began bombing. The leaders of the tribe, not liking this modern means of warfare, therefore signed treaties for peace and departed into their own country, sadder but wiser men.

After being at Shabkadar Fort for six days, our Signal Section returned to barracks, put their visual equipment back into stores, and resumed the normal routine of having a cushy time.

The accompanying photo is of the tower in Shabkadar Fort where the visual station was erected, and it is interesting to note that this tower was erected to the memory of thirty-five British soldiers who died of cholera at Shabkadar. The group shown on page 257 is that of the Section of British n.c.o.s and men who took part in the operations.

**Education.**—Signalmen Morris and Griffiths were awarded 2nd class certificates of education at Peshawar on 6/7th April.

Next month we shall be able to announce the results of the 1st class certificate of education examination held at Peshawar, and it is certain that these will be gratifying.

**Notice.**—Sigmn A. Cannon (late Constantinople Signal Coy.) would be glad to hear from Dvr Stillwell, late of the same unit.

PESHDIST.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, June 22nd.

**Signals Association.**—During the past month two picnics have been held by this Branch, each proving highly successful. The places chosen were on the Chenab Canal near Sambrial, and those who could swim had a pleasant time bathing.

I am advised by one of the n.c.o.s who went on a motor-cycle that the passengers of the lorry should impress on the driver to step on the gasoline in future, or he will have to blind them with dust.

Relay races were arranged between the left half, right half and Wireless Troop, resulting in a win for the Wireless Troop the first week and for the left half troop the second week. Next time we go out the C.O. has promised to provide drinks for the winning team. Perhaps that's why a number of aspirants in the different teams have been studying the booklet on "How to swim." One was heard to remark that he wished he had learnt to swim before, and wondered if he would be allowed to compete with the assistance of a pair of water wings (or, in lieu, a number of belts tied together and used as a towing line). From personal experience I advise competitors to dodge the wire; it's painful when catching it under the chin in mid stream. Photographs taken on the outing are shown. (2nd Division, note Napoleon!)

**General.**—Once again the fatal day for compiling WIRE notes has arrived; and having obtained a stock of minerals, ice and cigarettes, and borrowed a "piarla" and a box of matches, I am endeavouring to get the grey matter to work.

One has to be a diplomat for this job, I find. On the one hand are numerous would-be reporters offering copy in the shape of cold ones and demanding that they appear in print; whilst the persons at whom the cold ones are levelled threaten dire penalties if I do. (Really, Mr. Editor, your correspondents should be given a free life insurance.)

Before the rambling commences, members of this Branch want to know what's happened to A and C Troops. Do they still exist? If so, what about some notes? Don't forget that Cav. Troops are now "right of the line" where Signal units are concerned; and we think it's about time you justified your existence through the medium of THE WIRE. I know of one certain n.c.o., famed for his attempts to prove that gharries, lorries and barbed wire are no obstacles to a motor-bike, who should be able to give us a few anecdotes.



The first party have just fired their annual musketry course for 1927-28, and the results were extremely satisfactory. Forty-five British and Indian ranks fired, and thirty-three obtained 1st and twelve 2nd. The average score was 84.2.

Since the individual training season commenced, all the Group E wallahs have been swotting for their extra bob, ninepence or tanner a day, and the majority have obtained it. There are only three left now to get their eye down to it to enable us to have a complete unit of tradesmen, and if all those at present on courses at Upper Topa qualify, we shall have over 50 per cent. in possession of class II.

It is hoped that the need for a 2nd class school for educational certificates has disappeared, for the examination for those already in possession of it took place during the current month.

We are wondering what the officers marking the papers will say when they see the answer of one man on the different routes by which India could be attacked by a naval power. We did not know it before, but it seems they can come through the Khyber Pass, so those on duty on the frontier had better keep their eyes open for battleships.

The Cav. Troop is getting a big noise in Sialkot. Only the other day we had an officer from an Indian cavalry regiment round to inspect our horses, and he seemed astonished at their fitness. Incidentally we hear we have the fittest horses in the Brigade. "Signals again" will soon be the by-word in this part of the world as in others.

**Mess-Room Reminiscences.**—Last month I spoke about the "click" who delight in relating past experiences and some of their improbable yarns. Well, this pastime has spread to the whole Troop, and gained such prominence that it was necessary to make a trophy which is competed for every hour. It is said that truth is stranger than fiction, and according to some of the yarns told, this is correct.

On the return of our riding instructor from Saugor, he won the trophy with ease when he told us about the jackal. It seems that whilst on riding school one day, the instructor taking the class noticed a jackal and told his class to chase it. They did so, and on getting to close quarters one student threw his stick at it, but the intrepid jackal merely caught it in his mouth and ran away with it.

Then there was the man who told us about rubber frames for fast cornering and wanted to know the best gas for tyres for speeding, but we've recommended him for that well-known paper sold by street hawkers in Blighty.

**Things We Want to Know.**—Who is the signalman who apparently has aspirations to become a film actor and is laying in a stock of photos labelled, "With his hat on," "With his hat off," "With a revolver," "Without a revolver," "On a motor cycle," "Off a motor cycle," "In marching order—dressed," "Un (sorry, I nearly made a slip)?"

Who are the two men who were so heartless as to reduce the unrideable horses of a visiting rodeo to shivering broken wrecks after giving them some Cav. Troop "he man" stuff? (What's the taste of India's sand like, Ginger?)

**Employment Bureau.**—Can anyone find a home for a 6 ft. ex-artilleryman who has developed an aptitude for repairing motor-cycles, and bending spanners, screws or anything offering resistance to his powerful shoulders? Can dismantle and erect any type of machine, and have sufficient spares left over to erect a Ford. Excellent waiter, although slightly clumsy with tea.

**Heard on the Tennis Court.**—"But I saw him *running*." "Who?" "The pay bloke." (Collapse of all present.)

**Congratulations.**—To Corpl Spencer on becoming a daddy. I won't repeat some of the remarks passed by his bunk companions. It *is* wonderful, all the same.

**Arrivals.**—We extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Saunders, C.Q.M.S. Kirby, and F/Sergt Prince, who have recently joined the fold. The sergeants' mess hope to do well.

W. C. M.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

June 15th.

**Unit Celebrities—No. 1**

**Introduction.**—Owing to the absence of our most able secretary on a short vacation in the hills, I have been asked to write this month's notes for THE WIRE, so as to maintain the golden

chain of communication with the world (vide the Signals' motto). I will do my utmost in this capacity, so, "Say no more—I'm off—in other words, Cave."

**General.**—Training is now in full swing, and most of the old faces are gradually leaving us for the hills and the S.T.C. India, for courses of instruction in various trades. We sincerely hope that they will return to the fold as victors in their efforts, thus upholding the name of a unit to be proud of.

Our chief draughtsman has been very busy lately, working out (in his head) a leave chart (wonderful fellow is our Dick). Owing to the fact that Headquarters Section in D.I.Khan is very small in numbers, only twos and threes can proceed on leave at one time. This means more duties for the stay-at homes; but never mind, those who are left behind will have the benefit of such sports as prickly heat and catching the sand-fly.

The river Indus is gradually creeping up to the Bund, and now that the new summer dress regulations have come into force, many of the ladd[i]es have taken full advantage of a nice quiet stroll along the Bund every evening in slacks and shoes.

**Promotions.**—Corpl Busby (at present on U.K. leave) to be L/Sergeant in the I.S.C. L/Corpls J. Murphy and Longwell (W/T) to be Corporals in the I.S.C.

**Appointments.**—Congratulations to L/Corporals Clements, Tomkins and C. W. Clarke (of W/T) and U/L/Corpls Vickers, Annels and Wade, on attaining the first rung of the ladder. Keep your eyes on your batons, my lads, and see that there is not a hole in your haversack. For information, it must be pointed out that these young defenders of the Empire rose from the ranks.

**Arrivals.**—We extend a hearty welcome to Capt. Ferriday, of Wireless fame, who is to stay with us for three months, and we hope that he will lengthen his sojourn in this unit.

C.Q.M.S. Saville, from A Divl. Signals, Peshawar. Sergt F. Perrett from B Divl. Signals, Quetta. Signalmen Puchini, Winton, Hayes, Harris and Burfield from C Cav. Troop, Risalpur. We hope their stay will be a long and pleasant one.

**Departures.**—Sergt C. Gibbard to Quetta. We wish him luck in his new sphere.

**Powers of Observation.**—We were very pleased to observe in THE WIRE of March, that ex-C.S.M. McLoughlin, although now a civilian, is still taking a proud interest in his old unit. We notice that he signed himself "Mac" (oh! to be a civvy). Cheerio, Mac; you'll hear from us regularly now that we have a good secretary. Henceforth our foot is off the key and our switch over to send.

**Personal.**—A certain party in this unit would like to hear from Goody, believed to be in 2nd Indian Divl. Signals, Quetta, if he has time to spare; hence the term, "Correspondence." Sigmn J. F. S. Wilson would like to hear from Sigmn Levard, of 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford. F/Corpl Hughes would like to hear from L/Corpl E. O. Tudor of Egypt Signals.

**Things We Want to Know.**—Is it official that "the more we are together, the merrier we'll be"?

Who is this "Modern Kid?"

Who was the radio operator who, when answering the 'phone, told the man at the other end to shake his transmitter?

Can anyone explain the popularity of "Yellow Perils" in a certain office in D.I.Khan?

**Agony.**—To Cookie: Dame Rumour has it that Lickle Spot trod on another pea. Is that so?

Yank: Have you visited Mr. Drage yet, and are "Sir Harry Park Drive" still "ten for four coppers"?

F. R. C.

## Bannu Signals.

June 15th.

Since the departure of the course parties to Upper Topa, life in Bannu has been very quiet, even taking into account the hectic tippit tournaments we see in the canteen. We lost one or two of our almost permanent fixtures. We hope they are all having a good time, and enjoying a much cooler climate than we are at present.

Our O.C., Capt. G. W. Gemmell, 2/7th Rajput Regiment (P.A.V.) has left us to proceed on leave prior to rejoining the Survey Department. On June 1st Capt. Ferriday, R.Signals (late of the Experimental Wireless in Iraq and B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi) assumed command of the Sector in relief of Capt. Gemmell. Ex-members of the old C and G Companies will no doubt remember our new O.C.

**Departures.**—The following B.O.R.s to Upper Topa: Sergt Giles, L/Sergt Addison, Corpl Raymond, L/Corporals Benson, Harris and Shipley, Signalmen Bridgeman, F. Clark, Dawes, Foster, Fowler, Gerrard, Gibbons, Haddow, Hampshire, Hoare, Jacobs, Kenchington, Lovell, Meadowcroft, Remington, Slade, Sandell, Tarrant and Taylor.

Sigmn S. Dobson to Rawalpindi. L/Corpl Elliott and Sigmn Lemmer to D.I.Khan. Signalmen J. M. Allen and Hipwood to D.I.Khan from Razmak.

**Arrivals.**—L/Corpl Pearce from D.I.Khan. Signalmen Gattrell and Turner from Rawalpindi, the latter en route to Razmak.

**Personal.**—Will Sigmn Howson, last heard of at Colchester, kindly communicate with No. 2315652 Sigmn Anderson of this unit?

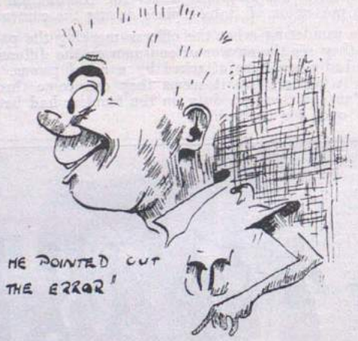
**Remnants.**—Lorty was pleased to hear that the old flag was still flying.

N.

## Manzai Brigade Signal Section.

June 15th.

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise (Shakefellow). For proof of the above, see various cartoons by Mac. These were, I imagine, prompted by the recent visit paid us by our learned exponent of the X=Y theory. I sincerely hope that this visit does not lead to any unpleasantness between the gentlemen of the Q.M. stores and this ardent devotee of Pythagorus (but I must say the run on out-size hats from this quarter has of late, to put it mildly, been enormous).




I am inclined to believe that Mac intends a certain moral to be drawn from his sketches. That being the case, for his own future safety I must say that in no way does the moral appertain to, or the sketches aim to depict, any past, present, or future resident of Manzai. Of other stations, certainly; but Manzai? Preposterous!

Admitted, a certain would-be highbrow did, a short while back, venture his opinion that pancake day is set aside to commemorate the fact that King Canute did, many moons ago (whilst in hiding employed as a waiter), neglect to remove some pasties from the oven at the appointed time. But I am glad to say that his comrades have now convinced him that the name of the said monarch was Rufus, and not Canute (by the way, Ed, between you and me, wasn't his name Albert?)

Apart from this little mistake, I have much pleasure in stating that there is no lack of grey matter around this way (this little complimentary touch should ensure my chah and wad bill being cut down a trifle in the near future).

**Training.**—This has been curtailed somewhat owing to the hot weather, the summer season now being here. Needless to say, this coincides with a run on the gramophone needle market.

**Miscellaneous.**—A frog was observed in the swimming pool the other evening.

The dhobi returned a shirt last week with all the buttons on (quite a mistake; he forgot to wash it).

The shower bath was in working order the other evening (it is rumoured that a certain gardener has been laid up recently).

Walking-out dress in future will be exactly the same as in the past.

**Agony.**—Banjolele for sale. Reason for disposal: present owner buying a musical instrument. Apply through me (I will help you to get it).

MERGLE.

## Kohat District Signals.

June 15th.

**General.**—Again I must resort to that old excuse: lack of news. Old residents of Kohat during the summer will readily understand the situation. This year, with added restrictions owing to the activities of "our friends the enemy," life here is more quiet than usual.

The comings and goings amongst us have been very few. R.Q.M.S. R. J. Diffey has left us to reside in the land of Corps Signals, 'Pindi. We all wish him luck in his new sphere.

At Parachinar everything in the garden is lovely, both literally and in fact. Save for the excitement of watching the clash between "Whitelys" (represented by the P.A.'s supper bar) and "Salfridges" (our new contractor), and the keen competition arising from the aforesaid clash, life goes on in a quiet training way. Gardens are flourishing under skilful (?) persuasion, with the following result:—

P.C.R. NURSERY RHYMES.

Freddy, Freddy, Ovey and Sneddy,
How does your garden grow?
Oh, I've potatoes rare, and buttercups fair,
And defaulters, all in a row!
Freddy, Freddy, Ovey and Sneddy,
Why do you a garden grow?
To keep on the tack, or straighten the back!
Don't kid us, 'cos really we know!

**Swimming.**—The O.C. Royal Air Force, Kohat, having offered the use of the Air Force baths, a small band of mariners stagger out of bed to the waterside (via a lorry) twice a week. A certain member of the party has been advised to go in for figure reducing, as the R.A.F. authorities are complaining of the overflow when he dives in. No names, no clowns!

**Agony Column.**—Sergt L. Overington sends his salaams to all old friends in M.T. Construction Section, Ewshott, more particularly to Abe, and wishes to know whether the latter is still in the land of the living. In other words, a quiet hint—what about it, Abe?

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters B.T.E., Cairo, July 9th.

**The Directorate.**—Congratulations to Corpl R. G. Barnes upon being substantiated in that rank.

**Seasonal.**—At this period of the year it is customary to pass a few comments on those who shall be taken and those who shall be left. We can now say that the court is in an uproar, because a good number of fellows can produce many reasons why they should be posted home during the forthcoming trooping season, but Records produce more reasons why they should not. Again, a number would like to extend their tour of foreign service, but Records require their services in England.

**We Differ.**—We have noticed a somewhat moth-eaten phrase in THE WIRE which we consider a libel. We refer to the "collapse of instructor." In our opinion the Pyramids will collapse before an instructor would quiver, and in fairness to that noble body of men we suggest the phrase be allowed to repose with the remainder of pre-historic fossils.

**The Force.**—Do I.R.s make good policemen? Yes, they do. It will come as a surprise (and blow) to his many friends to know that Sergt Norcross has now assumed the duties of Provost Sergeant for an undefined period, not subject to annual review.

**Leave.**—Major G. C. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., acting C.S.O., proceeds to England on leave during this month, and we sincerely hope he will spend a most enjoyable holiday.

He will be relieved by Major G. E. Sampson, D.S.O.; but perhaps this should not appear under the leave heading, as this officer will perform these duties in addition to those of O.C. No. 1 Company Egypt Signals.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**Clothes and the Man.**—Delete the word "colour." Could anything be more effectively performed in so quiet a manner and bring such rejoicings to humanity—that is, if sergeants come under that heading.

**Happy Man.**—We congratulate Sergt and Mrs. Naylor upon the arrival of a daughter; and when we state that this important event took place in England, you will realise why we congratulate him. No sleepless nights, and no housemaid's knees—he knew a thing or two.

**Entertainments.**—This is the close season, as the married members are preparing for the change-of-air camp at Sidi Bishr, and the single members are—well, read "Clothes and the Man" above.

### Corporals' Mess.

**Outing.**—We had a really first class outing on July 2nd, thanks to the committee. Corpl Corbett, especially, should be congratulated on his excellent catering, and the dinner in the mess on completion of the trip. Corpl Barnes made a good barman, as perhaps Corpl Brown noticed. A very enjoyable day was spent, what with Donkey Derbys, rowing, and a few of the notables photographing; L/Corpl McFrommel being "operator, gramophone."

I also heard that L/Corpl Matthews is riding Call Boy in the Derby next year. That's unofficial.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Corpl George on attaining that rank.

PERCE.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, July 8th.

**Sudan.**—We welcome the return of Sigmn Phillips, and congratulate him on his re-appointment as Captain of the Heads with pay and allowances as signalman whilst employed as such.

L/Corpl Dunn and Sigmn Passant have also returned from a scrounge in the Sudan. Corpl Jennison and L/Corpl Panter have evidently found difficulty in severing the various relationships they had previously been cultivating. They have been granted another month's leave in the Sudan, and it is generally believed that their pass forms should have been endorsed "for the purpose of proceeding to the Sudan pour les affaires des coeur."

**More Leave.**—Reginald (Denny is his father's name) is this year again called to England. Considerable controversy is rife in the Company as to whether he is expecting to participate in the championships at Wimbledon or getting married. We wonder if he will be allowed to play at Wimbledon with his braces on?

Signalmen Lever and Ponsford have also gone home on leave; but why Ponsford should "leav'er" here, we don't know.

**A Sea Journey (B).**—Leaving Sidi Gaber station (don't take it with you), the journey takes seven days, two ports on the way, and costs thirty piastres. Result: Missing, the famous film star Bebe Daniels.

**Promotions.**—Felicitations are tendered to Signalmen Powell and Norman on being appointed L/Corporals (paid). May their shadows never grow less.

**Entertainments.**—The dances and whist drives have been re-started, and experts at the Charleston or the double shuffle now have their weekly fling. The bar dance is the most favoured and stocks of oil, lubricating, throat bottles, are transported to the minor regions.

**Tabloid Sports** (Burroughs and Wellcomes).—In these, many borrowed and were welcome. It was noted that the "Tot" was in the hands of two very able n.c.o.s, but unfortunately, upon being checked, it was found that their Section was (by a slight miscalculation on the recorders' part) not the winners. The winners were H Section.

**Changes.**—Many local moves have recently taken place, and the dear Peter is once again in the Company, complete with hound and motor-cycle.

Signalmen Barnard, Cottingham, Robins and Weller again brighten our darkest hours, while Taxiee's arabic brightens us intellectually.

Sigmn Chrystie's return was heralded with much fluttering of hearts amongst the susceptible maidens in Abbassia, and by much rendering of that popular ditty, "Chrystie's slacks will soon fit Loftie (as shorts)."

NOVE.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Cairo, June 30th.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations are offered to the undermentioned on being appointed to the ranks shown: Corpl J. Huxtable to be L/Sergeant w.e.f. 6/3/27. Corpl R. H. P. Thomas to be L/Sergeant w.e.f. 12/3/27. A/Corpl W. Robertson to be Corporal w.e.f. 30/11/26.

**Births.**—More congratulations! This time to the daddies whose wives dead-heated on the 8th May with gifts of a son (Maynard James) to L/Sergt Coleman, and a daughter (Magdalene Elizabeth) to L/Sergt Huxtable. News has just arrived that Sigmn Forster has also achieved the proud distinction of being called Dadda, Mrs. Forster having presented him with a son and heir.

**Education Certificates.**—At the recent examination at Abbassia for candidates for 1st class education certificates, our three candidates were unsuccessful, each failing in one subject: Sergt A. G. Dorrington and Sigmn P. Grant in mathematics, and Sigmn A. H. Beeton in geography. Better luck next time.

An examination for 2nd class candidates was held on the 11th and 13th June, and out of eleven triers eight proved successful: Corpl A. E. Kemp, L/Corpl D. J. Collins, Signalmen C. W. Beach, W. M. Miller, R. V. Brewster, H. H. Wright, R. H. Brown, and Dvr C. Crackett. Dvr A. Burnham failed in mathematics only.

**Embarkation.**—The recent transfers from other units in the Command embarked at Port Said during the month for the Signal Training Centre: Fusilier W. Hayes, Pte B. Playfair, and Gunner V. Dickin.

**Extensions of Service.**—Signalmen R. Drain, S. G. Boxall, and A. E. J. Hewson have taken the plunge and re-engaged to complete twelve years with the Colours.

The name of Sigmn M. Donnellan was nearly added to the above list, but up to the present he is still undecided whether to sign on, emigrate to Australia, chew gum in the States, or draw the dole. At present the odds are on the States, as there is good reason to believe that a member of the fair sex has a say in the matter; also, Don has been noticed learning the language ("Waal, I sorter guess and calculate" comes out natural now!) and always keeps a plentiful supply of spearmint handy. However, having heard of the fickleness of women—*and* our Don—none will be surprised to see him still shoeing the horses in the forge in a further twelve months' time.

**Leave to U.K.**—Three months' leave to the U.K. has been granted to each of the undermentioned, they having departed on various dates during the past month from Port Said: Corpls E. H. Pickering, H. Jones and A. E. Kemp, L/Corpl E. Tudor, Signalmen A. J. Block, R. E. Ruffell, F. Sansom, C. Stone, S. V. Saunders, and W. Bodimeade, and Dvr A. Mayhew.

Signalmen J. S. Pitt and A. C. Cooper (Buck) returned from three months' leave yesterday. One instinctively knew that Buck had returned, as one could see the smiling and happy faces of the Troop everywhere. It also had been noticed that the horses in the stables were over frisky on that particular morning—evidently *they* also knew! and when Buck entered the camp he was greeted with a chorus of neighs and a rattling of head chains. Buck, however, merely raised his velour (G.S., part worn) and proceeded to his hut, quite unperturbed. Here he was greeted with a welcome that would have turned Captain Lindbergh green with envy, the cheering being simply deafening. Massa and Paddy were seen to be sobbing from pure joy!

From five o'clock onwards, No. 8 Hut was packed to overflowing with visitors from all parts of the camp, all eager to enquire after Buck's health, and to hear of the thrilling adventures he experienced during the three months. "Extra" houses were given at 7.0 and 9.0 p.m.

**Change-of-Air Camps.**—A camp for single men has been established by the sea at Mustapha, near Alexandria, parties proceeding for periods of fourteen days each. A similar camp has been formed for married families at Sidi-Bishr, about two miles further along the shore, parties proceeding at intervals of three weeks.

**Local Transfer to the A.R.**—Dvr A. H. Pitman was locally transferred to the Army Reserve on June 17th, to enable him to take up civilian employment in this country. We wish him the best of luck in his new venture.



**Unclassified.**—D.W.W. (Rhine Signal Company). A thirsty soul gasps out for news.—Tubby. (*Only* news, Tubby?)

D.R.G. of K Section.—What *is* a "moucian"?

Dick wants to know if the moths are starving in the pockets of Sandy McBrunton at "Jubb." and also enquires after the health of Loquacious Lou, late of Catterick.

Don.—Spearmint is much cheaper when bought in bulk.

ART.

## North China Signal Section (Peking Detachment)

British Legation Guard, June 15th.

The rapid advance of the Nationalist forces, with the probability of Peking coming in the near future under their control, has brought North China into the limelight from a military point of view.

The increase in strength of British troops in Tientsin and Peking, and the establishment of a garrison at Wei-Hai-Wei, meant a great deal of work all round. We hear that a detachment of Signals will shortly arrive at the latter place, so we are hoping to make their acquaintance by W/T when they turn up.

Our friends at Hong Kong seem to have multiplied considerably of late, owing, we expect, to operators originally en route for Shanghai having come to anchor there. We should be very pleased to have one or two of their spare men up here, where three wireless operators have to be shared between two stations.

An amusing report published here—needless to say, emanating from a Chinese source—provides an interesting side-light on the Oriental mind. It was stated in the native Press that when Major-Gen. Duncan left Shanghai on his northern visit, he had absconded with all the funds of the British Army.

Such a report, of course, is quite in accordance with the precedents created by Chinese Generals since time immemorial, and was received by the Chinese themselves as being the natural course open to high military rank.

PEICHING.

## Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta. July 6th.

**Training.**—The annual affair on the range this year resulted in a decided improvement upon previous attempts of the Section to become Bisleyites. Nine first, eight second, and two third-class shots gave the markers a very busy time. We promise them a busier time in less than twelve months from now.

**Marriage.**—Our heartiest congratulations and good wishes are extended to L/Corpl and Mrs. M. Bevis, recently united in Malta.

**Summer Leave.**—Capt and Mrs. G. R. Halliday and family are at present spending a well-earned rest at our only seaside resort, Ghain Tuffieha. Our wishes for a happy sojourn are proffered.

The Foreman of Signals, C.Q.M.S. W. Mutter, and his family should by this time be passing through the Bay for a three months' vacation in U.K. We enviously wish them three months of the very best.

Sigmn Chapman and his wife recently returned from Ghain Tuffieha, looking all the better for two weeks spent by the sea.

**Society News.**—After spending four delightful days upon our island, their Royal Highnesses left on June 20th en route for the terminating stage of the royal tour. Visits to naval, military and civil institutes filled the major part of the programme. A rousing welcome was very much in evidence wherever their Royal Highnesses appeared in public. It is felt by all that the visit to this isle of Mediterranean charm will permanently remain a happy memory with the Duke and his heart-winning consort. Malta was at its very best.

The annual horse show of Malta recently took place upon the Marsa, and was voted by all as a great success. Much praise is due to the committee and all who assisted in the management under the direction of Capt. G. R. Halliday.

The Malta Race Club—yes, we can boast of a race course too!—has provided some very thrilling sport since the opening of the flat season, and upon more than one occasion have the colours of the C.S.O. (Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C.) been seen leading the way past the judge's box.

Major Naylor has also been seen, this season, assisting the Army polo team in various inter-Service fixtures. As No. 3 he will be very much missed when an early departure from this station takes him back to U.K.

Congratulations to Mrs. Halliday upon placing a "seller" in a local art exhibition recently held at the Auberge de France.

VIC. H. VIC.

## Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, July 2nd.

**A Plight and a Suggestion.**—The last three months have been so uneventful that I have had nothing worthy of record, except the steady work of the linemen in patching up the routes in time for the next hurricane.

Being only thirteen in strength—eight at Prospect H.Q., four at St. George's, and one at Boaz Island—we are, of course, too few in numbers to run our own sports teams. How I envy those lucky correspondents who can write a monthly column of sports, apart from other doings.

What a picture my Plight would make for L.H.D. Scene: Table upon which are paper and pencil, a tin of "Birdseye," a packet of A.G., and matches. Correspondent seated at table wearing harassed expression. Two assistant "thinkers" standing behind correspondent, lineman's hand edging towards box of matches. There you have a picture to soften the hardest heart.

Now let me see what *has* happened.

**Moves.**—L/Corpl Piper to Prospect, vice Corpl Horsey to Boaz. Sigmn Rhodes to St. George's, vice Sigmn Mitchell to Prospect.

**Congratulations.**—To A/Corpl J. Leath upon his attaining that rank (keep it up, Chikko). Also to Sigmn G. Sands upon being awarded the long service and good conduct medal (they never die, George).

**Will They Co?**—"Uneasy lies the head that's due for home," or words to that effect. Some of our south-wind-ridden derelicts, whose three years' tour expires this trooping season, are wandering around in great agitation. The extra twelve months' bogey has paid us a visit, causing much unrest. Will that arbiter of fate, Records, release them from bondage, or must they suffer on? Time and the canteen will tell.

**This Month's Agony.**—Will Sigmn B. E. Curtis please communicate with Sigmn H. G. Hughes of this Section.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

## "Tips."

A sportsman plays the game for the game's sake.

* * * *

A healthy body is often indicated in the white of the eyes.

* * * *

Smoking can be conquered by strengthening both will-power and nerves.

* * * *

The Army Rugby Union was formed in 1906.

* * * *

Char-a-bancs are the cause of the slump in railway travelling.

* * * *

The boat race, Oxford v. Cambridge, was instituted in 1829. The record time is held by Oxford, and was made as far back as 1911.

* * * *

Two carrots, raw and scraped, eaten daily will bring a natural colour to the skin.

* * * *

Pure olive oil is one of the best liniments for stiffness.

* * * *

The circumference of a cricket ball is 9 to 9¼ ins.

* * * *

The consumption of meat should be cut down during the summer months.

* * * *

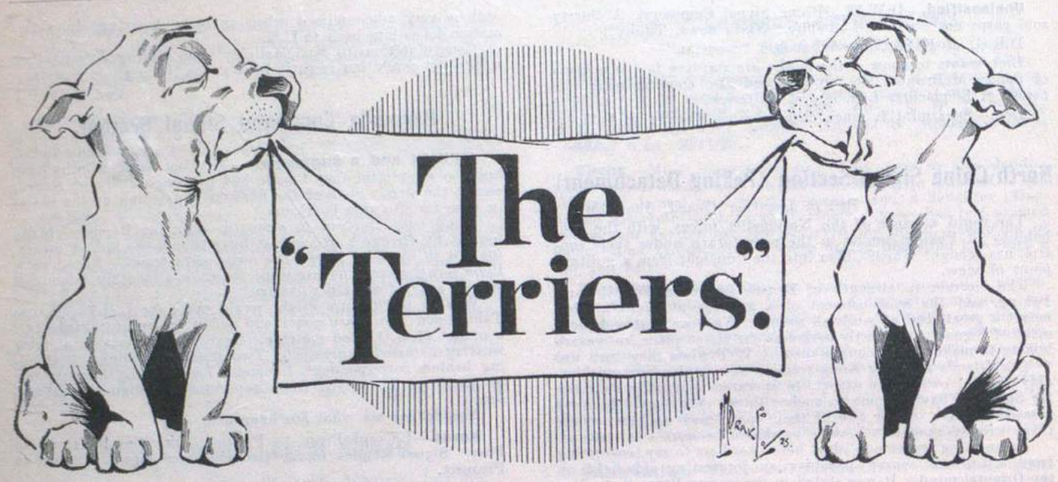
The Training Battalion, S.T.C., carried off the Army athletic unit team championships for the years 1923, 1924 and 1925.

* * * *

Tickets for all London theatres may be booked in the Union Jack Club shop.

* * * *

Muscles are built up on concentration.




## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea,
July 14th.

Before these notes appear we shall be at camp at the salubrious hamlet known as Windmill Hill, Ludgershall, Salisbury Plain, and of late all our energies have been devoted to the necessary preparations for this departure.

Our headquarters have been a scene of unwonted activities, both inside and outside. Inside there have been such jolly little jobs as harness and saddle cleaning to be done, kit to be looked out and looked over. The Q.M. branch have also been wondrous busy with indents for every known requirement, ranging from marquees to mallets, and from horses to hay nets. In fact, neither time nor temper has been spared to ensure that we go to camp fully equipped for any sort of emergency.

Some of us will remember a camp not so very many years ago, when we all started off with the idea of the usual fortnight's training, which in the very short space of twenty-four hours developed into a four-years' camp for many people—and they were the lucky ones, for many others found their training period ran well into five and even six years.

Last week-end some of us were fortunate enough to spend two days with the 1st and 2nd Life Guards at Windsor, where—as the weather for once was really obliging on Sunday—we had a wonderfully good time of it in the Great Park on a signalling scheme. There is very little to say about this week-end, though there were one or two deeds that did not win even honourable mention, but deserved to.

Ask who it was among our troopers who did a kind of rodeo stunt on more than one occasion, and saved the young idea from doing a record cross-country dash across the Park which would inevitably have brought dishonour on the fair name of the regiment as horsemen, if not absolute disaster on the riders.

On looking through some old papers relating to the regiment, the following extract from *The Daily Telegraph* of Wednesday, July 6th, 1893, may be of interest to our readers.

ROYAL MARRIAGE.

The Princess May. Departure from Home.

Shortly before 4 o'clock the drive in front of the Lodge (White Lodge, Richmond Park) was occupied by a squadron of the Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge's Own) under the command of Capt. Garrard. The troopers in their blue uniforms and busbies, with green and crimson plumes, looked very smart on their well-shaped chargers, mostly bays.

It is unnecessary to state that this was only two days before the wedding of the then Princess Mary with the then Duke of York—now our well-beloved King and Queen. This was not the first time that the regiment had the honour of providing mounted escort for royalty, but it is, I think, the only time they had the privilege of doing duty for our present King and Queen.

To come to more recent days, it is interesting to learn from the current Press that Colonel Fox, the well-known chief of the London Salvage Corps, now just retiring, was once a member of the regiment. We were once described as a somewhat fashionable corps, and if having very distinguished men as members of the regiment constitutes a fashionable corps, there is little doubt but that we have earned that distinctive title.

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

The May, June and July WIRES have come and gone, and nothing in them about our most important and noble selves! Shame! Yes, of course it is!

Old Spark has come to the rescue of his deputy, New Spark, who really got considerably alarmed—or, as he terms it, "very hot and bothered."

I must first of all tender my most grateful thanks to those friends whose sympathy was expressed so freely and kindly for me during my severe illness. The Editor's remarks, too, were greatly appreciated.

About these notes, though! How can I begin? I have been bombarded with chits saying, "Don't forget THE WIRE on the 16th," "Mention this, that and the other thing," and so on and so forth, in addition to daily calls on the phone! Old Spark was beginning to think that he ought to be damped out after all these years of flashes. However, here goes for the umpteenth time.

Well, the first event of importance to chronicle is our ball, which took place at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter, on April 22nd.

After shivering on the banks for years, the officers' mess committee decided to take the plunge—and, my word, aren't they bucked now! Still, "hats off to 'em," I say. It was no small achievement to have earned such a splendid report all the way round.

Over two hundred of the very best spent an evening which they'll long remember. Everything went with a swing, and there was a total absence of artificiality—(good word, that, Robbie!)—about the proceedings.

The new mess kits got a "mention," too, in the Press. That little touch of red—well, you can't beat it, what! Sometimes I wish I were a girl!

Event number two was the week-end camp at Whitsuntide. Nos. 1 and 3 Companies amalgamated under the command of Captain R. C. A. Cummings, O.C. No. 3—the O.C. No. 1 being hors de combat—and pitched their tents in close proximity to that pearl of Devon watering-places—Teignmouth—which is also noted as the birthplace of C.Q.M.S. E. W. Stanbury, J.P.



Of course, a lot of what I've heard about the camp isn't quite—well, you know what I mean—but, nevertheless, all went well from the purely military side; and the troops worked well, fed well, and slept well. What more can soldiers do? Besides, what did Napoleon say?

Event number three followed on with hardly a breather. The unit was called upon to furnish two officers and twenty men for the guard of honour to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on the occasion of his visit to Exeter on Whit Tuesday, the day after the termination of the week-end camp.

Capt. R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E., was in charge, and 2/Lt. E. G. B. Moss his second-in-command. "A good turn-out," everybody said, so it must be right! Signals generally get there, it seems.

Here endeth the *main* "doings."

**Personalia.**—The King's Birthday honours contained the announcement that His Majesty had bestowed the Order of the British Empire upon Capt. R. C. A. Cummings of the 43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals T.A. Congratulations! This is the first bit of luck of this sort which has come our way since the war.

Capt. Cummings, who has been O.C. No. 3 Company since 1924, joined the Wessex Signals in 1921. During the war he served with the Artists Rifles, and rose to the rank of Staff-Captain.

As mess president since 1922, he has had a busy time, and those who have run messes—and made messes of them—will appreciate what it means to stick it for so long, and to get a good chit. (Getting the good chit is the job!) It is not, to say the least, an easy piece of work in a Territorial unit. One needs to be as patient as the female dove.

Congratulations, also, to Capt. M. Noël Ford on obtaining his captaincy. Full of youth and vigour, I prophesy a great future for him. You ought to see those lines on his left palm; they mean something!

My next note has a touch of sadness about it. Our W/T officer, Capt. H. D. G. Foord (formerly of the Royal Navy) having attained the age limit, has relinquished his commission. If I hadn't actually seen it in print as an extract from the "Gazette," I should never have believed he had reached any such limit.

All I can say is, "Well, if, when the rest of us reach that limit we look as fit and show such activity, we shall not have much to grouse about."

However, we are very sorry to lose him. We shall miss him a lot—his touches of humour and those salty little naval stories!

Although the Regulations say "finish," it is nice to know that he won't cut us altogether—he's going to come along to our "how d'ye do's" now and then.

A welcome to 2/Lieut Lee-Wright on being gazetted to this unit. May he find the Signals a job which will hold his interest; and then, when his "limit" comes, may the future Old Spark say a real nice word about him!

Congratulations to C.S.M. J. Scrivens and to C.Q.M.S. G. A. Axe on their elevation—two of the old gang who have served long and faithfully.

OLD SPARK.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

Notes for this month are rather short, the main topic being annual camp.

A very successful week-end scheme was held at Ruislip on July 2nd, exercises being carried out with cable and visual.

Musketry practices were carried out on June 19th and 26th. The highest score obtained throughout the whole practices was 100 out of a possible 105, made by Sergt Forrest. Well done, George!

Trade tests were carried out on July 6th, at which fifteen candidates passed the prescribed standard tests.

Sergt Hosback has been attached to the 1st Divl. Signals at Aldershot from 4th to 18th July, to undergo a "refresher" in general subjects. (Overheard: He'll need it!)

## 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, S.W., July 7th.

**General.**—Waggon and harness poshing is now in full swing. Headquarters has the appearance of war-time, the reason being that we go to camp on Sunday, 10th inst., at Middlewick, Colchester. It is rather a pity that the date is so early, as it prevents many men from attending both weeks. We are all hoping to have an enjoyable time, and that the weather god is good to us.

**Promotions.**—We congratulate the various n.c.o.s and other ranks who have just received promotion. Names are too numerous to insert in detail.

**1st Divl. Signals.**—We are sorry to note that there is a possibility of your going abroad. If sailing orders do arrive, we hope that only a few will depart, as we are just getting to know you. I have been asked to insert the following questions for your answers in due course:—

What is the method (or possibility) of testing the capacity of the members of the sergeants' mess, and if they ever suffer from sore throats?

Who won the bag (first or last), and if a couple of winners would buy a new suit?

How many suits has the Bishop, and has he lent some underclothing to his friend?

When will the practice of presenting rings to the waiter cease?

Why, if it is free to enter the mess, should it cost 35s. to get out?

How is Oscar? (this is my own personal question).

LEMJAY.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

The unit will proceed to camp on July 16th. Well, nothing much in that, says the man in the street. Nothing much? If he only knew of the sleepless nights I've put in wondering if the return of chiropodists has in any way got mixed up with the ration indents (it probably has). Roll on that leave boat.

All being well, we expect this camp to be the merriest and brightest we have ever had; and as for schemes, if the rims of the cable wagons are not worn off by the time we break camp, it won't be for want of running. Don't get breezy, C Section!

Having got our pipe band under way, under Pipe-Major Brand, we expect to be regaled with the stirring strains of "Hi, Johnnie Cope, are ye waukin' yet" at reveille every morning. A special ear-pad has been issued to all ranks who have not yet been quite naturalised, as experience has taught us that the R.S.M. and P.S. in general get up quite nasty when awakened by these ear spl—I mean, haunting melodies. I hope you don't read these notes, Pipie!

Great regret has been felt that some of our officers will be unable to attend camp for the full period. To Major Lockhart, who is ill, we extend our deepest sympathy, and hope he will be with us next training period.

Provided the entries are up to scratch, sports day in camp promises to be a red-letter day for all. Events for all and sundry have been got up, and if you are built more for comfort than speed, never mind. Roll up! there's sure to be some suitable event you can enter for. The veterans' race promises to be the tit-bit of the day, as some of our veterans can give points to our recruits. Who says the R.S.M. for the 100 yards, and Tug for the veterans?

There will be a meeting of the clans on Sunday, 17th, to enquire into the reason of Threesome's dumbness. Of this, more anon.

Notes are naturally scant this month, as we will be in camp by the time these appear in print, and I don't want to encroach on next month's news; but next month I want three pages, Mr. Editor, please! It is our Christmas number, really.

SMUDGE.

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

Even the finish of musketry has failed to take the worries off Jack's visage. But it's a relief to know that it is over and no casualties. Considering the number of changes during the last two seasons, we have done remarkably well, the shooting being of quite a high standard; and the competition amongst the crack shots was infectious. The prizes offered by the O.C. (Major McHutchon, O.B.E.) and the officers were well worth stirring after.

Training has stopped for the nonce, and we are exceptionally busy getting ready for the annual test of all Territorial worries. We are hopeful, despite the incidents of an unusually worried training, that we may keep up our reputation, and have a thoroughly good time with our old friends in Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, whom we did not have the pleasure of meeting last season owing to the camps being cancelled.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

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PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

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FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

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F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

We are still in an unsettled state owing to the alterations at these headquarters being again delayed; but no doubt they will be finished in time for next year's training, when we will be able to really settle down to training under favourable circumstances.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, July 11th.

The past month has been a very busy though not a very eventful one. It has been memorable for one achievement: for the first time since its formation, the unit is up to strength in officers and actually has a waiting list. Mr. F. C. Moon, who was gazetted recently, will be cordially welcomed by No. 3 Coy., to which he has been posted, and we hope he will enjoy his first camp—even initiation night in the officers' mess.

The week-end courses held in June were very well attended, and both the lineman's class and the traffic scheme provided a lot of interest and instruction—in addition to some language at times.

Congratulations to Sergt O'Connor of the P.S. on his appointment to substantive rank.

Musketry has now been completed, but we understand that a few members who were unable to attend will be given a chance to fire some time after camp is over.

By the time these notes appear, we shall be under canvas at Porthcawl. Our one great hope is for fine weather, and if we are fortunate in this respect the camp should be a great success.

Sports will be held on Friday, July 29th, and many excellent prizes will go to the lucky victors.

We hear that we are to have a mobile Signal Office again this year, and that Sergt McKinnon has done the wiring, a 15-cwt. Dodge van being the vehicle. We wonder if it will go up hills best backwards, like the Ford did last year?

We shall miss the poor Trojans gallantly climbing Ty Coch hill despite the weight of a popular officer and his famous Section! And how will the C.O. make his official visit to the sergeants' mess?

Lectures in the n.c.o.s mess are going strong. C.S.M. Spillman and Sergts A. O. and H. P. Baxter have contributed interesting talks, and the system is being continued.

A great effort is to be made during camp to get our winter sports started off on a sound footing, and there should be news about this next month.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

### No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

"Phew! thank goodness that's over." This remark was heard on all sides on the last night of the Trade Board. There is always a touch of uneasiness during these ordeals, caused no doubt by the importance of the occasion and the possibility of one not doing himself justice.

We had a fair muster here, and out of nineteen candidates seventeen stand a good chance of passing or going up in their respective groups. Let's hope that we shall have more next time.

I think it must have been the Trade Board air that caused a certain signalman (whose name begins with Salmon, commonly called Girlie) to remark in the presence of the R.S.M., that he, Girlie, had passed a rough-riding course somewhere in India during the war. The R.S.M., an old rough himself, was naturally interested. The following conversation is worth repeating:

R.S.M.: "Rough rider, eh? (pause) "Where?"
Girlie: "Under Captain Russell."
R.S.M.: "I said where, not who!"
Girlie: "Oh! I passed a course in India."
R.S.M. (with a glint in his eye): "So you know all about riding, eh?"
Girlie: "Yus, I was to be in the unit team during the visit of the Prince of Wales."
R.S.M.: "How many links are there in a set of harness?"
Girlie: "About two."
R.S.M.: "What! Here! How does the breeching fit?"
Girlie: "Oh! not so bad."—(the body's upstairs).

Musketry was held as usual at the rifle ranges, Shoeburyness. Quite a good number turned up, and the scoring was fairly good. Sigmn L. A. Carty tops the list with 88 out of a possible 105, followed by Sigmn Baker (86), Sigmn Frost (85), Corpl Bradbury (76), and Sigmn Pavey (75). This was good shooting considering that the day was wet and very windy.

We are now allowed to enlist boys in the Company, and the other evening the Company office was besieged by three promising lads who wanted to enlist to keep their five pals company. The pals in question, already members of the Company, strongly backed them up.

Of course boys will be boys, and one has to be careful and subject them to a little questioning prior to their being seen by the O.C. One lad was asked if he could play football. He replied that he was a very good highback. Another seemed to experience some difficulty in writing his own name, so he was asked to write a short composition upon any subject he liked. After much blinking, scratching and pen chewing, he produced the following effort:—

"LAID BY THE HEALS."
(A detectif storie.)

"Enouff," cried the slooth in a feerce, mettallick voice, "I have nevver seen such savvidge brootality."

"Shan't," mermered the villan with the strorberry nose.

The slooth then fixed him with his pennytrating, hipnottick, eye.

—(We stopped here). The author said that he came all the way from Canvey Island. We don't blame him.

Ah, well! I expect that we shall have more than this to put up with by the time we reach Brentwood next week for our annual camp. We are going to a nice spot, I am told. We leave on July 24th, and travel by rail. Let's hope that we shall have a large number present to appreciate it.

A harness-room has been procured for our one and only Froggy: not actually for him, mind you, but a place for him to work in. I must say that he is very busy, and proud of his work too; only I wish that he would not keep worrying me for saddle soap, etc. Never mind, Froggy boy; cheer up!

Have a look at this cross-word stunt, and see how many times you can spell the word "Signals." You may move in any direction, but do not miss a square during the spelling of the word.

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Don't forget next month's WIRE, and read all about our life at Brentwood.

Dusty Miller is very keen to hear from Blanco White.

DREITER.

## 55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Mason Street, Liverpool.

It's funny how rumours do get about. The sergeant carpenter stoutly denies that he is constructing a flying machine, and suggests that the busy-bodies who started the rumour must have got mixed up with a couple of meat safes which he is busy making. We trust that our messing officer will ensure that their contents never reach a sufficiently high state as to permit their "taking off."

The farrier-sergeant, however, has been warned, and I understand that he is keeping a couple of pet maggots under observation. He has indented for a supply of shoes, but D.A.D.O.S. wants a full nomenclature. Our W/T officer is closely interested in the experiment, and has generously offered to produce a violet ray treatment, if required. I am told they are going to be fed on obsolete procedure about to be issued.

Well, well! We have lots of fun ahead for our next camp. We go to Holyhead on the 30th inst., the powers-in-being having carefully arranged our departure for 11.50 p.m. According to all reports this is going to be the best camp that ever was.

We are busy packing up stores, etc., and from previous experience everyone is going well prepared against deficiencies. We have one or two war-time stalwarts who are amazingly gifted in the art of finding things. One of our sergeants of small stature is supposed to be taking his holidays in Egypt, as he says he finds the sun too hot in Liverpool. I've just had it through from "someone in the know" that he is going out there to try and *find* the Big Pyramid, and that his expenses are being found by 1st Corps Signals, S.R. I suppose the fact of the matter is they want to know something definite about the next war. Well, we wish them all luck.

We had a busy time last week with our annual Trade Boards. On the whole the entries were very satisfactory and the results equally encouraging. It was openly expressed, though, that the new qualification sheet for operators was absurdly simple, and many felt that in passing they were trespassing too far on Government generosity. It has been suggested that the tests would be much fairer to dear old Winston if "Signal Training" (Parts 1 to 8) were published in eight different languages.

The W/T officer agrees in this, and has promised to sell us a set that will transmit dots of different sizes, and dashes with a bend in them so as to facilitate the sending of Chinese characters.

However, the fact remains that whatever we are expected to do, we shall try our best at doing it.

FIVE FIVE.

## 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

By the time these notes appear in print the unit will be comfortably quartered at Bourley, Aldershot, for our annual training. Much hard work has been done in preparation for this great event, and attendances at drills have given every cause for satisfaction. It now only remains for the weather clerk to smile on us, and we shall be as happy as the proverbial early worm—sorry, sand-boys.

A course of driving drill has been carried out at Spa Fields, and wonderful improvement among the recruit drivers is evident. It is rumoured that one driver took up a course of P.T. to be able to reach the stirrup, but I hesitate to believe this.

The usual pre-camp promotions have been awarded, and I take this opportunity of congratulating the new n.c.o.s. I hear it whispered that certain new non-coms. in No. 2 Company hail from the Woolwich area. Stick it, Woolwich!

The inter-Company football cup, not having been competed for during the past season, will be the cause of a summer phenomenon at Aldershot. Many crazy figures wearing brilliantly hued jerseys and schoolboy knickers will be observed frantically chasing a leather sphere, while many others (distinguishable by their different dress) will make the normally peaceful air hideous with their howls.

Should any band of heroes survive they will receive the silver cup as a reward, and they'll jolly well deserve it, too! The cup has been held by No. 2 Company for two years. Now then, Nos. 1 and 3, what about it?

**A Tale of a Motor-Bike.**—Rumour has it that a certain P.S. sergeant purchased a motor-bike (he assures us that it wasn't given to him with a pound of tea or a pot of vanishing cream), and after weeks of de-coking, valve grinding, and messing about with gadjets peculiar to motor-bikes, sallied forth one sunny Sabbath intending to ride into the country. Did he? Believe me, he did no such thing; he just rode into—the back of an L.C.C. tramcar. I wonder if Barleux will tell him what to do with the remains.

**Congratulations** to Sergt E. T. Waite on taking the plunge into married life. Good luck, Pat.

**Personal.**—C.S.M. R. Gardiner sends his best wishes to Sergt Gordon, now in Germany. How's the lager, Joe?

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## "Tips."

A new regular non-stop record has been set up by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway from Euston to Edinburgh: 236½ miles.

* * * *

Bananas have been grown in Britain.

* * * *

Ponder the way of the flapper's feet, and let thy way be established.

* * * *

The most useful place for the modern dimple is in the knee.

* * * *

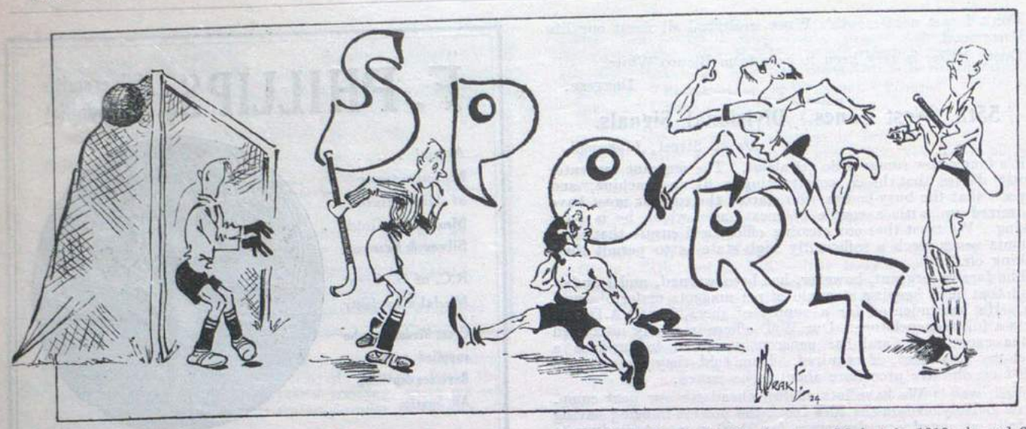
The one-piece bathing suit is the beginning of knowledge.

* * * *

Some women credit the denser sex with a little imagination: others go on shortening their skirts.

* * * *

The new season's colour is blue.




## School of Signals Golf Club, Catterick.

The course is a six-hole affair, with some really fine natural bunkers. The language used is absolutely first class, considering the age of the club (two days). Most of the words used cannot be found in any dictionary, but a list will be sent to anyone on application to the hon. secretary.

Clubs may be had on loan from the Sports store. The club motto is: "Le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle," meaning, "Take a good grip of the handle." "Populus vult decipi."

## Depot Battn. (Royal Signals) Rifle Club, Catterick.

Although no notes have been sent in by the club for the last two months, we have not been idle. With a vast store of patience and perseverance, combined with a little wangling and a lot of hard work, we have succeeded in building an outdoor range to give the necessary facilities for shooting at fifty and one hundred yards in the Yorkshire League.

This league is run in two parts: one at twenty-five yards and the other as above. In the former we have won all our matches to date, but have not started in the latter part owing to the range not having yet been passed as safe by the Engineers.

In competitions held by the S.M.R.C., R.S.M. P. E. Nolan represented Yorkshire in the Queen Alexandra cup, and Sergt Seabrook obtained second place in the Remington individual postal competition.

So far we have only received one acceptance of our challenge, viz., Northern Command H.Q., under Queen Alexandra cup conditions. The result is still pending (what about those cards, V.C.?)

Next month I hope to be able to give the Yorkshire League table so far as it affects this club.

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Cricket.**—L Section, playing Kingley at Bordon on June 18th, won by 44 runs. Kingley, 67; L Section, 111 (Lieut Glover six for 24, Dvr Mills two for 3).

**Athletics.**—The Army individuals are over. Some performances of Signals are appended:—

100 yards—Heat 4 saw Sigmn Pells fill second place, with L/Corpl Murphy first in heat 9. Murphy lost in the semi-final by inches.

200 yards—In heat 1, L/Corpl C. A. Craig occupied second place.

One mile—Corpl Cotterell was placed third in his heat, and in the final he moved up to second place.

Three miles—Corpl Cotterell retained the championship.

**General Interest.**—The "Aldershot Command Sports News" published a very interesting article on the fiftieth anniversary of the Army athletic meeting. From our point of view it contained items of special interest. For instance:

Lieut W. P. E. Newbigging (late Commandant at the S.T.C.) in 1898 cleared 5 ft. 8 ins. in the officers' high jump, and held this record until 1922.

2/Lieut. R. F. B. Naylor (now Major) in 1910 cleared 21 ft. 5½ ins.—the best ever recorded at that time in the long jump. He also won the hurdles at the same meeting. Then, in 1913, Lieut Naylor made a jump of 23 ft. 2½ ins.

And then came Corpl Joe Cotterell with his record of 4 mins. 27 secs. for a mile on cinders in 1923.

Records of which the Corps is proud!

## No. 1 Company, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

**Cricket.**—We are holding our own in the cricket world. There are many new faces in the team this year, and they are certainly helping their Company to obtain a number of victories.

Although we lost our first trophy match against No. 3 Coy., we made amends by beating No. 2 on the officers' club ground. It proved a most sensational match. We led by 61 runs on the first innings, and added another 60 in the second. No. 2 Coy. made a game attempt at victory in their second innings, wanting 122 runs to win, with only forty-five minutes in which to get them. Their batting was fast and furious, and they managed to make 90 of the wanted number. Capt. Matthews hit up 25 in a very short time.

Our team showed good form when handling the bat, Captain Sketch making 24, Dvr James 36, Sigmn Osborne 13, Sigmn Varey 16, and Cordell 17 not out. In the bowling, Sigmn Osborne took eight wickets for 14—a splendid feat. The fielding was excellent, and it is hoped we shall maintain the form during the remainder of the trophy matches. The efforts of Dvr James are very praiseworthy, for he has played skilfully in numerous games this season and has materially assisted his side to victory.

**Company Sports Meeting.**—It has been decided to hold our second Company sports meeting on Friday, July 22nd, when it is hoped that the success of last year will be repeated.

**Swimming.**—Our swimming team are getting busy prior to the inter-Company competition being held in the Command swimming baths on July 18th.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

Cricket is still going strong, for a small unit. The Troop was greatly bucked up by the team beating Shipton Bellinger by a large margin—an innings and 40 runs—this after a defeat at their hands the previous month. Another victory to our credit was the return match with Collingbourne Kingston by 12 runs on the first innings; and in half-an-hour's play in the second innings we scored 75 for two wickets.

## Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

**Cricket.**—This month I have a number of lost games to record, but always to superior teams. Our losses are taken well, and it has often been told us that the Signals are splendid sportsmen. So many civilian clubs ask for dates that we cannot manage to met them all.

We again played the R.A.F., but this time at Cliftonville. Again we lost, for the R.A.F. play a very good game indeed.



The following day we went to Newtownards to play the R.U.C. Depot team. It was a peculiar game, neither side scoring many, and ended in their winning by three runs.

On June 18th we started off for Dunmurry. They had a better team than ours, and played very good cricket. During this match L/Corpl Parker succeeded in performing the hat trick.

The visit to Lurgan came on June 22nd: a well-remembered day for some. It was their show day, and as usual it rained. The only available shelter was the dog tent, and consequently the team knew more about dogs than cricket before the game commenced. The game itself was very good. After an hour we retired with 135 for four wickets, Sigmn L. Williams making 93 of them. I noticed that the remaining players did not in the least mind not getting a smack, especially one whose reason followed him to the station.

Owing to a number of the Company going to Ballykinlar, we could not arrange any more big matches until after these notes have gone in. However, whilst at Ballykinlar we were challenged by a team of the D.L.I. This game we played on July 9th, resulting in a win for us by 66 runs. Many thanks are due to Gnr Binge of the R.A., who was attached to us for training. He played his usual good game, well known to many Signals of this unit, both past and present.

We all congratulate Sigmn L. Williams on his chance to play for the Corps, and hope he does well. Play up, Big Boy!

## Rhine Signal Units.

**Annual Sports.**—These took place on June 28th, but the meeting, which promised to be a record one, was spoiled by bad weather, rain being prominent during the whole of the afternoon. The programme was run to time throughout, and very ably managed by the committee. Divisional Headquarters Section are to be congratulated on winning the trophy so easily.

Throwing the cricket ball—1, Signalmen Bush and Bartley; 2, Signalmen Wark and Knight; 3, Corpl McCormick and L/Cpl Morley.

Slow bicycle race—1, Sigmn Perks; 2, Sigmn Insull; 3, L/Corpl Hardy.

Best dismounted turn-out—1, Sigmn Smith; 2, Sigmn Lupton.

Best mounted turn-out—1, Sigmn Smith; 2, Sigmn Canfield.

Best turned-out limber—1, Field W/T Section; 2, 19th Brigade and 2nd Brigade Sections tied; 3rd, 1st Brigade Section.

Putting the shot—1, Sigmn Baker and Sergt Pronger; 2, Corpl McCormick and L/Corpl Morley; 3, Signalmen Ford and Mumford.

Long jump—1, Corpl Devey and Sigmn Wark; 2, Sergt Nash nd L/Corpl Morley; 3, L/Corpl Stanton and Sigmn Dunnell.

Throwing the javelin—1, Signalmen Wark and Knight; 2, Signalmen Lawrence and Moody; 3, L/Corpl Emsley and Sigmn Baker.

Throwing the discus—1, Sergt Pronger and Corpl Devey; 2, Sergt Nash and Corpl McCormick; 3, L/Corpl Stanton and Sigmn Ford.

100 yards team relay—1, Divl. H.Q. Section; 2, 1st Brigade Signal Section; 3, Nos. 1 and 3 Sections; 4, 1st Brigade Section.

Three-legged race—1, Dvr Linton and Corpl Salmon; 2, Signalmen Funnell and Thompson; 3, Signalmen Tokins & Munday.

880 yards team relay—1, 19th Brigade Section; 2, Divl. H.Q. Section; 3, 2nd Brigade Section; 4, 1st Brigade Section.

220 yards team relay—1, Divl. H.Q. Section; 2, Nos. 1 and 3 Sections; 3, 2nd Brigade Section; 4, Field W/T Section.

One mile (open to garrison)—1, Pte Bryan (2nd Worcestershire Regt.); 2, Pte Perkins (K.S.L.I.); 3, Fus. Blake (2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers).

Old soldiers' race—1, Sergt McKechnie; 2, Sergt Sandy; 3, Sergt Callegari.

Three miles—1, Sigmn Orpwood; 2, Sigmn Slight; 3, Sigmn Dunk.

Tilting the bucket—1, L/Corpl Barraclough and Sigmn Perks; 2, Signalmen Westmoreland and Moffitt; 3, Signalmen Thomas and Vigurs.

Tug-of-war—Nos. 1, 2 and 4 Sections beat 1st Brigade Section.

Band race—1, Sergt Casseldon; 2, Pte French; 3, Pte Kemble.

Wheelbarrow race—1, L/Corpls Critchley and Morley; 2, Signalmen Cansell and Pearce; 3, Signalmen Perks and Beadle.

440 yards—1, 19th Brigade Section; 2, Divl. H.Q. Section; 3, Field W/T Section.

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V.C. race—1, Dvr Linton; 2, Dvr Cave; 3, Sigmn Jessup.

One mile—1, 19th Brigade Section; 2, Field W/T Section; 3, Divl. H.Q. Section.

Open tent pegging—1, Royal Signals; 2, Royal Engineers; 3, Military Police.

Sack race—1, Sigmn Tregoning; 2, Sigmn Funnell; 3, Corporal Salmon.

Children's races (under 5)—1, Archie Bridges; 2, Tessie Winteringham; 3, Rosy Wooldridge. (Over 5)—1, William Wright; 2, George Jones; 3, Betty Day.

Obstacle race—1, L/Corpl Morley; 2, Corpl McCormick; 3, Sigmn Tregoning.

Blindfold race—1, Sigmn Insull; 2, Sigmn Vigurs; 3, Sigmn Hooper.

Thread-the-needle race—1, Mrs. Brewer; 2, Mrs. Mason; 3, Mrs Charles.

At the conclusion of the events Mrs. Day, wife of Lieut.-Col. Day, kindly presented the prizes. During the course of the afternoon the band of the 2nd Worcestershire Regiment played selections.

The next item is the Rhine Army athletic sports, for which a team has been entered in addition to several entries for the individual events.

The dates fixed for the championships are 22nd and 23rd July, so until then we'll keep hoping to do better than last year, when the cup was snatched from us by a small number of points.

**Cricket** has been slack of late, weather again interfering. The R.E.s have recorded two wins against us, so we shall have to buck up if we are to carry off the league.

## Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

**Sports.**—Since winning the Wallace football cup, we have been engaged in keeping fit by playing friendlies with the various teams in the Garrison. A photograph of the winning team is shown overleaf.

It has just been announced that the team which was so successful in the Garrison tournament have entered for the Indian Football Association shield competition, which commences at Calcutta on July 9th. Our best wishes are with them, and we hope that they will add another trophy to our sideboard for the coming year. Good luck to them!

*Back row (left to right)*—L/Sgt Hodge, Signalmen Moody, L. D. Taylor and Graves, Sgt Kitchen (captain), L/Sgt Wooldridge.
*Centre*—Sgm Hamilton, L/Cpl Welch, Capt E. Humphries, M.C., D.C.M. (I.S.C.), Lieut-Col. P. Z. Paulson, O.B.E. (Royal Signals), Capt. G. W. Holland (I.A.), Signalmen Lancaster and A. H. Green.
*Front*—Sgmn Holmes, Sgt Evnott.

**Hockey.**—In the Garrison hockey cup tournament we met our match in the final, when the Gunners (71st Battery R.A.) beat us by 1—0. Well played, the Gunners.

**Rugby.**—Followers of the handling code have been busily practising for the past three weeks, and hail with joy the advent of the muddy season, as they delight in wallowing. At the time of writing no matches have been arranged.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

**Cricket.**—This game has been running rather smoothly since sending our last notes, and the Corps team has met with the usual ups and downs connected with this sport. We have lost F/Sergt Agar, our captain and best bat, who has gone to Risalpur; nevertheless we are keeping our end up, even though we are not meeting with very much success at present.

**Football and Hockey.**—The season for these has long finished, but for the purpose of finding fresh talent for next season, we have started Section tournaments which are proceeding very satisfactorily. There are three W/T and three L/T Company Sections, and some good games have been witnessed between them, especially when different Company Sections meet.

After the expiration of this tournament the Sections will finish up with an athletic meeting. The Section getting the most points for hockey, football, and athletics is to be presented with a cup and medals.

## B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

**Hockey.**—Up to the present the unit hockey team (British ranks) have not been beaten, and great things are expected of them in the future. The results of games played are as shown below:—

Versus B Corps Signals (I.O.R.) won by 4—1.
Versus General Post Office, 'Pindi, won by 3—2.
Versus Royal Army Medical Corps, draw, 3—3.
Versus Royal Army Service Corps, won by 7—2.
Versus B Corps Signals (I.O.R.), won by 5—1.
Versus Indian Army Ordnance Corps, won by 4—2.

**Football.**—Only one match has been played (B Corps Signals 3; Royal Artillery, 3), but it is hoped to have the Corps football team going strong in the future.

**Cricket.**—Only one match has been played, B Corps Signals versus Mr. Jagannath's XI. The latter won by an innings and 40 runs.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

**Football.**—Several matches have been played during the past month between this unit and details of the Durham Light Infantry and the R.A.M.C. Honours have been fairly even, and quite a lot of new talent has been found for the coming winter season.

**Hockey.**—Very few matches have been played during the past month. The unit entered for the local tournament, but were beaten in the first round by our old opponents the N Ammunition Column. Our team was extremely weak owing to players away in the hills and several sick.

**Tennis.**—In the early part of the month we played the Volunteer Club, who are usually reckoned champions of the station, and in this match they easily proved their superiority by beating us by 95 to 48 games. Actually we only won one set. The return match was a surprise to all, for with what was thought a weaker team we won by 68 to 40, and took the majority of the sets.

**Cricket.**—We had an exciting match last week with an Indian team (the Union Club), and on the first innings obtained 57 runs to their 75. In the second innings they scored 103, which meant we had to get 122, with only an hour and a quarter to do it. It developed into a race against time, but we knocked up 130, thus winning by eight runs.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

**Sports.**—The heat is responsible for the scarcity of matches during the past month. Hockey, cricket and tennis are being played with the usual zest but not frequency. There has been no football.

**Hockey.**—On May 21st a hockey match was played against the Frontier Police, a team of burly and vigorous players, whose tactics were responsible for our defeat by 3—2. The result does not reflect on our team, who played a hard-fought game, and it was only a few minutes from time that the Police scored what proved to be the winning goal. We can forecast a win when the return match is played, although our team is denuded of players by the exigencies of the Service and the salubrious environment of Upper Topa.

The next evening another match was played, against the Railway, resulting in a draw of 1—1. Lieut. G. T. Dinsmore, ably assisted by A. N. Other, had control of the game, and they discharged their duties admirably.

**Cricket.**—This seems to be more the vogue since rumour has been rampant with the name of Captain Mathews, who played against the M.C.C. during their tour of India. It is regretted, however, that owing to unforeseen circumstances we shall not now have this redoubtable player's moral support, and will have to rely on practice and natural instinct for improvement. Almost nightly one may find the sporting fraternity at the nets, and four or five matches have taken place during the past month.

The first few matches were peculiar in that they were dedicated to the bowlers, who did pretty much as they liked; but the last match, between mixed teams of British and Indian ranks, proved that the bowlers were not infallible.

Signalmen Wilson, Westcott, A. W. Jones, J. Allen, and Porky Hollywood, not forgetting two Indian ranks (Signalmen Joseph and Chinaduri), gave the bowlers more trouble than was bargained for. Sigmn J. Allen was in great form, and declared his innings after hitting three fours, three twos and a couple of singles. We heard him whisper, en passant, that it was warm and very dry work. Sigmn Joseph would have lost us a couple of balls but for the fact that we still have a few decent trees in D.I.Khan.

**Tennis.**—Tennis is being played by a few hardy warriors who, if they practise during the next few months, will give a good account of themselves when the cool weather returns with its usual challenges. Arref of Tochi fame is going great guns, and it is rumoured that he will be sending out a challenge to a well-known American champion famous for a terrific service; but as the challenge is still in embryo, Arref is rubbing the rough edges off his back-hand return, and if there are any balls left by the time he feels confident, he will forward them to THE WIRE. Such relics should be very interesting.

**Impromptu Sports.**—On the King's Birthday we took on the local cavalry regiment in the following events: Hockey, draw of 1—1; tug-of-war, lost; officers' tent-pegging (three a-side), lost; mule race (four a-side), won. The day finished up with a treasure hunt, and several of our men were very lucky.

## Bannu Signals.

**Football.**—Versus Brigade Headquarters, won by 5—2 (L/Cpl Ferdinando, Slater, Stevens 2, and Simpson). Versus Bannu Gentlemen, lost by 1—2 (Slater). Versus Headquarters, lost by 0—2.

**Hockey.**—Versus A 5/14th Punjab Regt., draw of 2—2 (Sergt Tebby, Anderson), and won by 2—1 (Sergts Tebby and Szarkowski).

## Manzai Brigade Signal Section.

Owing to the hockey pitch having to be shared among so many units, there were only two matches played last month, both being against Brigade Headquarters. Honours were even, one match ending at 4—3 in our favour and the other at 1—0 against us.

The O.C.'s efforts to cultivate an interest in the game amongst the Indian ranks are now noticeably rewarded. It is advisable to enter and leave the barrack-room by the back door between the hours of six and seven p.m., such ardent adherents of the stick game are they becoming.

It is a great pity that the chance of hockey here is so limited, as this is really the only game that can be safely played during the present season.

## Kohat District Signals.

**Football.**—With but an average of twenty B.O.R.s in Kohat, it has naturally been difficult at times to raise an eleven for either football or hockey, and we have had to call on Indian ranks to make up our team. Considering all things we have done well, and win or lose the games have proved good exercise, much needed after a hot stifling day. As one member of the team puts it, "it clears the brain—and the liver."

The best game of the month was versus the Royal Air Force. Our forward line got really going for once, and even if they did not score it was much better to see the ball being swung about in such a manner as to keep the opposing defence always on the go. As it happened, our front line were just wide of the mark each time, the uprights and the cross-bar being repeatedly struck. The goal proved elusive, and the game ended in a goalless draw.

A match versus the Gurkha ranks was rather one-sided, though they played a really good game. The B.O.R.s ran out winners by 5—0. Quite a feature of the game was the midget left back, Corpl W. Bellwood. To see him running after a tall winger reminded one of the old proverb of the flea chasing the elephant—only, unlike the flea, he usually got there!

The team representing Kohat Signals is now as follows: Naik Kunia Thapa; Sergt L. Overington and Sigmn H. Dudley; Capt. H. D. Orr, L/Sergt H. Broughton and Sigmn A. Tracey; Sergt W. Peerless, Corpl F. Murphy, Corpl P. Hammond, Naik Ram Chander, and Sigmn A. Pelling.

Other results are as below:
v. R.A.F., lost by 1—2 (Corpl Hammond).
v. Staff Club, lost by 1—2 (Sergt Peerless).
v. 2/12th F.F. Regt., won by 3—1 (Corpl Hammond 2, Cpl Murphy).
v. R.A.F., lost by 1—4 (Naik Ram Chander).
v. Staff Club, won by 2—0 (Capt. Orr, Sergt Peerless).

**Hockey.**—Results to date:—
v. R.A.F., lost by 1—3 (Corpl Hammond).
v. R.A.F., draw of 2—2 (Corpl Hammond).
v. 2/9th Jat Regt., lost by 0—3.



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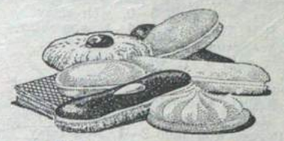

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## The Corps in Egypt.

**Cricket.**—We met the R.A.S.C. in the first round of the Frank Cook cup. They batted first and knocked up a score of 228. Our team went in and eventually the score board read 228 for 9. Sigmn Dickerson was caught in trying to make that all-important one!

### Corporals' Mess.

Things have bucked up this past month, and really made it worth while putting something in THE WIRE.

On June 23rd we sent a team to the Ordnance junior n.c.o.s to represent our mess, and were defeated by a margin of 49 runs: Ordnance junior n.c.o.s, 189; Signals junior n.c.o.s., 134. Partridge made the best score for Ordnance with 87, and Corpl Ryan 26 for us.

The Norfolks paid us a visit on June 25th, and we had another cricket match, with billiards after tea to while away the evening. It is worth while noting that in the Norfolks' first innings L/Corpl Backhouse took eight wickets for 12, while in our second innings Skerry of the Norfolks took five wickets for 5. We lost by 87 runs.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Cricket.**—The Company team have only played two matches recently, but in each case we have managed to uphold the traditions of the Corps.

The first match was a friendly with the 216th Squadron R.A.F., whom we managed to beat by two wickets. Our opponents scored 127, and we managed to get 130 for the loss of eight wickets. Our best performers were Dvr Terry 46, Sigmn Dickerson 30 not out, and Sergt Yates 23.

Our second match was of a more serious nature, when we were drawn against A Company Norfolk Regt. in the second round of the small units cricket cup. We went in first and made the very good total of 292 (Sergt Yates 84, Sigmn Collins 64, and Corpl Ryan 41). To the satisfaction of the unit, our team managed to dismiss our opponents for a total of 64, which was

in a large measure due to the bowling of Corpl Ryan, who took six wickets for 17 runs.

**Swimming.**—With the advent of the hot weather, swimming has become the general favourite among sports. An inter-Section water polo competition has been run during the past few months, and has proved very popular. It is hoped to publish the results of these games, together with those of the Corps gala, in the next issue. The results of the Corps games to date are as follows:—

A Team—Versus
3rd Hussars, lost polo 1—4, dead heat in relay.
1st Light Brigade R.A., lost polo 0—1, won relay.
15/19th Hussars, won polo 5—0, won relay.
2nd Brigade R.H.A., won polo 4—1, won relay.
Royal Air Force, won polo 3—1, won relay.
R.A.S.C., won polo 5—1, won relay.

B Team—Versus
3rd A.C.C., R.T.C., lost polo 0—2, lost relay on touch.
2nd Brigade R.H.A., won polo 6—0, won relay.
Cairo City Police, won polo 2—1, won relay.
Royal Engineers, lost polo 0—1, won relay.
1st Norfolks, won polo 4—0, won relay.
12th Lancers, won polo 2—0, won relay.
3rd Hussars, drew polo 2—2, lost relay.
1st Light Brigade R.A., lost polo 0—1, won relay.

From the above it will be seen that our teams are still a force to be reckoned with, and it is hoped to be able to furnish still better results in the next issue.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Tennis.**—The new Company tennis courts have now been completed, and that tennis is a popular game here is evinced by the long list of names on the waiting list hung outside the courts.

**Athletics.**—The normal athletic season in this country ended last April, but once a month a tabloid sports meeting is held on the Corps sports ground. All events are decided on the team system, the rivals being the Sections of both Companies. Beforehand, a standard time or distance is fixed for all events, and each competitor reaching the appointed standard scores a point for his Section.

The events at the first meeting were: 100 yards (time taken of first and last man, each Section running separately). 880 yards walk (time standard fixed, all reaching the tape within the standard score points). High and long jumps (standards fixed). Shot putt (standard distance fixed). Individual tug-of-war. Football dribbling and scoring a goal within a stipulated time. Bowling at cricket stumps. Relay race (each member of a team to run 150 yards).

All teams consist of twelve men at all events, and each competitor has to take part in every event. On the last occasion H Section of this Company easily topped the list, being very rich in athletes.

From these meetings it is hoped to discover some promising novices who may train on to represent the Corps next season in the Command athletic championships. We shall certainly need them if we are to get those two or three extra points which ultimately decided the destination of the best all-round sporting unit cup last season, and which we failed to obtain by only two points!

**Cricket.**—The inter-Section cricket competition is still going strong, many games having been played during the past month. Somehow, there does not seem to be the same amount of enthusiasm shown in some of the Sections as there has been in previous years.

**Swimming.**—Several of our leading swimmers have been chosen to represent the Corps in Egypt during the past month in the various relay and water polo leagues, and as in previous years, in none of the leagues are we far away from the top. Signals in Egypt are very strong in swimmers, and we feel sure that they could give some of the best Army swimming teams in England a good run for their money.


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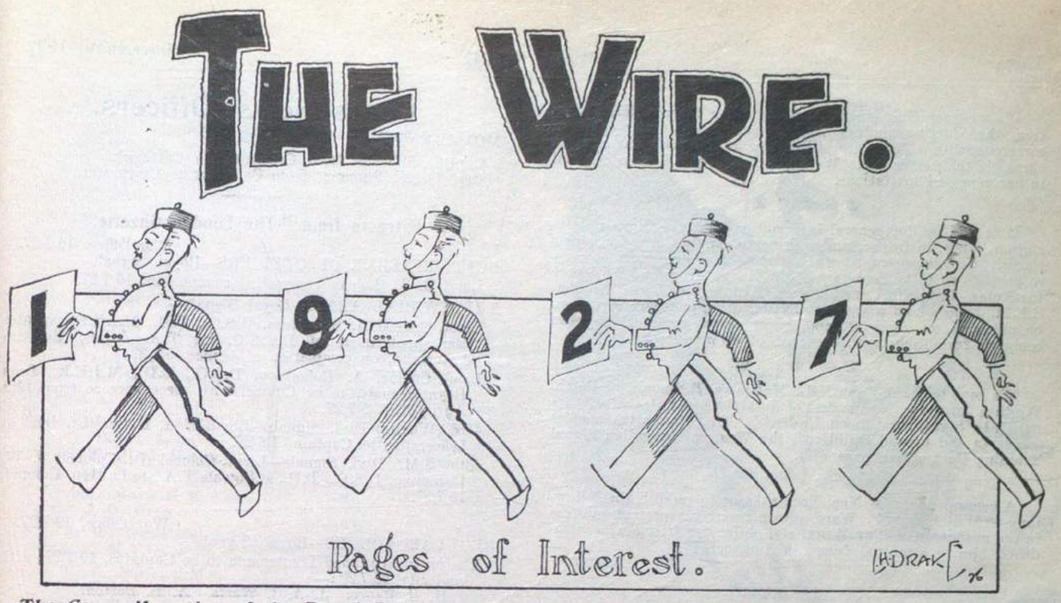


*The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.*

SECRETARY AND EDITOR:
Mr. W. BUTLER, 95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1,
to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. VIII.—No. 91 SEPTEMBER, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE


## Editorial Notes.

**Notice is hereby given** to all concerned that as and from **Thursday, September 1st, 1927, the Secretarial and Editorial Offices** of the Signals Association will be **Removed to 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: Victoria 2081),** to which address **all Correspondence other than Remittances** must be addressed.

It is further notified that as and from the **1st September, 1927, the Treasurer's Office** will be located at **4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2,** to which address **all Remittances** comprising:

*(a)* Benevolent Fund Subscriptions and Donations
*(b)* Central Fund Subscriptions and Donations
*(c)* Publications *(The Wire)* Subscriptions, Sales, etc.

must be addressed to—**The Treasurer, Signals Association, 4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2.**

It should be clearly understood that **all Personal Enquiries must be made at the Secretarial Offices, 95 Belgrave Road, S.W.1,** and *NOT* at 4 Broad Street Place, E.C.2.

***THIS NOTICE CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS.***

It is proposed to hold the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Signals Association at No. 95 Belgrave Road, Victoria, London, S.W.1, at 2.30 p.m., on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 1927.

The business to be transacted will include a Resolution confirming the action of the Central Committee in placing the accounting services of the Association in the hands of Chartered Accountants acting for the General Treasurer.

Members intending to be present are requested to notify the General Secretary not later than Monday, September 29th, 1927.

We welcome Unit Notes from the Aden Brigade Signal Section, thus forging another link in our already long chain of correspondents. There are still a few others who have yet to chronicle their activities. We hope that they will soon respond to our repeated invitations.

❀ ❀ ❀

It is notified for general information that the Signals Association is not, in future, undertaking to supply Corps Christmas Cards. Unit representatives are advised to communicate as early as possible with the Secretary of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, Imperial Court, Upper Kennington Lane, London, S.E.11, from whom a varied selection of appropriate cards can be obtained on approval, and whose prices for bulk supplies compare favourably with those of other producers.

❀ ❀ ❀

We have to thank Capt J. L. McKinlay, R.Signals, of Perth, Western Australia, for the first of his series of illustrated articles entitled "Signalling 'Down Under.'" The illustrations depict scenes in and around Guildford, the Western Australian Signal Training Centre (see page 279).

❀ ❀ ❀

A correspondent in New York asks us to publish the following:—"Will Sigmn P. Ward please insert his present address in the next issue of THE WIRE, and oblige the friend who introduced him to a mutual friend in Singapore?"

EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The attention of all Unit Representatives, Branch Secretaries, etc., is drawn to the Editorial Notes in this issue, and also to the Notice recently circulated from the *New* Secretarial Offices at 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts from Branches, etc.:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot ... ... | £0 | 4 | 0 |
| A Corps Signals, Karachi ... ... ... | 16 | 2 | 0 |
| Sergeant S. A. Wilcox ... ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Construction Foreman (Crown Agent) ... ... ... | 1 |
| P.O. Lineman ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Chauffeur-Valet ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Cinema Attendant ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Porters ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Houseman ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Wireless Set Tester ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Packer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Pantryman ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Waiter-Valet ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Laundryman ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Odd-man ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

GENERAL SECRETARY.

### Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from:—

Officer Commanding 50th Divl. Signals (T.A.), Darlington.
P.R.I. Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot.
A Corps Signals, Karachi.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from—

Lieut R. C. Woodbridge, R.Signals.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, London. Employment found and £2 advanced from funds. (SAB/257).
2—Ex-N.C.O. R.Signals, London. Employment found and £1 advanced from funds. (SAB/258).

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Capt C. Wheeler from Colchester to Catterick.
Capt G. H. Plummer from Catterick to Colchester.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 15/7/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut B. V. Leleux resigns his commission, 16/7/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
Lieut.-Colonel A. Robertson, D.S.O., T.D., M.I.E.E., vacates the appointment of D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Scottish Command, on completion of tenure, 5/7/27.
Lieut.-Colonel A. Robertson, D.S.O., T.D., M.I.E.E., from Royal Signals, to be Colonel with precedence as from 14th April, 1927, 5/7/27.
43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals—Lieut P. A. Harris (Lt. Res. of Officers) to be Captain, 1/6/27.
48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals—Lieut.-Colonel (Bt.-Colonel) J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D., R.Signals T.A., to be Hon. Colonel, 16/7/27.

War Office, 19/7/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 19/7/27, with seniority 26/7/20:—
H. E. Rance. J. A. I. Watts. A. E. Barton.
(Such seniority not to count for Army seniority, pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
49th (W.R.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut J. N. Armstrong to be Lieutenant, 11/6/27.

War Office, 22/7/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
Lieut.-Colonel A. A. Jayne, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., A.M.I.E.E. R.Signals Supp. Res. of Officers, to be D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Scottish Command, 5/7/27.

War Office, 26/7/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
27th (London) A.A. Company—Lieut W. E. H. Kennedy, M.C., resigns his commission and retains his rank, 27/7/27.

War Office, 29/7/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieutenants are transferred, 30/7/27, retaining their present seniority:—
W. D. J. Harries, from Welch Regiment.
C. A. H. Chadwick, from K.O.Y.L.I.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut E. R. Sutton to be Lieut. 30/5/27.

War Office, 2/8/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—Capt A. H. Read is seconded for special duties, 3/8/27.
46th (N.M.) Divl. Signals—J. M. T. Perry (late Cadet Corporal Rugby School Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lt. 1/7/27.

War Office, 5/8/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Border Regiment—
2/Lieut R. T. Muspratt-Williams, from R.Signals, to be 2/Lt. 6/8/27, with seniority 3/9/25.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—Lieut W. C. Watkin resigns his commission, 6/8/27.

War Office, 9/8/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt H. D. Orr, from Indian Army, to be Captain, 10/8/27, retaining his present seniority.



TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals—Lt J. E. B. Tinker, M.C., having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commission and retains his rank.

War Office, 12/8/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
49th (W.R.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut R. V. Gostling to be Lieut. 25/7/27.

### Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club.

The annual dinner took place at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London, on July 27th. Lieut.-General Sir John Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant of the Corps, took the chair. The following officers were present:—

Major A. C. Allan, D.S.O., M.C. Lieut.-Col. C. J. Aston, M.C.

Lieut.-Col. P. R. Bald, D.S.O. Capt. D. D. Bannerman. Lieut L. C. Boyd. Lieut A. E. L. Brown. Capt D. A. Brown. Capt W. J. H. Bull.

Major H. Carter. Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E. Capt P. A. Chubb. Major F. R. Cobb, M.C. Major A. G. J. Copeland. Capt J. C. Cree.

Col. J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D. Lieut.-Col. H. E. Day, D.S.O., M.V.O. Capt J. G. Deedes, M.B.E.

Col. R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C. Major O. P. Edgcumbe, M.C. Major R. Elsdale, M.C. Col. M. W. Emley, O.B.E., T.D. Lieut.-Col. L. Evans, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Major P. B. D. H. Foot. Capt R. R. Ford. Lieut.-General Sir John Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. Lieut.-Col. H. F. Fox, T.D.

Capt W. C. V. Galwey, M.C. Capt R. G. L. Giblin. Capt T. B. Gravely.

Lieut.-Col. Norman Harrison, C.M.G., D.S.O. (South Africa). Col. H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O. Major G. M. H. Henderson, O.B.E., M.C. Lieut.-Col. F. A. Heymann, O.B.E. Major E. N. F. Hitchens, D.S.O., M.C. Lieut-Col. H. L. Howard, M.C. Major W. T. Howe, O.B.E.

Lieut.-Col. A. G. Lee.

Capt J. P. Mackenzie. Capt F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C. Col. H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O. Capt F. S. Morgan. Lieut R. W. Morgan. Major L. H. Morse, M.C. Major A. E. P. Mudge, M.C. Capt E. J. Murphy.

Capt R. F. H. Nalder. Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C. Brig.-Gen. W. P. E. Newbigging, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Lieut.-Col. E. A. Osborne, D.S.O. Lieut.-Col. A. L. Owen, O.B.E., M.C. Lieut P. H. Owens. Major G. D. Ozanne, M.C.

Capt M. F. M. Parkes, M.C. Major H. A. J. Parsons, M.C. Capt G. P. Pavey, M.B.E. Lieut S. A. W. Philcox. Capt G. H. Plummer, M.C. Col. C. H. Prickett, D.S.O.

Lieut H. E. Rance. Capt R. C. Rattray. Capt R. H. Rayner, M.B.E. Major C. L. Ruck.

Lieut R. J. N. Solly. Col. H. S. Smith, D.S.O. Lieut.-Col. T. H. L. Spaight, D.S.O. Lieut.-Colonel F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., T.D. Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E. Capt F. A. Sykes.

Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C. Lieut. K. H. Treseder. Col. E. V. Turner, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Col. H. A. Vernon, D.S.O. Lieut.-Col. T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C. Major R. E. Vyvyan, M.B.E., M.C.

Major A. Waley, M.C. Lieut.-Col. J. Watson, O.B.E., M.C. Lieut.-Col. W. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C. Capt V. J. E. Westropp. Lieut M. S. Wheatley. Capt G. C. Wickens. Lieut.-Col. R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. Capt O. S. D. Wills. Lieut.-Col. H. L. Wright, D.S.O.
Lieut L. V. Younie. Major J. S. Yule, O.B.E.

A telegram of greeting which had been received from Signals, Shanghai Defence Force, and a letter from Col. Waley Cohen in Australia, were read by the Chairman and suitably replied to.

The Corps band made their first appearance at a Corps dinner, and their music was much appreciated.

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There's a surprise for you when you taste Armour's "Veribest" Salmon. You've never known before how good salmon could be.

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## Culture the Result of Labour.

The education, moral and intellectual, of every individual must be chiefly *his own work*. How else could it happen that young men who have had precisely the same opportunities should be continually presenting us with such different results, and rushing to such opposite destinies? Difference of talent will not solve it, because that difference is very often in favour of the disappointed candidate.

You will see issuing from the same college, and even sometimes from the bosom of the same family, two young men, of whom the one shall be admitted to be a genius of high order, and the other scarcely above the point of mediocrity. Yet you shall see the genius sinking and perishing in poverty, obscurity and wretchedness; while, on the other hand, you shall observe the mediocre plodding his slow but sure way up the hill of life, gaining steadfast footing at every step, and mounting at length to eminence and distinction—an ornament to his family and a blessing to his country.

Now whose work is this? Manifestly their own. Men *are* the architects of their respective fortunes. It is the fiat of fate from which no power of genius can absolve you. Genius, unexerted, is like the poor moth that flutters around a candle till it is scorched to death. If genius be desirable at all, it is only of that great and magnanimous kind which, like the condor of South America, pitches from the summit of Chimborazo above the clouds and sustains itself at pleasure in that empyreal region with an energy rather invigorated than weakened by the effort.

It is this capacity for high and long-continued exertion, this vigorous power of profound and searching investigation, this careering and wide-spread comprehension of mind, and those long reaches of thought, that

"Pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon,
Or dive into the bottom of the deep
Where fathom-line could never touch the ground,
And drag up drowned honour by the locks."

This is the prowess, and these the hardy achievements, which are to enrol your names amongst the Great Men of the earth.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**Appointed Q.M.-Sergeant—**

1861302 Manley A. 3/7/27
1856295 Wray, G. 20/7/27

**To be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.)—**

2307708 Gadsby, A. 13/7/27
1857006 Campbelton, A. 13/7/27
2307262 Green, L. 20/7/27
1851563 Smith, R. 20/7/27

**Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—**

2307176 Davey, W. 27/6/27
2308029 O'Connor, J. 27/6/27
1852444 Hocking, S. 4/7/27
2311440 Scrivens, E. 13/7/27
2307068 Keenan, A. 13/7/27

**To be Sergeant—**

5664462 Crouch, R. 12/10/26
1856927 Weston, H. 25/10/26
1858918 Bishop, G. 25/10/26
2306663 Wheeler, E. 3/12/26
2310350 Brett, L. 23/1/27
2308352 O'Connor, D. 12/2/27

**Appointed Acting-Sergeant—**

1858966 Anthony, H. 26/1/27
2307405 Pank, A. 26/1/27
2306416 Ellerbeck, A. 12/2/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**

2306504 Wooldridge, A. 2/2/27
2554710 Gandey, S. 2/2/27
4114919 Murphy, W. 21/3/27
1856967 Hinds, W. 31/3/27
1857035 Watmore, W. 31/3/27
2314061 Rowden, S. 31/3/27
2310868 Cole, W. 20/4/27
2308397 Waldron, D. 18/5/27

**To be Corporal—**

1859031 Lynch, J. 21/11/24
2314511 Steed, H. 25/11/26
2314903 Butler, W. 3/12/26
2312400 Grose, C. 3/12/26
2310689 Emblem, R. 3/12/26
2310914 Wintermere, H. 15/12/26
2314631 Humphrey, L. 16/12/26
2309798 Little, V. 16/12/26
1860298 Todman, A. 16/12/26
724953 Pearce, E. 16/12/26
2310544 Gardner, J. 16/12/26
31227 Handford, J. 16/12/26
2311078 Creaton, S. 18/1/27
2308070 Finley, F. 18/1/27
5374404 Tellery, S. 18/1/27
2314701 George, M. 3/2/27
2555422 Barnes, R. 31/3/27
2304247 Smith, J. 21/4/27

**To be Corporal (appointed F/Corpl)**

2314074 Donnellan, M. 9/5/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**

5999529 Cole, V. 2/2/27
1854200 Hodges, W. 3/2/27
2314617 Chapman, G. 3/2/27
2313703 Morgan, V. 7/2/27
2315604 Francis, W. 12/2/27
2313844 Stafford, T. 12/2/27
2313753 Isaac, R. 12/2/27
2312015 McLennan, H. 14/2/27
2310707 Drudge, J. 15/2/27
2313026 Luck, V. 15/2/27
5487819 Pinkstone, E. 15/2/27
2312604 Booth, T. 15/2/27
2313907 Harper, G. 15/2/27
2312950 Woolhouse, A. 20/2/27
5663904 Greed, R. 22/2/27
2311290 Godbold, A. 22/2/27
2309813 Mills, W. 22/2/27
2312093 Bonner, W. 22/2/27
2312430 Jarvis, L. 22/2/27
733106 Kirby, S. 22/2/27
1861341 Anderson, W. 22/2/27
2310593 Cadell, T. 22/2/27

## Discharges.

2306769 Q.M.S. R. Forward, 2/7/27
1855251 Q.M.S. H. Berry, 19/7/27
1850267 C.S.M. H. Barber, 12/7/27
2306337 C.S.M. G. Burrows, 16/7/27
2306166 C.Q.M.S. E. Patrick, 3/7/27
2306344 C.Q.M.S. E. Setterfield, 13/7/27
2306712 Corpl W. Henson, 11/7/27

## Transfers to Army Reserve.

5488940 Corpl W. Hinks, 16/7/27
2314025 Corpl G. Ibbs, 18/7/27
6768174 Corpl F. Gough, 20/7/27



## Plain Tales.

**Eastward Ho!**—The drafting season has opened with a great crashing of trumpets and much blowing upon the cymbals, as the saying is. Many limpets are to be prised from their rocks. The author of these paragraphs has asked me (and I have kindly consented) to state that he, too, has clicked, greatly to his satisfaction. His destination is India, though it is difficult to understand what India has done to deserve this; especially as he is determined to take his saxophone with him. Will some kindly soul inform him whether he will be able to get it into that country "buckshee," or whether he will have to pay about a third the value in tax. He is willing to commit any reasonable crime to avoid the latter, which would be rather a kidney punch.

The violinist of the 3rd Divl. Signals dance band will also visit India, so get your applications in early!

Will Harry Ring please say which is the best station?

* * * *

**Seven Days.**—Or in simpler language, one week. The Corps band arrived from Catterick on Monday, July 18th. Regular readers will recall that I forecast this in the August WIRE. They remained in Bulford for the period July 18th to 24th, hereinafter referred to as the sojourn.

In the opinion of everyone in Bulford, the Royal Corps of Signals band may justly describe itself as a real 100 per cent. No. 1 Military Band.

Considerable credit is due to Mr. R. R. Ricketts, the bandmaster. I knew the band before he took charge, and believe me, gentlemen, Fairwarp Brass Band used to run them pretty closely. The 3rd Divl. Signals notes will show the excellent programme for their thrice-blessed stay in Bulford. You thought I was going to say "sojourn," didn't you?

Their dance band consists of ten performers. You may think I am more or less prejudiced on this point, but I refuse to allow that to interfere with what I consider my duty (sensation). I will only say that I was just a little disappointed with the dance band (no sensation).

However, that's by the way. We were all very pleased to have the band here, and we have derived considerable satisfaction from the fact that the people of other units are now fully aware that the Signals have a band as good as any and better than a lot. We were very sorry indeed to part with them, but they had to move on.

They left Bulford at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, July 24th, for Aldershot, where they were met by an enthusiastic crowd of Signals who es—What the deuce are you kicking my ankle for? What? Suffering cats, you don't say! Didn't they? Well!

* * * *

**Carbon Monoxide.**—This is a more impressive title than "Petrol vapour," under which a lot of people write of cars, motor-cycles, upholstery, green fields, f.w.b. and o.h.v. They don't know much, really. They copy each other mostly.

The following observations on petrol engines and the like will not be found in the London papers until after September. Probably not even then; such is the law of copyright.

Carbon monoxide, of course, is a deadly poison, and it has been proved that if a man puts the end of his exhaust pipe in his mouth, and runs his engine all out for half an hour or so, the chances are that he will cause his driving licence to lapse.

I hear that Bedford cord is again becoming popular as upholstery for cars. Several cars I know of can show a quantity of Bulford string. Everyone seems to be going in for cars nowadays: if you can call them cars, that is. All jealousy and satire aside, I will say that they have one great advantage over motor-cycles. Travelling in them, you have an opportunity of observing the countryside. You can converse with your passengers when the engine is not running.

I was asked to test one of the local cars recently. After considerable persuasion I consented. I was agreeably surprised to find that after two hours spent in making minor adjustments, such as installing new valves, tappets, guides, rings and a carburettor, the engine started fairly easily. I barked my shin on the chassis in getting in. How was I to know the running board was gone? Going up a gradient of one in five hundred, I used low gear, not because I had to, but because I wanted to get the car to the top. Most of the plugs were working. The brakes were fairly good, and prevented the car running back down the gradient. They were certainly a little worn, but the owner explained that the war came on and made it extremely difficult to replace them. He was shouting at me for a long time. I stopped the engine to listen. "Get over to the side," he said; "there's a man with a barrow wants to get by."

* * * *

**Gardening for All.**—Except me, of course. That's understood. You can't be an expert in horticulture in all its branches if you mess about with spades, picks, rakes, hoes, shovels, hammers, pliers, axes, screw-drivers and such-like agricultural impedimenta.

First of all, we will deal with September flowers. Sweet peas are now practically finished. I once knew a man who stayed up all night whistling to his sweet peas to keep them in good trim for a flower show the next day. He cut them early and set off for the show, a distance of five miles over some, or one, of the worst roads in England. This was in America, by the way. After plodding on for about seven miles with his faithful bloodhound at his heel (his other heel fell off further back) he sat down to think. With a couple of smothered oaths he rose again, as there was nothing to sit on, and resumed his weary march. The dog, I should mention, was a splendid animal, but had twisted its ankle on the bad roads. The county surveyor had promised hundreds of times to get the roads put in order, but he was all hot air, like a barber. When he was young, a builder dropped a brick on his face. The builder, of course, was full of remorse. He was also full of beer, and in his haste to descend the ladder, he failed to notice that his assistant had removed it. He was buried in Cloverton cemetery, a delightful place, all grass and tombstones bearing some touching epitaphs: the tombstones, I mean, not the grass. One, I remember, was erected over a man who used to charge accumulators at sixpence a time. His lines ran:—

"Poor old Bimbo's gone below—
We'll see his face no more,
'Cos what he drank for H2o
Was H2SO 4."

Very sad! Well, it just shows you how important it is to—well, I mean you can't be too careful with flowers at this time of the

[ *Continued on page 280* ]

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Lurking germs, greasy "film," every danger to your teeth is defeated, and the enamel polished to pearl-like radiance without scratching or wearing.

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Gibbs Dentifrice in neat aluminium cases: Large size, 1/-; De Luxe, 1/6; Refills, 11d.; Popular size, 7½d. Dental Cream in tubes, 6d. and 1/-.

*Your teeth are Ivory Castles — defend them with*

**Gibbs Dentifrice**

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## Signalling "Down Under."

### No. 1

We in the Colonies are grateful to THE WIRE for enlightening us upon the doings of the "Sigs." at home and abroad. Therefore, perhaps it would be of interest to other readers to learn something about a sister unit in this island continent of ours. This unit is composed, not of Regular soldiers, Territorials, nor war-worn veterans, but of youths trained compulsorily by the law of the Australian Commonwealth.

One who is endeavouring to keep up the reputation of the A.I.F. Signals hopes, in a few articles, to hold your interest in the doings of these lads, and to show that, although the training be compulsory, it is nevertheless enjoyed by both officers and men.

To those not conversant with the system of military training throughout the Commonwealth of Australia, it is necessary to explain that, here, we have compulsory training.

This system came into being in 1909 under the Fisher Government. Though at that time Australia possessed a Home Service Army only, she regarded that army seriously. The Labour leaders were convinced that Australia would have to fight one day for her existence. By the action of successive governments of both parties, the Citizen Army was established and compulsory training came into being. In the following summer Lord Kitchener, invited by the Australian Government, visited this country and advised upon the organisation of the Citizen Forces so raised. His advice was adopted in its entirety. Under it the Army of the Commonwealth was coming into being when war broke out.

A large percentage of the men in the A.I.F. Signal units received their initial training under this system.

The Defence Act states that every British-born or naturalised male resident in Australia must register himself for training at the age of sixteen. If passed fit by a Medical Board, he serves for two years in what is known as the Senior Cadets. The training is very light, taking the form of games combined with elementary drill conducive to good discipline. The greater part of this training is done in the employer's time. The cadet can in no wise be penalised for the hours so taken up by military duties.

At the age of eighteen the youth is again medically examined and is then drafted into the Citizen Forces, where he must serve for three years. (It may be noted that this system of medical examination is most valuable in determining the fitness of the rising generation.) The training now consists of twelve days a year, eight of which must be carried out in a camp of continuous training. The parades take place in the evenings or on Saturday afternoons, but the week in camp is taken from the employer's time. The trainee is paid for his services at the rate of 4s. per day, n.c.o.s receiving considerably more.

Before being drafted into the Citizen Forces, the embryo soldier is allowed to choose the particular branch of the Service in which he is desirous of carrying out his training. Owing to wide stretches of country in Australia being so sparsely populated, many exempt areas exist. It would be practically impossible to hold a parade where the area is the size of England! Should a youth eligible for training move into a training area, he must at once register himself. These areas are more or less confined to populated centres.

Now let us see how the Signal unit acquires its personnel. Elementary signalling is amongst the instruction given to the senior cadet. Morse code on flags and semaphores are the two chief subjects. The lad who during this period acquires a liking for the signalling part of his training will naturally make due application to become a signaller in the Citizen Forces. At the end of the training period in July of each year, officers from the Citizen Forces visit the areas and choose such numbers as are required to bring their Company up to establishment. Need it be mentioned that wireless enthusiasts and junior Post Office operators are eagerly sought after by the Signalling Officers?

The headquarters of the Signal Company in this State (W.A.) is situated in a picturesque suburban town eight miles from the capital (Perth). Close by is the Swan river, and a few miles away the Darling Ranges afford excellent positions for long distance station work.

There is a variety of country around in which to operate, the roads in some parts being excellently tar-macadamised and in others mere bush tracks. Motor transport has not yet reached the Signals in this outpost of the Empire, so we must content ourselves with our old friend the horse. The Depot is well equipped with horses for cable wagon work and mounted visual stations. Riding schools, in which a keen interest is taken, are run in conjunction with the training.

This unit consists of Headquarters Section and Cable, Wireless, Artillery and Infantry Brigade Sections. As Australia is noted for its sunshine, ample scope is given to the heliograph enthusiast.

But sometimes it rains, heavily too, and on such occasions a spacious lecture-room fitted with instruments and lecture diagrams is a great acquisition.

As the training is carried out over a period of three years, it will be understood that roughly 33 per cent. pass in and out of this Company each year. Thus a large proportion of the unit is partly trained. Although the Defence Act states that twelve full days' training must be carried out, voluntary week-end treks and evening classes, held in the city for lectures, are largely attended by enthusiasts. Free railway warrants are issued to any travelling to them from a distance.

There is no doubt that the lads become keen on their training, even though it is a law of the land. Should the occasion ever arise, it is those youths of the Citizen Forces who will form a valuable and well-trained nucleus for a defensive army.

CAPT. J. L. MCKINLAY, M.M.,
13th Signal Co., Western Australia.

## Catterick and Richmond One.

### Linked up by a Line of Shops.

SIR MURROUGH WILSON'S VISION.

*From our own Correspondent.*

Catterick Camp was envisaged as a great North of England Aldershot in the near future, by Sir Murrough Wilson, M.P., Chairman of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, in an interview this afternoon.

"The natural course of events must bring about this great development," said Sir Murrough, "for in the old days we had the Curragh in Ireland to send troops to; and at the present time we have troops over in Germany, Iraq, Shanghai and other parts of the world, and they have to come back.

WILL KEEP GROWING.

"There is nowhere they can go, so far as one can see, except Catterick; and, therefore, it seems certain that Catterick will keep on growing. Although Richmond is the nearest town, and is three miles distant, it is probable that before long these two places will be connected by a line of shops.

"Catterick is one of the prettiest parts of the world, but it is a mushroom town, and is unlike any other quarters used by troops. Aldershot has the town all round it. At Catterick the Government has something like 12,000 acres; and although the people of Richmond are doing everything they can for the men, they are three miles away. Meanwhile the N.A.A.F.I. has the job of seeing that the men are provided with proper means of entertainment, and we are doing this as far as possible.

ROOM FOR TWO DIVISIONS.

"Development will go on at Catterick until it can take up to two divisions of troops, which will comprise, roughly speaking, 60,000 men. These will include the Tank Corps, the Royal Corps of Signals (which is to set up a large training school), and representatives of almost every branch of the Service.

"At present the camp is not too full, but we have to provide the amenities for the men, and this is being done on a scale to meet the full requirements of the camp. We have therefore built, or have in course of erection, eighteen institutes, a theatre, bakery, garage, three shops, and a hostel for the staff.

"We hear a lot nowadays about public-house reform, but I consider one of the finest examples of this is to be found in the work which the institutes are doing. In the old days something like seventy per cent. of the takings of the canteens were due to the sale of beer. Now I think the money taken for beer represents only about seven per cent. of the whole; the rest is for teas, refreshments, general stores, and non-alcoholic drinks.

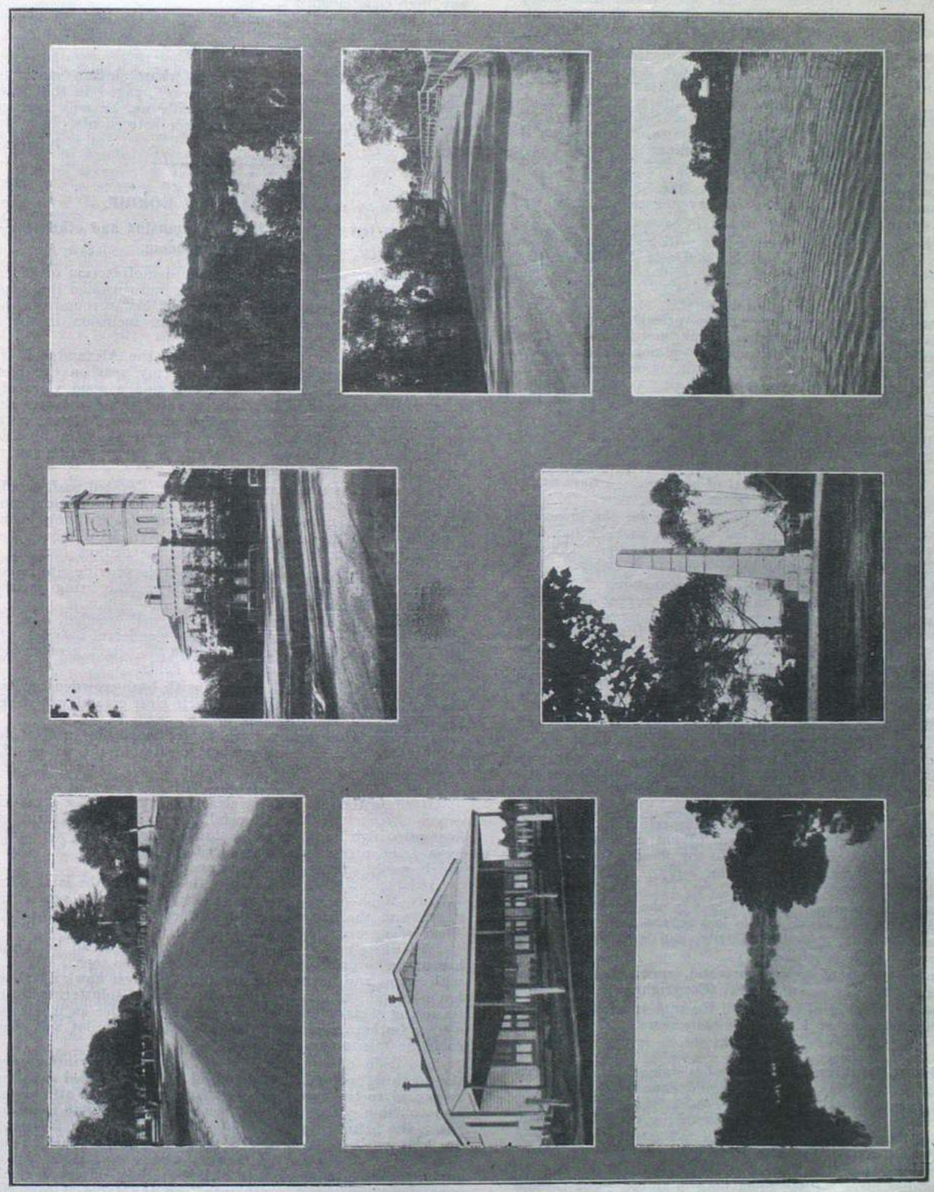
"The old canteen, with sawdust floors, spittoons, hard chairs and bare tables, has been displaced, and the refreshment rooms are now comfortable and have been turned into clubs, where anyone can take refreshment in comfort.

"As a result of increased trading, it is now no uncommon thing for a single battalion to receive as much as £1000 a year for the use of the President of the Regimental Institute, for sports prizes and the general social interests of the men."

—*The Northern Echo*, 23/6/27.



VIEWS OF GUILDFORD, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Overlooking the River.
One of the Main Bridges across the River.
Another River Scene.
The Post Office.
The War Memorial.
The Main Street.
The Signals Office.
The Swan River.

**PLAIN TALES**—*Continued from page 277*

year. Next month I propose to deal with plants and young bushes.

* * * *

**Important Note.**—As the late editor of the now defunct Headquarters Gazette (1924) Ltd., I consider it my duty to inform WIRE readers that the Bookbarl Christian Uplifting Society, Ltd., never existed. The correct title was "The Barlbrook Institution for the Improvement of Soldiers' Morals." This remarkable institution published a series of pamphlets, it is true, the subscription rates being as follows:—

No pamphlet. Nothing. Postage 6d.
One pamphlet. One shilling. Post free.
Two pamphlets. One shilling and sevenpence. Postage, 9d. per dozen, and so on.

The School of Signals correspondent will no doubt be in a position to confirm this, by appealing to Uncle Alfred, the late junior partner. I await his apology.

* * * *

**Odd Thoughts.**—The song parodies as presented on the films at the Garrison Theatre, Bulford, are junk, and the sooner they are dropped the better. This is not my opinion alone. Please do not imagine that I use these pages to air my own unsupported views. A visit to the theatre when a song parody is being shown will settle any doubts you may have. Listen to the audience.

Seen on an Army Form B.252 recently: "Wilful damage to Government property, in that he did, on the 6th inst., deliberately drop a potato on the cookhouse floor, whilst preparing same for dinner, and crush it with the heel of his boot." I have never eaten a cookhouse floor. I bet it tastes lovely.

A very large cheer from the Bulford lads for the immortal Jimmy Hadfield. We are delighted to learn that he has dug his teeth in again. Truly, "old soldiers never die." We are inclined to the belief that they never fade away either.

It has been stated that dancing is not a recreation. A number of Bulford men are asking what category rugger comes in. Nevertheless, the guys who were pinched for proceeding to a dance in grey flannels and patent shoes got all that was coming to them. Moral: Wear tennis shoes with grey flannels, and carry the patent shoes in a parcel. You are then either going to play tennis or coming back, whichever strikes you first. The parcel (if you are not a rapid thinker) contains fish and chips.

A Scottish sergeant was married last week. We have had to play shove-ha'penny with pennies just lately.

A driver made a wireless set out of a soap box, three dud tail-light bulbs, a few reels of cotton, a condensed milk tin, seven yards of bell wire, and a grid that leaked badly. It doesn't work!

Sigmn Mulligan was chased on kit inspection for having a dilapidated pair of slacks on show. "What do you mean by showing these on kit inspection?" said the officer; "they are fit for nothing!" "Sure, sir," was the reply, "they're fit for nothing else." Five days!

An officer left an empty cigarette case in the Quartermaster's office on Monday. Discovering his loss on the following Saturday, he called for it, opened it hastily, and walked dejectedly out of the office. It was still empty!

A man fell off a roof in Salisbury and landed on the ground sixty feet below. He was injured! (Copyright.)

Perhaps the large gentleman with the pint in each hand will apologise for saying that I never give any news.

* * * *

**Some Home Wrinkles.**—To remove ink stains from silk: Draw the affected part tightly across a jug and pour boiling water on it. Then place a piece of red-hot coal on it. This will presently be seen to pass right through the silk, taking the affected part with it. The hot water in the jug will extinguish the coal and prevent any damage being done.

Don't throw that little piece of soap away. Keep it until you get another piece. Place them both in an old cocoa tin and throw the lot away together, thus conserving energy: a great thing in these days of rush and bustles—I mean bustle.

If you are worried by an excessive number of flies in the house, a very good plan is to get rid of them. Another good idea is to go and live in a tent.

If baby disturbs your rest at night, put him in the wood shed and stuff your ears with cotton wool. This may be obtained at any high class chemist's.

To prevent a child's ears meeting at the back of his head, teach him to be broad-minded.

* * * *

**Very Personal.**—If the person whose fingers stuck to a couple of sparking plugs whilst he was engaged in the Quartermaster's stores will communicate with us, he will hear some startling facts about himself and his antecedents.

BARLEUX.

## A Little Local Colour.

**Being a few Catterick Musings, amusing and otherwise—gathered at random.**

The writer was a member of the dental section of the sick, lame and lazy squad on this occasion, and occupied the hours of waiting by making a general survey of his surroundings, in an endeavour to accumulate some data for inclusion in the next budget to his mother, mark you!

The scene is set in the grounds of the Alexandra Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, and from my seat on the plot of grass opposite the enquiry office one gets a good view of the grounds, which are well kept and tastefully laid out with shrubberies and flower-beds containing bright-coloured blooms of many varieties, with tall hollyhocks and golden-rod in abundance dotted here and there on the trim little lawns, which are intersected by numerous winding paths.

It is a glorious sunny morning, and our elevated position affords a splendid view of the surrounding countryside. One can see for miles across beautiful Swaledale and the lowlying plain beyond to where the smoke-haze hangs over Middlesbrough, the busy industrial town on Tees-side, on the distant horizon.

To the south-west the Cleveland hills provide an imposing spectacle, Roseberry Topping and Eston Nab being prominent features in the range.

The immediate neighbourhood is well wooded, and large plantations, like black patches in the wonderful network of the landscape, make a strong contrast with the bright green meadows and the rich brown of the ploughed fields.

Here and there, little streams with bush-crowded banks can be seen flashing and sparkling as their clear crystal waters reflect the rays of the morning sun.

The old-world garrison town of Richmond, our nearest neighbour of any size and importance, nestles in the valley of the Swale about three miles due north of the camp, and its red roofs are partly visible from this site.

Overhead the heavens are clear, except for a few stray cirrus clouds strewn about in graceful wisps, light and airy, which float very high across a pale azure blue sky. The air is stirred by a faint breeze, which somewhat compensates for the heat which would otherwise be oppressive.

Although it needs but an hour to mid-day, the lamp of night—Lady Moon—is still visible, resembling a faint semi-circle of light, with the features of its surface vague and obscure, low down in the west.

The whirr of an aeroplane in the distance can be distinctly heard, and presently it appears over the tree tops. It is a Sopwith Scout, and has the appearance of a silver hawk as it swoops low over the hospital grounds with a loud, spluttering drone of its racing engine, and the swish of its propeller as it whirls like a huge Catherine wheel in the sunlight. The pilot and observer could be seen quite distinctly.

The train of my thoughts was at this point interrupted by the soothing voice of the medical orderly, and I was rudely awakened to the fact that one of my molars was still doing its best to jump out of my head, bringing up horrible memories of the night before; so I answered my name, arose from my recumbent position, and braced myself for the ordeal. I strode firm'y into the operating theatre, and when, after the usual preliminaries and ceremonies had been duly observed, the surgeon deposited the "painful peg" on the table, I said within myself, "Now ache, you blighter!" and went my way in peace.

To listen to this, you have done very well,
You'll be delighted to hear I have no more to tell.

S. BAINBRIDGE, Signalman.



## The Families will Move to the Hills.

Does not realise what the purport of this sentence actually is? I think not. To the "latest out," the prospect of the journey to the hills assumes the guise of a novel adventure, interspiced with the pictures of picnic parties, etc. (orderly room sergeants, please note). To the "second-time-up wallahs" (people), their hopes are built on possibly having more decent neighbours than they had last year; that the grocery bar will not be such an uphill grind; that the heavy baggage will arrive sooner this time, so that they will not have to sleep on the floor; and that the quarters will not have the rain coming in.

The "old hands," after many seas——(we won't chum our hat, thanks) accept the whole thing with a smile of resignation as one of the unavoidable nuisances thrust on a long-suffering Army, with the old logic that "things are not as bad as they seem."

However, I will try to visualise the picture for those interested, as it presents itself to me. "Packing up!" What a world of trials and troubles to the harassed wife is contained in those two words—when we are undecided what to take, and with the temperature steadily mounting up daily.

The excitement has finally reached its zenith, and we are ready to leave. After a hasty snack in some friend's bungalow, or a late purchase, we eventually arrive at the station. Part of our worst fears then materialise, for a gracious administration has decided that the whole of the married quarters can very well be packed into two compartments, and if necessary the youngsters can be pushed up on the hat racks.

We are *very* grateful, but with a sigh, and I may say a hopeless one, we commence to juggle with the ever-open palm of the station official (apologies to station officials!) After much tearing up and down the platform on the part of our latest arrivals, exhausting superfluous energy, and giving buckshee advice which no one has the slightest intention of following (and those who did, *went* astray), the official quietly whispers, "Come with me, sahib."

We then force our way through a yelling crowd of Indians and pariahs to a compartment marked "Mystery Carriage." We sink on a seat, contented, and all noise for the moment dies away. We jump up startled as the mob again gets on our scent, but a few well-chosen and well-thought-out words again reduce the babel to zero. We decide to put out the lights. Three fat babus hang on the door, but what a happy thought that, which induced one to write "ladies" on the door.

A trend of curiosity which will one day get me into trouble forces my unwilling steps along the platform, and I peep into the carriage of our contemporaries. Ah! as I thought. "All aboard, please!" The train is about to start. Fifteen minutes elapse, likewise as many whistles, and with a grind and whirr of fans we slowly move away, to the roar of relatives seeing off their brethren.

"Can we get some hot water?" "No time, now!" And as the beastly "boy" let us down at the last minute, all details must be personally attended to. After two or three miles, a stop! No station in sight. The driver has forgotten his betel nut, which to a section of Indians is vital, and he must get some more.

When day dawns—and this does not happen until we have had a lot of attention from fly-by-nights, both two-legged and four—we wend our weary way into Rawalpindi. Our troubles are now over. Are they? *No!* They have not yet begun. How will the heavy baggage get on, and where? Is all the *light* baggage off the train? No! I have left a suitcase and two topees, and the train is moving off. "Jeldie-jeldie, there!" Thank heaven! The car we ordered has taken Capt. So-and-So to Sunny Bank; another one was ordered, but the wheel came off. I am surrounded with an army of coolies, and, oh! the smell!

I struggle to the heavy lorry, and find my case with the washing implements therein has been pushed to the bottom. The memsahib wants to know what I have been doing all this time, and when we are likely to get any breakfast. We breakfast: or at least *they* do, and "that will be rupees five, sahib." My God! and no T.A.!

Rationed up to the 2nd. We get the stuff loaded on to the car, and then have to unload again, as Mr. Mukan-Roti has specially telephoned for this car. Mr. M.-R. left for Sunny Bank yesterday, so we may have the car after all. "Thanks, babu, so much, and may your next trip be in a hearse." Babu Lal's experience of hill seasons has made him immune from such remarks, unless they are backed up with five knuckles, so he says, "Come on, sahib, sab-jarta."

A coolie sneaks up and tells me that I am wanted by the Burra Sahib, and ('nuff said). "Four barra pegs, Akbar. What! no change? Thanks! The day I was born, Jupiter must have been in a scrapping mood." I dash through the station, colliding en route with a fat Parsee, who wants to know my name and is informed that it is about the only thing I have forgotten.

"Your ticket, sahib." "Oh, that is with So-and-So." "You must wait here." "I'll what!" I am in the street: to meet an array of coolies who seem to think I am a Concentration Depot. A scramble and a screech from the horn, and with an ear-splitting bang from the exhaust we are away. "Where's this we are going?" "To the Company offices." My hat! Only six cars to attend to.

The usual argument re the extras, and dusk in the hills looming ahead, and lo, we *do* start. After eating buckets of dust, and nearly piling up six gharries, not to mention bullocks, etc., we arrive at the first stage up, "Trett." Everyone is looking for chah (tea). I glance at the sky, and what is likely to be in store for us is presaged by an ominous rumbling overhead. "Hurry up, driver, and let's get away." "Achar, sahib."

After a few more nerve-trying experiences, we arrive at our car terminus. By now a mist has begun to curl round the hills, and presently down comes the torrent, which in a few moments drenches what baggage we have on the car and spoils our only ray of comfort, namely, the bedding. The novelty of the hill move has by now somewhat worn off for some of the families, as the sleet and cold rain sweeps through the car, and, dispensing with sentiment, shows us in plain manner what the Himalaya foot-hills are capable of dishing out in the way of a playful blizzard.

Now the sharks get to work, and try to bluff us into believing that only so and so coolies are allowed, and two or three rupees are necessary. A few pointed remarks convinces this they name a "babu" of the error of his ways, and we see signs of loading up. What's happening to everybody? We see a car or two dash off in a certain direction, and we are left with our thoughts and the rain. We are in a pretty pickle. Are we? We are just beginning to take things in earnest.

A signboard overhead, rejoicing in the fact that all and sundry may see it indicates the "Ritz Hotel," or cafe, seems to say that here at least is a cup of tea, and a kicking-off place for our hill station. The dandies arrive, and, with the coolies, are wet through. Does this worry us? Not at all. We have two vizais and plenty of cushions, and as the rain by now has abated, we get started.

"What's that?" "Government pony!" "Well, you take him kome and nurse him back to life, and I'll walk." "What has happened to the people for the farther station?" "Don't know; but appearances point to the fact that someone has put them up for awhile."

After the worst march in the world, we come to our quarters, and here a pleasant surprise awaits us. We discover that the quarters are ideally situated, with plenty of conveniences, new, and roomy: also, being "double-deckers," we have the upper quarters. Now, I ask you, could a very-much-badgered administration be expected to furnish more than that? especially as wood, coal, water, coir, and utensils were forthcoming. After what we could mention about being cared for on some previous occasions, we were very grateful. The jolly old kettle was soon singing the song of the tea leaves, and as the memsahib had done a little shopping before we left the Plains, a meal was soon spread—and very soon we had settled down as hill parrots.

A knock at the door. "What's this! a lamp, and filled! Good!" "And rations can be drawn as you want them; also a gallon of oil is on its way up." Fine! Our wildest dreams are coming true. "What's the name of the unit we are attached to?" The "Soldiers' Home," really, and I jolly well thought so, too. The crowning blessing is then realised in the arrival of our old friend, the "dood wallah" (milkman). Some there are who, in moments of irresponsible deep-end diving, treat the dood wallah as they would a ringing wet macintosh; but, my brothers and sisters in adversity (no tracts, please), the timely arrival of this despised mortal will, on such occasions, change pending calamity to smiling grace.

*Next Day.*—Now for the heavy baggage! A trek to Sunny Bank; and it is only on this trek that I learn that others of our party were far from being as fortunate as we were. I mentioned earlier in this epistle that one or two cars dashed off in a certain direction, leaving us with our thoughts, the uppermost one being

that certain people were being whisked off to be put in the way of a hot meal and dry things.

But stay! I wander from my line of thought. To proceed with my walk. A lowering sky overnead and more rumblings convince me that my highest speed won't get me to cover in time. I am right. In less time than it takes me to write this line, I am in a mighty deluge. I see a woe-begone little party in front, which on investigation proves to be So-and-So and his wife. I question them as to where they had been, and am informed that, no advice or help being given them, they through desperation were barefacedly asked rupees *thirteen* to put up out of the elements.

The clouds are still punctured, and the road is a flood; everyone is swamped. We get back to my quarters, and after an hour or two the sky smiles again, things are dried, a hot meal is prepared, and the party is sent on its way rejoicing.

The journey to the hills can be good or otherwise. The main point to remember is, "It all depends on those travelling to the hills."

ANSUM.

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1092 motor cars were stolen in this country last year.

* * * *

The average of telephones in Great Britain to every hundred of the population is three.

* * * *

To kill a mosquito or gnat sting, prick the bite with a needle, and then smear with vinegar.

* * * *

The Post Office income would be reduced by £5,500,000 if the penny post were restored.

* * * *

A "nil return" was rendered for death sentences in Scotland last year.

* * * *

Absent-mindedness is caused by lack of concentration.

*"STOP PRESS" NEWS.—Received too late for insertion under "Home Stations."*

## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, August 16th.

Having risen to the dizzy height of WIRE correspondent, I lower myself into a chair to level off accounts. On one hand are notes owing; on the other, events that have to be reported. And the result? I wonder! Still, here goes.

**Births.**—The unit extends heartiest congratulations to Major and Mrs. Nixon on the birth of a son; also to L/Sergt and Mrs. McCormick, to whom also a son has been born.

**Appointments.**—Corpls Levy, Waldron and McCormick to be L/Sergeants. L/Corpls Lunnis and Stanton to be Corporals.

**Changes.**—A hearty welcome is extended to the new draft (too numerous for detail). May their stay in the land of "Wurst" be long and pleasant.

Sergt Sandy has left us for A Corps Signals. I am asked to state that he did not leave us because of the rumour that he taught our *camp* cook to make tea.

Sergt Thomas and Signalmen McNair and Taylor-Smith have left us for draft to Iraq.

L/Sergt Price and Sigmn Bartley were sorry to leave us for the A.R. We wish them the best of luck in civvy street.

**General.**—Armac (i.e., Corpl McDowell) has left us, and is now in the Army Post Office, B.A.O.R., on a vocational course. He states that he has fallen into his job nicely. The only thing he cannot get used to is the work!

The unit seems to have saved all its amusements, such as reviews, etc., for this month. Judging by the decrease in credits, the unit has had one of the most enjoyable months it has had for a long time.

On July 26th and 27th, the Rhine Horse Show was held. The Cable Section gained a prize.

On July 30th the sergeants' mess held a Rhine trip up to Bacharach. They were lucky in having a glorious day for their outing, a boat to themselves, meals on board, and the Signals band to oblige. They landed at Gisenheim on the return journey and held an impromptu dance, finishing off the evening with a sing-song on the way back. It was voted a most successful day by all. C.S.M. Jones was thanked by everyone.

On August 2nd we held a dance, which was attended with the usual success. Although very little is said about it, our jazz band does well. Still, it ought to. The pianist being our amateur welter-weight champion, we have some thumping tunes; and then, of course, the violinist being runner-up, we have some narrow squeaks. Still, their harmony doesn't harm anybody, so let 'em rip!

The Secretary of State for War visited this Command on August 6th, and a review was held. I am pleased to state that we covered ourselves with glory; special mention being made of our turn-out and march past.

Then, on the 9th, the all-ranks boat trip took place. This was as far as Boppard, stopping at St. Goar for lunch. It was a great success. The weather was slightly threatening at the start, but cleared and turned out beautiful within an hour. Everyone enjoyed the day, which finished up with a whist drive on the way back. C.S.M. Jones is again to be thanked for a splendid day.

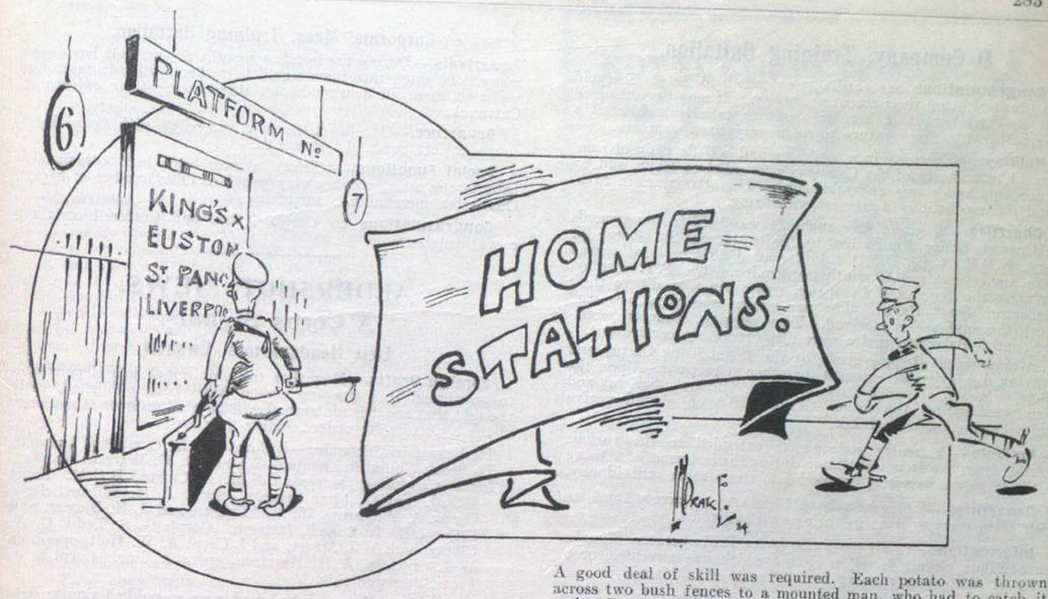
On August 11th, the G.O.C.-in-C. presented C.Q.M.S. Coulson and Sergt Gordon with the long service and good conduct medal. He also inspected the barracks, and the unit marched past. Again we were praised.

After the G.O.C.-in-C. had left, the C.S.O. (Lieut.-Col. Day) addressed the unit in the regimental institute, expressed his appreciation, and warmly congratulated us on the splendid work done on review.

In the evening the "Briquettes" concert party (Signals) gave their last show prior to breaking up for divisional training. This was a great success. There is no doubt as to where the best concert party on the Rhine is to be found. They have given us shows all round the Garrison, and are quite well known.

**Personal.**—To A.E.J.H. (No. 3 Company Egypt Signals): Why the plunge? News *only* following.—D.W.W.






## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

**Marriage.**—Corpl Dunn to Sarah Louisa Hodge, at St. John's Church, Hipswell, on July 23rd.

**Extensions.**—Corpl Sullivan to complete twenty-one years, and Sergt Francis to complete twelve years with the Colours.

**Birth.**—To Corpl and Mrs. Webber, a son (William Henry) on July 25th.

**Arrival.**—Corpl Jagger from 3rd Divl. Signals.

**Promotions.**—C.Q.M.S. Campbelton to be C.S.M., w.e.f. 13/7/27. Corpl Francis to be L/Sergeant, w.e.f. 28/6/27. Congratulations are extended to both of them.

**Sports.**—The Company have been busy with engagements round the district in mounted events and displays, which have been greatly appreciated. On July 20th the remainder of the gymkhana events were held under somewhat better climatic conditions, and the attendance was better than expected.

Best turn-out (wagon and pair)—The competition in this was keen, and more so as the R.E.s and the R.A.O.C. made an appearance in nearly all the events. 1, Dvr Rapson (R.A.S.C.); 2, Dvr Mason; 3, Dvr Wheeler. The R.A.S.C. driver was a very popular winner.

Best turn-out (single horseman)—1, L/Corpl Cole (R.A.S.C.); 2, Corpl Wilmot; 3, Dvr Sugden. There was not much to choose between the first two.

Sword, lance and revolver—1, Corpl Green; 2, C.S.M. Campbelton; 3, Corpl Wilmot. C.S.M. Campbelton and Corpl Wilmot at first tied for second place, and each had one more run with the lance. C.S.M. Campbelton picked up his peg in good style and was awarded the verdict. L/Corpl Whyte was fourth, and Sergt Goodman fifth.

Driving display—This proved one of the best turns, and the four six-horse teams showed splendid skill and judgment. The excellence of this show was much appreciated.

An interval of half-an-hour was allowed for tea, nicely arranged to the last detail by R.S.M. Nolan. Special arrangements had been made for the wives and families of n.c.o.s and men.

Tandem driving—A fine display of neat driving and well-judged movements.

W.o.s and n.c.o.s potato race—This caused general amusement, and was won by the Training Battalion after an exciting struggle. A good deal of skill was required. Each potato was thrown across two bush fences to a mounted man, who had to catch it and gallop to a bucket and drop it in. The rider invariably tried to *throw* it in, and in his haste missed. He had then to dismount, pick it up, remount, and place it in the bucket before he could go after another potato. There were four potatoes for each team. 1, Training Battalion; 2, School of Signals; 3, Depot Battalion.

Musical chairs—This was another amusing event, won amid excitement by Dvr Heasman. Corpl Sullivan was second, and Sigmn Cockerall third.

Tug-of-war (mounted)—Easily won in two pulls by "The Greys" A team, captained by Dvr Wheeler.

Wrestling on horseback—The Depot Battalion and the School of Signals were the only entrants. The Depot Battalion were the winners with only three casualties. Again Dvr Wheeler captained the team to victory.

This concluded a really good and well-organised show. The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. H. Clementi Smith, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was accorded.

At the R.E. sports, held on July 16th, Corpls Whyte and Wilmot carried off the honours in the open jumping, being first and second respectively. Corpl Whyte rode Baby, and Corpl Wilmot was up on Liza.

At the Yorkshire championship (open to all England), Corpl Whyte gave an exceptionally good account of himself, and almost tied with the seven who had to jump off for first place.

A considerable amount of sport was witnessed at the fete held in the Hipswell grounds. The nature of the ground made riding very difficult. It took Mr. Murphy's amusement wagons a week to get out of the mud, giving an idea as to the state of the ground. The tent pegging seemed to suffer most, and the runs were not up to the standard usually displayed. Corporal Bodimede (M.M.P.) was first, Corpl Green second, and Corpl Whyte third.

A very fierce contest was fought between the n.c.o.s and men in the Balaclava battle, and though some of the men had a good try to "get their own back," the n.c.o.s proved victors. A fencing mask is an ideal protector when one is attacked from the front, but from behind, no!

At the Richmond Agricultural Show, held on August 13th, Corpl Whyte won the jumping competition, with Corpl Green second, and Dvr Heasman third. We had arranged to give a tandem display, but the officials had not allowed sufficient room and we had to withdraw.

At Middleton Tyas, on August 3rd, Corpl Whyte took first place, with Corpl Green second and Corpl Wilmot third. The tandem drive performed, and were greatly admired.

## D Company, Training Battalion.

**Congratulations** are cordially extended to Sergt Shergold and Corpl Skitt on their recent promotion. It may be whispered that the first-mentioned hero is about to take unto himself a wife. May his new venture prove a very happy success.

**Holidays.**—For once in a while we had a little drop of summer. The majority of the Company proceeded on leave, and by all accounts had a very enjoyable time. The attractions in Richmond during holiday times are surprising.

**Charities.**—A grand fete and gala was held in the grounds of Hipswell Lodge, kindly lent by Major-General Sir George N. Cory, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. As far as the Corps is concerned there are several points worth mentioning. The P.T. display, given by the boys of F Company, was quite a credit to their instructor, Sergt Payne. The bar work, especially, was well worth the applause it received. Tent pegging, mounted wrestling, and a Balaclava melee were also creditably carried out.

A magnificent display given by the Royal Tank Corps, and a diving display, were amongst the other attractions. Upon the whole it was a splendid show, and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (Catterick Branch) should receive a nice cheque for their funds.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to the various arrivals from the Depot Battalion during the last month. Owing to the large number it is impossible to name them individually.

**Departures.**—These also have been very numerous, and we wish them every success in their new Companies.

**Information.**—To all those sitting for B.iii operator, Signals. An omnibus circuit is *not* a circuit which has a vehicle or a series of messengers running from office to office (fact!)

**Drafts.**—This topic has to be introduced sooner or later. The first list has been published, and by the time these notes are in print those concerned will be enjoying a month of the best (my turn is coming).

KRIM.

## School of Signals.

No. 91 Regimental Instructors Course left us to rejoin their various units on August 4th, and now—but for the shouting of instructors, the buzzing of buzzers, the wheeze of our roller as it is pulled over stony ground, and the thousand and one other noises impossible to classify—silence reigns supreme.

The Administration Company, after the usual three weeks' small arms training, have just fired their annual course, with the following results: Forty 1sts, thirty-four 2nds, and seven 3rds, with a Company average of 78.9. This would have been higher had not one of our assistant instructors let us down badly, only scoring 110 out of a possible 115!

After all this excitement, most of the Company felt in need of a rest, so they are now sojourning in all parts of the country on leave, some for five days, some more. Two of the leave wallahs have gone abroad, even unto the Isle known as Wight.

Sigmn Wills, having an unappeasable thirst for knowledge, departed early this month for that seat of learning known to the initiated as the "ack vic toc charlie." We wish him every success.

One of our number had an argument with the fly-wheel of an engine, as a result of which he is now repairing in dock and—happy thought!—his credit balance is soaring ever higher. Y'see, Pat, there's a bright side to everything.

It is said that the "Blackbottom" is a new dance. But why did Bobbie Burns write "Would to God the giftie gie us, to see oursels as ithers see us"?

An error occurred in last month's WIRE which I am bound to rectify. My remarks re the golf club were not intended for the Sports Notes. Y'see, the clubs used are hockey sticks, and the course is six holes dug haphazard round about the square. So, now, anyone with visions of golf who applied for a course of instruction with us can withdraw.

**Agony.**—To Mr. Croke, Egypt: Hearty congratulations on your promotion to C.I.D. Chief vice "the Bishop of Ash." May all your cases be of the "portmantix" variety.—Mossieone.

Will Taffy Davis (of No. 3 Company 1st Divl. Signals) please communicate with Sigmn Eyre of this Company?

Blotto, who says he can never be forgotten, wishes to be remembered to all members of the M.A.B., Larkhill.

## Corporals' Mess, Training Battalion.

**Arrivals.**—During the last few months the arrivals have been many. To enumerate them would be rather a difficult task, but we wish them all a very happy stay during their sojourn in Catterick.

**Departure.**—Our heartiest good wishes go with Corpl Henson, who left our fold last month.

**Social Functions.**—"Triers" dances have been occasionally held in the mess, proving very popular. The number of expert Charleston merchants is surprising.

**Congratulations** to Corpls Nokes and Cotterell on their move upstairs.

# ALDERSHOT NEWS.

## A Corps Signals.

### Unit Headquarters, Ewshott.

**Foreign Drafts.**—Now that the provisional lists of personnel to go abroad this trooping season have been published, it is thought that our friends abroad will be glad to know the names of the n.c.o.s under orders. Here they are:—

To Egypt, in September—L/Corpl W. R. Ormiston, lineman. To South China, in October—L/Corpl J. C. Warren, lineman. India is claiming the rest: C.S.M. E. Cairns, D.C.M. Sergt W. M. Taylor, fitter Signals. Sergt J. H. Wilson, clerk. Corpls A. Whybrow, W. H. Wicketts and J. H. Blower, and L/Corpl R. T. Russell, linemen. Corpls G. S. Todd, C. A. Clarke, and A. J. Mears, and L/Corpl A. W. Holt, operators W/T. L/Corpl J. H. Harrison, operator, line. Corpl L. J. Frost, despatch rider.

If all units at home and abroad were to publish similar lists early in the trooping season, a further interest in the Corps Journal would manifest itself, as the subject is one of intense interest to all ranks.

**Weapon Training.**—With the exception of a few casuals, the unit has completed its rifle and revolver courses for the year ending October 31st. An improvement on last year's averages has been made: No. 1 Company (including unit headquarters, of course!) 72.19, and No. 3 Company 71.1. Sigmn W. Fry, of No. 3, obtained the highest score with 106.

The following was overheard during preliminary instruction: "What is the line of departure?" asked the instructor. "Fleet station," replied the driver i/c. That's one up to the garage!

Now hear what the mounted Company produced—on the ranges. Instructor, to officer i/c firing point: "What was the last shot on No. 8 target, please, sir?" This enquiry was transmitted to the butts, and brought the reply, "It's not reached here yet, sir!" Not satisfied, the instructor informed the officer that he saw the bullet hit the target. At this, the officer shouted over to the telephonist, "It must have reached there, because the instructor saw it." (The officer i/c butt party regained consciousness before the close of fire!)

**Agony.**—Olive (who is on draft for India) is still awaiting news from Skiff, of Pulau-Brani. Lakass.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**Library Books.**—To some people libraries are close friends, and to others they are nothing more than tombs in which books appear as time-worn coffins. A mess member was recently enjoying "Love and the Philosopher," by Marie Corelli, when he found a small sheet of stationery between two leaves of the book. It was Union Jack Club writing material, and the following tragic words were written thereon:—

"Lay by my side your bunch of purple heather,
The last red asters of an autumn's day,
And let us sit and talk of love together,
As once in May.

"Give me your hand that I may press it gently,
And if the others see, what matter they?
Look in mine eyes with your sweet eyes intently,
As once in May."

The owner of this scrap of paper may retrieve it on application at the unit office, provided he explains the horticultural connection between the heather and asters.



**Summer Leave.**—Practically the whole unit has returned from seven days' summer leave—one of the exceptions being the writer. Yes, it *is* raining; and if it were fine, these notes would not have been written. However, the close proximity of London is a compensation after the stormy countryside of Hampshire.

**An Outing.**—The mess outing to Bognor was a very happy event, and it is hoped that more such outings will follow.

PETER.

### No. 1 Company (Ewshott).

**Departures.**—Corpl Gardner, Signalmen Scott, Handscombe, Sleath and Mitchell to the Army Reserve. Sigmn Mitchell will be missed by many. He was a prominent figure at Bisley during the last two meetings of the N.R.A., a good boxer and sportsman, and quite a "dab hand" at the Charleston. He has gone to swell the ranks of the Leeds Constabulary, and all A Corps wish him and the others the best of luck.

Sigmn Horseburgh to the Henley Cable Company for a six months' course of cable-jointing. L/Corpl Warren to the Muscle School, Aldershot. Sigmn Morris to R.A.S.C. School, Feltham.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Sergt Farley, Corpl J. W. Smith, and L/Corpl Appleby.

**Annual Weapon Training.**—After a little pokey drill we congregated at Cæsar's Camp on July 20th and 21st, with the following results:—

Section Averages.—No. 2 M/T 77.9; No. 1 M/T. 73.7; C Cable 73.4; B Cable 71; A Cable 69.4; Unit H.Q. 66.3; Company H.Q. 58.5.

Highest Scores.—Sergt Waller 102; Dvr Theobald 100; Signalman Clarke and L/Sergeant Betts, 99; Signalmen Hole and Lewin, 98.

| Improvement on last year | 1926 | | 1927 |
|---|---|---|---|
| First class shots | 45 | ... | 63 |
| Second class shots | 85 | ... | 82 |
| Third class shots | 26 | ... | 13 |
| Average per man | 60.94 | | 72.19 |

This is a good performance, and is due to no small extent to Capt F. H. Dallison, M.C., R.Signals (R. of O.), who in some mysterious manner brought out the best in us—hence the improvement.

Sergt Waller (B Cable) is the Company "snake" till next year. Well done, Jack! No. 2 M.T. (the snipwallers) surprised the roughs and the M.G.s by showing them how to shoot. Well done, snipwallers.

**Construction Section.**—On Sunday, July 24th, the Construction Section, under the command of Lieut T. W. Boileau, Royal Signals, left Ewshott to construct manœuvre lines for Divisional training in the Oxford area.

This section made a fine show travelling along the road on a beautiful Sunday morning. There were about a dozen lorries carrying stores, and 66 other ranks with all the necessary paraphernalia appertaining to their requirements for a ten weeks' camp.

Arriving at the rendezvous they found that "someone had blundered." The camp had disappeared into thin air. A camp allotted to the Dragoon Guards (who had not yet arrived) was empty, so "Bob and the boys" took possession and got cracking, as the whole job is a race against time.

On the Monday morning the lads, made up into two complete working sections, commenced building the first part of the eighty miles of airline which must be completed by the end of August. They will have to bounce (including the cotton-wool section) to finish the job to time. And they *will* do it—they are not M.G.s for nowt. As the line pushed further and further towards its distant objective, the nature of the ground began to tell on the hammer and jumper men. Double poles and angles are the order of the day at present, and straight runs—the dream of every M.G.—are very, very rare.

On Thursday, August 11th, they shifted their camp from Howberry Park, near Wallingford, to Thame, and commenced building routes in the northern part of the manœuvre area. This means that a vast amount of work has been done in record time. Keep it up, M.G.s.

The river Thames has to be crossed, and many are wondering if they are expected to build across the bed of it. Quite a number believe they will have to swim across in full marching order, with hammer and jumper held high above their heads. "Blessed is he that expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed."

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

YOUR NEW H.Q.

are being constructed by

Sir Lindsay PARKINSON & CO. LTD.

*Specialists in Construction*

LONDON and BLACKPOOL

**Contracts, Loss of.**—After dinner one evening, an M.G. suggested digging out a dhoby. This was done, and the washing was sent locally. The washing eventually came back. It went in bundles, but came back in *one* bundle. The dhoby lost her contract, and nearly her life.

"For men must work, and women must weep,
But the M.G.s still are moaning."

**Society News.**—The Bembridge Orpheans, under the direction of Bob and led by Jocyaates, will certainly take Oxford by storm when they make their debut at the end of the month. Nutty Squirrell has taken over as quarterbloke at Wallingford. Sigmn Jaggard (1st Divl. Signals) has arrived to regain that schoolgirl's complexion.

**This Month's Short Story.**—A certain Brasshat decided to inspect our thoroughbreds, and on the day appointed he appeared at the unit office. Seeing one called Peter, he asked "Where are your horses?" "They are down the stables," replied the intelligent Peter. "Well, well; I really did not expect them to be in the orderly room," the Brasshat replied as he glided quietly out of sight. (Note.—Women do make fools of us all, even Brasshats.)

**To Err is Human.**—Bob had just erected a double pole, with fore-and-aft and rocking stays, when a dear old lady said: "Are you putting up a tent, young man?" (Collapse of Bob.)

**S.O.S.** (distance no object).—Will Samuel, last heard of in Jubb (not the Temple), give Jock Hope (late No. 3 Company, now of H.Q. Company) a bolo, as television is not perfected yet.

Sooroo.

## A Corps at Intra.

1—There was a man in the land of Acor, whose name was Esem; and that man was perfect and upright and eschewed evil.

2—His substance was ten thousand shekels, one combination and one rootie; so that he was a great man in Acor.
3—Now it came to pass that this great man girded up his loins and made a pilgrimage to the land of Bryte.
4—And this land of Bryte did find favour in the eyes of Esem, who is surnamed Motzer; and he did sojourn there one long week-end.
5—Then did Esem return unto his master at Acor, travelling over the desert of Sus which is called Sex, and over the desert of Ham which is called Sher, that he might commune with his master at the appointed hour.
6—And it came to pass that on the day that is called Mon a certain disciple, one Blo surnamed Hur, spake to Esem saying, "Didst thou see the promised land?"
7—And Esem replied, "Thou sayest."
8—And Blo asked again, "And what manner of men dwell in this land of Bryte?"
9—Esem replied, saying, "Verily they are strange; some are Pharisees; some are Sadducees; yea, even unto the sands do they number.
10—"I asked for bread, and they gave me many loaves. I asked for shelter, and it was given unto me; drink for my camel combination also did I receive.
11—"Yea, verily, I was exceeding glad; and I tarried there three days.
12—"And on the third day I did gird up my loins and mount my combination; but alas! the wise men did smelarat.
13—"Then came they unto me, saying with one accord, 'What manner of man is this that departs and would not stand-awet?'
14—"Verily, I was sorely troubled, and ordered three bottles of 'pop' for these wise men; which did cost me seven and a half pieces."
15—Verily, verily, I say unto you, if ye would serve Motzer, go ye not unto the land called Bryte, or ye shall be called Stung.

SOOFOO.

## No. 1 M.T. Construction Section, Oxford.

**General.**—Since our last appearance in print, many changes have taken place in our community, the greatest being the loss of Abe. We understand that he was last seen heading towards Epsom—in readiness for next year—complete with large bag and bowler hat. The average weight of the Section has gone down about 19 stone, despite our jazz drummer's efforts.

A slight error has been made by Soofoo. "Cooks" were not the originators of this tour. They refused to deal with the matter when they saw Soofoo on his bicycle, and handed over to the medical authorities—who decided that a river trip would do us most good. The bicyclist has since been seen converting his machine into a hydroplane and heading for the Basingstoke canal, smothered in cotton wool.

Strange to relate, in our spare time we are erecting some seventy miles of airline. This is for use by the standing camps, each of which will be connected to central exchanges—one in Wallingford and the other in Thame. These exchanges are connected by two trunk lines, fourteen miles in length.

The Camp, Wallingford.

"Bounce" has been our middle name, and we have already built the southern area and half the main trunk. We have moved to Thame, and are now encamped near the 38th Field Company R.E.

The country is very wooded, and we are faced with the problem of either cutting down a great portion of the country, or risking our line to the tender mercies of young bullocks possessed of a rooted aversion to black and white poles.

Strainers, No. 1 Detachment.

We are working in two detachments, with augmented M.T., and get a considerable move-on. At the present rate of working, this form of rest-cure is advocated for office staffs. Jumping a hundred odd poles a day takes the stiffness out of one's neck.

A new rank has arisen amongst us, i.e., Staff Captain—a nice upstanding man, continually seen with a large canvas bag and searching for Post Offices.

An awful rumour has it that Platinum Joe was coming to visit us, complete with hammer and chisel. His scope would have been unlimited.

Wiremen, No. 2 Detachment.

The favourite saying round here seems to be: "See them—sodjers from they rag huts—shovin' up them airless poles; what be'em goan ter do wi'em naow?" One dear old dame, on seeing our famous doubles over the river, said, "Oh, what is this going to be—a tent?"

Our A.O.F.B. Vat is going strong, and our band is growing. We hope to produce photographic evidence later.

We have been issued with a large number of Chinese airline poles. One of these—large, hollow and straight—is being reserved for your suit, Soofoo.



**Arrivals.**—Welcome to all our new arrivals. All the usual!

**Departures.**—Sigmn Handscombe to civvy life. Sigmn Mitchell to be a gallant "slop," and Sigmn Scott to follow in his footsteps.

The draft list has thrown us into confusion. Never mind, Porker! bags of spare handkerchiefs are being issued. You'll be married yet!

M. T.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome Corpl W. H. Clarke and Signalmen H. Biggins, H. Bryan, and P. Wheeler from the Training Battn., and Dvr H. Grainger from the Depot Battalion.

**Departures.**—C.S.M. Wray to 3rd Divl. Signals. Sigmn A. L. Hills to the Rhine. Dvr Franks to 4th Divl. Signals.

We wish C.S.M. H. R. Barber every success in civilian life, on his departure after completing twenty-one years with the Colours.

Signalmen E. A. Sneller, S. E. Green, A. Buchanan, and A. A. Davies, and Driver C. Helliwell, were transferred to the Reserve during the month—the last-named on compassionate grounds.

**Education.**—Congratulations to L/Corpls Clevitt, Gulliver, P. McLachlan and O. Newbery, on the award of 2nd class certificates of education,

We also extend our hand to: Sergt Hocking on attaining the rank of C.Q.M.S.; to L/Corpls F. McLoughlin and P. McLachlan, now Corporals; to U/L/Corpl H. Minett, on being paid; and to Signalmen G. Archer and E. Curtis on having obtained their first step on the ladder.

**Courses.**—Dvr L. C. Bone attended a course at the School of Farriery, and passed with distinction.

**Birth.**—To Sigmn W. Bennett, a son.

**Obituary.**—It is with deep regret that we record the death of the wife of Sigmn W. Bennett. A great loss indeed!

H.Q. LAD.

## D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot.

**Sports.**—On Wednesday, July 6th, we indulged in a little relaxation from our strenuous labours, in the form of a sports and gymkhana day. Our O.C. must be a "weather man" (or he may have seen *The Daily Mail*), as the weather turned up trumps and provided us with a glorious day.

The programme opened in the morning with the dismounted events. Sigmn Foy won the 100 and 200 yards scratch events. L/Corpl James won the half mile. A fine effort by Signalman Saunders (28 ft. 6 ins.) won the putting the shot event; and he also won the cricket ball throw with 99 yards. After two jumps, L/Corpl Bryant won the long jump with 17 ft. 6 in., Signalman Foy being second with 16 ft. 7 in. The high jump was literally "hopped" by Corpl Perryman at 5 ft. The sack race provided excellent entertainment, one of the competitors now having the soubriquet of Spring-Heeled Jack. Sigmn Bentley won by a nose from Sigmn O'Bray. The three-legged race also provided good fun, this being won by L/Corpl Bryant and Sigmn Marsden.

Sigmn O'Bray, who won the slow cycle race, evidently had his thoughts elsewhere during the fast race, as he kindly allowed Sigmn Swan to come in before him.

The mounted portion of the programme was held on Rushmoor arena in the afternoon. The events included an open jumping event, in which there was a tie for first place. In the jump-off, Sigmn Foy (on Viscount) beat Dvr Batley. Sigmn Carroll was third. This was followed by a V.C. race (unconventional), which provided considerable amusement (my arm has just healed!)

The whistling race was responsible for more things than mere crying—things that it is not permissible to speak about. Anyway, this event brought out the ladies. (Listen, Barleux!) Each lady had to identify a tune whistled (?) by her partner, who had a cracknel biscuit in his mouth. One or two other things had to be done also, but that was "the" thing.

Appreciation is due to L Corpl Forster and his able assistants, whose tea arrangements were very excellent. We were honoured by the presence of Col. C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., and Capt O. S. D. Wills. The attendance of the married families and friends of members of the Troop was very much appreciated by all.

The day was voted a great success, and we are looking forward to another such day next year. Three cheers were given for our O.C. (Lieut. R. Sutton-Pratt), for the excellent entertainment that he so kindly organised.

**Camp.**—More sport (?) is now on the near horizon, as this unit moves off to camp at Howberry Park on August 22nd for Brigade and inter-Divisional training, returning to barracks on September 25th.

**Congratulations** are offered to the successful candidates at the recent Trade Board at Ewshott: L/Corpl Bryant o/w B.i.; Signalmen Carroll and Marsh, o/w B.ii.; Sigmn Swan, o/v C.iii.; Sigmn D. R. Bentley, D.iii.; also to F/Corpl J. Barbour, who classified as a farrier C.i. on June 14th, after a course at the School of Farriery.

**Appointments.**—Sigmn Bryant, appointed U/L/Corporal, 28/6/27, and Sigmn Barbour, appointed F/Corporal, 13/2/27.

**Transfers.**—To R.E., Sigmn P. Estorffe, 25/7/27. To civvy street, Sigmn F. Burtt, 15/6/27, and Sigmn R. Barber, 25/7/27. Our best wishes go with them, and we hope that they will succeed in their new spheres of activity.

**Discharge.**—C.Q.M.S. Atkins left us for civilian life on June 24th, on completion of twenty-one years' service. Our best wishes go with him and his family.

**Drafts.**—Some 25 per cent. of this unit have been provisionally warned for sunny climes this season.

'OWDAM LAD.

## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 2 Company.

Once again the Company are more or less together, only the A.F.A. Section being away—and they are spending a happy time at Watchet, Somerset.

Musketry is still in full swing, and everyone will be very glad when we have fired our courses and know the results.

We had a very pleasant day at the Company sports on July 11th until tea time, when it did not stop to rain—in fact, someone said the Air Force were emptying their refilling troughs. In less than ten minutes the whole field was one sheet of water, which was only appreciated by those who took part in the V.C. race.

At last we are losing some of our horses and getting mechanical transport. Of course, D Section are having a moan!

The Company are now the proud possessors of all the sports cups in the unit, and a very nice Company photograph was taken displaying them.

Several old hands have either left or will be leaving shortly. Those already departed are Signalmen Turville and Broomfield and Driver Dench.

L/Sergt Batterick has been posted to this Company for all purposes.

NICK.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

**Royal Signals Band.**—The really important event in our lives of the past month was the visit paid us by the Royal Signals band from Catterick. They were with us from July 18th to 24th, and we enjoyed every minute of their stay. When they were not entertaining us with their really first class music, we were swapping yarns with them of old Maresfield and Catterick days.

They arrived on Monday, and we let them off for that day. On Tuesday afternoon they played at the officers' mess for the Garrison tea party. In the evening a concert was held in the regimental institute for all ranks. This was our first real opportunity of hearing them. I won't go into hysterics, because it takes up too much space, but they were really good.

Wednesday morning, in the unit lines. In the afternoon, a concert (very high class) in the Garrison Theatre. This was very well attended by all units in the Garrison, so now they know that our band is as good as the crest of the Royal Signals. In the evening a dance in the regimental institute for the w.o.s and sergeants. This really deserves a column to itself, but—que voulez vous? It was an unqualified success; the best ever.

Thursday morning in the unit lines. In the afternoon, they left their instruments alone and played cricket against a representative team from our three Companies. They were beaten,

but by no means disgraced. In the evening, R.E. officers' mess guest night.

Friday morning, in the unit lines. 6 to 7.30 p.m. in the w.o.s and sergeants' club. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., all ranks' dance in the regimental institute. This was top-hole, but had to be restricted to Signals personnel as far as the men were concerned. Even then, there appeared to be several thousands present.

Saturday: usual entertainment in the morning, 11.30 to 12.30 p.m. 2.30 p.m., football field; not enough people turned up (in view of the weather), so they went home and enjoyed a well-deserved sleep. 7 to 9 p.m., all ranks' concert—another roaring success. 9.30 p.m. to midnight, the dance band obliged the w.o.s club.

Sunday: Church parade—a very brilliant affair. Played in the unit lines after the parade. 2.30 p.m., set sail for Aldershot, to our great regret. Three cheers for Mr. R. R. Ricketts and the Royal Signals band. We hope they will come again and stay longer.

**Breeze.**—An imposing list of names of people due to sail across the great dampness adorns the wall of the R.S.M.'s office. Prominent among the limpets we observe Sergt Keane for Malaya. C.Q.M.S. Sweeting, L/Sergts Pye and Barlow, Corpls Taylor, Clay, Crabtree, Lemon, Walker and Strickland for India; also L/Corpl Coy. Sergts Gregory and Stanley for Shanghai. Corpl McBride for Jamaica (though we can't call him a limpet).

They all appear to be very well satisfied, although Joe will keep on about snakes, flies, storms, tigers, and other brands of sudden death. Well, listen to the beautiful August weather, and sing with us "Roll on, that big ship." Those who have not been warned are saying how they wish they could go. We have heard ducks quack before!

**Personal** (47th Divl. Signals).—Oscar thanks Lemjay and his satellites for their kind remarks in the July and August numbers, and is looking forward to seeing them on the Plain next year. As regards snooker, Lemjay, surely the rules are quite simple when your opponent is not looking.

**Rose and Crown Inquiry Office.**—Wig and Polly have been patiently watching the "Transfers to Army Reserve, Iraq." What's happening, Joe?

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Nothing very exciting this month, unless mumps *are* exciting. One section has been isolated, and the disease failed to spread. The germs were willing to "do us proud," but they picked a fellow of the 10th Infantry Brigade Signal Section, and—I mean to say, it doesn't give a hard-working mump a chance, does it?

Before I go any further, I must put right a little matter that has been brought to my notice. Last month I made reference to Sigmn Corbett and ninety per cent. of the rest of the Signals, and in the same paragraph mentioned fish and chips. Strong representations have been made to me that the person mentioned by name does *not* round off his Casino-nights with fish and chips at all. Instead, he goes to a little place across the road, known to the initiated as the Resto, and there partakes of a glorious dish termed, with some truth, a mixed grill. Now I know what makes such bonny babies of our lads!

I hope I am not divulging a State secret, but I must give publicity to the fact that the recent visit of King Fuad of Egypt has not been entirely fruitless. It has long been known that this ruler needed an efficient Secretary of State, and now we should see the end of all Egypt's political troubles. Benje Bryan has been inoculated, and sails for Egypt about mid-September. The riddle of the Sphinx will at last be solved; and Cleopatra may rest content.

"Women are the root of all evil," said someone. I beg to amend that saying. They share that distinction with motor bikes. Cabbo will bear me out in this, I am sure; and he ought to know, for he has just survived his umpteenth smash. I am not sure whether he or his bike bears the more charmed life. Now, don't laugh, you Depot people, but answer this question.

Cabbo was going on leave on his trusty (?) bus. Going at about 46 miles an hour, he suddenly had to choose between the back of a large Daimler, a lorry, and the hedge. He chose the hedge. Unfortunately, there was a ditch in front of the hedge. Now, tell me whether Cabbo is a hedger, a ditcher, or both. Meanwhile, let us give thanks for his deliverance. Cabbo's racing colours are, of necessity, black and blue.

Poor old Jonno so took to heart what I said about his push-bike last month, that he went straight down town and bought himself a B.S.A. combination. Tearing round the corner by the Essex canteen, all out in bottom, his compass needle wedged in the gimbal, Jonno (thinking, no doubt, that he was the Russian steam roller) charged a tree. Hang it all! I wouldn't attempt that in a tank, let alone a B.S.A. combination. Anyway, Jonno was lucky to get away with a badly-battered front fork and wheel.

Each morning the corporals' mess hears of a new record time for a motor bike from Colchester to Clacton. It has gradually decreased from 35 minutes to the latest—15 minutes. When Higginson heard this he was so moved that he poured his shandy down the inside of the collar of his tunic. Cabbo will soon be popping down to the Blue Lagoon for a jazz during the morning break.

The three Infantry Brigade Signal Sections and the linemen squads have been putting in some good work on schemes. I believe the unit possesses one wireless set but no phones, so communication is maintained by visual, line, and D.R. As yet we have no motor-bikes (officially) so the D.R.s put in a little much-needed exercise on push bikes.

Considering that most of us are new to practical work, I believe we shall put up a good show when we go to Shorncliffe for three weeks' pukka work about the beginning of September.

Have you seen the new Signal Training book? Part V., I think. Ever since the Signals were first formed, it has been the thing to put off all awkward procedure questions with, "When the new procedure book comes out, we shall be able to settle that." Good old saying! It has saved me hundreds of times, and saved Ivison, Tapley, Chignall and Co. hundreds of times also. And now the book has at last appeared. Well, thank goodness I haven't to teach procedure. An operator going from the S.T.C. to a Division, or from one Division to another, invariably finds that there are several points of procedure which he has to forget and several to learn. Still, it is good practice for the jolly old grey matter.

**Arrivals.**—Welcome to the following: From Catterick, Signalmen Lockhart and Chapman. From the 2nd Divl. Signals, Drivers Radford, Setchfield, Shillibeer, Smith and Dench.

**Births.**—Who said our birth-rate was declining? Congratulations to the following: To Corpl C. J. Wornham on the birth of a daughter at Colchester on June 24th; to Sigmn H. C. Baker on the birth of a son at Bishop Auckland, on July 3rd; and to Sigmn (Shoey) Sharvell on the birth of a son at Colchester on July 25th.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to Q.M.S. Manley and Corpl Strugnell on taking another step. Also to U/L/Corpl A. Pulman on his appointment.

**Warning.**—To all members of the Corps! When your pal goes away and promises to write regularly, don't believe him. I asked a few fellows yesterday if they had anything for THE WIRE, and this is the result:—

Dvr Winton seeks news of Sigmn Westerman.
Sigmn Hazzard, ditto Sigmn J. Warren.
If G.F.V. will put his address on his next, it might get answered.
Will L/Corpl J. Longwill look out for L/Corpl M. A. K. Smith on the next trooper?
Sigmn Ellis would be glad of a line from Sigmn Jahme, of Aldershot.

I did not ask any more people if they had anything for THE WIRE. However, I might as well make one myself; so will George Saint please scribble "I am still alive" on a postcard and send it, with a kind thought, to

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

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The distance between the earth and the sun is about 93,000,000 miles.

* * * *

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

* * * *

The number of unemployed on June 27th totalled 1,004,600.

* * * *

The correct abbreviation for Signalman is Sigmn.

* * * *

The largest pyramid in Egypt covers twelve acres.

## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

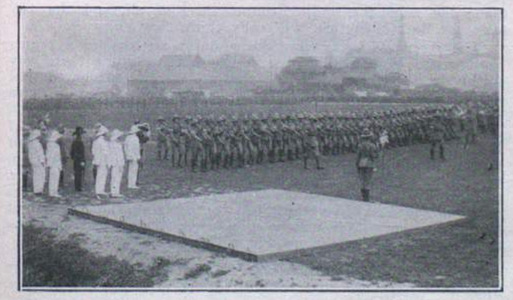
**King's Birthday Parade.**—The Signals' part in the parade was to contribute a guard of sixty strong, under the command of Major G. E. Mansergh, M.C. Everyone was particularly impressed by their smart bearing and good line at the saluting point.

**The Tattoo.**—Although no news of our activities have yet appeared in the local newspapers, the Signals were undoubtedly responsible for a great part of the success of the tattoo. A fairly large detachment was employed under Major G. E. Mansergh, and all the various entrances and control posts put into communication. An amplifier was also installed for the "1812" event, in order that the guns should not go off during the soft music.

**Crash.**—D.R.s require no training in Shanghai. It is well known that the Chinese do most things opposite to our ideas—one of which is that, when crossing the road, they invariably look in the opposite direction of the traffic. Consequently many of our D.R.s have had crashes, and have been admitted to hospital. The lorry drivers, whose vehicles are somewhat heavier, have also been admitted, but in their case—on bail.

**Hush-Hush!**—Little can be said at present regarding the installation of our latest set. Signals have been heard as far as the Bund, and eventually it is hoped to get full communication with the Shanghai Club. At present the club is only in communication by the civil telephone.

WUN LUNG.



The Royal Signals March Past at the King's Birthday Parade.

## A Section.

We embarked on H.M.T. "Assaye" at Southampton on 28th January. Our fellow-passengers comprised the 1st Battn. Green Howards, a detachment of D.L.I., the 1st Provost Company, and R.A.M.C.

Before the Isle of Wight had been left astern, it was clear that we were in for a buffeting. On entering the Channel we caught it, and for four days and nights the good ship was doing her 40 degrees on either side of vertical. A stop at Gibraltar to put off an appendix case, and we entered the Mediterranean.

At Port Said we route-marched: that is to say, we marched from the docks past the casino (cool verandah and iced drinks) to the beach, then back past the exchange (iced drinks and cool verandah). The passage of the canal took place during darkness, but if anything that made it more impressive.

From Suez to Aden we were driven to wonder what the Red Sea is like in August. The passage from Aden to Colombo was marked by the appearance of flying fish and an unprecedented epidemic of ship's rumours. The first rumour affirmed that trouble had broken out in India; another had it that we were bound for China.

Colombo was a pleasant interlude. It is a clean and attractive town, with shady palm-flanked avenues leading to picturesque suburbs. Mount Lavinia is delightful, set in an atmosphere of rubber trees, palms and catamarans. We sailed that night, refreshed after some excellent bathing.

Our next stopping place was Singapore—hot and hurried; but no different (they told us) from what it is at any other time of the year. After three hours we sailed again for Hong Kong. Here we waited two days and then transhipped to the "Kinfauns Castle," the "Assaye" having been ordered to refit as a hospital ship. We had time to make our first acquaintance with

Rue Edouard VII.

China and the Chinese, and to admire the magnificent harbour from the height of 1600 feet. On the "Kinfauns Castle" we joined the Coldstream Guards, and had a very pleasant trip to Shanghai. We had reached the "war."

KLARA.

## Signal Training Centre, India.

### Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Jubbulpore, July.

**Poetry (?)**—

There was a young man of Jub-bul-pore
Said "Notes for THE WIRE I've not a score."
The R.S.M. said,
As he turned very red,
"My boy, it's your job; you must get more."

**The Old Man in the Corner.**—The other evening I entered the mess, and was very surprised to see an old gentleman sitting in the corner. He seemed very lonely, and I felt sorry for him. Our conversation started by his asking for a match. I handed him my matches, and drew up my chair, as I felt that he needed someone to talk to. He seemed to realise the fact that I had not been in the country long, for he warmed into conversation rapidly, feeling that he had a sympathetic listener.

"We shall soon have the monsoon here now," he told me. "You know, I have lived in India all my life, and the one time I dread is the monsoon period. You have not seen a monsoon?" I said I had not. "Then you will realise it is a terrible thing; it rains day and night without stopping, for months together. Years ago, I remember, when I was in Pindi it rained so heavily one day that I could not see my watch which I had taken from my pocket to see the time."

"Really," I said, "it must be terrible." "Terrible," he replied, "is hardly the word. Once when I was in Karachi—that is the place where they get the monsoon and typhoon together, you know—it was so rough at sea, and the floods were so bad on land, that all the fishes came ashore to have a peaceful swim around; but that year was rather mild—it only lasted four months."

"Dear me," I remarked. "Yes," he said, "and in Quetta, one year, the monsoon was so boisterous that we were kept indoors for five months at one stretch."

"Quetta?" I asked; "I have been told that they do not feel the monsoon there." "You are quite right, my boy; my memory is getting uncertain; I should have said Jubbulpore, this very place. It was so bad that the boot boys used to come to work in steamers." Having some slight local knowledge, it seemed to me impossible, but he assured me it was perfectly true.

His conversation lasted about an hour, as far as I could judge, but he was so extremely interesting that time was lost sight of. I asked him if I might have the pleasure of seeing him again. He informed me that he would be along next month, and I wondered what his topic would then be.

"I should like to have the pleasure of knowing your name," I said. "Certainly," he answered. "Here is my card; everybody in India knows me." We said "Good-night," and when he had gone I looked to see who my guest might be. His name was: "Mr. H.O.R.RIBLE-LIAR."

**The Glorious Living.**—Great men have always been known by their sayings. The quotations given below are of certain moss celebrities. Can you recognise them?

"Precisely what is meant, Cuth?"
"Yes. I'll have a basin full of that."
"Well! I dont know."
"Twenty-four rupees, no annas, six pies, therefore—"
"Up in Pindi we used to——"
"Check side and cush."
"How I missed that——buck, I don't know."
"All the Orpheans used to do that."
"T'other road up, tha' knows."
"Hurry! Is that the way?"

**Mathematical and Dynamical Billiards.**—A brilliant game of billiards was played between A and B. Both of them are Cambridge mathematicians, so I must be careful in the description of their game, as I do not wish to offend either.

A broke off, making a tangent on the red, causing it to quiver at rest, the white returning to the first quadrant.

B, starting from baulk, bisects an angle of 180 degrees, causing impact on spot, diverts at 90 degrees and causes red to have momentum (in other words, a cannon). With a negative acceleration red comes to rest by No. 5 pocket. A simple shot missed causes B to curse Euclid.

A now studies the interpolation, and finds that Red = + 9x + 2y, and Plain = — 8x + 7y. His own position being + 5x — 5y, he gets a cannon by fair judgment and good approximation. He now strikes hard, missing both quantities of matter, and describes an angle of 360 degrees, the elasticity of the cushions being fair.

B becomes slightly hopeful and takes a common log poke. He strikes the red, causing gravity to act with utmost simultaneous equality. It falls at the rate of 32 feet per second for six inches, and comes to rest in No. 5 pocket. The marker replaces red on its proper axis. B now finds his ball in the quadrant whose abscissa is negative and whose ordinate is positive, the slope being one in two. He attempts to describe an obtuse angle, red being the apex, but x becomes an unknown value.

A strikes, causing energy to be displaced. At that moment a lizard falls on the table, deflecting white to make the tangent of the angle of 90 degrees, and away to infinity. The marker picks up the ball from the floor.

B has just entered my study, and out of courtesy I have shown him my account of the match. He forbids me to write any more.

**Obituary.**—This month, many members mourn the passing away of the I.U.L. after a somewhat lingering illness; but the memory of such noble greatness is immortal. R.I.P.

**Sport.**—We have entered a team in the all-India Football Association shield competition, which takes place at Calcutta this month. The results will be published in our notes for next month. Rugby practice is in full swing, and we hope to do great things this season.

**Departures.**—Sergt Hope to Army Signal School (India), Poona. L/Sergt McKee to A Corps Signals, Karachi. Corporal Dipple to Belgaum on an educational course.

Some of the old members of "Threeco" 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot, would like to hear from their old Company.

SIGTRAIN.

## A Corps Signals.

Karachi, July 12th.

**General.**—Since our last notes, nothing of great consequence has happened except that several signalmen of the Wireless Company have left for various Divisional Signals. Their names are too numerous to mention, although they will be missed, even if it is only for the guards they would have done, as we heard someone say.

As the trooping season approaches we realise that we shall soon have to say goodbye to several of our old friends who are due for repatriation and discharge. Already there are signs of the preliminary mossing up and murmurs of "roll on."

We have recently had attached to us a staff instructor from the Physical Training School, i.e., a muscle binder; and every morning, as the sun casts its rays over the Sind Desert, the n.c.o.s may be seen fading over the horizon at the double.

He is a very energetic person, this P.T. instructor, for after he has finished putting the n.c.o.s through it, he starts on the men; but from the smiling countenances of all, and the way they eat their breakfast, we really think they enjoy it.

The sergeants being now the proud possessors of a tennis court, many budding Tildens may be seen wending their way thither in the evening with their racquets. It is rumoured that the ball boys have applied for an increase of pay owing to extra work caused through the hefty volleys of several of the players.

From the great activities of the Construction Section of No. 1 (Line) Company and the intelligent looks on the faces of several members of the Operating and Maintenance Section, we are given to understand that an inter-unit telephone system is in course of construction. In reply to numerous enquiries as to whether it will be television, we must state that this is not the case, although you will be able to see who you are speaking to if you look out of the window whilst using the 'phone.

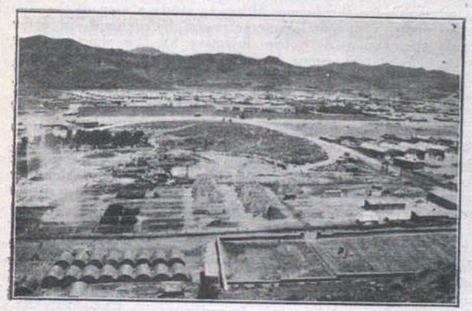
**Birth.**—To the wife of Sergt A. A. Taylor, a daughter, on June 24th. We offer our congratulations to the proud parents.

AYCORE.



## Peshawar District Signals.

A Speed King with a Khassadar Sentry at the Frontier Gate.



Landi-Kotal Fort and Camp.

The 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade are stationed here.

One of the Jumnil Battery in Trafalgar Square, Landi-Kotal.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

July 5th.

**Brain Fag.**—Here am I, scratching my head with a pencil, a large writing pad in front of me, six iced lime and lemons on my left, and the fans full on; yet I'm bothered to know what to write about these days—hence the term "unbalanced."

**General.**—On June 20th we were honoured by the presence of Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, C.S.O. Northern Command, on a tour of inspection. He made a thorough tour of our barracks, stores and offices, and saw into the welfare of the men of the unit. His stay was short and sweet, as he left us on the 22nd to complete his tour up the line, accompanied by our commanding officer, Major J. A. F. Mair, M.C. The latter has just completed another tour of inspection of our "up line" stations, and is now settled once more in Dreary Dismal Khant. We welcome him back.

The hot weather is now setting in, the thermometer having reached the 110 mark. Oh, don't "phew!" there's more to come yet, laddies.

Prickly heat is well in evidence, and our latest arrivals from the U.K. seem none too pleased about it. And to think they have a few more tomato seasons to do out here!—it makes me weep.

Our Section is slightly stronger in numbers, as six of the Manzai Section have been attached to us for educational training. Anyhow, even if they do eat our "conna," we wish them the very best, and sincerely trust they will obtain their second class education certificates. One man in Headquarters Section is actually studying hieroglyphics (I had to look in the dictionary to spell this).

**Australia** has claimed two of our old hands who have gone out to chance their mitts: Signalmen Govett and Chandler. As these two sturdy adventurers went out under no scheme whatever, we wish them the best of luck, and trust that they will find employment and happiness in the land where dreams come true.

**Pontoon.**—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Ruddiman, of this unit, on completing twenty-one years with the Colours. Go it, Q!

**Homeward Bound.**—Our best wishes for a speedy recovery follow Sigmn J. T. Cleal, late of this unit, who sailed from Bombay on June 20th for a change in the U.K., on medical recommendation. Cheer up, old son; we shall see you in October!

**Powers of Observation.**—We notice once again that the busy "Bee" is conspicuous by the absence of notes in THE WIRE. Admitted, they did come to life in the April issue, but what has become of them since? Are you *too busy*, Bee? What about telling the world about your new designation? The newly-appointed local editor (ex-O.R. Sergt.) was, I know, going to do wonders. What abaht it, Pawni?

**Promotion.**—R.Q.M.S. H. V. May, D.C.M., M.M., promoted R.S.M. in the I.S.C. to complete establishment. Best of luck!

**Arrivals.**—Capt C. D. Clapp, from U.K. leave, arrived here before going to Karachi on transfer. Owing to the fact that we are three officers under establishment, it was hoped that Capt Clapp would remain with us; but, alas! our hopes did not materialise.

**Departure.**—R.Q.M.S. H. V. May to 4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore. Our best wishes follow him.

**This Month's Fairy Tale.**—There was once a man who volunteered for a buckshee year.....the end!

**Education.**—Congratulations to Sigmn F. A. Clark on obtaining his special certificate of education.

F. R. C.

## Bannu Signals.

**General.**—June has left us sweltering under the sun of a glorious (?) Indian summer.

Training is the order of the day, and the W/T and Brigade Sections are hard at it. The W/T Section moved out to the race-course the other day for a small scheme. Several stations in the area were worked successfully, and the absence of interference from power mains was very noticeable. The section now enjoys mast drill every morning. Tips will be supplied on application through the proper channels. Anyone desirous of a prac-

tical demonstration is requested to report to Bannu during the coming "trooper."

The Brigade Section has been out on two local schemes, with every success, although we did hear there were some very convenient trees near the i/c's office. We also hear that Indian carpenters and linemen are rather trying behind a flag or helio.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl H. Goff from the Army School of Education, Belgaum. Sergt Gibbons from Headquarters, D.I.K., to take over the duties of Q.M.S.

**Departures.**—Signalmen Perry and M. Russell to Headquarters. Sigmn Anderson to attend a course at the Army School of Cookery, Poona.

C. N.

## Manzai Brigade Signal Section.

July 5th.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—A welcome is extended to two more renegades from Quetta in the persons of Sergt Whittingham and Corpl W. Smith.

Our best wishes go with Sigmn Cleal, who, owing to an injury sustained here, is now homeward bound. Cheer up, Jimmie! "The best of luck and a speedy recovery" is the message from all ranks here.

**Training.**—The C.S.O. has recently honoured us with his presence, but, alas! owing to the temporary depletion of personnel, he was unable to note the standard of efficiency acquired by the B.O.R.s of this section.

**Educational.**—The following are at Dera Ismail Khan, striving hard to obtain an additional "This is to certify":—L/Corpl Tomkins, Signalmen Brown, Bromfield, Coles, Hollywood, and Stubbs.

**General.**—Owing to so many of the section being away on leave, O/V and O/W courses, educational examinations, etc., there is nothing much in the way of local interest to chronicle. So instead of the usual outpourings, such as "Congratulations to Sigmn Snerg on obtaining the lucrative appointment of sanitary orderly," etc., I am obliged to think out some fresh hair remover.

I am sure that the Signals in India will agree with me that the topic I have chosen will prove of great benefit to all the "Blighty wallahs" who will, within a few weeks, be mumbling curt farewells to their sweethearts, and kissing the sergeant-major goodbye, ere embarking for these sunny shores.

Having experienced that humiliating shrinking-to-an-atom feeling one gets through having, in a crowded canteen, ordered a cup of tea and a cake instead of (mark you!) calling for "a cha and wad"—and through such a small error as this been made the cynosure of a score or so of eyebrows, lifted in supreme contempt, to be lowered again in due course to enable the owners to peer fixedly at my knees, to determine the period of Indian sun sustained by those members of my person—I feel it my duty to place at the disposal of all future arrivals in the country, what little knowledge of the native tongue I have obtained during my brief sojourn here.

To facilitate matters, I have adopted the American idea of "spelling as spoken" (to facilitate matters for the *reader*, I mean); and any queries should be enclosed in a sealed envelope, addressed to H.Q. Linguist Department, Waziri Girl Guides, Manzai. Here, then, are a few of the most commonly used words, with their interpretations:—

"Keetab"—a kind of shelf, used chiefly for such things as cha and wads. ("Put it on the keetab" is an everyday expression here.)

"Buckshee"—a coin of small dimensions, circulated mostly by strangers to the country other than Scotsmen.

"Ram Ram"—an Indian salutation, meaning "What oh!"

"Punkah Wallah"—a native of India who has a "big pull" where the British soldier is concerned. He is a hardy sort of fellow, and can snatch his sleep in any place (chiefly on the verandah of the B.O.R.s bungalow).

"Sahib"—usually means a British soldier.

"Pukha Sahib"—same as Sahib; but the term is generally used only on pay-day.

"Rajah"—a higher rank than that of Pukha Sahib. A mode of address used chiefly by various mendicants upon receiving a small gratuity from a purchaser (see Buckshee).

"Oc or Ock"—I am a bit dubious as to the origin of this queer word (in any case, you don't want to be bothered with the interpretation of this one for a few years).

Well! I think this will be quite sufficient to start with. Other words such as "Nappi" and "Durzi," you will soon pick up. Of course, if you don't, there is always the consolation of automatically finding out the meaning of words like "Daftar," etc.

Next month, for the benefit of those who may have the pleasure of coming to this little-known beauty spot, I will give a brief description of Manzai and its environments.

MERGLE.

## 3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet, July 13th.

**General.**—Life in Ranikhet has run along smooth lines since we sent our last communication, except that the monsoon has at last put in a welcome appearance and saved the Garrison Engineer from further sleepless nights on account of a failing water supply.

Lieut F. H. Bury proceeded to Meerut on July 12th to assume command of the Detachment, vice Capt G. M. B. Burt (on leave).

Capt and Mrs. Miller entertained the married members and their wives to tea on Thursday, June 16th. To the average member of the unit, with the exception of linemen who are on the lookout for short cuts, Ranikhet beyond the Naini Tal Motor Transport Company's offices is unknown ground. Judging from some of the remarks passed to husbands by their wives, it would be advisable for the former either to study a map of the district or to make a personal reconnaissance beforehand, in order to guide their spouses to the objective by the shortest possible route. As it was, some hesitated, saying, "Shall we take the Upper Mall or shall we take the Lower?" However, all arrived safely at the C.O.'s bungalow and were hospitably received by host and hostess; and a delightful afternoon ended only too soon.

The unit branch of the O.C.A. held a successful dance in the Rink Theatre on June 21st. It was organised by Lieut F. H. Bury, ably assisted by the dance committee. Prizes were given for the "spot waltz," and a draw was held for the hidden number prize. The dance was well attended and greatly appreciated, and it is hoped to hold a similar one when the rains abate.

The first half of the season is practically closed, and members of the Depot sergeants' mess have been busy attending farewell dances. The Depot sergeant-major, on concluding his term of office, referred in pleasing terms to the co-operation which he had received from the representatives of various units comprising the mess. In mentioning the friendly rivalry which had existed, he stated that his unit, the D.C.L.I., were very lucky in winning the sergeants' mess billiard cup when the 3rd Indian Divisional Signals had such a good team in the running.

**Arrivals.**—R.S.M. Ryder has reported to us from the Signal Training Centre (India), and we wish him a happy tour of duty. Sigmn Goss from B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. Sigmn Harper from A Cav. Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee.

**Departures.**—C.S.M. J. Eldridge to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. L/Sergt J. Nichols and Sigmn L. Bedford to A Cav. Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee. L/Sergeant J. Broadhead to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

**Education.**—The undermentioned have been awarded 1st class certificates of education: L/Sergt J. Gardner, L/Corpls G. Gibson and Turner, Signalmen S. Faulkner and F. Powell.

**Extensions of Service.**—To complete 12 years with the Colours: L/Corpl H. Johnson, Signalmen J. Hunt, T. Goldsby, and G. McLean.

## Kohat District Signals.

July 20th.

**General.**—We have really little to record this month. The two main topics are the heat and the "general post" of personnel consequent on the re-organisation of certain units.

Regarding the former, as we headed the all-India table for a couple of days, we can safely say it was hot. Yes, when it got to 117 officially, that means 119 in these lines; and we felt that a belt and topee were *more* than sufficient for even marching order parades. The monsoon having, meteorologically speaking, now shown an increase in the N.W. Punjab, days and days of rain "up the bumps" (otherwise Murree hills), we ought soon to be feeling the benefits of that rainy spell; and who knows? it may even rain here in Kohat, and then shirts and shorts will become bearable again.



The game of general post has started, and men seem to come and go daily. However, as we are only half-way through the game, the details of the moves will be given at a later date.

The Regimental Thrift Club has just completed its first year of existence, and a few figures from the Club's first annual report and balance sheet furnish very interesting reading. During the year no less than Rs. 13022 were deposited by members, equal at normal rates of exchange to £870, or at prevailing rates to £965. This works out an average saved in a year per depositor of Rs. 345, and Rs. 103 per man in the unit.

Rs. 3485 (£260) have been remitted home in the interests of five members transferred to U.K. (each to his own account with Lloyd's Bank). These transactions realised for the members a total gain, on the rate of exchange, of Rs. 411.

On June 16th a dog show was held in Parachinar, and many and varied were the exhibits. Airdales to mousehounds competed, and during the race records were not broken, owing to the "hounds" looking round to see who was going to start fighting first. Many and costly were the prizes, and a certain owner wonders whether anything was inferred when his dog lost first prize owing to having "dirtyears."

It is gratifying to see that a few of the new arrivals are showing their mettle at sports, and proving welcome additions to our ranks. Since the return of a certain person from a certain course, it is noticed that a lot of men are training with a view to becoming champions at running, jumping, putting the weight, etc. If this continues, it would be as well for the Q.M. to get in a stock of larger puttees and bigger shirts to cover the enlarged muscles thereby incurred. It is whispered that one of these aspirants can do the 100 yards in 12 seconds "dead"!

## 4th Indian Divisional Signals.

Jubbulpore, July 27th.

Goodness knows when notes were last submitted by this Branch for inclusion in THE WIRE; but believe me, sirs, we mean to claim all the space we can get in future.

It can honestly be said that our last scribe was correct in every statement he made, but he was very, very brief, was he not? But then, C.O.s do enjoy privileges. I am very much an amateur at this writing business, but hope to improve considerably. I shall certainly have plenty of time in which to serve an apprenticeship, as I don't finish until 1934.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Our C.O. and late president, Major E. W. J. Hobkirk, R.Signals, has recently left us for Blighty leave. It is whispered that he will not return, but we hope those who whisper are wrong. He has been with us since March, 1925. "One of the best—an officer and a gentleman" is the barrack-room summing-up of Major Hobkirk. And who shall say it is wrong?

Capt J. E. F. Paton, R.Signals, has assumed command of the unit, and we hope that, under his presidency, the unit Branch of the Association will be as successful as it has been in the past.

R.Q.M.S. Dixon ("Old Tom") is posted to the S.T.C. after six eventful years with us, and his departure is a severe blow to all who know him. A strict disciplinarian, but very human and with an uncanny knowledge of men and their ways, he was respected and admired, which is putting it very mildly. The lads of G Signals (the G will stick for a long time yet) wish him good luck, and consider it an honour to have served with him. Pass, Tom; all's well!

R.S.M. May has joined us from Waziristan Signals, and we hope his stay with us will always be as pleasant as it is at present. He certainly seems to be enjoying himself.

Other arrivals include C.Q.M.S. Hardwick, C.Q.M.S. Haigh and Sigmn Ramsay (both of whom are former G wallahs), Sigmn Moody (not very, we hope), Sigmn Rigby, and Sigmn Hibbett (someone has asked me to put "old iron" after his name). Corpl Winter and Sigmn Garner joined us a few months ago. The former asserts that the world does not know where he is. It will, if we are fortunate enough to catch the mail with these notes.

That Beau Brummel of the dance hall, Sigmn Calvely, has gone to a far, far better land. C.S.M. Hamilton to Karachi, when he has finished his vocational. Sergt Lottie Mears to the Depot (God bless him!)

**Allotments.**—Sh——! It's a Bombay Back Bay reclamation scheme. Busty Knowles is hereby appointed harbour-master, on condition that he dishes out the water-cress fairly.

**Corporals' Mess.**—The mess now has a tennis court and a balance debtor. With the advent of the monsoon, the former has made a desperate effort to wriggle into the conveniently-adjacent nullah. Could we only persuade a certain ex-rat to flog us a pair of his old boots, the problem of cover for the tennis court would be solved.

**Answers to Co-Respondents.**—"Swede": Why do the orderly-room sergeant and his hirelings wear pliers and jack knives? Our remarks on this would be too cutting for publication.

"Jock": No; he was not made regimental policeman on account of the size of his boots. It is merely a coincidence.

"Peggy": As a general rule, a C.Q.M.S. has no ear for music.

"Paddy": No; a cigarette behind the ear is not a stigma, but we are of opinion that it should be removed.

**Brains.**—Sergt Marshall, with grey matter at the alert position, has rejoined from the Education School, Belgaum. "He's little, but he's wise; a marvel for his size" (so was Napoleon, if you remember), so we made him secretary of the Branch vice "Ding Dong" Bell, at present learning the internal circuits of the horse at Poona.

**Sports.**—We played a rather important rugby match the other evening, and as I could not attend I asked the secretary if he would make a short report. Yes, he would; for was not his brother-in-law once employed in Fleet Street? He did, and the result is the "Annexure" printed under the Sports Notes.

JOSOPE.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters, B.T.E., Cairo, Aug. 6th.

**Promotions.**—We heartily congratulate Major R. A. Bagnold, R.Signals, on his promotion to that rank. This officer will shortly be leaving us on posting to India, and we sincerely hope that his stay in that country will be as pleasant as in the Land of the Pharaohs.

Hearty congratulations also to C.Q.M.S. Markham (C.S.O.'s Directorate) on attaining that rank, and to L/Corpl Hill on his promotion to Corporal. Well done!

**Courses.**—We are delighted to learn that Corpl A. White (No. 1 Company) is doing well on the Foreman-of-Signals course, and wish him the best of luck for the remaining period.

**Dances.**—During the past month, dances have been held in the barracks fairly frequently, and we have every reason to believe they have been a great success. The T.I. room in which they are held is not what you could call spacious, yet the dancers manage to wend their way through the surging throng; but, oh lor! how the atmosphere dries after 9.30 p.m.!

**Dainties.**—It is interesting to note that Egypt (with the exception of the Garrison) is "out of bounds" to British soldiers when walking out unaccompanied in uniform.

Who was the corporal who cleaned his teeth with Palm Olive shaving soap? What a taste he must have!

Have you a cigarette, please? I've left mine on the piano (?)

Would some kind soul please inform us, as early as possible, where we can get some "*Rudge*" spare parts? Failing this, full particulars of the "*Yale*" Blues.

**Agony.**—Consequent on the numerous enquiries regarding the date of the big boat, it is thought that Drake might sketch a few ships for THE WIRE, in order to pacify the poor dears who are anxiously waiting for the homeward trip. Anything for a quiet life!

**Birth.**—We are happy to announce the birth of a daughter (June Florence) to Corpl and Mrs. George, at West Mersea, Essex, on June 9th. "May all your troubles be—etc., etc."

BEN.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, July 31st.

**Trooping Season.**—A list recently appeared in daily orders of the names of the fortunate ones for return to the U.K. during the forthcoming trooping season. A few days later, it was notified that some of them would have to do a buckshee year out here. Of course, these fortunate ones *were* pleased!

**Change-of-Air Camps.**—That the change-of-air camps by the sea are popular is evinced by the numbers who have applied to be allowed to go—particularly the camp for the single men, the

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allotment allowed for each party being already over-filled for the remainder of the season.

The married families' camp is being held at Sidi Bishr, and that for the single men at Mustapha, both camps being on the outskirts of Alexandria. Splendid facilities for bathing are available at both places, and the difference in the air and temperature is greatly appreciated after Cairo. The past month has been very warm, with shade temperatures during the day well over the hundred mark; though, to date, the highest point reached was in May last, when for several days it hovered round 115 degrees in the shade.

**Promotions.**—Hearty congratulations to F/Corpl M. Donnellan on his promotion to that rank. In my last notes it was mentioned that he was in a quandary as to whether his future should be Civvie street, Australia, the "Yewnited" States, or signing on—each having an equal vote—but he has definitely decided to take a chance in the former.

**Transfers.**—Trooper J. Woodfield (12th R. Lancers) is at present attached to this unit, on probation, with a view to ultimate transfer to the Corps.

**Vocational Courses in U.K.**—The notice in orders, recently, that there are some vacancies for vocational courses in the U.K. caused several optimists in the Company to apply for them. The trades in which some of them hoped to get trained were various, but the requests for courses in "beer tasting" and "barman's assistants" were not forwarded, no provision being made for these particular trades.

**Glanders.**—There has been a serious outbreak of glanders among the horses in the Command, and strict precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of this highly infectious disease. Up to the present, no casualties have been reported in the unit stables. Other units nearby, however, have not been so lucky, and have lost a large number of animals through the epidemic.

**Education Certificates.**—The undermentioned have been awarded 3rd class certificates of education, as a result of an examination held in June last: Sigmn M. Matthews, Dvrs. G. Ratledge and W. Lister.

**Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.**—Congratulations to L/Sergt W. King on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal. L/Sergt King has left the Service, and is now employed as a constable in the Cairo City Police.

**This Month's Fairy Tale** (it's true, too!)—Once upon a time there was a corporal (a Scotsman, too, be it noted) who was in charge of a cookhouse, and he borrowed a nice new pencil from the Company office. Like the rest of those who call at the office, he put it in his pocket and departed.

*Shortly afterwards he returned, and put it back from whence he had taken it!* The shock to the office staff at this "unusual occurrence" can be understood, as never in the history of the Signals has such a thing been known to happen before.

What caused his conscience to be so suddenly smitten? We wish a few more of the numerous borrowers would get a smitten conscience!

ART.

## No. 2 (Wireless) Company, Egypt Signals.

### No. 2 Section.

Baghdad West, August 5th.

After several unsuccessful attempts, we have at last decided to contribute a few monthly notes to THE WIRE—so here goes for the first edition.

**General.**—Normally we are only a small section of about forty in all, but owing to the hectic nights spent in company with sandflies and foreign subjects this summer, we have been well represented in hospital. D.R.s to note: The M.O. has definitely stated that a P. and M. panther does not come under the classification of mosquitoes.

The section recently held a moonlight picnic on the Tigris, which was voted a great success by all who attended. Thanks are due to our O.C., Capt D. A. Butler, who rendered great assistance in the arrangements and also accompanied the party. Thanks are also due to L/Corpl Brooke and Sigmn Flory, who carried out the catering. Even the ex-rats declared that the spread was all one could wish for.

It is rumoured that the Revellers are about to lose their reputation as a syncopated quartette. I wonder? Judging from the nightly performance in the canteen, entitled "Une heure du tourment," one is inclined to think that an opposition party to our mechanical department has been started. This department consists of one Bitser, which does go when pushed, plus three (ahem!) motor cycles, if you please. The quarter-bloke is still sadly bemoaning the loss of tins, petrol, mk. 100.

**N.C.O.s Mess.**—A very enjoyable outing was spent on the water by members of the mess last week-end. We went down the river by launch and anchored alongside an island for the night. This passed off fairly well except for the usual discomforts, plus a midnight scrounge for a feed by a certain corpulent member. No names, no ex-rat! There you are: boys again! A little pigeon shooting was indulged in next morning, the party finally returning about midday.

**Cricket.**—We have done fairly well so far this season, considering our opponents are mostly squadron teams. We entered a combined team from this Section and Iraq Signal Section in the R.A.F. open cup competition (for results see Sports Notes). Everybody is now looking forward to the football and hockey season, which is not far distant.

**Agonies.**—Has L/Corpl Wally Thierrin forgotten that promise given to Sigmn C. D. Underwood of this Section? If not, why not?

Will Sigmn Molly Morgan communicate with Sigmn Harris of this unit?

Will Sigmn A. J. Raiman, last heard of at 3rd Divl. Signals, please communicate with Sigmn Willcocks of this unit?

Re the plaintive cry of Flannel Feet (E Cavalry Troop) for news of Toot. There are one or two members of the Black Gang in this desirable spot who would like to hear from both of the gentlemen (?) in question. A letter addressed to Dennis Ashby M. will find us. At last, then, D.A.M., your past has come to light; this must account for the loss on the top.

PAT.

## Iraq Signal Section.

**Departures.**—Lieut W. H. N. Dent, R.Signals, to U.K. on a well-deserved leave, after a strenuous time as O.C. lines and D.O. telephones of this Command. We all hope that his leave will be a success, and congratulate him on receiving the M.B.E.



**Boat Trip.**—The O.C. arranged several Tigris river trips, which have all been voted a success. From the starting point in Baghdad, the launch chugged its way up this ancient and historical river of a thousand romances and mysteries towards Ctesiphon Arch, where a British Division made its name during the war, passing the famous Khedimain Mosque, famous for its domes and minarets of solid beaten gold.

Refreshments were taken, these being stored in ice chests. Music by gramophone, with midnight bathing, formed a feature of the trip. Macksennets bathing belles were not in it, especially as one cannot very well get fig leaves from date palms.

**All in a Day's Work.**—The local Arabs, living up to their hereditary instincts, have again cut and stolen a quantity of bronze wire. Thereby hangs a tale. A bay of twelve was completely cut out, and naturally great strain was on the two poles. Sergt Froggy French, with the intention of easing the strain by loosening the binders, climbed one of the poles. In doing so, both he and his fourteen stone obeyed the law of gravity, and in nautical parlance "hit the deck." Happily he is now discharged from hospital, having recovered from severe bruises and shock, and is at present studying Arabic adjectives.

**Stamp Savers.**—Corpl Golder would like to hear from L/Cpl Franklin of Bulford, and Sergt French from Sergt Fleet of Blackdown.

IRAKSIGS.

## Aden Brigade Signal Section.

**General.**—Though Aden is looked upon as a miniature blast furnace, this summer has been far cooler than usual, so we have been able to breathe in comfort and find energy to compile these notes; and in future we hope to forward regularly all news of interest.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—The section wish our late O.C. (Lieut H. H. Pearson, D.C.M., M.M.) and family the best of luck in their new station at Quetta.

We welcome our new O.C., Capt M. C. Bennett, and wife, and hope his administration will be a happy one.

Of late we have lost C.Q.M.S. Hardwicke. Our loss, but G Divl. Signals' gain.

During this year the section has been made up to full strength by the arrival from different parts of India of Signalmen Bristowe, Chitty, Day and Farrell; so we should be able to make ourselves felt both at work and play on the "barren rocks of Aden."

**Agony.**—Sigmn Farrell, late 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford, would like to hear from Sigmn F. Lapper. Jerry Hawks would like to hear from Betty Blythe and Ginger Green, late of D Coy.

An ex-corps player would like to know the results and positions in the Darlington and District League.

INK.M.TOC.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

**General.**—Apologies are tendered for the omission of notes for last month. Our excuse must be pressure of work in connection with the recent arrival of the Shanghai Defence Force units. Communications are now more or less up to our usual standard, and consequently more time may be devoted "a la Barleux."

**Works.**—Old Hong Kong-ites will be interested to learn that great alterations are contemplated with regard to local communications, and that buried cable is to be the order of the future. Wireless, too, is a recent departure, and from the old R.E. mechanists' shop we have a station in communication with all and sundry.

**Outings.**—The R.E. and Royal Signals dance club organised an outing on Whit Monday, and a portion of the credit balance from the last season was expended on a very enjoyable trip to Island Bay.

**Signals Association.**—A general meeting of our Branch was held on June 18th, and the following committee was elected:—President and treasurer, Capt Bridgland; secretary, Corporal Bowler; committeemen, Q.M.S. Roberts, Sergt Seymour, and L/Corpl Purcell.

An outing was proposed, and this took place on Sunday, 3rd July. The usual bathing picnic was indulged in, and was voted a huge success by all. All are hoping for another such day ere the big ship leaves. Roll on that ship!

Pass the H.P. please!

Wherever you go you will find H.P. is the favourite — by common consent the most appetising and delicious sauce.

Whatever the meal H.P. imparts a wealth of flavour and freshness, enabling you to derive the utmost benefit and enjoyment from your food.

H.P.
(Houses of Parliament)
Sauce

All canteens sell H.P. — try it with tomatoes, cheese, bacon, cold meats, fish, sausages — put a few drops in your stews as well.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—A hearty welcome is extended to the 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section (from Colchester), and we trust Lieut Duncan and his merry men will enjoy a happy time in the Isle of Fragrant Streams.

**Congratulations.**—To A/Corpl McBride we offer an extended tongue (but not a K.F.C. one) on his appointment. To L/Corpl Purcell on obtaining his 1st.

JOINT BOX.

## 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, China,
July 6th.

It is with some trepidation that I submit the first notes from the 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section. Being for the time a self-contained unit, it behoves me, as the Section penman, to supply the necessary link between the Section and the Corps generally; and if my efforts do not reach the high standard set by more experienced contemporaries, I trust that readers will deal with them leniently.

Embarking at Southampton on April 20th on the "Neuralia," we enjoyed a very pleasant voyage, and were lucky in having our needs attended to by a noted ex-boxing and culinary expert, Jack Hare, who provided us with innumerable "globe-trotting sausages," as one wag described them.

At Malta we were greeted by an old friend of the 4th Divl. Signals, Capt G. R. Halliday, and at Singapore we renewed our acquaintance with some comrades stationed there.

Short route marches at Port Said, Colombo and Singapore gave us a little relaxation, and community singing and concerts provided plenty of amusement in the evenings—the Section doing its bit by placing a stunning quartette at the disposal of the M.C. I won't mention any names, but the same people also gave a Charleston turn (this, doubtless, to the chagrin of Benge, the Blackbottom boor).

Arriving at Hong Kong on May 23rd, we obtained comfortable quarters on the mainland in Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon. Since our arrival we have not had a very burdensome amount of

EVERY man at the back of his mind admires, possibly envies, physical fitness. After all, health must largely depend upon diet and when it comes to that, what can be better than all that is good in full-cream milk and finest malt? The strength and virility that these things give are best found in Hooker's Malted Milk. *Because it is British, make sure it is*

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work—just a few schemes, with the happy prospect of more to follow. There are numerous aspirants for 1st and 2nd class educational honours, these being under the able tuition of Sigmn J. Laurenson.

The Morris six-wheeled lorries quite fulfilled our utmost expectations regarding their adaptability to hard going, on a trial run given them. The accompanying photograph was kindly supplied by Dvr. G. Hodkinson, one of the four R.A.S.C. drivers attached to us for the period of our police duty.

The optimistic married men keep their kits packed, and spend their leisure hours (24 to the day) in devising rumours regarding our speedy return, fondly imagining that Colchester will be flying the "Welcome Home" flags sometime before Christmas (if what!)

**Agony.**—Sergt Bellew sends his best to D Troop.

PINKY AND CO.

## Malaya Signal Section.

Military Headquarters, Fort Canning,
Singapore, June 30th.

The absence of notes from this unit for the last two months is regretted. The only plea I can put forward is pressure of work, though I don't suppose this will carry much weight with the Section.

On the 14th instant, the G.O.C., Major-General Sir T. Fraser, K.C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., paid a farewell visit to Pulau Brani prior to leaving the Colony for home.

After inspecting the units on parade—Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, and R.A.O.C.—the General, in a short speech, referred to his association with the three corps represented, and paid high tribute to the very efficient manner in which all present had carried out their many duties, sometimes under great difficulties. He said that he could confidently hand over to his successor, knowing that we would continue to carry out the duties allotted to us in the same efficient manner. General Fraser then bade us goodbye, the parade—led by Lieut.-Colonel W. Hyde Kelly, D.S.O., R.E.—responding with three rousing cheers.

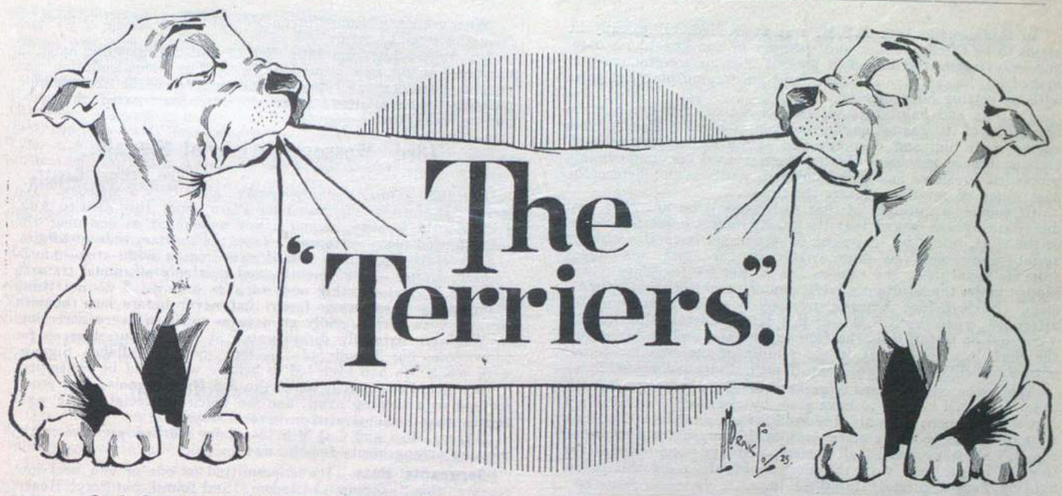
We are all now looking forward to the annual re-classifications, and hoping to find favour in the eyes of the powers-that-be; for as one said to me the other day, four-and-a-tanner a day doesn't go far when fags are ten in a packet, and a pint of beer is only two gills.

What a wonderful place our Catterick correspondents would lead us to believe that place is, with all its gardens. I know of at least two in the section—one a clerk and the other a nuisance (put down that bed leg, Barwick)—who have memories of dull spades and aching backs in the same gardens, when the only result was mass production of weeds, bricks and dandelions.

**"Ask and Thou Shalt Receive."**—Sigmn Barwick, of this Section, is still expecting a letter from Sigmn Payne, last heard of in Iraq. Sigmn Easterby, also of this section and a member of the Soldiers' Guild of St. George, would like to hear from any other members in the Corps.

THE SCRIBE.






## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

**Windmill Hill, 1927; or the Camp that went by Clockwork.**

To many of us who had not been there before, the very suggestion of a camp for two whole weeks on Salisbury Plain was quite enough to chill one's ardour; and I do not doubt that many somewhat dismal mental pictures were formed of a small and dreary-looking canvas camp situated in the middle of a howling wilderness of rolling grass-covered hills, devoid of anything in the nature of trees or shelter, and alternately drenched with driving rain or scorched with a blinding sun.

The realisation must have come as a wonderful relief to those who had formed such mental pictures. Ludgershall is by no means an unattractive village. It boasts an old church, some delightfully quaint old thatched cottages, one extremely good (not to say palatial) hotel, and at least two good and comfortable village inns. The camp was pitched in the best spot, being situated at the very top of the hill, right against a wood which sheltered us very nicely.

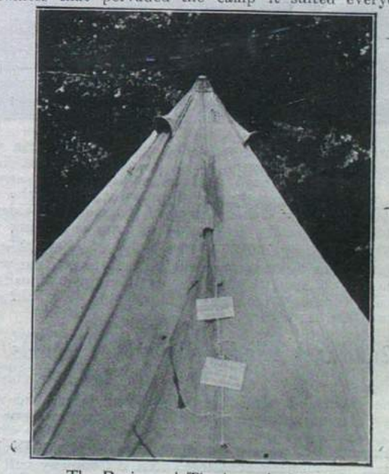
Thanks to the organisation and energy displayed by our permanent staff, the entraining at Waterloo and the detraining at Ludgershall were accomplished with the greatest smoothness, and almost before we knew we were there, we were actually settled down in the camp, and by nightfall on Sunday we might have been there for weeks. Q Branch had excelled itself; all tents were ready for occupation, blankets, etc., were immediately issued, and our food was ready as soon as we were.

Our long-faced friends, other than the dozen we brought from London with us to drag the cable wagons and limber, arrived early in the afternoon, and by five o'clock they had been boarded, allotted to squadrons, and placed on the lines in readiness for the duty to come.

The C.O. made a point of having us out of bed at 5 a.m. as part of the regular routine, but in common fairness it must be mentioned that he also turned out to take the early morning mounted parade at 5.40, and he also saw to it that his brother officers turned out and took their part in what was going forward—a fact that considerably sweetened the first discomforts of an early turn-out.

On returning from this parade, somewhere about eight o'clock breakfast was served, as soon as the horses were turned in. The next parade was at nine o'clock, when all troops moved out under squadron arrangements to their various jobs. They returned at 11.30, when there was a short break for fifteen minutes; then stables, grooming, water and feed, etc., until 12.50. Dinner was served at one o'clock. Afternoon parade (an hour later) for Signal training, saddle and harness cleaning, getting cable wagons ready for the next day's work, and the many and varied jobs attendant upon a unit such as ours. Evening stables, water and feed at 4.30. Tea at 5.30. Guard-mounting at seven o'clock. Lights out at 10.15. Such was our normal day, only varied when we participated in schemes (with a capital "S") that kept us away from our dinner until three or four o'clock in the afternoon, when many of us decided to amalgamate dinner and tea and make one good meal of it.

It will be seen that while the majority of us were at camp for our only holiday in the year, it was not in any sense a rest cure. It is evident that those who drew up our programme (what about it, S.S.M. A Squadron and Sergt W. D. G.?) believed that a change of employment is the best form of rest. Anyway, that is the only sort of rest we got, and judging from the general cheerfulness that pervaded the camp it suited everyone.



The Regimental Timekeeper's Office.

So much for the programme of work and training. But work and training are not the be-all and end-all of any well-conducted camp. There are the evenings to be considered, when something has to be done to keep the lads amused and out of mischief, and at the same time bring out the sporting and competitive spirit, making them forget any little grievances they had during the day's work.

In this direction our R.S.M. was unexcelled. Physically he seems to be chiefly rubber and springs; he can run like a hare, and very frequently did so in pursuit of some malefactor—and best of all, he can give and take hard knocks and practical jokes without getting hot-tempered.

The one bad habit he had, though we all did our best to break him of it, was to maintain an alarm clock. This horrible engine woke him and everyone else within earshot, about half-an-hour before reveille. Having been roused, he immediately proceeded to shave and polish himself, and was out before the last sound of reveille, chasing the troops.

Of course, a nuisance of that sort couldn't be tolerated, and due warning was issued that the practice must cease forthwith, or the clock would be sentenced to suspension from the wireless aerial. For some few days afterwards the clock was absent from its usual post, and rumour has it that for two days it was hidden under the adjutant's table, and one night in the sergeants' mess. Nevertheless, Nemesis overtook it at last; and one fine afternoon, when the R.S.M.—or R.T.K. (regimental time-keeper)—was out on a staff ride, the fairies got busy, and on his return the clock was hung fairly in the middle of the wireless aerial, with a notice "Greenwich Mean Time" suspended below it!

While the clock caused a great deal of amusement, and the camp may well be said to have gone by clockwork, we were not entirely dependent upon Mr. Ingersoll for our amusement. There were often sports on the green outside the sergeants' mess, when the R.S.M. was open to all comers, and everyone was invited to show his prowess with the gloves. Blind boxing and pillow fighting were also freely indulged in.

The wet weather made work decidedly heavier than would otherwise have been the case, and a lot of "hard graft" had to be put in on harness, wagons and saddlery to keep them anything like fit. That work *was* done will be evident from the photo herewith, showing the Cable Troop on the move. Incidentally this photograph gives the lie direct to a rumour running round that Sergt Hopper was never known to take his coat off.

We have by no means concluded the camp notes, but we will keep an account of sports, and the competition against our friends of E Troop Signals from Tidworth and the jolly old rough riders, until the next issue.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

As the Troutbeck tan is wearing off our faces, and we are becoming recognisable again, we hasten to forward our usual notes.

On August 21st we shall compete at the 42nd Divisional weapon training meeting at Altcar. No. 3 Company will again have the honour of representing the unit, and we wish them many bulls (plain and pool) and good weather.

In this connection we wish to welcome Capt. H. Andrews, who has joined us from the 6/7th Manchester Regiment, and to whom, as musketry officer, has fallen most of the work of arranging for our entries at Altcar. Those who were with the unit in Gallipoli and France will remember him. He is no novice in Signals.

We must also welcome Sigmn McVittie, who joined us recently from the Regular Army.

On August 13th and 14th, Nos. 1 and 3 Companies spent a week-end at our new ground in Sale. The accommodation was very satisfactory, and the ground was excellent for training purposes. The weather, as usual, somewhat marred the visit, but we hope to pass many good days there in future.

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

Our 1927 annual training is now, alas! only a memory. We were at Bulford Fields, Salisbury Plain, from July 23rd to Aug. 8th, and the locality, although not so popular as one near the sea, afforded many advantages from the military side of affairs.

The three Companies are drawn from a wide area—Southampton, Exeter and Plymouth—and it is only at annual training that we can get together and work as a unit. I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that never before has the unit worked with such a really good team spirit in every direction.

We were naturally disappointed at finding ourselves so far away from our friends of the 48th (South Midland) Signals, with whom we had been led to believe we should be encamped.

We found our parent body, the 3rd Divl. Signals, ever ready to lend us a helping hand, and we much appreciated the good feeling they demonstrated in several ways.

2/Lieut Moss and C.Q.M.S. Stanbury worked wonders in the messing arrangements for the men.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—I was permitted on one or two occasions to enter this "sanctum sanctorum," and found that Sergt Hoare, their caterer, had done his work well. They had several big fraternal gatherings—one with the w.o.s and n.c.o.s of the 3rd Divl. Signals, and another with those of the 6th Devons; and in each case a return visit was paid. The officers, as in former years, were made very welcome on the "officers' night"; and our C.O., Lieut.-Col. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., in returning thanks, said just the right thing when he referred to the happy relationships which existed in the unit.

**The Officers' Mess** was again splendidly looked after by Capt Cummings, who for the fifth year undertook the duties of P.M.C. His work was most succes ful. The guest nights—one in each week—were triumphs of organisation. Our visitors, among whom were included Col. E. G. Treffry, C.M.G., O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. (Devon and Cornwall Brigade Commander), Col. Lord Vivian, D.S.O., T.D. (4/5th D.C.L.I.) and Col. G. B. Oerton, T.D. (6th Devons), had a welcome which will live long in their recollections.

Our sports took place on Sunday, July 31st, in the presence of a record crowd. We were particularly pleased to welcome Col. E. V. Turner, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Col. R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major A. C. Allan, D.S.O., M.C., and our esteemed honorary colonel, Col. H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O. It was a pleasure for our prize-winners to receive their trophies at the hands of Mrs. Moore.

One of the delightful incidents during camp was the receipt of a letter from our former adjutant, Capt C. A. Murray, now with the Shanghai Defence Force. He always times a letter to reach us just before or during camp, and he never forgets to put in a donation for the sports fund—a kind thought which we assure him is deeply appreciated.

It is sad to contemplate the departure of our present adjutant, Capt A. W. Roberts, M.C. He has done his last camp work with us, but does not leave us until November.

One interesting circumstance worth mentioning is the visit to our camp of General Sir G. F. Milne, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., LL.D. (Chief of the Imperial General Staff), who was accompanied by Lieut.-General Sir Alexander Godley and Major-General Sir George Jeffrey. The C.I.G.S. referred to the fact that the 43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals sprang from the old Wessex Divl. Signal Company R.E. (T.), which during the war was known as the 27th (Wessex) Divl. Signals R.E.—the Divisional Signals of the 27th Division which Sir George Milne commanded in France and Salonika before he became C.-in-C. of the Salonika Army.

OLD SPARK.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

**Annual Training.**—This was carried out at Shorncliffe. The first week in camp was devoted mainly to instruction and short signal exercises, preparatory to schemes to be held the following week on a larger scale. A very successful combined signal scheme was carried out on August 11th and 12th, under ideal weather conditions.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—We spent some very pleasant evenings during the camp period, both in our own mess and those of the Middlesex Regiment, R.A.S.C., R.A.M.C., and (last, but not least) the 56th Divl. Royal Engineers. We have to thank Sergts Tyler and White, and the members of our "jass band," for their musical efforts, which were very much appreciated.

**Sports.**—August Bank Holiday was selected for the annual sports, but owing to rain they had to be postponed, and were not completed until Saturday. Results:—

Sports challenge cup, No. 1 Coy. Sergeants' challenge shield, No. 1 Coy. Cable cup, Sergt Horner's Section. 100 yards (officers), Capt Frith. Long jump, Capt Frith. High jump, Sigmn Caley. Relay race, No. 1 Coy. V.C. race, Corpl Haley. Veterans' race, Sergt Tyler. 3 miles race, Corpl Seeley and Sigmn Smith, a tie. Tug-of-war, No. 1 Coy.

The Dell cup for inter-Company shooting was won by No. 3 Company, and the Trade cup by No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

### No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

Our annual training is over, with many regrets on our part. We much appreciate the efforts of our new C.O. to make the training successful and pleasant, and feel this was accomplished.

Fortune did not favour us this time in the way of cups, but we forfeit them to good "sports" of the London Company. The Trade cup is, however, in our possession, and we value it because of the technical skill reached by our members to win it. We shall be after the other trophies at next training.

Lieut Boag is on a course with the Regulars at Aldershot. On his return we shall look forward to a lengthy period of sound training in all subjects. This can only be done by the keen co-operation of all members.

RED SPOT.

## 46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, August 12th.

Owing to being busily engaged in preparing for annual camp, our monthly notes were again conspicuous by their absence last month, and the usual apology is tendered.

Camp is now, except for the usual straightening out, a thing of the past. However, it was a great success. Redcar, from a social point of view, is an ideal place for a camp; yet, despite the many attractions, much valuable training was done.

The first week was spent in Company training generally. The second week was given over to more serious regimental schemes, inspections, etc., Wednesday and Thursday being devoted to an all day and night scheme in which visual, cable, and wireless were employed, not forgetting the D.R.s. Parade was at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, and after much strenuous work, during which various small mountains were climbed, communication was established and maintained. Dinner was then served, and after everyone had done justice to this, all bivouacked for the night. The weather was everything that could be wished for, and at an early hour reeling-in was commenced. This accomplished, a return was made to camp.

The unit was inspected at work at different periods by the Divisional Commander, Major-Gen. Sir P. O. Hambro, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., Col. E. V. Turner, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., War Office, Lieut.-Col. H. A. B. Salmond, C.S.O. Northern Command, and by Lieut.-Col. D. Hey, M.C., T.D., D.C.S.O.

On the last Friday in camp, the sergeants held their smoker. They were honoured by the presence of the officers of the unit, C.S.M. Chapman, and two visitors from the 50th Divl. Signals. We hope the latter's short stay with us was a happy one, despite the uncomfortable journey back to Middlesbrough in a fog.

We had Sergts Brotherton and Sherwood, of the 1st Divl. Signals, attached to us. We hope their stay was a happy one.

This was the first time we had the pleasure of having 2/Lieut E. G. Chapman with us at annual camp. We are sorry for the 48th Divl. Signals in losing such an excellent officer, but their loss is undoubtedly our gain. We trust his stay amongst us will be permanent and pleasant.

MEREBIMUR.



## 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, S.W., August 15th.

**Annual Training.**—This took place at Colchester from July 10th to 24th. The camping site was perfect, but not so the weather. It rained every day, except those on which we arrived and departed. All ranks worked extremely hard, and we feel that great strides have been made in our efficiency. We owe a debt of gratitude to the 1st and the 4th Divl. Signals for having sent us n.c.o.s to help us in our training.

We carried out two or three schemes of a very ambitious type, which were fairly successful, but we were rather handicapped through lack of operators.

In the evenings the troops found their way to Clacton. All ranks voted it a good camp, and were sorry when the time for departure came.

We held mounted sports on the first Saturday. There were so many entries that it was impossible to complete the programme. Much amusement was created in the musical chairs and the V.C. race. In the latter event one sergeant was seen to prop his injured man against his horse, and use him as a stepping stone to remount. The horse was quite unconcerned, but thank goodness the injured party was only an oat sack stuffed with straw!

Owing to the Brigade suddenly fixing up a scheme on the last Saturday, we were unable to hold our dismounted sports, but we hope to do so on September 3rd on the sports ground at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

**General.**—Having finished our annual training, we are now in the throes of putting our house in order for the winter months. The social and sports sides are receiving special attention. We are hoping to get a grant for the improvement of our headquarters. If we are successful, it should help us considerably.

**Dances.**—The first of our winter entertainments takes place at these headquarters on Friday, September 9th, in the form of an all-night ball. All ranks are asked to attend in uniform.

LEMJAY.

## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters (Darlington)

The unit is now getting ready for the big push, and when the September number of THE WIRE appears, we shall, all being well, be right in the middle of our annual training, to which we have looked forward for many months.

It has been very nice to meet the sister Divisional Signal Companies of the Northern Command who have been carrying out their annual training locally. We have been able to "liaise" with both the O.C. 49th Divl. Signals at Catterick and the O.C. 46th Divl. Signals at Redcar, and notwithstanding our climate we hope they enjoyed themselves.

There will be no notes in THE WIRE for October, owing to the unit being in the south of England.

We extend a hearty welcome to S.M. Legg, and hope his stay with us will be a pleasant one.

The following is an extract from *The Northern Echo* of August 2nd:—

SIGNALLERS IN CAMP.

RECRUITING FOR NEW COMPANY IN DARLINGTON.

Two Companies of the 50th Divl. Signals, Royal Corps of Signals, T.A., on Saturday went into camp for the week-end at Whitburn, between Sunderland and South Shields, under command of Lieut.-Colonel A. McLeod.

No. 1 Company, from Newcastle, is under command of Capt G. H. Walton, and No. 2 Company, from Middlesbrough, is under command of Capt T. T. J. Sheffield. The other officers are Lieuts J. F. C. Park, T. S. Mensley and J. W. Middleton, M.C., and 2/Lieut J. G. Hopkins.

The officers and men of these two Companies will go to Shorncliffe Camp on September 10th, and remain there until the 25th, to take part in the annual Divisional training of the 4th Division, which will be assembled there.

The War Office has selected the 50th Divl. Signals for this work, as the 4th (Regular) Divl. Signals are at present in China, constituting the Signals of Shanghai Defence Force.

It is a great honour for the 50th Divl. Signals, T.A., to be selected to work with the Regulars in training.

No. 3 Company having been closed at Hull and transferred to Darlington, recruiting for the new Company will commence to-day.

## 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

### No. 3 (Edinburgh) Company.

Drill Hall, Brandon Terrace.

**Introduction.**—Have you noticed anything? The G.P.O. Detachment, in name only, has faded away, and now we have a real live Company of our own, the present strength being three officers and 126 other ranks. The remaining vacancies are open to suitable men.

**Camp.**—The annual camp was held at Troon, Ayrshire, where several schemes were successfully carried out, everyone enjoying themselves immensely—even the Hog Club.

**Inspections.**—The unit was inspected by General Sir William E. Peyton, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., and our new Divisional Commander, Major-General H. F. Thuillier, C.B., C.M.G., who expressed their satisfaction with the turn out.

**Sports.**—Our annual sports took place on July 23rd, but only two prizes were won by this Company, as against seven last year.

Congratulations to those recently appointed and promoted, consequent on the transfer of No. 3 Company from Glasgow to Edinburgh; also to L/Sergt Roy and Corpl McKenzie, each having been presented with a daughter.

It is regretted that our Company commander is at present incapacitated through pulling for his side at the sports, although not fit at the time. All ranks wish him a speedy recovery.

**Situations Vacant.**—It is thought that one of the largest fields for Association work is lying dormant in Glasgow. Any offers?

**Note.**—It is hoped that all will respond to the "drive" on payment of bounties, and enable us to record 100 per cent. membership. The address for collection of "bobs" is still Brandon Terrace.

DICK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.
July 15th.

The unit proceeded to camp at Thorndon Park, near Brentwood, on July 24th, and a very pleasant and instructive fortnight was spent. The first week was spent in elementary instruction in all branches of Signal training, and during the second week collective training was carried out. On Wednesday a twenty-four hour scheme was commenced at 3 p.m., the troops returning to camp on Thursday afternoon. This scheme was admirably carried out, and all systems were through during the whole period. Even the W/T did not break down!

Regimental sports were to have been held on August Bank Holiday, but the weather was so bad that these were postponed until Friday. This was a great disappointment as a good number of relatives and friends arrived in camp. Tea was provided in the different messes, and until tea-time a little community singing was indulged in, assisted by the regimental band.

The sports were eventually held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The results are shown in the Sports columns. We offer our congratulations to Capt F. A. Manley and L/Corpl T. Parker on their excellent horsemanship. All trophies were bagged by the Stratford Companies. We are sorry, No. 3 Company; better luck next time. We should like to congratulate the members of No. 3 on their plucky attempts in the mounted events. Considering no riding instruction is given at Westcliff, this shows a very good spirit of sportsmanship.

On the Saturday a general concert for the unit was held outside the sergeants' mess, in which all ranks joined, and a rollicking time was spent before returning to the dull routine of civil life.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Some very pleasant evenings were spent during the camp, both in our own mess and also in those of the 161st (Essex) Infantry Brigade.

An excellent Bohemian concert was given in the mess, at which we were pleased to have as our guests the commanding officer, the adjutant, and the officers of the unit. The artistes were splendid, but too numerous to mention in detail, though we must refer to the adjutant with his good old Irish song, the original "Boys of Old Flannigan's Band." The members gave it socks! Another star turn was discovered in the Brothers Macvinsky (C.S.M. Leckie and Mr. Darby).

**Annual Dance.**—On Saturday, the 13th inst., we held our annual dance and distribution of prizes at Stratford Town Hall. This function was attended by a company of about three hundred. Among the prominent guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of West Ham, Colonel H. Jolly, T.D., Captain A. M. Barrett, M.C. (adjutant 6th Battalion Essex Regiment), Capt. W. J. Carlile, M.C., M.M. (adjutant 17th Tower Hamlets Rifles), and Capt F. G. Wilson, R.A.M.C.

A very pleasant evening was spent, and a programme of twenty-four dances was got through. Immediately before the interval, the trophies and prizes won during the year were presented to the winners by the Mayoress. Our congratulations are offered to all prize-winners. The tit-bit of the evening was to see C.S.M. Leckie collecting Thermos flasks for No. 3 Company's boat race team.

Y. E. D.

### No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

We went to Thorndon Hall Park, Brentwood, for our annual training, and were the first to arrive, as Nos. 1 and 2 travelled by road. We found R.Q.M.S. Sharp "up to his eyes," so we buckled to and got down to it.

The first day, Sunday, was naturally taken quietly. On Monday work started in real earnest, the n.c.o.s making the welkin ring at communication drill in the mornings.

The General came along and saw the troops at work. The wireless, I believe, did very well. The sergeants' mess did very well, too, being very fortunate in securing the services of an ex-naval chef. He certainly turned out some very nice dishes.

DREITER.

## 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

Bourley Camp, Aldershot.

At the time of writing we are approaching the end of our camp period, which, though very wet, has been most enjoyable and instructive.

The first week was spent mostly in practising cable laying, in preparation for the following week, which saw a furious battle fought over a wide area embracing the famous Long Valley and Laffan's Plain.

We are indebted to our Regular colleagues of the 2nd Divl. Signals, who sent a section under Mr. Collier to give a demonstration of cable laying. After this, officers of our unit provided the personnel for the section, with draught horses drawn from our own lines, and endeavoured to emulate the feats performed by the Regulars, thereby gaining much amusement and instruction, as well as providing the unusual sight of two majors and a lieutenant driving a six-horse team.

Our sports day provided some keen and amusing sport, and included a limber turn-out competition in which two particularly good turn-outs were entered from Nos. 1 and 2 Companies respectively, No. 2 being the winners.

We were visited by a cricket team from Mount Pleasant Post Office, London, and indulged in a day's game, after which we entertained our opponents to tea in the N.A.A.F.I.—altogether a most enjoyable day.

The inter-Company cricket competition was won by the Base Signal Company, who defeated No. 1 (L. of C.) Company by seven wickets in the final.

The football competition was also fought out on a very rough ground, and the antics of the ball continually baffled the players and kept the spectators highly amused. The final had to be postponed owing to inclement weather, and Nos. 1 and 2 Companies will settle the issue at a later date.

Among all the happier incidents I have to record of our camp, there was unfortunately one which marred the period. This was an accident to Sigmn Treacher, a D.R., who is now in Cambridge Hospital with the prospect of spending several weeks there. We extend our sympathies to him and wish him a speedy recovery.

Another occupant of the same merciful building is Sergeant Jackman, to whom all our best wishes are extended for a speedy recovery.

**This Month's Queries.**—Who is the n.c.o. who, in a recent examination, declared that the orderly corporal is responsible for the orderly sergeant?

Are certain sergeants thinking of remustering as drivers in view of their camp experiences?

**Personal.**—Sergt Limb would like to hear from Jimmy Dillon, last heard of in India.

ADSUM.

## Catterick Cricket.

### Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Durham Pilgrims.

Played on June 15th and 16th, ending in a draw, time robbing Signals of victory.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK).

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major F. G. Drayson run out | 32 | b Gillett | | 58 |
| Capt G. P. Pavey b Turnbull | 12 | b Meikle | | 22 |
| Lieut E. J. Hatfield c Alderson b Turnbull | 5 | c Maloney b Langdon | | 42 |
| Sergt Carpenter b Turnbull | 8 | c Ald'son b Langdon | | 0 |
| Major H. A. J. Parsons not out | 58 | | | |
| Lieut L. C. Boyd c Wilson b Grellett | - | | | |
| Lieut R. G. Muir c Grellett b Nimmo | 14 | lbw b Wilson | | 12 |
| Lieut E. L. L. Vulliamy c Anderson b Nimmo | 4 | not out | | 15 |
| Lieut T. A. R. Scott hit wicket b Nimmo | 3 | not out | | 55 |
| Lieut L. C. C. Harrison c Alderson b Nichol | 8 | | | |
| Sigmn Sutherland b Turnbull | 7 | | | |
| Extras | 11 | Extras | | 9 |
| Total | 163 | Total (5 wk. dec) | | 213 |

DURHAM PILGRIMS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Maloney lbw b Carpenter | 11 | c and b Scott | | 59 |
| Mr. Kinch c Carpntr b Suth'land | 51 | c Scott b Hatfield | | 24 |
| Mr. Alderson lbw b Carpenter | 1 | c Scott b Carpenter | | 39 |
| Col. Turnbull c Hatfield b Cpntr | 0 | b Carpenter | | 0 |
| Mr. Grellett c Boyd b Carpenter | 8 | c Drayson b Scott | | 1 |
| Mr. C. Alderson c Suth'ld b Scott | 0 | c Scott b Carpenter | | 1 |
| Mr. Brown c Drayson b Cpenter | 33 | b Carpenter | | 7 |
| Mr. Meikle c Suth'ld b Carpenter | 27 | not out | | 11 |
| Mr. Wilson st Pavey b Carpenter | 1 | c and b Scott | | 5 |
| Mr. Nimmo not out | 2 | not out | | 6 |
| Mr. Longden c Sthland b Hatfield | 16 | c Pavey b Scott | | 6 |
| Extras | 9 | Extras | | 16 |
| Total | 159 | Total (9 wkts.) | | 175 |

Sergt Carpenter took seven wickets for 20 runs and four for 84; and Lieut Scott four for 34.

### Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Mr. Cahn's XI.

Played on June 23rd and 24th. Bad weather stopped play, and the game was left drawn.

MR. CAHN'S ELEVEN.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Fletcher c Brown b Payne | 10 |
| Mr. Rogerson b Payne | 19 |
| Mr. Gunn c and b Carpenter | 75 |
| Mr. Newmann c Boyd b Sutherland | 56 |
| Mr. Cowley st Pavey b Drayson | 17 |
| Mr. Nichols c Hatfield b Sutherland | 0 |
| Mr. Vaulkner c and b Hatfield | 13 |
| Mr. H. Vaulkner c Drayson b Hatfield | 2 |
| Mr. Sutton c Carpenter b Hatfield | 0 |
| Mr. Cahn c Hatfield b Carpenter | 3 |
| Mr. Hickling not out | 15 |
| Extras | 13 |
| Total | 223 |

Lieut Hatfield took three wickets for 24 runs.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK).

| | |
|---|---|
| Major F. G. Drayson lbw b Sutton | 22 |
| Capt. G. P. Pavey c Hickling b Sutton | 1 |
| Lieut E. J. Hatfield c Fletcher b Gunn | 24 |
| Lieut R. G. Muir b Sutton | 0 |
| Sergt Carpenter c Cowley b Hickling | 3 |
| Major H. A. J. Parsons b Newmann | 41 |
| Lieut L. C. Boyd not out | 28 |
| Sigmn Sutherland not out | 7 |
| Extras | 6 |
| Total (for 6 wickets) | 132 |

### Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Ampleforth College.

Played on June 29th. Signals won by 4 wickets and 92 runs.

AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. H. D. King c Muir b Carpenter | 28 |
| Mr. J. Rabnett c Sutherland b Hatfield | 21 |
| Mr. A. A. J. Boyle c Carpenter b Drayson | 12 |
| Mr. H. C. Barton c Pavey b Hatfield | 37 |
| Mr. E. J. Scott b Drayson | 3 |
| Mr. B. B. Carroll c Muir b Hatfield | 15 |
| Mr. P. Lariss c Muir b Sutherland | 7 |
| Mr. W. H. Fawcett hit wicket b Hatfield | 1 |
| Mr. W. H. Bayliff b Carpenter | 4 |
| R. Roche c Drayson b Hatfield | 4 |
| Mr. F. E. Burge not out | 0 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 134 |

Lieut Hatfield took five wickets for 59 runs; Sergt Carpenter two for 26; and Major Drayson two for 18.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK).

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut L. C. C. Harrison b King | 5 |
| Sigmn Sutherland c Bayliff b Scott | 9 |
| Lieut T. A. R. Scott b Carroll | 18 |
| Lieut R. G. Muir c Rabnett b Barton | 13 |
| Lieut E. L. L. Vulliamy st Burge b Scott | 33 |
| Lieut L. C. Boyd c Rabnett b Scott | 53 |
| Major H. A. J. Parsons not out | 50 |
| Sergt Carpenter not out | 39 |
| Extras | 6 |
| Total (for 6 wickets) | 226 |

### Royal Signals (Catterick) v. A Royal Engineers XI.

Played on July 12th and 13th. Signals won by 205 runs.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK).

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major F. G. Drayson b Baker ... | 62 | b Davey ..... | 16 |
| Lieut E. J. Hatfield c Walker b Montieth ..... | 8 | b Baker ..... | 28 |
| Sigmn Sutherland run out ..... | 0 | | |
| Lieut L. C. C. Harrison c Veale b Baker ..... | 2 | | |
| Sergt Carpenter run out ..... | 25 | not out ..... | 38 |
| Major H. A. J. Parsons not out | 45 | lbw b Baker ..... | 5 |
| Lieut L. C. Boyd c Galliford b Montieth ..... | 1 | b Baker ..... | 13 |
| Lieut T. A. R. Scott b Baker ... | 18 | c and b Galliford... | 4 |
| Lieut J. B. S. Guyer b Montieth | 7 | | |
| Lieut R. H. Brown c Price b M'th | 0 | | |
| Sigmn Williams not out ..... | 11 | b Galliford ..... | 35 |
| Extras ..... | 21 | Extras ..... | 9 |
| Total (for 9 wkts. dec.) | 200 | Total (6 wk. dec.) | 148 |

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lieut R. S. Walker b Scott ..... | 0 | b Scott ..... | 6 |
| Sapper Price b Williams ..... | 6 | c Hatfield b Scott | 1 |
| Capt H. A. Baker b Scott ..... | 1 | b Scott ..... | 2 |
| Lieut R. A. V. Montieth b Scott | 14 | c and b Harrison... | 12 |
| Lieut R. F. Foley b Williams ... | 1 | not out ..... | 13 |
| Sapper Lancaster b Scott ..... | 18 | b Scott ..... | 10 |
| Sergt Mitchell lbw b Scott ..... | 0 | c Williams b H'field | 8 |
| Sergt Galliford not out ..... | 4 | c Parsons b Suth'ld | 7 |
| Q.M.S. Davey b Scott ..... | 0 | b Hatfield ..... | 3 |
| Lieut W. O. C. Pertman b Scott | 0 | c Drayson b Hatfield | 0 |
| L/Corpl Veale b Scott ..... | 5 | b Drayson ..... | 9 |
| Extras ..... | 13 | Extras ..... | 10 |
| Total ..... | 62 | Total ..... | 81 |

Lieut Scott took eight wickets for 30 runs and four for 9; Sigmn Williams two for 12; and Lieut Hatfield three for 5.

### Royal Corps of Signals v. Royal Tank Corps.

Played at Aldershot on July 20th and 21st. The Tank Corps won by seven wickets.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major F. G. Drayson b Keller ... | 8 | c Keller b Davies ... | 42 |
| Sigmn L. Williams b Keller ..... | 5 | c Jones b Keller ... | 27 |
| Capt G. P. Pavey b Davies ..... | 3 | c Pedder b Dunolly | 3 |
| Sigmn R. Atkinson lbw b Dunolly | 11 | lbw b Keller ..... | 28 |
| Major R. Vyvyan c Keller b Davies ..... | 15 | b Dunolly ..... | 3 |
| Sergt A. Carpenter b Dunolly... | 45 | b Davies ..... | 13 |
| Major H. Parsons b Davies ..... | 1 | c Dunolly b Keller | 10 |
| Capt F. Mathew b Davies ..... | 0 | c Keller b Davies... | 9 |
| Lt. L. C. Boyd c Drew b Dunolly | 60 | c Pedder b Keller... | 3 |
| Lieut T. A. R. Scott not out ... | 9 | lbw b Davies ..... | 1 |
| Sigmn Sutherland run out ..... | 1 | not out ..... | 4 |
| Extras ..... | 13 | Extras ..... | 4 |
| Total ..... | 171 | Total ..... | 147 |

ROYAL TANK CORPS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Capt Groves c Sutherland b Scott | 15 | not out ..... | 32 |
| Capt Long c Drayson b Carpenter | 27 | c Scott b Carpenter | 4 |
| Lt Dunolly c Boyd b Sutherland | 39 | st Pavey b Cpnter | 7 |
| Capt Pedder c C'pnter b Drayson | 73 | b Scott ..... | 2 |
| Capt Drew lbw b Scott ..... | 7 | | |
| Capt Keller b Carpenter ..... | 11 | not out ..... | 5 |
| Capt MacLeod c Sutherland b Carpenter ..... | 12 | | |
| C.Q.M.S. Jones c Carpenter b Drayson ..... | 9 | | |
| Pte Rowden lbw b Scott ..... | 9 | | |
| Capt Weber b Sutherland ..... | 13 | | |
| Pte Davies not out ..... | 41 | | |
| Extras ..... | 12 | Extras ..... | 5 |
| Total ..... | 268 | Total (for 3 wkts) | 55 |

### Royal Corps of Signals v. Royal Army Service Corps.

Played at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, on July 22nd and 23rd. The R.A.S.C. won by 189 runs.

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lt.-Col. W. L. White c Carpenter b Scott ..... | 6 | run out ..... ..... | 162 |
| Major C. H. Fitzherbert c Carpenter b Scott ..... | 54 | c and b Drayson ... | 76 |
| Sergt E. Paul b Scott ..... | 10 | not out ..... | 13 |
| Capt Penruddocke c Vyvyan b Carpenter ..... | 11 | b Carpenter ..... | 1 |
| L/Corpl Ware b Scott ..... | 4 | b Carpenter ..... | 0 |
| Capt R. G. Shute b Scott ..... | 8 | b Drayson ..... | 1 |
| Major P. A. Arden b Cussens ... | 69 | b Carpenter ..... | 26 |
| Capt R. P. H. Eyre b Scott ..... | 22 | b Carpenter ..... | 1 |
| Capt G. Bright Holmes st Pavey b Scott ..... | 1 | b Drayson ..... | 6 |
| Sgt M. Varney c Harrison b Scott | 2 | c Parsons b Drayson... | 4 |
| Pte H. Amos not out ..... | 0 | c Cpnter b Drayson | 0 |
| Extras ..... | 20 | Extras ..... | 13 |
| Total ..... | 207 | Total ..... | 303 |

Lieut. Scott took eight wickets for 89; Sergt Carpenter one for 46 and four for 65; Major Drayson five for 65; and R.S.M. Cussens one for 14.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Capt G. P. Pavey c White b Arden | 4 | not out ..... | 55 |
| Sigmn Atkinson c Shute b Arden | 6 | lbw b Arden ..... | 0 |
| Major Drayson lbw b Ware ..... | 24 | c Bt-Holmes b Amos | 0 |
| Major Vyvyan b Varney ..... | 5 | b Eyre ..... | 38 |
| Sergt Carpenter b Varney ..... | 0 | b Eyre ..... | 10 |
| Major Parsons st Shute b Arden | 17 | b White ..... | 73 |
| Lieut Boyd b Varney ..... | 9 | b Ware ..... | 17 |
| Lieut Scott c B-Holmes b Arden | 7 | lbw b Ware ..... | 0 |
| Lieut Harrison b Amos ..... | 17 | c Arden b Ware ... | 0 |
| Sigmn Williams b Bright-Holmes | 19 | b Amos ..... | 9 |
| R.S.M. Cussens not out ..... | 0 | b Amos ..... | 0 |
| Extras ..... | 5 | Extras ..... | 8 |
| Total ..... | 113 | Total ..... | 208 |

### Royal Corps of Signals v. Royal Engineers.

Played at Aldershot on July 25th and 26th, ending in a draw.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Drayson c sub b Bryan ... | 30 | st Roberts b Dodd | 45 |
| Sigmn Atkinson c and b Bryan ... | 10 | b Bryan ..... | 5 |
| Major Parsons c Dodd b Bryan... | 0 | b Coxwell Rogers... | 37 |
| Major Vyvyan b Dodd ..... | 7 | b Bryan ..... | 5 |
| Sergt Carpenter b Bryan ..... | 1 | not out ..... | 14 |
| Capt Pavey c Dodd b Bryan ..... | 42 | c Foster b Jacob... | 27 |
| Lieut Boyd b Bryan ..... | 42 | c Roberts b Dodd... | 34 |
| Lieut Scott b Bryan ..... | 6 | b Dodd ..... | 27 |
| Lieut Harrison lbw b Dodd ..... | 3 | c and b Dodd ..... | 16 |
| Sigmn Williams b Bryan ..... | 9 | c C-Rogers b Bryan | 33 |
| Sigmn Sutherland not out ..... | 0 | b Coxwell Rogers ... | 4 |
| Extras ..... | 4 | Extras ..... | 19 |
| Total ..... | 154 | Total ..... | 257 |

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lieut Foster c Pavey b Williams | 9 | c Pavey b Scott ... | 22 |
| Capt Graham b Williams ..... | 0 | not out ..... | 4 |
| Lieut Jacob b Williams ..... | 1 | | |
| Lieut Walker c Sutherland b Scott | 9 | b Williams ..... | 22 |
| Lieut Roberts b Scott ..... | 72 | | |
| Lieut Bryan c Pavey b Scott ... | 107 | not out ..... | 18 |
| Capt Coxwell-Rogers b Scott ... | 29 | | |
| Major Perkins c Parsons b Scott | 9 | | |
| Lieut Cocks b Williams ..... | 9 | | |
| Q.M.S. Dodd not out ..... | 2 | | |
| Dvr Webb c Atkinson b Scott... | 0 | | |
| Extras ..... | 31 | Extras ..... | 0 |
| Total ..... | 278 | Total (for 2 wkts) | 66 |



### Royal Corps of Signals v. Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Played at the Oval on July 27th and 28th.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Drayson c Love b Clarke | 0 | b Andrews ..... | 33 |
| Sigmn Atkinson lbw b Spinks ... | 1 | run out ..... | 3 |
| Major Parsons lbw b Spinks ..... | 58 | c sub b Clarke ..... | 87 |
| Capt Mathew c Spinks b Clarke | 5 | run out ..... | 56 |
| Sigmn Williams c Skinner b Clarke | 0 | b Spinks ..... | 7 |
| Capt Pavey c and b Spinks ..... | 4 | | |
| Lieut Boyd c Andrews b Spinks... | 4 | b Spinks ..... | 9 |
| Sergt Carpenter b Andrews ..... | 45 | not out ..... | 11 |
| Lieut Scott c Wethered b Clarke | 0 | c Skinner b Clarke... | 6 |
| Lieut Harrison b Andrews ..... | 15 | not out ..... | 2 |
| Sigmn Sutherland not out ..... | 2 | | |
| Extras ..... | 5 | Extras ..... | 18 |
| Total..... | 139 | Total (for 7 wkts) | 212 |

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lt.-Col. Hoare c Pavey b Williams | 1 | c Boyd b Sutherland | 104 |
| Capt Palmer b Scott ..... | 23 | b Carpenter ..... | 33 |
| Lt.-Col. Sheppard c Scott b Carpenter ..... | 14 | c Cpnter b Williams | 46 |
| Lieut.-Col. Wethered b Scott ... | 12 | c and b Williams... | 25 |
| Major Spinks c Harrison b Scott | 7 | not out ..... | 26 |
| Capt Skinner c Pavey b Carpenter | 16 | c Harrison b Cpnter | 12 |
| Capt Love b Carpenter ..... | 6 | | |
| Major Smith c Scott b Carpenter | 10 | | |
| Pte Clarke b Carpenter ..... | 12 | | |
| Major Pickthall not out ..... | 7 | | |
| Lieut.-Col. Andrews c Harrison b Drayson ..... | 5 | | |
| Extras ..... | 20 | Extras ..... | 20 |
| Total ..... | 133 | Total (for 5 wkts) | 266 |

Sigmn Williams took one wicket for 16 and two for 39; Sergt Carpenter five for 41 and two for 88; Major Drayson one for 8; Lieut. Scott three for 48; and Sigmn Sutherland one for 17.

### Signal Training Centre v. Flittermice.

Played at Catterick Camp on August 5th. Signals won by seven wickets after their opponents had declared their second innings closed.

FLITTERMICE.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| R. Arrow Smith c Suth'ld b Boyd | 41 | c Drayson b Suth'ld | 22 |
| E. Radcliffe b Drayson ..... | 12 | b Sutherland ..... | 28 |
| D. Best c Boyd b Jackson ..... | 11 | b Sutherland ..... | 5 |
| J. C. Southern run out ..... | 30 | b Drayson ..... | 3 |
| A. Fowler c Jackson b Drayson | 30 | b Sutherland ..... | 4 |
| Lord Garmoyle st Manlove b Dyson | 0 | lbw b Drayson ..... | 3 |
| M. D. Millbank b Boyd ..... | 0 | c Boyd b Drayson... | 1 |
| P. Parker not out ..... | 5 | c Payne b Suth'ld | 29 |
| C. V. Peat b Jackson ..... | 4 | not out ..... | 31 |
| Sir F. Millbank c Drayson b J'son | 0 | not out ..... | 10 |
| D. W. Millbank c Muir b Drayson | 9 | | |
| Extras ..... | 28 | Extras ..... | 10 |
| Total ..... | 170 | Total for 8 wkts (dec) | 146 |

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgt Jackson c Millbank b M'bank | 16 | run out ..... | 8 |
| Sigmn Manlove b Best b Peat... | 27 | c Best b Parker ... | 24 |
| Lt. Boyd c Radcliffe b Arrow Smith | 5 | c Parker b Peat ... | 82 |
| Major Parsons c Garmoyle b Peat | 7 | not out ..... | 84 |
| Major Drayson b Peat ..... | 5 | retired hurt ..... | 10 |
| Sigmn Sutherland c Parker b Arrow Smith ..... | 2 | not out ..... | 2 |
| Lieut Muir c Southern b Peat ... | 0 | | |
| Lieut.-Col. Osborne not out ..... | 14 | | |
| Lieut Guyer b Peat ..... | 6 | | |
| Sigmn Payne b Parker ..... | 1 | | |
| Sergt Carpenter b Peat ..... | 4 | | |
| Extras..... | 11 | Extras ..... | 15 |
| Total ..... | 98 | Total (for 3 wkts.) | 225 |

## Depot Battn. and School of Signals, Catterick.

Held on Scotton recreation ground on August 9th and 12th, the sports organised by these units resulted as follows:—

Putting the shot—1, Sergt Mays; 2, 2/Lt Smyth. 34 ft. 3 in.
Open mile—1, Sergt Curtis; 2, 2/Lieut Severin; 3, 2/Lieut Patterson. 5 mins. 4 secs.
Half mile—1, Sergt Curtis; 2, L/Corpl Chadney; 3, Sigmn Moore. 2 mins. 10 secs.
Recruits' 440 yards—1, Sigmn Dresser; 2, Sigmn Chilvers. 61 secs.
High jump—1, Sigmn Powell; 2, L/Corpl Frampton; 3, Corpl Baker. 5 ft. 1 in.
100 yards (final)—1, Sergt Terrell; 2/Lieut Gray and L/Corpl Frampton, dead heat. 10 2/5th secs.
Inter-unit headquarter relay—1, Training Battn.; 2, Depot Battn.; 3, School.
Open 220 yards—1, Sergt Terrell; 2, Dvr Thompson; 3, 2/Lt Gray. 25 1/10th secs.
Long jump—1, Sigmn Chilvers; 2, Sigmn Avis; 3, Sigmn Perryman. 19 ft.
Recruits' mile—1, Sigmn Woodward; 2, Sigmn Robinson. 5 mins. 11 2/5th secs.
120 yards hurdles—1, L/Corpl Ellison; 2, Corpl Gordon; 3, L/Corpl Frampton. 17 1/10th secs.
Old soldiers' race—1, Capt Kent; 2, Lieut.-Col. Lee-Wright; 3, Major Helps.
Recruits' 220 yards—1, Sigmn Chilvers; 2, Sigmn Hill. 26 secs
Open 440 yards—1, Sergt Curtis; 2, Dvr Thompson; 3, Sergt Terrell. 57 3/10th secs.

## No. 2 Company, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

The Company sports were held on No. 75 Ground on July 11th. A good crowd attended and spent a very enjoyable time until the weather clerk saw fit to punish us by flooding the fields at tea time. Mrs. Hitchins kindly presented the prizes to the winners at the conclusion. The results were as under:—

100 yards—1, Corpl Cutler; 2, Tpr Thomas.
One mile Section race—1, G Section; 2, E Section.
Section relay race—1, H.Q.; 2, E Section.
High jump—1, L/Corpl Jones; 2, L/Corpl Haylor.
Putting the shot—1, Sergt Grant; 2, Sigmn Hudson.
220 yards race—1, Corpl Cutler; 2, Sigmn Upton.
Long jump—1, Corpl Cutler; 2, Sigmn Upton.
Sack bumping—1, D Section; 2, F Section.
Wrestling on horseback—1, E Section; 2, G Section.
Inter-Section cable laying—1, F Section; 2, E Section.
Tent pegging—1, Corpl Deamon; 2, Sergt Hoad.
Hurdles—1, Sigmn Upton; 2, L/Corpl Haylor.
440 yards race—1, Tpr Thomas; 2, Sigmn Archer.
Potato race—1, Dvr Gilchrist; 2, Corpl Cutler.
V.C. race—1, Corpl Cutler; 2, Dvr Pearce.
Pair jumping—1, Dvr Gilchrist; 2, Dvr R. Jones.
Half mile race—1, Dvr Farrell; 2, Sigmn Dowdell.
Mile (open) race—1, Dvr Farrell; 2, C.S.M. Bayliss.
Ladies' race—1, Miss Keble; 2, Mrs. Deamon.
Girls' race—1, Joan Purkiss; 2, Nellie Purkiss; 3, Joan Cussins; 4, Sheila Bryant.
Veterans' race—1, R.S.M. Cussins; 2, C.Q.M.S. Bryant; 3, C.S.M. Purkiss.
Jumping (open to Company)—1, Dvr Pearce; 2, Corpl Deamon.

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F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

At the unit sports, held on July 29th, the Company carried all before them and so won the athletic shield and trophy, besides which we have already gained the boxing, hockey, swimming, polo, cross-country and rugby cups. The football cup is held jointly by Nos. 2 and 3 Companies.

Points obtained for the athletic shield were as follows:—No. 2 Coy. 36; No. 1, 21; No. 3, 10. The individual results were as under:—

440 yards relay (four, each 110 yards)—1, No. 2 Coy.; 2, No. 3; 3, No. 1. Winning team: Sergt Grant, Corpl Cutler, Sigmn Hudson, Tpr Thomas.

880 yards relay (four, each 220 yards)—1, No. 2 Coy.; 2, No. 3; 3, No. 1. Winning team: Corpl Cutler, Signalmen Hudson, Archer and Norton.

One mile relay (four, each 440 yards)—1, No. 2 Coy.; 2, No. 3; 3, No. 1. Winning team: Sigmn Archer, Dvr Farrell, Sigmn Dowdell, Tpr Thomas.

Two miles relay (four, each 880 yards)—1, No. 2 Coy.; 2, No. 3; 3, No. 1. Winning team: Signalmen Dowdell, Grimes and Turner, Dvr Farrell.

One mile team race—1, No. 2 Coy.; 2, No. 3; 3, No. 1. Winning team: Signalmen Turner, Munn and Grimes, Driver Pearce.

480 yards hurdles (four, each 120 yards)—1, No. 2 Company; 2, No. 3; 3, No. 1. Winning team: Capt H. E. Rance, L/Corpl Jones, Sigmn Upton, Corpl Haylor.

High jump—1, No. 2 Coy. 9 ft. 10 in. (L/Corpl Jones, 5 ft., Capt H. E. Rance, 4 ft. 10 in.); 2, No. 1, 9 ft. 4 in.

Long jump—1, No. 2 Coy., 36 ft. 9 in. (Sigmn Upton, 18 ft. 6 in., Sigmn Durbridge, 18 ft. 3 in.); 2, No. 3., 34 ft. 8 in.

Tug-of-war—No. 3 Company.

Pair jumping—1, No. 1 Coy. (4½ faults); 2, No. 2 (8 faults).

Section tent pegging—1, No. 2 Coy. (28 points); 2, No. 1 (17). Winning team: Lieut A. E. Morrison, F/Sergt Preston, Corpl Deamon, L/Corpl Hand. The winning team lost but four points in all, carrying six pegs and drawing two in the two runs.

Team jumping—1, No. 2 Coy. (32½ faults); 2, No. 1 (49 faults). Winning team: Lieut J. Fell, R.A., Corpl Deamon, Dvr Pearce.

The Company also had their share of winners in the gymkhana events, not forgetting the ladies' race, in which Mrs. Grant was second and Mrs. Purkiss third.

## Peshawar District Signals.

Peshawar District Signals Football Team, Landi-Kotal.

*Back row (left to right)*—Sigmn Small, L/Sergt Sneddon, Signalmen Clarke, Haywood and Fairley.
*Centre*—Signalmen Merritt (Manager), Lambert, Jones, Veale, Pendergast and May (Trainer).
*Front*—Sigmn Gunn, L/Sergt Holland, A/Sergt Durand.

Detachment Hockey Team, Landi-Kotal.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

**Tennis.**—Thanks to the generosity of the powers-that-be, we are at last in proud possession of a net that has holes only where they should be. As a result we are feeling that we can now show the station in general what tennis really is. There has not, however, been very much play during the past month, as D.I.Khan seems to exert a magnetic influence on dust, and we have been experiencing dust storms practically every evening.

A tournament was held from the 18th to 23rd June, open to all members of the unit. The tournament was run on American lines, i.e., each player met all the others, and the Suzannes and Tildens were handicapped. The results were quite as expected, although several players were not quite up to their usual form.

We were lucky in getting Capt Winckley to play, and although he was so heavily handicapped that he did not win, he certainly deserves the laurels as the best player on the court. He certainly taught us something about tennis that we did not know before.

At the same time we congratulate Signalmen F. A. Clark and J. F. S. Wilson on being the only two entrants to take points from Capt Winckley. The scores of the winning competitors were:—

| | Possible | Score | Hdcp. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sigmn Wilson ..... | 40 | 31 | 8 | 23 |
| Sigmn Leslie ..... | 40 | 28 | 8 | 20 |

Capt Winckley, Lieut Dinsmore, and Sigmn Leslie tied for the sealed score, so it was decided to alter this to a booby prize, and it passed into the possession of Corpl Devenish. The prize was supplied by Messrs. MacEwan and Co., Ltd.

Our hon. secretary (who occasionally has fits of energy) is endeavouring to promote another competition, this time for doubles, and has expressed the hope that it will be as successful as the last.

Meanwhile, we are open to receive challenges from any club in existence (but we do not guarantee to accept them).

## Bannu Signals.

**Hockey.**—A Coy. 5/14th Punjab Regt., draw of 2—2 (Sergts Tebby and Szarkowski); v. C Coy. 5/14th Punjab Regt., lost by 0—1; v. 5/14th Punjabis (Battn.) lost by 2—3 (Sigmn Clark and Sigmn Gattrell).

**Football.**—V. No. 20 D.T.I. Company, won by 3—0 (Sigmn Stevens and Sigmn Simpson).

## 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

**Sports.**—At Dulikhet, on June 25th, an Area athletic meeting was held, in which teams representing Ranikhet, Dulikhet, and Chaubattia competed for a challenge cup presented by the local contractor.

Our representatives in the Ranikhet team were Sergt Kelsey in the 440 and 880 yards relay, and Sigmn Neale in the mile relay and three mile team race. Both performed most creditably, and Sigmn Neale finished second in the three mile event.

The final result was: Dulikhet 1, Ranikhet 2, Chaubattia 3.



**Cricket.**—Our first match of the hill season took place on June 28th as the result of a challenge issued by the men to play the officers and n.c.o.s.

The wicket was not in a condition to ensure batting quite up to Test Match standard, but all enjoyed the game, which ended in a win for the officers and n.c.o.s by an innings and 52 runs. The men, batting first, were all out for 68, of which Sigmn Hadland scored 17 and Signalman Parker 13. Captain H. S. Lewis-Barclay, Sergt Hebberd, and Corpl Trudgett each claimed three wickets.

The officers and n.c.o.s scored 174, of which Capt Lewis-Barclay made 100 and Sergt Fair 26.

The men in their second innings were all out for 54, Capt Lewis-Barclay and Corpl Trudgett each taking five wickets.

## Kohat District Signals.

**Football.**—With depleted ranks, sickness and leave having claimed certain of our usual players, we have managed to hold our own, save on one occasion when our opponents had a day out. General Post has brought us several players of promise, and "If winter *ever* comes" to Kohat again, with the two teams combined, Kohat District Signals are going to be well to the fore. Results are as below:—

Versus 5/13th F.F. Rifles, won by 2—1 (Corpl Hammond, Sigmn James).
Versus 60th Squadron Royal A.F., draw of 0—0 and draw of 3—3 (Corpl Hammond 2, Capt H. Orr).
Versus 5/13th F.F. Regt., draw of 1—1 (Sigmn Dudley, penalty).
Versus 60th Squadron R.A.F., won by 2—0 (Signalmen Peak and Michie).

**Hockey.**—Three inter-unit games have been played, combining British and Indian ranks. Three games were also played in the station, with better luck than the P.C.R. detachment, though down here we have to resort to I.O.R.s for unit matches, as we cannot yet find an all-British team. Details of matches:—

Versus 60th Squadron R.A.F., won by 5—0 (Corpl Hammond 5—his day out).
Versus the Officers, won by 6—3 (Major R. A. Henderson 4, Corpl Hammond, Havr. Dalip Singh for the winners).
Versus 115th Mountain Battery, draw of 4—4 (Major R. A. Henderson 2, Havr. Dalip Singh 2).
Versus 2/1st Punjab Regt., won by 4—1 (Major R. A. Henderson 2, Havr. Dalip Singh, Sigmn Babu Ram).
Inter-unit—Reds v. Whites—Win for Whites by 4—1 (Sigmn Babu Ram 3, Sigmn Sukh Singh), and by 3—0 (Sigmn Dudley 2, Sigmn Sukh Singh).

## Parachinar Detachment.

**Football.**—All the games played (seven in number) have been with the 6th Armoured Car Company, Royal Tank Corps. Results to date:—Draw of 1—1; won by 4—1; won by 1—0; draw of 2—2; won by 2—0; lost by 3—2; draw of 1—1. On the whole, a very successful month for a detachment team.

**Hockey.**—Up here we particularly miss the remainder of the unit players in Kohat, and none of the new arrivals show much promise in this direction. Results:—

Versus Royal Tank Corps, won by 2—0 (Sigmn Robinson, L/Corpl Cole).
Versus Sappers and Miners, lost by 0—4.
Versus Royal Tank Corps, lost by 0—5.
Versus Royal Tank Corps, lost by 3—9.

**Cricket.**—Many interesting and enjoyable games, both inter-unit and versus the Royal Tank Corps, have taken place. Fresh talent has been discovered, while the old stars have all upheld their reputation and the prestige of the unit. The following are the chief results:—

Kohat District Signals 2nd XI. v. Royal Tank Corps 2nd XI. Signals won by 59 runs. Chief scorer, L/Corpl V. Little (44) Bowling—First innings, Sigmn Flower took six wickets for 39 and L/Corpl Little four for 25. Second innings, L/Corpl Little six for 25. A very creditable performance on the part of L/Corpl Little, whose figures show ten wickets for 50 for the match, besides the useful "knock" of 44.

Kohat District Signals v. 6th Armoured Car Company R.T. Corps. Signals lost by 73 runs after a good game. A splendid first-wicket partnership between Corpl F. Berry and L/Corpl Cole gave us a good start, 49 being on the board before Cole was out. After he left, however, a rot set in, and none of our batsmen faced the bowling with any confidence. Out of our score of 83, Cole and Berry contributed 52, and this shows the procession which took place. Royal Tank Corps made 156. L/Corpl Cole was most successful with the ball, taking four wickets for 41. Sigmn Neeve took two for 19.

Inter-unit match—L/Corpl Cole's XI. v. L/Corpl Little's XI. After an exciting game, L/Corpl Cole's team won by five runs. L/Corpl Cole's XI., 89 (Sigmn Neeve 31, Sigmn Brand 18). L/Corpl Little's XI., 84 (Sigmn Hicks 38, Sigmn Bilsby 21). For Cole's team, Signalmen Flower and Neeve bowled well, taking five for 31 and four for 28 respectively. L/Corpl Little, for his own side, took eight wickets for 33—a very creditable performance.


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## 4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

**"Annexure"** (see Unit Notes on another page).—I arrived when a storm was raging, and a mist obscured one's vision. There was no necessity to ask if this were the venue. Sounds similar to those I last heard in Delville Wood in '16 fully convinced me I had not wandered on to a croquet green. The babel of groans and smothered oaths, the dull thud of bone meeting cringing flesh, intermingled with cries of dissent, dissatisfaction, derision and dismay, and one or two (but not more) of delight, removed any lingering doubt that I was on the wrong pitch. To clinch the matter there was the sound of rushing feet, and a nice damp piece of Jubbulpore lodged in my ear.

The mist now lifted, and the awe-inspiring spectacle of a screeching, squawking, seething, sobbing, struggling mass of muddied oafs was exposed to my spellbound gaze. Shades of Cæsar's gladiators! Is that an aviator in fancy dress who has forgotten to discard his crash helmet, or is it Alec Bennett fresh from his T.T. victory? No; 'tis but one of the smaller fry of rugger fans.

At this juncture I gathered from a spectator that the ——'s were playing the ——'s. At least, he was invoking the former to come on and massacre the latter. And some of them were certainly doing their utmost to conform to his wishes in the matter. Call them A's and B's, for short. I couldn't really tell you what the spectator said.

Well, for instance, one of the A contestants got possession (by a dirty trick) of the egg-shaped pellet and commenced to

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gallop furiously toward the B terrain, handing out bouquets in bunches of fives as he swiftly sped. His career (and nearly his life) was brought to an abrupt termination by one of the B ruffians, who resorted to the simple expedient of poking his index finger into the offside optic of the A fellow with a dexterity and precision which could only have been acquired by long and constant practice.

Not to be outdone in frightfulness, a low fellow in a fishmonger's jersey, whilst one of his friends of the B's was essaying a short-arm balance on his (the fishmonger's) shoulders, suddenly cast him forth with a snarl and a curse. This poor unfortunate, misguided lad—who was, I am sure, only demonstrating his acrobatic prowess, and was not desirous of harming anyone—described a beautiful parabola and brought the nape of his neck into violent contact with a well-studded boot, conveniently held in an appropriate position by another Billingsgate merchant.

The above incidents, trivial as they may seem, roused the contending parties to a pitch bordering on frenzy, and one and all joined whole-heartedly in the melee or fracas (in Army parlance, the rough house).

The tallest of the fishmongers, a forbidding personality with a saturnine countenance, was observed to deliberately and with malice aforethought place his foot down firmly on one of his prostrate tormentors, carefully selecting that region which is known to pugilists as the solar plexus. The agonised look on the distorted countenance of the horizontal B was a thing to be remembered. I verily believe he would have been killed outright had not thumbs been pointed in his (the prostrate one's) favour.

After an hour or more of this pushing and pulling, puffing and gasping (I was on the point of collapse—my nerves were never very strong, and the nauseating scene had upset me terribly), a strange eerie silence settled on the arena, brought about by a shrill blast on a whistle by one who had been aiding and abetting in the strife. At any rate, he had been rushing hither and thither, gesticulating wildly, and indicating the wettest parts of the greensward to the zealous A's and B's. As if by magic the fierce fifteens parted, commenced to walk docilely off the field, and—wonder of wonders!—acclaimed each other as they went. What a beautiful thing is a quiet game of patience!

I have since heard that the 48th Battery beat the 4th Indian Divisional Signals by six points to three.

## No. 2 (Wireless) Company, Egypt Signals.

### No. 2 Section, Baghdad West.

**Cricket.**—In the R.A.F. open cup, our team (combined with the Iraq Signal Section) have reached the semi-final and have been drawn against No. 55 Squadron R.A.F., who so far have not lost a game this season. They are the holders of the R.A.F. cricket cup. Results so far are:—

First round—v. R.A.F. British Hospital, won by an innings and 100 runs. In this game we had four representatives: Lieut Gilkes, R.A., L/Corpl Collier, and Signalmen Negus and Dodson.

Second round—v. B Depot Squadron R.A.F., won by 186 runs. In this round we had five representatives: Lieut Gilkes, L/Corpl Collier, and Signalmen Negus, Dodson and Batten.

The following are the results of the last few Section games: v. M.T. Pool, won by 4 runs; v. No. 30 Squadron, won by 4 wickets; v. A.H.Q. Corporals' Mess, lost by 11 runs.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Cricket.**—In the first round of the Command small units competition, we beat D Company Norfolk Regt. by about fifty runs. In the second round a very exciting game took place with the 2nd Field Company R.E., and we ran out winners by a bare three runs! This success was due to the fine bowling of L/Corpl Backhouse and Sigmn J. Smith, who skittled out our opponents for a moderate score.

**Swimming.**—In the Corps inter-Section competitions, K Section did best for this unit, finishing third to two of No. 1 Company's Sections. The Corps gala is due to take place in a few days, and I hope to give an account of the results next month.

**Tabloid Sports.**—H Section ran out very easy winners at the second tabloid sports held recently. Indeed, their team of ten nearly scored the maximum number of points possible, their final total being well ahead of the next Section (B Cable, of No. 1 Company).

**Cross-Country Running.**—A few enthusiasts are already commencing to dig out their running kit in preparation for the forthcoming harrier season, though the weather at present is just a bit too warm for strenuous racing.

**Rugby.**—A well-attended meeting of Rugbyites was held recently, and if the enthusiasm is sustained we should go even further than we did in the Command competition last season, when we were knocked out in the semi-final by the ultimate winners.

## Iraq Signal Section.

**Cricket.**—Up to date the Section team have had a fair amount of success, having won nine and lost eight matches.

Sigmn McKinlay's innings against C Squadron R.A.F. is worthy of note. In compiling the enviable score of 124, which included nine fours, he treated the spectators to a display of very sound batting. Added to this he performed the hat trick in the last cup match against B Squadron R.A.F., and not content with that he took yet another wicket with the fifth ball in the over.

In the Hinaidi cup competition, in which we have fought our way to the semi-final, very keen fielding has been maintained and has had a lot to do with our victories.

**Billiards.**—In the Section tournament, L/Corpl Brudenell was the winner, beating Sigmn Diver Hill in the final. The highest break (34) was made by the latter.

## Aden Brigade Signal Section.

**Sports.**—Owing to the smallness of the section, we are only able to field a hockey team with the help of Brigade H.Q. Of late we have met with a good measure of success, the following being the results of our last six matches:

Won v. Royal Engineers, 3—2; v. Headquarters R.A., 4—1; v. Royal Engineers, 1—0; v. R.A.M.C., 5—3.



Lost v. 9th Heavy Battery, 5—1; v. B Company Welch Regt., 3—1.

Those of the section who are interested in football are often asked to play for different teams in the station.

## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

**Boxing.**—In spite of our small numbers, in comparison with other units, our efforts have not been without merit.

A voluntary boxing and P.T. course, under Capt Nicholls, has been at work for some weeks; and from this nucleus, a team was picked and entered for the novices' team competition. Much credit is due to these men, who in some cases have travelled three and four miles, after a full day's work in the unpleasant heat, to do their training in the Shanghai Volunteers' gymnasium. The requirements were two officers and eleven O.R.s; but unfortunately, owing to the exceptional physique of the officers, it was found impossible to fill the officers' light-weight.

The team drew a bye in the first round, and against the Royal Marines in the second—about the toughest proposition here. About a hundred spectators and the team made the journey down river to Pootung to visit the Marines. Anxiety was acute lest any of the chosen should succumb to mal-de-mer. After a thrilling evening the final result, hanging on the last fight, was a draw.

As our reserve was overweight, and theirs over the age limit laid down for novices, it was decided to fight the final three days later; and we again journeyed down river with all our hopes centred on Sigmn Mays. He was eventually beaten on points after a plucky fight against a stronger opponent. He shouldered his big and lonely responsibility manfully.

The team fought well and cleanly, some coming in for heavy punishment, which they took like good 'uns. It is not far wrong to say that we undoubtedly ran up against the ultimate winners.

The team: Lieut N. H. Edes,L/Corpl Baker, Signalmen Bull, Bowles, Stratton, Kirby, Medico, Bindon, Greaves, Zeidler, Fish and Mays.

**Tennis.**—Under arrangements made by Lieut J. W. Gordon and Sergt Linder, a tennis tournament has commenced. Three courts have been allotted to us by the Union Jack Club, and forty players are eagerly waiting their turn to play. It is too early yet for prophecies, but the Lowrie-Edgeler combination looks pretty strong.

**Cricket.**—Against the 11th Pack Battery R.A., playing on the R.A.F. ground on July 11th, we ran out easy victors.

Royal Signals.—Mohrstadt c Lyons b Butler 22; Cooper b Butler 0; Ray b Jenkins 7; Handford c Jenkins b Butler 16; Sergt Gandey c White b Butler 3; Lieut Gordon b Jenkins 10; Darvill run out 3; Chapman b Butler 0; C.Q.M.S. Biart c and b Turner 28; Walton not out 5; C.S.M. Shenton b Turner 0; extras 12—Total 106.

11th Battery R.A.—Jenkins lbw b Darvill 5; Turner b Mohrstadt 6; Foster b Darvill 0; Cooley b Darvill 0; Edgington b Darvill 4; Butler b Mohrstadt 2; Forge b Darvill 0; Goddard b Ray 18; Lyons b Darvill 0; Davidson not out 1; White c Mohrstadt b Ray 0; extras 5.—Total 41.

Bowling.—Mohrstadt took two wickets for 27 runs; Darvill six for 6; and Ray two for 2.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

**Billiards.**—Yet another cup has been temporarily diverted to a new resting-place. We lost the final of the six-a-side tournament to the Volunteers.

**Tennis.**—In the Garrison league the R.E.–R.Signals "A" team are at present on top, having played four games and won all of them. The better teams in the League have already been encountered, and now we are fairly confident that the property man of the mess will still have something for which he may sign.

The Sports Club have entered a team in "B" Division of the Hong Kong tennis league, and although experience is being gained, only one point in six has accrued. We live in hopes.

The R.E. and Royal Signals organised a tennis tournament—both doubles and singles. The final stages have been reached, and we find that Signalmen Durand and Holland are on opposing sides in the final of the doubles; whilst L/Corpl Purcell and Sigmn White have applied for week-end leave in order to settle the final of the singles.


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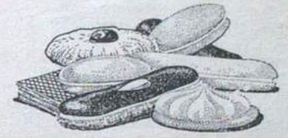

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## Malaya Signal Section, Singapore.

**Sport.**—The Garrison sports, held on the Stadium on July 11th, resulted in defeats for our two representatives, Signalmen McDowall and Robins. Better luck next time!

No Section matches have been played this month, but our cricketers and footballers are in great demand by the R.E. Sports Club, and are doing great things—the best performer being Sigmn McDowall, who knocked up 79 against Fort Canning and took three wickets in the same match. Well done, Mac!

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

**Cricket.**—Camp would be incomplete without the cricket match, but were it not for the energy of Q.M.S. Boulger the fixture would certainly fizzle out. Thanks to his keenness, a very sporting and enjoyable match was played on August 6th between the officers and the sergeants' mess.

Only three members of either team reached double figures: Capt Ford (17), Capt Grist (11), and Mr. "Extras" (15) for the officers; and Sergt Chappell (21), Q.M.S. Boulger (18), and Mr. "Extras" (11) for the sergeants.

[Editorial.—The result seems "wropt in mystery," for while the total of 55 is recorded for each side—which would indicate a tie—the officers had two "not outs" and two "did not bat," while two of the sergeants "retired" and one "did not bat."]

**Annual Sports.**—The seventh annual sports were held on the Bulford fields on July 31st, with the following results:—

Driving, open (for challenge cup presented by Major E. Heron Varwell, D.S.O.)—1, Dvr Pike (No. 3 Coy.); 2, Dvr Rodgers (No. 2); 3, Dvr Warrington (No. 2).

Driving, recruits (for challenge cup presented by N.C.O.s)—1, Dvr Colwell (No. 1 Coy.); 2, Dvr Wells (No. 3).

In each of the driving competitions the winner received a miniature cup presented by Captain C. A. Murray, our former adjutant.

100 yards—1, Sigmn Shorland (No. 3 Coy.); 2, Sigmn Maunder (No. 1); 3, L/Corpl Newman (No. 3).

Tent pitching—1, L/Corpl Pike's team (No. 3 Coy.); 2, L/Cpl Bridle's team (No. 3).

440 yards—1, Sigmn Shorland (No. 3 Coy.); 2, L/Corpl Newman (No. 3); 3, 2/Lieut Taylor (No. 3).
Horseback wrestling—1, F/Sergt Allen's team (No. 1 Coy.); 2, Dvr Pike's team (No. 3).
Relay race—1, L/Corpl Newman's team (No. 3 Coy.); 2, 2/Lieut Taylor's team (No. 3).
Tug-of-war—No. 1 Company's team (2/Lieut Holland).
Pole and ball (mounted)—1, Dvr Colwell (No. 1 Coy.); 2, L/Corpl Nicholls (No. 1); 3, L/Corpl Gregory (No. 1).
V.C. race—1, L/Corpl Nicholls (No. 1 Coy.); 2, Sigmn Gibson (No. 2); 3, L/Corpl Gregory (No. 1).
Obstacle race—1, Sigmn Shorland (No. 3 Coy.); 2, Sigmn Gore (No. 3); 3, L/Corpl Newman (No. 3).
Marching order "alarm"—1, Cpl Marks (No. 3 Coy.); 2, Sergt Field (No. 3); 3, Sigmn Seller (No. 3).
All ranks' relay—1, Capt Ford's team (No. 3 Coy.); 2, Capt Grist's team (No. 2).
Consolation race—1, 2/Lieut Bailey (No. 3 Coy.); 2, Sigmn Williams (No. 1); 3, L/Sergt Taylor (No. 1).
One mile (open to members of Royal Corps of Signals and serving Territorials)—1, Sigmn Salter (3rd Divl. Signals); 2, L/Corpl Newman (No. 3 Coy., 45rd Divl. Signals); 3, Sigmn Greatorex (3rd Divl. Signals).

The first prize in the mile race was presented by Lieut.-Col. Michelmore. Sigmn Salter (3rd Divl. Signals) won a splendid race. He ran with considerable judgment and showed fine style. There were seventeen starters.

Boys' race, 100 yards—1, Hoare; 2, Nicholls; 3, Fellows.

Murray (sports) cup—1, No. 3 Coy. (28 points); 2, No. 1 (18); 3, No. 2 (2).

A silver cigarette case (presented by Capt R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E., for the highest individual scorer) was won by Sigmn Shorland, No. 3 Coy., with six points.

Major J. W. Western, T.D., acted as sports hon. secretary. The weather kept fine, and all the events produced good contests. The prizes were presented at the conclusion by Mrs. Moore, wife of our hon. colonel. Hearty cheers were given for Col. and Mrs. Moore.

The sports committee are indebted to the officers' mess, n.c.o.s mess, Lieut.-Col. Michelmore, Capt Cummings, Capt Murray, and Capt Blake for their generous assistance in subscriptions and prizes.

The football shield was won by No. 1 Company, who defeated No. 2 by 7—0, and No. 3 by 3—1. The latter match was very keenly fought out.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Sports.**—The winners of trophies and prizes for competitions held during the year and at annual camp are appended:—

Colvin (Wireless) Trophy—1, No. 1 Coy. (373 points); 2, No. 2 (198); 3, No. 3 (127).
Weber (Visual) Trophy—1, No. 2 Coy. (263 points); 2, No. 3 (110); 3, No. 1 (48).
Waley-Cohen (Efficiency) Cup—1, No. 2 Coy. (473 points); 2, No. 1 (463); 3, No. 3 (321).
Athletic Shield—1, No. 1 Coy. (144½ points); 2, No. 2 (99½); 3, No. 3 (83).
Officers—Jumping: 1, Capt F. A. Manley; 2, Major P. J. Bowling. Lance pegging: Capt F. A. Manley. Sword pegging: Capt F. A. Manley. Ball and basket race: Capt Manley.
Other Ranks—Jumping: 1, L/Corpl T. Parker; 2, Driver E. Moody. Lance pegging: Corpl Coffey. Ball and basket race: L/Corpl Parker. Bayonet fighting: 1, L/Corpl McMenamin; 2, Sigmn Calversbert.
Boys—Boxing: 1, Boy Bacon; 2, Boy L. Saunders.
Boot and sack race—1, L/Corpl A. J. Barnett; 2, Sgt Cooley.
Boat race—No. 3 Company (Sergt Cooley's crew).
Five-legged race—No. 3 Company (L/Corpl Pooley's team).
Dismounted tug-of-war—No. 1 Company.
Best horseman trophy—L/Corpl T. Parker.
Best cable wagon team—No. 2 Detachment (Sergt E. Long).
Prize for best attendance amongst members of No. 2 Coy. (given by the O.C. Company)—L/Corpls G. Barnett, A. J. Barnett, and I. M. Senton, tied with 70 drills each.

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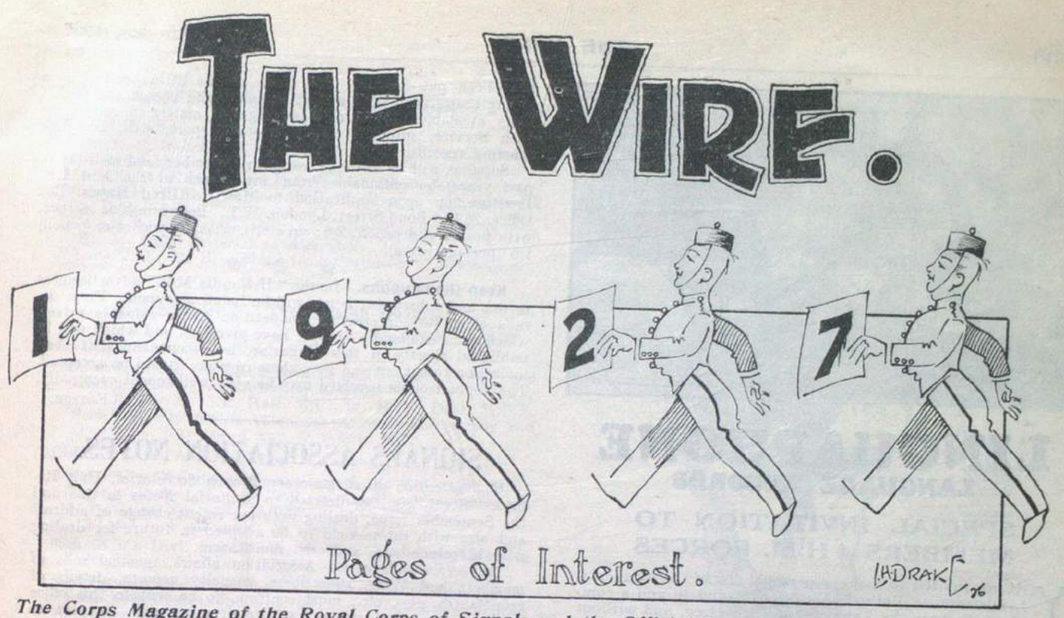


*The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.*

SECRETARY AND EDITOR:
Mr. W. BUTLER, 95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1,
to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. VIII.—No. 92 OCTOBER, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE

## Editorial Notes.

All concerned are reminded that as and from Thursday, September 1st, 1927, the Secretarial and Editorial Offices of the Signals Association have been removed to 95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1 (Telephone, Victoria 2081)—to which address all correspondence other than remittances must be sent.

Also that as and from September 1st, 1927, the Treasurer's Office is located at 4 BROAD STREET PLACE, LONDON, E.C.2—to which all remittances comprising
(A) Benevolent Fund Subscriptions and Donations;
(B) Central Fund Subscriptions and Donations;
(C) Publications (THE WIRE) Subscriptions, Sales, etc.,
must be addressed: "The Treasurer, Signals Association, 4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2."

It should be clearly understood that *all personal enquiries* must be made at the Secretarial Offices, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, and *not* at 4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2.

❀ ❀ ❀

We regret to hear of the sudden death, after a very short illness, of Mrs. Jourdain, wife of Capt. F. W. S. Jourdain, Royal Signals, Jubbulpore, India.

❀ ❀ ❀

On pages 314 to 316 of this issue we publish a very interesting illustrated article from Mr. F. V. March, late sergeant Royal Signals, of G Divl. Signals, Kohat, India. Sergeant March will be well known to many of our readers as one who took a very keen interest in THE WIRE and Association activities generally; and in thanking him for his description of life and conditions "down under," we are sure all will unite with us in congratulating him upon the progress he has already made, and also in wishing him every success in his enterprise.

❀ ❀ ❀

We acknowledge the receipt of another very interesting article entitled "Short-wave W/T in China" from R.Q.M.S. C. S. Roberts, Royal Signals, Hong Kong, but regret that lack of space prevents us from including it in this issue. Every effort, however, will be made to produce it in the November publication. This article, as the heading denotes, describes the progress of Wireless in the Far East during the recent disturbances. The writer pays a very glowing tribute to the untiring efforts and the conspicuously good work performed by the personnel of Royal Signals with the Shanghai Defence Force, who are described as having given of their best to the exclusion of everything else.

"Shaforce" and "Reforce," we salute you!

❀ ❀ ❀

We are asked to announce that the marriage arranged between Capt. P. H. Owens, R.Signals, and Miss Lloyd Owen will take place at Catterick Camp on October 11th, 1927.

❀ ❀ ❀

Those readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1927 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. Price, 8s. per copy, post free.

❀ ❀ ❀

The attention of our readers is also called to the 1928 edition of the SERVICES SPORTS DIARY. This edition has once again been improved in conformity with ideas and suggestions which

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❀ ❀ ❀

**Keep the Coupons.** In the "Hollandia Milk" advertisement in this and subsequent issues will be found a coupon. From details of a very interesting competition (with valuable prizes) which the "Hollandia" people have given us, and which will be published shortly in this Magazine, we recommend that their invitation to cut out and keep these coupons should be accepted. The slight trouble involved may be very well repaid eventually.

EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The attention of all honorary Branch Secretaries, Unit Representatives, etc., is directed to Editorial Notes in this and the September issue, dealing with our recent change of address and also with the method to be adopted in future for dealing with correspondence and cash remittances.

All correspondence on Association affairs, nominal rolls of members and WIRE subscribers, casualty reports, details of remittances, etc., etc., must continue to be sent to this office as heretofore; but actual cash remittances must be sent to The Treasurer, Signals Association, 4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2, from whom an official receipt will be received in due course.

Unit Representatives are also asked to note that statements shewing additions and cancellations to their nominal rolls of WIRE subscribers must reach this office *not later than 23rd of each month* to be effective for the correct distribution of the following issue of the Magazine.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of

BANKER'S ORDERS for 5s. per annum in respect of Association membership from:—
Lieut.-Col. Llewellyn Griffiths, D.S.O., Capt. C. Wheeler, Capt. F. A. Manley, Capt. W. E. Ayres, Lieut. H. P. Hart and Lieut. D. W. E. Brock.

EMPLOYMENTS.—Situations found for the preceding month, with the co-operation and assistance of The National Association for Employment of ex-Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen:

| | |
|---|---|
| Post Office Engineering Department ... ... ... | 5 |
| Messengers ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Chauffeur ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Night Watchman ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Clerk ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Married Couple ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
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GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Capt. C. Wheeler; Lieut D. W. E. Brock.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Stratford Branch (54th E.A. Divl. Signals, T.A.); Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot; Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick; 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot; Anonymous (late Blackdown).

APPEALS dealt with:—
Ex-n.c.o. in financial and domestic difficulties (previously assisted with a grant of money on 20/7/27). £1 allocated from funds pending further enquiries.
Other cases in hand but still under consideration.

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association Benevolent Fund.



## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—
Lieut R. C. Instrall and Lieut G. W. Ogden, from Cambridge to Catterick.
Lieut N. G. Newell from Catterick to Rhine Army.
2/Lieuts H. V. Ewbank and M. G. A. Hepper from Catterick to Bulford.
2/Lieuts D. St. J. Hoysted, L. de M. Thuillier, and J. C. Hardy, from Catterick to Aldershot.
2/Lieut J. E. M. Bainbridge from Catterick to Blackdown.

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/8/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 16/8/27, and remain seconded with seniority 10/9/20:—
B. H. House, L. R. Hall, M.C., W. H. N. Dent, M.B.E.
Such seniority not to count for Army seniority, pay and allowances, increase of pay, or retired pay.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals—Capt K. O. T. Gossell, M.C., having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commission, and retains his rank, 14/8/27.
2/Lieut L. F. Messel to be Lieut. 9/6/27.
48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals—E. M. Kerr (late Cadet Malvern Coll. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 7/7/27.
53rd (Welsh) Divl. Signals—V. J. Cravos (late Cadet Amplefort Coll. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 27/7/27.

War Office, 19/8/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The promotion of the undermentioned Majors is antedated to the 8th June, 1927:—
W. R. C. Penney, M.C., R. A. Bagnold.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS—
Capt L. R. Hall, M.C., R.Signals, to be Instructor (Cl. CC) (from Cl. GG) on promotion, 16/8/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut J. C. Anderson to be Captain, 20/8/27.

War Office, 23/8/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut H. H. C. Burdett resigns his commission, 24/8/27.

MEMORANDA—
Col. H. L. Mackworth, C.M.G., D.S.O., retires on retired pay, 22/8/27.

War Office, 26/8/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Captains from India Army to be transferred, 27/8/27, retaining their present seniority:—
R. G. Smith with precedence next above G. W. Odell.
H. L. Lewis-Barclay with precedence next below G. W. Odell.

The undermentioned Lieuts. to be Captains, 26/8/27, with seniority, 10/9/20:—
R. T. Williams (and remains seconded), P. H. Owens, A. B. Bushby, D. L. Carnegie, F. S. Thompson (and remains seconded), J. P. Mackenzie (and remains seconded), V. C. Holland, R. R. A. Darling, H. E. M. Swan, G. W. Odell (with seniority 11/9/20), H. A. Spencer, M.C. (with seniority 29/1/21), E. H. C. Harris (with seniority 29/1/21).
Such seniority not to count for Army seniority, pay and allowances, increase of pay, or retired pay.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS—
Instructor—Capt F. S. Thompson, R.Signals, relinquishes his grading Cl.GG on promotion, 26/8/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—2/Lieut E. R. Sutton to be Lieut. 30/5/27 (substituted for the announcement regarding this officer which appeared in the Gazette of 29/7/27).

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44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—The undermentioned 2/Lieuts to be Lieutenants:—

L. H. Harris (with precedence as from 2/4/27), 28/7/27.
A. G. McDonald, 3/4/27; C. F. Booth, 21/4/27.

War Office, 2/9/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Capt. O. S. D. Wills to be Major, 26/6/27.

The undermentioned 2/Lieuts. to be Lieuts. 3/9/27:—

D. C. P. Hall, K. E. Holmes, R. H. Copeland, C. C. Danby, H. A. C. Stallan, J. Vickers, E. S. Cole.

The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets, from the Royal Military Academy, to be 2/Lieuts. 1/9/27:—

William Russell Smijth-Windham, Hilary Leonard Lewis, John Stuart Wise, Gorges Frederick Houghton, Cyril Charles Worrall, Godfrey Ives Burgess Winn, Paul Bentley Gore Gambier, Ralph Maxwell Adams, Henry Francis Wintle, Frank William Percy Bradford, Henry Nevay Crawford, David William Errington Brock, Ian Forbes Meiklejohn, Herbert Lancelot Bayley Kealy, Arnold Vero Shaw Gerard Kemball, Winston Glyndor Reginald Elliott.

The undermentioned Gentleman Cadet, from the Royal Military College, to be 2/Lieut. 1/9/27:—

Edward Roger Nanney-Wynn Nanney-Wynn.

War Office, 9/9/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut. N. G. Newell to be Lieut. 3/9/27.

War Office, 16/9/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Lieut. R. L. Hansard retires, receiving a gratuity, 17/9/27.

## Plain Tales.

**Good Riddance.**—A glance at my calendar (the gift of a famous catering firm, whose initials begin with N.A.A.), and I am informed that summer has ended. Statistics will show us that we have had a reasonable amount of sunshine, but statistics will not straighten out the peak of my cap, S.D., which has become violently corrugated from many drenchings.

Altogether a very mouldy season. Brollies, raincoats, groundsheets and gum boots have been the prevailing fashion.

The only consolation in a vale of misery, at the lack of opportunities for sporting gay frocks, is father's broad smile when he smacks his pocket and goes to buy an extra pint.

August Bank Holiday was the crowning straw that beat the last worm of summer to its knees—if you see what I mean. Those unfortunates who went picnicing in the country called their waterlogged teas "al fiasco" meals.

They were. True, there were one or two fine days, but as they all fell on working days they don't count with us.

In a few days we shall have a reasonable excuse to wear overcoats and gloves. We may even start a small fire in the rusty fire-place.

Such is the rapid flight of time, we shall soon be making out a list of the things we want Santa Claus to bring us.

Getting back to the subject of the late unlamented summer; good riddance!

Roll on, Christmas, and let us partake of a few nuts. Chestnuts for preference. Hot ones.

(Another powerful article next month).

* * * *

**In a Bulford Garden.**—I sharpened my pencil over an hour ago, and I have been gazing at a sheet of blank paper ever since. The whole trouble is that the subject upon which I wish to hold forth is extremely difficult to the lay mind.

The plants and bushes which can be grown with any hope of success by the average gardener are few in number. The construction, the planting, preparing the ground, selection of tools, fertilisers, appetisers, and pruning, all call for a greater space for explanation than can be spared here. However, one cannot disappoint one, or possibly two, so the following notes on the care of raspberry plants, sage bushes, mint, artichokes, ice-cream trees, woodbines, big-end bushes and small-end bushes, will probably be no less more useful than they are useless; if you follow me.

One must pay for experience. Take the case of J—— S—— (no names). He dug a deep hole outside his hut. So deep that he got fed up. In it he planted a marrow bush. It cannot possibly reach the surface this side of Christmas, 1935. The excuse that he mistook six inches for six feet is not accepted.

Anyway, he didn't even go down six feet, because the day he fell in the hole we could still see his boots.

Owing to the large number of men who are away at camp, the gardens between the huts are suffering. They are becoming choked with weeds, principally "Dandelions Blastem" (Latin). At least, that is what one learned gardener said they were. Looking back, I find that I have omitted to give any really helpful advice on the care of plants. Perhaps it is just as well. However, next month we will go into the question of garden produce in the house. That is to say, mashed potatoes, pickled cabbage, apple sauce, marrow bones, horse-radish, cowslips, bullrushes, dog daisies, cats'-eyes, camel-hairs and pig-iron.

* * * *

**Local News.**—Exclusive to THE WIRE. Not to be cut out and sung in a canteen.

At an inquest on a musician in Old Sarum last week, a relative said that deceased had been very depressed of late owing to a moth having eaten all the holes from his flute.

"The job will be done very recently." This sentence was uttered by a sergeant of the Royal Signals only quite soon ago.

C.Q.M.S. Jock Campbell left the Service on completion of twenty-one years. He attributes his longevity to beer, food, sleep and work, in the order given. Plenty of everything and not too much of nothing. He is to be invited to Sling, where it is hoped to present him with the freedom of the city.

Scene: Company office. Time: 12.15 p.m. Thursday. O.C.: "Five days to barracks." Sigmn X: "Sno use, sir; I've got a week-end pass in."

Weather Report: A ridge of high or low pressure moved east over the British Isles. A second ridge followed it, and several more as well. All disappeared behind a large cloud. A lot of little secondary, or primary, depressions are, or were, moving north-west across Iceland or Labrador, and will, or have, probably disappeared.

Damp at first, then wet, then wetter, then positively awful. Temperature, moderate to cloudy. Visibility rather cooler.

To-day being Thursday, it is anticipated that to-morrow will be Amami night.

Further outlook unknown.

* * * *

**Johanna's Box.**—I'm not sure whether I ought to tell you about this, but I will risk it. Johanna's Box is a huge steel contraption, known normally as a "Tank mark something." Unlike ordinary Tanks, this one is shrouded in mystery. Inside, we believe, is a wireless set; or it *was* a wireless set when it first went in.

Perhaps you don't know that a Tank has an eight-cylindered engine. The reason for this is economy. Apparently four of the cylinders work whilst the others look on. Now and again they all look on and none of them work. Then it is that the head lad puts his overalls on. As soon as the cylinders see this they all start working like anything, so the head lad takes his overalls off again, and the engine stops. It is all a matter of the triumph of brains over inert masses.

No one knows exactly just what is inside Johanna's Box. All the staff have been sworn to secrecy, lest they explain why nothing works. Starting the box in the morning is an exciting business. A man gets at the back and pushes it along in gear until the engine fires. He then scrambles in the back door, and the engine stops. Nevertheless, the box goes out on schemes somehow. It went out about a fortnight ago, and has not yet returned. The report that a white light was seen about 500 feet up over the Cornish coast is being thoroughly investigated.

Two new Crossley Kegresses have arrived, so I expect the poor Tank will have to take a back seat, whilst the head lad investigates the possibility of converting the interiors into miniature blast furnaces.

Still, I don't think I ought to tell you about this.

**Truth Will Out.**—Gladys (aged 7) was deeply interested in Mrs. X., a grass widow, who had called on her mother.

"Please, Mrs. X," she said, "have you fell off yet?"

"Have I fallen off? Whatever do you mean?"

"Why, Mrs. X, I heard mummy telling Mrs. Z. last night that you were riding for a fall."

Gladys prefers standing up to her meals just at present.

* * * *

**This Month's Queries.**—After the style of other great London periodicals.

A square plate of wrought (or cast) iron is 0.08 inches thick. It weighs 4 lbs. If the length of one side is a given number, how long will it take the same man to dig a different hole in half the time?

A certain corporal strikes five tents (C.S.L. Mk. 11) and re-erects them. He again strikes them, and when re-erecting them for the second time discovers that he has only enough pins (tent, wood, small) for four tents. Give the three dominant words of his subsequent impromptu lecture on tents and fatigue parties.

An officer of the Mechanized Force Signals proceeded on a scheme in a sidecar. The outfit reached the top of Beacon Hill (600 feet above sea level), skidded round a bush, plunged down the slope in a series of graceful arcs and curves, completed four somersaults, and finally came to rest under a Tank (mk. 1). The officer elected to walk thereafter. Give seven sensible reasons for this.

* * * *

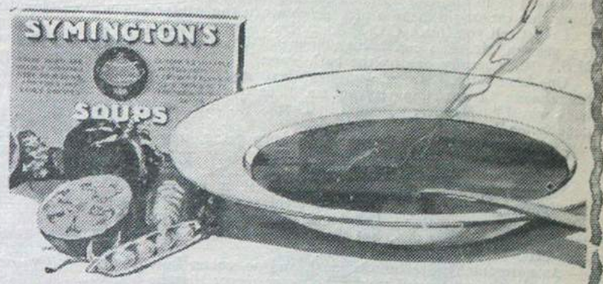
**Mechanical Notes.**—Put this in your notebook. It may be useful one day, though I doubt it. I am always forgetting it myself. The square of the bore of the cylinder, in inches, multiplied by the number of cylinders and divided by 2.5, equals the horse-power of an engine. This is the formula employed by the R.A.C.

Readers who are resident in the Bulford area have probably seen George's car. If not, they have certainly heard of it. George would see to that. His car is at present suffering from




*The Mess-Room Favourite!*

There's no need for the Orderly Officer to ask "Any Complaints?" when Symington's Soups are served round. They are the Mess-Room favourites — welcomed always for their delicious flavour and rich nourishing goodness. They are guaranteed pure, being made in 13 tasty varieties from the finest selected meat and vegetables.




NO TROUBLE TO PREPARE —ADD WATER AND BOIL

*Symington's Soups*

*SYMINGTON'S SOUPS* in 13 Varieties:

Tomato, Pea, Lentil, Celery, Mulligatawny, Onion, Hare, White Vegetable, Kidney, Scotch Broth, Mock Turtle, Ox Tail. *2d. & 6d. per pkt.*

Try the New Clear Soup, *in 9d. bottles*

*Other Symington Table Delicacies include* :— Granulated Gravy, Jellies, Table Creams, Sponge Mixture and Salanaise

Many of the best cooks use Symington's Soups in Stews, Meat Pies, etc.

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a most mysterious complaint. The symptoms are a severe wobbling and a flying-off of the wheels at speeds over 20 m.p.h. I shall have to go into this question at some future date. I should think this car would make a nice sleigh when the winter comes.

I must tell you this. C.Q.M.S.: "Here, son, put this picketing gear in Mr. A.'s car." Signalman: "Which is it?" C.Q.M.S.: "The scruffy one by the bath house."

One hour later. Mr. A.: "What about my picketing gear?" Signalman: "I put it in yer car, sir. The one with the funny back wheel." Mr. A.: "Damme! That's Mr. B.'s, and he has gone home."

Never mind! They all manage to keep going, somehow.

* * * *

**"War" News.**—Every war, whether real or imaginary, has its lighter side. The "war" at present raging over parts of England is no exception. Laughable incidents, too numerous to mention, occur every day, but the exploits of Tizzy ought to be recorded.

As a despatch rider he was good, and no matter how fast he sped over the roads and tracks, he never forgot that he had to avoid capture. Towards the end of one particularly exciting day he was handed a despatch for the "Umpth" Brigade and told to get it through at all costs.

Bang! went the Model N., and off went Tizzy in a cloud of blue smoke. He had gone but a few miles when he espied two armoured cars approaching him at about 25 m.p.h. from across country.

Our hero opened his throttle a little more. Whoof! The sardine tin had fired at him. Tizzy suddenly realised that the cars were heading him off, and remembering that he had the honour of St. Benzole (the patron saint of D.R.s) to uphold, he decided to turn round. This he did, and fled for home, telling himself that if he couldn't deliver his despatch, the next best thing was to take it back.

The armoured cars were quite up to this move, and, turning swiftly, set off after the flying Tizzy, firing a few more rounds to assist him. He arrived at his headquarters with a roar and a skid, and the cars came in a bare hundred yards behind him. Out of the foremost car came a black tam-o'-shanter, followed by a suit of greasy overalls.

The Tanks Officer (by his collar and tie) was very wroth, and demanded to know why Tizzy hadn't pulled up when they fired to attract his attention.

"What! And be captured?" cried the valiant D.R.; "I don't think."

At this point the Signal Officer smoothed things out by taking the despatch from Tizzy and opening it. It ran: "Scheme ended. Units will return to camp."

"Why, blast it, that's all I wanted to know!" And the black tammy vanished within his steel chariot with a most unnecessarily fierce clang of the door.

* * * *

**Children's Corner.**—Once upon a time there lived a very clever person, who could do anything or anybody. He knew what you were going to say before you spoke. He died. That will teach him not to be so confoundedly certain.

BARLEUX.

## Emigration.

### Kohat to Australia.

By F. V. MARCH (late Sergeant "G" Divl. Signals).

Early in 1924, whilst stationed at Kohat with G Divisional Signals, I came to the parting of the ways: Extend to complete twelve years, or transfer to the Reserve. At the same time, books and pamphlets dealing with life in Australia came into my possession. Then the "emigration bug" took hold of me, and I decided on the latter course.

Dairy farming appealed to me, so I went to the Government Military Dairy Farm at Lahore for vocational training. There I struggled with the intricacies of herd testing, butter making, and animal husbandry, and worked hard in learning to milk buffaloes and cows. I became fairly proficient at this—all for what? To take on a wheat block, as I will explain.

January 24th, 1925, found me boarding the s.s. "Ormonde" at Colombo en route for Melbourne, after a splendid trip through India and Ceylon, having a day here and there at places of interest.

On arrival at Melbourne I interviewed the Immigration officials with regard to employment on a farm, and two jobs were offered me: dairying and wheat farming. Friends beforehand had rather talked me out of dairying, and here was a man advising me to take the wheat farming proposition, so I decided to give it a trial.

I was given a free railway pass for myself and baggage to my destination, Carwarp, about 300 miles inland from Melbourne, in the district known as the Mallee. This, my first place, was with a bachelor—a returned soldier and Australian officer—doing well.

He had another young English chap working with the team, and my job was mainly in helping the boss to "pick up" (clearing up the land after a fire, ready for cultivation).

Besides this, I had the odd jobs: cooking, chaff cutting, milking, etc. This for six days a week, from sunrise to sunset. On Sunday morning there was the washing to be done; and in the afternoon we would drive away to the river Murray, about four miles distant, to fish. For this I received £1 per week and "tucker" (food.) I was there for two months.

From there I went to a neighbour's, with pay and allowances the same: this time, a married man. This was far more congenial.

At this place I learned to handle a team of horses. I did a good deal of ploughing, driving six horses abreast—not at all a bad job, as the driver rides on the implement. The average day's work would be eight or ten acres for this class of plough. This was followed by harrowing, but driving from behind on a windy day across sandy soil isn't at all pleasant, especially when walking and doing about forty acres a day. Conditions were improved when I took to riding the near horse.

The next job was sowing the seed. Five horses, with a disc drill, covered about sixteen acres a day. I also erected some fences—excellent training.

In August, 1925, I attended the Farmers' Class held annually at Dookie Agricultural College. I think this, as a holiday combined with business, has no equal. It is held for ten days, the fee being £3, inclusive of board. Reduced fares are granted by the railways.

At these classes are demonstrated all the latest in machinery, tractors, farm buildings, stock, and cultivation methods. One great advantage is meeting with farmers from different parts of the country.

It was not long after my return that I secured a new job in the same district, with five shillings a week rise. Here the work was about the same, with the exception that I had seven or eight horses to groom before breakfast. I am not saying they would have passed for inspection, but they had a good brushing down, attention being paid to where the collar and harness fitted.

Early in October, 1925, I received plans of new land that was being thrown open for selection, so I made arrangements to go and inspect it. I went by train to Werrimull, the nearest station, and made my headquarters in the railway shed. I walked for miles, having a general view all round, and on my return I filled in an application form.

Later on, I was advised to attend a Lands Board held on November 9th in Mildura, to give evidence in support of my application. At this Board applicants had to give details of experience, capital, etc. Ex-Servicemen were given preference, other things being equal.

On December 15th I saw a report in the local paper to the effect that I had been allotted Block No. 36 in the parish of Koleya.

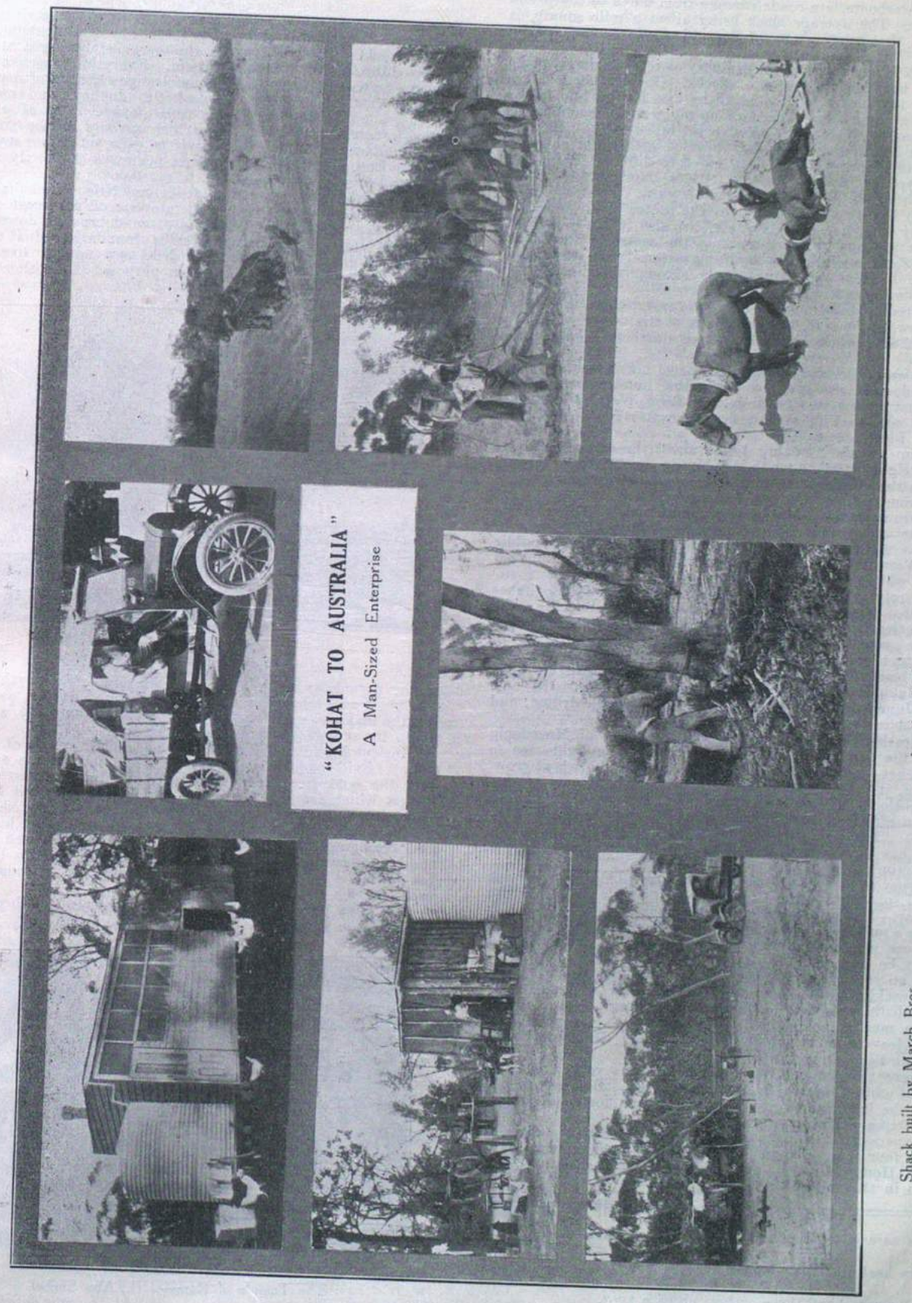
Following this, I finished up at my third place. In the middle of February, 1926, I visited Melbourne on business before moving to the block. At this time one of my brothers had just come to the country, and he decided to come with me.

I purchased a second-hand Ford ton truck, loaded it to its full capacity with necessary stores, etc., and the two of us set off up-country. As my experience of cars was gained in two lessons of about an hour each, one can guess how I fared on the 400 miles trip, the majority of the way being over dry sandy roads. At one place, where the sand was level with the top of the fences—about three feet or so high—a detour had to be made.

March 15th saw us camped in one corner of the block. Here it will be as well to describe the size, shape, etc., of the block. It has an area of 780 acres, being about two miles long and over half-a-mile wide, and lies in the parish of Koleya.

The parishes have a frontage to the railway (the Millewa line) which runs in a westerly direction from Redcliffs—the Soldier Irrigation Settlement (fruit)—which lies about ten miles south of Mildura, and has a depth of ten miles. Every two






Scooping in the Channel
Ploughing before Scooping
Resting (?) during the heat of the day

Leaving Melbourne
Cutting "Belars" for Posts

Shack built by March Bros.
Typical Settler's Shack
The Channeling Camp

miles, or thereabouts, are roads running from north to south and east to west. The average block being about a mile square, it will be seen that every group of four blocks is surrounded by roads.

The block I hold is out of the ordinary as regards shape, being wedged in between four square blocks. On the north I am bounded by two blocks, on the south by two blocks, and to the east and west by roads. The road on my western boundary is the main road to Werrimull, about eight miles to the north.

All these blocks are, or will be, supplied with water obtained from the river Murray, which is pumped to different levels and then conveyed by channels to the settlers' dams (large excavations capable of holding about 4000 cubic yards of water). I am fortunate in having a channel cut to the centre of my block, so naturally my dam, house, stables, etc., are also centrally located.

Our first job was to cut a track to the centre of the block, pick a site for the shack, cart building material and stores, and then build. This was satisfactorily accomplished, and then our work commenced in earnest.

We started to fell the timber in one corner, clearing a space ready to sow a crop. It was slow work at first, but we became used to it after a while, and later we were able to fell an acre a day each.

Just as we had cleared about sixty acres my brother left me. I continued, and managed to reach the hundred-acre mark. During this time I was carting chaff from Werrimull once a week, and also carting a good deal of water for a neighbour (good old Liz!)

I had finished the "cutting down" about the end of October, when my neighbour asked me to help him in constructing channels —work on the channels in the day, and afterwards cart water for the teams.

We were away in camp about a month at the hottest time of the year—the temperature ranging from 78 to 112 degrees in the shade. After the day's work I would go in to the public dam at Werrimull (about four miles), pump up two hundred gallons of water, and take it back on the bus.

On my return home I made a break around the fallen timber and fired it. The firing was not a great success: it took me three months to clear away the remains and burn out a lot of stumps to get the ground ready for the plough.

Water not being available just at present, I have not purchased a team; but I have a plough and drill, and arranged with a neighbour to "crop" the hundred acres for me. He came along on June 1st with seven horses, and ploughed, drilled, and harrowed it in three weeks.

The weather in this district is similar to that of Macedonia or Iraq: the two extremes. The rainfall is very light—ten to twelve inches—but as this usually comes during the wheat-growing season, it is just about sufficient.

The outlook this year was very bad, for up to the end of June no useful rain had fallen (crops are sown in April, May and June). The last week, however, has seen a great change, for there has been a good deal of rain, and I am pleased to say that my crop is "coming away" splendidly.

I am busy at present erecting a fence around the crop, cutting down and splitting "belars" for the posts, which are placed five yards apart—I have erected seventy chains so far.

I have a man here with me now for a month or two.

To those who are thinking of coming to this country, a few hints may be welcome.

Bring all your army clothing (it's the finest out for hard work) —shirts, socks, towels, boots, puttees, breeches, jackets (either serge or drill), overcoat, blankets, and kit bag.

Get as much practice in driving horses, etc., as possible.

Don't leave a good job to come out here "on spec." Too many have been disappointed.

I believe that in this State (Victoria) it is very difficult at present to obtain blocks for wheat growing. Be prepared to work on the land for twelve months at least, for small wages, before getting a block.

My experience has been that for every one who is satisfied there are four who are not. Get all the pamphlets, etc., from Australia House, London, and find out what schemes are in operation in the various States.

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Half the acreage of England is unfit for cultivation.

* * * *

Shoes are healthier than boots.

* * * *

Maltese farmers have three or four crops a year.

# Egypt.

On arriving in Egypt for the first time, one's general impression is that one has not only come into a new continent but into a new world: a world in which the marks of Father Time and the Goddess of Progress are absent. Everything seen on the journey across the delta to Cairo is strange: the graceful palms, swaying camels, creaking water-wheels, donkeys and natives. Passing along in the train, one feels strangely out of place—or up-to-date, being in a land which savours of the time of Christ. Each part of the country is different from anything seen in Europe, and yet the scenes possess a similarity which tends to become monotonous.

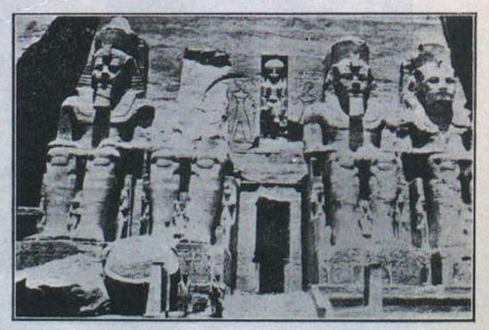
Egypt owes its existence to the river Nile, which has converted the desert surrounding it into one of the most fertile areas in the world. Rich deposits of mud brought down from Abyssinia and the Sudan provide the foundation of a soil of remarkable growing powers. The Nile is a mighty river, but such toll is laid on it for irrigation purposes that below Cairo

The Giza Pyramids, Cairo

it has shrunk so much as to be unnavigable by anything but shallow draught boats. Some of the natives treat it as a god, but the majority make use of it for drinking, washing, and as a dump for sewage and unwanted animals.

Ancient Egypt is often referred to as the "cradle of civilisation." Evidence of this is given by the monuments scattered over the land from Alexandria to Abu Simbel: erections and images which are noteworthy not for their beauty but for their huge size and marvellous construction. In the year 3900 B.C., Tcheser built the first pyramid at Sakkarra to contain his person and belongings after death. From that period onward each of the kings tried to go one better in the building of his last resting-place. A visit to the Luxor district and Assouan gives proof of this.

The Giza Pyramids at Cairo form the greatest of these monuments. The Great Pyramid (3733 B.C.) took sixty years to



The Temple of Rameses II., Abu Simbel



build, and nearly exhausted the nation's finances. The other two pyramids, which belong to successors of Cheops, serve to illustrate in their respective sizes the decline in the national exchequer. The presence of the Sphinx has provided a source of great argument. One theory is that an unsightly spur of rock remained after the stone required for the pyramids had been removed. To improve the appearance of the surroundings, the rock was carved into a representation of Hamarchis. The natives refer to it as Aboul-Hol, the God of Terror.

Rameses II., perhaps the greatest of the Pharaohs, is said to have routed an army of thousands of men single-handed, his officers and men having been put to flight. To commemorate the occasion he erected statues of himself, and carvings illustrating the great moment, all over the land—even to the extent of pulling down or covering over the works of his predecessors. Incidentally, he might be called the world's first publicity expert. His greatest work is the rock temple at Abu Simbel, consisting of four representations of himself, 66 feet high, carved out on the face of a cliff.

The town of Alexandria dates from 332 B.C. At the present time most of the sites where Alexander the Great, Cleopatra, Antony, and Cæsar lived in triumph are either covered by the sea or by tawdry buildings of plaster or mud.

A walk through the main thoroughfare of Cairo gives an excellent idea of the large number of races which go to make up Egypt's population. In this street one rubs shoulders with representatives of nearly every nation in the world; and even as

The Sphinx, Cairo

the races are mixed, so are the centuries. It is possible to step out of a modern street, with its shops and motor cars, into a narrow bazaar with an atmosphere suggested by "The Arabian Nights." Progress in the manufacture and use of tools is of no use to the average native. The wood turner sits on the floor with his lathe, the wood turned by a bow, and the chisel held between his toes. Notwithstanding these seemingly crude methods, the finished articles compare favourably with those of a European worker. It is in these districts that the "mystic perfumes of the East" are most noticeable—perfumes which may be summed up as originating from garlic, dirty humanity, lack of sanitary conveniences, and an occasional over-scented "lady."

Modern Cairo is built on modern European lines, with the French influence dominating. During the winter, hundreds of marvellously arrayed tourists arrive daily from all parts of the world, intent on seeing the sights. After exploring Cairo and causing prices to increase to an abnormal degree by their anxiety to obtain souvenirs and by ridiculous gifts of "bakhsheesh" to the native guides, they leave for Luxor to see the tomb of that unimportant boy-king Tutankhamen.

A study of native ways and customs is very interesting. The Egyptians as a race bear little pure relationship to those who peopled the land in the time of the Pharaohs. Inter-marriage with the French, Turks, Armenians, Syrians and Sudanese has produced a queer racial problem, the benefits of which, to an onlooker, are in the negative.

A visit to an outlying village offers much food for thought. The huts consist of low mud walls, crowned by a roof of interlaced palm leaves. Donkeys, dogs, goats and fowls live in them with the families. Sanitation is practically non-existent. Refuse is thrown outside and left to the animals. The result of this is that it is often necessary to step into a hole in order to reach the interior of the dwelling. One wonders how the natives exist under these circumstances.

The Suez Canal makes no parade of Monsieur De Lesseps' great achievement. The idea of constructing a canal to join the Red Sea and the Mediterranean is not modern. In the year 1330 B.C. a canal 92½ miles long was made from the Gulf of Suez to a point north of Cairo. Work was discontinued on the manifestation of an oracle which inferred that the canal would only be of use to the Persians. During its construction 120,000 lives were lost.

In the year 1859, work was commenced on the present waterway. Ten years later the waters of the Mediterranean were allowed to flow through. The cost of the construction was £19,000,000 sterling. Britain purchased a controlling share from Ismail Pasha, the Khedive, in the year 1875. On a journey from London to Bombay, the saving on using this route in preference to that around the Cape of Good Hope is 5520 miles.

The temperature of Lower Egypt rarely rises above 110 degrees Fahr. in the shade. In mid-winter it is approximately equivalent to that of England at the end of September. Rain is looked upon as a novelty.

During the last few years Egypt has been in a restless state, due mainly to the introduction of self-government and modern ideas in a land which has been under alien control, except for brief intervals, for the last 2500 years. For a town of its size, Cairo produces more newspapers than any other in the world. The effect of printing antagonistic statements and misrepresenting facts with regard to British control has resulted in much trouble and ill-feeling among the notably illiterate native population. It is to be hoped that the troublous times through which the land is now passing mark the awakening of the people to the fact that a place awaits them among the useful nations of the world.

Meanwhile, the Sphinx gazes out over a land which has changed very little in essential features during its 5000 years vigil.

W. E. CORBETT, Corporal.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**To be Sergeant—**

2308371 Farley, J. 21/6/27
2307365 Shipcott, P. 27/6/27
2306767 Renecle, W. 27/6/27
2310295 Shergold, G. 3/7/27
2311377 Hall, J. 13/7/27
2313920 Driver, W. 17/7/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**

6189251 McCormick, R. 20/6/27
2309040 Prior, W. 21/6/27
2307956 Newman, G. 22/6/27
2308488 Cotterell, W. 27/6/27
2314240 Francis, A. 28/6/27
2314248 Lofthouse, F. 3/7/27
2313942 Nokes, H. 3/7/27
6452042 Levy, D. 4/7/27
2306785 Murray, H. 13/7/27
2306788 Offord, E. 20/7/27
1857042 Rumble, L. 20/7/27

**To be Corporal—**

2312123 Lunniss, R. 20/6/27
2315099 McLoughlin, F. 21/6/27
2313068 McCullough, N. 22/6/27
2314011 Parsonage, C. 24/6/27
2314223 Parker, W. 27/6/27
2314250 McLachlan, P. 30/6/27
1850097 Obee, J. 30/6/27
2308761 Newton, W. 3/7/27
2314714 Stanton, A. 3/7/27
1857185 Cockings, P. 4/7/27
2315621 Strugnell, R. 12/7/27
2315371 Luck, W. 13/7/27
2315203 Tanner, J. 14/7/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**

5611956 Freeman, K. 22/2/27
2314867 Wagg, W. 22/2/27
2309795 Taylor, R. 22/2/27
2309770 Brett, R. 22/2/27
2306783 Murphy, C. 22/2/27
2310982 Davis, H. 22/2/27
2313656 Collins, E. 12/3/27
2309579 Jones, F. 12/3/27
2309719 Malthouse, H. 19/3/27
1857322 McMillan, D. 19/3/27
2310834 Reat, W. 21/3/27

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

**Departures.**—2/Lieuts L. de M. Thuillier, D. St. J. Hoysted, and M. G. A. Hepper have been posted to outside units, and we wish them success in their new surroundings.

**Arrivals.**—2/Lieuts P. V. G. Gambier, W. R. Smijth-Windham, J. S. Wise, A. V. S. G. Kemball, E. D. Good, and R. J. Moberley. We hope they will have a pleasant stay with us.

**Birth.**—To Corpl and Mrs. Marshall, a daughter (Stella), on 27/8/27.

**Postings.**—Drivers Cripps, Dye, Gilbert, Mason and Wheeler have left us for the 4th Divl. Signals. Your stay has been a long and pleasant one, and we hope your old friends have not forgotten you.

**General News.**—We now know who's who regarding the drafting, and the following are to sail for India on September 29th: Sergt L. V. Goodman, Corpl E. Cooper, Signalmen F. Percival, F. Latimer, J. Wafer, and L. Knight. We wish them the best on leaving the old Mother Country.

The following have been provisionally warned: Sergt Francis, Corpls Miles, Dodds and Read, L/Corpl Duncan, Signalmen Webb and Frost.

Any offers of changing over will not be refused by some. What offers, Franky? I believe Brixton still has its charms; so has Yorkshire.

We have been very busy with outside engagements during the last month. Corpls Whyte and Green have been accounting for themselves in many prize lists and doing very well. We cannot publish all the letters of appreciation received from the different shows attended, but the feeling throughout has been very satisfactory. The weather has been anything but kind to us, but this has not caused us or the spectators any discomfort whilst attending the shows. Tea has always been provided for the performers, and this has been greatly appreciated.

You may take your flute to India with you, Bob. A straight banana box would be a very useful thing to keep it in (no offence).

No. 10 Hut is representing the Company very well in the Matrimonial Stakes (that is the worst of being in one place too long).

The Company have lost a very good sportsman in Lieutenant Thuillier, who has departed for the 2nd Divl. Signals. We shall feel his loss greatly, as he represented the Company in every form of sport—boxing, shooting, etc. Our loss is the 2nd Divl. Signals' gain.

Talking of musketry and results, we find that the Company average was 78.2. Dvr Penney is the Company shot, though he was given a very close run for it by several.

OLIM.

## F Company, Training Battalion.

We regret the absence of notes from this Company in the previous editions. Our only excuse is the promotion of our previous contributor and the difficulty of finding a successor.

We were kept rather busy during the earlier weeks of July in preparation for the Colonel-Commandant's inspection. This took place on Thursday, 14th, and (as usual with the Boys' Company) all went off swimmingly.

Two days later the majority of the Company shook the dust (or rather, scraped the mud) of Catterick from their feet, and dispersed for a respite of fourteen days. They returned on the 2nd August, but did not wait till the 12th for "grouse."

Sergt Payne and his P.T. Squad worked hard in anticipation of a display at the gymkhana, but owing to the intervention of Jupiter Pluvius this was a "wash-out." At the fete held in the grounds of Hipswell Lodge, a display was given which amply justified Sergt Payne's training, especially the bar work.

Great progress has been made by the Boys' Club, the latest addition being a gramophone. This appears to be very popular among the boys, and the club-room has been crowded of late.

Congratulations to L/Sergt Anthony, Cpl Newton, and L/Cpl Way upon having attained the ranks shown.

**Marriage.**—We must also congratulate Corpl Catchpole on his recent marriage, and wish him every happiness.

**Postings.**—Signalmen Brennan, Sherwood and Walton have left us for Germany; Signalmen Price and Knight for Bulford; and Tpr. Heighton and Sigmn Stenning for the Depot Battalion.

The following boys have left us for the ranks: Barnes, Collins, Jenner, D. Jones, H. Jones, Park, Pearse, F. Smith, Teal, Kelly, Kilpatrick and French.

L/Corpl Boy G. H. Smith would like to hear from Sigmn (Broody) Thomas. L/Corpl Boy (Dick) Birkett would like to know what has happened to Paddy Boyd at Liverpool. Ex-K boys would like to see notes in this magazine with news from L. V. Will you oblige us, K Company?

BIDZ.

## F Company Boys.

**Extract from a Daily Paper.**—Ex-Boy Jammy writes: "Having taken your wonderful 'Makemestrong,' it is my duty to tell you how all-conquering it has made me. When I started training for my last ping-pong contest, I became tired and dizzy after about ten minutes' play. I was desperate, as I knew the whole of England was looking to me to uphold the honour of the old country. One day a friend of mine said, 'Jammy, try "Makemestrong."' I did so, and this wonderful tonic enabled me to last out in three strenuous games against the champion of Iceland. 'Makemestrong' alone saved me and England. I told all my friends. One of them (who was almost more run down than I had been) took my advice, and now wears on his left breast the highest honour in the spilekin world. 'Makemestrong' is indeed wonderful."

We returned from leave too late for any notes last month, but the "glorious fortnight" is now a thing of the past, and we have settled down to more work, cricket and athletics.

E Company beat us at cricket by thirty odd runs. Having dismissed them for 84, we hoped that we might get the necessary runs, but the absence of Lieut Boyd and the provision of a good tea upset our calculations.

However, we got our revenge in the inter-Company relay championships. F Company secured six firsts, two seconds, and two thirds out of ten events. L/Corpl Murphy was a tower of strength, and represented the Company in seven events.

Unfortunately, E Company were without Sergt Cotterell, and Lieut Hardy and Sigmn Beale could not turn out for our Coy.



# ALDERSHOT NEWS.

## A Corps Signals.

### Unit Headquarters, Ewshott Camp.

**Foreign Drafts.**—There have been a few surprising alterations and additions to our lists since last month. R.S.M. F. Craig, M.M., who returned from India not quite two years ago, is under orders to embark for that country once more; and Sergt W. L. Renecle (operator, line) has been warned for the second time to pack up his worldly possessions for a tour in the same country. There have been cancellation orders in favour (or disfavour, as you please) of Sergeants Edmunds and Taylor, Corpl Heath, and L/Corpl Brooke.

The frequent changes in these lists have caused considerable speculation as to "who's next"; but we would remind those given to camp-corner oratory of a military phrase which mentions, perhaps rather vaguely and with a dual meaning, the exigencies of the service: "For men may come and men may go, but who can dodge it for ever?" Our turn next year, perhaps!

**Officers' Movements.**—2/Lt D. St. J. Hoysted, who arrived from the Signal Training Centre on August 29th and took over A Cable Section from Lieut C. H. Lyddon (to Iraq on 20/9/27), very quickly settled down to his new job. He took his Cable Section out to the manœuvres area within a couple of days of his arrival.

**Collective Training.**—Manœuvres, or rather memories of them, will be giving way to thoughts of another kind of collective training very shortly: annual furlough.

We might, however, mention that two of our W/T Sections are attached to the Mechanised Force at Bulford for duty in the manœuvres area. The first Section has been away since mid-June, and the sister Section moved to 3rd Divl. Signals lines in August. In addition, A and B Cable Sections are working with the 1st and 2nd Divl. Signals respectively in the Oxford district.

That these four Sections will maintain their good reputation for all-round efficiency we have no doubt, but we shall be pleased to welcome them back, as the camp is particularly quiet.

**On Tour.**—A few months ago mention was made of the formation of a unit concert party. We understand that rehearsals have been held, and that a certain aspirant to boxing honours has been cultivating an effeminate deportment. A popular baritone appears to be indifferent to the appeals of the organiser, and we could name a portly sergeant who possesses a good volume of bass. There are many others who need only a little gentle persuasion. Could not a meeting of all those interested be called with a view to rounding up those on tour? *Are* they on tour? We do not think so. Then, Mr. Organiser,

> Why are you silent? Is your Troupe a caste
> Of such weak fibre to give us but a show
> Of absence to the call of footlights' glow?
> Are there no pipes to play, no drums to blast?

**Open Inquiry.**—What is happening to the camp dance hall? We hear rumours that it is to be converted into a billiards room, a new grocery bar, or a larger coffee bar. Surely we should be given an opportunity of saying whether we prefer the hall to remain available for whist drives and dances, or otherwise. The necessity for a large hall suitable for such functions in an isolated camp like ours appears to be obvious.

**The Decorative Arts.**—During the absence of various Sections and parties on inter-Divisional training and draft leave, those remaining in camp have undertaken the task of lime-washing, distempering and painting the huts and stables. We were thinking of setting up in this line of business on return to civil life, but after many afternoons and evenings of voluntary daubing, we have decided there are many other ways and means of earning a living without having to bathe in distemper and paint all day long. It is a consolation to know that our belated spring cleaning comes but once a year.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**Tennis Tournament.**—The 5th Light Brigade R.A. and A Corps Signals combined messes' tournament will probably have to be abandoned, partly through bad weather, but more particularly on account of the unsatisfactory way in which the courts are kept. Numerous players have described them as disgraceful, and we share their views. One cannot expect to play tennis on a court where the grass has not been cut for days.

Unfortunately, neither unit in the camp is directly responsible for the upkeep of the courts, and mild complaints appear to be futile. We look forward to better conditions at Smallshot, where we hope it will be possible to have a mess tennis court in addition to the usual A.C.A.A. unit courts.

**Review.**—Apparently we have little to chronicle this month but moans.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Dearie, surnamed Brother, alias Sandey. Duly received from the Rhine and deposited four miles from camp in married quarters at Aldershot. By the way, the quickest route from camp to Aldershot appears to be up Beacon Hill and through Hale. You ought to know, Dearie, but we doubt your suggestion.

PETER.

AFTERTHOUGHT.—We have the greatest difficulty in collecting notes from members of the unit for inclusion in the Corps Magazine, but would say that they are acceptable at all times and in any form. We cannot, however, accept responsibility for them, but assure all unit readers that any notes received will be forwarded. Here is the first batch:—

MORE NOTES WANTED.—Will the Editor kindly consider the question of obtaining notes from Records and Pay Side at Chatham for publication in THE WIRE each month?

We are sure someone in each of those offices could find the time, once a month, to write a few notes and perhaps thereby help to swell the sales of our excellent Corps Journal.

Such notes should make very interesting reading, but we should *not* expect the Pay Side to tell us whether they have any record of a soldier refusing his pay on the ground that he had not earned it.

Nor should we expect the contributor of notes from Records to let us know the number of individuals who have never crossed the ocean, except on such trying journeys as from Pompey to the Island, etc., etc.

TINY.

### No. 1 Company (Ewshott)

**Review.**—The first series of "Signalling Down Under" was appreciated by all ranks of A Corps Signals, and the next is eagerly awaited. Undoubtedly THE WIRE is becoming better and better as each month passes. Vive la Wire!

"Plain Tales" have, I hope, come to stay ad infinitum. They are the cause of much laughter; and amongst the "married pads," I believe, they cause quite a few rows, due to the scramble of the whole family to get the first sight of THE WIRE. Barleux! you are expected to do your duty and send us some Indian love lyrics. We will take no excuse.

I still persist in saying that "Cook's" *did* arrange that tour for the M.G.s. Now, I ask you, who else could arrange a tour so as to have such a lot of spare time in which to plant sticks all over the countryside? I quite believe that jumping a hundred-odd poles every day is a good rest-cure for a Company clerk.

But I have experienced a better cure than that, Bob, though it was many moons ago, when we used blow-lamps in place of

razors. Tip-cat was our favourite recreation then, and we used sixty-foot iron poles in lieu of sticks. When it rained we played tiddly-winks with base-plates.

Thanks for the so-called Chinese airline pole, Bob, but I still have two left, which I use as toothpicks.

**Arrivals.**—2/Lieut. D. St. J. Hoysted, R.Signals, from the S.T.C. Sergt Sandey, from Rhine Signals. Dvr Gillingham from No. 5 Company. Welcome, little strangers!

**Departures.**—Sigmn Brogan, D.C.M., discharged after 21 years. F/Corpl F. Jones, Corpl Baines (the original Jordy Baines), and Sigmn Reid, to Memory Lane. Sigmn Jaggard back to 1st Divl. Signals.

L/Corpl Ormiston, Drivers Allsopp, Andrews and Rathbone to Egypt Signals. L/Corpl Warren to Hong Kong. (Joint Box! please note, and hand over chop-chop. We expect to see that walrus of yours turning up here about Christmas time.) Sigmn Humphries to North China. Lieut. C. H. Lyddon, R.Signals, to Iraq.

A Cable Section, under 2/Lieut D. St. J. Hoysted, joined the 2nd Divl. Signals at Thame; and B Cable Section, under Lieut W. S. Wasey, joined the 1st Divl. Signals at Mongewell—for manœuvres. From what I have heard, horses will be a proper "bake" in this war—and it will be *some* war!

After the two Cable Sections had departed, we found that we had only ten horses left. Naturally, some counted on stable picquets being washed out; others, the reverse. If picquets *were* to be the order, then it meant that the Superior Sect (that is, clerks, storemen, batmen and the like) would have to do its bit. This it superciliously declined. (Nice goings on, I must say). After much cogitating, a hero found a way out. He suggested returning the jolly old hosses to Ordnance, to be put in mineral jelly until such time as the sections returned from the war.

**Births.**—A son to F/Sergt Townly and to Sigmn Mudge; and a daughter to Sigmn G. Jones and to Sigmn Luke.

**Marriages.**—The following raised their social status during the month of September: Corpl J. H. Russell, L/Corpl J. C. Warren, L/Corpl W. R. Ormiston, Sigmn Whymark and Sigmn E. G. Smith.

**Chaff.**—Perusing "M.T.'s" notes of last month, I found I had, metaphorically, got it in the neck. After a hearty laugh, I fell into a deep reverie. . . . Abe was gradually disappearing from a beautiful vista. Things became misty, then gradually brightened. Something appeared on the horizon. As it grew bigger I saw it was a man, and he seemed as if he were "hiking along the trail to hell." When he drew closer I received a shock. It was the Company clerk, wrapped up in cotton wool. His knees knocked, his feet were flat; his back was bent, and his shoulders were hunched. His fingers twitched, and his eyelids drooped; his breath came in short gasps—he looked like a man with one foot in the grave. Good heavens! what a wreck. As he gradually faded away, I could not help but feel sorry for the chap.

I was about to burst into tears, when another figure appeared. Swallowing the lump in my throat, and drying my eyes, I looked with keener vision. Gradually he drew closer, and I saw a smart chap stepping along in a soldier-like manner, swinging his arms, with chest out and back hollowed. I could not help admiring him. He drew much closer, and then I recognised him. It was the Company clerk again! Yes, the same man—but oh, how different! What an Adonis! And he passed so close that I could see his eyes—such eyes!

There *are* men who somehow just grip your eyes and hold them in a spell; and such was he. He looked to me like a man who had lived in a well of experience—one who had had some hard knocks; one who had earned the highest honours, but who had failed to reap the fruits of his labours. Nevertheless, he seemed quite content to let his light remain under a bushel. He was whistling "Everything comes to those who wait." He was the personification of contentment. And so he vanished.

What a strange world this is! How like a bucket we all are! The outside is hardly ever a facsimile of the inside. The world and his wife see deeper nowadays than of yore. They see both sides of the bucket, as it were, quicker. Chaff is a word used to express that which we do *not* mean. (Nothing to do with chopped hay, of course.) Esprit de corps, that glueing spirit, has been furthered a lot, I am sure, by the use of chaff.

**This Month's Short Stories.**—A short while ago the Terriers came and camped near to us for a fortnight's soldiering. One day a scheme was ordered, and just prior to moving off, the S.M. saw a driver minus his leg-iron and told him to go and get it. Meeting his half-section, the troubled driver told him that he had been ordered to 'get a leg-iron from somewhere. His half-section (quite an old sweat, with about ten Saturday nights' service) said, "Yes, my lad; you want to be careful of your leg-irons and not lose them. I have *both* mine on."

* * * *

A certain officer had a very funny habit of having a hot bath every morning at a certain time. His batman, humouring this idiosyncracy, used to have everything ready for him, dead on time. One morning the officer went to dive into the bath, when he discovered that it was occupied. Seeing another batman nearby, he said, "What do you mean by letting your officer bath before me?" "But he is entitled to a bath, is he not?" replied the batman.

"Of course, of course," said the officer, getting very angry; "but you had no right to let him bath before me." "First come, first served," said the batman.

"Don't you know who I am?" "No!"

"What is your name?" "*Mister* James Hemp," replied the batman, loftily.

"I thought you were in the Army." "I *was*," said Jim.

[Note.—Women do make fools of us all—even batmen.]

* * * *

Sigmn Stayaway returned after being a day adrift, and standing on the mat, the following dialogue took place.

O.C.: "And what have you got to say?"

Signalman: "Well—er—it was like this 'ere, I wanted to see my brother who was returning home after ten years in Africa—so—so there you are."

O.C.: "And what else?"

Signalman: "To make matters worse I lost my pass, so I was unable to know when my leave was up—er—so there you are."

O.C.: "Well, its like this 'ere—five days—so there you are. March him out, sergeant-major."

**Stagnation Sunday.**—Did you know that we had a mascot? Well, we have; and believe me, he is *some* mascot. We have had him about a year now, but he is still a little shy. He originally came from the Himalayas, and is now practically acclimatised.

I am afraid I am going a bit too fast: I have not told you *what* he is. No, he is not one of Jimmie Hadfield's ducks, nor old Parson's goat—he is a llama, a self-respecting llama, who holds his head high.

On Sunday, August 21st, he charged the church parade and scattered the troops all over the camp. His ayah had let him stray. But we soon forgave him, as he does not often perfom these naughty tricks. The last prior to this was when he climbed on Percy's back. Naturally, Percy was peeved and told him off. Ah, diddums do it, poor little llama!

[Note.—The llama must not be confused with the "smudge" that is standing behind.]

SOOFOO.

## Construction Section.

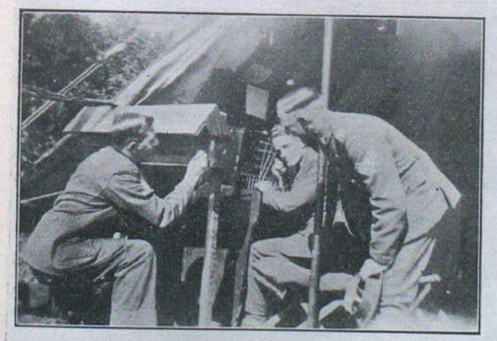
**General.**—For one week summer came—and then came water. Back in Wallingford, the weather sought us out again, and we have the old familiar sight of "Farmer" struggling vainly with a huge pair of gum boots.

Headquarter Conference(?)

The accompanying photographs were taken on the red-letter fine day. We have some fine "mud" pictures, but these must come later.

Dinner Up!

Despite all the wet, we have now settled down to daily maintenance and building of additional lines. Sheepcote Farm, our new camp, is likely to be our home until the middle of October, so we are getting dug in.



Exchange, Southern Area.

People's imagination seems to be sharpened out here, as the following will show. A certain party proceeded from a neighbouring camp, complete with towels, soap, etc., and having marched over a mile, were halted opposite a small canvas shelter housing four "showers." The weather was normal, i.e., wet, and the n.c.o. in charge was convinced that the showers could produce hot baths ad lib. As the sole supply was the town main (very cold), his hopes were small; nevertheless, faith is great.

We hear that Capt. Jennings is running the 4th Division lines. All the crowd wish him the best of luck.

**Appreciation.**—"At Intra." Soofoo, you are one of us.

**Arrivals.**—Offsprings to Signalmen Birch and Yates. Congratulations!

**Agony.**—A good dog trainer is wanted here for our whippets.

M. T.

## No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

**Apologies.**—Profuse apologies are tendered for the absence of notes from this Company last month. The scribe was enjoying a well-earned leave when the 16th came along!

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Joy, Jury and McClarron from the S.T.C. Sigmn R. Ellis from No. 1 Company of this unit. Just in time for the spring cleaning! Still, a hearty welcome is extended to them, and a wish that their stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

**Departures.**—L/Sergt H. Hoyland to the Western Command Signal Company, 30/7/27. Signalmen Fowler, Llewellyn and Meek to 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester, 5/8/27; Signalmen Hicks and Campbell following them on 31/8/27. Signalmen Thornton and Woodruffe to the Army Reserve, 29/8/27 and 14/8/27 respectively. Sigmn Hope to Unit H.Q. and Sigmn Gillingham to No. 1 Company. Sigmn Lomax (discharge), 6/8/27. Good luck to them all!

**Attachments.**—No. 7 Light W/T Section to 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford, w.e.f. 10/8/27, for inter-Divisional manœuvre purposes. We hear that they have been enjoying themselves! Bear up!

**Appointments and Promotions.**—L/Sergt W. Renecle to be Sergeant, w.e.f. 27/6/27. Appointed Lance-Sergeants: Corporal Lofthouse, w.e.f. 3/7/27. Corpl W. Prior, w.e.f. 21/6/27. Corpl L. Rumble, w.e.f. 20/7/27. L/Corporal A. Holt to be Corporal, w.e.f. 21/7/27. Congratulations are extended them on their respective steps up the long ladder of the Corps roster.

**Births.**—To L/Corpl A. Phillips, a daughter (Edith Carola Elsie), 30/7/27. To L/Corpl C. Thompson, a daughter (Peggy Adelaide Louisa) 6/8/27.

**Marriage.**—Sigmn J. J. Kelly to Florence Mabel Medhurst, at Farnham, 23/8/27. Happy man!

**Courses of Instruction.**—Corpl C. A. Clarke passed the 41st P.T. Course from 14/6/27 to 28/7/27. Muscle-bound, Nobby? Sigmn E. Dawson a course on cycle repair from 3/8/27 to 24/8/27. Sigmn W. Parry crept away with a cookery course from 16/7/27 to 26/8/27.

**Trade Tests.**—Congratulations to Signalmen R. McCarthy and C. Langley (electricians, W/T) upon grading as fitters, Signals, on 23/7/27; and also to Signalmen T. Bell, Millhouse, and A. J. Nicklen upon passing out as B.2 operators, W/T, w.e.f. 11/6/27. Three ex-boys, eh!

**Foreign Drafts.**—Now that the lists of personnel to test the troopers this season have more or less been polished off, it is thought that friends and half-sections abroad will be gratified to learn the names of the n.c.o.s and men under orders.

The first draft to leave this unit consists of Signalmen E. Dickenson and J. J. Kelly (operators, line), and Sigmn F. W. Jones (instrument maker). Iraq is their last port of call.

Next comes the first Indian move on the part of Corporals A. Mears and C. Clarke, Signalmen D. Hamer, R. Flavell, B. Tutt, A. O. Myers, and W. Harlow (operators, wireless), and Sigmn D. Gale (D.R.), not forgetting Sigmn A. Hughes (operator Signals). The Iraq draft embark on 20/9/27, and the latter on 22/11/27.

Then there is the North China draft of L/Corporal E. Sanley, Signalmen E. A. Carter, W. Harvey, and A. Leake (wireless operators), due to mount the gangway on 1/10/27.

Provisionally warned for Shanghai Defence Force are Signalmen J. H. Fletcher (fitter, Signals), R. Parsons and A. Prebble (operators, line). October is the month due for embarkation, but up to going to press no date has been fixed.

Corpl L. Frost is leaving us on his "ownsome" on 29/9/27 for India. There are but two for the Malaya Signal Section, Singa-

pore, and they are Signalmen W. Addis (Micky) and McCann, supposed to be leaving us somewhere about January, 1928.

The "Pyramid seekers" will most probably be L/Corpls S. Else (operator, wireless) and J. Harrison (operator, line), Signalmen W. J. Bush (electrician W/T), M. Dale (electrician, fitter), W. Game (fitter, Signals), H. Mills (electrician), W. G. Turner (operator, wireless); and Sigmn W. Haggart (electrician fitter) to Palestine.

The remaining personnel seeking health in India somewhere about Christmas are Sergt W. Renecle, Corpls G. S. Todd, A. W. Holt, Signalmen Alldred, Beardmore, Brophy, Ford, Foster, Gordon, Holsie, Pelling, Laud, Stanford, J. Talbot, F. Talbot, Saunders, Webb and Whiteway.

In correction of Peter's draft list of n.c.o.s last month, I would add that Sergt W. M. Taylor is *not* now proceeding to India this trooping season, and that L/Corpl J. Harrison is going to Egypt and not India. No offence, Peter!

This, I think, finishes the "wind" till next year. At least, I hope so. Still, we can always bear up.

**General.**—The Company "flying squad" is on the wane at last, which goes to prove that things of beauty *are* joys for ever! A.B.C.s out-of-date, Douglas's and scrap Triumphs are hardly pleasing in aspect. The redoubtable Taffy leaves the Company labour exchange this month for the unit office. The Company will fall to bits, Taff!

**Interrogation.**—Why does Peter always complain about the weather experienced in Hampshire? Does he suffer from rheumatics? It was only a few months ago that he tried to emulate an Eskimo. Remember the towel and sponge affair?

**Annual Weapon Training.**—The six best Company shots were: Sigmn W. Fry ("Pot") 106, Sergt W. Taylor 99, L/Corpl A. Phillips and Sigmn A. Stout 98, Sigmn R. Flavell, 93.

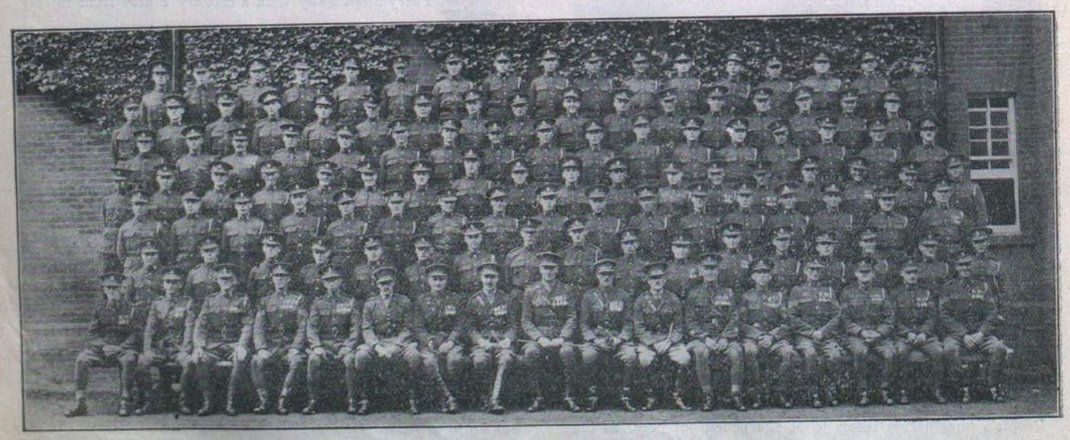
**Congratulations** to Lieut H. A. C. Stallan, of this Company, upon his recent promotion to that rank.

LULU.

## A Corps at Intra.

1—Now in To-el-o there was a certain man named Pomalin who, desiring to be a great soldier, journeyed to Witeall.
2—And when he had come to Witeall, a centurion came beseeching him to join his legion.
3—Saying, "I will make thee a leader of men, for I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me.
4—"I say to this man, 'Go,' and he goeth; and to another, 'Come,' and he cometh; to another 'Stanatese,' and he doeth it."
5—And when Pomalin heard this he marvelled and said, "Verily, I will follow thee."
6—And he followed the centurion unto Katric, where he did come and go and stanatese many, many times.
7—And after thirty days another centurion came unto him, saying, "Follow me and I will teach thee to ride."
8—And Pomalin and the multitude followed, and all became sore; and there was weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.
9—And it came to pass, after many moons, that Pomalin left Katric and journeyed unto Ushot, where he learned to lose points for a scrufikit.
10—But at this place, Ushot, there were even some who did win the klok and who used to decorate it with dodgers, as was their ancient custom.
11—And when Pomalin saw this he marvelled and did moanalot.
12—And after he did receive his Groopee, a centurion sent him unto a place called Thame, which was so; and he did learn much mudlarking there.
13—And at Thame there was a certain sect called Frothblowers, who were wont to imbibe mead, which is called bitter.
14—A certain disciple, one named Spike, seeing him, said "Follow me and I will make thee a frothblower among men."
15—And Pomalin said, "Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest."
16—And Pomalin did become a great man in the land, and did teach the doctrine to one and all.
17—And he did even learn to bumischat, saying, "Follow me, for *I* am Groopee."
18—Blessed is he that doth blow froth, for he shall be comforted.

SOOFOO.



No. 3 Company, 1st Divisional Signals.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**"Leaf."**—To all those happy individuals who were away for the Bank Holiday—although it rained hard—let us say, "We envied you." A nice eight days in the summer-time, even if wet, can be much appreciated.

**Camp.**—This *has* been a busy month. Everyone has had camp fever. We are all busy preparing for a sojourn in the area around Wallingford. Father Thames should provide us with good bathing. King Sol, be kind to us and make the dips as pleasurable as possible! Our advance party went out on the 20th August under Capt. W. J. H. Bull, and are now well dug in. Wireless communication with them has been established, and the daily weather reports received have been favourable: cheering news! Old campaigners, you know how you feel after slogging it—to arrive at a sloshy, slippery, slimy camp. But that is not to be our experience, for we have a very *nice* camp to go to. Are we not the First Divl. Signals? (Note: How we arrived, and how we found and left the camp, will be told in our next.)



**Moves.**—Lieut H. H. C. Burdett has left us on resigning. Signalmen S. E. Green and W. Miller and Dvr R. Cleminson have gone to the Reserve. Signalmen W. Meek, W. Llewellyn, T. Fowler, from A Corps Signals, and Sigmn P. I'Anson from the Training Battalion. It is to be always understood—even though we may not mention it—that we welcome newcomers to the unit, and are sorry to see old Firstdivsigs folk depart.

**Visitors.**—The G.O.C. paid us his annual visit on August 24th, inspecting the unit at work. He visited each Company in turn, and also saw our stables and animals.

In the commanding officer's orders for the 25th we read:—"The G.O.C. 1st Division expressed his satisfaction at the state of stores, barrack-rooms, stables, equipment, etc. The commanding officer wishes to congratulate all ranks on the results attained."

Now, lads of the Firstdivsigs, that is a pat on the back, and ours is a standard which is really worth holding.

Lieut.-Col. A. A. Jayne (Supplementary Reserve) has been with us for a fortnight during the month. We are happy to have had him with us once again. The "Gazette" of July 22nd tells us that Col. Jayne has been appointed D.C.S.O. (T.A.) Scottish Command. Lucky, lucky T.A.! We are delighted at the news.

2/Lieut E. Parkin (Supplementary Reserve) and 2/Lieut K. T. Boag also made acquaintance with us, and we trust they want to come again to the land of Firstdivsigs.

2/Lieut. J. C. Hardy has joined us from the Training Battn. We hope his stay will be a long and merry one.

**Advances.**—A host of people have passed trade tests. Our congratulations to them on maintaining the worthy record and prestige of their unit. This time the percentage is 85.7—36 upgradings from forty-two candidates.

Sergt Duggan has been confirmed in his rank, we are pleased to report. L/Corpl H. V. Langley is now Corporal. (Curley, you are getting on!) L/Corpls Brown, Wiggins and Lee are now paid (do you see the baton?)

**Good News.**—Army Order 219 of 1927 is worth reading by all sergeants and higher ratings.

**Drafts.**—Drivers G. Arnold, B. Brooks, C. Chantry are under orders to embark for Egypt in September. Sigmn Simmons also is under orders to embark for Iraq in September. Signalmen Greig, J. R. Kay, J. Jackson, N. Whatley, and A. Gosling, are under orders for Hong Kong. The trooper sails about Oct. 1st.

**Personal.**—Dear Lemjay! We apologise for not having replied to your posers. You have really "got us down." Please be patient for one more month, and then—oh, boy!—we shall see what we shall see.

**Tail Piece.**—A signalman said to his companion, "Now we shall get a move on," as the trailer broke from its coupling when going *down* hill.

YA YA YA.

## Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, September 14th.

**General.**—The holiday season has just ended, and all have resumed their duties, full of energy after a needed rest. Some were more fortunate than others with the weather, which was generally bad this year.

**Stop Press News** (Mixed Doubles).—Great excitement prevailed in the office at 10.50 hrs. on the morning of August 13th in sending a telegram from the noted "T" Club wallahs to congratulate Mr. G. Gilder (S.B.O. of this Company) on taking Miss Lilley unto himself at the hour of 11.00 as his wife. The deed was performed in great splendour, and now we have one more on the noble roll of the married 'uns! (fourpenny packets of fags, now, Dick, instead of sixpenny ones). Which member of the "T" Club collared the wedding-cake box?

Wazirdist Signals!—Hello there! Coir calling. He would like to hear from the artist whose sketches appeared in June issue, and who used to go under the name of "Arreff." Come on, Dick; buy a two-anna stamp for a three-halfpenny one!

**Arrivals.**—We welcome a warrant officer and his family who have joined the Salisbury Plain Area at Bulford during the month: Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals) N. Ramsay, from Devonport, transferred on account of ill-health of his family. We hope they will improve with the change of station.

**Transfers.**—C.Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals) H. G. Heyward is to proceed to Devonport as soon as the handing over at Bulford is completed.

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We are sorry to record the departure from the C.S.O.'s office of Mr. W. J. Kellagher, who has transferred to the Engineer Branch. We sincerely hope his stay with them will be a permanent and happy one.

**Sport.**—The staff of the Southern Command headquarters held their first men's doubles American tennis tournament at Salisbury in July. Sixteen pairs entered, and Sergt K. Graham and Mr. Moloney ("O" Branch) succeeded in winning.

Hearty congratulations to Sergt K. Graham, of this unit, on being presented with a tennis racket, for the second year in succession, in appreciation of services rendered as an umpire at the Army lawn tennis championships. He had the honour of being asked to umpire two or three of the finals.

Adverting to our notes in the July issue, the football season has commenced again, and another attempt (with the usual sanguinary efforts) to raid the competition funds by getting twelve right is being made. Better luck this year!

COIR.

## D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Howbery Park Camp, Wallingford, Berks.

**Camp.**—Owing to the inclement weather experienced in the Wallingford district during August, this unit did not move into camp until September 3rd. The postponement was not made known until too late for our notes of last month to be amended.

At 9.45 p.m. on September 3rd the mounted party moved off from stables to the rendezvous, Wellington Monument—this being the starting-point of the night march to Howbery Park.

Leaving the rendezvous at 10.30 p.m., we passed through Wokingham at 1 a.m. on Sunday, halting at Bill Hill at 1.20 for forty-five minutes, while the whole of the Cavalry Brigade were provided with hot tea. The tea, by the way, was fixed up by the hay-box method of cooking, which was very successful. When things go wrong with this method of cooking, the adage that "God sends the food, but the devil sends the cook" is applicable.

Tea disposed of, we resumed our march, arriving in camp at exactly 6 a.m., after covering thirty-eight miles in seven-and-a-half hours, including halts. Practically the whole of the distance was covered at a trot, each hour being broken up into a trot of 25 minutes, a lead of 5 minutes, another trot of 25 minutes, and a 5 minutes' halt.

On Monday, September 5th, we moved into bivouac prior to taking part in two tactical exercises set for the 1st Cavalry

Brigade by the G.O.C.-in-Chief Aldershot Command. On completion of the first we again bivouacked for the night at Forest Hill, near Oxford. During the second exercise, which took place on Wednesday, September 7th, we covered about twenty-five miles. On Wednesday night we "slept" in camp.

Up to the present we have not been called upon to torture the ether with wireless waves, nor have the ultra-violet rays of the heliograph been flashed abroad; and as there is quite enough wind around this area, the flagbashers have rested on their staffs.

It is also said that the drivers are having a posh time. But to counterbalance the inactivities of the above people, the despatch riders have been proving their worth, whether mounted on mo-bike or gee-gee.

In conclusion we are all looking forward to the big fight which takes place between September 21st and 24th, and our return to Aldershot on the 25th.

**Postings.**—Sigmn K. H. Pearce will by this time have arrived from the Training Battalion, and we sincerely hope he will enjoy his stay with us.

**Weather Report for Camp.**—Rain. Further outlook, rain. Outlook further still, more rain.

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn Vigurs (somewhere in Germany) please communicate with Sigmn Corner of this unit? The latter is eating out his heart (have mercy!) Sigmn Mott would like to hear from Sigmn E. Turner, believed to be with E Divl. Signals.

'OWDAM LAD.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—At last we begin to resume normal conditions, and for a period of two days or so the stable parade state shows "one man one horse," only to be rudely broken up by the training break with its parade state: "one man? * ? ? * — ? horses."

**Southern Command Horse Show.**—We again entered our limber for the best-turned-out limbered G.S. competition, and it was the envy of all who gazed upon it. What rotten hard lines! 100 per cent. for harness, wagon, men and one horse; and then to drop five points for a horse that was ever so slightly out of condition with a cracked hoof—a crack that could almost be hidden with a tail hair. Result: "highly commended." But one has to admit that the judging was very fair, and the judges found themselves hard put to it to find faults in order to place the wagons in the correct order of merit. Hard luck, Colley and the lads who got the wagon into such fine trim!

The O.C., n.c.o.s and men congratulate L/Corpl Bishop (2nd Divl. Signals) on winning third place in the open to the world jumping competition, and hope to see him do better next time.

The Troop were very disappointed that Robin Hood turned slightly cantankerous in the above event, but considering that the training has been rather spasmodic of late, he really jumped very well. The credit for that must be given to the commanding officer, Capt. C. M. F. White, for his splendid display of horsemanship. Better luck next time, sir!

**Southern Command Tattoo.**—The Tattoo has come to a close, after five very successful nights attended by the finest of weather. The success of a show may always be gauged by the box office receipts. In the case of the Tattoo these increased nightly to an alarming extent; ticket sellers in the marquees were absolutely besieged for seats at any price.

The n.c.o.s and men of this unit put in great work in carrying out box office duties, information bureau, laying telephone lines, and operating searchlight telephones and telephone exchanges.

We also supplied a fatigue party to give assistance with the fatigue work which occurred daily. For many the Tattoo has finished and is only a memory, but for the box office staff many weary weeks will elapse before the last figure is put down to close the accounts. Never mind, there's another one next year!

The show itself easily surpassed any previous performance, many people voting it one of the finest spectacles they have ever witnessed. Several spectators went out of their way to express, in writing and verbally, not only their appreciation of the show itself, but also of the arrangements made for their comfort and the courtesy of the many minor officials on duty. When one remembers that these duties were performed voluntarily, and takes into consideration the enormous crowds to be dealt with, this is praise indeed.

**Invasion of Windmill Hill.**—The 2nd London Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry) visited Windmill Hill for their yearly camp, attended by fairly good weather and a show of good spirits (mental and liquid). One is inclined to think they had a jolly fine time; not only did they invade Windmill Hill, but also every other hill that sported a sergeants' mess on the top.

It's a pity that E Troop Signals is not strong enough to possess a mess of its own, and also that the S.C. Tattoo prevented us from giving them a more hospitable reception than would otherwise have been the case.

**Territorial Sports.**—The first day reserved for these events turned out so wet that the sports were postponed until a more favourable occasion. The mounted events took place on Wednesday morning, August 3rd, the mounted wrestling and mounted tug-of-war being won by the Middlesex Yeomanry, and the team jumping by our Troop.

**Queries.**—Jim and Daisie would like to know if Sergt Long has really learnt to drive a car yet? and if he really is *on* the phone; also if the R.S.M. would like to purchase an alarm clock (non-magnetic).

**Loud Wails.**—Ginger Ellison would be glad to have a line (if ink is not too dear) from Nutty Burke, believed to be somewhere in China. What's your wave-length, Nutty?

L/Corpl Cooper would like to hear from Jimmy Tudor, last heard of at 4th Divl. Signals.

SANDSMUDGE.

## No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company.

### Watchet Detachment.

September 10th.

The camp season is drawing to a close, and in a few more days the last of the batteries of the London Territorials will have completed their summer training.

It will be of interest to some of the lads of W/T Company, Pindi, and especially J. W. B., to know that the 51st A.A. Brigade (T.A.) was under the command of Lieut.-Col. P. T. Etherton, the famous explorer and author.

There is nothing to report by the detachment left behind here to reel in the lines, but the C.S.M. has kindly offered a contribution regarding the Manston Detachment and Headquarters.

J. W. S.

### Manston Detachment.

September 7th.

The above detachment rejoined Company headquarters on September 3rd, after ten hours on the road, which were full of incident.

We started off at 8.30 a.m. with a lorry in tow, which was sent ahead but unfortunately took the wrong turning at Maidstone, causing some severe comments as to its erratic movements, and heartburnings as to its whereabouts and safety. I need not say that the spare petrol for the journey was on the towed lorry, and the roadside rations on a lorry with the main party. The missing lorry was eventually discovered on the right road, near Godstone, by the C.S.M., who was scouring the countryside on a "P" model.

Thereafter the motor-cycles were a source of trouble and delay, developing all sorts of alarming symptoms, but under the guiding hand and persuasive powers of Sergt Fleet, they managed to arrive at Blackdown with the remainder of the party.

We were very fortunate in the matter of weather, the threatening rain keeping off the whole day.

Although the maintenance of lines was a big job for the small party left to carry it out, the boys found time to visit the nearby seaside resorts, where old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made; and there were some sad faces when the time for parting came round. In several cases the symptoms were most marked.

It was unfortunate that Sigmn Armstrong had to be left behind in the Royal Air Force Hospital, and we all trust he will make a good and speedy recovery.

I must express our appreciation of all the Royal Air Force did for us during our stay. They went out of their way to make us most comfortable, allotting huts, furniture and bedding, etc., and a M.T. workshop for our use. Gentlemen of the Royal Air Force, we thank you!

It is very nice to know that at last the bit of dirt is off B control line—it has been recovered.

**Courses.**—Sergt Green and Corpl Gristwood rejoined the unit, having completed a M.T. course at the Artillery College.

**Birth.**—Congratulations to Sigmn Spriggs and his wife, who were presented with a daughter on July 27th.



**Promotion.**—L/Corpl Cockings to be Corporal, 4/7/27.

**Discharge.**—Sigmn Hardwick on 5/9/27. The Company joins in wishing him the best of luck on entering civilian life.

**Miscellaneous.**—An old Belfast plug merchant wishes to know why T.E.H. changed his views on returning to "hard-up street." Is it because he wishes to settle down, or are there still more adjustments to be made?

Signalmen Hardwick, Hutchings and Co. wish to be remembered to L/Corpl Parker.

H. P. A.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

**Somewhere in Wiltshire.**—Imaginary shells are bursting all around us, and imaginary bullets zip past our ears as we flip urgent operation messages through to their destinations with one hand. The rain, however, is very real, and so is the mud.

If we do not fill our usual space, we ask you to judge us gently and turn to "Plain Tales." It all dribbles from the same "Onoto."

**The Mech. Force Again.**—Our experience is that a lot of amendments to existing Regulations will have to be made to suit the Mechanized Force. Take, for instance, the sad case of the C.Q.M.S. of the wheeled Signals who drew up an indent for buckets, water, canvas, and quoted Appx. VII. E.R. Part I. 1923, which he knew by heart. It happened that the officer signing the form was curious to see this authority. In case you haven't got a copy, it says "One per two horses." One wonders what they eventually utilised as wash-basins.

**A Moan.**—A bandy-legged driver with a left-handed voice is very peeved with one of the local laundries. He informs me that he despatched shirts, flannel, G.S. 1, but all he got back was shirts, flannel, U.S. .005.

He wants me to extract some humour from this. I'm very sorry, but I've sent my own shirt to the same place, and it hasn't come back yet. I'll laugh at anybody else's shirt with the best, but let me see mine first.

**What About These?**—The Brand New Sentry and the Brand New Sub came face to face at 11.30 p.m. Listen. It's quite true.

Sentry: "Halt, who goes there?" Sub (after deep thought): "Er—an officer." Sentry: "Oh, all right, sir; carry on."

They went their separate ways, perfectly satisfied. And why shouldn't they?

Which reminds me of the one about Clarence, an ex-bank clerk. Influence got him on guard one night.

Clarence: "Halt, who goes there?" Voice: "Friend." Clarence: "Advance, friend, and sign the counterfoil."

That will be all, I think.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen G. Tavender, A. White, E. Saunders, E. Brice, S. Knight, J. Martin, and S. Robotham, from Catterick. L/Sergt H. Napper from 2nd Divl. Signals.

**Discharges.**—C.Q.M.S. J. Campbell, 13/8/27. (Good luck, Jock; don't forget the old firm.) Sigmn H. Lewis, 7/9/27 (best wishes; keep in touch with the Signals).

**Transfers to Reserve.**—Quite a lot. Our best wishes for the future go with them all.

Corpl W. Hinks, 16/7/27; Signalmen A. Mizen and P. Pipe, 16/8/27; Sigmn S. Berry, 12/9/27; Sigmn G. Hyde, 11/9/27; Sigmn H. Stacey, 14/8/27; Sigmn R. Dennis, 9/9/27; Sigmn E. Beasley, 14/8/27; Sigmn W. Dyer, 20/9/27.

**Congratulations** to Q.M.S. G. Wray on his promotion to that rank, 20/7/27.

**Births.**—More congratulations: To Sergt and Mrs. G. Gregory, a daughter (Joan), 24/7/27. To Corpl and Mrs. H. Brown, a daughter (Vera Gladys), 15/7/27. To Sigmn and Mrs. W. Rankin, a son, 11/8/27.

R. F. B.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Brevity is the soul of wit; therefore we are going to be very witty this month.

"Ruthless time has left no traces
(The effect is rather good)
And tradition only tells us
Where a Signal Section stood."

We offer sincere apologies to P. G. Wodehouse or Driver Franks or whoever wrote something like that, but it rather aptly expresses the condition of the camp at the moment. Last week-end saw or heard the departure of various Sections to provide front pages for the "Daily Sketch," somewhere in Kent. You know the sort: "With our happy boys on manœuvres," possibly underneath a picture of Sigmn C. B. Jankers finishing off the unconsumed portion of his fourteenth pennorth.

The departure of the mechanical personnel was really nifty, but to understand why, you should have seen a Part I. Order announcement made just previously. "Privately-owned motor-cycles may be loaned for the period of manœuvres; a rate of 3½d. per mile will be allowed." You understand me? One venerable Douglas of doubtful exterior and homicidal tendencies has already earned its owner 2d.

After piloting the said M.T. wallahs to "somewhere in Kent," we fear that the worthy i/c must have (in the words of Bosambo of the River) "bin done took religion," for we hear that he has been seen and heard prowling around the camp chanting:—

"And it came to pass that the Cee Owe, having need of his servants, spake to them thusly: 'Go ye forth into the highways and byways and among the marine store dealers, and mechanise my army.' And his servants heard him, and did even as they were commanded. And in the fulness of time, lo! his army was mechanised, and they set out for the land of Kent. And verily was their departure heard, and loud were the praises and other things bestowed upon their goodliness by the unbelievers. And departing, they went. And some fell by the wayside, for they were old in the ways of antiquity. And others fell among garage proprietors, and the garage proprietors grew up and choked them. And if their destination was their choice, yea! verily many were called, but few chosen."

There is very little news to chronicle this month, and after congratulating L/Corpl J. Toye on his appointment, we must needs conclude with a few Agonies.

Cabbo wants to know who has Corpl Peachey's spurs.

Benje wants to know if the bhisti wallah still visits Dingleberry Day, somewhere in India.

## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, September 12th.

At this season of the year the dividing of the clans takes place. At present there are very few of the Field Company left in barracks. The 1st Brigade Signal Section is at Furfeld, the 2nd Brigade at Hahn, and the 19th at Tier Park Camp.

The stay-at-homes have flying visits from Red Indians, who come in with yarns of yacht races in limbers, and mules being fitted with four-wheel brakes because of the mud. Then there is a certain motor-cycle with a portable spring board attached. This is a mobile A set. But I am sorry to say that the mobile part of the concern has toured so regularly between the barracks and the camp that quite a lot of people were under the impression that it was the regular postal service.

Just lately we have been having an epidemic of rumours. If they all come true, we will not have a Rhine Army. Still, some came true, as can be testified by a stream of forlorn figures trooping up for dental treatment. Which reminds me. Several people have been asking questions as regards dental treatment. One is, "Is he kind?" and another, "Does he use vitriol now instead of chloroform?" Still, it's worth it for the smile of contentment that one sees when the poor weary sufferer is marked "dentally fit." Still, faint heart never won fair lady, as one of the lads out here said when he started to work out his time in seconds, but had to give it up as he wasn't quite certain when summer time began in 1930.

Manœuvres will have come and gone by the time these notes appear, so I expect that there will be tales of valour and daring to put in the next issue. News here is rather scarce at present.

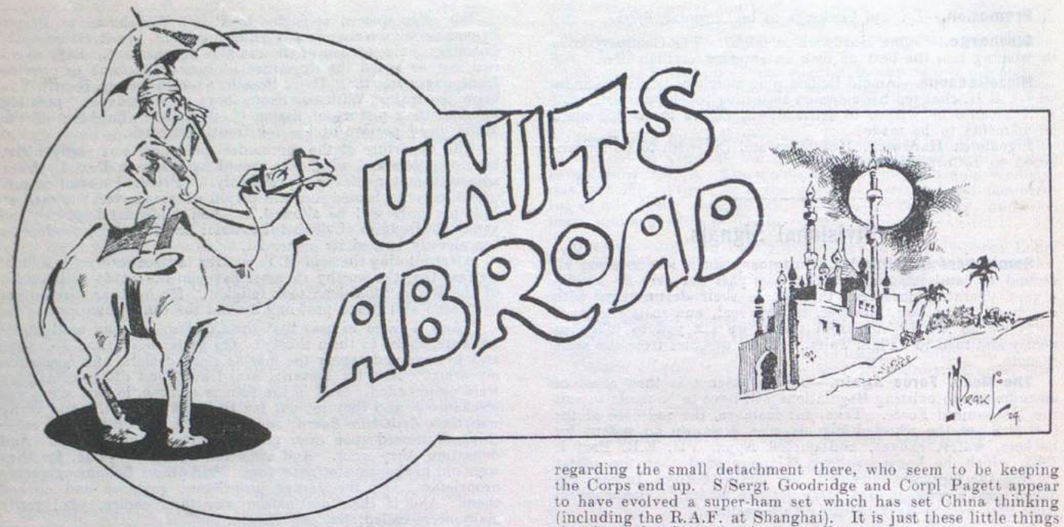
We would like to know the name of the signalman, recently made a dad, who started to push his comrade's bed round the room in the middle of the night?

**Agony.**—From ex-1, 2 and 3 Companies 2nd Divl. Signals. Did No. 1 Company run down with a mechanicalized tent-pegging team?—From Joe McDark.

**Personal.**—Joe and Darkie present their compliments to C.S.M. Gardner, and wish to add that the lager is not so cheap as McEwan's.

Will Sigmn H. Biggs, of the once noted Go(u)ldish squad, kindly oblige by dropping Bossy Boswell a line at this unit.

EXRAYAT.




## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

August 1st.

**Photographs.**—Three photographs are forwarded with these notes: The Temple of Heaven (which may be seen on many Chinese stamps), the Green Jade Lake near Peking, and the Summer Palace outside Peking (which was looted just after the Boxer rising). These photographs were taken by our commanding officer on his North China inspection.

**Moves.**—Capt L. B. Nicholls to Wei-hai-wei (per Cook's) and back. Capt Lockley Turner to Vancouver and home for good.

The Temple of Heaven, Peking.

Lieut T. C. Thompson to hospital and back. Lieut N. H. Edes to Wei-hai-wei to see the wireless sets. Lieut J. E. S. Walford to all Sections whilst the others are away.

**Lotos.**—C.S.M. Stockwell and a party of convalescents left for Wei-hai-wei on August 3rd for a short holiday and change of air. All ranks very much appreciate this arrangement by the authorities.

**Super-Hams.**—Col. J. W. Orange-Bromhead, M.C., paid an informal visit to Peking, and on his return was very eulogistic regarding the small detachment there, who seem to be keeping the Corps end up. S/Sergt Goodridge and Corpl Pagett appear to have evolved a super-ham set which has set China thinking (including the R.A.F. at Shanghai). It is just these little things that keep the Corps in the front line.

WUN LUNG.

## Signal Training Centre, India.

### Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

**The Monthly Verse.**—

"There was a young man of Jubbul
Got mixed in a rugger squabble.
He soon came out
With an eye like a sprout,
Blue-black, with a horrible wobble."

—(With apologies to Sergt Patheyjohns).

**The Old Man in the Corner.**—I was reading in the mess lounge the other evening, and was deeply interested in Harvey's "Meditations among the Tombs." I had just reached a creepy part when I was startled by someone coughing in the corner. Looking up suddenly, I saw my old friend of last month. Although he had promised to come again, I really did not expect him.

"I am very pleased to be back again in Jubbulpore," he told me. "I have travelled all over India since I last saw you here, and there is no place so wonderful as this to me. I suppose it is because it is my birthplace."

"Yes," I remarked: "I suppose there is not a more wonderful place in the world. There is the railway station——"

"Yes," he said, interrupting me; "to me it is a place flowing with milk and honey. Last year we had mangoes large enough for a Cinderella's pumpkin. I had one which lasted me three weeks, but that was before your arrival, I think." I agreed that it was, and said that I had not actually seen a mango larger than a walnut.

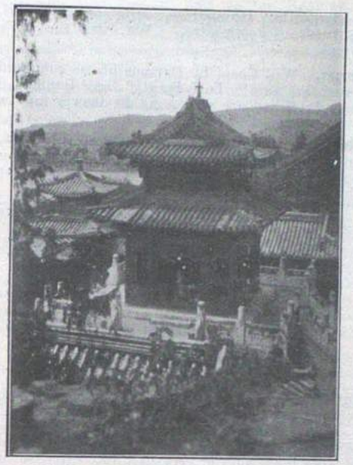
"Ha!" he exclaimed. "I can easily explain that. They grow so quickly, don't you see, that the natives just sit under the trees and wait for them; when they have grown to full size they simply pick them and disappear. These wonderful things are not for European eyes to see, but only to read about."

He then told me how cocoanuts grow, and to what a terrific size—the largest he had seen was two feet in diameter; whilst in some places, bananas mature to four feet in length. To relate all the wonderful things he told me would need many pages of a book, but he kept going for fully an hour without showing any signs of exhaustion.

I ventured to suggest that ants were very interesting to study. "Yes," he replied. "There are many kinds of ants, but time will only allow me to relate one true story about the white ants. Up in Pindi, once, the white ants completely devoured the regimental treasury chest, with all its contents. It was afterwards found that this same band of ants had performed similarly in other places. The white ant is a very intelligent insect, and seems to run in generations. It was traced (after much study, of course) that this family strain is almost in a direct line of descent. The parent ants are perhaps born to eat nothing but boots, and this liking for boots is inherited by all the others which follow in direct descent. They seem to be taught whilst very young that it is only in keeping with their degree of birth to eat boots. Another family is born to eat something else; they are born to eat socks—and others will eat nothing but Army records. The largest white ant I have ever seen was on the Frontier; it was at least five inches long and quite an inch across. Its favourite diet was three-inch iron nails."

Just then the billiard marker informed me that it was my turn next, so I respectfully withdrew as he was promising to come again next month.





The Summer Palace outside Peking.

The Green Jade Lake, near Peking.

That night I dreamt of mangoes, cocoanuts, and white ants, and twice awakened with a start to feel for my boots. When I finally dozed off, I had a very peaceful dream of Harvey meditating among his many tombs.

**The Units of Power: Watts.**—

"There was a young man in D.Khan.
There was a young maiden in Jub
The young man came from D.Khan
To wed his beloved in Jub.
The wedding took place.
And the six-in-hand chase
Turned up like an ace.
As is the wont in Jub—d'ye ken?

The heartiest of congratulations are extended to Sergt Watts on his marriage to Miss (Bibby) Bilby. The wedding took place

Hong Kong Signal Section (E.P.) and attached, Shanghai Defence Force, Royal Signals.

*Back row (left to right)*—Signalmen Smeed, Turner, Hawley, White, Jardine, Hutchcroft, Strevens, Wilkens.
*Centre*—Signalmen Durand, Worrall, Chopping, Holland, McKenzie, Waters, Gough, Pink, Hogg, Pritchard.
*Front*—L/Cpl Harris, L/Sgt Withers, Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Roberts, Capt. C. A. Bridgland, D.F.C., Sgt Seymour, Cpl Bowler, L/Cpl Purcell.

at the Roman Catholic Church, Jubbulpore, on August 3rd. On this occasion the mess was transferred to Jackson's Hotel, where joyous celebrations were held. There is little need to enlarge upon the scene of the wedding feast; suffice it to say that it was superb. Everybody knows what happens to the guests on these occasions, and nothing other than strict compliance with convention was reported.

### Corporals' Mess.

There is very little to report this month. We are looking forward to the rains breaking in order that we may be able to take up tennis again, and have our usual monthly dances and whist drives.

## A Company, Signal Training Battalion.

**General.**—On Tuesday, August 23rd, we were inspected by the Adjutant-General, Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Shea, S.M., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., who expressed his satisfaction on the general turn-out.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to the following on their respective promotions and appointments:—

Corporals Macfarlane, Snow and Taplin to Lance-Sergeant; and L/Corpls Hawkins and Inglis to Corporal in the I.S.C.

Corpls Ring and Gilmour to Lance-Sergeant (Corps appointment).

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Corpl Bramwell and L/Corporal Southwell from the 2nd Indian Divl. Signals, Quetta.

Sergt Mears and L/Cpl Prickett to A Corps Signals, Karachi.

**Extension of Service.**—F/Corporal F. Archer to complete twelve years with the Colours.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Karachi, August 10th.

**General.**—Every reader of THE WIRE looks forward to the caricatures by L. H. Drake, which always cause much merriment, but we are sure that he would have revised his skits on Catterick if he could have seen Karachi during its rainy week. Catterick would appear as a first rate spa instead of a miniature Manchester.

Several of our old timers believe that the rain was sent as an omen of more to come in Blighty, and in consequence one of them is extending his service twelve months.

The deluge left in its track pukka breeding pools for mosquitoes, and the unit had to parade with picks and shovels to fill them up. Some genius suggested digging out the holes! (We have heard of cutting holes out of socks). Some suggested collecting all the animals around and bringing them down to drink. Eventually it resulted in blistered hands and a short course of navvying. It is anticipated that several budding gangsters and traffic directors will be recommended for work under the L.C.C. Can Catterick produce such a speedy vocational course as this?

We are expecting our China draft back soon, and we are looking forward to giving them a big welcome. We wish to inform them that we have no intention at present of electing any of them on the messing committee. Just imagine a menu of curried mice, boiled pigeon's legs, or baked guinea-pig's tails! 'Nuff sed. In spite of this it is probable that Tich will volunteer for a cookery course.

Since our last notes, great strides have been made with television in the unit. Blue lights can be ordered and checked by this means, and it appears already to have saved several lives on a Thursday morning. It is even rumoured that mushrooms have been arrested on the Sind Desert by this means.

As regards sports, we have so far only played two matches at hockey: a win of 4—0 and a lose of 2—3.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to the following on their recent promotion: Corpls Barnes, Jones and Murphy to Lance-Sergeant. L/Corporals Jervis, Woolley, Clutterbuck, Thomson, Howell and Hazell, to Corporal.

**Arrivals.**—C.S.M. Hamilton and Sergt M. M. Wakeley (on paper), Corpl Smithers and wife, L/Sergt. McKee, Signalmen Hipwood, Wilson and Simpson. We extend a hearty welcome to them. May their stay be long and happy.

**Departures.**—Our "goings" are too numerous to mention here, but we wish them the best of luck and hope that they will soon adapt themselves to their new surroundings.

**Birth.**—To Mrs. Humphries, wife of Sergt Humphries, A.E.C., a future schoolmaster. We wish the proud parents every happiness.

**The Corps.**—Will Corpl L. Parsons please communicate with Corpl Cole of this unit? To L/Sergt "Jim" Banham, last heard of in Sarafand: When are you going to answer my two letters? —Hobby.

**Lost Relations.**—Late Corpl Bunney of this unit, believed to be strap hanging on a bus at Brighton, after years of practice on the mosquito net wires in this camp. If he communicates, he may hear something interesting.

**M.I.M.**—Sentry (midnight): "Halt! who goes there?"
Orderly Officer: "Visiting Rounds."
Sentry: "Who? Mr. Brown. I don't know yer."
Orderly Officer (louder): "No; Visiting Rounds."
Sentry (casual): "Oh! Guard, turn out."

AKORPZ.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

August 24th.

**General.**—Since our last appearance in print, things have been moving "some." We have lost a goodly number of our personnel through the heads ordaining that they would look more graceful in Karachi, Rawalpindi, and Jubbulpore. Of course we wish them all the very best in their new spheres, and hope their stay with their respective units will be pleasant.

**Company Celebrities—No. 2**

Everything here is getting shrivelled up again according to the old and fast rule, but if the Indus, which is now in flood, persists in trying its level best to wet us, well—er—the green will be very much in evidence again.

News is rather hard to glean in this part of the district, as the scribe has been resting from his labours in a place called Topa. I think that something has turned him Prohibitionist, because he was heard to remark "It's too wet up there." He did see some lovely sights on his return, too. Everyone seemed to have been busy acquiring the habit of "carcass draping," if the sights he saw were anything to judge by.

Rumour has it that our musicians are to band themselves together in the near future. I suppose this means less sleep for others if they adopt last season's method of torture. By the way, we would be very grateful if someone would relieve us of a gramophone record which wheezes out "And when I die, don't bury me at all."



L/Corpl Wade, V.A.T., has left us for Razmak, and has been relieved of his duties as secretary by L/Corpl Fields. Can anyone enlighten us as to the whereabouts of his dugout, and is there any connection between him and a person who bears the title of "elusive pimpernel."

Our notorious gunman Archie has arrived from his spell of U.K. leave, and I am informed that he has been seen with a cake of soap entirely his own. Wonders never cease, do they?

## Razmak Brigade Signals.

August 5th.

**General.**—Once more we make a re-appearance in THE WIRE. I'm afraid there is little or no excuse for our long silence. Everybody in D.I.Khan seems to be muttering "Where's Razmak," or words to that effect, and having a moan in general. Our official local secretary is at present on leave in Upper Topa, and we hope that he is enjoying himself. I might say, from the climatic point of view, that there is no necessity whatsoever to go to a cool region on leave, from a place like Razmak. The main reason why our "hearties" take leave is for a rest, which is needed badly by everybody once a year.

The salubrious environment of Razmak is a sight for "ye gods." Some of the local lads in D.I.Khan, who are very fond of singing that famous ditty "I'll climb the highest mountain" (by Jack Smith, the whispering baritone), should take a look at Pir Gul and a few of the surrounding mountains in this locality. I'm afraid that after a careful perusal, they'd cut the song and all thoughts of it clean from their minds. Of course, this only applies to our new friends who have never seen a khud before (open the windows, bearer!) The lads who have been stationed up here before could certainly sing the song for ever, especially when out on columns, when they have to climb "the highest mountain," whether they like it or not. Well, to get back to the concrete, climatic conditions here are wonderful. At the time of penning these notes, the temperature is somewhere in the proximity of 85 degrees, so one can envy the coolness of Razmak.

It rains every day—at least, it has done for the last month —at mid-day and continues up to 4 p.m. Sometimes it drizzles at night. One needs a couple of blankets on one's bed at night here, and it's the height of summer! In winter, one might as well be at the North Pole. I've never been there, but they say it's cold. Perhaps someone can inform me?

Training is in full swing, and the locals are knuckling right down to it; and judging by the results of the recent examination (or rather, paper test) they are progressing wonderfully, thanks to the instructors.

The lads are out on schemes, flag bashing, buzzer reading and sending. They also have theoretical paper tests twice a week and lamps at night; so one can understand that there's no slacking around this quarter.

Everybody is hale and hearty—brown as a berry, so to speak, and generally hardened to the cool weather. So much for that. The Sections here have not long returned from the Ladha Column, on which they put up a good show. They had plenty of road work and mountain climbing, but they look none the worse for it.

**Tours.**—On June 22nd we were honoured by the presence of Major Le Cornu (C.S.O. Northern Command) and Major J. A. F. Mair, M.C. (our commanding officer) on a tour of inspection. After the inspection, the C.S.O. enquired into the welfare of the men here, and departed on the 24th. Our commanding officer again visited us on July 7th, staying with us for four days only, and departed (to Dreary Dismal Khan) on Monday, the 11th.

**Leave.**—A/C.S.M. R. Strode, Sergt Willis, Signalmen Ing, Stanbury, Unwin, and E. F. Lewis to Upper Topa. We trust that they enjoy their rest.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt F. Perritt from Quetta. L/Corpl Vickers, Signalmen Puchini, Harris, Burfield, Winton, Casbard, and Legg from D.I.Khan. Sigmn H. E. Dales from Manzai.

**Departures.**—L/Corpl Vickers to D.I.Khan. Sigmn Amos to Manzai. Signalmen Carrott and Stonham to Bannu.

**Appointments and Promotions.**—"Gratters" to Sergt E. Willis on his appointment to that rank, and to L/Corpl C. W. Clark on being appointed (paid).

F. R. C.

## Bannu Detachment.

July 28th.

**General.**—Several days ago we were treated to a violent storm, the after-effects of which are most enjoyable. The weather has cooled down very considerably, and it is now possible to walk around Bannu during the day in comfort.

The said storm also resulted in a general breakdown of the civil communications between Bannu and Razmak. The military stepped into the breach, and urgent traffic was passed by wireless. The wirelessops were quite prepared to keep continuous watch; in fact, two of them went so far as to move their beds to the office; but civil communication was again established with Razmak by line at about eight pip emma, and everything in the garden was lovely once again.

The Bannu Column moved out the other evening, taking with it one W/T station and one mounted orderly. They left us at 18.15 hrs. and proceeded six or seven miles along the Kohat road. On arrival in camp the W/T erected, but only got through to us once. The mounted orderly, on conducting the animals to water, discovered that the river was much farther away than he had imagined, and he informs me that he does not intend to conduct animals to water on the next column. On the march back next morning, the taking up of A.A. positions was the order of the day. On their arrival in the lines we heard all about it. Needless to say, the stay-at-homes retaliated with "And how are your poor old feet?"

All wish to thank the Editor for his cordial greetings on the re-appearance of this unit in the July WIRE.

We observed the arrival of Corpl Crowhurst noted in E Troop, Cavalry Divl. Signals notes. How are the ghorian, Aggie?

Joint Box.—Your remark in the July issue re "loop sets" calls to mind many delightful schemes around Crowborough 'way back in '20. We repeat "How near and yet so far!"

Having mislaid the parade state, I cannot call to mind the arrivals and departures; but all the same, we welcome the one and our best wishes go with the other.

N.

## Manzai Brigade Signal Section.

**General.**—Nothing very exciting has happened since our last contribution: in fact, even a sandstorm creates a diversion these days.

**Arrivals.**—Corpl Murray and Sigmn Wilson (the notorious Charleston baby) from D.I.Khan. Sigmn Amos (Mossy) from Razmak, in exchange for Sigmn W. Dale. Glad mitt extended!

The following is a report of a cricket match between this Section and the 3/17th Dogra Regiment. As every available British rank was playing, our Indian cook Mandhu kindly volunteered to take down a few notes on the game. Here is his version:—

"Tomkins Sahib opens the toss with the winds in his favours, and the ball was not hit much in the first overs, but I am sorry to repeats that the wickets of Sergt Thorne sahib was spreadeagles. After this performances Darkie sahib treating the ball with contemps and scores the many boundaries, Porky sahib runs at the same times but was off forms as the Corpl Mickloklan sahib takes his bats away from him.

"I misses the next 2 mens as I had a Lemons in the Pavilions, but I have the satisfactions of see Ginger Sahib have the ball preventing from the wiket, whoever he was played on. I miss another men as the sun is shining very warmly, but the Singalmans was all get out for Forty two runs. They give hearty clap to Tomkins sahib because he carry his bat.

"I believe a bearer shoud have carry it has he had carry it quite the long time. When the ends was changed, Thorny sahib bowls with some tricky work, but the Dogra he play very cunning, and make some good score till one men get boled and the umpires nodded his heads, and Dales sahib takes the next overs who want watching.

"The sun was more warmer and I had a more lemons. I then missed the next wicketts taken so I dequested the Dogra man to move away from me as I not see thro' the "Brik Walls." He says he misses the catch after, because he moves so I went and had a drink of lemons. When I come back, the spectators (Sergt Whittingham sahib) clap his hands, so I conclude that the game is over. However the Dogra win the matches, by 30 and I hope they will admit they observe to win, but the Singalmans had the hard luck, and I subclude with the faithfull hope that better luck next times."

The photograph shown is of the reporter mentioned overleaf.

**Agony.**—Sigmn T. W. Cleale wants news of Signalmen C. R. Jones and Allston, last heard of in the 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershat.

MERGLE.

## Kohat District Signals.

August 22nd.

Consequent upon the re-organisation of certain Signal units, considerable movement of personnel has taken place in the last few weeks.

The following have been posted to the unit:—C.Q.M.S. A. Barnett (on leave, Australia). Signalmen J. Michie, E. Ashdown, A. Clements, T. Pearson, C. James, J. Norris, R. Ashworth, A. Homer, A. Sheppard, E. Woodstock, C. Randolph, J. Cummings, Morrison (on leave, U.K.), and A. Salter.

The following have left us for Rawalpindi:—Corpl D. Godfrey, L/Corpl J. Carnegie, Signalmen J. Laidler, C. Robinson, H. Brand, W. Greig, H. Hebbes, A. O'Brien, C. Stirling, H. Bruce, T. Gordon, S. Huss, J. Pickett, T. Somers, W. Harvey, and T. Chesters.

Corpl A. Clarke to Meerut.

**Other Movements.**—To Jubbulpore: E.W. Course, Sigmn C. Garner. S Course, L/Sergt K. Freeman and Corpl E. Allen. To Calcutta, for embarkation on s.s. "Janus" (to New Zealand, on transfer to the Army Reserve), Sigmn G. A. Jones. To Kasauli, for malaria treatment, Signalmen J. Cousins and H. Lovatt.

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From Jubbulpore, F.S. Course, Sigmn F. G. Lloyd.

There is little or no news to record. Training goes on quietly at Parachinar. With the above moves going on, Kohat has seemed active, and the remainder of the unit have been departing mainly on leave, and returning mainly broke!

An unfortunate accident befell one of our lorries in July. Returning from Parachinar, it went over the side of the road and came to grief owing to the hood, in a violent gale, collapsing over the driver's face. Our Quartermaster (Capt H. D. Orr) got some nasty bruises, and was in hospital for some days. Cpl F. Berry and Sigmn W. Greig were also slightly injured, but the remainder of the party escaped unhurt.

Barleux's "Plain Tales" of August are just to hand. He asks (talking of millions) "What would *you* do?" Barleux, were I the fortunate owner of the mythical millions or billions, I'd buy a tin hat, aye a real posh one, and present it to——well, Barleux, don't you think *you* deserve it?

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, August 11th.

**General.**—Apologies for our absence from these columns last month, but our scribe was virtually "hitting the high spots in the bumps."

During the month we bade au revoir to our C.O. (Captain Neale), who left us for U.K. on three months' leave. Our best wishes go with him. Mr. Bushby took over the command of the unit.

The much-discussed gee-gees have arrived, and the boys of the "Lightning B" have unearthed their horse-breaking attire for the opening rodeo (let her rip, cowboy). The roughs at Topa are requested to hasten Plainwards for the opening morning.

With the advent of the monsoons comes one "Test Tube Timothy"—he who casteth not a shadow. Daily armed with creosol, glass tube, net and trident, he mercilessly pursues Maurice, the troop mosquito. Never fear, Maurice; he departs shortly for cooler climes for S course breezes.

"Efty," the troop dandelion, is also moving, Saugor being his goal, as there ain't enough chips to be picked up 'ere.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to Corpls Manning and Hall on attaining that rank, and to Corpl Nimmo on being appointed L/Corporal on the Corps roster.

**Departures.**—Signalmen Pezare (the botanist) and Pipe left us for the 2nd Indian Divl. Signals, Quetta, and our best wishes go with them.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Nothing startling has occurred during the month, with the exception of the commemoration of August 4th. Many were the battles which were re-fought during the dark hours. Did you hear from China on the "tireless set" during the evening, Shoey?

**Corporals' Mess.**—Great activity prevails in this den of iniquity, as we are now seven members strong.

Congratulations to L/Corpl B. O. Mayson on obtaining a "distinguished" at Belgaum, and apologies to the Editor for the following poetical effort:—

"Nine 'oles a day is on its way;
From table to table it moves each day.
It was seen at Lahore,
It was picked from the floor,
But at last (do not gasp)
'Twas heaved through the door "(the application).

We sincerely hope the A.E.C. are notified in time to arrange for his reception. He is assured of a good send-off, as there are "forty in the band" straining at the leash.

**Men's Mess.**—Scope from this "house of sustenance" has dwindled to minute proportions, as the chief occupation now seems to be exercise of the jaws. The new chuck-wagon boss, who is a steer roper of no mean order as well as hash-slinger, appears (according to reports) to be attempting to prove that steak, battered, crumbed, or plain fried, far supersedes America's famous gum for its lasting propensity.

**Heard Recently.**—D.R. to F/Sergeant: "Will you cut a bit off my horse's leg, please, as his frog is ragged." F/Sergeant to D.R.: "Yes, my lad; bring it——" (owing to publication restrictions, the remainder of the answer cannot be printed).

MAX.



## Iraq Signal Section.

Hinaidi, Sept. 1st.

**General.**—The linemen are at present up to their eyes in it, burying 8-pair lead cable at the Southgate Wireless Station. Regulating is in progress as well, as is always the case at this time of the year, owing to the peculiar climatic conditions of this country. For example, during the day the temperature in the shade is about 115 degrees, and at night as low as 70 degrees. This appreciable difference has a tendency to "come the skipping rope" touch on the open wires.

The opening of the grouse season was inaugurated by the officers and n.c.o.s of the unit, who went as far as Pig Island in the Tigris, about fifteen miles from Baghdad. A good bag to the extent of 560 grouse was accumulated. Those who did not take part in the shoot did their best the following day with knife, fork and grappling irons. They say that a soldier's only privilege is "grousing."

The Signals in Iraq are few—very few—but we have managed this year to hold a bit more than our own in the willow-wielding sphere of sport, in competing against units of more than twice our strength for the Hinaidi cricket cup. We have gone through to the final with three very decisive victories to our credit. Our opponents in the final are Air Headquarters R.A.F., Iraq, and we are looking forward optimistically to the match and victory. The results of these matches will be published in next month's notes.

IRAKSIGS.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters B.T.E., Cairo, Sept. 10th.

**Retirement.**—It is with regret that we announce the retirement of Col. H. L. Mackworth, C.M.G., D.S.O., who up to the 22nd August was Chief Signal Officer, Egypt Command. Those WIRE readers who were serving in Maresfield during 1920-1924 will well remember this officer commanding the Training Battalion.

Colonel Mackworth did much to promote sport in the Corps, as well as to ensure efficient training in the various Trade Companies, and on more than one occasion he showed his delight when such teams as the Royal Navy came to visit us at the S.T.C. Perhaps some will remember his words at the conclusion of a boxing display with the R.N.: "The Navy have a splendid team and they have beaten us, but I am sure that if they were to bring a dozen teams, we could provide that number also."

Colonel Mackworth relinquished command of the Training Battalion in 1924, and on arrival in Egypt assumed the duties of Chief Signal Officer. It was in this year that he was promoted to the rank of colonel; but although removed from the corps, he still retained his keen interest in us, and has repeatedly shown to outside units that he was proud of the Signals. He has also done much to bring the standard of technical efficiency to a high position, not only in Egypt Signals, but the Command in general.

In conclusion, the Corps in Egypt extend their heartiest good wishes to Colonel and Mrs. Mackworth for their future happiness.

**Troopin'.**—By the time these notes appear we shall have welcomed fifteen o.r.s from Blighty. We extend a hearty welcome to these new Polygonites, and trust that their tour under the tropical sun will be a pleasant one. I'm sure we who are already out here consider it a delightful resort, don't we?

**Musketry.**—The two units commence the annual cork-bobbing carnival at an early date on the Polygon ranges, and according to the remarks of the instructors, every man is going to finish up with a 1st behind his name. One thing you *really must* remember in musketry: get a good grip with the left hand, so that it is possible to take a time-exposure photograph on a foggy day.

**Promotion.**—Hearty congratulations to Capt V. C. Holland, R.Signals (No. 3 Company) on his promotion to that rank. He is at present on leave in U.K.

**Things we want to know.**—Why doesn't she come?

**You forgot to remember.**—Corpl R. G. Barnes (C.S.O.'s Directorate) would like to receive news from L/Corpl L. F. C. Wootten, last heard of in Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

BEN.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Sept. 7th.

Apologies are due for the absence of notes last month, and also for the brevity of these.

**Jump to it!**

On parade! The usual hurry and scuttle. A hurried glance to see that everything is absolutely right. However, there is no need to trouble about badges and buttons, etc., if these have been cleaned with Bluebell because

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The Company is now in the throes of annual musketry practice. In the next issue I hope to announce that the number of 1st class shots has exceeded our high standard of last year.

**Deaths.**—Our sincerest sympathies go out to Sergt and Mrs. Brett on the death of their daughters—Barbara on August 12th, and Sheila Margaret on September 3rd.

**Promotion.**—A/Corpl George to be Corporal w.e.f. 3/2/27. Our congratulations are tendered to him.

**Birth.**—To L/Sergt Jennison, a son (Ronald Bernard) at Hounslow, on June 10th.

**Heard in a Musketry Class.**—Instructor: "What is the difference between a fresh wind and a strong one?" Signalman: "One's fresh and the other's strong." Instructor: "Yes, I know that; but what is the difference?" Signalman: "Six inches."

W. E. C.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Sept. 5th.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Doubtless by the time these lines are in print, the new draft will have arrived for a sojourn in this "land of eternal sunshine and cloudless skies," whilst the old hands will be on their way back to the "land of eternal rain." A rumour reached us recently that the sun shone actually for a whole hour one day last month at Catterick. No doubt the "unusual occurrence" was entered in diaries of notable events in 1927.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to the following on their respective appointments and promotions:—Sergt A. Dorrington to be A/C.Q.M.S. w.e.f. 14/8/27. Sigmn C. Phillips to be L/Corpl (paid) w.e.f. 18/5/27. Signalmen H. H. Wright, J. Stone, and A. More to be A/U/L/Corporals.

**Kit Inspection.**—We successfully negotiated a kit inspection on August 13th. Sighs of relief were heard when all was finished—none louder than those emanating from a certain Section's hut, wherein some misguided heroes braved the discomforts of a cold hard floor throughout the previous night, in order that their beloved kits might endure a peaceful night's rest on a cosy bed.

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**Marriages.**—Congratulations to L/Corporal E. M. O. Tudor, who took the plunge at Lewes, Sussex, whilst on leave. According to the local gazette, the happy couple are "wintering in Cairo." It's certainly a nice way of putting it!

More congratulations! This time to Sigmn E. R. Cook, who also had a plunge at the British Consulate, Cairo, on August 27th, being well and truly tied up. This happy couple are visiting King Tut, or what's left of him, at Luxor, on their honeymoon.

**Tabloid Sports.**—Another of the popular tabloid sports was held on August 20th. H Section narrowly won from the Signal Troop and H.Q. team. Details as to how these events are run are given under the heading of "Tabloids" in another column. From these meetings it is hoped to find some hidden talent, as we shall need more good men in readiness to meet such good sporting units as the Lancashire Fusiliers from Shorncliffe (the holders of the Army team athletic trophy in England) and the Green Howards (holders in 1922), who are coming to this Command shortly.

**Musketry.**—Pokey drill has now commenced, for the annual musketry course is due to be fired early in October. Strenuous efforts to get "the tip of the foresight in line and in the centre of," etc., are being made daily from 6 to 7 a.m.

**Leave.**—Corpl Pickering, Sigmn Bodimeade and Dvr Mayhew have returned from three months' leave in the U.K. We must say that our Jarge did look smart in his civvies; in fact, the sentry nearly presented arms when he came by the guard room!

The remainder of our "Cook's tourists" are due to return within the next few days—just in time for some nice pokey drill, too!

**Correction.**—In the last two or three issues, mention has been made of the future prospects of Sigmn Donnellan, now Farrier-Corporal. His fickle-mindedness is well known. After applying for the Australian emigration scheme, he contemplated going to Canada, the U.S.A., or "Ould Oireland," and ultimately decided to sign on. Even now, he has not decided, for he came along at the last minute and cancelled his signing-on! His latest destination is U.S.A. (official). However, as he has been seen looking up handbooks on "Prospects in Australia" again, and enquiring how much one can draw when on the dole in Blighty, it is quite on the cards that his ultimate destination will be forthcoming by next month. Whoever wrote about the fickleness of women didn't know "our Don."

**A Nocturnal Adventure.**—It was a warm starlit night, somewhere in Egypt. The only sound to be heard was that of the sentry pacing his lonely beat round the camp boundary. The hour of midnight had just struck.

The sentry paused and listened, for a sound had disturbed the stillness of the night. Keeping close to the wall of a hut, he espied a figure, with a bundle under one arm, emerging stealthily from the vicinity of Hut No. 8. With thoughts of reward and promotion in his head if he could capture this "loose wallah" single-handed, the sentry followed silently behind the stealthy one.

His quarry reached a wash-house, where he stopped, silently opened the door and entered, closing the door after him. Creeping up to the door, the sentry listened with bated breath. Hearing no movement within, he took a deep breath, threw open the door, switched on the lights, and covered the stealthy one with his gun, at the same time rapping out the usual challenge as laid down in Field Service Regs., Part "A," page iddy umpty, para seven, column eight, line nine (b) (iii).

The stealthy one, caught in the act, dropped his bundle, and with a heartrending cry of despair, collapsed on the floor, sobbing as though his heart would break. Caught in the very act! Why had he done such a thing? What should he do now? He could never face the shame, disgrace, and scorn of his comrades when they learnt of his deed that night, and of many nights before. He turned up his face with pleading eyes, filled with tears, to the sentry. The latter's heart was deeply touched at his captive's remorse.

"Swear to me that you will never do such a thing again!" he cried. "I swear it," sobbed the captive, grovelling at his captor's feet, an object that would have softened the heart of any man. "Then go!" thundered the sentry, "and never let me hear of your doing such a thing again!"

Sobbing with relief, the wicked one scrambled to his feet and scuttled away to Hut No. 8, thankful that he had got away so easily. From now onwards he would be a good soldier and keep to the straight path. Never again would he do such a thing as he intended doing that night and, to his shame, had done many nights before. Such were the thoughts that filled his mind as he dropped off to sleep.

Meanwhile, the sentry had picked up the dropped articles, which proved to be a pair of drill breeches with the initials "A.J." thereon (and a name similar to that of a famous coloured American boxer), a scrubbing brush, and a *tin of shaving soap!* Leaving the articles outside the door for Machmoud, the sanitary wallah, he resumed his beat, and though regretful that he had not captured a "loose wallah," was thankful that he had shown a sinful soldier the error of his ways.

The rumour that the Signal Troop are offering a reward for information as to who was the D.R. who had been scrubbing his breeches with shaving soap is not true.

**Sales and Exchange.**—Blue Eyes: "Thell me your thuit, and I gif you plenty good monish, Ikey." Jarge: "I vill gif you ten akkath for der lot, including the thockth. Yeth? Abe."

ART.

### Tabloids.

We've had various games of various sorts,
But our latest diversion's the Tabloid Sports.
To give you an idea how "Tabloids" are run,
Just follow these lines and you'll see how it's done.

Ye famous Corps athletes, you'll jump from your den
When I tell you our teams are composed of but ten!
Between each event there's no time to rest;
You see, we've no choice, but just do our best.

In all the events, every man must compete:
At the end of "Tabloids" we're run off our feet!
Just to let you know how we start on the fun,
I'll go through the events one by one.

Now a team starts the walk—two laps do they go,
And change to the high jump when the whistle doth blow.
Then the next team comes to the high jump spot,
Whilst the first team changes to putting the shot.



So as one team changes, another comes up.
All eager for points for the Pritchard cup.
When you've put the shot, and it's dropped with a bump,
The team moves along to the running long jump.

When the long jump's cleared, and you feel sort o' done,
You then pull the weight up—one by one!
When the weight's been pulled, I'm willing to bet
It's a good team that can score ten balls in the net!

In the next event you'll find it quite hard
To throw the cricket ball seventy-five yards.
Then the whistle blows again, and you hear the cracks say:
"We'll now go for records in the hundred relay!"

Then last, but not least, just to finish the day,
We fly round the track in the Section relay;
And *this* is where the duels are fought,
Making a splendid end to a good day's sport.

Now a man claims points for events that he's passed,
And the team with most (of course) wins at the last.
For instance: the high jump you clear with your team—
That's ten points to you. Do you see what I mean?

The "Tabloids" are strenuous, and I must admit
That every man does fully his bit;
For the athletic standard, so high out here,
Mean's the Corps' going to win that "all round" next year!

Now before I end, and my labours are done.
I'd like you to remember that, though it seems fun,
There's method in madness *and* "Tabloid" Sports—
Just try the full course when you feel out of sorts!

So just watch THE WIRE, lads, and let your eyes feast
On the records of Signals out in the East.
Now, Catterick, please watch; some day—who knows?—
*You'll*, maybe, replace the sportsman that goes.

Signals at home, and Signals out East,
We've a record out here that isn't the least
Of many sports records that "Jimmy" has won,
To just give an instance: the "Tabloids" is one!

FAM AND ART.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, August 8th.

**General.**—The outstanding feature this month is the rain. We have been favoured with 72.38 inches to date as against an average of 52.53. Further comment is unnecessary.

We had our first taste of typhoon weather this season at 2.30 a.m. on July 25th. Luckily Gap Rock was the centre of attraction, although fine sights were presented during the rush to "bolt and bar."

The trooping season rolls along once more, and the old draft have never been more eager to handle the stable shovel.

The mails are a source of anticipation these days, and one wonders who the "fortunate" reliefs will be.

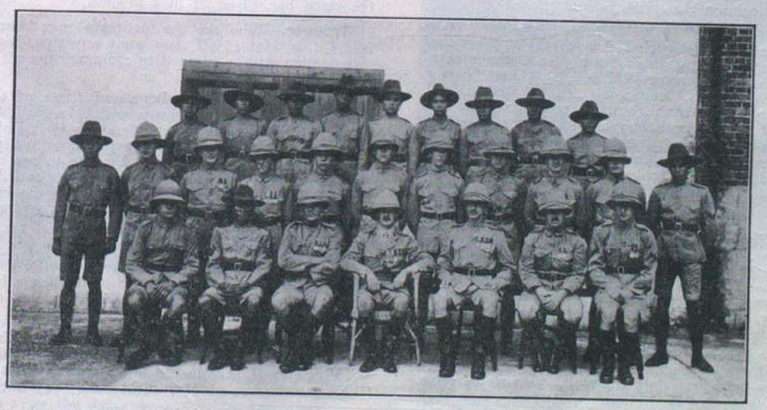
**Congratulations.**—To L/Sergt Withers and Sigmn Chopping on obtaining their 2nd class certificate of education, and to the following on their higher trade rates: L/Corpl Purcell (C1), L/Corpl Harris (B2), Sigmn Holland (A1), Sigmn Gough (B2), Sigmn Hawley (B2), and Sigmn Pink (Group E).

**Signals Association.**—The Hong Kong Branch can once again boast a 100 per cent membership, and we trust our neighbours (the 13th Infantry Brigade Signals) will soon report likewise. Long before these notes appear we hope to hold another outing. But more anon.

**Notice.**—Owing to the new appointment of the senior partner, the firm of Withers and Worrall has been disbanded.

A photograph accompanies these notes, which we hope will be of interest to all.

JOINT BOX.



Hong Kong Signal Section, 1927.

*Back row (left to right)*—Signalmen Jang Kung Tai, Cho Woo, Lau Cheong Fat, Tang Fook, Tang Fat, Cheong Fut, Kong Sing, Lo Fook, Kong Fat

*Centre*—Naik Lau Tsau, Signalmen Durand, Worrall, Turner, Hawley, Pink, Chopping, Holland, White, Gough, L/Naik Lau Hing

*Front*—L/Corpl Harris, Havildar Ah Man, Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Roberts, Captain C. A. Bridgland, D.F.C., Sergt Seymour, Corpl Bowler, L/Corpl Purcell

## North China Signal Section.

### Peking Detachment.

British Legation Guard, August 14th.

The situation in North China having become less tense, things generally are more or less reverting to normal, and the "wind up" of two months ago has become a gentle breeze. For the time being, anyway, the menace to Peking and Tientsin has been checked, and civilians are unpacking the goods and chattels which had been prepared for evacuation.

The attitude of two Chinese war lords, Feng Yu-Hsiang and Yen Shi-Shan, is, however, still obscure. Should the latter definitely throw in his lot with the Nationalist forces, North China will most probably see stirring times.

Our Hong Kong friends struck the right note when they said that people in England knew more about the Chinese situation than those on the spot. Reports in the local press are hopelessly contradictory, most of them being received via London and Tokyo, and then severely censored before publication. Needless to say, their accuracy is somewhat doubtful.

At the end of June we were visited by Colonel Bromhead (C.S.O. Shanghai), who expressed himself as being very pleased

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with the work done during the critical period which has passed. We think he was somewhat surprised to see the volume of traffic which had been dealt with, and to find that the average length of messages was about 150 groups of ten-letter code.

We have also received visits from the Fleet wireless officer and warrant telegraphist, China Station. Tell it not in Gath; but we were very much on the *qui vive* and picked up many useful tips from these short-wave experts.

Taking advantage of a quiet period, four of the staff sat for, and were successful in passing, tests for higher trade ratings. Corpl Pagett qualified as operator W/T (cl. I.), Sigmn Taylor as electrician W/T (class I.), and Signalmen Watterton and Barham as operators, line (class I. and II. respectively). Our worthy Foreman of Signals must have spent some sleepless nights in getting out the papers, which were of necessity pretty searching, to compensate for the fact that all practical tests could not be carried out owing to lack of the sets and instruments concerned.

PEICHING.

## Tientsin Detachment.

British Military Headquarters, Aug. 30.

**Opening Chorus.**—This, we believe, is the first time for many moons that notes from this detachment have appeared in THE WIRE; and normally, with such an able correspondent at Peking, remarks from us might be regarded as superfluous.

Possibly we have been stung into activity by the appearance in the July issue of the Southern Command Signal Company, whose sporting notes have been duly digested. (Do we perceive a dual or triple alliance in "K.G. Coir"?) Anyway, now that we have started, let us say a few nice things about the Corps in China.

**W.T.**—Primarily we have to offer our thanks to Signals, South China, for building us our short wave set. It arrived in Tientsin several months ago, but difficulties were experienced owing to lack of suitable accommodation. Thanks to our friends of the R.E.s, these have now been overcome, and we are in regular communication with Shanghai. What time and effort was expended at Hong Kong in experimental work on short-wave W/T we can only conjecture, but the result has been an enormous increase in the prestige of the Corps.

Secondly, our congratulations are due to our Peking Detachment on the excellent work which they have done since the installation of their short-wave set last January. Signals, South China, provided the opportunity by building the set, and Peking has made the most of it.

In this ancient capital of China, the remotest of all the Corps' far-flung stations, one lance-corporal, one electrician, and three operators have been making Signals history. The urgency and volume of the traffic, dealt with under great difficulties, can only be appreciated by those "in the know." Were the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be informed that over £2500—which otherwise would have been spent with Chinese cable companies—have been saved for the public purse, he might consider the striking of a special medal for Signals, Peking.

Anyway, we feel sure that the personal letter of commendation which L/Corpl Pagett received from H.M. Minister will not be the least prized of his Service honours. Well done, Bill!

**Personnel.**—We welcome Signalmen Childs and Salmon from Signals, Shanghai. How long they will remain with us we cannot say, but we trust their stay will be a pleasant one. They have arrived in good time to be measured for their skates and fur caps!

HSING-HAI.

## Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta,
September 8th.

**General.**—By the time these notes are published, we shall have welcomed back our F.-of-S. (C.Q.M.S. Mutter) and his family. We hope their sojourn in England was an enjoyable one, and that they will not find Malta unbearable after the green fields and grey skies of dear old Blighty.

Our O.C. (Capt G. R. Halliday) has left us for a five weeks' cruise with the Mediterranean Fleet. We wish him bon voyage.

Congratulations to our late O.C. (Capt O. S. D. Wills) on being gazetted Major.

**That Stork.**—Congratulations to Sigmn and Mrs. Chapman on the arrival of a daughter (Maria Regina Elizabeth Lily) on August 8th. Did they have an extra stork to bring along the name, Chappy?

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Sergt Bent on attaining that rank w.e.f. 21/7/27, and also to Corpl Osborn on obtaining the third bar. Best of luck to both.

**Trooper.**—Who are the fortunate ones bound for our little island this winter? If they want any tips, Sigmn Burrows of this Section will be pleased to communicate with them. (Don't forget your soccer boots!)

We are to lose Sergt Bent and three of the barrack-room "bad lads"; and if ever men will be missed, these will. Two of them are jazz instrument fiends, and one of them possesses an article of torture which he plays with a pick. Unfortunately this pick is a felt one. I'd like to use one of the usual sort on it. Yes, we shall miss the ukelele and flute, thank goodness, but we are not patting ourselves on the back yet. One of the new draft might bring along a set of bagpipes. Who knows?

**Knowledge is Power.**—Several of our happy band of pilgrims are under the care of Corpl Pearce, R.E., for educational training. Nobody has yet been seen with a wet towel round his head, but the R.E. C.Q.M.S. is feeling a bit worried about one of the chaps who already takes 7½ in cap, and has still four weeks schooling to do.

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn F. C. Hills, now in India, please drop a few lines to Nutty of this Section (late of 4th Divl. Signals)?

Will Dvr H. Austin please communicate with Sigmn Johnson (late groundsman of Maresfield fame 'way back in '23)?

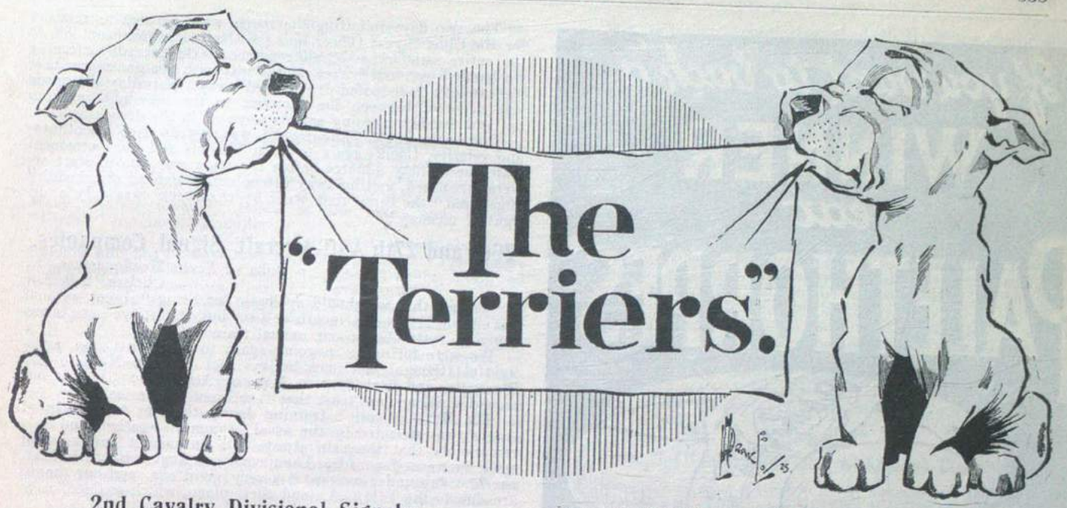
**This Month's Celebrities.**—The man who went searching for a bell circuit, and "shorted" a power circuit with his jack knife (a quick way of finding it, Nobby).

The "second" aspirant, who said a man was found drowned.

The n.c.o. who said it was "theoretically" correct (and quite "wight" too).

NUTTY.






## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

**Windmill Hill, 1927; or the Camp that went by Clockwork.**

**Part II.—Sports.**

In last month's notes we dealt entirely with the camp, the work and the training, and we are now going to discuss our sports and our pleasures in this set.

Of course, horseflesh—on the hoof, not as a diet—plays a considerable part in our sports, and it was with great satisfaction that we viewed our mounts when we got them finally fixed up on our lines. There were obviously some quite good jumpers among them, and others that looked as though they would be good for wrestling and mounted tug-of-war.

Sergt Thirkell

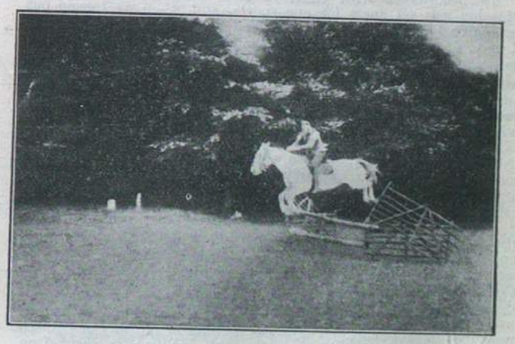
Our sports officer lost no time in getting busy, and very soon we had a trial flight of jumps fixed up alongside the wood near the camp; and under the supervision of Sergt Percy Simnett, well known as a sergeant-major-rough in the Royal Corps of Signals, a series of trials of both horses and men took place in the early evenings after the day's work was finished.

It was soon found that our optimism was justified. Many of the horses showed up well over the jumps. In some cases they jumped because they were ridden and had to; in others they jumped because they wanted to and liked it, in spite of the rider. All the doubtful ones (of the can, but won't, variety) were tested by Sergt Simnett, and made to do their best; and in a very short time he had worked out a satisfactory team of four or five horses and men.

As soon as a horse was found to be unsuitable for jumping, he was at once sent across to our indefatigable R.S.M., who, stripped to the buff, was giving extremely energetic instructions to prospective wrestlers on horseback. So at the same time we were picking out and training both jumpers and wrestlers for future use.

It was not long before we had an opportunity of showing what we could do in these directions, as our Regular friends of E Troop Signals, of Tidworth, threw down the gauntlet in a challenge for individual jumping, team wrestling on horseback, and mounted tug-of-war—the competition to take place at our regimental sports on Bank Holiday Monday.

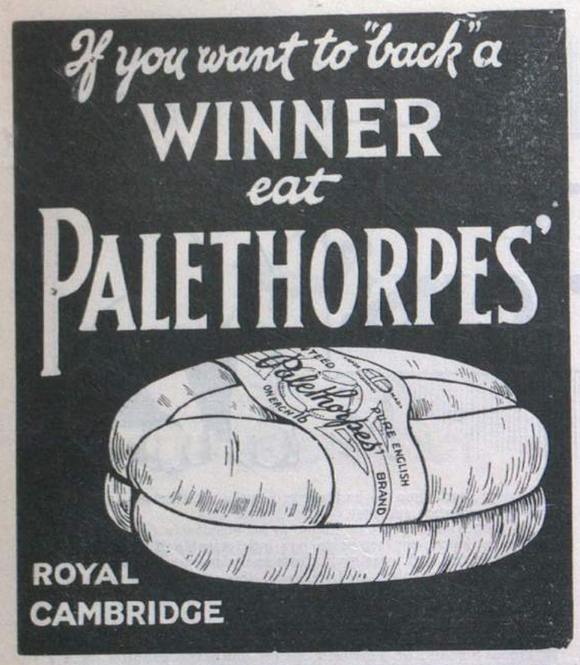
In preparation for this event the jumps were moved from their old site to the ground allotted for sports, and consideration



Sergt Baldwin

was given to making them as awkward as possible. Instead of jumps in a straight run, there was one at each corner of a square, and a fifth (a water jump) in the centre. The first was a bush jump; the second a rather fearsome-looking pole jump of heavy tree trunks; the third was an awe-inspiring affair of empty beer barrels surmounted with peg bags filled with hay; the fourth was a gate jump of a hurdle; and the fifth was a bush jump, followed by a tarpaulin stretched on the ground to represent water.

While these proceedings had been going forward, our old friends from London, the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) R.H.A., had arrived in camp just below us, and they




were not behindhand in sending along a challenge—and a double-barrelled one at that: one to our officers to jump against theirs, and the other to our other ranks to jump against theirs. Both of these challenges were immediately taken up.

In accordance with time-honoured custom, Bank Holiday Monday was set apart for our sports, and when we turned out in the early morn it certainly looked as though we might have a good day; but very shortly after breakfast the rain began to fall and continued without intermission the entire day, completely washing out any prospect of sports of any sort.

It was decided to put them off until Wednesday, and fortunately it was as nice a day as we could hope for. The events which attracted most attention were those in which we were pitted against E Troop Signals. We did not expect to do great things in the jumping, and we were not badly disappointed when we lost by six points. As we were jumping on "contract" horses, and our opponents were on their own well-trained animals, the results were highly creditable to us.

In the other events we had it entirely our own way, both the wrestling and the tug-of-war being won by our lads. Our opponents put up a splendid and very sporting fight, but they were, I think, handicapped by the weight of some of our folk. Corpl Weston is by no means a feather-weight, and some of the draught horses we used for these events were as heavy and solid as the Bank of England. Anyway, the combination proved well-nigh impregnable. There was nothing in the way of "rough stuff" handed out in the wrestling, though one is very often tempted when hard pressed.

These extra-regimental events took place in the morning. The afternoon was devoted to intra-regimental events, which included individual jumping (won in splendid form by Corporal Townsend on one of the big greys, which cleared everything easily), bending race, V.C. race, and tent pegging. There were so many entries that it was not possible to include the saddling-up and the alarm races on the same day, and these were held over until the following day.

Possibly because it offered many opportunities for spills, and therefore something to laugh at, the jumping attracted the greatest amount of interest; but it will be evident from the photographs that some of our jumpers experienced no difficulty and cleared their fences in good form.

The two days following the sports were devoted to schemes for the Chief Signal Officer and the General, which went off to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. On Saturday morning we handed over our horses, and it was with genuine regret that we saw our four-footed friends led away. Saturday afternoon was devoted, between the showers, to the inevitable packing up, and Sunday morning saw us move off in the drenching rain.

Our entraining at Ludgershall was a marvel of smoothness and celerity, thanks again to Sergt Simnett and our permanent staff; and thirty minutes before the train was due to start we were all aboard, getting away fifteen minutes ahead of scheduled time—and "the camp that went by clockwork" was only a delightful memory!

## 26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Duke of Yorks Headquarters,
Chelsea, S.W.3.

We feel that we should apologise for being "absent without leave" during the last month or two, but at last we have something to write about: our annual training.

We were fortunate in going again to Manston Camp, a delightful (though sometimes breezy) spot between Margate and Ramsgate, and next door to Manston Aerodrome. This is our second visit, and we trust that it will not be the last.

The 27th Company's training during the first two weeks of August was attended by the usual "summer" weather, and it is remarkable that the rain always fell its hardest and heaviest when we were *off* parade. The memory of August Bank Holiday, our first day under canvas, is a very vivid one, and our thanks are due to the Y.M.C.A. (and their piano, which enabled us to keep smiling).

The training programme was not too strenuous. We were able to get in several days at air-line work on the road, and these trips were thoroughly enjoyed. Is there anything more pleasant than a morning's constructional work when the weather is favourable and the birds are singing?

The 26th Company, who attended camp during the last two weeks in August, had an equally good time. Our guards were the talk of the camp, and the "stick men" simply glittered.

At the annual sports, held in conjunction with the R.E. Searchlight Battalions, we managed to hold our own, although our numbers were small. The 27th Company were second in the Section relay, and their tug-of-war team "walked away with it." The 26th Company won the Section relay, took second place in the mile, and the first five places in the three-legged race.

We cannot conclude without a word about the winter programme. In addition to the usual Trade Board classes, we hope to form a physical jerks class and Company tug-of-war teams. Other features will be our children's party, the regimental dinner, and as many dances as we can possibly manage.

**Notabilities of Manston, 1927.**—26th Company: "Best tent" winner, L/Corpl Batchelor. "Stick men," Signalmen Price and Gray. Air-line competition, Sergt Creighton and Section.

27th Company: "Best tent" winner, L/Corpl Scott. "Stick men," Signalmen Blood and Camichel. Air-line competition, Sergt Powell and Section.

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester, Sept. 14th.

The last practice of the miniature range competition was fired on September 6th, and the final results can now be seen on the unit notice board.

The ten prize winners are as follows (and they receive our hearty congratulations): 1st, C.Q.M.S. Peat; 2nd, L/Corporal Malone; 3rd, Sergt Reeve (P.S.); 4th, Dvr Ryder; 5th (tie), Capt Lazenby, Sergt Moss, Sigmn Gleave; 8th (tie), Major Nichols, Sigmn Browne, Sigmn Elliott.

The competition was a great success and well supported, and we trust that another will be arranged during the winter.

Below we give a list of social fixtures up to the end of the year. Everybody concerned is asked to give them the fullest support possible.

Oct. 15th—Officers' mess dance and sergeants' mess dance.
Nov. 2nd—Officers' mess supper.
Nov. 5th—Unit dance.
Nov. 12th—Signals Association dance.
Nov. 19th—Sergeants' mess dance.
Nov. 30th—Officers' mess supper.
Dec. 3rd—Annual prize distribution and unit dance.
Dec. 17th—Officers' mess dance and sergeants' mess dance.
Dec. 31st—Signals Association dance.



It is anticipated that the Divisional Commander, Major-Gen. C. D. Hamilton Moore, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., will honour us by presenting the prizes on December 3rd.

Our best wishes go with R.Q.M.S. McVittie on his appointment. May his ledgers always balance—not exactly, but with a little to spare!

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

After camp we are all simply bursting with news, and anxious to see what it will look like in cold print some weeks later. Many readers probably glance at the notes and murmur "Umph!" or something similar.

Last month we couldn't go into much detail about our trophies and the changes they sustained at camp. The donors of our splendid collection of cups, etc., are, no doubt, interested to know into whose care their gifts have passed.

The Moore cup, presented by our hon. colonel (Col. H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O.) for the best Company turn-out and drill, was this year captured by No. 3 Company, who won by a short head from No. 2, last year's winners. The question of Army boots came into the picture rather prominently this year. Some Terriers seem to fight shy of wearing them, and prefer the dandy (and unserviceable, from a military point of view) civilian type. However, one hears that this is to be altered next year, when *pressure* is to be brought to bear on the toes of those who come within the latter category!

The Roberts signalling cup (presented by our adjutant, Capt A. W. Roberts, M.C.) was annexed by a team from No. 2 Coy. No. 3 Company team held it last year and the year before.

The Michelmore cup for Sectional shooting (presented by our C.O.) and the Gould cup for team shooting (presented by Major H. C. Gould, retired) have yet to be competed for.

Sigmn Selley, Royal Corps of Signals (formerly of No. 1 Company), called in to see us recently whilst on leave. He is bound for India, and his old friends were glad of the opportunity of wishing him good luck whilst with Signals in India.

The Lunch Club at headquarters mess (an experiment started some months ago) still flourishes. All officers of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies and hon. members who can do so, roll up for lunch on Wednesdays. A very pleasant little institution!

OLD SPARK.

## 46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby.

There is not much of an exciting nature to report this month. Camp is but a memory, and we are now speculating as to where it will be next year.

The Forman cup will be fired for on September 24th, so ere these notes appear in print the winning Company will be known. Each of the three Companies fancies its chance. It is not yet known on which ranges it will be fired for. Derby ranges have been closed owing to the Corporation housing scheme claiming the ground for building purposes, so it rests between Trent and Belper.

Now that winter with its dark and dreary evenings is approaching, we shall turn to the social side. We are hoping to hold our usual series of whist drives and concerts at headquarters, Derby.

Major C. F. Ball and Lieut A. H. Billingham are away on the Regular Army manœuvres. Both are veterans of the Great War, so it will be like old times again. We hope their stay with the Regulars will be pleasant and profitable.

The many friends of Capt R. A. Briggs, A.M.I.Mech.E., will be sorry to learn that his wounds received in the Great War are again giving him trouble, and he has had to go into hospital. Our sympathies are with him, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

MEREDIMUR.

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

In response to numberless enquiries, I take this opportunity of informing all who kindly wrote, wired, etc., that we are not dead or sleeping. I refer to the absence of our notes from last month's issue. The fault lay with the Postal Department, who failed to deliver our notes; consequently the August issue was not the brilliant success anticipated (ahem!) The camp notes, even if a trifle late, will make good reading, since they may recall some little incident now forgotten.

We are losing our adjutant, Capt B. H. House, for a short period, Divisional training exercises at Wallingford claiming his attention for a bit. Be prepared for schemes galore, laddies. I have no doubt that the experience gained by the adjutant will be ours in the long run, so we wish him a safe and speedy return.

Sixty-hour winter courses, dances, whist leagues, etc., are already in the offing. We have entered a team for the whist championship of the Terriers of Aberdeen, which up to the time of writing has not been beaten. Sigmn Livingstone (captain) is to be congratulated on his team's success, and we hope they will win the cup this year. We only lost by a short head last year.

Recruiting goes on apace, but as the usual run of after-camp discharges has somewhat depleted our ranks, it is hoped that all will make a special effort to bring in as many recruits as possible, so that we may be in the happy position of last year and have a waiting list. We want to be up to strength by the time training starts, so bring them now.

The quarterly sergeants' mess meeting revealed a wealth of suggestions, ranging from decorating the mess to the duty of washing up after the dances. Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, please note there were no amendments, and Bob was there. C.S.M. Bremner was appointed president and Sergt R. Smith secretary. Dances on the lines of last year were agreed to.

SMUDGE.

### No. 3 (Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy) Company.

We are once more settled down at home after fifteen days in annual camp at Montrose. Although the Company did a good deal more work than in previous years, everyone seems to have enjoyed himself greatly. Our C.Q.M.S.'s day in the country with a field kitchen, on the occasion of the Divl. Signal exercise, seems to have pleased him greatly. The various preliminary exercises carried out during the first week were very instructive and interesting to all ranks. Even our pipe band from Kirkcaldy learned a few things, including the origin of the highland fling, etc.

Our tug-of-war team succeeded in winning the Nairn cup at the annual sports, representatives from the Company also winning the 440 and 880 yards races in addition to several other prizes. In the inter-Company boxing we won quite a number of fights, but were greatly handicapped by not being able to field a full team and thus losing points. However, our boxers are looking forward to taking the Bald cup from No. 1 Company next year. We were very pleased indeed at winning the Jayne cup for the best lines while at camp.

Since our return from camp we have been busy cleaning and checking stores, and answering the countless queries re bounties and when they are likely to be paid out.

The pipe major and his merry band are quite pleased to think they were able to rouse up several noted sleepers, and take this opportunity of giving warning that they will be practising all the winter for a full blast next camp (froth-blowers, please note).

THREESOME.

### Camp Jottings.

As was foretold, the camp was a huge success both from a training point of view and as a pick-me-up for jaded nerves. I didn't need any sleeping draught to send me off: it was simply a case of head down—reveille. It is regretted that certain individuals *did* need a draught, but it came from the barrel and certainly did not send them to sleep. On the contrary, it livened them up to such a pitch that poor old Sergt W—— actually woke up one morning standing on his head. That is what comes of sleeping on a stretcher.

One wonders where on earth all the schemes came from. The bearings of the wagons, etc., are just getting cool. Bill P—— has been taken to Kingseat, muttering funny quotations and saying he doesn't care a fig for any old joker. He is recovering under treatment.

The small schemes indulged in were as meat compared with the Divisional scheme held on Wednesday, July 27th. What a scheme, and what a success! And if the grub was a little late in coming up, or if you happened to be unlucky enough to see the field kitchen just disappearing over the skyline (with Chef Seath, complete with white hat, mounted on top)—well! to have been told that the standard of efficiency was nearly up to Regular pitch, was worth it. Col. Riddell Webster (G.S.O. 1), who was with us that day, will long remember the scheme. To say he was satisfied may not convey much to the layman's mind,

but we know that the few words said to us the morning after were earned.

Honours must go to the Cable Detachments, who were in the thick of it from the first thing in the morning to the last thing at night. Well done, C Section! The wireless communications were not all that was hoped for—not that the operators were at fault, but the instruments were, as usual, a bit "jibbish." It is hoped that by next training season some new sets may appear. Divisional Headquarters was never stumped, which says much for the training indulged in prior to coming to camp.

Taking all things into consideration, one is justified in thinking that this camp has been the crowning point of a year's hard work. What we will be tackling next year, heaven knows! Fixing up the Atlantic cable, or some other small job, probably.

The Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants.

On Friday, July 22nd, the officers, w.o.s and sergeants held an outing to Potarch, and were heartily welcomed by Sergt W. Perry, now mine host of Potarch Hotel. A splendid lunch was indulged in, the return journey being made via Aberdeen, where tea was held. The march past of the clans took place at Bervie. Did I say "march past?" Sorry! I meant "stagger past." The w.o.s and sergeants take this opportunity of again thanking Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth for his great kindness to them.

We must congratulate Pipe-Major Brand on the splendid show his band put up in camp. To pipers of long experience they were marvellous, considering the time they have been together. I am sure that by next camp Jack will be able to listen-in with a certain degree of comfort, so that in time to come we shall read of the MacHaines' gathering.

The Pipe Band (Pipe-Major Brand in the centre)

**Savoury.**—Points for Veterinary Officers: A horse died, and the farrier-corporal's diagnosis was "construction of the bowels."

Will C.Q.M.S.s please indent forthwith for wave-length, so that section sergeants may be supplied. Flags, "extinguishing," should also be indented for, in case of fire.

**Sports Day.**—Sports day was held on July 28th, and of course, it rained; well, rained is perhaps not the word. Ha! a Scotch mist! Yes, that describes it lovely. Did it damp our spirits? N-n-no!

The programme was long and varied. As usual the sports cup was won by No. 1 Company—35 points to 15—a really splendid performance. The cup for the best boxing team (presented by Col. P. R. Bald, D.S.O., C.S.O. Scottish Command) was won by No. 1 Company, as was the football cup (presented by Major Randall Nicol, O.B.E., of Ballogie). The cup for best lines (presented by Lieut.-Col. Jayne, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.C.S.O. Scottish Command) was won by No. 3 Company. The tug-of-war cup (presented by the Provost and Town Council of Nairn) was won by No. 3 Company after a great pull against No. 2. The Aberdonians were well out of this one! The Holmes shield (presented by Dean of Guild Holmes, in memory of his son—a despatch rider in France who died whilst serving in the Defence Force) was won by No. 1 Company by 1½ points—a very near thing indeed. This shield is for general efficiency outside annual training in camp, and is to be held for one year. The results of the races, etc., are as follows:—

100 yards—Sigmn Mair, No. 1 Company.
220 yards—Sigmn Mair and Sigmn Livingstone, No. 1 Coy., dead heat.
440 yards—Piper Brand, No. 3 Company.
880 yards—Piper Brand, No. 3 Company.
Mile (open)—Corpl Scott, Gordon Highlanders.
Inter-Company relay race—No. 1 Company.
Inter-Section relay race—D Section, No. 1 Company.
Obstacle race—Sigmn Livingstone, No. 1 Company.
Long jump—Sigmn Livingstone, No. 1 Company.
High jump—Sigmn Mair, No. 1 Company.
Old soldiers' race—Corpl Gregor, No. 1 Company.
Best dressed signalman—Sigmn Hunt, No. 2 Company.
Best piper—Piper Brand.
Officers' race—Lieut.-Col. F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C.
Best turned-out pair—No. 3 Company.
Best athlete—Sigmn Livingstone, No. 1 Company.

Sigmn Harvey (No. 3) v. Sigmn Smith (No. 1)

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Hamilton Leigh, who kindly came all the way from the south of England to see us. The visit of Colonel and Mrs. Leigh was very much appreciated by the troops. I take this opportunity of thanking our many patrons, whose generosity made our sports day such a great success.

SMUDOE.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, September 9th.

I have to commence with an apology for the lack of unit notes in the last issue. By the time I had "collected the pieces" after annual training, 16th August was past and gone.

The training was one of our best, and followed the lines of the previous year. We had five days on a scheme, including one all-night out. After a rather shaky start everyone settled down to things, and now it is all over it seems to be the universal opinion that it was the best-carried-out scheme we have had.

The C.S.O. (Lieut.-Col. Spaight, D.S.O.) and the D.C.S.O. (Colonel W. T. Dodd, D.S.O.) inspected us during the scheme, and were with us for two or three days. Major-Gen. T. Astley Cubitt, our Divisional Commander, inspected the camp and spent



a day going round the stations on the scheme. He expressed himself as very pleased with all he saw, and made particular comment on the concealment and camouflage of the Signal offices. The G.O.C.-in-Chief also paid us a visit and seemed satisfied with what he saw.

On one evening our C.O. arranged for an aeroplane to fly over the area in which the scheme was taking place and try to locate the offices. The pilot was armed with small flour bombs, but although he was given the approximate positions of the Signal offices he was only able to locate two out of the fourteen or fifteen which were established. These two were heavily bombed.

Of course there were some tragedies! The A sets went on strike, and so did the 120-watt sets; but both types more than made up for their lapses later, and we were able to exchange messages with the 55th Divl. Signals at Holyhead. They sent us good wishes, but owing to a misunderstanding our reply was not sent, although other messages were. I hope they will accept our thanks for the wishes, which we appreciated.

Congratulations to our O.C. on his extension of command. Everyone is pleased to hear of it.

Congratulations, too, to Lieut K. C. Cooper on his appointment to the Royal Tank Corps. He has been with us over four years and will be missed; but our loss is the Tank Corps' gain, and we wish him every success in his career.

We had a "big brother" with us in camp in the person of Lieut S. J. Fielder, of the 3rd Divl. Signals, who stayed seven days. His advice and criticisms, both in the field and at the conference, were greatly appreciated. We hope he thought as well of us as we did of him.

Winter training is now on the go, and the adjutant seems to have got the officers keen on passing their promotion examinations, for we hear rumours of weekly lectures and exercises.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

### No. 3 (Westcliff-on-Sea) Company.

While I think of it, although a little late, congratulations are extended to the undermentioned on obtaining a higher class in their respective trade groups: C.S.M. Turner, Sergts Brook, Cooley and Maries, L/Corpls McMenamin, Loades and Rixon. Also to the following on obtaining a trade rating for the first time: L/Corpl Dennison, Signalmen Littlechild, Dent, Fielding, Jeffery, Stangroom and Rayner.

May this be a lesson to those who have been with the unit long enough to have done the same. You see it *can* be done if you try. Cut out the following "Don't's for Beginners," stick them in your pocket-book, and make up your mind to read them every now and then:—

DON'T'S FOR BEGINNERS.

Don't say, "I can't learn the Morse alphabet." If everybody said the same, there would be no Royal Corps of Signals.
Don't forget that the beginner who says "I can," not only has confidence, but is worth more than two of the man who says "I can't."

Some of the "Lads" of Construction Section, A Corps Signals.

Rise & Shine!

For a quick, brilliant and lasting shine WREN'S Boot Polishes and Creams are unequalled. Made from pure wax, WREN'S renders the leather soft, pliable and waterproof. Obtainable from all Army Canteens and Stores.

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Don't refrain from learning when you leave the drill hall. If you spend say ten minutes each day in running over your weaker points, you will be surprised at the difference it will make in a short week. Give it a week's trial.

Don't envy the man who can read say twelve words per minute. Remember that he had to begin at the beginning. Strive to beat him.

Don't give up trying. Plenty of beginners are naturally slow but turn out to be first class operators in the end.

Don't say "It's not in my line." I've heard men from coal pits sing and play first-class music.

Don't forget that interest can be cultivated. Get interested, and the battle honours will go to you.

Don't say "I'm too old." That is side-tracking.

Don't say "I can't practise at home without a buzzer or a flag." There are plenty of means at your command to enable you to practise the code either on your own or with a pal.

Whistle it! Waggle the forefinger like a flag! Insert the blade of a knife between the prongs of a fork! Buzz it with the lips or hum it! Listen to the motor-horns in the street; they emit sounds resembling the code. And so I could go on! If you can devise any other means, do so; it all helps to cultivate interest.

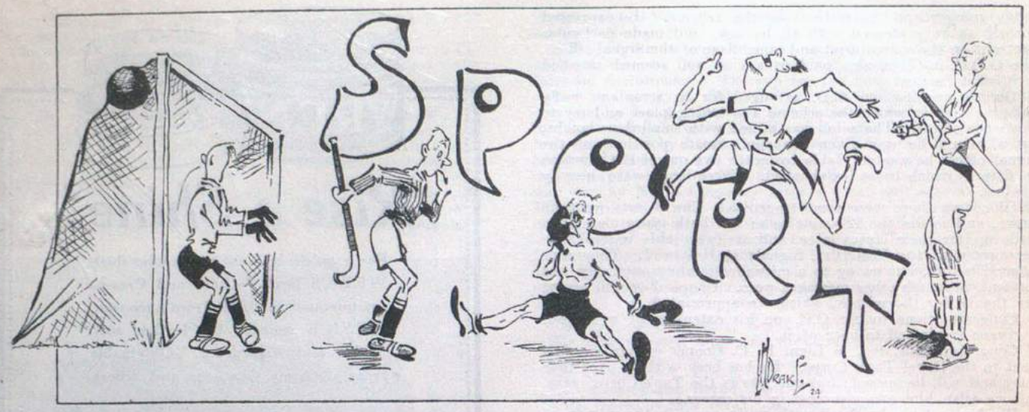
Our old headquarters at Milton House have been vacated, and for the time being our headquarters will be at the Drill Hall, Prittlewell. I visited the old place yesterday, and it was but a mass of ruins. Every time I have to pass the old spot I shall do so with a pang of regret. Perhaps it was not an ideal place for headquarters, but there was always a very homely feeling about the place. We are to have a new drill hall very soon, when we shall start our social functions once more. We intend to make up for lost time!

Farewell to Sigmn Sexton, who has joined the senior Service; also to Signalmen Coveney and Buttress, who have joined the Regular Army.

Welcome to Recruits Fearn and Reeve. May their stay with us be a long one. This welcome is also extended to Boys L. F. Saunders, E. P. Bailey, and A. F. Bacon.

Bring your friends along to see our new headquarters.

DREITER.




## S.T.C. Company Cricket League, Catterick.

**Mounted Wing v. School of Signals.**—Played on August 27th; won by the Mounted Wing by 15 runs. The Mounted Wing won the toss and batted first, scoring 95. Sigmn Manlove put up an excellent performance in making 37, the highest score of the match. Sigmn Philip scored 15, Sigmn Thompson 13, and Lieut Guyer 18. Lieut McNair took seven wickets for 22 runs. Sergt Jackson and Sigmn Wall provided the only serious resistance for the School, making 20 and 19 respectively out of the total of 80. Corpl Brewer took five wickets for 40 runs.

**Dismounted Wing v. F Company.**—Played on August 27th, the Dismounted Wing winning by 23 runs. An interesting match, in which the Dismounted Wing gained their first victory in this season's league. The game was chiefly noteworthy on account of the boys' fielding, which was very keen throughout the match. Scores: Dismounted Wing, 73; F Company, 50.

**D Company v. School of Signals.**—Played on August 29th, D Company winning by 16 runs. Batting first, they put together 57 in rather more than an hour. The School went in, and appeared to have the match well in hand, but the last six wickets fell in 25 minutes for the addition of only twelve runs. The honours of the day went to Sigmn Sutherland, who bowled very steadily and finished up by performing the hat trick. Scores: D Company, 57 (Lieut Scott 34; Major Drayson five wickets for 30 and Sergt Jackson four for 23). School, 41 (Sergt Jackson 22; Lieut Scott five for 18, and Sigmn Sutherland five for 18).

**E Company v. Mounted Wing.**—Played on August 29th. E Company won by 78 runs. They needed a win to top the league. Owing to fine bowling by Sergts Carpenter and Dempsey, who took six for 9 runs and four for 10 respectively, the Mounted Wing were dismissed for 31. Eddy replied with a total of 109, of which Sergt Carpenter collected 50 not out and Signalman Castle 17.

## Depot Battn. (Royal Signals) Rifle Club, Catterick.

Once again we appear before the public, but this time 'tis to blow our trumpet with loud blasts!

On Saturday, September 3rd, we journeyed to Bradford to try our skill against the remainder of Yorkshire. The results gave us no cause to "grouse," although one man "went blind" at one range (straffe him!) and the team were placed third by one point. The unlucky individual is at present in the hands of the plumber, having his right eye sand-papered and burnished.

We are pleased to record that three of the club represented the county during the meeting. In the individual championship, our worthy vice-captain experienced bad luck in taking second place. The margin was three points.

We are now in the close season, as it were. The summer league is over, and we have to wait until the winter leagues and competitions commence. In the meantime we are on the lookout for likely material to train with a view to strengthening the team for future shoots.

On September 21st and 22nd we intend holding a small rifle meeting. This may produce some likely talent, and I hope to be able to record some close shooting. In the meanwhile, we implore Jupiter Pluvius to go on strike for that week at least.

## Inter-Company Relay Championships, Catterick.

The relay championships were held on August 23rd and 25th, in really summer weather. The spell of rains during the first three weeks of the month had had its effect, and the track was unusually heavy. Those who were unwise enough to run in unspiked shoes were heavily handicapped.

There was some very good running, and the times, considering the state of the track, were all that could be expected. The outstanding performance of the meeting was L/Corpl Murphy's leap of 20 ft. 5 ins. in the long jump. Perhaps even more creditable, however, was 2/Lieut Ponsonby's effort in the 2-miles relay, in which he beat Sergt Carpenter by a short head in the opening half-mile.

The results were as follows:—

400 yards relay—1, E Company; 2, Dismounted Wing; 3, F Coy.; 4, D Coy.; 5, School of Signals; 6, Mounted Wing. Time, 43 1/5th secs.

880 yards relay—1, E Coy.; 2, Dismounted Wing; 3, F Coy.; 4, School of Signals; 5, D Coy.; 6, Mounted Wing. Time, 1 min. 42 4/5th secs. (The last two split 3 points.)

Mile relay—1, E Coy.; 2, F Coy.; 3, School of Signals; 4, Dismounted Wing; 5, Mounted Wing. Time, 3 mins. 59 1/5th secs. (D Coy. were disqualified for a false take-over.)

2 miles relay—1, F Coy.; 2, E Coy.; 3, D Coy; 4, Dismounted Wing; 5, School of Signals; 6, Mounted Wing Time, 9 mins. 23 3/5th secs.

Mile team—1, F Coy. (21 points); 2, Dismounted Wing (25); 3, D Coy. (43); 4, E Coy. (53); 5, Mounted Wing (68); 6, School of Signals. Individual winner, Sigmn Broadley. Time 5 mins. 10 secs.

Three miles team—1, F Coy. (19 points); 2, Dismounted Wing (31); 3, D Coy. (45); 4, E Coy. (51); 5, School of Signals (63); 6, Mounted Wing (86). Individual winner, Sigmn Broadley. Time, 16 mins. 26½ secs.

480 yards hurdles—1, F Coy; 2, D Coy.; 3, E Cov.; 4, Dismounted Wing; 5, School of Signals. Time, 1 min. 21 secs.

High jump—1, F Coy. (9 ft. 10 in.); 2, E Coy. (9 ft. 7 in.); 3, Dismounted Wing (9 ft. 5 in.); 4, School of Signals (9 ft. 3 in.); 5, Mounted Wing (8 ft. 3 in.). Individual winner, L/Corpl Murphy (5 ft.).

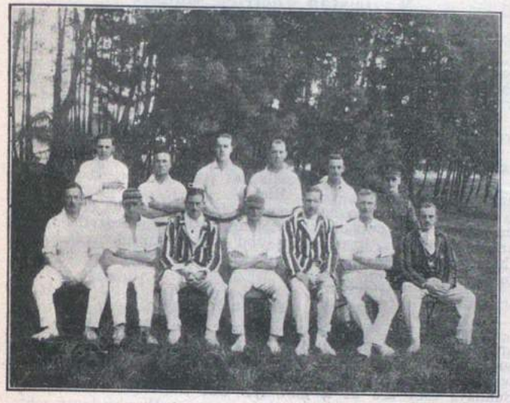
Long jump—1, F Coy. (39 ft. 1½ in.); 2, Dismounted Wing (36 ft. 11 in.); 3, Mounted Wing (36 ft. 6 in.); 4, School of Signals (35 ft. 0¾ in.); 5, E Coy. (33 ft. 8¾ in.); 6, D Coy. (29 ft. 2¾ in.). Individual winner, L/Corpl Murphy (20 ft. 5 ins.).

Putting the shot—1, E Company (59 ft.); 2, Mounted Wing (57 ft. 2½ in.); 3, F Coy. (55 ft. 11 in.); 4, D Coy. (55 ft. 8¼ in.); 5, School of Signals (51 ft. 10 in.); 6, Dismounted Wing (45 ft. 2 in.). Individual winner, Lieut J. H. Brown (34 ft. 0½ in.).



## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Cricket.**—No. 1 Company played No. 3 on August 17th for the initial honour of winning the unit cricket challenge shield. The result of a finely contested game was a win by No. 3 Company by 27 runs, Major Vyvyan scoring 39. Good fielding on the part of Dvr Baker (No. 1 Company) was a feature of the game. It was an ideal afternoon for the match, although the previous day's rain made the crease treacherous. No. 1 Coy. batted first and were all out for 47.



No. 3 Coy. 1st Divl. Signals—Cricket Challenge Shield Winners, 1927

*Back row (left to right)*—Signalmen Phillips and Battell, L/Cpl Pritchett, Signalmen Tucker and Bartlett, Sergt Lombard.
*Front*—Mr. Weir, Dvr Hart, Mr. Glover, Sigmn Taylor, Major Vyvyan, C.S.M. Keevil, Mr. Danby.

## Rhine Signal Units.

**Tennis.**—A very successful tournament was organised by Sergt Nash and Signalmen Funnell and W. H. Baker. Quite exciting games were witnessed. The results were:—

Singles—Winner, Sigmn W. H. Baker. Runner-up, Sigmn A. F. Funnell.

Doubles—Winners, Signalmen W. H. Baker and A. F. Funnell. Runners-up, Sergt C. B. Minns and L/Corpl G. F. Phillips.

**Billiards.**—The unit held an other ranks billiards tournament recently, the results being: Winner, Sigmn E. H. Jones. Runner up, Sigmn J. T. Yates.

**Football.**—A practice game has been played. Some good football was seen, and we should go far this season. No further matches until after manœuvres.

**Cricket.**—The averages for 1927 season are appended.

BATTING.

| | Innings | Not out | Highest Score | Total | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sergt Minns | 12 | 2 | 138* | 525 | 52.5 |
| Sigmn Hills | 4 | 2 | 38 | 57 | 28.5 |
| L/Corpl Roberts | 10 | 0 | 88 | 252 | 25.2 |
| Sigmn Funnell | 13 | 0 | 42 | 160 | 12.3 |
| Sigmn Dixon | 6 | 1 | 29 | 61 | 12.2 |
| Sigmn Moorhouse | 6 | 1 | 17 | 56 | 10.6 |
| L/Corpl Phillips | 12 | 0 | 34 | 82 | 6.8 |
| L/Corpl Knight | 10 | 0 | 24 | 66 | 6.6 |
| Sigmn Walsh | 12 | 1 | 15 | 77 | 6.4 |
| Sigmn Appleby | 7 | 1 | 8 | 27 | 4.5 |
| Sigmn Butler | 9 | 2 | 7 | 29 | 3.8 |

* Not out.

BOWLING.

| | Overs | Maidens | Runs | Wickets | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sigmn Butler | 8 | 1 | 17 | 2 | 8.5 |
| Sergt Minns | 154.5 | 23 | 402 | 32 | 12.5 |
| Sigmn Funnell | 78 | 14 | 250 | 18 | 13.8 |
| Sigmn Appleby | 76 | 8 | 242 | 17 | 14.2 |
| L/Corpl Phillips | 58 | 4 | 160 | 10 | 16.0 |

Catches: Sergt Minns 7; Sigmn Funnell 5; L/Corpl Phillips and Sigmn Hills, 4 each; Signalmen Walsh, Appleby, Butler and Moorhouse, 3 each; L/Corpls Roberts and Knight and Sigmn Dixon, 2 each.

## Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

**Cricket.**—The match of the month was with the Shanghai Municipal Police. Carter as a daisy-cutter is unrivalled, whilst Biart's great fall on a cut for four has been noted in the local paper.

S.D.F. Signals—Sigmn Mohrstadt 14; Capt R. H. Steward 67; Sergt Gandey 11; Lieut H. Edes 0; C.Q.M.S. Biart 1; Lieut H. Hart 31; Sigmn Wright 0; Sergt Carter 21; Sigmn Darvill 2; C.S.M. Shenton 3; Sigmn Walton not out 3; extras 5; Total 158.

The Police made 112. Gandey took 5 wickets for 45; Wright 1 for 26; Darvill 2 for 24, and Mohrstadt 2 for 15.

S.D.F. Signals thus won by 46 runs.

**Tennis.**—During July a very successful doubles tennis tournament was held. We must express our gratitude to the management of the Union Jack Club for their kindness in lending us their courts, and placing at our disposal all their available gear, and then to the great amount of work put in by Lieut Gordon, Sergt Linder and an able committee.

The standard of play was high, to the surprise of the local players. The tournament was normal to the third round, when our spot players—C.S.M. Stockwell, Sergts Thomas and Linder, Corpls Edgeler and Wells, Signalmen Why, Walton and Lavery—seemed to have found the glare of the Shanghai sun too much for them.

Q.M.S. Biart and Sigmn Peters met Signalmen Mohrstadt and Chapman in the semi-final and received their conge. The final—a most exciting game—eventually proved Signalmen Mohrstadt and Chapman to be the local Borotras. Final scores: 4—6, 6—1, 6—4.

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## Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, India.

**Football.**—The Signal Training Battalion football team left Jubbulpore for Calcutta on July 7th to compete for the Indian Football Association shield. We met the Rangers in the first round and won after a splendid game, the final score being 3—0 (Rawson 2, Traunter).

In the second round, we met the Aryans, the game ending in a draw of one all, and the replay on the following day ended with a similar result. Commenting on the play in the latter game, *The Englishman* said:—

"The Aryans remain the only Indian team in the I.F.A. shield competition. So well did they uphold the honour of the Calcutta Indian teams that yesterday, on the Calcutta ground, they again earned the right to replay the Signal Training team from Jubbulpore. On the previous day these teams had equally shared two goals. Yesterday this result was repeated, and they will meet again to-day.

"In conditions that suited them—and which made one regret that Mohan Bagan were no longer in the competition—the Aryans showed that their victory over the Gordon Highlanders was no fluke. Indeed, they played tip-top football, using their speed and their greater dribbling ability to the best advantage. Had they won it would have been no more than they deserved, for the military goal had a greater number of hairbreadth escapes than theirs. They infused great dash and vigour into their play; sometimes their methods were almost dangerous.

"Credit is due to the Signals for the great defence they put up against a side which, as a rule, were able to show them a clean pair of heels, and whose powers of dribbling must have been an entirely new experience to them. That they were able to maintain the pace set by the Indians, even in extra time, was a tribute to their stamina. The game was brimful of excitement, and was marked by an entire absence of rough play."

The third meeting proved conclusive, and we were beaten by the narrow margin of 1—0.

At the conclusion of this match, we were asked to play for the Bernard trophy, this cup being offered for competition between the best Indian team and the best visiting team. We again found ourselves pitted against the Aryans, who had just knocked us out of the I.F.A. shield. After a good game, we had our revenge in defeating them by 4—1, and carried the Bernard cup back with us to Jubbulpore, where celebrations fitting to the occasion were held. The cup is now resting in a select spot in the sergeants' mess.

**Rugger.**—Practice is in full swing. Many of our old players have been posted and have gone to the home establishment. However, we are getting down to it, and soon we will have the pack back to its old form. Sergt Patheyjohns has the team in hand.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

**Sport.**—As far as Dera Ismail Khan is concerned sport seems confined mainly to cricket, and results to date show that we are the real copper-bottomed article when it comes to wielding the willow in this part of the Frontier.

Shortly, when the station is again more thickly populated, we hope to air our hockey sticks and football boots again.

Of course we still have our budding Tildens on view every evening, and they seem to be doing well.

One of the tennis enthusiasts has forsaken the racquet and has taken to the gun (go it, Dick!)

Q Branch seem to have gone in for feeding the brain. At intervals we see two of them taking a stroll towards the river, armed with rods, lines, hooks and various impedimenta. One thing, we *don't* hear tales of the size of fish they nearly hooked, so we rest content.

## Razmak Brigade Signals.

**Tennis.**—This is a prominent game here. Many of the lads are rapidly developing into budding Suzannes and Tildens, and some into Bettys. They can be seen playing every evening, weather permitting, on the hard courts. On Thursdays and Sundays they are at it all day. One individual is actually thinking of taking a six months' course at Wimbledon for his vocational training! Can this be done? I wonder!

**Cricket.**—We have had some bad luck in the tournament this year, and up to now we have only gained two points.

**Hockey.**—Razmak Brigade Signals v. 17th P.R.A., won 3—1; v. Y Coy. K.R.R.C., won 1—0; v. X Coy. K.R.R.C., District H.Q., and 17th P.R., lost 2—1 in each case.

In the tournament we are doing wonderfully well. Nothing like blowing our own trumpet and all that! But we can, in this direction, say a few words for ourselves. We anticipate retaining the hockey tournament challenge cup which we won last year, and next year it'll be our own! (rather optimistic, but can't be helped—foregone conclusion).

Up to the time of writing this is how we stand: v. 20th Medium Battery, won 2—0; and v. X Coy. K.R.R.C. won 1—0. We are now in the semi-finals.

## Bannu Detachment

**Football.**—v. 20th D.T.T. Coy., won by 2—0 (L/Corpl Ferdinando, Sigmn Stevens), and drew at 1—1 (Sigmn Stevens).

**Hockey.**—v. "A" 5/14th Punjabis, 2—2 (Sergt Tebby, Sigmn Gattrell); v. "A" 5/14th Punjabis, 3—3 (Sergt Tebby, Sigmn Gattrell, Sigmn Lawrence); v. Brigade Headquarters, 2—2 (Sigmn Carrott, Sigmn Gattrell); v. H.Q. 5/14th Punjabis, 2—1 (Sigmn Carrott, Sigmn Gattrell); v. "A" 5/14th Punjabis, 1—1 (Sigmn Gattrell); v. Brigade Headquarters, 0—0.

## Kohat District Signals.

**Hockey.**—Owing to so many arrivals and departures, our unit team has seldom been the same for two games in succession. Nevertheless, we have had some excellent games, and on the whole been fairly successful.

2/1st Punjab Regt., won by 3—0 (Corpl Hammond 3).
Pack Brigade R.A., lost by 2—4 (Corpl Hammond, Sigmn Tashi Lama).
5/13th F.F. Regt., lost by 0—4.
Pack Brigade R.A., won by 3—2 (L/Corpl Taylor, Signalman Babu Ram).
60th Squadron R.A.F., draw, 1—1 (Capt H. D. Orr).
2/1st Punjab Regt., draw 3—3 (Corpl Hammond 3).
2/1st Punjab Regt., draw 3—3 (Corpl Hammond 2, Havr. Dalip Singh).
Pack Brigade R.A., won 6—1 (Corpl Hammond 3, Capt T. Wood, Havr. Dalip Singh, Sigmn Babu Ram).



**Football.**—As with hockey, the numerous movements have caused corresponding changes in our team, but a brief summary shows that we did extremely well. We played five games—won three, drew one, and lost one, scoring 13 against 8 goals.

Several of the new arrivals are great assets to our sports elevens, notably Signalmen J. Michie, C. Randolph, T. Pearson, and J. Norris.

60th Squadron R.A.F., won by 3—2 (Corpl Hammond, Pte Peak 2).
60th Squadron R.A.F., draw 2—2 (Capt Orr, Pte Peak).
Staff Club, lost by 1—2 (Capt Orr).
Staff Club, won by 3—0 (Sergt Peerless, Sigmn S. Brookes, Sigmn J. Norris).
Staff Club, won by 4—2 (Sigmn J. Michie 2, Sergt Peerless, Sigmn Darlington).

An inter-unit game, Reds v. Whites, resulted in a draw of 2 all. Scorers—Whites, Sergt Peerless 2. Reds—Sergt Wagg (through his own goal) 2.

## The Corps in Egypt.

**Boxing.**—A special six-round contest was arranged between L/Sergt Wheeler and Pte Butler (S.L.I.). They have met twice, and L/Sergt Wheeler has on each occasion won on points. The fight had to be postponed owing to Sergt Wheeler being off colour for a week preceding the date of the fight.

**Cricket.**—Once again the Corps won through to the final of the Frank Cook cup, but had to bow to the R.A.O.C. The G.O.C. (Lieut.-General Sir E. Peter Strickland, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.) sympathised with the Corps in reaching the final three times without claiming the ultimate victory.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the G.O.C. for presenting the cup and medals, the President of the Y.M.C.A. said: "The hard luck sustained by the Signals cannot be denied and *the Corps play the game in every sense of the word* in every branch of sport."

**Swimming.**—The Command individual and team championships were competed during the last week in August and first week in September. The results are appended:—

WATER POLO—FIRST ROUND.

1st Light Brigade R.A. 3; 1st Battn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 0.
Royal Engineers (Egypt) 1; 2nd Brigade R.H.A. 1. After extra time, the R.E.s won by one goal in the replay.
12th Lancers 2; 1st Battn. Norfolk Regiment 1.
3rd Armoured Car Company (R.T.C.) 3; R.A.S.C. 2.
3rd (K.O.) Hussars 5; 2nd Battn. Royal Scots 0.

SECOND ROUND.

1st Light Brigade R.A. 3; R.E. (Egypt) 0.
3rd Armoured Car Company (R.T.C.) 2; 12th Lancers 0.
Royal Corps of Signals 3; 15/19th Hussars 1.
3rd (K.O.) Hussars 4; Royal Irish Fusiliers 1.

SEMI-FINALS.

3rd Armoured Car Co. R.T.C. 1; 1st Light Brigade R.A. 0.
3rd (K.O.) Hussars 9; Royal Corps of Signals 0.

FINAL.

The final was played between the 3rd (K.O.) Hussars (winners of A. League) and 3rd Armoured Car Company, R.T.C. (winners of B. League). The game resulted in a win for the Hussars by three goals to nil, scored by Tprs Kinkead, Bennett and Kelly, two in the first period and one after the interval.

SWIMMING.

75 yards free style—1, Pte Drane, 3rd A.C. Coy. R.T.C.; 2, Corpl Aldrige, R.A.S.C.; 3, Sigmn Taylor, Royal Corps of Signals; 4, Gunner Duggan, 1st Light Brigade R.A. Time, 45 secs.
880 yards free style—1, Bdsmn Sullivan, R.I.F.; 2, Sigmn Winfield, Royal Corps of Signals; 3, Tpr Fairbrother, 3rd Hussars. Time, 15 min. 9 4/5 secs.
Enlisted boys' 75 yards—1, McPhee, A. and S. Highlanders; 2, Gilligan, R.I. Fusiliers; 3, Gilligan, R.I. Fusiliers. Time, 54 2/5 secs.
440 yards free style—1, Pte Drane, 3rd A.C. Company R.T.C.; 2, Pte Oliver, A. and S. Highlanders; 3, L/Bdr Steele, 1st Light Brigade R.A. Time, 6 min. 55 2/5 secs.
Plunging—1, Lieut Bartlett, Royal Corps of Signals; 2, Corpl Aldrige, R.A.S.C.; 3, Gunner Cleaver, 2nd Brigade R.H.A. Distance, 54 ft. 3 ins.


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75 yards back stroke—1, Corpl Bennett, 3rd (K.O.) Hussars; 2, Tpr Kelly, 3rd (K.O.) Hussars; 3, Tpr Forshaw, 15/19th Hussars. Time, 1 min. 6 3/5 secs.
Diving—1, McDougall, 3rd Hussars; 2, Sigmn King, Royal Corps of Signals; 3, Tpr Birch, 15/19th Hussars.
180 yards free style—1, Corpl Aldrige, R.A.S.C.; 2, Bdsmn Dwyer, R.I.F.; 3, Sigmn Ging, Royal Corps of Signals. Time, 2 min. 31 secs.

TEAMS' FINAL RESULTS.

75 yards relay—1, R.A.S.C.; 2, Royal Corps of Signals; 3, 3rd Hussars; 4, 1st Light Brigade R.A.
880 yards free style—1, R.I. Fusiliers (A); 2, 3rd Hussars; 3, 1st Light Brigade R.A.; 4, Royal Scots; Royal Corps of Signals and R.A.S.C. tied for the fifth place. This event was swum off as individuals, the result being: 1, L/Corpl McKan, R.I.F.; 2, Bdsmn Sullivan, R.I.F.; 3, Tpr Fairbrother, 3rd Hussars; 4, Pte Johnson, Royal Scots; 5, Dvr Palmer, 1st Light Brigade R.A.; 6, Sigmn Winfield, Royal Corps of Signals.
Plunging—1, Royal Corps of Signals; 2, R.A.S.C.; 3rd Hussars and R.I. Fusiliers tied for third place; 5, 1st Light Brigade R.A.
180 yards free style relay—1, Royal Corps of Signals; 2, 3rd Hussars; 3, R.A.S.C.; 4, 1st Light Brigade R.A.
Variety race—1, 3rd Armoured Car Co. R.T.C.; 2, R.A.S.C.; 3, 3rd Hussars; 4, R.I. Fusiliers.
Diving—1, Royal Corps of Signals (152 points); 2, 3rd Hussars (151); 3, R.A.S.C. (137); 4, 12th Lancers (131); 5, A. and S. Highlanders (130); 6, R.I. Fusiliers (129).
Units relay—1, 1st Light Brigade R.A.; 2, Royal Corps of Signals; 3, 3rd Hussars; 4, R.A.S.C.
440 yards team—1, R.I. Fusiliers; 2, 3rd Hussars; 3, A. and S. Highlanders (A); 4, R.I. Fusiliers (B); 5, Royal Signals. This event was swum off as individuals, the final result being: 1, Bdsmn Dwyer, R.I.F.; 2, Kelly, 3rd Hussars; 3, F. Oliver, A. and S. Highlanders; 4, L/Corpl McKan, R.I.F.; 5, Sigmn Sparkes, Royal Corps of Signals.

POINTS AWARDED TO EACH UNIT.

3rd Hussars 44½; Royal Corps of Signals 41½; R.A.S.C. 28½; 1st Light Brigade R.A. 26; R.I.Fusiliers 24½; 3rd A.C. Coy. R.T.C. 17; 12th Lancers 7; A. and S. Highlanders 6; Norfolk Regt. 3; Royal Scots 3; 15/19th Hussars 2; R.E. (Egypt) 2; 2nd Brigade R.H.A. 0.

The committee were: President, Col. R. H. McVittie, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., R.A.O.C.; Hon. Secretary, Lieut H. C. Franklin, M.C., R.A.S.C.; Lieut F. B. Pinchard (1st Light Brigade R.A.), Lieut C. F. Newsom (Royal Signals), Lieut H. T. L. Loftus-Tottenham (R.E.).

By kind permission of Lieut.-Col. F. R. Burnside, D.S.O., and officers, the band of the 3rd (King's Own) Hussars played during the afternoon on the final day.

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Cairo District Swimming and Water Polo Leagues 1927-28 results (winner and runner-up).

"A" League—Swimming: "A" Team 3rd Hussars; Royal Corps of Signals. Water polo: "A" Team 3rd Hussars; 1st Light Brigade R.A.

"B" League—Swimming: 3rd A.C. Coy. Royal Tank Corps; "B" Team 3rd Hussars. Water polo: 3rd A.C. Coy. Royal Tanks Corps; "B" Team 3rd Hussars.

Winner of the aggregate cup, 3rd Hussars.

Hearty congratulations to Lieut H. Bartlett on winning the individual plunging championship, Sigmn Taylor on obtaining third place in the 75 yards free style, Sigmn Winfield second in the 880 yards free style, and Sigmn King third in the 180 yards free style. Further congratulations to Sigmn King upon being second in diving. The result of this was so close that Sigmn King and Pte McDougall (3rd Hussars) each had to give three additional dives for first and second places.

We heartily congratulate the whole team upon their splendid performance against superior odds.

In presenting the prizes the G.O.C. once again made special mention of the Signals. He stated that the day before he had presented the Corps with the runner-up medals in the Frank Cook cricket cup, and now the Signals were runners-up in the Command swimming. He felt sure that the Signals' efforts *would* meet with success, and that he would soon have the pleasure of presenting them with the winner's cup. He said that if a Corps could keep reaching the final, it proved that it was good and fit, and fitness was the main thing in a tropical country—he knew, because he had served in a few.

**Billiards.**—The final of the Command billiard championship is due to take place on September 12th and 13th, and once again the Signals are there. We meet the R.A.F. (Middle East), and may we win!

**Football.**—The season has opened, but it is too warm for football. The Corps met with defeat in the only match to date, against the 1st Pack Brigade R.A.—hereinafter referred to as the 1st Light Brigade R.A. We lost by four clear goals, but that was not our true form—at least, we hope not, because that will not carry us to the final of the Command cup.

**Stop Press.**—The following have been selected to represent the British Army in Egypt in swimming: Signalmen Forster, King and Sparkes. Congratulations!

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—A Company trial game was played on the Corps ground on Sunday, August 28th, against the 30th M.T. Coy. R.A.S.C., and we ran out very easy winners by four goals to nil.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

**Tennis.**—In the Company handicaps, Sigmn Durand and Spr Earl won the doubles from Sigmn Holland and Spr Adams. L/Corpl Purcell won the singles from Sigmn White. Well done, Signals! Mrs. Russel-Brown, wife of our Chief Engineer, kindly presented the prizes.

The R.E.-Royal Signals team have played nine matches in the Hong Kong tennis league, and won but two, so they have relinquished the position of the "strong men" of the league.

We still remain at the top of the Garrison tennis league, but have played no further matches since last notes. Rain again!


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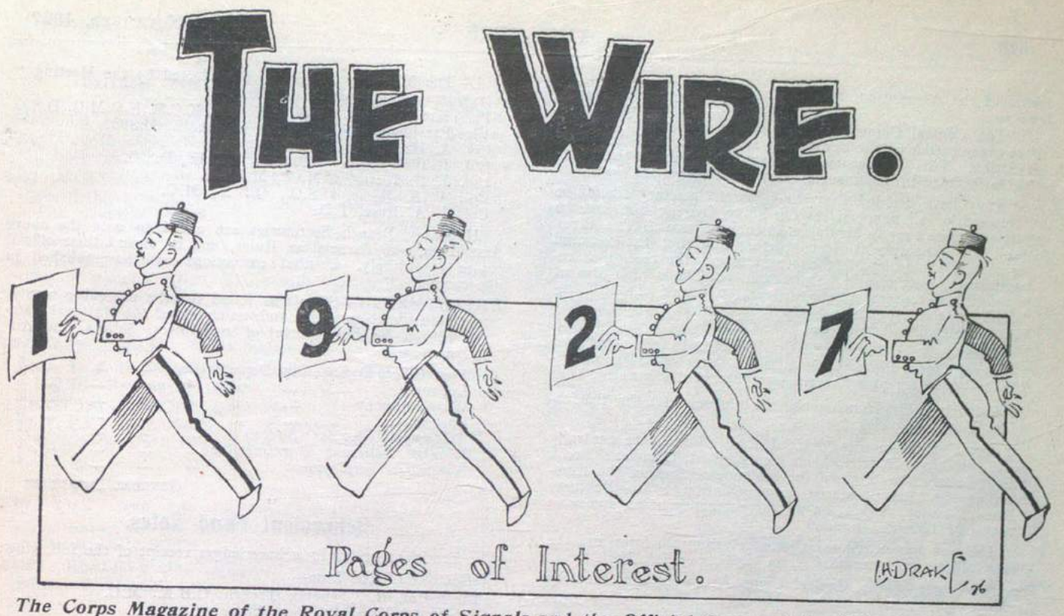


*The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.*

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Mr. W. BUTLER, 95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1,
to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. VIII.—No. 93 NOVEMBER, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE

## Editorial Notes.

Attention is again called to the fact that correspondence intended for the Editor and General Secretary is still being *wrongly* addressed to the Treasurer's office at 4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C., instead of to the Editorial and Secretarial offices at 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Only cash remittances should be sent to the Treasurer, and all correspondence to this office direct as heretofore.

❀ ❀ ❀

In response to many enquiries, it is notified for general information that we hope, in the near future, to be able to contemplate the publication of an up-to-date Pocket Edition of the Corps Promotion Roster, subject of course to a sufficient number of orders being forthcoming to cover the cost of such production.

Assuming that the necessary information will be available for publication during the next three months, will Unit Representatives indicate as early as possible the number of copies which they will require? On receipt of this information, we will at once calculate and publish the price at which the booklet can be sold to cover the cost of production. This course will not only enable prospective purchasers to obtain their copy at a minimum price, but will also enable us to avoid being left with a number of unsold copies on our hands.

❀ ❀ ❀

May we again appeal to all ranks of the Corps to support their Corps Journal, and to assist in maintaining the position it now occupies as the premier Regimental publication?

THE WIRE has for the past twelve months taken a very decisive lead in its struggles for supremacy, and the solid co-operation of all units at home and abroad is necessary to consolidate that position and to place our Magazine beyond any possible danger of supersession.

Any reader having doubts as to the usefulness of the Association is referred to the Benevolent Fund Notes and the record of Employments found, on the next page.

The Committee, in making this appeal, are confident of a response worthy of the only Corps that matters!

❀ ❀ ❀

Those readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1927 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. Price 8/- per copy, post free.

❀ ❀ ❀

Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra).

EDITOR.

## SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Signals Association was held at 95 Belgrave Road, Victoria, London, S.W.1 (as advertised) at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5th, 1927. The following business was transacted:—

1.—Accounts for the period ending December 31st, 1926, were examined and passed.

2.—Confirmation of the action taken by the Central Committee in regard to the re-organisation of the accounting arrange-

ments of the Association, and to the change of offices, as follows :—

"The Central Committee have had under consideration a "re-organisation of the accounting arrangements of the Asso- "ciation. This has become necessary owing to the consider- "able increase in its financial activities.

"They have decided that the General Secretary should be "relieved of all financial responsibility, leaving him free to "devote more time to his duties in connection with THE WIRE "and the Employment Branch, etc.; and that the financial "business, including all the accounts and the receipt of re- "mittances, etc., should be placed in the hands of a firm of "qualified Accountants, who will act on behalf of the Trea- "surer of the Association—the latter to be (ex-officio) the "senior Signal Officer at the War Office.

"Messrs. H. S. Baker and Co., Chartered Accountants, of "4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2, have agreed to under- "take the duties at a fee for one year of 100 guineas.

"Colonel A. H. French continues to administer the Benevo- "lent Fund.

"The Committee also decided that offices more centrally "situated than those hitherto occupied at Stamford Brook "Lodge should be obtained for the general work of the Asso- "ciation, and have secured accommodation at 95 Belgrave "Road, London, S.W.1, on a yearly tenancy at an inclusive "rental of £80 per annum.

"The new accounting arrangements came into force and the "new offices were occupied from September 1st, 1927."

The above acts of the Central Committee were confirmed by the Meeting.

3.—Amendment of the Rules under Rule 22, made necessary owing to the new arrangements as described above :—

Page 1 (bottom) and page 3, Rule 2 (para. 1)—For "Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, W.6," read "95 Belgrave Road, Victoria, London, S.W.1."
Page 3, Rule 3 (1)—Para. 4, line 6: For "Central" read "General."
Pages 3 and 4, Rule 3 (1)—Para. 4: Delete "for allocation to the Old Comrades Headquarters Account."
Page 4, line 2—For "Central" read "General."
Page 4, line 6—For "General Secretary" read "Treasurer."
Page 4, line 8—Delete "of the Central Fund."
Page 5, lines 5-11—Delete lines 5 to 11 inclusive, and substitute "an officer serving in the London area to assist him in dealing with appeals of an urgent nature."
Page 5, line 14—For "Stamford Brook Lodge, London, W.6," read "95 Belgrave Road, Victoria, London, S.W.1."
Page 5, line 22—For "Central" read "General."
Page 6, line 4—Insert "Central" before "Committee."
Page 7, line 5—Insert "Central" before "Committee," and delete "of Management."
Page 7, Rule 9—
Line 3—For "President" read "Chairman."
Line 4—After "Centre" add "(Vice-Chairman)."
Line 5—After "Office" add "(Treasurer)."
Lines 6-8—Delete "The President Old Comrades Sub-Committee, The President Benevolent Sub-Committee, and The President Publications Sub-Committee."
Line 10—Delete "The Treasurer."
Line 11—For "Three" read "Six," and after "Territorial" add "or Supplementary Reserve."
Page 8, line 6—Delete "on failure" and substitute "in default."
Page 8, Rule 10, para. 3, line 2—Before "Secretary" insert "General."
Page 8, Rule 12. Heading—For "Central" read "General."
Page 9, line 1—For "Central" read "General."
Page 9, Rule 14—Delete "President of the Benevolent Branch and," and also "of the Central Fund respectively." Insert in line 1 of the Rule, after "cause," "all."
Page 10, Rule 17, line 5—For "March" read "December."
Page 11, Rule 23—
Line 1—For "Central" read "General."
Line 2—For "(Cox's Branch)" substitute "(Cox's & King's Branch)."
Line 3—For "Branch" read "Fund."

The above Amendments were passed by the Meeting, subject to approval by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

4.—The following Officers were re-elected by the Meeting to serve for a further period of office :—

President, Lt.-Gen. Sir John Fowler, K.C.B.,K.C.M.G.,D.S.O.
Vice-President, Col. H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O.
Col. A. H. French, D.S.O.
Col. J. Waley Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.
Col. J. F. Lister, C.M.G., M.I.E.E.
Col. A. A. Jayne, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.
Col. J. A. Rose, T.D.

Honorary Branch Secretaries are asked to note the above Amendments to Association Rules, and to amend their official copies accordingly. Printed corrections will be published in due course.

EMPLOYMENTS.—Situations found for the preceding month, with the co-operation and assistance of the National Association for Employment of ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Post Office Engineering Department ... ... ... | 3 |
| Labourer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Warehouseman ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Porters ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Telegraph Inspector (Sudan) ... ... ... | 1 |
| Wireless Salesman Demonstrator ... ... ... | 1 |
| Australian employment ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

SUBSCRIPTIONS from—

Lieut.-Col. R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl. Signals.
Signal Section, Pulau Brani, Singapore.
Mr. W. Moffatt, Sheffield.

APPEALS dealt with during the preceding month :—

1—Ex-Driver, Royal Signals, Stoke-on-Trent, married. Admitted to hospital with pleurisy. £10 allocated from Association funds to assist his family. (SAB/265).
2—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, Edinburgh, single, in temporary difficulties. £2 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/235).
3—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, Huddersfield, married, in domestic difficulties. Delicate wife and child. £8 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/266).
4—Ex-N.C.O., Royal Signals, Brighton, in business difficulties. £3 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/267).
5—Farningham Boys' Home, Farningham, Kent. Quarterly maintenance fees for two children, £20. (SAB/150).
6—Princess Mary's Village Home, Addlestone. Quarterly maintenance fees for one child, £9 15s. (SAB/154).
7—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, London, single. Employment secured for him in Australia, and £16 10s. passage money advanced as a loan from Association funds. (SAB/269).
8—Ex-N.C.O., Royal Signals, Birmingham, single. Admitted to local hospital. Further grant of £2 to hospital authorities for treatment rendered. (SAB/252).
9—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, London, married, in failing health and domestic difficulties. £3 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/192).

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major R. F. B. Naylor, from Malta to Catterick.
Major R. Elsdale, from Catterick to Palestine.
Major R. C. Nixon, from Rhine to London.
Captain H. A. Spencer, from Catterick to Aldershot.
Lieut. C. H. Lyddon, from Aldershot to Iraq.
Lieut. G. S. O'N. Power, from Catterick to Cambridge Univ.
Lieut. L. A. E. Tozer, from Catterick to Cambridge Univ.
Lieut. J. Wynn, from Rhine to Aldershot.
Lieut. L. A. E. Brown, from Aldershot to Catterick.



### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 23/9/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt J. McConville, M.C., on attaining the age fixed for compulsory retirement, is placed on retired pay, 24/9/27.

REG. ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Capt. J. McConville, M.C., ret. pay, to be Captain, 24/9/27, with seniority 17/5/19.

War Office, 27/9/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt. J. Crowley, M.C., on attaining the age fixed for compulsory retirement, is placed on ret. pay, 26/9/27.

War Office, 30/9/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut. E. J. H. Moppett, from Manchester Regt., to be Lieut. 1/10/27, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals—F. A. Walter (late Officer Cadet, Manchester Univ. Contgt. Sen. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 19/9/27.

War Office, 4/10/27.

REG. ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Capt. Robert Knight, late Gen. List, to be Captain, 20/8/27, with seniority 9/2/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut V. Mitchell to be Lieut. 12/8/27.

War Office, 7/10/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Commands and Staff—
Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., to be Chief Signal Officer (Class X) 1/10/27.

War Office, 11/10/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals—Lieut C. Rowe to be Capt. 29/4/27.

## The Band Tour.

The Band have had a short but successful engagement season this summer. As there were two engagements in the south of England, of one week at Littlehampton and a fortnight at Hastings, the Band were able to pay visits to Bulford and Aldershot. Their successful visit to Bulford has already been described in THE WIRE. At Aldershot the Band played at the Officers' Club and for the n.c.o.s and men, and from there went up to London and played at the Oval for the Corps cricket match against the R.A.O.C., and in the evening at the Corps dinner.

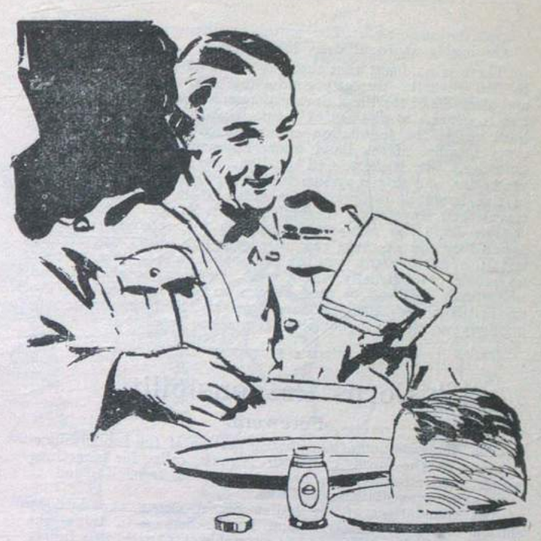
The week at Littlehampton was a little spoiled by weather, but, in spite of this, Mr. Ricketts had good audiences. At Hastings the reception given the Band was enthusiastic. Audiences were always big, and the encores demanded were so numerous that the Band had little rest in the intervals given on the programme.

After a fortnight back at Catterick, the Band went up to Glasgow for the opening two weeks of the Health Exhibition. Here, though they were only incidental to the Exhibition, they undoubtedly had their share in attracting visitors. The Kelvin Hall is very large, and the seating for those who wished to listen to the Band would hold well over two thousand. This was always full when the Band was playing.

On their last day at Glasgow the Band played massed with the Royal Marines, whose conductor is Lieut Ricketts—Mr. Ricketts' brother, the composer of "Colonel Bogey" and other well-known marches. The brothers each conducted half the programme at the afternoon and evening performances. The evening audience on this occasion was estimated at 7000 persons.

Audiences at Glasgow are very critical, and ask a high standard. The following extract from a letter received by the Colonel-Commandant Signal Training Centre, from Mr. Somerville, the Exhibition Manager, will show what they thought :—

"I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the magnificent performance of your men, and hope that an occasion may arise at some future date when we may



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again be associated. The music, as discoursed by the Band, was highly appreciated by the public."

There is no doubt that these successes of the Band were due to Mr. Ricketts' masterly conducting, and the keen attention and alertness of the Band during the performances which enabled him to get the utmost out of them. But the performances were built up on the foundation of many months of hard work by every member of the Band under his sympathetic and patient guidance. Mr. Ricketts and the Band have the ambition to do yet better, and they may sometimes feel that even their average of five hours a day practice is but a short time in which to travel their stage along the high road of Music.

The Band has not yet reached the full strength which is hoped for, and all ranks can help by trying to get recruits for it. It is an excellent opening for anyone who wishes to take up music professionally. Men must, however, be able to read music very well and be good players on their instruments. No one is taken without an audition from Mr. Ricketts and he will willingly answer any enquiries from those interested.

## A Corps Responsibility.

### Foreword.

The amalgamation of the British portion of the Indian Signal Corps with the Royal Corps of Signals calls for something which will introduce personnel coming out from England to their new responsibilities in India.

The foundations of the Indian Signal Corps were laid by officers of the Indian Army and British Service in India, the majority of whom served for several years with the Indian Signal Corps. The system of secondment has almost ceased, and henceforward the Corps will be officered by the Royal Corps of Signals. A certain period of years must pass before officers return for a second tour of service in India. Until that time comes, there will be many officers serving here with little or no experience of the Indian soldier. It is of vital importance to the Royal Corps of Signals and to the Indian Signal Corps that the amalgamation should be of mutual benefit.

The best results will only be obtained by a whole-hearted realisation and acceptance of the responsibilities involved by service in India.

The few notes appended are written to assist officers coming out East to grasp those responsibilities.

A MAIN outcome of the absorption by the Royal Corps of Signals of the British establishment of the Indian Signal Corps being the liability of most present and all future officers of the Royal Corps of Signals for service in India, it is essential that all ranks new to the East should have some knowledge of the traditions, and be able in some measure to appreciate the outlook of the Corps in which they are temporarily called upon to serve, and which consists for two-thirds of its establishment of Indian ranks.

That the Indian Signal Corps has fighting traditions of which any Corps may well be proud, a very brief resumé of its inception and history will show. Its proudest tradition now is its adoption by the Royal Corps of Signals, a tradition capable of bearing fruit, far beyond the Signal Service, of value to India and the Empire if fostered by us in the right way.

The year 1911 marks the birth of the Corps as Nos. 31, 32, 33 and 34 Divisional Signal Companies, and No. 44 Wireless Squadron of the Sappers and Miners, and thus it is an offshoot of the Royal Engineers. Among its sponsors who raised the units are officers well known throughout the Signal Service in the Great War—Captain (now Colonel) R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., Captain (now Brigadier-General) H. S. Franklin, C.M.G., D.S.O., Captain (now Colonel) L. H. Queripel, C.M.G., D.S.O., to mention three. The units in their infancy comprised some forty-four British and eighty-eight Indian ranks each—small numbers according to present-day ideas, but material of the best: all picked transfers from Regular units, trained signallers and experienced men. Such was the original Signal Service in India, and such it remained until 1914, when, with the exception of a section of No. 31 Company (now "A" Corps) lucky enough to share in the Abor expedition of 1912, it was called upon to receive its baptism of fire in the Great War.

The outbreak of war, imposing on India, in addition to the ever-present problems of internal security and frontier defence, the task of finding and equipping Expeditionary Forces for at first four, and, later, more fronts—each differing as regards climate, type of warfare and terrain— revolutionised the Indian Signal Service perhaps even more drastically than the sister Signal Service at home. Such few units as existed were augmented and sent overseas, or in some cases retained and split up; entirely new units were raised and often sent on service within a few weeks; whilst sources of re-inforcements had to be organised, and new units found to meet further commitments and to replace others overseas.

Of the original units, No. 31 (now "A" Corps Signals), having sent a Brigade Section to East Africa, re-organised in something like forty-eight hours and proceeded as a Corps Signals to France. No. 32 (now Peshawar District Signals) also, with its Division (the 3rd, Lahore), arrived in time for a share in the first battle of Ypres. No. 34 (now Waziristan District Signals) accompanied the 6th Poona Division to Mesopotamia, where, after much hard and difficult fighting, it temporarily ended a brief but brilliant career on the fall of Kut. The Wireless Squadron was mobilised for France, and then at the last moment divided—half to France with the 1st Cavalry Division, and half to the M.E.F. No. 33 (now 2nd Indian Divisional Signals) alone remained, to proceed to Mesopotamia later, but was temporarily depleted out of recognition to re-inforce the Wireless Squadron and to form the nucleus of No. 35 (now 1st Indian Divisional Signals), which was raised to accompany the 7th Meerut Division to France and was fighting merrily at Neuve Chapelle within something like a month of first being formed.

All these units, some of them with occasional reliefs in the shape of sea trips from front to front, were from now on continually in action in France, Africa, Palestine and Mesopotamia —the last to come out being probably No. 31, which returned to India after the Mesopotamian rebellion of 1920, still with a few of the old originals and, to the best of the writer's recollection, a pack mule which had left India in 1914, still carrying (somewhere inside) a portion of a 17-inch shell stopped during the first gas attack at Ypres.

New units were raised, each in turn to play its part in some or other theatre of war. Most of these survive, as may be seen in the Indian Army List to-day. The tale of individual units would fill a book; here can only be instanced a fraction of those things which should be known to all associated with the Indian Signal Corps.

The story of Lieut Townend, R.E., of No. 31 (attached to No. 35 Divisional Signal Company on the Rue du Bois in 1914, who, with both legs taken off by a shell, greeted the men of his section who found him with "This is going to stop my soccer, I'm afraid," and that night died.

The Indian linemen of No. 32 Divisional Signal Company in 1915 at Ypres, when, as an officer remarked, "The Brigade Signal Section sent man after man to mend their line; as fast as one was killed, another went straight without an order to do the job, into gas and almost obvious death," is an epic of which the present Peshawar District Signals may well be proud.

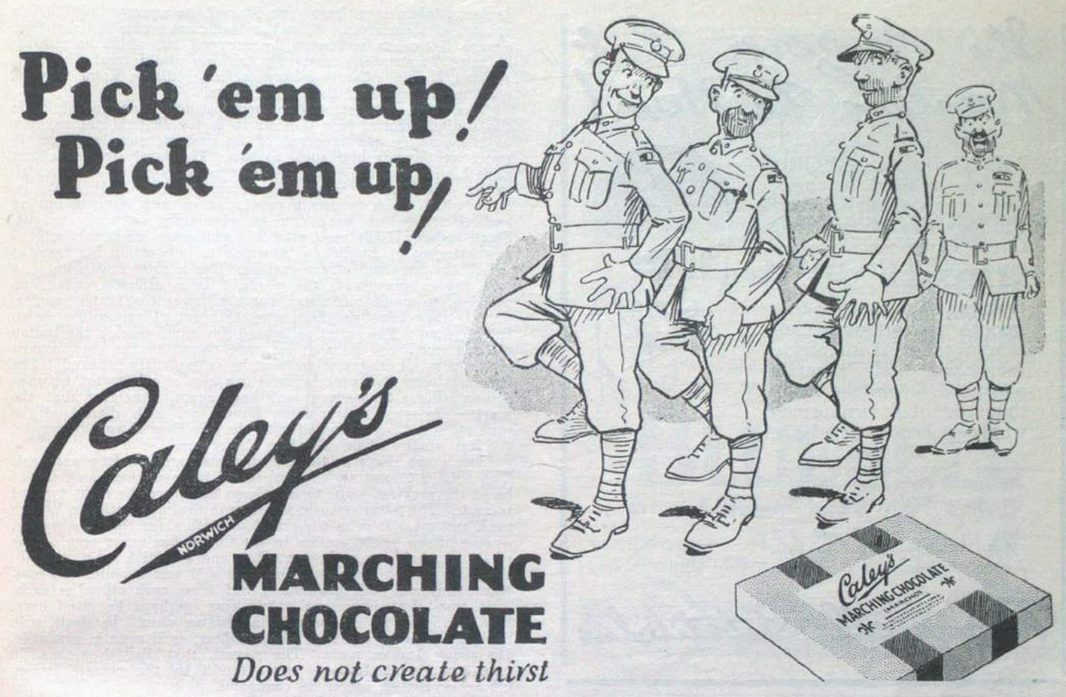
The establishment of trans-river communication in the face of murderous fire, at the capture of Kut, by Corpl Blunt (late No. 33 Divisional Signal Company); the D.C.M. with no less than three bars of Sergeant Walsh, and award for valour to Corporal Key (both of No. 35 Divisional Signal Company), the latter for rallying and leading an Indian battalion with all its British officers down, instance the type of n.c.o.

Finally, let me quote the testimony in the war services of the present senior Indian officer of the Corps as to his staunchness and influence for loyalty throughout a whole Division, the morale of which, worn by starvation and siege, was at its lowest ebb.

Records such as these set a high standard for the present-day successor to maintain, and it is only by esprit-de-corps, co-operation, mutual trust and understanding between the British officer, British soldier, Indian officer and Indian soldier, that this standard can ever in the future be kept up.

A criticism of the Indian Signal Corps on its first formation was that the admixture of British Service and Indian Army officers, Indian officers, British n.c.o.s, British and Indian rank and file, would never work. That this criticism was disproved almost simultaneously with the birth of the Corps, was mainly due to the insistence in all units from the outset that the Indian establishment should be modelled on the standard set by the Sappers and Miners and the best type of unit in the Indian Army. British Service officers threw themselves heart and soul into this, learning the language, getting to know the men, and, most important, inculcating the proper perspective as regards Indians into the British n.c.o.s and men. These were the






factors which made the Corps in war, helped it through the subsequent lean years when the prospects of Signals as a Corps were in the hands of Fate, and must always count for much, almost all, where the welfare of the Indian Signal Corps is concerned.

The Indian soldier, perhaps by reason of the fact that generations of a family follow the profession of arms in one regiment or corps, is a conservative soul; he is simple-minded in that he has been used for years to accept his British officer with implicit faith; nor has the latter let him down. The war and its casualty lists have proved his bravery, and though he may lack the initiative of the Western races, it has been amply shown that he will follow the British officer and also the n.c.o. of the right type anywhere.

It must at first be realised that in the great system of "caste," which in India so largely determines the calling which a man should follow, the soldier ranks next to the priest at the top of the social scale. The average Englishman, arriving in India for the first time and seeing all round him men with dark faces and strange clothes, is apt perhaps to class them all alike. His powers of observation and interest may gradually bring home to him how entirely wrong this is, but it is desired to make clear to the readers of this, now, that the Indian soldier resembles neither in birth, character, nor mode of living, the barrack servants or residents in bazaars, whom of all Indians we perhaps most frequently meet. The Gurkha has no more in common with a bazaar shop-keeper than an Englishman has with a Jew ped'ar; the Punjabi Mussulman and the Bengali are no more akin than a Scotsman and a Po'e.

The majority of the fighting classes of India were represented in the Corps in its enormous expansion during the Great War. Though there still remains a fair diversity of classes in the ranks, these are being reduced, and in future the policy is to restrict enlistment to four: Madrassi, Dogra, Sikh, and Punjabi Mussulman.

Madrassis, the descendants of the armies of Clive, are of mixed religions: Mussulmans, Christians and Hindus. They are intelligent and often well-educated, cheery, and sworn by by the British officers of the Madrassi Signal unit captured in Kut, who saw them with their backs really against the wall. The 2nd Sappers and Miners have a lien on the best type of Madrassi recruit, and the Corps cannot do better than foster the old ties which bound the Madrassi Signal Companies to the Madras Sappers and Miners.

Dogras are high-caste Hindus of good birth, mainly recruited among the lower spurs of the Himalayas between the Sutlej and Chenab rivers. As a class they are manly, simple and honest folk, and can be relied on for strict obedience to orders and steady endurance in the field. They are shy at first and do not take easily to strangers, but once this is overcome and confidence gained, they are one of the pleasantest types of Indian with which to deal. Their high caste renders them particular in matters connected with food and drink, which are bound up with religious observances of their caste, and care must be taken not to hurt their feelings in this respect.

Some of the hardest fighting ever experienced by the British Army in India occurred in our wars of the last century against the Sikhs, culminating in the annexure of the Punjab, and in 1849 the bringing of the Sikhs under the English rule. Since then the Sikh has made our quarrels his own, and the fighting records of this race as part of our Indian Army are second to none. A Sikh in his appearance is quite distinct from any other race; usually above the average in stature, the true Sikh is always clean and well-turned-out. From birth his hair is never cut, nor does he shave his beard. Sikhism, an offshoot of Hinduism, resembles Christianity in many ways in its one Deity, prohibition of idolatry, and teachings of loyalty, justice and truth. A good Sikh will neither touch intoxicants nor smoke. Outstanding traits, a love of military adventure, and desire to save money, tempt them to accept service overseas. The average Sikh is a good athlete and keen on games, hardy and well disciplined, but, with all this, a sworn lover of intrigue—a failing which is almost invariably the root of any trouble which occurs among this type of Indian rank.

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The term Punjabi Mussulman includes all Mohammedans recruited in the Punjab, and thus describes a race exhibiting many variations of quality and temperament. As all-round soldiers they are very hard to beat, and though lacking in some degree the dash of the Pathan or the dogged perseverance of the Sikh, they have a considerable amount of both qualities in their composition, and as real good reliable fighting men rank very high. Manly, well-disciplined and well-behaved in peace and war, they are a type that appeals, as much as any in the Indian Army, to the natural instincts of the Englishman.

This very general summary gives but a small idea of the main characteristics of the type of man the Corps enlists. More can be gleaned from the many works in which the libraries in Indian military stations abound. Suffice it to say, the Corps cannot complain of the material with which it has to build; results will be dependent on its use, and here perhaps some hints for building may not come amiss.

The Indian officer, as met with in the Corps, is not the newly-inaugurated Sandhurst product holding the King's commission, ranking and living with the British officer, but the old Indian Army type mainly promoted from the ranks, holding a Viceroy's commission, ranking between the British officer and Indian ranks, and officially and socially distinct from both.

In units constituted as are those of the Indian Signal Corps, with an establishment of British warrant officers and non-commissioned ranks, there is always the possibility that the Indian officer, especially if British officers of the unit have difficulty in understanding him or are out of sympathy in any way, will develop into a mere figure-head. The well-bred Indian is naturally shy, and if he senses the atmosphere that the British officer regards him as superfluous and is unwilling to give ear to his advice, he will retire within himself like an oyster into its shell.

The tendency to regard him as a figure-head is one to be avoided at all costs. The Indian officer has a very real position and job, in that primarily he is the sole intermediary between the British establishment of the unit and some hundreds of Indian ranks whose whole outlook on life is as far apart from that of the Englishman as are the poles. The senior Indian officer must be treated as such, for on this treatment do the whole Indian establishment base their idea of the commanding officer's opinion of themselves. A bad or inefficient senior Indian officer should, like other inefficients, be scrapped, but whilst he remains he must be treated, outwardly, as one would treat the most efficient Indian officer: otherwise, irremediable harm may be done in the minds of the Indian ranks.

The writer realises, and so, perhaps more than we think, do the Indian officers, how difficult it is for British officers, new to the country and ignorant of its customs and language, to resist an obvious bias such as this: The newly-arrived officer finds himself, at the end of a hot-weather working day, seated in an office, in an inferno-like atmosphere, to adjudicate on cases which seem to him a procession of men pouring out an endless stream of words in an absolutely unknown tongue. Small wonder if the most plausible gentleman who has mastered a smattering of English with which to bolster up his case, at which the harassed officer snatches like a drowning man at a raft, "gets away with the goods." It is difficult, often impossible, to avoid mistakes; but the fewer the better, as frequently they have an effect altogether out of proportion on an Indian mind. The surest safeguard lies in reliance on the Indian officer's word, and it must be made patent to the men, almost to the point of exaggeration, that he *is* implicitly believed. The time may come, however, when it is a case of arbitration between Indian officers themselves; and here again, remember that the inarticulate type, interspersing Hindustani with dialect of the rankest, is not, as compared with the glib English-speaking type, the less worthy of belief—often the reverse.

Two great assets in the Indian officer are breeding and tact. The former commands the respect of his own men, and should be of the greatest value to the Corps to ensure the right type of recruit. The latter smooths the way in dealings with the British rank and file. It is to the credit of both sides that the writer, during fifteen years' service in the Corps, has never seen a case of friction between an Indian officer and a British n.c.o. or man. Association with them both in peace and war supplies the solution; they are both gentlemen, and treat each other as such. Two small but important points may perhaps be cited here. The first, that no case against an Indian should be dealt with save in the presence of an Indian officer, or if none is available, the senior Indian n.c.o. The second, that British n.c.o.s, in cases concerning Indians, must report to the nearest Indian officer or British officer in command.

The selection of the Indian officer and, further, the selection of junior officers for advancement to the higher ranks, are very far from being easy tasks—a very thorough knowledge of the men, their histories, families, and power for influence being required. An Indian tends to age rapidly, being past his prime at 35, and it is useless to advance the ageing type who lack force of character and drive, however clean their record or full their list of war service may be. At the same time the Indian officer is the pulse of his men, and it is preferable for him to be tactful, a good disciplinarian, and able to ensure a happy, intrigue-free establishment of Indian ranks than to be the finest technical man the unit can produce. Though of the greatest value if he is a good technical instructor, his real and proper sphere is mainly an administrative one.

To the Indian mind, the criterion of an Indian officer's worth is to a great extent his status in the British officer's eyes. This must not be forgotten, and it is essential at all times that his treatment by British officers should be such as to convey the impression that he has ground beneath his feet. It is customary to shake hands with an Indian officer when meeting him for the first time; to address him as "Subedar (or "Jemadar") sahib," and insist that all ranks (British and Indian) do so, too; to have a chair placed for him if you yourself are sitting down; to make a point of speaking to the Indian officers, who should have their own enclosure, etc., at unit sports; and once or twice a year, to have them down in a body to chat to British officers at the mess. These are all small courtesies, the scrupulous observance of which means much to the Indian officers themselves, and almost more to the Indian rank and file—courtesy to their officers being looked upon by them as courtesy to their race.

There still remains a sprinkling of pre-war Indian officers throughout the Corps, men carefully watched, trained and selected by British officers of ripe Indian experience to fill commissioned ranks, but these are slowly dying out. It is essential, if the Corps is to retain its pride of rank, that successors of the right type be chosen to replace these men. The onus of selection will, in future, rest upon officers of the Royal Corps of Signals in India; and the responsibility is not a light one, nor to be undertaken successfully without an understanding knowledge



of the language and general outlook of the race with whom they have to deal.

The keen and sympathetic officer will find but little difficulty in getting to know the men. One, if not the best, characteristic of the Indian soldier is his keenness to learn; he may be slow, but interest is repaid one hundred per cent., and once he realises that the instructor is keen, he more than does his share. Association on the playing fields counts for much. The men's games should be organised, and the pre-war rule (extant in most Indian regiments to-day) that all officers should play games with the men is well worth keeping up. Officers keen on shooting will find it often well repays them to take a signalman or two along when "on shikar." A day's coursing with a party of Sikhs is as good exercise and sport as one can have. Most of the men are keen, and many know the ropes and jungle lore.

Tradition means as much to Indians as it does to us. The 2nd Goorkhas and Coke's Rifles, wearing the green and red of the 60th, and the Madras Sappers, their pugrees reminiscent of the old-time busby of the R.E., are all intensely proud of their association with these famous British Corps. It pays enormously to keep up old memories with Indian ranks, and no commanding officer will work in vain who revives his unit's war record so as to make it a live history in the minds of n.c.o.s and men.

Until one knows the Indians, it is hard to realise how thoroughly they do become imbued with real esprit-de-corps. The genuine enthusiasm shown on the recent sanction given them to wear the colours and buttons of the Royal Corps of Signals would almost make the Corps Committee blush. They take the keenest interest and pride in the doings of the British ranks, the nearest approach to a riot ever seen in the Indian Signal Corps being on one famous occasion, when the Indians of two Signal units differed over what some considered a bad decision given by a referee in a football match between their respective British personnel.

That the Indians have their faults and limitations one knows well: were they the equal of the white man, the latter would not be in India to-day. Service for a while in India, whatever it is painted, is really none too bad, a pleasant experience for bachelor youth, and the finest training in the world. Do not approach it in the spirit of "I'll never understand the Indian or his language, and anyhow I've only got five years to do." The material is there for a real good show, if welded by real good men.

Finally, the Royal Corps of Signals' responsibility is a big one. It is up to us to carry it out!

JIM BAHADUR.

## Plain Tales.

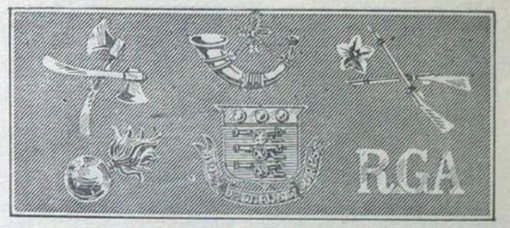
**Burning Sands.**—Once upon a time, there was a very ancient man who sat day by day at the entrance to a temple upon the banks of the Gungpo river, eating brown paper. His son had sat there years before him, and no doubt his father would continue to sit in the same place years after he had faded away. Hawkers and pedlars from the hills threw rice pudding at him with monotonous regularity, but he heeded them not. One very hot day there came to him an old lady wearing all the garments peculiar to the Orient: a tarbush, a fez, a yashmak, a sjambok, and a giswop. She halted in front of the ancient man, and scored a deep line on his face with a piece of flint. "O woman," he said, in a curiously mellow voice, "The sun sinketh day by day, for so it is written and it surely could not otherwise wasn't."

He then went to sleep with one foot curled round the back of his neck. He was a very holy man. "You sure said it," remarked the woman, and dropped a penny down his throat.

MORAL.—"It is better to have loved and lost—than something or other."

* * * *

**Full Rights.**—I expect to be in a position in the near future to furnish you with some more Indian legends, even better than that one. (Cries of "No! no!") In spite of the efforts of the great city and provincial magazines to gain an option on them, I have decided that they shall appear in THE WIRE only (more cries of "No! no!" and "Let the magazines have them and serve 'em right." General uproar). I anticipate no difficulty with the numerous dialects, as I have had a fair amount of instruction from those who know. I know, for instance, that "char" in Pushmak is also "char" in English. Nevertheless, I and many others appreciated the helpful notes that appeared in THE WIRE for September.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**Further War News.**—Now that the mud has been scraped from the bodies of troops, they are able to recollect a lot of incidents which, discussed by the side of a respectable fire, assume the dignity of humour (I suppose humour has a certain dignity).

One recalls the damp and dismal cook's mate, squelching in the wake of the smoking kitchen. He doesn't know what it is all about, and doesn't much care. "Blow it," he mutters; "I wish I had money enough to buy this——war—I'd give it to the sergeant-major. He'd see it off."

Another is bursting to tell us of the super-efficient sergeant who threw the Brigade out of gear. "Section, halt!" he cried; "mushroom, pick it up; forward!" Then we have to hear about the young sentry. There is always a story about a sentry. "What are your orders?" asked the orderly officer. "Turn out the guard once by day and once by night to the commanding officer when in civilian clothes," replied the sentry, blushing with pride at his remarkable memory.

The really humorous incident was when I turned out to see the soaking troops coming home. I wasn't "on it," you know. Someone threw a piece of wet turf, which missed me and struck a sergeant-major. I can see that good-natured smile on his face as I write.

* * * *

**Motor Cars and Things.**—George took exception to my notes regarding his car in last month's WIRE, and demanded to know why I didn't say something about Jack's car. Well, Jack is rather sensitive. He is highly strung, like all Company Quartermasters. Perhaps I should say, like they ought to be. He only drives his car after dark because—well, I told you he was sensitive. He is running it on pure castor oil at present, as an experiment, because up to now it has not been able to pass anything. I shall have to tell you about Jack's car another time; that is, if it is still in existence. The body fell off last week, and the dog used it as a kennel for a few days.

There are still plenty of private motor-cycles in the unit. They are all capable of very high speeds. Most of them jog along at a steady 60 m.p.h. with the throttle closed and, I suppose, both brakes hard on. I get this information from the owners. None of your second-hand facts for me.

We are pleased to see Sergt Drew back again, complete with Norton and sidecar. Both he and his machine have been repaired. The Norton limps a little even yet, and Bill spits back through his carburettor, but—What? alright, other way round. Fancy being so deucedly particular.

BARLEUX.

## Camp, 1927.

### Some Impressions of a Territorial Recruit.

A camp training with Cavalry Signals for the first time might be expected to prove interesting to an old Territorial soldier who had known only infantry service, and no military service at all since demobilization in 1919.

Such a man lately found himself under canvas on a pleasant hillside at the edge of Salisbury Plain, with the 2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry), having a very limited knowledge of signalling, and even less of horsemanship, but much enthusiasm. He was, in fact, a Yeomanry recruit.

Now, the life of a mounted recruit in camp is a busy one, and hard—often painful; yet the mature recruit liked it, as apparently did most of the other recruits with him. One wonders why. When the rain is streaming drearily for the sixth successive hour, and the sodden tent curtain has not been brailed up to let in fresh air for two days past; when one is on picquet duty in shockingly miry horse lines in the small hours, instead of asleep in a civilized bed; when the riding instructor has surely entirely forgotten how long ago he ordered his tortured pupils at the trot to forsake their stirrups; when one is starting to groom one's third horse under a blazing sun—one wonders why in h—— (that is, in the name of all that's rational) do free men voluntarily bring such things on themselves? But that is mere peevishness.

Hear the answer. From the man—most clearly from him—riding a willing horse at a canter or gallop over the green downland on a fresh morning. Hear it again from the riding recruit just triumphantly over his first low jump; from the sending signaller hearing his answer-reader acknowledge the sign which means a well-sent message properly received first time by the distant station; from the sweating sportsman who has managed to heave a lusty opponent off his horse in the mounted wrestling event at the camp sports. For this! and this! Such moments make it all worth while, for they are Life, with a capital letter.

But there is something more than these high lights to be taken into account when analysing the appeal of voluntary soldiering, and that something lies in what the Services most inelegantly call "mucking in." Civilians know it as fellowship. For a man who cannot, for whatever reason, "muck in"—cannot live closely, and not too critically, with many others, lending, borrowing, helping, sharing in all things from duties to "dark tan" and cigarettes to cutlery—a Yeomanry camp admittedly will have little attraction. He who can, however, will surely find, around him and within himself, a very precious warming spirit of cheeriness and well-being that will carry him smiling through bad weather and good, hard work and leisure, to the last parade, when the baggage lorries are nearly loaded and only a series of discoloured rings and ovals on the grass show where yesterday stood tents and marquees.

It was because he sought again that spirit, known and appreciated at its true worth before and during the war, that the mature recruit had rejoined. Of the post-war Middlesex Yeomanry, at least, he can say nothing better than that in his quest he was *not* disappointed.

E. PHILLIPS.

## Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

**To be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.)—**
2306231 Biart, R. 17/7/27

**Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—**
2306986 Birch, F. 21/11/24
2307349 Markham, W. 13/7/27
2306289 Waters, H. 14/7/27
2306200 Halls, W. 14/7/27
1861301 Mitchell, P. 17/7/27
2308278 Revell, E. 20/7/27
2306419 Barratt, A. 20/7/27
2306122 Squibb, G. 14/8/27
2306259 Dorrington, A. 14/8/27
2305263 Hoad, W. 10/9/27

**To be Sergeant—**
2307983 Duggan, J. 16/12/26
2306457 Collyer, R. 21/1/27
2309071 Willis, S. 21/1/27
1858966 Anthony, H. 26/1/27
2307405 Pank, A. 26/1/27
2306416 Eilerbeck, A. 12/2/27
1857277 Angell, E. 3/7/27
2309866 Bracken, R. 3/7/27
2312153 Hutley, C. 3/7/27
2310307 Ratcliffe, R. 14/7/27
5562278 Honnor, C. 20/7/27
2312853 Bent, W. 21/7/27
2305597 Bardoe, V. 14/8/27
2306453 Fegan, C. 15/8/27
2311244 Rhodes, F. 10/9/27
2307303 Nicolson, N. 10/9/27

**Appointed Lance-Sergeant—**
2311036 Anthony, J. 15/12/26
2312153 Hutley, C. 1/4/27
2308766 Garroni, J. 20/4/27
2310256 Clipsham, W. 20/4/27
2312416 Szarkowski, A. 20/4/27
2314213 Jennison, F. 21/4/27
2308715 Ring, H. 18/5/27
2303588 Collingwood, C. 3/7/27
2306509 Tilford, C. 3/7/27
1850394 Gilmour, J. 3/7/27
1850423 Paskins, W. 3/7/27
1850424 Turland, N. 3/7/27
1857186 Pope, J. 3/7/27
1850276 Kitchen, H. 3/7/27
1859197 Wyeth, E. 3/7/27
2309066 Handby, J. 3/7/27
2309693 Payne, G. 3/7/27
2310839 Edwards, G. 3/7/27
1857166 Wish, W. 3/7/27
2309552 Rushworth, V. 14/7/27
2311593 McIntosh, W. 17/7/27
1857234 Warner, A. 15/8/27

**To be Corporal—**
2312605 Finlayson, A. 8/3/26
2307582 Horsey, H. 5/12/26
12586 Gould, T. 18/1/27
5999529 Cole, V. 2/2/27
2305260 Leath, J. 2/2/27
1854200 Hodges, W. 3/2/27
2314617 Chapman, G. 3/2/27
2313703 Morgan, V. 7/2/27
2315604 Francis, W. 12/2/27
2313844 Stafford, T. 12/2/27
2313753 Isaac, R. 12/2/27
2312015 McLennan, H. 14/2/27
2310707 Drudge, J. 15/2/27
2313026 Luck, V. 15/2/27
5487819 Pinkstone, E. 15/2/27
2312604 Booth, T. 15/2/27
2313907 Harper, G. 15/2/27
2312950 Woolhouse, A. 20/2/27
2314124 Lawson, J. 20/2/27
5663904 Greed, R. 22/2/27
2311290 Godbold, A. 22/2/27
2309813 Mills, W. 22/2/27
2312093 Bonner, W. 22/2/27
2312430 Jarvis, L. 22/2/27
733106 Kirby, S. 22/2/27
1861341 Anderson, W. 22/2/27
2310593 Cadell, T. 22/2/27
5611956 Freeman, K. 22/2/27
2314867 Wagg, W. 22/2/27
2309795 Taylor, R. 22/2/27
2309770 Brett, R. 22/2/27
2306783 Murphy, C. 22/2/27
2310982 Davis, H. 22/2/27
2310734 Ayton, A. 22/2/27
2313656 Collins, E. 12/3/27
2309579 Jones, F. 12/3/27
2309719 Malthouse, H. 19/3/27
1857322 McMillan, D. 19/3/27
2310834 Reat, W. 21/3/27
6337502 Hill, S. 18/5/27
2310372 Bennett, G. 24/6/27
2306830 Hunt, J. 30/6/27
2313843 Sprunt, R. 17/7/27
3703331 Onyett, F. 17/7/27
2315883 Skitt, G. 20/7/27
2315339 Holt, A. 21/7/27
2308401 Langley, H. 21/7/27
539240 Kelly, E. 21/7/27
2312486 Hitchen, E. 21/7/27
2315613 Kilford, C. 15/8/27

**Appointed Acting-Corporal—**
2306260 Leath, J. 2/2/27
2314124 Lawson, J. 20/2/27

## Discharges.

2306168 C.Q.M.S. H. Evans, 12/8/27
2306345 C.Q.M.S. J. Campbell, 13/8/27
2306343 C.Q.M.S. H. Bird, 9/9/27
2308074 Sergt C. Dickerson, 9/9/27
2308703 Sergt S. Smith, 21/9/27

## Transfers to Army Reserve.

2314080 L/Sergt E. Price, 9/8/27
2314204 L/Sergt G. Laws, 25/9/27
2310370 Corpl A. Biggs, 20/5/27
2312054 Corpl W. Dawson, 20/5/27
2314144 Corpl E. Gardner, 30/8/27
2314183 Corpl J. Irving, 14/9/27
2311258 Corpl A. Baines, 20/9/27
4178083 F/Corpl F. Jones, 11/9/27



## Local Colour (Jubb.)

It sometimes falls to the lot of a signalman in India to take part in the little troubles that occur generally in the city of the place in which he may be stationed. I am taking it for granted that everyone knows that, in India, each station is divided into two portions, the city and the cantonments—the former the native, and the latter the European quarters.

Our Aryan friends are excitable individuals, and on the least provocation their excitement overcomes them, the result being trouble between two sects. This happens quite frequently during festivals, and then we get a chance of seeing real Eastern life, for we have to go and help quell any disturbance.

It would, perhaps, enlighten some to know a little about these festivals, and to understand the apparent madness of some of the things seen.

The Mohurram is one of the greatest "tamashas" we may see, and certainly the one during which we expect most trouble. It is a Mohammedan festival, but amongst the lower class of that sect some low-class Hindus sometimes mix and try to make the thing as light and merry as possible, or, as we would say, "paint the town red."

Let us look at it from a real staunch high-class Mohammedan point of view. It is the anniversary of the death of the two sons of the great prophet Mahomet, who were killed in battle; so that to call it a festival is really using a wrong term.

The devotees of the great Prophet get together at this time of the year, and each class builds out of wood and tissue paper, etc., miniature places of worship. These are placed on carts, and pulled through the streets every night. It is a really wonderful sight to see them all glittering in the lights, and with the awful din (and smell) that only India can produce. The crowds surge down the streets shouting "Oula-oula," and the "temple" comes behind them gracefully and majestically. The forerunners dance, beat their breasts, and do all sorts of funny things. They drug themselves, and beat their breasts until the blood spurts out. This kind of thing goes on for ten days, and each procession is preceded by a man carrying a pole on the top of which is a hand. This symbol is a reminder of the fact that the last seen of one of the sons of Mahomet was as he lay dying on the field of battle with his hand raised.

I said that each sect had its own miniature temple, or taboot, as it is called; and that is where the trouble comes in.

The butchers try to make their taboot outshine the tailors', and the bakers the fruiterers', and so on. Each sect has its own procession, and if one sect meets another whilst on procession a fight will surely take place. Remember that these men are perhaps brothers at all other times, but never in a case like this; and besides, they are stupefied with drugs for the whole ten days.

The tenth day is the climax of the whole show, for then the taboots are taken to the nearest river and thrown in. It is only then that it is discovered that they are made really of wood and paper, for during the whole show they look like temples of silver.

Of course, there are many sideshows to the whole thing, and that is where the lower-class Hindu comes in. Men paint themselves like tigers (for the sons of Mahomet were great hunters) and do a most wonderful tiger dance. Of course they pass the hat round wherever they give an exhibition—"buckshee" is always an attraction to a native, even though he mixes with other castes to get it.

The festival varies somewhat in different parts of India, but it is all the same festival, and gives much excitement to all—to the native for the festival and holiday, and to the Britisher for the busy time that is always in store.

Much more could be said, of course, but this will give you a small insight into the mysterious things that are to be seen if called to duty during a festival, and, I trust, may help to make an apparently mad crowd of meaningless natives seem a little bit interesting.

OLD TIMER.

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Mounted Escort for a Bride.

The picturesque bridal procession at the wedding of Captain P. H. Owens and Miss Elizabeth Lloyd Owen at Hipswell, Yorkshire.

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

### Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

October 12th.

**Departures.**—The following have left us for India and sailed on September 29th: Corpl Cooper, Signalmen L. C. Knight, J. Wafer, A. Frost, F. Percival, and F. Latimer. Sergt Goodman should have accompanied them, but has been since detailed to travel later. We wish them a pleasant journey and a safe return.

Driver Broadhead to 3rd Divl. Signals (Jack Studd misses you).

**Marriage.**—Driver A. Braithwaite to Alice Lucas, at Darlington, on August 13th.

**Births.**—To L/Corpl and Mrs. May, a son (Ronald) at Sheffield, on August 26th. To Sigmn and Mrs. Goodway, a daughter (Peggy Alexandra), at Catterick, on September 21st.

**General News.**—The Wing heartily congratulate Major and Mrs. Fladgate on the arrival of a son and heir.

Capt. Crowley has left us on retirement from the Service. He has been with the Wing for the last six years, and will be remembered by many who have passed through the riding school. The Wing offer their best wishes for the future.

Capt. R. R. A. Darling has joined us and taken over duties as second-in-command of the Wing. We wish you a pleasant stay, sir, and hope you will settle down to your new surroundings.

Having satisfied all the local villages of our abilities in the gymkhana turns, we are now devoting our time to the S.T.C. in general, in such matters as winning Mackworth trophies. We have started training in earnest in all winter sports, including billiards, and I am pleased to say that the entries for the championship are well supported by men of the Wing. (Personally, I should like to meet the handicapper and endeavour to explain to him how I lost.)

In the near future, an Equitation Course will assemble here for six months of roughing it. The personnel for this course are from most of the outside units, and it will be interesting to find out how things are in the Divs., and to hear of some who have passed through the Wing. At present our own riding instructor, Sergt Young, is on a course at Weedon and is doing well.

Those who knew Lieut Carr will remember that he met with a very serious accident last Christmas at Woolwich, and will be pleased to know that he has recovered and has paid a visit to the S.T.C.

## E Company, Training Battalion.

**The "Come Back."**—For Eddy's recent absence from THE WIRE, I proffer my sincere apologies.

**Health, Wealth and Happiness.**—All ranks of E Company join in wishing every happiness to Capt and Mrs. P. H. Owens.

**A Cow has Two Horns.**—And so has a dilemma! Consequently, I find myself quite unable to enumerate all recent arrivals and departures. A large number have left us for sunnier climes, and those movements, combined with home postings, place a very formidable batch of copy at my disposal.

But our best wishes go with those who have left us, and a welcome awaits those who have joined us—so that, although their names do not actually appear in print, yet they will find themselves mentioned, none-the-less.

**Marriages.**—Judging by the number of victims in E Coy., I am inclined to the opinion that Cupid has been putting in some pretty good grouping with his bow and arrows lately.

L/Corpl F. E. Newman, at Hastings, Sussex, August 15th.
L/Corpl E. Bigg, at Darlington. August 24th.
Sigmn G. Sawyer, at St. John's, Hipswell, Yorks, Aug. 25th.
L/Corpl C. G. Taplin, at Great Baddon, Essex, Sept. 10th.

Congratulations to all!

**Births.**—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. C. S. Binham on the birth of a daughter, and to Corpl and Mrs. G. Thorne on the birth of a son.

**The First Rung.**—Signalmen M. A. Cairns and N. J. Robertson receive our best wishes on their recent attainment of the initial step. Success to the continuity of their climb!

**Extension of Service.**—L/Corpl E. Bigg to complete twelve years with the Colours.

**An Army Moves on its Stomach.**—Cpl Tunnicliffe has proceeded to the School of Cookery, Aldershot. A wonderful establishment. I remember being particularly impressed by the number of stoves and ovens in the School. Dozens of them, all shapes and sizes. The instructors looked awfully well nourished, I thought.

**The Band.**—The band of the Royal Corps of Signals has had a very busy season, and I had hoped to report on their movements, as no doubt a great deal of interest is taken in *our* band.

**Lost Property.**—I am asked to try, through the medium of THE WIRE, to establish the identity of the owner of a photograph recently discovered in an empty locker in No. 16 Hut of this Company. The photograph, a cabinet size of excellent workmanship, is tinted. If the owner, who it is presumed has lately been posted from this Company, will communicate with me, I will have pleasure in returning his property.

L. H. D.



## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### A Corps Signals.

#### Unit Headquarters, Ewshott Camp.

**Individual Training.**—A month's furlough is an excellent incentive to keenness during the winter training season, and we hope that all will return from their leave fully prepared for vigorous application to the work that will await them.

The programme is a promising one, including educational and trade training, anti-gas defence, and revolver course for 1927-1928, followed by the re-organisation of sections and section training, and culminating in unit training which will commence on May 1st, 1928.

Now is the time, therefore, for all to put a shoulder to the wheel, and to brush up the hundred and one seemingly negligible points embraced by individual effort and training. Noblesse oblige!

**Made in England.**—An occasional week-end in London gives many surprises and pleasures, particularly to shopgazers and those who delight in walking the many floors of our larger emporiums and stores. One can spend hours at the knick-knack counters or in the household departments, turning over this contrivance and that, but never with the intent of buying. It's great fun—to those inclined that way. But there's sadness, too.

Well, a certain young man was idling away an hour in Messrs. ——'s not long ago. By the counter he noticed a crowd of shoppers. In their midst he could see a dainty form in black alpaca frock, court shoes and black silk stockings (the young man really could not help but notice the graceful lines of those black-silken-clad ankles) and he was determined to see a little more.

He did! In his eagerness to see the head above that particular pair of black silk stockings, he wriggled to the front of the crowd and was held spellbound before the Eton-cropped head of a damsel (!) old enough to be his mother-in-law. He wobbled at the knees!

However, the young man gradually recovered from the shock to his nervous system, and being in the front of the crowd, was able to satisfy his minor curiosity as to the object under demonstration. It was a little cardboard box holding two small bottles marked Nos. 1 and 2. The damsel (!) demonstrator was showing the crowd how to remove any stain from silk, cotton, linen, woollens, dance frocks, dressing gowns, and—wonder of wonders, how to remove ink from paper. Here's a few pence well spent, thought the young man, who had visions of clumsy fingers and flying inkpots on his office table. He closed his eyes (not daring to gaze on the unearthly physiognomy before him) and proffered his coin in exchange for the little box. He came away, and returned to camp highly delighted with his purchase.

Alas, his pleasure was but short-lived. A casual remark to a potential student of criminology about the wondrous bottles shattered the good intentions of the young man, and turned his thoughts to imprisonment with hard labour. Did he realise how dangerous it was to have such a criminal invention in his possession? Did he realise that he placed himself under suspicion as a forger of documents? Alas, his curiosity cost him one-and-six—all for the vision of a pair of ankles.

**Annual Inspection.**—Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer Aldershot Command, carried out his annual inspection of the unit on October 12th. The unit paraded on the race-course, where the C.S.O. presented the long service and good conduct medal to C.S.M. C. H. Caulfield, No. 1 Company. The remainder of the day was occupied by the inspection of offices, barrack rooms and stores.

**Weapon Training.**—The casuals have now completed their course, and there is considerable speculation as to which Company will hold the highest average. On the general course No. 1 Company were on top, but one never knows what casuals can do! Cheer up, Chas.!

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Sergt G. R. Price has arrived on posting from the S.T.C., to relieve Sergt F. G. Strange, posted to Catterick. Welcome, Teddie! Are *you* fond of gramophone records?

**Welfare for All.**—Any Tuesday afternoon one may see a straggling procession of perambulators, push-chairs, wives and mothers wending their various ways to the Welfare Centre.

Now, as a bachelor, one knows very little of what happens over the cup of tea and bun at these weekly meetings. It is suggested, therefore, that a bachelors' welfare centre day be held on Wednesdays. Topics for discussion are innumerable. To quote a few—Why bachelors are unmarried; peace and plenty; sympathetic care of cats and kittens; why bachelors should *not* be taxed, etc., etc.

Any volunteer for the secretarial appointment should apply in the first instance to "Bachelorville," Hut ——, Ewshott Camp. Salary will depend upon contributions received from remorseful married men.

PETER.

### Construction Section, No. 1 Company (Reading).

**General.**—As can be seen by the above address, our tour is gradually drawing nearer home. "The benign spirit that watcheth the movement of the jumper of holes and the strainer of wire" decreed that we should move to Reading barracks and complete dismantling therefrom. Therefore once again we up-

Construction Section, Manœuvres, 1927.

rooted our beds (hush-hush variety), tore down our tents, and departed to the land of beer and biscuits.

The Berkshire Regiment depot received us very nobly, and placed three barrack-rooms and three sergeant's bunks at our disposal. Our array of transport lined up on one end of the square, much to the amazement of the rookies.

A "Mud" Picture.

Pomalin and his fellow-men are indeed great soldiers here. "Groupee," as Soofoo has it, is a distinction unknown to recruits, who gaze in awe as pay day arrives. Our secretary of affairs (he of the wavy locks and wavy trousers) clings fast, as befits his name, to the hope that his sins will not find him out—we doubt this. (Chorus: "It's a long way to Oxford—except by standard methods.")

Our work is scheduled to finish very shortly, and by the time this script appears we shall have settled down once again to black and white art schemes.

We were very sorry to miss the first Signals dance, but tender congratulations. Our shoe swingers will tread lightly and niftily at the next edition.

Our Frothblowers have now completed their tour of inspection, and are loud in the praise of a certain brewery. It may be said that the latter does not brew *ginger* beer—it knows what an awful effect it has on a man (q.v.).

The Band.

We have at last managed to secure a rough picture of our band. What price the touring part of your scheme, Peter? Sorry the llama misbehaved again; on the last occasion we had a very fast five minutes.

**What About This?**—We heard a rumour that a certain person, on hearing a report that a lorry had broken down—(damage, "engine fallen out and all four wheels off")—far from tearing his hair and beating his breast, calmly sent out a lorry to tow it in. Wow!

**Wanted.**—Good barman at the "Red Lion." Position about to be vacated owing to military duties.

**Departures.**—L/Sergt Betts, Signalmen Cameron, Stock and Old to a P.O. course at Cambridge.

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn Hogarth, late of No. 1 M.T. Section, communicate with Sigmn Urwin, at present at Ewshott. Corpl J. H. Russell would like to hear from Sigmn Haines, now in India.

M. T.

## No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen H. Bell, W. Cornish, S. Humphries, D. Carr, R. Moss, and W. Millichip, from the S.T.C. Catterick. The usual welcome and wish for an enjoyable sojourn with us is extended to them.

**Departures.**—Signalmen I. I. Davies, J. Ford and F. A. W. Jones, discharged. "Dole"ful outlook! Signalmen Stoddart and Breslin to the Training Battalion, Catterick. Sigmn W. Felix to No. 1 Company of this unit. Good luck to them!

**Extension and Continuance of Service.**—L/Corpl S. Else to complete twelve years with the Colours. Sergt T. G. Dormer to continue in the service for a period of twelve months beyond 21 years.

**Drafts: Alterations and Cancellation.**—Since the last issue of the Corps Journal, Sigmn T. Beardmore has been placed on the first Indian draft vice Sigmn B. H. Tutt, and Sigmn H. Foster vice Sigmn W. Harlow. An addition to this draft is L/Corpl A. Yorke (operator, line). The North China draft has been cancelled. Bear up, Nick!

**Appointment.**—Congratulations to L/Corpl W. J. Junner upon his recent appointment to that rank.

**Musketry.**—On October 10th, 11th and 13th the casuals fired their annual course. Also, I scraped acquaintance with those antiquated contrivances named target frames. Two rusty contraptions that refused to function on the upward move, thus causing much wrath on the part of the w.o. i/c. Remarkable, the effect of the human voice!

The best Company shots were: Sergt H. Wattley and Corpl C. A. Clarke (94), Sergt B. Bevan (93), Sigmn W. Tandy (91), L/Corpl H. Larkham (90), Sigmn R. Moss and Sigmn H. Tysoe (89). The wooden spoon went to Sigmn J. Horne ("Jo-Jo") with a mass total of 13. Superstitious, Joe?

**C.S.O.'s Inspection.**—On October 12th the Chief Signal Officer Aldershot Command inspected the unit. I have every reason to believe that he was more than satisfied. Everything in the garden was lovely (except the C.S.M.'s potatoes, and they had, alas! been rudely disturbed from their slumber a few weeks before).

It is queer how hut occupants always harangue over the various points of cleanliness. If a person enters a rival barrack-room, manages to rub a coal tub, accidentally kicks a fire-bucket, and finally sits down upon a form, without an ejectment through the nearest door taking place, or a torrent of abuse falling upon his ears, he is welcome to utter a prayer of thanksgiving.

Still, it is all over now till next year, unless we *are* at Smallshot in 1928.

**Query.**—Who is the person who tossed up with a canary for body supporters and lost? Huh!

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn A. Perry, of D Company, S.T.C., Catterick, please communicate with Sigmn G. A. Prentice, of this unit. Also, Sigmn W. Richards (Dick) would like to hear from Sigmn Thomas, believed to be on the Rhine. If Sigmn J. Baldwin (somewhere in China) would drop Sigmn C. F. Laud of this Company a line, the latter would be greatly gratified.

**Danger.**—Anyone proceeding from Crookham Camp to Ewshott Camp, or vice versa, is in danger of being attacked by a curious object—all body and neck (no, not brass)—that No. 1 Company have the nerve to name a llama. It is an allamaing sight, especially when charging church and guard parades. What about a *decent* mascot, Soofoo?

**Spark Cans.**—Some person of a rival regiment enquired of a chap in this Company when his knees were going to receive separation allowance. Nasty, eh?

**General.**—There are sounds of revelry in camp to-night—the first furlough batch begin to be attached, for rations and accommodation.

Other music that strikes the ear is that from the dedication service in the new Crookham Camp church.



Who was the fellow who, when challenged by the guard, answered "Sexton Blake," and then had an enforced stay in the detention room to seek clues?

Also the person who detailed four men for fatigues from a section of one n.c.o. and two men?

Has anyone noticed the delightful touches of camaraderie that exist between pay-sergeants and men who desire extra money?

LULU.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**Camp.**—It seems that if you desire misfortune in camping time, one must wait until September. In 1925 we had a wetting which it will take us a long time to forget. The 1926 Divisional training was abandoned twenty-four hours in advance owing to the continual downpour. September, 1927, has been no more kind, for we were forced to strike camp one week earlier than anticipated, and grand manœuvres were cancelled.

The unit moved out to Mongewell Camp, near Wallingford, on September 1st and 2nd. The h.t. party left on the 1st, and staged at Heckfield. The m.t. party proceeded direct on the 2nd. A few days before we were due to move, up came sixteen brand new Morris six-wheelers, so you can imagine it was a very smart convoy which took the road.

There is pleasurable excitement in the prospect of new surroundings, and one could not find one dissentient to the familiar slogan, "A change is as good as a rest." We had heard from the advance party that the camp site was an excellent one—"on a slope, not far from the village, the river within easy distance, Reading and Oxford easily reached by train." Even the weather reports at that time were satisfactory, and naturally we all looked forward to a very enjoyable period.

Then, as soon as we were comfortably settled in and had found our bearings, down came the rain. Frantic digging of trenches round the tents and marquees—fatigue parties feverishly changing horse lines—rum jars being carried hurriedly around—orderly room folk in despair at not being able to keep the drops from dropping just where they should not—"wallahs in kip" bawling their discomforts—Morris six-wheelers doing heroic work, pulling derelicts out of the mud—despatch riders ploughing their way through the mire—lucky folks wandering around in rubber Wellingtons, utterly regardless of the slush—and all because of a little rain! How many of us thought of that well-known ditty which went "Little drops of water.....make a mighty ocean (of mud)"?

However, in spite of all the foregoing, we were very content between times, and enjoyed our life in the open country. It was apparent that appetites developed well above the normal, and we are wondering whether rations may not be increased when they put us out again. Bathing in Father Thames was indulged in as one of our recreations, and of course no camp would be complete without goal posts and a football or two. It is understood that certain experts with the line—fishing, not clothes—were in the camp, and casting was a great feature of the fine and wet evenings, so it is told. Reader, have you tried looking for worms? My advice is "Don't:" 'tis a tiresome job. It is rumoured that the sergeants' mess had a trout for breakfast one morning owing to the said activity. Confirmation of the rumour is lacking at the time of going to press, but the rumour seems to be a trifle fishy.

From the training point of view, one major exercise was carried out, together with several minor stunts. We had the help of a Cable Section from A Corps Signals to bring us nearer to war strength. The section was commanded by Lieut Hoysted, with Sergt McDonald and his merry men completing the party. We were sorry to say au revoir to them on the 16th, and hope that at some future date they will be with us again, but under fair weather conditions. As reported in the daily newspapers, the work of the Cable Sections and their linemen was made very arduous by the wanton destruction of the lines by civilians.

Our return to Aldershot was made on the 16th, both h.t. and m.t. making the complete journey to our barracks on that day. The h.t. party set out in a downpour, and were wet through before they had started, as the rain had descended in torrents from about 2 a.m. So frequently does it occur, it is worthy of record that no sooner had we moved clear of the camp than the sun came out and a glorious day followed.

**Moves.**—We are sorry to report that Lieut H. P. McC. Glover has severed his connection with Signals and is now on the staff at the School of Artillery. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

YOUR NEW H.Q.

are being constructed by

Sir Lindsay PARKINSON & CO. LTD.

*Specialists in Construction*

LONDON and BLACKPOOL

To the Reserve, we have lost Sigmn Wright and L/Corporal Spencer. To discharge, Sigmn F. G. Wilson.

Under orders for India on November 4th are Sergt Laurenson, Signalmen C. Fearnley, W. Squibbs, E. Watkins, R. Catt, A. E. Airey, G. Clarke, H. Coles, S. Cooksey, and R. Goddard. On the same date we also lose Signalmen C. G. Webb, J. McKerr, C. Blows, W. Soames, S. Holt, and T. Pearce for Egypt; whilst Signalmen C. J. Raymond, G. (Joe) Shepherd, N. W. Rateliffe, and C. Bailey move off for Sarafand at the same time.

We have to report the arrival from the Training Battalion of Signalmen W. J. Collins and T. P. Saunders. The Depot Battalion has sent us Signalmen J. A. Herbert and J. Glass.

The draft for Hong Kong to which we referred in the October WIRE, has now been withdrawn. Sorry, H. K.!

**Courses.**—L/Corpls Curtis and Archer have rejoined from the School of Education, where they were both successful at their final examination as regimental instructors. We extend our congratulations to Driver Rogers on successfully passing his farrier's course.

**Visitors.**—Capt. House, whom we all remember as our officer i/c boxing for several years, paid us a short visit during the month, and we were very pleased to see him. We should also welcome any old Firstdivsigs folk who come this way.

**Tail-Piece.**—L/Corporal (on landing from airplane, during the co-op. instruction): "I prefer terra-firma." Sgt.-Instructor: "But why?" L/Corporal: "'Cos there's less terror, and it's much firmer."

YA YA YA.

## 2nd Divisional Signals.

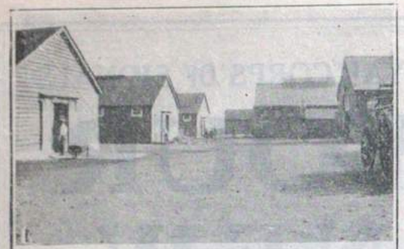
### No. 1 Company.

**Manœuvres.**—No. 1 Company, during this period of annual training, were under canvas at Thame in Oxfordshire. The abnormal rainfall caused much discomfort, and it was decided by the higher command to abandon the final stages of training. An order for return to barracks in minimum time was issued on September 15th. Our dismounted party returned to Aldershot by mechanical transport, and arrived during the afternoon

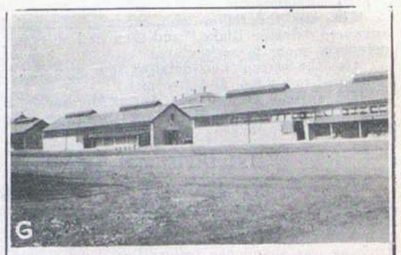
## VIEWS OF SMALLSHOT CAMP ALDERSHOT,

The future home of Signal units in the Aldershot Command.

*Photos by Lieut. W. D. Horniman, of No. 1 Company.*


1.

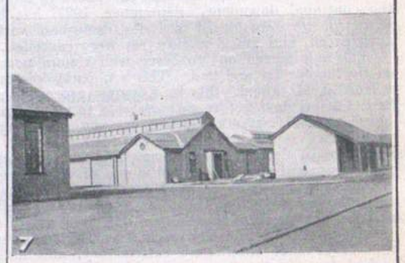
2nd Divl. Signals Stables.


G

Stables. East End.

2

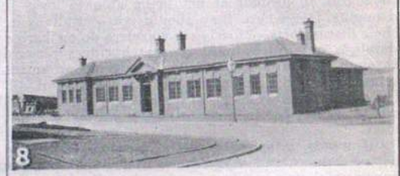
The Forge.


7

Bath House.

3

H.Q. Offices. Cricket Pavilion and part of Parade Ground


8

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

4

The Canteen.

9

Barrack Rooms

5

Headquarters Offices.

10

Guard Room.



of Saturday, September 17th. The mounted party left camp at 8.30 a.m. and arrived at North Camp about 10.30 p.m. the same evening. Considering that the journey from Thame to Aldershot is roughly forty-five miles, it was rather a good performance on the part of the mounted party. The rear party, who were left behind to clear the camp, returned a week later.

No. 1 Company's Mechanical Transport ready to convey Troops to Ash Ranges for Firing the Annual Course.

**Musketry.**—The Company fired their annual course on the Ash ranges on October 3rd, 4th and 5th. The results were slightly better in comparison with last year's shooting, and we made an average of 75.2. Lieut Thuillier scored 103, and Sergt Tolley and L/Corpl Wilcock 100.

**Annual Inspection.**—In anticipation of our yearly inspection by the Divisional Commander, Major-General Sir W. E. Ironside, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., towards the end of October, a number of practice ceremonial parades have been arranged, and all available time is being spent in squaring up things generally.

**Furlough.**—The annual furlough commences immediately after the General's inspection. The Company will proceed on leave in two batches, the second one returning soon after Xmas.

**Postings.**—The following men leave us during November: For Egypt Signal units, Signalmen Rickard, Cordell, Chidgey, Hillier, Dicker, Newlove and White. For India, Signalmen G. Innes and Cannell (waiting man). For Sarafand, Signalmen Beresford and Reeves (waiting man).

The following have been provisionally warned for service in India: Corpls Anderson and McCullough, L/Corpls Hamilton and Evens, Signalmen Dodd, Cole and Johnson.

Many other moves are in the air, details of which I will be able to give in a later issue.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome the following, who have joined us since our last notes were published: 2/Lieut Thuillier, Signalmen Whitehead, Broadbent, Parry, Lingard and Stuart.

**Discharges.**—The best of luck to Sigmn Munt, transferred to the Army Reserve, and to Sigmn Chiverton, who obtained a premature discharge.

**Post Office Course.**—The following are undergoing a six months' course of instruction with the Post Office, and we hope they succeed in getting a good report: Signalmen Thomas and Yalden (operators w/t) at Birmingham, and Sergt New on a lineman's course at Louth, Lincolnshire.

**Cookery Course.**—Sigmn T. Innes obtained a very good report on completion of a course of Company cooking at the School of Cookery, Aldershot.

**Moves.**—Sigmn Bavliss to Aldershot Command Signal Company, and Sigmn A. Walton to Iraq Signal Section.

**Other Items.**—It is believed that Roscoe will have to find other means to increase his sock allowance, now that he has moved farther south. We hope he will not ignore his old comrades, who have missed his inoffensive patter.

Jimmie has started the fishing season in real earnest, and again we listen to the tale of mammoth fish that fly, and his skill in drawing the backbone from the fish and leaving the meat in the water. B Section, I believe, have a few worthies who are endeavouring to learn the gentle art.

The tale of the mystery "heir" moved the mess to tears when the postcard was passed around. We trust the fond papa succeeds in discovering its identity, although we hope he keeps the "phantom motor-bike" well under control in his dash for information.

We hope that the Chinese Ambassador finds the Birmingham air very congenial, and assure him that the L.S.W.R. deplore his loss, and the Sunday night truck scene is sorely missed by the Club.

We wonder why the absent-minded one should have gone to the artificial presser of clothing? And whether the Chink and the fat one were pleased at the cheapness of storing?

Perhaps the mystery blonde means to vamp Jock. B Section and ex-Signal Centre are already contemplating a present for the cracking event.

The promising agent of the Jimmie Club, who considers distance no object in his quest for spoils, discovered no forfeits during the camp-ward rush hour.

H.S.P.M. Olim will be pleased to know that there is every prospect of Fifi and Ted accompanying 'Arf and the Queer Hawk.

Sigmn W. Wathen (ex-rat) would like to hear from Sigmn H. F. S. Smith (Johnnie).

To Grave in India: Thanks for your invite to Bert, but he is now studying the Argentino language, and Pueblo makes such nice cakes.

Friends of Yorky are pleased to hear that he lives up to his reputation, even in Shanghai. No doubt he is waiting for the homeward-bound boat this trooper.

Included in this year's drafting list appear the names of the two sheiks, who will, we expect, be more at home in the East.

Why does Doddo the approachable look at the post corporal with eyes so dim when he finds no mail? Was he really sorry to leave Thame?

HAMO.

### No. 3 Company.

Hullo, everybody! Who said No. 3 Company was defunct? From now onwards notes will appear regularly—if the correspondent remembers to take a Pelman course.

Manœuvres were curtailed owing to the monsoon having lost its bearings: however, the Company managed to do a lot of madlarking before returning to barracks.

A certain section distinguished itself, for its prize D.R.—whom we shall call Sigmn Whack—suffered from continual trouble due to a sooty plug, capping all by being captured by the enemy, complete with despatches. Some plug, that!

It is rumoured that Oxfordshire, however, still has its attraction for some people, especially a certain elongated signalman of K Section, who was the only one to keep his head above water during manœuvres.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome C.Q.M.S. Hoad from No. 2 Company: also Signalmen D. Jones, Figg, and Whitehead from S.T.C.

**Departures.**—Sergt Radford to 55th Divl. Signals T.A. Signalmen C. Hall, Fellows, Pike, Ives, B. Jones, Connolly to Iraq. Sigmn Linacre, Drivers Hammond and Kaye to Egypt. Our best wishes go with them.

**Promotions.**—Corpl Newman to be L/Sergt. U/L/Corporal Lloyd to be L/Corporal. Sigmn Rodda to be U/L/Corporal.

**Marriage.**—Sigmn Hoole to Kathleen Downey-Tracey, at Smethwick. Congratulations, Tich! You kept it dark.

Our energetic pay corporal is also taking the plunge next week. Who said the office staff can't afford to get married?

**Sports.**—We started the football season with a very good game, No. 1 Company winning by 3—1. Perhaps the fact

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

that their goalie, a heavy-weight boxer from the Depot, played in ammunition boots contributed to their defeat.

We hope to have a good season as regards rugger and soccer, and we don't intend to let No. 2 Company keep the trophy for long.

Congratulations to L/Corpl Bishop on winning the open jumping at the Thame Horse Show.

**Agony.**—To Corporal Pickering, Egypt Signals: Corpl Berry would like to hear about the progress of tennis in Egypt.

THREECO.

## Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, October 14th.

**General.**—By the time these contributions are in print, November will be with us again, and all the "guys" getting ready to go to L.O. there!

Salisbury Pleasure Fair will be here on the 17th inst., and again attract the lads of the Corps to indulge in a little fun. Last year, owing to the ladies favouring the short skirt fashions, many "frilling" sights were on view.

**Safety First.**—For the sum of twopence recruits from the Corps riding school will be able to take lessons without the aid of the riding master. Notices on the round-abouts state that no spurs will be used on the horses, by request.

**Arrival.**—We welcome the arrival in our midst of Mr. C. S. Deall, an ex-soldier and Indian walla, who has joined this Company vice Mr. W. J. Kellagher to complete the establishment.

**Men's Mixed Doubles (No. 2).**—(i.) Another exciting incident occurred in this office last Saturday morning, when we learnt that Mr. C. S. Deall had made the great plunge into matrimony, taking Miss Andrews for his life partner. We all tender our sincere congratulations, hoping his future will be one of continual happiness.

(ii.) I was greatly jumped on the other day for placing the 15th August, 1927, as the date when Mr. Gilder took *his* plunge in the men's mixed doubles. I must apologise, and state that it was the 16th July, 1927.

(iii.) Rumours have been going round that Coir has been single quite long enough, and that he is about to take the first desperate plunge before doing the deed called "matrimonial suicide." That is the reason for the forthcoming revision of the Prayer Book. The "T" Club wallas are looking forward for the wedding cake.

**Waziristan Signals, Please Note.**—Will No. 2310802 W. Smith, who was last heard of in the Q.M. stores (what were you doing there, Smudger?) in C Divl. Signals, D.I.K., and goes under the name of "Winnie," kindly communicate with his long-lost brother, ex-Sigmn E. K. Copeland (one of the late noble Razmak I.G.S.M. wallas) at the following address: 748 Goyeau Street, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Scanning the pages of THE WIRE last month, we noticed that the great "Waziristan Gunman" had returned from his six months' sojourn in England, and arrived at his haven of rest (D.I.K.) quite safely. A great number of shooting affrays have occurred here during the past six months whilst Archie has been on leave.

**Reply to Tien-Tsin.**—The triple alliance is now broken, as the Chief Scribe has departed.

**Have you heard this one?**—Scene: Interior of Labour Exchange. Applicant for unemployment benefit (very annoyed with clerk behind counter): "It's the likes of us that keeps you blokes!" Clerk: "Yes, busy!"

CLIFF-COIR.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**General.**—Now that all training has ceased, sport and furlough appear to be the main features in the men's minds. Such frivolous things do not enter the minds of the superior beings, the n.c.o.s!

**Divisional Training.**—To support my notes, first allow me to quote the remarks of a neutral judge. This is not to blow our own trumpet, but one cannot help feeling elated that we received such a good chit for our Corps from such a knowledgable critic as *The Times* special army correspondent.

Extract from *The Times*, Saturday, August 27th, 1927.—"To summarise, assuming the umpire's decisions to have been correct, the Southerners caused as much delay as such a force could be expected to do. The Mechanised Force should have been deployed and ready to advance westward on Beacon Hill at 7 a.m., with the forward ground properly reconnoitred. There remained the task of sweeping up the defenders on the ridge east of Shipton Bellinger, slaughtering them or pursuing them. I have myself learned many things, which I hope to embody in due course. On the present occasion I will only

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.



mention one, affecting the cavalry. The communication of the Signals in this Brigade is some of the best I have seen, but nevertheless, not quick enough to secure cavalry on the march from armoured car raids from the flanks."

The weather on this occasion was on its best behaviour, and thanks to Sergt Adcock's efforts in obtaining a cooker, soldiering was made easy. The appreciation of all ranks is extended to the cook and transport driver for always being on time at the various resting-places.

On the next exercise the Troop was not required in full force, but two wireless sets and crews were specially requested by the Cavalry Brigade—one to remain in the garrison as Divisional H.Q. and the other to accompany the cavalry. Despite the fact that it turned out to be a proper "dirty night," communication was kept up throughout with great success.

**Big Stunt.**—Rendezvous, Sutton Veny. Distance, twenty-five miles. Further outlook unsettled. Before we had left the barrack area, the outlook had turned into something very settled: a steady downpour. Twenty minutes later the rain was oozing through the lace-holes of our boots (and still twenty miles to go).

Our first resting-place was Newfoundland Farm (a desolate spot somewhere on Salisbury Plain), but as only the foundations remain, it had no refreshment value. After a short halt for examining horses and adjusting saddlery, we trekked on to Tilshead (temporary camp for gunners). Here was an opportunity for watering the horses and getting under cover, the first since leaving Tidworth. Thanks to the god who places difficulties in the way of other people, the closing of the camp canteen had been delayed. The result is obvious.

One hour afterwards we again took to the saddle, and at 5 p.m. arrived at our destination. My one hope is that I did not look what I felt like. Our camping-ground was an open field, with one welcome corner which held the cooker. Bivouacs were issued for shelters, but after many vain attempts to erect them, the men contented themselves by rolling themselves in their blankets.

By the following morning the horses had managed to cover themselves in mud, and after breakfast excavations at Luxor had nothing on E Troop excavating for saddlery at Sutton Veny, preparatory to mounting. But the rain had ceased, so the battle of Salisbury Plain began.

Here, again, the Troop upheld the name of the Corps, although greatly handicapped by the fact that we were trying to keep in touch with the mechanised units with horses (visual) and two four-wheeled Crossley cars fitted with C sets. One remained with the Cavalry Brigade H.Q., and the other went to the Advance Guard. Both worked in great style when in communication; but their inability to work whilst on the move and keep pace, even with horses, under such weather conditions and across country, greatly minimised their usefulness.

A third set, fixed to a cushioned board in a limbered G.S. wagon, was more often in captivity than out of it, and owing to the severe shaking that it received, its usefulness may be put down as negligible.

A fourth set, kindly lent by 3rd Divl. Signals, was a great success. Permanently fixed in a six-wheeled semi-tractor vehicle, working whilst on the move, and on one occasion towing the Crossley out of a difficult predicament, it proved a valuable asset. Its ability to keep up with cavalry enabled communication to be kept up without delay.

From Sutton Veny we trekked back across the plain to Netheravon, a distance of twenty miles, but this time in warm sunshine. Here we remained until sunset without molestation from the enemy.

From Netheravon we proceeded to Fittleton, and fearing another wet night, managed to get the men under cover in stables and barns, whilst one or two lucky ones managed to get civvy billets.

At 2.30 the following morning reveille sounded, and breakfast came twenty minutes later. At 3.30 the Troop was ready to move. But it turned out to be a real war-time scare, as the Troop "stood to" from then until "cease fire" sounded at 8.30 a.m. In the meantime we did excellent work in combatting air raids; whether it was due to our keenness or not is not known, but gradually the attacks grew less frequent and finally ceased.

Thus the Battle of Salisbury Plain ended. But who won?

**Appointment.**—Sigmn Cooper (our office lad) to be A/U/Lance Corporal. By some mysterious means the stripe keeps the ink off his fingers (but pens and pencils still appear to stick).

**Departures.**—Sigmn Jones (Yonto) to Northern Ireland Signal Company. We miss thee. May you find peace and happiness at your new station, oh rough.

L/Corpl Mansfield to Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, on an equitation course.

**Discharge.**—Sigmn Bonner to the Army Reserve. The Troop wishes him the best of luck in his new sphere of life.

**Arrival.**—Driver Broadhead from Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion. May his stay be a long and happy one.

**S.O.S.**—Wanted, a few soccer players. What about it, Records?

Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Dorrington from Ted and Smudger (ex-E Company, Maresfield).

SANSMUDGE.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

**Peace.**—The war is all over, and we have, I hope, acquitted ourselves very well. No doubt the weather clerk smiled a leering, cynical, mocking smile as he turned off the rain on the very day after the troops squelched back to barracks. The past fortnight has been all that October should be. The morning mists have melted away under a beautifully warm sun.

If we haven't exactly turned our swords into plough-shares, we have taken shares in a real estate business. A piece of waste ground is being converted into a recreation ground. When the necessary hundred thousand tons of turf and spare hillocks have been moved to another place, the comparatively simple job of growing a few blades of rugger turf may be put in hand.

The Mechanised Force vehicles have been rolled up in cotton wool and put away for the winter. We expect great things from them next year. They have proved themselves a great success. Who wants to *walk* into battle, anyway? Now for some furlough!

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Old members will be interested to learn that the gramophone was raffled and won by a lady. In its place there is a four-valve wireless set, with Amplion loud speaker. Very good results are being obtained, and if Joe will refrain from asking the expert to ring up the D.O.R.E. and other people, we shall get along even better.

A "fifteen-up" billiard competition has just been completed. Sergt Freemantle got away with this. Some of the members take rather a long time to score fifteen, and I thought that the result would have to be given by my successor.

Sergt Westwood goes to Birmingham on October 15th, thereby reducing the number of single dining members by about four. Good luck, Westy. Look after the Terriers properly, and keep away from Aston Cross. Make Brook Street send up a few WIRE notes.

It is proposed to increase the mess premises by adding another room at the eastern (or Beacon) side. Those members who are able to see through their eyelashes on check parade will recall that this is the side on which the sun never sets. The ground has been measured, and a piece of turf has been removed. This has caused a great deal of excitement, and a draw will be held regarding the date of completion. There will not be many members entering for this, because the oldest soldier has still three years to go for his pontoon.

Query: Is "Annie" going bald?

**Re-Inforcements.**—We welcome the arrival of 2/Lieuts M. G. A. Hepper and H. V. Ewbank, and we trust that they will take a fancy to the 3rd Divl. Signals.

We hear that C.Q.M.S. Barratt is to join us. Pleased to know him. He will like this place if he tries hard, and he will be made welcome. The staff are in need of a few supports.

There are such a lot of the boys posted, that to mention all their names here would take up more than our share of space. Perhaps we can get them in a little further down.

The re-inforcements from A Corps Signals have returned to their unit. They are a fine lot of chaps. Nearly as good as our own. We were sorry they couldn't stay with us. I believe they were happy to go back to Ewshott, though.

No doubt there are several people sweating on being posted to Bulford. Let them sweat in comfort. This is a very good unit to belong to, even if Bulford is not a particularly bright station. No one need ever be out of work. See paragraph one for real estate business.

**Arrivals.**—From Depot Battalion, Signalmen McEvoy and Lee. From Training Battalion, Signalmen Williams, Hudson, Bedford, Barnes, Shepherd, Stokes and Monk.

**Departures.**—To Iraq Signal Section, Sigmn E. Hudson. To Egypt Signals, Sigmn Hardwick and Dvr. Wilson. To Army Reserve, Signalmen Dyer and Congram.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to the following on attaining the first step up the ladder: A/U/L/Cpls T. Lewis and Twigger.

**Education Certificates.**—Awarded 2nd class, Sigmn E. Jarvis; 3rd class, Dvr McEvoy.

**Courses.**—L/Corpl Franklin and Sigmn Gunn have left us for six months for a G.P.O. course at Gerrards Cross, Bucks (how d'you do it, Franky?)

L/Corpls Tennant, Brookes, and Twigger have proceeded to Shorncliffe to obtain the "bump of knowledge" at the School of Education.

**Marriages.**—Sigmn Heath to Emma Rose Kilham, at Salisbury, on September 24th. Sigmn K. Jelly to Patricia Lumley, at Amesbury, on September 29th.

**Births.**—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Brandon on the birth of a son at Tidworth on September 25th, and to L/Corpl and Mrs. Twigger, a daughter on September 4th.

**Struck off Strength.**—It is understood that the two ancient "H" Triumphs used by Polly and Wally on the Divl. training this year are being struck off the strength. I trust that the British Museum will accept them.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

"What a smell of horses!" For the purpose of 4th Division concentration at Dover and Shorncliffe, the unit has, until recently, consisted of three Infantry Brigade Signal Sections and a Cable Section. Now that the concentration is happily a mere memory, this arrangement has been washed out (I use the term advisedly) and we have been re-organised into three Companies: Headquarters and Nos. 1 and 2.

The first annual leave party has donned its civvy boots and departed to the jungle, High Street, Battersea, Wigan, and other gardens of forgetfulness. The people left behind are, for the time being, the proud custodians of three 'osses per man (and wireless operator).

A sigh of thankfulness has gone up as a result of the arrival of four of the promised six-wheelers, and it is hoped that the days when the Signal Section trudged in the wake of a limber are past. Here's hoping, anyway.

The following is a perfectly untrue specimen of the applications that are pouring into the offices:—

"To O.C. No. X Coy.

"Sir,—I, No. 1234567 Dvr Bumbleshay P., respectively request the favour of his Commanding Officer to grant him a Course of I.C. Driving.

"His reason for this is that I consider that in these days the horse as a menes of transport are rapidly becoming adolescent. I have always had a complecks for machinery since I repaired the Sergeant's motor-bike, and the chances of promotion as a horse soldier are null and void.

"He has had some experience as a I.C. Driver, during the last coal strike, when I helped a armoured car driver to decarbonate his cillinders. Also I have an uncle who works at the Morris-Cowley factory.

"Trusting that this application will meet with your kind approval,

"I remain, Sir, yours truly,
(Signed) "Driver P. BUMBLESHAY."

L/Corpl Benje Bryan left us on September 22nd for Egypt, where I believe he is to institute an enquiry into the true origin of the pyramids. To him and to U/L/Corpl Henderson, who departed to civvy street on September 23rd, we wish all the best.

Congratulations to Dvr W. Schofield on the birth of a daughter at Colchester on September 21st, and *two* congratulations to Corpl F. S. Andrews, our worthy Branch secretary, on the arrival of twin sons on September 28th. Andee has sold his combination and is now looking for a car!

Did you hear about Cabbo? After purchasing a tin of Woolworth's black paint, he was returning on his motor-bike along the Butt Road, when he was suddenly confronted with his usual problem, i.e., the back of a car or the wall. As a result of his perforce hasty judgment, he now wears a scar over his right eye, and walks with a limp. The bike still reposes in a garage down town. To his former title of hedger and ditcher, we now add that of a stonewaller.

More congratulations, first to Corpl C. Kilford on his promotion, and secondly to U/L/Corpls W. Andrews and "Viv." Page on passing No. 36 Educational Course at Shorncliffe—both class 1, and "distinguished" in mathematics.

Another Jockey Club has been started in the unit, and Sergt Molyneux and Corpl Strugnell are doing their long-eluded ride. I heard a fellow murmur something about riff-riders on their riff-steeds, but he was casting unfair nasturtiums.

The Monday night dances, that for a short time were discontinued, have now recommenced, and are more popular than ever. If, as I hear, some two hundred of the China Signals are returning before Christmas, we shall have to ask the N.A.A.F.I. to enlarge the regimental institute.

Last Monday night, two other units in the garrison gave dances, and two civilian dances were on in the town, but the attendance at Reed Hall proved beyond a doubt the "draw" of the Signals dances.

The Charleston is rapidly losing its popularity among the lads, for no apparent reason unless the cost of shoe leather has something to do with it. Beyond the fact that it was something new, there was really nothing to be said in its favour. Incidentally, the sooner it dies a natural death, the safer the canteen foundations. To sit at the side of the dance hall whilst a Charleston was in progress provided one with all the sensations of trotting without stirrups. Now, I suppose, I have called down upon my devoted head the execrations of the jazz fiends: "Yah," "Boo," "Kill-joy," "What about a polka?"

All right! Don't get excited, but save your wrath until the Branch give their free jazz, and then vent it on the refreshments. Talking of refreshments reminds me of a grouse that I want to air. The number of wads that are yearly consumed in the canteens must be enormous, and the money spent on them in any one unit must run into a considerable sum. That being the case, why do the N.A.A.F.I. charge such an exorbitant price for the said wads? (I am just as serious about this as Barleux was aforetime re the price of bacon.)

Take the case of the jolly old vanilla slice. In this particular canteen it takes the shape of a wafer or two of perfectly awful icing, reposing in broken particles on some more wafers (?) of perfectly *awfuller* pastry. For this, one is charged twopence. It's all very well to burble about rebate, etc., but hang it all! the Co-op. goes one better than that for three ha'pence. Why not charge a tanner for the darned things, and let the troops have the satisfaction of knowing that their tummies are the better for the lack of these nightmare confections. Oh say! We can wax very eloquent on the subject of eatables!

From where I sit typing these notes, I can get a most refreshing whiff of paint, carried on the night breeze from the guard room, where a couple of persevering lads have been painting the unit fire appliances and a gross or so of fire buckets.

Going along just now to investigate, I noticed that several axes and crowbars adorning the wall of the guard room had also been painted a vivid red. One axe I noticed was not hanging straight, so being of a tidy disposition, I removed it from its leather bracket to hang it correctly. Then I was given another example of the superior work-dodging propensities of the painter. *He had only painted the side that showed.* Can you beat it?

In response to many verbal enquiries, I hereby give a few tips as to the best method of making a cheap wireless set that will give KDKA on the loud speaker three nights out of fifty-three.

First of all, the circuit. Well, one circuit is just as good as another, so why worry? You say that Corpl X said that the Jimson Three was a good one? And that your aunt has a jolly fine Elston Four? Don't be misled. You make a Junk Three, and it will equal them all.

Having decided on the circuit, the next thing is the all-important question of the panel. Having bought a goodly slab of genuine low-loss super-insulating ebonite, you will split it at your first attempt to drill it, and will have to be content with that which will do you just as proud, i.e., a piece of Scrounger's guaranteed three-ply, which can be bought for a mere song at the dump near the chippies' shop.

Then your condensers and things. Having asked advice of every poor devil of a w/t operator in camp, you proceed to buy the sort that you intended to buy all along, which will be found to have backlash and shorts ad infinitum. And serve you jolly well right.



Then the valves. After writing to your pal in Ireland, you send him a postal order for fifteen bob and become the proud possessor of three spanking valves, which afterwards prove to be A.T.50's, relics of the Irish trouble. These work all right with an h.t. of two million volts, and a grid bias of four milli-ohms.

A low-tension battery is your next consideration. The object is to light your valves, in order to secure the necessary electron emission. Take the advice of Dvr Bumbleshay, who contends that two S cells tied together in multiple arc will last for ages.

Your high-tension battery should present little difficulty, for a certain person spent some time yesterday in telling me all about a new gadget whereby you "have a little doings at the back of your set, and every now and again you pop in a few tablets." Sounds good to me. However, don't on any account try those eight-cell units from the Q.M.store, because nine out of every ten have a theoretical voltage of twelve volts, but in practice they give in the neighbourhood of three. Should you be forced through lack of credits to use these things, it is a good plan to stand them on the stove for forty minutes, and then remove the top and shove 'em inside.

Other famous authorities on wireless have written reams and reams about grid leaks, but a tip I have just learned tells of a new method of adjusting the grid leak by regulating the washer on the anode tap.

Your aerial coil should consist of a low-loss coil tapped at every third turn, and well bashed at every tenth. This should be tuned by a variable condenser of the square-law type. All the best wireless fans use the term "square-law," but only Sir Oliver Lodge knows what it really means.

Tuning on this set will of necessity be very fine. Darned fine, in fact. Tests on a set made to this specification, on an average aerial, one night brought in 2LO at good phone strength, and the man next door at surprising loud speaker strength.

The power wire outside the hut makes a good aerial if properly used. Take a pin, tie your lead-in on it, and stick it in the power cable. Do this when the power is switched on, and your wireless troubles will be over for some considerable distance. And if the editor can decipher my typewriting, he's a better man than I am, Gunga Din.

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

## Rhine Signal Units.

Wiesbaden, October 1st.

**Introduction.**—Scribes may come and scribes may go, but THE WIRE notes go on for ever. Our late correspondent had barely time to settle down to his new faith when he was taken from our midst and placed under the eagle eye of the Depot, pending the departure of a trooper to convey him to No. 2 Wireless Coy., Sarafand. Good luck, Tich!

Judging by the number of chits I have had thrown at me since I took over as the Rhine Signals reporter, I rather doubt if my supply of paper will hold out. Anyhow, I'll do my best and await results.

**Training.**—With the closing of Brigade training came the all-important annual manœuvres, which commenced on Thursday, September 22nd; and although the weather favoured us until the last day, everyone was glad to get back to barracks, there to relate his experiences.

I have listened to the tales of long marches and such like from the members of the Infantry Brigade Sections, and of the Divisional counter clerks who protest against being overworked and underpaid. In fact, everybody seems to have had more hardships than was normally allowed for. But "all's well that ends well."

We have had congratulations showered upon us from all directions, special mention being made of the way in which communications were maintained. We were always "through."

**Social.**—On Tuesday, September 27th, an all ranks dance was held in the regimental institute, and was voted a huge success, due to the untiring energy of the dance committee. Nobby and Co. arrived, as they usually do, to supply the music, and of course must share the credit for the success. Novelty prizes were won by the following couples: Sigmn D. P. Savage and Mrs. Brown; Sigmn Bryan and Miss Benedit; Sigmn Blanche and Mrs. Penfold; Sigmn Attrill and Miss Conrad. Keep going, the committee; and I say! I don't think there are many who would find it difficult to procure a fancy dress if the opportunity presents itself.

On Thursday, September 29th, the Signals Association (Rhine Branch) held its bi-annual dinner in the Festhalle Dotzheim; but considering the exceptionally fine percentage of the unit who are members, the attendance was very disappointing and rather a blow to the committee and other helpers, who spent much time in preparing what should have been a very successful evening.

**Furlough.**—The regimental barber reports a strong attack on his somewhat limited supply of eau-de-cologne and razors, etc. He says it is due to the fact that quite a number of the boys are busy preparing for a thirty-seven days' stay in Blighty. The first batch leaves on October 5th. Christmas in Blighty is the aim of a good many, and I foresee many disappointments.

**General.**—Joe, Mac, Darkie and Co. (of the n.c.o.s mess) are curious about two incidents. Can anyone satisfy them on the following: (a) Who were the two sergeants playing "konkers" (as the office boy spells it) in the Signal office on manœuvres, and trying to induce the Essem to join them? (b) Who was the young lad who walked round Kreuznach with his arm-band buck-a-ree? N.B.—No reward is offered for answers to the above queries.

By the time these notes appear, many changes will have taken place, due to the reduction of the Rhine Army and the re-organisation of the Rhine Signal units. But more of this anon.

**Departures.**—On Friday, September 30th, we bade farewell to the following, who are proceeding to destinations as shown: To Egypt, C.S.M. J. A. Burgess, Signalmen E. Baker, R. D. Blackett, J. Ford, H. J. Rose, J. W. Billing, S. Blanche, C. W. Bowden, J. Hicks. To Palestine, Sigmn W. C. Jarvis. To the U.K. on sick convoy, Signalmen J. B. Brown and Branch; and Sigmn W. H. (Doughy) Baker made the unlucky number and proceeded to Peterborough on a G.P.O. course. Other departures include Sigmn Putley (right in the middle of a message check) who is to try his luck in civvy street. We offer our best wishes to all in their new spheres.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to Lieut N. G. Newell, Royal Signals, who joined us from U.K., and we trust that he will settle down quite comfortably in Rhineland.

**Births.**—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Moore on the arrival of a daughter; Signalman and Mrs. Westmore, also a daughter; Dvr and Mrs. Porter, likewise a daughter; and Sigmn and Mrs. Godfray, a son.

**Extension of Service.**—Signalmen R. W. Blackett, H. Camp and W. H. Guest, to complete twelve years with the Colours.

**Promotions.**—Sigmn J. S. Groves accepted an unpaid bar, thus gaining the first step to the inner circle. Congratulations, Stan! Also to U/L/Corporals T. A. Williams and R. D. Hardy on being appointed L/Corporals on the Corps roster.

**S.O.S.**—"Pullman" Porter would like to hear from "Cherry" Smeed, late of F Company T.B. and 4th Divl. Signals, Colchester.

**Queries.**—(1) Who was the person who absconded with five kilowatts of electric current from a billet lent by a German civilian on manœuvres?

(2) If the "Emergencies" would like a page in THE WIRE on which to make known their exploits?

BLANCO.

---

Men will die for an ideal. For a square deal they'll live—and work.

* * * *

There is no easier way to cure foolishness than to give a man leave to be foolish. And the only way to show a fellow that he has chosen the wrong business is to let him try it. If it really *is* the wrong thing, you won't have to argue with him to quit; and if it isn't, you haven't any right to.

* * * *

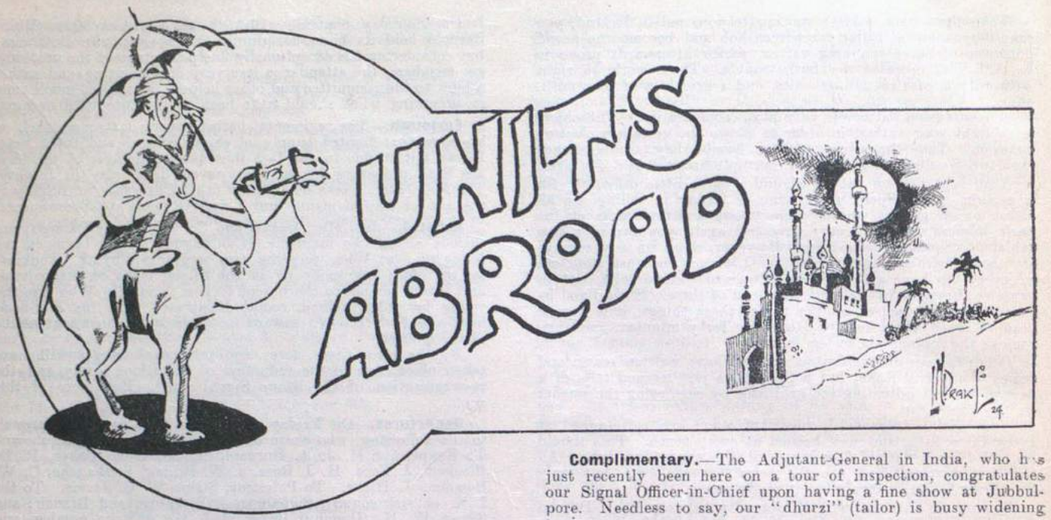
Don't be one of those men who have lost a heart and found a liver.

* * * *

Lose an hour in the morning, and you will be all day hunting for it.

* * * *

Make the most and the best of your lot, and compare yourself not with the few who are above you but with the multitudes who are below you.




## Signal Training Centre, India.

Jubbulpore, September 22nd.

**Demonstrations.**—On Friday, September 9th, an "at home" was held in the Signal Training Centre, to which all officers of the Garrison were invited. An interesting programme was arranged by the Signal Training School, showing the system of technical training in the Centre, accompanied by a practical demonstration. The subject chosen was the successive establishment of signal centres during an advance. This had been grouped into four phases, and an explanation of what was happening and the various lines of communication was given as each successive stage of the advance was taking place.

In the first phase the lines of communication were opened up with shutter and Lucas lamp to leading battalions, whilst a cable line laid by hand kept them in touch with Brigade headquarters in the rear. The light pack party then went forward and laid a line to one of the battalions. After the onlookers had fully grasped what was taking place, the pigeoneer was called, and he showed how a message was attached to a pigeon, and released the bird.

Shortly following this the advance continued, and a fresh advance signal centre went forward, and Brigade headquarters came up to take over from the first centre erected. In this phase heavy pack cable came into use, and the means of communication then illustrated were visual, including a buzzer exchange. Whilst this signal office was in operation, a message was sent to an aeroplane (Popham panel and director arrow).

The third phase of the demonstration commenced by Divisional Signals coming up and relieving B.H.Q., who moved onwards, with a heavy pack party following them. Draught cable sections laid lines to other infantry and artillery brigades. A wireless C set detachment, with pack mule, then appeared and erected a station, opening up communication by wireless.

The final stage of the scheme was given when the officers were taken round a Corps signal office, and the various means of dealing with messages were shown: Ordinary Morse telegraph sets of various types, telephone (forty subscribers working), D.R.L.S. service, and C and 120-watt wireless sets.

Some features of the demonstration (but not actually included in the demonstration itself) were the reception of short wave telephony and music by a loud speaker, and some experimental apparatus kindly loaned by Lieut. Rodman. The officers were then divided into parties and taken around the technical class rooms, and the methods of teaching were explained.

Particular points of interest were centred around the indoor means of teaching both Lucas lamp and helio, by the use of electric bulbs fitted on hill features of brownish-coloured landscape panoramas. A sand model of the local district attracted a certain amount of attention.

**Complimentary.**—The Adjutant-General in India, who has just recently been here on a tour of inspection, congratulates our Signal Officer-in-Chief upon having a fine show at Jubbulpore. Needless to say, our "dhurzi" (tailor) is busy widening tunics.

The following extract from the Xth (Jubbulpore) Infantry Brigade Orders may also be of interest: "The Brigade Commander wishes to convey his congratulations to the 4th Indian Divisional Signals and the Signal Training Centre, India, who have no British ranks not in possession of at least a 3rd class certificate of education."

No small praise is due to our hard-working educational instructor and his staff for securing such a pleasing report.

**General.**—We should like to offer our heartiest congratulations to Sigmn Dolly Gray on his great performance at Mussorie, where he carried off the all-India middle-weight boxing cup. Well done, Dolly! we are proud of you.

**Promotions.**—I/U/L/Sergts Kitchen, Pope, Paskins and Wish to be L/Sergts in the Corps. Corpls Gilmour and Ring to be L/Sergts in the Corps. A/Corpl Gould to be Corporal in the Corps. Congratulations to them all.

**Departure.**—Capt. F. W. S. Jourdain, R.Signals, to U.K. on eight months' combined leave.

### Sergeants' Mess.

**The Monthly Verse.**—

"There was a young man at Jubb
Took the mess, one night, for a pub,
With perfect good candour
Went off the verandah,
And rubbed his ear on a tub."

—(With apologies to "Freddie.")

**Entertainments.**—Owing to the renovation of the mess building, our entertainments are at a standstill; but cheer up! we've still got the gramophone.

**Courses.**—The S course has once more begun, so we are expecting plenty of short waves, pole crossings and such-like for our meals. One year we had a pukha Banger, the next a real Wheeler, and this year we expect to be more than Rich. Some of us are thinking of changing our trade to that of a saddler, thus becoming entitled to early meals.

We welcome all the n.c.o.s on this course, and hope their stay will be enjoyable as well as helpful.

**General.**—It has been rumoured that we shall soon need a special garage for the mess, and copies of "The Motor Cycle" are in great demand. Who is it who requires a copy of the 1902 edition? Who is the certain riding instructor who has found a new occupation for his school? They appear to have plenty of push in them.

**Strength Increases.**—To Sergt and Mrs. Grimbley, to Sergt and Mrs. Hunt, and to L/Sergt and Mrs. Creaton, "a bonny boy" in each case (more recruits for the future Corps).



**Arrivals.**—Sergt Negro, wife and child, from Rawalpindi.

**Departures.**—Sergt Tiffy Thornton to Waziristan District Signals. Sergt Eynott, wife and child, to Rawalpindi. Our best wishes to them all, and we regret having to part with them. Sergt Eynott will be missed in our sporting circle.

SIGTRAIN.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

September 13th.

**General.**—Great sorrow was felt by all ranks of this unit on hearing of the death of Sergt J. Clarkson. He was one of the pioneers of this unit, and was very popular. He was also a very keen sportsman, and is missed by all who knew him.

The annual point-to-point meeting at Bunder Crossing, which is looked forward to as breaking the monotony of Karachi life, was held on Saturday, August 13th. There was a continuous stream of charabancs and other vehicles as A Corps Signals, accompanied by their families, proceeded to the rendezvous. We were unfortunate in securing no prizes. Apart from money made on the totaliser, it is believed that one of our team dismounted to pick up a few mushrooms. By the cheery countenances, it is assumed that it was a very enjoyable day's outing.

At last, on the notice board, there have appeared lists of men due to go home this trooping season. Some were disappointed, some are likely to be amended, and some (after seeing their pay accounts) signed on. Still, it is hoped that Manchester City will be safe for another six.

The most interesting news that has reached us so far this year is in the form of a Part I. Order from 3rd Divl. Signals, Bulford, warning drafts to stand by for India. They will undoubtedly get a warm reception on arrival. Some of our warriors would like to know what they "stand by." Joe, there is a vacancy at "F."

**Arrivals.**—Small drafts continue to flow in from Waziristan District Signals, with the idea of flooding the Line Company, our latest being Signalmen Bridgeman, Gibbons, E. Smith, Lovell, Hampshire and Chambers. It makes one wonder whether the frontier is still safe or not. Anyhow, we are pleased to have them with us, as we are sure they will help us out in many ways.

**Agony.**—Will Sigmn J. Wilson, last heard of in Catterick, please communicate with Sigmn F. Coates, of this unit. Sigmn G. Mullins wishes to hear from Sigmn T. Uwins, of the same place.

AKORPZ.

## Wireless Detachment, Loralai.

September 13th.

The chief topic at this time of the year should be the weather; but just to confound the usual formula, we must say that the temperature is keeping exceptionally moderate. Touch wood!

A camp has been established at Chotair, between Loralai and Quetta, and as the altitude is somewhat "Everestian," it has made a nice cool interlude from the barren wastes of the Plains. It is run on the lines of a holiday camp, and one almost thinks of camping out in Blighty (when convenient to the other office boys), but in those days, even after "spotting some good 'uns," it did not run to a month.

Tennis is still the recognised method of keeping the waist line in correct proportions. At the same time we can only boast of about three possibles (very) for next year's Wimbledon.

That form of insanity, soccer, is just looming over the horizon, and with the temperature at 103 degrees!

We have to congratulate L/Sergts Barnes and W. H. S. Jones on their slightly heavier arms. May the next soon come along!

**Departures.**—Sergt Chimes to Jubbulpore, via Karachi, for the S course. Next stop, S. of S., Catterick. We wish him the best of luck. L/Sergt Hobby to Quetta W/T Station, Westcom headquarters.

**Arrivals.**—L/Sergt Fairman from Fort Sandeman, vice Sergt Chimes; and L/Sergt Jones (nee Corpl) from Karachi, vice L/Sergt Hobby.

---

Later.

Matter of interest is somewhat difficult to find in this far from exciting corner of the world.

The summer camp has broken up; the office staff just managed to stand the strain for two months. It now only remains to sit tight and await the arrival of the bills from the various admi's whose goods have been omitted from the various 1520s.

Tennis is gradually dying a natural death, caused, I think, by the harmonics of the community singing at Stamford Bridge. At any rate the goal posts have done their annual "come back." Only one match has so far been played—versus the Hospital. We registered our first win; but it was not a great victory. The team will undoubtedly improve by "maturing in the wood" for a time.

Tennis will just about survive until the end of the month, when there is to be a needle match between the Borotras of Loralai and the Lacostes of Fort Sandeman. Keith Prowse report that the rush for seats has been stupendous, and it is rumoured that Cochran has been making fabulous offers to a certain Barnesahib—but the rumour does not say if for tennis or snakes and ladders.

Greyhound versus the electric hare has not so far, up here, ousted the old-established sport of dog fighting. These fights are usually staged in the small hours of the morning, and invariably on our verandah.

D. W.

## Wireless Detachment, No. 2 Pack Section, Fort Sandeman.

July came upon us as a forerunner of hot weather, but not sufficiently to reduce our activities. Rumours of a column had by this time been confirmed, and we were to sally forth on the 4th (this is not a pun) into regions unknown.

As dawn was breaking we were roused from sweet dreams at 4.30. We adorned ourselves with the usual ornaments, and proceeded to join the two Companies of the 2/15th Punjab Regiment. At 6 a.m. we commenced to march, and within an hour we had reached the foothills of the Sulieman range, the march from this point being one continuous climb. After a gruelling march in the sun we reached Martinzai, a small camp on the hill surrounded by a perimeter. Here it was noticeably cooler at night, a great relief after the stifling atmosphere of Fort Sandeman.

The next dawn saw us on the move along the river bed until Barham Khell was reached—a matter of seven or eight miles—and great sighs of content were heard as this was to be our convalescent home for three weeks (bully and bis). Within two hours a rock-strewn area had been transformed into an orderly camp, with a three-foot perimeter wall, this being approximately 6000 feet above sea level. In less than another hour, our own tents and wireless station were erected, establishing communication instantly with Fort Sandeman.

Of sport there is not much to tell, as ground for recreation was limited.

On the 13th we were visited by our O.C., Lieut Paterson, and a most profitable morning was spent in digesting isolbars and dips, etc.

Two days later we marched to Shinghar, a Zhob Levy post 8640 feet above sea level. This entailed climbing up and round khuds for two hours (Corpl Cotterell, please note: excellent facilities for cross-country training). The horses and mules showed little signs of distress after their arduous climb. A station was erected and traffic passed with Fort Sandeman and Quetta, the latter being 250 miles distant.

Unfortunately our equipment was not of the best, having had several years' wear, or some records may have been established for the C set Indian pack. The news was received every morning from Rugby at 7.30, and for a set of this type the results are excellent.

Needless to add that the return journey to Barham Khell was much easier than the ascent. A terrific thunder and hail storm helped us on our way (Brighton-to-London pace not in it!) The final march back to Sandeman was uneventful. We arrived at 9 a.m. on the 24th, and once more our peace is undisturbed.

**Departures.**—During our absence our i/c Sergt Fairman had departed for Chautear on convalescence leave after a trying illness.

**Sport.**—The advent of football is eagerly looked forward to, and some real games are expected with the Ghurkas. Sigmn T. Murray is acknowledged as the Barham Khell amateur ludo champion; runner-up, Barney Bull.

**This Month's Fairy Tale.**—There was once a fitter who kept his "Douglas" clean.

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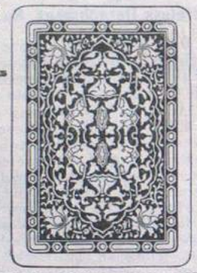

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**Agony.**—To Signalman Pearce, Pindi: "Still awaiting your epistle.—Ginger F.S."

August 31st.

The natives here once more brought forth their flags of many colours to celebrate the coming of the A.G.G. to the Fort on the 5th. L/Sergt Barnes, recently promoted to that rank, has taken over the "holy dido," i.e., in charge of the w/t here, L/Sgt Fairman having departed to the much loved base (Loralai). Now then, you base wallahs.

Work progresses in the direction of B.2 ratings in spite of the hot weather, and by the time these notes are published, it is hoped that expectations may be realised. On the night of the 15th, the junior officers of the Zhob Levy Corps gave a smoking concert to the Section, and the ceremony of frothblowing was declared a huge success. Songs and a few tall stories were given by Messrs. Garret, Copson and Murray, and the rendering of "Sweet Violets" by Sigmn Millhouse was received with much applause. At present we have one Frothblower, but the remainder of the Section are rapidly becoming efficient. Corpl F. Ford has once again returned to his old charp here.

**A True Story by Ivor Carr Buncell.**—A certain individual of the Section, having received a large fortune from a long dead and perhaps fabulous aunt, decided to celebrate his birthday (or at least one of them). During his tour he ran across a snake (normus size). No—not a vision, but a real live one; in fact, too much alive. With cries of "Sandeman for ever!" the Detachment charged the foe with mosquito poles and bed legs, and yea! destroyed him even as David did Goliath at the battle of Hastings. Note: size of reptile, 3 ft. length and 2 in. circumference.

**Football.**—Two games have so far been played. The first, a Station team versus the 1/10th Gurkhas, resulted in everyone creeping silently away, losing by 7—0. The second, W/T versus 1/10th Gurkhas, resulted in a win for us by 3—2.

SEAMAN.

## B Corps Signals.

Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi.
August 31st.

I must first of all apologise for the fact that no notes were sent during July; the reason was that the compiler thereof was in duck.

**Officers.**—Major G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., has proceeded on long leave. Lieut L. R. C. Watson has returned from leave, and has taken over the duties of adjutant.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—We extend a hearty welcome to the following: L/Sergts Galtress, Benfield and Hayles from 1st Indian Divl. Signals; L/Sergt Broadhead from 3rd Indian Divl. Signals; Signalmen Bruce, Gordon, Brand, Laidler, Somers, Major, Ranson, Penn, Avins, J. Smith and Matthews from Kohat District Signals. All the above arrived during July.

During August the following reported to us on posting: Corpl Godfrey, Signalmen Fensome, O'Brien, Hibbes and Stirling from Kohat; Sigmn Russell from Meerut. We also welcome them with open arms.

No fewer than thirty-six signalmen were transferred to other units in India during July. We hope they will have a real good time at their new stations.

Only one has been posted during the present month. Sergt Wakly has been transferred to Karachi, and our best wishes go with him.

**Corporals' Club.**—Oh! sad is the news from this quarter. The most ancient and secret order, of which I wrote previously, has now been disbanded. The reasons were promotions and vice versa (the writer is most unfortunately connected with the vice versa). "The old order changes, yielding place to new."

I have now discovered why stripes are not to be sewn on drill clothing, but attached by means of hooks; it is to facilitate the removal thereof. We live and learn.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Our hearty congratulations are extended to the following on attaining their present rank: L/Sergts Parrack, Goodman and Woolley (well done, Chota!); Corpls F. Beckett, R. Roberts, Stapleton, Savage, Masters, G. A. Taylor, Hampton and Gumbley (I foresee Field-Marshals in this list); L/Corpls Foster, Baker, Champion, Charnock, Daw, Felstead, Lennard, McGregor, Mowatt, Kiddle and Organ to paid rank. The durzie has had quite a rush on, and I fear he has now run out of his stock of stripes. I have some for sale should they be required.

**Hill Season.**—Yesterday the personnel who were at Upper Topa on courses commenced to march back to Rawalpindi, their kit having been sent in advance by lorry. I have heard, by the way, that they were passed during the morning, marching along in a pouring rain and soaked to the skin. How pleased they must be to think that their kit is safe and dry in Rawalpindi! I fear that there was much bad language on the Murree-Rawalpindi road yesterday, and especially when it came to sleeping last night. The married people are remaining at Topa; they are not due back yet awhile.

**Arrivals (Part 2).**—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. J. W. Browne on the birth of a daughter. This happy event took place on the 14th inst.

**Courses.**—From reports received and trade ratings made known, it is evident that the courses held at Upper Topa this year were very successful. A and B.2 ratings now seem to be the order of the day.

**We Should Like to Know.**—If "Joe Soap" is likely to continue his informal conversations with other units now that he is in pastures new?

Why the new home establishment order appears to upset some people?

**General.**—Very little of importance has taken place of late. So many B.O.R.s are in the hills and on leave that the remaining personnel have all their work cut out to fulfil the many duties called for in the barracks.

The weather has been hot and sultry, with occasional monsoon rains, which has made it impossible for much outdoor work and sport. However, from next month onwards things should start moving.

Under the new contractor system, many men who during the Army Canteen Board days went about from Tuesday to Friday with long faces and empty pockets are now to be seen during the same period with smiling faces and sprightly step. Would you like to know the reason? Well! I'll tell you. The contractor has issued Rs.5 books of blue-lights, payable through accounts. Nobody is broke nowadays.

ECHO.



## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

September 7th.

**General.**—Cooler days and nights are heralding the approach of the end of the hot season, and in consequence everyone is feeling a trifle happier. The heat this season has been nothing as compared with other years I have known (open the doors and windows, someone), so really we have not had much to "crib" about.

Our people who have been to Topa on Signal courses have just returned with ratings and a fund of things that one must know, and I have it from a reliable source that our representatives have taken first place in all the courses that have been held up there this season. At least, that is what statistical reports show.

Work progresses as usual, and rumour has it that we shall soon be hearing the old familiar order, "Five rounds standing—load!" again. Last year we did quite well on the range, and if this year's shooting is up to last year's standard we shall do quite as well (marvellous! however did he work it out?)

**The Farrier's Latest.**—"Back Kolyn(h)os(s): it never fails."

**Agony.**—Sigmn Croucher, late of No. 25 Squad, Catterick, would like to know if Stumpy Holmes is still in the land of the living.

**By the Way.**—A certain n.c.o. of this unit, found stropping a razor-blade with the paper still on it, wonders whether he will s(h)ave more that way.

**Moves.**—We are still losing some of our personnel, and we hope that they may have a good time wherever they come to rest.

Sergt Tiffy Thornton has recently joined us from the S.T.C., India, and we wish him a pleasant stay with us.

ARREF.

## Razmak Brigade Signals.

September 1st.

**General.**—Now that the cold weather is setting in and the forthcoming trooping season is nigh, everybody seems to be wearing a smiling countenance, especially those who are due for England, home and beauty.

We are now looking forward to the return of some of the local lads from courses at Upper Topa and Jubbulpore. It is presumed they will be beaming with knowledge and will be ready to part with same, whether we want it or not. The Quartermaster had better indent for some very large topi's, don't you think?

Local training is in full progress, and according to the results on the weekly test sheets, the men are proving themselves worthy of their ratings—thanks to the instructors, who, it must be remembered, have worked hard in securing this achievement.

The lads are now looking forward to the great move, when Razcol goes out to Datta Khel. More boot allowance! Dame Rumour has been good enough to impart to us that this column commences on October 20th and finishes on November 4th. Pity it isn't the 5th!

On completion of the column, everybody will be anticipating a good time, because I must here mention that they have really been on extensive training during the past few months, working from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Not much time wasted, is there?

I regret to announce the disbandment of the P.R.A. Section, who, I am sure, will be missed by all, especially the artillery. The men of this Section have been despatched to our headquarters at D.I.Khan for reposting (agony columnisators, please note).

Everybody has returned from leave, and told us of the good old times, etc.—lucky beggars!

Climatic conditions here are wet and cold. The meteorological observations up to the time of penning read 64.5. Goodness only knows what it will be like in winter. Still, I shall not be here. I shall have to send the lads some Blighty winter warmers—you know, those of the good old days.

Sport hasn't been up to expectations lately. Goodness knows what has come over our team. We put up a very good show in the hockey tournament, having had to play the semi-final three times with the result that eventually we lost by 1—0. So we handed over the trophy to the victors with the remark that the best team won. So say we all.

F. R. C.

Change over to
Pratts
instead of changing down!

## Bannu Detachment.

September 1st.

**General.**—Once again it is time to write up a few notes for THE WIRE. How time flies! I have tuned in to the people around me, but can get nothing from them. Apparently I must struggle through on my own.

Bannu was treated to a delightful storm, the other night, which has cooled the place down considerably. In fact, it was an ideal spot for ducks for a few hours after the storm. Could you send us a few, Barleux?

The cry of "Roll on, that boat" is at present R.9. By the time these notes appear the boat will have rolled on—and left a few of us behind, I'm afraid. Still, as the song says, "There'll come a time."

**Appointments.**—Congratulations to L/Sergt Lewis on his recent appointment to that rank.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Corpls Benson and Ferdinando on their promotion to that rank.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Dunn, Hetherington, MacCann and Sivorn from unit headquarters. I hope they all spend a peaceful life in the land of the Bansigs (more than I do).

**Departures.**—Signalmen Glassborough, Simpson and E. W. Smith. We wish them a pleasant stay in their new abodes. It would be interesting to learn Horsy's opinion of his. Not as good as tippy Bannu, eh?

**2nd Divl. Signals.**—A Section: Our W/T people are awfully bucked with your song. B Section: The situation hinted at in your song seems vaguely familiar, somehow. We have faint recollections of such remarks as "I am sending A.B.C. on your circuit," and "Well, I am not getting your beats."

You can only eat a meal once

but you enjoy it twice as much with

H.P. sauce

There's nothing to equal the unique satisfying flavour of H.P.—piquant yet mellow.

Suits all tastes and every dish—bacon, cold meat, fish, cheese, sausages and sandwiches.

The rich-thick-fruit sauce that makes plain meals appetising

All Canteens sell H.P.

Such remarks are things of the past now that we have no lines to operate. Instead of "Line dis" we now hear "Station closed X too bad." Poor little fellahs, those Xs; they must be terribly overworked. My brain refuses to function properly now; someone seems to be heterodyning.

N.

## 3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet, September 5th.

On Monday, August 23rd, we were visited and inspected by the officiating Signal Officer-in-Chief, Col. E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O. The order was "Parades as usual," and from all accounts the Chief was extremely pleased with all he saw.

We hear that 2/Lieuts D. M. Smyth, E. D. Good, and W. J. S. Gray are due to join us during the forthcoming trooping season, as reliefs to Captains H. G. Bell, I.A. (who will join the I.A.S.C.), A. J. Hannah and H. S. Lewis-Barclay (both the latter reverting to home establishment).

The monsoon, at the moment, is treating us more kindly after an unusually bitter downpour a fortnight ago. Rain fell to the extent of 15½ inches within twelve hours, with the result that the road from Ranikhet to Kathgodam suffered badly and in many parts is completely washed away. Through traffic will be restored just about in time to permit our return to Meerut in mid-October.

## 4th Indian Divisional Signals.

Jubbulpore.

Something went wrong with the works last month. I wrote some really wonderful notes, but as far as I can ascertain they found their way into the waste-paper basket instead of THE WIRE. That basket should be very valuable now. Some one blundered, but mine not to reason why, so I'm charging again.

There is never a great deal to write about in Jubbulpore, as nothing ever seems to happen here.

Surely the unit never was so strong as at present. The following joined us recently: Admiral Coffin, Signalmen Holmes, Bond, Bishop, Balman, Barter, Carruthers, Caddick, Dyson, Day, Ede, Hamilton, Jacob, Mortimer, Marooney, Newman, Pledger, Rose, Rooker, Stuart, Steer, Rowe, Toy, Thurbon and Warren—from the S.T.C. Signalmen Waplington, Ringham, Burne, Cowell, Donnithorn, Francis, Hubbard, Moore, Tanner, Ray and Worth—all wireless fiends from A Corps Signals, Karachi. Corpl Page, Signalmen Staff, Bell and James—from 1st Divl. Signals, Rawalpindi. Corpl Bibbings from the Cavalry Troop, Risalpur. L/Sergt Baldock from Peshawar District Signals.

R.S.M. May and C.Q.M.S. Haigh have recently returned from a month's leave in the hills, bringing the mem-sahibs with them. I bet the R.S.M. was pleased to see all the new faces on parade. I know for a fact the dhurzi was.

**Departures.**—L/Sergt Hayden and family to 1st Divsigs, Rawalpindi. L/Sergt Davy (dear old Rasso), one of the celebrities of the unit, leaves for the S.T.C. this week. Best wishes to them all.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—As one who has been in a perpetual perspiration for the last two years, I can sympathise with the following on attaining the ranks shown: C.Q.M.S. Plum Warner, Sergts Applegate and Bell, L/Sergeants Greed, Spud Murphy, Hayden and Davy (hee, hee, sergeant!) Corpl Swede Mathews, and L/Corpls Draper (I haven't said a word about boots, Treadlight), Costick, Breslin, De Courcy, Riddock and Payne. Most of these were "made up" some time ago; but better late than never with the bouquets.

**On the Straight for Home.**—Corpl Byrne to complete twenty-one years with the Colours.

**Diehards.**—L/Sergt Lawson, L/Corpl Wilson, and Signalman Grocutt to complete twelve years with the Colours.

**Reversions.**—Busty Knowles has reverted to his permanent rank of chief shikari, the arduous duties of harbour master having proved a little beyond his capacity. We have a pukka marli now, and I believe one of his ancestors was one of the crowd who shifted the forest in "Macbeth." Anyway, there are flowers a yard high which were not there yesterday. It is more in sympathy than reproach that we announce this reversion.

Strangler Pledger is G.O.C. of our new vegetable garden. Corpl Mathews, Sigmn Nichols, and a few others (notably those in the ratpit) will be pleased to give him any information he may require regarding the rearing of swedes and turnips.

**The Boat.**—Quite a number of the old hands can be seen scanning the shipping news in the paper these days, and we shall lose some real old pals ere long. By the end of the next trooping season there will be very few left of the old Company, which so successfully "held them back" on the Frontier.

The China Section is expected back any day now. This may account for the number of birds (not of the silk-stockinged variety) in the unit lately. I think these birds are being trained to shout their loudest when they hear anyone commence "When we were in China——"

**Corporals' Mess.**—Every time a sergeant looks intelligently at our garden, he turns green with envy. (It is not often they look intelligent, but they do on occasions.) Thanks to our late president, Corpl Winter (S.T.B.), who has converted a wilderness into an Eden, we have got the sergeants stone cold in the matter of gardens. But he did not train the dart team which so successfully disposed of the S.T.C. We won't swank about it, though, as they were too easy.

The monsoon has given us best. Every time it washed the whitewash off the walls, we slapped it back again. It has been a very cushy monsoon, indeed, but as regimental as ever.

### Gems of English Verse.

No. 1—"A Slight Mistake."

There she stands beneath the trees,
A thing of beauty and of grace,
She makes no movement in the breeze
Until her master takes his place.

Then off she goes with movement swift,
Scarcely heard is her panting breath,
May you not in her pathway drift:
To do so would mean certain death.

Her body cream, with wings of red,
A padre saw her standing there;
"Is it a fire engine?" he said—
The people standing round did stare.



"A fire engine"? a sad mistake!
The news then travelled near and far,
But no one's told the padre yet,
'Twas our latest private car.

DASH.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, September 8th.

**General.**—The Troop, with the return of the hill parrots, has once again assumed its old winter proportions, and section training has commenced with a vengeance.

The rumoured batch of remounts is now a reality, and our total strength of untamed wild and woolly cayuses is now fifteen. Still, with the able assistance of the recently-arrived bronco busters, things will sure hum a little around those 'ornery critters. By the weird sounds of "'Alt," "Gid up, there," and "Trot," sung in trembling falsetto, one would think a voice-training class was also in progress under the guise of remount training.

**Arrivals.**—Several pairs of very acceptable hands in the persons of Sergt Gidney, L/Corpls Haisell and Carter, Signalmen Johns, Jackman, Few, Reed and 'Arry Dirs, who rejoined our happy band from Upper Topa. Our congratulations on their collective success on their various courses. May their Class II.'s ably make up for the agonies of the march down from the hills. Vol. II.'s and Part II.'s can now be put away, and those little red books (Cavalry Training) taken down and dusted.

**Appointments.**—Drinks, etc., from L/Corporals Neal and Mayson on being paid for their appointments. As previously observed, the First War Lord very rarely misses real genuine talent.

**Departures.**—During the last month we wept tears of anguish over the departure of several Troop celebrities in the persons of Sergt Parsons, Signalmen Mervin, Saddler, Perkins, H. Reed, Stone, Pfaff, Abbott, Hannam and Myddleton. Our best wishes go with them. May Saddler's laugh and Mervin's cocoa remain unchanged in their new climes.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—'Nuff said! Not a word; just plain salaams and "Here's how" to the other estimable like institutions.

**Corporals' Mess.**—With many throbbing hearts and tear-stained eyes we bade au revoir to Daddy Spencer, who crept away, breathing hammer and jumper drill, to Jubbulpore. Remember, Spencer, a don or—death. Isel's come back with his "'Eard this one?" but it cannot be published. Our many thanks to the juniors' mess, Upper Topa, for the care of our members.

**Agony: Wants and Ads.**—Some word or line from Sigmn Wilmott, of 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot, to Sigmn McLintock.

Some wee sign of life from Reynolds (last heard of as breathing the air of Rawalpindi) urgently required by Sigmn Beech.

Oh! Billie, don't disappoint us by failing to include Sialkot in your reminiscences.

Wanted, urgently, an effective recipe for horse cough cure for No. 5. Last time ginger was tried, the Sappers' guard turned out, so please don't prescribe anything fiery.

If any 4×2 (preferably the genuine Palestine product) requires any tips or hints on saving and making one anna look like four, by communicating with me he will be furnished with particulars by the real King of Systems, rank not excepted.

MAX.

## The Corps in Egypt.

Headquarters, B.T.E., Cairo.
October 4th.

**Postings: Officers.**—We have great pleasure in recording the posting to this Command of Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, and 2/Lieut J. B. Adams, R.Signals. We trust that these officers will spend a happy time in the land of the Pharaohs.

**Other Ranks.**—We learn that C.S.M. Burgess is under orders to proceed to Egypt in relief of C.S.M. Jeffery (No. 1 Company), consequent on the latter's departure for India. We wish the latter w.o. a pleasant voyage and a sunny stay in his new station; and we extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Burgess, hoping that he will find Egypt a satisfactory destination.

**Arrivals.**—The following arrived from England on October 4th per H.T. "City of Marseilles":— L/Corpls Ormiston and Bryan, Signalmen Linacre, Hardwick, Sneddon and Weatherhead, and Drivers Allsop, Andrews, Rathbone, Arnold, Brooks, Chantry, Hammond, Kaye and Hilton.

Rise & Shine!

For a quick, brilliant and lasting shine WREN'S Boot Polishes and Creams are unequalled. Made from pure wax, WREN'S renders the leather soft, pliable and waterproof. Obtainable from all Army Canteens and Stores.

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POLISHES, PROTECTS & PRESERVES

Tins—Black, Brown, White, Dark Tan and Tony ... ... Prices, 2d. 4d. 6d. and 9d.
Creams in "Chubby" Jars ... Price 6d.

WM. WREN & Co. LTD. Northampton, London and Paris

**Departures.**—Among those who are due to leave on the 15th of the month for Blighty is the one and only Sigmn "Ted" Richmond, of Corps boxing fame. Although this sportsman has not been in Egypt a long time, he has most certainly made his presence felt, as was the case when he was stationed at the S.T.C., Maresfield. The Corps in Egypt tend their heartiest good wishes to you, Ted, and hope to hear of your further successes in civvy street.

**Hush!**—Old Sweat: "Why, sonny, I've been stationed on hills hundreds of feet above sea level in the evening, and in the morning I've been at the bottom ready to move off on another day's march." Young ditto: "Good Gawd; you *must* have been drunk to have rolled down that far."

**Musketry.**—The annual course has now terminated, and we congratulate Sigmn Lillie (No. 1 Company) on registering the high score of 109 out of the possible 115.

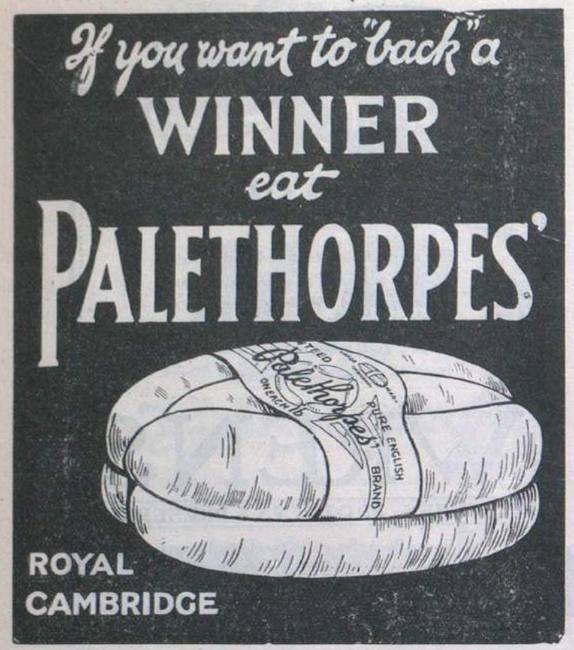
**It's Never Too Late.**—Before proceeding with the following, we should like to state that it is recorded principally for the information of late C.S.O.'s staffs. You hear of many peculiar happenings in Egypt, but the best one came about on the 15th September, when the native orderly to the C.S.O. (Mohammed Ali el Fettaha) took unto himself a wife.

Now, when one gazes on this dusky servant, one would estimate his age at roughly sixty, but on enquiry he may tell you he is thirty-eight, while on the other hand it may be forty-three—it depends on whether you take him unawares or not.

It was on 15th September that he broke the glad tidings to the staff, and incidentally scrounged an advance of pay to the extent of £E1 (one Egyptian pound) to cover the wedding expenses.

Can those few who know the dear gentleman imagine the loving couple being escorted through the streets of Cairo (via Clot Bey) by the "Demadache Corporation Band"?

The bridegroom informs us that he has no intention of retiring from the business world, also that Mrs. Fattma Fettaha will still carry on with the valuable work of filling "jappatees" with the aftermath of the troops' dinners.




**Heard During Musketry.**—Instructor (to squad): "Now, is there any question you wish to ask regarding musketry?" Fred: "Yes, sergeant; when does it finish?"

BEN.

## Corporals' Mess.

Some people are awful spendthrifts! Fancy buying beer to the value of forty piastres in three short hours! Disgraceful, I call it; still, it was a good evening, and the spirit of the Frothblowers was present. But let me explain myself.

On September 25th we entertained the Argylls, and we flatter ourselves that it was a job well done.

The Kilties arrived soon after dinner and played us at football. We had a good team on the field, but after a very good game we met our Waterloo. Tea followed, after which various members shewed their skill at billiards, darts, shove ha'penny, and other intellectual games.

Then came the call to arms! "Wot abaht the womp?" The womp was brought forth, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to conviviality and brotherly love. Bendigo was unearthed, with several other household gods, and the Scots delighted us with many good turns.

On October 4th we welcomed into the fold two stray lambs from Blighty, L/Corpls Bryan and Ormiston. May their stay in Egypt be a happy one, and may their ackers go the distance of ten.

During the welcome a very lamentable incident occurred. Someone—I'd like to know who—persuaded Jock to sing. He did for a short while, but happily for all of us, circumstances led to his "going to ground" behind the gramophone. Otherwise the evening went off splendidly.

We greatly appreciated "On the road to Mandalay," but are surprised to hear the girlie holds allurement in its odour.

Congratulations to L/Corpls Bennett and Joyce, promoted Corporals. The optimists in the mess still hopefully sing that stirring refrain, "Benny buys the beer."

JUG BEER.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Oct. 5th.

**The Passing of the Yimkin.**—Every wireless operator who has served in Egypt is familiar with the 2-k.w. transmitter at Polygon. After five years of active service it has been placed on the semi-retired list, having been ousted from its place by the more up-to-date R.A.F. station at Ismailia. Although the subject of many jokes, it has passed an enormous amount of traffic during its existence. Up to fifteen months ago communication was regularly established with Baghdad, Khartoum, Malta and the British Navy when patrolling in Egyptian waters. Aldershot was also worked, but not satisfactorily. The station is not to be dismantled, but will henceforth be a mystery station, as its workings will remain secret.

**Agony.**—I have a problem to put forward. Why is it that the songs most favoured by soldiers are full of sentiment and rubbish? For the last two years, the occupants of huts in the vicinity of No. 3 have given an exhibition of singing regularly, each morning and evening. The voices are not too bad, but the songs (there are only two) are terrible. Who wants to hear a graphic description of a soldier's love, eight hundred times a year? Who wants to know the love troubles of the cockney and his donah? The answer is very forcibly given by the unfortunate listeners each time they commence. Let us hope the new draft introduce some fresh songs. If Corpl George will report to the writer, I shall have great pleasure of presenting him with a book of songs and numerous suggestions.

**Sandy Wastes, Cardens, and Ingratitude.**—The Signal barracks are surrounded on three sides by desert. After dwelling in these uninteresting surroundings for some time, one's thoughts naturally turn to making the place a bit better looking for a time. Gardening became the hobby of the day. One set of individuals, already mentioned in these notes, excavated a large hole and laboriously filled it with Nile mud, camel manure and various other choice ingredients.

The garden was a failure—due mainly to the lack of water, energy, and a knowledge of how to put seeds in. One enthusiastic horticulturist, having some rare plants for disposal, voluntarily put them into his neighbour's garden. Imagine his surprise when told to take them out of it, in tones which suggested that a heinous crime had been committed. Such is the way of the world with philanthropists. But wouldn't the garden look better with a few flowers in lieu of its present crop of match sticks?

**Draft.**—To-day we welcome to the land of Pharaoh a draft from England. Names are not to hand, therefore a general greeting is extended to them. May their stay with us be happy and er—I won't say long, because nobody wants to stay here long. I think an ideal tour here would be that of a certain lance-corporal (no names, but a fitter by trade) who has not seen much Nile flow under the bridges, nor seen much sand shifted on the still unfinished sports ground, yet is waiting for this fabled "first boat." Many, including myself, have seen much sand shifted and seen much water flow, and shall see much more, ere that boat arrives.

**More Welcomes and other Things.**—We also welcome back from U.K. leave Signalmen Richards, Denny, Statham and Lever, and only one has let us down. How could you do it, Joe? Shall I tell them? We thought that you had gone home for something other than to see the covered-top buses. Well, here's the best to the future of your wife and yourself; but you might have sent a cheque, with a note to the canteen manager after this style: "Sigmn Lever and Miss Ivy Yelloly present their compliments to the troops and beg them to drink our health in a bottle of McEwan's."

**Musketry.**—The Company have practically finished now, only the details having to fire. At present we have forty-three 1sts and four 3rds. The average will be given next month.

**Departures.**—Last week we said goodbye to C.S.M. Jeffery, who left us on transfer to L Company, Jubbulpore. We have already missed him. No more can we "leave it to him." We hope that he will be appreciated in Jubb. the same as he was here. You never miss these people till you lose them. Anyway, here's luck and health to you and your wife, Jeff; and may L Company now "leave it to you."

His place is temporarily occupied by C.Q.M.S. Dowie.



**Notices.**—L/Corpl Dunn would like to have an answer to his last two letters to L/Corpl D. A. Ellison, believed to be in the Depot Battalion.

A.V.B. (North China): What about an answer.—Tommy.

**Things we should like to know.**—What is the "aldomer" on the human body? and what effect has a kick from a horse on this part of a soldier's frame?

Who is the "Gentleman Raffles" in the Company?

How many of the Company obeyed the order to calculate their musketry scores from the instructions on pages 1 and 2 of Table "T"?

**Lost (Nearly).**—A Citroen car on F range, between the butts and the 500 yards firing point, during the Command team practice.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Cairo.
October 4th.

**Musketry.**—At the time of penning these notes, the Company is undergoing the annual trek to the ranges for the purpose of firing its musketry course. On the first day's preliminary practices, quite a few aspirants for transfer to the Lancers were noticed, judging by the number of flags to be seen. However, when the final classification takes place in two days' time, we hope to beat last year's average of about 74 per man.

**Local Leave.**—What are the attractions at Alexandria, to be seen only by the favoured ones in civvies? Judging by the numbers who have been during the past month, we are beginning to think there is something there that is not visible to the wearers of khaki. Some of the reasons came to light on the return of Waxie and the Busties (both thick *and* thin), and since their return the applications for leave have increased!

**Leave in the U.K.**—Sigmn S. V. Saunders rejoined from leave on September 28th, being followed to-day by Corporals Jones and Kemp, L/Corpl Tudor, and Signalmen Block, Sansom and C. Stone. The latter six came together on what was quite a Cook's tour of the Mediterranean ports, as they left England on the 15th of last month and only arrived in Port Said to-day. The journey can be done in under five days, overland, but there's nothing like seeing the world when you get the chance!

**Command Rifle Meeting.**—Congratulations to the Company rifle team, who did so well at the Command meeting. They disposed of a red-hot team (H.Q. Wing of the Royal Irish Fusiliers) in the second round, and the 2nd Field Company R.E. in the next, but succumbed to A Company R.I.F. in the semi-finals. Better luck next year!

**Local Transfer to the A.R.**—Sigmn H. Forster was transferred to the A.R. locally on September 12th, with permission to reside in Cairo. We notice that both he and Mr. Pitman find it hard to cut off the old ties entirely, for whenever the Corps sports team are to be seen in action, they are always there.

**Drafts.**—The undermentioned have just arrived (only an hour ago) in this land of eternal sunshine, and are welcomed with open arms: L/Corpl Ormiston, Signalmen Linacre and Hardwicke, and Drivers Chantry, Hammond and Wilson. Our old sweats due for return on the 15th are laying in stores of kiwi, as it is a twelve days' voyage on the boat, and one simply must arrive home like the advertisement: "all handsome men are slightly sunburnt." I will give their names in the next issue when they have actually gone, as the number has not been decided. Whilst on the subject of drafts, will correspondents of units at home please give the *names*, not the mere number of departures, when they are known, from their stations for places abroad. It is of the greatest interest to those here to learn when some of the limpets come unstuck and are ordered abroad.

**Promotion.**—Congratulations to L/Corpl Joyce (Tiny) on his promotion to Corporal, with effect from September 1st.

**Death.**—It is with deep regret that the death is recorded of the infant son of L/Sergt M. J. Coleman, in hospital at Alexandria, on September 23rd.

**Local Celebrities.**—It is placed on record that great and famous men are often recognised by their sayings. I give hereunder a few often spoken by well-known members of our fraternity. No prizes are offered for the solution; it's too much like jam!

That extra ounce–

TOWARDS the end of a hard-fought game of Soccer or Rugger, it's the man who can pull out that "extra ounce" who most frequently gets the winning goal or try. The whole crowd cheers, and it's good to be that man.

• • •

Training and practice alone cannot give you that superlative degree of fitness. You need to build up the vital force and stamina which will outlast the hardest game, and nothing can help you do it half as well as Horlick's, the original Malted Milk.

• • •

Horlick's is indeed the Diet of Champions. Use it regularly in your own training, and those cheers so dear to a Footballer's heart may well be for you.

HORLICK'S THE ORIGINAL MALTED MILK
Made in England.

SERVED AT MESSES & CANTEENS

May also be kept for use in Training Quarters.

Ask for and see that you get Horlick's.

"When's that blinkin' boat going?"
"Wait until the 'lions' roar!"
"Hullo, Queenie cake?"
"Blime', it wasn't 'arf a night!"
"Give it to Dixie."
"*Is* he paying out credits this week?"
"It's the smallest in the room, my lad."
"I tell you, I *have* seen a green dog!!"
"He'll be orlright—ba-a-a-den."
"I've a good 'un for THE WIRE." (?)
"I tell you it's a dead cert, and *can't* lose!"
"Is *my* name on the boat list?"
"I'll back Rouses' to beat Geordie's any day of the week!"
"I'll fix his dux!"
"Jackie, boy—*my* bit of fish."
"Let's 'ave a bit of a do!"
"Give us two on the book, Croupie boy!"
"Norwich City's still on top." (?)
"It only cost me *eight akkas and a packet of 'flags.'*"

**News for the Newswets, and Tips for the Oleswets.**—The following is for the benefit of the former, not the latter.

Say nothing when, on returning from a bargain expedition in Cairo, the ever-present individual chips in to say that he could have got it for half the price. You can say the same when the next draft arrives!

Add twelve months on to the date when you expect to return home, and you won't be far wrong (cheers from the oleswets!)

When you have enough of anything, say "buss"—not "bust," as it sounds bad. I know some of our Arabic experts haven't got it right yet.

When buying curios, etc., from guides or vendors, a price may be asked—about one hundred piastres for same. However, show no interest and walk on. He will then follow you and ask for fifty, but look at the article in disdain and continue your walk. He'll catch you up and ask for twenty-five piastres. Ask him if he means for the lot, and when he expostulates, offer him one piastre for the article. He'll then drop to ten piastres. Just say "Maalish," and walk away. Seeing that you have made an offer, however small, he'll follow you to the grave, and

after a further short stroll will ask for five, and tell you it is the last price. But don't raise your offer above one. He'll then burst into tears, and drop to four, then three, and finally two. So fetch out one piastre, and say it is all you have, and walk away. He'll then say "Maalish, give it one piastre and cigarro." Of course, all prices don't drop to this extent; and though he might (?) lose on the deal after the bargaining, the tourist often gets bitten at the first price asked. To save all the above in buying curios (real Egyptian, of course (?)) it is much better to order them direct from the makers at Birmingham, England, who send out thousands yearly.

**Brilliance.**—Instructor (lecturing to map-reading class): "Can anyone tell me what is a defile?" Bright Signalman: "Two men from D Company, sergeant!"

**Auld Lang Syne.**—Will Sigmn Hopper, late of Rhine Signal Company, kindly get hopping with a pen and paper for the benefit of Sigmn Tattam of this unit?

L/Corpl Saint would be delighted to hear from L/Corpl Peerless, last heard of at Colchester.

Sigmn W. S. Omond is dying for a few lines from Farrier Llewellan, last seen wearing a hat at Colchester 'way back in '24. (Doesn't it take your breath away—'24! Phew!)

Sigmn G. A. Hardman again sends out an S.O.S. for the benefit of Sigmn Manlove, better known as Varzy. The only information known is that he's still somewhere in this lil ol' world.

Corpl E. H. Pickering sends out for news of Sapper Newitt (of P Company, Crowborough, in 1920), now believed to be in India.

ART.

## No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad.

### No. 2 Section.

September 30th.

**Cricket.**—Congratulations to the Signals team on winning the R.A.F. open cup, after a very brilliant display. This was no mean feat, considering that twelve other teams—mostly Squadrons—entered this competition.

**Enquiries.**—Would "Iraksigs" mind letting us into the secret of how to chug *up* river from Baghdad to Ctesiphon, and at the same time pass Khedimaine Mosque? That must have been a wonderful launch, and yet perhaps more wonderful refreshments. Who knows?

**N.C.O.'s Mess.**—A two-day shooting trip down river was arranged by members of the mess, with several other n.c.o.s from Iraq Signals. This only lasted one day, unfortunately, as the party was recalled by the medical authorities, owing to an outbreak of cholera in the vicinity. On returning, the M.O. passed judgment on all, his verdict being five days isolation. Bail was refused.

**Extension.**—L/Corpl J. Brooke to complete twelve years with the Colours.

**Replies to Correspondents.**—The above should be noted by the C.H.W. and B.L. Brigade of the "Rose and Crown Enquiry Agency."

To L/Corpl Gow, A Corps Signals, Karachi, from Jerry: Many thanks for the congrats; the same to you. Don't forget the happenings of '29.

**Bank Boosters.**—Will L/Corpl Walby, 3rd Divl. Signals, please communicate with L/Corpl Mullins, of this unit?

P. A. T.

## Iraq Signal Section.

Hinaidi.

**General.**—It is very gratifying to everybody to note the increase in the number of subscribers to our Corps magazine. Every link added means a bigger magazine and a wider knowledge thereby. "The more notes, the merrier we will be."

I heartily endorse Peter of A Corps Signals' remarks regarding the provisional list of personnel to go abroad. Non-coms and men in the East have more than a passing interest in those who are joining them.

By the time these notes appear in print, the following will have recovered from their spell of mal de mer and will be speculating as to their future station in U.K.: Sergts C. J. Redman and G. Morley, Corpl J. Schofield, Signalmen E. Brown, T. A. Edgecumbe, J. F. Emblem, F. J. Fellows, F. D. Ford, D. Jones, J. F. Lewis, E. R. Misters, R. Nelson, and C. V. Lock.

A maintenance party, under L/Corpl Reeves, have been engaged for the past three weeks in straining up routes and putting up a new pole at Kirkuk in Kurdistan. From all accounts they seem to be enjoying themselves immensely. They return next week.

**Agony Column.**—Signalmen Bill Hill and Nellie Wallis, of this unit, would like to hear from Sigmn Charlie Teague, late of Balford and believed to be in India.

IRAKSIGS.

## Malaya Signal Section.

Military Headquarters, Fort Canning,
Singapore, August 31st.

**General.**—Unfortunately our notes were conspicuous by their absence last month, but so little out of the ordinary happens in our small Section that to write a few interesting notes is difficult.

This month, however, is an exception, so I suppose I must forego an afternoon's sleep and take up my pen. Oh, to be a Barleux or a L.H.D.!

A successful dance was held by the Section last month in the lower bungalow. The usual civilian ladies and gentlemen who patronise our efforts were present, together with a good attendance of members of other units in the Garrison, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

**Departures.**—Q.M.S. Floyd, our Foreman of Signals, will shortly be leaving us to take up employment as assistant inspector of posts and telegraphs under the Johore Government. Besides a decent salary, Q.M.S. Floyd is to receive a car, and what is better still, he will receive an allowance for its upkeep. We offer our hearty congratulations to him on obtaining the appointment, and wish him the best of luck and prosperity as a "Tuan Besar."

There are also others in the Section on the look-out for suitable jobs. One n.c.o. in particular is waiting to pounce on the first job with a decent "screw" that comes along. This speaks well for the climate here, anyhow.

**Drafts.**—What a change has come over our old sweats on Pulau Brani. The haggard faces, hopeless voices all asking the same questions in whispers, and the stillness of the night being broken by agonising shrieks of "When does the boat come?" and "Roll on, that trooper," are now things of the past. The gods have at last enlightened the sufferers. The boat comes on December 20th, and departs for home on January 12th.

Preparation is already being made for the reception of the new draft. The reception, I believe, is being combined with the Christmas festivities, and though I do not claim to be a Johanna Southcott or an Old Moore, I can foresee a merry time at Pulau Brani.

**An Invitation.**—The Section would like it to be made known that they will be only too pleased to offer hospitality to any details of the Corps who are embarking on the "Dorsetshire" en route for Hong Kong or China, and challenge them to either a game of soccer or cricket, whichever they prefer.

Perhaps you have an old friend here. Just scan through these names and see if you have?

Officer commanding, Capt E. G. Sinnott. Section: Sergt J. Batchelor, Corpl W. Horan, L/Corpls W. A. Hall, R. Davis, and W. Wright, Signalmen E. Anderson, F. Ashman (late R.A.), H. Barton, E. Brand, W. Barwick, W. Easterby, C. F. Legzett, J. Kenneally, G. McDowall, A. J. Robins, A. Skiffins, W. Trickett, and B. Welsby.

But whether you know any of us or not, pay us a visit!

THE SCRIBE.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, Sept. 12th.

**General.**—The annual musketry course is now completed, and quite a number of the Section are patting themselves on the back, while the remaining few are wondering where the shots went! They are positive they closed the disengaged eye, etc. Anyway, wherever the shots went, they didn't count, so better luck next time.

The Section shot is Sigmn Holland, with Sigmn Jardine topping the "Shaforce Attached." Well done!

On Saturday, July 28th, we had quite a lively time, a typhoon having passed within forty-five miles of Hong Kong—near enough to be uncomfortable, and the wind strong enough to do some damage. (Not quite so bad as in '23. Stick your



chest out, Soofoo.) Taking everything all round, our lines stuck it well, and everything is O.K. again.

Rumours are going the rounds that quite a number of Shaforce are leaving for home. The news that ninety Signals must remain behind will cause some grief and pain, and a lot of wangling is expected. Still, we wish those unlucky ones a happy sojourn out East.

The local Garrison's reliefs are due here early in November, the old sweats leaving here on the 1st of that month. Needless to say, there are many smiling faces.

A billiards league has been formed, open to all senior messes, the winners to receive a cup presented by Messrs. Steel and Coulsons. Our first match, against the K.O.S.B., went in favour of the latter, the R.E.s–Signa's not getting one game. We hope to do better later on, as the mess cupboard is looking rather bare these days.

**Promotion.**—L/Corporal Onyet to be Corporal. Congratulations, Ike! Mine's a lemon.

**Signals Association Outing.**—The Hong Kong Branch held an outing on Sunday, July 28th. Leaving the R.A.S.C. pier at 10.30 a.m. with a fair passenger list and a good cargo, we sailed for Castle Peak, arriving there at 12.30, having enjoyed part of the cargo en route. Tiffen was then taken at one o'clock, the afternoon being spent in swimming, etc. After a high tea we left for home, one and all voting the day a success.

**Tit-Bits.**—Everyone is looking forward to the cold season, with its dances, football, and the relief from that "itchy" feeling.

The financial position of the Section tramps seems to be on the rise, as the old gentleman paid for two on the ferry the other day.

A.W.C. is never without his Pink 'Un these days. Bad lad!

A popular song after the typhoon damage: "All alone on the telephone."

Greetings to Soofoo! We had really wondered what had become of you. Please be kind to Olive.

JOINT BOX.

## North China Signal Section.

### Peking Detachment.

British Legation Guard, Sept. 21st.

Everything being comparatively quiet in North China, there is little of interest to record this month.

An operating staff having arrived on the civil W/T station, our activities in that direction have ceased, and a long period of heavy work has come to an end. Looking back on the past eight months, and the amount of traffic which has been handled, we feel quite justified in patting ourselves on the back.

With a W/T set which was sent purely for experimental purposes, we have since February dealt with practically the whole of H.B.M. Minister's messages, and kept him in constant touch with the Naval C.-in-C. and Consular officials in every part of China.

The importance of such communication during a very critical period need not be stressed, more particularly as Chinese Telegraphs were absolutely unreliable both on account of delays and the manner in which messages were mutilated. Still, we have acquired a knowledge of the numerous freaks incidental to short-wave W/T which should be useful in the future.

Congratulations to our friends at Wei-Hai-Wei on the way in which they have got their station running. Now that we can devote all our time to army working, we hope to maintain constant communication with Signals operators at Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Wei-Hai-Wei, and also carry out many experimental stunts.

PEICHING.

## Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, September 30th.

Once again we apologise for the absence of notes from this unit for the past two months. The Plug Juggler is at present in exile on Boaz Island as a lineman, the duties being performed this month by the Lofty One.

**Visit.**—On September 3rd we were delighted to receive a visit from Lieut W. Boronow (of the 4th Company Canadian Corps of Signals, Montreal, Canada) who was on a short visit to the Colony. Unfortunately, it being on a Saturday afternoon, he was unable to see much of Prospect generally and Signals in particular, and his programme was too full to allow him to call on us again before his return to Canada. We trust that the little he did see of us was sufficient to arouse his interest in a small Fortress Section, and that he will honour us with another visit should he come this way again; also any other members of the Corps. We understand that he was aware of our existence through our notes in THE WIRE, a copy of which finds its way to Montreal. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a copy of "Iddy-Umpty," the Journal of the 4th Company C.C. of S.

**Garden Party.**—On August 18th, the C.R.E. and O.C. Signals, Colonel-Commandant F. B. Legh, O.B.E., M.C., R.E., and Mrs. Legh gave a garden party to the married families at "Clifton," Prospect. From accounts received of the event it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all present, youngsters and grown-ups too, and our married folk greatly appreciate the kindness of Colonel and Mrs. Legh.

**Congratulations.**—To Corpl J. E. W. Leath (Chikko) on being substantiated in his rank, and to L/Cpl T. Barry (Murphy one bar) on attaining that rank on the Corps roster.

To Sigmn Hughes on his score of 33 runs in the cricket match R.E.–R.Signals v. R.A.O.C., thus enabling our team to win the match by two wickets, and incidentally to obtain second place in the Garrison cricket league.

To Sigmn G. Mitchell on obtaining second place in the 100 yards and third place in the obstacle race at the Boaz united athletic sports on August 27th.

**Trooper.**—H.M.T. "Nevassa" arrived in Hamilton Harbour on the morning of September 21st from Southampton. Signals were amongst the first aboard her, and installed a telephone in the ship's orderly room a few minutes after she came alongside No. 6 shed, connection being made to the civil exchange, Hamilton, and from there to H.Q. exchange, Prospect.

B and D Companies of the 2nd Battn. A. and S. Highlanders disembarked on Thursday morning, to undergo their two years' rest cure, and B and D Companies 2nd Green Howards embarked immediately afterwards. The "Nevassa" pulled out into the harbour at 10.30 a.m., and anchored until the afternoon.

The civilian population gave the Green Howards a good send-off, and the band played their regimental march "The bonnie English rose." and "Auld Lang Syne," as the transport moved away from the wharf.

The band will be missed this coming season, as the new regiment's band did not come out with them. We saw a few of our Indian confreres on their return from six months' leave in U.K., and from accounts we received they were not favourably impressed with their short visit to "the isles of rest." The "Nevassa" sailed for Jamaica at 4.30 p.m.

LOFTY.

## Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta,
October 8th.

**General.**—By the time these notes are published we shall have welcomed back our O.C., Capt G. R. Halliday, from his trip with the Mediterranean Fleet. We hope that his trip has been a very pleasant one.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Sigmn L. W. Walters on being promoted to L/Corporal (paid). Good luck, Taffy.

**Drafts.**—We bade farewell to Signalmen Burgess, Crowe and Alexander, who left us for U.K. after six years with us in the garden of the Mediterranean. May their stay, wherever they go, be as pleasant as it was with us. We wish them the very best of luck (it's cold in stables).

Puzzle.—There's a good goalie amongst them!

**Departure.**—We shall bid farewell to Sergt W. Bent on Oct. 10th, after five years' stay with us. May his stay with the Hong Kong Signal Section be as pleasant as it was with us. He will be greatly missed by all. Our great loss is their gain.

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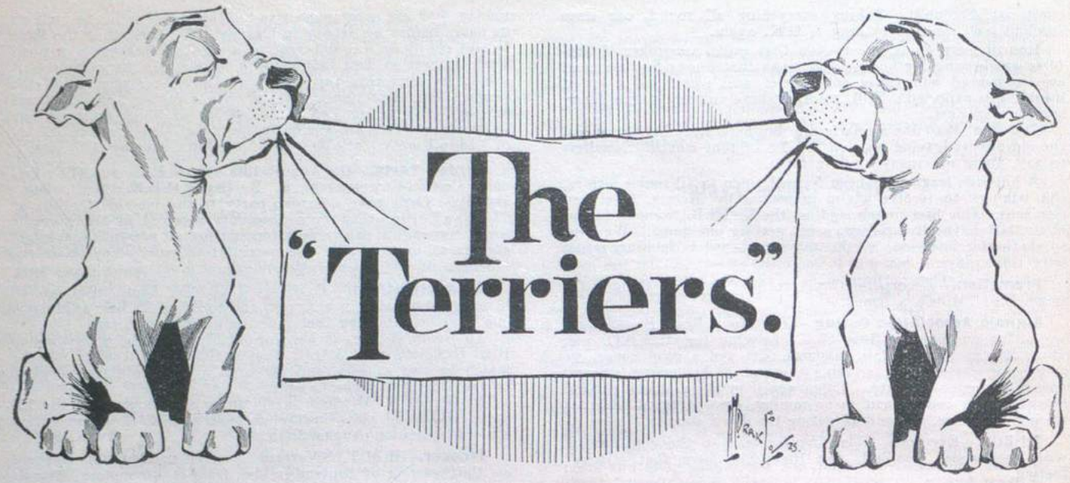
The first submarine cable between England and France was laid in 1851.

* * * *

There are nearly a quarter of a million railway engines in Great Britain.

* * * *

The best time to add salt to potatoes is when they are nearly cooked.




## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

Now that the camp is a memory of the past, and the winter training has not yet started in earnest, it is a little difficult to find much matter for these notes.

While full training has not started at headquarters, the riding school has opened under the guidance of Sergt Simnett, and a sergeants' ride has been arranged for Monday nights. No spectators are allowed, and no one beneath the rank of sergeant is to partake in these extremely exclusive rides—so jealously are the privileges of this exalted rank guarded. The mere fact of being entitled to wear three stripes surmounted by a perfectly good crown on each arm does not mean that the wearers are expert horsemen, and it would certainly not do for the "hoi polloi" to see their gods fall from grace, or from anything else. Hence the exclusion.

The writer attended the first of these rides, and can vouch for the excellence of the instruction given. It was worthy of particular note that, at this lesson, both the teaching of the rider and the schooling of the mount were carried out concurrently; jumping was also included.

The arrangements for the social events for the forthcoming season are now nearly completed, and include a smoking concert at headquarters, a regimental dinner, and a series of dances. The latter commence on November 5th, and will be held at the headquarters of the Westminster Dragoons, Elverton Street, Westminster. Verbum sap, as they say in the classics.

Our regiment has always been a sporting unit, and it is a matter of great regret that up to the present no member (at least, to the knowledge of the writer) has yet swum the Channel. For some time past, however, this Channel swimming appears to have become the pastime of women; but it is understood that one of our sporting sergeant-majors is now in training and confidently expecting to swim the North Sea at an early date—when no doubt a pint will be awaiting him on the further shore, and honorary membership for life of the Frothblowers will be conferred upon him, following the usual precedent.

Attention is drawn to the letter written by our Signalman Phillips, which appears in this issue. It will be noticed that he dwells on the spirit of "mucking in" as being typical of army life and constituting one of its chief charms. This is perfectly true, and a man who cannot muck in with his pals in the broadest sense of the word certainly should not join the Territorial, or in fact *any* Army. It is the spirit of give and take, and generally sharing one's duties and pleasures, that makes camp life worth while, together with the happy-go-lucky care-free atmosphere that seems to always envelop cavalry camps and barracks.

As Kipling has written, "Single men in barricks don't grow into plaster saints," but they do grow into manly men and thoroughly good company—due almost entirely to the spirit of mucking in which is, perhaps, seen at its best in cavalry regiments. And so long as this spirit is fostered, so long will the British Army be paramount in the field, and the British nation a leader among nations.

## 26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

Woe is us! Camp is over! We are back at our several civilian duties, and comparisons are odious! It is only to the minority of us that these remarks have any real application, that is to say, to the workers. The others are in the Post Office telephone service!

You will have realised by this time that I have only been meandering to fill up space. My own inclination in the matter is to say "We are still here—things are quiet—goodbye;" but my fellow scribes from other parts seem to be like the brook (not that they babble, but that they go on for ever), so that for very shame I have to put in a little padding. But we can now get down to business.

It seems remarkable that a unit such as ours, undoubtedly the best of its kind and constituted of such charming and capable people (there are no trumpeters on the strength!) should be in need of recruits; but the fact remains that a few vacancies *do* exist for a few more charming and capable people, and we therefore extend a warm invitation to any members of the Regular Company who may be "taking their ticket" shortly. We live in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, which are very easily found (see directions below), and the time to see us at our best is on Tuesday evenings after 7 p.m.

Our winter programme is now arranged, and we have pleasure in announcing the following events.

The regimental dinner will be held in the central mess, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on December 17th, at 7 p.m. The fun will be fast and furious, and there is Christmas pudding on the menu! We shall be glad to welcome any old comrades and friends who find themselves able to attend. Tickets are 4/- each, but can be obtained at 3/6 each if purchased before November 4th next.

The "light fantastic toe" will be tripped at our dances, which will be held at the headquarters on the last Saturday in every month, commencing on October 29th. We hope to "spread ourselves" to the extent of a carnival dance on New Year's Eve. Come one, come all!

**Tragedy.**—Your sympathies, commiserations, weeps, wails and teeth gnashings are requested for Tom, Wallie and Jock, who have been transformed into Lance-Corporals Ward, Murre'l and Hean. The responsibilities of non-commissioned officialdom weigh heavily on their shoulders, and their "tapes" on their arms. Do not chide them or speak to them harshly, we pray you, as they are more sinned against than sinning.

**How to find Headquarters (see above).**—Parade at Charing Cross Underground Station. Dress: best serge with collar dogs, and "gongs" at the high port. If in civilians, Frothblowers' links should be worn. In either case, "Thirst, Mark 1, soldiers, for the use of," should be in your possession, in good working order.

Travel from Charing Cross to Sloane Square and alight there. There is a buffet on the platform, but be not tempted, pilgrim; go straight up the stairs into Sloane Square. Two minutes' walk along King's Road will bring you to the gates of Heav—pardon, Headquarters.

The janitor will direct you to our doors, and you will find the Welcome Committee waiting with the band, red carpet and cigars. Should you find it more convenient to come in the daytime, our official "glad hand" plenipotentiary will be phoned for, and he will leave the War Office to look after itself for an hour or two.

Joking aside, we shall be glad to see any old soldier who would care to join us.



## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

We have one topic this month, and that is the unit prize distribution which is to take place on December 3rd.

It will be a great evening. At about 8 o'clock members and guests will assemble in the drill hall, which will be "dressed" for the occasion, and the commanding officer will give his annual report on the unit. The Divisional Commander will then present prizes and, we hope, give us a few words of encouragement. It is expected that the film of Troutbeck Camp will be shown, after which we shall dance away the remainder of the evening to the music of the R.E. band. It sounds attractive, doesn't it?

The commanding officer wishes every member of the unit to attend in uniform; and to make the evening a really great success, we hope that *every* member will be there. Lady and gentleman friends will be very welcome, and tickets for their admission will be issued at the orderly room from the middle of November onwards. All final details will appear in Orders in due course.

Whether you have won a prize or not, the 42nd Divisional Signals prize distribution, 1927, will not easily be forgotten.

## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

I have to commence with apologies for the lack of notes for last month. "Goings on" were normal, and there was nothing to comment upon.

A whist drive and social was held in the sergeants' mess on September 24th. Although the gathering was small, a very pleasant evening was spent. The winning "gent" was a "lady," which shows that the ladies out-numbered the gentlemen. It is hoped that we shall have a larger attendance at our next social.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Gilbert (P.S.) and his wife, who were presented with a son in September.

**Home Counties Rifle Meeting.**—This was held at Bisley on September 11th. Our team went down with the intention of winning the much-coveted shield, the Lord Lieutenant's—and win it they did, with a big margin, although their chances of doing so were rather small compared with those of other units. Not only did they win the shield, but also the High Sheriff's and Sir William Crump cups. Having made such a fine show this year, every endeavour will be made to retain the trophies at Stambrook Brook next year.

**The Presentation** of the Lord Lieutenant's shield was made on September 24th by Sir Montague Sharpe, at the Guildhall. It was received by Capt Firth, the adjutant, on behalf of the team. Medals were also presented to each man personally by Sir Montague, with a word of praise for each.

**Annual Musketry.**—The last musketry course was carried out on the ranges at Rainham on October 2nd, and there were no failures. No doubt quite a number will wish they had taken this opportunity. One man tried to get down, but his boat must have drifted up stream. He eventually tried by motor-cycle, but alas, he was too late!

## 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

### No. 3 (Edinburgh) Company.

**Training.**—Our recruits' signalling course is now in full swing, "noises in the head" being the order of the night.

**Dinner.**—The bounties have been paid out, and the members of the mess are looking forward to the dinner. The Company dinner takes place later, owing to the men's mess having to complete their social programme.

We have not had the pleasure of hearing the Corps band in Edinburgh, but glowing accounts have been received from Glasgow.

**Musketry Shield.**—Congratulations to L Section on winning the shield.

**Employment.**—The following employment has been obtained for Association members up to October 31st: Temporary (P.O.) 6; fitter, 1; telegraphist (P.O.) 1; wireless operator, 1.

**Ex-Members.**—The Company would like to see Signalmen Baird and Rutherford when they proceed on furlough.

DICK.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, October 11th.

There is little of general interest to record in this month's notes, except the important fact that our C.O., Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Llewellyn, O.B.E., M.C., has been granted an extension of command until 19th February, 1929. The whole unit will be pleased to hear this. Congratulations, sir!

Congratulations, too, to Lieut Johnson on his entry into the married state. Our best wishes for a happy future.

No. 1 Company have a week-end for the Cable Section next Saturday and Sunday, when Mr. Howard Jones and Mr. Cravos, who have taken over the Section, will get them into harness.

The officers appear to enjoy their tactical exercises, and we hear they puzzle the inhabitants of Leckwith as to who and what they are. The meeting of several distinguished-looking gentlemen, who arrive in cars and walk about the countryside, consulting large maps, has led to many rumours.

The social side of the unit is going strong. The n.c.o.s' mess held their annual outing, which as usual was successful; the entertainment committee are busily engaged in preparing for the Armistice Night ball; and another committee are arranging for the annual mess dinner.

The unit has lost another old stalwart in Sergt C. S. Gay, who has terminated his service after thirty-nine years in the Volunteers and T.A., and who, as he himself says, has only done so because he was unfortunately born too soon! Thirty-nine years' service is a record of which Sergt Gay can be justly proud. We offer him our best wishes, and hope that we shall still see him at Park Street whenever he can spare time.

We much regret to say that Sigmn Bishop, who has been with us for over two years, died at his home in Cardiff on the 5th inst. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and relatives.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.
October 14th.

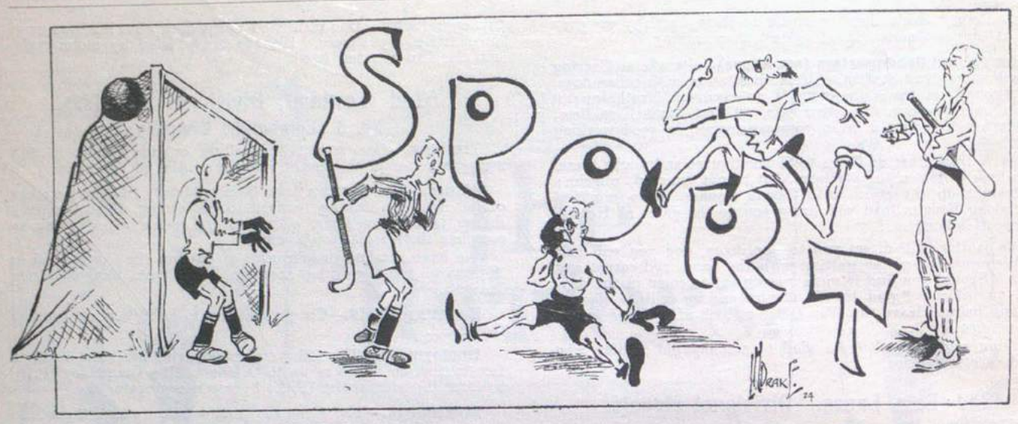
Our apologies are due for the omission of notes last month. We are sorry, and endeavours will be made in future to keep up to scratch.

Training is still being carried on. The recruits' and boys' operating classes are going strong, and according to present progress there should be boys on the circuits at next camp.

An equitation class for n.c.o.s and prospective n.c.o.s is being carried on under S.M. Adams, and give great promise. Enquiries are being made by the candidates as to how to wangle a rough course. Blanco pots are in full use these days.

A round of social affairs is commencing well. On September 29th a small but homely whist drive was held. Fifty players

(*Continued in second column on page 380*)




## Corps Rugby Fixtures.

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers—To be played on November 21st, on the Command Central Ground, Aldershot.
Royal Signals v. Royal Military Academy—To be played on November 23rd, at Woolwich.

## Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Football.**—We commenced our inter-Garrison league matches on October 1st, when we met B Company of the Royal Tank Corps at home. Considering it was our first match of the season, some rather good football was seen. Staples played his usual game at back, assisted very well by Tinkler. Wake and Broyd were the pick of the forward line. Result: Mounted Wing 5; B Company R.T.C. 2.

We met the Headquarters R.T.C. on Wednesday, October 5th, in the Garrison league. Some good football was seen, but our forwards were very slow and would not shoot at goal. The backs and half-backs played a very good game, especially Haigh, Staples and Young, who no doubt saved us from defeat. Result: Headquarters R.T.C. 2; Mounted Wing 2.

On Saturday, October 8th, we played C Company R.T.C. on the Tanks Corps ground. Haigh played centre forward, Thompson going to outside left position. The change was not a success, although Thompson played very well. No doubt Haigh's position is left-half. Monks played well in goal, saving one or two difficult shots; unfortunately he has gone to hospital through an injury sustained. Result: Mounted Wing 3; C Company R.T.C. 0.

Congratulations to Sigmn Pease on being selected as linesman in the first Garrison trial match.

**Cross-Country.**—Cross-country running again promises to be one of our strong points, and although we have lost half of last season's team, we have discovered several promising performers, notably Corpl Sullivan and Signalmen Hogg and Smith. With these and others, we hope to make the Mounted Wing as great a force to be reckoned with as the old C Company.

**Rugby.**—We played the School of Signals on October 2nd, and won by 22 points to 3. We were without Lieuts Smyth and Bell and Dvr Reeves owing to injuries, and we hope they will be fit for the coming matches.

We hope to see our junior team in as good a position in the league as the seniors, and with a promise of young supporters our prospects seem great.

**Boxing.**—Our team is as strong as last year, and there is no reason why we should not carry off the league. Our junior team will require watching.

**Shooting.**—In the Battalion shoot on September 21st and 22nd, the team again won the rapid shooting competition in 25¾ seconds, beating Dismounted Wing by one second. In the individual shoot, we secured the following places in the championship event: Corpl Miles, 3rd; Sigmn Webb, 5th; Corpl Dunn, 8th; Sergt Francis, 10th.

Congratulations are offered to the commanding officer of the Depot Battalion on having won this championship, considering he has not been shooting for a number of years.

In the recruits' competition, Sigmn Holmes was first and Sigmn Jones second.

**Athletics.**—In the individual championships of the Depot Battalion, it is interesting to note that Sergt Terrell (of this Wing) has won the 100 and 220 yards championship for the second year in succession. This is a creditable performance, considering the strong opposition against him this year.

## Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, Catterick.

### Annual Rifle Meeting.

This meeting was held on September 21st, and (owing to bad weather) completed on the 28th.

**The Championship.**—Two 5-bull match cards at 25 yards. The first eight in this to compete at 50 and 100 yards. The number of entries, especially among young soldiers of the Battalion, was particularly pleasing, and shows the keen interest taken by all ranks of the Depot Battalion and School of Signals in shooting.

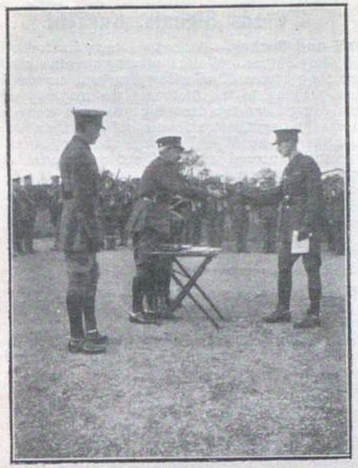
Championship First Eight, with Co.-Commandant H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., and Capt. R. R. A. Darling, Hon. Sec.

The winner was Lieut.-Colonel H. Lee-Wright, D.S.O., and the runner-up, R.S.M. Nolan.

Among the other six, mention must be made of Sigmn Webb, who has shot throughout the year for the Battalion, and L/Sergt Wheeler, who has only taken up shooting very recently.

**Inter-Company Team Disc Competition.**—The Mounted Wing entered three teams, the Dismounted Wing two, and the School of Signals four—quite a record. Winners, Mounted Wing B team; runners-up, Dismounted Wing A team.





Col.-Commandant H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., presenting the Championship Cup to Lieut.-Col. H. Lee-Wright, D.S.O., winner.

**Recruits' Competition.**—For soldiers with less than one year's service. The entry for this was good, and the standard of shooting high. Winner, Sigmn A. Jones, 99; runner-up, Sigmn D. Holme, 98.

The meeting was a great success, enjoyed by everyone, and has found quite a lot of new talent. The Club intend to provide a programme of attractive competitions throughout the year, starting with a "choose your own handicap" one in October and November. The Club would remind all ranks of the School of Signals and Depot Battalion that they are automatically members.

## No. 3 Company, A Corps Signals, Crookham.

**Boxing.**—On October 6th and 7th we had four representatives in the Aldershot Command Signals novices boxing competition (sounds impressive, doesn't it?) Needless to say they came out of the fray unscathed, except for Sigmn McClarron, who had hard luck. The winners were Sigmn A. J. Nicklen (bantam) and Sigmn W. Henderson (feather), with Sigmn I. S. Case runner-up in the feather-weights. We hope to hear more of them in the future. Thanks must be expressed to 2/Lieut A. S. Milner for the interest he displayed in their training.

**Football.**—Up to the present we have not had any important games, but nevertheless, never a match have we lost. We beat No. 1 Company of this unit three times, and scratch teams of the Depot R.A.M.C. twice. Just wait till we do start bouncing.

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Rugby.**—Royal Signals, Aldershot.—With the advent of some of the star performers from Catterick, matters in the rugby line are looking very hopeful this season. With that enthusiastic old war-horse (Captain A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C.) at the head of affairs again, matters took a definite shape in the way of trial games on Tuesday, 27th, and Friday, 30th September.

It was indeed a pleasure to see some of the old hands of Maresfield and Catterick days, although I was disappointed to note that one old forward had discarded his awe-inspiring moustache, which I believe won the S.T.C., and C Company in particular, many a match.

On Tuesday the trial was practically confined to the men, the officers being quite content to watch various individuals and change them round to positions where they were likely to be seen to the best advantage.

On Friday two teams—one containing the probable forwards under Captain Mathew and the other with the probable backs under Lieut Danby—opposed each other. A glorious day rendered play fast and exciting, the probable forwards more than holding their own against such formidable individuals as Capts Rance and Mathew, Lieuts Norman and Thuillier, and Signalmen Halliday and Moore. I noticed that Lieut Thuillier was wearing shoes, and also that "bellows" frequently required mending; but that does not belittle the fact that Danby's side won, and this was mainly due to their forwards. Of course there were faults to be found in both sides, but these can be eliminated by practice and (if I may be permitted to suggest it) reading the "Rules of the Rugby Game." One is apt to get stale, both on the theoretical and practical side of the game, after six months' vacation.

Several fine runs were executed by the three-quarters. C.S.M. Bayliss looked after the elusive Lieut Hardy very well. Congratulations, Bayliss! it is not very often one sees a sergeant-major playing rugby, and if my memory serves me correctly, I think the last time a sergeant-major played he was eventually carried off on a stretcher.

Some good work on the part of Lieut Danby and Signalmen Marlowe and Wadsworth was well finished off by Lieut Hardy. One fault, and one that has to be stamped out, is the offside three-quarter waiting to pounce on his opponent immediately he gets the ball. This does not allow the game to be opened out, and is decidedly unfair when the referee is on the blind side of a scrum and is unsighted at the moment.

As far as I could see, the main weakness was in the half-backs. Time after time the ball, although heeled clear, failed to get beyond the scrum-half, who either muffed it or hung on too long. Wanted—another Harburry! Why not try one of the lighter forwards, Capt Mathew?

Two more points which may be of interest to the players: (1) Flying kicks are taboo in rugby. (2) The habit of slapping the ball out to the three-quarter in the line-out is very unsafe. Catch it and throw out.

Yes! we have the makings of an excellent side, and I trust matches will be found for those players (about thirty in all) who will fail to get into the first team.

Enthusiasm is the keynote to success, and now that we have that, it only means practice—and hard practice—to have a bumper season.

On October 5th the Signals team played Berkshire Wanderers at Reading, and although without Capt Mathew, Lieuts Danby, Hardy and Thuillier, they only went down in the last five minutes by 6 points to 3.

The following matches have been arranged for November and December:—

Nov. 19th—v. Wellington College, at Wellington.
Nov. 21st—v. R.E. (Corps match) at Aldershot.
Nov. 23rd—v. R.M.A. (Corps match) at Woolwich.
Dec. 3rd—v. Thorneycrofts A.C. at Basingstoke.

The team has also entered for the Army cup and the Aldershot Command cup.

**Hockey.**—As last season, we are allotted a hockey ground on only one day a week. In spite of such restriction, the fixture list continues to grow, our policy being to have two unit matches a month, with two Company games on remaining dates on which the ground is available.

The Company hockey league is introduced for the third season. These games provide a good medium for finding prospective unit players. Company representatives will be only too pleased to accept names of players at any time. If you are a hockey player, do not keep it dark!

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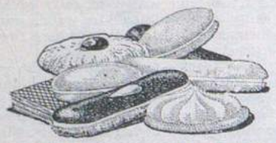

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**Cross-Country Running.**—There is no unit activity to report at present. Signalmen Aisher and Gosling and Driver Usmar are members of the Command Cross-Country Club.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

**Football.**—The pluck and doggedness with which the Troop team attacked the 5th Battn. Royal Tank Corps—last year's league champions—was, perhaps, a feature of our maiden effort this season. We lost, 'tis true—but what a loss!

The Troop well knew that, in entering the Tidworth Garrison League with our small personnel, we were "biting as much as we could chew," so that the result of the game (7—3 against us) does the side nothing but credit. The team refused to give up hopes of going one better, even when the Tanks' custodian effectually stopped a penalty near the end.

The Tank Corps livened the game in their usual bustling style as soon as the whistle sounded, and the score at "lemon time" (5—1) suggested that a cricket-scoring book would be a valuable asset to the referee. Our goal was brought about by Charlie Moorhouse from a pass by Richardson.

On resuming, the Troop seemed to take a new lease of life, and worried the Tank Corps defence with some clever mid-field play. Richardson and Moorhouse endeavoured to make rings round the opposing defence, and with the aid of Robson, who was in a class of his own, Moorhouse scored a neat goal. The Tanks repeatedly tested Edwards, our goalkeeper, and managed to retaliate with two goals. A high class shot from Stevens at outside-right had the Tanks goalkeeper nonplussed.

The score stood at 7—3 when the final whistle blew, and it has been suggested that if the majority of the spectators had not been afflicted with bad throats, the score might have been less!

It would be fitting, at this point, to add a note of thanks to L/Sergt Adams, whose valuable aid in hunting out the "probs." and "posses" has done a great deal towards giving the Troop team the boosting it needed. The best of luck, lads. You should go far!

The Troop also played the 3/6th Dragoon Guards, but lost by 4—1.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

**Football and Hockey.**—At last we have commenced the football and hockey season. We are playing practice matches twice a week for the purpose of selecting first and second elevens for both games. Owing to the fact that the majority of our best players are going home this trooping season (some before Christmas), we are finding the task more difficult than we imagined. With the return of our W/T Detachment from China, and fresh arrivals, we may succeed in our object and realise all we hope for: a successful season.

Football Results.—Versus R.G.A. (Manora), lost by 1—0 and 4—1; v. Bengalis, won by 9—1.

Hockey Results.—Versus Port Trust, lost by 6—1, 3—2 and 5—1; v. Ralli Bros., won by 4—0; v. Sind Independent Brigade Area, lost by 2—1 and drew at 3—3; v. H.M.S. "Enterprise," won by 3—1.

**Cricket.**—We concluded the season with a game on the Karachi Gymkhana ground versus M.G.C. Karachi Auxiliary Force. A good game was the result. The M.G.C. batted first, scoring 159 for five wickets, and declaring their innings closed. The Corps' score was 160 for seven wickets, the winning hit being a single from the last ball of the match.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

**Sport.**—Our hockey enthusiasts have wiped the oil off their sticks, and have been making things hum this last fortnight or so. Most nights now, the hockey pitch is in use, and sport, so far as we are concerned, seems to have taken a turn for the better.

Tennis is still in full swing if the nightly state of the court is anything to go by, and we should get some decent play this winter.

## 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

**Football.**—The football knock-out tournament commenced at the beginning of September, and we were drawn against the details of the D.C.L.I. The match was played in mud and slush, and just after half-time a cloud (a good imitation of a London fog) dropped over the pitch, making football almost impossible. However, we continued the game, which resulted in a draw of 1—1.

For the replay the Clerk of the Weather (ever a fickle jade in the hills) took compassion on us, and although rain started thrice between 2 and 4 o'clock, we were able to kick off at 4.45 p.m. and finish an exciting game, from which we emerged victors by the only goal scored—and at the expense of a "busted" knee to Corpl Woodford. Hard lines, Bill!

We are now to play A Company Royal Berkshire Regiment in the second round, and although we shall take the field with stout hearts, we shall be a much weakened team owing to the enforced absence of Bill, our inside right.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—The Company team is holding its own very well, and is now in full training with a view to retaining its hold on the fine challenge cup won last season, presented by the C. of E. Institute. We also hope to do better in the small units competition this year.

**Cross-Country Running.**—The first inter-Section run is to be decided on October 28th, and it is hoped to find some new men to put into training for the Corps team to run in the forthcoming season. Of last year's team, the Corps have lost Sigmn L. Clark and Driver Ratledge, and expect to shortly lose Sigmn Milsom. Dvr Pitman, another good man, has been transferred locally, and is therefore not available.

**Boxing.**—Congratulations to L/Corpl Matthews and Sigmn Richmond on winning their respective fights at the big tournament held recently at Abbassia.

## No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad.

### No. 2 Section.

**Cricket.**—R.A.F. open cup, final. Royal Signals beat A.H.Q. by an innings and 118 runs. For full report of game, see notes under Iraq Signals.



**Football.**—Friendly match results: v. Iraq Signals, drew at 2—2 and won by 5—4; v. A.H.Q., lost by 2—1. Hinaidi League: v. Station H.Q., lost by 2—1.

**Hockey.**—Friendly match results: v. W. and B. Hinaidi, lost by 3—1 and 2—0; v. Iraq Signals, lost 2—1; v. Iraq Railways, lost by 4—1.

## Iraq Signal Section.

**Football.**—We have entered a team in the Hinaidi and District League, and hope (with the co-operation of the new draft) to go far. We lost our first league match against A Squadron R.A.F. by 2—1, after a good hard game. We have also lost and drawn in two friendly matches with No. 2 Wireless Coy.

**Hockey.**—To date, we have played only a few matches, the following being the scores: Versus No. 2 Wireless Coy., won by 2—1; v. M.T. Pool and Details, drew at 4—4; v. Main Supplies, lost by 4—0.

**Cricket.**—We have had a very successful season, winding up with winning the R.A.F. open knock-out competition. Herewith an extract from *The Baghdad Times*. "The final was played at Hinaidi between Air Headquarters and the Royal Corps of Signals, the latter gaining a well-deserved victory by an innings and 118 runs. Air Headquarters batted first, but were soon returned to the pavilion. The Signals gave an excellent display of fielding, especially Sorrell and Dodson, and this, combined with the deadly bowling, made scoring very difficult. After two hours' play the last wicket fell for 63.

"For the Signals, Collier batted very confidently for eighty minutes, making a nice 42, and he was then caught. Scoring continued very fast. Bloodworth scored 24 in as many minutes, and McKinlay gave a sound display for his 39. Smith contributed a faultless 55, which included seven boundaries; his last wicket stand with Hill realised 71.

"A.H.Q. opened their second innings 191 runs behind, but were unable to withstand the deadly bowling of Negus and McKinlay. At the close of the game, Group Captain Bowhill congratulated both teams and presented the cup to the winners. He said 'If there is anything to be said about the game, it is of the clever fielding of the Signals team, which I consider almost of county class.'"

AIR HEADQUARTERS.

| | 1st Innings. | | 2nd Innings. |
|---|---|---|---|
| S/Ldr Medhurst b Negus | 4 | c Hill b McKinlay | 6 |
| F/Lt. Foster c Sorrell b McKinlay | 2 | b Negus | 8 |
| L.A.C. Walters c Bloodworth c Negus | 6 | b McKinlay | 2 |
| Corpl Cuthbert b McKinlay | 14 | b McKinlay | 2 |
| L.A.C. Hemmingway b McKinlay | 0 | b Negus | 7 |
| F/Lt. Lawson not out | 17 | c Schofield b McKly | 13 |
| Corpl Foreman run out | 0 | c Dodson b Negus | 0 |
| F/O Morrison st Hill b McKinlay | 2 | b McKinlay | 1 |
| F/Sergt Hands c Sorrell b Negus | 14 | b Negus | 19 |
| Sergt Allsopp b Negus | 0 | not out | 0 |
| L.A.C. Broadhurst b Negus | 0 | c Ford b McKinlay | 0 |
| Extras | 4 | Extras | 15 |
| Total | 63 | Total | 73 |

ROYAL SIGNALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| L/Corpl Collier c Hands b Allsopp | 42 |
| L/Corpl Sorrell b Hands | 5 |
| Corpl Bloodworth b Hands | 24 |
| Corpl Schofield b Hands | 10 |
| Sigmn McKinlay run out | 39 |
| Sigmn Smith c Hands b Allsopp | 55 |
| Sigmn Negus c Medhurst b Lawson | 2 |
| Sigmn Dodson c Lawson b Hands | 17 |
| Sigmn Edgecumbe run out | 3 |
| Sigmn Ford c Foreman b Lawson | 8 |
| Sigmn Hill not out | 29 |
| Extras | 20 |
| Total | 254 |

Signals bowling—Negus took 5 for 25 and 4 for 24; McKinlay took 4 for 24 and 6 for 39.

## Malaya Signal Section.

**Sport.**—Our activities in this direction have of late practically fallen off completely, owing to our being unable to field a Section team. This difficulty has now been overcome by our amalgamation with the R.A.O.C. Detachment, which is also a very small unit here.

Several fixtures have been arranged, and as both our soccer and cricket teams are now very formidable, I hope to be able to report some very favourable results under this heading next month.

Unfortunately our best soccer players and cricketers are due to leave us shortly, and our hopes are now centred on the new draft. We trust they are all good soccer and cricket players combined. Perhaps we shall be represented in both the Singapore and the Garrison football leagues, and the Garrison cricket league next season.

The competition for the Vyvyan cup is still undecided, and depends now on the scores obtained by individuals in the annual musketry classifications. All the events in the competition have been keenly contested, and at the present stage only a few points separate the first six entrants. I will, no doubt, be able to publish the full results next month.

## Malta Signal Section.

**Aquatic Sports.**—Under ideal conditions the Command inter-Company and Battery aquatic sports took place on Sept. 17th at the Haywarf.

The Sappers, whom we assist in every class of sport, were well represented, but by a narrow margin they were beaten into second place, handing over the shield (won at the previous meeting) to the 4th Heavy Battery Royal Artillery.

Sigmn V. Vyse and Corpl Carney, R.E., gained full points in the high diving and springboard diving events.

A week later the Sappers held their annual meeting, where some very exciting finishes were witnessed. Congratulations are extended to Sergt W. Bent, who took first place in the veterans'

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race, and to Sigmn V. Vyse, who gained first and third place in the high diving and springboard diving events respectively.

A befitting ending to an excellent afternoon of sport took place in the form of a dance in the Princess Theatre, where everyone enjoyed themselves to their heart's content.

The committee are to be congratulated on the able manner in which their arrangements were made, and duties performed to the entire satisfaction of all present.

**Football, Hockey and Rugby.**—Watch this column! (The Section is about to commence activities.)

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

A unit boxing tournament was held at headquarters on Wednesday, October 12th. The following kindly officiated: Referee, Capt J. McConville, M.C. Judges: Mr. A. E. Kenyon (late S.M., R.Signals) and Mr. A. Banyard (late Staff-Sergt., 19th Hussars and Royal Signals). Timekeeper, Mr. Langham ("Stratford Express"). M.C., C.S.M. W. Hooper. Whippers-in, C.Q.M.S. Scriven and Sergt Inman, P.S.

Gnat-weights—Boy Martin (No. 3 Coy.) outclassed Boy Thurgood (No. 1), the referee stopping the fight in the first round.

Mosquitos—Boy Morris (No. 3 Coy.) beat Boy Hazlewood (No. 3) on points.

Bantams—Sigmn A. Brooks (No. 1 Coy.) knocked out Driver Thomas (No. 1) in the second round.

Lights—Dvr T. E. Scott (No. 1 Coy.) beat Sigmn R. L. Coffey (No. 1) on points.

Welters—Dvr Gosling (No. 1 Coy.) beat Sigmn Pavey (No. 3) on points, after an extra round. Sigmn A. W. Warner (No. 1 Coy.) beat Sigmn Wymans (No. 1) on points, after an extra round. These were two of the best fights of the evening.

Light-heavies—Sigmn R. S. Coffey (No. 1 Coy.) beat L/Corpl McMenamin (No. 3) on points.

Special three-round contest—Ex-Sigmn Leaver v. Signalman Langley (No. 3 Coy.). Leaver was forced to retire after the second round, owing to an old injury to his hand.

[Continued from page 375]

## Territorial Notes.

**54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals**—*continued.*

sat down, and a very comfortable evening was spent. The lucky prize-winners were: Ladies, Miss A. Coffey; gentlemen, Mr. F. Coffey (a family affair). First half—Ladies, Mrs. G. Torrington; gentlemen, Mr. Boyle. Second half—Ladies, Mrs. "Bill" Hooper; gentlemen, Mr. Goldstone (another family affair!) Booby prize, Mr. Davis.

We regret to announce the death of Sigmn A. G. Fenton, of No. 1 Company, which took place at the Jubilee Hospital, Woodford. Whilst at work with a P.O. gang, Felton was sent for some stores. He was riding a bicycle, and a five-ton lorry accidentally knocked him down, the wheels passing over his body. The sympathy of the unit is extended to his widow and child.

Congratulations to Corpls G. Barnett, A. J. Barnett, V. C. Phillips, and I. M. Senton on promotion to that rank.

We regret to announce the early departure of Sergt Inman, of the permanent staff, on his return to Corps duties. All ranks of the unit are very sorry indeed to lose young "Ink." Since his arrival here, he has become a general favourite. We all wish him the very best in his new unit, and hope that he will not forget us altogether. Good luck, Inky!

Rumours are strong that our next year's camp will be at the seaside, and on the south coast, which will be a welcome change.

A unit boxing tournament was held on October 12th, with a view to picking out representatives for the forthcoming local inter-unit tournament and for the Divisional championships. Some very good fights were put up by the new blood, and considerable improvement is shown amongst the older members. In a short speech at the conclusion of the tournament, Captain W. E. Ravner thanked the officials and those responsible for the organising of the entertainment, for a very pleasant evening. Medals were then presented to the winners of the various weights. Results will be found in the Sports columns.

Y. E. D.

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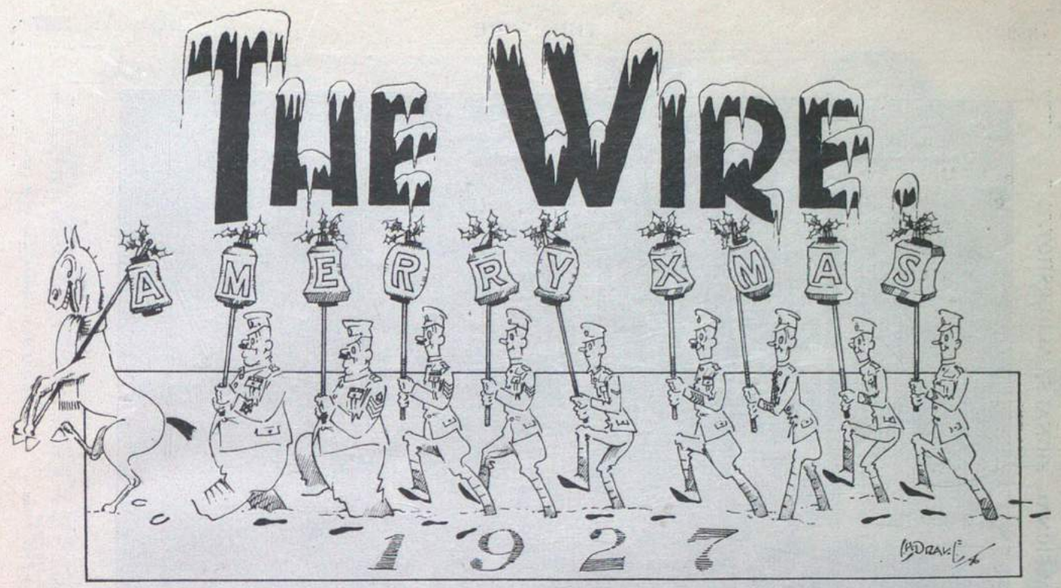


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VOL. VIII.—No. 94 DECEMBER, 1927 PRICE—SIXPENCE

# With the best of all Good Wishes for a Merry Xmas to our Readers at Home and Abroad.

## Editorial Notes.

The Committee again express their thanks to those contributors and other helpers who, during the past year, have so ably and regularly assisted to further the interests of our Corps Journal.

❀ ❀ ❀

May we make a special appeal for the New Year to those who have not yet registered their names as subscribers to the Corps Magazine or as members of the Association? Commence with January, 1928, and combine to place not only THE WIRE, but the Corps Association generally, as the first and foremost of its kind in operation. A little help is worth a lot of advice!

❀ ❀ ❀

CEYLON'S LUCK.—Wedding announcement: "Miss Joyce Godfrey-Faussett, only daughter of Brigadier-General and Mrs. E. G. Godfrey-Faussett, of Sussex, to Mr. E. L. Wentworth Cumming, of Pansalatenna Estate, Ceylon, second son of the late Mr. Charles Cumming and Mrs. Cumming, of Bedford."

The above wedding took place at Kandy on November 19th. All ranks of the Royal Signals who served at Maresfield in the time of Brigadier-General Godfrey-Faussett will remember Miss Joyce with affection. We wish her every happiness in the future.

❀ ❀ ❀

For the information of our New York correspondent:—The present address of Sigmn P. Ward is "School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire."

❀ ❀ ❀

Will unit representatives kindly submit their requirements for copies of the revised edition of the Corps Promotion Roster as early as possible?

❀ ❀ ❀

All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1927 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. Price 8/- per copy, post free.

❀ ❀ ❀

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EDITOR.

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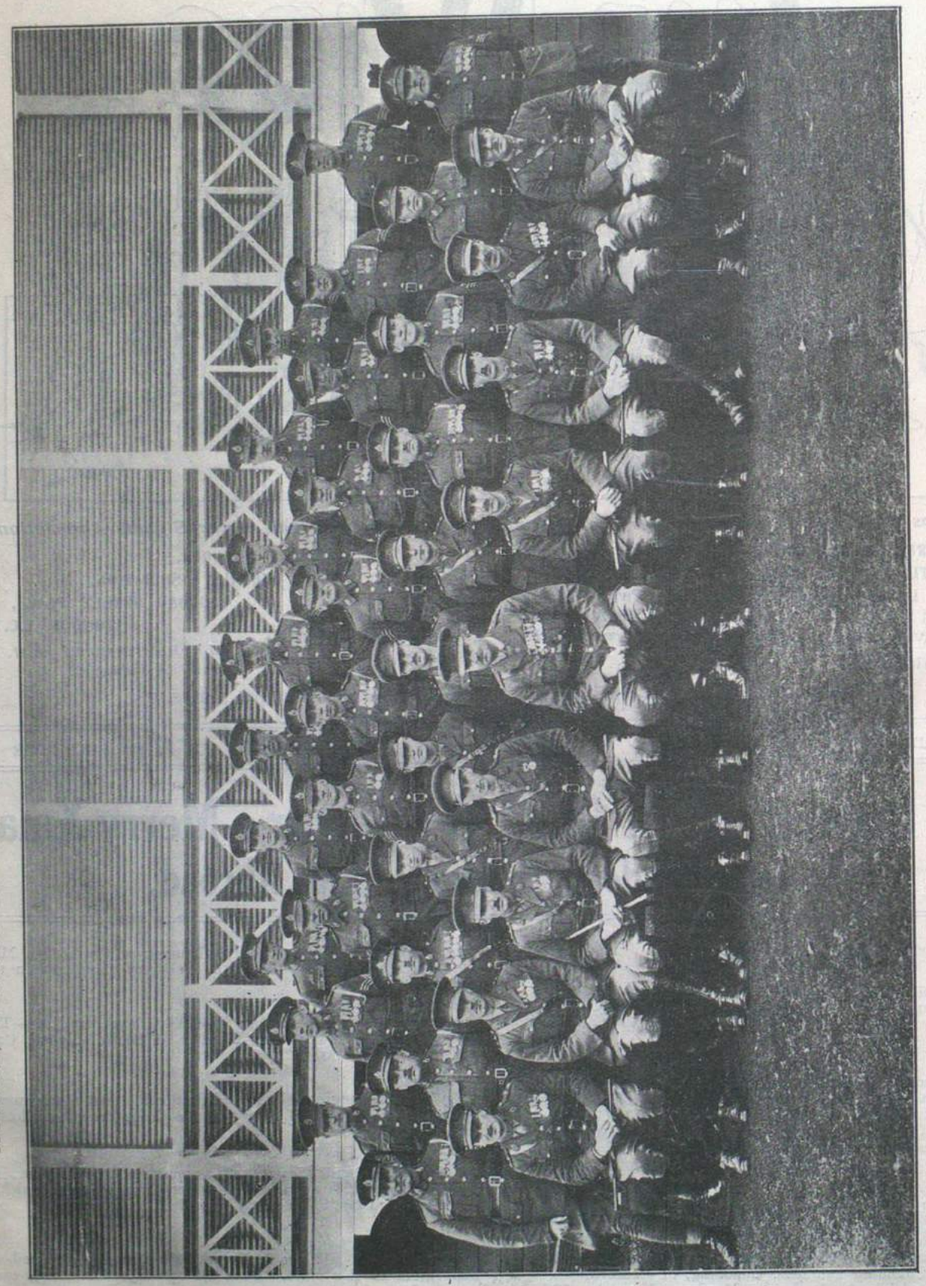

*Back row (left to right)*—Sgt J. Duncan, I/Sgt W. Brotherton, I/Sgt F. Webb, I/Sgt H. S. Boulter, Sgt P. McGrath, Sgt J. Bishop, Sgt A. Sherwood
*Third row*—Sgt W. Lombard, Sgt A. E. Fleming, Sgt F. Goodman, Sgt A. E. Smart, Sgt W. Battle, M.M., I/Sgt R. M. T. Smith, Sgt J. Tracey, I/Sgt J. Dunphy, Sgt J. Cutler, Sgt R. Blackburn, M.M.
*Second row*—C.S.M. R. Keevil, D.C.M., C.S.M. E. Butcher, R.S.M. F. Lawrance, M.M., 2/Lieut J. C. Hardy, Lieut C. C. Danby, Lieut D. C. P. Hall, Q.M.S. H. L. F. Fegan, M.M., C.Q.M.S. A. Hoare, C.Q.M.S. S. Hodding, C.Q.M.S. S. McGregor
*Front row*—Lieut F. T. Pope, Capt W. J. H. Bull, Capt J. L. Collings, Lieut M. S. Wheeley (Adjutant), Lieut-Col R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut/Q.M. J. Fitmore, Capt C. P. Prescot, Capt H. D. Beadon, M.C., Lieut W. D. Weir

[*Photo by* F. Scovell, *Queen's Road, Aldershot*]



# SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

## Colchester Branch.

A general meeting of the Colchester Branch of the Signals Association was held in the regimental institute on October 13th, the commanding officer, Major A. G. J. Copeland, R.Signals, presiding.

The hon. treasurer, Lieut. H. Gough, R.Signals, read the accounts for the preceding year. No questions being raised, the accounts were passed as read.

The following committee, to serve for the ensuing year (with such changes as the exigencies of the Service demand), were elected: President, Major A. G. J. Copeland, Royal Signals. Vice-President, Capt. G. H. Plummer, M.C., Royal Signals. Hon. Treasurer, Lieut. H. Gough, R.Signals. Hon. Secretary, Corpl F. S. Andrews. Members: L/Sergt W. J. Fahey, Corpl L. A. O'Rourke, F/Corpl J. Walmsley, L Corpl L. J. Peerless, Signalmen F. Garratt, G. Morris, and W. H. Owens.

The Branch is going stronger than ever, and the Monday night dances in the regimental institute have an average attendance of a hundred and fifty. Our trouble in this direction is finding floor space for the would-be dancers. I think it is no exaggeration to say that we should have no trouble in filling a hall twice the size of the institute. A carnival dance was held on October 31st, and some very good waltzing was seen in the waltzing competition.

EMPLOYMENTS—Situations found for the preceding month, with the co-operation and assistance of the National Association for Employment of ex-Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen:

| | |
|---|---|
| Post Office Engineering Department ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Porter ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Fitter's Mate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Storeman ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Clerks ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Automobile Association ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Postman ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Labourer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

GENERAL SECRETARY.

## Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKER'S ORDER from:—
Captain B. H. House

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre
4th Divisional Signals, Colchester
Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot
Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot
Sergeants' Mess, Rhine Signals
(Inadvertently omitted from November notes) 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from—
Major J. D. Pinsent, D.S.O.
Captain T. B. Graveley

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Wife of Driver, Royal Signals, temporarily stranded in Liverpool. £5 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/272).

2—Mother of deceased Signalman, Edinburgh, appealed for assistance to visit son's grave at Colchester. £6 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/273).

3—Ex-Signalman, London. Offer of employment in Manchester. 30/- advanced from Association funds to pay his railway fare. (SAB/274).

4—Ex-Signalman, London. Offered employment as carpenter. £4 allocated from Association funds for purchase of tools. (SAB/241).

5—Ex-Sergeant, M.S.M., Royal Signals, Woking. In temporary difficulties owing to ill-health. £8 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/103).

(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

When rations seem ordinary
try a tin of Armour's
"Veribest" Salmon

There's a surprise for you when you taste Armour's "Veribest" Salmon. You've never known before how good salmon could be.

You'll expect something good when you see its rich red colour. But its fine full flavour will pass all your expectations. Even the juice is so good it tastes like sauce.

It goes a long way, does Armour's "Veribest" Salmon. It's so rich and satisfying. And jolly good for you, too.

Remember the name—it's worth it!

Armour's Veribest Salmon

ARMOUR & COMPANY, LTD.
Queen's House, Kingsway, London, W.C.

## Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major W. E. Pain, from Catterick to India.
Major R. C. Nixon, from Rhine Army to London.
Major E. W. J. Hobkirk, from India to Bulford.
Captain A. W. Roberts, from Exeter to Bulford.
Captain G. W. Odell, from Aldershot to Exeter.
Captain W. H. N. Dent, from Iraq to Catterick.
Lieut. C. L. Morgan, from India to Catterick.
Lieut. J. Wynn, from Rhine Army to Aldershot.
2/Lieut J. E. M. Bainbridge, from Blackdown to Winchester (on transfer to R.A.F.)

### Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 14/10/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Lieut C. H. Lyddon is seconded for service with R.A.F., 20/9/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut W. J. Blemmings resigns his commission, 15/10/27.

War Office, 18/10/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Capt. H. C. Carey-Thomas ceases to be employed with the Signals Exptl. Establishment, 3/10/27.

Lieut. F. K. Wilson to be Adjutant, 30/9/27, vice Lieut. L. C. Boyd.

War Office, 21/10/27.

REGULAR FORCES—

Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, relinquishes his appointment as G.S.O.2, 4/10/27.

War Office, 25/10/27.

REGULAR FORCES—

The undermentioned appointments are made, 30/9/27:—

School of Signals, Instructors (Cl. GG)—

Lieut. L. C. Boyd, R.Signals, vice Lieut. L. A. E. Tozer, Royal Signals.

Lieut. G. W. Ogden, R.Signals, vice Lieut. G. S. O'N. Power, Royal Signals.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

Mark Cyril Cooper to be 2/Lieut. 26/10/27.

War Office, 28/10/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut. F. A. W. Briane to be Lieut. 18/9/27.

War Office, 1/11/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

The undermentioned Lieuts. are seconded whilst employed as Instructors, School of Signals, 30/9/27:—

G. W. Ogden, vice G. S. O'N. Power, restored to Estab.

L. C. Boyd, vice L. A. E. Tozer, restored to Establishment

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

47th (2nd London) Divl. Signals—Lieut. W. T. Benslyn resigns his commission, 2/11/27.

War Office, 4/11/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—The date of secondment of Capt. A. H. Read is 24/7/27, and not as stated in the Gazette of 2/8/27.

War Office, 8/11/27.

REGULAR ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

Lieut. J. D. Grover resigns his commission on enlistment in the T.A. 26/10/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals—The undermentioned 2/Lieuts. to be Lieuts.: J. B. Challen, 30/10/26; H. F. C. Bolton, 6/11/26; E. C. Booth, 21/1/27; N. G. Lancaster, 15/5/27; J. A. N. Giles, 5/6/27.

War Office, 11/11/27.

REGULAR ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut R. J. Brimblecombe, from Supp. Res. of Officers, to be 2/Lieut. 12/11/27, with seniority 7/10/25.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

J. Reading (late Officer Cadet Univ. of London Contgt. Sen. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 12/11/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals—The undermentioned Lieuts to be Captains: P. V. Hoare, 27/9/27; F. J. Ford, 28/9/27.

47th (2nd London) Divl. Signals—Sergt Hugh Lloyd Howard, M.C. (late Lieut.-Col. 56th (1st London) Divl. Signals), from 28th London Regt., to be Major, 1/11/27.

## Western Australia.

Signalmen contemplating emigration after the completion of their service will naturally turn their attention to Australia—a huge continent with many attractions for energetic people.

Western Australia, the largest of the States, but with the smallest population, seems to offer the greatest opportunities. It is a fine country, its staple industries being agriculture (chiefly wheat-growing) and sheep farming.

The cities, containing almost half the total population, are full, and there are not many openings for emigrants, but the development of the land offers vast opportunities for new settlers. Periodically virgin land is opened for selection and allotment by Government on generous terms, and there are also frequent opportunities of obtaining partially-developed farms on reasonable conditions.

The climate of Western Australia is most attractive. The winter is cold enough to brace, but with comparatively few frosts, and few days when there is not bright sunshine. The summer is "warm to hot"—but not too hot, and usually tempered by a pleasant breeze.

Emigrants who think of settling in Western Australia must realise that it is still in its pioneering stage, and be prepared for the rough and hard work and comparative solitude that this entails—though these are nothing to what the original pioneer settlers experienced. Aeroplanes, motor services, a vast network of railways, telephones and wireless broadcast have provided the present-day settler with many amenities not enjoyed by his predecessors.

Farming in Western Australia entails much hard work apart from the actual tilling, sowing and harvesting. Clearing virgin land, fencing, dam-making and well-sinking are as important parts of the farmer's work as his actual farming operations. On the other hand, a man who makes up his mind to leave our over-crowded island and go to this great Dominion should, within a measurable time—say ten years from the start on his own block—have reached the stage of an established farmer with a comfortable homestead, and be doing well enough to employ others and work a little less hard himself. But a farmer in Australia must always work, and can never sit down and look on at others.

The intervening period is hard for a man and (if he has one) for his wife. The man must work hard, day in and day out, and has few clear days. The wife has to make the home as nice as she can, and to cook not only for her own family but for any extra labour employed at harvest time or on the normal work, such as clearing and fallowing. She will probably milk the household cow, and look after the chickens and the kitchen garden, leaving her husband free to concentrate on their main effort—the farm. Neighbours are comparatively far off, and she can get no help on washing days, etc. As at home, there is a scarcity of girls willing to do domestic work, especially in the country.

Before a new settler takes up a farm—whether he has any capital or not—he should work for at least two years for other people, to learn Australian methods, and should try to save part of his wages to give him some ready cash when he starts his own farm. In the case of a married couple, the man must take whatever work he can get on a farm, his wife staying in Perth or the nearest town to the farm, to begin with. Domestic help is in great demand, and she can easily get a situation near her husband until he succeeds in getting on a farm where there is accommodation for a married couple. It is, however, probably better for her to remain at home with friends until he has learnt

*Bringing up Reinforcements*

At the right moment, that is the time when real help is wanted. Bluebell is ready always to lend a hand when polishing is being done. It is a service polish which gives a brilliant finish at the right time.

BLUEBELL

*brings brightness and brings it quickly*

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enough to take up his own holding, when he can "nominate" his wife (and children) and so get the benefit of an assisted passage.

If a man is engaged to be married before he leaves home, he will have no difficulty in finding a good domestic situation near where he gets works, and nominating his fiancee into it. This has the great advantage that the lady will become accustomed to Australian domestic conditions by the time the man is in a position to take up his own farm, make a home and marry.

Western Australians are hospitable people, and the farming population most friendly. A man who gets work on a good farm will get sound advice from his farmer about districts, good and bad land, prospects, etc.; and when he decides to take up a block he will receive every help the neighbours can give him in starting.

There are two ways of starting farming. One, for a man with a little capital, is to buy a partly developed farm, i.e., one where a certain amount of clearing, fencing, and other work has been done. There are various credit organisations which will help with the further development. The other is to "select" a block of virgin ground when (as periodically happens) it is thrown open by Government for selection and purchase. In this case, generous loan and credit help is given by the Agricultural Bank while the work of clearing and general improvement is carried out.

During the first year a man should aim at "scratching in" a small wheat acreage, sufficient to provide seed for a good acreage of wheat the next year—say 100 acres, with such additional clearing, fencing, and preparation of land as he can manage.

A "humpy" (i.e., a rough two-roomed corrugated iron hut) to live in, and a rough stable and shed for his farm implements, forage, etc., should be built for use until the farmer has decided on the location of the homestead and buildings. Credit organisations will help by mortgage loan with these.

The settler's aim should be first to clear enough land to work a rotation of fallow and wheat in alternate years, and later to develop his holding to get the three-year rotation of wheat, fallow and grazing. His ideal should be a "mixed" farm, i.e., wheat and sheep. For sheep, fencing and water (a dam or well) are essential, and enough land under cultivation to provide for storing hay and oats for the sheep during the summer dry months, together with a reserve to provide against a very dry spell.

Hay in Western Australia means oat hay or wheat hay, i.e., oats and wheat harvested and stored with the grain unthrashed; this is usually fed in the form of chaff. Hay, as known in England, is hardly grown in West Australia.

If, as is probable, a man takes up a farm some twelve to fifteen miles from a railway siding, a motor truck is a necessary possession; but notwithstanding the temptation of his neighbours' examples, he should not launch out with a motor car until he is in the position that the return on his harvest will carry him through the next year, and enable him to pay any debts to traders in arrear under the "terms" allowed by them. The front seat of the truck can be made comfortable enough for the wife and family. The less credit a farmer has to seek from stores, forage and fuel merchants, etc.—secured on his harvest—the better his position.

Speaking generally, Western Australia offers the emigrant with a certain amount of pioneer spirit and plenty of courage and grit, a great opportunity of reaching in ten years or so a position he would hardly ever succeed in attaining at home, with excellent prospects for his family. But he will have to work harder than he would at home! The reason for this is not far to seek. The population is small, labour is scarce and wages higher than at home, and the cost of living is also higher; therefore the maximum output from every man, horse and implement on the farm is essential.

There is at present a considerable shortage of tradesmen in the building line, and as the country develops, there should be plenty of work with good remuneration for skilled carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, etc.—especially up country, away from the city of Perth. Trade workers are strongly organised, and such men would naturally join the appropriate Trade Union. Tradesmen cannot, however, at present get assisted passages, and must emigrate "on their own."

As the country develops railways are pushed out to handle the crops, and mixed trains run on certain days. Many stations are "unattended sidings." The train stops if required, and traders collect, unload and load their own goods. Trucks are shunted off, and consignments smaller than truckloads are dumped on the siding if the consignee is not on the spot to collect packages when the weekly or bi-weekly train passes.

Education is wonderfully developed, considering the scattered population. A school is opened whenever there are ten or more children of school age to attend it. For eight, if the district will provide a suitable school-room, the State finds the teacher. For scattered children there is a very efficient system of correspondence education. Several of the larger town-sites have motor buses, which collect children from surrounding districts, instead of establishing scattered small schools; and this provides much more satisfactory education, since several teachers, each taking one standard, can be employed, instead of one teacher taking all the standards.

To sum up, Western Australia is a new country in the making, and offers great opportunities to emigrants who are prepared to go into its agricultural districts and to work really hard under pioneer conditions to make a position for themselves. For others, it has no use!

As a State it is poor, and cannot afford doles or other unemployment assistance. Everyone must be prepared to do his bit to help build up the State, and for such there is plenty of room. Western Australia is essentially a country of great possibilities of real success for young people.

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The accompanying page of illustrations will give some idea of emigrant life in Western Australia.

1—A Team of Young Horses.
2—Tractor and Ten-Furrow Plough.
3—A Homestead on a Good Farm.
4—Uncleared Bush.
5—Moulyinning.
6—A Bush Shack.
7—A Typical Clearing.
8—Another Type of Shack.
9—Young Horses.
10—Bush Roller, Moulyinning.
11—Another Homestead.
12—Salt Lake.
13—Timbered Country, Nordalur.

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*[STOP PRESS—Received too late for insertion under "Units Abroad" heading]*

## Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, November 1st.

**Greetings.**—By the time these notes appear in print, the festive season will be almost upon us once again. We therefore take the opportunity of conveying to all the Compliments of the Season. We trust that the Section cards will reach their several destinations on time.

**Departure.**—This Section, amongst the other troops in the Command, learn with regret that the C.E. Chaplain, the Rev. J. A. James, M.A., B.Sc., leaves the Colony on the 6th inst. for U.K., and is not being replaced by another C.E. chaplain on account of the small number of C.E. troops in the Command since the arrival of the A. and S. Highlanders. Dame Rumour has whispered that he may be posted to Catterick Camp. If so, that delightful spot in the wilds of Yorkshire will be enlivened by the presence of a first class "sporting parson," to our loss and their gain.

The C.E. personnel parade at Devonshire Parish Church, and we have no doubt that Signals will remain the strongest party on church parade on the first Sunday in the month.

**Sport.**—In consequence of the curtailment of the R.A. at St. George's, the R.E. and Royal Signals have dissolved partnership in sport, the R.E. and Royal Signals at St. George's becoming part of No. 1 Section teams, while those at H.Q., Prospect, go in with the S. and D. teams. This solves the transport question somewhat, though we heartily regret the split. Old hands in Bermuda may be interested to learn of this event.

**Old Comrades Dinner.**—The annual dinner of the Bermuda Branch R.E. O.C.A. was held in the S. and D. Club Rooms, Prospect, on October 8th, forty members being present. The parent Corps' "pup" (ourselves) was represented by C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Simmonds and Corpl J. Leath, and there were also two late R.E. S.S. officers present in Major W. Cookson and Lieut H. D. Butterfield.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

SNAPSHOTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

## Plain Tales.

**Cerms.**—After reading through last month's "Plain Tales," I have come to the conclusion that inoculation has a lot to answer for. I won't ask you to accept my apology, though, because I do not propose to tender one. I'm like that. I put it all down to those little blighters who invaded my system at the bidding of the M.O. A fine chap, the M.O. I hope to play him on his own ground one day. Judging by the number of holes he made in my arm, before deciding on the exact spot, I should say he had been a colander-maker in his youth.

I took a sleep in the afternoon and had a wonderful experience. Instead of eyeballs, I had hot coals in my head, and consequently became an object of great interest to my companions. Mr. H. G. Wells and I were inoculating butterflies with a pneumatic drill, whilst Charlie Chaplin and Dean Inge played poker dice down a man-hole. We grew tired of using the drill, so whilst the Guards' band played "I'd climb the highest blackbird" or something, Mr. Wells very kindly poured some molten lead down my left arm. I woke up then and turned on my right side, much to the disgust of Charlie Chaplin, who had just thrown five aces. Ah, well!

* * * *

**Eastern Stars.**—In spite of the fact that I have never been there, Jubbulpore lay bathed in moonlight. The plaintive notes of a one-stringed fiddle mingled with those of a one-holed flute. The one-legged man gazed lovingly at the one-eyed girl.

"Kiss me," she said in a pathetic monotone.

"Oh! I cannot," he replied in a voice thick with emotion and spring onions. "What would my wife say if she knew?"

"Ah, yes. We must think of that. Perhaps it would be as well if you just held my hand."

So they held hands and gazed at the stars whilst the music was supplemented by a saxophone speaking with the voice of a woman mourning a dead kitten.

"Oh, Harry," she breathed.

"Dear Miltrude," he glumphed.

Somewhere in the darkness, a snake roared defiance to the world. The moon went behind a cloud. The stars crumpled up. The trees laughed and whispered together. The saxophone continued to inform the fairies of the hour at which his Cutey was due in two flats.

The couple returned to the ball-room within a few seconds of each other, and met just inside with a wonderful show of astonishment.

Moral: Yes, I think so!

* * * *

**Improbabilities.**—Sigmn A.J.S.: "I can't get any speed out of my motor bike nowadays." Sigmn B.S.A.: "That's funny; neither can I."

Farrier: "There, there, poor little horsey. Did he bump his poor little hoof on my shin, then. Never mind!"

Sergeant: "I reached my present rank by sheer jam. Everyone senior to me has a perfect right to be senior, and I can't imagine why a lot that are junior haven't 'jumped' me."

Another sergeant: "Drink up, boys; it's my turn."

Quartermaster: "Certainly; help yourself."

R.S.M.: "That's all right, son; if your hands are cold, put them in your pockets."

O.C.: "I quite believe you; case dismissed."

* * * *

**Musical Review.**—I recently had a copy of a much boosted fox-trot sent me by the publishers. I tried it on fourteen different instruments, including a drum, and sent it back. It reminded me very forcibly of the war-time hymn, "We are Fred Karno's army." For sheer drivel, it is hard to beat. The rhythm is absent, the words are full of pathos and pudding, whilst the melody drives me to the beer bar—which is the only good thing about it. I've a good mind to go in for song writing myself. I couldn't do worse than the chap who ejected that lot from his brain.

Later.—I have found another good point about this fox-trot. When the dancers have encored the band about three times, the band can put *this* piece on. The dancers will immediately fade away, and the musicians get a rest.

There are several good gramophone records out this month. I tried one or two and picked out the best. "My liver went bang!" is a fine example of modern style, played by Kid Socks and his Sweaty Five. The "hot" chorus on a triangle must be heard to be believed. On the other side is "The Mirth of the Jews," which is not quite so good because I trod on it. It is a funny thing, but a gramophone record goes all the better when it is in one piece.

* * * *

**Blue Funnels.**—I have recently received some charming letters from friends at home and abroad. One from Harry Ring was particularly interesting. It appears that when he stepped on board the "Nevassa" or "Neuralgia" or something at Southampton, it tipped up. The voyage was one huge delight from then on. No sea sickness, not even on the downhill part before you get to Gib. They had several sorts of amusements. One man tried to start a game of "house," but no one would play. The passengers sat and trailed their fingers in the water until the captain stopped them. He said there were so many that they could only trail one finger each, as they were spoiling the ship's running time. Mind you, I don't believe all Harry says. A ship's captain wouldn't be so petty-minded, anyway.

The men amused themselves during the evenings, playing billiards with square balls. That's the worst of ship's billiards; you have to get used to the table. He tells me it is great fun. Well, I hope I have a nice voyage like that. If I don't like it, I shall pull the communication cord.

* * * *

**A Little Knowledge.**—Education in the Army has now reached such a high standard that it is a matter for deep thought to find so many men murdering their mother tongue. Why it should be a matter for any sort of thought, least of all deep, is a matter which also requires thinking out. I am afraid I don't know.

It is not sufficient to make statements like the above without giving some sort of a concrete example. I met a man, only yesterday, who informed me with all the confidence in the world that he was going to put a piece of "aspidestras" behind the fireplace to prevent burning the wa'l.

That same man could give you fifty start in a hundred up at "maths" and leave you gasping. He declared that the square root was at the bottom of all the trouble in arithmetic. He could recite, without hesitation, the last speech of Mary Queen of Scots as she threw the Magna Charta into the Wash.

Another man was recounting his adventures with a motor-cycle, having been persuaded to do so with great difficulty. He concluded a thrilling yarn by declaring that both he and his machine were "participated over a prejudice!"

Well, of course, if you're not going to believe me, blow you!

* * * *

**This, That, and the Other.**—I wrote a beautiful paragraph a'l about beer. Very scathing it was, with some fine frothy phrases. Be careful how you say that. You see, I tried a glass of bitter in a certain institution and nearly died on the spot. I'm afraid girls don't know how to care for beer. Well, anyway, after writing this masterpiece I tore it up, because it really was just a little too so-so. Rather biting and all that. Next time, however, watch my pen.

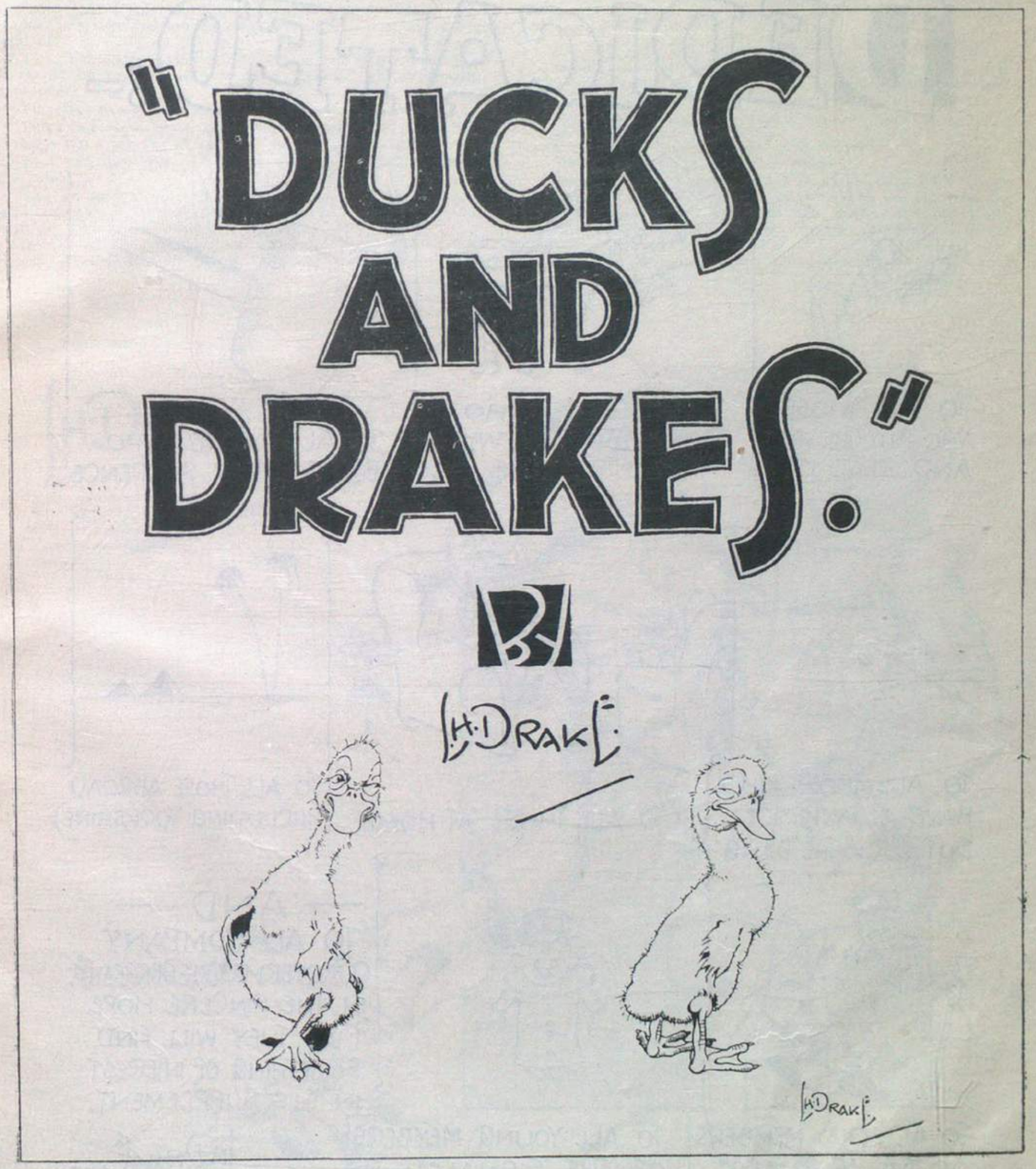
The great Bulford Bubble, alias The Pimple, alias The Penal Settlement, referred to in the 3rd Divl. Signals notes, is an undertaking of much interest to the troops of the Garrison. Statistics have been compiled by the dozen. Most of them are wrong. Mine are the only figures which can be relied on. No less than two hundred and seventy-seven thousand tons of earth will have to be moved, if it is desired to shift that amount. If all the wheel-barrows used on the Pimple were placed side by side, they would be found to be astonishingly dirty. Further interesting facts will be published later. The correct "Pimple" dress, by the way, is plus fours, ammos, greyback, Fair Isle collar, dress tie, steel helmet, pearl cuff links, Norfolk waistcoat and tennis shoes.

Sergt A. J. Keane sails for Singapore on November 22nd, and thus we lose a member of the staff of the late lamented Headquarter Gazette. Uncle Alfred, last heard of at Catterick, should soon be due for a foreign country, and Uncle Robert, the editor, proprietor, director and driving force ("that's me," he said modestly, if ungrammatically) is already packing. "Sic transit gloria mundi," or "Here to-day and gone on Monday."

Before concluding this month's contribution, I wish to wish—I mean, I hope you will all have a very happy Christmas, with plenty of snow and brandy snap. Furthermore, I thank all those who have borne with me so patiently. I mean, no one has written me any rude letters about "Plain Tales." Well, I think that's all.

BARLEUX.

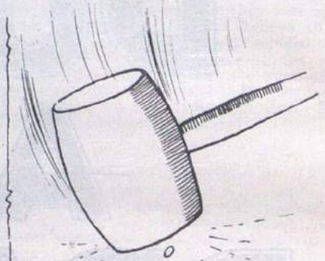




# DEDICATED:-

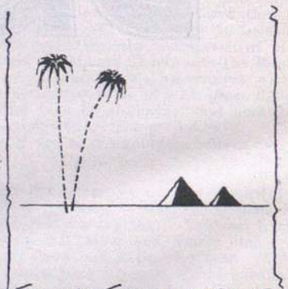
TO ALL THOSE WHO BUY THE WIRE, AND READ IT.

TO ALL THOSE WHO DON'T BUY THE WIRE— —BUT READ IT.



TO ALL THOSE SAXPENCE WHO BANG THEIR SAXPENCE.

TO ALL THOSE "AT HOME".



TO ALL THOSE ABROAD (INCLUDING YORKSHIRE)

TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE A SAXPENCE BUT LACK THE "BANG."

TO ALL OLD MEMBERS OF THE "SIGNALS".

TO ALL YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE "SIGNALS"

— AND —

TO ALL COMPANY QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANTS, IN THE SINCERE HOPE THAT THEY WILL FIND SOMETHING OF INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLEMENT.

H. DRAKE M.



## Open Letter to a Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

DEAR SIR—It was during the course of a barrack-room conversation that I once heard you described as a "bloomin' porcupine," because you are so very pointed and difficult to get hold of.

This, I think, is a very fair definition, but at the same time it should be remembered that your "points" are principally good ones.

This fact is not generally recognised.

Yours, sir, is a great and thankless task. To please the crowd is not a job any of us would care to undertake.

That you solve the problem by pleasing yourself is beside the point.

You are undoubtedly the most interesting of Army types, and, although it is concealed by a somewhat unprepossessing exterior, a kind heart beats beneath your ribbons.

If it is within your power to give help, those who ask are invariably rewarded.

I recollect one particular occasion. It was Christmastide, and all the kiddies had been invited to a Christmas tree and party.

You, sir, had been elected to fill the rôle or Santa Claus.

During the distribution of the presents a very young lady came to you and, weeping bitterly, pointed out that she had been the recipient of a Felix whilst her heart craved a Bonzo.

Santa Claus, I fear, was heard to mutter, "You've 'ad it."

But your beard, sir, was hot and uncomfortable.

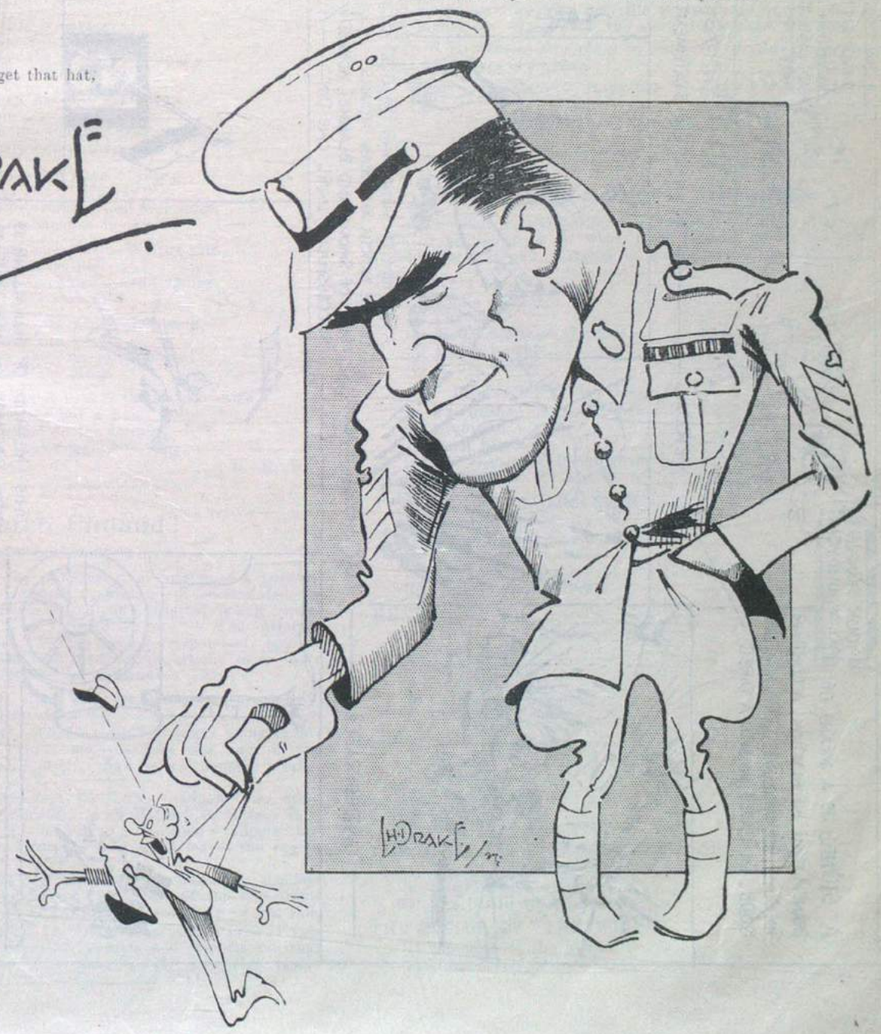
The young lady received her Bonzo.

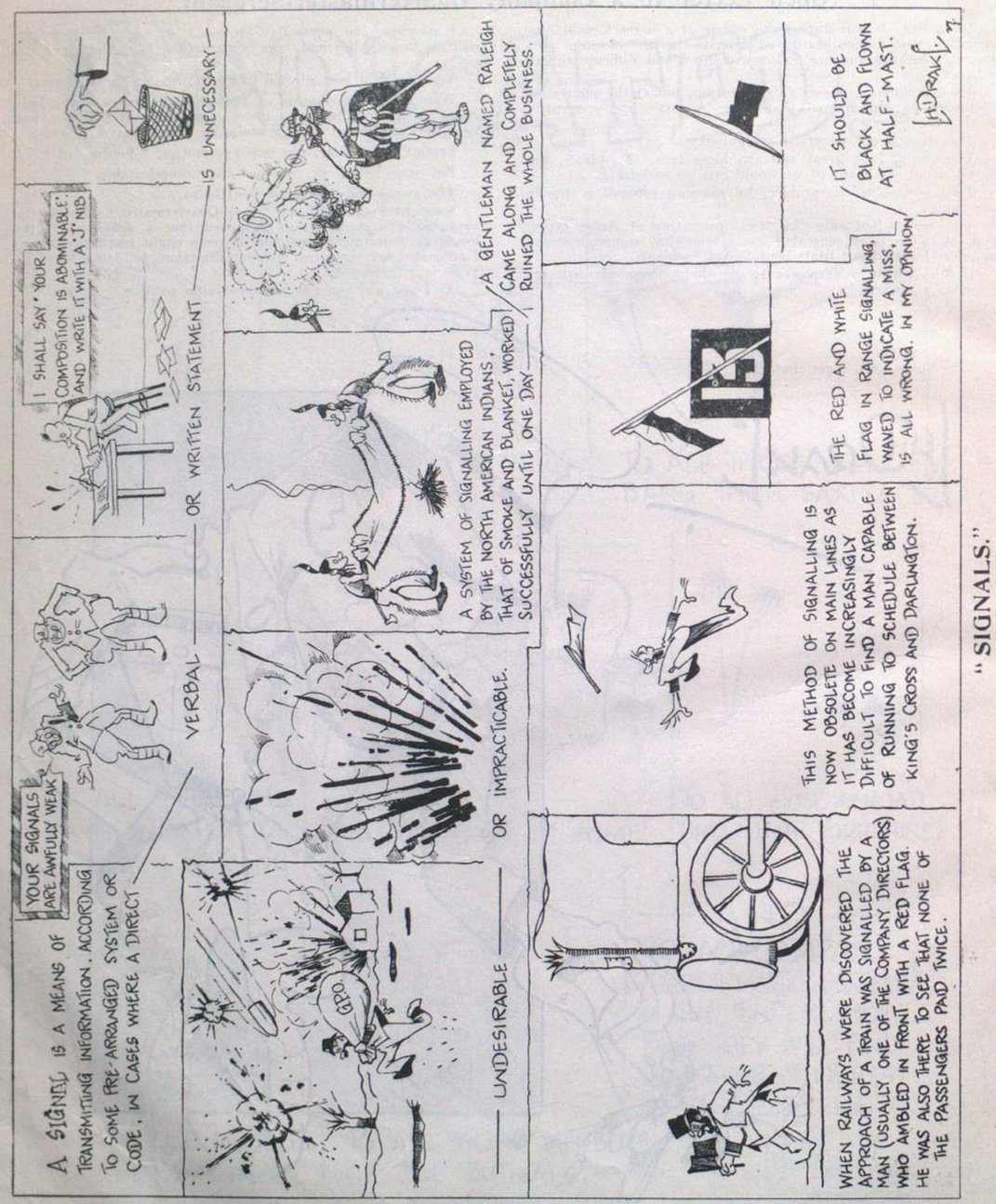
Some time ago I officiated in a Quartermaster's office in the capacity of a clerk. It so happened that a deficiency in the headgear department necessitated some slight rectification, and I appended my signature, at your direction, to Army Form H. 1181.

As I say, sir, yours is an unenviable position.

Yours until I get that hat,

H. DRAKE








## Rhapsody.

*(or something of that sort)*

"Hail to thee, blithe spirit!"
The captain gave a groan.
While shepherds watch their flocks by night,
For they are men with Wills of their own.

God bless you, Mr. Copperfield,
Let nothing you dismay.
You can keep your Christmas pudding,
For I'm to be Queen of the May.

Then up spake brave Horatius,
"Her mother keeps the key."
So they all ran after the farmer's wife,
And called for the fiddlers three.

She was poor, but she was honest,
Eating her curds and whey.
When the roll is called up yonder
On the road to Mandalay.

Life is real, life is earnest;
Let me like a soldier fall.
Brightly shone the moon that night
Upon the garden wall.

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
When comin' through the rye,
For he loved the bailiff's daughter,
And she only had one eye.

Christmas comes but once a year;
The inmates cried "Hooray!"
Little Boy Blue, come, wind your horn,
"We have no bananas to-day."

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
Fast falls the eventide,
This being my daughter's wedding-day,
The dog it was that died.

In choirs and places where they sing,
The honest bo'sun swore,
"A horse, my kingdom for a horse!"
B'aht 'at on Ilkla Moor.

"Stand back, stand back!" the maiden cried,
As he threw the boy a bun.
But the boy stood on the burning deck,
And so the poor doggie had none.

L. H. D.

## Watch Finland!

BY L. AITCHDEE.

[NOTE.—The fact that the publication of matter of a political nature in Military Journals is prohibited, necessitated the cancellation of our correspondent's original article under the above title. The substitution of "A Ten Minutes Treatise on Tadpoles," by the same correspondent, appears to have been confused with his previous article, so we leave our readers to sort it out for themselves.—ED.]

It is now eight years since we were in the winter of 1919, and nothing has been done about it!

What is behind it all? What are our legislators going to do? Tottenham or Bolton? These are questions the man in the street is beginning to ask himself. And he will demand a satisfactory explanation.

It is perfectly evident that the term "tadpole" is, quite wrongly, applied indiscriminately to all Batrachian larvæ. It is absurd to call the larva of a newt or of a Caecilian a tadpole; nor is the free-swimming embryo of a frog, as it leaves the egg, a tadpole.

A tadpole is the larva of a tailless Batrachian after the loss of the external gills and before the egress of the fore limbs (except in the aberrant Xenopus) and the resorption of the tail.

A brief investigation of the trade returns for 1925 reveals the startling fact that our total exports and imports for that year *did not correspond with those of the preceding twelve months, or with those of 1926.* Again, why not?

It is a most disconcerting situation, and the conclusion to be reached by anyone who has made a close study of the problem may be summed up in two words—"Watch Finland!"

The matter is one of the most vital importance to this country. *Finland has never been nearer to Britain than she is to-day!* It is doubtful if she ever will be.

That which characterises a tadpole is the conjoined globular head and body, so formed that it is practically impossible to discern the limit between the two, sharply set off from the more or less elongate compressed tail which is the organ of propulsion. In describing tadpoles, therefore, the term "body" is employed as meaning head and body. The tail consists of a fleshy muscular portion bordered above and below by membranous expansions, termed respectively the upper and lower crest, the former sometimes extending along the body.

I have previously urged, and continue to urge, that if Britain is to maintain her present position, *she must remain where she is!* Why this exasperating and futile indecision? It must be realised by those responsible, and realised at once, that where there is no increase of trade, commercial expansion is impossible. The more work we turn out, the greater will be our output. The higher the wages paid, the more the workers will receive.

*It is imperative that those in authority should grasp these facts while there is yet time.*

HANDS OFF BRITAIN! HATS OFF TO FRANCE!! UP ON THE LEFT!!!

WATCH FINLAND!!!!!

## The World's Worst Blunders.

In the following Symposium are expressed the views of several eminent gentlemen as to what they consider to be the most notable failures and mistakes in history.

PHIL SCOTT—
(1) Knute Hansen.
(2) Denmark.
(3) Madison Square Gardens.
(4) Heavy-weights.
(5) Knute Hansen.

CANON BU-L-CK—W-B-T-R—
(1) The Bishop of Birmingham.
(2) Evolution.
(3) Dean Inge.
(4) The Bishop of Birmingham.
(5) The rest of the family.

THE OFFICER I/C TRAINING—
(1) Departmental n.c.o.s.
(2) Departmental n.c.o.s
(3) Departmental n.c.o.s
(4) Departmental n.c.o.s
(5) Departmental n.c.o.s

HENRY VIII.—
(1) Catherine of Aragon.
(2) Anne Boleyn.
(3) Jane Seymour.
(4) Anne of Cleves.
(5) Catherine Howard.
(6) Catherine Parr.

SERGEANT HIL-M-N—
(1) Flukes.
(2) Billiard Chalk.
(3) The Marker.
(4) Double Baulks.
(5) The N.A.A.F.I. Steps.

THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR—
(1) The Guard Commander.
(2) The Guard Commander.
(3) The Guard Commander.

THE EDITOR OF "THE WIRE."—
(1) The 16th of the Month.
(2) Unit Correspondents.

L. H. D.

## Our Examination Papers.

General knowledge papers are the rage now-a-days, and several reputable journals are giving them for the broadening of their readers' minds. The Editor discussed the matter with me, but we thought that we had better not try General Knowledge. Officers and R.S.M.'s must be, for disciplinary reasons, above suspicion in the subject, and the enlisted boys know far too much already. We decided to give a few papers on useful subjects, and begin with Map Reading.

The questions are below, and the answers also. This plan saves me the trouble of correcting the paper, and makes it easier for the budding student to answer the questions.

### Map Reading.

[*Note.*—Attach a map of your locality on a suitable scale.]

1—On the attached map mark with a × the spot where the body was found.
2—Can you see point B from point A? If necessary, make a cross section.
3—What is the quickest way between points C and D?
4—What is the use of a Grid on a Map?
5—What are Conventional Signs?
6—Say what you think about a Prismatic Compass.
7—How would you make a Representative Fraction?
8—What is the black mark in the middle of the Map?
9—Which is the most dangerous hill on the attached Map?
10—Do you like Contours?

### Answers.

1—Somewhere outside the sergeants' mess or the beer bar would be right.

2—According to the map, you can. But, as a matter of fact, since the point A happens to be inside the coal-yard, you won't be able to see much from it. Which reminds us of the old song:—

"If the air were only finer,
You could see the war in China,
If it wasn't for the 'abses' in between."

It is quite unnecessary to make a cross section. Much easier to make a Maltese cross.

3—The nearest is not necessarily the quickest. A great deal depends on the time of day. During working hours (D being the Canteen) it might be quicker to go a longer way round.

4—The Grid is put on maps to give the Artillery another excuse for not hitting the target. Since its introduction, about 1915, it has proved of great service to us, as they don't now put all the blame on Signals.

5—There are a great number of Conventional Signs in use in the East; many more than you will find at the bottom of your map or in the book, and more generally useful. About those in the book, I think most Signalmen would agree with the crew in the "Hunting of the Snark":—

"What's the use of Mercators, North Poles and Equators,
Tropic Zones and Meridian Lines?"
So the Bellman would cry, and the crew would reply,
"They are merely Conventional Signs."

6—I admit that this is a difficult question to answer quietly. They are horrid little things. If possible, never let an officer make you hold one. They are expensive, and much better left in store.

7—There are several clever methods in the book. A simpler way is to choose five people and call them a Mess Committee. The answer is about as much use, and will, if anything, be taken less seriously.

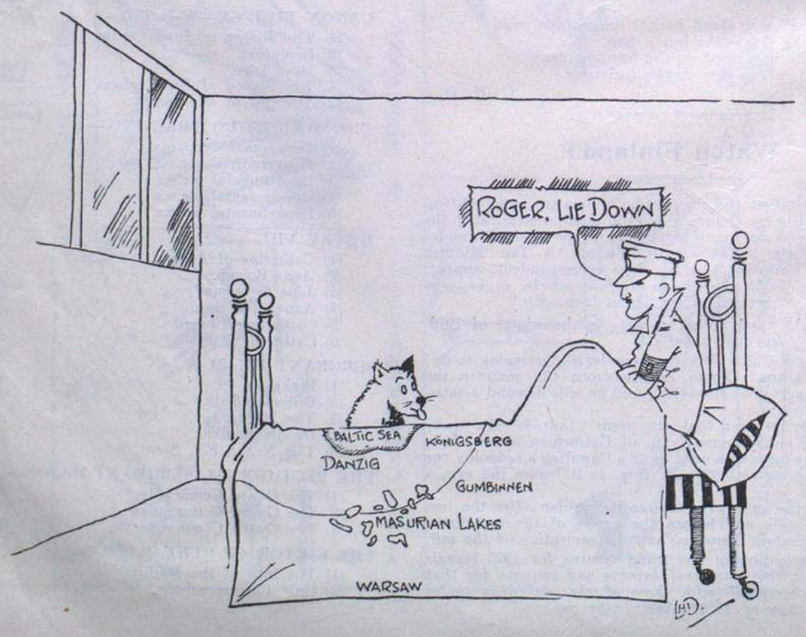
8—Probably the imprint of your thumb.

9—If all the recently-joined subalterns and/or babies have motor cars and/or perambulators, probably all hills are equally dangerous. Writing as I am at Catterick, I should leave out the "probably."

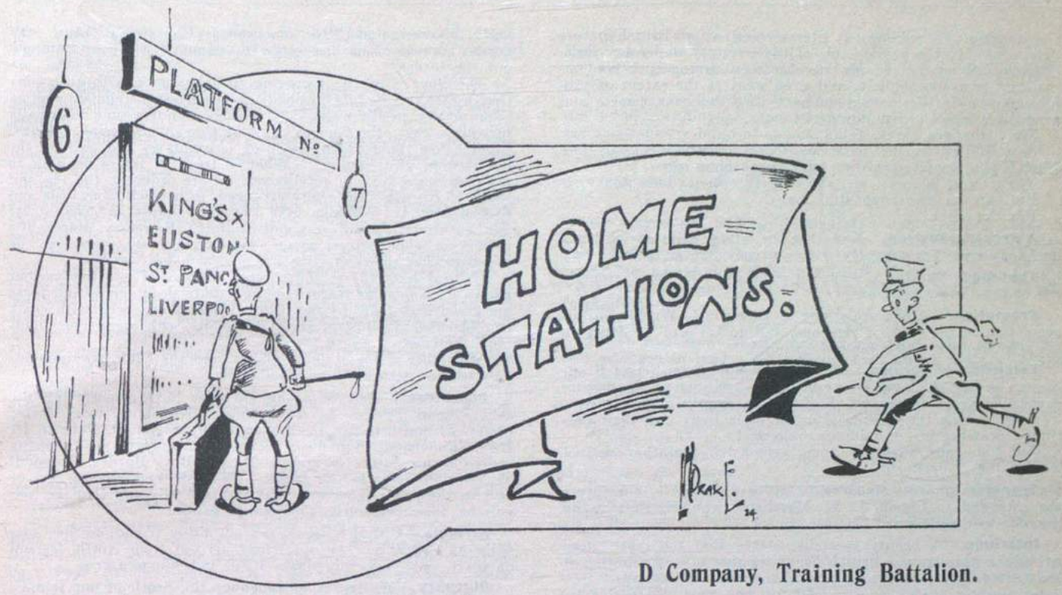
10—On the whole, yes. Lance-Sergeant Drake showed me what I thought was a beautiful big blue one the other day, but it turned out to be a Russian Army at the Battle of the Masurian Lakes, which he is working as a bed-spread for the Brigade-Major.

No Map Reading paper is complete without a question on Contours.

The best Contours are found at regimental dances.






## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
### Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt Hodges from Egypt. Corporal Hollis from Sierra Leone. It certainly is a hardening type of weather to be greeted with.

**Departures.**—Drivers Gates and Haigh, Signalmen E. W. King, Brearley, and B. H. Taylor, all to civil life. We wish them success in their new spheres of life.

**Promotions.**—Dvr Heasman appointed L/Corporal (paid), 8/7/27. Congratulations to him from all ranks.

**Marriages.**—L/Corpl Brassington to Lilian May Bradbury, at Fordsbrook, 2/8/26. Corporal Green to Martha Mary Anna Mattison, at Hudswell, Richmond, Yorks, 17/10/27. Signalman C. Wain to Muriel Grainger, at St. Mary's Church, Bolton-on-Swale, Yorks, 26/10/27. Driver Harley to Teresa Lancaster, at Richmond, Yorks, on 8/11/27. Congratulations are extended to them from all ranks.

**General.**—Great interest is being shown in the recent news of the posting of all n.c.o.s and men who have been in the Depot three years and over. Perhaps, for all we know, these changes may be with persons who have been in their respective stations for a great number of years, and they also may be wondering what is in store for them at this end. One thing can be made quite clear, and that is an Alpine winter. Though the last week has been very cold, and snow has fallen, it is nothing in comparison with what is expected.

The Equitation Course assembled here is progressing favourably, and no casualty of any importance is worth recording. A remark heard in the stables did *not* originate from the class, but a genius in some other stables. He mentioned the "civilised and uncivilised" parts of the horse. Perhaps he has come in contact with the uncivilised portions already!

Great strides have taken place in the garden line, and we hope to exhibit an equally good (if not better) display as that of our neighbours. We are hoping to cultivate a piece of land and grow some vegetables to help swell the Company funds.

News is to hand that four battalions of infantry are to arrive during the next month, thus bringing into Catterick some extra two thousand men. Our neighbours the Royal Artillery should be arriving soon. This will give us some very keen and interesting competitions for the forthcoming year in the different shows around here, and a very strong opponent. To the present we have only had the R.E.s and R.A.S.C. as opponents, and great credit is due to them considering their small numbers.

## D Company, Training Battalion.

Apologies are tendered for the absence of notes in the past. An endeavour will be made to keep up to date in future.

Catterick has now resumed its natural aspect, the wind going through instead of round one as in the summer (?)

An Armistice parade was held on November 11th. The ceremony at 11 o'clock was very impressive. The Last Post and Reveille were blown at 11.2 by massed trumpeters, after which the Company marched off to resume normal duties. Thanks to an early start made by R.S.M. and Mrs. Hepburn, we were able to show a poppy per man on the first works parade.

Drafting orders have again appeared, and before the trooper is over some very familiar faces will be missing in the corporals' mess (no, I was not referring to you, Fred).

There will be a death-like silence in No. 23 Room when the draft goes, and we hope the strains of Columbia and H.M.V. on the Decca, which have gladdened the lines, will help to pass the weary hours of tossing in the Bay. People remaining behind are very kindly telling of their experiences in that delightful spot; but still, perhaps the draft will have their revenge some day.

Congratulations to L/Sergts A. Winstone and F. Farr on attaining that rank.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to all arrivals from the Dismounted Wing during the past month.

**Departures.**—By the time these notes appear, the following will have left for India, per H.M.T. "Dorsetshire": Corporals W. McDonald and R. W. Topp, L/Corpl R. G. Davies, Signalmen A. Brereton, A. Calleyne, F. Cooper, G. Clayton, G. Gillings, A. Greenman, B. Hellyer, W. Mills, C. Moore, F. Pinder, E. O'Reilly, E. Hansford, F. Wallace, H. Salter, G. Welchmen, and F. Ward. For Malay, L/Corpl P. Brewster.

DON.

## E Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

**Compliments of the Season.**—A Merry Christmas to all units at home and abroad!

**Say! Whadaya Think?**—Out west in Chicago, where men are men, trees are trees, and a nickel's five cents, there resides one Big Bill Thompson.

Now, Big Bill is mayor of the burg, and a plumb shrewd guy, you betcha life.

But unfortunately common sense in Bill is just about as scarce as varicose veins in a wooden leg.

Deeming the reading of literature of a pro-British nature detrimental to the gentle souls of the territory under his jurisdiction, Bill proclaimed his intention of burning such contaminating literature publicly, and even went to the extent of prohibiting the further introduction of English books, papers and periodicals into Chicago, by heck!

Wal, whadaya think, folks?

Say, Bill, you're just too cute. Guess I'll pass a copy of THE WIRE right along, an' ya c'n give it the once-over.

You'd quit, I guess, an' shoot-up th' whole durn joint.

But, nix on the rough stuff, baby.

Pax for mine!

**A Proverb Revised.**—Now that the winter sales are with us, husbands aver that necessity is the invention of mother.

**The Clad Hand.**—A welcome to those who have recently joined the Company.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to L/Sergt H. Webster on his promotion to the rank of sergeant, and to L/Corpl T. Jones on his step forward to the rank of corporal.

**Extension of Service.**—Company-Quartermaster-Sergts R. C. Norton and G. A. Jones are permitted to continue in the Service beyond 21 years for a period of twelve months respectively.

I am voicing the opinion of us all when I say that their continued presence in our midst is welcomed.

But I do most earnestly hope, personally, that they do not look in the Supplement!

**Transfer to Army Reserve.**—Our best wishes for the future are extended to Sigmn J. E. Marchant, who has left us on transfer to the Reserve.

**Interlude.**—A beauty specialist states that too much sleep is bad for the figure. British heavy-weights are agreed that it has reduced their figures by several thousands of pounds.

**Certificates of Education.**—Congratulations to all those who have recently obtained their certificates.

**Births.**—To Sergeant and Mrs. T. E. Deptford, a daughter (Doreen Mary), on October 13th.

**Marriages.**—Congratulations to the following upon their respective marriages:—

Sigmn J. Walsh, at Belfast, 17/10/27.

Sigmn T. L. Harries, at Shrewsbury, 18/10/27.

Sigmn J. H. Laurenson, at Darlington, 26/10/27.

**Departures.**—Our best wishes go with the following on their leaving us for sunnier climes:—

Sergt H. Webster, Signalmen H. Honeybourne and W. Jarvis to Sarafand, Palestine, November 3rd.

C.S.M. J. Burgess, Signalmen J. Hicks, S. Blanche, C. Bewden, J. Walsh, A. Brierwood, G. Sawyer, and C. French, to Egypt, November 3rd.

**Another Interlude.**—Two can live as cheaply as one—if one doesn't eat.

**The "P" is silent as in Cucumber.**—An order board at present hanging in the guard-room bears the word "Occassion."

The clerk responsible for the typing of this particular order pondered, no doubt, upon the subtle snags of spelling, guessed there was a catch in it, and crossed out the first "c."

He will get it write—wright (awfully sorry)—right next time!

**An Awfully Jolly Tail-Piece.**—The principal movements of a new Russian dance consist of sitting down violently.

A sort of Black and Blue Bottom, as it were.

L. H. D.

## F Company, Training Battalion.

**General.**—We regret the absence of oscillations on the boys' wave in the last month's issue, but hope to prove to all exrodents at home and abroad that F is still alive and kicking.

Concrete proof of the last statement will be found in the Sports Notes.

So far we have been able to hold our own in boxing, rugby, hockey, cross-country, etc., and that useful commodity known as "guts" has often pulled us through.

Even the very little 'uns are fortunately afflicted, and show the results in the ring, on the playing field, and over the track and country. Stature makes not the slightest difference to their performances, except probably in cross-country running, where they manage to use any hefty officer, n.c.o., or man, as a most efficient wind screen (that's one advantage of being near the kerb). Never mind, little 'uns, you are the Corps' future stalwarts; so keep it up, and make the name of F famous throughout the future.

The Boys' Club is improving in appearance with every day that passes. A delightful shade of pea-green distemper, applied scientifically to its walls, has worked wonders and materially helped to keep the "hopes" full of the joy of spring. A real counter has replaced the table of olden days, and revived the old custom of "leaning." What a treat it is to be able to prop up one's hive of intelligence whilst ordering the tea and wads. "Biscuits" tastefully arranged on barrack-room beds and draped by "U" blankets give the Club quite an oriental air and an atmosphere of rest and comfort. Secretary Marchant's notices re whist drives, games, tournaments, etc., prove to the members that their interests are always being watched.

Helpful lectures on the correct method of playing various games are a popular feature of the weekly programme, and these are given personally by our O.C., Major Cobb, who with chalk and blackboard illustrates certain points with wonderful lightning sketches.

Altogether a fine state of affairs, and the Club has undoubtedly become secure on its foundations.

**Departures.**—The following old boys have recently left the fold: Sigmn Teal to 3rd Divl., Sigmn Kilpatrick to A Corps, Sigmn F. Smith to 2nd Divl. (Command), Sigmn D. Park to 1st Divl. (Command), Signalmen Kelly and Jenner to the Company cadre, Tmptr Steers to 2nd Divl., and Boys Burdes, Dymond, Turrell and Scutt to the ranks. We wish them all the best of luck in their new spheres of life, and can only add that our loss will be their respective Companies' gain.

**Arrivals.**—C.Q.M.S. Jones (an old Eddy friend) to the Company as C.Q.M.S. An old friend arrived from North Ireland on leave last week-end, plus a stripe but minus a grip.

**Obituary.**—We regret to announce the death of our late C. of E padre, the Rev. N. F. E. Foord, C.F., who was well known to all the boys of this Company. His weekly lectures naturally brought him into closer contact with us than with the men of other Companies, and we therefore venture to say that we were one of his main interests. Our wholehearted sympathy goes out to his wife and relatives in their sorrow. As a mark of our esteem and affection, L/Corpl Boy G. H. Smith attended the funeral on November 9th, and placed a beautiful wreath from the Boys' Company on his grave.

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

## ALDERSHOT NEWS.

### A Corps Signals.

### Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Ewshott.

**Arrivals.**—Signalmen Ambrose, Butler and Dennett from S.T.C. Sigmn Buckwell from Dover. Sigmn F. E. Abbott from Sheerness. Signalmen Felix and Slater from No. 3 Company.

**Departures.**—L/Sergt Knox to Dover. L/Corpl H. A. Brown, Signalmen Kensett, Gee, Hughes and Kay to the Army Reserve. L/Corpl Brooke to S.T.C. for a rough course—a promising lad, who should do well. Sigmn Baguley—plumbing at Hounslow. L/Corpl Warren to Malaya. Corpl Whybrow to India.

It was with real regret that we said au revoir to Sgt Strange, who has replaced Sergt Price at the School of Signals.

**Promotions, etc.**—L/Sergts Farley and Betts to be Sergeants. Sigmn Hole to be L/Corpl (paid) all same taipan. Signalmen Steele, Lewin, Long, Denton, Yardy and Thomas to be L/Corpls (unpaid).

**S.O.S.**—Will Ginger Bonner (of the original Depot football team) please communicate with his sister at 86 Languard Road, Eastney, Portsmouth?

Do not forget to let us hear from you each month, Peter. I will see what can be done about a bachelors' welfare centre when we get to Smallshot. It is about time we poor little bachelors were cared for. We do not get C.R.A., S.A. or R.A.H.R., or even Glaxo. Shame!

Lulu.—In reply to yours, we are flogging the llama. No, you are not the cause of it. Needless to say, it is not our *only* mascot. Our real mascot was posted to No. 3 Company months ago. Now blow!

Joint Box.—I am doing my best to stick what little chest I have out as far as possible, for it was *the* blow—nobody has ever beaten it yet. My hibernation has just concluded, hence the atmospherics. Olive has left me in disgust; he has taken a fancy to gee-patties.



**Our Cinema.**—Though we don't write home about it, we boast a cinema in Ewshott Camp, and I would like to dilate upon it.

The building is an ordinary common or garden hut, with two holes in the roof for ventilation; needless to say, these are always opened at the wrong time.

The tip seats are in rows, but if two signalmen (or even one signalman and one driver) lean back to yawn, a whole row of expensively upholstered arm-chairs is uprooted from their anchors.

The orchestra (he calls himself the Bijove Orchestra, but really he is a poultice-walloper) is properly Group E. When a tense murder scene is being shown, he plays such tunes as "Here we come gathering nuts and may"; and when a comedian is trying to be funny, he plays such music as "Rock of Ages." Hence the average signalman is on the verge of hysterics when the last love scene is shown. The music prevents him laughing and crying at the appropriate moment.

**General.**—A Corps held two very successful dances during October, which were well patronised by all ranks, especially the "upper ten" (there are really only nine), who seemed quite surprised at the number of jazz-hounds that came to trip the light fantastic.

The sergeants' mess held a dance during the first week of November, but the point of interest about this is, why was the corporals' mess used for—well, what it *was* used for?

The Construction Section stepped quietly into camp on Oct. 20th. It is worth while noting that they did not cause such a disturbance as the Cable Sections did when the latter bounced back from the mud-manœuvres. The Section certainly made history during their three months' peregrinations, and the "swede-bashers" are looking forward to seeing them again next year. Of course, this M.A. Section is like the Navy—it is the silent section (they are now indulging in a silent moan).

**The Band.**—It is really good to know that we have a splendid band, but it is better to be able to listen to it. It is hoped that when "our band" begins its annual peregrinations next year, somebody in authority will send a circular to all units giving places and dates of performances; then we will do our best to swell the audiences by bringing our friends and our friends' friends. Our congratulations to the band!

Perhaps one day our band will come to Smallshot (when we are settled) for a week-end and play us to church. This will be a fine opportunity for them to show the various other military bands in Aldershot what the Signals *can* do.

**This Month's Short Stories.**—A couple had just got married. Thinking of the future, the husband suggested to his wife that they should insure themselves against death.

To this the wife readily agreed. The following day she went to an insurance office and told the manager she wished to insure herself against death.

"You do not mind answering a few questions first?" said the manager. "Not at all," said the wife.

"How old was your mother when she died?" "Twenty-five."

"And what did she die of?" "Consumption."

"Good gracious me," said the manager; "I cannot possibly insure you, as obviously consumption runs in your family."

The good wife returned home and told the husband.

"Of course he would not insure you," said the husband. "I will go round and see him; just watch my smoke."

Manager: "How old was your father when he died?" Husband: "One hundred and four."

"Good gracious me; and what did he die of?" "A kick, whilst playing football."

"And how old was your mother when she died?" "One hundred and three."

"Good gracious me; and what did she die of?" "She caught a cold through having her hair shingled."

Manager: "I think I will chance it and insure you."

---

Nobby was transferred from No. 3 Company, and joined the he-man construction section for training as a lineman. After three months the section officer, before putting him up before the trade board, asked him a few questions.

"If you earthed both legs of a fullerphone, what would that represent?" "Fuller's earth."

"What is the hardest current to trace?" "A currant in a Naffy rock-cake."

"Have you ever been on a course?" "Yes, sir; a Jew's course."

"Give me an example of a Jew's course." "A man who, instead of spending a couple of bob on a supper, buys a cup of tea and a penny lump of spearmint."

"Do you still write to Santa Claus?" "Yes, sir."

"Well, write and ask him for a Group E rating. He may give you one, but I will not."

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We played the R.A. at football last week, beating them to the tune of eight goals to one. After the match, the players and officials trooped into the C. of E. for tea. The officer i/c soccer, seeing Mudge herding himself with the players, said "Are you a lineman?" "No, I am a saddler," said the erstwhile football-linesman.

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Brown had been out of work for five years, and at long last had managed to land a job. Seeing his "oppos," Dunn, across the street, he called him over.

Brown: "I have got a fine job." Dunn: "What, so soon?"

"Yes, it is a job playing cards all day." "Gee, that just suits me; any chance of being taken on?"

"Come round and see the foreman."

Dunn (to foreman): "Any chance of a job?" Foreman: "Yes, if you can play cards."

Dunn: "I can play cards alright, and if the job suits me I can bring round my dart-board as well."

[Note.—This job was *not* got through the Signals Association.]

SOOFOO.

**"Bandy."**—The sound of a melodious voice floated across the field of battle. Its owner, a fine upright figure—an ideal soldier—was standing alert and watchful, now and then giving tongue in that silvery voice so entrancing to the ear: "Come, warriors, place thy missiles in the net of the enemy. Smite down the tall slave with the double eyes." Such were the pearls of wisdom dropping from his lips.

Women looked curiously as the resplendent figure passed slowly down the ranks of the watchers, his accoutrements shining even to rival the sun.

Nearer to me he came; nearer still; I stretched out my hand to touch the hem of his robe, when—horror and disillusion! I woke up. Leaning still on the broom that had supported me, I saw the truth.

There was a football match, and there was a little fella on the touch-line shouting as only one can shout, "Come on, Specky; roll 'em up in cotton-wool."

Pausing only to shift his Woodbine from one lip to another, the raucous voice rasps on—and so to sleep again!

TOTO.

### Construction Section.

Back once more, and on the furlough tack. Now that leave and drafts are going strong, this is the last time we shall be together as a Section until we get going again in February. Old hands will have gone, and we shall miss them, as they have done some very good work. It will be hard for their successors to live up to the standard they set, but that's where the odd spot of work comes in!

We've got several Group E men who will get their B.iii. early next year; and if the Staff Captain gets his B.i., we shall have three men of that grade. Keep it up!

There are strong rumours of the forming of No. 2 Construction Section. This will be interesting, as we have worked as one section for so long. If the rivalry is at all keen, there ought to be some good work done.

Remember we've got Smallshot to come, and we shall have plenty to do when we get there.

Football has gone well in the Section, and our team, well backed up by Sergt Chumbley and Sigmn Edwardes, have had a very good run. Our usual battles with the Mounted Wing have resulted, so far, in two wins for us and one for the Stables. A very good game against the combined W/T Sections resulted in a win for us.

Rugby has claimed several men, and we have six either in or on the edge of the A Corps team. Sport will go off a lot during December—the close season—and then we hope it will open out again in early January.

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**Departures.**—By the time this appears we shall have lost a very old hand—Sigmn Laker, who has been here since the beginning of the world. He goes to civvy lines. Best of luck!

M. T.

## A Corps at Intra.

1—Now there dwelt in the land of Ger, at a place called Weeze-ba-dar-den, one called Attaboy.
2—And Attaboy, having dwelt in this Gomorrah for three score months and ten, desired to see his brothers in the land of Acor.
3—Seeing one named Sandey, who was called Cushy, he spake unto him, saying, "Tarry here, whilst I am gone to see my brothers."
4—And Sandey replied, saying "Go thou, my lord, in peace, for am I not called Cushy?"
5—And Attaboy did set forth.
6—And when he was entered into a ship, he became sorely troubled, saying "I fear the god of Acor."
7—And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, and Attaboy did have many kitinspections.
8—And he did rebuke the winds and the seas.
9—And some warriors who were also travelling to Acor marvelled, saying "What manner of man is this, that even the winds or the seas do not obey him?"
10—And when he was come unto the other side, into the country of Ham, he took himself unto Ushot, where his brothers dwelt in stalls.
11—And when he saw them he was greatly troubled, and sat on a trough weeping, wailing, and gnashing his teeth, one of which was gold.
12—And one Malcolm, called Ak-ak, seeing him, approached him saying "Be of good cheer; see, I have a present for thee."
13—And he gave Attaboy a comb and a brush of great value, saying "Carry on with yer grooming."
14—And when Attaboy heard this, he gave up the ghost.
15—And one called Emmo came and ministered unto him, and he arose and became a Sanitaryman.
16—And when Easter week was come, the multitude of Acor journeyed unto To-el-oh. But Attaboy, Ole, Noosun, Stanly and Ginger, and other heathens, did remain behind.
17—And again Attaboy did become troubled. And he went sick many days, getting Em and Dee, whilst the other heathens did hunt on horses.
18—And Attaboy did worship the god Motzer and became Mossy.
19—And one named Ollis tempted him, saying "Do this and do that." And he did, but could not find a winner.
20—And he became very poor, and did scrounge a crust here and a wad there.
21—And a great ruler came unto him, saying "Dost thou crave for a snip job?"
22—And Attaboy replied, saying "I dost."
23—And this great ruler said "Follow me; be my steward, and thou shalt wax fat in the land."
24—And Attaboy did dwell with one called Chandler, who was a great man in the land.
25—And it came to pass that the great king Se-es-oh sent his courier to Acor, saying "I am coming that ye may do homage to me, your master."
26—And there was much wind in the land of Acor.
27—And Attaboy did spend many days painting fire-buckets, saying "I will seek favour in the eyes of Se-es-oh."
28—And he did He-he in this manner many days.
29—And Chandler marvelled, saying "What manner of man is this that does he-he Se-es-oh? Peradventure he is sweating on a stripe."
30—And behold, Se-es-oh appeared. And when he saw Attaboy he said unto Qu-em, "This man is possessed of the devil."
31—And when Se-es-oh had departed, Qu-em came unto Attaboy, saying "Get thee hence; for verily I say unto you, if ye continue to paint these buckets they will contain no water, as they will become all paint."
32—And Attaboy did depart unto Gilling, which is also called Ham, and dwelt there one moon.
33—And when Christmas was nigh he did hang up his sock, and lo and behold! Santa Claus did drop in a curry-comb and brush whilst Attaboy did yet sleep.
34—Verily, verily I say unto you, put not your trust in Santa Claus, lest ye be deceived.

SOOFOO.

## 1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

**Greetings.**—A Merry Christmas to everybody! A Happy New Year to all the world! Hallo here! whoop! hallo!

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the past, the present, and the future." So said Mr. Scrooge in that wonderful tale, "The Christmas Carol," for which we are so grateful to the immortal Dickens.

The Firstdivsigs broadcast the words of Scrooge to all stations, the world over, wherever Signals of the past and present gather together at the festive season.

**Drafts.**—There is just a hope that Sergt Cutler, Corpl Searle, L/Corpl Elmes, and Signalmen G. Bainbridge, N. Ketteridge, E. Clarke, N. Haines, P. McLoughlin, R. Wills, H. Webb, P. Anson, F. Andrews, J. Bethell, F. Blake, A. Brown, F. Bartlett, A. Cleaver, S. Dowmon, H. Hayward, A. Massey, S. Smith, H. Battell, G. Thompson, E. Cooke, W. Cox, R. A. Creasey, G. Edwards, and W. R. Frost, will arrive at "Jubb" in time for their Christmas dinner. If they are not fortunate enough to do so, they can seek consolation in the fact that not everyone can have his Christmas dinner at sea. One commends the "Notes on India" in November WIRE to the notice of those mentioned.

Capt. Spencer has joined us from the S.T.C., and is very active in the boxing business. Lieut. Wynn, from the Rhine, has also arrived to swell our numbers. Shanghai has sent us C.S.M. Shenton, and Sigmn Park has been posted from the T.B. but has not yet joined.

We have news that the Rhine is to receive Sigmn Biggins early in December.

**Furlough.**—The first furlough party went off on November 15th, immediately musketry had finished. The majority of those who entrained were detailed for draft. They appeared to be going to make the most of their last look round England for a few years, judging by the hard work the paying officer had. The lucky furlough party is, of course, the last—they have both Christmas and the New Year in their period.

**Training.**—Just one round of athletic occupation seems to be the rule during afternoons. The pugilistic folk are very busy, judging by their red faces about tea-time. Football of both codes always gets its full share of adherents, as does also hockey. Technical training is practically at a standstill until the New Year, but the educational folk are keen on th scent for knowledge. The one diversion of the week is the staff ride on Saturdays. (The last sentence is specially included for our old friend Drake.)



**Courses.**—Quite a number have temporarily left us to increase their knowledge. May they all be successful! L/Corpl Greig and Sigmn Wheeler to a boxing course. Corpl Burchinshaw to an animal management course. L/Cpl Smith and Sigmn Burgess to G.P.O. Sigmn Cree to a cycle repair course. Signalmen Richardson and Edward Cecil to the School of Hygiene. Corpl McLoughlin, L/Corpl Allston and Dvr Hutt to an S.T.C. equitation course.

**Condolences.**—To Corpl and Mrs. Mackie we extend our deep sympathy in the tragic loss of their little son.

**Horse Show.**—Owing to the very bad weather in July last, the driving competition in the Aldershot Command Horse Show was postponed until October. In the finals we tied with the 2nd Divl. Signals for second place. Congratulations are offered to our confreres, the R.E., on taking the honours.

**Croupeddie.**—Sighs of thankfulness have gone up from those class iii. blokes who have been granted Group E pending vacancies for re-mustering occurring. Very gracious of whoever it was—the grant was just in time for the back pay to be drawn for furlough.

**Musketry.**—The main body and casuals were exercised on the ranges at Ash during October. Sigmn Corcoran headed the list with 104 out of a possible 110. We'l done!

The tea and wad wagon hardly had a moment's peace. Shares in the firm, on enquiry, were found to be at a premium.

**Inspections.**—The D. of R., with the D.A.D.R. A.C., paid us his usual annual visit. You will remember that last year we reported the clerk of the weather had forgotten to give us a good day. This year he had evidently noted the date in his diary, and the natural consequence was that the report was a perfect topper.

**Wedding Bells and Little Cals!**—During a short leave, L/Cpl Kneller was married to Miss Kay, Sigmn Gosling to Miss Cruft, and L/Corpl Minett to Miss Harrington. We wish them all much happiness.

Congratulations to L/Corpl Nickells and Sigmn Wellock on each being presented with a daughter.

**Farewells.**—C.Q.M.S. Goldman said goodbye to us on completing twenty-one years with the Colours. We are pleased to report that he has found a billet. Signalmen Kettle, Summers, Fisher and Rutherford, and Corpl McGowan, have gone to swell the Reserve. May they be allotted to us as reservists, for we hope to meet them again some day.

**Promotions.**—Sigmn Rich and Dvr Millen have advanced a step and are now U/L/Corpls. Carry on, my lads! We needs must start at the bottom. The climbing grows the sweeter the higher you climb, provided the climb does not take too long.

**Signals Association.**—Those friends of Corpl McGowan in the Corps will be pleased to hear that, through the kind offices of the Association, he has been placed in a good situation in London, with excellent prospects.

One wishes to remind members of the Association in the Firstdivsigs that annual subscriptions for 1928 fall due on 1st January.

YA YA YA.

## 2nd Divisional Signals.

### No. 1 Company.

**Inspections.**—On October 22nd No. 1 Company paraded with the unit for the annual inspection by the C.S.O. Aldershot Command, Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O. After the march past, the C.S.O. inspected the lines and workshops.

The G.O.C. 2nd Division, Major-General Sir W. E. Ironside, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., carried out his annual inspection of the 2nd Divl. Signals on Tuesday, October 25th. He inspected the unit on parade on the Dust Heap, afterwards taking the salute at the march past. The General made a short speech, and said he appreciated the efforts of the Divisional Signals during the training season to maintain a high standard of Signal efficiency. He emphasised the fact that with the advent of more mechanical transport in the Army, it would be necessary to reduce delays to a minimum in order to ensure the success of operations.

**Postings.**—Our Egyptian draft, and Sigmn Beresford for Sarafand, left us during November, and the best wishes of the Company for success in their new stations go with them.

Sigmn G. Innes and Sigmn Cannell (waiting man) stand by for India, to embark on November 22nd.

Corpl Anderson, L/Corpl Ewens, and Signalmen Dodd and Cole have gone on leave prior to embarkation for India on Dec. 6th. Records, however, substituted Corpl Hamilton for Corpl Anderson, who will now proceed by a later boat.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to L/Cpls Warner and Edgar (on the Corps roster), McClelland and Webb. L/Corpl C. Hamilton promoted Corporal.

**Our Collective Diary.**—It may interest some to know that the Aggler still braves the atmosphere of the early morning in order to maintain that treasured reputation of hers. Since the excursion to London, when she got vamped on the bus, she has shown signs of waywardness. However, I think we'll all sub round when he decides to go under at Weybridge.

A 6 Hut residents deplore the fact that our stoker is so inconsiderate when he awakens to perform his daily duties in the cookhouse. After the guard calls everyone but the stoker at 3.30 a.m., they naturally feel liverish when the stoker gets up and commences clog dance antics in the effort to find matches and the door.

The Crumbs must once more suffer whilst the amiable Jock sits and enjoys his Christmas dinner under comfortable circumstances, whilst perhaps the Polo Player will be searching for a bone nineteen days out. (Ex-Signal Centre, please note.)

Colonel Oakum, in order to escape the coldness of the English climate and other worries, visited the medical officer, who signed his warrant for India and another six years. Never mind, Jimmie; your old pal will be with you.

Since a certain driver in B Section instituted a new way to spend a furlough, a number are giving London a miss.

**Erratum.**—In last month's notes, the photo No. 1 of 2nd Divl. Signals stables should have read "Lille Barracks," not Smallshot.

HAMO.

### No. 2 Company.

**General.**—Notes of this Company have been conspicuous by their recent absence, for divers reasons. It is hoped that now they make another appearance, they will not again sink into obivion.

November has been comparatively uneventful, for with the exception of a horse inspection by the Director of Remounts, nothing of importance has occurred.

**Musketry.**—It is pleasant to note that the unit average for the annual musketry course has advanced from the 74.11 of last year to the fine figure of 76.5. This illustrates the keenness of all ranks, and it is an example to the unit of 1928, and the new arrivals especially, which they must endeavour to emulate, to say the least.

The following were the Company averages for the course: No. 1 Company, 75.7; No. 2, 77.2; No. 3, 76.6.

Our Company thus gains the shield from No. 3, last year's winners. Now that it is in our possession, it remains for the personnel of No. 2 Company of future years to hold it. Remember, it is a legacy bequeathed to you by the Company of 1927.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome Sergt O. C. Smith from the permanent staff, 42nd (E.L.) Divl. Signals, T.A.; L/Corpl C. Whitehead from No. 1 Company; Signalmen M. McLean and J. Pearce from S.T.C.

**Departures.**—Signalmen F. Lovett and J. Freeman to Egypt on November 4th. Signalmen R. Blackwood, H. Dalton, and L/Corpl E. Hayler to India on November 22nd. During the month the following left us for transfer to the Army Reserve: Signalmen A. Durbridge, J. Wright, W. Curtis, J. Sayer, and J. McKay. May they prosper!

**Appointment.**—L/Corpl R. Girdwood is congratulated on his appointment to that rank.

GEODY.

## No. 3 Company.

Since our last notes went in, we have had a period of bustling activity in preparing for inspections by the C.S.O. and the Divisional Commander, both of which went off without a hitch. The preparations were marked by unprecedented demands upon the pay department for cleaning and decorating materials. These inspections were the culmination of the training season, and then the leave period started.

**Arrivals.**—We welcome Sergt Inman from the 54th (E.A.) Divl. Signals; Sigmn Purrington from No. 1 Company; and Sigmn Huggins from Sierra Leone.

**Departures.**—Capt. G. W. Odell to the 43rd (Wessex) Divl. Signals; Lieut. A. E. L. Brown to S.T.C.; C.Q.M.S. Stevenson to civvy street (not as cobbler, however); L/Sergt Warren to the 54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals; Corpl Whittington to the 42nd (W. Lancs.) Divl. Signals; Sigmn Frey to No. 1 Company; Signalmen Hoole and Lightbody to Sarafand; Signalmen Carver, Harding and V. Wright to Egypt. We wish them all good luck in their new spheres of activity.

**Marriage.**—Corpl Berry to Florence Maud Hardman, at Liverpool, on October 19th. Our congratulations.

Lately we have suffered from an epidemic of remarks such as "Well, if no one wants that, it is just the thing for my seaside bungalow." Perhaps it's only a coincidence that the offender has lately been in communication with a firm which manufactures chicken coops.

**Agony.**—Marie wants to know what's come over Sigzhob, and whether they are prostrated after last month's strenuous effort.

THREECO.

## Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, Nov. 15th.

**General.**—November gone again, leaving us feeling damp and cold, but with December dawning, our thoughts turn to jolly old Christmas. May all contributors and readers at home and abroad spend a very happy one!

Adverting to November, I don't think any one bids this month adieu with any feeling of regret, unless of course he happens to be one of those fortunate individuals who have won a football competition or benefited by the will of some rich aunt.

Old November is such an ungrateful sort of month. We get the first breath of winter, followed by cold feet, and the sight of your first chilblain brings forth the silent tear.

I have just heard that Coir, my colleague, philosopher and friend, has recently completed a book entitled "What every young girl ought to know." Unfortunately the publishers inform him that the subject is out of date. Never mind, Coir!

And now, just to show that poets live to-day as in the past, the following is a message to WIRE readers:—

To "Signals" in the city,
To "Signals" on the plain,
The Editor is calling:
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When nights are dark and dreary,
Your day's work hard and long,
Just take your WIRE home with you
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A cheery word from Barleux
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Will free your minds from worry
And your backs from every ache.

So get your copy regularly:
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It's "Signals" first and all the time—
Your job and mine, the same.

—(SPEARSHAKE).

**Things We Should Like to Know.**—(1) Who is the gentleman who grinds his teeth on the telephone line when speaking from Bulford to Salisbury? (2) Arreff: Have you seen September's issue of THE WIRE? If so, please reply to this Company's notes!

**Have You Heard These?**—(1) Who is the absent-minded signalman who kissed the door and slammed his wife? (2) A Scotsman once gave his pal a box of matches to keep the home fires burning.

CLIFF-COIR.

## D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot.

**General.**—This unit is now in the throes of preparation for the annual inspection by the Colonel-Commandant 1st Cavalry Brigade, of which more anon. Educational training and furlough are at present all the rage. It is a noteworthy fact that one of our men has had a full month this year—the first time he has managed it for over four years.

**Departures.**—Signalmen Govey, Jury and Speck left us on Nov. 4th for Egypt, and Signalmen Ellis, Hubbard, Macey, Parrington and Clark proceed to India on Dec. 6th. Our best wishes accompany them.

Sigmn Seaton (Oct. 25th) and Corpl J. T. Smith (Nov. 15th) left us for civvy street. We are very pleased to hear that they are in employment. Billy sends his love to Smudger.

**Arrivals.**—Sigmn Merritt from 1st Divl. Signals on October 8th, and Sigmn Pratt from E Company, S.T.C., on October 20th—to whom we extend the hand of welcome, and hope they will settle down with us for a good time.

Stork, complete with male bundle for Corpl and Mrs. Ives, on November 8th. Our congratulations go to them. Atta boy!

**Courses.**—The following have left us recently for courses, and we are hoping that they come back to us brimming over with knowledge: L/Corpl Jimmy James to Mounted Wing for equitation. L/Corpl Forrest to School of Signals for a W/T course. Sigmn Yent to the G.P.O., Lincoln. Dvr Batley to School of Cookery.

The last-named will be back in time to cook the Christmas dinner, for which "may the Lord make us truly thankful."

**Marriages.**—Sigmn Govey to Millicent Jane Wray, at St. Philip's Church, Battersea, on October 16th. Sigmn Sam Allen to Florence Ada Bennett, at Exeter Parish Church, on October 17th. We take this opportunity of wishing the loving couples much happiness.

**Appointments.**—One of our rare paragraphs. Corporal Jim Perryman to be L/Sergt, 22/9/27, and Sigmn Steve Foy to be U/L/Corpl, 5/11/27.

**Howlers.**—Scene: Education class-room (mental arithmetic). Instructor: "Six, divided by two is—?" Driver X: "Two, and two over."

Instructor: "A General has an army of which half is killed, a quarter is taken prisoner, and the remainder is sent on leave. How many proceed on leave?" Signalman: "Seventh-sevenths."

'OWDAM LAD.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

**Greetings of the Season.**—The members of E Troop join in wishing the many units and formations of Signals a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Promotions.**—L/Sgt E. Adams to be Sergeant, w.e.f. 22/9/27. Congratulations, Daisie!

**Departures.**—Signalmen B. F. Legge and E. Thompson to Egypt Signals. Sigmn E. Ellison to No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand, Palestine. The Troop wish them bon voyage and the best of luck.

**Courses.**—Corpl Crowhurst proceeded to Catterick to attend a visual refresher course. We expect great things from him on his return.

SANDSMUDGE.

## No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company.

Blackdown.

**General.**—Annual furlough has commenced, and now we know the meaning of that oft-repeated phrase, "Roll on, November." About half the Company are on leave, and we hope they are enjoying themselves.

A certain n.c.o. has been seen with bits of wire, cotton and sealing wax, as well as volumes of "Signal Training"; and now this conjuror is showing how the current passes "up here, round there, through this—and—so to bed!"

The other half of the Company are saying, "Roll on, Dec.!"

Have you ever tried to run a quarter of a mile while wearing a gas mask? We have been told that, if properly adjusted, one




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should never feel the least discomfort or be winded; and to prove it, our instructor, holding his tin hat securely on his head, doubled across the square and back. He wasn't winded; oh no!—only old age creeping on!

Then there is the drill—you know—putting the clenched fist on the bridge of the nose and doing the Charlie Chaplin hat-raising motion.

We had a very interesting lecture on the gas bag, and we were surprised to learn that tin cans, corrugated tubes, triplex glasses, and lots of other gadgets go to make up this instrument of torture. When worn, it does keep the dust out of one's ears; and it is also an excellent cure for "cabbage lugs." Still, the lecture was very interesting; but we hope that when the next war comes along, our enemies will not be members of the Mustard Club!

**Entertainments.**—Things have been going with a bang just lately. Every Monday night the lads trot along to the miniature range and try their skill with the shooting iron; and judging by results, we should have some good shots next year. A certain long-legged gentleman generally succeeds in walking off with the top score. (I won't mention names, but he has been called Rudy.)

**Departures.**—We shall have quite a number of names under this heading before long, but we must wait for further particulars.

One can be mentioned—Sergt Fleet, who has left us and gone to the Supplementary Reserve T.A. We all wish him the best of luck. How we miss those strains of weird and wonderful music emanating from bunk No. 3.

The Quartermaster has quite a lot of clothes in store that would hardly be suitable for wear in England during the coming months. Neither are they *intended* for this climate, and some of the lads will be doing as the posters say, "Travel over the world——" We shall try to keep them informed through the medium of THE WIRE of the doings of the "Acks-Acks."

B. A. J.

## 3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

**One of the Losers.**—First, however, three very large cheers for the winners. To No. 1 Company, the sports shield. To Unit Headquarters, attached No. 2 Company, the shooting cup. Hearty congratulations. To A team, No. 2 Company, the billiard cup. More congratulations.

The musketry results for this year show a great improvement in getting the eye down; of course, the rifles in use this year were vastly superior to the antiquated models we had to fire with in 1926.

As regards the sports shield, No. 1 Company did very well, for this was not easily rescued from the eager clutches of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies.

Going back to the musketry question, here are the six best shots: Sigmn Bolton, 100; R.S.M. Adams, C.S.M. Grist, Sigmn Finch, and 2/Lieut. Ewbank, 99; Sigmn Donoghue, 98. I thought about giving the names of the first 160, so that I might get my name in print.

**The Pimple.**—Otherwise known as the penal settlement. A pimple can be a very irritating thing, and so can a penal settlement. I spoke last month of this attempt at real estate business, for that is what I am referring to.

A couple of recreation grounds are booked to appear where at present is a howling waste of rocks and chalk. It is, without doubt, an ambitious undertaking, but the result, when attained, will be worth the trouble. When my eldest son, who will be two years old in 1936, gazes upon the smooth expanse of turf, he will be able to say, "My dad did some of that," and a little voice from nowhere will say, "But not much."

A large number of sons and every daddy in the unit will have had a hand in making this ground; and believe me, it is a delightful thing to see plus fours pushing wheelbarrows, crowns handling picks, and stripes handling shovels. The jobs are allotted in a sensible manner. Those with a knowledge of

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machinery are told off for wheelbarrows, whilst good bridge players are issued with spades, and so on.

It is most unsafe to stroll through the lines at present unless you can create the impression that you are frightfully busy. Woe betide the youth who ambles past the unit orderly room, dreaming day dreams. A large voice will rend the air: "Hey, boy! what are you on? Nothing! Get upon the pimple! Move!" He who is not horny-handed by the end of the year will be branded a "swinger." He will not have done his bit. There are still one or two crowns and stripes who have not dug their cubic allotment. We shall have to publish a "black list."

**Imperial Players.**—This fine concert party, under the supervision of the N.A.A.F.I., again visited us. They were given a rousing reception, as we had pleasant memories of their splendid show on the previous visit.

Everyone was very disappointed at the absence from the party of that captivating young lady who sang "Those broken-hearted Blues" several months ago. I'm sorry I can't remember her name.

Mr. Leslie Hyde was his usual brilliant self—a first-rate comedian. Rather a pity he put over a couple of old numbers in view of the fact that he was here such a short time ago.

Ada Tellier with a violin, Vivienne Tempest with her voice and the piano, Jo Canter also with her voice and the piano, and Norman O. Bolt with a bass-baritone voice and an E flat saxophone, were all topping. Altogether a very pleasant evening's entertainment.

The piano was a N.A.A.F.I. instrument, that is to say, it was possible to extract an occasional note of the correct pitch at odd moments. I have always found that beer, fag-ends, odd cups and saucers, and spare forks do not improve the tone of a piano. These things have even been known to interfere with the action. The instrument should be kept behind the bar, and only issued out to bona-fide musicians on signature. However, I am still feeling disappointed over the absence of the young lady. Wasn't she lovely, though!

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Nothing special to report, unless one breaks the news, for the benefit of certain units in India, that C.Q.M.S. Sweeting will not now sail.

The wireless set continues to justify its existence. Australia was distinctly heard during the relay by Daventry recently.

Sergt Rhodes followed Sergt Westwood to Birmingham for duty with the 48th (S.M.) Divl. Signals. We wish them both the best of luck. We also offer our congratulations to Westy, but the reason for this will be made public at a later date (not 'arf, it won't!)

A successful whist drive and dance was held on Friday, 21st October: whist on the mess premises and dancing in the regimental institute. The music was supplied by Barlow's Royal Paragon, Californian, Syncopated Octette, consisting of five performers and known all over the district as "——."

We sympathise very sincerely with C.S.M. Doust in the serious illness of his wife, and trust that her recovery to good health is just a matter of days. Mrs. Doust is a staunch supporter of all our social functions, and we cannot afford to have her absent.

The news concerning the publication of a Pocket Roster is of considerable importance to all n.c.o.s, and the number required for this unit will be submitted to Belgrave Road "toute de suite" (Fr. for "pronto.")

A certain sergeant "sweating on the top line" was amending his old Pocket Roster. "What about this chap," he said, pointing to the name of a sergeant several months senior to him; "didn't he get a court-martial?" "Yes," replied an interested listener: "but he got away with it." "Well, confound him, then," said the disappointed owner of the book.

**Corporals' Mess.**—Not very much to report from here. George, of whom you have heard in "Plain Tales," is waiting for me to go away, so that he can send up a piece of poetry about me.

Corpl H. Walker, according to information received, will make a great plunge for better or for worse on Monday, Nov. 14th. As we all know the lady very well, we have no hesitation in voting that it will be for the better, and we congratulate them both very heartily. Miss "Taff" Griffiths is a great little lady!

**Bulford Church.**—The dedication of the chancel of the Garrison Church of St. George was carried out by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Salisbury on Thursday, November 3rd. The church was packed to its utmost capacity, and there were over two hundred people lined up outside.

The new chancel and tower are estimated to have cost £7000. The beautiful east window is a war memorial, the gift of the Royal Artillery.

The music was supplied by the Royal Artillery (Salisbury Plain) band. The Dean and Canons of Salisbury, and a host of visiting clergy, were conducted to their seats during the opening voluntaries. General Sir Alexander Godley, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., read the lesson (Hebrews x. 19-25). The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of Salisbury. A collection for the building fund of the church realised nearly £35.

**Marriage.**—Sigmn S. France to Beatrice Alice Simmonds, at Wolverhampton, 18/9/27.

**Promotions.**—Congratulations to Corpl B. Coy on being promoted to that rank; also to L/Corpl Clubb on being confirmed in his rank on the Corps roster.

**To Army Reserve.**—Sigmn Graves, 15/10/27. We wish him luck in civvy street.

**Courses.**—Sigmn Algy Massingham to the School of Cookery, to better his knowledge (if it *can* be bettered) of how cocoa should be made.

**What shall we do with him?**—The Company clerk who, when indenting for the half-yearly supply of Army Forms and books, included A.F.B.2090 (Report on Death of Soldier), 50 copies.

## 4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Congratulations to Sergt W. C. Cayley on his promotion to that rank, w.e.f. 3/10/27, and to U/L/Corporal J. Toye on his appointment, w.e.f. 10/9/27.

Sigmn W. H. Geere is also to be congratulated on the arrival of a daughter (Renee Margaret) at Colchester on October 12th.



Four o.r.s have left us this month for courses: L/Corpl H. S. Hodgson to Catterick on a cowboy's course. L/Corpl L. J. Peerless to the same God-forsaken place on a W/T course. Sigmn J. Galbraith to the School of Cookery, Aldershot. Sigmn A. Weeks to the School of Farriery, also at Aldershot.

L/Corpl Hodgson will be "quids in" on his return, as we have a wonderful selection of bronchos. Sigmn Weeks will also be alright for the same reason. L/Corpl Peerless will be doubtless forced to make a few W/T sets before he can use his newly-acquired knowledge, because at the moment the unit "ain't got none." Sigmn Galbraith will of course be happy, because men may come and men may go, but the cookhouse goes on for ever.

Talking of cooks and cookhouses, I must mention that Sergt Fahey has taken over the unit cookhouse. Another name for the list of famous chefs. I hear that he is to inaugurate a new form of spring opener for oysters, like a cigarette case. Not that we ever get any oysters—Colchester is too far away for the ration wagon.

Arrivals this month are: From Catterick, Signalmen A. Rosie, G. Anderson, and S. Engleheart. From the Rhine, Corpl A. J. Stanton, Signalmen C. H. Brunning, R. J. Downs, M. Acomb, H. G. Blumsum, H. J. Infield, F. J. Curtis, J. Ross (of police fame), W. A. Levett, and J. R. Thornton. Here's hoping that their stay with us will be a happy one.

Corpl R. M. Peachey has left us for Fulham, to take over his duties on the permanent staff, T.A. I was under the impression that he was laying in a stock of topees, but must have been mistaken. The unit wish him all the best in his new billet.

Last month I recorded the inevitable monthly motor-bike crash of Cabbo's. The last I saw of Cabbo was a sweater-clad figure just starting for its month's furlough, and *on the bike*. The bike has been in a garage down town since the last smash, and I believe Cabbo had to fork out a trifle over four pounds for repairs. Considering that the number of this modern Jehu's crashes must be now nearing two figures, I think you will agree with me that he has got some nerve. (I wonder if he has arrived at his destination?)

The latest news about the eight officers and two hundred o.r.s who were supposed to be arriving home for Christmas is that "owing to developments on the Chinese front, or fronts, their homecoming may be delayed until January." I won't make any comment on this. The relatives of the unfortunates will do all the commenting needed, I feel sure.

Last month I gave a specification for a wireless set. May I add to this a word of advice? That is, when you have made the set, take a gross of large wood-screws, and well and truly screw the thing down to the shelf or table. Otherwise your set will meet the fate of the corporals' mess set.

This set normally stands on a shelf, with an extension to the loud-speaker, which can be placed on a table to suit members' requirements. Somebody walked *through* this extension lead, and the set obeyed the law of gravity, "hitting the deck." As a consequence, the set's innards got a bit mixed up.

An alternative to screwing down the set would be to shake down four bales of straw on the floor, to break the fall, so to speak. Only don't let the stableman see you taking the straw!

We have here at Colchester a rarity in the shape of a Signalman who wants, actually *wants*, to go back to Catterick.

Hang it all! I am going there myself in a couple of days, but it's because the powers-that-be have *decreed* that I go for a few months, and not because I want to go. I had a winter there two years ago, and have just thawed out. Br-r-r-r! Would anybody like to sell me a couple of dozen cardigans?

Barleux could wax eloquent on the subject of Catterick roads, and the ice that forms a thick layer on them, I am sure. (Would you like me to take a message about Morgans to the barber's shop, Barleux?)

I did an officers' mess picquet one New Year's Eve, and had to go outside and dig the sentries out of the snow every half-hour. Oh, assuredly, a glorious place in winter is Catterick. Maresfield was no winter garden, admitted; but one *could* pop down to the Regent without hiring a team of dogs and a sleigh.

Heard in the riding school: "Get off that horse, and put a piece of crepe on your nose—your brains are dead!"

Heard in the school: "Bumbleshay, where does the sun set?" "Just over the coal dump, sir."

**Wanted.**—A scribe to carry on with the 4th Divl. Signals' WIRE notes. Any offers? Hundreds of people will give one advice as to how they should be written, etc., but nobody seems eager to take it on. I am going away for a few months, and would like to take this opportunity of reminding all and sundry that THE WIRE is *their* magazine. I feel sure that the Editor would be glad to see a few more articles, either under the heading of unit notes or as individual attempts to brighten the pages of the Corps Magazine. Remember that the Branch Secretary will always be glad to type a fellow's screed for him. Get cracking, some of you, and grab those pencils at the point of balance—and let's hear all about it.

What's that? I'm backing out? No! If I can beg, borrow or steal a typewriter in the future, I will continue to burble at you from the pages of THE WIRE (loud cries of "Shame!" and "Wheel 'im out").

The Editor will readily identify my next contribution—it will be adorned with a wreath of icicles. Unless, of course, the Catterick climate effectually stops the revolutions of

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## Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

It must seem to readers that we only write when we feel like it. However, that is not the case, as there is not always news of sufficient interest.

Since our last notes we have lost a great number of the Company. Even old stagers have been moved, much to everyone's surprise, for they were certainly thought to have been on the inventory.

It started with the "old man" of the D.S.s, L/Corpl Fisher, who left us for Iraq. Then seven others were suddenly rushed off to India. Next came four more to leave us, three of whom we must congratulate on their recent marriage—Signalmen Walsh, Lavender and Harries. The following week we said goodbye to twenty more. Names are too numerous to mention, but to one and all we send our very best wishes. We hope they will prove as good companions in their next Company as they did in this.

We must not forget to mention the departure of L/Corporal Brewster for Malaya. It was not to anyone's liking that he left us, least of all to his own. In him and Corpl Parker we have

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lost two of our best sportsmen, both of fame in the ring and on the field. Our third boxer we have also lost, Sigmn Mayer to civilian life.

A hearty welcome is extended to Sergt Beverly (well known to all, whose stay we hope will be a very pleasant one) and to Sigmn Stevens, both from the Depot. Three more have crept back to the fold: Sigmn E. Jones from Tidworth, Sigmn Edwards from Aldershot, and Sigmn Baker from Sierra Leone. We are just as pleased to have them as they are to be here.

Congratulations are due to L/Corporals Hampton and Coram on their recent appointment. It is the first step. May they continue on the upward path.

Leave has started and the Company has begun to scatter. By Christmas we hardly expect to see any left at the table. Of course some will have returned from leave by then, but yet we wonder if they will be at Christmas dinner with us. The wilds are calling for fresh Outlaws, and so is another place. Still, time will tell.

There is no truth in the rumour that the cook set the cookhouse alight so that the breakfast would be cooked in time. People saying these things forget that fishcakes can be burnt without resorting to that means (live and let live, Cork).

C. W. N.

## Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, November 7th.

**General.**—With the reduction of the Rhine Army there came another change in the history of the Rhine Signals. Exactly three years ago to-day the Rhine Signal Company ceased to exist and some of the personnel were posted to the Field Signal Company, the remainder going to the Command Signal Company —these Companies being known as the Rhine Signal units. And yet to-day finds both Companies once more united and functioning under the denomination of the Rhine Signal Company, with Major P. C. Snatt, R.Signals, as O.C.

This change resulted in a surplus of thirty-seven o.r.s being posted to units in U.K., and our best wishes go with them.

Major R. C. Nixon, R.Signals (late O.C. Field Company), has been posted to the Eastern Command Signal Company, and we wish him the best of luck in his new surroundings.

A state of chaos prevailed in the barracks on the morning of October 30th. Everybody was going backward and forward, carrying kit bags, suit cases, equipment, etc. Having arranged their kit in the lockers provided, some moaning was indulged in: (a) We left the cleanest room in the barracks, to be shoved into this hole; (b) "I wish Dick was here. D'ye know, mate, we ain't bin separated ever since we joined up until now." (c) "I hope the orderly corporal comes over this side to blow minutes." Any-old-how, by the time these notes appear, everyone will have settled down, and the Company, as of old, will be running on oiled wheels, so to speak.

On Thursday, October 27th, the Company was inspected by Colonel-Commandant W. J. Maxwell-Scott, C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by our C.S.O. (Lieut.-Col. H. E. Day, D.S.O., M.V.O.), after which the barrack-rooms, stables, stores and offices were inspected in turn; and as no adverse report is to hand, we must assume that everything was satisfactory.

Old members of the 2nd Divl. Signals were greatly relieved to see notes once again from No. 3 Company, and will welcome a monthly repetition.

Congratulations to the Company football team on being unbeaten so far this season. With the support of as many spectators as possible at each match, I feel sure that their success will continue.

**Short Waves.**—Corpl Dobson was heard sending his name on Sunday evening, November 6th, by Tubby, who would like to know the whereabouts of the former.

**Promotion.**—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. R. Pearce on attaining that rank.

**Trade Tests.**—Sigmn Towell passed the test for driver mechanic, class i.

**Arrivals.**—Congratulations to F/Corpl and Mrs. Hawthorne on the arrival of a daughter; and to L/Corpl and Mrs. Emsley, a wee Jock.

**Obituary.**—We regret to announce the death of Sigmn J. G. Cocker on October 15th, under tragic circumstances.

**Matrimonial.**—Signalmen Knockles and Ashby joined the ranks of the benedicts on October 29th. The best of luck to them both.

**Departures.**—These are too numerous to mention by name, but in addition to the thirty-seven o.r.s mentioned above, L/Cpl A. Barraclough has started on the first stage of his journey to the Colombo Signal Section.

There were also a number of men desirous of a "steadier" job in civvy street, and in this respect we bade farewell to Signalmen A. Bridges, L. W. Williams, A. Putley, M. Trueman, A. Westmoreland, Camsell, S. Gardener, and C. Dixon, wishing them the best of luck.

**Animal Management.**—To prevent minor optical ailments with horses, thereby eliminating any possible risk of subsequent blindness, consult Nobby, who has some invaluable information. Alright, Nobby! Rug up!

**Conclusion.**—Even as I pen these last few lines I can see a typewriter "going spare," and so, to conform with the wishes of Mr. Editor, I must "bounce."

BLANCO.

---

Australia is experimenting in the growing of willow for making cricket bats.

* * * *

Piano keys that have turned yellow can be cleaned with methylated spirit applied on a piece of clean flannel.

* * * *

It is unwise to shelter under a tree when a storm is raging.

* * * *

Thirty-four pounds weight of practically useless material was recently taken from slot-machines owned by one firm.

* * * *

Tinned foods have a nutritive value equal to that of practically any fresh food, with the modern methods now employed.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

October 12th.

**General.**—A cordial welcome is extended to our commanding officer, Major E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., on his return from U.K. leave.

During his absence the unit was inspected by Major-General J. W. O'Dowda, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., officiating G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, who recently employed one of our Wireless Pack Sections on work of a tactical nature on the Frontier. The following is an extract from a letter sent by the C.S.O. Western Command, complimenting the Section on their work:

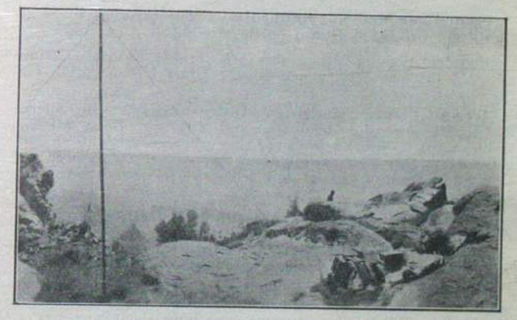
"Your Wireless Detachment leave for Karachi to-day, and I particularly want you to know how well they have done. They marched over two hundred miles of really bad roadless country, and kept unbroken communication with Quetta the whole time. Everyone tells me their march discipline was very good, and they made a thoroughly good impression on all the officers of the staff ride. The C.S.G.S. authorised me to say that the Army Commander was very pleased with them."

All ranks of the Corps thank this Section for keeping up the name and efficiency of the unit and Corps in general.

We have recently received some photographs of the Zhob Signal Section in camp and on the march. These photographs give one a good idea of the difficulties to be experienced by Signal Sections operating on the frontier.

The Fort Sandeman detachment went to camp near Lakaband for five days. They covered ninety miles in eight days, including climbing to the height of over 7000 feet. They erected on the top, establishing communication with Quetta and the Zhob Area stations.

We were very pleased to welcome back our China Section on the 3rd inst., but were very sorry to hear that the section sergeant had to remain in hospital in Shanghai. We hope that he will soon be able to rejoin the unit.



On Tuesday, October 11th, a dance was held to celebrate their return. Everything went off quite successfully, and we wish to thank the dance committee for their splendid efforts. We are looking forward to our annual ball, to be held in the G.P.A. Hall on November 16th.

Sigmn Worsley, late of A Corps Signals, U.K., is keeping up his title as a 1st class shot. He entered in the Karachi Corps Auxiliary Force rifle meeting and won a splendid cup for the highest score at 600 yards in an open competition.

Manora Leave Camp closes this month, and all ranks are working and studying very hard so as to ensure efficiency when we go out to our annual camp. This will be the first time that our present commanding officer has been out with the unit, and we hope he will not be disappointed with the results.

**Promotions and Appointments.**—Congratulations to Sergt Oakes and U/L/Corpl McKay on their recent step up.

**Medals.**—Congratulations also to L/Corpl G. Morris on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal. More for the boy to clean!

**Arrivals.**—From Waziristan District Signals: Signalmen Jacob, Meadowcroft, Remington and Taylor. From S.T.C., India: Sergt L. Mears. We hope they will soon settle down and get used to their new surroundings. If we get many more ex-rats transferred to us, the unit will have to be inoculated for rat plague.

**Departures.**—To Quetta, to relieve Sergt Harvey as C.S.O.'s clerk, Sergt. L. Mears.

**Births.**—To C.Q.M.S. Draper, a daughter, and to Signalman Autie, a daughter. We wish the proud parents every success.

**Berths.**—C.Q.M.S. Draper is now expecting to return to England on H.M.T. "Dorsetshire," owing to the ill-health of his family. Bill keeps telling me something about long service and bad stations each time I ask how he wangled it!

**Lost Relations.**—Sigmn F. Webber would like to hear from Sigmn Taylor-Smith, last heard of in the Rhine Signal Company (height, 5 ft. 1 in.; hair fair; eyes blue; sweating on promotion).

AKORPZ.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

September 27th.

**General.**—The calendar tells me that it is again time to spread the jolly old papyrus and take up the quill, but this time I have a comparatively cool atmosphere in which to work. Our C.O. (Major J. A. F. Mair, M.C.) has recently returned from Kashmir, where he has been on leave for a part of the hot season. The Company personnel has changed somewhat during his absence, but the barrack-room furniture—like the law of the Medes and Persians, which changeth not—is still on view, as well as the few "permanent fixtures" who can be seen daily wandering around in search of crossword puzzles and football coupons, etc.

I hear the Rajah had a small setback this week, our office "Fairy's" odd number on the bluelight having romped home at 8 to 1 (how did she do it?)

The boat that several people have been praying for is at last on its way here, and will be on its homeward journey again by the time these notes appear in print (barring accidents, of course). Several of the old hands will have departed from this land of milk and honey, and several of those left behind will be weeping and wailing and gnashing their teeth because the time is drawing near for *them* to embark for foreign service in the west!

Now that Sandy of Pompey has been discharged from hospital, lectures on "How Pompey will take the cup" will be delivered nightly. (Will they have to put it back again, Sandy, in case someone finds it out?) His first objective on returning was the reading-room. There he was found in the centre of a huge pile of newspapers, pictorials, Christian Science Monitors, etc., eagerly devouring last week's reports and critics' versions of the match 'twixt Pompey and ——! I really do think that it is too bad someone did not lend him a wireless set whilst in hospital. He is, however, still undaunted by the remarks of our wireless Sparky that Pompey would not win the cup till such times as the Signals did guards on Buckingham Palace (ye gods, what an optimistic age we live in).

On Saturday, September 17th, the unit was honoured by a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Colonel E. F. W. Barker. We had an inspection of the lines, stores, w/t station and personnel, and he was very favourably impressed by all he saw. He departed early on Monday, the 20th, by car en route for unit stations at Manzai, Razmak and Bannu.

**Arrivals and Departures: Officers.**—Lieut. M. H. Keene, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, from the Signal Training Centre and Depot, Jubbulpore. We trust his stay with us will be a lengthy and pleasant one.

Lieut Anthony, R.Signals, to the S.T.C. and Depot, India, after having spent a number of years with the unit. Much has happened during that period, and we hope he will make things as pleasant where he is going as he has done for us.

Capt T. B. Ferriday, our W/T expert, has left us for a down-country station. Our very best wishes go with him for a happy sojourn in his new abode.

**Honours and Awards.**—The shield, this month, has been unanimously awarded to Sigmn Sandell for his thrilling anecdote, "How the water was brought to the scene of the fire by the dashing despatch rider." Copies of this will shortly be on sale at all the leading bookstalls. (W-h-ater yarn!)

It is to be hoped that when all the moves ex-unit have been completed, a list in detail will be found in our notes.

### Bannu Detachment.

September 22nd.

Once again there is great activity amongst the Bansigs, which means activity on *my* part, and a good deal of eye-strain on the part of the others.

The other day we were visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Colonel Barker, accompanied by our C.O., Major Mair, M.C. Colonel Barker inspected the stores, etc., during the morning, and was pleased with all he saw. In the evening the whole detachment paraded, and he then spoke to each man, asking questions about our work, rates, etc.

The men have recently returned from courses in the Murree, and the results of the final test are to hand. Sergt Addison and L/Corpl Shipley, operator, line, B.i., and Corpl Benson, Signalmen Gibbens and Sandell, B.ii. Signalman Haddow, operator, visual, C.ii., and Signalmen Dawes and Kenchington, C.iii. L/Corpl Harris, despatch rider, D.ii. Our heartiest congratulations to them all.

We have lost Signalmen Gibbens and Lovell, who have been transferred to Karachi in the general posting to A Corps Signals, Karachi. What our hockey team has lost, theirs has gained. Sergt Addison has also left us for the 1st Indian Divl. Signals, Rawalpindi. We are shortly to lose Sigmn Jacobs, who has decided that the sea breezes of Karachi are more beneficial to his health that the Maidan breezes of Bannu. Our very best wishes go with them all.

The Brigade Section took part in a Brigade communication scheme on September 16th, 17th and 18th. Five stations were established, one in and four out of Bannu. The most important out-station was at Sheik Budin, approximately forty-five miles from Bannu. Communication was established with the others, but we failed to get in touch with Sheik Budin. We were using long range lamps at night, but I am afraid our signals were not strong enough; otherwise the scheme was a great success. Better luck next time!



L/Corpl W. Smith would like to know something of Sigmn Andrews, late of Shortlands, Kent.

Lewis, of cutlet fame, would like to hear from Sigmn Wise, late of B Divl. Signals, last heard of in Ewshott.

Two members of Bansigs would like to know if Corporal Crompton, of A Company, Maresfield, 1920, is still with the Colours.

## Razmak Brigade Signals.

October 1st.

**General.**—We welcome Capt B. G. Rowley, our new O.C., who arrived here from Rawalpindi on September 17th to relieve Capt G. St. J. Martin, who has been our O.C. for some considerable time. The latter is one of the old officers of the unit, and is now, according to Dame Rumour, proceeding to the U.K. on the home establishment. This will be an entirely new sphere in life for him, as he has never been in a Divisional Signals or Company at home before. However, our loss is the home establishment's gain. We wish him bon voyage and good luck!

On S ptember 20th we were honoured by the presence of Col. E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., Signal Officer-in-Chief (India) from Simla, on a tour of inspection, accompanied by our Commandant, Major J. A. F. Mair, M.C. The inspection proved, I believe, a great success.

The big item on the programme was a marching order parade, with animals and full loads, and it is rumoured that it was one of the best shows that Razmak Brigade Signals have ever put up. The S.O.-in-Chief and our Commandant left us on the 21st inst. for Kohat en route to Peshawar.

It must be mentioned that all personnel have returned from courses at Upper Topa and the S.T.C., India. The Brigade Section is now up to strength, and is undergoing extensive training in readiness for the Wana Column operating in the Sarwekai area. I hope to give a full account of this in next month's issue.

**Arrivals.**—Capt B. G. Rowley, R.Signals, our new O.C., from 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi. We wish him every success in his new post, and hope his stay will be long and pleasant.

L/Corpl Raymond, Signalmen Foster, F. W. Clark, and Garrud from Upper Topa. Sigmn Fisher from the S.T.C., India. Signalmen Legg, Howell, Hayes, Culley and A. W. Jones from D.I.Khan.

**Departures.**—Capt G. St. J. Martin, C.S.M. W. J. Chitty, D.C.M., Corpl Waldock, Signalmen Casbard, Dales and Griffiths to the U.K. Sergt Spracklin, L/Corpl Batten, Signalmen Ing, Cummings, Gilder, Baker and Fullick to D.I.Khan for reposting.

F. R. C.

## Manzai Brigade Signal Section.

September 25th.

At last we are beginning to assume the strength of a Brigade Section. Lots of changes have taken place since our last notes, and it will probably be a few more months before we can safely say we are dug in.

Of course, the homeward troopers are about to sound their sirens and hoist their jolly old Blue Peters, and consequently there is much anxiety—not to mention excitement—amongst the detained civvies. It is rumoured that one of them has scrounged an old inner tube from one of the D.R.'s (in case?), and I know he has been taking swimming lessons lately at the pool.

These Old Moore's almanacs do make one feel a trifle pessimistic at times, though; don't they, Brickey?

**Congratulations** to Corpls Mansfield and R. M. Clarke on attaining that rank, and to Corpl Mansfield for distinguishing himself at the C.ii. course at Upper Topa. Attaboy!

To L/Corpl Tomkins, Signalmen Hollywood, Stubbs, Brown and Bromfield, on obtaining their 2nd class education certificates. Good shooting! Hard luck, Flux-ite!

We also congratulate Browney on his recent wonderful attempt to break the record held by a certain Rip Van Winkle. (Sh-sh-sh! don't touch him).

Why the sudden invasion of Frothblowers from Razmak? Is it a conspiracy to start another Vat?

A certain individual here would like to hear from the brewery which L/Corpl Marr may have managed to get in touch with during a recent scheme at Quetta.

**Arrivals.**—Sergt Thornton, Corpl Devenish, and Signalman Mason from D.I.Khan. Signalmen Walthew (alias Burglar), Ing, Wooton and Stanbury from Razmak. Sigmn Glassborough from Bannu. All are welcome.

**Departures.**—Sigmn Reade to D.I.Khan plus the old banjolele. Sigmn J. F. S. Wilson also to D.I.Khan, having got those "Wanna go back again" blues.

We greatly regret the departure of Signalmen Bromfield, T. Cleal, and E. Coles, three jolly good lads. Look after them, B Corps!

**Potted Verse.**—

"I'll go two," said Brickey;
"I'll go three," said Ing;
"I'll go four," said Squito—
"I'm on a real good thing;"
"I'll go five," said Tommy—
"I've got a dead cert nap;"
"I'm over all," said Stigadog—
And the "Kitty" left the cap.
(Moral: Last man wins).

**Agony.**—Burg'ar wishes to hear from some China's in Aden.

**Addendum.**—To all Blighty wallahs: I have just discovered that the meaning of the word "ketahh" is not what I said in my last notes *(for shelf, read table)*.

## Kohat District Signals

Kohat, October 19th.

The summer being officially over, our detachment at Parachinar left for Kohat on the 12th, halting for a day at Thall, and is due here on Friday, 21st. The Upper Topa party also being back, we shall have a complete unit once again in Kohat, and the work of organising the sections on the new establishment will be carried on preparatory to section training next month.

Results at Upper Topa were very good. Fourteen sat for higher rates, and all passed. These included the candidates with top marks in the O.V.s i. and ii.—L/Corpl Weeks and Sigmn G. Irvine respectively.

Seven candidates sat for the 1st class education examination, and one for the special, last week—all full of hope and knowledge—all confident of having obtained "dons." Let us hope that the examiners think the same.

Life in Kohat is beginning to assume its normal civilised aspect. One notices the jazz band hard at practice, the men's tennis court being repaired, the married folk all busy distempering and "saf karoing"; and last, but not least, the energetic Charleston class, hard at it in the sergeants' mess nightly. It would take a good sailor to undo some of the knots that get some of the knees and appendages of these stalwarts. But, as the old stagers say, it's a good job it isn't July.

The families are expected back from the hills shortly, and consequently there has been a big drop in Murree Preferred stock! There is great interest, however, in boats, a great demand for troopers, and much speculation on dates.

We have to welcome the following new arrivals to the unit: Signalmen A. Macey (a valuable acquisition to the band), K. Martin, M. Wall, and F. Beard.

## 4th Indian Divisional Signals.

Jubbulpore.

**Ching Ching.**—The outstanding event of the last month was the return to the fold of the 9th Indian Infantry Brigade Section (commanded by Capt. C. A. Murray) from China.

It was only by a great effort that the following notes were extracted from Sergt Lemon, for with becoming and characteristic modesty the "Chinks" Section prefer to tell us of the good time they had socially rather than of the real hard work they must have put in during their stay in the Settlement at Shanghai. They can rest assured that they have worthily upheld the good name of the Corps, and that this is appreciated by those of us who unfortunately had to stay in India, as the warmth of their reception on returning here will testify.

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The work we were called upon to carry out in Shanghai was entirely foreign to that for which we had been trained. This will readily be understood when I say that Shanghai compares favourably, as regards size and its buildings, with any of the large provincial cities of England. The Settlement has a frontage of about eight miles on the river Whangpoo, and one can wander as far as ten miles from the river and still be in the International Settlement.

Our brigade consisted of two British and two Indian battalions, and, with the assistance of a battalion of the Royal Marines from home, its job was to protect the Settlement, first from the rabble of a defeated Northern Army and later from the elated Southerners. The defence scheme was prepared and, as is now known, worked successfully.

Our first billet after disembarkation was at the Chartered Bank, in which a forty-line switchboard was already installed by the Shanghai Telephone Company, who had taken in hand the provision of lines to vital points and individuals to whom telephones were absolutely necessary. I do not think it is generally realised what a fine piece of work these people carried out. This communication was supplemented by a despatch-rider letter service of dimensions so huge that our largest traffic schemes in Jubbulpore pale into insignificance in comparison. For the first couple of weeks everyone worked like a Trojan, and we were very glad when the Divisional Signals arrived from home. In a very short time communication was established by line all round the defence system. Battalions were linked with their Companies; Companies with their picquets; and we began to think that every sentry would eventually have his own telephone.

The arrival of a complete brigade from England, speedily followed by a second, brought about a re-organisation of the force, and the Settlement was divided into areas, each allotted to a brigade. Our brigade took over the eastern area, and this involved a move. We bade adieu to our home in the Chartered Bank, and established ourselves, with brigade headquarters, in a school in Kungping Road—an ideal spot, situated in pleasant grounds. The allotment of areas eased the situation greatly, and the hectic rush of the first couple of weeks was soon a memory only. Henceforth our work was such that, although greatly in excess of what a Brigade Section is normally expected to deal with, it could be disposed of with comparative ease.

We bring back nothing but pleasant recollections of the good folk of Shanghai, who surely are the most hospitable people in the world. In a place so cosmopolitan, the spirit of camaraderie was wonderful. We renewed our acquaintance with the American soldier, and if he thinks us wonderful, well, "the same to you, Sammy, with bells and musical honours."

The splendid send-off from Shanghai and the great welcome we received on our return to Jubbulpore will not readily be forgotten by the China Section.

**The Weekly Wail.**—Why is it, when we take to our pews on Sunday morning, most of us are reduced to such a sticky state of doddering impotence? Is it the long-drawn-out inspection or the perspiring march before breakfast? Is it the prospect of sitting in the rear, and being expected to take an enlightened interest in a sermon we cannot hear?

The answer is emphatically in the negative, for are we not reconciled to such callous proceedings as inspections, long marches in tight tunics, and listening patiently to lengthy rhetoric?

Then what is it that ruffles our customary sangfroid on the Sabbath morning? (No prizes are offered for the correct solution, as only two or three Scotsmen attend the Church of England parade service. That they would deliberately guess wrong is a certainty. The others have no need to guess.)

It is the Pipers, the Pied Pipers, P——'s Pied Pipers, the Puerile Pied Pipers, who provoke us. We march from our lines in comparatively pleasant spirits, and all goes well until we bump into the S.T.C. church party. Their Primary Piper leers at us in a manner which suggests that he is about to connive at our discomfiture, and sure enough, if that be his object, we give him best. He gives a raucous signal and the resultant woeful compromise between "The Piper's Lament" and "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" spreads consternation in our serried ranks. The Scotsmen cock their ears, and the Englishmen bemoan the fact they have no cotton wool with them to stick into theirs; for what is nectar to the soul of a Scotsman is purgatory to the musical ear of the Sassenach. Personally, I imagined that Webb's cornet and Chapman's fiddle were the limit in intolerable musical instruments, but give me *them* every time, now that church parades are a regular institution.

The Irishmen maintain a stoic indifference.

As we pass the Veterinary Hospital, the nonplussed nags neigh in their nausea, and the militant mules moan miserably, but the Pipers still keep their cheeks and windbags extended to their fullest extent. The big drum beats a slow hundred and twenty, the side drums rattle out a fast hundred and forty, the Pipers endeavour to do both, and the suffering troops have no alternative but to shuffle into a semi-Charleston. A good number of them have Charleston'd vigorously overnight at the Railway Institute and would prefer a more sedate gait, but their efforts to march are set at naught by the Pipers.

Hats off and three hearty cheers to the thoughtful Englishman who decreed that the Pipers should not round Tattenham Corner, for we now get a couple of hundred yards in which to regain our breath (certainly not our tempers) before flopping dazedly into our pews. We do love our little drop of church parade!

JOSOPE.

### Gems of English Verse.

No. 2.—"A Good Way Out."

The Quartermaster's face was sad,
But now, 'tis clear and bright;
And if you'll listen for a while,
The reason I'll recite.

Among his boots and caps and things,
And shirts that stood in quires,
He found one day, to his dismay,
A countless bulk of pliers.

He did not want the space they took
Upon the floor so dusty,
But what just troubled him more
Was the pliers—they were rusty!

At last he thought him of a plan
To rid him of his trouble;
He rushed into the nearest mess,
And quickly had a "double."

He then gathered all the "Div.,"
Both n.c.o.s and men,
And gave them each a pair of pliers
(After signing with a pen.)

A lineman's belt, and then a frog,
Were next upon his mind,
And these were given one to each,
Till none were left behind.

And now as we stand on parade,
You see each son and sire
With lineman's belt, a jack knife,
And a burnished pair of pliers.

—DASH.

## B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, October 20th.

**General.**—Another month has passed, bringing us nearer the proverbial March that one hears continually invoked to roll on. Weird and varied have been the happenings of this month, the chief being the noticeable change for the better in our sports performances. We are getting back to our old form.

The cool weather is arriving, and we have now been turned out from our summer home—the quarters of the married and invalided—and returned to the cheerless barrack-rooms. Oh boy, it's great to feel the cold nip in the morning once again.

**Arrivals.**—We extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to our commanding officer, Capt. R. H. Neale, on his marriage and return from U.K. Lieut. R. J. N. Solly, B Corps Signals, from U.K. (we trust his stay with us will be a pleasant one.) C.S.M. Saunders and family and Sigmn Partington, from Peshawar District Signals.

**Departures.**—Capt. A. B. Bushby, R.Signals, left us for B Corps Signals, and we hope his stay in Pindi will be as pleasant as in Sialkot. Our best wishes and congratulations on his promotion!

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Around this palatial hall there still exists a shortage of data which we hope to rectify in the near future. Nevertheless, we find these few items of interest to note.

The picnic to Head Marala was a huge success, many fish giving up the ghost; but owing to the terrible thirst of the anglers, the "bait" had to be drunk, causing a big handicap in the actual fish return. It's rumoured that Shoey bagged two ducks, but how it was actually done is not known.

We are itching to know if congratulations, etc., will be in order next month, as the probable starter in the Matrimonial Plate Handicap has not made any further announcement. Please do not delay, as Harry Lauder and the A.T. cart are in perfect trim; in fact, the cart has new shafts all ready for the bridal pair.



**Corporals' Mess.**—The chief item of interest, once one pierces the din that strikes one on entering the mess, is the activity of the Literary Society. I am now able to announce the completion of the following beautiful memoirs:—

"Exploits of the Stover," by Corfee Bhoy.
"Acts of Condensation," by W. C. M. Atlas.
"Nightmares and Cries in the Night," by Binder.
"Generals I have mucked in with," by Hizel.
"Ecclesiastical Circles," by Bishop Arnell.
"How I rose from the ranks," by Kartah.
"How it is done in the Gravel Crushers," by Honiton Coll.

Congratulations to Sigmn Crawford on his first step to fame and glory.

**Men's Mess.**—During a respite and lull in the activities of the musical soup drinkers, I gleaned these few interesting facts. One Gildea Singh has created quite a stir amongst the systemizers by indulging in eight annas and a blanket, thereby saving one anna on the bag. Can you beat this, please?

The sweating still continues, but oh! who was the prospective n.c.o found drilling the Aik Nullah, and even ordering mounds of stones to "advance in half sections"?

We hope the person who set his watch by one of "them there deafening nators" did not miss too many parades.

MAX.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Nov. 6th.

**General.**—First, I will take this opportunity—although it seems very early to do so—to wish all our friends and old and new members of the Company, the old yet ever-new greeting: A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Departures.**—During the last month we have lost several old friends who were almost R.E. fixtures. All departed for civvy life, and we wish them the best of luck and early employment, though it does mean working eight hours a day. They had a good send-off at Cairo Station, and kept up the tradition that all Signals are crackers.

**New Draft: Clerk of the Weather.**—Our friend the clerk of the weather has been very kind to our new friends from England. In the space of one week he has treated us to a sandstorm, rain, and an electrical storm. The sandstorm arrived unheralded and unexpected at tea-time, and a certain new lance-corporal (no names, no vodka) having read E. M. Dell in England, fully expected a camel to land in the mess-room, or the N.A.A.F.I. piano to tap him gently on the ear. The rain arrived and departed inside five minutes; still, it rained. Then came the lightning, and even I, with all my long service in the East, have never seen the like of it. Fork lightning every three seconds, and on all night. We are grateful to the C. of W. for proving that life in Egypt is not all sunshine.

**Arrivals (Fourth Time).**—Good heavens! what is all that row? Howls, cheers, catcalls, disjointed snatches of "The troopship's on the tide, my lads," and "Fourteen days C.B." reach my ear. The orderly corporal comes doubling down the road to open the canteen. Following him in a stately manner is an individual in a shell green suit and an Achi Baba stetson. No more peaceful days: Sporty is back from leave in England.

**Schemes.**—Several successful W/T schemes have been recently carried out under the direction of Lieut. Newsom, R.Signals, the majority being 120-watt and C set trials. Even with the departure of old faces, we can still disturb the ether at times.

**Marriages.**—Last month I announced an unexpected marriage. This month I report another, though not quite so unexpected: Sigmn R. Adams (ex-boy) to Ida Santina Cucinotta (have I spelt it right, Ray?) Anyway, here's the best; ex-boys never die, they simply fade away. He told me that half a barrel was left after the wedding breakfast. I think it's a shame. It's his own fault; he should have invited people. He would then have prevented this dreadful calamity.

**Agony.**—Sigmn J. E. Reed would like to hear from Sigmn Burton (late Leicestershire Regt.).

A certain n.c.o. wishes to inform Corpl R. Sullivan that his reply is long overdue.

Will No. 2314676 Sigmn E. Bloomfield communicate with No. 2315588 Sigmn A. Bloomfield?

If ex-boy Nellie Raymond will communicate with Jerry Barnard, he will hear of something to his advantage. Jerry desires to know what he got for the bike.

**A Fool and his Money.**—Five minutes in this land is sufficient for a man to learn that the natives are fully aware of the import of the above saying. Is this not bad enough, without having one's fellow-countrymen rubbing things in by inserting such queerly-worded advertisements in some magazines as have appeared lately. Aha! there goes the tea whistle. Up and away to the mess-room, to partake of a portion of Chivers' very best jam.

C. and D.

**Wireless Camera Club.**—The longest outing attempted by the above Club was successfully carried out at Ismailia from 9th to 14th October. Ismailia is the centre from which work on the Suez Canal was carried out. The town, which is typically French, is the most beautiful of its kind in Lower Egypt. The broad clean streets and cool damp atmosphere proved a very welcome change after the dust and heat of Cairo. Camp was made in a palm grove just outside the town.

One evening it was reported by the Military Police that a certain sergeant and four signalmen had been seen passing down Rue Negrelli clad in *towels*. This, unfortunately, was a misrepresentation of facts. It seems that the adventurous five had set out for a day's yachting on Lake Timseh and the Suez. On reaching the Sinai side of the Canal, a sandstorm suddenly swept down and upset their calculations (among other things). After many unsuccessful attempts at launching the felucca, they got away—to the tremulous rendering of "A life on the ocean wave," I am told—and proceeded to lose the oars after having had the sail torn to shreds over their heads (?) This left them adrift in the path of oncoming liners, with only half a bottle of Pilsner as sustenance. They were eventually rescued, scolded, and brought home by a pilot boat of the Canal Company. The Mayoress of Ismailia inspected the party as they passed through the town in state!

A curious point is, how a 6-foot inhabitant of Moascar managed to spend several hours asleep on a sideboard 3-feet long.

Peter and the dogs had several enjoyable nights. After feeding one of the latter on choice tit-bits for several days, it turned round and left its mark in eighteen places on the writer's anatomy. Was it caused by those dumplings of King's, or by my Polygon rarebit?

Lieut. Kennett, Royal Signals, paid us a brief visit on the fourth day.

From remarks passed here and elsewhere, I gather that the average outsider's idea of this Club is that each member carries about a huge camera with which he photographs everything in view. This is not the case. Out of a membership of nearly one hundred, I find that approximately fifteen possess cameras. The remainder became members for the privilege of attending outings, the majority of which are run to normally inaccessible places. Now, you fellows of the new drafts, can you get a six-day holiday in England which includes a hundred mile railway journey, a thoroughly enjoyable time, good food, and convivial company, for seventeen shillings and sixpence? I think not! Yet such was the case on the trip described above. Make a point of putting aside five piastres out of your first fifty, for the entrance fee. There is no further subscription in any shape or form. An up-to-date dark room is provided for your convenience. You will find that five piastres the best investment you have made for a long time.

W. E. C.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Polygon, Nov. 2nd.

**Musketry.**—The annual musketry course was completed during the past month, and all are thankful that the daily trek over the sands to the ranges is ended. The Company average is slightly higher than that of last year, being 72.5 per man.

**Departures.**—We bade farewell to the undermentioned on their departure for the United Kingdom per "City of Marseilles" on October 15th: Signalmen W. Hyde, W. Rose, H. Finnigan, G. E. Heath, J. Woodfield, A. Richmond, H. Wilson, Drivers B. Crewe and G. Ratledge. We trust they have all arrived safely in the land of eternal rain by now. Rumours reached here after the departure of the train that various casualties were occurring en route, such as falling out of the train, being left behind in refreshment bars, etc. However, as no one has returned, we presume they got aboard with the "housey-housey" all serene. We shall miss Sigmn Richmond very much in the forthcoming boxing championships, and his place in the Corps team will be very hard to fill.

**Postings.**—C.Q.M.S. A. G. Dorrington has been posted to No. 1 Company Egypt Signals, w.e.f. 19/10/27. Cpl H. Bennett has been posted to this Company from the C.S.O.'s Directorate w.e.f. 17/10/27.

**Appointments.**—Congratulations to A/L/Corpl A. E. J. Hewson (Tubby) on attaining a first grip on that elusive and mythical baton.

**Fires.**—There has been a remarkably large number of fires in the Garrison during the past month, the last one being in the married quarters close to the camp. At this latter fire, the Signals fire brigade was called out and rendered good work in quenching the flames and salving property.

**Accidents.**—A/L/Corpl H. H. Wright met with a rather serious motor-cycle accident during the past month, receiving injuries to his head through which it was feared that he might lose the sight of his left eye. Happily, he is now well on the way to recovery; and for the information of old members of the Company, we have to report that, though he is suffering from a slightly misplaced jaw through a fracture, the famous "million dollar smile," if rather lop-sided, is still there.

**Queries.**—Quite a few curious personnel of K Section have been making enquiries from whence the Black Panther, whoever he may be, derives his Hunnish look when completing a cross-country run. Perhaps the panther in question can give them some information.

Another anonymous writer has asked me to enquire if Robboy is seriously intending to take up mangel-wurzel producing in co-operation with the Black Panther on their return to civilian life? Though I may divulge no names, he achieved fame over a "moucian" about two months ago.

**Good Intentions.**—Tubby's certainly were, when he filled in an allotment form at the commencement of last month. However, on the last day of the month concerned, the usual cancellation took place, and urgent letters despatched for the proceeds.

**Gardens.**—It would gladden the eyes of many a gardening expert in Blighty if he could see some of the finely arranged and cared for gardens outside some of the Section huts in this unit. The enthusiastic amateur gardeners of K and H Sections have some remarkably fine gardens, all prepared in their spare time. The garden of H.Q. Section is also progressing at a remarkable pace, a large hole being dug by the Section gardening expert about a month ago, which is greatly appreciated by the Section members, and more so by the late home-comers who will persist in falling in the hole. Yet the expert in question disclaims the honour of what he has done!

**Sights Worth Seeing.**—Mulligatawny on a cross-country run! The Signals Fire Brigade in action!

**The Joke of the Season.**—Tubby's allotment!

**A Life's Ambition Achieved.**—When Bill Hyde stepped aboard the "City of Marseilles" at Port Said on October 15th.

**S.O.S.**—Will Sigmn Whitworth, more famous as Snowie, please communicate with Farrier-Corporal Donnellan (urgent).

Dvr V. Hammond would like to hear from Sigmn Usk, last heard of at Aldershot many moons ago.

ART.

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, Oct. 12th.

**General.**—Finding notes for THE WIRE is a hard job, as so very little happens here, life being "one darned thing after another." However, one must think of old Hongkongites, and drop a few lines of our doings as far as they go.

The excitement of the trooper is still very high, and the usual rumours of buckshee years, etc., are going the rounds. Despite these, we are sure of despatching our party.

On looking through the September WIRE, we recognised quite a number of old hands as being booked for service abroad. We are surprised, but wish them the best of everything! We trust that the move to India of Barleux will not prevent the appearance of "Plain Tales" from that clime.

As these notes will appear in the December issue, we take this opportunity of wishing all ranks of the Royal Signals, both at home and abroad, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Cups.**—On entering the Signals barrack-room, one's eye catches the fine array of silver cups resting on the mantelshelf. These are the results of Signal victories on the tennis courts and billiard tables—now added to by the Bridgland trophy, kindly presented by our C.S.O. The trophy, a silver "Jimmy" mounted on a black stand, is awarded to the half-Section with the highest average at the annual musketry course. To date, the Left-half Section (indoor staff) have been the winners on two occasions, but the Right-half (linemen) will try hard next year to have their monogram engraved on the third silver disc.

**Sports Meeting.**—On Saturday, October 8th, the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals held their annual general sports meeting, when the following Signals were elected on the management committee: L/Sergt Withers (seniors) and Sigmn White (juniors). We look to the above to get things cracking.

**Mess News.**—The Royal Engineers w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess (of which Royal Signals are hon. members) were at home to H.M.S. "Durban" on October 7th. A games tourney took place, the mess doing quite well. Later in the evening an impromptu concert was given, the mess once again doing well in more ways than one. Fred, you certainly missed your calling when you enlisted. The evening was terminated with the Canteen march past ("For he's a jolly good fellow").

**A Short Story.**—A few members of the mess gathered together at 6 p.m. for a quiet chat and a drink. Someone mentioned Woolwich; then our Fred commenced to argue, and with the aid of match boxes convinced his weary listeners and—Time was called!

**Here and There.**—They are together again (this is nothing to do with the story of that name), the old firm of Withers and Worrall, this time in the rôle of valuers and estimators.

We seem to be unlucky with our W/T personnel, having five out of eight on the sick list. However, we are carrying on with the help of the 15th Infantry Brigade Signals.

Daisy Winters sends her love to Olive, and requests her to be good during her tour in India.

Hong Kong rainfall to date (only this year) is 100.77 inches. Sure, some rain!

**Another Short Story.**—Jim (meeting friend whose dog does not seem too friendly): "Keep your bally dog away, Bill."

Bill: "Don't be afraid, Jim; he won't bite you."

Jim: "I don't know so much about that; he is barking enough."

Bill: "Don't take any notice of his barking; you know the old slogan, 'Barking dogs never bite,' eh?"

Jim: "Yes, I know the slogan, and you know it, but does the bally dog know it?"

JOINT BOX.

## Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta.
November 10th.

**Seasonable.**—We wish everyone, at home and beyond our little island, a Merry Christmas. We would specially like to mention old members of the Malta Signal Section. We hope that, though they be far from *sunny Malta* (the island of history and romance, etc.) they will yet have sunny days in their various abodes.

**Three Broken Hearts.**—A sad event took place last month. Three jolly signalmen, shipwrecked on the island, suffered the poignant grief of watching their relief ship come and go, leaving them still stranded. They were fully prepared, their kits were on the quay, their minds were taking fancy flights to the green fields of Old England, when, the very day before they were due to leave, the powers-that-be said "No, they must stay."

Curse it! that banjolele still haunts us night and day, chasing all our joys away. Roll on, that happy day when Pigeon leaves for England.

**General.**—L/Corpl Walters and Sigmn Alexander (one of the unfortunate castaways) have gone on detachment to Calafranca, the R.A.F. base out here. We hope Taffy, who always had a weakness for the fair sex, will not become too flighty and cause any moths to singe their wings or planes to crash.

The Mediterranean Fleet has returned to Malta for a few months, after a long summer cruise. The boys in blue liven things up out here, and help to make life worth while.

Once more the music halls (highbrow, out here, for numerous "King's Heads") ring with the playful laughter of the Matloes, and prizes for tombola at the Vernon United Services Club soar in the region of forty quid.

NUTTY.

## 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

### (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

November 5th has long been famous for certain rites in connection with Guy Fawkes, fireworks, etc.; but this year the glorious "Fifth" was made famous by the fact that on that date the 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals (Middesex Yeomanry) gave their first dance of the season at the headquarters of the Westminster Dragoons, Everton Street, Westminster.

This dance was extremely well attended by members of the regiment and their many friends, and from the general appearance of those present there is no doubt as to the success of the evening, which augurs well for the dances to follow. For the benefit of interested readers, our next dance will take place at the same place on December 3rd.

As to training, matters are now progressing, and by the time this reaches our readers we shall be well into our winter training. Recruits are coming along very well, both in quantity and quality. In fact, our R.S.M. has been suffering from a crick in the neck through having to look up at such an acute angle when talking to them; and as they are well-proportioned and physically very fit, it behoves us to keep them as friends rather than enemies.

We have unhappily a loss to report, in that Sergt Hayton has been translated to higher spheres, being honoured with a commission in the R.F.A. The writer is informed that 2/Lieut Hayton has been given charge of the equitation for his Battery; and if this is the case, the right man is in the right place for once, for he does know something about riding—and so he ought, if service in a Regular cavalry regiment counts for anything.

Mr. Hayton looks very well in the regalia pertaining to his rank, and it was only with an effort that the writer refrained from greeting him in the accustomed style, which, however well it might fit the sergeant, is not at all suitable to the dignity of a commission. However, good hunting, sir! and may we live to see you the C.O. of your new unit. Don't forget, however, that once a Yeoman always a Yeoman.

Of course, as a technical unit we have a fair sprinkling of Post Office engineers among us. A sure way of rousing them from their Civil Service apathy is to ask them how the new automatic exchange at Holborn is functioning. When you do ask this question, be quite sure there is an open door near, and be ready to nip off quickly.

## 26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Duke of York's Headquarters.
Chelsea, S.W.1.

Some talk of Alexander and some of Hercules. And some don't. Some of my contemporary correspondents (rather good, that) tell funny stories, or describe with great gusto the whist drive held in the sergeants' mess, who won the first prize (a pair of quart tankards), who was seen holding hands on the stairs, and what Sergeant Bearsbreath's wife told him when they got back to quarters.

It must be nice to be a correspondent for a crush like that. Nobody here knows any funny stories (except Sergt Pratt, and his aren't printable), and our mess drives are such boring affairs. At least, so I am told, as I have never attended one.

Come to think of it, though, I do recollect hearing of one gentleman who shall be nameless. Wearing his "blues" home to save time, as the hour was very late, he packed his civvies in a brown paper parcel, and on arriving at his door in the early hours of the morning, discovered that his door-key was in the trouser pocket of his civvies, that he had no knife or matches with which to break the very stout string with which he had securely tied the parcel, and that he could not untie the knots.

No prizes are offered for the answer to the problem "How did he get indoors without waking the wife?"—but to save you any undue brain-fag, I will say that I believe the correct answer is, "He gnawed through the string with his teeth."

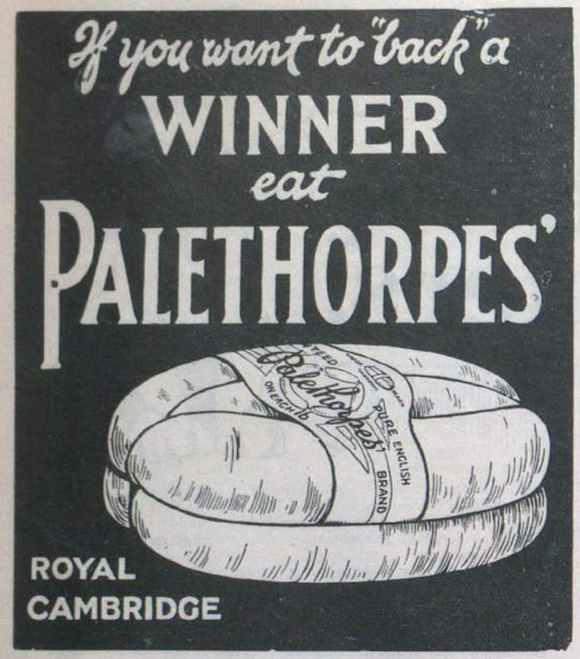
Much to your disgust, gentle reader, I have succeeded in distracting your attention while I wandered half-way down this column. I have only the other half to do now, and I have bags of material.

**Annual Smoking Concert.**—We held our annual smoking concert on Tuesday, November 1st, as usual, and it was very gratifying to see how the fellows turned up in such strength. Numbers of our comrades whom we had given up as lost, "on the wire," or "gassed in the knees," came along; in fact, I think there was a 100 per cent. attendance. The Bolshevik Corporal was there, and our young friend who "always puts his foot in it," the fasting man who likes duff, and the "derac merchant" were also among those present. Splendid! The adjutant took advantage of this and paid out the bounty, much to the surprise of all present.

The concert was exceptionally good. You (and by "you" I mean my contemporary correspondents) will have to go a long way to put up such a galaxy of stars as we do in this unit. We regret that our pet tenor had another engagement, and there is no doubt that to round off the evening we should have had "A bachelor gay am I." But despite these drawbacks, a splendid evening was enjoyed by all, as they say in the local papers.

**Recruits.**—We still have a few vacancies for likely lads, and I again extend a hearty invitation to any time-expiring man who would like to keep his hand in. A pamphlet giving particulars of enlistment, social activities, etc., can be obtained from the Orderly Room, Duke of York's Headquarters (address as above).

**Dances.**—We held our first dance of the season at headquarters on October 29th, and I am glad to say it was a great success.





It may be bad form to wash one's dirty linen in public, but I think a personal note to our own members is necessary here. As a war-time sergeant-major of my acquaintance once said, "I was sorry to see a large number of absent faces there"; and there is no doubt that these dances, which after all are organised for the amusement of members of the unit, are not patronised by those people as they should be.

Why? We have a good floor, a good band, the price of admission is only 1s. 6d (or 2s. 6d. a double ticket), and there is a *wet* and dry canteen. Dances will be held throughout the season on the last Saturday of each month, and I can guarantee that they will be jolly good fun.

**Late News.**—As we go to press (or rather, to typewriter) we learn that Nutty was married at Brighton a short time ago. This accounts for the moony look that has been on his face for some months, and which was a cause of much anxiety to his friends. Cheer up, Nutty! married men don't *really* live longer; it only *seems* longer!

## 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

A Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to everybody!

Our annual prize distribution will be held on December 3rd. Below we give the names of winners of the principal prizes and trophies.

**Inter-Company Challenge Trophy.**—Awarded annually to the Company gaining the highest number of points in general efficiency during the training season. No. 3 Company (Capt. R. Lazenby).

**The Roberts Cup.**—Presented by Major A. Roberts, M.C., and awarded annually to the Section gaining the highest number of points in general efficiency during the training season. A (W/T) Section (Lieut. E. L. Ellis).

**Telegraph Company Challenge Cup.**—Formerly the property of the East Lancs. Divisional Telegraph Coy. R.E. Awarded annually to the most efficient Cable Detachment. No. 1 Detachment (L/Sergt S. Thomas).

**Special Merit Prizes.**—Awarded by the commanding officer to the w.o. or n.c.o. and man who have given the most meritorious service to the Corps during the past year. Sergeant T. Murphy (No. 3 Company), and Sigmn C. Smith (No. 2 Coy.).

We very heartily congratulate all the prize winners.

It was with considerable anxiety that we heard of the very serious illness of Capt. Samuels. He has now passed the danger point, and that his recovery may be speedy and complete is the earnest wish of all of us.

We welcome to the permanent staff Sergt G. W. Whittington, of 2nd Divl. Signals. He replaces Sergt Smith, who has returned to Aldershot.

December 31st may be the last day of the year, but it is also the date of the next Signals Association carnival dance. For further details "see large bills"—but don't forget to come.

## 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

Our last month's packet of news unfortunately went astray, and consequently failed to secure publication. In them was contained a word of welcome to our new adjutant, Capt. G. W. Odell, of the 2nd Signals, who has taken over from Capt. A. W. Roberts, M.C. We extend a warm welcome to him and hope he will find the position in every respect congenial. He can be sure of one thing, and that is our co-operation.

We are naturally loth to part with Capt. Roberts (or "Robbie," as he is affectionately called) after four years, which seem to have passed all too quickly. He is, by temperament, well suited to the work which a Territorial adjutant has to perform, and his geniality and good humour overcome many an awkward situation. He has been a real glutton for work, and always a willing horse. During his time with us the unit has expanded and has kept its end up everywhere.

Capt. Roberts can look back upon his labour with the Wessex Signals with a great measure of pride, added to which is the knowledge that all he has done for them is appreciated. His never-failing kindness, cheerfulness, goodfellowship and sympathy will always make him friends; and neither he nor any of us will soon forget the friendship and pleasant comradeship of the past four years. He takes with him our sincere goodwill and our friendship, and whenever he returns to pay us a visit he will find us ready to welcome him.

Cheerio, Robbie! The best of good luck to you, to your valuable helpmate, Mrs. Roberts, and to John!

The officers' mess annual dinner was held at our headquarters at Exeter on Saturday, November 5th—fireworks day! It was the best attended and most successful yet held.

The attendance exceeded thirty, and we were honoured by the presence of Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O. (C.S.O. Southern Command), Colonel J. W. Danielson, D.S.O. (D.C.S.O. Southern Command), Colonel G. L. Thornton, M.C. (A.D.M.S. Wessex Division), Colonel G. B. Oerton, T.D. (commanding 6th Devons), and the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Exeter (Col. Ransom Pickard, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.). We were sorry not to have had with us our hon. colonel (Col. H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O.) who was unfortunately unable to be present.

Lieut.-Col. W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C. (our C.O.) in speaking of Capt. Roberts' departure, referred to the qualities which he possessed, and which made him so popular and successful.

Capt. Roberts, in his reply, gave the Terriers a good boosting up for the hard work they undertook and the time they gave up to the cause they had at heart. He said he felt sure the Wessex Signals would continue to prosper under Capt. Odell's adjutancy. He thanked everybody for their kind wishes for his future welfare.

The evening went swimmingly, thanks to all the forethought and hard work of our P.M.C. (Capt. R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E.) who is another of the team of willing horses, and one who never leaves anything to chance.

On Armistice Night, following the precedent of former years, No. 1 Company sat down to their annual feast. There were close upon a hundred present, and the happy gathering was presided over by Major J. W. Western, T.D. (O.C. the Company) supported by Lieut.-Col. W. G. Michelmore, Capts. Roberts, Odell and Cummings.

A nice combination of speech and song—some of the old songs, too—made things go merrily, and the function was in every respect a success. Here, again, the affection with which our retiring adjutant is held by the troops was demonstrated in a most remarkable manner. The new adjutant (Capt. Odell) also caught on, and his few crisp remarks went home nicely.

All seems to be going well with the Wessex Signals, and as this issue of THE WIRE is really the Christmas number, we send our most cordial greetings to all WIRE readers, and especially to our parent body, the 3rd Signals.

OLD SPARK.



## 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

### No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

October 16th.

Here we are again, after an absence of three months, but owing to the—er—well, anyhow, we are here; and we take the opportunity of congratulating all officers and other ranks of the unit who assisted in bringing back the Middlesex Justices' shield, the Sir William Crump cup, and the High Sheriff's challenge shield, at the Middlesex and Sussex Infantry Brigade rifle meeting at Bisley on September 11th last. The representatives from this Company were Capt. F. H. Fitzhugh, Sergt C. Trower and Corpl W. Marchant. Sergt H. Lee was also invited, but owing to business he was unable to accept.

**Training.**—Training is still in full swing, concentrated mainly on the new procedure which has recently been thrust upon us through "Signal Training, Vol. V., Parts I. and II." We are now awaiting amendments!

Lieut. K. J. T. Boag has returned from a course with the 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot.

A short week-end scheme was held at Patcham on September 17th and 18th, communication being established by cable and visual. Quite a lot of work was carried out by lamp on the night of the 17th.

**Sports.**—A Sports Club has been formed under the leadership of Capt. F. H. Fitzhugh, and according to the number of entries in the various sections, it appears that it will prove very successful. It is now up to the captains of the respective sections to get things going. We have already started miniature rifle practice, and prospective Bisley entrants have been busy.

**Dances.**—Now that innumerable other attractions at Brighton are falling off, we have resumed the usual season dances, and will continue twice monthly in conjunction with 389th Battery R.A. and Sussex Heavy Brigade. The first dance was held on October 10th and was excellently supported, there being four officers and approximately two hundred other ranks and friends present.

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November 14th.

**Casualties.**—Better late than never, the following are congratulated on their promotion or appointment: Corpl T. Cripps to L/Sergeant (paid). L/Corpl A. Peirson to Corporal. Sigmn G. H. French and Sigmn F. L. Robinson to L/Corporals.

**Musketry.**—Musketry training has been completed for the year, and an average of 60.5 was obtained. From the results recently shewn on the miniature range, this average will no doubt be increased next year. Capt. F. H. Fitzhugh was successful in producing the highest score of the Company—94; the next best being 87 by Sigmn Pickett.

**Company Dinner.**—By the time these notes appear, the Company dinner will have been held. More of this next month (referring to the notes, of course!)

**Miniature Rifle Club.**—Congratulations are extended to C.Q.M.S. Ewald on winning the silver spoon in the first club shoot (needless to say, his handicap goes up next time). Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to produce a *wooden* one.

**Greetings.**—The opportunity is taken to wish all ranks of the Corps at home and abroad "A Merry Christmas and very prosperous New Year."

B. B.

## 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

### Annual Training at Shorncliffe, Kent.

Detraining at Shorncliffe in the brilliant sunlight of a glorious September Sunday morning, we had at last arrived in the promised land—the land, at least so far as a Territorial Signal Company is concerned, of reality, where make-believe communications are at an end, and where it must be the real thing or nothing.

*Rise & Shine!*

For a quick, brilliant and lasting shine WREN'S Boot Polishes and Creams are unequalled. Made from pure wax, WREN'S renders the leather soft, pliable and waterproof. Obtainable from all Army Canteens and Stores.

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Tins—Black, Brown, White, Dark Tan and Tony ... ... Prices, 2d. 4d. 6d. and 9d.
Creams in "Chubby" Jars ... Price 6d.

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From the moment in April when it had been decided that we were to have the honour of replacing the 4th Divl. Signal Company (absent in China) in the 4th Division collective training in Kent from the 11th to 25th September, we had strained every effort to make ourselves fit for the job, and to make as certain as we could that Territorials, as represented by us, would put up a good show among their Regular comrades.

Our new No. 3 Company not yet having been formed at Darlington, we mustered eight officers and about 220 n.c.o.s and men:—

Lieut.-Colonel A. MacLeod, the Commanding Officer.
Capt. P. Jennings, M.C., the Adjutant.
Capt. T. Jameson, the Quartermaster.
Capt. G. H. Walton, Lieut. T. S. Mensley, and 91 n.c.o.s and men—No. 1 Company, from Gateshead-on-Tyne.
Capt. T. T. J. Sheffield, Lieut. J. H. Middleton, M.C., 2/Lt J. G. Hopkins, and 94 n.c.o.s and men—No. 2 Company, from Middlesbrough.
Lieut. J. F. C. Park and 17 n.c.o.s and men—No. 206 M.A. Brigade Section from Sunderland.
C.S.M. Williams and one man—No. 3 Coy. from Darlington.
R.S.M. Legg and R.Q.M.S. Burrows—Headquarters, from Darlington.

A special train had been arranged, starting from Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the night of September 10th, and each Company was picked up at its respective station. We arrived at Shorncliffe about 9 a.m., to be met by the C.O. and Adjutant, both of whom had gone in advance.

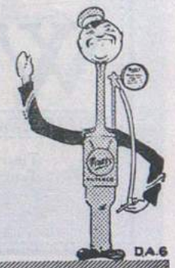
The Adjutant had the operation of detraining worked out in minute detail, and it was carried out with a minimum of fuss and in good time. The 4th Divl. Signal Company were lending us horses and wagons, and these came from Colchester by a special train which arrived immediately after our own; and the whole unit, personnel, stores, horses and wagons, were clear of the station about two hours after arrival.

The detrainment of the horses was very materially helped by the efficiency and forethought shown by Major A. G. J. Copeland, Royal Signals, O.C. 4th Divl. Signal details. Each horse had been properly fitted with harness before leaving Colchester. The horses were then numbered and labelled, and the harness rolled up in blankets and similarly treated. All we had to do

Change over to

Pratts

instead of changing down!



D.A.6

on arrival at Shorncliffe was to find a horse and bundle of harness of the same number, and put them together. This saved us an enormous lot of work. Our first resolution was that we would endeavour to return horses and harness in the same condition.

**Arrival in Camp.**—Our march into camp was commented on in *The Times* of September 12th. We spent the remainder of the day in settling down, overhauling stores, and generally getting ready for the work which was before us.

We learnt on arrival that the first week was to be devoted to our own training, and that the vital test was to come during the second week, when we were to do the Divisional communications on one two-day operation and one three-day scheme. There was one exception to this, in so far as our D.R.s under 2/Lieut Hopkins were detailed to partake in two inter-brigade exercises during the first week. These duties, we are given to understand, they carried out, in spite of great difficulties, with efficiency and credit.

Owing to our being short of a No. 3 Company, and to both Nos. 1 and 2 Companies being slightly under strength, it was necessary, on arrival in camp, to more or less pool our resources, and the unit was organised for the work in hand as follows:—

Cable Sections—O.C., Capt. T. T. J. Sheffield. Two horse-drawn Detachments (Lieuts J. H. Middleton, M.C., and R. H. Copeland). Two tractor-drawn Detachments (Lieutenant K. E. Holmes).

Wireless—O.C., Lieut. T. S. Mensley. Two "A Set" Detachments with sets. Two "30-Watt" Detachments with sets.

D.R.s—O.C., 2/Lieut. J. G. Hopkins. Twelve motor cyclists. Five push cyclists.

Signal Office Personnel—O.C., Capt. G. H. Walton. Four Signal Office reliefs, complete with Technical Stores and Motor Transport.

We were fortunate in having sent to us, for the period of our training, two regular subalterns from Catterick—Lieuts K. E. Holmes and R. H. Copeland—both of whom were attached to the Cable Detachments. They rendered most useful service, and we hope they gained some valuable experience.

There were also attached for part of the time, Lieut J. W. Levack, from the 51st Highland Divl. Signals, and Lieut. W. F. Billingham, from the 46th Divisional Signals.

There are two matters which might be commented on before describing the details of training: the draw-bar connection between a tractor and a cable wagon (designed by Col. A. MacLeod) and the portable Signal Clerk's registration box (designed by Capt. P. Jennings, M.C.). Both these contrivances proved most useful, and might well be adopted for use in the Royal Corps of Signals generally. They were described in detail in *The Times* of September 16th.

**Details of Training.**—Monday, September 12th, was spent by the various Sections outlined above in practising the duties involved in their respective spheres.

Tuesday and Wednesday were occupied in carrying out two Signal exercises in the country, the details of which had been worked out most thoroughly by the Adjutant.

The first, on Tuesday, consisted of an Advance Guard action. The second, on Wednesday, consisted of a Rear Guard action.

All lines were left out on Tuesday night in order to facilitate the commencement of the scheme on Wednesday. The various formations took up on Wednesday morning the positions they left at the conclusion of the scheme on Tuesday evening.

It should be explained, in connection with these schemes, that no one knew beforehand what was going to happen, and therefore any "intelligent anticipation" which was indulged in was purely speculative and dangerous.

The operations on Wednesday were witnessed by Col. H. A. Vernon, D.S.O., C.S.O. Eastern Command, who was kind enough to express himself as pleased with what he saw.

G. H. W.

*(To be continued).*

## 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

### Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

Owing to a miscalculation of dates, last month's notes did not arrive in London until after the Magazine was made up; consequently, they were not included in the November issue. We very much regret this mistake, but readers may rest assured that it shall not occur again; it was (as the butcher said when he put the meat in the sausage) a genuine mistake.

Sixty-hour courses are now in full swing, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Companies each running one. I can foresee fierce competition for the Holmes shield next year, as it is by winter training that it will be won as sure as "heggs is heggs." No. 1 Company have a firm grip on this trophy, but I have no doubt Nos. 2 and 3 will give them a severe run for it next year. However, as this was the intention of the donor of the shield, the more friendly competition indulged in, the better for all parties.

Our after-camp smoking concert was held in the men's recreation room on September 27th. Phew! what a night! Our guests for the evening included Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., Lieut.-Colonel T. Gordon, Major A. R. Mutch, R.A., Capt. B. H. House, Dr. J. Levack, and all officers. A very pleasant evening was spent in song and story.

Not to be outdone, the sergeants' mess held a smoker on the 18th October. Phew! what another night! Owing to illness, Colonel Forsyth was unable to be present. His absence was very much felt by all present. However, we will have him at the next one. Major R. Nicol, O.B.E., was also unable to be present owing to a previous engagement. Capt. B. H. House, Capt. T. P. E. Murray, and Lieut. J. W. Levack were present, and right well they enjoyed themselves. Hon. members were welcomed by the chairman, R.S.M. Andrews, M.B.E., who spoke of the improved condition of the mess, both socially and materially. Mr. J. Munro, on behalf of the hon members, made a very fitting reply.

I have made one or two attempts to record some of the yarns told, but as the paper showed signs of scorching I have had to desist. Many were the songs sung, the best being a very fine rendering of the old English ballad, "William the Nautical Gent," sung by a famous trio. I have been asked not to mention their names, as they are inundated with requests for their company by all and sundry, including the local Band of Hope. I have been asked to deny the statement of some malicious person that the noise woke the policeman on duty. I understand the Union of Slops is considering an action for libel.

We have just had a flying visit by Lieut.-Colonel Willan, D.S.O., M.C., O.C. 1st Divl. Signals, who expressed himself delighted with all he saw at headquarters. We hope his visit will only be the forerunner of many from our sister Division—or should it be *brother* Division? Never mind; just roll up, 1st, and we'll make you welcome—sisters as well.

The officers' annual dinner was held this year at Perth. They have had one at Kirkcaldy, Stirling and Aberdeen, and of course they cannot go back to any of these places, so it had to be Perth. It is expected to take place in Dublin next year; that is, if the Dublinese don't get wind of it beforehand.

We are now the proud possessors of a miniature rifle range at Fonthill. A competition for all T.A. units at Fonthill Barracks was held on the opening night, and of course No. 1 Company "walked it." It may be that the prize of ten shillings each stimulated them to efforts hitherto unknown, but there it is; they won easily.

A Miniature Rifle Club has been formed, and it is hoped that by next year we may have an inter-Company shoot. I'm sure the R.S.M. could scrounge another cup.

Our very grateful thanks go out to the gentlemen whose generosity made the forming of a club possible. I refer to Col. H. Leigh, Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, Major R. Nicol, and Capt. B. H. House, who each presented a miniature rifle to the club. Not only was their gift very much appreciated, but the knowledge that we have such good friends, to whom we can turn in time of need, is very deeply appreciated.

Congratulations to R.S.M. C. F. Andrews, M.B.E., on being allowed to continue in the Service for another year, making a total of twenty-two years' service—a really great record. One wonders what he would do if he left us? Probably hang around the office door, ready to be called in, in the event of a tricky piece of—no, not wangling—diplomacy having to be got through. I think, all things considered, we had better keep him. Don't you?

SMUDGE.

### No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

A-h-h-h! At last we have awakened from the mental torpor which has held us since camp. The absence of notes from No. 2 Company in the last two issues is a matter for sincere regret, but now a start has been made we may make a strong finish.

Camp is now a memory; whether one to retain or forget is a matter for individual taste. We revelled in the hard work, and after the experience we can resume this winter's training with zest engendered by the knowledge that we are on the correct lines.

Hitherto, from a sporting point of view, we have been able to hold our heads erect amongst the best. This year, however, No. 2 is in the doldrums: the prize list makes sad reading. However, it's a change! and like all others, lightsome. We hope to do better than ever next year.

What a shambles the drill hall presented on our arrival from camp. The alterations had left a mess! but with the aid of a few ardent spirits the place was soon like a quarter-deck, and now we have a hall which gives rise to a certain amount of pride. The sectional store rooms and the lecture-room are godsends; the former should assist C.Q.M.S. Willie in recovering some of his long-lost youth!

Winter activities are going to cover a wide field: Courses, whist drives, miniature rifle team, and others, all with an eye (or both of 'em) on next year's camp.

No. 2 Company note that Bob had no amendments at the last quarterly meeting. What does it indicate? A fall from grace? a conversion? or is he keeping them all for July, 1928?

Jack repudiates the suggestion that the pipe band caused him discomfort. 'Twas "wuss"—mental disorder! He can almost hear it now and can *almost* appreciate it!

ROCK.

### No. 3 (Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy) Company.

We take the opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to Major R. B. Lockhart, our commanding officer, on his return to the Company after a long spell of convalescence. His absence during the training season was felt by all ranks, and we are pleased to find him again settled down to his old duties.

During his unfortunate absence the Company has been under the able command of Lieut A. T. Wood, assisted by Lieut J. A. Dick. Considerable praise is due to all ranks for the manner in which they have contributed towards the general efficiency of the Company.

The Company has completely settled down after a rather strenuous but very successful year's training. Bounties have been paid out, much to the satisfaction of all ranks.

The G.O.C.'s administrative inspection was carried out on August 20th, and although the date clashed with the work involved in clearing up after camp, he found everything in order, and expressed his complete satisfaction in the general efficiency of the Company.

C.Q.M.S. H. A. Seath has completed all work in connection with stores, clothing, etc., and is now busily engaged in polishing up the cooking utensils and preparing diet sheets for 1928 and 1929.

Our P.S. instructor, Sergt H. R. Cooper, has just returned after twenty-eight days soaking, and has settled down to work with renewed energy. He informs us that a very deep depression was centred over Chatham during the whole of his leave, and that he only had five dry days. We venture to suggest that these were spent in travelling and could not be avoided.

Now that the training season is drawing to a close, we are all looking forward to some pleasant evenings in the form of whist drives and dances. The sergeants' mess is bursting to spend some of its accumulated profits, and I hear the first whist drive and dance will take place next month, when it is hoped that we shall see some of our old friends from Aberdeen and Stirling.

**Experimental Section.**—Considerable interest was displayed in the recent technical experiments carried out by Sergt H. R. Cooper at Dunfermline in connection with "Interference and Jamming," usually associated with the tuning up of pipes. Pipe-Major H. Brand stated that the usual time allowed for tuning was approximately 7½ minutes, and agreed that it would be something in the form of a miracle if this time could be reduced. It was pointed out that although pipe bands usually had ample time at their disposal to get accurately tuned in, considerable inconvenience was always experienced by interaction and induction when the pipes were placed in close proximity.

The first experiment carried out was that of removing all reeds. This was very successful, but on replacing the reeds, it was found that two of the thirteen pipes under test were slightly flat. Variable condensers were then applied, but the time taken to sharpen up the tuning was considered excessive, and this experiment was turned down.

The second experiment was carried out under water, each piper being supplied with a collapsible tank and specially constructed watertight earphones. But no sounds were to be heard, and after a lapse of about fifteen minutes it was thought that success had been reached. At this stage it was observed that



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Old Campaigner

several of the pipers appeared to be in difficulties. After considerable delay and much inconvenience to the spectators, the pipers were finally extracted from the tanks, but unfortunately some of them were in a state of collapse, and the time taken in applying artificial respiration (plus the expense of the stimulant) was again against the experiment.

The third experiment met with complete success, and for the benefit of all concerned, we publish a first-hand account of the proceedings. After the second experiment, all pipes were thoroughly dried and cleaned and the contacts adjusted. The pipes were then placed on ebonite and connected up in series, and finally attached to a four-valve tuned anode transmitter. The rapidity with which the thirteen pipes were tuned-in left all spectators in complete amazement, and after a little practice it was found that even the most inexperienced piper could succesfuily tune-in all pipes in three minutes. In connection with this experiment, it is pointed out that the pipes used were not of a standard pattern, but of a mixed variety, and they varied considerably in resistance and capacity. THREESOME.

## 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, Nov. 14th.

October and November are not busy months for the T.A. soldier. The only training of note has been the week-end course held by the Cable Section, when some exceptionally useful if not very picturesque work was put in. The weather was very kind to us, and the whole day's work was enjoyable. The experiment of having the waggon and saddlery sent out from Cardiff the previous day, and moving men out by motor, proved a great saving of time.

The officers' lectures and exercises still continue, and they, too, have been favoured of the gods as regards weather for their exercises.

There is to be an interesting lecture at Cardiff on November 15th, when a War Office staff officer is lecturing on "Indian Frontier Defence."

The annual Armistice dance held by the w.o.s and n.c.o.s' mess was an unqualified success, and something like four hundred people enjoyed a pleasant evening.

This year there was no Lord Mayor's church parade, but the band took part in a big ex-Service men's parade at Bridgend.

A number of the unit officers had a few hours on horseback last week, when they had a circular tour from Leckwith via Michaelston-le-Pit and Dinas Powis. We wonder, however, if it is true that a certain officer enjoyed his ride most when he was leading his horse?

The unit football team is giving a dance on Thursday next, and it is hoped it will be a great success. An account of the team's fortunes appears in the Sports Notes. [No Sports Notes sent.—ED.]

Rumours of mechanization are rife, but until we see the six-wheelers in the yard, we shall not believe in them.

THE LEEK.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15.

Unit notes for this month will be brief, the writer having only just returned from the Mons pilgrimage, and as usual the writing of notes has been left to the last moment.

Old members of the Corps will be interested to know that Signals were represented at the pilgrimage of Old Contemptibles to Mons by Mr. Jimmy Daw (late A Signal Company), Mr. Hillier (late 5th Divl. Signals) and R.Q.M.S. Sharp (54th Divl. Signals, late 2nd Divl. Signal Company R.E.).

Winter training is progressing in the unit, the classes being well attended.

A dance is to be held at the Town Hall on November 30th, of which more anon.

The unit attended a combined church parade at Stratford Parish Church on Sunday, November 13th. As the accommodation was limited, only fifty o.r.s from each unit could attend. This unit turned out to its full allotment, and was congratulated on its very smart appearance.

An inter-Company boxing tournament was held at headquarters on November 2nd, and some very good fights were put up. Results will be found in Sports Notes. This tournament was more or less an eliminating competition for the local inter-unit tournament at the headquarters of the 6th Battalion Essex Regiment on November 18th. We hope to make a good show and retain the cup which we at present hold.

A hearty welcome is extended to our new P.S. instructor, Sergt C. Warren, who arrived from 2nd Divl. Signals on Sept. 17th in relief of Sergt F. Inman. We trust his stay amongst us will be a pleasant one.

Y. E. D.

## 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

Calthorpe Street, London, W.C.1.

Owing to headquarters being closed for a period following camp, there has been very little outward sign of activity; hence the absence of our notes in the two previous issues. We have got cracking again, however, and are following our usual method of Company training.

It should be recorded that, during the rest period, the members of the permanent staff and a few willing helpers have been very busy in decorating the drill hall, in readiness for the many social events which will be held there during the winter months. They are deserving of the highest praise for the distinctly pleasing appearance which the hall presents.

There is at least one night a year when H.Q. becomes a sort of Mecca, when pilgrims from all parts of 2LO wend their way to Calthorpe Street, and that usually quiet place becomes full of a seething struggling mass of humanity, all fighting to gain admission to a small building known as the home of the local Jimmies.

It was in the evening of Wednesday, November 9th, that I came upon this strange sight, and I wondered whether the Motor-Cycle Show had been transferred there, or perhaps a new cinema was opening with a free night. But suddenly I heard that magic word "Bounty." I paused and pondered; then in a flash it dawned upon me that I, too, was to receive my bounty, so I "mucked in" and joined in the fight for the door.

The unit took part in the observance of the Great Silence on Armistice Day, two members representing us at the Cenotaph, while a party of one officer (Lieut. Dawson) and five other ranks attended the London Troops' memorial service at the Royal Exchange. As one of the latter party, I feel quite safe in saying that although nine years have passed since that first and greatest silence, the memory of those who fell is cherished in the hearts of the nation as much to-day as it was on that great day in November, 1918.

**Regimental Dinner.**—The unit held their regimental dinner on Tuesday, November 22nd, at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, when cups and prizes won during the year were presented.

**Social.**—There have already been a number of highly successful dances held at headquarters. I should like to remind members that these are organised for their benefit, and we should like to see them turn up in greater numbers.

I also extend an invitation to any member of the Corps to call at the drill hall any Saturday evening. I can assure them that they will be made welcome, and spend a very pleasant evening.

**Sport.**—The final of the inter-Company football cup competition will be played on Saturday, November 19th, between Nos. 1 and 2 Companies.

**Marriage.**—Since our last notes, C.Q.M.S. Webb has taken the plunge. Good luck, Freddie!

**N.C.O.s Examination.**—Congratulations to all n.c.o.s who passed the recent examination, especially to Sergt Elliott, who came out on top. (I omitted to mention his Company, as being a member of No. 2 myself, it might be thought that I was boasting, so I shall keep it a dead secret.)

**This Month's Query.**—Who is Cora? Why, Corps o' Signals.

ADSUM.

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We read that 112 miles of silk thread are required to make a classical pair of silk stockings. And still we see much!

* * * *

Industrious people are more likely to live long than those who spend most of their time in idleness.

* * * *

About six hundred tons of coal are used in one day to stoke the railway engines in Great Britain.

* * * *

Honey gathered from heather is claimed to be the best.

## Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

**Rugby.**—Owing to the absence of frost, a good deal of rugby has been played.

Signals (Catterick) started the season with a drawn match v. Gateshead Fell. Score, 3—3.

The Depot and Training Battalions had a tremendous battle, the T.B. winning half a minute before time by 21—20. Both sides played four reserves.

Northallerton was next defeated by 16—0 at Northallerton.

On October 15th we took a poor side to Durham City, and lost by 6—20.

The Training Battalion defeated Darlington Railway by 18—3 after a good game.

An Officers' XV. went to Ampleforth on October 15th, and beat the School by 18—3.

On October 19th a much weaker side of Officers was beaten by 3—26 by St. Peter's School, York.

The Old Leediensians came to us on October 22nd, and after an excellent game we won by 6—3.

On October 29th a weak Signals (Catterick) XV. went to Middlesbrough and lost by 0—18.

The return match against Middlesbrough was played at Catterick a week later. We turned out our best side except for Lieut. Good, Sergt Squirrell (on leave), and Signalmen Hodgkinson and Freeman (both of whom, on the latter's motor-bicycle, lost the battle with an officer's four-seater, and are now in hospital). The game was very even, and neither side scored, though 2/Lieut Tucker nearly dropped a goal in the last few minutes. The forwards played very well indeed, and Sigmn Reeves was the outstanding player on the field. 2/Lieut Smyth and Boy Sadler also played exceptionally well. Middlesbrough had, until this match, won all their matches this season.

Signals "A" XV. went to Darlington and drew at 6—6 with Darlington "A." Sigmn Taylor played brilliantly. A missed place kick in front of goal prevented our team from winning.

We greatly miss the services of Lieuts Thuillier, Hardy, Danby, etc., but luckily 2/Lieuts Wintle, Lewis and Bradford (all "shop" blues) are available, and certain individuals have come on a good deal, so that the team is of about the same strength as last season.

Everybody is looking forward to the two Corps matches against the R.E. and R.M.A., at Aldershot and Woolwich, on November 21st and November 23rd respectively. A full account of both matches will appear in next month's WIRE.

Several matches have been arranged for the Boys, and they started well by defeating the Darlington Juniors by 42 points to nil. All boys play rugby, and unit teams will be greatly strengthened by ex-boys this season and in years to come.

On November 8th the Boys' team ("the Imps") went over to Richmond to play Darlington Grammar School (whose team included three masters and four old boys!). The boys played an amazingly good game, and won by 28 points to nil. Boys Sadler and Kerr were outstanding, and Boys Fraser, Park and McDougall (who dropped a splendid goal) were very good.

The various teams are composed more or less of the following players:—

SIGNALS (CATTERICK)—Capt Owens; 2/Lieuts Bradford, Good, Gray, Harrison, Hoblyn, Hyde, Lewis, Severin, Smyth, Tucker, Wintle and Worrall; Sergt Squirrell; Corpl D. Jones; Signalmen Hodgkinson, Lawton, Reeves and Sutherland; Boy Sadler.

TRAINING BATTALION—Capt. Owens; 2/Lieuts Bradford, Hoblyn, Kealy, Lewis, Scarlett, Shawcross and Wintle; Sergeants Payne and Squirrell; Corpl D. Jones; L/Corpl Murphy; Signalmen Barnett, Birkett, Driscoll and Kelly; Boys Kerr and Sadler.

DEPOT BATTALION—2/Lieuts Bell, Denham-Young, Good, Gray, Harrison, Hyde, Pipe-Wolferstan, Severin, Smyth, and Worrall; Sergts Goodman and Hoare; L/Corpl Howard; Signalmen Dix, Friend, Hodgkinson, Lawton, Reeves, Smee, Sutherland, J. W. Taylor, and White.

SIGNALS (CATTERICK) "A"—Lieut Rogers; 2/Lieuts Kealy and Scarlett; Sergts Herbert, Hillman and Payne; L/Corporals Barlow, Howard and Murphy; Signalmen Barnett, Birkett, Dix, Driscoll, Jenner, Kelly, Park, Richards and J. W. Taylor; Boys Kerr and various other Boys.

BOYS—Boys Bowie, Broom, Burt, Catt, Dologhan, Dymond, Fraser, Gartery, Harbin, Horne, Kerr, Lennon, McCulloch, McDougall, Pope, Ryder, A. T. Smith and Weeks.

The outstanding young players are: Signalmen Sutherland, Birkett, Taylor, Park and Smee, and Boys Sadler, Kerr, Fraser, Broom, Harbin and Burt. There are also others who are very promising and only want more experience.

Rugger players heartily congratulate Capt Owens on his marriage; and also 2/Lieuts Lewis and Wintle on being chosen to play in the final Yorkshire trial.

**Hockey, 1927-1928.**—The first S.T.C. match of the season was played at Bradford against the Bradford Hockey Club.

In spite of a flooded ground and heavy rain, an excellent match resulted in a win for Bradford by 5—3.

Bradford opened the scoring with a fast shot which gave our goal-keeper little chance. Just before half-time, the S.T.C. replied with an excellent goal by Lieut Boyd, off a short corner taken by Dvr Conroy. The score of 1—1 fairly represented the game at half-time.

Signals went ahead by goals scored by Sigmn Gibbons and Lieut Hatfield, and with ten minutes to go, and Signals pressing, it looked like a win for us; but three rapid breakaways in succession let in the Bradford forwards, who scored each time. Just on time a fifth goal by our opponents settled the issue.

It was an excellent game, in spite of the heavy rain and sodden ground, and was exceedingly fast. Capt. Wade and Sergt Carpenter were excellent at back; all the halves were good, clearing the ball quickly and well; the combination of the forwards will be excellent when we can get a dry fast ground. The wings do not sufficiently use the inside pass to their inside forwards, to make them dangerous.

Team.—Goal, Corpl Bremner; backs, Capt Wade and Sergt Carpenter; halves, L/Corpl Foley, Lieut Moore, and L/Corporal Davis; forwards, Sigmn Gibbons, Lieut Hatfield, Major Drayson, Lieut Boyd, Dvr Conroy.

The second match of the season, versus the R.E., was played at Colburn Ground, Catterick, on November 2nd, and resulted in an easy win for us by 8—3, after a hard and fast game.

The match opened with a hot attack by Signals, and four of our forwards each had a shot at goal, all of which the R.E. goal-keeper saved well. A breakaway on the R.E. right wing, and a good centre, gave the R.E. inside left an open goal and put us one down. From the bully-off Signals forced a corner, which was well taken by Sergt Jackson, and Lieut Boyd scored with an excellent shot (his third goal off a corner in two matches). Further attacks by Signals followed from both wings; a good bit of combination on the right, and a good opening by Lieut Boyd, left Major Drayson an easy shot. The R.E. pressed for a bit up to half-time, but no further score took place.

After half-time the R.E. quickly scored again with an excellent shot, from a good centre from the left; 3—2 against us. A rapid ten minutes of good combination gave us four goals very quickly, and just on time a good piece of combination between Sigmn Gibbons and Lieuts Hatfield and Boyd enabled Lieut Hatfield to score a good goal.

Dvr Batcheldor played well in goal, kicking finely and using his usual good judgment in coming out. Capt Wade and Sergt Carpenter were very safe at back, covering each other excellently and clearing well to their wings. The halves were hard working, but not passing quite hard enough to the forwards on the heavy ground; their defence was excellent. Sergt Jackson and Lieut Boyd combined well on the right, and but for the bumpy ground, Sigmn Gibbons and Lieut Hatfield would have both scored a good number of goals.

The goals for us were scored by Sigmn Gibbons, Lieut Hatfield, Lieut Boyd, and Major Drayson (5).

Team.—Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, Capt Wade and Sergt Carpenter; halves, Sergt Hall, Lieut Moore and Lieut Malpass; forwards, Sergt Jackson, Lieut Boyd, Major Drayson, Lieut Hatfield, Sigmn Gibbons.

Lieuts Boyd and Hatfield have been selected to play in the Yorkshire trial match on November 12th.

**S.T.C. Billiards Handicap.**—On Monday evening, November 7th, the final of the S.T.C. billiards handicap was played. Sigmn Sanderson opposed Sigmn Pyke over a course of 200 points, handicaps being doubled accordingly. Sigmn Sanderson started at —100, and Pyke at —60. Sanderson led off in good style with 24, 13, and 17 in quick succession, and averaged nine for his first sixty points. After this the rate of scoring slackened, and Pyke crept up. However, Sanderson was the more consistent player, and with further breaks of 26 and 20 he ran out winner by 46 points. So ended a competition remarkable for its close finishes and the keenness of all players. A word of thanks must be gives to Sergt Terrell for his efforts in organising the events.

**Carrison Billiards League.**—Great enthusiasm is being shown over the Catterick Garrison Billiards League. The league is divided into two sections—senior and junior. The senior is for the sergeants' messes and the junior for the corporals and other ranks. Results to date: —

Senior League.—T.B. beat R.E. (555–520) and lost to R.A.S.C. (491–504). D.B. beat School (594–402). School beat R.T.C. (579–519).

Junior League.—T.B. beat School (745–628) and R.A.O.C. (718–577). D.B. beat R.T.C. (740–469), R.A.S.C. (769–578), and R.A.O.C. (800–322). School beat R.E. (712–618).

## Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Hockey.**—The first match, versus Redcar, was played away on October 8th, resulting in a win for our opponents by 6—2. A very level game except for a bad ten minutes in the first part of the second half, when our opponents scored five goals in rapid succession. But for this spasm, the teams were well matched, with the balance slightly in favour of Redcar. Goals for us were scored by Major Drayson and Lieut Boyd.

Team.—Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, Capt Wade and Lieut Hatfield; halves, Sigmn Ferrier, Lieut Moore and Lieut Malpass; forwards, Dvr Conroy, Lieut Boyd, Major Drayson, Sigmn Sutherland, L/Corpl Davis.

The second match, against North Durham, resulted in a comfortable win by 3—1, after a fair game. Goals for us were scored by Major Drayson (2) and Lieut Boyd. The Depot Battn. were easily the better side, and should have scored at least two more goals, but the wet state of the ground in the circle made shooting difficult.

The next match, versus Preston, was played away and resulted in a draw of four goals each after a most exciting game, but a poor exhibition of hockey on a very wet heavy ground. Signals opened with a goal in the first minute by Lieut Boyd. Our opponents then scored. Signa's scored again through Lieut Patterson, and the same player made an opening for Major Drayson to score our third goal. Half-time, 3—1 in our favour.

From the bully-off, our opponents ran clear through and scored without the ball being even touched by one of our side. They scored twice more, and with five minutes left we were one goal to the bad. Lieut Boyd, after a good run through, scored an excellent goal for us, and time found us bombarding the enemy's goal but unable to score again.

Team.—Goal, Sigmn Dendy; backs, Capt Wade and Sergt Tyrell; halves, Lieut Malpass, Lieut Moore and L/Corpl Davis; forwards, Dvr Conroy, Lieut Boyd, Major Drayson, Lieut Hatfield, Lieut Patterson.

**Billiards.**—The Depot Battalion billiard team have great hopes of going far in the Garrison League. We have a really good side, and have made an excellent start by winning our first two games against the R.A.O.C. and the R.A.S.C.

We beat the R.A.O.C. by over 400 points, all our men having won their respective games by getting their hundred points first in excellent fashion. Each member of our team borrowed a coin from his opponent to toss with. Apparently it proved lucky each time! The supper afterwards supplied by the opposing team was much appreciated.

**Snooker.**—During the evenings of the week Oct. 29th—Nov. 5th, a snooker knock-out was held in the Depot Battalion canteen. Twenty-four budding champions entered: all likely winners, but not worth backing, as the field appeared so evenly matched.

Safety play was very prominent, especially in the case of Bush, who succeeded in potting the black when exercising in this play. It also seemed very usual to score for an opponent, and I am sorry to say that Tiny was the chief offender in that respect.

Pancho Villa made some fine cuts—on the bread machine—and came to grief when against Perkins, a likely lad, who eventually reached the semi-final before being beaten by Bergue Basher Whitehead.

Sigmn Ferrier did very well to dispose of dreamy Pyke in the semi-final, but he failed against B.B. Whitehead in the final. It appears he did not approve of the bowler B.B. wore, especially as the bowler possessed no rim. Ferrier would rather have had his toe to it than watch it bob round the table.

We are holding a further championship in a partnered concern, and it is anticipated that Pip and Phil will succeed in defeating B.B. and his bowler.

## Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

**Cross-Country Running.**—The opening run of the season was disappointing for us. For the first time in the history of the league, we were relegated to bottom place.

On the second run, over three miles of road, we showed a great improvement by finishing fourth. Dvr Gaston 4th, Sigmn Rushmere 13th, Corpl Morris 14th, and Sigmn Moore 18th, were the pick of our team, but several showed great promise, and we hope to be filling first place before the season ends.

**Football.**—In the Association line we have shown great form by winning all matches except one (drawn). This places us as leaders in the Garrison League, and we hope to pull this off this year. It is the first time this league has been operating in the garrison. We beat the R.A.M.C. by 8—2 on November 9th, and the Dismounted Wing by 4—1 on the previous Saturday.

**Rugby.**—In this we have only played one league game, and we defeated our opponents by 21 points. The team is strong and fast, and should give a very good account of itself this year.

**Boxing.**—So far we have not been able to find our feet in the junior league, and have been defeated in both our matches. The senior league will not be started until after Christmas.

**Hockey.**—Nothing of importance has taken place in this line at present. Corpl Brewer and Dvr Conroy have been playing for the Corps team.

**Shooting.**—In this we have won two matches and lost one. We were defeated by the Dismounted Wing in a very even match, losing by the small margin of four points. We have beaten the School and D Company. In the match with the latter, Sigmn Webb of our team scored a possible, this being the first in this year's league matches—a very creditable performance.



We would like a competition with any outside unit team of four or six, under S.M.R.C. conditions. Any offers?

## Training Battalion, Catterick.

**Hockey.**—The following is a brief account of the recent games at this Centre.

T.B. v. Redcar—October 1st. A disastrous game. The T.B. turned out a very weak side and suffered accordingly. Result: Redcar 12; T.B. 1.

T.B. v. Norton—October 8th. T.B. fielded a stronger side, although handicapped by the absence of Sergt Carpenter, smitten with mumps. A very fast and even game resulted. T.B. led at half-time by 3—1, and maintained their lead until a quarter of an hour from the finish. Then training told its tale, and Norton ran up four goals. Result: Norton 5; T.B. 3.

T.B. v. Novocastrians—October 15th. An excellent game, and very fast. The Novos scored in the first minute, but by half-time T.B. had gained a 2—1 lead. The Novos equalised shortly after the interval, but T.B. regained the lead through Lieut. Carpenter. Just before time, however, the Novos notched a third. T.B.'s goals were scored by Gibbons (2) and Lieutenant Carpenter. Result: T.B. 3; Novocastrians 3.

## D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

**Cross-Country Running.**—In a three mile Company trial, of the forty-six who completed the course, the first ten home were as follows: 2/Lt W. M. Ponsonby, Signalmen Bergman, Robinson, Davis, Harris, Henderson, 2/Lieut L. W. J. Dryland, Signalmen Ashenhurst, Bozeat and Barnett.

Since the above run we have been fortunate in securing several good men from the Depot. Sigmn Handley from the Mounted Wing ran twelfth for us in the second inter-Company run, our first man home being Sigmn Hall (seventh).

**Soccer.**—The Company soccer team continues to pile up goals against opponents in the Garrison League, our latest win placing us on top. Results to date: Played 8; won 6; lost 1; drawn 1. Goals for 48, against 10; 13 points.

Several of our Company team have been selected for the Battalion's Army cup side, and have given a good account of themselves.

We wish Sigmn Clayton (goal-keeper) a speedy recovery from his accident in the R.A.O.C. match, in which he fractured his wrist.

**Boxing.**—We had quite a good entry in the novices competition held in the new gymnasium last month. Sigmn Chapman won the middles, and Signalmen Duffy and Henderson took two of the four best loser's prizes.

We have only fought once in the inter-Company novices league, when we were beaten by the Dismounted Wing. We hope, however, to put up a better show next time, as two of our team were indisposed and had to be scratched.

L/Corpl A. Williams and Sigmn P. Govier both fought special bouts over four rounds on the final night of the novices competition, each winning on points.

We hope to start an inter-Platoon league soon, to enable us to find some new blood for the Company team.

## F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick,

**Cross-Country.**—We have managed to be first in the two cross-country runs so far held, and hope to retain the cross-country shield which we have held for the last four seasons.

Our old stalwarts, L/Corpls Ayres, Broadley and Stibbs, and Sigmn Beale, are a great help; and Sergts Palmer and Payne, with fourteen boys, make up our team. Boys Dobson, Weeks, McCulloch, Hilliar, Roderick, Humby and Brooks are well above the average, and can always be relied upon to finish well up.

Boys v. Darlington Grammar School.—This race took place at Catterick over a three-mile course—the usual one: Druggan Hill, Risedale Farm, Scotton Covert, Highlands—and resulted in an easy win for the boys. The teams were eight aside, and the first six home of each team counted.

Placings—Boys Dobson 1st, Roderick 2nd, Hilliar 4th, McCulloch 5th, Humby 6th, Catt 8th, Fielding 9th, Clutton 10th. D.G.S.—3rd, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th. Result: Boys 26; Darlington Grammar School 60.

Boys v. Barnard Castle School.—At Catterick, over the same three-mile course. This race resulted in an easy win for the boys (eight to run, first six to count).

Placings.—Boys Weeks 1st, McCulloch 3rd, Brooks 4th, Dobson 5th, Hilliar 6th, Humby 7th, Roderick 8th, Marchant 14th. Barnard Castle School—Cowling 2nd, Stamp 9th, Martin 10th, Jefferson 11th, Walker 12th, Burdon 13th, Boardman 15th, Moore 16th. Result: Boys 26; Barnard Castle 57.

It will be seen that our points in both races are identical. The two schools will meet in a week's time, and we anticipate a victory for Barnard Castle School.

Unfortunately Boy Dobson cast a shoe in the second race; otherwise it is probable that he and Boy Weeks would have come home together a hundred yards in front of the Barnard Castle School champion.

There is no doubt that the team is the best we have had for some years, though possibly not containing a Boy Beale; and there is every indication that some of the team may develop into really high class runners, who will be of great value to the Corps.

**Boxing.**—We started well in the novices boxing, beating the Dismounted Wing by 19–17. The team is composed entirely of boys. The form displayed by some of them in the novices open competition surprised a good many people, and great credit is due to Sergt Payne, who has taught them the great importance of the straight left.

We congratulate Boys Fraser and Roderick on winning their respective weights, Boy Horne on being runner-up, and others who have received good loser's prizes.

**Rugby.**—We managed to beat E Company in both first and second league games, and although we realise that weight will be against us, we hope to give the other Companies a good game.

The Boys' XV. (officially known as "the Imps," and composed practically of the Company second team) went to Darlington on October 29th, and defeated Darlington Juniors by 42 points to nil. Some of the Darlington spectators said that the boys played the best rugby which had been seen on the ground for years. They were greatly impressed by the quick passing, fast following up of the forwards, and the passing and fast straight running of the backs.

"The Imps" thought they would like to play the Company first team, which they did. Weight and experience, however, proved too much for them, and after a really hard clean game, in which quarter was neither asked nor given, the first team won by 26—8: a score which flattered them. Each side scored eight points in the second half.

## Aldershot Signals.

**Rugby.**—During the past month, all thoughts were turned on the Army Rugby cup competition, and the class of team we should be able to turn out in the first round against the 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

Several trial games were played with a view to getting the probable team up to scratch. Two days before the match with the Scots Guards, however, the selection committee were not satisfied with several positions, and a final trial was played on Monday, November 7th. Even then the half-back and full-back positions proved to be failures, so that these places were purely experimental in the cup match.

Considering the importance of the match, very few spectators were present, but I must congratulate those few on the way they opened their lungs and cheered their team. It is wonderful what encouragement will do. Keep it up, my lads, at the next game.

SPECIAL NOTICE. ROYAL SIGNALS

**HAIRDRESSER'S SHOPS**

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PLEASE NOTE—In addition to the shop opposite N.A.A.F.I. in "S" Lines, a **Branch Shop is now open in the Depot Battalion Lines,** between the Mess Room and Bath House.

WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

*All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.*

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

I also noticed Lieut.-Colonel Hitchin there. He never misses a match, whether practice or otherwise, and his advice and enthusiasm have been much appreciated by everyone concerned.

When the teams took the field, it looked as if Signals were in for a fairly rough time. Even Capt Rance, Lieut. Thuillier and Morrison appeared dwarfs against such a pack as the Guards produced. However, appearances are often deceptive, as our forwards soon showed by holding the heavier Guardsmen in the scrums and getting the ball nine times out of ten.

The match was played in the best possible spirit throughout, both teams showing exceptional keenness. Except for an occasional rush by their forwards the Guardsmen were not in the picture, and Signals have only themselves to blame for not piling up a score which would denote the run of the play.

The day was made for good rugby—a dry ground and little wind—but it was not until the Guards scored a penalty goal by Ellis, after ten minutes' play, that Signals began to wake up. That goal was a lesson to players who *will* try to commence a passing movement in their own "25," in front of the opposing forwards, instead of kicking, and I am sure Wadsworth was a very crestfallen man when the ball sailed over the bar.

Although Signals were getting the ball in the scrums, the heeling was slow, and in consequence their outsides could only take their passes standing still or running across the field. In some cases this was due to Lieut Boileau's erratic passes from the scrum, although this player was seen to advantage in the loose. The Signals three-quarters were far superior to the Guards, but they were slow off the mark. One try, however, was scored from a really delightful round of passing from the base of the scrum. Four times they went over the line through movements which commenced in the loose, Danby, Hardy and Wadsworth employing the reverse pass, having the opposition in a muddle.

Thuillier's run of half the length of the field and his pass to Hardy, for the latter to score, was as good a try as one wishes to see in a lifetime. The same may be said of Hudson, who just over the half-way line secured the ball from the scrum, offered the dummy, and went through the opposition to pass to Thuillier on the line to score.

Ten kicks in all were taken, five attempts at conversion and five penalties, and only one of the latter was successful. Five kicks were absolutely "sitters," and those who were watching nearly wept. I am sure those who took those kicks were taught elevation, direction, and allowance for wind at the "shop." Have they forgotten their youthful training?

The whole team worked hard under Capt Mathew—a little too much shouting, perhaps, but they deserved their success. A great deal of practice must take place if they want to win the Army cup. At the moment play is scrappy with little combination.

Except for the slowness in heeling the forwards did well, although I should like to see a few more players like Capt Rance, who runs straight and true. Thuillier was great, and was well backed up by Morrison, Moore and Staerck.

I have said enough about the "threes" to show that, if well supplied from the scrum, they can be brilliant, although Bayliss on the right wing was completely starved.

Good, at back, was far from safe, his failure in front of opposing forwards being obvious. What did I say about flying kicks in my last notes, Good?

Lieut Hardy scored four tries, and Lieut Thuillier one, while Morrison kicked a penalty goal. Result: Royal Signals, one penalty goal and five tries (18 points); 1st Battn. Scots Guards, one penalty goal (3 points).

The team is drawn against the 1st Battn. King's Own Royal Regiment in the next round, and a good and interesting game should be witnessed. The following fixtures have been arranged for the New Year:—

January 28th—v. Guildford, at Guildford.
February 4th—v. K.O.S.B., at home.
February 11th—v. Thorneycrofts A.C., at home.
February 22nd—v. East Yorks Regiment, away.
February 29th—v. Berkshire Wanderers, at home.

**Soccer.**—Aldershot Signals met the 11th Hussars in the first round of the Army cup, on Wednesday, October 26th. A very fine rain fell continuously all day, turning the pitch into a paddy-field. The players found it almost impossible at times to kick the ball or grip the ground.

The first half of the match was rather tame, except when Webb (2nd Divl. Signals), playing at outside-left, scored for the Corps. Then the game livened up, and when half-time was blown we were all worked up.

The feature of the match was the uncanny influence which the centre-half (Sergt Chumbley) seemed to have over the team. All players worked as a team, which is really surprising, considering they belong to units spread over the Command, and were almost strangers (as regards football), having had only one trial match as a team. Sergt Chumbley played a wonderful game, showing us just how to make a team play as a *team* and not as individuals.

With such good team work, Sigmn Edwards was able to score two goals, making three all. Thus the game was in the balance. The Hussars were run off their feet when Mr. Cole scored for us, and it was a great relief to hear the whistle blow and to know that we had beaten the "Cherry-pickers" by four goals to three.

This match again proves the importance of Aldershot Signals being barracked together. Smallshot will "work the oracle," for competition will be keener—and competition is the spade that digs up unknown dormant talent, develops it, and sends it to storm and conquer the strongholds of friendly rivals.

The Aldershot Signals team played the 1st Light Brigade R.A. in a friendly match on November 9th and beat them by 8—1. This Artillery team meets the Depot R.A.M.C. in the second round of the Army cup.

On Wednesday, November 16th, Aldershot Signals played the 1st Battn. Scots Guards in the second round of the Army cup. The team was as follows: Goal, Sigmn Parsons (A Corps); backs, Sigmn Marsh (A Corps) and L/Corpl McLelland (2nd Div.); half-backs, Sigmn Caple (A Corps), Sergt Chumbley (A Corps), and C.S.M. Shenton (1st Div.); forwards, Sigmn Holmes (2nd Div.), Sigmn Edwards (A Corps), Lieut Cole (2nd Div., captain), L/Corpl Webb (2nd Div.), L/Cpl Girdwood (2nd Div.)

The match could be summed up as a fine example of brains beating brawn. Signals opened the scoring by a goal from Edwards, which was closely followed by one from the Guards. With the score one all, the Signals seemed to shake themselves and settle down to the game. By a marvellous piece of manœuvring on the part of our excellent forward line, the Guards defence was drawn from the goal-mouth and Edwards rammed the ball into the top left-hand corner of the net. This brainy piece of work was followed by a similar move, and Girdwood scored with a low hard drive.

To watch Mr. Cole does not much impress one at first, but when his played is analysed it is really excellent. He has a style of football all his own and "uses his crust." He scored a lovely goal within a few minutes of Girdwood. C.S.M. Shenton, thinking he was playing in his old position, also visited the Guards goal and scored. Thus at half-time the score was 5—1.

Mr. Cole opened the second half with another goal, with Edwards following suit. The game so far had been fast, and both sides began to feel the strain. The Guards made a sally and beat Parsons, who played very well throughout the game. This was followed by another goal from Mr. Cole, and a few minutes later time was blown, making a win for Signals by eight goals to two. Thus we enter into the third round of the Army cup.

**Boxing.**—Although the Corps is known to be productive of sport and athletes, that branch in which it gains many honours is not, perhaps, fully appreciated except by its immediate supporters and participants. Of course, all members of the Corps know that we have won Army titles and have aspired to higher honours, but it may interest them to know exactly what laurels our representatives have won. Therefore, for the benefit of those who have joined the Corps more recently, a summary is given below.

We have been well to the fore since 1922, which is laudable considering the age of the Corps. We have won no less than twenty-one individual championships (including one amateur championship of Great Britain), eight Imperial Services championships, and twelve Army championships. Twice have the Army team contests been won, and five times the Command team contests. Also, in Army boxing, we have been twice runners-up and on another occasion reached the semi-final stage.

The light-weight amateur champion of Great Britain in 1925 was L/Corpl Viney.

The Imperial Services champions are Capt. H. A. Spencer (lightweight, 1922 and 1923), Sergt Wheeler (light heavyweight, 1925), L/Corpl Viney (lightweight, 1925), Signalman Richmond (featherweight, 1925), Corpl R. P. Jones (lightweight, 1926 and 1927), L/Corpl Rodda (light heavyweight, 1927).

In 1925, out of eight representatives of the Imperial Services in the amateur championships of Great Britain, no less than four



were found by the Corps, L/Corpl Viney, Sergt Wheeler, Corpl Langley, and Sigmn Richmond.

In the Army open contests, the following were winners: Light heavyweights: Sergt Wheeler and Driver Emblem (1925), and L/Corpl Rodda (1927). Welter-weights: Corpl Langley (1925). Light-weights: L/Corpl Viney (1925), Capt. H. A. Spencer (1922 and 1925), and Corpl R. P. Jones (1926 and 1927). Feather-weights: Sigmn Richmand (1925). Fly-weights, Sigmn Collins (1924).

**Aldershot Command Boxing.**—In the Command Signal units, boxing is now becoming much keener. This season we have had novices competitions, and were entered in the Command novices competition. In the first round for this we drew a bye, but were beaten in the second round by the Service Companies R.A.S.C. by one point only.

It is noticeable that our novice boxers are rapidly developing good styles, and, given a little more time and experience, there should be a really good team in the Command Signals. The results of the novices competitions are given below.

In addition to these competitions, several of our boxers have been entered for various open and novices competitions at amateur clubs in London, and in most cases have done quite well.

Sigmn Stuart won the heavy-weight novices competition of the "H" Division Metropolitan Police, and Dvr Grainger won the 9st. 12lbs. intermediate at the "W" Division Metropolitan Police Club. Sigmn Wheeler reached the semi-final stage of the 10st. 7lbs. intermediate competition at St. Pancras Boxing Club. Dvr Grainger was also a semi-finalist in the 10st. 6lbs. novices at the "R" Division Metropolitan Police competition.

We are promised a good evening on November 23rd, when the London Fire Brigade renew their acquaintance with our boxing team. This will be described in the next issue of THE WIRE

On October 14th the Army met a Welsh team at the Maida Drill Hall, Aldershot. L/Corpl Rodda was included in the Army team, and beat P.C. J. Mellin, runner-up in the Welsh light heavy-weights.

### Royal Signals Novices Competition, October 6th and 7th.

Light-weight—Sigmn Morris (A Corps Signals) beat Dvr Fountain (2nd Divl. Signals).
Welter-weight—Sigmn Watham (2nd Divl. Signals) beat Driver Duffy (1st Divl. Signals).
Middle-weight—Sigmn Huggins (2nd Divl. Signals) beat Sigmn Midgely (1st Divl. Signals).
Feather-weight—Sigmn Henderson beat Sigmn Case (both A Corps Signals).
Bantam-weight—Sigmn Nicklen (A Corps Signals) beat Sigmn Best (1st Divl. Signals).

SPECIAL CONTESTS.

Welter-weight—Corpl Langley v. Sigmn Wheeler (both 1st Divl. Signals). This fight was stopped, Sigmn Wheeler having an old cut on his eye opened.
Light-weight—Dvr Grainger beat Sigmn F. Thomas.
Heavy-weight—Sigmn Stuart (2nd Divl. Signals) drew with Dvr Emblem (1st Divl. Signals).

### Royal Signals Novices Eliminating Competition, Oct. 27th

Feather-weight—Sigmn Hoy (2nd Divl. Signals) beat Sigmn C. Smith (1st Divl. Signals).
Light-weight—Sigmn Timlett beat Sigmn Watson (both 2nd Divl. Signals).
Welter-weight—Sigmn Watham (2nd Divl. Signals) beat Sigmn Brunton (1st Divl. Signals).
Middle-weight—Sigmn Moore beat Sigmn Midgely (both 1st Divl. Signals).
Bantam-weight—Sigmn Nicklen (A Corps Signals) beat Sigmn Wickeat (2nd Divl. Signals).
Light heavy-weight—Corpl Todd beat L/Sergt Carnell (both A Corps Signals).

SPECIAL CONTESTS.

Sigmn Wheeler beat Rifleman Stymes (K.R.R.).
Rifleman Russel beat Dvr Baker (1st Divl. Signals).
Sigmn Hope (A Corps Signals) beat Sigmn Davis (1st Divl. Signals).

### Second Round, Command Inter-Unit Novice Team Championship, November 3rd

Officers' heavy—Lieut H. M. Gough (R.A.S.C.) beat Lieut J. C. Hardy (1st Divl. Signals).
Officers' middle—Lieut T. L. Sanders (R.A.S.C.) beat Lieutenant Thuillier (2nd Divl. Signals).
Bantam-weight—Sigmn Hogg (1st Divl. Signals) beat Dvr Lever (R.A.S.C.).
Feather-weight—Pte Taylor (R.A.S.C.) beat Sigmn C. Smith (1st Divl. Signals).
Heavy-weight—L/Corpl Bishop (2nd Divl. Signals) beat Private Barrett (R.A.S.C.).
Light heavy-weight—Dvr Cockram (R.A.S.C.) beat Sigmn Twiss (1st Divl. Signals).
First middle-weight—Dvr Benjafield (1st Divl. Signals) beat Dvr Taylor (R.A.S.C.).
Second middle-weight—Sigmn Midgely (1st Divl. Signals) beat Dvr Bell (R.A.S.C.).
First welter-weight—Dvr Hillman (R.A.S.C.) beat Signalman Watham (2nd Divl. Signals).
Second welter-weight—Dvr Duffy beat Dvr Cook (R.A.S.C.).
Third welter-weight—Dvr O'Reilly beat Sigmn Figg (2nd Divl. Signals).
First light-weight—Dvr Fountain beat Pte Bennett (R.A.S.C.).
Second light-weight—Pte Ellin v. Dvr Watson (2nd Divl. Sigs.). The latter was disqualified.
Third light-weight—Sigmn T. Brown (1st Divl. Signals) beat Pte Low (R.A.S.C.).

### Second Novices Competition, November 10th.

Welter-weight—Sigmn Davis (1st Divl. Signals) beat Sigmn Cannell (2nd Divl. Signals).
Light-weight—Sigmn Snow beat Dvr Butler (both 1st Divl. Sigs.)
Feather-weight—Sigmn Sainsbury (1st Divl. Signals) beat L/Cpl Warner (2nd Divl. Signals).
Middle-weight—Sigmn Twiss (1st Divl. Signals) beat Signalman Watson (2nd Divl. Signals).

SPECIAL CONTESTS.

Lieut Cole beat L/Corpl Pinkney (both 2nd Divl. Signals).
Rifleman Russel (K.R.R.) beat Sigmn T. Brown (1st Divl. Sigs.)

**Future Fixtures.**—Some very good fixtures are being arranged in the near future, amongst them being Royal Signals v. the Aldershot Command in January. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance at this show.

**Miscellaneous.**—A proverb is quoted from one boxer in the Command to another overseas: "It is far better to seek Valhalla in the ring than to find Paradise in the Greek Hills."

## No. 1 Company, A Corps Signals, Ewshott.

**General.**—Sport in A Corps Signals, compared with last year, has made great strides in the right direction.

Capt Hose has been responsible for erstwhile lounge-lizards turning out and playing football at every opportunity. Capts. Fuge and Dallison (who are not exactly youngsters) showed the boulevard-sheiks that a good game of rugger is better than walking miles in the rain with comely dames. Even the C.S.M. surprised the lads with his knowledge of hockey.

This is just the kind of example which will make the Corps the finest body of sportsmen in the Services, and incidentally help to breed content and goodwill amongst all, in work as well as in play. Vive le Corps!

**Boxing.**—The Royal Signals (Aldershot) novices boxing competition was held in the Marlborough Lines gymnasium on the 6th and 7th October. A Corps Signals tied with the 1st Divl. Signals (twelve points each) for first place. (Results will be found under the Aldershot Signals notes.)

Taking into consideration that Aldershot Signals are spread all over the Command, and the lack of facilities for training, it is little short of marvellous that this talent was dug up.

When the Signals settle down in their new town house at Smallshot, the world will sit up and take notice. The great bugbear is the horse-flesh which necessitates twelve hours a day in stables; hence there is little time left for training.

The most notable gold-nugget in the competition was Sigmn Morris, who certainly showed our old pal Jimmie Emblem how battles are won and not lost.

Morris has a beautiful style, and he registered three knock-outs in four fights; the fourth he won on points after receiving a very low blow. Of course, he is only *one* example—there are plenty more like him, only they want encouraging, and they in turn will automatically encourage others.

Capt Spencer has started bouncing already in digging for talent—like a dog digging up old bones. This is a big stride in the right direction, but it will greatly help him (and incidentally the Corps) if only everyone, high and low, will interest himself in Signal sport.

The Royal Signals meet the London Fire Brigade on Nov. 23rd, at the Maida Drill Hall, Aldershot. Signalmen Morris and Hope have been picked from this unit to represent the Corps.

## 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

**Hockey.**—We opened our season with a match against 2nd Divl. Signals on October 29th on their ground. The result was in our favour by three goals to one. A rattling game, with the forwards playing as all forwards should—unselfishly, one wing to the other. It makes all the difference, as this game in particular showed. The 2nd Divl. Signals hope for their revenge on November 4th. We wish them luck!

**Cross-Country.**—Sigmn Gosling is doing good work, being our representative in the Command cross-country team.

**Football.**—Will the football captains send along a few notes of games for inclusion under this heading? Thank you!

## No. 2 Company, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

**Soccer.**—The Company sport has been confined to Section matches, with the avowed intention of seeking young talent. We believe in fostering the "young idea." Apparently the search was quite satisfactory, if not entirely successful, for we are optimistically anticipating our trophy matches.

The unit team has met with comparative success, and it is noteworthy that L/Corpl Girdwood and Sigmn Welch (our representatives) maintain their form and deserve their share of the team's success.

**Rugby.**—The rugger team, too, are in a winning mood, although the fixture list is rather small. Corps matches have been predominant of late, and these make a large call on our team.

We congratulate the Corps on reaching the second round of the Army rugby cup.

## E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

**Football.**—Despite our ever-diminishing numbers, owing to leave, draft, and courses, we still manage to maintain a football team. It is true that a win for the Troop is a rare occurrence, but that is not the fault of the players, who work hard to keep the adverse margin as low as possible, scoring themselves when the opportunity offers.

Special praise must be given Sigmn Edwards, captain and goal-keeper, for the magnificent display that he can always be depended upon to give. He never appears to tire or be off form, and whilst playing against the Cheshire Regiment his stamina stood him in good stead. During this game his performance was very little short of miraculous, a good three-quarters of the play taking place in our half. The goal-keeper was bombarded from every angle and with almost every type of shot. The Cheshires should have scored time after time, and the number of goals should have reached double figures; but when the final whistle blew, thanks to Edwards the score only stood at 2—0 against us.

**Boxing.**—In a special four-round middle-weight contest at the 16/5th Lancers' novices competition, Dvr P. J. Jackson beat his opponent, Tpr Deards (16/5th Lancers), in fine style in the second round with a knockout. Owing to his greater experience Jackson had the fight well in hand from the commencement. His opponent put up no mean fight, and certainly he had the advantage of reach and weight. Had one of his blows been put in with a bit more force, the fight might have lasted longer, with reverse results.

The men turned up as strongly as our sadly-depleted Troop will permit to cheer the winner. The best of luck, Jackson! May your success continue!

After the fight, Dvr Jackson was presented with a cup.

## No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company, Blackdown

**Football.**—I must apologise to the captain of the football team for not supplying the results of the games played to date (I lost the chit he gave me.) But there has been some excellent football, and we are more than pleased with the results.

**Hockey.**—Old members of the team—those Trojans who secured the cup for the Company the only time it came to us—will be pleased to know that we are still keen on hockey.

We have yet to be beaten this season. B Company R.E. have twice found us too strong for them, and we drew with the 3rd Battery R.A. (no score).

We have a good left-winger in Corpl Gristwood. In fact, we have a very useful team; but I mention the left wing because, as all Companyites remember, we were never strong in that position.

## Rhine Signal Company.

**Football.**—Results to date:—
v. 2nd Royal Berks Reserves, draw of 3—3.
v. Military Police, draw of 3—3.
v. Casuals, won by 3—1.
v. 2nd Worcester Regt. Reserves, won by 4—0.
v. R.A. Reserves, won by 4—2.
v. R.A.M.C., won by 4—1.
v. Royal Welsh Fusiliers, won by 2—1.

**Rugby.**—Owing to drafts and leave, our rugby team has been very much weakened, but they are not doing badly. Stick it! Results:—
v. Manchester Regiment, draw of 3—3.
v. K.S.L.I., won by 8—3.
v. R.A.S.C., won by 5—3.
v. R.A., lost by 0—3.

**Hockey.**—A Hockey League has been formed this year, and the Royal Signals have entered the "B" League. Results:—
v. R.A.O.C. (friendly), won by 3—1.
v. R.T.C. (league), lost by 2—1.

## A Corps Signals, Karachi.

**Rugby.**—As the weather is getting cooler, rugby practice has commenced in the unit. Under the admirable tuition of Major Bradley, the little band of rugby enthusiasts are gradually developing into the real thing, and in about a month's time we expect to have a fifteen quite capable of competing with the teams in the district. There is general keenness throughout, as the Karachi Gymkhana, the pioneers of rugby in Karachi, are running two tournaments, with a trophy for each.

**Hockey.**—After several inter-Corps practice matches, we have succeeded in getting quite a respectable team together for the forthcoming season and the big civilian and military tournaments. We have played a few matches with varied results.
v. H.M.S. "Enterprise," won by 3—1, and drew at 2—2.
v. Karachi Port Trust, lost by 3—1.
v. St. Patrick's College, won by 4—3 and lost by 4—1.
v. M.T., R.A.S.C., won by 4—0.

**Football.**—Several of our best players have returned from Jubbulpore and Shanghai, and we have got together a real goal-getting team, with the following results:—
v. H.M.S. "Enterprise," won by 4—0 and drew at 1—1.
v. 13th Heavy Battery R.A., drew at 0—0.
v. A Company Foresters, won by 3—0.
v. B Company Foresters, won by 3—2.

## Waziristan District Signals.

### Headquarters, D.I.Khan.

**Sports.**—We have been very busy of late. Almost every night has been employed in games, hockey of course having the greater time devoted to it, and we have suffered very few defeats to date.

Our footballers have turned out once or twice, having found teams desirous of testing their mettle: and in this branch we have not been quite so fortunate, having lost two matches and drawn one out of four.

Tennis is on the way to becoming "something like," the majority of those who patronise the court showing better form for their evenings spent there.

### Bannu Detachment.

**Sports.**—The Sports Secretary has apparently been busy this last month.

Football Results.—v. Bannu Gentlemen, lost by 1—3 (Sigmn Stevens), and 2—3 (Signalmen Stevens and Russell); v. No. 20 D.T.T., won by 2—0 (Signalmen Stevens and Russell); v. Brigade Headquarters, won by 3—1 (Signalmen Gattrell 2, and Slater); v. Union Club, lost by 3—4 (Signalmen Anderson, Gattrell and Heatherington).

Hockey Results.—v. C Coy. 5/14th Infantry, won by 3—0 (Sergt Tebby, Sigmn Gattrell 2); v. B Coy. 5/14th Infantry, draw of 2—2 (Signalmen Gattrell and Glassborough); v D Coy. 5/14th Infantry, lost by 0—4 and won by 2—1 (Sergt Tebby, Sigmn Gattrell); v. A Coy. 5/14th Infantry, won by 2—1 (Sergt Tebby, Sigmn Gattrell); v. 4/15th Infantry, lost by 0—2; v. Brigade Headquarters, won by 3—1 (Sergt Tebby, L/Corporal Harris, Sigmn Gattrell), and by 5—2 (Sergt Gibbons, L/Corpl Harris 2, Sigmn Gattrell 2), and lost by 0—1.



## Kohat District Signals.

**Hockey.**—Nine matches have been played with very good results. Considering we are still only a detachment in Kohat, the results give every encouragement to believe that, with the Parachinar folk back again, we are going to have a team that will go a long way in the winter tournaments. In the nine matches under review, we won seven, lost one and drew one; goals for, 27, and against, 15. The principal goal scorers were Corporal P. Hammond (13), and Major R. A. C. Henderson, M.C. (8). Detailed results:—
v. Frontier Police, drew at 1—1 and won by 2—1.
v. Royal Air Force, won by 3—1, 6—0, and 7—2.
v. 2/1st Punjab Regiment, won by 3—2.
v. Officers of the Station, won by 2—1.
v. 2/9th Jat Regiment, lost by 1—6.
Inter-unit: The team, v. the rest, won by 2—1.

**Football.**—As at hockey, the matches played during the last month prove that, with the added talent from Parachinar, our team during the coming cold weather should do extremely well. With only a detachment team, we have played six matches. One was abandoned owing to a violent storm. Of the remaining five, four were wins. Goals for, 17; against, 4. The low scoring against us is undoubtedly due to the return of Sergt Lewis to the task of appearing between the sticks. The goal scoring has been equally distributed among the forward line, a feature of some of the matches being the vastly improved combination. Detailed results:—
v. 2/12th F.F. Regiment, won by 7—1 and 4—0.
v. 5/13th F.F. Regiment, won by 1—0.
v. S. and D. Club, won by 2—0, and drew at 3—3.

## No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Football.**—At last we have settled down to strenuous and serious football, and hope to keep up the standard of the Corps again in this branch of sport.

We have started the small units football competition, and hope to go one step better than we did last year, when we were beaten in the final.

This competition is very keenly contested, as it is open to all small units in the Command. In this we can look forward to holding our own, as each team has about an equal number to pick from. The entrants comprise a Company of Infantry, a Squadron of Cavalry, a Company of R.E.s, a Company of R.A.S.C., a Company of Royal Signals, a Squadron of R.A.F., etc., so that each small unit has an equal chance.

The preliminary stages have to be played on the league system. Altogether, in the Command, there are fifteen groups who have to play each other, and the winners of each group then enter the final stages, in which it becomes a knock-out competition.

It was very unfortunate that we are drawn in the same group as No. 3 Company, as last year each unit won the league of its respective group. But such is fate! We have made a very good start, as will be observed from the following results:—

Versus No. 3 Company Egypt Signals.—This match was played on the Signals ground on October 6th, and resulted in a win for us by 4—1. It was a very keenly contested game, played in a true sporting spirit, and we must congratulate the losers on a very good game. We also sympathise with them in the fate of being drawn in the same group as us, as the bulk of the Corps players are on the strength of this unit.

Versus D Company 1st Battn. Norfolk Regiment.—This match was also played on the Signals ground, on October 13th, and resulted in a win for us by 5—1. The unit team were easily the masters of the situation, and ran out easy winners.

Versus C Squadron 15/19th Hussars.—This was another home match for us, played on October 22nd. We ran out winners by 8—0. It need not be stated that this was a rather one-sided affair, as the figures speak for themselves.

Versus H.Q. 2nd The Royal Dragoons.—This should have been an away match, but as the Dragoons were unable to obtain a ground, it was played on the Signals ground on October 27th at their request. This resulted in a win for us by 17—0. (No, Mr. Editor; this not a typing error, and my finger did not slip on the keys. We actually won the match to the tune of seventeen goals to nil, after crossing over at half-time with a lead of nine goals.) Comment on this game is needless, but at the time, suggestions for keeping account of the goals scored would have been welcomed.

It will be observed that from the four matches played we have collected the maximum number of points, with a goal average of 34 for and 2 against.

The team are to be congratulated on their performance, as this is carrying us towards the desired objective. It is impossible to single out any individual for congratulations, as the whole team played really good football, and with a good team spirit which is essential for cup competitions.

We were rather unlucky last year in being beaten in the final of this competition, and the whole team are anxious now to make amends for that defeat by annexing the trophy this time. Further results will be published in the next issue.

## No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

**Cross-Country.**—The first of a series of three Corps inter-Section runs took place on October 28th, and about seventy runners took part. The distance was about three-and-a-half miles, and judging by the number of fresh faces who finished amongst the leaders, the Corps team should be even stronger than that of last year, when we were runners-up in the Army championships.

The team results worked out as expected, H.Q. and Signal Troop combined team beating K Section by seven points, with Nos. 2 and 3 Sections of No. 1 Company third, forty-five points behind.

Sigmn Beeton was first man home, with Sigmn Collins second and Sigmn Cooper third. Then came Sigmn Andrews, with one of the new draft in Dvr Hammond, fifth.

Next in order came: Sigmn Backhouse, Corpls Collins and Solly, Sigmn Oldale, Lieut F. C. Newsom, L/Corpl Gratwicke, Signalmen Rolls, Powell, Shepherd, Widdowsen, McFrommell,


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## Malta Signal Section.

**Footbali.**—A series of interesting fixtures has been played with various details. The results are as follows:—

v. Royal Air Force H.Q., won by 2—1 (Johnson, Burrows).
v. Details King's Regt., won by 4—3 (Kimber 2, Burrows, Davey).
v. Military Foot Police, won by 5—1 (Walters 2, Burrows 2, Johnson).
v. H.M. Submarine L16, won by 4—0 (Hills 3, Burrows).
v. Details King's Regiment, lost by 1—2 (Walters).
v. Military Foot Police, drew at 2—2 (Hill, Benniworth).
v. Royal Air Force H.Q., won by 2—0 (West, Burrows).
v. Details King's Regiment, won by 5—1 (Hills 3, Johnson 2)
v. Royal Air Force H.Q., drew at 2—2 (Johnson, Harry).

Considering the strength of the Section amounts only to eighteen n.c.o.s and men, we do not fare so badly. There will be plenty more to follow!

## Hong Kong Signal Section.

**Footbali.**—The R.E. and Royal Signals have entered a team in the Garrison League. Our first match against H.Q. 2nd K.O.S.B. resulted in a win for the latter by 5—1.

**Billiards: Steel and Coulsons League.**—At the time of writing we have played seven games and won one, thus moving up from our low position. As there are another fifteen games to be played, we are living in hopes of gaining a respectable position in the table.

**Tennis: Carrison League.**—The R.E. and Royal Signals "A" team are still on top, having played ten matches and won them all, so we can be excused our optimism regarding the retention of the shield.

## 54th (East Anglian) Divl. Signals, London, E.15

**Boxing.**—An inter-Company boxing competition was held on November 2nd in the lecture room at headquarters. The following kindly officiated: Referee, Captain J. McConville, M.C. Judges, Mr. A. E. Kenyon and Mr. Banyard. Timekeeper, Mr. Langley. M.C., C.S.M. Hooper. Medical Officer, Capt. G. F. Wilson, R.A.M.C. Whippers-in, C.Q.M.S. Scriven and Sergt C. Warren. Results:—

Boys—Bacon (No. 3 Coy.) beat Morris (No. 3) on points.
Bantams—Sigmn Detenon (No. 2 Coy.) beat Sigmn Hazelwood (No. 3), the referee stopping the fight in the first round. Sigmn Detenon beat Sigmn Macklin (No. 3 Coy.) by a knock-out in the first round.
Welters—Sigmn Pavey (No. 3 Coy.) beat Sigmn Penny (No. 1) by a knock-out in the first round. Dvr Scott (No. 1) beat Sigmn Dent (No. 3) on points after an extra round. Sigmn Pavey beat Dvr Scott on points after a very good fight.
Lights—Sigmn Johnson (No. 3 Coy.) beat Sigmn Hayes (No. 1), the referee giving the decision; Hayes put up a very plucky fight. Sigmn Johnson beat Sigmn Carty (No. 3) by a knock-out in the first round.
Middles—Sigmn R. S. Coffey (No. 1 Coy.) beat Dvr Gosling (No. 1) on points.
Special contest—Dvr Mercer (No. 1 Coy.) beat Sigmn Langley (No. 3) on points after a very excellent show.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Capt W. E. Rayner presented gold and silver medals to the winners and runners-up respectively. Sigmn Langley (No. 3 Coy.) was presented with a medal for the best loser of the evening.

In a short speech, Capt Rayner congratulated the competitors on their excellent performances, and drew attention to the array of silver cups displayed, which are for the forthcoming unit championships to be held in January next.

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